



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

October 2019
Volume 21, Issue 10



Club Meeting
Thursday, October 17
[Northwest Recreation Center](#)
6:00 pm Fly Tying and Social Hour
6:00 pm Casting Practice
7:00 pm Alvin Dedeaux

Steven Turner with redfish caught while fishing with [Capt. Eric Glass](#) during the AFF South Padre Island outing



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INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club

President's Message by Shawn Riggs

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SKIFF

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To contact officers:

Info@AustinFlyFishers.com

Wading with the Bulls

Far from the streets of Pamplona and the nine-day festival that they hold,

In Fall and stormy weather one can wade in the bull redfish run if you feel so bold.

From the depths of the Gulf of Mexico, coming from the outer reaches,

Large adult redfish come in droves back to the shallows of the bays and beaches.

I'm sure running with the bulls in Spain is an exhilarating experience,

But honestly those brave runners have to be a little bit delirious.

Standing waist deep in the surf, determined anglers can cast away,

Even if you have a run-in with one of these finned brutes you will live another day.

Your adrenaline will still be pumping, though the chances of getting gored are nil,

But when a big red takes your fly and runs you just can't beat the thrill.

As the line starts peeling off yard by yard and the spool begins to hum,

You grip the rod with both your hands and try to grapple that red drum.

Your hands begin to cramp and your shoulders start to burn,

Working through the pain, you give your reel another turn.

These bull reds are built like linebackers, all muscle, big and strong,

Keeping on the pressure you start to wonder just how long.

Can this beast keep up the fight as the minutes slip away,

It's been almost an hour; could it possibly take all day?

When you finally land that big fish, it's well over 30 inches,

You let out a guttural yell, hand raised, your fist clenches.

Keep your bleached white shirt and red handkerchief you bovine running fools,

I'll take my blue fishing shirt and buff with an 8 WT rod and go wading with the bulls.



Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

9/1/2019 to 9/30/2019

Begin Bal. Checking \$16,820.08

Income:

Sun City (SKIFF)	\$1,000.00
Merchandise	<u>\$45.00</u>
Total Income	\$1,045.00

Disbursements:

Speaker	\$150.00
Earthlink	<u>\$94.95</u>
Total Disbursements	\$244.95

Net \$800.05

Unencumbered: \$7,394.73

Encumbered Funds:

Casting for Recovery	\$1,047.52
SKIFF	\$8,377.83

Ending Bal-Checking \$16,820.08

October Presentation by Captain Alvin Dedeaux

Our October presenter Captain Alvin Dedeaux. He is the owner and head guide of [Alvin Dedeaux Fly Fishing](#), 2016 Orvis endorsed guide of the year finalist, Yeti ambassador, Howler Brothers Ambassador, and Costa Del Mar Assador. It is no wonder that Alvin has so many endorsements and connections has to major companies -he is one hell of a great guy. If you get the opportunity to spent some time on the water with him, you will have a great fly fishing experience. This is one presentation you don't want to miss. -Nils Pearson

You can find biographical information on many websites.

<https://stories.yeti.com/ambassador/alvin-dedeaux>

Alvin Dedeaux was just a kid in school when he first opened up a library book about fly fishing. He was so fascinated, he snuck the book home so he could read every single page. Then for his 12th birthday, Alvin mustered up the courage to ask for his very first fly rod. His wish came true. Alvin's magnetism to the sport has only grown since then, and he's gone on to become one of the most passionate fly fishing guides out there - he even said he gets goosebumps thinking about helping someone catch their first fish. He epitomizes sticking to your passion through and through, and every day inspires others to do the same.

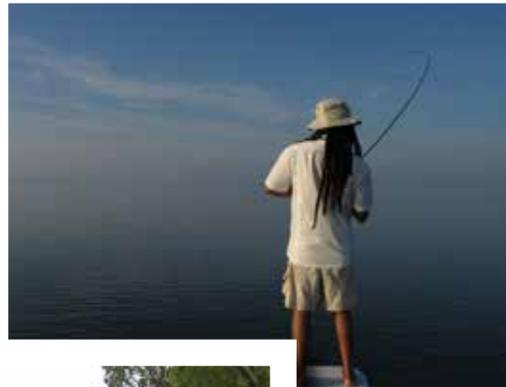
<https://allwaterguides.com/alvin-dedeaux>

Alvin Dedeaux has been fishing ever since he can remember, fly fishing since he was twelve-years-old. His love for fishing has led him on an exciting journey which cultivated him as Central Texas' premier fly fishing guide. Alvin has been fishing Central Texas River's since the early 80s.

After managing the Austin Angler over a decade, Alvin began guiding full time. Alvin also guides the central Texas coast for redfish on the fly. With more than 20 years of experience as a professional guide, no one is more knowledgeable or enjoyable to help you experience the best of what Texas Rivers have to offer than Alvin

You can watch him in action in a Yeti produced video about fishing the Devil's River.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5p1eKTt>



South Padre Island Outing by Nils Pearson

This year's outing to South Padre Island was greeted with fair skies, low winds, and abundant redfish. Our usual crew along with some new faces made the trek to the Lower Laguna Madre. Having previously reserved the week with Capt. Eric Glass, each day 2 fishermen took off to various spots up and down the bay. Fortunately, everyone fishing with Eric caught more reds than their fair share of reds. Of special note was newcomer Chuck Diltz who caught his first 2 redfish with coaching from Carroll and Eric. Kathi Harris, Gary Hentchel, and Brandon Rabke also landed numerous reds while fishing with Capt. Eric. Gary also caught a good looking snook. Another newcomer, Juan Shepherd, spent a day fishing with Capt. Randy Cawlfeld and took home a red for dinner.

There was some interest on the Gulf side also. Kathi and Gary drove the shoreline to find swarming gulls working bait balls. Casting under the birds, they hooked up lots of ladyfish. Brandon also cruised the shoreline but time didn't allow him to work the water before his return to Austin.

When not fishing with guides, the participants fished on their own. Dave Bush scooted around the bay in his panga catching both trout and mangrove snappers. Brandon Rabke took his newly motorized kayak on many long-distance journeys. With his increased kayak range, Brandon explored many of the places he had long thought about were but out of his paddling range. His reconnaissance undoubtedly paid off with the identification of new fishing spots. Steven Turner and I kayaked down the Arroyo Colorado to a small lake about a mile south of the put in at the Adolph Thomae County Park. We found the occasional red and black drum but were not able to hook up anything. Our peaceful exploration was rudely interrupted by some yahoo screaming through this back lake in an air boat.



Steven Turner searching for fish in a back lake off the Arroyo Colorado



Chuck Diltz with his second redfish

South Padre cont.

If you haven't fished the Lower Laguna Madre, you are really missing a terrific sight casting for redfish, black drum, and snook experience. Because it is an enormous body of water, I recommend that you consider hiring a guide for at least a couple of days to get a little bit familiar with the many flats and back lakes that make this an exceptionally productive fishing ground.



Gary with snook



Nils with redfish



Carroll with redfish



Kathi with redfish



Brandon in his motorized kayak

Blue and Gray Fly Fishing by Juan Shepperd

Personal business took me to West Virginia recently. I was there to run. Something I do occasionally. I packed my fly rod, hoping to do also some fishing. As a history buff, I know this part of the country has a lot of Civil War history. I was hoping to soak up a lot of it.

I started and stayed in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. I found it is uniquely Appalachian and geographically wild. The town is located at the intersection of Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. It sits at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers. Historically, Harpers Ferry is probably most famous for the abolitionist John Brown's raid in 1859. I learned the US had two armories at that time which supplied the US military guns – one at Harpers Ferry, the other in Springfield, Massachusetts. Naturally, someone attempting to take over an armory scared a lot of people. The Secretary of War asked the Navy to send in the United States Marines to put down the rebellion. In search of an officer to lead the group, they found Robert E Lee on leave nearby and assigned him as commander of the Marines, with J.E.B. Stuart as his aide. They captured Brown easily put down the rebellion. Harpers Ferry would see a lot of fighting in the years ahead.

There's Civil War history all around. My run took me through 3 National Parks (Harpers Ferry National Park, C&O Canal - which I found out stands for Chesapeake and Ohio - and the Antietam Battlefield.) The National Park service has done an wonderful job preserving the integrity of the buildings and lands. Much of it still appears as it did back then. Antietam really impressed me. The fences are in the same place. Some of the trees still exist. All the major Civil War players were involved at Antietam. Robert E.

Lee, "Stonewall" Jackson, James Longstreet, AP Hill, J.E.B. Stuart, John Hood (for whom Ft. Hood in Texas is named), George McClellan, Joseph Hooker, Joseph Mansfield, Ambrose Burnside. Almost 100,000 troops were involved and about 23,000 were killed, wounded or missing in the one day battle. Monuments in cornfields pay tribute to people from states far away. Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Ohio, Wisconsin, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York and seemingly every state in between. It was an epic battle. I stopped at one monument, built from pink granite which I recognized, that paid tribute to all Texans who fought there. The 1st Texas Infantry was hit particularly hard: 182 of

the 226 men were killed. More than 82 %. This park reminded me how much I like history. It was incredibly emotional to visit this park. I went back a second time, and tried to take in as much of this national park as I could.

This isn't a Civil War newsletter. I don't want to make it a history lesson either, but there is one more interesting fact about this part of the country that connects it with this club: Incredible fishing. This always makes me excited.

I arrived early on Friday with a 5 wt and a few flies, mostly poppers and a few small streamers. I packed light. Too light it turns out, I forgot a leader. There's one Fly Shop in town (Harpers Ferry has 286

Blue and Gray fly fishing cont.

people). When I got there a sign at the door read: Bob's sick, and I'm guiding. Sorry for the inconvenience. I did what I know most of you would do: I made a leader with tippet. Worked pretty well. I fished the Shenandoah River. It runs through town. I picked a spot a few miles out of town – I like to be remote – where I could park next to the river, and access it easily. I waded in shorts and tevas. The water was clear, maybe 18-24" deep, and moving steadily. My kind of water. I moved up and down the river, and had a great time. I didn't catch anything, but every cast had promise.

Just like the area is filled with famous war memorials with famous Generals, it's home to a pretty famous fly fisherman. This area of the country is Lefty Kreh's home water. He used to guide on the Potomac River. I have one of his Saltwater Fishing books. It's one of my favorite fishing books. Just like reading the signs at our National Parks, I learn something every time I read Lefty's book. I went back to the fly shop, which was open on Saturday, and talked about fishing, hoping to learn something from one of the locals.

"There are fish in the Shenandoah," the guy said "You missed them." I asked about the flies he was tying because they seemed big. I read the area had good Smallmouth.

"Musky fly" he said. "You want a big piece of meat." I picked up the articu-

lated fly. No way I could cast that fly with my 5 wt. I put it back down and asked about fishing the Potomac. He told me where to park and said it's perfect pocket water there. When I asked about Lefty Kreh, he added, "One of the holes there is named Lefty's Hole." He didn't tell me which hole. Fair enough. I drove across the bridge and parked in Maryland along the Potomac and accessed water that reminded me of like Llano River. Instead of pink granite, it was bluestone. It was blue-gray in color. Solid. Fortunately, the water was cool and running fast. The rocks were heavy and felt firm under my feet. Not slippery like the Llano. There were a lot of big boulders. In some plac-

es, the water moved really fast. I never hooked up with fish. 1 – 2 rocks, maybe. But again, just like the day before, I had a great time fishing. I consider myself fortunate to get away, reflect, and spend time on the water.

When I got back to Texas, I found online that this stretch of the Potomac is one of Lefty's favorite stretches of water. Harpers Ferry to Seneca, just upriver from Washington DC.

If I'm lucky, I might be able to tour Antietam and Gettysburg (which is closeby) with my sons someday. If I am really lucky, I'll get to fish this part of the country with them.

SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle

For the benefit of you who are new to the S.K.I.F.F. program, the mission of S.K.I.F.F. (Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun) is to introduce children who are separated from their parents due to those parents' military obligations, to the sport of fishing and, in so doing, lessen the strain of separation, while at the same time providing a respite to the homefront parents of those children. S.K.I.F.F. has been helping military families for a decade now.

The Austin Fly Fishers' members are the engine behind this effort, providing support and funding. Over the years, they have partnered with other organizations to help strengthen and expand the scope of the program, allowing more families to be served.

This month, one of those organization, the Sun City Rod and Gun Club, came through with another very generous financial gift.

The Sun City Women Helping Others (WHO) organization also contributed generously earlier this summer, and, the McBride Foundation is currently considering a request we submitted about a month ago.

Over the course of the month of September, S.K.I.F.F. provided three more fishing trips to seven children, all from the Fort Hood area.

As the weather cools and kids get into first semester sports at school, the number of S.K.I.F.F. trips conducted typically idles back during the winter. Even so, we have at least one more trip scheduled for the month of October thus far.

Trip #20 – On September 3rd, I fished with the four Cruz siblings, Dakottah, Makenzie, Makayla, and Gavin. The children's father, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Jose Cruz, has been away at a 10-week drill sergeant training course at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. After a brief stop back at Fort Hood, the family will be facing a move to San Antonio where SSG Cruz has been assigned as a drill instructor at the Advanced Individual Training (AIT) course there.



Cruz kids



Hazel Gibson



Aiden and Declan Guyer

SSG Cruz has served in the military as a medic for 13 years. The kids amassed a catch of 87 fish on Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir

Trip #21 – On September 16th, I fished with 5-year-old Hazel Gibson and her mom, Jennifer Gibson. Back on August 17th, I fished with Hazel's two siblings, 8-year-old Riley Gibson and 10-year-old Vince Gibson. Due to the age difference, I thought pairing Hazel's siblings with one other young man their age would work best, in addition to providing a shorter, less technically demanding trip just for Hazel. Hazel's father, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant (E-6) Alan Gibson, has served for 12 years and is currently serving as a scout in a Ft. Hood cavalry unit. SSG Gibson recently received or-

ders sending him to Afghanistan. Hazel caught 36 fish on Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir.

Trip #22 – On September 21st, I fished with Mrs. Danielle Guyer and her two boys, Aiden and Declan. The boys' dad, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Keegan Guyer, is an all-source intelligence officer in the U.S. Army. He has served for 17 years, has been away from his family for long spells on multiple occasions, and is currently deployed with the Third Armored Corps (III Corps). Danielle is a permanent substitute teacher working on getting credentials as a full-time teacher. The Guyers are originally from Michigan. The boys landed 42 fish at Lake Belton.

Club Sponsors

The following individuals who made presentations to our club in 2017/2019. Please follow the links to get more information on the services they provide. You won't be disappointed.

Marcus Rodriguez – <http://livingwatersflyfishing.com/> Central Texas Guide

Capt. Billy Trimble – <http://trimbleflyfishing.com/> Fly Fishing Rockport/Texas Coastal Bend

Chris Johnson – <http://livingwatersflyfishing.com/> Living Waters Fly Shop and Central Texas Guide

Pat Dorsey – <http://www.bluequillangler.com/> Fly Fishing Colorado

Capt. Scott Hamilton – <http://www.flyfishingextremes.com/> Fly Fishing Florida's Atlantic Coast

Capt. Eric Glass – <http://www.captainericglass.com/> Fly Fishing South Padre Island

Kevin Stubbs – <http://www.expedition-outfitters.net/> Fly Fishing the Devils River

Kevin Hutchison – <http://hillcountryflyfishers.com/> Fly Fishing the Hill Country

Capt. Steve Soulé – <http://www.theshallowist.com/index.asp> Fly Fishing Galveston

Jeff Davis – <http://allwaterguides.com/jeff-davis/> Fly Fishig the lower Colorado River

Jud Cole – <http://centraltexasflyfishing.com/> Central Texas and Colorado

Capt. Rus Schwausch – <http://www.epicanglingadventure.com/> Fly Fishing Southwest Alaska

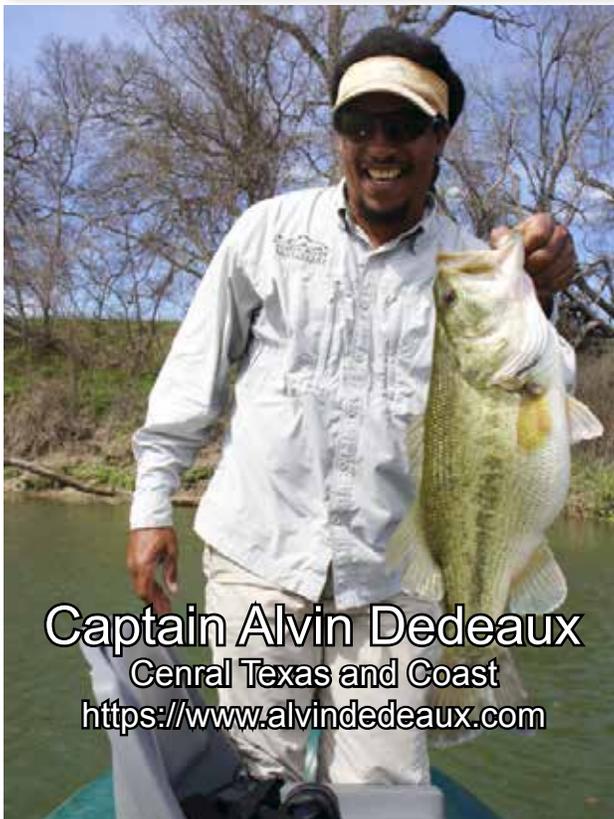
Nick Streit – <https://taosflyshop.com/flyguide/main> New Mexico and Southern Colorado

Capt. Randy and Truette Cawfield – <http://www.lagunamadre.net/styled-33/index.html>

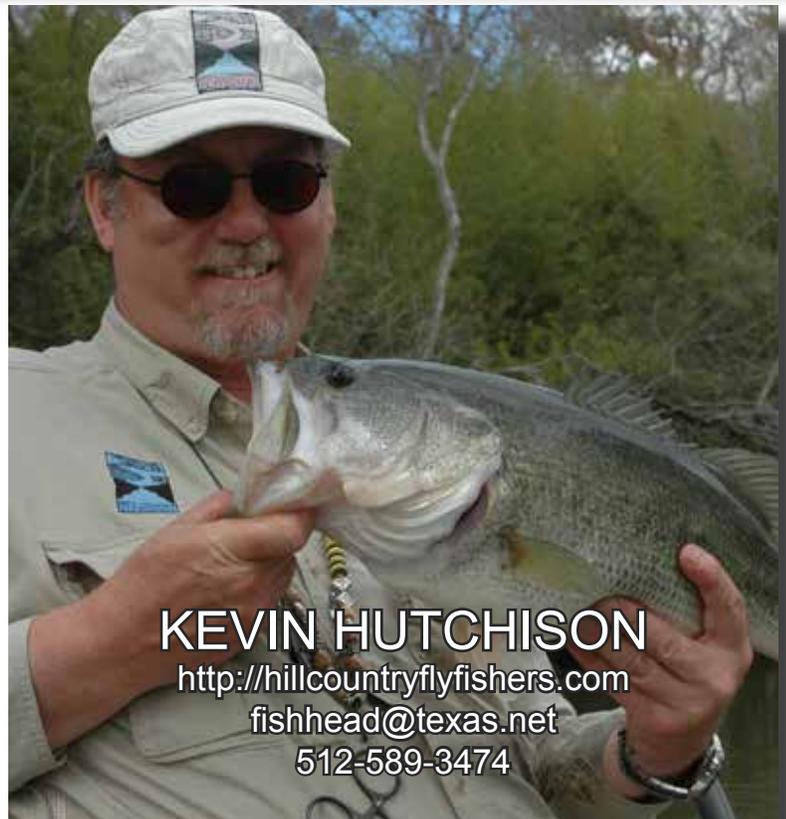
Lower Laguna Madre

Pat Vanek – BousqueValleyFlyFishing@gmail.com Rivers of Central TX

Capt. Alvin Dedeaux – <https://www.alvindedeaux.com> Central Texas and Texas Coast



Captain Alvin Dedeaux
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Captain Eric Glass

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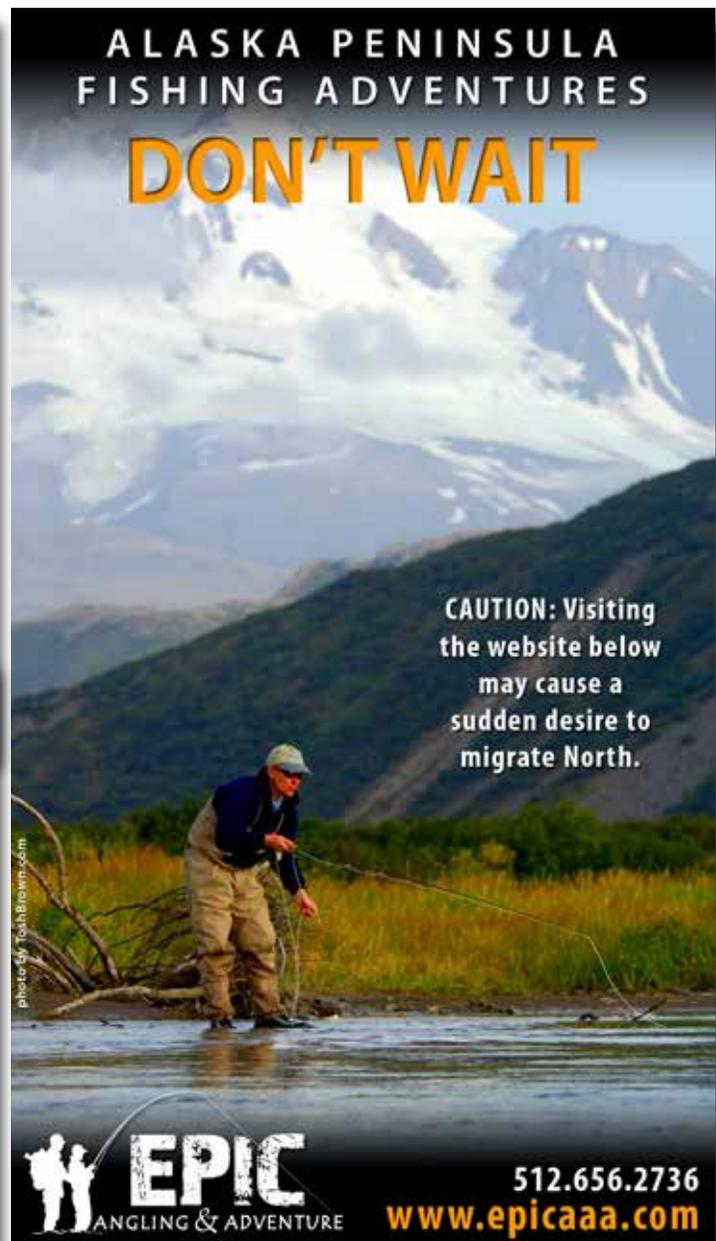
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