



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

July 2021
Volume 23, Issue 7



Dave Hill with Carp caught
at Project Healing Waters Page 5



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INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club

President's Message by David Bush

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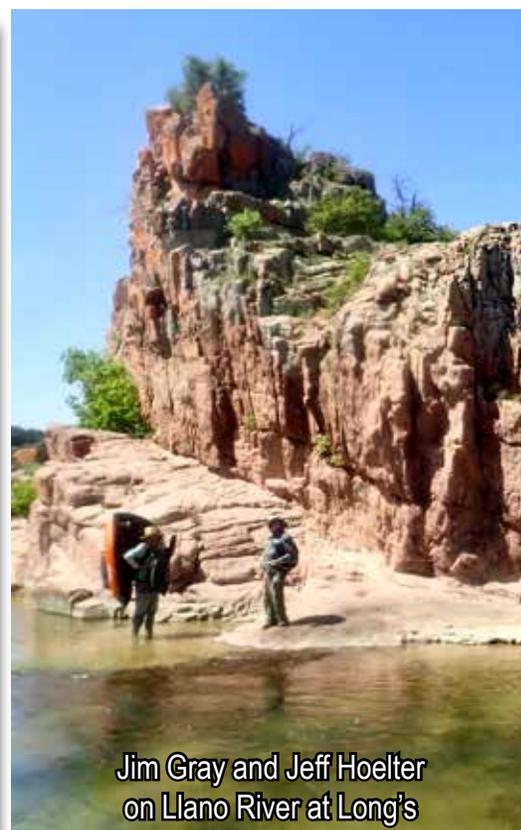
Finally being able to hold our monthly meeting in person again, last month was certainly fun. It was nice to actually hang out with friends and not just do so virtually. We got in some casting practice with a couple of new members, enjoyed cold drinks and snacks, and caught up with each other since the last time we met together. Much to our surprise, we even had live music during the gathering. A group of bagpipe players showed up in the park nearby and provided unexpected and unique entertainment. We also auctioned off a really sweet donated rod and reel outfit, and the proceeds will benefit the SKIFF program. We have several more very nice donated rods and reels that will be auctioned off each time we're able to meet in person.

I was able to meet with the new manager of the Northwest Rec Center before our June meeting. Since the indoors portion of the Rec Center is still closed, we were meeting outdoors on their lawn area, and he came out to share a recent update of their reopening plans. The good news is the Rec Center will be open a few days before our August meeting, and we're signed up to get back into the room that we used for many years prior to Covid. However, at this time, the city's health guidelines restrict indoor attendance to only ten people. Our meetings always draw way more than ten people, so meeting indoors at the Rec Center may not be an option until the ten person limit is relaxed. Therefore, we'll continue to juggle meeting outdoors and online, depending on the speaker or activity, until the health guidelines allow the Rec Center to accommodate our entire group indoors.

Due to the typical Texas summer temperatures, we'll be holding the July meeting online. Be sure to join us live on the AFF Facebook group page or catch the recorded video later.

Tight lines!

Dave



Jim Gray and Jeff Hoelster
on Llano River at Long's

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

6/1/2021 to 6/30/2021

Begin Bal. Checking	\$20,620.24
Income:	
SKIFF	\$146.00
Total Income	\$146.00
Disbursements	
Total Disbursements	\$00.00
Net	\$146.00
Unencumbered:	\$12,943.89
Encumbered Funds:	
Casting for Recovery	\$2,365.52
SKIFF	\$5,456.83
Ending Bal-Checking	\$20,766.24

July Speaker – Jim Gray

Thursday, July 15 at 7:00 pm

www.facebook.com/atxflyfishers/

Topic: Fly Fishing the Llano River

Bio: Our July speaker will be Jim Gray. Jim has 30 years of fly fishing experience, the last 20 based in Austin. He is a passionate angler, fly tyer, rod builder and conservationist. Jim, a past AFF club president, is a frequent guest speaker at fly fishing clubs in Texas, Louisiana and Florida. Jim has been fishing the Llano most weekends between April and December since moving to Austin in 1997. Jim's presentation will cover tactics for success, equipment, his favorite flies and locations to fish. Jim just returned from a trip to the South Llano and will provide an update on conditions since the floods.



SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle

Dear Friends of S.K.I.F.F.,

In late May I set aside days on my June calendar specifically for SKIFF program trips and, with the help of Mrs. Denise Igo who administers the Fort Hood Area Events Facebook page, made the public aware of these dates.

In reply to this posting, I got the following text on June 4th:

Hello, sir! My name is Maria. I was a former military wife. Your info was shared on our neighborhood website about taking military kids for a fishing trip. I have a son who would be ecstatic to go. He has been asking to go fishing since him and his Daddy used to fish a lot. That was their bonding moment. My husband died a year ago from suicide due to PTSD

while active duty at Fort Hood. It has been a tough one for the family especially the kids since they were very close to him. They always fished with him all the time. I don't know much about fishing. Trying to learn so I could take him sometimes. This would really mean a lot for him since this is what he asked for his birthday this month. Thank you for offering this to military children. Such a great thing to do. Hopefully he can go. Thank you for all you do.

--Maria Reynolds

Thanks to your support, I was able to immediately reply to Maria by phone, letting her know that I would be able to take nine-year-old Bryson fishing. As we conversed, I learned that Bryson had two other siblings, whom I invited as well.

On Saturday, June 12th, Bryson, one of his sisters, Makenna, and his mom all came aboard and we headed out fishing on Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir.

The children's father, Sergeant First Class Brad Reynolds, was age 38 on May 13, 2020, the day he passed away. Sergeant First Class Reynolds served as an Army aviation helicopter mechanic.

Maria, originally from the Philippines, is a nurse working in the endoscopy department at Advent hospital in Killeen.

Around 6:30 a.m. we shoved off from the courtesy dock in search of fish. The kids quickly got the hang of working the MAL Lure so as to get the spinner blade working efficiently as we did a "practice



From left: Makenna, Maria, and Bryson Reynolds with a portion of their 64-fish catch taken from Stillhouse Hollow on the morning of June 12, 2021.

SKIFF cont.

round” near the courtesy dock before taking our act out on the road and trying to catch fish.

We fished one general area, making a few short hops to stay up with the fish, from our trip’s start to around 8:55 a.m. when the white bass bite shut down pretty quickly for us. During this time the kids successfully worked their MAL Heavy Lures vertically to the tune of 51 white bass and 1 freshwater drum taken from out of 40 feet of water. Thanks to pretty grey, murky skies, the bite got off to a slow start, but, by 7:30, it was off to the races for a solid 70+ minutes of catching as fast as the kids’ sore wrists would allow. A few times I had to change spinning reel handles to the opposite side of the reel so the kids could give their wrists a break.

Just for variety’s sake, we did a bit of downrigging after the white bass shut down. We picked up one white bass that way and then changed over to sunfishing for the remainder of the morning.

Heading up into flooded brush, we broke out the long poles and presented live bait under floats for bluegill, redear, and longear sunfish. The kids landed 11 sunfish before Makenna gave out right around 10AM as the hot, humid weather and early wake-up began to take its toll. Bryson lasted another 10 minutes and we then decided to wrap it up and enjoy a cooling, breezy ride back in to the boat launch.

The kids wound up catching a total of 64 fish.

Again, thank you for your ongoing support of the SKIFF program so outings like this can take place.

--Bob Maindelle



Makenna landed our largest fish of the trip. This freshwater drum hustled up off the bottom and grabbed her well-presented MAL Heavy Lure in white color.

For the past 5 years, I have been a volunteer Team Leader with Project Healing Waters, Austin. We meet every Friday from 7 to 11 am at a private ranch outside San Marcos. The ranch has a large tank that is used to irrigate the grass fields and it is stocked with perch, crappie, bass, carp, and catfish. In addition, this 3,000 acre farm is located along San Marcos River with access to fly fishing from the river banks and in kayaks. Every week, anywhere from 3 to 20 Vets with disabilities show up. During our get togethers, the vets are in a supportive environment and able to talk about their experiences while learning to fly fish.

As a volunteer Team Leader, I help the vets learn to tie flies, cast, rig rods, and catch fish. One of the perks of volunteering at the project is that I get to fish after completing my teaching duties. A couple of weeks ago after I completed my work with the vets, I was casually fly fishing the tank with my 3wt TFO rod hoping to hook up a perch or other small fish to entertain myself. All of a sudden, as I was retrieving my fly I felt an enormous tug and my reel started to sing. This certainly wasn't the perch I was expecting. As 6 guys looked on, I attempted to keep this monster hooked up without breaking my 4 lb tippet. I am not sure how long it took, but I almost ran line out to backing 3 times before I got him to shore. I am guessing that carp weighed somewhere from 8 to 10 pounds -I'm going with 10lbs. This carp is my all-time best. I have been trying to catch a big fish from the tank for the last few Fridays with no luck. On a day when I was completely unprepared to catch a big one, I landed this one. What can I say, I was very lucky.

For those unfamiliar with the Project Healing Waters, I have included the following information from <https://projecthealingwaters.org>

MISSION STATEMENT

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings.

VISION

As the Nation's premier nonprofit organization, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. envisions a community where all participants can heal.



Dave's Carp and Tim Kapp's bass caught in the pond

Project Healing Waters cont.

CORE VALUES

We hold the following core values as central to our success

Compassion – Our organization enables the physical and emotional recovery of our participants as it restores the bond of trust that they built while serving this great Nation.

Accountability – Our organization remains accountable to our to our participants, to our volunteers, to our sponsors, and to our donors.

Excellence – Our organization reliably provides high-quality programs for all volunteers and participants based-upon well-understood standards of excellence.

Community – Our organization creates a sense of family by mentoring and supporting one another with dignity, passion, respect, and humility.

501C3 INFORMATION

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Maryland. PHWFF is dependent on tax-deductible, charitable donations and the help of numerous volunteers to meet the educational, equipment, transportation, and related needs of its participants.

I cannot thank Austin Fly Fishers enough for their continuing support of Project Healing Waters. Your contributions mean a lot to all of the disabled vets who regularly enjoy their time fly fishing on the ranch that Chris has graciously donated for our use. I would also like to note that Jim Gray's yellow Llanolope popper is our go to fly that all of our participants use it with great success.

Donations can be made on the website <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/projecthealingwatersflyfishing> or mailed to

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc.

Donation to Austin Program

PO Box 695

La Plata, MD 20646



Tim Kapp's fly used to catch the bass

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 Rodriquez – <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

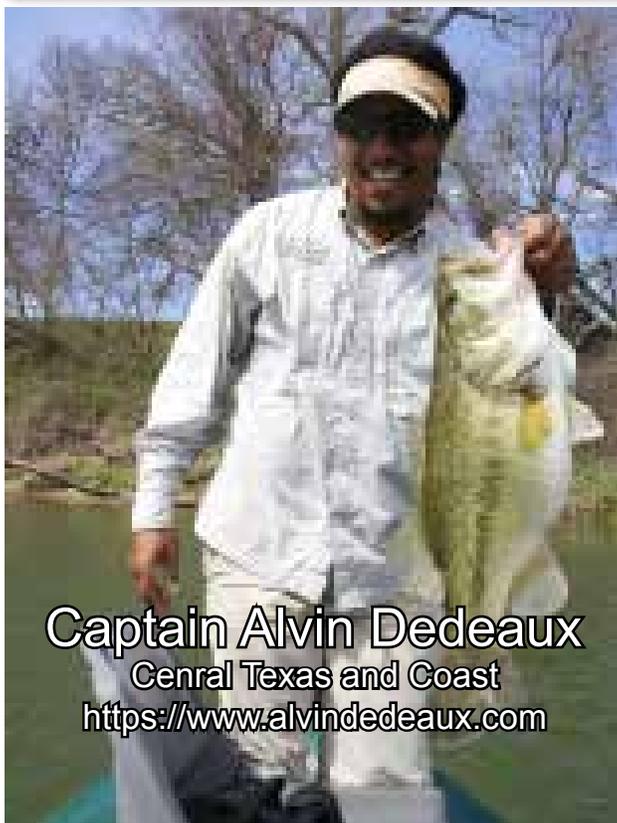
Nick Streit – <https://taosflyshop.com/flyguide/main> New Mexico and Southern Colorado

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

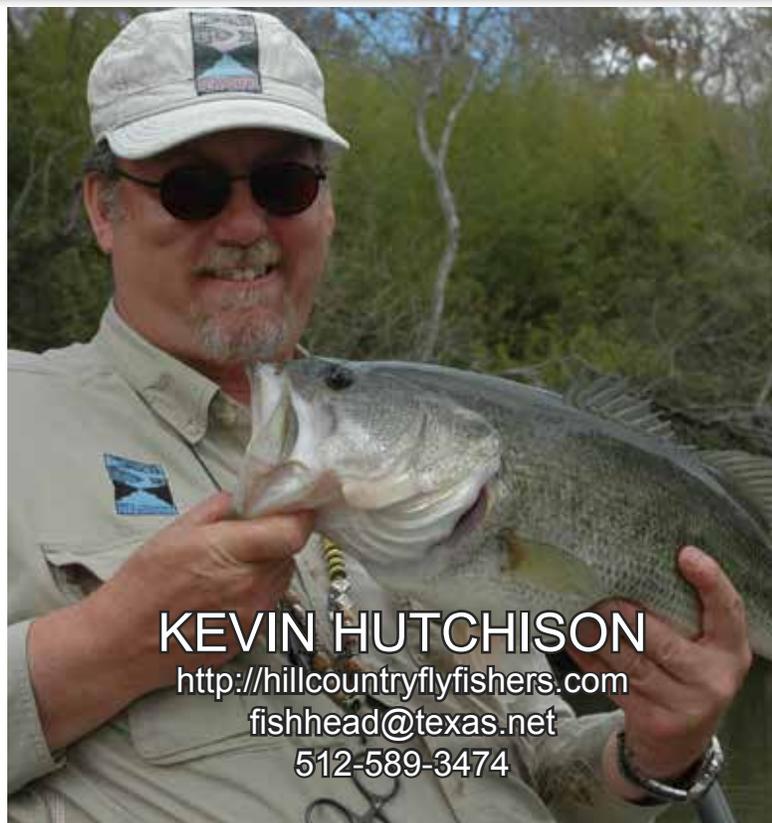
Lower Laguna Madre

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

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



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



KEVIN HUTCHISON
<http://hillcountryflyfishers.com>
fishhead@texas.net
512-589-3474

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Capt Randy and Truette Cawfield
956-371-3036

Email: kingfisherinnarroyocity@gmail.com



Captain Eric Glass

South Padre Island, Texas
<http://www.captainericglass.com>

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Capt. Billy Trimble
Shallow Water Flats Fishing
Texas Coastal Bend

<http://trimbleflyfishing.com/>
361-205-1266



Capt. Scott Hamilton
Fly Fish Jupiter, Florida

<http://www.flyfishingextremes.com/>
blueh20fly@aol.com



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Nick Streit

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



Capt. Fred Lynch

Fly Fish Corpus Christi

<http://www.flyfishcorpus.com/>
(361) 533-4227



Kevin Stubbs

Expedition-Outfitters.net

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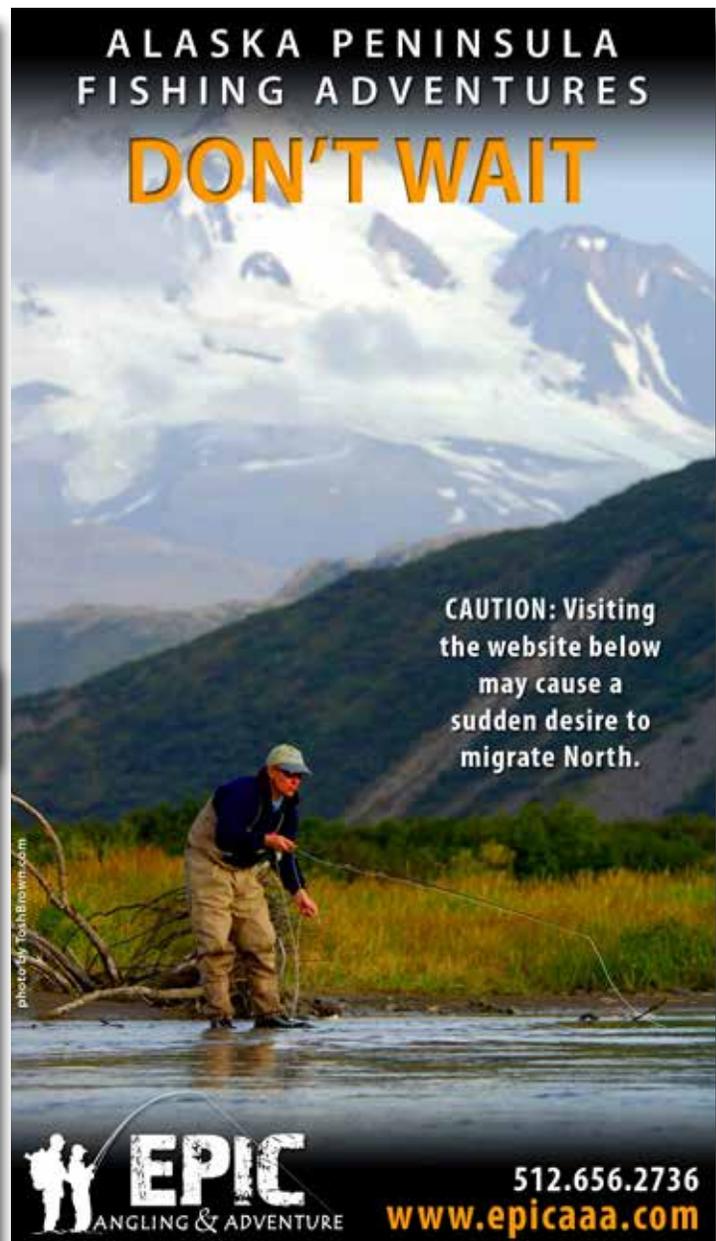
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