



AUSTIN FLY FISHERS

September 2021
Volume 23, Issue 9



Spanish mackerel caught
off the north jetty in Port Aransas
For more on Gulf Coast Fishing
Go to Page 4's article by Austin Orr
Get Ready for Fall Surf Fishing



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President's Message by David Bush

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To contact officers:

Info@AustinFlyFishers.com

From time to time I suspect everyone finds themselves with time to kill, whether it's that routine commute to work and back, mindless chores, or a long trip to a fishing spot. Listening to music is fine, but sometimes that gets old. I've discovered in recent years that there is an abundance of fishing related podcasts to enjoy during those times. Not only can they be entertaining, but I almost always learn something when listening.

There are podcasts published regularly that cover virtually every type of fishing imaginable including fly fishing. Perhaps the most popular podcast based in Texas is "Bite Me" with John Lopez and Capt. Scott Null. While Capt. Null guides out of Port O'Connor for fly fishing as well as conventional, their podcast generally covers topics of special interest to Texas coastal fishermen. They're an entertaining and informative pair which explains why their podcast is so popular.

For fly fishing specifically, Tom Rosenbauer of Orvis fame does a weekly show on a wide range of topics including bass, trout, and carp fly fishing in far flung destinations for example. Another interesting podcast is "Anchored" with April Vokey. Anyone who has spent any time in the world of outdoor sporting activities should recognize the name. April tends to do interviews with influential guests with expertise in fishing, hunting, and similar pursuits.

Florida is, of course, a hotbed of fishing activity and that also extends into fishing podcasts. "Captains Collective" by Hunter Leavine is always interesting as the host interviews guides not only from Florida, but well beyond its borders. Joe Simonds hosts the "Salt Strong Fishing" podcast weekly and covers mostly conventional saltwater fishing topics, but some of their topics are also of interest to fly fishing enthusiasts. Many saltwater fishermen should recognize the name C.A. Richardson who has done Flats Class University, a large collection of expert inshore fishing videos. While C.A. primarily covers conventional gear, he talks a great deal about saltwater fish behavior which is applicable to all forms of fishing. He also does a regular

podcast called the "Flats Class Blacklist" which I always find entertaining.

Podcasts are available using various apps including "Podcasts" on iPhones and "Google Podcasts" on Android. Spotify is another option on both platforms. Increasingly, podcasts are turning to subscriptions, but all of the ones I've listed are free. When you have an opportunity, check them out if you haven't already.

We'll be holding the September meeting online once again since the Rec Center is still not available. Our speaker will be providing an update on the impacts of last winter's bitter cold temperatures on our coastal fisheries just in time for fall saltwater fishing, so be sure to join us live on the AFF Facebook group page or catch the recorded video later.

Tight lines!

Dave

Financial Report

by Jim Robinson

8/1/2021 to 8/31/2021

Begin Bal. Checking **\$20,805.41**
Income:

SKIFF (Women helping
others, second check) \$500.00
Total Income \$500.00

Disbursements
Total Disbursements \$00.00

Net **\$500.00**

Unencumbered: \$12,483.06

Encumbered Funds:
Casting for Recovery \$2,365.52
SKIFF \$6,456.83

Ending Adj Bal-Checking **\$21,305.41**

July Speaker – Dakus Geeslin

Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 pm

www.facebook.com/atxflyfishers/

Topic: Freeze 2021 impacts to Texas Coastal Fisheries.

Dakus will present the impact of the February 2021 freeze event to the coastal fisheries in terms of estimated mortalities to sport fish. He will also describe the results of spring gill net surveys which show reduced catch rates in several bay systems.

Bio: Dakus Geeslin is the Deputy Director of the Coastal Fisheries Division within the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He oversees fisheries monitoring and management and hatcheries programs for the division. His work includes leading the longest continuous fisheries monitoring program in the country and the largest Red Drum hatchery production in the world. Dakus works collaboratively with department marine biologist and scientists to develop the best available research and science to guide policies, practices, and regulations for both commercial and recreational fisheries within the Gulf Coast of Texas.



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Brandon Rabke and Capt. Fred Lynch



Nils Pearson fishing with Capt. Fred Lynch

SKIFF Program by Bob Maindelle

Dear Friends of S.K.I.F.F., SKIFF served three young people during the month of August, and received a \$500 donation from the Women Helping Others (WHO) chapter based in Sun City, TX.

Villalobos Family – On the morning of Thursday, August 5th, I conducted the season's 8th SKIFF program fishing trip for kids whose parents are separated from them due to military duty.

Joining me were the three sons of U.S. Army Sergeant First Class (SFC) Edwin Villalobos — Damion Guillen (age 16), Damien Villalobos (age 16), and Xavier Guillen (age 13).

Also aboard for a portion of the trip was Olivia Levada, a reporter with Spectrum News 1 Texas. She heard of the SKIFF program and decided to do a story about it. She met with the kids prior to the trip and interviewed them, then joined us for the fishing trip to gather some on-the-water footage. The story she produced ran throughout the week of Aug. 9th.

Some quirky weather produced some quirky fishing that morning, but, despite

their inexperience, the boys listened well, learned quickly, stayed optimistic, and, in the end, were rewarded with a decent catch.

The cold front which moved through early in the week pushed back north as a warm front about mid-day. Although the weatherman said we'd have southeasterly winds in the morning, they were actually still blowing ENE, thus greatly diminishing the likelihood of a topwater bite, which was the whole reason I'd chosen to take the boys to Lake Belton in the first place.

A few minutes after sunrise, we noticed a very light topwater feed and landed our first few fish of the morning while sight casting to those fish.

Olivia got a few photos, asked a few more questions, and by then had all she needed for the story, so, we dropped her off and continued fishing.

Our best action came from 10:00 to 10:45 as we found a school of white bass in a neutral mood laying on bottom as we observed side-imaging. I positioned the boat so the boys could cast

off the port side as they stood abreast of one another. We used a sawtooth tactic to work MAL Heavy Lures back to the boat successfully, taking our morning's catch to a total of 22 fish.

The boys really had to stick with it to accomplish this, but, in the end, each of them cast to, retrieved, hooked, landed, and released their own fish a few times over and even asked for an "extension", so, we spent another 45 minutes on the water before mom's deadline kicked in and we had to wrap up.

We ended up with exactly 22 white bass for the morning.

Fundraising - at 1:30 p.m. on August 23rd, I gave a 30-minute oral presentation and slide show followed by a Q&A session to a gathering of the Sun City Women Helping Others chapter. Approximately 80 members were present for the monthly gathering. The ladies were kind enough to present SKIFF with yet another \$500 check.

--Bob Maindelle



From left, Xavier Guillen, Damien Villalobos, and Damion Guillen with a few of the white bass they worked for this morning. The boys were treated to this outing through the SKIFF program while their dad is deployed to Poland.

Get Ready for Fall Surf Fishing

by Austin Orr

Fall on the Texas coast is a special time of year for many reasons. The oppressive heat of late August starts to lift, the kids are back in school, and the surf starts to turn on. Mullet and bay anchovies start moving through our part of the gulf in large numbers, and the predators follow close behind.

The gear:

As usual, this one is all about what the weather gives you. If you're very lucky and have a north wind blow down the surf for you, you could consider using a 6 weight or even a 5. If the usual Southeast breeze is blowing, a 7 or 8 weight will help give you the higher line speed needed to get out to the fish. Either a weight forward floating line or intermediate will get the job done, with the int line being the best choice for windy conditions. Due to the high numbers of lady fish (skipjack) and Spanish mackerel in the surf this time of year, it's usually a good idea to have at least 20 pound tippet. If you find yourself getting cut off, consider either moving your fly faster with a hand-over-hand retrieve or tying in a short section of 50 pound mono to help protect against these toothy critters. Fly selection is straight forward - size 1 or similar lead eye clousers in grey, blue, or chartreuse over white. Surf candies and other epoxy baitfish hold up to teeth a bit better than bucktail. For the topwater junkies out there, this is a good time to throw poppers and crease flies if you don't mind the ladyfish shredding them slowly. Friendly advice - don't throw your favorite flies in the surf.

The signs:

Hitting the beach for a dawn patrol cruise is a good way to start. Look for anything different: diving birds, slashing schools or even seeing cruising fish through the waves as the sun gets up higher. If you don't see anything right away, you can pick areas to fish and then hop back in the vehicle again for more patrolling. It's common to see activity out beyond the breakers that drifts in to the beach on the wind and tide, so be patient and keep your eyes peeled.

Due to the difficulty in line management when in the surf, I generally don't attempt to fish more than waist deep and would recommend staying in knee deep water for most. If you're able to find the fish boiling right on the beach, you may not even have to get your feet wet to get out to the fish.

One last bit of advice: stay aware of your surroundings. The adrenaline of coming up on a school of blitzing fish is incredible and part of why we love this sport so much. However, try to remain aware of what's going on around you. You'll be sharing the beach with tourists and curious onlookers - checking your back cast is always a good idea. When you're in the middle of a swarm of birds going nuts on the bait, it's fairly common to accidentally tangle a bird while casting. Don't panic - calmly and carefully retrieve and free the bird while being cautious about that beak! Just another good reason to pinch your barbs.



Spotted Sea Trout caught in the surf



Searching for signs of fish at Padre Island National Seashore

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

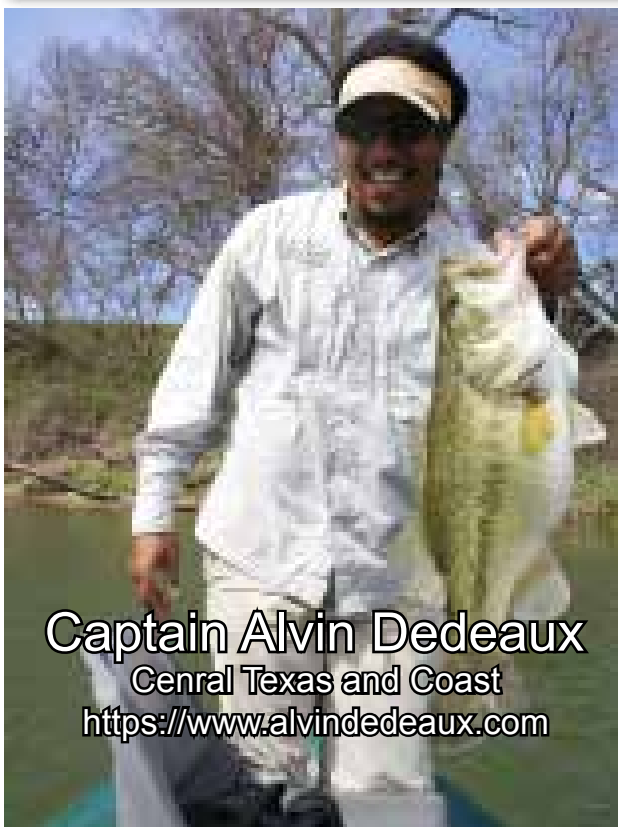
Nick Streit – <https://taosflyshop.com/flyguide/main> New Mexico and Southern Colorado

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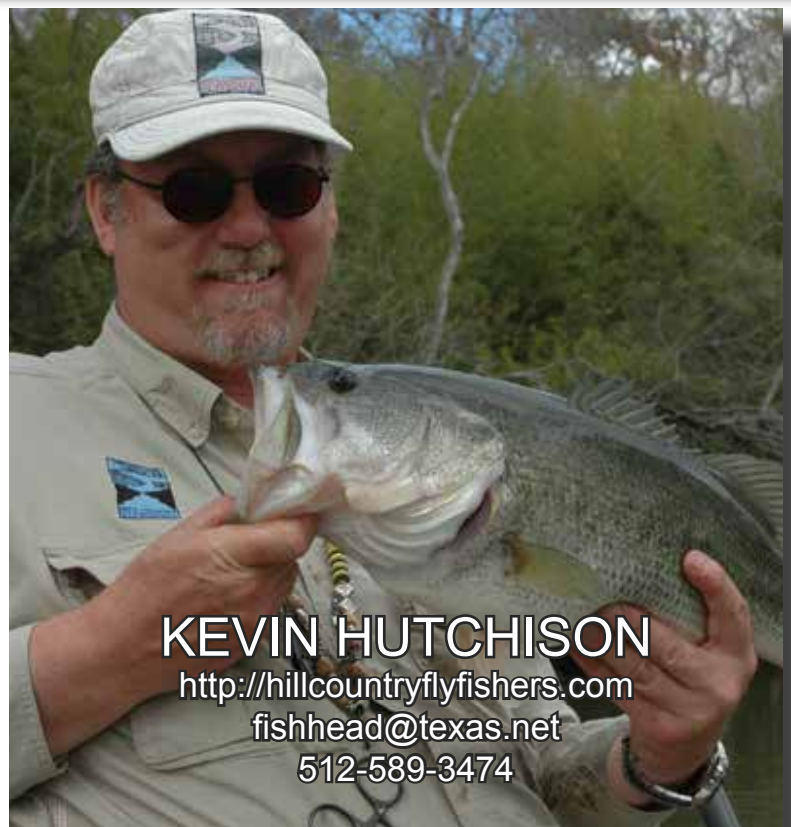
Lower Laguna Madre

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

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/>
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Capt. Fred Lynch
Fly Fish Corpus Christi

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



Kevin Stubbs
Expedition-Outfitters.net

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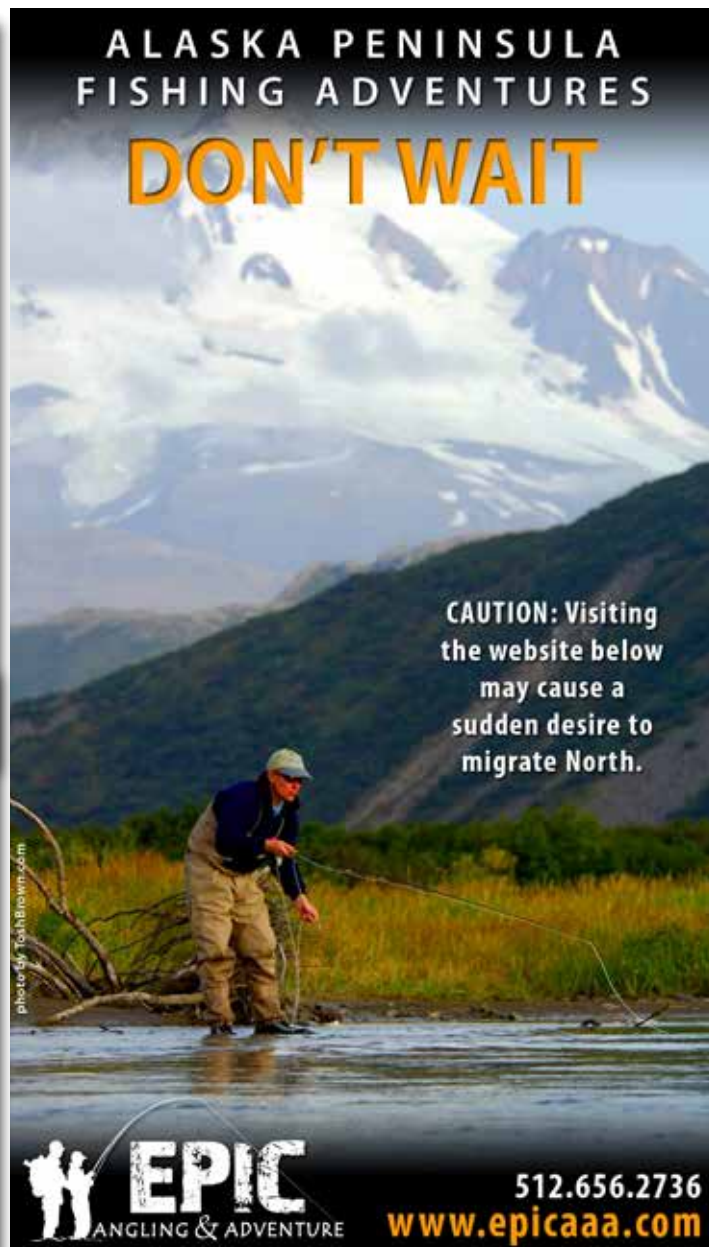
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