

ALAMO FLY FISHERS

NEWSLETTER

Issue XVIII, No. 2

February 2003

Just One More Cast



By Clay Gill
President – Alamo Fly Fishers

Excitement is building and spring is so close. Warm weather has renewed enthusiasm for our common addiction. Fast and furious fishing action will be only weeks away. Cabin fever will break soon.

To get things going we have a swap meet and sale planned for March 02 from 3-5 pm, at Martha's Mexican Restaurant. The location is Thousand Oaks and San Pedro/(281N). There is no cost and the auction and raffle for a guided trip, Sage rod, Reddington Reel, and many other items will top off the day. Tickets for the raffle are available at the next meeting and right up to the drawing. You can sell, buy, trade, or just join us to eat afterwards. Lots of good gear should trade hands. Thanks to Jay Forrest for this great idea. Bring old magazines or donations for the club table to make some profit from.

Steve Flannigan represented our club in Houston at the prestigious statewide invitational fly tying festival there on February 01. His tenth invitation to this who's-who of tyers, like Billy Munn, Mike Verdun, Mitch Whitney, and Ed Rizzalo, Steve will again dazzle the attendees with his prowess at the vice. Much will be taught and accomplished by the fifty or more leaders in the art of fly tying. We are very lucky to have many of these leaders right here in our club. Congratulations to you Steve Flannigan and you're fine son who made his debut at the show this year. We are sure ole-Dad is very proud.

We are very happy to report our beloved members, Irving O'Neal and Ed Niehaus are in stages of recovery from surgery and plan to hit the water very soon. They are veteran members and patriarchs in our ranks. We wish you both a speedy recovery and hope to see you soon. Let us know if we can help in any way.

A mention of thanks to Anne and Jimmy Moses for the tireless work in the planning and production of the exemplary Chef presentation in January. For the last few years they have teamed to bring us outstanding presentations that have become the largest meeting turnouts of the year.

Member-Jim Hale, who offered the membership discount coupons last year for his Plantation Inn in Port Aransas, has decided to do this again this spring. His property is in the perfect place on Hwy 361 at the edge of

town. Jim will advise the members of discounts at the meetings. The property is super!

Cast iron and Dutch oven cooks prepare. It won't be long and the Colorado Bend Saturday night fish fry will have the first annual cast iron dessert cook-off. Sources tell me Chip Capris is looking for a secret weapon, and will be a big threat in the quest for the prize. Can a cobbler win? We will see.

The Earth Day event at Colorado Bend State Park is coming April 25. Volunteers who will teach casting and fly-fishing in general are needed for that day. Please contact us to sign up for this event. Information and sign-up will be provided at the next meeting in February.

We hope to provide impromptu outings very soon which will be announced by e-mail and happen as fishing hot-spots are identified, or private access is authorized locally. These will be unscheduled and short notices for those who may not be busy. Jon King will give the details in the web and over e-mail to coordinate the half-day trips and dinner afterwards. Stay tuned for details at the next meeting. Bud and Cherie at the Ramp Motel in Marble Falls told me they expect White Bass very soon and the water is up and just right. We will hit this spot on day trips and more very soon.

We extend a warm welcome to all the new members who joined recently. Some expressed a desire to understand the mysteries of fly-fishing, and others are new arrivals in town. We hope to addict you with the life-long love of fly-fishing. I encourage you to contact any club officer with any special needs or requests on the topic. Welcome aboard and come join us soon, as you will never meet a stranger. Whether fishing, boating or skills, there will be an expert old-pro glad to help you.

As we enter this New Year, let us all join in a partnership to promote our sport in a spirit of good will and sportsmanship to the public. We will all gain from the experience. Extend the outdoors to those not yet so fortunate. Our number one rule is to have fun! Proudly I can say our members exude all these ideals.

My thanks to everyone behind the scenes who works so hard to make this organization enjoyable and productive. The dues, raffles, and fundraisers help very much. Countless hours are donated by your officers to produce the newsletter, scheduling, presentations, education, accounting and all the events we enjoy throughout the year. I am proud to be part of this fine group of dedicated and hard working individuals who make it look easy and my job much easier. Thanks, and tight lines to you all!

As the living legend Lefty Kreh once wrote in a book for me in Houston, "I hope you have as much fun as I do with those fish out there". A great wish and indeed a noble lifetime endeavor. ■

February Meeting (Feb. 18)

Program

Skills Session

By Jay Forrest,
Vice President – Alamo Fly Fishers

Palmer Simpson, who guides on Baffin Bay and was scheduled as our speaker for February, has had to defer his presentation due to a shoulder injury. We look forward to Palmer's recovery and having him back on the water and meeting with us in May!

We will take advantage of this opportunity to have a "Basic Skills" session. Our program is not finalized but we are planning to have five members manning "stations" and addressing topics ranging from rigging a new reel, to emergency repairs, and basic equipment and packing lists. This should be a good session as spring fishing approaches!

■

Refer to www.alamoflyfishers.org for:

- Updated information on club activities
- Cancellation of club activities

Calendar of Events

February	9	-- Trout Fishing on the Guadalupe River
February	23	-- Trout Fishing on the Guadalupe River
March	2	-- Swap Meet
March	?	-- Alamo Cement Lake
March	21-23	-- Colorado Bend
April	?	-- San Marcos River
	?	-- Port Aransas or Censontli
May	17	-- Bud Priddy One Fly Contest
October	10-12	-- Big Shell

February Outings

Fishing for Tailwater Trout and Casting Clinic

By Jon King
Outings Chairman – Alamo Fly Fishers

February 9th

On Sunday, February 9th we will go to Camp Hueco Springs on the Guadalupe River for casting and fishing, from 8:00am until 11:00am. You can fish as long as you like afterwards. To get there take Hwy 46 west from IH35 to River Road, turn right and go to the River Road Ice House and turn right again, follow signs to the yellow Texas Parks and Wildlife access sign. Park in the designated parking area or you will be charged an entrance fee. See you there.

February 23rd

On SUNDAY, February 23rd we will go to The Cliffs on the Guadalupe River for fishing and fun. Be there any time you like, some of us will be there at First Light, make it easy on yourself. To get there follow the same directions to Camp Hueco Springs, just keep going as it is several miles further. You will see the yellow Texas Parks and Wildlife access sign on the left side of the road.. It is located across the river from Beans old camp. It is also referred to as the THIRD CROSSING.

We are making this change in plans since no reports of White Bass activity have been heard as yet. Come to the meeting on the 18th for more details and to hear what patterns are producing. While you still have time, run by and see Bruce Young at the Tackle Box Outfitters and pick up some productive flies and what ever else you need. See you there. ■

Kitchen Magic!

By Jay Forrest – Vice President, Alamo Fly Fishers

Jenevee Burns raised our culinary skills – and presentation – at our January meeting as she shared kitchen insights from her new position at La Mansion. Jenevee's recipes were elegant and delicious, but not difficult, and she shared some clever ideas for elevating the food to create a dramatic, tall plate. Turnout was wonderful and I want to particularly thank everyone who brought their spouse. And thanks also to Jimmy Moses for assisting Jenevee at Central Market and in prepping for the event – and to Ann Moses for arranging for Jenevee to be our chef. ■

A Grey Day at Shonto: Or Learning to Love the Cold and Wet

By Jay Forrest
Vice President - Alamo Fly Fishers

On January 25 a number of you drove in the drizzle and gloom to Shonto. It was cold and grey and wet and some of you probably wondered why you were there. Your non-fishing friends would, no doubt, think you had gone loony. I wasn't there and it wasn't because I don't like fishing in the rain!

Cold! Miserable! Wet! It doesn't get any better than that!

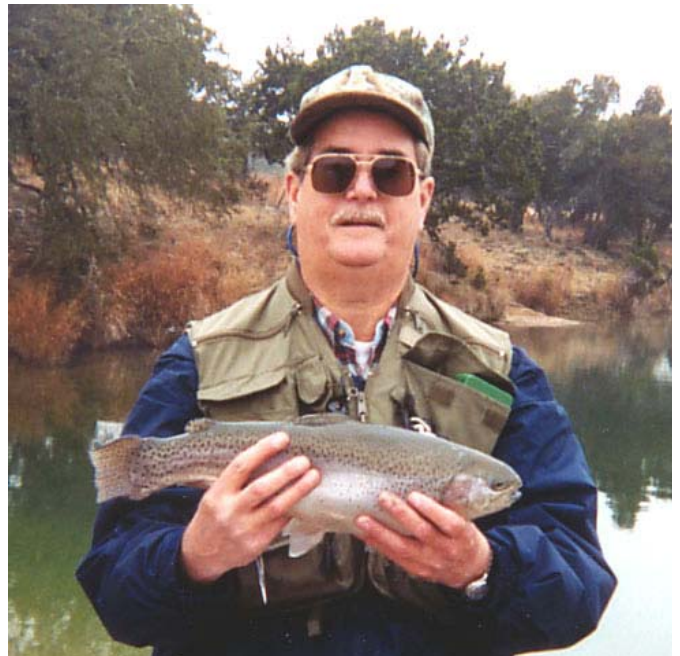
Maybe it comes from wading too long in freezing water – in the snow, at 15 to 25 degrees Fahrenheit. Perhaps that cold water somehow damaged my brain. But there is nothing like a cold, grey day to get me thinking about going fishing.

Perhaps it is having the river to one's self. Perhaps it is the sheer macho of facing ridiculous conditions. But I love it. And many of my largest trout have been landed under ridiculous conditions. So I will always look forward to fishing in the cold.

My first such trip involved floating the Deschutes in early February about ten years ago. The temperature when we shoved off into the river was 20 degrees. It was sunny, but cold, never rising above freezing. The water temperature was 38 degrees. We had to dip our rods into the water just about every cast to unfreeze the line from the guides. The conditions seemed brutal -- but the fish cooperated and we caught ten trout from 15 to 22 inches. The cold melted every time a native redside screamed downriver.

Most of my "nasty weather" fishing has been in Oregon – a five day float trip for steelhead in October where we rose two hours before sunrise to don frozen waders and lurch into the river to thaw them so we could move better. Steelheading on the Umpqua in November in overcast drizzle. A seven pound rainbow caught on the Williamson in the snow. But nasty weather seems to work wherever there are trout. An eight pound brookie on a cold, stormy August evening in northern Labrador. A 30 inch char in March in the snow in British Columbia. An eight pound rainbow on a snowy February day on the San Juan.

The fish cooperated and I learned to associate good fishing with nasty conditions. So when drizzle and cold coincided with the club's trip to Shonto I really wanted to go. So if you were there, I would have gladly traded my warm sofa for your spot on the river. And if you weren't there, you missed the conditions I love. Try fishing in nasty weather some time. It takes the right gear, but it can be addictive! ■



Fishing on the Shonto Ranch

By Jon King
Outings Chairman – Alamo Fly Fishers

On Saturday January 23rd the Alamo Fly Fishers visited the Shonto Ranch. In total fourteen avid fishermen braved the less than perfect weather conditions to try their luck with the Rainbow Trout and Bass population that inhabit those waters. While the fishing was slower than normal, a good number of fish were hooked and some were netted. Several fishermen reported either catching good size fish or hooking and losing them. There were many large trout seem, but not many hooked, probably due to weather conditions rather than our skill level---RIGHT ????

As for me the ticket turned out to be a full sinking line with 4x tippet fishing a Wet Picket Pin, this fly also works well on the Guadalupe according to MR Young.

We had a larger number of people sign up and express interest in this trip, but the weather and the GRTU meeting being the same day prevented many from attending. We will try to set up another trip in the next few months. Many thanks to our host and guide C.D. McGehee who worked tirelessly to make sure everyone had a good time and did not get lost.

After the fishing was done a number of us stopped for dinner at one of Kerrville's fine dining establishments. From the conversation around the table it was evident that all enjoyed the fishing and came away with some new insight about their fishing abilities and what to do next time they cross paths with a large fish. ■

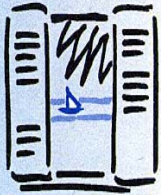
Area Businesses

Tackle Box Outfitters

6330 N. New Braunfels
San Antonio, TX 78209
210-821-5806
Fax 210-821-5807
tackleboxoutfitters.com

Gruene Outfitters

1629 Hunter Road
New Braunfels, TX 78130
830-625-4440



1909 Highway 361
Port Aransas, Texas 78373
Local: 361-749-3866
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Northwest Tackle Center

6850 Bandera Road
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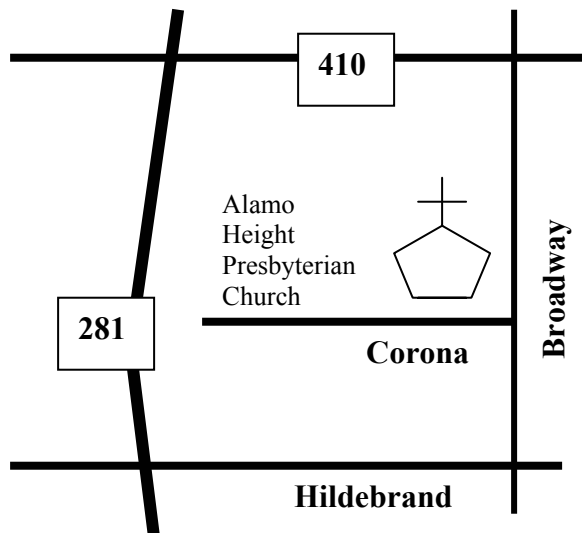
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Where to Find Us



Alamo Heights Presbyterian Church
6102 Broadway

AFF Website – <http://www.alamoflyfishers.org>
AFF E-Mail Address – Info@alamoflyfishers.org

Regular Activities

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. at Alamo Heights Presbyterian Church, 6201 Broadway.

Fly tying sessions are held every Tuesday at 7 p.m., with the exception of meeting night. Bring your vise and tying gear or just come and share in the discussion.

Alamo Fly Fishers club officers

Clay Gill	President	491-0555
Jay Forrest	Vice-Pres.	490-3732
Todd Fleming	Treasurer	479-3062
Jon King	Outings	378-7414
Buddy Robichaux	Education	492-7125
Mike Richards	Newsletter	641-7268

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