



ALAMO FLY FISHERS

January, 2012

San Antonio, Texas

Page 1 of 12

AFF MEETING

Wednesday
January, 18th
Tost Bistro Bar at
14415 Blanco Road

President's Message

"Greetings"

by Joe Mitchell

Greetings from your new president, I am looking forward to a year of exciting outings and programs for our club. We have several new officers which should provide some new ideas for outings and ideas for the club.

The annual fish dinner is on a Wednesday this year, instead of Tuesday, so mark your calendars for the 18th of January and come join us for the annual fish dinner. Some of our members have been fishing hard to provide the fish, please make sure you join us for this annual event.

During the first meeting of the year our new outings director Walter Ross, will be passing out a survey to better determine the types of outings and places you would enjoy fishing. So please put on your thinking caps for ideas. We would like to get more of our club involved in the outings. I am also thinking about starting a day trip on the weekends to a nearby fishing location. I am interested to find out how many would participate in this.

I hope everyone had a great New Year and good luck keeping all of your resolutions. Again I look forward the coming year.

Joe Mitchell



January 18th Meeting

Dinner and Cooking Demonstration, Tost Bistro Bar

PLEASE NOTE!!! The January meeting will **NOT** be at our regular location or on our usual meeting night! It **will be** at **Tost Bistro Bar** on **Wednesday, January 18th.**

As has been a tradition with the Alamo Fly Fishers for many years, our January meeting will be a fabulous cooking demonstration for our members to learn yet another tasty way to prepare their latest catch. After a fun filled and excellent event last year, we will once again be

(Continued on page 2)

What's Inside

Presidents Message-	
"Greetings"	1
January Meeting -	1
Fly of the Month.....	2
Scouting Report.....	4
Just one more Cast-	
"One Day to Paradise"	5
"Trout Days	
at Chalk Bluff"	7
January Calendar.....	12

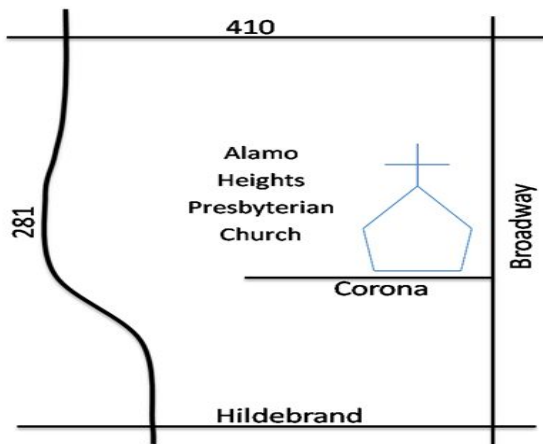


Alamo Fly Fishers Officers

President	Joe Mitchell	(210) 722-0430
Vice President	Tim Constanzo	(210) 416-6191
Secretary/ Treasurer	Todd Fleming	(210) 479-3062
Outings Director	Walter Ross	(210) 324-1359
Education Coordinator	Bill Slough	(210) 826-6697
Conservation Officer	Mike Copeland	(210) 342-0766
Web Master	Mike Lee	(210) 832-5217
Newsletter	David McWilliams	(210) 478-6534

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
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(Continued from page 1)

meeting at Tost Bistro Bar at 14415 Blanco Road, hosted by owner Jean-Francois Poujol. Our January meetings are always a popular meeting and a great "couples" event, filled with camaraderie and conversation in a casual dinner setting.

The January meeting will be held at **Tost Bistro Bar** on **Wednesday** January 18th starting at 7:00pm. The restaurant is located at the corner of Blanco Road & Cadillac Drive, roughly half way between Loop 410 and Loop 1604. We are still working out the final details of the event (i.e. catching the fish!), but expect it to be similar in format to last year. They are putting together a menu suitable to our club for a reasonable cost of \$25 per person. The cost will include a four course meal, with the main entrée served family style featuring several types of fish caught right here in our home waters. There will be a cash bar as well for anyone wanting to sample the wonderful beer and wine selection.

Tost Bistro Bar is a neighborhood style bistro featuring dishes inspired by the cuisines of France, Italy, Spain and the Mediterranean. Their emphasis on freshness and quality service is evident to anyone who has dined there. In addition to great food, atmosphere and service, they offer a thoughtful wine list and an eclectic beer selection to compliment the menu. Last year, Tost Bistro Bar (formerly Soliel Bistro & Wine Bar) was proud to be named the Critic's Choice Best New Restaurant for 2008 by the San Antonio Express News.

Jean-Francois Poujol is the owner and front of the house manager of Soleil Bistro & Wine Bar, bringing with him an astounding resume with over 20 years in the restaurant business. Jean-Francois came to San Antonio about 8 years ago, after nearly 15 years in restaurants around the Los Angeles area. Prior to opening Tost Bistro Bar roughly three and a half years ago, Jean-Francois has worked for some of the most notable restaurants along the San Antonio Riverwalk, including his role as the general manager of Biga on the Banks and as front of the house manager at La

(Continued on page 7)



Fly of the Month – Thread Midge

By Rob Burlingame

I am slowly preparing myself mentally for the work week to start again after a crazy end to 2011 and some much needed time off to chase some fish. The temperatures have started to stabilize and in between the much needed rain showers the weather has been beautiful. With chilly mornings and warming afternoons, you should be filling your free moments with day trips down south and afternoon adventures to closer waters like the Guadalupe River.

On the coastal marshes, redfish are well into their winter patterns with several reports of huge pods in the 100-200 fish range seen tailing and crashing bait on the sun warmed flats in the afternoon. Duck hunting is still underway, so make sure to give the hunters and airboats plenty of space. They are usually out of their blinds by mid morning, giving the flats plenty of time to warm up and the fish to pile in. It is not uncommon to see huge schools this time of year ready to pounce on anything that gets close to it.

The trout stockings are well underway and surprising reports of large holdover trout should have you excited to hit the river. Flows have been in the 50-60 cfs range for the past month, making for easy wading. Find a few choke points and you will have good flows for nymphing the river for some nice trout action. Join the GRTU Lease Access program for pre-

mium access points to the river and less competition for fishing spots.

The pattern for this month is an add on to November's pattern (Stone Fly), as a perfect companion when used as a dropper pattern. It is also one of the easiest patterns to tie, meaning you can whip out a good number and variety in a relatively short time. The flows and water levels are both decent this year for good nymphing action, which I like to attempt with an attractor and dropper style presentation.



You can “drop” this month's pattern below plenty of other patterns like eggs, larger nymphs like a hare's ear or pheasant tail or swing a tandem rig of two midges. Don't be fooled by the size or ease of tying of this month's fly as I once was...my largest trout on the Guadalupe came on a #22 midge pattern. It's all about matching

the hatch and there is plenty of small bait in the Guad.

The thread midge pattern is a staple in most western trout fly boxes and can be found in most of the regulars' boxes of GRTU members. A little investigation on the water and it is no surprise. Next time you are standing near a slow riffle, look on the top side of rocks in the current. You will see what looks like dark green or black algae on the rocks. Pick up a rock and look closely and you will see that they are actually a colony of small bugs in the larval stage, holding onto the rocks with their head for dear life. Stick a thread midge of similar color next to them and you will see a prime “match the hatch” example. Aquatic

(Continued on page 6)



SCOUTING REPORT

By Clay Gill

Howdy and welcome to the Alamo Fly fishers! We hope you had a wonderful Holiday season, and made some memories with your families. The Christmas party was a big success and reportedly everyone had a great time. Lots of great prizes were won and the support given to the club is greatly appreciated. The donations go a long way toward the largest fund raiser for us each year. Thanks to everyone!

As they say the people in Texas fish all year long. It is true. Even though the water is low or gone in places there is still plenty to do even in the winter. Trout fishing is in full swing now and where they are stocked and water remains there is some good fishing. Private waters like the Shonto Ranch also provide a place for a small fee where it is sure bet fishing and you can catch some very large fish.

Freshwater fishing is slow now unless you know how to locate deep water fish with special techniques. Cold water has stratified areas with no oxygen and drastic temperature changes at specific levels. There are a lot of good articles to help you understand this situation which concentrates fish right now. Many are just tying flies for the White Bass which will be on the spawn run in just weeks and making their way to rocky bottom shallows for the annual spawn.

Be sure to check in with us and get onboard for the trip we make each year to the Colorado River for a great campout. Water will be low so stay tuned and let's hope for spring rains to raise all the area lakes. It may be a problem and even prevent some fishing in certain areas. Watch the web and come to the meetings for the latest scoop on the conditions and best places to access White Bass in the shallows. Tying Tuesdays is a good place for the latest in-

tell on where and how. It is good place to learn the best flies for the shallow runners --coming upriver soon.

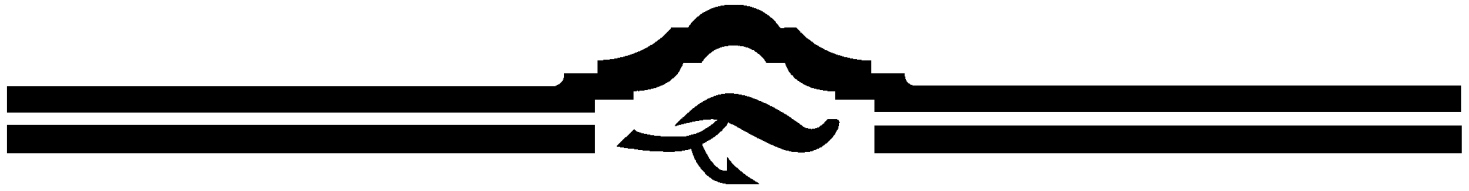
The coast still has fish and guides can show you a great day on the water. Things are calm and quiet, and a warm day on the flats now is like heaven. The Reds will move slower but they are there. They only dive into the "ditches" for a day or two on the frontal passages, then bust out again to prowl dark bottoms after the sun comes out and warms the black bottoms first.

Die hard purists are prowling for large loner Speckled Trout now daily. They are out there and eat seldom but will smack a buggy fly placed in their face. Watch potholes and edges where they lay quietly conserving energy in wait for a fat baitfish or crustacean. By April they will all have a gut full of baby Crabs but right now be prepared for fewer fish and more scenery. Don't forget your camera, as the whole Central Flyway is down there right now. Millions of waterfowl and large birds of prey are present and the photo opportunities are endless.

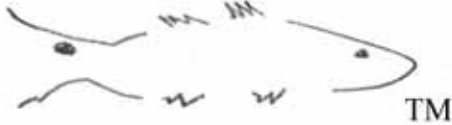
Don't forget to check out Kevin Hutchison's new fly fishing classes coming soon at www.hillcountryflyfishers.com for information on seminars he has coming soon. Kevin is a great friend of the Alamo Fly Fishers and his programs will be coming soon. There is still room to sign up for the opportunity to learn from the best!

If you have a need for skills classes, be sure to get with us soon. Plans for the year are formulated now and classes can be formed as needs arise. Casting, tying, knots, techniques,

(Continued on page 6)



Just One More Cast



By Clay Gill

One day to paradise!

The quest for another amazing place one day away from home is a worthy endeavor. To venture towards snow and ice is questionable. Having been there before we knew the snow plows would keep us safe. This was a trip to the only areas with good snow during the Christmas Holidays. We went to New Mexico.

Once you get up in the mountains at Christmas it has that feel. The cold is always there. Teens and twenties at night and thirty-fourty during the day. You get use to it fast! It makes you feel like getting out as it is a dry cold and



up at eight to ten thousand feet it is hard to catch your breath if you get active.

We took three car loads and got three cabins for an amazing first look for all the grand babies. Knee deep snow and ice sickles hanging everywhere. They thought it was the North Pole! It looked like it. We did it all and they loved it. Some skied, tubes, ice skated, hiked,

(Continued on page 8)



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(Continued from page 4, Scouting Report)

and rigging can all be addressed for those who have joined us in need of help. Be sure to contact a club officer for any special needs you may have. We can help you! You will not meet a stranger! This is a family organization here for you. Also let us know what you might want to learn about regarding speaker topics.

A very prosperous and wonderful New Year to you all. May your lines be tight, and the smiles abundant. Come join us soon for an outing, tying session, or meeting. Be sure to keep a watch on the web site for details and activity to start soon!



(Continued from page 3)

larvae vary by location in size and color, but are found in nearly all stretches of fishable trout waters. The thread midge is a generic pattern that presents a profile that matches a very wide spectrum of bugs. Try varying sizes, colors and weights until you find what the fish are keying in on. One popular pattern on the Guadalupe is a zebra midge, which has a black body and silver wire wrap. I will also tie them in olive with a silver wrap.

This is a great winter pattern around here and great year round on western trout streams. Keep them stocked in your box in a host of color and size variations and you should find that they quickly become a staple in your trout arsenal as well.

Materials:

Hook: Scud hook in size 18-24

Thread: 6/0 or 8/0, color to match fly body

Head: Glass bead or 5/64 Cyclops bead

Wire: Small Ultra Wire or Small French Tinsel Wire

Tying Steps:

1) Thread bead onto the hook and slide to the eye of the hook.



2) Start the thread just behind the bead and wrap to the bend of the hook

3) Tie in a short piece of wire (2" or so) at the bend of the hook.



4) Wrap the thread back and forth between the bend of the hook and bead to create a tapered body that gets thicker toward the bead. Stop the thread just behind the bead.



5) Wrap the wire forward evenly to create a segmented look to the fly. Secure the wire just behind the bead.



6) Whip finish the fly, add head cement and you are done! Told you this was an easy fly!





Trout Days at Chalk Bluff

Submitted by Walter Ross - Freshwater Outing

January 20th-21st: Trout Days at Chalk Bluff Park, Nueces River

Event Date/Time: The actual tournament runs from 9am to 5pm on Saturday, 21 January. Up to four cabins will be available for AFF members from Thursday afternoon through Sunday noon for those who would like to fish before and after the Trout Days event.

Event Leader: Walter Ross

Kick off your new year with our first 2012 AFF outing! Hill Country Rivers through THRCC (Texas Hill Country River Region) is once again hosting Trout Days, an annual fishing tournament, at Chalk Bluff Park on the crystal clear waters of the Nueces River. The tournament includes four divisions; Open Fly, Open Spin Cast, Youth, and 4H. In the past 2 years AFF members have broken two state records and swept all awards in the Open Fly division and member children have placed well in the Youth division. There is a nominal entrance fee of \$35 for adults and \$20 for children for this event. Please go to <http://www.hillcountryrivers.com/resources/2012-REGISTRATION.pdf> to download the registration form. The event closes out on Saturday evening with a dinner, awards ceremony and fireside entertainment.

Chalk bluff has graciously provided the AFF with two complimentary cabins and two cabins at half price. The total cost of lodging will be divided by all lodging guests. Cabins will be available from Thursday afternoon through Sunday noon. If you would like to stay in an AFF reserved cabin please contact Walter Ross at walter.ross@hotmail.com or (210) 324-1359. Additional cabins will be available to rent as well if you want one of your own. Please join us any time throughout the weekend that you can make it.

Directions to get to Chalk Bluff are below:

- Take Hwy. 90 towards Del Rio

- In the center of Uvalde, take Hwy. 83 North towards Leakey.

- You will travel approximately 2 miles and go over an overpass on the north side of Uvalde that goes over the railroad tracks. At the bottom of the overpass, take a left turn onto Hwy. 55 North.

- Set your odometer and go exactly 15 miles to the park entrance on the left side of the road. A historic marker is located across the road from the entrance.

Additionally, several members of our club will be helping out with the event, teaching an informal fly fishing intro Friday evening and casting instruction on Saturday morning. If you are interested in attending the tournament and/or helping out, please let Walter Ross know by e-mail at walter.ross@hotmail.com or by phone at (210) 324-1359.

We look forward to seeing you there!



(Continued from page 2)

Mansion del Rio Hotel. The experience that Jean-Francois brings with him is evident in the exquisite menu and exceptional service that you will find at Soleil Bistro & Wine Bar. Reviews of the restaurant commend the authentic European and Mediterranean flavors that are maintained throughout the broad menu choices. You can visit their web site at www.tostbistro.com to gain a better appreciation for the variety and value that they offer.

Please help us spread the word. Our January AFF meeting will NOT be held at the Alamo Heights Presbyterian Church as it typically is. We will be meeting at Tost Bistro Bar at around 7:00 PM on **Wednesday** January 18th.

We will have an abbreviated meeting up front, and suspend the fly raffle until next month so that we may get started as soon as possible. Hope to see everyone there! Please feel free to call any of the officers with questions. Until then, get out and do some fishing.



(Continued from page 5)

fished, and everyone ate tons of food prepared in the cabins. It really does not get better for grandparents. Holidays in the mountains are like heaven with the babies. The big kids had just as much fun, with no one hurt!

While up in the Mescalero area where we visited across south central New Mexico in the Sacramento Mountains, our son and his family hit the water for some trout fishing. Our large group had split into several expeditions and his was a quest for the grandson to get his first Rainbow. They smacked-em big time! They had fun!

Sorry T.U. but these were some tasty fish later that night. Community dinners trading each night were easy for my Aggie. He had some great legal fish and fed us all. The temporary license was well worth the price and New Mexico has some excellent fishing. We have been going there for years and know why they call it the land of enchantment. And only ten hours away!

Further up in the state is another great place but we did not wander up to the San Juan. That is another story and I hope to bring it to you first hand after the spring flows settle this summer. Near Blanco New Mexico, that is one fine place to fish and we always stayed at Abe's cabins. For some reason the cabins in New Mexico are still at prices of the past. Do not tell them! I don't think they know about resort prices. Even ski

and tube lift prices are reasonable. Ice skating is almost free!

The best way to make a tour of New Mexico is contacting the friendly fly shops and map yourself a tour. Start up from Cloudcroft, hit the Mescalero, and see White Sands before you wander north. Then be sure to go north past Los Alamos to the Navaho Reservoir area and fish the lower San Juan and the "Texas Hole".

The huge slob fish there are really fun. There are some great guides there at Abe's.

As they say-the Land of Enchantment will steal your heart away. It is true. Other than the occasional Elk in the road this place smells like pine in the fireplace and the people are laid back and friendly. No one is in a rush and anyone up there will help you. They all dress funny and look like Jeremiah Johnson or Michael Martin Murphy. You can stand by the wood stove with them and feel like family. The people of the "Rockies" are special and live a great life.

We really got our wish to be the hero's who brought big snow to the cabins. Must be living right. Two feet of snow days before we went, and blue bird dark blue skies the whole week we were there. Clean roads and blue skies. What more can you ask. It would be -to be together on the holidays on an excellent adventure. We were thankful for it all. My Daddy would say-"we must be living right!" -Happy New Year!



Come and celebrate the
20th Anniversary

Dr. Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Festival

Saturday, February 4, 2012

8:30 am — 4:30 pm

At the Bethany Christian Church, Houston, Texas

Scheduled to appear



Tim Borski

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For additional information check out our website at

www.texasflyfishers.org



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JANUARY Outings Calendar:

January 20-22: Trout Days, Chalk Bluff Park on the Nueces River

Enjoy winter trout fishing in the crystal-clear Hill Country Nueces River. Rainbow trout and largemouth bass will be stocked just north of Chalk Bluff Park. This event is being hosted by Hill Country Rivers and will include a fishing contest for both youth and adults with prizes and an evening dinner w/fireside entertainment.

For more information on the tournament check out Hill Country Rivers at <http://www.hillcountryrivers.com/page9/events.html>. For more information on Camp Chalk Bluff, go to <http://chalkbluffpark.com/>

Event coordinator: Walter Ross, (210) 324-1359, walter.ross@hotmail.com

January 28: Guadalupe One Fly

The format for the competition has changed this year and it is now a two man team event, with each team consisting of one inexperienced and one experienced (relatively) trout angler. Each member of the team will choose one fly to fish with and it will be the team's totals that determine the winners.

The river was recently stocked with a lot of large (3lb plus) rainbows and so there should be plenty of fish about. Those who plan to attend, please meet at 8:00am at the Rio Raft campground.

Some good information on the Guadalupe can be found on the following websites:
<http://guadalupefly.com/> <http://www.grtu.org/>

Event coordinator: TBD

January 27-29: Trout and Bass fishing on the Frio River in Concan, TX

Hill Country Rivers has stocked a large number of Trout and Large Mouth Bass in the Frio River. Join us in fishing the Frio. Reservations have been made at Neals Lodges for Friday, 27 through Saturday, 28 January.

At present, we have one cabin for 6 adults. Additional cabins may be reserved for those interested. Additional information on Neals Lodge is found at <http://nealslodges.com>.

Event coordinator: Walter Ross, (210) 324-1359, walter.ross@hotmail.com



Reminder: Membership Dues

A friendly reminder to everyone that we have started a new year, and it is time again to pay our AFF membership dues. Renewal and new membership forms are available at www.alamoflyfishers.org or at the club meetings.

Thanks,
Todd



ALAMO FLY FISHERS
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