

ALAMO FLY FISHERS

NEWSLETTER

Issue XVII, No. 9

September 2002

Just One More Cast



By Clay Gill
President – Alamo Fly Fishers

Howdy, and welcome to the Alamo Fly Fishers! It is about to become the best time of the year to get out and we are getting excited. Maybe it is my imagination, but a hint of fall has arrived in the morning. We just got back from the coast in time to transmit this for the copy deadline. Fishing is bonkers at the coast, and all we can say is bless the net-ban and the CCA. We saw hundreds of Redfish while poling the boat, and got them up to 24 inches on crab flies. The water and grass has never looked better!

Guides are smacking the trout everywhere we went on the flats and the surf has about five of the regular suspects herding bait in the first gut. We lined up in a dead-end gut and had everyone hooked up at sunset on Blues, Skipjack, Reds, and Jacks. It was a feeding riot, and the good ole white Clouser was the hero. The sharks are still there-as we had one hit in the north surf off St. Joe Island in the boat, anchored in four feet of calm water near the shrimp boat wreck a mile down on the beach. It is crystal clear right now and as good as it gets. Go often and take sunscreen. It is still blazin-hot.

The September line-up is looking good. Jon King will have skills at Louise Hays Park in Kerrville on the 08th, under the bridge next to Albertson's in town there. Anyone needing help of any kind will never meet a stranger there. Bring anyone needing help in fishing, casting, boating, or knots. Non-members are very welcome and please come join us there about 9:00am that Sunday at the riverside. The Shonto will be the 14th, and don't miss this chance to enjoy a day there for the special price of \$30.00. Bring a lunch for a group picnic in the pavilion before we take ranch tours or fish the afternoon away. Bring a camera, as this is the most gorgeous ranch you ever will see in Texas. Water is everywhere, and the owner requests no swimming

this trip. We will begin to take groups from the Albertsons' parking lot located on Hwy 16-(main street in town), about 11:30am, and shuttle them in until about noon. Call the ranch for a late arrival, to get a quick lead into the gate. Light rods, streamers and poppers will be the ammo of the day. Top-water will rule later in the day. Bring a friend, and don't miss this one.

The tickets for the Christmas raffle will possibly be on sale this next meeting. Lots of prizes are being collected. Also, the sign-up and tickets for the Dec 07 Christmas party at Tommy Wilson's BBQ will be on sale. This will be a \$10.00 per person indoor affair, with all food provided. Weather will not be a factor as we have a reserved room, which will be comfortable.

The Expo list and packages with maps will be at the next meeting for those volunteers. It should be more fun than ever, and be sure to stay for the provided BBQ that afternoon. A goodie bag will be waiting for you on arrival at the big fly fish tent.

Anyone wishing to donate for the Christmas raffle prizes please contact any club officer.

There is some interest in a Big Shell trip in October. Bruce Young got this going after the last meeting, and it will be discussed at the September meeting. The huge Surf Cats Tournament is on 12/13, and too many people will be there that date. With the Expo on 05/06, we will need to make it on 26/27, if it works for those interested. The weather should be great by then for a camp-out at the "Shell". Those with four wheel drive vehicles that can go would be the only vehicles that should try this one. It would be a Billy Sandifer-Land Captain style expedition. See his web page for lots of information.

Be safe and get out to enjoy our resources. As always, please leave them better than you found them, and take a kid fishing. Tight lines and good luck! ■

September Meeting (Sept. 17)

Program

Pan Fishing in Hill Country Rivers

By Jay Forrest
Vice President, Alamo Fly Fishers

Our September program will get us ready for fall fishing on our nearby rivers. San Antonio fly fisherman Kent Rush will share his light tackle panfishing experiences on a number of rivers, including the Devils, Nueces, Sabinal, Medina, and Guadalupe. Kent likes to use light gear – 3 and 4 weights – on these rivers. Kent will talk about the rivers, gear, flies, and even using a GPS unit so this presentation should have something for everyone. The coming months offer some of the best fishing of the year so Ken's presentation will be particularly timely! ■

Fly Fishing Fundamentals Session

By Jay Forrest
Vice President – Alamo Fly Fishers

This month Bruce Young has agreed to show us how he ties nail knots using nothing more than a paperclip or a toothpick. I have carried one of those nail knot tools for years (and used it at the August skills outing when my line cracked and peeled about an inch from the end of my fly line). This promises to be a really useful and a good “survival” skill demo for all of us! We will plan to begin the fundamentals session at 7 pm and be finished by 7:15 so come early for this session. ■

Calendar of Events

September 8 -- Skills Class in Kerrville
September 14 -- Shonto Ranch near Kerrville
September 28-29 – Port Aransas
October 1 -- Fly Tying Class
October 26-27 -- Big Shell Trip
November -- No Outing
December 7 -- AFF Christmas

September Outings

Skills Class, Shonto Ranch, Port Aransas, and Big Shell

By Jon King
Outings Chairman, Alamo Fly Fishers

September has turned out to be a very active month for the Alamo Fly Fishers.

On September 8th, we will meet at Louise Hays Park in Kerrville on the Guadalupe River. A fly fishing skills clinic will be conducted by Bruce Young and John Marfin with assistance from other members. The session will last from 8:00 a.m. until the middle of the afternoon.

On September 14th, we will be going to the Shonto Ranch. At 11:00 a.m., we will meet at the Albertson's in Kerrville on Hwy. 16 just passed the Guadalupe River. From the Albertson's we will caravan to the ranch. Bring a lunch which will be eaten at the pavilion on the ranch. The price for this trip will be \$30.00.

September 28th and 29th will find us at Port Aransas again to fish the flats on Saturday and the jetties on Sunday. We will meet at the H.E.B store in Aransas Pass at 7:00 am on Saturday. If you wish to, you can make reservations at the Super 8 Motel in Aransas Pass (1-361-758-888) for \$58.00, plus tax, per night for two persons. Make sure to mention that you are with the Alamo Fly Fisherman. Reserve a room now; you can cancel later if you do not go. Come to the September general meeting and sign up.

Several members have ask about planning a trip to Big Shell for some surf fishing on October 26th and 27th. Anyone who has a four wheel drive vehicle, or who wants to catch a ride to Big Shell may come to the September general meeting, and help with the planning of this trip. ■

Fly Tying Class (for beginners)

Instructor -- Bruce Young
Location -- Alamo Heights Presbyterian Church
Class start at 7:00 p.m.
All tools and materials provided
Cost -- \$30.00 for Five Sessions
Class is limited to 10 students
For Registration and Additional Information talk to Bruce Young at the September general meeting.

Home Waters

By Jay Forrest
Vice President – Alamo Fly Fishers

One of the joys that experienced fly fishermen seem to hold dear to their heart is a familiar pond, lake, bay or stretch of water that is their “home water.” Home waters are usually near by. The fish are usually small. The scenery is familiar. The place is comfortable.

We typically go to our home water not to catch fish, but more to see an old friend. Like humans, home waters change over time. A new snag promises to hold larger than average bass. A recent flood washed out a deep hole where one had been fifteen years ago. A new gravel bar offers a great lunch site under a tall oak.

You know your home water like the back of your hand. You know what to expect. You know the moods of the water and the change of the seasons. You have probably gone fishless. And you have witnessed frenzies when any fly would work.

Home waters are important because they fill an emotional need. They give us a place to recharge and recover from the chaos of life. And they give us a place to build both our understanding of nature and our fishing skills. Our frequent visits builds understanding as we watch the water cycle through the seasons and mature over time. We build our skills as familiarity leads us to be more selective and thoughtful in our approach to fishing.

We know there are larger bass in the deep hole by the big elm, but small fish seem to be all we can catch. Stopping, sitting, watching, eating lunch, and more watching offers opportunities for insight into the activities of the pool. And, over time, we try different flies, different approaches, and possibly different lines, trying to unravel the code. And when we do, we have a new answer that may work elsewhere under similar conditions.

We also use home waters to build skill. Stretching our casting distance (even when we don't need to) in preparation for the day when a longer cast is necessary. Spotting fish and sight casting. Mending line. Hitting our target. Testing new flies and methods.

Home waters are like an old friend. Comfortable and familiar. A safe place to try new ideas. A home water can be as close as a neighborhood pond. A place to hone your skills. And as important as anywhere you ever fish. ■

Winter in the Everglades

By Jay Forrest
Vice President, Alamo Fly Fishers

Our August meeting featured Corpus Christi/Rockport flyfishing guide Ethan Wells showing images and telling tales from his first full season of winter guiding in the Everglades. Snook, tarpon, and an occasional bonefish are the primary game. Ethan began fishing the ‘glades about three years ago as an alternative to the inconsistent weather of winter and early spring on the Texas coast. Big snook and huge tarpon keep him entertained in January and February and baby tarpon congregate in March and April. During the rest of the year Ethan guides the central Texas coast from the Land Cut to Rockport for redfish and trout. Increasingly he is also fishing other species. ■

The Land Cut

By Jon King
Outings Chairman, Alamo Fly Fishers

Once again Alamo Fly Fishers were graciously invited by Jim Dodd to his house at the Land Cut for three days of fishing and fun in the sun.

This year many of the usual faces were seen along with a few new ones. Most notable were Katie Uhler and Laura Reilly.

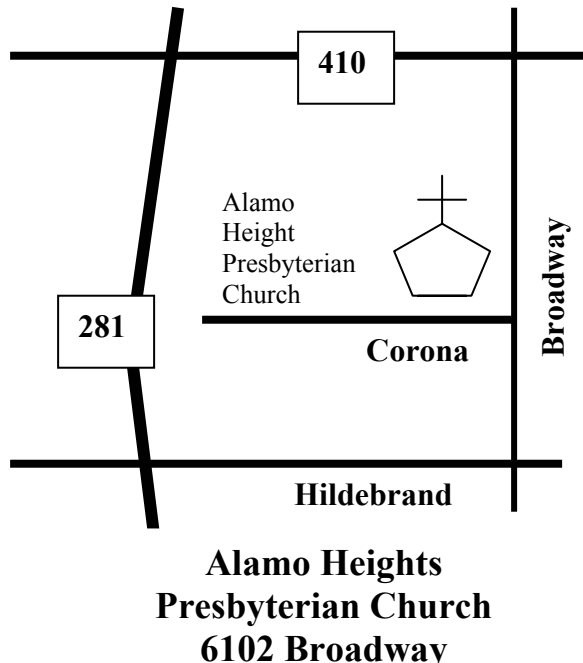
As usual the night fishing was excellent, and the fishing during the day at the house proved to be non-stop also. Many of the club members reported catches of keeper red fish and nice size trout. Amancio Cantu not only caught several legal size redfish, but also, on Sunday afternoon, he caught a 29 inch trout.

Back at the house, Katie Uhler caught the only flounder and what was the largest trout caught from the dock.

When everyone wasn't fishing, they were enjoying the elegant dining provided by Jim Dodd. The atmosphere of the compound was pleasant and relaxing, whether in the air conditioned house or sitting out on the dock having a friendly conversation.

This was a most relaxing three days made possible by Jim Dodd who is a wonderful friend to the Alamo Fly Fishers and a prince of a fellow. Thanks once again Jim from all of your fellow members of the Alamo Fly Fishers. ■

Where to Find Us



AFF Web Site--<http://www.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	497-3062
Jon King	Outings	378-7414
Buddy Robichaux	Education	492-7125
Mike Richards	Newsletter	641-7268

Local Fly Shops

Tackle Box Outfitters

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

One Shot Outdoors

18720 Stone Oak Parkway Suit 105
San Antonio, TX 78258
210-402-5344
Fax 210-402-5365
oneshotoutdoors.com

Gruene Outfitters

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

Northwest Tackle Center

6850 Bandera Road
San Antonio, TX 78238
210-681-0009
Fax 210-681-0067

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