



Broken Threads

A PUBLICATION OF

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS FLY TYERS

PROVIDING A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE FOR THE NOVICE AND EXPERT
TO LEARN AND SHARE THE FLY TYING AND FISHING EXPERIENCE

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NOVEMBER, 1999

FROM THE EDITOR

Fall Program In Full Swing!

So far, we've had a bang up start to the new fall season. Our first couple of meetings were mainly B S (Bulltrout Saving) sessions, with folks renewing acquaintances and recounting their summer experiences. Many a fish tale was told and after-the-fact secrets divulged. Now if my feeble memory can serve them up at the appropriate time next year...

We've averaged between a half and a full dozen attendees at each session, with attendance improving as the month wore on. Tying has been interesting with some acquiring new skills with the help of others and with a few brushing the rust off disused skills (some with more than a few layers eh Dave?).

We had a great session on Belly Boats! Thanks to Dennis and Gord for bringing samples. Belly boat fishing experiences discussed had a lot of common threads, ranging from the convenience, to the ability to approach fish without disturbing them. Anyone who has noted fish around their feet in a stream will attest that fish seem to ignore you more when you are in, rather than on or above, the water. (This may explain the fishing success of Herons).

The hot topic of debate was around the merits of various watercraft, including drift boats, traditional fishing skiffs, belly boats and pontoon boats. Seems like more than one member is prepared to trade in their fancy power boat for the more minimalist approach of a pontoon craft. The argument is that they are a good compromise between the size, features and stability of a larger boat and the fishability, convenience and portability of a belly boat. The stability of some models in rough water may make them a bit safer than a canoe, although not as good as a fine drift boat. However, with their added portability and lower cost, they may be a better choice for some anglers. I still think wearing a good life vest is the best safety measure going, regardless of watercraft used.

This month has some interesting tyers and topics upcoming, along with talk about that last "before the snow flies" fishing trip, so we hope you can make it out.

Oh Yeah... Thanks to David Phelps for "volunteering as Treasurer. (How's the arm David?)

CLUB MEETINGS

Regular Meetings and Tying Sessions: Every Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.
Water's Edge - 10149 - Saskatchewan Drive Enter main door and go straight ahead
Equipment and Materials: Bring your own or use the Club loaners
Coffee and cookies served, plus a weekly 50/50 draw

OTHER EVENTS

Trout Unlimited Meetings Resume November 15, 1999 TBA in Room 6-132
Grant McEwan Community College, Contact Michael Dell for information @ 488-1966

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index.htm

MEMBERSHIP

Only \$20.00

January to December

Benefits Include:

- Regular meetings and tying sessions
- Monthly newsletter
- Club event discounts
- Selected retailer discounts (with card)
- Access to club library
- Fellowship of like-minded fishers
- Tying and fishing "secrets"



INGS

NOVEMBER 3

Patterns: *Count Funtula*

Tyer: *Mike Heemskerck*

Hook: #12 - 4 x long - Wet - Mustad 9672

Bead Head: Copper Bead

Tail: Grouse

Rib: Holographic Fly Tinsel

Body: Peacock Hearle

Wing: Mauve Lite Bright

Hackle: Grouse

Comments: Welcome back Mikey! Looks like a fun fly!

NOVEMBER 10

Patterns: *Western Coachman and Variations on a Worm*

Tyer: *Michael Dell*

Hook: Dry fly size 8-18

Thread: Brown or olive 8/0

Tail: Golden pheasant tippet

Body: Peacock hearle wrapped in a rope, reinforced with thin copper wire

Wing: White calf tail, downwing

Hackle: Brown, undersized

Comments: Our local TU president will give us his version of these popular and effective patterns. He's been experimenting with some new materials, so expect a surprise or two.

NOVEMBER 17

Patterns: *Freight Train and Coal Car*

Tyer: *Gord Boutette*

Comments: Gord will once again entertain us with a couple of patterns aimed at the big ones on the west coast. This time there's a railway theme to the presentation. All Aboard!

NOVEMBER 20

Member Tying Demonstrations

Fishing Hole - West Edmonton Mall

Time: 10:30 a.m. to Closing

Comments: If you wish to volunteer, give Dennis a call.

NOVEMBER 24

Topic: *Fly Shop Presentation*

Guest: *To Be Announced*

Comments: Representatives of a local fly shop, details to be confirmed later, will come out and give us a rundown on what's new for the fall and winter season. This might be a good time to prepare that Christmas wish list to leave around the house so the better half can get a hint or two.

MEMBER PROFILE

Name: David Phelps

Married: To Pam, an enthusiastic fly fisher (lucky guy) with four teenage kids in a blended family

Address: 357 Hunters Run, Edmonton, Alberta, T6R 2P1

Home Phone: 436-5909

E-mail: DPPP@telusplanet.net

Occupation: High school biology teacher, previously taught vocational education including photography, graphic arts and carpentry. Has also worked with federal and provincial environmental departments on fishery related research.

Flyfishing: 31 years

Flytying: 31 years

Favorite stream: Crowsnest, Elk and Bow Rivers. Also enjoys lakes in BC interior, particularly the area between Little Fort and 100 mile house, during sedge hatches where "deerhair rules!"

Easiest Fishing: Little Smoky in early October "If you don't mind freezing your butt off!"

Preferences: Productive summer and fall days with good company. "I like dry flies, but usually end up with a nymph and corky in most rivers."

Largest Fish: A 27" rainbow from Medicine Lake (not the one in the photo), hopefully still there. Enjoys catching lots more than catching big. "More action equates to more enjoyment, size doesn't really matter, surroundings and company do."

Remarks: David, along with his son Darren, are new members of the club this year. David brings a wealth of fly fishing, tying and related experience plus expertise in rod building and aquatic invertebrates to share. He has spent lots of time floating the Bow, going back to when he was "hooked" by guide Leo Ferrar in 1974. "I very much enjoy taking people down the river. It's a real thrill to see a novice fisherman catch their first Bow River trout." David's enthusiasm and willingness to share are welcome additions to the club. Thanks to the strong-arm tactics of Gord and Dennis, he's even volunteered to replace Shelley as Treasurer for the rest of the year.



FISHING REPORTS

A couple of guys were down on the Red Deer River downstream of the Dickson Dam on October 24th and 25th with varying reports. One found the water swift and deep with little surface activity. The other went a bit further downstream and caught a monster whitefish on a secret fly with a long leader and an indicator.

The less successful of the above anglers went to Stauffer later in the day and caught a few browns, although with water temperature at 6°C it was a mite testing of patience and clothing.

A few other reprobates hit the Little Smoky for the last ? time this year and had another spectacular day. This time the Bulls were the target and were quite cooperative. The fly of choice was one demonstrated in October, so those who came out now know how to tie a new weapon that works.