

Windknots

A Monthly Publication of the Texas Flyfishers
©2002 Texas Flyfishers - All Rights Reserved

Vol. 21 / Issue 8 September 2002

The Blind Date

by Scott Fossum

The blind date story began in March, 2002, and concluded in September. It all started when my college frat brother and fishing buddy in China invited me on a ten-day Alaskan do-it-yourself float-trip "date" with him and his three buddies. The hook was that it only would cost \$400. Of course I said yes. Who could resist sexy names like grayling, Dolly Varden, rainbow trout and silver salmon. Especially on a river where no one was seen on an identical trip the year before, and where they slayed the fish.

I awaited the date in anticipation as I began wondering how to fresh-water fish. My only experience was fly fishing the flats for reds and specks. I didn't think that sophisticated fresh-water types would be seduc(er)ed or deceiv(er)ed. What is a sink tip anyway?

The date just about got canceled when my friend was transferred to Azerbaijan and had to move his family there two days before his scheduled departure to Alaska. Believe it or not, he cancelled the fishing trip for this lame

excuse (it's great being single). The other three debated and decided to accept me into their adventure, so the blind date began.

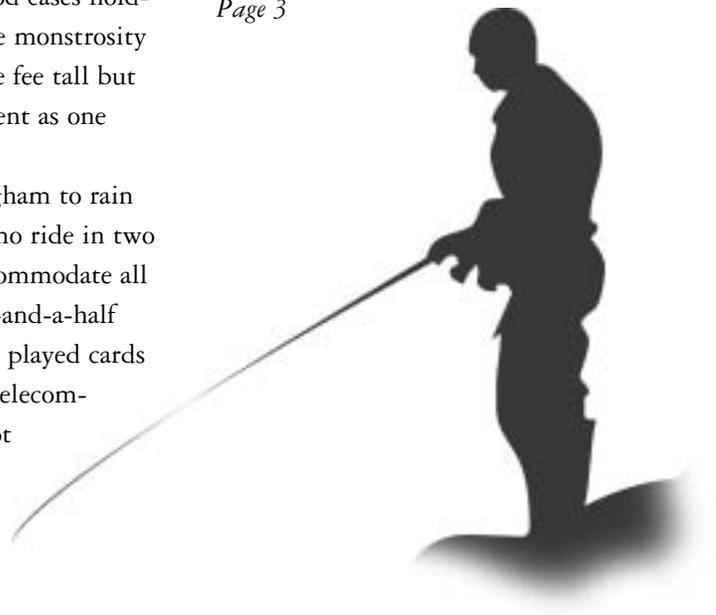
I arrived in Anchorage and met my dates. Everything seemed great except that two were lawyers (more on those cheap SOB's later) and the third was a normal type guy, a marketing manager for a telecom firm. We flew to Dillingham and the scheming lawyers (occasionally they are a good thing) managed to avoid excess baggage fees by duck-taping my Cabela's waterproof duffel to a tent and five rod cases holding a total of 16 rods. The monstrosity was five feet long by three feet tall but less than 70 pounds. It went as one piece of luggage.

We arrived in Dillingham to rain and a low ceiling. Our limo ride in two Beaver float-planes to accommodate all our gear was delayed two-and-a-half days. In the meantime we played cards and got cabin fever. The telecommunications guy could not make a long distance call (no wonder so many of the telecoms are

going bust) without help. We got a break in the weather and the air-taxi service told us to get our butts down to fly out. As we were loading our stuff, the lawyers got in an argument about the cost: \$900 vs. \$1,000 per plane. They were close to being thrown off. They got in one plane, arguing. We got in the other and gave our pilot \$1,000.

The unknown is always a part of blind dates and the plane ride started the adventure. Fifty-five minutes at 50 to 200 feet above the ground through mountain passes where the clouds started mid-mountain was very interesting. When the pilot said this was at minimums, it got our attention. We made it.

*Continued on
Page 3*



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY JERRY "BUGGYWHIP" LORING
President, Texas Flyfishers

As I watched Hurricane Isadore form off Jamaica, I knew that the odds had finally caught up with the Redfish Rodeo. Since 1995, when the Texas Flyfishers asked permission to take it over and keep it alive, we have been planning and hosting the event. Part of the reason we schedule it in late September is that no category three hurricane has ever hit the Texas coast after September 15th, ever. This year there were two big ones out there, with Lili following on the heels of Isadore. Fortunately, our coast dodged both bullets.

At the time we had to make the go/no go decision, Isadore was large. It covered almost half the Gulf of Mexico. I figured the winds, rain, flood tide, and cloud cover would either make conditions dangerous for participants or make for very poor fishing. The committee decided to postpone the Redfish Rodeo

by voting on the side of caution.

When we made the decision, the predicted chance of it directly hitting the Texas coast was almost twenty percent, too much of a gamble under the circumstances. I was disappointed to no end at the postponement. However, we did what we thought was right. No hindsight or second-guessing need be made; we made the correct decision.

By the time the weekend came along and the hurricane had slammed into Louisiana, I had buoyed my spirits back to normal. Part of my feelings lay in the fact that 2002 has been off year fishing for me. Canceled trips, business conflicts, bad weather, broken boat trailer spindles — all had contributed to too few days sight casting on the flats. Barbara told me to perk up and live with it. It turned out she was right. We could not stop and lament, as there was

work to be done to reschedule the event and keep the tradition alive.

Alive it is! Join us in Port O'Connor on October 26 for the rescheduled Redfish Rodeo, the oldest catch and release tournament on the Texas coast and one of the few fly fishing tournaments in saltwater. We hope to see you there. 🐟

Jerry Loring

P.S. A historical note. The Redfish Rodeo was started in 1986 by about a dozen locals in Rockport and Port O'Connor as an informal catch and release tournament. It voluntarily merged into the GCCA fly fishing tournament in 1988. The GCCA consented to allow the Texas Flyfishers to help run the event in 1995. In 1996 TFF assumed the host role.

Upcoming Events

THURSDAY NIGHT FLY TYING SESSIONS: *The Thursday night informal fly tying sessions will discontinue after November 21, due to the holidays and the start of the annual fly tying course in January. These sessions will resume after we finish the Fly Fishing Academy in the spring. More on the Academy later.*

October 26, 2002

Redfish Rodeo in Port O'Connor, rescheduled. Contact David Murrell for more details. (Phone #s on page 7.)

October 26, 2002

Freshwater outing to Double Lake near Cold Springs. Contact Clarke Thornton, Freshwater Outings chairman, 713 641-0022 (home) for details.

October 29, 2002

Monthly club meeting featuring Capt. Chris Phillips, offshore and inshore fly fishing guide. Don't miss this one. Chris puts on a great show.

November 1, 2002

The annual Rendezvous at the North Toledo Bend State Park. It is a time honored tradition for most of the fly fishers in East Texas and Louisiana.

November 9-10, 2002

Multi-club outing at Fairfield Lake, about 90 miles south of Dallas. Call Troy Miller at 979-865-5117 for more information

November 26, 2002

Monthly club meeting featuring Capt. Tom Horbey, fishing guide from the Matagorda area. Learn about this great venue that's not far from home.

February 1, 2003

The 2003 Fly Tying Festival will be held at the Holiday Inn on I-10 between Antoine and Silber. See future issues for more information.



1141-05 Uptown

Parkway Blvd

Houston, Texas 77056

713-993-9981

15% off of all

Fly-tying Materials for
 all TFF Members.

Blind Date

Continued from Cover

We landed at the lake in the rain and declared an instant cocktail hour. The tents could wait. Days one through five consisted of fly fishing for Dollies and grayling with resting moments viewing caribou and eagles. Two back-to-back waterfalls at the end of day five necessitated a quarter-mile portage with 1,300 pounds of gear over a mountain. Below the waterfalls was the beginning of the silver salmon and rainbows.

I watched the Minnesota technique for catching great quantities of salmon. Stand 15 feet into the water, throw a half-ounce gold spoon, hook salmon 15 feet away, don't bother to reel, just back up and, presto, salmon on the bank. Takes a total of about ten seconds for a seven-pound salmon. I learned what a pain in the butt an eight-weight sink-tip is to cast (almost jerked the rod out of my hand on the back cast) and after

five minutes of that, went back to a five-weight and floating line.

Day nine saw the first other people, although I had seen a footprint on day eight, along with a wolf. Day nine started as our pick-up day, but ended up as the day we realized we were on the wrong river (imagine how difficult it is to be on the wrong river, especially when you start at the headwaters of the correct one). We got word to our river-boat captain and he picked us up on day ten -- in an 18-foot aluminum V-bottom instead of a 22-foot commercial fishing boat. We loaded our 1,800 pounds in the 1,000-pound-capacity boat and started our journey to civilization in Bethel.

The 40-horsepower motor made eight miles per hour wide open in a downstream current. After three hours we ran out of gas. The cover came off the motor many times as he was "still working the kinks out of his rebuild." Our captain grabbed our leftover Coleman

fuel and promptly ran out of that ten minutes later and four miles from a village. After borrowing some gas we got to the village and purchased more gas. We ran out of gas a third time a half mile from our landing. The guide said to start paddling. That cost him a \$150 tip. Six-and-a-half hours total in the boat.

We were at the boat landing and needed two Suburban trips to the terminal to air-freight our gear out. It closed in 30 minutes and the two lawyers were arguing about \$10 in taxi fare. The sane took over and we paid the \$10 and made it to the air freight terminal in time with to ship 1,000 pounds (instead of paying for it as excess baggage). Of course we'd missed all our flights.

Like most blind dates, the cost was more than expected but well worth it. Like many blind dates, we didn't get exactly what we'd hoped for, but everyone had a great personality and it was fun. I'm looking forward to a second date in the future.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Outdoorsman's Fishing & Hunting Expo will be held at Reliant Arena on January 31st - February 2, 2003. We will need volunteers to work at our booth tying flies and/or talking with prospective members. We will also be staffing the casting pond and provide basic lessons for children and adults.

The Shallow Water Expo will be held at Reliant Arena on March 29th & 30th, 2003. We will need volunteers to work at our booth tying flies and/or talking with prospective members.

Please contact Mike Willis at 713-721-4755 if you would like to work at either of these shows or have any questions.

Westbank Anglers

Westbank Anglers Houston
1704 Post Oak Blvd.
Houston, TX 77056
713.961.3474
Fax 713.961.3478

ORVIS
SPORTING TRADITIONS
Since 1896

Orvis Houston
5848 Westheimer Rd.,
Houston, TX, 77057
713-783-2111

An Autographed Cap

By Rudy Elizondo

I was going through my closet the other day when I came across a Westbank Anglers cap that was autographed by one of my all time fly fishing heroes, Flip Pallot. What a memory. I had driven all the way into the Galleria area from my Katy Prairie home just to see him and chat with him for a little while. Of course you know the old cat-got-your-tongue choke that stops you by surprise so you can barely get a word out when you finally meet the guy. Well, that's exactly what happened to me.

What makes it kind of funny was that I took my thirteen-year-old daughter with me and she did most of the talking when I finally got to meet Flip. She started right in: "My dad always watches your shows that come on ESPN every Saturday morning." I was still speechless as she continued with the full story, now that she had broken the ice for this old timer. "Our whole family watches your show in the living room on Saturday morning." Of course she made it clear that she couldn't see her beloved cartoons because Dad hogged the TV for Flip's fishing show.

Flip seemed really amused by my daughter's stories and was even laughing out loud. After about ten minutes of her dissertation, all the details had been revealed about my favorite fishing shirt, my favorite fishing shorts,

and even my favorite fishing sandals. Neither Flip nor I got more than a word or two in edgewise. Finally she finished at just under twenty minutes with a good laugh had by all and I with my face beet red. My daughter had managed to get me back for all of the times that I had gotten her for oh, so many years.

I had imagined that I would ask Flip a whole list of questions like what his favorite rod was, when he met Lefty Kreh, what was the most adventurous trip he had taken, what was the most dangerous, and if he ever caught so many fish he had to quit because his back couldn't take it anymore? But I was not able to ask even one question. I learned my lesson. Make a list of questions before you meet a famous person and don't take your teenage daughter with you.

Flip is an amazing and amusing man. He can summarize an experience or feeling with a few well place words. His patience is fluid and calm like a tarpon rolling around in the Everglades. He just took in the humorous roast, expressed a smooth "Thank you," and mentioned he appreciated us watching his fly-fishing shows.

Oh yeah, as Flip does, I wish all of you "Great Tides." I guess that's when you catch more fish.



INTERMEDIATE CASTING

Casting guru Troy Miller will have two more intermediate casting classes before year-end. One will be on still water and one on moving water. Casting involves more than just delivering a fly.

It involves line control once the cast is made, and more.

Dates for these classes have not been set at press time. For information, call Troy at home at 979-865-5117.

FRUGAL FRANK'S TIPS

by Frank Schlict

1) Many of us tend to overlook the need to do preventative maintenance on our equipment such as rods, reels, and fly lines. Many of us are unaware that failure to maintain one part of our equipment can lead to damage to other critical parts. Fly lines are a very good example. A dirty fly line can cause serious damage to the guides on your rods, especially the tip guide. Fortunately, today's guides are harder than those of years past, and therefore don't abrade as readily. However, a close friend who fishes six to seven days a week and never cleans his lines has abraded through the tip guides on two rods that I personally know of as if they had been filed through using a jewelers file. To prevent this from happening to your rod, you should clean your line after each full day of fishing. In some instances you may need to clean it during the day. (Abraded guides can permanently damage the finish on an expensive fly line. A catch 22 situation.) Good cleaners are avail-

able in all fly shops. However, in a pinch you can use Armor All, which is available almost everywhere. As it is formulated to clean and treat vinyl upholstery and since the coating on many lines is vinyl, it can be safely used. Simply spray the entire spool, let it soak in over night, and wipe the line with a clean dry rag the next day before fishing. You will also be favorably impressed with how much better your line shoots through the guides.

2) Have you priced a new pair of scissors for the tying table, or a new pair of hemostats for the vest lately? Have you been, or taken someone, to the emergency room for stitches lately? I am sure you are asking what these two questions have in common. In today's throw away world, many hospitals use disposable suture kits that contain a good pair of scissors, several different hemostats, as well as other goodies made of stainless steel; all of which are put in the biohazard discard container unless you speak up beforehand. You or your insurance company has paid

for these items on your behalf, so why not claim them? I have yet to meet a doctor who would not save them if you ask as soon as they open the kit. I am quite pleased with what I have salvaged after several years of use.

3) If you or other members of your family are into knitting or Afghan making, and if you own a blender or a small electric coffee/spice grinder, you should have all the dubbing of any color you desire, or ever need, at your finger tips. Simply cut yarn of the desired color(s) into approximately 1/4 inch pieces and put in the blender/grinder and hit the "on" button. Voila', instant dubbing. I like to add a little red and olive to a brown or black base, and a little red, brown and black to an olive base. This produces a mix that has flecks of other colors in it, which some refer to as a heather of color. This produces a more natural blend, as no insect is a solid color. NOTE! Be sure to thoroughly clean up the blender or grinder afterwards lest you want fuzzy daiquiris or hairy coffee!

Continued on Page 6

STOLEN KAYAKS



\$1000.00 Reward for Arrest & Conviction!
KAYAK TRAILER & 10 BOATS STOLEN
FROM CANOESPORT, HOUSTON, TX
September 27, 2002

Tournament Three Tier Kayak Trailer,
Royal Blue (new paint), White Wheels

10 Kayaks Stolen, all Yellow Plastic

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:

CANOESPORT

Bruce Gillan or Charles Duvic

713-660-7000, Toll free 866-665-2925

Houston Auto Theft Dept: 713-308-3500,
(cn138774602-y)

<http://www.canoesport.com/stolen/>



Fly Tying Classes!

The Texas Flyfishers Beginners Fly Tying Course will begin January 9, 2003 and will continue for nine weeks, ending March 8. Classes are held at the Bethany Christian Church, located at 3223 Westheimer just east of Lamar High School. Classes are from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. every Thursday. Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. on January 9.

Cost for the course is \$25.00. Fly tying materials kits for the course are available for \$100.00. These kits contain all the materials necessary for the course, as well as many of the materials needed for the Intermediate Course. A \$25.00 refundable deposit is required if you want to use a club tying tool kit, which we recommend if you do not already have tying tools.

The Beginners Course is followed immediately by an Intermediate Course, which also lasts for nine weeks. This course will begin March 15 and end May 11. The registration fee for this course is also \$25.00. You can register for both at the same time.

Due to space limitations, these courses are limited to 21 students each. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. You must be a club member to register. If you are not a club member, you can join at the time of registration.

A pre-registration sign up sheet will be available at both the October and November club meetings for those interested in either of these courses. For more information or to sign up, you can also contact Frank Schlicht by phone at 281-437-6915 or e-mail at aged_sage@hotmail.com. Please provide both work and home phone numbers so that you can be contacted in a timely manner should we have a last minute class cancellation.

The club capitalizes on the outstanding tying talent among its members for instructors for each of the classes. We know of no other place where you can be taught by so much talent in a similar time span.

FRUGAL FRANK

Continued from Page 5

4) Many head cements are a lacquer. As a sometimes woodworker, I have used Deft Clear Wood Finish for years. If it is good for wood, why not our flies? (See: A.K.Best's Production Fly Tying.) You can also use the Semi-Gloss. You can buy a quart of the lacquer and a quart of lacquer thinner for under \$15.00, which will be a lifetime supply unless you tie commercially. You can make your own Flexament-like cement by dissolving Goop in toluene, which is available wherever paint is sold. The Goop does not dissolve rapidly, so you need to let the mix sit a day or two. Experience will tell you how much of each to use to get the consistency you want. I generally start with a 50:50 mix. Once the Goop is dissolved it thins instantly by adding more toluene. Lest you are confused by all the different "kinds" of Goop available, they are all the same product packaged differently as a marketing ploy. You can also use the lacquer thinner to thin Goop, but over time the mix deteriorates in my experience.



**THE BEST IN KAYAKS,
CANOES, OUTDOOR CLOTHING,
TRAVEL GEAR AND FLY FISHING EQUIPMENT**

5808 S. Rice Ave
Houston, Texas 77081

FROM RAINBOWS TO REDS

We meet all of your freshwater and saltwater fly fishing needs with the finest equipment and the most informative and courteous service on the Gulf Coast. Seminars and lessons for casting, fishing tactics and fly tying.

FLYWATER
O U T F I T T E R S

THE COMPLETE FLY SHOP AT CUT RATE FISHING TACKLE
8933 KATY FREEWAY • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024 • (713)827-7762
12800 GULF FREEWAY • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77034 • (281) 481-6838

WINDKNOTS INFO

The Texas Flyfishers monthly newsletter needs your help. Otherwise, we'll run out of material to print.

Please send your photos, artwork and graphic materials to publisher Greg Rhodes at gregr@pegasusdesign.com.

Send articles to editor Corey Rich, email: corey.rich@aya.yale.edu or fax at 713-864-1292.

All articles, photographs and newsworthy events are appreciated. If you know of any upcoming events other members might be interested in please let us know so we can keep them informed.

Information and articles should be submitted before the second week of each month.

WEBSITE INFO

Please send your pictures, ideas, links, etc... to the TFF webmaster e-mail address listed on the web page at:

<http://www.texasflyfishers.org>

Norbert Burch
TFF Webmaster

Attention:

Previous issues of the *Windknots* publication are now posted online in PDF format for downloading and viewing. Each new *Windknots* will be posted immediately following it's release. Please keep this in mind if you don't receive an issue!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JERRY LORING
President

Work: 713-819-9050
Home: 713-464-8687
jerrytms@flash.net

TOM LYONS
VP Programs

Home: 281-379-7944
TFLyons@aol.com

RON BAUER
Secretary / Membership

Home: 281-359-7077
flyboybauer@cs.com

BRUCE HEIBERG
Treasurer

Work: 713-623-0381
Home: 281-550-2993
bheiberg@bc-arch.com

RICK RAWLS
Auction

Work: 713-666-7100
Home: 713-830-5446
rick55@ev1.net

NORBERT BURCH
Communication / Webmaster

Work: 281-589-4941
Home: 281-265-5156
tff.webmaster@texasflyfishers.org

DAVE M. BEHR
Conservation

Work: 713-970-8527
Home: 281-480-0722
flytide@mail.ev1.net

FRANK SCHLICHT
Education

Home: 281-437-6915

TROY MILLER
Fly Casting

Work: 713-466-2322
Home: 979-865-5117
Troy.Miller@bakeroiltools.com

ED RIZZOLO
Fly Tying Festival

Home: 281-997-2789
edrizz@texas.net

COREY RICH
Legal

Work: 713-861-1928
Home: 713-621-6071
corey.rich@aya.yale.edu

T.J. BUTLER
Librarian

Home: 713-768-8444

CLARKE THORNTON
Freshwater Outings
Work: 713-512-3657
Home: 713-641-0022
cth Thornton@ehshouston.org

DAVID MURRELL
Saltwater Outings
Work: 281-265-6500
Home: 281-870-9156
fisifdm@flash.net

MIKE WILLIS
Special Events
Work: 713 721-4755
Home: 713 223-7041
mwillis@us.ca-indosuez.com

ED HOGAN
Raffles & Door Prizes
Home: 281-360-3203
ehogan@tepi.com

WINDKNOTS

GREG RHODES
Publisher
Work: 713-690-7878
Home: 281-345-9792
gregr@pegasusdesign.com

COREY RICH
Editor

SR. ADVISORS AT-LARGE

WRIGHT GUTHRIE

JOHN SCARBOROUGH

MIKE EBERHARD

JOE DEFORKE

JIM BRIDGES

RANDALL PINTER



Texas Flyfishers
 P.O. Box 571134
 Houston, Texas 77257-1134

NONPROFIT ORG
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 HOUSTON TX
 PERMIT NO
 12712

TEXAS FLYFISHERS MEMBERSHIP FORM

3318 Little Bear, Dr., Kingwood, TX 77339

New Application / Renewal

Attention new and current members! To join or renew please complete this form and mail it with your check to the address above. New members should prorate their dues to July because everyone renews during that month, or bring this form with you to any of our monthly meetings. Meetings start at 7:00 PM the last Tuesday of every month (except December) at the Holiday Inn, located on the Katy Freeway between Antoine and Silber. Guests are welcome with a complimentary pass to come learn of our numerous outings, instructional classes and social gatherings.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES (PLEASE INDICATE): REGULAR \$24 FAMILY \$32 STUDENT \$16
 ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, RON BAUER 281-359-7077.

TFF is affiliated with a national organization, the Federation of Fly Fishers.
 Membership in the FFF is encouraged and benefits the club, but is not required.
 Membership applications are available through the FFF website at: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org>



P.O. Box 571134
Houston, Texas 77257-1134

Sample

TEXAS FLYFISHERS MEMBERSHIP FORM

3318 Little Bear, Dr., Kingwood, TX 77339

New Application / Renewal

Attention new and current members! To join or renew please complete this form and mail it with your check to the address above. New members should prorate their dues to July because everyone renews during that month, or bring this form with you to any of our monthly meetings. Meetings start at 7:00 PM the last Tuesday of every month (except December) at the Holiday Inn, located on the Katy Freeway between Antoine and Silber. Guests are welcome with a complimentary pass to come learn of our numerous outings, instructional classes and social gatherings.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES (PLEASE INDICATE): REGULAR \$24 FAMILY \$32 STUDENT \$16
ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, RON BAUER 281-359-7077.

TFF is affiliated with a national organization, the Federation of Fly Fishers.
Membership in the FFF is encouraged and benefits the club, but is not required.
Membership applications are available through the FFF website at: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org>