



P.O. Box 27141

Houston, Texas 77227-7141

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Fit To Be Tied: Norm (Lack O' Hackle) Crook

February Meeting

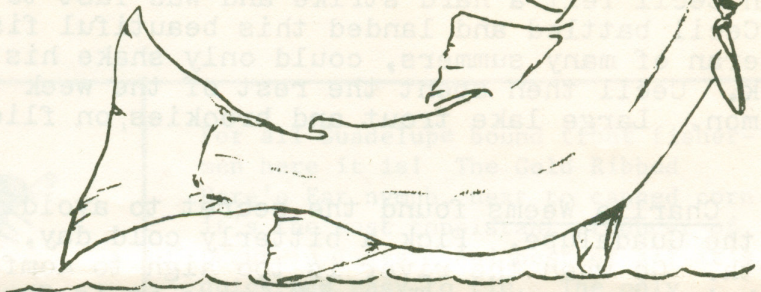
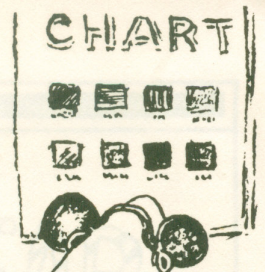
Date: February 26, 1985
Place: St. John's Episcopal Church
Room 010, Education Bldg.
River Oaks and Westheimer
Time: 7:30...Fit To Be Tied
8:00...Main Program: Robert McCurdy
"Pollution and the Colorado River"

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The January meeting drew a standing-room crowd and featured a program by Archie Lyons of the Wood River Lodge in Alaska. Archie showed lots of slides and gave an enjoyable comentary. The Wood River Lodge apparently is in the middle of some of the best rainbow trout fishing in Alaska. Some business was conducted at the meeting; \$1,000 was donated to the Gulf Coast Conservation Association, earmarked as travel expenses to send a GCCA spokesman to appear at the Federation of Flyfishers' Conclave in West Yellowstone in August; \$100 was donated to The Federation for tables and chairs; and a treasury report was given showing a club balance as of December 31, 1984 of \$4,172.35.

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Throughout Texas' history, the Colorado River has been one of the most important arteries of our state. Now it is being threatened by terrible pollution. Robert McCurdy, of the Austin Angler, is waging a one-man war on the polluters. Don't miss the chance to hear this brilliant and eccentric defender of clean water.

Nautical Charts - An Indispensible ToolBy: Eliot Tucker

A nautical chart is a useful tool for every salt water fly fisherman. I spend winter days studying areas I think I am familiar with and searching for likely-looking spots in areas I have never fished. You will find studying charts worthwhile. In an area already familiar to you, look for areas protected in a high or unfavorable wind. Look for grassy or shell bottoms. A chart will help you avoid fishing muddy bottoms. It will reveal places you can walk in and fish.

Fly fisherman usually are looking for shallow water. What a chart will show is where you can find shallow water with a grassy or shell bottom near deep water along protected shorelines. If you find that, break out your fly rod and go.

If you combine a nautical chart with the fishing maps sold in tackle stores, you can find new ramps, better routes to your favorite spots, and ways to stay out of deep and rough water. The nautical charts have mile markers every five miles along the intracoastal canal that will give you a sense of distance from place to place.

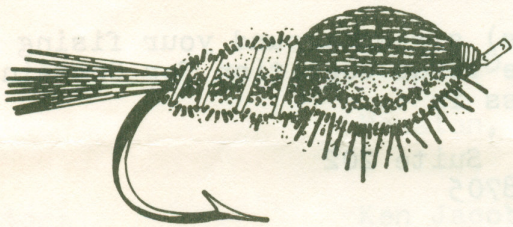
Cuts, sloughs, and bayous that you cannot see from a boat are revealed on charts. I was able to navigate the difficult channel through Port O'Conner's back bays with the aid of a chart (and clear water) on my first try. With the aid of a chart I have even become "unlost" after fog turned three of us around and had us heading directly away from our destination. Since it was 18 degrees F., (December 27, 1983), I was very grateful to have that chart and know how to use it.

My next few articles about Port O'Conner and Port Aransas will presume you have nautical chart #11319. Baker, Lyman & Co., located at 602 Sawyer, Suite 100, as well as other nautical or map stores, sell them for about \$2.50 each. Get the small boaters' charts and study them. They contain a lot of useful information. (Next week: An Introduction To Port O'Conner).

Gary Borger

We were very pleased to hear that Gary Borger, one of the world's great trout fishermen, will be coming to Houston the first weekend in May. He will be at the Orvis store on Saturday, May 4th, and will be with our club on Sunday, May 5th. Make your plans now to be with Gary on these days.

GOLD RIBBED HARE'S EAR



For all Guadelupe bound trout fishermen here it is! The Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear nymph, next to canned corn it's the most consistant producer of trout in Texas. And best of all it's quick and easy to tie. The only real secret is to be sure and tie it as fuzzy and furry as possible.

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 3906B

Sizes: 8 to 16

Thread: Brown - 6/0 pre-waxed

Weight: Medium lead wire

Tail: Hare's Ear - Guard hairs

Rib: Fine gold wire

Abdomen: Dubbed hare's ear fur

Wing Case: Oak Turkey wing quill

Thorax: Dubbed hare's ear fur

Legs: Dubbing picked out of thorax

How to tie:

1. Tie in guard hairs from a hare's ear to form a tail. Laquer thread with light head cement.
2. Tie in gold wire tightly at the base of the tail. Pull wire out of the way.
3. Spin dubbing fur from hare's ear onto the thread very tightly.
4. Wrap spun hare's ear fur forward tapering it. Stop half way down the hook shank.
5. Wrap gold wire through dubbing and tie off in front of the tapered body. Cut off and discard the excess wire.
6. Tie in turkey quill segment, 3/16"-1/4" wide, on top of the hook shank in front of the body. Pull the quill segment out of the way.
7. Dub on more hare's ear fur and wrap forward to form a large thorax.
8. Pull turkey quill segment forward and tie in at eye of hook.
9. Trim off excess quill, whip finish and laquer head.

Fishing News

Barkley Souders had no sooner finished telling Cecil Rives how difficult it is to hook an Atlantic salmon in Canada's George River when Cecil felt a hard strike and was fast to an acrobatic 12-pounder. As Cecil battled and landed this beautiful fish, Barkley, a George River veteran of many summers, could only shake his head and wonder at rookie luck. Cecil then spent the rest of the week trying to catch his second salmon. Large lake trout and brookies, on flies, spiced the trip.

Charlie Weems found the secret to avoiding the crowds at the lease on the Guadalupe. Pick a bitterly cold day, with a stiff wind from the north. Go when the river is too high to comfortably wade - just this side of being dangerous. Then make sure it is Christmas day, and you'll have the place to yourself, as our estwhile treasurer did last December 25th. The fish? Oh yes, Santa presented Charlie with 20 nice rainbows.

On a more comfortable trip to the lease, Charlie Thanheiser, Gary Shepherd, Ted Houghton, and Tony Woods found the water level down to around 300cfs in early February. In warm weather, they each caught some 30 trout the first day on dry flies. Each angler had fish in the 14 inch class. The next day the weather turned sour, and they had to go deep for the rainbows. That expert dredger, Gary Shepherd, dredged up some good fish.

Shelby Gibbs was at the January meeting and reported on a summer trip to his condo in West Yellowstone during which he had some great fishing on a late stonefly hatch on the Yellowstone River.

Andy Tripoli, while quail hunting in south-Texas, took an airboat ride on Baffin Bay with a local guide. He saw large numbers of good-sized redbfish. One theory is that with the severetroutrout kill, redbfish have less competition for food and are thriving. That would be a most welcome shot in the arm for the lower Texas coast. Andy plans to return to fish.

In last month's newsletter, when we were revisiting 1984 Fishing News, we left off what was one of the finest trips of the year: Bill Bennett's September excursion to the San Juan River during which he rejoined the 18/18 club (and maybe the 20/20 club). That's an 18 inch rainbow on a size 18 dry fly. Bill is going back next September, but not alone.

Call your Fishing News to Ken Jacoby at 999-6669 (o), and 409-273-2991.(h).

Outings

The new Outings chairman, Doug Irby, is planning a trip to the White River in Arkansas on April 27th. If the water is too high, Doug has a backup, the fantastic smallmouth fishing in Crooked Creek, Arkansas' best smallmouth stream. Doug's numbers are 966-5231 (o) and 496-9476.



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