



WIND

KNOTS

JANUARY MEETING

Date : January 27, 1987
Place : Apollo Room,
Viscount Hotel (526-4551)
2828 S. W. Frwy. (Kirby Exit)
Time : 7:00...Fit To Be Tied... The Serpent
7:30...Main Programs
John Hannah...Antique Reels
Video Tape...T.B.A.

Beginning this month, our regular meetings will be at a new location. This place has lots going for it - plenty of elbow room, ample parking, and a restaurant that stays open till midnight.

St. John's Episcopal Church has been wonderful to this club and we will never forget their hospitality and kindness. The club simply outgrew the meeting room. The activities such as fly-tying and aquatic entomology will continue to be conducted at the church.

QUARTERLY CLUB CALENDAR

Attached to this issue as a separate sheet is a calendar of upcoming club events for the next three months. Check future issues for any changes that might be forthcoming.

CALENDAR NOTES

Phil Staley, Ed Rizzolo, and Tony Woods have been busy arranging educational activities, and the calendar proves what a fine job they've done. Now it's up to us to participate. Here are some thumbnail sketches of each of the items.

BEGINNERS FLY-TYING. Run by Ed Rizzolo with guest teachers. Best class in the country and immensely popular. Unlike Intermediate lessons which begin in April, the Beginners classes require registration and have a limited enrollment. If you are not registered, plan to sign up next year.

CASTING LESSONS. A new activity. Designed to be a continuing method of improving your casting. No registration is required. Just show up. There will be rods and reels there for you to try. Free casting lessons from Bouldin, Hayward, and Lovstad are like free golf lessons from Tom Watson.

CLUB OUTINGS. Loosely organized with the emphasis on fun and fellowship. Guadalupe River should provide some good fishing for stocked rainbows if the present 1,500 cfs flow reduces to 400. If not, look for an alternative.

AQUATIC ENTOMOLOGY. Knowledge is power, and you can learn how to match the hatch from a terrific fly fisher and teacher, Judy Lehmberg. This is a new class and no registration is required.

ROD-BUILDING. Charles McCann will join Morten Lovstad in giving expert advice to rod builders. Classes will be on an as-requested basis. Watch for more details next month.

THE TEXAS CONCLAVE. A who's who of fly fishing talent. You won't dare miss this one. Rooms are a special \$45.00 for single or double. Watch for details but mark your calendar now.



BY: JOHN T. HANNAH

Open Season, Sporting Adventures by William Humphrey. Delacorte Press/Seymour Lawrence, publishers.

Books that are made by putting together old magazine articles can be unpalatable, like meals made from refrigerator leftovers. This is an exception. *Open Season* gives us an opportunity to read, or reread, "My Moby Dick" and "The Spawning Run" which are splendid stories.

William Humphrey's writing was recently compared favorably in the *Houston Post* book section to that of Faulkner and Hemingway. And it's quite possible that Humphrey is the most talented author writing about field sports today. The descriptions of his pursuit of his quarry are powerful.

A lot of good things, like John Scarborough, have come out of East Texas, and so did Humphrey. The book contains quite a bit about his redneck origins. The story "Guardian Dragon" is an absolutely spellbinding account of an alligator hunt in an unpenetrable forest-swamp called Sulphur Bottom.

Since East Texas Humphrey has moved in some pretty fast sporting circles. He was a good friend of Charles Ritz; and one of the stories in this book, written in letter form, seems to have been directed to his pals Nick Lyons, Bob Brister, Ted Trueblood,

and Al McClane.

Most of the thirteen stories are about fishing. "The Spawning Run" first titillated the readers of *Esquire*. If this account of hanky-panky at a fishing lodge in Wales is true he certainly has changed a lot of names, because it's quite slanderous stuff. Which is what makes the story so entertaining, of course.

The chapter "Ditches Are Quicker" makes a case for river conservation beautifully.

A few neat Humphrey similes: "A lawn as carefully tended as a cat's coat." To be on Sulphur River at dawn when the woods came to life was like being present at the Creation." "(Salmon entered the river) with the single mindedness of sailors returning home after a four-year cruise without shore leave."

Humphrey is such an accomplished writer that only a small-minded person would cavil with his facts. So I will. He gets pretty mixed up when he describes the life cycle of the Atlantic salmon. And he seems to have been given some misinformation about the English chalk streams. But these flaws, if they are such, together with an occasional convoluted sentence, are only minor distractions in this bright collection of sporting adventures.

WANT ADS

Dave Hayward of Orvis-Houston announces that the superb Kaufman/Canada waders, already on sale, will be discounted further to club members. Regularly \$150.00 to \$185.00, they will be an astounding \$75.00 for TFFers. They come in felt and rubber soles for long, medium, and short rises, but the availability is limited, so hurry on down to Orvis and get yourself wadered-up for the coming season.

Brooks Bouldin now carries fine pre-owned rods and reels on consignment at his Anglers Edge shop at 9101 Lipan (one block north of Westpark and one block west of Fondren). They are discounted around 33% off retail, and Brooks only handles them if they are in mint condition. Go see the guru.

ON THE SALTY SIDE

BY ELIOT TUCKER

THE SALTWATER SEASONS

Except for a few die-hards willing to fish for sows trout on the few warm bright calm days in January and February, saltwater fly fishing on the Texas coast is over as a practical matter until April or May.

Other parts of the world can provide an outlet and some welcomed variety until saltwater fishing at home makes sense again. The list of destinations is probably endless, but bonefish in Belize and the Honduran bay island of Guanaja are good bets. Christmas Island, 1,200 miles south of Hawaii is "in" right now. The Bahamas are a good spot for bones in a mild year, and Andros Island reportedly holds some of the largest anywhere.

Really big tarpon show up at Homosassa, Florida as early as March, and peak tarpon season in the Florida Keys is April and May and early June. Florida's weather can be as chancy as ours, but the fish are there then in vast numbers. Florida permits are best sought in a spring blow, I am told by those who know (I don't).

There are numerous spots where sailfish can be taken on a fly during our winter months (if you know how, I don't) and if you can find a captain willing and able to do the things necessary to catch sails on a fly.

There are numerous "fishing travel agencies" who can help you plan and book a trip. Fishing International, in Santa Rosa, California, caters to fly fishermen and has sent me on some memorable trips in the winter months.

One unique one was a combination bonefish and tarpon fishing trip to Little Cayman Island. The tarpon are in a brackish water land-locked lake and are a bit small and a bit anemic as tarpon go, but you cannot beat the experience of being rowed around the edge of the lake in a small boat in the evening casting brown streamers to the base of the mangroves that line the shore.

There are lots of other places to go. Talk to your friends, to these agencies, and try out your skills on fish a lot tougher than our local fare.

Fishing News

Two anglers are working hard on a small lake west of town. Betterbugs and Orvis poppers are sputtering across the calm surface for several hours with no takers.

Then, one catches a bass and notices something hanging out of its mouth. The something is a tail, connected to a partly digested mouse. Brooks yells across to Rick Wenland. They both change flies, tying on deer-hair mice. A pair of casts, a pair of boils, and each has a good fish on.

What have they done? According to Bouldin, they have matched the hatch.

That's all the fishing news we've heard this month, and frankly, after the above story, we didn't much care to hear any more. All of you, except Bouldin and Wenland, call in your fishing news to Ken Jacoby at 409-273-299 (h) or 713-873-6210 (o).

LOOSE HOOKS

It was great seeing former WIND KNOTS editor Lee Shuman, who was in town for a medical meeting. Formerly a trout purist, Lee now enjoys the excellent smallmouth fishing in the Potomac River, near his Maryland home. He sends greetings to all.

Walter Jensen sent us a copy of a New Orleans newspaper which featured a story about fly-fishing the Chandeleurs out of a sailing yacht. Louisianan Tom Jindra was featured, as was a fellow named *Chris Phillips*.

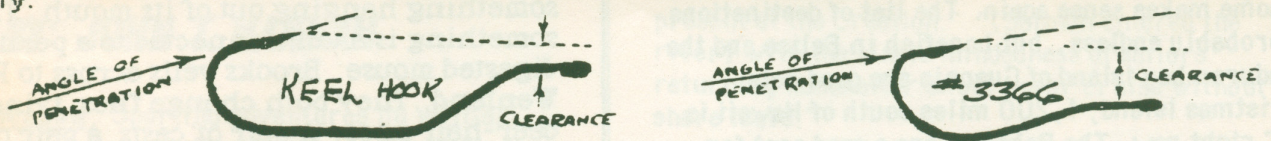
Charlie Wauns has greatly expanded his Houston Camera Replair Co. and has been appointed warranty service center for Canon USA. For camera and VCR equipment and repairs, see Charlie at 300 C Fondren.

Fit To Be Tied

By Norm [Lack O' Hackle] Crook

Ray Elmendorf, a member of Southern California Flyfishers, came up with a streamer he calls the Serpent and says it's a killer in the lakes and ponds of central and southern California. Of course, if it weren't for the Northern Sierra Nevada snow pack, there'd be no water in Southern California. This winter's drought may, however, make an abysmal desert of both regions unless some pork-barreling politico decides it's time to transport our recent plethora of water across the mountains to sate the Golden State's thirst.

Ray recommends using an Eagle Claw keel hook no. 1213. This scribe prefers a bend back Mustad no. 3366. The reasons are obvious when you consider the comparison sketches below. While the apparent gape of each hook is relatively equal the effective gape (clearance) of the keel hook is only 1/3 of the Mustad, thus reducing the hooking capability. To increase the clearance between hook point and shank would require raising the point. This would reduce further the hook's inherently inadequate hooking property.



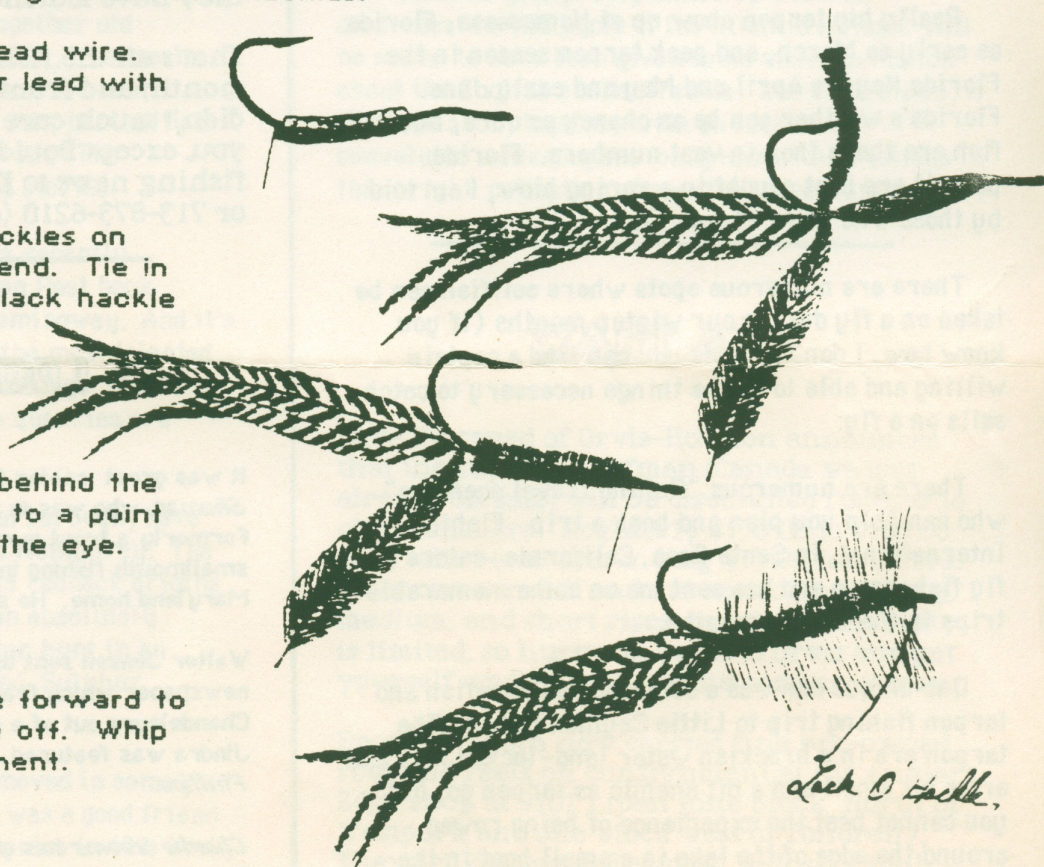
Materials for this fly are Mustad no. 3366 size 4 to 1/0 bend back hooks, 3/0 black thread, .021 diameter lead wire, medium black chenille, four 3" grizzly saddle hackles (narrow) and one or two large black soft hackles.

1. Wrap 10 turns of .021 lead wire. Attach tying thread. Cover lead with thread in a neat taper.

2. Tie in two 3" Grizzly hackles on each side of hook at the bend. Tie in black chenille, then tie in black hackle by the tip.

3. Wrap chenille one turn behind the black hackle, then forward to a point two eye diameters behind the eye.

4. Palmer the black hackle forward to the end of the chenille. Tie off. Whip finish with neat head. Cement.



Lack O' Hackle,

The Serpent should be fished slowly along the bottom and over structures. Buona Fortuna!

EDITOR'S NOTE

We hope you like the new, computer-generated look of this issue. Much of the credit belongs to Rod Gardner and his Macintosh. Rod will be working with us on WIND KNOTS each month. Some of the new artwork was done by Laurie Dailey.

WIND KNOTS is the newsletter of The Texas Flyfishers - Houston, Texas.

WIND KNOTS STAFF

Editor.....Ken Jacoby
 Graphics.....Dave Hayward
 Writers.....John T. Hannah
 Eliot Tucker
 Norm (Lack O'Hackle) Crook
 Publisher....Rod Gardner

TEXAS FLYFISHERS OFFICERS

President.....John Scarborough
 Vice President..Rod Gardner
 Treasurer.....Charles Weems
 Secretary.....Phil Staley
 Exec. Ass't.....Tony Woods

