

Windknots

A Monthly Publication of the Texas Flyfishers

Volume 24 / Issue 11

November 2005

Five Flies:

Patterns by Tim Borski and Bob Popovics

By Ralph Adams

This edition of Five Flies contains patterns for a broad range of species and habitats. Four of the featured patterns hail from Tim Borski and the last one is from Bob Popovics.

The Big Orange shark fly treads that skittering edge of what is ridiculous in fly fishing. Yet again, we turn our back on Sir Izaak Walton, that carp-loving English fly fishing wonk. The Big Orange is All-American haughty. It is unabashed and fun to tie. Its key features are size and color since its objective is to catch the eye of a shark hunting up your chum slick. I also think this would make a great kingfish fly. It is the same size, color, and shape as a Yo-Zuri plug we used to great effect on an offshore trip this summer to tease kings within casting range of the boat.

Upwards of twenty orange and red schlappen are divvied up on either side of a super-long-shank hook. Cover the threads by palmering forward a generous number of schlappen. This forms a billowy transition zone while lengthening the fly and increasing bulk. Next comes the head, which is spun deer hair, colored bright orange, and tied into a blunt and rounded crown. Spun properly, very little scissor work is necessary to prepare the deer hair.



Two Popovics Bangers and the Big Orange shark fly.

Borski suggests using holographic mylar throughout in order to make the fly glow in the water. Once the materials are attached, wire cutters (and a bit of caution) are used to pop the point off of the hook. The final step is to rig the fully dressed fly as a trailer on a 7/0 hook using braided wire. This setup gives the shark a chance to bite into a hook with a full and unfettered gap. Among next season's key fishing objectives will be to see the Big Orange snugged firmly in the corner of a man-eater's mouth. All I need is someone willing to leader this beast for a close-up photo and a clean release.

The next three Borski patterns take us from sharks to shallow water species like reds and bonefish. The first is the Butterfly. It is weighted with two layers of lead stacked lengthwise, rather than coiled, along the top of the hook shank. The stacked lead is then covered with dubbing material. This arrangement, along with a craft fur wing, allows it to sink with the hook point in a high position like a Clouser Minnow. It makes for a fly with minimal presence and is ideal for throwing at tailing fish.

(Continued on page 3.)

President's Corner

by Jerry "Buggywhip" Loring, President of the Texas Flyfishers

During the second half of 2005, the Texas Flyfishers has been searching for a Vice President of Programs. Everybody knows that Tom Lyons served as VP for several terms. His retirement and subsequent hospitalization created a void that has been unfilled since July.

For the past five months, the duties of the VP have been assumed by other officers and committee heads. The VP's primary duty is to arrange for a speaker at each meeting. As a matter of fact, the next opening we have for a speaker is during the April 2006 meeting. We are booked that far ahead! Therefore, whoever steps forward now only has to find seven speakers for subsequent months of 2006.

The timing is good for a change because many members have requested more instructional types of programs. That type of program speaker is relatively easy to find because of the broad range of potential topics and the large quantity of fly fishing experts from which to choose.

This is a direct request for the reader to step forward and volunteer to serve as our new VP of Programs. After serving as the VP for three years myself, I can testify that it is the best club position in which to serve. I met many experts in our sport and gleaned from them some of the finer points of fly fishing that I never even knew existed.

The qualifications are simple. Be a member and be willing. Besides, the year 2006 is going to be a great year to serve as VP. This year brings the thirtieth birthday of the Texas Flyfishers. Maybe we should plan a party.

Speaking of parties, don't forget the TFF club Christmas Party and Awards Banquet. It will be held at my house on Saturday, December 3rd at 7:00 pm. The address is 8870 Cardwell. Please call me at 713-875-4289 to RSVP.

*** TFF Meeting Update ***

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 31st** at the Holiday Inn Select at 2712 Southwest Freeway between Kirby and Buffalo Speedway.

Historical Factoid:

This want-add for the Pony Express was posted in a San Francisco newspaper in March of 1860:

"WANTED – young, skinny, wiry fellows, not over eighteen. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred. Wages \$25 a week. Apply Central Overland Express, Alta Bldg., Montgomery Street."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beginner Fly Tying Course

The Texas Flyfishers will start their annual Beginner Fly Tying Course on **January 10, 2006**. This is a ten week course that meets every Monday night at the Bethany Christian Church on Westheimer (between Buffalo Speedway and Kirby) from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Fourteenth Annual Fly Tying Festival

The fourteenth annual Fly Tying Festival will be held on **Saturday, February 4, 2006** at the Holiday Inn Select at 2712 Southwest Freeway between Kirby and Buffalo Speedway.

Tim Blount of Boise, Idaho will be our featured tier. We anticipate having upwards of 60 tiers at this year's event. Please stop by and join us.

For further information, contact Frank Schlicht via telephone: 281-392-5296, or email: aged_sage@hotmail.com.

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Bassing the "Upper Guad"

By Bud Turner

I had been planning a fall float trip down a Hill Country river for some time with an old friend from Austin and another from Ft. Worth. We wanted to make it fairly urban with easy put-ins and take-outs and we decided on an eight mile stretch from HWY 3351 down to the Guadalupe River State Park. We all met at Bergheim's campground on Saturday afternoon to scout the situation and get in a couple of hours of wade fishing before dark. The weather was perfect and reminded me of why I had told myself years ago that I would never move from the Hill Country back to Houston, obviously in error, but I digress. Despite the perfect weather and the fact that this stretch of the Guad was just minutes from the suburbs of Boerne and Western San Antonio, we had the water pretty much to ourselves. The fishing on Saturday afternoon was slow, but it did not worry us. We laid out our plan and went to Boerne to check into a motel.

The trip started off ominously the next morning when we arrived at the state park to drop off the take-out vehicle and found we were an hour early due to the daylight savings time change. We headed to the Bergheim campground through dense fog which hid the sun nearly all morning. We used the opportunity to throw poppers and other top waters against the bank. We had limited success picking up several eight to ten inch Guadalupe bass and a couple of largemouth in the twelve inch range.

Toward the middle of the day, I switched to Clouser and Cypert minnows in chartreuse with lots of flash and started working the deeper holes and behind boulders below fast-running water. We picked-up quite a few small bass with this method. One of our pontoon boats was having trouble holding air and after seven hours of hard fishing, my GPS said we were barely half-way to the take-out. We pumped-up the pontoon and paddled two boats and a kayak the rest of the way to the takeout, making the entire eight miles in about nine hours.

If you have never been down this stretch of the Guad, it is incredibly beautiful and, for now, almost completely undeveloped. On a 70 degree fall afternoon, even without fishing, I would highly recommend this trip. If fishing is your only objective, there is a put-in / take-out at approximately mile three from where we put in. For more information, both Bud Priddy's "Fly Fishing the Texas Hill Country" and "Rivers and Rapids" cover this stretch thoroughly. Also, www.southwestpaddler.com is an excellent source of maps and information on all of the Hill Country rivers.

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(Five Flies..., continued from page 1)

I used the Chernobyl in a couple of variations on a recent Texas redfish trip. They fell for both the standard weighted variety, as well as the unweighted variety which Borski calls the Chernobyl PM. I tend to prefer flies with some sink rate, but the unweighted ones are suited to fishing ultra-skinny water or if you want the fly to hang in the water column, as when fishing over eel grass where a weighted fly would sink out of sight before the fish has had a chance to see it.

The Chernobyl can be tied in many different sizes. It's one of those flies that takes a few practice tries to get it looking right, but if you like to catch redfish on crab flies, this one will serve you well. I have also used the PM to catch bass by throwing it into open potholes on weedy ponds.

Now we come to the Craft Fur Shrimp. This fly achieves a clever elegance through simplicity. It assembles in just three steps, or four if you use a weed guard. A craft fur tail twice the length of the shank is attached to the top of the hook. Thread is then wrapped around the base of the tail causing it to protrude at an angle to the shank. This gives it the segmented look of a shrimp critter. Borski recommends hitting this spot with head cement. Next, a pair of webby neck hackles are tied in at the collar, followed by sparkling Estaz grande chenille which fills the gap leading to a pair of small bead-chain eyes fastened on top of the hook.



Clockwise from top: Popovics Banger, Butterfly, Craft Fur Shrimp, standard Chernobyl crab (with bead-chain eyes), and Chernobyl PM (unweighted).

An optional V-shaped weed guard tied near the eye of the hook will help keep from picking up stray bits of grass. The Craft Fur Shrimp can be convincingly tied in many color combinations to suit the tier. And for those of us inclined towards instant gratification, this bug has the added benefit of coming together in less than five minutes.

Bob Popovics is another noted fly tier, famous for his patterns designed for stripers and bluefish. His Popovics Banger has a flat cylinder head made of foam, which is similar to those used on sailfish flies except smaller. The fly is utilitarian and dead easy to tie. I paid half-price for a kit of these flies which came with all necessary materials including hooks. Not including time and labor, they will cost me just one dollar per fly, which compares favorably to the price for pre-fabricated offshore poppers. This is a case of getting big banger for the buck. Next year, these Bangers will be put to the test on schoolie blues and stripers summering around the Connecticut coastline of the Long Island Sound.

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A Note from the Editor: CALLING ALL SCRIBES!

The editorial staff of the *Wind Knots* is continually seeking contributions to keep us in material for the monthly publication. What we need are your stories, suggestions, technical tips, reviews, yarns, fly tying pieces, photographs, conservation notes, letters to the editor, and yes, opinion pieces.

Perhaps you tinker and like solving those nagging technical problems related to fishing. Maybe you have a break-through that would enlighten the readership. Or maybe you have just bought a new fishing gizmo or tackle item that would be of interest to others, as either a purchase to recommend or one to absolutely avoid. We could also use stories about your boat and how you chose to buy it. All of you Maverick HPX owners should give the rest of us a chance to live the dream vicariously through you.

You may not tinker or buy much gear and you're probably not the captain of your own poling boat. But I know you have one of these: an opinion. A certain member once called our editorial offices in a fit of passion. For reasons unknown, he was discoursing about how the typical TFF member is laden with the most outlandish opinions about anything and everything. "My god!" he said, "Are these fly anglers ever full of opinions?" I suspect he's right, but you could never tell by reading the *Wind Knots*. The truth is, gentlemen, the pros and cons of Girl Scout cookie sales raise more controversy and debate than we do.

Writing pieces for the *Wind Knots* need not be complicated. Indeed, the simpler the better. As for length, 250 to 750 words is the sweet spot. Feel free to compose your pieces as email notes written over lunch or in the evening sitting by the fire with a glass of your grandfather's favorite scotch.

Please send us something for the *Wind Knots*. We know that you will do a great job.

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WIND KNOTS CLASSIFIEDS

Space permitting, we'll run "Wanted" and "For Sale" ads for members of Texas Flyfishers. On a case-by-case basis, we may also run ads from non-members if the goods or services sought or offered would be of interest to our members. Send your ad by e-mail to ralphchristineadams@earthlink.net or regular mail to Ralph Adams, 4019 Levonshire, Houston, TX 77025. If you like, please include a photograph of items to be sold.



SUMMIT STATION LODGE is a fly-fishing resort within the outskirts of Glacier National Park, MT. We organize floating and wading fly fishing trips in the Middle and South Fork of the Flathead River, Two Medicine River in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, local high mountain glacier lakes, and several pristine mountain streams. We fish for native cutthroats, rainbow, brown, and bull trout. Bull trout were recently reintroduced to Glacier Park streams and tributary rivers. The angling sites are simply stunning, with pristine fly-fishing and majestic views. Furthermore, **SUMMIT STATION LODGE** serves as a base for launching other activities within Glacier National Park like horseback riding, hiking, sight-seeing and more.

Originally built in 1906 by the Great Northern Railway, **SUMMIT STATION LODGE** is a wonderful place to experience the incredible beauty of Mother Nature in Montana. We are



located on the Continental Divide at the top of Marias Pass, the lowest route across the Divide in the United States. We are actively involved in conservation efforts and work extensively with the National Park Service and the Blackfeet Reservation. We serve as liaison via monetary contributions through Orvis, Cabela's, and Motorola to help preserve trout in northwestern Montana.



Dr. Jorge Simental is the proprietor of the lodge and outfitting business. He is an avid fly fisherman, conservationist, and father of three children. He lives and practices Emergency Medicine and Trauma in Austin, TX. Yet, his love and passion are in Montana. The lodge has undergone extensive remodeling, blending peace and serenity with a magical place to visit. Our rustic and spacious cabins overlook the Glacier National Park and our chef prepares some of the most exquisite local and contemporary plates, including cooking the "catch of the day" rainbow trout provided by guest anglers. The center of activity at "Summit Station" is the main lodge, where people can visit, relax, enjoy a drink, or even tie some flies. We hope you can come and experience these majestic waters.

SUMMIT STATION LODGE, Hwy. 2, Marias Pass, Continental Divide, East Glacier Park, MT. 59434, Phone 406-226-4428, www.summitstationlodge.com

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2006 OUTINGS SCHEDULE

Our outings schedule is a work-in-progress. Here are the trips we have currently scheduled for 2006. Sometimes dates and places change, so check here regularly. **Blue font indicates a change has been made since the last issue of *Wind Knots*.**

To volunteer as a trip leader, contact fresh water outings chairman Clarke Thornton or salt water outings chairman Scott Fossum. Their telephone numbers and email addresses are on the Executive Committee listing later in this issue. Fresh water trips are designated [F], salt water [S] in the listings below.

March – Port Mansfield. Leader needed. [S]

April – Aransas Pass – B&R Flats Leader needed. [S]
Kayak trip in Lighthouse lakes. Kayak rental available nearby.

May – Aransas Pass – Lighthouse Lakes Led by Ralph Adams. Date TBD. [S]
Kayak trip in Lighthouse lakes. Kayak rental available nearby.

June – Leader needed. [S]
Destination by leader

July – Port O'Connor One Fly Tournament[S]
Rotating crystal trophy up for grabs. Greatest total inches of fish caught on 1st fly tied on wins. Boat or kayak needed.

August – Redfish Rodeo [S]

September – Padre Island surf fest - Leader needed. [S]

October – South Padre Island - Leader needed. [S]

November – Nighthawk Bay - Leader needed. [S]

December – No outings.

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TEXAS FLYFISHERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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About Wind Knots

Wind Knots is your monthly newsletter, and it needs your help – otherwise we'll run out of things to print. E-mail your articles, photos, artwork, graphics, fishing news, tall tales, lies, and letters to the editor to ralphnchristineadams@earthlink.net not later than the 10th of the month for that month's issue. **Be sure to put the words *Wind Knots* in the subject line of your e-mail.** If you don't, I might think it's spam or worse and delete it before opening.

If you have digital photos, please send them via e-mail in .JPG format. If you have paper photos, mail them to Corey Rich, 2900 Wesleyan, Suite 545, Houston, TX 77027. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for their return.

The preferred form for text – stories, letters, and so forth – is in Microsoft Word. Please try to keep your offerings in the 800 to 1,000 word range, or less. If you send photos along with an article, proposed captions are appreciated.

Wind Knots is posted on the club's Web site as soon as it becomes available. Check www.texasflyfishers.org regularly for the latest newsletter and other news of interest.

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

Texas Flyfishers Membership Application

Please check one: ☐ New Application ☐ Renewal

To join Texas Flyfishers or renew your membership, please complete this form and mail it with your check to the address below, or bring it with you to one of our monthly meetings. All memberships expire June 30th of each year, and renewals are due July 1st. New members, please pro-rate your payment for the number of months between now and the end of June, inclusive. Our monthly meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month (except December), beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Dues are for (check one): ☐ Individual at \$24 a year ☐ Family at \$32 a year ☐ Student at \$16 a year

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Email: _____

TEXAS FLYFISHERS
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