



The Official Newsletter of the Hamilton and Area Fly Fishers and Tyers

October 2002

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

So far so good. Even the new members were tying Monday night. We didn't get many requests for fly patterns in the shoe box though. Henri and Joe have a lot to offer but would like YOU to chose the patterns to be taught. We did receive one nomination for the Becker/Knott Award. This was placed in the shoe box as well.

A small point of interest, our conservation chairman, Ken Glasbergen has run off and committed matrimony. I have always been found of that expression "committed matrimony". It makes the institution of marriage sound like a felony with a life sentence and a ball and chain. Come to think about it..... no, I'm just kidding. I'm sure we all wish Ken and Kristen a long and happy life together.

John French, President

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

With our first month behind us, we've gotten back into the routine again. Remember to bring your vises for tying nights. We also need flies requests from you. Our schedule is filling in. As I get details, I'll get them to you and also get them out on the web. We also need content requests and content itself. What would you like to see here. I'm just the messenger, okay, coordinator. You provide the talent. Let's see what you can do. Finally, at the request of some members, you'll see the schedule as a page by itself with contact info you can post to your refridgerator or other likely place to see what's coming.

ESOX FABLES

By John French

While on a family vacation in New Brunswick this past summer, we treated ourselves to a whale watching expedition sailing out of North Head Harbour on Grand Manan. The particular charter was chosen at random from the many choices listed on the internet. Captain Sarah turned out to be the daughter of a student my uncle taught in a very small community east of St. John. The world is shrinking faster than I am losing my hair!

While on the boat, a 53 foot schooner rigged beauty, we were fortunate enough to see a number of Minke and Finback whales, some White Sided Dolphins and Harbour Porpoises. Along with these marine mammals, numerous species of birds were in attendance. From the fast moving Puffins, { the charter operator would call out: Puffins at 9 o'clock, puffins at 11 o'clock, back side of the puffins at 3 o'clock fading fast"} through Razor Bill

Auks to the Shearwaters who came from the African coast, the variety kept us thumbing through our Petersons guide book. Here's where the synaptic derailing that caused the first Esox Fable kicked in again.

The waiting for and the anticipation of seeing the mammoth sea creatures breaching the oceans surface caused my mind to wander and my imagination to take over. No vessel had an Ahab stranger than I, no row boat a more accurate harpooner; no rising trout had a more palatable feeding lane. More palatable feeding lane? Yes my synaptic slip up imagined the 70 foot long whale rising and sipping sea birds from the surface like a gigantic trout in the stream. Even the photos I took show a classic nose, dorsal, tail rise form. The whales are taking emerger Auks and Shearwater duns from the surface like so many mayflies drifting across the surface of a pool.

The fact that the whales were filtering krill through the baleen in their mouths or taking herring from schools well below the surface did not affect my daydreaming one iota. It only caused me to change my tactics and imagine a channel marker buoy as a strike indicator for sub surface work. All this without even a Graval to take some of the blame.

If by chance you are fishing around here and you hear "there she blows!!!" bellowed at ear damaging decibels, follow the sound, pat me gently on the shoulder and tell me it's past time to go home.

JORDAN ON THE SAINT

By Ron Marini (and naturally Jordan Sinke)

One of the benefits of belonging to a club is that you get to learn so much from the members you meet. That's true with Jordan Sinke, one of our members living cheek by jowl to some of the best fly fishing water in our country. Many of you will recall Jordan as the friendly, inquisitive young fellow from our meetings. Jordan is attending school in Sault Ste. Marie and has been fishing the St. Mary's River. He's been doing more than cracking the books at his new school and he's sharing his fishing adventures via e-mail over the past couple of weeks.

Sault Ste. Marie sits on the St. Mary's River which drains Lake Superior. The outflow from Lake Superior is a white water rapid that stretches from shore to shore. A mighty, brawling, section of river, it is treacherous to wade and that comment comes from personal experience. The aquamarine colour is deceiving, what looks to be isn't, especially the perceived depth of the water.

The summer edition of Canadian Flyfisher profiled the city and the river. The reputation of the Soo as a fly fishing Mecca is not

new, as the Toronto Star in 1920 is said to have carried an article by the American author Ernest Hemingway in which he said in part:

“at present the best rainbow trout fishing in the world is in the rapids of the Canadian Soo”.

Mighty high and rarefied praise indeed. But let's get back to Jordan.

Jordan was fishing before he even started classes. His typical set-up is #9 rod with a 9wt floating line. His fishing has been for king and pink salmon. The average size of the pinks is about three lbs. but he's been catching so many kings that he opted for a heavier rod. Most of the salmon fishing is in mid to large size pools where the salmon are staging before they start to think about spawning. The pinks can be caught just about anywhere in about two or three weeks. The locals think the annual run of pinks is a little late because the water temperature has not been low enough. In early September, pink salmon can be found in riffles, in front of rocks, and mixed in with the salmon in the many deep pools across the river. Jordan started using a strike indicator and found it quite effective, not just to see when the fish takes the fly, but to keep as much of the line off the water as possible. Jordan observes that Pink salmon have very soft mouths, so it is important to detect the strike early and set the hook softly. He cautions that rearing hard on the rod to get all the slack out of your line will subsequently yank the fly out of the fish's mouth.

The flies that he has been using are called flash flies. Purple and pink seem to be the best colours. According to Jordan, the flash flies can be tied on size 6-10 2X long streamer hooks. The body is made from silver or pearlescent Mylar tubing. The skirt (wing) is made of pearlescent pink, yellow and red (for Kings), or purple flashabou. A piece of webby hackle or schlappen is wrapped around the front of the hook in similar fashion to a wet fly. It is a simple pattern that can be used to catch a wide variety of fish.

In our correspondence, Jordan shared with us the story about the best fish he caught up to this middle of September. Jordan related the following.

“There are a lot of fly fishers who come up from the states. One of the guys was from New York and he told me he had some luck fishing for salmon with a hares ear and pointed out a couple of likely spots on the river. After sharing some casual banter and having a peek into each other's fly boxes, we went our separate ways. I promptly changed to a hares ear and started drifting my nymph through a fishy looking riffle. After three drifts, I caught and landed a 20-pound King salmon. I was excited to start fishing again so I started casting as soon as I released the salmon. Now I cast right handed and the wind had

been coming in from my right (west) all morning so I had been turning around and casting with my back cast to avoid hooking myself in the head. But in the excitement after catching the salmon, I made the mistake of making a quick roll cast and promptly hooked myself in the head. I had put tremendous force into the cast and the fly was deeply buried in my head. Fortunately for me, a couple of friendly Americans were not far off and with the help of my new Yankee friends, and my trusty leatherman, we were able to push the barb back out, pinch it over and pull the fly out.”

But that's not the end of the story. Jordan continues:

“The whole operation took about 15 minutes and 20 minutes later I caught another fish on the same fly!”

Jordan certainly knows how to make good use of his flies.

Fishing the St. Mary's River to date has been rewarding for Jordan and his adventures and misadventures are a delight to read. By the time you read this it will be October and Jordan should be fishing for the Chinooks which follow closely on the Pinks. I'm sure Jordan will have a healthy respect for these brutes and for the winds that play tricks with hooks, lines and anglers' heads.

YOU MIGHT BE A FLY FISHER

By Jimmy Moore

- 1) You have one of Don O's large demo flies dangling from your rear view mirror because you think it makes a good conversation piece.
- 2) Your wedding party had to tie tin cans to your drift boat..
- 3) You call your fly rod "sweetheart" and your wife "midge".
- 4) Your local fly shop has your credit card number on file.
- 5) You keep your wading staff by your favorite chair to change the TV channels with.
- 6) You name your black lab "Scott" and your cat "Sage".
- 7) Byard has a private line just for you.
- 8) You have your name painted on a parking space at the launch ramp.
- 9) You have a photo of your 10 lb. rainbow on your desk at work instead of your family.
- 10) You consider vienna sausage and crackers a complete meal.
- 11) You think MEGABYTES means a great day fishing.
- 12) You send your kid off to the first day of school with his shoes tied in a "blood knot".
- 13) You think there are four seasons--Fly tying & dreaming, Fly tying and waiting, Fly tying and getting your equipment ready and Finally, Fishing, but you have to tie some extra flies, just to be safe.
- 14) You trade your wife's van for a smaller vehicle so your pontoon boat and drift boat will fit in the garage.
- 15) Your kids know it's Saturday---Because both boats and float tube are gone.

CLUB MEETING SCHEDULE

Oct 7, 2002	Presentation Night – Reading Water	For those of you who want to know where to fish, to find those Salmon and Steelhead, this is it. Don't miss it. – Note this is the first week, not the second per usual!- Thanksgiving!
Oct 28, 2002	Tying Night – TBA	TBA
Nov 11, 2002	Presentation Night – Building Rods	Ian Collins and Ted Knott will be doing the presentation. Ian will either talk about choosing a rod or bring stuff to actually wrap guides and build a rod. What would you like to have him do? Ted will bring his bamboo building equipment and answer questions. Come out and see.
Nov 25, 2002	Tying Night – TBA	TBA
Dec 9, 2002	Presentation Night - TBA	TBA – Note this is the only meeting in December due to Christmas

CLUB CONTACTS

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Meeting Place: Sherwood Public Library, 467 Upper
Ottawa Street, just north of the Fennel Ave intersection.
Downstairs in the A/B Meeting Rm.

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