



# Arkansas Flyline

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Monthly Newsletter of the Arkansas Fly Fisher

January 2008

## January 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Banquet

By Drew Kelso



Banquet Hall and  
Catering Services  
located in  
Juanita's Annex  
1220 South Main  
Little Rock, AR

The AFF Annual Banquet will be held at Juanita's Mexican Restaurant Party Room on **Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008**. Mark your calendars for this great event now, even though it is the regular Club meeting night. Expect to come about **6pm, but earlier is OK**. Juanita's Party room is just to the North of the Restaurant on Main Street, and is between Piano Kraft and Community Bakery. Plenty of parking on street and in a lot across the street. The menu features an all you can eat Mexican Buffet with fajitas and all the trimmings. **Charge is \$25 per person or \$45 a couple**. (We will be charged by the plate used, so if you go back for seconds turn in your old plate and we will not be charged for the second one you get). **Bring the family and friends**, everyone is welcome who wants to enjoy AFF companionship and have a good time. This is also an excellent time to **renew your AFF membership** at the door or to join if you want to be a member. We are going to try and wrap up the event as close to 9pm to 9:30 as possible.

There will be a **short program to elect 2008 AFF**

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## Dues notice

By Bill McDonald



It's Time to pay dues for 2008!! Dues are \$25.00 for individual and \$35.00 for family members. You can pay in person, at the banquet, regular meeting, or mail your dues to:

ARKANSAS FLY FISHERS  
Attn: Bill McDonald  
P.O. BOX 1062  
LITTLE ROCK, AR, 72203



Arkansas Fly Fishers is a chapter of the Southern Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers



## President's Page

By Gary White



### Happy New Year fly fishers –

New opportunities to fish and enjoy life start now. Along with your other New Year's resolutions to loose weight, find a new job or stop smoking, add "fly fish more". And certainly not the least of which, add also participation in **Arkansas Fly Fishers meetings and events**.

We have a lot of things happening in our club in 2008. But the social event of the year takes place **January 21<sup>st</sup>** right here in Little Rock - **Arkansas Fly Fishers Annual Banquet**. We will be meeting at **Juanita's Restaurant**, starting at **6 PM**. This is our regular club meeting Monday night, so we are expecting a great turnout. Drew Kelso and team have put together a great selection of prizes and auction items. The fajitas buffet will be outstanding and I am sure there will be at least one fish story told at your table. There will be a **cash bar**. So round up your special someone, grab your friends and plan to attend for a wonderful evening. There will be a short business meeting for the election of 2008 officers. Mark your calendar today. Questions? Contact me at 501.985.2003 or [whitegi@hotmail.com](mailto:whitegi@hotmail.com).

Many of you should consider **penning an article** for our newsletter. You take interesting trips to fish in a wide variety of areas, and I am sure club members would like to know what you did and what you learned. You may also wish to share a fishing technique you either learned from someone or

devised yourself out of necessity. These are always interesting for us beginners because we have so much to learn. Just write a short piece (include photos if you like) and forward it to our newsletter editor, Chris Morris ([cmorris30@gmail.com](mailto:cmorris30@gmail.com)).

I am happy to report that 7 club members were again able to start the year off right with fly fishing. It was a small but august group of intrepid fishers braving the cold to fish the **White and Norfolk Rivers** December 30<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup>. At 8:30 AM on New Years morning, after a hearty breakfast of eggs, bacon and sausages provided by a generous club member and his wife, most of us were fishing below the dam on the Norfolk River. I can also verify that it was cold, cold, cold. Both rivers produced some nice fish hitting on eggs and midge droppers after no generation for several days -- Bob "the Genie" Cheatham did very well. In addition, we had a nice New Years Eve get-together by a toasty fire with great food, good friends and football – along with some very enjoyable Australian wine.

Fish the **San Juan River**, New Mexico, estimated **February 17 -23**. Contact me for more information at 501.985.2003 or [whitegi@hotmail.com](mailto:whitegi@hotmail.com). We drive and share expenses; estimated cost \$395 + food.

Good luck fly fishing; see you at the Annual Banquet,

Gary White



## A Simple Approach To Rigging

By John Berry



<http://www.berrybrothersguides.com/>

Over the years, I have developed a simple approach to rigging up my fly rod for fishing. The idea is to make things easier for me and my clients. By keeping things simple, it is easier and faster to prepare for fishing and easier to repair problems on stream. With my system you only need to carry one size of leader, three spools of tippet, one spool of lead ribbon and a few strike indicators. In addition, you are only required to tie two knots. This system covers streamers, soft hackles (wet flies and emergers also), dry flies, and nymphs. It will work for 99.5% of your angling needs for trout.

The first step is to have the fly shop install your fly line when you buy it. Have them put on the required amount of backing as specified by the reel manufacturer. I also have them attach a braided loop to the end of the fly line. Most fly shops will do this at no additional charge. While there I buy some seven and one half foot 4X leaders that have a loop already knotted in the end. I also buy a spool of 4X, 5X, and 6X tippet and a spool of lead ribbon (my favorite brand is Larva Led) and a few strike indicators (my favorite brand is turn-ons).

To rig for streamers (Woolly Buggers), I start with a seven and one half foot 4X leader. I attach it to the fly line with a loop to loop connection. I tie a twenty four inch section of 4X tippet to the leader with a surgeons knot (after trimming the tag ends of the knots the tippet will end up around eighteen inches long). I attach the woolly bummer or other streamer to the tippet with an improved clinch knot. I trim all tag ends closely. I then apply several wraps of lead ribbon to the leader just above the tippet knot. The amount of lead used is determined by water depth and velocity. This is a trial and error process. If you put on too much, the fly will hang up on the bottom

on every cast. Too little lead and the fly will never touch the bottom. If you do it right, the fly will hang up occasionally. With streamers you must fish the bottom.

To rig wet flies, soft hackles and emergers, I attach a seven and one half foot 4X leader to the fly line with a loop to loop connection. I then tie a four and one half foot section of tippet to the leader with a surgeons knot. I use 5X tippet for the wet flies and soft hackles and 6X tippet for the small emergers. I then tie on the fly with an improved clinch knot. I carefully trim the tag ends and I am ready to fish.

To rig dry flies, I attach a seven and one half foot 4X leader to the fly line with a loop to loop connection. I then tie a four and one half foot section of tippet to the leader with a surgeons knot. I use 4X tippet for large flies like hoppers and stimulators, 5X for medium sized flies like sulphurs and royal Wulffs and 6X tippet for the small dries my brother, Dan, favors. I then attach the fly to the tippet with an improved clinch knot. I trim all of the tags and apply fly floatant to the fly to waterproof it.

To rig nymphs, I attach a seven and one half foot 4X leader to the fly line with a loop to loop connection. I then tie a twenty four inch section of tippet to the leader with a surgeons knot (after trimming the tag ends, I will end up with an eighteen inch tippet). I use 4X for large nymphs like stone flies, 5X for medium nymphs like San Juan worms, and 6X for the tiny midge pupa. I attach the fly with an improved clinch knot. I attach a couple of wraps of lead ribbon to the leader above the tippet knot and then attach the strike indicator. The strike indicator should be set so that the distance of the fly to the indicator is the depth of the water. I trim all tags closely.

For all of these techniques test all knots and sharpen your hooks. If you use this simple system, you should be able to fish in the vast majority of water that you will encounter.

See *A Simple Approach To Rigging* on page 7



## AFF Upcoming Events

By Board Members

### January 2008

1<sup>st</sup>, Membership/Renewal Dues, Please plan to pay your dues at the Annual Banquet or sometime during the month if unable to attend.

21<sup>st</sup>, AFF Annual Banquet, Monday at Juanita's Party Room. Big Mexican buffet, silent auction and raffle. AFF Officers for 2008 will be elected!

Lots of items donated from Fly Fishing suppliers and retailers as well as many members....but we need more. Get items you want to donate to Drew Kelso, send him an e-mail at [drewkelso@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drewkelso@sbcglobal.net) and you can work it out. Grand prize an Orvis 4wt, 4 piece, Trout Bum with an Orvis Bar Stock Reel, line and backing.....a \$635 value, complements of Orvis Co. and the Ozark Angler. We have some guide trips, rods, reels, vests and more. More details to follow. Don't miss it!

### February 2008

February 18 – 23, San Juan River Trip, contact Gary White ([whitegi@hotmail.com](mailto:whitegi@hotmail.com))

### June 2008

June 6 - June 15, 2008, Boundary Waters Trip, contact Patty Lueken ([plueken@luekenlaw.com](mailto:plueken@luekenlaw.com))



## Little Red River Fly Shop Fishing Report

By Jed Hollan January 02, '08

The Greers Ferry Power House has continuously released water for two weeks, but, according to my sources, will shut down on Monday, January 7th until the 10th of the month. Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) has been generating hydroelectric power here and at their Dardanelle facility.

They chose Greers Ferry Lake to supplement their power requirements because, of all the impoundments, we are the fullest. With numerous rain events recently, our lake has remained near the top power pool of 461 feet above mean sea level in spite of these water releases. Non-stop generation will resume if we get more heavy rainfall. It is my opinion that, when the heavy water releases end, the brown trout spawn will be ended.

The high water that occurs every time hydroelectricity is generated has served to protect the brown trout in their final stages of the spawn. This bodes well for the future. The temperature of the lake water driving the turbines averaged 48 degrees fahrenheit while dissolved oxygen levels hovered around 6.8 mg/l. All good numbers.

In December of 2007, President George W. Bush signed an omnibus spending bill that included \$935,000.00 for "minimum flow" for all five of the White River system tail waters. Minimum flows were mandated by Congress decades ago for the Beaver, Table Rock, Bull Shoals, Norfolk and Greers Ferry impoundments but were not funded until now. Minimum flow entails the continuous release of water through the dam without generating hydroelectric power.

For the Little Red, this means an additional 60-200 cubic feet of water per second instead of the standard 20 cfs presently being released. This should translate to a foot or so of water above the present day "dead low" water level. With minimum flow, the entire river will be boatable, new places to wade fish will be created, the water



[www.littleredflyshop.com/](http://www.littleredflyshop.com/)

will remain colder through the hot summer months and oxygen levels will be enhanced. No time table as yet exists for this to happen, but, rumors have it occurring within eighteen months.

Midges continue to hatch every day along the Little Red. Blue winged olive mayflies are also coming off periodically but can't compare to those midges! Dry fly midges in size 22 (cream or black) are working well. You might also try the smallest adams you have. Below the surface, sowbug (#14-#16 UV Tan, Peacock, light gray), zebra midge (#16-#22 red or black), pheasant tail (#16), copper john (#14-#16 red or copper), red butt (#14-#16) or wooly bugger (#10-#12 olive or black) are great selections.

If you have questions about anything in this report, give me a call at the Little Red Fly Shop in Heber Springs, AR. My numbers are #888-442-4022 toll free or #501-887-9988.

You can request more information by sending an e-mail to me at [shop@littleredflyshop.com](mailto:shop@littleredflyshop.com). I'm Jed Hollan, mgr.



## John Berry Fishing Report

By John Berry January 03, '08

<http://www.berrybrothersguides.com/>



We have had a few days of light rain and the lake levels on the White River system have continued to rise a bit. The lake level at Bull Shoals Dam remained steady at three and five tenths of a foot below power pool at 654.00 feet. Up stream, Table Rock Lake rose three tenths of a foot to settle at four and three tenths feet below power pool. Beaver Lake has remained at seven feet below pool. Early in the week there was virtually no generation and later in the week there were some periods of substantial generation (up to six generators). This has aided boat navigation and has created some excellent wading conditions on the White River. We had several very windy days which included lake wind advisories and some very cool temperatures. Norfolk Lake has risen three tenths of a foot to rest four and four tenths feet below power pool of 552.00 feet. The pattern on the Norfolk has been for no discernable generation early in the week and periods of significant generation later in the week. This has created excellent wading conditions. The forecast is for colder weather with the possibility of precipitation. With the existing conditions, we should have some wadable water on both rivers.

Despite the cold temperatures and high wind, there were several anglers that took advantage of the low water to fish between the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The fishing has been excellent for wading anglers particularly on the White.

The State Park below Bull Shoals Dam has fished well. There are very few campers there this time of year and plenty of water to fish. There have been some nice midge hatches in the afternoon. The most productive flies have been zebra midges in red with brass wire and brass beads. Partridge and orange and green butt soft hackles have also accounted for a lot of fish.

Wildcat Shoals has been a local hot spot. The partridge and orange and green soft hackles have

produced a lot of fish in the lower section below the shoals, especially when fish can be seen rising. This section also fishes well with woolly buggers either in olive or brown. Both should have a bit of flash. In the shoals, zebra midge nymphs in black with silver wire and silver bead and brown with copper wire and copper bead have accounted for a lot of fish as well as the Y2K.

Rim Shoals had quite a bit of pressure but still fished well with olive scuds, black zebra midges and Y2Ks. Anglers going into more remote water to find a bit of seclusion have done particularly well. Some have waded down from Rim Shoals to White Shoals and caught some nice brown trout on olive woolly buggers and green butt soft hackles. This is about a thirty minute trip and you should check the latest generation report before you begin this trek.

Several anglers also found some really great fishing by going up stream by boat from the Buffalo City access to Buffalo Shoals. This area fished well with Y2Ks, olive scuds, partridge and orange soft hackles and black zebra midges.

On the high water, the most effective method of fishing it to fish from a boat and use heavily weighted San Juan worms. The best colors would be hot fluorescent pink, fluorescent orange, red and magenta. Large eggs are also effective. You should use heavy tippets (4X or 3X) and large strike indicators. To handle this much weight I would recommend at least a five

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officers, so be there lest you get nominated and elected. The event will feature a large raffle and silent auction in the grand custom of these events. The **Grand Prize raffle item** is a fly fishing outfit: **Orvis 8'9" Trout Bum, Orvis Bar Stock reel, complete with line and backing, valued at \$650.** Tickets will be on sale all night for the Grand Prize (\$5ea, 5 for \$20) and the general raffle (\$2ea, 6 for \$10) which will feature over 50 great items donated by the supporters of the AFF and Fly Fishing. The silent auction has many outstanding items including guide trips, fly rods, reels, art work, flies, fly tying materials, clothing, gadgets, books, etc. **Bring cash and your checkbook; we will take an IOU but no credit cards.** All the proceeds go into the Club treasury for club activities, programs, environmental projects, and fly fishing education. The AFF is an IRS designated 501c3 organization and donations are deductible. If you have some items to donate please get them to an Officer or Board member.

Here is a list of donors to the silent auction and raffle at this time: **Ozark Angler, Orvis Company, River Mountain Fly Shop, Rim Shoals Resort, Davy Wotton, Scheerer Designs, Winston Rod Co., Galvan Reels, Berry Brothers Guide Service, Louie's Frame Shop, AFF, Your Mama's Good Food, Montana Fly Company, Fly Fisherman Magazine, Fly Rod & Reel, American Angler, VRM Co., Chota, Jonathan Paul Eyewear, Cascade Mediaworks, Loon Outdoors, Anglers Book Supply, MagEyes, Blue Ribbon Fly Shop, Cortland Line Co., Scientific Angler, Chuck Tyron, Jeff Guerin, Amato Publishing, Cabela's, Whiting Farms, Bentley Tumblers, Scott Branyon, Patagonia, Jason Borger, Barry Lindley, Barry Thomas, Café Klaser, Fox Statler, Blue Ribbon Fly Shop, Wapsi, .....and members: John Blackwood, Marcey Berry, Wayne Reed, Readus Tatum, Tony Austin, Brandon Simmons, Donnie Purdy, David Dodson, Robert Bays, Bob Cheatham, Clyde Dent, Jim Estes, Kevin Vaughn, Gary White, Dick Cassat, Tom Hawthorne, Bill McDonald, Tony Austin, Drew Kelso....and still coming in.**

Please give all these folks a big Thank You when you see them or visit there businesses.

*A Simple Approach To Rigging from page 3*

John Berry is a fly fishing guide in Cotter, Arkansas. He has fished the local streams for over twenty five years. He can be reached at (870) 435-2169 or <http://www.berrybrothersguides.com> .

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weight rod. Open up the loop on your cast to prevent tangling your line.

On the Norfolk, the bite has been a bit slow on low water. There has been so much pressure on this river in the summer and fall that the trout are very wary. There have been some midge hatches in the afternoon. Try zebra midges in black, brown and red, Norfolk bead heads and Dan's turkey tail emergers. Take special care with your presentation and use light tippets (6X or 7X). On high water use San Juan worms as described above and concentrate on weed lines and grass beds.

Dry Run Creek has been virtually abandoned. The cold weather has kept a lot of our younger anglers at home. Now is a great time to bundle the kids up and give it a try. When my daughter, Katherine, was young enough to fish there, the best day we ever had was when the temperature was fourteen. She wore everything she owned. She landed a twenty seven inch rainbow and Dad got the picture. Create your own memories by high sticking sowbugs. Use at least 4X tippet. Carry the biggest net you can find and a camera.

Practice water safety and always check conditions before you leave home.

**About John Berry**

John Berry is a fly fishing guide in Cotter and has fished the local streams for over twenty five years.

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A Weight Forward Production

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