Join us Monday to hear about Dan Redfield, an Emmy® nominated filmmaker and adventure photographer. He created Alaska Photoventures to fulfill his love for both film and photography, claiming it’s his excuse to meet amazing people and explore new places in Alaska. In one of his episodes, Dan had the opportunity to float the Kenai with Tessa Shetter and Kory Robbins. Dan says, “Shooting on the water presents some challenges but with a few techniques and the right equipment you can capture the most from your time on the water.”
The General Membership Meetings are the first Monday of the month and are held at 6:30PM at the BP Energy Center, 900 East Benson Blvd, Anchorage. Please check the calendar on the website for more information.

PRESIDENTS' HOOK

Ask yourself when was the last time you casted a fly?

It is the end of February and I am guessing that many of the members of the Alaska Fly Fishers have not picked up a rod in over five months. The last time I used a fly rod was November 24, 2018.

Ask yourself when did you last have a physical? When was the last time you took a nice walk for 20 minutes? When was the last time you put yourself in the downward dog yoga position? When was the last time you did a simple pushup of any type? My guess if you got this far in this article you are asking what the blank is Charlie and Keven going with this article?

As many of you know, I spent six days in Brazil fly fishing for Peacock Bass. Yes, I did pick up a casting rod and reel and casted a large plug for about an hour during the trip.

My fishing partner and I agreed that it would be fun to estimate the number of casts we had done in the first two days of casting very large flies (flies were tied on 2/0 and 4/0 hooks). When we started to put all the information together, we started to see one cast per minute thanks to the speed we had to strip the fly. Fishing five hours the first day and nine hours the second day, our estimation was somewhere close to 700 to 800 casts.

Before leaving Anchorage, I was working out about three to four times a week. One day I would ride a stationary bicycle, one day would be a kettle bell workout for my shoulders and core, and another day I would use the exercise machines. If I was lucky to get a four day, it was back on the stationary bicycle. I was feeling okay that I had my shoulders in good shape.
After two days of casting (700 – 800 casts) for Peacock Bass in Brazil, my shoulder starting to become sore and stiff. By the time we got off the boat we were living on, my estimate is that I had over 2,200 casts. When I returned home, it was painful lift my right arm. It was not until just after Christmas that I was able to get back into the gym. It took me almost a month to slowly stretch out my shoulder, be pain free, and get the strength back in my shoulder.

We are bring this issue up to get everyone thinking about how to improve your early season fly fishing experience. Perhaps it is time to schedule that physical with your doctor. Perhaps it is time to join your wife, girlfriend, or friend for a beginning yoga class. Perhaps dusting off the gym membership, going in to talk to someone about what type of exercise program would be helpful to make sure your shoulders, your core, and your legs are ready for that first fishing of the season.

No matter if you use a 5 wt. for trout or an 8 wt. or 9 wt. for salmon, single hand or double hand rod, if your body is not ready for the casting you wish to do, it may not be fun for long. You may lose a large amount of the season due to a major injury. We are endorsing one workout over another; one club over another; or pushing anything. We wish to get everyone thinking about how to increase your fishing enjoyment.

Have fun.

Charlie and Keven

GREAT ALASKA SPORTSMAN SHOW 2019

Fishing season will soon be upon us shortly after the Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) and the Great Alaska Sportsman’s Show (GASS) are over. Now is the time to check your gear and decide what needs to be replaced or purchased. What better time, than now! Come to the
sports show to see what new products are available, visit with old and new fishing buddies and take some time to tie some flies for the upcoming season. You can do all of that April 4-7 at the Sullivan Arena and support your Alaska Fly Fishers at the same time.

We will have our booth set up at the show in the same location. We need people to demonstrate tying- one of the biggest attractions of all of the exhibits, and we need greeters to talk fishing, our spring seminar, about our club, membership and sell raffle tickets.

Shifts are three to four hours long. You get free admission ($11 savings) and free parking, if you take the shuttle from Northway Mall.

Don’t be shy if you have never worked the booth we will show you what you need to do. It is a great way to network with other fly fishers.

The following shifts are open:

- Thursday April 4, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (tiers and greeters)
- Friday April 5, 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm (tiers), 6-8pm (tiers and greeters)
- Saturday April 6, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm (tiers and greeters), 2pm-5pm (tiers and greeters), 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm (tiers and greeters)
- Sunday April 7, 10:00 am - 1:30 pm (tiers and greeters), 1:30 pm-5:00 pm (tiers and greeters)
- Sunday April 7th, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm (take down)

Thank you.
Call, text, or email Mariann Malone at (907) 232-2333 or Malonem@mtaonline.net

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**FISH TALK** by Bill Hauser

A sand lance is an interesting little fish. They are a good marine representative of the extremely important group of fishes called "bait fish" or "forage fish". In other words, bigger
fish (like salmon) like to eat them...and so do birds, seals, porpoise, and just about anything else that likes to eat small fish. Apparently, this may even include people - especially in some European countries.

Although sand lance can be extremely abundant, they are not often seen close up by people, but I found some one day. It was quite by accident, but it was very interesting - almost funny. I was walking along an isolated beach in Maine. The tide was out and it was a warm, sunny day (we savored those warm, sunny days in Maine just as we do in Alaska). I saw a glint of sun reflecting - as from a piece of glass. And another. I was annoyed, but I saw no glass. Another flash. Now, I had to investigate. When we kicked the wet sand, we dislodged these thin, pencil-like, shiny, little fish that kicked back, flipped once, and disappeared back into the sand. What a wonderful experience. We actually caught a couple and held them in our hands. Cute little things.

Sand lance got their name because they are pointed like a tiny spear and because they simply dive into the sand for protection. In fact, their snout is so pointed that they may work their way through the stomach wall of their captor. They are small. Rarely longer than 4 to 6 inches. Rarely more than four years old.

Sand lance are found around the world in northerly latitudes. In North America, they extend south to southern California on the west coast and about Cape Hatteras on the east coast. Sand lance (sometimes they are also called sand eels) are easy to identify. They are long and slender with a long, low dorsal fin and a small, forked tail. They are a bright silvery color with an iridescent luster that pales after death. The stomach area is white. They feed mainly on small plankton organisms.

Despite their immense importance, I have had trouble finding a description of their breeding habits, but apparently each female may lay 3,800 to 22,000 eggs in small piles on sandy ground. The eggs are less than a millimeter in diameter.

Although they do dive into the sand to hide, they also form dense schools of thousands of individuals. They form schools for safety (i.e., strength in numbers) but when they school near the surface, they may attract large numbers of predators. In fact, these forage fish may be extremely important to certain predators. Some research has shown that the vitality of marine bird colonies if closely linked to the populations of sand lance. During years when the sand lance populations are weak, the sea bird colony suffers, but when sand lance are abundant, more chicks survive to adults.

Some people actually consider the sand lance to be extremely important for another reason. I have heard anglers say "If you can locate the 'bait balls' of sand lance, you will also find the king salmon!"

Sand lance are small fish; but, like many other small fish that we call bait fish or forage fish, they are a crucial link in the food chain.

So there you have it. As I said, sand lance are interesting fish... and you know what is say about interesting fish...
Do you have a question for FISH TALK? Contact Bill at karelbill@gci.net.

Bill has published Fishes of the Last Frontier, Life Histories, Biology, Ecology, and Management of Alaska Fishes and Letters from Alaska, The Inside to the Outside.

Read sample chapters at www.billhauserbooks.com

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**FLY FISHING FILM TOUR (F3T)**

The 2019 Fly Fishing Film Tour will be held at the Bear Tooth Theatrepub in Anchorage. There are 4 shows this year; Tuesday March 26 (5:30 show), Wednesday March 27 (5:30 show), and Thursday March 28 (5:30 and 8:30 show). General admission tickets are $14.00 and go on sale Tuesday February 26 at 10:30 a.m. and are only available at the Bear Tooth box office or online www.beartooththeatre.net

All proceeds will benefit Alaska Fly Fishers and Trout Unlimited Southcentral Alaska Chapter. There will be prizes at intermission from F3T, Mountain View Sports, and Mossy's Fly Shop.

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**FLY of the MONTH**

I was talking to Randy Guintu after a recent General Member meeting on what type of fish to cover in one of my last “Fly of the Month” article. We agreed since I purchased a large number of pike flies from Big Y Fly Company (approximately 125) and tied Clouser Minnows, (Between Mike McCrum, Randy Guintu and myself, we tied over 120 of them!) perhaps I should cover pike flies.

I have fly fished for pike perhaps a total of two days over the last fifteen years. Why? I have not targeted pike in the past. Will I fish for pike? Pike, carp, bonefish, and many other fish species are on my list to bring to the boat with a fly rod when I retire.
Of course I panicked somewhere around the two-week mark prior to leaving for Brazil regarding the number of flies I had in boxes. I resorted to online shopping and based on a friend’s recommendations, I checked out Big Y Fly Company.

I searched their website to find all the big flies, flies tied on 1/0 and larger hooks. As you may know, the largest hook I normally use is a Size 2 or 4, there I was looking for flies on hook sizes 1/0 and greater. It was difficult to get my head around the large flies.

I purchased Barr’s Bouface (Chartreuse, 3/0), Barry’s Pike Fly (red/yellow, 3/0), Bass Vampire (1/0), Enrico’s Bluegill (3/0), Gen X Bunny (3/0), Musky Rainbow (5/0 Peacock Bass loved this fly.), pike Trailer Fly (yellow, 2/0 It was almost impossible to cast. I hit myself 4 times before I changed it.), Saltwater Diver (orange & red/white, 4/0), Muskie Deceiver (chartreuse/yellow/orange, 5/0), Flash Side Minnow Half N Half (bronze, 3/0), and all the different color schemes we tied the Clouser Minnows.

All the Clousers were tied on 2/0 and 4/0 hooks we found in Anchorage. For all the Clousers, if I could not find the material in my home supplies, I purchased the materials here in Anchorage instead of going online. One good result was I used up lots of blue Krystal Flash and other materials I had won over the years from the ghillie raffle or those given to me.

Based on the action I noted while using the above referenced flies for bass, I am looking forward to using them to fish for pike.

I hope to see all of you at the meeting. Remember to bring flies for the Fly of the Month. Yes, beads will be accepted as well, five beads per ticket.

Keven

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**FLY TYING CLINIC - MARCH 16th**

Saturday, March 16th, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the WJ Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery on the corner of Post Road and Reeve Blvd. There’s coffee, goodies, instruction, materials, tools and plenty of lies - uh - stories to go around.

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MEMBERS' CORNER

Did you know financial reports, board meeting notes, upcoming events, and more can be viewed on the website? Find our more about our club at www.akflyfishers.net. Login and explore the tabs. If you've not visited the site before, your login is your email and you create your own password.

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Please, if you want to have a strong club, become involved. The more people who participate, the better the club will become. If you have an idea for something you'd like to pitch, contact one of our co-presidents, Rich or Lance. Don't have a lot of time? We can still use your help. Don't be shy, contact our presidents or a board member today!

Not in Anchorage? You can still participate! Contact Lance or Rich or reply to this email to find out how!

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If you have an item to sell, something to share, or even a picture to post, please share it with the club. Contact the editor at aff.flylines.ed@gmail.com

Submissions to the newsletter are due no later than 2 Wednesdays prior to the first Monday of the month. Please type all considerations in a word document, in Arial font, size 12. Photos are to be attached separately in a .jpg file. Email to aff.flylines.ed@gmail.com.

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Facebook

Content is the sole work of the contributor. Comments concerning grammar, punctuation, and general readability should be sent directly to the author of said content.