

May 2009

VP's Message

Bill Blotney - Vice President

The annual elections are coming up at the next regular meeting, which is scheduled for June 11, 2009. Please make an effort to be there to vote, if possible. There are two candidates for the position of President and Vice President. Their names and the names of the other candidates for the remaining positions will follow elsewhere in this newsletter. With that being said this is my next to last newsletter. I sincerely hope that the incoming Vice President continues to publish a quality newsletter. This newsletter has become a very important tool for WR&G Club. With our membership continuing to grow, we need this tool to be able to keep all our members up to date on the status of the club and any events taking place pertaining to the club.

Upon my being elected Vice President I looked up the duties required of this office. I was a bit surprised to find that not only was I to assist the President, but was also responsible for the production and distribution of the newsletter. I knew nothing about anything to do with setting up a newsletter. I was very fortunate to have found a very capable person to do all the layout work, the printing, and the mailing. I would probably be still trying to figure out the first issue if this person hadn't made himself available. Tom Donlon thank you very much for making this newsletter a very classy piece of work. Tom did all the above mentioned tasks to make this newsletter what it is today. My job was simple, write a letter, and gather articles for Tom to use as he saw the need. Rich Bennice thank you for all your assistance. Rich sent out the newsletters by email to those who receive it in that form. He was also there for me whenever I needed any kind of help with this newsletter. Thanks also to Sue Delelys for printing out the mailing labels each month for those who receive the newsletter by regular mail. Last but not least I thank my wife Pat for all her help these last two years. I would send her my letter as soon as it was finished and she would offer suggestions as far as content and make any grammatical changes that were needed. This is her second tour of duty in this capacity, as I wrote another letter for four years with another organization. No more writing, I'm done.

The children's trout derby was held on Sunday May 24th. I know a good time was had by all that attended. Pictures and results are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Work hours must be completed by the end of August. For those who still need hours, there is still plenty of work to be done at the club. Sporting clays will continue throughout the summer, and help is always needed at these shoots. The club grounds are constantly in need of maintenance. There really is no excuse for not fulfilling your requirement, as there's always work to be done.

Again, I ask, if you have any stories or photos that you would like to see published in this newsletter, please give them to Tom Donlon or myself at the next meeting.

Rules of the Road

Tips and Tricks for making the Red Fin work for you

Ok now, you've started to love these plugs and you don't even have any yet. What colors do you buy? In my opinion the most popular color / or pattern is by far called "Yellow Striper" or "Chicken Scratch" by veteran surfcasters. This pattern has a yellow back with black or green hash marks on the sides. The "Chicken Scratch" pattern can be hard to find at times but still available by special order in some areas.

If you cannot find "Chicken Scratch", a good substitute is to spray paint the back of any Red Fin with yellow spray paint. The "Chicken Scratch" pattern is highly effective during both daylight and after dark and I have found it is only Red Fin color that will produce consistently under all conditions.

Perhaps the most effective nighttime color is solid black. The black pattern Red Fin was also discontinued but you can still find some occasionally. A suitable substitute is "burpie" which has a black/purple belly. If you cannot locate any, you can easily spray paint any Red Fin black and it will work. Large bass show a considerable weakness in being able to lay off a black Red Fin on "black as coal" nights. My casting partner, Dr. Alessi Rispolli, took one of his largest surf-caught bass, a 47-pounder, on a loaded black Red Fin.

Elections to be held

At the June 11th monthly meeting elections will be held for the 2009-2010 Officers. The Nomination Committee has put forth a slate and nominations from the floor were accepted at the May meeting. The following are candidates for the positions. (F= Floor Nominations)

President -

Doug Stender
Jerry Matuskiewicz (F)

Vice President -

Tom Donlon
Mike Shewokis (F)

Membership Secretary -

Barbara Lagerstrom

Recording Secretary -

Rich Bennice

Treasurer -

John Ciaglo

Please come out and vote!

OFFICERS

2008 - 2009

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Vice President

Bill Blotney

Recording Secretary

Rich Bennice

Membership Secretary

Sue Delelys

Treasurer

Jack Krasko

Board of Directors from the Membership

Ray Ericson
Mike Schewokis
Doug Stender
Steve Szypulski
John Wolcheski

Contact information for Club Officers and Committee Chairmen is posted in the Club and on the Club website:
www.wallingfordrodandgunclub.org

2009 Archery Permits

A lottery will be held at the June monthly meeting for Deer Archery Hunting permits for club property. This will be the only time that the permits will be issued. Make sure you attend the meeting if you are interested in archery deer hunting on the club property.

Caretaker/Purchasing Agent

The Board of Director is looking for interested members to serve as a live on the premises caretaker and purchasing agent. Interested members should contact Paul Uhlan.

Sporting Clays

Reminder: work hours are due by the end of August and trappers are needed for all shoots. Please look at the schedule and sign up for the shoots you can work.

Humor

Two fellows are out fishing on the lake. A hearse and funeral procession passed the boat on a nearby road. One of the fellows stands up and holds his fishing hat over his heart as the hearse passes. His buddy comments, "Gee Harry, that was really nice and respectful." Harry replies, "Well after all, we were married for 40 years."

Range Hours

Range hours have returned to non-hunting hours.

9:00 AM to 1/2 hour before sunset.

Please be sure to sign in before and out after using the range.

**Remember Safety First
Steel target are prohibited**

Wallingford Rod & Gun Club Jackets

Black, 3 Season, Fleece lined jackets are available for order.

The prices are as follows:

Jacket with Pheasant logo on back, Same (smaller) logo on chest, sizes small to XL \$89.95

For 2XL and 3XL add \$ 3.00

4XL add \$ 4.00

Embroidered name on front \$ 3.85

As always 6% CT Sales Tax on total
Contact Jim Greenwood

203-269-0740 or 203-213-4735

jegreenwood@comcast.net

Trap Range

The trap range has reopened. April through October: Wednesdays 7 PM to 10 PM (Under the Lights). Members are \$2.50 a round; Non-members are \$3.50 a round. If you haven't been out on the range yet you should join us and test your skills on the new machine.



Little man, Big Fish

On Opening Day, Josh Pelletier lands a trout that weighed just over 3 lbs as his proud Dad looks on. Great job Josh!

Continued from Page 1

Hero of the Day & Night

For daylight, it's hard to beat the chrome pattern with a black or blue back. Although not produced anymore by Cotton Cordell, the "Baby Stripper" pattern, sometimes referred to as "Gray Stripper", was the deadliest full moon plug I've ever owned. It had a grayish back, stripes on its sides and white belly. A huge stripper decided to eat my last "Baby Stripper" Red Fin about 20 years ago and she ended up swimming away with it. Stripper fishermen do cry and I did that night when I lost that plug. (I've since acquired two more "Baby Stripper" from a plug-collecting friend who was kind enough to give them to me.)

"Bone" is a custom color on Red Fins that I use. It is also very effective on bright moonlit nights. A "Bone" color Red Fin was not always available from Cotton Cordell until just recently. If you can't find any, you have to make your own. Here's how: take a chrome Red Fin and scrape the chrome paint off of it with a knife and some sand paper. The chrome paint is very brittle and comes off fairly easy. I usually do this with some of my older chrome models after the chrome finish deteriorates from excessive use. When all the chrome is off, you have a "bone" Red Fin. One word accurately describes the bone pattern - deadly.

One more color to tell you about. One of my casting partners takes the "bone" pattern another step. He paints the back of his bone Red Fins fluorescent lime green. This lime green pattern and solid black are the only color Red Fins he uses, and with much success I might add. As you can see, Red Fin color is a personal preference. There are many more patterns available and I'm sure each will produce from time to time.

BASIC RULES

An unloaded 7-inch Red Fin is a big bass plug for use on the open beaches and surf. Use unloaded Red Fins in flat water/no wind conditions and retrieve them very slowly. You'll know you have the right retrieve

speed when you see the fin wobbling on the surface, leaving a noticeable wake. This wobble will drive the bass crazy and elicit explosive strikes. In weed-filled boulder fields where snags are common, unloaded Red Fins may swim shallow enough to get through the bubble weed. Cast them into open pockets and twitch them along.

A Red Fin loaded with 8-10ccs of water is much more versatile and has many more applications. Use them when you have a strong wind in your face and you need more distance. Red Fins can also be very effective when you have wind from the side or during a heavy sweep as the plug will dig into the surf. By digging deeper they counteract a cross wind and help you keep a tight line to your plug. A loaded Red Fin will also swim deeper the water column, up to a foot depending on the speed your retrieve. This will sometimes put your plug into strike zone when bass will not come to the surface.

Another method I use with loaded Red Fins is to start retrieving them slowly, then rip (very fast retrieve) them half dozen turns - this will cause them to dive - then pause and let them rise to the surface. When doing this, I often find that otherwise finicky bass will strike on the pause or the rise. Be attentive because takes may be subtle using this method and strike on anything that feels different. A very deadly combination that I often use is a loaded Red Fin fished in conjunction with a Redgill dropper. Double-headers can be common with this rig.

FURTHER MODIFICATIONS

Many plugs have very dull hooks out of the package and until recently, Red Fins were no exception. Make sure you sharpen the trebles on your Fins! (Author's Note: 2009 C10 Series Red Fins have been fitted with very sharp 3/0 VMC trebles.) For most applications, equip the 7-inch Red Fins with 3/0 trebles and the 5s with size 2 or 1 trebles. Use 3X or stronger trebles if you want a chance to land the fish of your dreams.

You can also tinker with using different size trebles to customize Red Fins to swim deeper, cast better or wiggle more. While casting around Block Island where larger bass often reside, I use strong 4/0 trebles for extra strength to withstand the tackle-busting capability of large bass. 4/0 trebles also provide more weight to improve casting distance and increase depth. You can also use a 4/0 treble forward and smaller 3/0 treble on the rear which will allow for more tail wiggle on your Red Fin if that is what the bass want. Surfcasters should experiment with different combinations for the areas they fish.

GIMME FIVE!

The 5-inch Red Fin is one of my favorite finesse plugs. They will often draw vicious strikes from finicky bass that are just nudging the larger model. The only disadvantage is the size treble hooks they can be fitted with. Often, when you hook up with a large bass, the smaller trebles of the 5-inch Red Fin will fail. Go with the strongest trebles you can find and remove the center treble. Use trebles on the forward and rear hook hangers only. The 5-inch Red Fin really shines when it's used in the backwaters of bays and estuaries. It's a great sand eel/silverside imitation. An un-weighed 5-inch Red Fin twitched along the surface on a flat, calm night will bring strikes that will scare you out of your waders!

And there you have it, some of my general rules and methods when casting a Cotton Cordell Red Fin. These rules and techniques are just guidelines for you to begin the learning process on how to ~ use the Red Fin. There may also be times ~ when my suggestions will not work - that is the essence of surf casting for striped 11 bass. With all the flashy new plugs on the market, the old reliable Cotton Cordell Red Fin remains one of the most effective plugs used by some of the very best that cast the surf. Put a couple in your surf bag and give them a try. You won't be disappointed.

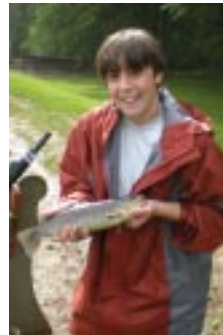
Kids Fishing Derby

20
09



The five hundred stocked trout didn't stand a chance against the almost ninety kids who participated in the annual Kids Fishing Derby on May 24th. The downpour of rain and the thunder in the skies gave way to the outpour of kids and the thunder of the starting cannon. John Stevens and his crew of volunteers, once again, ensured that every kid had a great time. Starting with a pancake breakfast and ending with lunch, fishing and weather were great in between. Every kid left with a prize and a smile. Who could ask for more? Thanks John.





Alia BellaRocco
16" Age Group 1-7



MacKenzie Wolcheski
16.5" Age Group 8-11



Taylor Sandello
16" Age Group 12-16

Top Prize Winners

“Fillet Knife Facts!”

By Justin Hoffman

There’s nothing more satisfying to an angler than enjoying a home-cooked meal of fresh caught fish. The aromas, the taste, and that prerequisite feeling of fullness should be icing on the cake to an otherwise productive day spent on the water. Now, actually catching those fish is always a hit and miss possibility. Using the right tools to prepare your catch, however, should essentially be a no-brainer.

The World of Knives

Choosing a fillet knife can be a daunting task for those that are new to the cooking arena. Many of the fillet knives out on the market have very similar characteristics, often making it hard to realistically tell the good from the bad. The truth of the matter is, an inferior knife can be responsible for wasted meat, excessive time spent filleting and an ever-present danger of personal injury due to slippage. Pretty good reasons for choosing wisely, aren’t they?

The Size Factor

Fillet knife blades average between 4 and 9 inches in length, with the standard sizes being 4, 6, 7.5 and 9-inches. Quite the variety, but the main reason for these variances is in correlation to the size of fish they are used for. Bigger fish require a longer blade, due in part to the wider girth and extra surface area you will be faced with. Smaller fish, on the other hand, require a shorter blade for easier handling and less overkill.

For those that target panfish (crappie, perch and bluegills) a 6" blade would be an optimum length. Bass or small trout would be best suited to a 7.5" blade, whereas pike, salmon and larger fish will require a 9" blade.

An “all-around knife” would consist of a 7.5" blade - this model will allow you to fillet small and large fish quite satisfactory, and with the least amount

of struggle and effort. If you can only choose one for a wide-variety of situation, my advice would be to go this route. For optimum efficiency and ease of use, pick two or more to cover all of the bases correctly.

Blade Material

Stainless steel is the standard of the fillet knife world. This metal is extremely strong, durable and corrosive resistant, making it the ideal alloy for knife manufacturing. Although some inferior and cheap models may try to get by with something other than stainless steel, passing them over for the quality steel provides is the best route to go.

Flex Test

The amount of flex a blade possesses is an important consideration when it comes to choosing a knife. Flex can be critical to optimum cutting and slicing, and will make your task of filleting all the more easier.

For the most part, flex is contingent on the thickness of the blade. The thicker the blade, the less flex it will hold, and vice versa. Shorter blades should have more flex, as the smaller fish you are working on will require tighter angles and sharper cuts. Longer blades should still have a certain degree of flex to them, but it is not quite as important as maintaining it in the shorter steel. Four and 6" blades should be quite thin and considerably flexible. (The blade should ‘bend’ an inch or more either way when the tip is pressed straight down and pressure is applied.) As blade lengths increase, flex should still be maintained throughout the blade, but with length comes an added thickness, due to the higher strength capabilities they need to exude.

Handles

Although the blade is the business end of a fillet knife, the handle certainly plays an important role. Comfort, grip and execution can all be derived from a well-constructed handle, allowing an angler to fillet safely and effortlessly.

Material is the first consideration to look at. Although wood has been the standby in years past, plastic and rubber are certainly taking over the market in the present day. The one downside to wood has always been its ability to get extremely slippery when wet, leading to a lack of control and the possibility of slippage, often leading to the dangerous aspect of blade to flesh contact. The other negative surrounding wood is its ability to ‘soak’ up fish smells, engraining them in the handle and causing difficulty in regards to cleaning and sanitizing purposes.

Plastic and molded rubber are both excellent choices. Rubber will provide a slightly greater grip, due to the fact it can be squeezed slightly. They both provide good traction. Both rubber and plastic can be cleaned easily and thoroughly, so germs and fish smells need never be a worry. Of course, both materials are corrosive resistant, so your investment is bound to last a long time.

Make sure that the knife you purchase has a beveled area for your index finger. This is found at the spot where the blade meets the handle, and will provide extra insurance against slipping, while providing extra leverage.

Recessed finger holds can be great for extra grip, yet they only work well if your fingers are of a similar size. If your hands are of an overly large size, this setup may prove more uncomfortable and constricting, as they won’t form-fit to each individual finger.

Knife Sheaf and Sharpening Stone

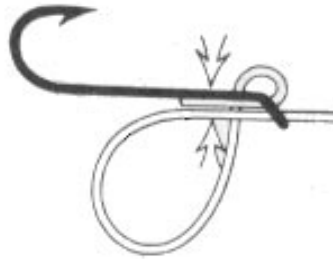
Most knives on the market come with a sheaf. This is great for storing your knife in a cupboard or tackle box when not in use, but can also be handy for attaching to your belt when out in the boat, or while preparing a shore meal. To lessen any chance of injury, always keep it covered unless actually in the process of filleting.

It goes without saying that your knife will lose its sharpness over time,

Snell Knot

The Snell Knot provides a strong connection when fishing with bait and using a separate length of leader. (You can only use a Snell Knot with a leader.)

1. Insert one end of the leader through the hook's eye extending one to two inches past the eye. Insert the other end of the leader through the eye in the opposite direction pointing toward the barb of the hook. Hold the hook and leader ends between thumb and forefinger of your left hand. Leader will hang below the hook in a large loop.



2. Take the part of this loop that is closest to the eye and wrap it over the hook shank and both ends of the leader toward the hook's barb.



3. Wrap for 7 or 8 turns and hold wraps with left hand. Grip the end of the leader that is through the eyelet with your right hand and pull it slowly and steadily. Hold the turns with your left hand or the knot will unravel. When knot is almost tight, slide it up against the eye of the hook. Grip the short end lying along the shank of the hook with a pair of pliers. Pull this end and the standing line at the same time to completely tighten the knot. Trim the tag end.



rendering the cutting surface dull and ineffective. Most knives will come with a small hand-held sharpener, making the task of keeping a sharp edge quick and easy. (I actually give it a few swipes through the sharpener before each use, always keeping it at its optimum condition.)

Buying a knife that comes with a sharpener is advantageous, as it is manufactured for that specific blade, meaning that it will excel at the job it is designed for. It also means that you will never have an excuse for keeping a dull blade.

Electric Knives

For those that like to clean a mess of fish regularly, an electric fillet knife might be the perfect option for you. These machines can effortlessly work through fish like a hot knife in butter, saving time, effort and patience. Although they have a bit of a learning curve, and will take some time to get used to, the benefits are certainly viable.

Many models out on the market have rechargeable battery packs, 12V lighter plug (great for back wood fishing when your vehicle is the only source of power), 110V wall plugs, and even 12V battery post clips. The options for powering these units really are limitless.

Throw in a travel case, and you're set for some heavy duty filleting. Keep this option open if eating fish is a favorite hobby of yours - the advantages of going electric certainly speak a strong argument. Eating your catch has become a tradition that most of us share in. Nothing beats the taste of fish, and of course, the family and friend gatherings that they always provide. Fillet knives are an important part of the cooking equation, and selecting the right one is paramount for success. Have a happy filleting season, and have fun with your new knife!

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All the information
you need
when you want it
203
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Next Meeting

June 11th

7:30 p.m.

Elections.

Join us for

**Dinner at
6:00 p.m.**



2009 Sporting Clays Schedule

June 14th
NSCA Registered Shoot

July 12th

July 26th

August 9th

September 13th

September 27th

October 18th