

Adventures of Team Fish Tales

Happy Anniversary! April 1, 2000 marked the start of year number four for the store that announced it's grand opening with a sign on the door stating: "Fish Tales Fly Shop opening April 1... and that's no joke!" And while we're still not joking, we've always tried to make Fish Tales a fun place for us and for our customers.

We'd like to welcome a new employee to our team. Terry Johnson joined the ranks of the Fish Tales staff in December of 1999. Terry is a welcome member of the team with his keen interest in fly fishing, his proven ability to guide, and his easy-going nature.

Guide season is just around the corner and we're seeing an increased number of bookings over last year. For those of you interested in a little "Bow River adventure" of your own, or if you're more interested in the smaller waters of the Crowsnest, or BC's Elk River and it's tributaries, we can get you where you want to go.

We've renewed our outfitters license for the Elk River and tributaries. Chris is readying his boat. Terry's ready to hit the water and our other preferred guides are itching to get back on the river. Contact the shop for more information, rates, and availability.

Finally, while we don't have an adventure to report on in this newsletter, David and I are en route to Cuba (probably at about the same time you're reading this.) I know none of you will be surprised to learn that our fishing gear out-weighs our other luggage hands down. We're heading to this new territory with the intent of exploring all it has to offer. We'll be sightseeing and lounging, but we also plan to explore the fishing opportunities in the area. We plan to sight fish to Bonefish on the flats near our hotel. We hope to seek out Tarpon and Permit in nearby mangroves. We'll definitely be trying our luck at deep-sea fishing where you never know what you'll pull out. We really don't know what this trip is going to hold for us as far as fishing is concerned, but rest assured you will read/hear all about it. Watch for a trip report on our website in May.

Feature Products

Waders – Wardell Entry Level Breathable Waders. This new product offers the comfort of breathable waders at an affordable price. (\$219.95)

S.A. Fly lines – Scientific Anglers, the industry leader for fly lines has introduced three new ideas:

- 1.) Clear Tip – This line is ideal for fishing to spooky fish in the top 2-4 feet of water...It may be the answer for calm days on Nakoda Lake.
- 2.) Quad & Tri Tips – These multi-tip lines let you fish a multitude of situations with a simple switch of the tip. Tips are easily changed with strong, stiff, reliable braided loop connections.
- 3.) Wet Tip Express – This line was designed to deliver flies deep and fast. They're similar to shooting head systems, but are all in one piece, which offers significant advantages.

Y2K Northern Excursion: Sparks Lake NWT

Join Team Fish Tales for the annual fly-in trip to the fishing Mecca of Northern Canada. This year's trip will allow anglers to sight fish to trophy pike AND lake trout!

Sparks Lake in the NWT is virtually virgin water for the fly angler. Sparks is more than 20 miles long by 10 miles wide with several islands, bays, and channels. The shallow bays will hold the warmer water where the trophy pike are known to inhabit. The deep trenches provide prime habitat for giant lake trout.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to explore this water with experienced guides, David Blair and Chris Hagen. You and other Fish Tales guests will have the whole lake to yourselves for the week of June 9 – 16. Call the shop for more details. [(403) 640-1273]



Feature Products cont.

Team Fish Tales takes pride in trying to be a leader in new and innovative tying products. And while tying season may be starting to wind down until fall, we've still got quite a few new **tying products** we want you to know about....

Tube Bodies – These new fly tying materials are great for beginner or expert fly tiers. They make it easy to create realistic extended bodies.

Tiers can experiment with several new tying styles including Christian Billards' "Area 51 flies."

Arizona Simi Seal – This new dubbing material comes from the "makers of the only peacock dubbing worth its salt," according to Chris Hagen.

Arizona Simi Seal is a great buggy dubbing that's excellent for leeches or dubbing in a loop. The fibers are soft and long and have just a hint of sparkle. We've got it in a wide range of colors. Ask a Fish Tales staffer for a tying demonstration the next time you're in the shop.

Assorted New Flash Products – We love synthetics and have added a few new flash products to our line-up.

Flashabou Mirage – Chris says this is the brightest flash he's ever seen!

Lateral Scale – This crimped saltwater flashabou gives a really scaley (fish-scale) effect to any fly it's added to.

UV-Activated Flash – This flash will "light up" your flies to it look like a "frightened baitfish."

Flies, Flies, and more Flies...

We've updated our fly selection (and our fly bin) to incorporate about a third again as many flies as last year. All fly bins are clearly marked with size, name, and price.

Prices range from \$2.00 - \$2.50 for many of the traditional dries and nymphs, to \$2.00 - \$3.50 for many of the streamer patterns, to \$6.00 and \$8.00 for large pike and saltwater flies.

Come in and check out the new selection. And, as always, if you don't see what you came in for, ask. We may be able to custom tie to meet your needs.

Sage XP

In brief: the new XP series is crisp, light, sensitive and responsive.

XP's are available in two or four piece models. Come in and check out our selection of XP's in 4 wt. through 8 wt.

Sage literature says:

"The new XP series redefines performance in a fast action fly rod. Pick one up and you'll notice the lighter weight and narrower profile of the newly designed XP taper. Cast the rod and see how it quickly generates high line speed for long casts, yet still feels lively and active when you're fishing close in." Designed for anglers with quick, fluid casting strokes, the XPs are made with Sage's new Graphite III material, an enhanced version of Graphite III, delivering a more connected feeling throughout the casting stroke. The results are incredible improvement in control, distance and accuracy at all ranges. Simply put, the fast action XPs are easier and more comfortable to cast than any other high-performance fly rod you can find."

Send us your e-mail address...

We'd like to start distributing course and product updates, and our semi-annual newsletter via email. If you've got an email address, send the information to: daveb@fishtales-flyshop.com.

If you haven't already checked out our website go to www.fishtales-flyshop.com. We can also be reached via the Virtual Flyshop. Tell us what you think about our internet presence.

Spring/Summer 2000 Fly Fishing Courses

Introduction to Fly Fishing

If you've ever considered learning to fly fish this course is the perfect introduction. You'll learn what this popular sport has to offer without having to buy equipment first.

Students need to commit the better part of one day for this course. The course is broken into two sections. The morning session is spent in a classroom environment where students learn about equipment, lines, knot tying, etc. We provide you with a lunch and then head outside for the casting portion of the class.

By the end of the day students will be able to cast 30 feet of fly line and know the basics of casting.

Classes are limited to **eight students** with **two instructors** present for the casting portion of the class. Course cost is \$85.00 (+ GST) per person.

Dates are as follows:

- Saturday, May 6
- Saturday, May 13
- Sunday, May 28
- Saturday, June 3
- Sunday, June 25
- Saturday, July 8
- Sunday, July 16

Sign up early if you're interested, as these courses tend to fill quickly. We require a \$50.00 deposit at the time of registration.

Call us at 640-1273 or send us an email if you have any questions or would like to register for an introductory course.

Intermediate Fly Fishing

This is an ideal course for the novice angler or anyone who wants to upgrade their fly fishing skills. Students will spend a day with an experienced guide walking and wading the Bow River.

The four-to-one student teacher ratio will help participants eliminate years of frustration in regard to the finer points of this sport.

Students will learn about reading the water, insect identification, effective fishing with single and double nymph rigs, streamer techniques, and what to look for when dry fly fishing.

Students must have all their own gear including waders in order to participate in the intermediate course. Course cost is \$100.00 (+ GST) per person.

Dates are as follows:

- Sunday, May 7
- Saturday, May 13
- Saturday, May 27
- Saturday, July 15
- Sunday, July 23

We expect the May classes to fill very quickly with anglers who are already anticipating the upcoming season, so if you're interested you should book early. We require a \$50.00 deposit at the time or registration.

** In addition to the regular scheduled intermediate courses we welcome groups who are interested in setting up their own "private" lesson anytime throughout the summer. Call the shop for more information.

In with the new and out with the old...

New: Temple Forks Outfitter Rods/Packages

This new rod is the best value for an entry-level fly rod that we've ever seen. If you haven't seen it yet come in and check it out.

The Temple Fork is available in a two-piece 5 wt, 6 wt, or 8 wt version at an incredible price of only \$89.99 per rod. The best part of this deal is the \$25.00 no-fault (over-the-counter) warranty package.

You can also buy the full outfit: rod, reel, line, backing, and classy-looking scabbard case for an unbeatable \$199.95.

David Blair says, "I think that anyone starting out can absolutely not go wrong with this rod," adding, "Value for money... you cannot beat them for the quality of action you're getting."

Old: S.A. Entry Kits

We've got a very limited supply of these entry-level kits. And they're for sale at a great bargain.

This 9' 6wt rod package comes complete with reel, line, and backing for only \$100.00 (was \$135.00). An excellent introductory package for kids.