

SOFF News

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January 2023



SOFF NEWS

A publication of
Southern Oregon Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 1144
Grants Pass, Oregon 97528
Web Site: www.soff.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Newsletter Editor

E-Mail: dchebul@centurylink.net

Although winter is here, So Oregon is blessed with a 'moderate climate' which provides opportunities for fishing for steelhead in our local waters.



Club member, Dick Butler, displays a fine rainbow he caught on a recent trip to the Williamson River. Dick was fishing with club member, Buck-Woodburn when he hooked and landed the 30 inch, 10 lb fish.

**Dinner Reservations: E-mail - info@soff.org
or call the Club at (541) 955-4718**

SPECIAL MENTION

Bill Burns:
John Storfold:
Kevin Daniels:
John Smith:
Dave Grosjacques:
David Haight:
Brady Keister:
Dave Roberts:
Ed/Sandy Michalski:
John Storfold

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Outings Chair
SOFF Wear
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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Robert Stafford

Now that Fall has arrived, gone are the 100+ temperatures and smoked-filled air. The days are getting shorter and nights cooler. We turn our attention to other things like harvesting the last of our gardens, getting our firewood in, and watching football.

Fall also brings summer Steelhead and Half-pounder fishing opportunities. Trout fishing on the Rogue River above Lost Creek can still be good, even though ODFW has not stocked it since early September, but there are still some areas where the trout can be found. The lakes in our area offer good fishing opportunities for those who want to take their boats out one last time before winter sets in. And some will pack up their RV and head south to warmer climates.

October also means we would be preparing for our Annual Auction and, sadly, once again it will not take place. We ARE looking forward to holding it next November so once again I am calling for anyone willing to help with this endeavor to please let me know. Right now, the only way we generate income is through our monthly meeting raffle, which helps defray the expense of our speakers. For the

past few years SOFF has been unable to make any donations to the local watershed councils or any of the other organizations we supported.

I'm not sure why our general meetings have had low attendance this year. Is it due to Covid? Is it the programs; John Smith has worked hard to get quality speakers? I know we had some unexpected problems occur, and we tried to correct them the best we could at the time. And I know we all have other things going on and cannot attend some of the meetings. For myself the meetings are more than a meal and the program. It's seeing others and talking with them, listening to their fish stories, and just catching up.

I hope everyone had a good summer and are looking forward to a pleasant fall and one more chance to do what we all enjoy best before the weather gets cold.

President's Message

by

Robert Stafford

January 2023 President's Message

Well, we made it through 2022, and what a challenging year it was! I'd like to thank the board members for all their hard work. We were able to donate to other organizations we've supported in the past. There is still some unfinished business to do: voting on the club officers and if we should remove the lifetime membership option from our by-laws.

The board is currently working on the 2023 auction. It's been a few years since our last auction and some of the people who were instru-

mental in organizing and running it are no longer available to help. So, we are seeking new volunteers to take their place.

We're also looking into the possibility of conducting a fly fishing class through RCC and exploring other outreach ideas.

I have spoken with some of the lifetime members of 10 years or longer about the possibility of voluntarily paying the annual membership fee or making a donation equal to the annual membership fee and they said they would gladly do it to help the club out. If you are interested, please contact me or another board member.

The board and I are looking forward to this year and hope to see more of you at our general meetings and other events.



ATTENTION!
Board Meeting
The Board of Directors
will meet in the conference room
of the Tap Rock Restaurant
The next meeting is scheduled:
Jan. 3rd at 6:00pm or
the first Tuesday
of the month
All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

Feb 16	Craig Schuhmann
Mar 16	Gary Lewis
Apr 20	Fly Tyers Meeting
May 18	TBA
Jun 15	TBA
Jul 20	No Meeting
Aug 17	No Meeting
Sept 21	TBA

Your 2023 Dues are Do Pay Them Now For an Entry in the Early Bird Raffle

Hello fellow fly fishers, Happy New Year and tight lines for all!

If you haven't already, I encourage you to drop everything and send in your dues renewal for 2023 right now. Only 27 members have already done this. Since we did not have a December meeting, the Board extended the Early Bird Rod Raffle drawing to the February meeting. That gives many of you an extended opportunity to make your membership current. You can pay dues at the January dinner meeting on the 19th or send them to Southern Oregon Fly Fishers (SOFF) at P.O. Box 1144, Grants Pass, Oregon 97528, but we must have them by January 31st for you to be included in the Early Bird Raffle. Life Members can also enter the Early Bird raffle by purchasing a single \$5 ticket. Remember, Article II Section 3 in the By-Laws states, "All dues shall be due and payable prior to January 1 of each year."

The Early Bird raffle winner will enjoy a 7wt 4pc Redington Claymore 7116-4 Switch Rod coupled with a large arbor Redington RUN Fly Reel/ Freshwater Reel.

Good luck all,
Bill Burns Membership Chair

WHEN:

Jan. 16, 2023



TIMES:

5:30 PM

Social Hour and
Fly Tying Demo.

6:30 PM

Meeting

7:00 PM

Dinner and Program

WHERE:

GP Golf Course
230 Espey Rd GP



James & Kait Sampsel - Rogue River



Kait Sampsel grew up on a sheep farm in Canby Oregon. Raised next to three older brothers Kait quickly learned the value of determination and hard work. Guiding since 2009 Kait has broken barriers in Southern Oregon becoming one of the only female fly fishing guides in the region while being a mother, business owner, and working in sustainable seafood. Her strong work ethic and dedication to teaching spey fishing well has earned her a place in the fly fishing industry and created lifelong connections to her guests. Her reverence for the outdoors will always direct her way of being.

James Sampsel doesn't take life too seriously. I guess that's why if you ever do find him he's most likely climbing a tree to spot steelhead, or standing awkwardly looking at the landscape contemplating how to translate it to paint, or most likely he's dancing to throwback 80's with his daughter Juniper who he and his impressive wife Kait and naughty Labrador Aster adventure with while eating popcorn going wherever the kernels take them.

James and Kait met each other while guiding on Oregon's Rogue River in the spring of 2016. After a summer courtship followed by marriage at Lucas Lodge, they joined forces and started Humble Heron Fly Fishing in the winter of 2016 fulfilling their goal of one day owning a professional guide service. From food shop to answering phone calls, from traveling to teach and present, to choosing the water they guide, every part of Humble Heron is completely their vision. With a combined 25 years + in the whitewater and fly fishing industry and has guided in 7 states, you can be sure that they are well equipped to provide their guests with the most outstanding trip. Now three years into their business, life has gifted them Juniper Rogue, their one-year-old daughter who has spent at least one season guiding already in mama's belly.

"I had a vision of one day meeting my wife on the Rogue River. Starting a family and a business on the banks of the Rogue has been a vision realized. Every day with my family on this river has truly blessed me."- James Sampsel.

CASTING ABOUT

In Memory of Dave Whitlock



On Thanksgiving evening, fly fishing lost one of the greats.

Fifty years ago, Dave Whitlock resigned his position as a research chemist and pooled his talents in painting, illustrating, writing, photography, fly fishing, fly tying, trout stream enhancement and lecturing, to embark on a career as a full time professional in the arts of fly fishing.

All his works reflect his love and understanding of fly fishing and the natural world that continues to grow from his many, many years spent on and under the waters all around the world.

He will be missed.

OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Coastal Winter - Steelhead Jan 27-29

by
David Haight

January can be one of the slowest months for fly fishers here in the Rogue Valley; however, several streams along the Southern-Oregon coast can offer great fishing for winter steelhead. These streams range from small creeks to large rivers, and offer fly fishers options from drifting flies through small pockets to swinging flies through broad runs.

The Rogue Flyfishers and the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers are planning a joint outing to the coast, from January 27 through 29, to fish for winter steelhead. We will base the outing out of Brookings, which has a good variety of motels, RV parks, and restaurants. We will try to fish several of the streams in the area, but where we fish will depend on the conditions at the time. Participants should bring equipment for both swinging and dead-drifting flies. For swinging flies, a seven or eight-weight Spey rod with a Skagit head and a variety of sink tips would work well. A single-handed eight-weight rod would be ideal for fishing the smaller streams. Bring a variety of intruder-style flies—from bright to somber—for swinging, and egg pattern, large nymphs, and egg-sucking leeches for dead-drifting. The winter steelhead on the coastal streams can be large, so 10 to 15-pound leader would be appropriate. Be sure to bring waders, a wading staff, raingear, and warm

clothing. Beginning this year, you need to have a Rogue-South Coast Steelhead Validation in addition to your Angling License and Combined Angling Tag. We will focus on areas that offer good opportunities for fishing from the bank; however, the lower Rogue and Chetco Rivers do offer good opportunities for those that want to fish from their driftboats or rafts.

People interested in attending the outing should email me at tmdrhaight@infostructure.net by January 22 to get on the list. I will make a decision about what streams to target and when and where to meet, and I will send out that information to the people who have signed up. There is also the possibility that the streams could be blown out; thus, the outing could be postponed.

David Haight, Outings Chair

Outing to Fish For Steelhead on the Klamath River

On Thursday November 10, the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers and Rogue Flyfishers will head to Northern California to fish for steelhead on the Klamath River. We will float from just below Iron Gate Dam to Klamathon. The Klamath gets a good run of summer steelhead, and the area above Interstate 5 fishes well late in the season. The river flows through a beautiful valley, and the fall colors should still be good, making this a great place to spend a day on the water.

The tackle and techniques we use here on the Upper Rogue work well on the Klamath River. Dead-drifting egg or nymph patterns through the long runs can be very effective. There is also plenty of good water for swinging flies.

Like on the Rogue, small, somber flies seem most effective. Barbless hooks are required. Six to seven-weight single-handed outfits and light switch or Spey outfits are suitable. Bring a floating line, and if you want to swing flies during the middle of the day, also bring sinking tips. While there are a few places to fish from the bank, to make the float, you will need a driftboat, raft, or pontoon boat. The float from Iron Gate to Klamathon has some minor rapids, but nothing too difficult. We will try to find places in boats for those who don't have a boat. If you need a seat in a boat or you have a boat and can take a passenger or two, please let me know.

You will need a California fishing license and a steelhead tag. A day license is \$17.54 and the steelhead tag is \$8.38. You can buy them at the Blackbird in Medford. You can also buy them on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife website, but they will mail the steelhead tag to you, so if you buy it online, you will have to do so well ahead of time. There is no convenient place to buy the license and tag on the way to the outing.

We will meet at 7:00 AM on November 10 in the Rogue Valley Mall parking lot near the Crater Lake Avenue entrance and caravan from there. Since there is a possibility that weather or wildfires could alter our plans, if you intend to participate in the outing, please let me know at tmdrhaight@infostructure.net. That way I can inform you of any changes.

David Haight, Outings Chair

Although this outing has already occurred, I've included this outing as an example of the diversity of outings that are offered to the membership.

The Editor

2023 Outings

Feb 03	Cow Creek
Feb 18	So. Umpqua Steel head
Mar 18-19	Lower Sacramento
Apr 12	Lake Selmac Fly Fishing Clinic
May 6	Copeland Pond
May 17-20	Owyhee River Brown Trout

FLY TYING CORNER

Flashy Nymph



Hook: Size 10-16 Nymph Hook or a 2457 Scud Hook.
Thread: Black Veevus 10/0 or 8/0 'Uni Thread.
Tail: Burnt Orange Marabou.
Body: Blended Black Peacock and UV Green Dubbing.
Bead: Green with Red Inside Glass Bead.
Flash: I used "Lite Brite Hank Hair" from "The Fly Shop". It is like a Fine Flashabou.

Tying Instructions:

Pinch the barb on the hook and put the bead on the hook then mount it in the vice.
 Now dress the hook with your thread back to the barb and tie in a short but full marabou tail.
 Now dub the body up to just behind the bead and tie off.

Tie in 3-4 strand of Flash on either side of the hook and tie off. Whip finish and head cement (head cement optional). It is just my option that it makes the fly more durable.

I have used this fly on the Williamson River on the lower end near the lake and had some good luck. The burnt orange and the copper make it very visible and a good search fly.

Tightlines

Fly Tied By John Storfold

John Storfold

Fly Tying Chair

541-660-6584

steelyjohn@charter.net



Membership Form

Please make checks payable to:
 SOFF and mail to: PO Box 1144,
 Grants Pass, Oregon 97528

- Regular.....\$35.00
- Family.....\$45.00
- Youth.....\$10.00
- Contributing.....\$50.00
- Lifetime (Individual).....\$350.00
- Lifetime (Couple).....\$450.00

Name(s): _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: Home () _____ Work: () _____
 Email: _____
 Personal interests: _____

Renewal: _____ New: _____



CHANGING LINES

COMING EVENTS

- 1-19 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill
- 1-19 Club Meeting with James Sampsel
- 1-27-29 Coastal Steelhead
- 2-3 Club Outing - Cow Creek
- 2-7 Board Meeting
- 2-14 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill
- 2-16 Club Meeting with Craig Schuhmann
- 2-23 Club Outing - So Umpqua
- 3-7 Board Meeting
- 3-10-11 Fly Tying and Fishing Show Albany Convention Center

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

task of the club's "Sunshine Lady". A task wherein she is responsible for cards sent to our seriously sick members or flowers to the family of a member who passes on. And it goes without saying, that I want to thank Vera Edwards who was the club's original and long time "Sunshine Lady" over many years and who was forced to give up the responsibility due to health reasons.

Things look promising for a fund raising auction this November. The tentative date for the affair is November 11th so save that date.

In order for the auction to be successful, we need items to be donated. If each member went out and contacted a business that they knew and got a donation we'd have plenty of things to auction off. We can use items both for the silent and the oral auction. If you're able to donate either a used or new item it would be appreciated. Let either President Bob or one of the board members know.

Well that's all the room I have for my Editor's Notes for this month.



It is with great sadness that I announce the death of long time club member, Jay Prouty. Jay passed away on Friday, January 20, 2023 at his home. Over the last three years, Jay had been hospitalized several times and last year suffered a near death experience. After that his health continued to fail.

Jay served the club as a member of the board and President for two years in 2005 and 2006 and until recently was active in club affairs.

Jay enjoyed fishing particularly the Williamson River with Marlon Rampy and the club outing at Copeland's Pond as well as other local outings. He also enjoyed attending the Fly fishing and Tying Show in Albany and in fact was the genesis of the club's social at the show.

As this time, there are no services planned.

Jay may you always have a warm sun on your face, a gentle breeze at your back and the right flies for all of heaven's streams. Tight lines old friend!



Fly Tying Class On Tap For January 25th through April 5th.

Learn all about the art of tying flies in a 10-week course being offered by the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers.

It's open to all ages and no previous experience is needed.

The class starts January 25, with sessions running weekly through April 5th, with one week off during spring break.

Classes meet at 7:00 pm AT Grants Pass High School.

The cost to attend is \$35 , which includes instruction, materials and a one year membership in the South Oregon Fly Fishers Club.

Students must provide their own tools, including tread bobbins, scissors, whip finishers and a fly tying vise.

Instructor Kevin Daniels can provide information on how to find the necessary tools.

To register or for more information, call Daniels at 541 474-0481. Pre-registration is required.

The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers promotes the arts and skills of fly fishing and encourages conservation of natural resources.





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Editor's Notebook

Surprise, surprise, surprise! I can't believe it; I finally have enough material to fill eight pages and a January newsletter has finally been produced. In checking my records, I noted that there was only five newsletters produced for the entire year of 2022 and only slightly more for 2021 and 2020. The culprit of this malfeasance was that damn Covid-19. Very few of us fished which resulted in a dearth of material, that I usually count on to produce a monthly newsletter. Each month, I must fill eight pages to construct a newsletter, but when there is little or no material for me to use, it becomes difficult to say the least.

I've been the editor of the newsletter for the past 19 years

and to say that it was a labor of love would certainly be an understatement to say the least, but it was done month after month. Somehow, I always had just enough material to fill all eight pages. If I didn't get items from the board, or the membership at large, I tried to attend as many club functions as possible taking all the photos that I could that were squirreled away for a time that I either had a story to go with the pictures or I needed something for a blank space that needed to be filled.

The last couple of years have weighed heavily on me. I know that a newsletter needed to be produced, but I just wasn't able to get it down. Unfortunately, as one month morphed into the next it became easier not to do anything and hope

the following month would better.

2023 is a new year and although, I am late, there will be a January newsletter – barely. Hopefully, my contributors as well as myself have turned a corner. But, I'm not going to get excited until I see the April issue, with February and March proceeding it.

If any of the membership ever wanted to tie their own flies, you are in luck as our ace instructor, Kevin Daniels has just started a 10 week course in fly tying at the Grants Pass High School. Even though the class already has met once, I'm sure if you're interested Kevin can bring you up to speed and you won't be that far behind.

I would like to thank Sha Orton for stepping up to take on the

Continued on Pg. 7