

SOFF News

Vol.30 No.12 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc. December 2023



SOFF NEWS

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

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Christmas has come and gone and now the members of the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers eagerly await the arrival of 2024 and all it has to offer.



2023 for all practical purpose was a good year. Members caught a lot of fish and had a good time on lakes as well as rivers and streams. The only drawback was that several club members left us way to soon and remain today as a fond memory of all the good times we had with them.

**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:

Vacant

Dave Roberts:

Vacant

John Storfold

Membership

Fly Tying Chair

Fly Tying Instructor

Programs

Habitat Chair

Outings Chair

SOFF Wear

OR Council IFFF Rep

Raffles

Project Healing Waters & Auction Chair



FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Robert Stafford

Now that late fall has arrived, the 100+ temperatures and smoked-filled air of Summer and Fall have become memories. The days are shorter and nights cooler. We turn our attentions to other things like getting our firewood in, watching football and preparing for the holiday season.

Fall also brings 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.

Fall also means we would be preparing for our Annual Auction sadly, once again it will not take place. We are looking forward to holding it online in February thanks to John Smith and Jan Knapik. 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 has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's make 2024 one of our best years, I am looking forward to seeing everyone next year.

2024 Dues Increase and Credit/ Debit Card Payments

The SOFF Board of Directors reviewed our dues revenue situation at the November Board Meeting. It has been 14 years since the last dues increase.

Considering this and our current financial condition the Board voted to increase individual membership dues to \$40.00 and Family membership dues to \$50.00. Lifetime members remain under no obligation to pay dues. These rates will be effective for new members, and non lifetime members renewing their membership after December 31. The Board elected to offer existing members the opportunity to renew their dues before January 1st at the \$35 individual and \$45 family rates. This is offered as an incentive to pay your dues early.

Traditionally as an incentive to

renew dues before the end of January each membership that was renewed by January 31st had a ticket entered into a March meeting drawing for a fly rod. That policy remains in effect. So, if you renew your dues by December 31st at the \$35 or \$45 rate you will get one ticket in the rod drawing. If you renew your dues between January 1 and January 31 you will do so at the \$40/ \$50 rate and will also get one ticket for the rod raffle.

As promised, you can now pay your dues by credit or debit card through the SOFF.org website. This is done through PayPal, and you do not need to have a PayPal account to do this click on this link:

<https://soff.org/become-a-member/>

When the transaction is completed, you will get an electronic paid invoice from PayPal.

If you have experienced an address change, an email address or provider change and/or a phone number change please advise Bill Burns at williameburns@charter.net so he can edit your member record.

We are still accepting cash or check payments. You can pay by check or cash at the December or January meeting or by mail.

ATTENTION!
Board Meeting
The Board of Directors
will meet in the conference room
of the Tap Rock Restaurant
The next meeting is scheduled:
Dec 5th at 6:00pm or
the first Tuesday
of the month
All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

Dec 19	30th Anniversary
Jan 16	Dale Burrier
Feb 20	Steve Day
Mar 19	Greg Hucko
Apr 16	Fly Tyers Night
May 21	Yancy Lind
Jun 18	Marc Williamson
July 16	No Meeting

Dinner No Shows

It has been three months since we returned to our regularly scheduled meetings and our attendance is lacking a little. I believe that will be worked out as time goes by and the membership is once again conditioned to our monthly meetings.

In addition to the smaller attendance, we are having another problem. Because we are considered a 'banquet meeting', it is necessary to give the restaurant a head count by the Friday before the Tuesday meeting. This means that when we give the restaurant the head count based on a member's reservation, the club is obligated to pay for that number whether that person shows or not.

It seems that for the last three meetings, the club has been on the hook for at least \$75.00 to \$100 each meeting for those members making a reservation and then failing to attend. We realize that there are times when something comes up and the member is unable to attend the meeting. If that person cancels their reservation before the Friday guarantee, the club can cancel the reservation thus eliminating the liability for either the member or the club. After the guarantee goes in the member or the club is responsible for the cost of the missed meal.

In the past, when we were flush, the club was able to subsidize the cost

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WHEN:

Dec 19th, 2023



TIMES:

5:30 PM
Social Hour and
Fly Tying Demo.
6:30 PM
Meeting
7:00 PM
Dinner and Program

WHERE:

Wild River Pub
533 NE F St. G.P.



SOFF'S 30th Anniversary Meeting

The December 19, 2023 SOFF meeting will be a commemoration and a celebration of the founding and the 30 year history of the club. It will feature slides from the earliest photographs in club history. There will be displays of documents, photographs and exhibits of flies from the great tyers of our past. Charter members will be introduced and recognized and honored.

A brief history of the club will give way to open discussion. This can take the form of remembrances of persons, events and more. Funny stories will be welcome. They might highlight the achievements of the club, best past practices, the relevance of our goals to our fourth decade. We might ask how changing social and environmental conditions might shape who we are in the future. And what is the relevance of a fly fishing club to younger generations.

You can play a part in this program and discussion by reading this history in the newsletters on the SOFF website. They are a rich resource. In doing so you will be amazed and inspired at what we have been and what we are. You will be well prepared for the discussion described above.

To access all those newsletters just click on the hyperlink:

<https://soff.org/newsletter/archives/>

Links to all newsletters from the club founding will appear. You can scroll through each year's newsletters as well as print any you choose.

SOFF30 is about you and your experiences in the club. Take some time to browse the newsletters and find some club events and experiences that were significant to you. Then come to the meeting and reminisce about them with your fellow members. We will have a portion of the program reserved for this and will have an open microphone to hear from you.

Redge Heth
30th Anniversary Program Coordinator
John Smith
SOFF Program Chair

CASTING ABOUT

2024 Auction

Southern Oregon Fly Fishers has historically held a fund-raising auction whose receipts have been used to support various projects and charitable entities. The last auction was held in November of 2019. That event netted \$18,108.45. Covid arrived in December 2019. With limitations on group gatherings, we suspended meetings. It was the board's intent to have an auction in November 2022. A combination of reduced member activity and an economic turndown affecting our donor base led to a decision to defer the auction until November 2023. The Board has reduced expenses to a bare bones level, which has seriously impacted our programs and donations to our traditional recipients. We have essentially been operating on a cash flow basis. The intent of the November 2023 auction was to raise sufficient funds to permit return to our pre-covid level of operations.

Auctions are major undertakings requiring leadership, willing members to solicit donations, a venue and member participation in the event. Covid and ensuing situations put a dent in each of these components. As a result, the Board made a decision in our October 3rd meeting to not hold an auction in November, rescheduling it until February, 2024 and to abandon the live/silent auction format we have used for years in favor of an on-live format.

Many charitable organizations have relied on auctions and raffles for years as their primary

fund-raising mechanism. There has been a major shift from traditional live auction and raffle events to on-line events. The overhead costs are much lower, resulting in a higher net return on item sales. Our net return in 2019 was 65% of our gross receipts. Using a live auction format, the net receipts should approach 90% of the gross receipts.

This shift to on-line auctions has spawned a non-profit charitable fund-raising sector in the software industry. There are many programs available. Some are scaled to our operational size and are priced to be cost effective. Many claim to be free and focus on transferring the cost of using the software to the bidder by soliciting an additional donation to cover those costs. Some also transfer the merchant service fees for collecting payment using credit and debit cards to the bidder. There is no free lunch.

In deciding to go on-line we set some parameters. We did not want our bidders being solicited for additional money to cover the cost of their transactions. We did want to continue to offer credit and debit card payment options as well as cash and check. We wanted to be able to reach an audience beyond our immediate membership. We also wanted to automate the auction setup, bidding process and fulfillment functions as much as possible.

After researching several products, we selected biddingowl.com. There is no purchase price for this

product, no event fees, no monthly or annual subscription costs. There is a straight 5% of high bid price charge. Merchant Services will be provided by PayPal and we have set up a non-profit account with them wherein they charge 1.99% of the transaction plus \$0.49 per transaction. This compares to their 3.99% and \$0.49 per transaction fees for commercial accounts. Another condition we sought was that a bidder would not have to provide credit card information to a software company as a qualification to be a bidder. All exchange of credit and debit card numbers take place after the auction close and is between the successful bidder and PayPal.

At their October 3rd meeting, the Board decided that a November auction date was not feasible for a variety of reasons. Their decision was to hold the Auction in February. One on-line auction attribute is that the open bidding period can cover several days.

The tentative auction dates are from 12 PM, Friday, February 16 until 11:59PM, Friday, February 23rd. Our February meeting date is Tuesday, February 20th. Our plan is to have Board members available with computers to assist in and encourage online bidding during the meeting. We will also be getting bidders registered at the January meeting so they can begin bidding when the auction opens.

An on-line auction is basically a

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OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

New Year's Chili Feed - January 1st

In keeping with tradition, the Rogue Flyfishers and Southern Oregon Fly Fishers will gather at the Holy Water on New Year's Day for our annual chili feed. The event will take place at the picnic shelter in River's Edge Park on the south bank of the Holy Water. We should have a fire going by 10 AM and will eat around noon. We need people to bring chili and will again have a contest where participants will select their favorite pot of chili. The competition has become intense in recent years, with entries ranging from traditional to rather eccentric. Those not bringing chili can help by bringing cornbread, salads, desserts or other items to share. The clubs will provide coffee and tableware.

The Holy Water can offer good trout fishing during the winter, and there will be opportunities to fish both before and after we eat. Swinging or drifting small marabou leeches, woolly buggers, micro intruders, or nymphs along the bottom can be productive. If conditions are favorable, we could have a blue-winged olive or midge hatch. **If you are going to fish, remember to get your 2024 fishing license.** We always have a great time no matter the

weather, so make up a pot of your favorite chili, break out your trout rod, and come help us celebrate the new year and the joy of fly fishing!

Purchasing a Rogue— South Coast Steelhead Validation

A Rogue—South Coast Steelhead Validation is required to fish for steelhead in most streams in the Southwest Zone from December 1 through April 30. This is true even if you are going to release the steelhead you catch. Several members have reported that they were unable to find, thus purchase, the Rogue-South Coast Steelhead Validation on the ODFW website. Even if you want the validation to fish for steelhead in 2023, you must look under the tab for 2024 licenses and tags to find it. We expressed our concern about the difficulty in finding and purchasing the mandatory Rogue—South Coast Steelhead Validation to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Coastal Winter Steelhead Outing, January 20 - 21

Several of my favorite places to fish during the winter months are streams along the Southern-Oregon Coast. The Rogue River, Chetco River, Winchuck River, Hunter Creek, and others 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 on January 20 and 21, to fish for winter steelhead. We will base the outing out of Brookings, which has a good variety of motels, RV parks, and restaurants. The specific streams 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, as well as egg patterns, 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. You will 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 15 to get on the list. Just prior to the outing, I will make a decision about what streams we will fish and when and where we will meet, or if we need to postpone the outing due to weather or water conditions, and I will send out that information to the people who have signed up.

David Haight, Outings Chair



2024 Outings

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 1-1 | Chili Feed at the Holy Water. |
| 1-20 | Coastal Steelhead with David Haight. |
| 2- 17 | Upper Rogue with Dave McCants. |
| 4-28-5-2 | Owyhee River with Jon Iverson. |
| 5-24-5-25 | Lemolo Lake with Dave Gros jacques |

FLY TYING CORNER

Prince Nymph



- Hook:** Streamer Hook Size 8
- Thread:** Vevvus 10/0 in Black.
- Tail:** White Goose Biots
- Body:** Peacock Herl.
- Rib:** Silver Wire
- Wings:** White Goose Biots.

Tying Instructions:

Pinch the barb and place the hook in the vice. Start your thread about an eye width from the eye of the hook and wrap back to the bend in the hook. There go back and forth to create a small bump in the thread. Take two biots and tie them in on either side of the hook in front of the bump. This will help keep the biots separated. Tie them in with the curve to the outside and up. The biot should extend beyond the end of the hook by about a hook gap. Now tie in a length of wire alongside the hook. Tie it back to just in front of the biot tie in point. Now tie in about 5-7 strands of peacock herl. Tie them down the top of the hook stopping in front of the biot tie in point. Now make a herl rope. Take the herl over the top of the how and also with the thread. Now wrap the herl and the thread together to form the rope. Wrap up the hook with touching wraps to an eye width from the eye and secure. Form a head with wraps to create a flat are for the wing biots. I tie my biots in at about a 90 degree angle of each other. I tie them in so the wings are no longer than and end of the hook. Once you have them secure, cut off the remaining biots and make an small head and whip finish. Head cement or UV resin, optional. I tend to use UV resin. Again personal choice.

This fly can be tied with a bead or lead wrap under the herl or both depending on what you are targeting. I personally have caught both trout and Steelhead on this fly tied in sizes down to 12.

This month we are remembering the 30th anniversary of the club and those that help build it. One of the first members of the club I met when I moved here was Rusty Randell, who ran the Merlin Fly Shop. His favorite fly that he tied for many of his customers for use on the Rogue was the Prince Nymph. Mine don't look as good as Rusty's did. But I still caught my first Rogue River adult steelhead on a Prince Nymph.

Fly Tyed By: John Storfold

John Storfold

Fly Tying Chair

541-660-6584

steelyjohn@charter.net



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

Membership Form

- Regular**.....\$40.00
- Family**.....\$50.00
- 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

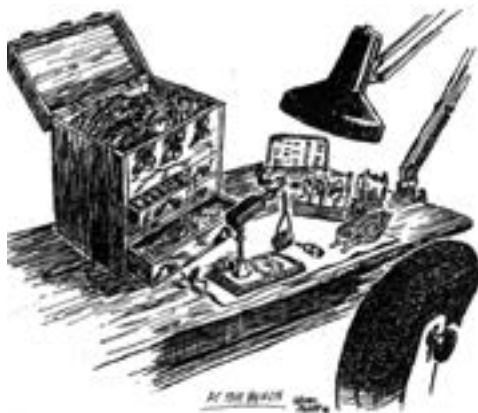
- 12-5 Board Meeting
- 12-12 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 12-19 Club Meeting - Club's 30th Anniversary.
- 1-1 Club Outing - Holy Water Chili Feed.
- 1-2 Board Meeting.
- 1-9 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 1-16 Club Meeting with Dale Burrier.
- 1-20-21 Coastal Steelhead with Dave Haight.
- 2-6 Board Meeting.

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

fice Box for the cost of the meal.

You'll also note that I have used a couple of items from November's newsletter that I also felt were important enough to repeat. These included that we are at the end of our fiscal year and that it is time to pay the club dues for 2024. You will also note that for 2024 the club dues will be going up by five dollars for each category of membership.

And lastly, in January we will be voting for new board members. If you wish to add your name to the august bunch of current board members, contact President Bob and throw your hat into the ring.



Dinner No Shows Cont. From Pg. 3

of the no-show without a problem, but with three years of no auction due to the Covid the club is working on a very tight budget, and it can no longer absorb the cost of the no-show. We realize that 'things happen' and there may be times when a person can't attend and if this occurs, the club will welcome a voluntary reimbursement of the dinner costs; however, a second no show would incur an automatic request for payment of the missed dinner.

As many of you know, with the upcoming on-line auction, the club has joined a program called "Bidding Owl" and it's a program that records on-line bids. As an adjunct benefit to the program, we were able to use the services of PayPal as a Debit/Credit acceptor. This means that not only diners, but membership renewal can be paid for using PayPal.

Now comes the hard part! If the club determines that a member is a chronic no-show, we will require that the member pre-pays for their dinner, so that if they are a no-show the club no longer carries the burden of paying for that person's meal. The club would suggest that the members register with 'Bidding Owl' and establish a PayPal account and pay for their dinners in that fashion thereby making it easier on them as well as the club.

The club certainly hopes that the members understand that times are tough and that the club no longer can be as financially responsible for certain expenses as they once were and that the prescriptions outlined earlier are not directed at any person, but at the general club membership. It is our hope that this new payment policy rather than be a deterrent, will become a win-win for everybody.



2024 Auction Continued

computerized silent auction. There is no auctioneer soliciting bids. One significant difference is the ability to place proxy bids. You can place an initial bid and set a maximum bid. When someone outbids you, the system will raise your bid by the minimum bid increment. If that runs the other bidder off you will get the item for less than your maximum bid. If a bid exceeds your maximum bid, you will be notified by email and text message. You will also be notified any time you are outbid. The successful bidder will also be notified by text message and email. The successful bidder will be invoiced by biddingowl and directed to the PayPal site to pay with credit or debit card. If you want to pay with cash or check you will be directed to call the Auction Manager to arrange payment and pickup or delivery of the item.

There will be some biddable/buy it now items, including club shirts and hats. There will probably be some cup raffles. Items will be available for local pickup, delivery or mailing/shipment, depending on the nature of the item shortly following the auction close.

The Board is excited about this move. It had become apparent that we would probably never be able to put on another live auction. We cannot continue to function on dues, raffle revenue and donations. We have avoided tapping our reserves, but we need to get back to raising discretionary funds. Your support and participation in this on-line auction will be appreciated.



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Editor's Notebook

Because of the importance of a couple issues in this month's newsletter and I take the time to reiterate them in my column. One of the most important issues is the fact that the club can no longer absorb the cost of dinners for members who make a reservation than fail to attend the meetings. We are required to give the restaurant a head count before each meeting which is a guarantee on the numbers that will be having dinner, and we will charged accordingly. Regardless of the number attending and having dinner, anything less than we guaranteed is charged to the club.

Since we moved back to the Brew Pub there has been an upsurge in the number of members making

reservations and then failing to attend the meeting.

From September to December, we have been averaging four reservations each month that were no shows, at a cost of \$25 per meal, we're spending an extra \$100 on those missing people.

There was a time before Covid when we could subsidize some of the costs associated with the dinner without a problem. In fact, the club regularly subsidized the cost of every meal to keep costs down for the membership and could absorb those missing reservations without a problem, but that was then and here is now.

We also used to enjoy a fund-raising auction each year, which gave us the necessary funds to operate the club and allowed us the

leeway to subsidize costs. It has been four years since the club held an auction and we are living on the cusp of fiscal solvency which has caused the club to tighten its financial belt considerably.

So, in the future, we will be asking the membership to do one of three things. First, if you be unable to attend the meeting and you have made reservations, we asked that you contact us before Noon on the Friday before the meeting so that you won't be counted in the dinner guarantee. Secondly, we ask that you start using the PayPal charge system to prepay for your meal and lastly, if you miss a meal after making a reservation, we ask that you be a 'stand-up guy or gal' and send a check to club's Post Of-

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