FLY FISHING CLUB

At the first gathering of those interested in forming a fly fishing organization, about 30 potential members helped to lay a rough foundation. Both novices and those experienced in fly fishing were present. An open-ended attitude prevailed in which all were given an opportunity to express their feelings. Some of the ideas that prevailed were to have a club that was: family orientated, non-political, included youth, educational, had outings, and conserved fish habitat. A survey form was distributed to gather names and get some direction. A basic casting clinic was set up for August 28 at Riverside Park. About 20 people participated in casting and knot tying basics.

On September 10, our second organizational meeting was held at Killian Real Estate office. After introductions, we proceeded to solidify the foundation for the club's structure by selecting meeting times of the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, establishing by-laws and meeting place committees, arranging for speakers, selecting an interim chairman (John Edwards), treasurer, and secretary (David Bremer), membership types, a board of directors, fund raising, mailing lists, a newsletter, a logo and upcoming meetings. Good progress was made in all these areas and we are hopeful for specific results in the near future.

Survey Results

Most preferred activities: fly tying; outings; casting clinics.

The survey also revealed that there are many beginners, $8.00 to $10.00 is the dinner amount most requested, and smoke-free meetings are preferred.

The next organizational meeting will be held at Killian Real Estate office (rear entrance) located at 1601 NE 6th, Grants Pass, on September 22 at 7:00 PM.

All those interested in helping develop the structure of our organization are welcome to join in on the fun.

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Our Second Clinic will feature teaching the basics of getting all the fly fishing gear together and ready to fish. This clinic is geared to the novice and those with limited experience.

The Clinic will be held at the Manzanita School Library, 310 San Francisco, Grants Pass, on September 24, at 7:00 PM.
PAST PROGRESS

8/9: At the first meeting, about 30 potential fly fishers gathered and decided to proceed to organize a club.

8/28: A basic casting and knot-tying clinic was held at Riverside Park for the many interested novices.

9/10: An organizational meeting designed the structure for the club's organization, selected interim officers and formed committees to resolve specific goals.

9/22: At the organizational meeting, Hamilton House was selected for the regular monthly dinner meetings which will begin in January. Progress was made in the following areas: by-laws, dues, meetings, fly tying, officers and a newsletter. A logo contest was scheduled for judging at the January meeting.

9/24: A clinic to help beginners with setting up their fishing outfit was held at Manzanita School.

10/6: At the third organizational meeting, the legal aspects of incorporation were considered and by-laws were proposed. The Nominating Committee will have a slate of officers ready for election in November. The name "Southern Oregon Fly Fishers" was selected, dues set at $25, and a Membership Committee was formed. Rules were determined for the logo contest.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

10/21: The next organizational meeting is at 7:00 PM at Killian's Real Estate, 1602 N.E. 6th Street, Grants Pass.

10/30: A Fly Fishing Clinic outing for steelhead will be conducted by Steve Bonner. Call him for meeting place information (474-0018).

11/13: The SisQ Regional Education Project needs volunteers to help with habitat restoration on the Illinois River. You can join in by calling 592-4459. Jim Elliott (474-8647) is our club coordinator.

11/16: A fly tying class will be conducted by Steve Bonner. Call Steve for sign up as soon as possible (474-0018).
Volunteers are needed for the Board. Call Loren Black (474-7277).

Anyone having friends interested in joining the club may provide them with an application or contact John White (476-8276).

And so our new club comes forth with vitality and a promising future. Come and join us, so we can grow strong and active.

David Bremer
Greetings to all of you fly fishing aficionados from the SOFF Board. We, the Board, have been working hard to get all of the necessary organizing work done so that our new ship will be ready for a successful launching at the January 20 meeting. It is a bit frustrating to be working on the paper chase requirements for official club status when our real purpose is to fly fish. But when all the legal and organizational work is done, we hope to have a club that is family-oriented, activity-centered, educational and environmentally concerned. We hope to provide the place and time so we can share our varied experiences and knowledge.

There have been several opportunities for all to get involved. We have already had a casting and knot-tying clinic, a basic equipment prep clinic, a steelhead outing and, this week, a habitat restoration project. Important upcoming events designed for your participation are:

Fly Tying Class at Manzanita School, Tuesday, November 16, 7:00 PM. Call Steve Bonner (474-0018) for details. There will be a demonstration to introduce methods and equipment to prospective tyers.

Everyone is encouraged to attend an Introduction Meeting at the Manzanita School cafeteria, 310 San Francisco, November 18, 7:00 PM. "Let's get to know each other."

The Holy Water Fishing Outing, Saturday, December 18.

Our first Official Meeting at the Hamilton House, Thursday, January 20.

We are continuing to meet the goals of offering many and varied fly fishing opportunities for beginners and the well-seasoned fly fishers.

"When you fall in the river, you're no longer a fisherman."

Gene Hill
The Board of Directors that have been responsible for the club's progress thus far are:

John Edwards - 479-8026
Loren Black - 474-7277
Steve & Patty Bonner - 474-0018
Bob Roberts - 479-7571
John White - 479-0912
Rusty Randall - 476-2456
Tim Sakraida - 846-6258
David Bremer - 479-3410

You may contact any of the Board members with questions or suggestions.

Southern Oregon Fly Fishers is now an official organization as we have completed our Papers of Incorporation. We received free legal aid from Richard Adams. The main advantages of incorporation are limited liability and tax exemption.

John White was able to secure two Sage fly fishing rods donated by Randy Swisher of Sage. Thanks to Randy and Sage for their generosity and a big thank you to John White.

Our logo contest will be held at our January 20 meeting. All are encouraged to enter. The only rules are to put your logo on an 8 1/2 x 11 paper and get it in on time. The winner will be voted on by those attending the January meeting. Prize to be awarded.

We need volunteers to serve on a newsletter committee. If you can help with writing, editing, art or layout, please call John Edwards (479-8026) or David Bremer (479-3410). We also need someone with a computer and a printer.

Anyone interested in joining SOFF is encouraged to do so by filling out a membership form and paying the dues. There is a special pride in becoming a charter member and helping to form a dynamic organization that will serve fly fishing and our community in the future. So sign up at any of the upcoming events.

As my old Dad used to say, "you can't catch anything if your line isn't in the water". So go fishin'!
President's Thoughts

Since our first meeting mid-year, our club has grown much faster than expected and the entire process has gone much smoother than anticipated. Our success to date can only be attributed to everyone's cooperative efforts and generosity. This coming year holds a lot of promise as we continue to grow as an organization. Working together, we can build a club that we will all enjoy and take pride in.

We still have some important chair positions yet to be filled; the most important being the NEWSLETTER CHAIR. A quality newsletter is our only way of keeping all of our members informed and in touch with each other. If you have writing and computer skills and would like to chair or help with the newsletter, please contact David Bremer (479-3410) as soon as possible.

Other vacancies are: conservation, youth, education, F.F.F. coordinator, auction, picnic, and computer coordinator. If you would like to serve as a chairperson or committee member, contact your Board of Directors. Remember we are all new at this so experience does not matter--just a desire to contribute. It is a good way to get to know your fellow flyfishers.

From the Board

As our bylaws direct, your Board of Directors has elected the club's officers for 1994. The officers are:

President - John Edwards
Vice President - Loren Black
Secretary - David Bremer
Treasurer - Patty Bonner

Previously elected directors at large are: Steve Bonner, Rusty Randall, Bob Roberts, Tim Sakraida and John White.
Standing chairpersons are:

- Programs: Bob Roberts
- Outings: Steve Bonner
- Membership: John White
- Raffles: Tim Sakraida

Your Board of Directors meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at Killian & Associates, 1601 N. 6th Street. Please enter from the rear.

Membership

SOFF already has 63 paid members and will likely surpass our goal of 75 by the first meeting. All those that join on or before the first meeting, January 20, 1994, will become charter members. All those subsequently joining will be regular members. If you have not joined as yet, it’s time to make your move. For applications or information, call John White at 479-0912 or 476-8267.

Raffle

We need you to make the raffle a success at the first club dinner meeting on January 20. We need donated items for door prizes. If you can donate anything that may make a nice prize, it will help us get off to a successful start and allow us to finance future raffles. If you have anything (except worms), call Tim Sakraida (846-6258)—flies, wine or whatever.

Logo Contest

SOFF is seeking all creative flyfishers to submit your idea of what would represent the ideals of our club. All entries should be on 8 1/2 x 11 paper and turned in to John White on or before the January 20 meeting. The winner will be voted on by all those attending our first meeting. The winner will receive a free club membership.

Outings

Steve Bonner (474-0018) will lead us to the Holy Water to fish the midge for trophy trout. Mark Saturday, December 18, on your calendar and meet Steve at 8:30 AM at the bottom of the K-Mart parking lot for car pooling. Then proceed to Max's Diner in Shady Cove for breakfast. Flies of choice are: #18 Blue Wing Olive, #24 Midge, #16 Olive Leech or #16 Hare's Ear Nymph. Grab your waders, warm clothes and let's wet a line.

Equipment

For beginners and those who do not have fly rods, reels or line, SOFF has a limited supply that you can use. Some generous