

# SOFF News

Vol.24 No.1 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

January, 2017



**SOFF NEWS**  
A publication of  
**Southern Oregon Fly Fishers**  
P.O. Box 1144  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97528  
Web Site: [www.soff.org](http://www.soff.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Dave Grosjacques**  
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Treasurer/Publicity/Historian

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SOFF Wear

**Ron Cremo**

**Sonja Nisson**

**Brady Keister**

**Duane Chebul**  
Newsletter Editor/Web Master  
E-Mail: [dchebul@centurylink.net](mailto:dchebul@centurylink.net)

**Southern Oregon Fly Fishers Monthly Dinner Meetings are moving. For at least the next five months, we will be meeting at the Taprock Restaurant.**



Due to construction of additional units for the Lodge Hotel, we have been asked to move until the construction is completed, which is estimated to be one year. In the interim, we will be meeting across the street at the Taprock restaurant for at least the first six months at which time a new location will be sought for after our July and August hiatus.

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

## SPECIAL MENTION

**Rich Hosley:**

**John Storfold:**

**Kevin Daniels:**

**Ray McClenathan:**

**Sonja Nisson:**

**David Haight:**

**Sue Keeling:**

**Dave Roberts:**

**Ed/Sandy Michalski:**

**John Storfold**

Membership

Fly Tying Chair

Fly Tying Instructor

Programs

Auction Chair

Outings Chair

SOFF Wear

OR Council IFFF Rep

Raffles

Project Healing Waters Chair



# FROM THE BOARD



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

**Dave Grosjacques**

**W**hat does it take for a fly fishing club to function?

The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers is made up of fly fishermen and women with varying abilities and knowledge of all things fly fishing. We want to try our best to offer something of value to all members and to be accepting of all members. The club has people who are experts when it comes to fly tying. We have some fishing guides as members, experts at locating fish and presenting a fly to them. We have expert fly casters and people with local knowledge of fishing spots near and far.

We also have members who are learning the sport. Since I joined the club in 2003 I have seen these beginners accepted and encouraged. That is part of what we do and I hope it will always be seen as a very important part of our club. Many of us are so enthusiastic about our sport that we enjoy talking about it to beginners and experts alike, learning and teaching at the same time. We also have members who believe in what we do, donate to our annual auction and keep up on club happenings, but do not regularly attend meetings. These members are important! Even though we do not see them each month, the club continues to try to do something for them as well. If they believe in what we do we must continue to ful-

fill our stated purpose and goals so that we do not lose their support.

What does it take for our club to continue to serve the members I have listed above? It takes a core of dedicated people who are willing and able to achieve the purpose and goals stated in the club by-laws. It starts with the board of directors. Duane Chebul has been on the board as long as I have, pushing ten years of service. Duane also does our newsletter (the best I have seen!) and handles dinner reservations. Jan Knapik is the club secretary, keeping minutes at our monthly board meetings. Jan has



**The 2016 Board of Directors - the power behind the throne!!**

been president of a fly fishing club in another state and that experience is very helpful to me and the rest of the board. When Jan speaks, we all listen! Rich Steed is our treasurer and in that role is responsible for all the club's income and expenses. He uses his knowledge of fiscal operations to simplify and organize the SOFF budget. Jerry Keeling is our vice president and also takes care of the SOFF hats and shirts with his wife Sue. Board members Brady Keister, Bruce Cochran, Joe Knapik and Ron Cremo are always there with advice and opinions on club matters. Joe was our mentorship chair and Brady our casting chair in 2016. If you happen to see any of these dedicated people at a future meeting, thank them for their service!

The club chairs are also a vital part of club operations. Rich Hosley is our membership chair, keeping track of members and dues, and putting together our directory each year. I am glad he is in charge of that data base instead of me! David Haight handles our monthly outings, with a seasonal mix of steelhead and trout hot spots to try. John Storfold is our fly tying chair and the head of the Project Healing Waters project with the veterans at White City. These two things keep John busy, finding a fly of the month for the newsletter and organizing the Project Healing

Waters instruction and fishing trips each spring and fall. At our monthly meetings, Ed and Sandy Michalski do a great job with the lucky ticket raffle. Program chair Ray McClenathan takes care of our speakers, and Jerry and Sue Keeling handle the sales of club hats and shirts. Sonja Nissan is our auction chair, and her endless enthusiasm and hard work makes the annual auction a fiscal success and a lot of fun. I am the habitat chair and I try to keep the club informed on what is happening with the agencies and watershed councils whose efforts benefit the fish popula-

tions and fish habitat that we value so much. Kevin Daniels is our beginning fly tying instructor, organizing and teaching the class for ten Wednesday

**Continued on Pg. 3**

### **ATTENTION!**

#### **Board Meeting**

**The Board of Directors meet in the conference room of the Taprock 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	Keith Lyon
Mar 16	John Kraft
Apr 20	Fly Tyers Night
May 18	TBA
Jun 15	TBA
Jul 20	No Meeting
Aug 17	No Meeting
Sep 21	TBA

### President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

evenings starting January 11<sup>th</sup>. Rich Steed is also our historian, helping us remember some of the activities and people of SOFF years past. These chairs spend a lot of time helping all of us. Thank them if you see them! They will certainly appreciate a simple thank you and some encouragement.

Finally, it takes an informed and active membership for a fly fishing club to function. It takes members who are willing to come to meetings, attend the outings, volunteer for habitat projects and help with the annual auction as a committee member, helper or bidder. It takes members who are willing to help others when it comes to flies, fly fishing locations, fishing techniques and more. The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers is made up of members who are as active as their schedule and situation allows, and others who are always there. We value all of them. Our club will continue to try to serve the membership in as many ways as we can. That is why we have a fly fishing club in the first place.



### WHEN:

Jan. 19, 2017



### TIMES:

5:30 PM

Social Hour and  
Fly Tying Demo.

6:30 PM

Meeting

7:00 PM

Dinner and Program

### WHERE:

Taprock Restaurant  
971 S.E. 6th St. G.P.



### Griff Marshall - Fishing the Lower Deschutes



**M**y name is Griff Marshall. I manage the guide service at Fly and Field Outfitters in Bend, Oregon. My primary river is the Lower Deschutes from Warm Springs to Maupin, doing both day-trips as well as overnight camping adventures. I've just released my second book, *My Mistress Whispers and Roars*, a series of introductions and stories about my favorite rivers for the last 32 years.

My passion for fishing began early. As a boy I fished the shores of San Francisco Bay every chance I had. We fished for food. It would be years before I discovered fishing purely for fun. In my late-teens I ventured to one of the lake on Mt Tamalpais with my ugly stick and box of lures. It was there I was properly exposed for the first time to the poetic beauty of fly fishing. Not to mention witnessing how effective it can be! I was solidly out fished by guys not fifty yards away. For hours. Within a week I'd purchased a just-add-water Cortland 6wt, a handful of flies and was on my way.

Eventually I discovered Trout Country in Northern California and all sane bets were off. I fished Hat Creek, the Fall, Pit, McCloud, the Lower and Upper Sacramento Rivers, Squaw Creek. I'd created a job in the film industry that allowed for lots of time off. That time was used to locate, seduce and capture trout. I started fishing bamboo, tying all my own bugs, living out the back of a series of abused trucks, becoming an anti-social, fishing freak. And in retrospect, it was a quest well worth taking. I highly recommend it.

I arrived in Bend in 2010, my second wife and our daughter in tow. I've long lost count of days on the river since we got here, but already there is a deep love for the dynamic variety of water here. This is where I should have been all along.



# CASTING ABOUT

**Northwest's Largest Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo**



**Northwest Fly Tyer  
&  
Fly Fishing Expo**

[www.nwexpo.com](http://www.nwexpo.com)

**March 10 - 11, 2017**

**Linn County Expo Center, Albany Oregon**

**Hours: 9am - 5pm**

**200 Demonstration Fly Tyers**

**All Day Casting Demonstrations**

**90 + Classes on Casting, Fly Fishing, & Fly Tying**

Sponsored By:  
Oregon Council of IFFF



**New Vendors | Reception Fund Raiser | Public Welcome**



# OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

## January Outing - Winter Steelhead on the Lower Rogue

For fly anglers in the Pacific Northwest, fishing in January usually means targeting winter steelhead. Unfortunately for us in the Rogue Valley, few winter steelhead have typically reached our section of the River. If we want to find good numbers of fish, we must head for the coast. For our outing on January 28 and 29, we will do just that—we will go to the lower Rogue River near Gold Beach.

On Saturday, the 28th, we will meet for breakfast at 8:00 AM at the Indian Creek Cafe located a short distance upstream of Hwy 101 on the south side of the Rogue River (94682 Jerry's Flat Road). If you don't want to eat breakfast, join us there by 9:00 AM.

The lower Rogue offers plenty of good opportunities for bank anglers. Many of the large gravel bars are publicly owned and easy to access. For those that want to bring a boat, drift boats, pontoon boats, jet boats, and even prop boats, if you are careful, can

be used to reach good locations that lack road access.

The lower Rogue is a big river with large gravel bars and long runs well suited to swinging flies with long rods, so seven to eight-weight Spey or switch rods paired with Skagit heads and an assortment of tips would be ideal for this outing. If you don't have a Spey or switch

rod, don't worry, the steelhead usually travel close to shore, so single-handed rods, of similar weight, with sink-tip lines or sinking shooting heads

also will work. Bring 10 to 15-lb tippet material and an assortment of flies—from traditional steelhead patterns, to egg-sucking leeches, to intruders. Black or purple flies with a bit of bright color mixed in often work well. If you prefer to dead-drift egg patterns or nymphs, you can do that too. Pack your waders and rain gear as well.

Gold Beach has a good variety of lodging and dining options, and there are several RV parks and campgrounds along the river. You can find more information at [www.goldbeach.org](http://www.goldbeach.org).

There are a variety of other fishing options in the area. If you want to try a smaller stream, Hunter Creek and Pistol River have good runs of winter steelhead.

Due to the uncertainty of river conditions during the winter, be sure to check the club's website before you leave for the outing to see if we had to

make any last-minute changes.

**David Haight, Outings Chair**

### Photo Potpourri



Robert Hodge playing a nice rainbow at Diamond Lake. The date of the photo was Nov. 4th, which makes that water awfully cold to wade in!



Robert Hodge sends in another nice photo this time of a dandy rainbow he landed last July at Agency Lake.



Ray McClenathan sends in this photo of a nice steelhead he took on the Cattaraugus Creek in Irvine NY. He caught it on a Gary Anderson 7wt Spey Rod.

### 2017 Outings

Jan 28-29	Coastal Winter Steelhead
Feb 10-11	Cow Creek
Mar 18	Applegate Steelhead
Apr 22	TBA
May 20	TBA
Jun 17	TBA
July 22	TBA
Aug 19	TBA

# FLY TYING CORNER

## Hare's Ear Special



- Hook:** Targus 200 or equivalent, Size 10-16.
- Thread:** Match the Body.
- Tail:** Marabou..
- Back Strap:** Mottled Turkey.
- Ribbing:** Fine Gold Wire or Ultra Wire.
- Body:** Hare's Ear or Squirrel Dubbing.
- Wing Case:** Mottled Turkey.
- Thorax:** Same as Body.
- Legs:** Partridge.
- Head:** Bead Head Optional.

### Tying Instructions:

Pinch the barb (personal choice) and dress the hook with the thread, positioning the thread at the back of the hook. Tie in the Marabou so that it extends a 1/3 of the way back beyond the hook.

Tie in the back strap and the wire and dub the body all the way to the front of the hook. Pull the turkey over the back and tie it down just behind the eye. Wrap the wire forward segmenting the body and secure.

Fold the turkey about 1/3 of the hook and tie down. Now add dubbing to form the thorax.

Cut a "V" in the partridge and tie it in for the legs. They should extend just past the wing case. Pull the wing case forward and tie it off. You can pick out the body and thorax and some more at this point to make it even more buggy. I chose to not use the bead head on this fly. But conditions may dictate the use of the bead. Good fishing!

This fly was tied by John Storfold and recipe was taken from the book "Mayflies Top to Bottom" by Shane Stalcup. This pattern can be modified in color and useful for many different mayfly imitations. And with that I will borrow on of Ed Morphis's phrases, "Tight Threads".

Fly Tied by John Storfold

John Storfold

Fly Tying Chair

541-660-6584

steelyjon@q.com



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

## Membership Form

- 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

- 1-3 Board Meeting
- 1-10 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 1-19 Club Meeting with Griff Marshall.
- 1-28-29 Club Outing - Coastal Winter Steelhead.
- 2-7 Board Meeting.
- 2-10-11 Club Outing to Cow Creek with Dave Grosjacques,
- 2-14 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 2-16 Club Meeting with Keith Lyon.
- 3-10-11 Albany Fly Fishing Expo.

### Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

in walking to where we would be fishing, once there, the old man showed the youngsters that he still had it by putting the hurt on numerous Silver and Pink salmon.

Yet as I still live and breathe, it seems that at the conclusion of each year, I go through the same mental exercise and trying to make some sense out of the concluding year as well as making new year's resolutions for the coming year. Funny, for as hard as I try to make my life better or my fishing better with these resolutions, it seems that they vaporize before the ink has had a chance to dry on the page. I guess it is human nature in that we all have a desire to improve or make life better for one's self, but without constant monitoring, just living life sort of blinds us to any improvements that we wish to make. I suppose one of my favorite resolutions is that I'm going to fish more than I did the previous year. If it happens at all maybe it will be a couple days extra. Maybe I should instead resolve that I'll just fly fish and let the numbers handle themselves. The same goes with fly tying instead of resolving to tie dozens of flies, just be satisfied that I can still tie a fly.

Maybe that should be the way we

should all approach resolutions, don't quantify them as to numbers, rather be satisfied that you can still do whatever you resolve and let the numbers handle themselves. Another resolution for me is to plan another Alaska trip for 2018, as President Dave wrote in one of his columns a few months back, don't put off planning and going on fly fishing adventures whether locally, out of state or even out of country as we never know how long we'll be around or have health issues that would prevent such a trip.

Let me close this maudlin summation of my life in 2016 with this wish for 2017. May the Good Lord bless each and every one of you and grant you a healthy, prosperous and joyous New Year; one filled with big fish and other adventures that you'll remember to share with the old editor.

## Annual SOFF Awards Presented

If it is the December meeting, then it must be time for the annual club awards presented to deserving club members.

President Dave called each of the recipients up and after a brief description of the reasons for the award, presented each of them with a plaque of recognition.

The awards were:

**Volunteer of the Year** was presented to Julie Rogers for all the volunteer work she has done over the years for the club's annual auction.



Julie Rogers receiving her award from President Dave.

**Member of the Year** went to Sandy Michalski for all the work she puts in each month at the club's raffle table.



Sandy Michalski receiving her award.

**Fly Tyer of the Year** went to Ed Morphis for all the contributions he has made to the club be it teaching the beginning fly tying school, hosting seminars or being available to all club members as a resource for any fly tying questions.



President Dave presents Ed Morphis with his award.

**Special President's Award** went to Rich Hosley for the many years that he has been the membership chair.



The award winners.



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## Editor's Notebook

**W**ell here it is the last day of the year and I'm sitting at my computer looking for the highlights and achievements that makes 2016 special. I guess I could say that as I get older, on reflection I made it through another year without any harms, accidents or mishaps. My health remains reasonable good with the exception of the new little aches and pains I experience as my body rebels against the aging process and starts placing limits on my physical activities. As I get older my balance which I always took for granted is starting to fail. No longer can I wade a stream or river with wild abandonment, but find myself now limited to water no higher than my knees providing the current isn't too swift and I have a

firm grasp on my wading staff. I see a time in the not too distant future when to avoid falling from just walking, I'll need the assistance of a walking stick



**Father and son arm in arm as we make our way to the mouth of the Olga River on Kodiak Island**

(aka a cane).

Funny too, as I look into a mirror I see an old man staring back at me, yet mentally I don't recognize him as I

feel as virile as I did in my younger years. The gray hair and wrinkles must be an illusion because I don't feel old, that is until doing something that requires strength finds me with an empty tank in that department.

As an aside, many of you know that I went to Alaska this year with my son and some of his friends and there were many times that I needed his assistance especially in getting into and out of our float plane. At one river, our float plane landed some three hundred yards from the shore, due to low water and father and son walked arm in arm so that the old man wouldn't take a header into the drink before reaching shore. Although I may have needed a little assistance

**Continued on Pg. 7**