

# SOFF News

Vol.24 No.2 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc. February, 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)

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**One of the more popular outings each year is when President Dave Grosjacques leads a two day adventure to Cow Creek for Steelhead.**



Here President Dave G proudly displays a steelhead he took on a prior outing to Cow Creek. Dave has fished Cow Creek for many years and has amassed an intimate knowledge of the best spots. He believes in sharing "the wealth" and has produced a map showing all his favorite holes in which has taken fish. If you go on his outing he'll give you the map - the only drawback it goes blank after the outing!

**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**

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Fly Tying Chair

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Programs

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Outings Chair

SOFF Wear

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Raffles

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# FROM THE BOARD



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

**Dave Grosjacques**

In last month's column I tried to answer the question of what it takes for a fly fishing club to function. I explained that our club is made up of people with different levels of knowledge and ability on all things fly fishing. We have it all, from beginners to experts. I also went on to say that the people make the club what it is, from our board of directors and chairs to the members who keep up with things by attending meetings and outings or by reading the newsletter. In this column I want to continue that theme by talking about the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers as a mutual information and advice society.

Several years ago I was asked by Gary Miller to address his fly fishing class at Cascade Christian High School. I wanted to start with a simple message on fishing and expand that to cover flies and what they imitate. My simple message was that fly fishing success often depends on imitation, presentation and location. I don't know if the students remembered what I said that day, but I did and I use those three words often to help make fly fishing decisions.

**IMITATION** – what fly are you using? In the SOFF there are a lot of members who can really get going on this one. So who should you ask for information and advice? For technical advice on the best way to tie flies I like to ask Ed Morphis, Dave Roberts or Dale Heath. You might see me at a meeting talking to Ed about a good way to tie a particular fly. Dave always has good

advice on fly patterns and tying methods, and Dale will tell you about the fly tying materials that will produce a good fly. If you want to know more about tying streamers, ask Joe Knapik. If you want to get better at tying Humpies, talk to Kevin Daniel. If you want to fish the upper Rogue for steelhead in the fall, ask Chuck Huntington about his favorite fly patterns for that area. If you want to have a discussion on the tremendous variety of flies and what they imitate, ask Mark Teeters. The list goes on.

**PRESENTATION** – What is the best way to present the fly you have decided to use? This involves reading the water and conditions, and knowing something about the behavior of the fly, leader and fly line in the water. In most cases it also involves some skill casting the fly. For advice and information on fly line I always ask Joe Knapik. Joe has helped me try to understand the sometimes complex choices of fly lines and tips to use in a certain situation. Josh White at the Rogue Fly Shop and Will or Jon at the Ashland Fly Shop are other experts to ask about fly line selection for the waters you will be fishing.

When it comes to casting information and advice, the SOFF has members who can help the beginner as well as the expert. Certified casting instructors Larry and Bobbi White are two of my friends in the club whom I rely on for casting instruction. I keep trying to improve my casting stroke and like to tell Larry that someday I will get it right! John McDiarmid is another certified instructor who will help you with fly casting. John enjoys casting and teaching, his advice is always helpful.

**LOCATION** – This is a pretty obvious one, but it involves more than just being on the river or at the lake. Simplified, if you have the best imitation and presentation but are not where the fish are you might be wasting your time! I would include time of year and time of day in the location category, with the understanding that we deal with migrating steelhead on the Rogue and Apple-

gate, for instance, and with changing water temperature and other variables in a lake.

So ask Redge Heth about fishing the Rogue in the Galice area for fall steelhead. Ask John Iding about fishing Fall River in June or about fishing in New Zealand. Ask yours truly about fishing Cow Creek for winter steelhead or about fishing Lemolo or Galesville Reservoirs. Talk to Ray McClenathan or Gary Miller about the hot spots in Klamath Lake. Ask Josh White about fishing for tarpon in the Florida Keys. Ask Russ Wright about fishing for steelhead in the Coos Bay area. Talk to Russ Leavitt about fishing spots for bass and crappie. He might tell you about his second and third favorite spots, don't even ask about that super secret spot!

I realize that this is an abbreviated list of SOFF members willing to give information and advice about imitation, presentation and location. There are many others in our club who can help one decide what fly to use, how to present it and where to go for some great fishing. This wealth of knowledge is perhaps the greatest thing the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers has to offer. We can all benefit by taking advantage of it.



### ATTENTION!

#### Board Meeting

**The Board of Directors meet in the conference room of the Climate City Restaurant. The next meeting is scheduled: Feb 7th at 6:00pm or the first Tuesday of the month All members welcome**

# PROGRAMS

## Future Programs

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
Oct 19	John Shewey

## 2017 MEMBERSHIP

### DUES

For those of you who have still not paid your 2017 membership dues, they are now 30 days past due. This is the stage of the renewal process where I need to track you down with emails, phone calls, home and office visits, etc. I tend to run out of time and energy and have been known to get cranky. Won't you please help me out by mailing your check to the club post office box today?

**Southern Oregon Fly Fishers**  
**PO Box 1144**  
**Grants Pass, OR 97528**

The 2017 edition of the club membership directory will be going to print on Monday, March 27. If you are planning on being included with your current contact information, I need to hear from you before then.

Thank you.

**Rich Hosley,**  
**Membership Chairman**

**FEDERATION OF  
 FLY FISHERS**



### WHEN:

Feb. 16, 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.



**Keith Lyon - How Fly Rods are Built and Choosing the Right Rod**



Keith is the owner of Jefferson Rod Company. He is also a guide with Jefferson Flywater, a guide service focused on the Klamath River in California. Keith grew up fishing the rivers in and around the Rogue Valley and has a deep love and enthusiasm for the fishing opportunities in our area. His love of the sport grew even more when he was a student in the Cascade Christian High School Fly Fishing class. After learning the basics of the sport in high school he went on to build rods and guide vocationally at age 18. Currently Keith resides in Eagle Point with his wife Caitlin and spends most of his days building rods or sharing his passion with other anglers on the river.

Jefferson Rod Company was established in 2015. The small rod shop is located just outside of Medford near TouVelle Park. The Rogue valley is known for quality products in the Fly fishing industry and Keith established his business with hopes that it will serve to contribute to our area's reputation of producing excellent Fly Fishing essentials. Every rod is handcrafted and built with great care and precision.

Keith is also a guide with Jefferson Flywater. This guide service operates on many rivers throughout Southern Oregon and Northern California. Jefferson Flywater owns property on the Klamath River in a remote area. This deluxe tent camp is all inclusive and serves as a base camp for multi-day steelhead fishing trips.

# 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

## February Outing - Cow Creek

The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers outing for February will be to Cow Creek for winter steelhead. The outing will be led by Dave Grosjacques, and will be on Friday and Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 7:45 AM both days at Glendale High School for a short session on where

and how we will be fishing. From there we will drive to West Fork Bridge for a group photograph before we start fishing. PLEASE let Dave know if you plan on attending this outing. The part of the stream we will be fishing will rise and get muddy very quickly if we get a heavy rainstorm. If that happens Dave must get in touch with you by email or phone to let you know that the outing will be postponed.

This will be the 8<sup>th</sup> year the SOFF has done this outing. We have had one outing rained out in that time, another one postponed due to low water and a third had to be adjusted due to a series of landslides that closed Cow Creek road! Cow Creek is a large tributary of the South Umpqua River. It runs into

the South just downstream from Canyonville. Our access will be through Glendale and downstream to the West

Fork Cow Creek Bridge, which is about a twenty minute drive. The stream is about the size of the Applegate River, and we will be fishing from the bank. Cow Creek Road follows it from the upper deadline at Middle Creek

Bridge all the way down to the town of Riddle.

Cow Creek opens for winter steelhead in December and is open until the end of April. The upper deadline for fishing is the Middle Creek Bridge, which is just upstream from West Fork. The fish are all wild, and it is catch and release only. Spey rods and single-hand rods in sizes 6 through 8 will work fine. The fish are large, so 1X and 0X tippets are needed. A variety of dark and light-colored steelhead flies, both weighted and non-weighted, have been successful for us in the past. Club members who have fished this outing before are encouraged to attend and bring your favorite flies to show and share. A map of access spots and good places to fish will be handed out the day of the outing.

You can sign up on the clipboard at the January 19<sup>th</sup> general meeting at Taprock Restaurant. You can also send Dave an email and give him your contact information and what days you plan to fish. LET'S GO FISHING!



John Storfolds displays a nice steelhead he took on a prior Cow Creek outing.

## Thank You

By Jan Knapik

### 2016 Donation to Casting for Recovery

A special "Thank You" goes out to all that bought raffle tickets at the December General Meeting.

We raised \$615 which has been donated to Southern Oregon's Casting for Recovery Program.

For some of you that don't know what Casting for Recovery is, it is a weekend long program that introduces breast cancer survivors to fly fishing which is an ideal physical therapy for exercising the joints and soft tissues affected by treatment and surgery.

Joe and I have had the pleasure of serving as "river helpers" for the last couple of years and we can attest to how appreciative and excited the ladies are to be introduced to fly fishing. As one participant is quoted in the CFR's letter of appreciation says, "...helped me forge a new, more invigorated part of me that was beyond my imagining." So again, THANK YOU!

## Club Member Passes

It is with great sorrow, that I announce the passing of long time club member Don Sortwell on January 2nd.

According to daughter, Beth Mortonson, Don loved the SOFF meetings and dinners as well as all the friends that he made there.

Per Ms. Mortonson, there were no services held; however, the family is planning a memorial service for July 20th, which was Don's birthday. See later editions for additional details.

For the club and myself let me close with this thought:

May Don always have a gentle breeze at his back, a warm sun on his face and the right fly for all the heavenly streams.

Tight lines old friend.

## 2017 Outings

Feb 10-11	Cow Creek
Mar 18	Applegate Steelhead
Apr 22	TBA
May 6	TBA
Jun 1-4	Lemolo Lake
June 23-25	Cascade Lakes
Jul 29-30	Umpqua Bass
Aug 19-20	Lower Rogue Half-pounders.



# FLY TYING CORNER

## Grey Goose Midge Emerger



- Hook:** #10- 14 Scud Hook, TMC 2487, Daiichi 1130, TMC 403BLJ, Unpqua U202, TMC 2488, Dai-Riki 125, Dai-Riki 135.
- Thread:** Black 8/0 or Equi..
- Rib:** Fine Silver Wire..
- Body:** Canada Goose Wing Fibers (Herl) or Similar.
- Wing Case:** Same as Body.
- Thorax:** Peacock Herl.
- Head:** Whip Finish and Head Cement..

This month I am tying a fly from those required for the IFFF Fly Tying Skills Award Program. For those that may not be familiar with the IFFF Fly Tying Skills Award Program, it is outlined on the IFFF website [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org). The information I am about to share with you can be found on their website and All the information is free to download.

The program has great basic instructions and videos on how to tie all these flies and many useful tips for tying in general, such as material, tools, tying practices and how to proportion flies etc. Even if you are just a little curious I encourage you to visit the website, checkout the instructions, and watch the videos at [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org). Click on fly tying and the door is open to challenge you to improve your fly tying skills. No matter what your current skill level is, I am sure you will as did I, learn a few new tricks.

You will find out that to get the certification there is a nominal fee to send your flies in for evaluation. These charges are to cover the administrative cost of running the program. Think of the different awards, Bronze, Silver, and Gold as kind of like getting a merit badge. Be proud of your tying skills.

You may ask why an IFFF Fly Tying Skills Award Program? The IFFF Fly Tying Group exists to preserve, enhance and support the art of fly tying. Our focus generally is two-fold: sharing of information and teaching so that more people may take an interest in our craft and become more knowledgeable and accomplished tiers. The purpose of the FTG is as follows: "The FTG is dedicated to the preservation, enhancement and support of the art of fly tying as a historic element of the fly-fishing experience. Archiving of historic documents, development of educational and instructional materials, teaching and demonstration are fundamental to perpetuating the art of fly tying for anglers who fish with the artificial fly." For individuals to improve as tiers, they need to be able to measure their progress. The IFFF Fly Tying Skills Awards Program provides IFFF members with the opportunity to develop or reinforce their fly tying skills and test their progress against a consistent, standard at three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

For step by step instruction in tying this fly go to [www.fedflyfisher.org](http://www.fedflyfisher.org).

**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

- 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.
- 3-7 Board Meeting
- 3-10-11 Albany Fly Fishing Expo.
- 3-14 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 3-16 Club Meeting with John Kraft.
- 3-18 Club Outing - Applegate Steelhead.

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

\$5 annual Invasive Species Program permit users of boats over 10 feet long must purchase to fund efforts to keep aquatic invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels out of Oregon waterways and control those already here.

Under the proposal, anyone 14 or older would have to carry both permits when operating any non-motorized boat. Companion bill HB 2321 seeks to remove the AIS exemption for non-motorized boats less than 10 feet long.

The Marine Board said non-motorized boat activity now equals or exceeds motorized activity, and non-motorized boaters account for, on average, half of Oregon's annual boating fatalities, the agency said.

The Marine Board estimates there are about 110,000 unlicensed, non-motorized boats in Oregon, along with 155,629 licensed boats.

Some owners of non-motorized boats have told the Marine Board they would accept modest fees if they see results on the water from it, Marine Board spokeswoman Ashley Massey said.

"It's really about meeting the needs they told us they had," Massey said.

The 2015 Oregon Legislature told

the Marine Board to come up with a program addressing non-motorized boats. The agency formed a public advisory committee whose suggestions led to development of the proposal, Massey said.

"In our committee, they understand that in order to play, they have to pay, too," Massey said.

One of those on the committee was Eric Weiseth, managing partner of Orange Torpedo Trips, a rafting and outfitting company in Merlin.

Weiseth said he realizes that covering at least some of the costs of Marine Board programs makes sense.

"I use boat ramps all the time," Weiseth said. "Nobody's for having another thing to buy. But it does make sense to me to help pay for what we use."

The Marine Board estimates that the fees would generate about \$2.17 million over the next two years.

The proposal calls for two full-time employees and one part-timer, and the program would have a biennial cost of \$1.87 million. The excess money, Massey said, would be available as grants.

HB 2320 currently does not have a legislative sponsor, Massey said.

The bill would also, for the first time, define and regulate for safety those using inner tubes, floating mattresses and other pool toys when floating Oregon's rivers and streams.

The term "non-motorized craft" would be used to describe items not defined as a boat and not propelled by equipment such as oars, yet still capable of supporting a person on the water, according to the Marine Board.

Anyone floating a river or stream on a non-motorized craft would be required to wear a life jacket, according to the bill's draft.

However, that designation and requirement would not abolish those floaters' exemption from rules banning the operation of a boat while under the influence of intoxicants, Massey said.

Massey said the committee dis-

cussed expanding the BUUI rules for non-motorized crafts but opted against it."

Right now the proposed fee is fairly low - \$30 over 2 years, which includes the new \$20 fee plus \$10 for the annual Invasive Species Program. Since the majority of the boats fly fisherman use are pontoon boats or float tubes which are generally under 10 feet, we have been exempted, but no longer, as there is a companion bill that seeks to remove the exemption for non-motorized boats less than 10 feet long. That means that you and I and all fly fisherman that use some type of floating device are going to be subject to these new fees.

Also, what is going to happen to the money that is collected? If you noted in the Mail Tribune's article, out of an anticipated revenue of 2.17 million, 1.87 million would be the cost to administer the program. Seems like a lot of money for 2 full-time and one part-time employees! The remaining \$300,000 would be used for some type of grant program.

If it isn't already too late, I would certainly suggest writing to your state representatives asking them that they not vote for HB 2320 and positively not vote for the companion bill HB 2321, which would eliminate the exemption for non-motorized boats of less than 10 feet long.

Just remember this; the fee is nothing more than a 'cash cow' to be raised whenever there is a need for more money for the state. Kill it now or be subject to it forever.





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## Editor's Notebook

Several months ago, either the beginning of last year or the end of the year before, I wrote an article indicating that the Oregon State Marine Board was having scoping hearings regarding the requiring of new fees for all non-motorized boaters. At that time I gave a list of scoping hearings and also recommended the writing of letters and emails to make your feelings known as to the establishment of new fees for non-motorized boating.

I will admit that I didn't attend any of those meetings myself; however, I did email my thoughts about the establishing of fees for non-motorized boaters.

As usual, these scoping meetings are nothing more than an exercise to gauge the negative feelings of their proposal, which in all likelihood is already 'a done deal'. And so it was, as evidenced by a piece in the Medford

Tribune indicating that the Oregon State Marine Board will be asking the Oregon legislature to create and fund a new non-motorized boating program to assess fees to the non-motorized boating public.

To better understand what the Oregon State Marine Board is asking for, I've included the Mail Tribune piece by Mark Freeman.

"Driftboaters, kayakers, sailors and others running boats without motors may soon - for the first time - start paying toward their playing on Oregon's public waterways.

The Oregon State Marine Board will ask the Oregon Legislature to create and fund a new non-motorized boating program that would help pay for upkeep of boat ramps, other facilities and marine patrol programs heretofore paid largely by fees charged to

motorized boaters.

The program would also offer grants to public agencies to buy, build, expand or renovate facilities for non-motorized boats as the Marine Board currently does through its facilities program. Money also would be available to put marine patrols on waterways heavily used by non-motorized boats and fund removal of navigational hazards such as "strainer" trees dangerous to the summer flotilla on the upper Rogue River.

House Bill 2320 would authorize the program and establish fees for transferable permits boaters would have to carry when rowing or sailing their boats.

A one-week permit would cost \$4, an annual permit would cost \$12, and a two-year permit would cost \$20.

This would be in addition to the

**Continued on Pg. 7**