

# SOFF News

Vol. 24 No. 7 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

July, 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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**So. Oregon Fly Fishers and guests enjoyed the yearly outing at Lava Lake. Weather was great, fishing good, and camaraderie was outstanding.**



Sue Keeling proudly displays a fine rainbow that she took at Craine Prairie Reservoir while attending the recent annual Lava Lake Club Outing. Sue was co-chairperson of the event.

**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:**

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# FROM THE BOARD



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Dave Grosjacques

### Dave G's Outings

In this month's column I will spotlight the three club outings I have led in the past several years. There have been good and so-so success rates on all three of these outings. The success of a club outing for some does depend on numbers of fish caught. For others the experience of fishing a new location, getting to know members of the club a bit better and having a good time around a campfire make an outing successful. Outings chair David Haight is always open to a new fishing location proposed by a club member. If you know a place that would be a good one for a club outing, contact David.

The first club outing I will discuss is the February trip to Cow Creek for winter steelhead. We had to cancel it this year because of the continuous rain and high water. It was also cancelled another year after a forest fire in the area

made the road unsafe to use because of increased truck traffic due to salvage logging in the burned area. We usually do this outing on a Friday and Saturday to give club members a better chance to attend. Some members

go both days and fish different parts of the stream the second day. The section of Cow Creek we fish is from the upper steelhead deadline at the Middle Creek bridge all the way down to the Doe Creek

bridge. The steelhead are big and the fishing is tough because of the steep terrain. Seven and eight weight rods work well, either single handed or spey.

The spey rods work best because of the limited backcast room and lack of large gravel bars. Fishing with a weighted fly and dropper and a floating line is the method used by most. The best year so far saw 10 fishers from SOFF hook seven steelhead the first day and 3 the second day. There are rumors of a secret map with marked access points, but these rumors cannot be confirmed.

The second outing I have only led twice, the last time in 2011. This outing is to Galesville Reservoir. We have done this one in late March or early April. The 2011

outing saw more than 20 club members in attendance, with a flotilla of float tubes, pontoon boats and larger lake boats. That year we targeted rainbows and coho salmon. The rainbows are planted several times each spring and the coho are put in as excess smolts from the Cow Creek mitigation program operated by Douglas County. Any holdover fish from the previous year can get up to 16 inches or a bit more. The fishing was pretty tough in 2011, with some club members finding several fish and others getting only one or two. An intermediate sink line with a leech-type fly and a smaller fly as a dropper worked well.

The third outing I have led for

**Continued on Pg. 3**



President Dave watching over some of the attendees at his annual Lemolo Reservoir outing.



President Dave giving last minute directions to a group of club members at a Cow Creek outing.

**ATTENTION!**  
**Board Meeting**  
**The Board of Directors meet in the conference room of the Tap Rock Restaurant**  
**The next meeting is scheduled:**  
**June 11th at 6:00pm or the first Tuesday of the month**  
**All members welcome**

# PROGRAMS

## Future Programs

Jul 20	No Meeting
Aug 17	No Meeting
Sep 19	Spey Clave
Oct 17	John Shewey
Nov 11	Annual Club Auction
Dec 19	Mark Bachmann
Jan 18	TBA
Feb 20	TBA

### WHEN:

July 22, 2017



### TIMES:

6:00 PM  
Social Hour  
7:00 PM  
Dinner

### WHERE:

Schmidt Vineyards  
330 Kubli Rd, G.P.



## Annual Wine Dinner



Club members enjoying themselves at previous wine dinners.

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

several years is to Lemolo Reservoir in late May and early June. This year was the eighth time we have done this one. One year it snowed off and on the first two days and only two members showed up! In 2016 a moist and warm spring made the mosquitoes a bit more of a problem than usual. Most years, however, club members who come up to the lake have a good time camping and fishing. Float tubes and pontoon boats work well on the lake if you get in the right place. The wind from mid-day until early evening can be a problem. An intermediate sink line works best, with an assortment of flies producing results. The fish are rainbows and brown trout, ranging in size from 11 or 12 inches up to 17 or 18 inches. This year we had seven club members attend the outing, with Nick Merrill, John Smith and Greg Carratt all getting at least one holdover fish in the 17 inch range. Yours truly fished with Kevin O'Malley from a lake boat, wind drifting with intermediate sink lines and a small, black fly. Two of the mornings we fished we caught enough fish each that we lost count! Only one in four was a brown trout this year. Some years this ratio is maybe one brown for every two rainbows.

In hosting these outings the past 8 or 9 years I have seen club members attend for different reasons. Some want to try a new spot or fishing technique. Others want to go back to a place where they have caught fish,

Continued on Pg. 5

# CASTING ABOUT

## A Review of The Biomechanics of Distance Casting

by G.T Moran & A.R. Kyte (1992)

### Part 2: Differences in the Back Cast Between the Elite and Good Casters John MacDiarmid

Last month I reviewed the set up of this casting study. Twenty very good casters were brought into the Gym at U. C. Berkeley and cast while the cameras were rolling. All casters used the same 7wt. rod and line and they all held the line at the same place with their line hand so the same amount of line was aerialized. They then shot line on their distance cast. One half the casters with a mean average casting distance of 80 feet were called the Elite Casters and the other half with a mean distance of 71 feet were called the Good Casters. The investigators then played back the videos to determine the casting differences of the two groups; this Part 2 will look at the differences in the back cast, next month the forward cast differences will be discussed.

### SMALLER BACK LOOPS

Smaller loops are more aerodynamic than large loops and it is not surprising that the Elite Casters all had smaller loops than most of the Good Casters. A few Good Casters had small back loops. Big loops are a common problem of many casters and it often results from braking the wrist at the end of the back cast, driving the rod tip and line towards the ground. A firm wrist with the rod in a vertical position at the end of the back cast will result in small back cast loops. This is a difficult thing to self diagnose and is best done with a casting buddy or camera. Two apps used by casters are

## Al Kyte's Casting Study

By John MacDiarmid CCI

Coaches Eye and Hudle. Some casters practice casting in upscale horse riding barns with wall mirrors!

### STRAIGHTENED LINE IN BACKCAST

The Elite Casters sent their line straight back with no wobble left or right by the casting hand. This is another diagnosis we can make with a casting buddy. Have the observer stand at the end of your backcast to see if there is any left or right waiver of the line. Some casters have an oval pattern to their casting hand path. Another trick is to cast beside a wall to see if the line and rod are parallel to the building. This is called tracking and it is very important to incorporate this into the cast. Also, it is important to start forward before the line falls below the plane of the forward cast. How many times have you seen an angler tick the water on the back cast? There is a video on You Tube of perennial casting champion Steve Rajeff giving a casting class to the Long Beach Casting Club. He modestly states small loops and straight lines in the back cast are responsible for his casting success.

### ABRUPT STOP

Most of the casters initiated the back cast stop at 10 degrees past vertical. The Elite Casters completed the stop in another 16.6 degrees while the Good Casters required 26.7 degrees to complete the stop. This means the rod tips of the Good Casters ended up in a wider arc (more laid back) that opened the loop more. The loops of the Good Casters were larger than the loops of the Elite Casters. Also this slower stop reduced the spring effect of the rod. It can be compared to letting off of a drawn bow before the arrow is released.

As you can see there are only three

interrelated things Moran and Kyte measured during the back cast. They are not difficult to comprehend or work on for a better cast. All good casters have a good back cast. As Casting Instructor George V. Roberts Jr. says in his casting book, *Master the Cast: Fly Casting In Seven Lessons*(2002), "If you've got no back cast, you've got no cast."

## 2017 Annual Wine Dinner

By Bruce Cochran

Did you mark your calendars? Did you save the date? The much anticipated event of the year is almost here. The annual SOFF wine dinner is just around the corner at Schmidt Family Vineyards 330 Kubli Road Grants Pass, OR 97527 and will take place on **July 22nd starting at 6:00pm**. Dinner will be Tri-tip, Chicken, Summer Salad and Vegetables along with their famous wood fired bread. To start the evening, we will enjoy chips and various dips and finish off the evening with a wonderful dessert. The club, as always, will provide some wine and more is available for purchase. For those of you that do not drink wine, water and ice tea will be available and you can purchase sodas and beer. The cost of the dinner is \$25.00 per person and will be collected at the door just like a regular meeting. The dinner will take place in the Round room (air conditioning) and on the patio adjacent to the gardens.

**Reservations are a must and must be in by Saturday the 15th.**

Unfortunately we will be unable

**Continued on Page 5**

# OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

## July Outing - Smallmouth Bass on the Umpqua River

**A**s fly anglers here in Southwest Oregon, we tend to focus our efforts on trout and steelhead, and for good reason—these are great gamefish. There are, however, a variety of other species in our region that offer wonderful sport on a fly rod. The smallmouth bass is one such species. While smallmouth bass are found in several local reservoirs, many fly fishers particularly enjoy pursuing them in streams, and the Umpqua River offers an excellent opportunity for that. Smallmouth are abundant throughout the Main Umpqua and in the South Umpqua up to Tiller. They are aggressive fish that will readily take a fly, and it is common for anglers to catch dozens of fish in a day. Plus, the fishery is at its best in the summer when the action is slower for many of our other local fisheries.

The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers will host an outing to the Umpqua River on July 29. We will meet at 7:00 AM in the Diamond Home Improvement

Store parking lot, which is on 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Grants Pass near the North I-5 interchange. We will car pool to the Umpqua from there. We will float a section of the main Umpqua, so if you have a driftboat, pontoon boat, or other watercraft suitable for Class 2 rapids, please bring it. If you don't have a boat, we will try to find you a ride, or will provide a map identifying places to fish from the bank.

Smallmouth bass can be found in the pools and backwater areas, and even in the slower riffles. They will take poppers, Clouser minnows, woolly buggers, streamers, and large nymphs. Yellow, white, and olive are generally the best colors. Floating or slow-sinking lines fished on 5 or 6-weight rods are ideal. Be sure to also bring food, water, sun screen, polarized glasses, a hat, and your other usual fishing accessories. If it is hot, you may want to come prepared to get wet.

If you are interested in going, call me at 541-855-9043 or email me at [tm-drhaight@infostructure.net](mailto:tm-drhaight@infostructure.net). Please let me know if you will be bringing a boat, and if you have room for a passenger.



**Dave Haight with a nice smallmouth taken on a previous outing.**

**President's Message Cont. From Pg. 3**  
using their own tried and true method. Still others want to get in on the social aspect and hear the local, detailed and specific "fish talk". All of these reasons are good ones. I always say that it is a lot of fun to go fishing, but it's even more fun to go fishing with friends!

### **Wine Dinner Continued from Pg. 4**

to accommodate those that do not have reservations so please make sure you get them in. If you are reading this article on line don't delay and click on this link to make your reservations now [info@SOFF.org](mailto:info@SOFF.org).

## Photo Potpourri



**Adam Hooper with a nice bass taken while fishing with Dave Haight at the Copeland Pond Outing.**

### 2017 Outings

Jul 29-30	Umpqua Bass
Aug 19-20	Lower Rogue Half-pounders.
Sept. 16	Klamath Basin Trout.
Oct 21	Middle Rogue Steelhead.
Nov 4	Fish Lake Tiger Trout
Jan 1	Holy Water Chili Feed

### David Haight, Outings Chair



# FLY TYING CORNER

## Black Prince



- Hook:** Nymph Hook #6-18 (The one picture is an #8).
- Thread:** Black 6/0 or 8/0.
- Tail:** Black Goose Biot.
- Body:** Black Dubbing.
- Ribbing:** Medium Copper Wire.
- Wing:** Black Goose Biot.
- Weight:** Copper Bead (Size Appropriate to Hook Size).
- Legs:** Copper Crystal Flash.

### Tying Instructions:

**P**inch the barb on the hook and slide on the bead. Dress the hook with the thread back to the top of the bend of the hook just above where the barb was. Tie in the tail with two black goose biots long enough to extend beyond the end of the hook by approximately ¼ inch. Tie in your wire just in front of the tail. Dub the body all the way to the bead tapering up to the bead. Spiral wrap the wire up just behind the bead with 4 to 5 wraps to form a segmented body and secure. Now tie in 2 goose biot wings and secure behind the bead. Tie in the legs just under the wing with about 8 strands of copper crystal flash. Whip finish and lets go fishing. Head cement optional.

I was fishing on the Rogue during the Agness outing and one of the Rogue Fly Fishers gave me this fly while we were on the river. It was one he had caught a couple of half pounders on. I have to apologize for not remembering his name but it looked like a great variation of the prince nymph. I will have to give him credit when I see him. Unfortunately he had better luck than I did. I still think it is an effective fly yet simple fly to tie.

**Tight Lines.**  
**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

6-11	Board Meeting
7-20	No Club Meeting
7-22	Annual Wine Dinner - Schmidt Winery.
7-29-30	Club Outing - Umpqua Bass.
8-1	Board Meeting.
8-17	No Club Meeting
8-19-20	Club Outing- Lower Rogue Halfpounders.
9-5	Board Meeting
9-12	SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
9-16	Club Outing - Klamath Trout
9.21	Club Meeting - TBO

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

any worse for wear and tear as a result of the incident.

Now we come back to this year. As we all know the Sierra's received a record snowfall this year and a good portion of that was late. So it was no surprise that Hot Creek was flowing like some out of control raging river.

I swear that this normally placid creek had class 5 rapids on it. Not only the speed of the flow, but the volume of the flow was so great that the creek overflowed its banks particularly in the bends of the creek causing swamp like conditions with mud pits that hungrily sucked in the boots and shoes of the unwary.

I knew that I was in for a rough

ride when the ranch manager made his usual welcoming visit as I moved into my cabin. After exchanging pleasantries, I asked the most important question – how's the fishing? The manager's response – you might want to try any place but here! Since my son and I had been coming here for 38 years, I was not about give up that easy. I was here for my annual pilgrimage and by gosh I was going to fish it.

Normally, the rules when fishing this creek is dry flies only, but because the stream conditions were so abominable, sub-surfaced flies have been allowed. Even with this boon, to get a nymph anywhere near the bottom would have required a small anchor. As far as dry flies went there was absolutely no way to avoid drag, in fact the swift water caused instantaneous drag the moment the fly touched the water.

After a day and a half trying and an afternoon thunder storm, I threw in the towel. Not

only did I not get a rise to a dry or a bump on a nymph or streamer, I didn't see a fish rise or for that matter or see or spook a fish. As far as I was concerned

there were no fish in that creek. This was strange considering that the stream, normally known for its own reproduction, required a boost by way of a special planting last year. The only problem was that the biologists that planted the trout in the off season lost them and were unable to locate them. There supposition was that the high flows pushed them down to the Owens River and

subsequently to Crowley Lake thereby leaving me high and dry as to speak to benefit from the planted fish.

What did I do the rest of the time I was there? As I see my son generally once a year, I spent the time talking and interacting with him as well as checking out some other waters. Every stream that I observed was in the same condition - they were running high and dirty. In fact several of the streams had formed small lakes caused by overflowing their banks. The only bright spot was the lakes in the area, those that were ice free were fishing well if you had some type of floating device. Oh, well I'll throw in a 'belly boat' next year.

As far as the trip itself, this was the first time in all the years that I have been fishing Hot Creek Ranch that I was ever 'skunked'. Not even a rise, a strike or bump to slave my piscatorial spirits. I guess that why it's called fishing and not catching.

Considering what I caught, I can't help but thinking about what it would have been like had I attended the Lava Lake outing and fished some of those Cascade lakes.

## Photo Potpourri



**My son Duane Jr. with a nice rainbow taken when Hot Creek was still producing fish.**



**Greg Carratt with a nice 17" rainbow he landed on a B/H Woolly Bugger at the last Lemolo Lake Outing.**



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## Editor's Notebook

**J**ust heard back from Jerry and Sue Keeling and they indicated that the recently concluded Lava Lake outing was super with great weather and good fishing for the 18 members that attended the outing. Look for a detailed accounting in next month's newsletter.

It's too bad that I wasn't in attendance; at least I might have caught some fish! As some of you know, I always have a conflict with the Lava Lake outing in that it coincides with a long held reservation that I have with a fly fishing ranch out Mammoth California. In fact this last time that I was there marked the 38<sup>th</sup> year that my son and I have fished the waters of Hot Creek.

Up to about 4-5 years ago, it was

nothing to land 25 or more 14 -16 inch rainbows on dry flies. Then came the drought! Each of the past years has not only witnessed a decrease in the size of



**A nice brown from a previous Hot Creek adventure**

the fish, but also in the number. Where 14 -16 inch fish with an occasional 18 inch or bigger was the norm, over the

past 5 years the fish plummeted in size to where last year a 4 to 5 inch was a big one and there were darn few of those. I digress here a bit recalling one of those monster 4 inchers that I caught. I never saw the fish take the dry and only saw it while the poor beast was hurtling backwards as the result of my backcast. I felt so guilty about airlifting the trout that I dropped my rod and rushed over to save the little guy. How that fish could take the size 16 fly to begin with then tenaciously hold onto it was truly amazing. With the fly finally removed from the fish's jaw, I rushed it back to the water and gave it a great deal of resuscitation. Only when it begin to swim away on its own did I feel better and hoped that the fish would not be

**Continued on Pg. 7**