

SOFF News

Vol. 24 No. 8 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc. August, 2017



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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Summer - the time when So. Oregon Fly Fishers spread out to the four winds looking for new places to fish and new fish to catch.



Lucky Leavitt proudly displays a fine rainbow she took on a recent outing to Bailey Creek Lodge in California. Bailey Creek is a private pay to play facility, that has two lakes to fish - one with just gigantic trout and the other with trout, bass and bluegill.

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

SPECIAL MENTION

Rich Hosley:

John Storfold:

Kevin Daniels:

Kevin Reiten:

Sonja Nisson:

David Haight:

Sue Keeling:

Dave Roberts:

Ed/Sandy Michalski:

John Storfold

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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Dave Grosjacques

Packing for a trip: Organized or Confused?

I have packed for overnight fishing and camping trips since I was twelve. Some of these packing jobs were good and some were not. When I was young it was a lot easier. I just packed my trusty non-fly rod and some clothes. Everything else was magically taken care of by my parents. I soon found out that packing for an overnight fishing trip wasn't as easy when I was on my own. I have gotten deep into the Southern Oregon National Forests for a multi-day trip and discovered that I had no silverware of any kind. Another time it was matches. A forty-five minute drive to the nearest store made those mistakes unforgettable.

Packing for such trips is a severe test of mind and body. The payoff is that you will end up at a favorite river or lake and have a good time no matter what the fish count. I have packed too much gear and at other times not enough. I went to Lava Lake for our outing six years ago with my pontoon boat frame, oars and rope. I left the pontoons themselves folded up in my shop. The pontoon boat works so much better if you bring the pontoons along!

I know several SOFF members who have packed and gone on multi-

day fishing trips this spring and summer. I try to imagine how they pack for these great trips. Please, if you have any tips or advice on packing in an efficient and organized manner, let me know. My packing plan will improve. Does anyone use a big, brightly colored, laminated master list? I admire those who have mastered the task of packing for a fly fishing trip. I know of some who use the laminated list and multiple bins with category labels. These people have it dialed in. Packing is easy and enjoyable. This level is what we want to achieve as fish packers. The following are some variations of the fly fishing trip packing types with variable ranges of success:



President Dave apparently forgot to pack his 'fish pump' used to enlarge a 6" fish into an 18" whopper on his latest trip to British Columbia!

The Organized Pack – The person who has mastered this has it figured out. Packing is simple and effective. Rarely is an essential item left at home. The previously mentioned laminated list and labeled bins are a must. This is our goal.

The Hurry Pack – This method is fast and efficient. Time is short. Categories are quickly covered and not rechecked, organization is pretty much non-existent. There is certainly an unacceptable stress level that comes with this one and usually only two or three essential items are forgotten. If you have an RV, open the door and throw stuff in.

You can sort it later.

The Take Everything Pack – This method takes weeks of planning and work. The basic theory is that if you take pretty much all of your camping and fly fishing gear it is almost impossible to forget anything important. The hours needed rival a forty-hour work week, with overtime. The list itself is five pages. I know we have SOFF members who have purchased RVs because they believe in this one. They just put everything in the RV. No need to pack. I know some who have started running a bit short on space, so they traded for a bigger RV.

The Company Pack – This method is necessary when you have company for several days up to and including the day you leave for your fly fishing trip. When you finally arrive at camp you can blame your forgetfulness on the fact that grandchildren were involved. If they are under the age of twelve you are guaranteed to forget multiple items. Avoid the situation by packing for your trip a week ahead of time. No worries, it's done, it's all in a pile in a closet or in the RV.

The Food and Drink Pack – This advanced method is a popular one with members of our great club. It is enjoyable but

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ATTENTION!

Board Meeting

The Board of Directors meet in the conference room of the

Tap Rock Restaurant

The next meeting is scheduled:

Aug 1st at 6:00pm or

the first Tuesday of the month

All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

Aug 17	No Meeting
Sep 19	Spey Clave
Oct 17	John Shewey
Nov 11	Annual Club Auction
Dec 19	Mark Bachmann
Jan 16	TBA
Feb 20	TBA
Mar 20	TBA

WHEN:

Sept. 19, 2017



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.



President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

can be costly at the supermarket and when you weigh yourself when you get home. Setting up the bar and coolers and getting the food prepped ahead of time for gourmet meals is the goal here. Who cares if the fishing isn't fantastic? The menu is. Just don't step on the scales for one month.

There are other methods, some good and some not so good. The big thing is to get out there and go fishing. A good rod, reel and line combination and some favorite flies will complete the packing task. Four-weight or five-weight?..... Floater or intermediate sink?..... Adams, Humpy or Bucktail Caddis?..... Just take them all. Leave everything in the RV.

For Sale

Rockwell Model 14 Band Saw (wood cutting). This is a MADE IN AMERICA version that I bought new in the early 1980's. It has a 6 in. extension making useful for cutting large blocks of wood. It has a 1 hp motor, is mounted on an enclosed stand and comes with the original operators manual. It is in excellent condition. Asking price: \$800.00. Call John Edwards at 541-479-8026.



**No Meeting
In August**



Times are 'a-changing' and so it is for the So. Oregon Fly Fishers! When we return from our annual summer hiatus, we will not only be meeting at a new location, but on a new day of the week.

The new location will be at the Wild River Pub, located at 533 NE F St, Grants Pass, in their meeting room. Due to a conflict with the restaurant, we will no longer be meeting on the third Thursday, but will move up two days to the third Tuesday of the month.

Hopefully, the membership will take these changes in stride and turn out and be as supportive of the club as they were in the past.

CASTING ABOUT

Al Kyte's Casting Study

By John MacDiarmid CCI

A Review of

The Biomechanics of Distance Casting

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

Part 3: Differences in the Forward Cast Between the Elite and Good Casters

Two months ago 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 for a maximum 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; Part 2 last month looked at the backcast differences between the two groups, this third installment discusses differences in the forward cast between the two groups.

ROD LOAD The Elite Casters bent the rod on average 6 degrees more than the Good Casters. There is no surprise here, the Elite Casters cast further, their rods should be bent more. Moran and Kyte concluded this is the most critical variable in casting for distance.

TIMING OF MAXIMUM DEFLECTION All Elite and 2 Good Casters had maximum rod load right before the stop. This resulted in a straight line path of the rod tip. Seven

Good Casters had maximum rod bend a little early and the rod tip did not follow a straight line path. If the tip does not follow a straight line path then the line does not launch and maintain a straight line delivery. Energy is lost with this early loading/unloading.

STROKE LENGTH The Elite Casters had an average casting stroke 6 inches longer than the Good Casters. The stroke length is the total horizontal movement of the rod hand. It is not rotation. The Elites had an average stroke length of 4.8' while the Good had a 4.3' stroke length.

CASTING ARC The casting arc refers to the angle from the stop on the back cast to the stop on the forward cast. It is the total rotation of the rod from the back cast to the forward cast. To maintain the straight line path of the rod tip during the cast, this arc increases as the rod bend increases. Since the Elite Casters bent the rod more than the Good Casters, their casting arcs were greater.

BODY MASS USE Six of the Elites used a pronounced body shift while only one Good Caster used significant body shift.

QUICK, EFFECTIVE LONG HAULS Eight of the Elites and 3 of the Good casters had effective, quick long hauls.

WRIST ADDUCTION The Good Casters rotated their wrist 45 degrees while the Good Casters had a 35 degree wrist rotation.

HARD STOP Some of the Elite Casters were able to stop their forward cast in 1 degree, the group average was 6 percent while the Good Casters took 11 degrees to completely stop the rod.

Moran and Kyte felt like the rod load was the most critical variable between the two groups. Two other critical variables were the timing of the maximum rod deflection, (It needs to be just before the stop.) and the effectiveness of the stop.

SUMMARY AND APPLICATION

In thinking about this information and our recreational casting it is important to remember this study is about distance casting by pros, not recreational casting where we lay a *Callibaetis* merger gently on the lake 30 to 40 feet away. We may use some of the distance casting moves to lay out a long line swinging the fly for steel head in the Rogue or bombing a streamer out on the lake, but we don't rock back and forth and have a stroke length of 4' or more. This is advanced stuff used in competition casting on the grass or casting ponds. Most of us are just trying to make nice loops without tails. However, it is important to note how important it is to develop a straight line path of the rod tip on both the back cast and the forward cast, AND develop a hard stop to sling the line. A soft stop is like pulling back a bow and then letting off a few inches before the arrow is released. A straight line path of the rod tip during the cast will produce a straight line top leg of the loop for greater accuracy and distance for the amount of power in the casting stroke. Almost all of us could improve our delivery with the straight line path of the rod tip and a hard stop.



OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

August Outing - Halfpounders on the Lower Rogue

One of the fish that makes the Rogue such a special river are the halfpounders—12 to 16-inch steelhead that return to the river after spending only a few months in the ocean. The Rogue is one of only a few rivers that support this unique run of young steelhead, which spend the fall and winter in the river before returning to the ocean again prior to their first spawning run. Halfpounders are great game fish. They eagerly take flies and fight like crazy once hooked.

When the fish are in, the action can be fast.

The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers will head to Agness for an outing on August 19 and 20 to fish for these miniature steelhead. We will meet at



Gene La Haie holding a halfpounder he caught during a previous club outing to the Lower Rogue River.

the Cougar Lane Restaurant in Agness (located on the south side of the Rogue River a short distance above the mouth of the Illinois River) for breakfast at 8:00 AM each morning. Those that don't want to eat should arrive by 9:00. After a short discussion about equipment, flies, techniques, and locations; we will head to various access points along the river. There is a lot of good bank access in the Agness area, as well as several good drifts for those with boats.

Agness is about a two-hour drive from Grants Pass over the Bear Camp Road, so it is possible to get an early start and come over just for a day. Be aware, however, that there will be a marked detour on the Agness side of the route. For those that want to spend the night, there are plenty of options. There are Forest Service campgrounds at Quosatanana Creek and Foster Bar, the Agness RV Park (541-247-2813, www.rogueriverrvpark.com) is next door to Cougar Lane, and rooms are available at Cougar Lane (541-247-7233, www.cougarlane.com), as well as several other lodges in the area. A good selection of motels and restaurants are available 28 miles downstream in Gold Beach as well.

A six-weight rod with a floating line

is ideal for halfpounders. Light-weight Spey or switch rods also work great. The traditional way to fish halfpounders is to swing hair-wing steelhead flies through runs and tailouts. Good patterns include Golden Demon, Del Cooper, Skunk, Silver Hilton, Burlap, Brindle Bug, Tiger Paw, Golden Rogue, and Red Ant, all in Size 8 or 10. Nymphing is productive as well, even during the middle of the day. Hare's Ear, Pheasant Tail, Prince Nymph, Copper John, Bloody Mary, Glimmer Nymph, and Flashback Nymph in size 10 or 12 are good choices. Chinook salmon will be in the river as well, so you may also want to bring along a heavier outfit.

If you have never fished for halfpounders, you really should give it a try. They are a lot of fun. For those that are new to fly fishing for steelhead, they offer a great introduction to the sport.

David Haight, Outings Chair

Lava Lake Recap

By Sue and Jerry Keeling

SOFF's Lava Lake/Cascade Lakes 2017 outing was a fun time for all. We started with our Friday morning information meeting. Sonja gave a splendid presentation on fishing Lava Lake. She had a map showing the various hot spots and a box of flies that had shown some promise. John Iding gave some helpful tips on fishing Fall River. We also shared some fishing tips for Crane Prairie and the Deschutes River.

We met Friday evening to share appetizers and fish stories. We met again on Saturday morning for more fishing tips, and then gathered together for the club sponsored dinner at 6:00 pm. The theme was Mexican food,

2017 Outings

Aug 19-20	Lower Rogue Halfpounders.
Sept. 16	Klamath Basin Trout.
Oct 21	Middle Rogue Steelhead.
Nov 4	Fish Lake Tiger Trout
	2018
Jan 1	Holy Water Chili Feed

Continued on Pg 7

FLY TYING CORNER

Caddis Emerger



- Hook:** Size 12 - 16 nymph Hook (This Fly was Tied on a 14).
- Thread:** Black 8/0 or Equivalent.
- Body:** Olive Green Thread Twisted into Three Strands.
- Hackle:** Partridge or Any Other Soft Hackle.
- Collar:** Ostrich Herl.

Tying Instructions:

Pinch the barb and put the hook in the vise. Lay a thread base. I took three strands of olive sewing thread and tied them in along the hook shank and twisted them in a tight rope.

Wrap them back to the barb and forward again to gain a little bulk going forward to the 2/3 hook shank. Tie off the green thread and trim.

Now tie in by the tips your hackle. Ideally you want the hackle to go back to the end of the hook. I stripped off one side to get a sparse hackle with about two turns and tie it off.

Now tie in you Ostrich and make two to three wraps and tie off and whip finish.

I was given the model fly from someone who had great luck on Klamath Lake with this fly when the caddis are hatching.

**Good luck and tight lines.
Tied by: John Storfold**

John Storfold

Fly Tying Chair

541-660-6584

steelyjon@q.com



Membership Form

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

- 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

- 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
- 9-19 Club Meeting - TBO
- 9-23-24 Spey Conclave at Indian Mary Park
- 10-3 Board Meeting
- 10-10 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 11-11 Annual Club Auction

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

at photos and remember a wonderful man. We hope that many of Dave's fly tying and fly fishing friends will be able to attend.



Dave and Cathy receiving their 'Fly Tyers of the Year Award' from the Oregon Council of the Fly Fishers International

If you want to send a card, it can be addressed to Cathy Hamilton at the address listed in the roster. Also per Cathy's request, "In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society in Dave's name".

Dave may you always have a warm sun on your face, a gentle breeze at your back and all the right flies for all of heaven's streams. Tight lines old friend.

Lava Lake Outing Cont. From Pg. 5

and was it delicious. The event was well attended with 18 total attendees including a record number of new members. It is great to see our club healthy and growing. Many fish were caught in the local waters, ranging from small Brookies from Fall River and the Deschutes to large Rainbows and "Cranbows" from Crane Prairie, Lava Lake, etc. Everyone had a good time fishing, visiting, eating and getting to know some new friends.



Jay Prouty recharging his batteries after a hard day of fishing at the Lava Lake Outing.

Next year, the outing will be from Friday, June 22nd through Sunday June 24th. So make your reservations ahead of time as sites fill up very quickly. You can camp at Lava Lake Resort and RV Park (which fills up quickly and takes reservations a year in advance), the Forest Service campgrounds at Lava Lake and Little Lava Lake, and Crane Prairie Resort and RV campground. Each of these campgrounds take early reservations. Some cabin rentals are available in the area (Cultas Lake, Elk Lake, and Twin Lakes, among others). Remember, all meetings take place at Lava Lake Resort and RV Park.

If you have any questions, please give us a call at 541-218-7264 or 541-218-7265.

Hope to see you all next year.

SAVE THE DATE & RESERVE EARLY FOR THE SOFF AUCTION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

GRANTS PASS GOLF CLUB

Before you know it, the steelhead run will be in full swing and it will be time for our annual fund raiser, the SOFF auction. Our committee and volunteers have been hard at work preparing to make this our funnest auction yet!

RESERVE YOUR SEAT(S) EARLY: A terrific buffet dinner, featuring a carving station for Prime Rib, chicken, and vegetarian options will be served, along with wine, and all the fun for \$25.00. You can pay by check or cash at the September and October meetings (we will also have information for mailing checks). Payment is required at the time of reservation.

If you like to sit with your "bidding buddies", your best bet is to sign up in September. Last year, we sold about 2/3 of our seats at that meeting. You can request "group" seating with your payment (8 per table max). Reserve a whole table if you like. Requests will be honored in the order they are received.

The evening will include our silent auction, cup raffle, and oral auction and additional surprises. This year, our auction falls on Veterans Day, giving us an opportunity to honor our veterans in attendance. Invite your friends and be prepared to have a great time!



P.O. Box 1144
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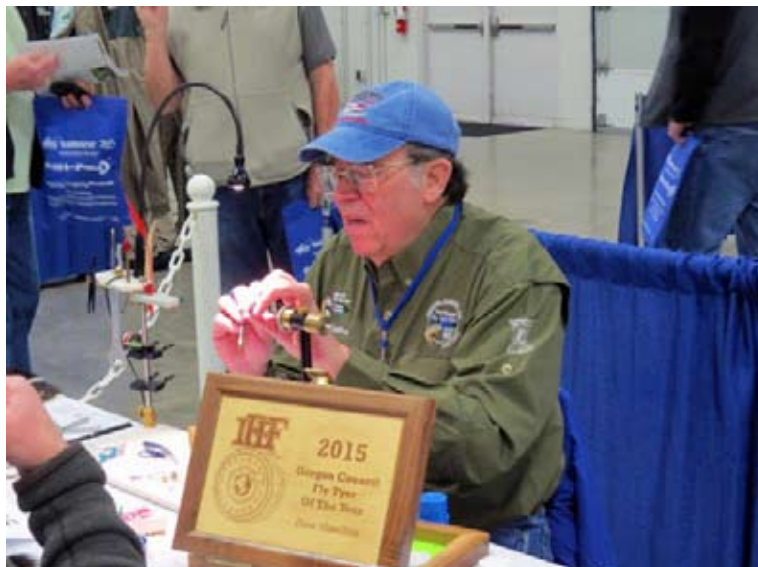
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Editor's Notebook

It is with a sad and heavy heart that I announce the passing of long time club member and master fly tyer, Dave Hamilton on July 21st. Dave, a fly tying fixture, not only could be counted on for fly tying exhibitions for our club, but was readily available where ever other groups needed an outstanding demonstration fly tyer. Dave traveled the western states doing fly tying exhibitions not only for the Fly Fishers International Conclave, but could be counted on to attend state and local events as well. Dave was always quick to answer questions and give advice on any of the flies that he was tying. I can

remember a number of times that he would be tying a fly with white hair in the construction of it, when sud-



Dave Hamilton

denly he would ask where the observer thought that the hair had come from.

After several wrong guesses he would pull out his skunk skin and would show the person that the hair was from the white stripe of the skin.

At the time of his passing, his wife Cathy said that there would not be a service for Dave per se, rather there would be a celebration of his life at a later date. That date has now been set and the 'Celebration of Life' for Dave Hamilton will be on Sunday, August 20th, from 1-4 pm. It will take place in the Evergreen Room of the Taprock Restaurant in Grants Pass. There will not be a formal program – it will be very casual – just 'open house' style, so people can stop in any time

to enjoy some light refreshments, look

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