

# SOFF News

Vol. 24 No. 9 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc. September, 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 who are fishing the Williamson River continue to be rewarded with a big 'rainbow' bonanza.**



**Sharon Morris, while fishing on the Williamson River with her husband Tom and guided by Marlon Rampy, showed the boys 'how its done' when she hooked and landed this monster 28 inch rainbow.**

**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:**

**Kevin Reiten:**

**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

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# FROM THE BOARD



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

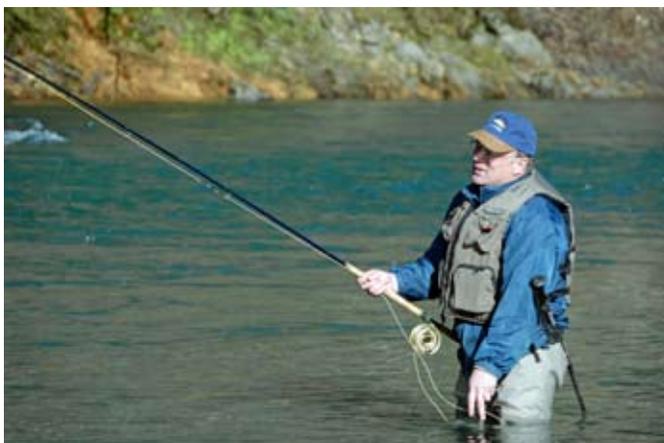
by

Dave Grosjacques

### SOFF Fall

**F**all in Southern Oregon is a time of change. The weather, the fishing opportunities

and the SOFF calendar are changing. Instead of the 90 degree weather and smoky skies we will start to see those beautiful fall days of



Now that summer is over, President Dave unlimbers his spey rod as he pursues the fall run of steelhead.

blue sky and 75 degrees. The July/August lull in fishing will come to an end when the summer steelhead get into the Rogue and the trout in our favorite lakes start to get in a biting mood because of the cooler weather. The students will be back in school and the Saturday college football games and Sunday pro games will start in earnest. I can't wait!

The fall is always a fresh start for our club after the break from regular monthly meetings in July and August. Members who fish for steelhead are getting excited about the fall and winter runs, and those who chase trout in lakes are planning some fall trips to

their favorite spots. New speakers and information on new fishing destinations are in store at our September and October meetings. The SOFF auction and dinner, the biggest and most important event of the year, is coming up on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Then we will top off 2017 with our holiday dinner and club awards night on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

I know that many of our club members went on some great fishing trips this summer. What I want to hear is their stories of beautiful days on the water. Where did they go? What was the fishing like? What flies and presentation techniques worked best? How was the camping and the weather? What species and size were the fish that were caught?

I really believe our fall meetings are the best times for information sharing. The summer experiences are still fresh in one's mind, and we know all fisher-

men like to tell stories. If you want to hear them, make sure you are there for our September 19<sup>th</sup> and October 17<sup>th</sup> general meetings!

The biggest change for SOFF this fall is that we are no longer having our general meetings on Thursdays at the Taprock Event Center or Taprock Restaurant. The Event Center is undergoing a building project that will link it to a new motel. The restaurant cannot give us a room during their peak tourist season. We have enjoyed our time at The Event Center and at Taprock. The staff at both locations has treated us very well and we will miss them. Our search for a new meeting place was not easy. We

considered 8 or 9 locations in Grants Pass, and came to the conclusion that



The new home of the So. Oregon Fly-Fishers.

only one facility would work for our needs. We chose The Pub as our new meeting site. The club has met there before when a change of ownership at the Event Center forced us to move for a year. The Pub has remodeled their meeting room, and it will work just fine for us. It is on F Street, on the right side a block past City Plywood. It is sometimes confused with Wild River Brewing and Pizza, which is almost across the street. I would like to see a big turnout for that first meeting at The Pub on September 19<sup>th</sup>. That day is a Tuesday, which is another change for us. A scheduling conflict forced us to move our meeting day from Thursday to Tuesday. We can tell fish stories on Tuesdays that are just as questionable as the ones we used to tell on Thursdays!

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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:

Sept 5th at 6:00pm or

the first Tuesday of the month

All members welcome

# PROGRAMS

## Future Programs

|        |                     |
|--------|---------------------|
| Oct 17 | Jason Borger        |
| Nov 11 | Annual Club Auction |
| Dec 19 | Mark Bachmann       |
| Jan 16 | TBA                 |
| Feb 20 | TBA                 |
| Mar 20 | TBA                 |
| Apr 17 | Fly Tyers Meeting   |
| May 15 | 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.



Benjamin Paull - Single Hand Spey



I have been fly fishing since I was about 8 years old. I learned from my brothers, who were both avid fly fishers in their day. I'll never forget the magic of the sea run cutthroat streams we used to fish on Vancouver Island. I also honed my skills on Massachusetts bass ponds. From the time I was 13 it was all I could think about, all I wanted to do.

I fished throughout Washington as a high schooler- from the high mountain creeks to the desert lakes of eastern WA.

After college I headed to Alaska to guide at Alaska West on the Kanektok River. There I learned the joys of two handed casting and the swung fly. I ultimately guided there for three seasons, and it was there that I met Ed Ward.

I eventually became the General Manager of Ed's company, OPST. These days I continue to fish avidly, especially with OPST Commando Heads. My concentrations these days are on Puget Sound, Olympic Peninsula steelhead, and many of the fisheries I used to fish as a boy. These days I often fish with my girlfriend, Nancy, who is becoming quite the fly fisher in her own right.

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

So put those dates on your calendar and a reminder under the refrigerator magnet. The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers moves on, regardless of meeting days or venue changes. Plan on being there to see our new meeting room, visit with some old friends and listen to and tell some fly fishing stories. We have had our late summer lull, now it is time to go fly fishing!

## Certified Casting Instructor Workshop

The Fly Fishers International Certified Casting Program is a global program for teaching and certifying fly casting instructors. At present there are approximately 25 instructors (CIs) in Oregon. Some are actively teaching casting and assisting other casters on the path to becoming certified. Others are not active. Once certified, the certification is valid as long as the caster belongs to the Fly Fishers International and pays an annual renewal fee. Jim Wigington a Master Certified Casting Instructor will hold a 1 day workshop on October 14 at the Madrone Hill Mobile Home Park in Central Point. He will be assisted by John MacDiarmid a Certified Casting Instructor. Questions regarding how to get started in the program, how long it usually takes, what is the test like, how much help is there and many other questions will be

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# CASTING ABOUT

**Ashland Fly Shop Presents**

# Rogue On The Fly

**3rd Annual Fly Fishing Celebration on the Rogue**

**September 23-24th**

**Indian Mary Park | Merlin, Oregon**

- Casting Presentations
- Equipment Demos
- Food, Live Music
- Games, Raffle, Prizes

## Presenters

- Ben Paul - OPST
- Eric Neufeld - Winston
- Jon Hazlett - Ashland Fly Shop
- Bruce Berry - Beulah
- Jeff Putnam - JP Fly Fishing
- Charles Gehr - ACR
- Charles St. Pierre - NW Spey Casting

Artwork by James Sampsel



# OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

## September Outing - Big Redband Trout on the Williamson River

Upper Klamath Lake is well known for its trophy-sized redband trout—an inland form of rainbow trout. These trout grow large on a diet of Tui chubs in the lake. Then in the summer and fall, they run up several of the spring-fed rivers and creeks, which flow into the northern end of the lake, to avoid the warm temperatures in the lake and to spawn. This creates an outstanding opportunity to catch some truly impressive trout on a fly. The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers will take advantage of this opportunity during a joint outing with the Rogue Flyfishers to the Williamson River on September 16 and 17.

The Williamson River has limited bank access, so it would be best to bring a driftboat, pontoon boat, or raft. Members can float the river from Chiloquin access to the Waterwheel or Sportsman's ramps. Because the current is generally relatively slow, it is possible to just fish around one of the boat launches and take out at the same place you launched. You can also fish the still-

water section between Sportsman's and the lake with a lake boat.

Most of the fishing will consist of casting, swinging, and retrieving wooly buggers, streamers, or soft hackles. An ideal outfit for the Williamson consists of a six-weight rod, an intermediate line, and a 10 to 12-foot leader with 4X to 5X tippet. In the fall, small

(down to size 14) wooly buggers, seal buggers, and leeches in brown, olive, or black work well. You should also bring a floating line and some weighted nymphs (red Copper Johns are a favorite) for dead-drifting through some of the faster runs.

There are a number of options for people that want to stay a night or two. I plan to spend Friday and Saturday nights at the Sportsman's River Retreat (541-783-3857, [www.sportsmansriver-retreat.com](http://www.sportsmansriver-retreat.com)), which is located on the bank of the Williamson River just above Modoc Point Road. They have RV sites, tent sites, and cabins. They also offer vehicle shuttles. Other options include the Waterwheel RV Park (541-783-2738,

[www.waterwheelrvpark.com](http://www.waterwheelrvpark.com)), Melita's Motel and RV Park, and Collier State Park. The Lonesome Duck Resort ([www.lonesomeduck.com](http://www.lonesomeduck.com)), located on the Williamson River upstream from Hwy 97, offers upscale cabins and guide services.

People that come over Friday evening can look

for me at the Sportsman's River Retreat. Otherwise, we will meet at the Chiloquin access, on Hwy 422 south of Chiloquin at 9:00 AM on Saturday. I plan to float from Chiloquin to Sportsman's and suggest others do the same; however, as mentioned above, there are other options.

The Klamath Basin in general and the Williamson River in particular offer some of the best trout fishing you will find anywhere. If you have not fished there, come give it a try. Even if you have, come join your fellow club members for a fun outing. If you are interested in going, please call or email me prior to the outing so we can figure some of the logistics ahead of time.

**David Haight, Outings Chair**  
**541-855-9043, [tmdrhaight@infostructure.net](mailto:tmdrhaight@infostructure.net)**



**Not to be out done by his wife, Dave Haight comes back with a nice Williamson River trout of his own.**



**Tanya Haight with a nice Williamson River rainbow**

### 2017 Outings

|             |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Sept 16-17  | Klamath Basin Trout.    |
| Oct 21      | Middle Rogue Steelhead. |
| Nov 4       | Fish Lake Tiger Trout   |
| <b>2018</b> |                         |
| Jan 1       | Holy Water Chili Feed   |
| Jan 20      | TBA                     |
| Feb 17      | TBA                     |



# FLY TYING CORNER

## Hoh Bo Spey Variant



- Hook:** (1) Leading Hook: Mustad SL53U. Size 2, Long Shank.  
 (2) Trailer Hook: Owner SSW, Size 2-4, Red or Black.  
 Note: Link with 30# Backing Material or Dacron.
- Thread:** Black 6/0.
- Rib:** Small Silver Flat Tinsel.
- Body:** Rear 1/4 = Red Dubbing, Middle 1/2 Black Dubbing, Front 1/4 Black Estaz.
- Collar:** Black Marabou, Natural Turkey, Red Schlappen, Natural Guinea Feather.

### Tying Instructions:

Pinch barbs of both hooks, secure long shank hook in vise. Make a loop of Dacron, and push it through the eye of smaller, trailing hook and wrap around the shank of the long shank leading hook pulling trailer-style hook to desired length and secure with your thread, and trim the tag. Apply Zap-A-Gap to reinforce bond between long hook shank and dacron. Let dry.

Wind thread back, even to hook point. Create a dubbing loop. Insert loose red dubbing, wrap to the butt 1/4 of fly to form the tag. Pick out to desired "bugginess." In front of the tag, secure flat tinsel. Then, make another dubbing loop with the black dubbing and wind forward for the next 1/2 shank, keeping it tight to the hook, leaving room for the 1/4 shank of black estaz. Rib with 4-5 turns of tinsel. Now add 2-3 wraps of estaz in front of dubbing and secure. Proceed with the collar, wrapping 2-3 turns of marabou, hackle style, tied tip first, followed by 1 turn of turkey (again tied tip first), 1-2 turns of schlappen and finish with a turn of natural guinea feather. End by creating small head and whip finish. Cement head if you like.

Now take a sturdy pair of wire cutters and remove hook just behind the dubbing ball. Apply small drop of Zap-A-Gap to end of hook shank.

Note: This is a pattern recently popularized by Charles St. Pierre with modifications that seem to fit my tying style. It

Continued on Pg. 7

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

- 9-5 Board Meeting
- 9-12 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 9-16-17 Club Outing - Klamath Trout
- 9-19 Club Meeting - with Ben Paull
- 9-23-24 Rogue on the Fly at Indian Mary Park.
- 10-3 Board Meeting
- 10-10 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 10-17 Club Meeting - with Jason Borger.
- 11-11 Annual Club Auction

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

fire caused the destruction of 107,000 acres of brush and timber at last count, but the effects on the wild life and the fishery will be felt for years to come. Let's hope that the weather will change and bring much needed rain and drown this behemoth of a fire out.

Lastly, I want to offer my deepest condolences to Ed Morphis on the recent passing of his wife Dolores. The passing of one's spouse even if anticipated due long term illness is as traumatic to the surviving spouse as if it was the result of a sudden occurrence. The death of one's mate can never be healed, it can be made easier by time, but the scar will always remain. Ed take heart in the knowledge that Dolores has escaped the bounds of her illness and now resides in a better place.

### Hoh Bo Spey Cont. From Pg. 6

fishes well on a sink tip and has beautiful and natural movement swinging through your favorite local run.

**Fly Tied By: Devn T. Brown**

## SOFF AUCTION

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

This year's auction committee, our club members, and the community have been hard at work to make for our annual fund raiser auction a great one. We have something for everyone! This year's auction promises to be lots of fun, so plan to be there. Better yet, plan to bring a friend or two. The Date: Saturday November 11th at Grants Pass Golf Club. Our club members and local businesses have contributed terrific items for our silent auction, cup raffle, and oral auction. Plus, we are still accepting donations! Our sole fundraiser this year's event will be more fun than ever with dinner, a glass of wine and auction event all for \$25. The buffet will include a carving station for Prime Rib, a chicken selection, and vegetarian options. Grants Pass Golf Club has a reputation for excellent food and service and we are excited to have this venue. Reservations are required and seats can be reserved at the September meeting. Reservation requests will be taken at the meeting and seating preferences will be on a "first come" basis. We accept checks or cash for reservations. If you cannot make it to the meeting, you can mail in your reservation request to the SOFF PO Box- include the names of those at your table, phone contact number, and a check for \$25 per person. Due to high volume of reservations last year, we will have 4 volunteers taking reservations during the "wet fly" at the meeting. (Last year, about 2/3 of seats available were reserved at the September meeting.)

You can also bring donations to the meeting or have them picked up. Fly rods and reels, fly fishing accessories, fly tying equipment and materias, dry bags, reel cases, flies, gift items and cards, wines, gift baskets, and miscellaneous items you would buy yourself

are always good sellers. Due to space limitations and lack of interest at previous auctions, we are not accepting used waders or clothes, boots, kitchen ware, used household items, used books or artwork for the auction.

Make those reservations early! See you at the auction.

**Sonja Nisson, 2017 Auction Chair.**

### Casting Cont. From Pg. 3

answered. We will perform some of the casting tasks on the test. Bring your fly rod. There will be a \$50 fee, RSVP John at [johnmmacdiarmid@gmail.com](mailto:johnmmacdiarmid@gmail.com) or 541-840-0183.

## For Sale

10' custom-welded pram complete with trailer, cover and front/rear anchor brackets. Also included- oars, anchors, Minn Kota electric motor and battery. Excellent condition. \$1650 Call Rich Hosley, 541-218-6684

## Death Announcement

It is with great sadness, that I announce the passing of Dolores Morphis, wife of longtime club member Ed Morphis. Mrs. Morphis passed away on August 28<sup>th</sup>, after a lengthy illness. At this time, there are no scheduled services, but Ed has indicated that there may be a memorial gathering at a later date. Ed has also asked that the membership refrain from any calls at this time.





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## Editor's Notebook

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

Since the first of the year, the board has worked tirelessly to find a new meeting location ever since the Event Center was closed and we were forced to move; however, due to a lack of viable meeting locations the task proved to be very difficult.

After investigating several possible locations, the board finally settled on our new venue which will be in their meeting room of the Wild River Pub, located at 533 NE F St, Grants Pass,. Unfortunately, due to a conflict

with the restaurant's other tenants, we will no longer be meeting on the third Thursday, but will move up two days



SOFF's new home beginning in September.

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 have always been in the past.

I don't know about you guys, but the smoke from the various fires is becoming overbearing. I can't go outside without getting a big dose of wood smoke with all its particulates. I was all set to see the eclipse the other day, but because of the heavy smoke cover, I could hardly see the sun let alone what it was doing.

I think about Chetco Bar Fire which is particularly vexing as it didn't need to become the conflagration that it has become. In the beginning, when first observed it was merely a half an acre, but a decision to let it burn itself out turned around and bit the powers to be right in the butt. Not only has the

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