

# SOFF News

Vol. 24 No. 12 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc. December, 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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E-Mail: [dchebul@centurylink.net](mailto:dchebul@centurylink.net)

**If it is late fall or early winter, then it must be time for SOFF's to start thinking about the salmon and steelhead that return to our local streams.**



On a recent trip to the Chetco River, Paul Renaud was able to induce this fine king salmon to take his fly. Paul said that when the club had Ben Paull from OPST present a program on a new line system for single spey, it impressed him, he purchased it and used it for taking this king salmon.

**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:**  
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# FROM THE BOARD



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Dave Grosjacques

Winter is here and Christmas and New Year's Day are just a few weeks away. That means family, friends and fun for many Southern Oregon Fly Fishers. With some broad hints, a fly fisher might get a new rod or reel from Santa Claus, or maybe a fishing trip or other fishing equipment under the tree. Sometimes the problem is that the person who wants to give you a fly fishing gift doesn't know quite what type or brand of equipment that you want. That problem is easily solved if the gift giver can secretly contact another club member and get the details on what type and brand would be best. I have been involved with this strategy several times in the past and it works!

With New Year's Day comes lots of football and resolutions for the coming year. Besides the usual vows to lose weight and exercise more often, people vow that they will clean up and organize a particular storage room or garage corner, for example. I would like to hear about some resolutions that relate to fly fishing. I know some of us may have not done this before, so I have come up with a list of possible New Year's resolutions for the fly fisher.

If you are a fly fisher but not a fly tier, take the fly tying class and learn to tie flies. Fly tying is a great hobby that

can be expensive but doesn't have to be. You can borrow an old vise and some tools and materials and get started without spending a lot of money. If you cannot make the fly tying class you can get some lessons from a friend in the club to get you started. Tying flies gives a person a chance to be creative and a tier can take pride in a fly that works. You will not forget the first fish you catch on a fly that you have tied.

Go on a SOFF outing to a place you have never fished. Our outings chair David Haight has a great schedule taking shape for 2018. Take advantage of these outings to learn more about the imitation, presentation and location that will



Some of the club members enjoying the club's Albany reception hosted by Duane and Karyn Chebul.

catch fish in that particular lake or section of the river. There are always some experienced club members on these outings who will gladly give all sorts of advice on how to catch fish. Just don't ask two of them the same question, because you will probably get two very different answers!

Go on a fishing trip with someone from SOFF who you know well but have never fished with. I made this one of my own resolutions a few years ago. It was pretty easy to do and it was a lot of fun. I have gotten to know many of our club members by fishing with them on a club outing. If the outing is far enough away that we are camping out, so much the

better. I always say that you really get to know someone if you go camping with them.

Try fishing for a species of fish that you have not fished for in the past. If you are not a steelhead fisherman, put on your warmest clothes and go out and try it. If you have not fished for bass or crappie with a fly rod, go out and target them on a fishing trip. They are a lot of fun to catch on a light fly rod and if you really get into them the action is continuous. If you have not caught a brown trout, give Lemolo Reservoir a try. If you have not caught a tiger trout, head for Fish Lake. Try a hike-in fishing trip to one of the high lakes to catch some beautiful brook trout. Surf fly fishing is another experience to try. There are club members who will gladly give you advice that will help with any of these endeavors.

If you have never tried casting a spey rod, try it in 2018. Go fishing with a club member who has an extra spey rod and give it a go. Don't worry if you have trouble with all the fancy spey casts. All you have to do to get the fly out in many cases is a simple roll cast. If you do it correctly, the additional length of the spey rod will do the rest. Make sure you have sunglasses, a hat that covers your head and ears

Continued on Pg. 3

**ATTENTION!**  
**Board Meeting**  
**The Board of Directors meet in**  
**the conference room of the**  
**Tap Rock Restaurant**  
**The next meeting is scheduled:**  
**Dec 5th at 6:00pm or**  
**the first Tuesday**  
**of the month**  
**All members welcome**



# PROGRAMS

## Future Programs

Jan 16	Steve Day
Feb 20	Marlon Rampy
Mar 20	TBA
Apr 17	Fly Tyers Meeting
May 15	TBA
Jun 19	TBA
Jul 17	No Meeting
Aug 21	No Meeting

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

and a good, thick vest or jacket so you don't hurt yourself if the fly comes your way instead of out in the river where it is supposed to go.

If you have not been to the Oregon Council's Albany Fly Fishing Expo, GO! In 2018 the Expo will be on Friday and Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be hundreds of fly tiers demonstrating their favorites, as well as clinics and classes relating to all things fly fishing. The SOFF is always well represented at the Expo, and it is a lot of fun talking each other into (or out of) buying a new rod, tying vise, or fishing trip. Duane and Karyn Chebul always put on a SOFF reception on Friday night in the hotel where many of us stay. This event is always well attended and a good time is had by all.

So this is my abbreviated list of possible New Year's resolutions for 2018. Try some of them if it fits your situation. Let's make 2018 a great year for fly fishing and for the SOFF!

## SPECIAL RAFFLE

There will be a special raffle at our January meeting. Participation will be limited to those members who have paid their 2018 membership dues. The winner will receive one of Gary Anderson's custom fly rods. In order to be able to participate, your dues must be paid prior to January 1, 2018. If you mail your check to the club PO box, it must be postmarked January 1 or earlier.

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## WHEN:

Dec. 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.



## Mark Bachmann Fishing the Sandy River



Mark Bachmann grew up fishing in the Lake Pend Oreille drainage in northern Idaho. At the age of 11, he caught his first trout — a 15" native cutthroat — from Grouse Creek, which crossed the family's cattle ranch. At times, this creek was home to migrating Kamloops and Bull trout which fed on Kokanee salmon and grew to huge sizes. This private water was the class room for Mark's formative years.

Having grown up catching large trout from rivers, it was natural for Mark to fall in love with steelhead and salmon when he moved to Oregon in 1963. It was then that he landed his first steelhead from Oregon's North Umpqua River. In 1965, he caught his first winter steelhead with a fly from the Sandy River. He has now fished the Sandy for over 50 years and is one of the steelhead fly fishing pioneers on this river. His best fly rod season on the Sandy was the winter of 1969-70 when he landed 64 steelhead, the largest 42".

The Sandy River is Mark's home water where he fishes 35-40 winter days a year. He spends even more time guiding and fishing summer steelhead on the Deschutes River. Mark started fishing the Deschutes for steelhead in 1967. He became a fly fishing guide there in 1981. Floating camp-out trips are his specialty. Both single and two-handed fly rods are employed with floating and sinking tip fly lines.

When Mark is not guiding or fishing for steelhead, he spends over 100 days fishing in Belize, and nearly as many days exploring both the east and west coastlines of Mexico. Fly fishing continues to provide an avenue to explore and experiment with the natural world that surrounds us. You can never know too much. At an age when many guys are enjoying retirement, I feel I am finally hitting my stride and am continuing to read, practice and study every day. Like every other dedicated fly fisher, I am still learning too.

# CASTING ABOUT

## 2017 Annual Auction Recap

By Sonja Nisson

Those who attended the 2017 SOFF auction made it more fun than ever, all while rais-

ing over \$20,000. This is our sole fund raising event, and, thanks to those who donated, those who volunteered, and those who bid, SOFF will be able to continue to make

our club one of the best! The money raised supports our scholarship fund, public education, tree planting, stream repair, education projects in area middle and high schools and other youth projects related to fly fishing and habitat improvement.

The Grants Pass Golf Club proved to be an ideal location for our party. The dinner, complete with

a Prime Rib carving station, could not be beat! Rogue Oregon Auctioneers

did a fabulous job of making the oral auction a success! We especially thank those merchants, cash donors, guides,

and members who donated—their offerings were the key to our success! Please be sure to support those who support us by both your personal thanks and your patronage.

This year, we changed it up a bit in the silent auction with tables randomly closing at different times, adding some excitement, while addressing our need to clear the tables before starting the

dinner service. Our members and the community came through with the highest quality items to date for the silent auction. Consequently, we made \$1,000 more than any other

year and folks still found some real bargains. Needless to say, the Cup raffle

was a real success—no surprise—the homemade pies were the top ticket getters! Thanks to Karla Peterson, Sue Keeling, and Diane Clark. At the last minute, Jeannie Steed stepped up to help Diana Sheldon run the cup raffle due to Julie's illness, and they did a great job!



Sonja Nisson, auction chair, assisted by Jan Knapik keep an eye on festivities and make sure the auction and other activities run smoothly.



Two of the many tables that were available in the silent auction.



Just part of the large sell out crowd that attended this year's SOFF fund raising auction.



We had something unique this year a mother/daughter auctioneer team.

My appreciation and admiration goes to committee members Bob Stafford, Dave Archambault, Tom Brandes, Dale Heath, Brady Keister, Kevin Reiten, Jan Knapik, Ed Morphis, Diana Sheldon, Julie Rogers, Randy Clark, and John Storfold. A special thanks goes to our designated volunteers whose efforts made for a seamless and stress-free event. In summary, it was a great party! MY THANKS TO ALL- SONJA



# OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

## First of the Year - New Year's Day Chili Feed

**A**s we do every New Year's Day, Southern Oregon Fly Fishers and Rogue Flyfishers will meet at the Holy Water to celebrate the start of a new year and the joy of fly fishing. We will also enjoy hot chili, a warm fire, great company, and hopefully, a beautiful winter day.

We will meet at the picnic shelter near the parking lot on the south side of the Holy Water. The fire should be going by 10 AM, and the chili will be served about noon. There will be opportunities to fish both before and after we eat.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife recently stocked additional trout in the Holy Water, so if conditions are favorable, we should enjoy some good fishing. Swinging or drifting small marabou leeches, woolly bug-

gers, or nymphs along the bottom can be productive during the colder months. If the weather and flows cooperate, we could have a blue-winged olive or midge hatch. If you are going to fish, remember to get your **2018 fishing license**.



**Kevin O'Malley displays a nice rainbow he took at the Holy Water on a previous outing.**

To have a successful chili feed, we need people to bring chili. To that end, we will again have a contest where participants select their favorite pot of chili. Competition has been fierce in recent years. The winner will take home the coveted trophy, and have bragging right for the year. Others can help out by bringing cornbread, salads, desserts, or other items to share. The clubs will provide hot drinks and table service.

celebrating the new year at the Holy Water. Make up a pot of your favorite chili, and come join us!

### David Haight, Outings Chair

#### Raffle continued from Pg. 3

This raffle has been approved by the club's board of directors as motivation for the membership to pay their dues in a timely manner. Unfortunately, we cannot include the fifty-five life members in this raffle. While your commitment to our club is significant and appreciated, we are focusing on those members whose membership status requires a yearly renewal.

Article II, Section 3 of the club's by-laws reads: **All dues shall be due and payable prior to January 1 of each year.**

### Rich Hosley Membership Chair

## Gary Anderson Rod Sale

These are custom built rods above what he builds for the general public. All rods are in excellent condition and come with special built scandi lines.

1. 1327 4 pc. 13'2" in length with 2 tips "scandi" skagit.....\$350.00
2. 1296, 4 pc. 12'6" in length ... \$300.00

3. This is a special set of rods built for me and will be sold as a set with a Harding & Son double rod case for Spey rods. These cases are quality built with Cordova and lined with flannel lining.

1165 5wt 4pc. 11'6" Switch Rod with 2 tips and features gold wire wrapping.

1205 5wt. 4pc. 12" Spey Rod with 2 tips and features silver wire wrapping. Both Rods & Case .....\$700.00

Contact Bob Furry at 541 944-8483 or email him at bobfurry@gmail.com for further information.



**If you don't plan to fish, you can always eat chili, drink coffee, stand by the fire and socialize!**

No matter the weather or how good the fishing, we always have a great time

### 2018 Outings

Jan 1	Holy Water Chili Feed
Jan 13	So. Oregon Coast Steelhead.
Feb 17	TBA
Mar 24	TBA
Apr 21	TBA
May 19	TBA
Jun 23	TBA

# FLY TYING CORNER

## Soft Hackle Flashback Prince Nymph



- Hook:** Size 8-14 Nymph Hook.
- Thread:** Black 6/0.
- Bead Head:** 1/8" Black Bead.
- Weight:** 5/32 Copper Bead.
- Tail:** White Goose Biots.
- Body:** Blended Seal-X Green Lantern and Black Stone UV2 Dubbings.
- Legs/Hackle:** Partridge.
- Flash:** Pearl Tinsel.

### Tying Instructions:

This fly is a spin off the Prince Nymph with a couple twists from the original.

What I did is replaced the body peacock herl with UV2 dubbing and replaced the wing biots with peril flash and added a soft hackle for movement.

Bend the barb down and install your bead with the small hole towards the eye of the hook.

Dress the hook with thread back to the bend of the hook and build up a bump to help separate the biot tail.

Tie in biots.

Dub the body up to just behind the bead.

Take a partridge hackle and strip off the fluff and tie in by the tips and with 2-3 wraps make a collar. Now take two pieces of peril tinsel and tie them in as wings, just as you would if you were tying in biots.

Whip finish and apply head cement and we are ready to go fishing.

This is just an example of taking a standard pattern and making it your own with a few tweaks to the recipe. The prince nymph is one of those flies that works for trout and steelhead.

**Tightlines**  
**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

- 12-5 Board Meeting
- 12-12 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 12-19 Club Meeting with Mark Bachmann.
- 1-1 Club Outing - Holy Water Chili Feed.
- 1-2 Board Meeting.
- 1-9 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 1-10 SOFF Fly Tying Class.
- 1-13 Club Outing - So Oregon Coast Steelhead
- 1-16 Club Meeting with Steve Day.

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

auction committee had to set the tables up on the perimeter of the dining room. This year in order to minimize the congestion that usually ensues as the silent auction winds down, it was decided that each table would close at a random time. This resulted in people bidding in the silent auction had to make their bids higher right away, rather than hovering over the bid items waiting for the auction to close.

Next we had the cup raffle. The cup raffle can be directly attributed to Sonja, from the time she was merely on the committee to the time she was chair of the committee she has advocated for and built the cup raffle into a major production. From its infancy of four or five items to over fifty items at the last auction, she has continued to produce items of interest for one and all from gift baskets, to spa packages, to dinners, she had it all. Another item that was directly attributable to the Sonja was putting home baked pies in the cup raffle and one or two in the oral auction. As usually these pies got great interest from the bidders and those stuffing the cups.

Then there was the dinner. A prime rib and chicken dinner buffet with all the trimmings was enjoyed by one and

all. As from previous articles I have written about our various meals, I was pleased to note that after everyone had gone though the line, there was enough food left to make up a care package for President Dave who was at home recovering from surgery. Everyone I talked to seemed to be pleased with not only with the dinner, but the way it was set up. Once again, Sonja had assigned sitting. When making your reservations, you could specify with whom you wished to be seated with and all the tables were set up in this manner. A new wrinkle this year was the requirement that payment for the dinner was due at the time of your reservation, and so by doing it this way it eliminated that usual bottleneck of waiting in the long line to pay for dinner on the night of the event. Not only that, but it would also assure a more accurate count for all those that would be having dinner.

We also had a new auctioneer handling the bidding. As many you know, our long time auctioneer, Wayne Liska sold his business and retired to Arizona. The new owner of Liska's, now known as Rogue Oregon Auctioneers is Timera Davis and she and her daughter Megan Pratt did an outstanding job in securing the highest bid on every item in the oral auction. They were very likeable and friendly people whose demeanor probable added a few more dollars to each bid.

Now the bottom line: Due to the generosity of both club members and non-members alike, the event grossed over \$22,000 which will go to support the club's activities during the next fiscal year. Conservation issues and scholarships are but a couple of areas that will benefit from these funds.

Also Sonja Nisson makes a request to all those that attended this year. She is requesting feedback for the following information:

Are there any items that were not in this year's auction that you would like to see added in 2018?

Are there any improvements that

can be made to the auction?

Is there any constructive input for next year's auction?

And finally, would you like to join the auction committee or serve as a designated volunteer at next year's auction?

I told you at the very beginning that I might ramble on and I probably did, but the yearly auction is such an important part of what makes our club great, particularly all the work that goes into the production. I hope everyone that see Sonja or one of her committee takes the opportunity to thank them for all their hard work that they do and that they are really appreciated for all they do.

If you weren't able to make the auction this year, it's not too early to start thinking about next year. It will be here again in 11 months. Make your



plans now.

Finally let me wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a joyous and prosperous New Year.







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## Editor's Notebook

**W**hy do I go to California? This is a question I continually ask myself each and every time that I venture south. This year is no exception and the results of the trip just adds fuel to the fire. If it wasn't that I wanted to spend at least one holiday (Thanksgiving) with all my children that lived there, I can see no good reason for going.

It seems that whenever I go there in the spring or summer, I'm alright, but let me go in the late fall or early winter and I come back with the mother of all colds/flu. This year was no exception, so as I write this piece, I am surrounded by a mountain of tissues, vials of drugs, over the counter cold/flu aids and whatever else it takes to mount an assault on the malady that now ravishes my body. So with all of that said, I beg your pardon early on if in my feverish condition

I'll tend to ramble on. Just chock it up to the California syndrome in the bad half of the year.

Just before I left for California, we had our annual SOFF fund raising auction. If you missed it, you missed an exciting event. Sonja Nisson and her auction committee are to be congratulated for the hard work and dedication that went into producing this year's fund raiser.

It all started with the venue. For the years that I have been a member of the club, the auction was always held at the Taprock Event Center. This year we were forced to move and Sonja had to find a new location that first was available for our November date and was large enough to hold all the anticipated members and guests that would be attending. After a short search, it was determined that Grant Pass Country Club would serve the purpose. Was it the perfect place, maybe not, but com-

pared to anything else Grants Pass had to offer it was great.

Once the venue was set, next came the solicitation of items for the raffle. This task is not a short time proposition, but begins almost immediately at the conclusion of the last auction. Each year there are more and more organizations contesting for the limited items from business and industry that they are willing to donate. When you think about it, you certainly can't blame them as they can't continually give away the store just to incur the goodwill of the community. Yet with all that said, come the night of the event Sonja and her committee had the oral and silent auction tables loaded with items of interest for all concerned.

In previous years when we were at the Event Center, we had the backroom to set up for the silent auction, but this year we didn't have that luxury and the

Continued on Pg. 7