

SOFF News

Vol. 25 No. 1 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

January, 2018



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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SOFF's are no strangers to the fine salmon and steelhead fishing that can be found not only locally, but throughout many of the rivers of Oregon.



On a recent trip to the Nestucca River at Pacific City, Ray McClenathan landed this fine 35" King salmon. Ray was using an 8wt rod with a char-teuse Clouser Minnow. He was guided by Jack Harnell of Pacific City Fishing, recommended by Jay Nichols a recent presenter at a club meeting. John Storfold was fishing with Ray and witnessed the event.

**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

Fly Fishing: People, Places and Things

What is it about fly fishing? What is it about our sport that makes us spend so much time and money? Why do people want to try it for the first time, even if they have fished their entire lives using other methods?

I think if you asked five fly fishermen these questions you would most likely get five slightly different answers. I think the answer to these questions certainly involves people, places and things.

The people involved with fly fishing are a special sort. We have the pioneers of the sport to thank for their early contributions to fly fishing knowledge and lore. People like Zane Grey fishing the Rogue and North Umpqua, Polly Rosborough fishing the Williamson, and Roderick Haig-Brown fishing the Campbell River on Vancouver Island paved the way for fly fishermen all over the region. More contemporary leaders like Dave Hughes, Randall Kaufmann and John Shewey continue in the same way, leading the way for modern fly fishermen. In the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, we are lucky to have expert, enthusiastic fly fishers willing to share their knowledge. I have gotten to know many people in our club over my fifteen years of membership and learned a lot from them. Many have become close friends and I feel that friendship

alone is the greatest gift I could get from our club.

The places we go to fly fish are certainly a big reason we do what we do. Who can forget those summer mornings on a mountain lake, or a perfect fall afternoon on the Rogue River? The beauty of a day on the Williamson or an evening on

Diamond Lake is hard to forget. We would have a good time in these special places even if we were not fishing! The local knowledge that helps us catch fish in a certain stream or lake is part of the place. The combination of the hot fly and presentation for that area is something we can learn to connect with that place. That is part of the lure of fly fishing for many.

The equipment we use is certainly a reason many are drawn to the sport. In the beginning fly fishing clinic our club sponsors each spring, I see people who really want to learn to fly fish. They all say that fly casting is the thing they want to learn most. A good fly rod is a beautiful piece of equipment. Who can resist the urge to put a new fly rod together and try casting it? The flies we use are a complete story in themselves. The design, color, size and behavior of a fly in the water fulfill the goal of fooling a fish into eating it. Expert fly tiers often tie flies that are so intricate and beautiful that they are put in a case and admired instead of being used to catch fish. The art of fly tying is almost a separate sport in itself. Some good tiers do not even fish. The feeling of catching fish on a fly that you have tied is unforgettable. If the fish eats it, you have succeeded as a fly tier. All you have to do next is spend hundreds of dollars on a better

fly, more hooks and multiple drawers full of every type of fly tying material that is made!

So to me, the people, places and things we know in fly fishing are what make it so special. If it were not for fly fishing we would all probably spend our time and money on something



President Dave presents the 2017 Club awards to Sonja Nisson, Bob Stafford, Jeannie Steed

much less rewarding!

2017 Annual Awards Are Presented

As is usual at the December meeting, the club presented its annual awards. This year, President Dave passed out awards to Jeannie Steed, Bob Stafford, Dave McCants and Sonja Nisson.

Jeannie Steed was presented with the Member of the Year award, while Bob Stafford received the Volunteer of the Year award, Dave McCants was given Fly Tier of the Year award and Sonja Nisson was presented the President's Award.

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:
Jan 2nd at 6:00pm or the first Tuesday of the month
All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

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
Sep 18	TBA

WHEN:

Jan 16, 2018



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.



Steve Day Fishing Pyramid Lake



Club Awards Continued From Pg.2

All these recipients have repeatedly shown their dedication to the club by their tireless efforts to make the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers one of the best fly fishing clubs around. Next time you see one of them, take the time to thank them for all that they do for the club.

Photo Potpourri



The whole group at a recent CfR Retreat.



Another lady receiving casting instruction at a CfR Retreat.

Steve had the good fortune of growing up in a fishing family. From childhood, fishing the Pacific Ocean to the Colorado River, the Eastern Sierra, waters of the intermountain west and the coastal rivers of the Pacific Northwest, all were a part of life.

Fly fishing became an obsession while living for almost forty years in Bishop, California, in “The Heart of the Eastern Sierra”. The Owens River, Crowley Lake, the Walker Rivers, countless lakes and streams and Pyramid Lake.

Pyramid Lake has been a regular destination for the better part of the last three decades. The landscape, the seasons, and the fish in this desert landscape are unique and captivating.

Steve’s passion, experiences and knowledge, have provided an opportunity for him to give back. He serves as a volunteer with ODFW on fisheries studies and projects and provides input to ODFW as one of the Applegate River Keepers. He provides education through club presentations, fly tying instruction and outings.

Steve currently sits on the Rogue Flyfishers, Board of Directors and lives in Williams.

CASTING ABOUT

LNG Pipeline

By Tom Collett

Normally, political points of view would not be addressed in the newsletter of the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers as we are a fly fishing club and not a political action group. We try as much as possible to not overstep the boundaries of the two views, but in this case there is a divergence of thought as to the dangers that might occur to the fisheries if the pipeline ever ruptured as it crossed under the Rogue River.

I believe that this narrows the point of view to where one overlays the other and as such deserves to be heard.

I as your editor and the Board of Directors, are not taking a position on this issue but merely bringing the information to the attention of the membership for their edification and action if they deem to do so.

The Editor

As most of you know the LNG pipeline has once again become a local issue that will affect many of our friends and neighbors. This proposed pipeline if it is approved, will intersect the Rogue River and highway 62 at Trail, Oregon. We all have been through there many times on highway 62 and on the river. As one might expect there are many local citizens and property owners who object to this pipeline being forced upon us. I use the word forced because this foreign multi-national energy company will be allowed to use eminent domain to shove this down our throats.

I have contacted a number of people about this issue and have had some very good response. Many have committed to sending letters and we can make this easy for you. Myself along with others will share the contents of the letters we are writing. These can be example or

sample letters that you can use to compose your own letters. We can also provide addresses of where to send these letters. Given the current political climate regarding natural resources, we need to hit this with a strong voice and not stop until this a very dead issue.



Grading a pipeline right of way. Photo courtesy of FERC.

One of our number has been negatively impacted by this proposed pipeline. The very minute this pipeline scheme was announced, their property value went down many thousands of dollars. This was about 2008. They have lived with this possibility ever since. The real insult is that there is no possibility of any sort of compensation because the actual pipeline will be on the property of their neighbors. The story gets worse because the neighbors property is the staging yard and the drill site for drilling under the Rogue. Later it will be the service yard and pumping station. Imagine having that mess for a neighbor.

We have had some victories but we need a lot more. U. S. Senator Merkley has changed his position and is now opposed to the pipeline. Oregon State Geologist, Brad Avy has reported some of the aspects of the project analysis inaccurate and misleading. The article in the December 12, 2017 issue of the Mail

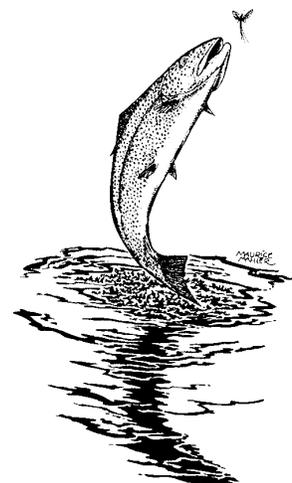
Tribune is worth reading.

Going forward the Southern Or-

egon Fly Tyers have agreed to be a part of this by using their blog as a place to find information to expedite the letter writing.

Their blog is <http://soflytyers.blogspot.com>.

Bookmark it for your convenience. When the holidays are over more information will begin to appear under the tab "LNG Pipeline". Just click on the tab. Keep checking back because new and updated information will be forthcoming.



OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

January Outing Winter Steelhead on the So. Oregon Coast

January is typically one of the slower times for fly fishers in the Rogue Valley. Many people pass the time by tying flies, but for those that want to fish, the streams along the Southern Oregon Coast can offer great fishing for large winter steelhead fresh from the ocean. Opportunities



If you're lucky and have already made 999 casts, then it is possible that the next cast will be the one that hooks this bright silver steelhead.

range from swinging flies through long runs on large rivers like the Rogue or Chetco to dropping nymphs into pockets on small streams like Hunter Creek or the Pistol River.

For our outing on January 13 and 14, the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers will make a trip to the coast. We will meet for breakfast at 8:00 AM on Saturday in the Indian Creek Café, which is located a short distance upstream of Hwy 101 on the south side of the Rogue River at 94682 Jerry's Flat Road. If you don't want to eat breakfast, join us there by 9:00 AM. We will decide where to go from there based on river

conditions and the desires of the group.

If conditions are right, the lower Rogue offers plenty of good opportunities for bank anglers. It is a big river with large gravel bars, many of which are publicly owned and easy to access, and long runs well suited to swinging flies. Seven to eight-weight Spey or switch

rods paired with Skagit heads and an assortment of tips would be ideal. If you don't have a Spey or switch rod, don't worry, the steelhead usually travel close to shore, so single-handed rods, of similar weight, with sink-tip lines or sinking



Here's all you need - a rod, a reel and a steelhead fly and cast 1000 times.

shooting heads also will work. Bring 10 to 15-lb tippet material and an assortment of flies--from traditional steelhead patterns, to egg-sucking leeches, to intruders. Black or purple flies with a bit of bright color mixed in often work well.

For those interested in fishing the smaller streams, there are several good

choices near Gold Beach. For these streams, bring an eight-weight single-handed or switch rod with a floating line and an assortment of weighted nymphs and egg patterns. Be sure to bring your waders, a wading staff, rain gear, and normal fishing accessories.

Gold Beach has a good variety of lodging and dining options, and there are several RV parks and campgrounds along the river. You can find more information at www.goldbeach.org. Due to the uncertainty of river conditions during the winter, be sure to check the club's website before you leave for the outing to see if we had to make any last-minute changes.

David Haight, Outings 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.



2018 Outings

Jan 13	So. Oregon Coast Steelhead.
Feb 16-17	Cow Creek with Dave Grosjacques.
Mar 24	TBA
Apr 21	TBA
May 19	TBA
Jun 23	TBA
Jul 21	TBA

FLY TYING CORNER

Bob Stafford's Green Midge



- Hook:** TMC 2457, Size 8 (I'm Sure You Could Tie This in a Smaller Size Depending in Your Target Fish).
- Thread:** Black 6/0.
- Bead Head:** Small Bright Green (But you can Experiment With Other Colors).
- Body:** Sail Twine (or Other Material).

Tying Instructions:

De-barb the hook and slide the bead on behind the eye.
 Tie a thread base from behind the bead to half way down the bend of the hook and back to the bead.
 Tie in sail twine and wrap the thread over the twine back to the bend where we laid the thread base.
 Wrap the thread forward to behind the bead and now wrap the twine up the hook in touching wraps to the bead.
 Tie off and whip finish.

We thank Bob for giving us a simple but I am sure effective fly. I am going to add some to my fly box.

Fly Tied By: Bob Stafford

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

- 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.
- 2-5 Board Meeting
- 2-13 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 2-16-17 Club Outing to Cow Creek with Dave Grosjacques.
- 2-20 Club Meeting with Marlon Rampy.
- 3-5 Board Meeting.

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

hammered big time, but the ODF&W has also set its sights on the youth and requires anyone 12 and over to have a license, granted it is not the cost of an adult license, but \$15 is nothing sneeze at if one has a large fishing family.

How many people who no longer can afford a license will just stop fishing or in a worst case scenario fish without license?

A year or two before I left California, the California Department of Fish & Wildlife started a program of issuing lifetime licenses. For a certain amount of money, the CDF&W would issue you a license that would be good for life. Just before leaving for Oregon, I invested \$325, which was the cost based on my age at the time of issuance and now I have a lifetime California fishing license. My license not only includes the license, but the required salmon/steelhead report card, a two pole stamp (this will be good to have when I learn to cast two rods at once) and a stamp entitling me to be able to the fish the ocean in Southern California. I figure that at about \$120.00 per year for an out of state license, I had my California license amortized out after three years which means I have been fishing on their dime for the last

15 years – not too bad of a deal. One might ask would the license be good only while a resident of California and the answer is no. Each year my license is sent to me at my Oregon address.

The real question then is why can't Oregon start a similar program? I bet there would be plenty of anglers that would purchase a lifetime license if it were offered. Give the Oregon fishermen the opportunity to purchase the license while they are still working and I bet many of them with foresight would jump at the chance.

Another thing I liked about the California program was that you could purchase a lifetime license for a child under 7 or 8 for the cheapest rate offered even though the child didn't need a license until they were 16. Talk about an investment for the future! Maybe the child would take up fishing and then again maybe not, but if he did, he would never have to purchase a fishing license again.

Maybe if I was to make out a list of resolutions for 2018, an ideal one would be to pressure the ODF&W to consider a lifetime license and maybe if there was a groundswell of support, something might actually get done.

Well there it is for this month – 2018 has roared in and with it the hope that the New Year for one and all will be one of your best ever – filled with good health, prosperity and a heck of a lot of good fishing.

I close with this thought:

May your troubles be less,
May you blessings be more,
May nothing but happiness come
through your door.



Thank You from Casting for Recovery

By Tonja Haight

Casting for Recovery is a national program that provides weekend retreats for women that are battling or have survived breast cancer, where they receive emotional support and counseling, and learn the physically and mentally therapeutic art of fly fishing. The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers has supported CfR's Southern Oregon Retreat for almost 15 years, and made a very generous \$1,230 donation during



Jan Knapik presents Tonja Haight with a check for \$1,230 which comes from the monthly auction with a matching amount donated by the club.



A participant at a CfR Retreat

their December meeting. In addition, individual members bought items and made contributions in support of CfR. The Casting for Recovery volunteers thank the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers for their contribution, and appreciate their continued support.



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Editor's Notebook

Wow! Am I ever glad the holiday season has ended; it has been a six week nightmare to say the least. It all started with the Southern California virus that I contracted when I was down there for Thanksgiving and continued up and through Christmas. Finally with the start of the New Year, I can see this plague finally departing from me.

What made it so annoying, was the fact that half way into my illness, my wife came down with the same thing and we both were hacking, coughing and generally feeling miserable. Added to the fact that we were expecting relatives and company up for Christmas and the shopping and cleaning that needed to be done before their arrival wasn't getting done and it was a crapshoot whether it would ever be done. Well somehow it did get done and Christmas was a

success.

I thought it was just me and my penchant for catching the "California Bug" whenever I was down there, but I was comforted by the fact that Joe and Jan Knapik were recovering from the same malady having been in California about the same time as I. I guess after living in the pure air of the northwest, we have lost our immunity to California germs!

Normally, the first newsletter of the New Year causes me to write about New Year resolutions, what I didn't do the previous year and how I would be making amends for that by resolving to change my ways as to speak. Why bore you with a foolish fantasy that I know will just revert to the same old way it was, 10 minutes after I had written it down; so no resolutions this year.

Now on to some other matters: Part of what Santa had in his big bag

of goodies was among other things, my 2018 Oregon Fishing License. I thanked Santa and put it into fly vest. As it turned out Santa did some other shopping at a local sporting goods store and unfortunately, an item needed to be returned. It was while I had the receipt in hand to return the other item that I noticed the cost of the 2018 Oregon Fishing License. To say that I was shocked would be an understatement – the cost for a license and the salmon/steelhead card that goes with it was \$67.50 (\$27 for a Senior License and 40.50 for an Adult Combined Angling Tag). If I wanted to fish the Columbia River Basin add another \$9.75 to the total. When all was said and done, the total cost of the license would be \$77.25. Fortunately, I can handle the cost, but what about someone who is just barely getting by on Social Security? Not only are the old folks getting

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