

# SOFF News

Vol. 25 No. 7 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

July, 2018



## 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)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Newsletter Editor  
E-Mail: [dchebul@centurylink.net](mailto:dchebul@centurylink.net)

**During the dark summer months, SOFF'ers looked for a reason to get together and so the annual wine dinner was established. A social meeting with wine and cararaderie.**



Members gather at the Plaisance Ranch and winery to socialize and enjoy wine and dinner. The wine dinner began several years ago as a means for club members to get together when the club's regular meetings were down for the summer. Now the wine dinner has morphed into one of the club's highlights of the year.

**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:**

**John Storfold:**

**David Haight:**

**Sue Keeling:**

**Dave Roberts:**

**Ed/Sandy Michalski:**

**John Storfold**

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Fly Tying Chair

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Programs

Auction Chair

Outings Chair

SOFF Wear

OR Council IFFF Rep

Raffles

Project Healing Waters Chair



# FROM THE BOARD



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

**Dave Grosjacques**

In this month's column I want to write about fish habitat in Southern Oregon. More specifically, what are the characteristics of good small stream habitats for salmon and steelhead? How is fish habitat in a stream measured? Who makes decisions related to stream habitat and riparian land use and how do they use measurable habitat information?

My introduction to fish habitat in Southern Oregon was as a contractor doing physical stream surveys for the US Forest Service in Tiller and later the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in Roseburg. As a teacher I wanted a different summer job after 10 or 15 years of working as a logger. A friend of mine mentioned my name to a Forest Service fisheries biologist who worked at the Tiller Ranger Station on the upper South Umpqua. I got a call from the biologist and he asked me if I would be interested in doing physical habitat surveys on small streams in the upper South Umpqua Basin. I had fished, hunted, camped and hiked for years in the upper South Umpqua and was very familiar with the area. I took the job and was trained in the protocol for the surveys.

The Forest Service protocol was based on the Hankin and Reeves stream survey method developed at Oregon State University, with an estimator and a recorder breaking the stream up into distinct units as the team works up-

stream from the mouth. Measurements and observations are made for each separate unit. The normal units are pools, riffles and glides. Other units could be rapids, falls, side channels or cascades. A 2-man team can survey from a half-mile to over a mile per day, depending on terrain and the number of units separated out to be measured. For a pool the estimator records his estimated length, width and measures the maximum depth, recording the data on a form. Every 10<sup>th</sup> unit the estimator makes his estimate, which is then measured with a tape by his partner. An estimator who is consistently short or long brings about a personal estimating factor later



**President Dave gets down and dirty while surveying a small stream.**

when the data is entered into a computer program. A stream survey ends in the headwaters when the stream gets to be only 2 or 3 feet wide. Any fish seen are recorded along with the other data.

Adult salmon and steelhead that have returned to a stream to spawn need passage, gravel, hiding places and resting pools. The stream surveys measure the amount and average size of gravel, and the type and amount of cover for adult fish to hide when threatened by predators. Resting pools are recorded and measured as well. Anything that totally or partially blocks the stream flow, like a dam or log jam, is recorded.

Juvenile salmon and steelhead spend from 6 months to 2 years in these small streams, hatching out of the gravel and living along the edges of the stream

until they are large enough to migrate out to the Pacific Ocean. They do best if the stream has cool water and plenty of flow in the summer. They also must have passage out to the river when they get ready to migrate to the ocean. They need plenty of small-sized cover, and insects to eat. The stream surveys measure water temperature, quality of streamside trees and other vegetation, and the size and abundance of gravel in the substrate.

The surveys are done in the summer months, with all information recorded on forms the surveyors fill out as they go. In the winter following the surveys, all the data for each stream is entered into a large computer program. A particular stream then has a 25 to 50 page document to print out showing the data and observations, along with averages and totals for the entire number of miles surveyed.

The US Forest Service in Tiller on the upper South Umpqua used the stream habitat surveys to help make decisions on land use in their part of the huge Umpqua National Forest. Any land use decision that affected a fish-bearing stream could be subject to review according to some of the data in the habitat survey for the area in question.

Another agency that ended up with a tremendous amount of stream survey

**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:**

**July 10th at 6:00pm or**

**the second Tuesday**

**of the month**

**All members welcome**

# PROGRAMS

## Future Programs

Jul 17	No Meeting
Aug 21	No Meeting
Sep 18	TBA
Oct 16	TBA
Nov 10	Annual Auction
Dec 18	TBA
Jan 15	TBA
Feb 19	TBA

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

data is the Roseburg Office of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. A program was developed in the early 90's that was mostly paid for by the timber companies and mills in Douglas County. Each mill paid for at least one team of stream surveyors for one summer. People like me applied and got the stream survey jobs, and the ODFW was in charge of training, monitoring and collecting data from all the teams each summer. The ODFW Roseburg ran this program for at least 5 summers, collecting data on streams on BLM or private land with a protocol similar to that of the Forest Service. The fish biologists at Roseburg have used this survey data often, retrieving from their files one of those stream survey packets with all the information on that stream. Any type of land use that could affect a steam can result in references to the data that ODFW has from their steam survey information.

For me all this ended up being a fantastic opportunity to see miles and miles of beautiful, small streams in the South Umpqua Basin. The work we did was very strenuous, with miles of hiking combined with a half-mile or mile of wading on wet rocks each day. Some of the streams were in the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness Area. What we saw was the spectacular world of small streams in the wilderness parts of Southern Oregon. These streams are the spawning sites and rearing areas for our priceless runs of salmon and steelhead. They must be understood so they can be protected.

## WHEN:

July 21, 2018



## TIMES:

5:00 PM  
Social Hour  
5:50 PM  
Brief Meeting  
Announcements  
6:00 PM  
Dinner

## WHERE:

Plaisance Ranch  
16955 Water Gap Rd.



## Annual Wine Dinner

As you all know, the months of July and August are dark and we will not be having a meeting again until September. Two months without a meeting was deemed by many to be too long, so several years ago the board instituted a social meeting generally held towards the end of July at a local winery to ease the transition. The meeting consists of dinner, a little wine, a lot of conversation and very little talk about fishing. What a perfect time to bring out the wife, significant other or a friend to a club event!

This year is no exception and we will be having a wine dinner and with that said, Wine Dinner Chairman, Rich Steed sends out the following information:

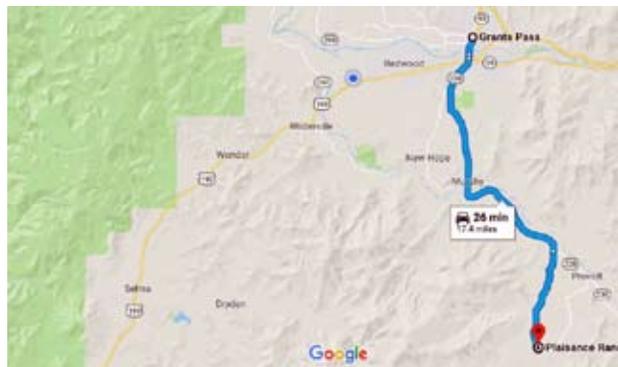
It's time to make your reservation for the annual SOFF Wine Dinner on **Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>** at Plaisance Ranch Winery, 16955 Water Gap Rd, Williams, OR 97544.

Come join us outside on the patio for a Hawaiian theme buffet dinner prepared by Chef James Daw. Tickets for a complementary bottle of wine will be distributed to each table. Wine is also available for purchase by the glass or bottle from Plaisance Ranch throughout the evening.

Social hour begins at 5 pm. Dinner is at 6 pm.

Seating is limited and reservations are required no later than **July 14<sup>th</sup>**. Cost is \$30 per person and payment (cash or check) will be taken at the door.

As usual, reservations are to be sent in either by using the club's website or calling the club's answering machine at 541 955-4718.



Map of directions to Plaisance Ranch

# CASTING ABOUT

## Tropical Depression

By Rich Steed

Six SOFF club member adventurers took off on a fishing trip together to Cuba. Jan and Joe Knapik, Lucky and Russ Leavitt and Jeannie and Rich Steed planned to fish for tarpon, bonefish and permit through Fly Water Travel with the trip being hosted by Jon Covich.

Passports, visas, and other ancillary fees paid, we landed in Cuba on the afternoon of May 21<sup>st</sup>. The heat and humidity immediately reminded me of a distant land of many years past. Vehicles loaded, we traveled through Havana to our BnB located in an older neighborhood of the city. The rooms were nice, the staff very friendly and there was a rooftop bar accessed via a narrow spiral staircase.

The first two days involved sightseeing including 16<sup>th</sup> century fortresses, downtown Havana as well as tours in open aired 1950 vintage automobiles. The local cigar factory store offered a variety of cigars and premium rum for purchase as our troupe continually searched for the consummate Mojito. One highlight of our exploring was a visit to Hemingway's La Vigia farmhouse situated above the city. Now a museum, it is a step back in time to when he lived and wrote there.

The three meals a day consisted of primarily of pork, fish, chicken, rice, beans, and fruit and many of the eateries are known as paladars (family owned businesses that serve meals in their homes) Good food, but too much food.

On day three we headed southwest towards Rio Hatiguanico on the Zapata Peninsula (aka Zapata Swamp). There we fished for tarpon with mixed results.

This river also contains snapper, snook, and barracuda, that latter of which were active and biting.

That night we made it to our casa located in Playa Largo on the waterfront of the infamous Bay of Pigs. The rooms were quaint and clean with food and bar service available. We were fortunate to have arrived at the beginning of mosquito season, so some of our outdoor



**The Cuba Adventures - Joe and Jan Knapik, Lucky and Russ Leavitt, Rich and Jeannie Steed toasting to a great trip.**

dinners and other activities were adjusted accordingly.

The next morning, we headed to the flats of Las Salinas in search of bonefish, permit and barracuda. The weather was slightly overcast sparing us the harshness of the sun that is well known for this area, but also hampering the search for bonefish. Each fishing couple loaded into individual skiffs and, with a guide, took off to catch fish. Success was elusive with a few barracuda and bonefish representing the sum of our efforts.

Back to the casa, where Mojitos assisted in easing our disappointment of the day and assisted in our story telling of the ones we did catch. The next day would be better.

At first light, we awoke to the initial throws of Tropical Depression Alberto. Wind and rain were the order of the day, so we decided to do some sightseeing

including a visit to a local museum that provided a comprehensive reporting of the Bay of Pigs invasion. The maps were very detailed even identifying individual planes that were shot down, where and by whom. A total of 150 local Cubans died in the conflict and reportedly the Cuban mercenary POWs were exchanged with the U.S. for food.

Later that afternoon we visited the one and only Yoyi's Fly Shop Zapata Cuba. Don Yoyi took up *fishing* early in his life. He also studied and perfected the woodworking technique of marquetry as exhibited on his Facebook site [www.facebook.com/craftsmanangler](http://www.facebook.com/craftsmanangler).

The following day, with the weather worsening, we decided to head west back to the river. The river level had risen, and the water was very murky, but at least the weather was holding. Fishing today was better with one couple achieving what is locally called a 'grand slam', the landing of a tarpon, two types of red snapper and snook from the river.

Just as the boats began returning to the docks the sky opened with some of the hardest rain we had seen. A roast pig dinner awaited us at a paladar a short distance away and rain had subsided once we arrived. The food was fabulous and we all mingled with our fishing guides, the host family and all their livestock.

The next morning the streets in Playa Largo were flooded, and we were concerned about making it to the airport. Our bus moved slowly through the water and along the highway eventually delivering us safely to the airport.

**Continued on Page 7**

# OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

## Howard Prairie Lake Outing - July 28th

## Diamond Lake Outing

**F**or those of you who don't know Howard Prairie Lake, it is a fantastic mountain lake up above Ashland. There are plenty of trout including some very large ones. In addition to the trout, the lake is a fantastic smallmouth bass fishery, with days of over 100 fish fairly common as long as you don't mind some small ones.



**Kevin Reiten with a couple of nice smallmouth bass he took from a previous outing to Howard Prairie.**

The lake is long and narrow, with some deep areas of 50 to 60 feet in the old channel. The dam is a great area for smallmouth, with some rainbows in the mix. The resort is on the other end of the lake from the dam, and has good food. There is a rocky area near the resort that holds a lot of bass.

Casting and trolling are excellent options, as well as some wind drifting. Nymphs, wooly buggers, and Clouser Minnows have all pro-

duced well for both trout and bass.

We will meet at the Howard Prairie Resort boat parking lot next to the boat ramp at 8:00 A.M. Due to low water levels the other boat launches may not be a good option. Drift boats, lake boats, pontoons and float tubes are all good options. Camping is available at the resort or at multiple campgrounds around the



**Nick Reiten with a bass taken at Howard Prairie lake.**

Please contact Kevin Reiten at 503-467-9695 if you have any questions.

On the weekend of June 9, Steve Day and Keith Hardcastle led a joint outing for the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers and Rogue Flyfishers to Diamond Lake. As usual, they did an excellent job of planning, organizing, and putting on the outing, with one major exception—they failed to arrange for good weather. After a week of beautiful spring weather, the clouds started building Friday as we made our way to the lake. Just about the time the food came off the grill during the group barbecue that evening, a light rain started.



**Dave Haight admires a nice rainbow taken by Tanya Haight at the Diamond Lake Outing.**

When we convened at the south boat ramp Saturday morning, a cold wind had whipped up white caps on the lake. Not to be discouraged, our group of 16 anglers avoided the worst of the wind and rain by taking refuge in a couple of RVs while enjoying good conversation, hot coffee, and Keith's outstanding breakfast burritos.

By the time we finished breakfast, conditions were starting to improve somewhat, so we headed out on the lake. In spite of (or because of) the conditions, fishing was actually pretty good, and we had a fun time and caught some nice fish. By early afternoon the snow squalls were blowing in with increasing frequency, so a few of the participants retreated to the pizza parlor, while others toughed it out, determined to catch a few more fish.

### 2018 Outings

- July 28** Howard Prairie with Kevin Reiten
- Aug 25** Umpqua Smallmouth with Dave Haight
- Sept 8** Steelhead Clinic with Dave Haight
- Oct 20** Middle Rogue Steelhead with Dave Haight
- Nov 3-4** Coastal Chinook

Continued on Pg 7

# FLY TYING CORNER

## Golden Stone Stimulator



- Hook:** TMC 200R, Size 8.
- Thread:** Gold 6/0.
- Tail:** Deer Hair.
- Body:** Gold Antron.
- Posterior:** 2/3 Jackle, Furnace.
- Collar:** Hackle, Furnace.
- Wing:** Deer Hair.

### Tying Instructions:

De-barb and place hook in vice.

Dress hook with thread back to the bend of the hook and tie in your deer hair tail. As you can see from the picture the tail does not go far beyond the end of the hook.

Tie in you antron and your furnace hackle.

Move the thread forward to the 2/3 of the shank point.

Wrap the antron forward to make a smooth body with touching wraps to the place where your thread is at the 2/3 point tie off. Palmer the hackle to the same point and tie off.

Now, stack and tie in your deer hair wing (it should be long enough to go to point above the bend of the hook).

Tie in another piece of antron and more hackle.

Wrap the antron forward to just behind the eye leaving an eye length of head space and build the thorax, front 1/3, with a slight taper.

Palmer the hackle forward and tie off and make a small thread head and whip finish.

**Fly Tied By: Russ Leavitt**

**John Storfold**

**Fly Tying Chair**

**541-660-6584**

**steelyjon@gmail.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

- 7-2 Board Meeting.
- 7-17 No Meeting.
- 7-21 Wine Dinner Meeting -  
Plaiance Ranch.
- 7-28 Club Outing - Howard Prai-  
rie with Kevin Reiten.
- 8-7 Board Meeting.
- 8-21 No Meeting
- 8-25 Umpqua Smaill Bass with  
Dave Haight.
- 9-4 Board Meeting.
- 9-8 Club picnic with the Rogue  
Fly Fishers.
- 9-11 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone  
Mobile Home Park in Gold  
Hill.
- 9-18 Club Meeting - TBA

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

can only hope not.

Although this is only July, I want you guys to mark down September 8 on your calendars. This is the date of the combined Rogue Fly Fishers and So. Oregon Fly Fishers' picnic. Steve Day has volunteered to put the affair together and from the preliminary information that I have seen, portents to be a fun day for all concerned.

## Lake Selmac Weed Removal

The removal of weeds from Lake Selmac was begun on Thursday, June 14, with the help of Soff member Bob Stafford and a few of Middle Rogue Steelheaders. Another passerby enjoying the park pitched in to help! The county parks department purchased a number of weed removal tools to help in the process. Our first effort was in trying out the tools, determining their best use, and evaluating the difficulty of removing the weeds. In a period of about 2 hours, we were able to load up a trailer full of weeds. The motorized weed mower was not tried at the time as we were without a boat to mount it on. The plan is to continue the work

on weekdays and maybe an occasional weekend.



**Just some of the weeds that were removed on the first days effort.**

Anyone willing to help, please contact Jim Tehan at:

Phone or text (541) 660-5232 or email: [jtehan2@gmail.com](mailto:jtehan2@gmail.com)

## Thank You

Thank you to all the SOFF members who attended my retirement party and who contributed to my gift (a custom-made 12' 6", 5-weight, Spey rod with matching lines). I appreciate you helping me celebrate my career with ODFW, and the start of a new chapter in my life.



**Dave Haight's new rod.**

I enjoyed my career and found it very rewarding; however, I am looking forward to spending more time fishing.

## Dave Haight



### Diamond Lake Cont. From Pg. 5

As evening approached, the prospect of having a potluck barbecue out in a blizzard was not generating a lot of enthusiasm. Fortunately, RFF member Steve Boyarsky invited the group to his very up-scale cabin on the west shore of the lake. With a roof over our heads, a warm fire, Steve Day grilling the meat to perfection, and table full wonderful food, we had a great evening.



### Almost summer at Diamond Lake.

Sunday morning, we awoke to a beautiful winter scene—not what you usually expect to see in June! Most of the participants packed up and headed for home to begin the process of drying out wet camping gear. A few of us decided to dig the snow and chip the ice out of our boats and fish for a few hours. Although still cool and overcast, the wind and snow had passed. We enjoyed a nice morning on the lake and caught quite a few fish.

Although the weather was less than ideal, a combination of good preparation, a little improvisation, and a great group of people made for a terrific outing!

### David Haight, Outing Chair

### Depression Cont. From Pg. 4

Just needed to pass through Cuban Customs and board the United flight back to the US. But, that is another story.....

*I received a raft of photos from the Cuba trip, but due to space limitations they will be used in upcoming editions.*  
*The Editor*



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Grants Pass, Oregon  
97528  
E-Mail: [www.soff.org](http://www.soff.org)

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## Editor's Notebook

**W**ell if it's the end of June, than I have gone and returned from my annual trip to Hot Creek Ranch in the eastern Sierras of California. As you may remember, me, my son and a friend of ours have been doing this trip for the last 38 years. The last couple of years as I have noted in this column, had results that have ranged from poor to nonexistent.

The year before last the biggest fish in three days of hard fishing for the three of us was probably 4 to 5 inches tops. Last year, three days of hard fishing for the three of us produced nary a fish.

Fast forward to this year; would it be like a repetition of the past years? Color me amazed – first cast a fish on - wow is all I can say. The fish are back thanks to some heavy stocking of hatchery stock.

The fish that were stocked were

in two year classes. There were those that were only 4-5 inches and those that were 10 to 12 inches. Added to those numbers were a few hold over fish that ranged in the 14 -15 size. My best of the trip was a nice 15" rainbow. Photos to follow.

Now let's look at the reality of the situation. California is in a drought and as such winter snowfall has been impacted accordingly. The snowfall that melts in the spring is the lifeblood of any stream. Without a flushing flow in the rivers and streams to clear away the silt from the rocky bottoms there will be no spawning and renewal of the stock.

Then there is the catch and release requirement of the stream. I'm sure all of us that practice catch and release do so with the greatest of care. We try to handle the fish with the upmost care, but still what stress do we place on the fish?

I think of some of the fish I caught over the three days; fortunately, out of all the fish I caught there were only a couple in the 4-5" class. The little fish for the most part that hit my fly weren't hooked. Those that I did hook were more accidentally than intentional hooked and sailed over my head as I prepare for another cast. I felt guilty making those guys 'flying fish' as to speak and I quickly released them, but in the process I had to grab the little guys and try to remove the hook, then resuscitate them and wonder if they would make it or go belly up and become food for the seagulls. The larger fish were easier to handle and I hope were sufficiently recovered to become viable to be caught again.

Still I can't help but thinking if the drought and the rough handling of the fish will run its course once again and result into yet another sterile steam. I

Continued on Pg. 7