

SOFF News

Vol.25 No.9 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc. September, 2018



SOFF NEWS

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Southern Oregon Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 1144
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It is the summer months and as usual SOFF'ers are out plying the waters near and far looking for that fish that will mark a major achievement in their flyfishing efforts.



After several years of trying the editor finally caught a fish from the Williamson River that marks a personal best for rainbow trout. The fish took a size 18 midge and doggedly hugged the bottom for at least 15 minutes or longer before coming to net. Per the guide, Marlon Rampy, the fish's weight was estimated to be at least 10 pounds.

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

SPECIAL MENTION

Bill Burns:
John Storfold:
Kevin Daniels:
Kevin Reiten:
John Storfold:
David Haight:
Sue Keeling:
Dave Roberts:
Ed/Sandy Michalski:
John Storfold

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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Dave Grosjacques

In this month's column I want to describe and summarize the Fish Division of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. This is a layman's view, with the spotlight on the two ODFW offices in Central Point for the Rogue and in Roseburg for the Umpqua.

The ODFW is governed by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Commission is made up of seven members of the public, with two of those members living in Southern Oregon. Commissioner Jim Bittle lives in Central Point and is the president of Willie Boats. Commissioner Bob Weber lives on the Elk River near Port Orford. The Commission meets once a month, with meetings normally held in the Commission Room at ODFW headquarters in Salem. Some Commission meetings each year are also held in cities around the state. The next meeting will be in Reedsport in mid-September.

The Director of the ODFW is Curt Melcher. His job is to oversee and direct all ODFW programs. I met Curt last fall in Medford when he was on a ten-city information tour to inform the public of the Department's budget for the next biennium and to get public comment. I told him that I thought it was a very good idea for him to attend and lead these budget presentations so that Oregon taxpayers, fishermen and hunters can meet him and see how the Department put together their budget.

The ODFW has four regional offices and numerous smaller district offices throughout Oregon. The regional of-

fices are in Clackamas, Roseburg, Bend and LaGrande. The Central Point office is one of the district offices, and there is another one in Gold Beach. The Department also operates over 30 hatcheries in Oregon, with several in Southern Oregon. The largest by far is Cole Rivers hatchery at the base of Lost Creek dam. There is another one at Rock Creek on the North Umpqua and one in Bandon on the Coquille River.

The Department has many policies and programs that help protect and enhance fish populations and their habitats in Oregon. The Fish Passage Program, Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program, Fish Screening Program, Marine Resources Program, Native Fish Conservation and Recovery Program and the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) are examples of fish programs in the state.

The Restoration and Enhancement Program is made up of ODFW staff and seven members of the public appointed by the Department. R & E uses \$4 from each fishing license sold in the state plus commercial fisheries licenses and fees to award grants to fund projects throughout the state that help fish populations, fish habitat and fishermen. I was appointed to a four-year term on the R & E Board last January, representing Sport Fishing. Their next meeting is in Reedsport on September 14th and 15th.

The STEP program in Oregon consists of STEP fisheries biologists in 10 STEP regions. The Upper Rogue STEP District is in Central Point, with SOFF member and sometime SOFF meeting attendee STEP Biologist Ryan Battleson. The Umpqua STEP District is in Roseburg, with STEP Biologist Evan Leonetti. I have worked on various projects with both Ryan and Evan. I am impressed by their skill and dedication to improving things for fish in the Rogue and Umpqua. The STEP program is operated by ODFW staff and a 13-member STEP Advisory Committee (STAC). The Committee is made up of members of the public who are nominated by

their STEP biologist and interviewed and chosen by the Department. I was appointed to this committee in June of this year, representing the Umpqua District. The Committee makes recommendations to the Department concerning volunteer fish-related projects in the state, as well as relaying information from the Department back to the fishing clubs, watershed councils and other groups whose membership includes volunteers for these projects. They also have a mini-grant program, awarding funds to projects that are presented and discussed at the meetings. One estimate puts a value on the efforts of STEP volunteer at over 2 million dollars annually. Training, tours, presentations and youth education are also part of the STEP program, with an estimated 57,000 people participating in STEP educational programs in 2017. One advantage of the STEP program is that it is largely funded with what are called Sport Fish Restoration dollars through the US Fish and Wildlife Service. These funds come from a tax on all kinds of fishing, hunting and boating equipment in the US.

The two ODFW offices I work with are in Central Point and Roseburg.

Dan VanDyke is the District Fisheries Biologist for the Rogue out of the Central Point office and Greg Huchko is the District Fisheries Biologist for the Umpqua out of the Roseburg of-

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:

Sept. 11th at 6:00pm or

the second Tuesday of the month

All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

Oct 16	TBA
Nov 10	Annual Auction
Dec 18	John Shewey
Jan 15	TBA
Feb 19	TBA
Mar 19	TBA
Apr 16	TBA
May 21	TBA

WHEN:

Sept. 18, 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.



Jeff Putnam - Spey Casting for Trout



President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

fice. I have known both for at least ten years and have seen a lot of good work and successful projects completed in both of these districts as a result of the planning and work done by Dan and Greg. Dan attends some of the SOFF meetings, and has been at our annual auction. I will always try to introduce Dan if he is at one of our meetings so that you know who he is and can go up and introduce yourself. Dan will be glad to talk with you about some of the projects going on in the Rogue Basin, or about the status of Rogue fish populations and trends.

I hope this column has helped you start to understand how our ODFW is organized and who does what in the Department. I have worked with ODFW personnel since 1987 on fish projects in the Umpqua and Rogue Basins. I will tell anyone who will listen that I have nothing but respect for the hard work and tough decisions that ODFW fisheries biologists have to make every day. Sometimes those decisions are not popular with volunteers and fishermen, but they are made with the health and future of our salmon and steelhead runs in mind.

Editor's Notes Continued from Pg. 7

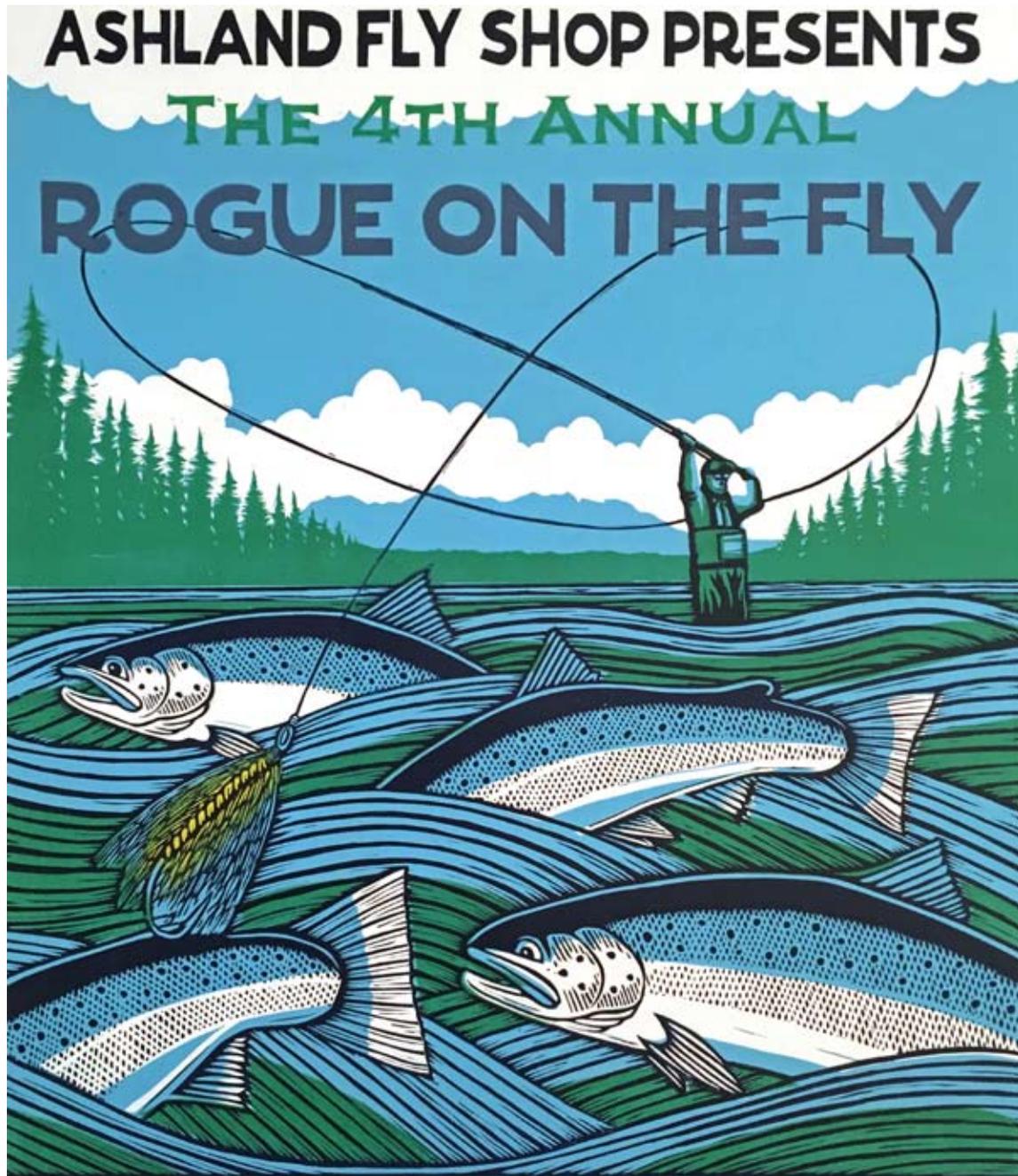
Am I ready to go again, you bet! I know there has to be an 11 pound rainbow swimming in Klamath Lake or the Williamson River with my name on it.

At eleven years of age Jeff traded in his spinning rod for his first fly fishing outfit and started fishing many trout-filled streams in the Sierra Mountains. It was not long before fishing challenging gin-clear spring creeks, emerald green coastal steelhead rivers and fertile lakes all over the Western U.S. that Jeff realized fly fishing was more than just a sport. Jeff began fly tying commercially at 13 and started guiding fly fishermen on Northern California's waters as early as age 16. He is a F.F.F. Certified Casting Instructor; both CI. and THCI and was the 5th individual to complete and pass the double handed certification test.

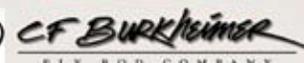
Jeff has worked many positions in the industry including retail fly shop sales, manufactures rep, fly fishing guide for 17 years throughout California, Montana and Colorado. Jeff has also been fortunate to have traveled to some top fly fishing destinations around the world in search of the ultimate fly fishing experience including the Dean River for monster steelhead, Tsiu River in Alaska, tropics of Belize for tarpon and Christmas Island for bonefish.

Jeff directs and hosts his self-titled series of instructional fly fishing videos DVD's, including the first 3D Blu-ray fly fishing video. He provides seminars and presentations for fly fishing expos, fly fishing clubs, fly shops, fly fishing manufacturers and corporate groups. Jeff consults with many fly fishing equipment manufactures as a field tester and prostaff member. He runs one of the largest Northern California fly fishing schools and assists individuals and groups on fly fishing travel and outfitting. Jeff enjoys fishing local waters for any fish species he can catch on a fly rod and possesses a true angling passion for steelhead on a spey rod, matching the hatch for spring creek trout and searching the saltwater flats.

CASTING ABOUT



SEPT. 22-23 2018
INDIAN MARY PARK



OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Cascade Lakes/Lava Lake Recap

The Cascade Lakes/Lava Lake outing for 2018 was held on Friday, June 22

through Sunday, June 24. This year the outing was attended by only 13 SOFF members.

We were able to fish Fall River, Crane Prairie, Big and Little Lava Lakes, and the Deschutes River. The fishing was slow at times but a few nice fish were caught, actually the fishing was great, the catching was slow.

According to Joey at the Lava Lake Lodge, the challenge was a full moon coupled with a also a lot of windy days which caused problems.

The Saturday night dinner was very tasty with the club providing barbecued Tri tips and chicken breasts. The members brought their favorite side dishes and some great conversation around an evening campfire.

When not fishing, some members took in some of the beautiful day hike opportunities the Cascade Lakes area

offers, with plenty of stunning vistas and views.



Not everyone was effected by the wind and full moon at the Lava Lake Outing as Jan Knapik displays a nice fish taken at Crane Prairie during the outing.

Our next Cascade Lakes outing will be Friday, June 21 through Sunday, June 23, 2019. If you would like to attend and want to stay in the Lava Lake Resort RV camp-

ground, we would suggest calling soon to make next year's reservation as they fill up quickly. You can call 541-382-9443.



Not to be out done, Joe Knapik also displays a fine rainbow taken at Crane Prairie

**Sue and Jerry Keeling
Outing Coordinators**

Steelhead Clinic

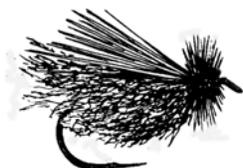
As part of the joint picnic with the Rogue Flyfishers on September 8, David Haight will teach a steelhead fly-fishing clinic from 9:00 AM to noon. The class will cover steelhead life history, swinging and nymphing techniques, equipment, fly selection, rigging, tying knots, reading the water, and presenting the fly. The class will primarily focus on anglers new to fly fishing for steelhead, but should have some useful information for more advanced anglers as well. The class will meet at the small picnic shelter (where the picnic will be held) in Tou Velle State Park—just looks for the club signs.

David Haight

Photo Potpourri



Robert Hodge with a fine rainbow he took during a recent outing to Agency Lake.



2018 Outings

Sept 8	Steelhead Clinic with Dave Haight
Oct 20	Middle Rogue Steelhead with Dave Haight
Nov 3-4	Coastal Chinook with Dave Haight
Jan 1	Holy Water Chili
Jan 19	TBA

FLY TYING CORNER

Steelhead Caddis With Soft Hackle



- Hook:** TMC 2457, Size 8-16 Depending on Targeted Species.
- Thread:** Black Veevus 10/0, Danville 6/0 or whatever you want.
- Body:** Chartreuse Ultra Wire.
- Thorax:** Peacock Herl or Dubbing of Similar Color.
- Hackle:** Partridge.

Tying Instructions:

Pinch the barb and dress the hook with thread.

Tie in the wire on the underside of the hook and wrap back to half way down the bend of the hook and move the thread back to the place 1/3 the way from the eye where we will start the thorax.

With touching wraps, wrap the wire up to the place where we will tie in the thorax. Tie off the wire and helicopter the wire to break it off flush with the thread.

Now choose 3-4 strands of Peacock Herl and tie them in and make a herl rope and make about 3 wraps to form the thorax and tie off leaving head space.

Take a feather from the partridge, strip the fluffy stuff off and tie in by the tips. While folding back the fibers, make 1 1/2 to 2 wraps and tie off. Check for even fiber distribution around the hook. Form a small head and whip finish. Use head cement at your discretion.

Note: this fly can be tied replacing the wire with floss of different colors on smaller hooks for trout when the water is clear. This is a very versatile fly. The name is more a description versus a name as I am sure there are flies similar but may not be named the same. This is just what I call it. It was a spinoff of another fly I have seen in the past but it had biot wings not hackle. Good luck and tight-lines.

Fly Tied By John Storfold

John Storfold

Fly Tying Chair

541-660-6584

steelyjon@charter.net



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

- 9-8 Club picnic with the Rogue Fly Fishers.
- 9-11 Board Meeting.
- 9-11 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 9-18 Club Meeting - with Jeff Putnam.
- 10-2 Board Meeting.
- 10-9 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 10-16 Club Meeting - Speaker TBA.
- 10-20 Club Outing - Middle Rogue Steelhead.
- 11-10 SOFF Annual Auction.

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

owners of the motel have tried to modernize it, there is only so much that can be done. Up to this time, they were the only game in town and could charge whatever they wanted, but I'm pleased to say that there is a new hotel, soon to be opened, at the casino which I'm sure will be a better alternative than Molina's.

The only fly in the ointment that I experienced with this arrangement is the fact that we have to meet the guide at 7 in the morning, which means getting up by at least by 5:30am and there's no restaurants open at that time. This necessitates a trip to the casino's truck stop where cup of coffee and some type of packaged sweet roll is the breakfast for the day.

After gulping down this sterling breakfast, it's off to meet the guide. After a few pleasantries, we load our equipment into his truck and were off to the launch ramp in Chiloquin. It still amazes me how the guides and other users of this boat ramp literally push their boats off a cliff to reach the water. Once launched, the guide generally rows upstream to a couple runs that have produced sizable fish in the past. Unfortunately, this time there was a boat ahead of us and anglers fishing

from the shore and we had to settle for another run that was downstream of our intended position. Rampy set up both Prouty and me with a 'slime line' and a leech pattern. After an hour or so of casting and not even a bump to show for our efforts, the guide next rigged us up with a two nymph/indicator set up and we again hammered the waters, yet again to no avail. Finally, after seeing a few fish rise, Rampy decided to try dries. After some two and a half hours with only a rock hooked, Rampy decided to move.

Our next stop was a run down from the boat ramp. As we were rigged with dry flies, we continued on with them. The fly that Rampy had chosen for me was a little ant pattern and for the majority of the time I could not see it on the water. If I was angled just right, I might see it for a brief instant or two before it would sink. Even still, I was able to catch my 1st fish of the day. It continued on this way through several other runs picking up a couple of other fish as we progressed downstream. We would vary between the leech on the 'slime line' and a dry fly; although, by this time, Rampy had changed flies for one that I could see it on the surface.

After a couple of more stops, and we stopped for lunch. All during the lunch break we witnessed the occasional trout rising near the shore so as soon as lunch was over we tried for those fish. I laid that fly up stream where I was seeing the rises and after perfect drifts over the fish's lie, the fish would not rise again at least not to my fly.

By this time it was early afternoon and I had only three fish to show for all my efforts and Prouty had none. As we approached the last run before the start of the flat 'frog' water, Rampy anchored towards the rear of the run and we again were using dry flies. I picked up one fish on a dry and a lot of casting with little to show for the time.

As I had done well on this stretch before using nymphs, I asked Marlon to change over to the nymph rig. The first

cast, I watched as the indicator sunk beneath the surface and a quick strike, I was fast onto a fish. After a couple of more fish landed, I lost a nice one on a jump. After that, the fish shut off. I asked Marlon if we could go back to the head of the run give it a try there. He rowed us to the head of the run and I was onto another fish that chose to do all his fighting down deep. I had a lot of line out as we doing some long drifts, and this fish took almost next to the boat. I had a lot of line to clear before I could get it on the reel. Once on the reel it was a give and take battle. At first I was making little head way, I'd reel in 2 feet and the fish would take out 3 feet. It went on like this for several minutes before I started making a little headway on the fish. Needless to say that during the battle, Rampy continued to tell me that I had on a large fish and that I should not try 'horsing' it in. All that advice did was to increase my anxiety level as I tried to resist putting too much pressure on the fish.

After some 15 minutes, the fish began making circles as it came to the surface and I got my first opportunity to see the fish. It was a hog! All I could think about was to hurry up and get it into the net before I lost it. Finally, Marlon was able to dip his net under the fish and the fish was mine.

Looking at the fish in the net, I asked Rampy to estimate the weight of the fish and he said it had to be at least 10 lbs. There it was, a personal best and goal had been reached. I had caught a rainbow trout whose weight was in the double digits on a size 18 midge.

After a little rest and a bottle of water, I hooked and landed several more fish, lost one and missed the set on two others. When all was set and done, I had landed 12 fish, lost two and missed the set on two others. Not a bad day by any standards. Unfortunately, my partner had a difficult day and landed none, lost a couple and missed a couple on not setting on time.

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Editor's Notebook

That's right; I have finally caught my personal best rainbow trout! How long has it taken me to achieve that goal? I have been a fly fisher for 35 years or longer; then before that, a user of hardware and still before that a bait dunker. In all that time, unknown numbers of rainbow trout have been caught. Some of them kept while the majority of them were kissed on their little fish ear and set free.

One thing in common with all these trout was their size, which ranged from 4 or 5 inches to maybe 20 or 21 inches. Most commonly, the fish ranged in size 12 to 16 inches.

In the many years of catching trout, size was determined by inches and not by pounds. Yet how many times did I see photographs of super large trout caught in Alaska Rivers and streams that were no longer measured in inches but in poundage.

Double-digit fish were common there; whereas in the lower 48, they were very far and few in between. Occasionally, one would see a large specimen taken from a lake, but not very often.



Marlon Rampy holds the Editor's big rainbow.

Granted, some steelhead in our local rivers produced fish in the double-digit range, but they were steelhead and not

rainbow trout per se.

Over the years, my personal best rainbow trout was approximately 5 pounds and that one was taken from the Williamson River. The Williamson River has its share of large trout who escape the warm waters of Klamath Lake to the cooler waters of the Williamson. I have seen past and present photos of large trout taken not only in Klamath Lake, but from the Williamson River as well. So is no surprise that I make my annual pilgrimage to the Williamson in the hopes of scoring a large rainbow. So it was on August 16 that I and my fishing partner Jay Prouty booked a trip with Marlon Rampy.

Although it's only a two hour drive from Grants Pass to Chiloquin, I prefer to spend the night in Chiloquin, which means I spend the night at that garden spot - Molina's motel. Although the

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