

SOFF News

Vol.26 No.2 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc. February, 2019



SOFF NEWS

A publication of
Southern Oregon Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 1144
Grants Pass, Oregon 97528
Web Site: www.soff.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Duane Chebul
Newsletter Editor
E-Mail: dchebul@centurylink.net

With the latest rain, SOFF members are buoyed up with the anticipation of winter steelhead.



Eddie Isabel, grandson of Norm and Gloria Cone displays a nice steelhead he caught recently on a nymph, while fishing on the Rogue just below GP. Although it's the dead of winter, you couldn't tell it by his attire.

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

SPECIAL MENTION

Bill Burns:
John Storfold:
Kevin Daniels:
John Smith:
Vacant:
David Haight:
Jennifer Mazingo:
Dave Roberts:
Ed/Sandy Michalski:
John Storfold

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Fly Tying Chair
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SOFF Wear
OR Council IFFF Rep
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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by
Michael Mazingo

As the incoming president I would like to take this opportunity to first and foremost thank Dave Grosjacques for his outstanding leadership and club guidance over his combined 7 years as president. Dave's enthusiasm and passion for our club, our local waterways and the sport of fly fishing are infectious and hard to match. I am elated that he has elected to stay on the board and look forward to his continued advice as both a friend and mentor. Thank you Dave for all you have done and continue to do for this club.

With that being said, I am humbled to be elected the President of Southern Oregon Fly Fishers for 2019. I will try my best to continue to guide our club into not just an organization of fly fishers but also joyful stewards of the sport/hobby we all love so much.

When thinking of what I would write about for my first ever Column it occurred to me that I do not know as many of our members as I would like to and in turn many of you know very little about me. In the coming months I hope to change the latter, but for now will talk about the former.

I grew up a military brat and moving around quite a bit. I was born in England and lived there until I was seven. I can fondly remember fishing with my dad and three older brothers

in Cornwall, which is a peninsula on the southwestern tip of England. The weather there is very predictable: Rain, and lots of it, year around. Not exactly the type of weather you would think four boys under the age of nine would get excited about but we always thought it added to the "adventure" of it all.

From there we moved to Las Vegas and the change in weather and temperature was a welcome sight. My family camped and fished Lake Mead so much in our four years there I think I can still draw an almost decipherable map of the lake to this day. I caught my first carp in Lake Mead and imagine how heart-broken I was when my dad pulled, what was in my young mind a shark sized fish, into the boat, unhooked it and threw it right back. To this day I still question whether carp is just a garbage fish or if someone's feelings were hurt by my catching the biggest fish that ever lived.

In 1985 we moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming. The military has a morbid sense of humor when deciding where to move you and generally seems to find somewhere where the weather is a complete polar opposite of where you are moving from. Wyoming however opened my eyes to a different type of fishing, the ever elusive trout. We lived just a five minute walk from a local stream and pond. If ever you were looking for the Mazingo boys you could bet good money we were either there or traveling to or from there. Wyoming also afforded me my first opportunity to hunt. Up until then I was too young to pull the trigger and only accompanied my brothers and father. It was here on the Great Plains that I shot my first game animal, a female antelope. So cemented my love and passion for the outdoors and all they have to offer.

After just two years I was both sad and excited to hear we were moving yet again. This move would see us leaving the U.S. once again for Europe. We moved to Germany the summer before my freshman year of high School. Liv-

ing in Germany as a teenager lends itself to the possibility of mischief and it would suffice to say that anything I could write about my time there would be redacted. I did have the rare opportunity to fish in the province of Turin in Italy. The mountains and rivers of northern Italy will be forever etched in my mind. Although we did not fish much during our time in Germany it was magical when we did.

Upon returning from Germany I have lived and fished in Massachusetts, Texas, Colorado, Ohio, South Carolina, Kansas, California, Upstate New York and Oregon.

Along with being a well-traveled fisherman I managed to fit in 13 years as a U.S. Army Infantryman. The Army would ensure that I covered more of the globe and deployed me to Iraq twice (where I tried to fish the Euphrates River once) and Afghanistan. Unfortunately my time in the Army would see me earn multiple Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star for Valor and a medical retirement. Being an Infantry Leader was the greatest honor of my life. As many of you may already know my time in the Army was cut short due to injury but where one door closes another always manages to open. Do to the extent of my injuries I was afforded the opportunity to spend a lot more time with my children before they were all grown up and moved

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ATTENTION!

Board Meeting

The Board of Directors meet in the conference room of the

Tap Rock Restaurant

The next meeting is scheduled:

Feb. 5th at 6:00pm or

the second Tuesday of the month

All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

Mar 19	Steve Day
Apr 16	Fly Tyers Night
May 21	Scott Richmond
June 18	Dr. Jerry Freilich
July 16	No Meeting
Aug 20	No Meeting
Sep 17	TBA
Oct 15	TBA

WHEN:

Feb. 19, 2019



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.



Rick Hafele - Understanding Emergers



President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

away. It is this time with my children that I will hold most closely to my heart and cherish those memories until the end of my days.

It was also during this time that I needed an outlet to help with my recovery. My father-in-law, John Storfold, unknowingly was the most monumental factor in that regard. It was he that introduced me to fly tying and eventually the right way to fly fishing. John thought that learning to tie flies might be something that I would find interesting and in turn it not only saved my sanity but also my life. The art of fly tying is very therapeutic to me and allows me to forget for a while that anything other than fishing exists. Tying also provides me with a productive hobby for those times when my body refuses to do what I tell it to. John reignited my passion for fishing and for that, there are not enough thank you's in the world. However, thank you John for being a great father-in-law and mentor.

I guess you could say my life as a fisherman has come full circle. At 45 I finally remember what a 7 year old 'me' knew all along: Rain or shine, fishing is the adventure of a lifetime.

I look forward to sharing many adventures with all of you and with any luck a fish or two in the net.

"Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught." - Anonymous

I started fly fishing over 50 years ago, 40 of which have been focused on fishing for trout in streams and lakes throughout the west. My fishing life however began in north central Illinois, far from trout or trout streams, but close to farm ponds full of bass and bluegill.

Fortunately, when I was 12, my family vacationed in Missouri and a relative put a fly rod in my hand, and showed me how to get the fly somewhere near the water. Luck smiled on me because after about an hour a trout actually picked up my fly. And that, as they say, was that.

I finally made it West - Bellingham, Washington in this case, which is about as far west as one can go without getting wet - in 1969 to attend college at Western Washington University.

In 1974, I moved to Corvallis, Oregon to attend Oregon State University where I completed a Masters degree in aquatic entomology with a minor in fisheries biology. If learning about aquatic insects while fishing the streams of Oregon wasn't lucky enough, after finishing my degree I actually got a job in Oregon as an aquatic biologist focusing on water quality issues, first with a private consulting firm and then with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. For over 30 years I've been able to watch and study fish and the insects they eat, both professionally and with a fly rod in my hand, throughout Oregon and many other states and provinces.

CASTING ABOUT

Club Members Receive Annual Awards

By Duane Chebul

The December meeting is when the club recognizes several club members for their outstanding service to the Club.

This year was no exception and Vera Edwards (Member of the Year), Jan Knapik (President's Award and John Smith (Volunteer of the Year) were recognized for their contributions towards the betterment of the club. A fourth award (Fly Tyer of the Year) will be named and presented at the April Fly Tyers Meeting.

Jan Knapik (President's Award)

The President's Award is the one award that the Club President gives out without any consultation with the Board. The President se-

as well as club liaison to the Ashland Fly Shop for their annual Steelhead on

the Fly program held at Indian Mary Park.



Vera Edwards (Member of the Year)

Vera Edwards received her award for the many years that she served the club as the official Basket Lady creating colorful baskets for the auction and other events where a basket was needed. Now she takes on an even more important role and that as Sunshine Lady wherein she sends out flowers or cards to those members and family of members that have either passed away or are sick and hospital bound.

lects the recipient for the award based on things that they do to make it a little easier for the president.

In this case the award went to Jan Knapik who is the long time club secretary. In her position, she chronicles the proceedings at all the board meetings insuring a correct and detailed accounting of what went on.

Some of the other things that she has done, includes organizing the first all women's fly fishing seminar that will be conducted this year. Other noted responsibilities that she took on was to act as club liaison to the Casting for Recovery Group

John Smith (Volunteer of the Year)

Although a relative newcomer to the Club, John has distinguished him-



self by his volunteer spirit. When there was a need for extra help for the annual club auction, John didn't hesitate and jointed right in playing an integral part

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OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Cow Creek Outing 2019

By Dave Grosjacques

The Southern Oregon Fly Fisher's outing for February will be fishing for winter steelhead in Cow Creek, a large tributary of the South Umpqua River. We will meet in the parking lot behind Glendale High School at 9 AM on both Friday and Saturday, February 22nd and 23rd. After an information meeting in the bleachers, we will car and truck pool for the 20-



John Storfold with a nice steelhead taken on a recent Cow Creek Outing.

minute drive to the upper deadline for winter steelhead. Vehicles can be left in the parking lot at the school until we head home. We usually fish until mid-afternoon before heading back to Glendale.

A paved road follows Cow Creek all the way downstream from Glendale to Riddle. We will stop for a group photo at West Fork, which is just below the upper deadline at Middle Creek Bridge. Then the group can spread out to fish. A map with road milepost numbers

will be useful to help find access spots. The canyon is steep and brushy in most places, and there are not a lot of spots to access the stream. Participants must watch out for slippery trails, overhanging limbs and tripping hazards while

accessing a fishing spot. Some of the spots on the map have been named so we can tell right where you were when you hooked that big one!

Medium to heavy steelhead rods, leader and flies will work on Cow Creek, spey rods work great because some of the fishing spots have no back cast room. Spey or single hand rods should be size 7 to 9. A floating line and sink tip will get the flies down. The fish are all wild and must be released. Our best day was in 2014 when our group of nine hooked six Steelhead and landed three. To be safe while fishing, most SOFFers wear a life jacket or vest, have a good belt for their waders, wear sunglasses and carry a wading staff. The fishing will be from Middle Creek Bridge (the upper deadline) all the way down to the Doe Creek Bridge.

This outing depends completely on the weather. We have had to cancel twice in the ten years we have been fishing there. If the water is too high and muddy to fish, Dave Grosjacques or Duane Chebul will contact you. The go or no go decision will be made on

Thursday the day before the outing. We will try to notify you first by email before trying to call. Please respond to the email on a cancellation right away so we know you got the message about not going. So let's go catch a big one!

Awards Continued From Pg. 4

in the overall success of the auction. When our former program person relocated out of state, John volunteered to take over the position and has shown his abilities by lining up not only the end of last year's speakers, but has already signed up most of this year's speakers with some outstanding talent already on board.

Highlights from the Chili Feed

Thirty to forty members from the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers and Rogue Flyfishers attended the annual chili feed at the Holy Water on New Year's Day. The day started off clear and cold, which made the warm fire and hot coffee especially nice, then warmed up as the day went on. In addition to all the other good food, we had over a dozen entries in the chili contest. All of them were excellent, so we all enjoyed sampling as many as we could. In the end, RFF member Joanne Simpson's chili was voted the best by the attendees, and she was awarded the coveted chili-pepper trophy. Although most people were content to spend the day visiting around the fire and eating, a few people donned their waders and spent at least a little time fishing in the Holy Water. At least one person caught their first fish of the New Year.

David Haight, Outing Chair



2019 Outings

Feb 22-23	Cow Creek with Dave Grosjacques
Mar 16	Applegate Steelhead
Apr 6	Lake Selmac.
Apr 13	Hyde Lake (\$100 ea.).
May 4	Copeland Pond.
May 31-Jun 1	Lemolo Lake.
Jun 21-23	Cascade Lakes.
Jul 18-20	East Lake
Aug 24	TBA

FLY TYING CORNER

Pigmy Sculpin



Hook: Daiichi, 1750, Size 10.
Thread: Black 8/0.
Head: Sculpin Helmet-mini.
Tail & Fins: Black Rabitt Fur with Frost Tip.
Body: Black Chenille

Tying Instructions:

Smash hook barb and place in the vise so that the hook is upside down as this fly is tied with the hook up. Wrap thread base starting 3 eye lengths back and wrap until even with barb. Tie in rabbit strip ensuring that the hair tips are pointing towards the eye of the hook. Make two wraps side by side and tie off.

Cut the remainder of fur off and wrap back over fur 5 or six wraps.

Tie in the chenille and move thread forward to the beginning of your thread base. Wrap chenille forward and tie off at the tread base, cut excess off. Wrap thread back over chenille to the halfway point of body and retie excess chenille in and wrap forward building a tapered body. Cut excess chenille.

Cut two 1/4 in pieces off rabbit strip. Tie in small rabbit fur pieces one at a time on both sides of the hook with fur pointing towards tail.

Whip finish and apply head cement. Glue eyes onto sculpin helmet and push helmet onto hook and over where fins are tied in.

Reattach thread between helmet and the eye of the hook and make a a nice ball of thread to lock helmet in place. whip finish and head cement.

Fly Tied By: Michael Mazingo

John Storfold

Fly Tying Chair

541-660-6584

steelyjon@charter.net



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

- 2-5 Board Meeting.
 2-12 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
 2-19 Club Meeting with Rick Hafele.
 2-22-23 Cow Creek Outing with Dave Grosjacques.
 3-5 Board Meeting.
 3-8-9 Fly Fishing Expo in Albany.
 3-12 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
 3-16 Club Outing - Applegate River
 3-19 Club Meeting with Steve Day.

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

cost of the meal.

In addition to the above changes, we may be initiating a charge to a member for making a reservation and not cancelling it in a timely manner thereby allowing the club to change our meal guarantee. Since we are billed on our guarantee, any number less than our guarantee means that we have to pay for all those who don't show. Since this is work in progress with the board looking into how to implement such a charge, we can only in the meanwhile encourage everyone making a reservation to either show up or cancel early enough that the club won't be charged for an extra meal.

These changes may seem draconian to some, but it's just the price of doing business today while trying to keep the club solvent.



NORTHWEST FLY TYER AND FLY FISHING EXPO
 www.nwexpo.com

Meet Maxine's Coach Chris Korich
 12x World Casting Champion

Meet Maxine McCormick
 15 year old World Champion of Fly Casting

March 8 - 9, 2019
Linn County Expo Center
Albany, Oregon

- 200 Fly Tyer Demonstrations
- All-Day Casting Demonstrations
- 85+ Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Classes
- 62 Vendors & 90+ Casting Classes

FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL
 OREGON COUNCIL

2019 NW FLY TYER EXPO

One of the fly fishing highlights of the year is the annual Fly Fishers International Oregon Council's Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo. Over the years this event has become the primo fly fishing exhibition of the Pacific Northwest.

Originally established as a single day event promoting the art of fly tying it has now morphed into a fly fishing spectacu-

lar in which over 200 tyers demonstrate their prowess at the vise turning out excellent examples of the classic flies, together with constantly developed new flies using new and innovative materials as well as new techniques. Added to this, are the all day casting demonstrations, the various classes on fly fishing and fly tying and private casting instruction.



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Editor's Notebook

If you weren't at the January meeting, you didn't hear President Michael Mazingo announce to the assembly that starting in April, dinner prices will be raised by two dollars to \$22.00. In addition, he announced that those members attending dinner without making reservations will be charged \$25.00.

Why were the prices raised? For one thing, since coming to the Wild River Pub, the cost of our meals have gone up considerably; whereas, when we were at the Event Center we were charged a straight \$20.00 per meal and a discounted room charge of \$200. Since moving to Wild Rivers, the meals have raised to \$22.00 to \$23.00 depending on what was served plus a 15% service charge on each meal served. On a \$23.00 meal that equates to \$3.45 extra per meal, if you project that out to an average attendance of 60 for dinner that adds

another \$207.00 to the cost.

The club has always adsorbed the cost of the room charge at the Event Center or now the service charge at Wild Rivers as the cost of doing business. We needed some place to hold our meetings and this was going to be the cost.

Now dinner costs are a different matter. At one point, the club was able to subsidize some of the costs of the dinner. They were doing this when I first joined the club in 2001 when a dinner cost \$18.00 and the club paid \$20.00 subsidizing \$2.00 per meal.

After we left the Event Center to return after a year, we were dealing with a new vendor and that was Tap Rock Restaurant who had leased the Event Center. To encourage our return, we able to negotiate a deal of \$20.00 per meal plus a discounted room rate of \$200.00. When we returned to the Event Center, the Board of Directors

reviewed the costs of the meal and decided to raise the price of dinner to \$20.00 to reflect actual cost of the meal.

In 2017 when we were forced to relocate to the Wild River Pub, the club continued to charge \$20.00 and subsidize \$2.00 or \$3.00 per meal plus absorb the 15% service charge.

The monies used to subsidize these meals came from the club's treasury. When things were good, we made a lot of money at our annual auctions and could afford to subsidize the meal costs. This year unfortunately, the funds raised at the annual auction wasn't as great as we were originally expecting which caused the board to have to really review costs for our 2019 budget year and make some drastic cuts. Only after the budget review did the board decide to raise the cost of dinners to \$22.00 to reflect the actual

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