

SOFF News

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SOFF NEWS

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

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A recent outing of the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers to Hyde Lake out of Chiloquin Oregon gives ample testimony that the lake has returned to its big fish reputation.



Here is a 26 inch rainbow that Nick Merrill landed during a recent club outing to Hyde Lake. Although there were only three club members at the event, plus a couple of Rogue Fly Fishers, and despite the weather being anything but great, all anglers still landed several fish.

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

SPECIAL MENTION

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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by
Michael Mazingo

How much prep work do you put in to going fishing? I imagine that most of you check the weather and water flow, set

out your rod and reel and stuff your bags with more stuff than you really need. But how many of you obsess over things like possible hatches, water color and temperature, cloud conditions, wind conditions, etc.?

I loosely do all of these things and by loosely I mean I usually just wing it. I love catching fish but I actually love trying to catch those fish on flies that I've tied that would fall well into the unconventional spectrum. Now, don't get me wrong, I tie plenty of standard fly patterns that have proven themselves time after time but I'm looking for explosive. I'm looking for the secret weapon of flies.

In order to find the next secret weapon you must be willing to fish the same stretch or body of water over and over again. You have to fish it in every conceivable type of weather and at every depth possible. I understand that this sounds less like winging it and more like research but I think the two things go hand in hand.

Research is defined as "creative and systematic work undertaken to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of humans, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications." – Webster's Dictionary

According to this definition, winging it really isn't the right nomenclature. I guess what I like to do would be closer

to purposeful failure. I take what lessons I learned in all of my unsuccessful fly attempts and put that knowledge to work on the vise in hopes that my next attempt will be the right combination. Unfortunately there are very few

flies that work in all weather and water conditions. Fish are finicky at best and mind numbingly frustrating at worst.

I know plenty of members who swear by studying the entomology of the river or lake and therefore matching their flies to the bugs of the day or season. There is certainly a ton of research and practical application that proves this is as close to a sure thing as there is, but as we all know nothing is a guarantee

in fly fishing. I know a fisherman who once caught a fish on a pink piece of yarn square knotted onto a hook.



Kevin Daniels receiving a service award from President Michael

Was that yarn tied on as a result of observation or frustration I have no idea and at the time did not think to ask that question? What I do know about the yarn is that it worked and more than once that day. As of this writing I do not believe that it worked consistently or at all after that day. We can learn from this lesson regardless and it serves to prove my point that winging it/purposeful failure is really a more applied technique than most of us will admit.

Winging it is not just sitting at the vise and randomly tying materials

Continued on Pg. 3



Dan Kellogg receiving the 2018 Fly Tyer of the Year award for his many contributions to the art of fly tying.

ATTENTION!
Board Meeting
The Board of Directors meet in the conference room of the Tap Rock Restaurant
The next meeting is scheduled:
May 7th at 6:00pm or the first Tuesday of the month
All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

June 18	Dr. Jerry Freilich
July 16	No Meeting
Aug 20	No Meeting
Sep 17	Steve K
Oct 15	Lance Grey
Nov 9	Annual Auction
Dec 17	Dave Meurer
Jan 21	Dave Hughes

WHEN:

May 21, 2019



TIMES:

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

WHERE:

Wild River Pub
533 NE F St. G.P.



Scott Richmond - The Gold Box



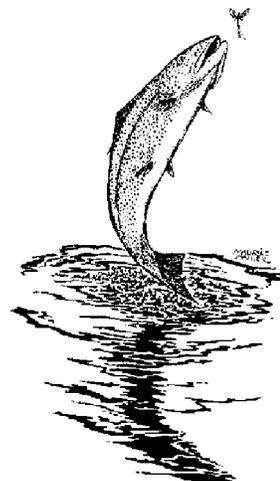
Scott Richmond is the award-winning author of nine books on Oregon fly fishing, including *Fishing Oregon's Deschutes River* and the novel *River in the Sun*. Also known as "Uncle Fuzzy," Scott is the creator and executive director of Westfly, a non-profit website for Western fly anglers.

President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

together in hopes of finding the right size, color and shape (although I highly recommend doing this from time to time) but rather what we tend to do when all of our meticulous prep work to target a specific fish on a specific day in a specific body of water yields zero results. It's at this point that we open our fly boxes and get to work winging it in hopes of finding something that works.

The best advice I have ever been given in fly fishing in my opinion is to "change flies often." So many of us can get caught up in convincing ourselves that all of our prep and research means the fly we are using is going to hit. It is this type of thinking that will lead us to using the same fly for hours. I have been there too many times to count. When pride turns to stubbornness the fishing usually does not improve.

When we finally break down and admit that the fly that should work isn't going to, that's when preparation turns to winging it and in turn winging it turns into research. Some days I prefer to skip the middle man and just go straight to the winging it part. Fishing for me is about relaxation and fun and nothing is more fun or rewarding like catching a fish on a fly that I created by "winging it" on my vise. Don't be afraid to combine research with creativity and imagination. After all, you never know when winging it will turn into accidental genius.



CASTING ABOUT

A Bucket List Trip to be Remembered

By Ron Cremo

With seven guys from the San Jose Fly Fishers, I went to Brazil in January 2019 for Peacock Bass.

We took a float plane heading North 250 miles out of Manaus, Brazil to a private reserve that has never been fished before until this year it was open for only 8

weeks, future years unknown.

In seven days of fishing, we caught over 1200 Peacock Bass up to 16 lbs.

(and some other exotics unknown and a Pirhana!) I used up 30 plus flies (they really tear

them up) I had painstakingly tied up: I took 60 flies per the host.

I started out with a 10w rod and after 3000 exhausting casts a day I went to an 8w rod maybe pushing the limits of 5000 guideline casts a day. I had to wear a leather finger pad initially until I

wore painful (2 finger) holes in it; I then went to a synthetic option that worked much better, custom made by one of my Fly Fishers from San Jose.

The enclosed pictures (sending a google

link next) were some of many from the trip, including the hungry Crocodile that the guide had to clobber so it wouldn't jump in the boat if I brought my Peacock in too

so attentive that they even served us our favorite cocktails every day after



Landing in the float plane at the fish camp - our home for the next seven days.



The crocodile followed several of my catches to the boat and had to be persuaded to leave the fish alone by a rap on his head with an oar.



My guide, along with me and one of the many Peacock Bass that I caught.

our evening river baths or cabin showers (AC cabins mind you) with crystal clear spring water from the river.



A river soak while waiting for dinner gave a new meaning to the cocktail hour just as long as there no piranhas to nibble on your toes.

close.

One day, we had a spectacular BBQ at riverside. These were the only fish we kept; however, we ate local fish and drank water and booze (wine, beer and spirits) daily on the house. The local hosts was

Can't wait to go back.

OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Lemolo Lake Outing 2019

By Dave Grosjacques

The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers Lemolo Lake outing will be held this year on

Friday and Saturday, May 31st and June 1st. Outing host Dave Grosjacques will be camping in the Poole Creek campground on the lake's west side.

PooleCreek is the largest of the four campgrounds near Lemolo. It is a US Forest Service campground with 60 campsites. There is also a KOA campground just up the hill from the lake at

Lemolo Resort, which also has a small store, rental boats and cabins, and a gas station. Lemolo Lake is about 15 miles

north of Diamond Lake Resort. It is about a two-hour drive from Grants Pass, via Highway 62 and Highway 230 to Highway 138.



Dave G watching over the participants at a recent Lemolo Lake outing



A 'cool one' after a hard day of fishing.

Please send an email to Dave at grosjacquesd11@gmail.com if you plan to attend the outing or if you have questions about boat ramps, fishing locations, flies to use or presentation. Let Dave know what day you will arrive. There will be a club social hour on both Thursday and Friday afternoon at 4 PM at Dave's campsite. He will have a sign-in and message sheet next to a large SOFF sign at his site. Come on up into the high country and enjoy some early summer fishing!

Cascade Lakes/Lava Lake Outing

We have one of the longest running and more popular club outings coming in June – the Cascade Lakes/Lava Lake outing. Find the joy of fishing the clear, pristine waters of the Central Oregon area – Deschutes River, Big & Little Lava Lakes, Hosmer Lake, Cultas Lake, Crane Prairie Lake, Fall River, and many other bodies of fine fishing water. The dates are Friday, June 21 through Sunday June 23.



Sonja Nisson with a nice Lava Lake rainbow

We will meet at the site with the SOFF sign in front (Jerry & Sue's RV site) at the Lava Lake RV Resort/Campground on Friday and Saturday mornings at 8:00am to present and share information on local fishing. On



Sue Keeling with a nice fish she landed at one of the Cascades Lakes during a recent outing.

2019 Outings

- May 4 Copeland Pond.
- May31-Jun 1 Lemolo Lake.
- Jun 21-23 Cascade Lakes.
- Jul 18-20 East Lake
- Aug 24 TBA
- Sept 7 Clinic/Picnic
- Oct 19 Rogue Steelhead
- Nov 2 Rogue Coho
- Jan 1 Chili Feed

Cascade/Lava Lakes Cont. on Pg. 7

FLY TYING CORNER

CRAW FISH



Hook: #4 Daiichi 1730 or any 3x Long Nymph or Jig Hook and Bend Them Yourself.

Thread: 6/0 or Equivalent. (Your Choice).

Claws: Rabbit or Squirrel Strips (Use Straight Cuts and not Cross Cuts (I used Mottle Burnt Orange).

Body: UV2 Dubbing (Color to Match Overall Color of Fly, I blend my Own).

Shell: Swiss Straw or Scud Back Stretch.

Eyes: Burnt Ends on 40lb Maxima Chameleon Mono.

Weight: 10-15 Wraps of .025 Lead or Lead Substitute and Dumb Bell Eyes or Bead Chain.

Tying Instructions:

Tail: Swiss Straw or Scud Back.

Segmentation: Medium or Small Copper Wire.

Pinch the barb and place the hook in the vice up-side-down.

Lay down a layer of thread from about two eye lengths behind the eye to the bend. Just behind the eye make 10 – 15 wraps with the lead. Wrap the thread over the lead and build a dam in front of and behind the lead to keep it from slipping.

Tie in the eyes just in front of the bend in the middle of the hook using the standard figure eight wraps and then move the thread to the back of the hook to even with the tip of the hook. Tie in the mono for the eyes extending past the end of the hook about 1/2 inch keeping them on the side of the hook. They should turn up (the natural memory of the line as it came of the spool should take care of that), and the burnt ends should be about level with the point of the hook. I use a marker to mark the melted eyes with black to ad contrast. I am sure the fish don't care.

Now tie in the shell (either swiss-straw of scud back) and you can poke the hook through it to keep it out of the way while you finish the body.

Tie in the claws. They should extend beyond the end of the hook, about 1 inch.

Tie in your hackle and move out of the way for later.

Now dub the body to just behind the dumbbell eyes. Using open wrap, make about 4 wrap of the hackle to form the legs and tie off just behind the dumbbells.

Continued on Pg. 7

John Storfold

Fly Tying Chair

541-660-6584

steelyjohn@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

- 5-4 Club Outing to Copeland's Pond
 5-7 Board Meeting.
 5-14 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
 5-18 Beginning Fly Fishing Clinic
 5-21 Club Meeting - with Scott Richmond
 5-31-6-1 Lemolo Lake Outing with Dave Grosjacques
 6-4 Board Meeting
 6-11 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill
 6-21-23 Cascade/Lava Lakes Outing

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

the outings to insure their success.

Just recently there was an outing at Hyde Lake where there were only three club members that attended. Those members that attended did really well with some big fish taken. Had Dave known that only three members would be attending should he have cancelled the outing for lack of interest? Or at some of his other outings where the participation was less than stellar – should he have cancelled those outings?

Those club members that coordinate an outing put a lot a time and effort in their production and if attendance continues to be sparse, at what point does that person cut their losses and no longer host the outing? Who'll be the big loser if they do – the club member that wants to come out and take part in the outing.

Just remember when someone passes around a sign-up sheet for an outing that you want to attend, sign-up and should your plans change and you can't attend let the coordinator know and just not be a no show.

Speaking from personal experience, it is really frustrating to do all the work necessary to make an outing a success and then have very few attend.

It doesn't take long before disenchantment takes hold and one no longer will host an event. So bear it in mind, that if we want quality outings to continue, the membership needs to participate and that participation includes signing up and then showing up for the outings or advise the coordinator if you signed up and can't make it.

With this piece, I have purged my soul regarding outings and now I feel better!

Craw Fish Continued from Pg. 5

Tie in your ribbing just in front of the dumbbells and dub the rest of the hook up to the eye leaving dead space. Pull the shell back over the hackle to the dumbbells and tie off. Dub the (keeping the shell back tight) make open wraps with your wire to just behind the eye. Tie off the wire and fatigue it off and make a whip finish under the shell back.

Leave enough for a tail and cut it off. I use UV resin to secure the head and give it durability and it is dry almost instantly once you hit it with the UV light. You can use head cement instead if you choose.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, John Storfold, Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, and Project Healing Waters Program Lead, and member of Southern Oregon Fly Tyers: steely-john@charter.net, 541-660-6584.

Fly Tied By John Storfold



Cascade/Lava Lakes Cont. from Pg. 5

Friday night, we will meet at 5:30 at the same site to continue the new tradition of sharing snacks, appetizers and hors d'oeuvres. Bring your own favorite beverage and appetizer to share. On



Sharing snacks and appetizers and fish stories while waiting for the communal dinner to begin.

Saturday evening we will meet at 5:00 for social hour with the group dinner beginning at 6:00 at the same site. We will again serve barbequed Tri tip and chicken breast. Each person attending will need to bring an appetizer, a side dish or dessert and their own beverage (the club will provide water and ice tea). Please bring your own chairs if possible as we have limited seating. Come join us for some good food, good friends and good fishing.

Make sure you sign up no later than June 12 to attend the dinner as we need an accurate count in order to have enough food.

If you are interested in attending you can sign up at the SOFF club dinner in May, or email Jerry & Sue Keeling at jerrykeeling@msn.com or call 541-218-7264. There are many options for camping in the area as well as cabins at various lakes.

You don't want to miss out on some great fishing and great memories.

Jerry & Sue Keeling



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Grants Pass, Oregon
97528
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Editor's Notebook

Recently I had to cancel an outing of another club I belong to because of lack of participation. Granted this was not a fishing outing, rather is was a Recreational Vehicle club outing. It was an outing where I needed to select the date of the event, the location of the outing, make all necessary reservations, plan for the various meals that the club would provide, provide activities and lastly all the other little things that would make the outing a success.

Next, I would send out notices a couple of months before the event to the membership asking for a commitment as to whether they would be attending and then I waited to see what would come in. As the time drew near to the outing and responses were minimal, I sent out another notice and once again waited to see what would come in.

Finally, two weeks before the event with only 5 rigs committing to come out for the outing, out of a membership of 40 rigs, I determined that it would be more work than it would be worth and cancelled the outing.

You may ask why I would bring this parable up in this newsletter and it is simple; SOFF provides outings almost 12 months of the year that require planning and preparation, particularly, some of the larger ones such as Copeland Pond, Cascade/Lava Lakes, and Lemolo Lake to name a few. The outing coordinators of these events need to plan for including in some cases to purchase and prepare food for the event. It gets really frustrating when hardly anyone comes out for the event.

Cascade/Lava Lakes particularly require planning and it is the one outing where it can be either a success or a bust. People sign up for the outing and when the time comes for the outing,

those people signed up are a no show or on the other side of the equation show up for the outing without signing up. I remember a time that the Keelings, long time coordinators of outing, were forced to scramble to Bend to purchase more food for all the extra people that showed up.

The same could be said for the Copeland Pond outing, probably one if not the best attended outings that the club offers. The problem with this outing is not attendance; rather it is those people attending that fail to sign up for the outing. Dave Haight, the long time coordinator, needs to plan for and purchase enough food and drinks for all and it becomes unnecessarily difficult if the membership doesn't sign up.

Speaking of Dave Haight, he is responsible for providing the majority outings for the year. He needs to plan for and for the most part attend each of

Continued on Pg. 7