

SOFF News

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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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Where are the winter steelhead is a question currently in the minds of many Southern Oregon Fly Fishers who are awaiting the annual arrival of the fish in the Rogue.



Kevin O'Malley and Teresa Kasza displays a fine steelhead taken by O'Malley on a trip down the Rogue.

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

SPECIAL MENTION

Bill Burns:
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Kevin Daniels:
John Smith:
John Storfold:
David Haight:
Jennifer Mazingo:
Dave Roberts:
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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by
Michael Mazingo

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and found joy in those around you. This being the first Christmas as a grandpa, joy was not hard to find. Although she is not old enough to understand what is happening, just seeing her smile and play with (try to eat) the wrapping paper was good enough for me.

New Year, same me. As we usher in 2020, many people will be looking to try and use the new year as the motivation to change. I have always looked to the new year not as the opportunity to change but rather to improve. Improve my relationships, improve my health and improve my casting.

As I was surfing the web and reading news and articles I found interesting, I stumbled upon several lists of common New Year's resolutions that

fishermen make. these list got me thinking, what would the top 5 resolutions for me be?

5. Fish more. - I think without a doubt this is most likely should be #1 on the list as it is probably the resolution uttered most by all fishers. The funniest thing about this one is, it is usually my own fault for not fishing

more. There are some factors, like my back, that are out of my control but it's all the other days that I convince myself something else "important" must get done instead. Truth be told, 95% of the time that "important" thing can wait until another day.

4. I will take my family with me. - I feel this one can be a double edge sword. As many of

you know well, the Mazingo clan does tend to travel and do things in a pack. Two of my three children love to fish and Jennifer usually enjoys out fishing me on most days. Fishing however is

Reading through also my stress reliever and my way to "get away".



President Michael presents Dave Grosjacques with the Member of the Year Award.

Jennifer and I bought ourselves a 5th wheel for Christmas this year so that we could travel further and stay longer on fishing trips. With any luck this should help with both bringing the family more and getting away without them more.

3. I will quit demonstrating a trailing loop. - If only there was a casting competition for this one. I think I would be in the running for spokesperson of the century. I am grateful however to make others on the river feel better about their own casts. I used to have this horrible habit while golfing that I was so excited to be on the course that I constantly tried to murder my golf ball. This habit seems to be more like a disease and transferred over to fly fishing. I get so excited to be out on the water that I forget the river isn't going anywhere and try

Continued on Pg. 3



President Michael presents Jacqe Storfold and John Smith with a merit award for their work on the auction.

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

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

Feb 18	Phil Rowley
Mar 17	Brian O'Keefe
Apr 21	Fly Tyer's Night
May 19	Russ Leavitt
Jun 16	Rick Newton
Jul 14	No Meeting
Aug 20	No Meeting
Sep 15	TBA

WHEN:

January 21, 2020



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.



Dave Hughes - Nymph Fishing Simplified

President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

to cast with the same speed and intensity of a speeding locomotive.

2. Take more pictures of the fish I catch. - This is the resolution I should be saying every year. I am by far the worst when it comes to taking pictures. I just get caught (no pun intended) in the moment and the fish, and simply forget. I really enjoy hearing other people's fishing stories, especially when they have pictures of the beautiful fish they catch. Every time I plan a trip I always tell myself I WILL take more pictures and every time I fail. Maybe this will be my year.

1. Be more patient. - This one for me is mostly easy. Being in the Army gave me the best skill ever, the ability to wait hours on end for no reason. More importantly a lifetime of being and outdoorsman has taught me the patience of nature. The type of patience I still need work on is letting the fly do the work. I can be very quick in pick the fly up off of the water before it's even at its midpoint in the drift.

I hope to see you all on the water this year and with any luck I might just have a picture of a fish to share.



Dave Hughes is author of more than 20 books about fly fishing for trout. They include *Wet Flies*, *Handbook of Hatches*, *Reading Trout Water*, *Essential Trout Flies*, the classic *Western Hatches* (with Rick Hafele), *American Fly Tying Manual*, *Nymphs for Streams and Stillwaters*, *Trout From Small Streams*, *Pocketguide to Western Hatches* and the massive reference *Trout Flies*.

His articles on fly fishing have appeared in *Field & Stream*, *Outdoor Life*, *Sports Afield*, *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Rod & Reel*, *Northwest Fly Fishing*, and *Fly Tyer* magazines. Dave served as editor of *Flyfishing & Tying Journal* for eight years, and is currently a columnist for *American Angler*, and *Flyfishing & Tying Journal*.

Dave was founding president of Oregon Trout in 1983, and was awarded life membership in the Federation of Flyfishers in 1985. He was awarded the Pete Hidy honorary life membership in the Flyfishers Club of Oregon in 1992 for his literary accomplishments. Dave received the prestigious Letcher Lambuth Angler Craftsman Award in 2008 from the Washington Fly Fishing Club. He is a life member of his home club, the Rainland Flycasters in Astoria, Oregon.

Dave is an accomplished amateur aquatic entomologist. His hobbies include collecting, identifying, and photographing the aquatic insects that are fed upon by trout, as well as tying and fishing the flies that match those insects and fool those trout.

Dave lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife, Japanese fly fishing writer Masako Tani.

CASTING ABOUT

Things Are Changing

Tom Collett

These are just some of my observations having lived on the side the Rogue River some 18 years now. There has been a decline in the diversity and numbers of wildlife. I understand that nature runs in cycles but when you put all the telltale signs together with all the known elements, to me it is cause for alarm. We used to have a bear with cubs come by when the berries and grapes were ripe. We used to see otters, beavers, mink and muskrat. Now we see none of these creatures. Another recent change this summer is that we are observing less aquatic insect hatches and activity. In addition to the insect issue is the aquatic vegetation, seems to be much more plentiful than previous years. One has to wonder about what has changed that could make such a drastic difference.

The most obvious difference is the increased human activity. A handful of new homes have been built, and remember when the hoards of suction dredgers descended on the river just upstream of Gold Hill. We also know that the Medford sewage treatment plant is continuing to damage the water quality. The huge increase in hemp farming just might explain a lot. The runoff containing fertilizers might explain additional aquatic vegetation. Now we also have the ongoing saga of the LNG pipeline. Along with the pipeline route there is also the additional roads that will be needed to access our wildlands to get the equipment and supplies to the pipeline site. There will also be staging yards needed. This will be a huge impact on our waterways and wildlands and the creatures that live there. The pipeline would cross the Rogue River at Trail, just above Shady Cove and would also include a pumping station.

Trying to stop these environmental atrocities seems to be a monumental task but fortunately we don't have to do it alone. The Northwest Environmental Advocates has filed a lawsuit against the waste water treatment facility in Medford. The treatment plant in Grants Pass needs to be addressed. The LNG Pipeline has the attention and focus of many environmental groups along its 230 mile route. The two most involved and effective organizations in our area are Rogue Riverkeeper and Rogue Climate. These two non-profit organizations are continuously working to stop the LNG pipeline. They write letters, articles, attend and speak at meetings and hearings. They use college interns and volunteers and activate phone banks. They are very good at organizing, networking and using social media in that regard. They are in a position to do a better job at these things than we fly fishers are. It would be advantageous to partner with these two groups and leverage all our collective assets.

OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

January Outing - Winter Steelhead on the Oregon Coast

In January, the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers will head

to the Southern Oregon Coast to fish for winter steelhead. At that time of year, it is usually cold and foggy here in the valley, and the fishing in the local area can be slow; however, the weather at the coast is often beautiful, and the winter steelhead fishery is in full



This the goal of the outing - hooking and landing a fine silver bright steelhead right from the sea.



A Coquille Steelhead from a previous outing.

swing.

The outing is scheduled for January 25 and 26. Due to the uncertainty of conditions on the coast during the winter, we will decide which streams to fish when we get closer to the date of the outing. Since we have not fished the South Fork of the Coquille River as a club in quite some time, I am tentatively planning to go there.

The dates could change if we get a storm that blows out all the streams. Consequently, anyone interested in attending the outing should send me an email or leave a phone message, and I will send out detailed information once a decision is made. I will provide equipment recommendations at that time as well.

The Southern Oregon Coast offers some the best fishing for winter

steelhead that can be found. The steelhead are fresh from the ocean, big, chrome bright, and have a lot of energy. This, along with the beautiful scenery and great company of fellow club members, should make this a fun outing.

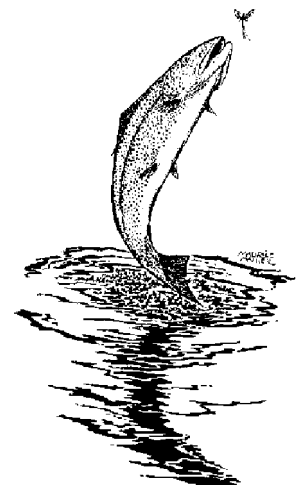
David Haight, Outing Chair,
tmdrhaight@infostructure.net, 541-855-9043

“Strategies and Tactics for Stillwaters”

A Southern Oregon Fly Fishers Workshop
Featuring Phil Rowley

Wednesday, February 19, 2020
 10 AM-3 PM
 Madrone Hills Mobile Home Park Club House
 8401 Old State Rd
 Central Point
 Same place where Southern Oregon Fly Tyers meet

Openings still available
 \$35.00 per participant
 To register contact John Smith at 801-710-2515 or jlsutah@gmail.com



2020 Outings

Jan 25 - 26	Coastal Steelhead
Feb 29	South Umpqua Steelhead
Mar 21	Applegate Steelhead
Apr 8	Trout Lake
May 2	Copeland Pond
May 29-30	Lemolo Lake
Jun 26-28	Cascades Lakes
Jul 17-19	East Lake

FLY TYING CORNER

Burlap Steelhead Fly



- Hook:** Steelhead Hook, Size 10-2.
- Thread:** Veersa 10/0.
- Tag:** Gold Holographic Mylar
- Tail:** Squirrel Tail.
- Body:** Burlap (From a Burlap Sack).
- Hackle:** Black and White Guinea

Tying Instructions:

This fly is not necessarily new, but I did make a few minor changes in material from the standard.

De-barb the hook and place it in the vise. Lay a thread base back to the bend in the hook or just over where the barb was. Tie in your tag and make about 3-4 overlapping wraps and tie off.

Tie in your tail holding it firmly to keep it on top of the hook. Moving the thread up near the hook return and tie in a strand of burlap bumping the burlap up against the end of the return to help smooth out the body of the fly. Tie the burlap back to the front edge of the tail.

Move your thread up to just behind the eye. Now with touching wraps, wrap the burlap up to two eye lengths behind the eye and tie off. Trim close.

Now tie in your hackle by the tip. Make about two and half to three wraps and tie off and form a nice head and whip finish. Trim and coat with head cement or UV resin.

Like I said I made a couple of changes to this fly from the original which I believe had a deer tail and the hackle was partridge. And not trying to sound like a broken record but don't be afraid to take liberties with a recipe. You may in fact find a combination that actually-works better than that original fly patterns. That is how many of our current fly patterns were concocted. Now This fly has not gotten wet yet. The operative word is YET. Have fun at your vise. And go get one wet.

Tight Lines - John Storfold

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

- 1-8 Beginning Fly Tying Class
Grants Pass High School.
- 1-14 SOFF Fly Tyers, Madrone
Mobile Home Park in Gold
Hill
- 1-21 Club Meeting with Dave
Hughes
- 1-22 Workshop Featuring Dave
Hughes
- 1-25-26 Club Outing - Coastal Steel
head with David Haight.
- 2-4 Board Meeting
- 2-11 SOFF Fly Tyers, Madrone
Mobile Home Park in Gold
Hill.
- 2-18 Club Meeting with Phil
Rowley.

'President's Award', Tom Beveridge for receiving the 'Fly Tyer of the Year Award' and Jim Tehan, as the winner of the 'Volunteer of the Year Award' who was unable to be in attendance and will be presented the award at a later time. All the recipients of these club awards were well deserving of the honor.

It's not too early to start thinking about the annual Fly Tying and Fishing Fair to be held March 13 – 14 at the Linn County Fairgrounds in Albany. It is always a well attended affair with many of the SOFF's club members either tying or working in some other capacity at the event. In addition, there is the annual club party hosted by the Editor and his wife, always a big hit at the event. Usually space is limited at the host hotel which is the Comfort Suites, so I would suggest if you're planning on attending and spending the night, you get your res-

ervations in early as they are usually booked solid for the event. Also be aware that in addition to seeing in excess of 100 tyers, there are also classes that are given each year such as fly casting, fly tying and fly fishing in general. There is

something there for all interests.

Lastly there are numerous vendors in attendance, selling a wide variety of items.

Revision in Dues Procedures

By Bill Burns
Membership Chair

Happy 2020 fellow fly fishers! I hope this will be your best fishing year ever and I wish you all tight lines.

All the Early Bird Rod raffle entrants, a total of 66 members, paid their new or renewal dues before January 1. They will be combined with any chance tickets purchased by Life Members in SOFF in the January meeting Rod drawing. This change was recently enacted by the Board of Directors, deciding that their financial support of the club should not exclude them from Rod raffles. A life member can now purchase a single chance ticket for \$5.00, with all monies going to the general fund. This is a change from previous club policy.

Another action implemented by the Board of Directors involved payment of dues. All members must have their dues current (paid through 2020). So take heed! If you haven't already renewed your 2020 dues, you need to do so prior to April 1, as anyone delinquent after that date shall be excluded from the 2020 directory.

Please visit last year's directory and confirm your information is all correct. Notify me of any corrections or changes that need to be made.

Thanks, for your help with this matter.

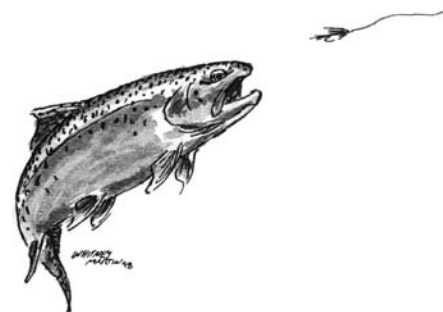
Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

much as I would like to resolve things, it's not my fault that I don't, it's only that I'm old and have seen the issue under a new light with 'thicker glasses' and not frustrate myself with continuing delusions that I'll change anything. Boy, that's a load off my mind now I can start thinking about other things.

And one of those things was the presentation the annual SOFF club awards. Those who were presented awards were Dave Grosjacques being recognized as the "Member of the Year", John Storfold for receiving the



Tom Beveridge receives the 'Fly Tyer of the Year' Award.





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Editor's Notebook

Well with the beginning of the New Year it's that time again when one thinks upon and determines how resolutions of things to do or not to do will make the New Year better than the last one. I for one was an adherent of such wishful thinking and would dutifully reflect on the past year and how things would be different in the new one.

As I became older, realization also set in that this was an exercise in frustration as it was the same thing each year as nothing changed. The same old deficiencies were noted and resolved to be changed in the New Year, only to reappear at the end of the year to be addressed again.

Well not again, this year there

will be no more boring resolutions I'm so fond of chronicling on this page the



John Storfold receives the President's Award.

got to get out and do more fishing. No more I have to sit down and tie more flies or any of the many other faults that shall we say flaw my character. Reality is as reality does – I'll do as much or as little of these things as time and circumstances dictate, regardless of my intention of doing either more or less.

Instead of the usual resolutions, I have pondered the efficacy of such action and realized that I have reached the pinnacle of age when one can display stoic cynicism without the fear of criticism from one's peers. So when I don't fish as much as I once did or tie as many flies as I once did – the reason is I'm old!

Now that I have come to grips with the notion that as

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