

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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While awaiting winter steelhead, some members of the SOFF got together to toss spawned out coho in Taylor Creek as nutrients for the next generation of fish.



The group at the last Fish Toss in January. They included from left to right Duane Chebul, Bob Stafford, Dave Grosjacques, David O'Malley, Kevin O'Malley, Ken Heindsmann, ODFW Biologist Ryan Battleson and Nick Merrill behind the camera.

**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:
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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Michael Mazingo

Those of you that had the opportunity to see Dave Hugh's at our January meeting or his workshop the following day found yourself seeing his famous book on western hatches come to life. Dave is an exceptional speaker and his passion for fishing and matching the hatch come through in his presentations and becomes very infectious.

During Dave's four hour workshop he said something while answering a question about another author's opinion that really struck a chord with me. Dave simply stated "Pick your expert." I found myself pondering this the rest of the day and wondering do we really tend to gravitate towards one expert over another? Do we see one expert as the "expert"?

I have had the pleasure to see and/or talk at length with some of the best author's and fly fishers of the Pacific Northwest. If I tried to write a book from my collection of notes taken during those meetings it would read more like the ramblings of a fevered buffalo. That is not to say my notes are unintelligible but rather selective and incomplete at best.

After pondering on this for a while I am sad to say I did not come up with a life changing epiphany. I can say with all certainty that if you could make out my notes you would see a trending two part theme amongst them. The first part is to look at the bugs in the water and try to match them.

Now this might seem rather elementary and attempts to "dumb down" what these experts are saying. I can assure you that in no way is that my intention, simply just an astute observation.

The other part is size, shape, color and presentation of the fly you choose to match the bugs. Now this one can be controversial with the order of precedence you give to those four things. I guess you could say this is where you might tend to "Pick your expert." Everyone has their own opinion on this topic and I have witnessed at least a few disagreements when discussing the order/importance different fly fishers place on fly selection criteria.

When I was new to fly fishing and tying, Dave Grojacques told me "If you have the right size and color of fly the fish aren't going to stop and ponder whether or not it is a beautiful imitation before deciding to take it." I have found that his advice often finds itself smacking me in the back of the head when I start to over think or more appropriately over dress a fly.

I may have mentioned the following story before but I believe it bears repeating. Shortly after arriving here in Oregon I was invited to tie at the Sugarpine Fly Shop. While tying flies I asked the other tyers what their favorite fly to tie was. Unanimously everyone agreed on the same fly: "The simplest one that will catch fish."

We as fly fishers and tyers can from time to time find ourselves drawn to very aesthetically pleasing flies. That is the

nicest way to say flies that are beautiful imitations of the particular bug but don't fish worth a damn. Doug Stewart, who is most famous for inventing the Max Canyon, told me once that when he ties a deer hair caddis he will

take a knife to it so it looks like it has already been chewed on by fish because it fishes 10x better that way.

I guess the real point to this is even though there are as many experts as there are opinions (and you know what they say about opinions) they tend to mostly agree that

simplicity is often more effective than we are willing to believe.

I can usually find the answers I am seeking by looking back at my time in the Army and remembering some of the better butt chewing's I have taken and given. The Army just always seems to have an expression or acronym to fit every situation. In this particular one I find myself repeating

Continued on Pg. 3



Bill Burns receiving the club's Appreciation Award from President Michael.

ATTENTION!
Board Meeting
The Board of Directors meet in the conference room of the Tap Rock Restaurant
The next meeting is scheduled:
Feb. 4th at 6:00pm or the first Tuesday of the month
All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

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
Oct 20	TBA

WHEN:

February 18, 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.



Phil Rowley - Strike Indicator Techniques for Stillwaters



President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

the mantra K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple Stupid).

"I look into... my fly box, and think about all the elements I should consider in choosing the perfect fly: water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, what the fish are eating right now. Then I remember what a guide told me: 'Ninety percent of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about five-eighths of an inch long.'" ~ Allison Moir

EAST LAKE OUT- ING JULY 17 – 19

Cinder Hill Campground is now accepting reservations. These sites can go quickly.



If you're planning on attending, get after it soon @ recreation.gov. Don't miss out

At the age of 6 Phil Rowley was introduced to coarse fishing in England and has been hooked ever since. For the past 20 years Phil Rowley has been fly-fishing stillwaters almost exclusively. His love of stillwater fly fishing has taken him all over British Columbia and Washington in the pursuit of trout and char. A former commercial fly tyer Phil has written for almost every major fly fishing publication in North America. His contributions also include books and numerous feature articles on fly-fishing stillwaters and stillwater fly patterns. Phil's book *Fly Patterns For Stillwaters* has become a best seller. Recently Phil in conjunction with True North Entertainment released a DVD, *Tying Fly Patterns for Stillwaters*.

This DVD features patterns from Phil's book along with some new creations. When he is not tying flies or on the water Phil travels western North America performing at outdoor shows, teaching a variety of seminars, speaking to fly clubs and conducting weekend fly-fishing schools. In addition to Phil's shows and seminars he has had the good fortune to appear on such T.V. shows as *Sport Fishing B.C.*, *The New Fly Fisher* and *Fishing with Shelly and Courtney*. Phil's website, www.flycraftangling.com is dedicated to fly-fishing and fly tying education. Featuring tips, techniques and streaming video this comprehensive site is constantly changing to meet the needs of its members.

When he is not focused upon fly-fishing Phil spends time with his wife Patsy and their two active sons, Brandon and Sean. The entire family enjoys the outdoors and fly-fishing in particular. It is common for Phil's travels to include his family on his speaking engagements and fishing trips.

CASTING ABOUT

Casting: Get Your Head In The Game

John MacDiarmid, FFI Certified Casting Instructor

“Get your head in the game Mac,” my middle school baseball coach admonished me as I sat on the end of the bench staring at my cleats while our team was in the field. My mind was not on the game, it was out on the muddy bank of the Tar River under my favorite cypress tree arcing a silver spoon over the tea colored waters in search of a willing Shad. The spring run was on. The coach was an eastern North Carolina boy, he should’ve felt the call of the river when he was my age. I wondered how guys like him and Cy Young winner Catfish Hunter from the same area, dealt with the conflict; fishing v. baseball when they were young. I guess Catfish fished lots after his illustrious pitching career on the pennant winning Oakland As and New York Yankees. But we are all different, I knew what I had to do. My mother washed and folded my clean uniform one more time and I surrendered it with a big thank you to the coach for keeping me on the team when I really didn’t meet the skill level. We would see each other again in August for the daily double football practices in 100 degree heat with 95 percent humidity. But for now, I needed to hit the Tar.

Knowing where your “head” is “at” is equally important in the middle school maturation years and fly fishing. To make a proper cast, you should know the length of your fly line head. Virtually all the fly lines we use now are weight forward. Generally the head (front) is a large diameter heavy fat section followed by a small diameter, skinny running line. The weight forward lines are easier to cast distance than the double taper lines they replaced. The double taper is tapered at both ends with a fat or uniform diameter in the middle. With the weight forward, the heavy large diameter head can pull out the small skinny line for a

long cast. To effectively use the weight forward you need to know where the line changes from head to running line. If the head is too far outside the tip of the rod, the cast will fail. **RULE # 1: SKINNY SMALL DIAMETER LINE WILL NOT TRANSFER ENERGY TO FAT LARGE DIAMETER LINE.**

On a long cast we begin the cast with 10’ to 20’ outside the tip and we slip line on each false cast to lengthen the line outside the rod tip, aerializing more and more line before we reach our comfortable line length we can false cast in the air. At this point, we release the line held in the line hand at the very end of the forward stroke. The heavy head pulls the skinny line off the deck and out the rod tip for a long cast. If, during the cast we work the head too far out the rod tip before the shoot, the cast is doomed to failure. If the head is over about 1’ outside the tip, the skinny line will not transfer the energy to the fat line. The line will fall on the back cast and forward cast, often ticking the water, producing large loops and uncontrollable deliveries. Distance will be compromised.

This happened to me on a recent saltwater trip. I normally aerialize (false cast) 40’ to 45’ in my cast, shooting the rest of the needed distance. With a 12’ leader and a 9’ rod I can cast accurately 60’(40’+12’+9’) without shooting any line. Scientific Anglers has a 8wt. Amplitude Bonefish Saltwater Fly Line with a 40’ head that is perfect for the length of line in my false cast. RIO’s 8 wt. Direct Core Flats Pro Saltwater has a 38’ head that cast equally well for me. One day on the saltwater trip, I took out the RIO 8wt. Bonefish Quick Shooter with a 35.5’ head. When the guide called out “long cast 2:00” my distance “sucked”. Aerializing 40’ to 45’ of line, the 35.5’ head was too far out the tip for the transfer of energy from the

rod tip to the line. It took me a while to realize what was happening before I made an easy adjustment. The line manufactures change the color of the line at the head/running line interface. We just have to be smart enough to realize the significance and make the adjustment, keeping the head inside the head or within 1’ of the tip. One problem that persist was I had to take my eyes off the moving fish to glance up to the rod tip to see the position of the head. That problem was solved by marking the line with a magic marker where I want to hold the line with my line hand when the head is at the sweet spot. I can see that out of the corner of my eye while continuing to track the target.

So, does the RIO quickshooter short head line have an application on the flats? Yes it does. When you wade fish and your eyes are much lower than they are on the casting deck of a skiff, you do not see the fish till they are much closer with less time to cast before they see you and flair away. The shorter head loads quicker (Read fewer false cast.) for a quicker presentation.

Applications to trout fishing: Most of the trout line heads are long enough that this principal does not become an issue. Also the cast are shorter and there is less need to false cast a long line. My present 5wt. line of choice is a Scientific Angler Amplitude TROUT. The head is longer than my usual aerializing length for trout fishing and the back taper of the head (going from fat to skinny) is very gradual so there is plenty of diameter left in the line to throw mends down the line on long drifts. Check the box your line came in and see what length head you are casting. Compare that with the line length of your false cast. When the two are dialed in, you will effortlessly deliver your longest cast.

OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

February Outing to the South Umpqua and Other News

Though it is not as popular among fly fishers as some other streams in southwest Oregon, the South Umpqua River has good runs of both hatchery and wild winter steelhead, and has plenty of water that is well suited to fly fishing. In its upper reaches, the South Umpqua is a smaller river that can be fished effectively with a dead-drifted fly. As it progresses downstream past Canyonville it get much larger and has water that is well suited to swinging flies. Last year, we tried to head to the South Umpqua, but a big storm just prior to the outing put the river out of shape for most of the remainder of the season. Since there were quite a few people interested in going, we will try again this winter.

The outing is scheduled for Saturday February 29. Since unpredictable weather and stream flows can ruin the best plans, if you want to go on the outing, send me an email. I will contact those who let me know they are interested with specific plans for the outing as we get close to the date.

A single-handed or switch rod of about eight-weight with both floating and sink-tip lines would cover your needs on the section of the river we will fish; however, there are places you could make good use of a Spey rod with a Skagit head. Bring flies for both swinging and nymphing—tra-

ditional steelhead patterns, intruder-style patterns, weighted egg-sucking leeches, egg patterns, and medium and large-sized weighted nymphs. Be sure to bring your waders, rain jacket, food, water, and your usual fishing accessories.

Coastal Steelhead Outing Postponed

The outing to fish for winter steelhead on the Southern Oregon Coast has been postponed due to high water. We will reschedule the outing when conditions look favorable—possibly to the weekend of February 1. If you are not already on my list and potentially interested in attending the outing, send me an email indicating you would like to be notified when the outing is rescheduled.

David Haight, Outings Chair
tmdrhaight@infostucture.net

Notes about Future Outings

Due to a schedule conflict, the outing to the Applegate River will be Sunday March 22 instead of Saturday March 21.

The April 8 outing to Trout Lake in the Shasta Valley of Northern California will be to adjacent Bass Lake instead.

People interested in attending the outing to East Lake from July 17 to 19 and wanting to stay in the Cinder Hill Campground, were most of the group plans to camp, should make reservations ASAP at Recreation.gov. The campground is almost fully booked for those dates.

David Haight, Outings Chair

Great Chili Feed

The annual chili feed, held on New Years Day at the Holy Water, was a lot of fun this year. The weather was very pleasant, which is not always the case, and the food was great, which it always is! Our scholarship recipient, Andrew Chione, came to meet us and thank us personally for the scholarship. We had 11 pots of chili entered in the contest, so we had a good variety to sample. Our President, Michael Mazingo, brought the winning pot and took home the coveted chili trophy.



President Michael receiving a trophy from Tanya Haight for the best Chili at the New Year's Holy Water Chili Cookoff.

2020 Outings

Feb 29	South Umpqua Steel head
Mar 22	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
Aug	TBA



FLY TYING CORNER

3 Dollar Dip or Serendipity



- Hook:** 14-20 Nymph or Scud Hook (I Used a TMC 2457).
- Thread:** Veevus 8/0 in Red, However You Could Use really any Thread, but don't go too big.
- Body:** Thread (Your Choice of Color).
- Rib:** Wire (Your Choice of color).
- Wing:** Bleached Elk Hair.
- Attractant:** 2 Strands of Crystal Flash.

Tying Instructions:

This fly is a great fly for beginners to learn and despite its simplicity, it is a very good fly. After you mash the barb, mount the hook in the vise. Start your thread an eye length behind the eye for head space. Then wind halfway down the shank and then tie in your rib on the side or the underside of the hook. Wrap back to just above the barb and then with touching wraps, cover the shank of the hook up to where you started your thread. Now wrap the rib with spaced spiral wraps up to where the thread is and tie off. Now take a clump of elk hair and trim the tips square. Tie them in so they just extend over the beginning of the eye, leaving enough room to tie the hook on your leader. Before we whip finish tie in a single piece of crystal flash on either side of the hook. They can be any length you desire; however, Kelly Gallop suggests that he likes the length to go to the end of the hook. Now make about three or four wrap whip finish over the elk hair and secure and cut off the thread. Trim the elk off about halfway down the shank. Using your bodkin, you can apply a small amount of head cement to lock in your thread.

I had heard about the serendipity a long time ago but was reintroduced on a You-tube from Kelly Gallop of Montana, and for those of you who may remember, he did a presentation at our club quite a few years ago. He posts weekly and I have learned many things from watching his you-tubes. He said that this fly is an excellent fly. He did not go into details, but he did say it was good in still and moving water. He also said that this fly is good in a variety of colors, both the thread body and ribbing. Kelly also mentioned that the he has noticed the crystal flash is more effective on sunny bright days as the light flicks

Continued on Pg. 7

John Storfold

Fly Tying Chair

541-660-6584

steelyjohn@charter.net



Please make checks payable to:
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Membership Form

- Regular.....\$35.00
- Family.....\$45.00
- Youth.....\$10.00
- Contributing.....\$50.00
- Lifetime (Individual).....\$350.00
- Lifetime (Couple).....\$450.00

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CHANGING LINES

COMING EVENTS

- 2-11 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 2-18 Club Meeting with Phil Rowley.
- 2-19 Clinic with Phil Rowley.
- 2-29 Club Outing - South Umqua Steelhead.
- 3-3 Board Meeting
- 3-10 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 3-12-13 Fly Tyer Show in Albany.
- 3-17 Club Meeting with Brian O'Keefe.
- 3-22 Club Outing Steelhead on the Applegate.

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

to the hatchery was down from that of passed years. According to Ryan Battleson, the ODFW biologist who brought the fish from the hatchery, conditions at sea affected both the Coho and the King Salmon runs.

One has to witness for themselves the 'bloody, gooey mess the fish are in when they come from the hatchery. In the past, it was not uncommon to have to use two sets of gloves, a rubber glove topped by a cloth glove to grasp and handle the fish. Fortunately, things have changed, and we were now given 'a meat hook of sorts on three-foot pole' that we were able to impale the fish on and then fling them into the creek. I would like to say, that every fish tossed hit its mark, but unfortunately, a few became fodder for the bears, raccoons and other wildlife the inhabit the area.

Within an hour and a half, we were done. All fish had been tossed, the clean-up done and we were ready to leave, satisfied in the knowledge that are efforts for the coming generation of fish would hopefully bare fruit three years down the line when the Coho fry in the stream would returned as adults and start the process

all over again.

As a word smith of sorts, I take delight in reading items that intrigue me as to construction, word usage and meaning. Recently I came across a passage that I thought that I would share. It was a written by Joel LaFollette, the owner of the Royal Treatment Fly Shop in West Linn. See if you get as much meaning from it as I did.

"The swirling currents of time guide us over and around the daily obstacles that life places in our path; we area continually being shaped and transformed into the person we are meant to be by the rocks, eddies, riffles and pools we encounter along the way. At times we bleed as the life lessons cut us deep. It's an arduous journey that sometimes leaves us scared as it builds character and tempers our resolve. We are meant to grow and learn from each experience so embrace the new challenges of this year and seek to create exciting goals that push you beyond your normal. Go after your dreams with passion, endurance and purpose. Seek out those who inspire, encourage and help you forge a new set path. Emerson reminds us that" The greatest glory in living lies not in never failing but is rising every time we fall." After all, it's our scars which are the evidence of healing".

I leave you with that thought!



Serendipity Cont. From Pg. 6

off the fly getting the fishes attention. He also said that it did not appear as important on cloudy rainy days. If you decide you don't want it you can easily cut it off stream/ lake side.

Give it a try. My thoughts; if it a good fly for Kelly, then it should work for me.

Tight lines

Fly Tied by John Storfold

ROGUE FLYFISHERS ROD and REEL AUCTION

Recently, a number of fly rods and fly reels were donated to the Rogue Flyfishers some of which are not typically the type of rod and reel used in the Rogue Valley. Rather than just putting them in our annual auction, we thought we'd offered them in a special auction before that event. Bids will be accepted through March 18th.

The Items are:

Sage Rod, Model Salt 1090-4, 4 pcs, 9', 10 Wt., Min Bid \$250.

Sage Rod Model One 1190-4, 4 pcs, 9', 10 Wt., Min Bid \$300.

Sage Rod Model Generation V1290-4 Xi 2, 4pcs, 9', 12 Wt. Min Bid \$175.

Ross Reel, Model Momentum 6, Reel with spare Spool, Line Wt. 10-12, Min. Bid \$300.

Galvan, Model T-12, Reel, Line Wt. 12, Min Bid \$150.

All rods and reels are used, but in excellent condition. Contact Tim Bolting at RFFishers90@gmail.com or by calling 510-410-1738 to arrange an inspection or to place a bid. All bidders will be notified if a new, higher bid is submitted.



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Editor's Notebook

Well gang here I sit wondering if my new computer is going to perform as admirably as the old one did. Already I know that the new computer will not accept all the old programs on the old computer. This unfortunate circumstance required that new programs be purchased to upgrade the system.

Two of the programs that were critical to me as your editor was Microsoft Word and Adobe Indesign both needed to produce the monthly newsletter. As a matter of fact, I'm running both the old as well as the new system in order to produce this month's newsletter.

I thought that since I was familiar with the old programs changing over to the updated versions of the same program would be a snap. That's what I thought, until I started working with the new programs. Al-

though they resemble the old ones that is where the similarity ends. Altogether different would be closer to reality, particularly the one I use to write the newsletter. There are so many new features yet to be learned, which will ultimately produce a better product, but in the meantime, I still need to get the newsletter out. I ask you to bear with me and not throw rocks at the old editor if you see a product not up to standards as you all know, 'teaching an old dog new tricks is sometimes an impossible task'!

Enough of that about me. As the photo on the front page of this newsletter shows, members of SOFF participated in the annual 'Fish Toss', in which surplus spawned out Coho salmon are deposited in certain streams to be used as nutrients for fish newly hatched in those streams. Our stream for this operation is Taylor Creek. Taylor Creek enters the Rogue, just above

Ennis Riffle and below Morrison's Lodge and traverses several miles up Taylor Canyon Road and itself is fed by several smaller streams.

As an aside, this area was ravaged by two forest fires last year and still shows the scaring effect of the fires. As the club tossed fish in this area last year, we could see firsthand the damage that had been done and now the beginning of restoration efforts by 'mother nature'. One of the benefits of the fire, if there are any, was that there were numerous trees that had fallen in the creek and were being left there to provide shade as well as protection for the fish hatched there as well as some adults that reside there.

Back to fish tossing, this year we had only one tub of about 250 fish to toss. In previous years we would have had triple that amount, but this year the return of the Coho salmon

Continued on Pg. 7