

SOFF News

Vol.27 No.4 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

April 2020



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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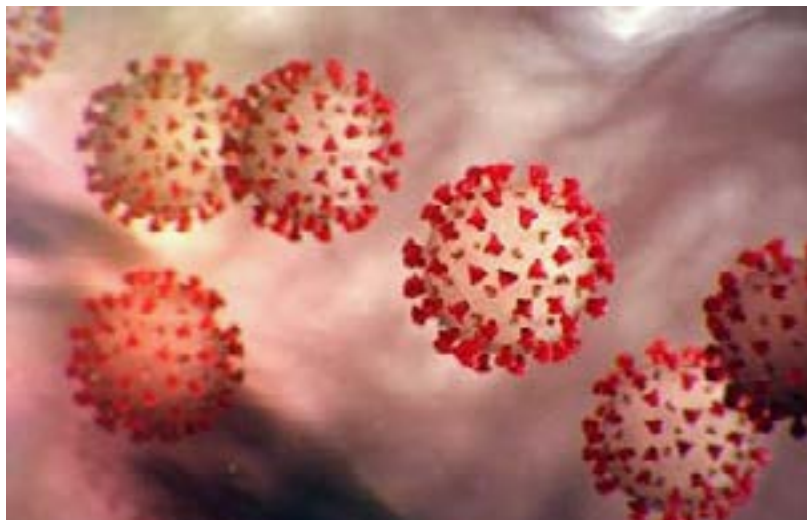
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During this infestation of the Coronavirus all activities of the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers including meetings and outings have either been curtailed or eliminated entirely



Here we have a photo of a rendering of the Coronavirus. This virus is not only responsible for thousands of people becoming sick with nearly 1000 victims dying of this pandemic, but has also caused the total disruption of the American society. Businesses were closed, meetings were cancelled and groups of people were prohibited. And finally by government decree, citizens were locked down in their homes in the hope of preventing the spread of the virus.

**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:
Dave Grosjacques:
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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Michael Mazingo

We find ourselves living in a world none of us thought was possible given our advances in science and medicine. The current COVID-19, otherwise known as the Coronavirus, is something out of a Cold War handbook. The current situation has continued to bring to light that our society is as riddled with as much fiction as it is fact, maybe even more so. With the advancement of the internet and more importantly social media, misinformation is easily pandered and reshared at an exponential rate.

With all of that being said I have found that many people may not know what is true or not when it comes to the sport, we all love.

First, as of this writing we are not banned from fishing on most of Oregon's waterways. We are still able to fish as long as we adhere to the social distancing law currently in place. This should not be a problem as fly fishing within 6-10 feet of each other is usually a recipe for disaster when fishing outside of a boat. The only exception to the social distancing law is if you reside in the same household.

Second, Oregon state parks are closed. If you would normally have to pay the daily parking fee at a park, chances are it is closed to recreation at this time. Please check the state parks and recreation website before heading out to fish at any of those locations.

ODFW recommends staying as close to home as possible while fishing.

How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice! Practicing your casting in your yard is great exercise and adheres to all current laws of shelter in place and social distancing. Practicing your cast is something every fly fisher should try to do at least monthly if not more. There is always something we can get better at, the double haul, roll cast, etc. You can find a lot of great instructional videos online for every type of cast, The New Fly Fisher YouTube channel has some amazing videos that might just help you refine your current skills.

This may also be a great time to learn new or improved knots. I often find myself not being able to remember how to tie knots that I thought at one time I was proficient at. I find that just like casting, knot tying can always be improved upon. I like to practice using two different colors of paracord (550 cord) to help me not get confused. If you are trying to learn or improve upon the nail knot, use a short piece of 1/2 inch PVC pipe along with the different color cords to help see things better while practicing.

I hope everyone remains healthy during this trying time in our history. I know the Spring weather has all of us ready to get out and enjoy the sunshine. I can not implore everyone enough to take every precaution when leaving your home to help prevent catching and/or spreading not only Covid-19 but any cold or flu like symptoms.

S.O.F.F. will continue to adhere to all laws and orders set in place to help prevent the spread of the horrible pandemic. We unfortunately had to cancel our March meeting and regrettably we have also cancelled the club's fly-tying meeting on April 21st. We will continue to keep everyone updated about all future club activities and continue to hold out hope that we can get back to normal sooner rather than later.

Habitat Report by Dave Grosjacques

The SOFF supports habitat restoration and enhancement for fish in the Rogue Basin by our contributions to local watershed councils and agencies.

We donate annually to the following: Applegate Watershed Council and Partnership, Rogue River Watershed Council (4 WCs combined), Illinois Valley WC, Western Rivers Conservancy, Oregon Stewardship and FFI Osprey. The three WCs initiate projects that help fish and fish habitat. WRC acts on a regional level to actually purchase land adjacent to streams for fish habitat. Oregon Stewardship has an educational focus and uses it to help fish. FFI Osprey is an offshoot of FFI that deals with issues in the west that concern Steelhead.

The SOFF also acts as a source of volunteers to help WCs and agencies with fish-related projects. We do a fish toss for stream enrichment each winter, including this winter. Seven SOFF members took part in this winter's fish toss in December. We worked with ODFW STEP biologist Ryan Battleson on Taylor Creek for the fish toss. The SOFF also helped Janelle Dunleavy and the Applegate Partnership with a riparian planting on Williams Creek in February. Ten SOFF club members came out and helped plant trees and shrubs along the stream. Another plant

Continued on Pg. 3

ATTENTION!
Board Meeting
The Board of Directors
will meet via Teleconference
The next meeting is scheduled:
Apr. 7th at 6:00pm or
the first Tuesday
of the month
All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

May 19	Russ Leavitt
Jun 16	Rick Newton
Jul 14	No Meeting
Aug 20	No Meeting
Sep 15	TBA
Oct 20	TBA
Nov 14	Annual Auction
Dec 15	TBA

WHEN:

April 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.



Fly Tyer's Night (Meeting Cancelled)

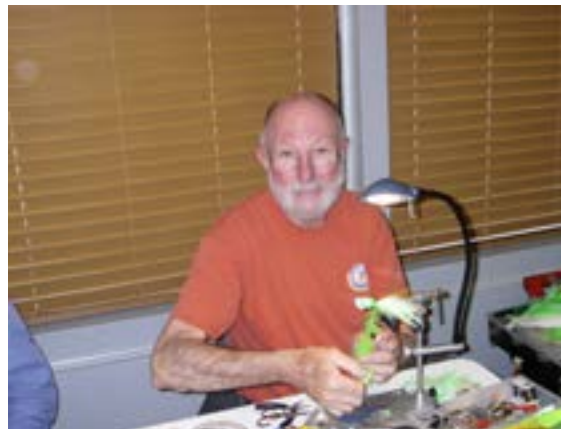
Habitat Report Cont. From Pg. 2

was in the works, but was cancelled because of the pandemic. Three members of SOFF also helped the Rogue River WC with a youth riparian planting in Shady Cove back in December.

Our club is part owner of a 2' by 6' portable stream table model, which has sand in it and a recycling water pump to show stream dynamics. Last year we took it to events in Cave Junction for the IVWC, a kid's event in Riverside Park, a river event in Shady Cove and two kids education days in Canyonville. The table is a magnet for kids and shows how a stream can have good habitat for fish or poor habitat for fish.

Our budget also includes some funding for projects that may come up during the year that were not foreseen. We have used that money in the past to help with a variety of projects with the agencies or WCs.

I will be coming to the board in the next couple of months to outline the donations we will make this summer to the WCs and groups above, all of which are in the SOFF budget.



Some of the Fly Tyer that you might have seen had we had the Annual fly Tyers Night.

There's Kevin Daniels a master of the small fly.

Then there's Joe Knapik a master of Poppers and other Bass Flies.

And finally, there is Dave Grosjacques a master of the Cow Creek steelhead flies.



The Editor had to do something during the pandemic!!

CASTING ABOUT

Phil Rowley - Stillwater Techniques and Tactics

By Ken Heidsmann

Our recent SOFF clinic featuring Phil Rowley of Edmonton, Alberta was an excellent instructional gathering. It began with some of Phil's stories of fishing in British Columbia, Washington State, and Alberta. He commented on his collaborations with Brian Chan and the challenges of the iced over lakes near his home in the spring. He went on to address some generalized perceptions of stillwater versus stream fishing, and explained that stillwater fishing may not be quite as fast action oriented - yet by no means is it a "snooze in a boat" either. The need for focused attention, keen observation of one's lines, equipment, and surroundings keep the fisherperson well engaged. Yet it also provides one the opportunity to occasionally enjoy a cold beer while fishing. Phil also stressed he is not a "troller" and his methods are primarily for stationary fishing while anchored.

Phil's stillwater expertise, tactics, techniques, and extensive methods were shared in a relaxed and thoughtful manner, focused on five primary areas. Advanced strike indicator tactics, naked techniques for floating lines, sinking line tactics, Loch style techniques, and droppers. He discussed his preferred rod length of 10', one with moderate action. He also provided an extensive discussion on line types, sink rates, and the benefits of using "low stretch" lines and thin indicator leaders - they sink faster.

Advanced Strike Indicator Tactics:

Given the need to have enough - but not too many rods in a boat is challenging and Phil likes to have at least two rods rigged and ready. If you have additional rods ready, you will be more willing to make changes if your initial strategies for a given situation are not productive. He goes out with a rod for dry flies, one for a float indicator line, and a third for

throwing a long leader system. Use a thin indicator leader. He likes to run a clear intermediate "midge" tip of 3'-12' sharing that it works well with nymphs and pupa to get them to dive under surface chop. Use the smallest quick release bi-color indicator you can, with a peg hole so you can make a "line loop" on the fly side, and position the indicator within 3' of your loop to loop line connection. Use this set-up in conjunction with a swivel and a bobber stopper. When fishing deep (18'-20') stay within a rod length of the boat in order better sense strikes. Indicator "takes" are noted as being either tipping or moving, and can be subtle.

Naked Technique:

This is using a floating line with a long tapered leader and no indicator, used in 15'-25' of water, leaders should be 25% longer than the water depth. Phil stated this technique requires patience and touch, and the retrieve is done ridiculously slow-at a snail's pace. Use a 15' tapered leader (in 12' water), brass not tungsten beads, and when employed correctly it can be quite an addictive method. Use fluorocarbon instead of mono, it sinks better. This is a weighted pattern technique.

Sinking Line Tactics:

This technique mimics the horizontal pattern of the prey. Use a hover line, a very slow sinking line. Employ a Loch style approach casting downwind. Count your line's rate of sink and time to the bottom, and replicate it - keeping the line in the 1'-3' from the bottom zone. When retrieving start with 2 (3'-4') retrieves, it helps to strip into a collapsible bucket with a little water in it to keep the line damp to reduce tangling. Pause the fly at strategic

points; use a physical marker (tape) on your line to replicate. Changes in pace or rod angle increase takes. Raise rod slowly at end of each retrieve to catch following fish, if they are missing it - lower your rod angle.

Droppers:

Why droppers? Because they present flies that can vary in color/size and suggest different stages of development, and they cover different depths. Phil stated that he doesn't like to tie a fly off of a hook bend. He suggests using a surgeon's knot with a 4"-6" tag end on which you can tie your additional fly or flies. Always use a swivel with this arrangement. Use a perfection knot and space them 6"-8" apart. This arrangement does not work in weedy conditions. He also diagrammed a set-up he called the "washing line" which uses a buoyant fly at its termination - with a dropper fly up-line of it, that way the dropper fly can be suspended over weedy areas.

Phil stressed that only choronimids hang vertically in the water column, and that using balanced flies like a leech - present more accurately and productively. Phil then closed the clinic with a quick "balanced fly" tying session and a casting session out on the lawn.

An excellent workshop indeed!

Editor's Note:

I want to thank Ken Heidsmann for his concise synopsis of Phil Rowley's clinic and seminar.

According to Heidsmann, this was an excellent presentation by Rowley, one in which those attending were given a 'heads-up' as it were, to the intricacies and tactics needed to become a successful stillwater flyfisher.

OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

April and Early-May Outings

As we near the end of March, the situation and restrictions related to the Coronavirus outbreak are changing rapidly. Both Oregon and California have issued “Stay at Home” orders. I have talked to several people and with the new restrictions in place in California, I have been advised that we should cancel or postpone the outing to Bass Lake scheduled for April 8. Since a number of us have been looking forward to trying out the fisheries on Bass and Trout Lakes, we will reschedule an outing to the Shasta Valley Wildlife Area when we can—most likely next spring.

The club will be assessing the situation related to the Coronavirus and making changes to the outing schedule as appropriate. The fate of the outing to Copeland’s Pond will be determined as we get closer to the scheduled date of May 2. This outing always attracts a large number of participants, and we have always had a potluck barbeque. It is unlikely things will be getting back to normal by early May, so there is a real possibility that this popular outing will have to be modified or cancelled. We will send out an announcement concerning this outing by mid-April.

While Oregon’s “Stay at Home” order requires people to stay home except to take care of essential business, it does allow us to go outside to get exercise as long as we comply with “so-

cial distancing” requirements. I looked at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s website, and as of March 24, it said we can go fishing as long as we follow those “social distancing” requirements. People that are not living in the same residence should not ride in the same vehicle or boat and should stay at least six feet apart. It did say a number of parks, boat ramps, and recreational facilities will be closed. ODFW advised anglers to stay close to home, stay away from high-use areas, find another location to fish if there are already a number of people at the location you intended to fish, and to contact the land manager of the location where you would like to go to find out about closures or restrictions. We should also remember that Coronavirus can survive for several days on surfaces, so if you go out, try to avoid touching things that others may have touched, and use proper hygiene—especially sanitize your hands.

I look forward to seeing everyone when the club can get back to a normal schedule. Until then, stay safe!

David Haight, Outings Chair

Cascade Lakes/Lava Lake Outing 2020

We have the Cascade Lakes/Lava Lake outing coming in June. 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 fly fishing water. The dates are Friday, June 26 through Sunday June 28.

We will meet at site #1 at the Lava Lake RV Resort/Campground on Friday and Saturday mornings at 8:00am to present and share information on local fishing. On Friday night, we will meet at

5:30 at site #1 to continue the new tradition of sharing snacks, appetizers and hors d’oeuvres. Bring your own favorite beverage and appetizer to share. On Saturday evening we will meet at 5:00 for social hour with the group dinner beginning at 6:00, again at site #1. We will be serving 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. Hope to see you there

Make sure you sign up no later than June 16 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 April or 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

For Sale

Scadden Excaliber XX with Frame and Trailer \$3950

Scadden 2 person fishing craft with frame, hard seats on swivels, Sawyer Oars, and 201 8 Iron Eagle Versa Max Ralf Addition Trailer.

Overall Length 12’ like new condition mfg. 2017.

For any additional information contact Bruce Barrow at jbprints@gmail.com



2020 Outings

May 29-30	Lemolo Lake
Jun 26-28	Cascades Lakes
Jul 17-19	East Lake
Aug 22	Rogue at Union Creek
Sep 19	Clinic/Picnic
Oct 4-5	Lower Rogue Half Pounders
Nov 7-8	Metolius River Bull Trout

FLY TYING CORNER

The Organza Stone



- Hook:** TMC 200 or 5263 Size 4-10.
- Thread:** 6/0, Tan or Wood Duck.
- Weight:** Appro. Size Tungsten or Brass Bead for Hook Size or wrap Lead for Weight.
- Tail/Antenna:** Fine Round Rubber or Chicone's Barred Micro Crusher Legs.
- Abdomen:** Light Brown or Gold Organza.
- Wingcase:** Brown or Copper Holographic Tinsel Over Brown Scud Back 1/8" Coat with UV Resin.
- Thorax:** Golden Brown Ice Dub Mixed with a Little Gold or Brown Angora Goat. Picked Out.

Tying Instructions:

The Organza Stone came to fruition via the waters of the Upper Sacramento River some 30-plus years ago. It is a fairly quick, simple tie and has remained a proven staple all these years. It can be tied in colors to represent the naturals or perhaps you may want to experiment by fishing a purple, blue or red stone. Anytime you need a nice big juicy, protein morsel to fish, tie on one of these patterns. It is a winner!

Organza is available at fly shops (Psuedo Hackle from Hareline) or various notions/crafts stores in numerous colors. It comes in a couple different styles such as sheet and twist, but the most common and readily available is ribbon form. That's right- gift wrapping ribbon! You've probably walked past it a dozen times at the local craft store and didn't even notice...

- 1) Pinch barb and secure hook in the jaws of your vise.
- 2) Take a few starting wraps of thread immediately behind the hook eye. Tie in antenna material at the hook eye and take a few firm wraps to secure the materials. Stretch the material rearwards to thin it out and continue making close, touching rearward wraps to the area even with the barb. This will ensure a thin and flat area along the hook shank. Make a couple of half hitches and cut away thread.
- 3) Run a tungsten bead over the hook point and shank forward to the eye.. If you have made the thread wraps thin and flat during the previous step, this procedure will be easy. You may have to use a bodkin to draw the tail portion back rearwards through the bead and over the shank. Once the bead is in place you can now maneuver the tail and antenna material into a

John Storfold

Fly Tying Chair

541-660-6584

steelyjohn@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

- 4-14 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill. **(Cancelled)**
- 4-21 Club Meeting - Annual Fly Tyers Meeting. **(Cancelled)**
- 5-2 Club Outing - Copeland's Pond. **(Cancelled)**
- 5-5 Board Meeting (To be held Electronically)
- 5-12 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill. **(Cancelled)**
- 5-19 Club Meeting with Russ Leavitt **(Tentative)**
- 5-29-30 Club Outing - Lemolo Lake **(Tentative)**
- 6-26-28 Club Outing Lava Lake

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

getting a daily fix of fly tying – some small consolation.

Does it ever stop? Next to feel the effects of the pandemic was the outings. The outing that I look forward to each and every year and the one the most club members look forward to is the Copeland Pond Outing. This is the outing that I like to try out new patterns, particularly for the Bass that call the pond home. This year I had tied a foam frog that promised great things had I been able to use it. Now I'll never know if this would have been the fly to move a 5 pounder from his home in the weeds.

It was one disappointment after another, and the end is still not in sight. For all practical matters, all the club events in May will probably also be cancelled. Added to this is the fact that we have been directed by the government to 'shelter in place' in your homes which for lack of a better term is a self-imposed 'house arrest'.

Being retired, frankly I don't do a lot of things. I generally stay at home and spend one heck of a lot of time on the computer. The only difference, I can choose to go whenever I want and to wherever I wanted to go. Didn't feel

like eating at home – no problem there were always restaurants I could go to. If recreational shopping was something that I wanted to do, it was available. If I wanted to go out as anything other the 'mask avenger' I could do it. Now if I need to go to the market or maybe Costco, I have to mask up, put on my gloves and make sure that there is disinfectant to clean the shopping carts and hand sanitizer to use when the gloves come off and also make sure that I stay at least 6 feet away from the nearest person.

I can only hope that this condition will be of a short duration and that we all can get back to living and not just existing. I know for one thing that there are a lot of fish that need to be exercised and I'm the one that needs to help them out!!

Kevin Daniels wins Quilt in CfR Raffle

SOFF member Kevin Daniels is the lucky winner of the quilt that was raffled off by Casting for Recovery to raise funds for our Southern Oregon retreat. The quilt was made by the Material Girls of Shady Cove and donated to the local Casting for Recovery volunteers, who have been selling tickets around Southern Oregon for the last several months. Our intent was to draw the winning ticket at the March meeting of the Rogue Flyfishers. With the clubs cancelling their March meetings and no certainty for how soon the meetings will resume, we decided to go ahead and select the winner. Congratulations to Kevin, and thank you to the rest of you that purchased tickets to support Casting for Recovery!

Tanya Haight



Organza Stone Cont. From Pg. 6

“V” shape. A small drop of super glue will set the angles, if needed. There are no rules as to how long or short the legs/antenna should be. I prefer them on the longer side- about the fly's length.

4) Cut approximately 3-4 inches of Organza ribbing from the roll. You'll notice thick binding on either side of the ribbon with a cross mesh between. Hold ribbon straight up and cut a straight piece approximately an eighth inch from inside of the binding. Next take a bodkin and remove the strands that run parallel to the binding. This should leave you with strands that stick out at 90-degrees to the binding.

5) Tie in the Organza at the tail and make close touching wraps forward to about the 60-percent mark on the hook shank. Secure and remove waste. The organza fibers should be standing out at an approximate 45-degree angle around the shank. You can pick out any trapped fibers with a bodkin.

6) First tie in a small strip of brown or copper colored holographic tinsel followed by 1/8th- inch brown Scud Back.

7) Dub a little larger than normal thorax. Leave a little space behind the bead.

8) Draw the Scud Back and tinsel over the thorax and secure. Remove waste pieces. Apply a thin coat or two of UV resin to the wingcase.

9) Complete the fly with a little more dubbing behind the bead to cover the previous step's wraps. Whip finish and remove the thread. Pick out thorax to effect desired.

Your Organza Stone is complete! If you should have any questions feel free to contact me at: sstguide@yahoo.com

Fly Tied By: John Abbott





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Editor's Notebook

Alas, alas I say – the world has been turned on its head! The Covid-19 Pandemic has dealt me a hand that in the parlance of the dice table has come up ‘snake eyes’!

Six weeks ago, I was looking forward to attending the annual Fly Tyers and Fly-Fishing Show in Albany. The prospect of seeing 200 tyers over two days made me giddy with anticipation. Not only that, but the preparations for the club social hosted by the editor and his wife was in full swing. All the wine (20 bottles) had been purchased, hot hors d'oeuvres had been tested, approved and purchased, along with cheeses, dips, crackers and whatever else necessary to guarantee a successful event.

I was in the beginning throes of loading all the items into my car that I would need for the party when that fateful email came – due to the Coronavirus, the event had been cancelled

– oh, no. It took a day or two as well as a couple of the bottles of wine intended for the event to get me over the disappointment. Over the next couple of weeks, the cheeses, crackers and dips were consumed, the chicken wings and other frozen were put into freezer to be eaten at a later time.

As the fly tyers event was cancelled, the board in a hastily called meeting decided to cancel the March Club Meeting, only beating out the Oregon Governor by a couple of days of declaring a ban on all meetings.

Alright I could endure missing the March meeting; although I would have liked to see the speaker, Brian O'Keefe who always does a great presentation. Incidentally, he has already been booked for next year.

As I got over that disappointment the next shoe was about to drop. The ban on meetings was extended another month which meant that there would

be no April meeting – oh, no! The April meeting is the annual Fly Tyer Meeting. Instead of 200 tyers over two days as there would have been in Albany, I would have to settle for 20 Tyers over a couple of hours. For a fly-tying junkie such as myself, that would be at least a partial ‘fix’ to my feather and hook addiction. Crushed again – is there no end in sight? Fortunately, I have discovered you tube and the many videos of experts tying new and different patterns as well as some of the tried and true. The only problem with this type of viewing is that you had better have had a good night sleep as someone tying the same pattern for over 20 minutes has a tendency of putting one to sleep. If I ever become afflicted with insomnia, I don't need to take sleeping pills, instead just watch a couple of those videos and I'll be out cold! I can't complain though, I'm still

Continued on Pg. 7