

# SOFF News

Vol.28 No.1/2 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

Jan/Feb 2021



## SOFF NEWS

A publication of  
Southern Oregon Fly Fishers  
P.O. Box 1144  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97528  
Web Site: [www.soff.org](http://www.soff.org)

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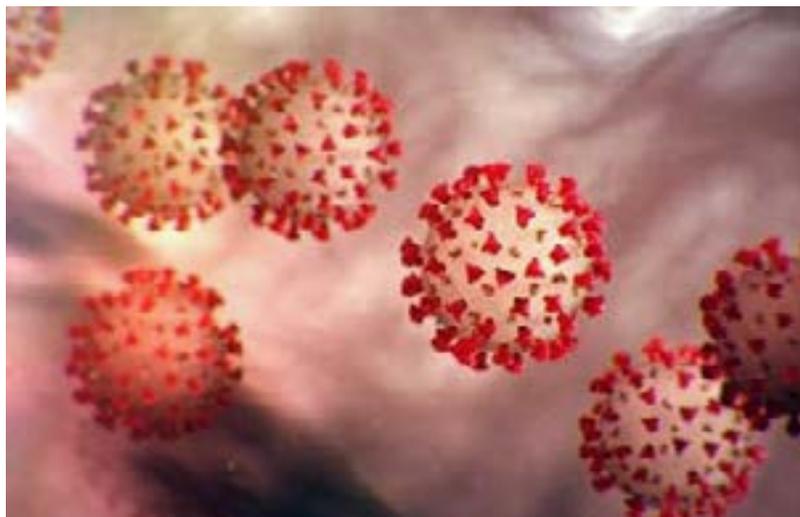
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**John Smith**

**Duane Chebul**  
Newsletter Editor

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**Although the Covid-19 persists, it is time to shake off the effects of this pandemic and try to get back to some form of normalcy. So after an absence of 11 months, the newsletter will once again be published.**



Here once again, are the little bastards that not only stopped the regular functions of the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, but struck down society as a whole. Let's hope that we have turned the corner and that the future comes roaring back and allows members of the SOFF to once again take up and enjoy the pursuits of fishing with a long rod.

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

## SPECIAL MENTION

**Bill Burns:**  
**John Storfold:**  
**Kevin Daniels:**  
**John Smith:**  
**Dave Grosjacques:**  
**David Haight:**  
**Jennifer Mazingo:**  
**Dave Roberts:**  
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Outings Chair  
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# FROM THE BOARD



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

**Michael Mazingo**

**W**elcome to 2021. I hope everyone had a safe, happy and healthy Holiday. I hope this year we can begin to look forward toward restoring normalcy to our lives and hobbies.

Looking back on 2020 I am reminded at how little I actually knew about electronics and social media platforms. I thought I was "in the know" considering I raised three children in this new social media age, but I was wrong. I am sure I'm not the only one who had/had trouble navigating my way around all the different platforms and sites of YouTube or google. Hopefully, I can become proficient enough that my adult children will roll their eyes less when I have a question.

As the club moves forward this year we will be starting online (zoom) presentations for our monthly meetings. The board and I are still navigating what that will look like but are proud to say that our very own Russ Levitt will kick off our year with his presentation on the John Day on January 19. We will post a schedule of presentations on our website and newsletter as it becomes available. Hopefully, we can work through the growing pains with as little trouble as possible.

The club will continue to do monthly outings and David Haight has

done an exceptional job ensuring that our outings are as safe as possible and adhere to all the recent Covid guidelines. I look forward to trying to see as many of you as possible this year out on the water.

2021 will be another busy year for Jennifer and I as we continue with our 2020 trend of taking the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel out once a month for a 5–10-day excursion around our beautiful State. 2020 saw us going to places we would not have otherwise gone to. We have ridden the sand dunes at Honeyman Memorial State Park and rode the Hiawatha (in Idaho, not Oregon) which became a very costly trip. After riding the Hiawatha trail, we quickly became interested in ebikes and decided to add them to our camping adventures.

We will also be welcoming our second granddaughter into the world in April. Our son Iziah and his wife Kyla (both club members) are excited to become first time parents to Isabella May Mazingo. To say this Pawpa is excited would be an understatement. I have found my true calling as a grandparent and love every minute of it.

I hope this year sees our world both large and locally start to heal and rebound from this terrible virus. Stay safe and healthy my friends. Tight lines.



## 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:**  
**Feb. 2nd at 6:00pm or**  
**the first Tuesday**  
**of the month**  
**All members welcome**

# PROGRAMS

## Future Programs

Feb 16	Brian O'Keefe
Mar 16	TBA
Apr 20	TBA
May 18	TBA
Jun 15	TBA
Jul 20	Dark
Aug 17	Dark
Sep 21	TBA

### WHEN:

February 16, 2021



### TIMES:

Zoom Meeting

6:00 P.M.

After Brief  
Announcements

### WHERE:

Zoom Meeting



### A Zoom Presentation By Brian O'Keefe



### 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.

I have had so much fun pretending to call fly fishing photography work, that I still describe this endeavor as a 'hobby out of control'. I sold my first fly fishing photograph when I was 16 years old, and let me tell you, that was a long time ago. Since then, it has been my absolute pleasure to work with some of the finest publishers, magazine and photo editors and graphic artists in the world. I consider the following publishers of fly-fishing photography some of the finest, and thank you for using me as a contributor: Field & Stream Magazine, USA Today, The Drake Magazine, Outside Magazine, American Angler Magazine, Orvis, Patagonia, Fly Fisherman Magazine, Outdoor Life Magazine, Catch Magazine, Fly Rod and Reel Magazine, Northwest Flyfishing Magazine, Voyage de Pesch Magazine, Oregon Tourism, Chile Tourism... I could go on and on, especially with the addition of blogs and all the websites for fly fishing lodges, products, travel companies, etc. It has been a good ride and thanks to everyone who has helped me along the way. I am more of a shoot from the hip photographer. I rarely use a tripod and I usually must put down my fly rod or the oars to organize a shot. My style is basically editorial in nature and natural. I do not use professional models or fancy lighting. If I did, I could not call this a hobby out of control. I have a very deep collection of images.



The Editor had to do something during the pandemic!!

# CASTING ABOUT

## Fishermen Conservationists Go to Court Over Outlaw Dam

WaterWatch of Oregon, and the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations filed litigation in federal court last week to end harm caused by the Winchester Water Control District's operation and maintenance of the Winchester Dam in the North Umpqua River. The allied fishing and conservation organizations allege that the District's 130-year-old dam, maintained to provide motorized flat water boating exclusively for about 200 private landowners, causes damage to struggling salmon runs while impeding access to 160 miles of high-quality habitat.

The groups' challenge deals specifically with the delay, injury, or killing of protected Oregon Coast Coho salmon by the dam's outdated and poorly maintained fish ladder, by the District's repeated unpermitted dam repair activities, and by the overwhelming number of leaks through the crumbling wood, concrete, and steel structure. Earthjustice, a public interest environmental law firm, represents the groups.

The 450-foot wide, 17-foot-tall dam is the second highest ranked privately-owned structure on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Statewide Fish Passage Priority List, where it is noted for impeding passage for spring Chinook, fall Chinook, summer steelhead, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout, and Pacific Lamprey, as well as Coho. Winchester Dam is categorized as "high hazard" by the Oregon Department of Water Resources, primarily due to likely loss of life in the case of dam failure among the people who frequent the river, parks,

and boat ramps just downstream.

In 2019, state officials downgraded the dam's condition to "poor," requested that the District hire an engineer to conduct the first comprehensive inspection of the structure since 1987 and address known safety issues. The people, property, and public infrastructure of the North Umpqua River below Winchester Dam are also at unacceptable risk of harm or death because the District ignored repeated requests over years to update their Emergency Action Plan as required under statute.

Winchester Dam came under greater scrutiny by fishing and conservation groups statewide after pollution from a 2018 dam repair killed numerous young salmon and steelhead and harmed the primary drinking water source for 37,700 people. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality levied a \$58,378 fine after finding that the repairs were conducted without following established best management practices, even after state and federal agencies provided information in advance on how to protect water quality and fish. Since then, the District has rejected a 2019 offer to contribute \$8,000 in engineering services to improve fish ladder function, and a 2020 offer to raise the funds necessary to remove the decaying dam at little to no direct cost to the owners.

"For over 50 years the Steamboaters have led successful efforts to protect and restore the North Umpqua's important cool water and spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead, and most of that habitat is above Winchester Dam," said Tim Go-

forth, Steamboaters Board President. "The more we learn about this old dam the worse it gets. The fact that every salmon and steelhead passing over this dam risks injury or death by exposed rebar, eroded concrete, or a pollution spill negates our work to protect fish habitat upstream."

"From our perspective, this isn't just about protecting Coho salmon from an irresponsible dam owner," said Glen Spain, Northwest Regional Director for PCFFA. "This is about protecting coastal fishing communities where thousands of good paying jobs, millions of pounds of annual seafood production, and a treasured way of life depends on healthy salmon runs."

"The North Umpqua River is vital to Oregon's economy and quality of life but faces serious challenges due to dams, climate change, population growth, and other impacts," said Jim McCarthy, Southern Oregon Program Director for WaterWatch. "Winchester Water Control District's fish-killing, dangerous, and obsolete dam provides no flood control, hydropower, or water supply function except to back up the river for a private waterski lake. It's long past time to end the needless harm this dam causes to invaluable natural resources."

(Courtesy of the Rogue Fly Fishers December 2020 Newsletter)



# OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

## Winter Steelhead Outings

The outing to the Southern Oregon coast to fish for winter steelhead planned for January 30 and 31 was postponed due to poor weather and high rivers. It is now scheduled for February 6 and 7. Based on the current forecast, it looks like conditions should be good, and the recent high water should have brought in a bunch of fresh fish. If you are interested in attending this outing and you are not already on my list, send me an email at [tmdrhaight@infostructure.net](mailto:tmdrhaight@infostructure.net), and I will send you the details about the outing.



ence. It is primarily a bank fishery and has plenty of public access. There is good water for both swinging and dead-drifting flies.

Because fishing in Cow Creek is dependent on having suitable flows, the date of the outing may be changed. Those interested in attending this outing should email me at [tm-drhaight@infostructure.net](mailto:tm-drhaight@infostructure.net) to get on the list. As we get close to the date of the outing, I will send out information to the people that have signed up.

### Cow Creek

On February 27, we will hold an outing to Cow Creek to fish for winter steelhead. Cow Creek is a major tributary to the South Umpqua, and gets a good run of winter steelhead starting about mid-January. Being one of the smaller streams open to steelhead fishing, it offers a more intimate experi-



Dave Grosjacques with a Cow Creek Steelhead

David Haight, Outings Chair



## Photo Potpourri



John Storfold with nice Steelhead taken at a previous Cow Creek Outing.



Cow Creek is always a popular outing as evidenced by the turn out at an earlier outing



Another look at a fine Cow Creek Steelhead.



### 2021 Outings

- Feb 6-7 Coastal Steelhead
- Feb 27 Cow Creek Steelhead

# FLY TYING CORNER

## Foam Salmon Fly



- Hook:** TMC 200R #6.
- Thread:** UTC210, FL. Fire Orange.
- Cement:** KISS Nail Glue (Used fo Fake Nails).
- Body:** Craft Sheet Foam - 1/4" Wide, 3 3/4" long (Used Grey On this fly).
- Wing:** Translucent Packaging Foam Sheeting, 1/16" thick, cut into 3/8" Strips 1 1/2" long, color with a Brown Marking Pen.
- Legs:** Yamashit Octopus Skirt Tentacles or Brown Rubber Legs.

### Tying Instructions:

1. Place hook in vise and wrap thread from head back for 3/4 forming a base for cement.
2. Make hole 2 3/8" and 3 1/8" from one end of the foam with a bodkin.
3. Put hook eye through the 2 3/8" hole then through 3 1/8" hole of the foam.
4. Foam should have middle part under hook shank, cement foam back from hook eye leaving 1/16" space from eye.
5. Bring back part of foam up to 1/16" eye forming the body with fold in the back, now press foam together being careful not to glue fingers to fly. Foam will set in seconds.
6. Take thread and wrap around body 3/8" from eye, make three- tight- turns. Cut off tag leaving thread hanging from body.
7. Take thread and make three tight wraps around making a collar, then take thread back towards the other end making a segmented body. Make segments by bringing thread back under the body at an angle then around body a couple of turns then back again every 1/4" or so. Once you get to the last segment the go forward with the thread and an opposite angle forming an "X" pattern underneath.
8. Take two wing strips placing one on top of other forming a slight "V". Put dab of cement on top of thread to 1/16" of eye and wing for 1/2" from front end of wing. Place wing on top of body 1/16" from eye. Press together.
9. Put cement on top of wing from where the thread is forward to eye, and on foam in front of the eye. Bring foam from

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

- 2-2 Board Meeting (To be held Electronically)  
 2-6-7 Coastal Steelhead.  
 2-16 Zoom Club Meeting - Presenter Brian O'Keefe.  
 2-27 Club Outing - Cow Creek  
 3-2 Board Meeting (To be held Electronically)  
 3-16 Club Meeting - TBA  
 4-6 Board Meeting (To be held Electronically)  
 4-20 Club Meeting - TBA

through and including the June meeting. As the July and August meetings are generally dark, we are shooting for the beginning of in person meetings with our September meeting. As with all things this year, it will be a craps shoot at best to see if that September meeting occurs.

As most of you know, I am hopelessly addicted to fly tying. This why the fly show in Albany is such a big thing for me each year as well as the Club's annual 'Fly Tyers Night'. Without either one of these presentations, I go through horrible withdrawal symptoms. I pass by my fly-tying bench and am unable to decide what I want to tie, so I tie nothing. I re-read one of the hundreds of fly-tying books and magazines that I have and can find nothing that appeals to me. It is a funk that seems to overwhelm me, but I found a cure – fly tying videos either on U-tube, Facebook, or some type of Zoom presentation. It seems that I am more interested in watching someone tying the fly, then trying to follow a recipe for a fly even if it has directions. There is some about actually seeing someone go through the motions of tying the fly, that interests me more than just reading about it.

So, if there are any of you out there as nutty as I am about fly-tying, I highly recommend the video presentations; however, I add as a caveat and that is never watch one of these videos when you are the least bit tired as they can become a sure cure for insomnia.

As this is the first newsletter after the Covid hiatus, you will notice a change and that is all copies of the newsletter will be the electronic version only. We will not be printing hard copies any longer for the membership. There will still be a few printed for distribution to fly shops and other commercial interests.

This pandemic was something that none of us have ever experienced before and hope to never experience again. The fact that we were under

a form of 'house arrest' that included mandatory mask wearing and social distancing. To say that our personal freedoms certainly took a bashing is surely an understatement, but hopefully all of us survived. And as the old saying goes "that, that doesn't kill you only makes you stronger". We will get over this, it will take a little time and a lot fishing, but we will prevail!

### Foam Stone Fly Cont. From Pg. 6



#### Bottom view of the Foam Salmon Fly.

eye back to past thread, press together.

10. Bring thread to collar making a wrap, take a leg placing it on one and make a wrap, then do the same on the other side. Place a dab of cement on top and under collar and make three half hitches and cut thread. Easy Peezie

### Fly Tied By Joe Knapik

## In Memoriam

During this pandemic, we lost several long time members of the club. They included:

Sandy Michalski,  
 Ron Fox,  
 Jerry Sinclair, and  
 Dan Kellogg.

May they always have the warm sun on their faces, a gentle breeze at their backs and the right flies for all the heavenly streams.

### Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

As the year was nearly over, the board noted that a few other clubs were continuing meetings, albeit not in person, but as a Zoom meeting, it was not perfect, but it was at least some type of a meeting. In January 2021, we tried our first Zoom meeting. We had as a presenter our own, Russ Leavitt, who did a presentation on 'Smallmouth Bass Fishing on the John Day'. As an initial presentation, it was well received. We had some 25 members tune in which may not seem like a lot of participation but considering that some of the other club Zoom meeting had less attendance than we did on our initial offering, we felt that the meeting was a success.

In the hope of attracting more members to the Zoom meetings, Jacqe Storfold, our Zoom coordinator will be hosting a practice Zoom session on Feb. 15th before our next Zoom general meeting on Feb. 16th which will be featuring Brian O'Keefe, a longtime club favorite.

Since the prognoses does not look favorable for having in person meetings again very soon, it was decided that to keep the interest in the club going, we will be having Zoom general meetings



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## Editor's Notebook

**I**t was just about a year ago in my last piece before the Covid-19 pandemic hit, that I had written that I eagerly looking forward to the annual fly-tying event in Albany. The room at the hotel was rented, a ton of wine was purchased and ready to go and the hors d'oeuvres and other goodies locked in for the after-affair party. In fact, all that was left to do was to pack the car and I was ready to go.

Then it happened! I received an email from the Oregon council of the Federation of Fly Fishers that because of the Covid-19, the event had been cancelled. What a let down!

This was just the beginning of the end. The horrid events continued to spiral downwards. It started with the March general meeting. The board cancelled it because it was better to be safe than sorry. Shortly, after this, our governor, 'Lockdown' Brown

had her first of many pronouncements that the world as we knew it would be shut down. There would be no more meetings, no more open restaurant or bars, no more small businesses open and if to compound it even further, the churches were to be closed.

The board of directors had no choice, but to close all activities. There would be no meetings until further notice, all outings were cancelled and even the newsletter was stopped indirectly by the Covid. Another one of the things cancelled was our annual 'fund raising' auction, our main source of funds for club operation. Since there were no meetings, no outings no other activities and little to no fishing, there was nothing to write about.

Month after month it persisted with little hope that we would see any improvement. As the months passed, one positive thing was noted and that was more of the membership was still

out fishing as I was receiving a lot of photos of fish large and small. Unfortunately, even though I had an uptick in photos, it was not enough to generate a newsletter.

To continue to function as a club, the board of directors continued with their monthly board meetings. Since actual physical attendance was prohibited, we started meeting using a Zoom format. Over the months, the board realized that if were to continue in operation certain things had to be done. For instance, we suspended voting for a new board of directors with new club officers and the imposition of the club dues for 2021. Since the club did nothing for the last nine months of 2020, it seemed unfair to require payment of dues, rather we asked the membership if they would voluntarily pay their dues as a contribution and we thank the many that did.

Continued on Pg. 7