

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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It is finally over? Members of the So. Oregon Fly Fishers certainly hope so as the summer season rapidly approaches and with it the call of the salmonoid that needs to be answered.



Bruce Bockman proudly displays his 'fish of a lifetime'. The fish, which measured 36 inches and scaled in the double digits was taken on the Williamson River at his secret hole. Bockman was using his 'burgundy secret fly' to take the beast.

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

SPECIAL MENTION

Bill Burns:
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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Michael Mazingo

I am completely worn out talking about Covid and thought I would share the weirdest story I have about fishing. This all happened within the first week after I arrived at Fort Drum in August of 2011.

The first time I met SSG Brown was unusual and somewhat awkward. I remember SSG Lopez introducing the two of us and him telling SSG Brown "THIS is the new 1st Squad, Squad Leader." SSG Brown did not shake my hand or even acknowledge me except to grunt in response, which I mistakenly assumed was due to having a bad day.

I tried talking to SSG Brown later that day in hopes to find some mutual ground to break the ice and begin the process of becoming cohesive Squad Leaders. SSG Brown did not seem to be ignoring me so much as just not talking, as if he was a mute. This continued for three days.

On the second day I conducted PT with my Squad for the first time. I decided to lead them on a 5 mile motivational run, where we sing cadence and I would punish them for lack of motivation or inability to keep up with the pace that I set. Now when I say punish them, I simply mean making them do push-ups, low crawl, burpees, and things of that nature to push their physical limits. This would be a great way for me to see who was physically fit and who wasn't.

Since it was my first day doing PT in the Company, the 1SG, CO and LT Larmer decided to tag along. I have never been one to shy or coward or kiss the butts of those above me and I decided I would keep the original plan I had.

The PT session that morning may have been some of my finest work and everyone was ready to drop dead of exhaustion and muscle fatigue. As we got to the last 200 meters I stopped the formation and had everyone do 50 push-ups. Just as I began doing my 50, a jeep pulled up alongside of us and the driver asked me to come to the window. The driver was in his PT uniform and there was no way for me to know his rank outside of him being an NCO, based off the color of his PT Belt.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked.

I said that I did not know who he was and he instructed me to meet him at the intersection, where the Company was located, with someone from my leadership.

I finished my 50 push-ups and told one of the team leaders to run the Squad back to the Company and begin cool down exercises until I got there. I then proceeded to the intersection with the 1SG to talk to the mystery man about what I could only assume was about me violating some Fort Drum regulation on conducting PT.

"What's your name and rank?" I was immediately asked. "Staff Sergeant Mazingo" I replied.

"How come you don't know who I am?"

"I just arrived here less than a week ago Sergeant."

Sergeant or Sir being the safest thing to call someone who's rank is unknown.

"I'm the Division Command Sergeant Major, DCSM Greca."

"My apologies Sergeant Major."

"I saw you and your squad a couple of times this morning while I was running. I haven't seen a Squad Leader get after it like you were this morning in

a long time. I just wanted to stop for a minute and tell you to keep up the good work and give you this."

He shook my hand and in that handshake was a division challenge coin.

"Thank you Sergeant Major. I was just trying to see if I had any quitters in my new Squad."

"Keep that type of intensity up during PT and you won't."

With that the DCSM shook the 1SG's hand, giving him a coin, and then got into his jeep and left.

The morning of the third day I was to fill in for SSG Lopez at a PSG/1SG PT challenge with the new Battalion CSM. I was to report to the Obstacle Course in ACU's with tennis shoes and my IBA at 0600.

When I arrived at the Obstacle Course with the 1SG my only thought was how much of a crap bag I was going to look doing this challenge. I was sore from the tip of my toes to the top of my head from the previous morning.

CSM Horney announced that we would start in pairs 5 minutes apart and run 2.5 miles (mostly downhill) to the Gas Chamber, turn around, run 2.5 miles back (mostly uphill), complete the obstacle course and then do a fifty meter tire flip. The person with the fastest individual time would be the winner and they would plan the next

Continued on Pg. 3

ATTENTION!
Board Meeting
The Board of Directors
will meet in the conference room
of the Tap Rock Restaurant
The next meeting is scheduled:
June 1st at 6:00pm or
the first Tuesday
of the month
All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

Jun 15	Dax Messett
Jul 20	Dark
Aug 17	Dark
Sep 21	TBA
Oct 19	TBA
Nov 16	TBA
Dec 21	TBA

WHEN:

June 15, 2021



TIMES:

Zoom Meeting

6:00 P.M.

After Brief
Announcements

WHERE:

Zoom Meeting



A Zoom Presentation By Dax Messett



President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

Battalion wide Platoon challenge.

I had the fastest time with the next fastest time being 2 minutes behind me. This earned me a Battalion Challenge Coin.

That same day around 1600, SSG Brown looks at me and says, "Do you like to fish?"

Not only was I amazed to hear that he could speak beyond simple cave man grunts but was shocked that he decided to grace me with his words. I answered that I did indeed like to fish and he says "I'll pick you up at 1800."

Certainly it was odd that he did not think it necessary to ask instead of telling me but I thought this might be my chance to get to know him.

SSG Brown showed up just after 1800 towing a boat and looking ready to fish. I had decided that I would wait for him to start the conversation, which he never did. We sat silent for the 30 minute car ride to the lake, the 2 hours on the lake and the 30 minute ride home.

I remember telling my wife that I think this dude had to have a below average IQ. Outside of a school yard playground, who goes around acting as if they are a mute who can only respond in grunts? I was starting to think the entire group of leadership in the Platoon had a combined IQ equal only to a soup sandwich.

The following morning I arrived

SSG Brown Cont. on Pg.7

Dax's presentation takes his audience to a different featured location for each month of the calendar year. Venues include New Zealand, British Columbia, Bolivia, Alaska, Honduras, Oregon, the Olympic Peninsula, California, Christmas Island, the Florida Keys and Louisiana. Species include trout, steelhead, tarpon, bonefish, redfish, rooster fish and even golden dorado. He will share photos and stories about each venue.

Dax has been a fly-fishing professional since 2000. One of the most well-travelled guides and hosted travel coordinators in the industry. Dax is also regarded as one of the finest casting instructors in the west.

He was certified as an FFF Casting instructor by the legendary Mel Krieger back in 2002. He also is a well-respected spey casting instructor.

CASTING ABOUT

Steelhead Climb Over the Ridge

By Ken Heindsmann

In late March, SOFF members Dave Grosjacques and Ken Heindsmann participated in a “fish hauling” session with the Umpqua Fisherman’s Association and ODFW. The session began in Canyonville, at the ODFW’s Canyon Creek - fish ladder/acclimation pond site. This site is located at the south end of town, and should not be confused with the Confederated Umpqua Tribes - Canyonville acclimation pond site, just east of the Seven Feathers Casino.

Earlier in the week resident site hosts “Kelci and Matt” had isolated a group of mature hatchery steelhead in the five step fish ladder. The ladder has a one way “fyke” entry, and at that time had a temporary blocking bar at the top. They were then moved 500 yards down the road to the ODFW’s acclimation pond. Shortly thereafter Dave Grosjacques received a message from the local ODFW Fish Technician Fabian Carr - that they had some mature hatchery females that needed transporting to the Galesville Reservoir. This is when “rookie” fish wrangler (Ken) got invited and involved in the effort.

This rookie climbed down the ladder into the pond along with the hosts and fourteen mature hatchery females were corralled, netted, gill plate coded, and passed up out of the tank and loaded into a portable steel tank in the back of Dave’s pickup truck. The tank is one of three tanks owned by the Umpqua Fisherman’s Association for use in these efforts. The tanks

are equipped with twelve volt aeration pumps that are powered off of the truck’s battery.

The fourteen “ladies” were then driven up and over the I-5 Canyon Creek summit and on to the boat ramp area of the Galesville Reservoir where they were carefully released into the lake. All were transported successfully, a few of them needed to be revived a little before they swan away gracefully into their new surroundings.

These activities prompted a number of questions for this rookie



One of the large steelhead rescued from the Canyonville Acclimation Pond.

fish wrangler, and following the session I called and spoke with ODFW’s Fabian Carr to gain a better understanding. Federal regulations require ODFW to maintain a ratio of 90% non-fin clipped (wild) fish to 10% hatchery (fin clipped) fish to stay within compliance. Excess (fin clipped) fish like those that we transported, have been trucked over to Cow Creek and Galesville for over

twenty years and released above and below the dam. These excess fish are also donated to local food banks and are used in stream enrichment efforts.

When I asked about the Umpqua Tribe’s acclimation pond I learned that they are actively utilizing that pond to acclimate juvenile fish which are then released directly into Canyon Creek. My next question regarded the status of the North Umpqua Rock Creek hatchery that was decimated by wildfire two years ago.

The Rock Creek hatchery has been approved to build two residences for ODFW staff to utilize in the ongoing recovery of their former hatchery activities. The status of rebuilding the lost “hatch house” is uncertain. Currently their raceway(s) are ready for the Spring Chinook run, and will then be utilized for both summer and winter steelhead runs, Coho, and for trout. It was interesting to learn that some of those trout are used in their “High Lakes” stocking program, those live trout are packed in ice and are transported up into the high Cascade lakes via horseback.

In closing I would like to express my gratitude for having the opportunity to participate in this activity. Now when asked about winter steelhead fishing, I can honestly say - “that I netted fourteen large mature steelhead in the 10-12 pound range, in the last week of March”.

OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Lemolo Outings

This year the Lemolo outing, led by Dave Grosjacques, will be held Friday and Saturday, June 4th and 5th. We did not have the outing during last summer's COVID prob-

lems. In June of 2019 there were close to 20 club members from the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers who at-



Dave G with a Lemolo rainbow

tended this popular event. A few club members go up to the lake on Wednesday or Thursday and stay until Saturday or Sunday.

Most of the people who attend this outing have camped and fished at Lemolo on past outings. For those members, the only thing new this year will be the location of Dave's camp spot at Poole Creek campground, where the daily Social Hour and Fishing Report event will be held each afternoon from 4 until 5 PM. With the reservation system at Poole Creek starting on Friday, June

4th, there will be a problem finding a good campsite along the lakeshore. There are always some spots that are still not reservable, and Dave will be in one of those and will put a notice up on the campground bulletin board letting S O F - F e r s k n o w w h e r e h i s c a m p s p o t i s located.

If you are planning to attend the outing and have never been to Lemolo, please email Dave at grosjacquesd11@gmail.com. He can then contact you to find out what day and approximate time you will arrive. Then he can give you more information about the fishing. The lake has rainbow and brown trout, and is best fished from a boat. The small KOA resort on the lake has cabins for rent, an RV park and a small store. Lemolo is located off highway 138, approximately 10 miles north of Diamond Lake. Diamond Lake Resort has the nearest gas station, a large restaurant and store.

Come up and join us! This outing is not extremely organized (Dave's outings never are!) but always a good time. Contact Dave at the above email if you have questions.

Crane Prairie Outing June 25 -27



If you've ever wanted to fish Crane Prairie, or fished it and struggled with figuring it out, this will be a great opportunity! Crane can be tough but with a little direction with timely information, it can be a blast.

Keith Hardcastle and Steve Day are hosting this Outing and will be there to help. The Official Base Camp for this adventure will be in the Rock Creek Campground at Space 10. Rock Creek Campground is located at the south west corner of the Lake and close to some great fishing locations. There is a boat ramp in the Campground and the shoreline there is such that personal watercraft can be launched with ease. Your Hosts will be at the Lake all week and with a little luck will have things dialed in by the Outing Weekend.

Crane Prairie is famous for the large, robust Rainbows, affectionately known as "Cranebows". Brook Trout, Kokanee and Largemouth Bass call Crane home as well. Crane Prairie is a shallow lake over flooded timber with Damsels, Leeches and Chironomids dominating the food chain.

Reservations for Rock Creek C a m p -

2021 Outings

Jun 4-5 Lemolo Lake
Jun 25-27 Crane Prairie

Other dates and locations to be announced.

Continued on Page 7

FLY TYING CORNER

Bob Wolfe's Trout Candy



Hook: Scud Hook size 14, Bob uses one with a 2x wide, 2x short and a 2x heavy. (Tiemco 2457 fits the bill).

Thread: 6/0 Black. I used Vevvus 10/0.

Body: Black 5 mm Stretch Magis and Rose Red 5 mm Power Cord.

Weight: White and Red Glass Bead (I used a white Titanium and a Silver Lined Red Glass Bead.)

Tying Instructions:

Pinch the barb on the hook and put the beads on the hook, white first then the red so the white winds up on top. Place the hook in the vice so by the point with the bend up. Start your thread at the end of the hook in the bend. Make a few wraps to secure the thread. Now, tie in both the red and black body material side-by-side with a short tag end sticking out. Once secure, lift the cord and advance your thread to just behind the beads with open spiral as to not cover the hook with thread any more than is needed. (I cheated and wrapped the hook shank with silver mylar. I found the red showed a little brighter.) Now holding both colored strands and stretch just a little, wrap them with touching wraps to make a black and red spiral up the hook to the beads. Tie off and whip finish. To cut off the tag, pull snug and cut close. Once you cut the ends they will snap back and will be very short tag showing. Use the same process to clip the tags on the tail end of the hook. Use either UV resin or head cement to seal the thread finishing ends.

Lets go catch some fish.

This fly was requested by a few of the folks who watched last months presentation by Bob Wolfe. This fly is one Bob's favorite and a very good Catcher. Good luck.

Fly Tied by John Storfold

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

- 6-1 Board Meeting (To be held Electronically)
- 6-4-5 Club Outing - Lemolo Club
- 6-15 Club Meeting - Dax Messett
- 6-25-27 Club Outing with the Rogue Club to Crane Prairie.
- 7-6 Board Meeting.
- 7-20 No Club Meeting
- 8-3 Board Meeting.
- 8-17 No Club Meeting
- 9-7 Board Meeting.
- 9-21 Club Meeting - Speaker to be announced.
- 10-5 Board Meeting
- 10-19 Club Meeting - Speaker to be announced.
- 11-2 Board Meeting.

SSG Brown Continued From Pg. 3

at work around 0530 ready to just focus on my squad and not worry about the Soup Sandwich crew. I was talking with LT Larmer shortly after getting to work when SSG Brown walks into the office and says "What's up Mike?" Holy crap! Was he talking to me? I could only utter a "Hey" due to being in shock before SSG Brown begins talking like we've known each other for years.

"I heard you smoked that PT challenge yesterday."

"Yep, I was surprised myself."

"Ya, Bud, next time we go fishing I'll show you how it's done. You did OK for a rookie I guess but I'll have you slaying them in no time..... blah.... blah.....blah.....blah....." For thirty minutes, nothing but how he will teach me how to do this or do that.

For three days I wondered how I could get this guy to talk to me and now I was trying to figure out how to get him to shut up.

SSG Brown as it turns out was not an idiot as I first feared. He just had his own quirky way of doing things that mostly consisted of him acting like he was the hardest guy in the room. Over the weeks and months that followed SSG Brown and I did become friends and cohesive Squad Leaders.

For Sale

7 older, very heavy double ring crab rings (30") with lg. floats and 50' rope. Most rings have bait boxes. Netting on some rings need repair (replacement netting available from Walmart on-line for \$10 plus shipping). These are \$20/each

All stainless-steel crab pot, 30" diameter, with rope and large float. \$75

Bruce Bockman 541-471-1985

Crane Prairie Continued From Pg. 5



ground are now available through recreation.gov. Quinn River Campground and Cultus Lake Campground are very close and only a short drive to Rock Creek. I would strongly recommend getting reservations as soon as possible if you plan on going.

Currently we are keeping our fingers crossed so that we can have our famous Pot Luck BBQ on Saturday evening the 26th. We'll keep you posted on that and we will follow up on fishing techniques, fly patterns and more as we get closer to the Outing.

So, come on out, fish, fellowship and enjoy. For more information contact Steve Day at icrsrd303@gmail.com or (661) 742-5835.



This is what it is all about - a Crane-bow at hand and ready for release.





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Editor's Notebook

I cannot believe that I have another two-month newsletter for publication! Unfortunately, it has taken all that time to get enough material to fill the 8 pages of the newsletter, but for better or worse – here it is.

We will be having just one more zoom meeting before our summer hiatus and that is our June meeting with Dax Messett as our guest speaker. After that, the next two meetings (July and August) will be dark. We will meet again for the September meeting. Note - I said that we will be meeting again for the September meeting and that it is the board's sincere hope that the September meeting will be the first in person meeting since February 2020. The board's goal is to re-familiarize the membership with the concept of attending the monthly meetings once again. After almost a year and a half we need to

get the membership thinking about the third Tuesday of the month and meetings at the Pub with dinner and a presentation to follow.

Hopefully, the membership will not approach in person meetings with trepidation caused by the Covid, but rather to put the past behind us and start living again. In the realm of starting again, I have just read where the Middle Rogue Steelheaders are once again conducting in-person meeting. So, if they can do, we can do it!

One of my favorite places to fish here in Southern Oregon is on the Williamson River. With that said, I direct your attention to the front page of this newsletter and that massive rainbow taken by Bruce Bockman while fishing the Williamson. I have seen many large rainbows taken and in fact I have caught a few myself, but they all pale in comparison to the one landed by Bockman. As Bruce said, "this was

truly a fish of a lifetime"! An errant photo of another Bockman caught fish has given me the location of his secret hole as well as a photo of his secret fly all of which will remain confidential. I hope he continues to ply the waters of the Williamson and hooks and lands an even larger model.

Although, we will not be having a club outing to the Cascade lakes this year, Steve Day will be conducting a joint outing to Crane Prairie Lake, on June 25-27 in lieu of our club outing. This lake is a big fish magnet and can be counted on to provide some lunkers. If you wish to take part in this outing, give Steve a call and let him know that you will be coming. With the lifting of the Covid restriction, there will be more people out camping, so camping spots will be at a premium. If you are planning on attending the outing

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