New Year’s Resolutions

New year, new beginnings and resolutions invade our thoughts during this post Christmas period. For fly fishers, this is an opportunity to think about evolving personal styles. Some fishermen are innovators. I enjoy watching my older brother, probably the best nymph fisherman I know, solve the riddles of whatever water we’re fishing. He’s still out there changing flies, techniques, or water long after I’ve sat down in the boat or bank resting my weary back. I’m more inclined to cast the same fly, the same drift, the same style for hours on end, not catching fish. On the drive back I reflect, WHY DIDN’T I TRY THIS OR THAT? The New Year is an opportunity to rattle out of that rusty groove you might be in.

I’m not talking about change just for the sake of change. But maybe. Some talk of the evolution of the fly fisher. Catch a fish. Then catch lots of fish. Then catch bigger fish. Eventually we evolve to an emphasis on the challenge of catching one fish in difficult situations, with challenging techniques. Fly fishing is a perfect pastime for the ambitious, eternally curious or just the gamer. We fly fishers relish matching wits with fish, our brains evidently conjuring up one for the m than a Griffith’s Gnat. The New Year is an opportunity to further evolve. The Pacific Northwest’s large steelhead rivers invite spey casting. Perhaps you took advantage of the club’s seminar and will use the New Year to explore spey casting’s potential. Or you’re growing tired of pursuing steelhead only on the nymph, or wet fly swing, and want to try another technique until you’re consistently catching fish.

Fishing new water or species is intriguing and often compels a style change. Our club has organized several outings for shad on the Umpqua. Selmac hosts a good population of bass. Our home water, the Rogue, offers several distinctly different opportunities for the fly fisher to break out of a rut: a meadow brook, a tailwater rich in trout, “resident” steelhead for the better part of the year on the upper Rogue, and a constantly changing mix of anadromous fish from Grants Pass to the coast.

Part of the chase is the conveyance. Learning to row a boat might be a good challenge. Or giving up the boat for awhile and finding a few go-to holes that the boaties can’t touch and require a snaggly slog through the blackberries. How about finding those holes fishable by not getting your feet wet?

Finally, our club can always use some adventurous innovators willing to pitch in! HAPPY NEW YEAR. Dick Adams
Past President’s Message

Happy New Year everyone!! we all need to thank Al Brunell and Rich Henry for a really fine speaker presentation at the December Club Meeting. Both of these long time steelhead fly fishers and fly tiers have a tremendous amount of knowledge of the how to’s of winter steelheading.

Rich Henry has a wealth of fly fishing experience and he has been in the presence of some of the legends of fly fishing. Rich’s explanation of tying flies with Lee Wulff and having a four hour dinner with Lee and Joan and tying flies with Forks, Washington legend Syd Glasso is totally awesome.

Plus Rich was on a first name basis with Klamath Basin legend Polly Rosborough. Rich donated to SOFF a bamboo fly rod that was built and fished by Polly Rosborough. The new Board of Directors will be deciding how this fly rod will be best presented to the club. Thanks Rich for your generous donation; a membership in SOFF certainly seems appropriate, in my opinion!

During the holidays I learned of Bob Kirkland’s passing. I was stunned and upset. Bob Kirkland was one of the Founding Fathers of SOFF and has been a great asset to this club as Bob was always suggesting new speakers that could cover saltwater fly fishing. His 25 plus years of fly fishing experience in the saltwaters of Florida is probably unmatched in our club. Bob recently explained the fight of a 125 pound shark on a fly rod; his passion for the fight and the sport was truly evident.

Anytime Bob would hear of anyone of our club members headed for the salt, he was calling and talking to these people to lend equipment and expertise for their trip.

Bob’s family decided to have a private ceremony for the family only, so the club will probably donate to a charitable cause in honor of Bob Kirkland.

As per Bob’s wishers, his remains will be interred in the Florida waters that Bob so loved to fish.

Finally, be sure to get in more fly fishing trips than you did last year and when you do, be safe and good luck in fly fishing in 2002!!

Tony Branner

New Board Meeting

The new board met January 3, 2002, elected officers, determined chairmanships and planned the new year. Carey Williams will be president, Jimmie Tehan, vice-president, Randy White, treasurer, and Dick Adams, secretary.

Carey Williams and Jimmie Tehan will share the Auction Chair. Jeff Fox will serve as both Fly Tying Chair and Program Chair. Dick Butler will handle the Membership Chair. Steve Bonner will take over as Outings Chair. Dick Adams will continue with the newsletter. Yet to be determined is Raffle Chair with Randy White taking charge for now.

The board authorized the purchase of a digital camera for use by the club historian. The board also decided to continue to meet at the Bistro, 7:00 PM the Thursday after the members’ meeting. Members are always welcome and encouraged to attend meetings of the board of directors.

Next Board Meeting: January 24th, 2002 at 7:00 PM at The Bistro.
JANUARY PROGRAM

JANUARY MEETING

John Shewey

When:
Thursday, Jan. 17, 2002

Where:
Riverside Conference Center

Time:
Social Hour and Fly Tying Theater at 6PM
Meeting at 7:00PM
Dinner at 7:30PM
John Shewey's Program to follow dinner
Raffle to close evening

What to Bring:
A friend!
Name tag
A hearty appetite

Questions for John Shewey

John Shewey

Life member John Shewey will return to the club this month. John's a perennial favorite of our club who always manages to draw a crowd, entertain us and leave us with nuggets of wisdom on fishing the Oregon country.

John is a highly successful author of several books which reflect his deep understanding of what makes Oregon special: the diversity of fishing opportunities. From the mainstem Umpqua shad to N. Umpqua steelhead, surf perch to eastern Oregon redsides, John knows Oregon and knows how to communicate his knowledge.

He is the author of Northwest Fly Fishing: Trout & Beyond, Mastering the Spring Creeks, and Steelhead River Journal-North Umpqua, as well as countless articles in leading magazines.

John Shewey on the North Umpqua
CASTING ABOUT

Maynard & Carolyn Thompson

Bud Abrams at the Lower Rogue Outing

Richard Blake on duty as Raffle Chair

Ben Adams-Tussing Park steelhead
Fly Tying Class

Our novice fly tying class will begin January 8, 2001. This class is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in tying which is such an integral part of the full enjoyment of fly fishing. Through video projection the individual steps are first demonstrated by instructor Ray Slusser. Then students practice each step under the careful supervision of Ray. Several very experienced tiers also help out creating the opportunity of substantial one-on-one instruction.

The class runs for ten weeks on Tuesdays at 7 PM at Grants Pass High School in room C130-131. The cost for adults is $35. Kids under 18 are free. SOFF will provide all tying materials. Students should provide a tying vice, bobbin and a sharp pair of scissors. Call Tony at 479-0009 or Carey at 472-1350.

Salmon Carcass Planting

On Dec 19 Tony Brauner, Dick Butler, Jerry Sinclair and Jim Tehan helped Alan Richey and Kevin Kocaick of the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife with a salmon carcass planting project on the upper end of West Evans Creek. It was a cold rainy day with snow on the ground when we planted approximately 800 carcasses in the creek.

We were able to see salmon working the redds at this upper reach of the creek. Kevin informed us this was about as high as the salmon go but the steel head continue up stream to the head waters.

The event had news coverage on Channel 10 and a nice article appeared in the Mail Tribune with a photo of Dick Butler with a caption giving his name and mentioning he was a volunteer from Southern Oregon Fly Fishers.

Jimmie Tehan

Habitat & Conservation

The club has several habitat projects in the works. We are working with the BLM on projects at Evans creek, Elk Creek, and a possible tree planting project. We are also working with the Applegate Watershed Council with projects on the little Applegate, Slate Creek and Applegate River.

We are trying to get more notice on up coming projects to the membership at the meeting. We also want to plan projects to be done on a Saturday to allow more of the members to participate. Some will have to be on weekdays. It would be nice if we could come up with a list of people who could do some of these projects on a week day.

We are also looking to other agencies such as the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. We have also been asked to help sort frozen fish at the hatchery, but this year the notice was so short we were unable to help but in the year 2002 we will keep in contact with them so we can have more notice. We are looking forward to an exciting year.

Jimmie Tehan

Vivian & Tom Fields, Marilyn & Michael Canet & Tony Brauner at the New Year's Day Holy Water outing

Joe & Charlotte Holzen at Lower Rogue Outing
I've decided to work on spey flies for awhile, both tying and casting them to winter steelhead. Fast sink tip line, long casts with careful mends and then slowing the fly down for the swing appeal to me right now. So depending on the water level and clarity I am fishing either a large spey, 2-3/0, or a smaller spey, 4-10.

Spey flies have a long tradition going back to their namesake river in Scotland. Pacific Northwest steelheaders have used Spey flies for many years. Traditional patterns abound but Spey flies are a style that lends itself to creativity and innovation. Characteristic is the long flowing hackle from blue-eared pheasant, goose flank or heron, if you can legally get it.

Spey flies have some color, a little flash, varying hues for light and water conditions, and good movement. Steelhead go nuts over well fished plugs. Spey flies are prettier, have more subtle movement, and will catch fish too. Go have some fun. Dick Adams
2001 Awards

Outgoing President Tony Brauner presented the 2001 awards at the Christmas party. Carey Williams received the Member of the Year Award for his many contributions through the year. CAREY ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE THERE! As fly tying chair his duties extended from the Expo in Eugene to the fly tying class to the Fly Tying Corner of this newsletter. Carey and Beth also took over the labeling and mailing of the newsletter. Carey contributed to outings, projects, board meetings and just generally did what needed to be done. CONGRATULATIONS CAREY, AND THANK YOU!!

Bob Roberts was honored with a life membership for his years of dedicated work for the club. Bob is a charter member and one of the principal organizers.

President Brauner also handed out several special recognition awards. Bob & Deana Copeland were honored for their many contributions to the club especially their work on the casting pond and willingness to sponsor outings at their home water.

Carolyn Thompson was recognized for her longstanding service on the board, at monthly meetings and for her excellent work as treasurer. Jim Tehan’s extra effort on habitat and conservation projects and whatever else came along was specially recognized. Charlotte Holzen also received a plaque for her excellent work as club historian. Joanne Simpson and Dick Adams shared the President’s Award. Joanne organized the outstandingly successful picnic and Dick has somehow managed to meet the deadline for the newsletter.

Christmas Party

The Christmas party meeting was particularly fun this year. Thank you to the Grants Pass High School String Ensemble for setting the mood with music. A large turnout of members, in their festive finery, caused the Riverside to scramble for more tables, and managed to accommodate us all. The prime rib and halibut were superb as usual.

Al Brunell gave an outstanding clinic on the pursuit of steelhead on the lower Rogue, Illinois and the SW Oregon coastal streams and rivers. Rich Henry closed the evening by sharing his steelhead wisdom which reflects a life of quiet observation.
IN THE BEGINNING, something about fishing catches our imagination. For me it was a father that took his then two sons fishing for crappie on Swanson Reservoir in southwest Nebraska. To a five year old, the bait shop offered truly fascinating things. After seining the minnows from the tank, buying some snelled hooks, some “doll flies” and a few other baubles we scrambled over huge rip rap banks to a backwater. My dad outfitted us with cane poles and eventually Zebco spin casters. Little did my dad know (or maybe he did) his sons were imprinting a life long passion.

In our home town our bikes took us to blue gills, bullhead and catfish, and some of them home to my parents’ consternation. “Tying” doll flies with the feathers from pheasants was utilitarian. As was someone’s discarded stack of Outdoor Life and Field and Stream which whetted the imagination and introduced me to steelhead.

A visit to a family friend’s cabin at Redfeather Lakes in Colorado and a canoe ride with him while he caught a sink full of rainbow trout on dry flies impressed that little boy. Never seen since, but always remembered, was a poster in his cabin of the most beautiful and exotic dry flies.

Before a backpack trip to the Colorado Rockies I decided fly fishing was essential. I consulted a neighbor who spent summers in a cabin near Fisherman’s Bridge in Yellowstone. He pulled out his Herter’s catalogue and circled the items I’d need I still have the catalogue. Black gnats, mosquitoes, pink ladies and a cow dung. The last I’ve come to know as an excellent baetis imitation. Latin wasn’t part of my experience back then, though. When the order arrived was the day of my first fly caught fish: a blue gill from a sandpit. The back pack expedition savored orange fleshed brook trout fried in bacon grease. Catch and release came later.

If there’s a moral to this story it is: let’s hook the youth on our wonderful pasttime, for the memories we create will last a lifetime.

Dick Adams
2002 OUTINGS

Steve Bonner, our Outings Chair for 2002, has assembled an interesting calendar of outings for this year. The Chetco outing with Bud Abrams of Brookings will be February 23, 2002. Boats are needed. March should see a good run of winter fish for the Applegate River outing. In April and May we’ll probably visit Copeland’s Pond and Crystal Creek. The Copelands have generously offered the use of their pond for an outing which may be quite productive for large rainbows! Our last trip to their pond was most enjoyable.

The June outing will return to the Upper Rogue for the salmon fly spectacle. If you’ve never fished it be prepared for an adventure. July will feature an outing to Klamath country: the Wood and Williamson Rivers for trophy trout hunting. We’re headed back to the North Umpqua in August for a shot at the legendary summer steelhead. In September we’ll fish the Upper Rogue for summer steelhead and in October we’ll stay in our own backyard: the Middle Rogue, also for summer steelhead.

November will feature a very informative steelhead clinic which is an excellent opportunity to get through the steelhead fishing learning curve. 2003 will begin, as always, with the New Year’s Day Holy Water Chili Feed in conjunction with our sister club: the Rogue Fly Fishers. Steve and other members work very hard to put together these outstanding outings for the benefit of our members.
President’s Message

The first meeting of my tenure as President for year 2002 has passed. Being my first time on a podium in many years, I thought I had done very well, however, my Toastmaster wife and a Toastmaster friend informed me I’d said — 27 — ums or uhs or other such speech faults. I guess this indicates I have a long way to go before I reach perfection.

I’d like to thank the past year’s board members who stepped down. Tony Brauner as President, Bob Graham as Habitat and Outings Chair, Mike Trask as Vice President and Membership Chair, Morris Fruitman as Program Chair, Richard Blake as Raffle Chair, and Carolyn Thompson as Treasurer. These people have served well and I applaud their efforts.

The new Board is seated including Dave Russell to the vacant position. Dave will take over the position of Raffle Chair. Please join me in welcoming Dave to the Board.

Jim Tehan, your Vice President and Habitat Chair has been busy setting up future Habitat projects. Please support Jim by volunteering for work on whatever projects you can. Steve Bonner, the Outings Chair has already scheduled outings for the year which will challenge your fly fishing skills. That sounds fun.

Randy White is hard at work updating the bookkeeping system. Updates need to be done every few years to keep us in tune with the latest acceptable bookkeeping practices. Dick Adams continues in the positions of Secretary and Newsletter Editor. I’m sure that in the future, Dick will provide us with more of his humorous, serious and informative wisdom.

Jeff Fox is the Fly Tying Chair for 2002. In the past Jeff served the members well as Fly Tying Chair and I’m sure he will continue to provide us with interesting flies and tying patterns. He is also serving as Program Chair. Jeff knows most of the proposed speakers and I’m sure will select speakers to enhance our enjoyment of the programs.

This year Dick Butler will serve as Membership Chair. This is a challenging position but with Dick’s past career accomplishments I’m sure he will be able to bring refreshing ideas to the position to both encourage old members to remain and new members to join.

As you can see, this year’s Board is hard at work and I commend them for their efforts.

The January general meeting was a huge success with over 100 members in attendance. John Shewey gave another informative program on fishing the Salt. His humor and knowledge of those aspects of fly fishing is always refreshing and makes me want to go South to fish. Maybe the planned trip to Belize will soon be a reality. John also contributed two flies he tied at the meeting to the club to be used as we see fit. My thanks to John.

Carey Williams

Membership Report

So far in 2002, we have welcomed eighteen new members to SOFF. All will have name badges available for the February meeting, so if you see someone who doesn’t look familiar, even if they have a name badge, introduce yourself and make them feel welcome. Invite them to sit at your table!

At each meeting we are displaying “T” shirts, caps, polo shirts and fly boxes for sale at VERY reasonable prices. We are working on getting larger fly boxes, but since our supplier was recently bought out, we are having to deal with a new company which is taking some time.

A reminder that if you want to have your e-mail address appear in this year’s Membership Directory, include it on your membership renewal form. And don’t forget to renew your membership—it’s due now. Renewals received after March won’t make it into the new Directory, so it pays to be timely.

If you have any questions or problems regarding membership issues, please don’t hesitate to let me know. Dick Butler

Don’t miss a beat—Pay Dues NOW!!!
FEBRUARY MEETING

Ken Morrish

When:
Thursday, February 21, 2002

Where:
Riverside Conference Center

Time:
Social Hour and Fly Tying
Theater at 6PM

Meeting at 7:00PM

Dinner at 7:30PM

Program to follow dinner

Raffle to close evening

What to Bring:
A friend!

Name tag

A hearty appetite

A Fly for the box

KEN MORRISH

Ken is a fourth generation fly fisher originally from the San Francisco area who has worked within the fly fishing industry since 1989. He has guided throughout Alaska, Oregon, and California, taught hundreds of students how to cast, tie, and fish, managed fly shops, consulted with leading fly rod manufacturers and fished many of the world’s great waters.

Ken is an accomplished writer and photographer whose work has appeared in Patagonia, Outside, Fly Fisherman, Fly Rod and Reel, Northwest Fly Fishing, Wild Steelhead and Salmon and other popular publications.

Ken is presently Chief Operating Officer, among other duties, of Fly Water Travel LLC, which helps fly fishermen plan their travels and fishing adventures.
CASTING ABOUT

Richard Fiebelkorn at Holy Water Outing
Debi Sharp and Dave Roberts

Rogue and Southern Oregon Flyfishers on New Year's Day

Joe Holzen

Dick Bonamarte
OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

The Chetco

The Chetco is starting to produce a good run of steelhead. On January 23 two fish over 18# were taken. I have been on the river many days last month and the fish count is increasing daily. The outing on 2/23 should be very productive, especially of great memories. The weather this year has blown out the river twice since Christmas. The Chetco is a short coastal river which fluctuates with the rain and snow melt. I’ll try to give an update on weather predictions at the February 21st meeting but if the river is blown out the outing will be cancelled. Please contact Steve Bonner, Dick Adams or me for any last minute information.

When: February 23, 2002
Where: Brookings, Oregon
Where to meet: Mattie’s for breakfast at 7:00 AM, Highway 101 in Brookings
What to Bring: Flies: pink & orange shrimp, krill in pale green and gold, purple perils, woolys, green butt skunks, glo-bugs and other egg patterns in sizes 1-6. Rods 7-9 weight. Lines: Slime line heads in intermediate to type 2 or if we are fortunate to have low clear water, weight forward floating lines. Leaders 6-10#. Rain gear and warm clothes.

2002 Southern Oregon Fly Fishers Fly Tying Class
FLY TYING CORNER

LIGHTNING BUG

The Lightning bug is an excellent steelhead nymph which has worked equally well for both winter and summer fish. I have recommended the Dai-Riki 075 hook for its 1x short 2x heavy design. The hook offers a larger gap for a better hook set in large fish and the heavy wire allows for larger tippet. This fly has also produced very well on the Williamson River for the large Redband trout when fished on a clear intermediate line with a slow retrieve. Give the Lightning Bug a try. You may be surprised!  

Jeff Fox

H A K 0 0

Announcement

The Board of Directors will now be meeting in the second floor conference room of the Community Bank at the corner of 6th and Savage. The next Board meeting will be February 28, 2002 at 7:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.
The Emerger, by Morris Fruitman

In December I wrote about a very big steelhead “cleaning my lock.” My line and leader were too light and before I could even react it tore my leader from my line. Deciding to do something about that I decided to obtain a rig just for the run of large winter steelhead. Considering myself an advanced novice I can now talk to other fly fishers more experienced than I about my shortcomings, with some authority. Ask some questions.

Should I build a larger rod? Buy a ready made? Advice is certainly plentiful with excellent shops in our area and club members that build rods as well. Think about length. Nine or ten feet? Is an 8 wt. what you really need? Will you need a large arbor reel? Can you sample rods first?

Will you be using it in a boat, in a float tube or wading? All of these variables can have an impact on your decision as to the make, length and rod weight. Even though I really enjoyed building my first three rods and would not give them up for the world, they remain my prime rods.

This time around I am having a central Oregon manufacturer build a rod to my specs. It will be just what I want, the way I want it; he is well respected and I should never lose another large steelhead again. Can you believe I said that? Congratulations to the new board. The best of luck to you and have a great year.

Morris Fruitman

Habitat Update

Thanks to you who signed up for future projects. I will keep the list up dated as other members sign up. On March 2 we will be planting trees in the Illinois valley for the Forest Action Committee. Information will be handed out at the February general meeting as to time and location. If you would like to participate please give me a phone call or contact by E mail: jimmel@chatlink.com.

Over the past ten years the Forest Action Committee has planted over 195,000 trees along the Illinois river and its tributaries in order to provide cooling shade in the summer and hiding and spawning areas for the salmon and steelhead. SOFF has previously been involved in this planting. In the early spring of 2000 the club planted trees along Snail Creek. I will keep in touch with the Forestry Action Committee, and also will attempt to find out what studies have been done over the years regarding fish populations of the Illinois River, and report back with any information I can collect. I did attend a meeting on Jan 26 and was informed they have been planting Page Creek over the last seven years and this was the first year to see salmon spawning in the creek.

Chuck Fustish of ODFW. The need for planting trees in this area is a result of natural erosion. Join us at Shari’s at 8:00 AM for breakfast. We’ll be planting around 200 trees. Bring a lunch.

The board has approved SOFF’s participation in tree planting along Butcher Creek which will take place on Feb 16. This project came to the attention of the club from Nancy Fruitman, Jan Cook and Charlotte Holzen on New Year’s Day.
Editors Notebook

We have an off and on Thanksgiving tradition in our home. My mother and father, two very respectable folks, often attend as do my brother in law Don and his two girls. Don's a colorful fellow. My nieces' college education fund is growing because of the "fines" they impose on their dad when he says something inappropriate. A quarter here and there and pretty soon they'll have their first semester paid. (They are only ten and twelve.) So what's this about?

Well, when Don first arrives, he goes up to my mother, gives her a hug, and offers his apology, in advance, for anything he might do or say through the course of the weekend that might otherwise offend her. It seems to work for the apology is always met with a giggle (and several apple pies.)

To follow Don's lead: as a member of the Board of Directors of SOFF and as editor of this sometimes weak attempt at journalism, I apologize, in advance, for anything we might do (or not do) to which someone might take offense! Now just remember my mother's reaction to such gentlemanly behavior.

We've all had a lot of fun through the history of this club. We've also done some very good things for the health of the fish. The new board is full of enthusiasm to continue the roll.

While we will always try to do our best, three hundred members will no doubt have more good ideas than just the nine board members. We will try to do our jobs to serve this club but we won't always hit the long ball. We welcome any and all help rowing this carefully built craft. Here's to a great New Year!

Dick Adams
FLY TYING EXPO

Southern Oregon Fly Fishers will be well represented at the 14th annual Oregon Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers Northwest Fly Tyers Exposition in Eugene this year. Al Brunell is working hard as the Expo Chair. Tony Brauner is proving his mettle once again as Auction Chair in Eugene. The always beautiful pair of Vera Edwards and Nancy Fruitman will serve as pitch girls for the auction modeling apparel and no doubt driving up the bid.

We’ll be represented by thirteen of our club tyers: Loren Black, Bruce Bochman, Steve Bonner, John Edwards, Jeff Fox, Morris Fruitman, Steve Godshall, Gerald James, Rusty Randall, Marlon Rampy, Bob Roberts, Ray Slusser and Carey Williams. Overall 175 tyers will be demonstrating their techniques, 71 at a time.

The event is held at Wheeler Pavilion, Lane county Fairgrounds in Eugene on March 23, 2002 beginning at 9 am. Tyers will tie in four two-hours sessions demonstrating techniques in trout, steelhead, bass, Atlantic & Pacific salmon and saltwater patterns.

During the tying there will be a tying material sale, bucket raffle and silent auction. Oral auction items will be on display. Silent auction closeout will be at 5:00 PM.

Hors d’oeuvres will be served during a social hour with no-host bar from 5:00 to 6:00 PM. Dinner will be served from 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM during which Council awards will be given. Oral auction will commence at 7:15 PM and is expected to end around 9:00 PM.

Admission is $5.00 for adults, $3.00 for students and children 12 and under accompanied by an adult are admitted free. Advance reservations for dinner (by March 15th) are $18.00. After that dinner will be $22.00. You need not buy dinner in order to participate in the auction. For reservations call Al Brunell at 541-738-6399.

This is a fascinating event. Not only do SOFF attendees have an opportunity to hang out with our own, opportunity presents to mingle with many of the best and brightest fly tyers the Pacific Northwest has to offer.
President's Message

Spring is fast approaching. Fish are in the river, cool nights, warm days. It's time to cast a few of the flies tied over the winter. Maybe, just maybe, you'll catch the 'Big One' you've been looking for.

Last summer we were into a serious drought. Little snow pack created low water conditions. Algae formed in the river bottoms, water temperatures went up and river conditions deteriorated to the point of affecting invertebrates and fish. I would suspect that in a couple of years we will feel the long term effects.

Lost Creek Reservoir is filling at a rate of about 1400 CFS. Applegate Reservoir is filling at a rate of about 370 CFS (as of March 2, 2002). The snow pack is melting early and we could be looking at another low water summer. Let's hope it rains and snows. Maybe we will get lucky.

Don't forget March 23rd is the Fly Tying Expo in Eugene. We all need to turn out and support the FFF. It will also be an opportunity to see many of your club tyers in action.

Carey Williams

Membership Report

The March meeting is SOFF's drive to have members bring a guest who may be potentially interested in joining. As in past years, there will be a special raffle item designated only for guests—SO BRING A GUEST!! As mentioned in the last newsletter, it's time to renew your membership for 2002. Be sure to get your renewal taken care of before March 31 so that your name will appear in this year's directory and you will continue to receive the monthly SOFF newsletter. Don't forget to bring a guest to the March meeting!

Dick Butler

Youth Day at the Casting Pond

The first planning team meeting for the Youth Day Program at the Casting Pond was held over lunch in Shady Cove. Those present were Joe and Charlotte Holzen, Carey and Beth Williams, Morris and Nancy Fruitman, Gerry Sinclair and Jim Tehan. It was determined to hold the event on May 4, 2002.

We need six members to volunteer in helping instruct the youths with tying some easy fly patterns. Please contact us as to which pattern you wish to tie so we might be able to have some materials donated. Also we will need some volunteers to help with the youth in some fly casting. We will also be barbecuing some hot dogs. Anyone with a possible contact for donations of dogs and buns please contact us.

We also had a suggestion to have a drawing for a beginner's fly rod and reel combo as a prize. Anyone having an interest in helping with the Youth Day at the Casting Pond please contact me either by phone or e-mail jimmel@chatlink.com.

Jim Tehan

Board Meeting

The Board met 2/28/02 and approved a budget for 2002. Copies will be available on the table at the March meeting. Our web site, www.soff.org is being restored. Several members will be able to write to the site in order to provide timely information such as on outings, projects, and seminars.

Raffle tickets for our Polly Rosborough rod will be sold over the next few months. The rod will be available for viewing and tickets purchased on a rotation basis at area fly shops. The board donated $50 to the Humane Society in memory of the late Bob Kirkland. The board is presently working on several clinics for casting and fishing. Details will be forthcoming.

Work on the auction is continuing. The board needs several members to step forth and help with obtaining donations. PLEASE HELP! Our organization must continue to have a successful auction in order to continue our projects and activities.

The board also contributed $100 to Joe Holzen's fly tying class in Shady Cove.

On a final note, the board must increase the dinner charge to $14 beginning with the March meeting. This is due to the rising cost charged by the Riverside Conference Center. Young persons 18 and under continue to be only $5.

Next meeting March 28, 2002 at Community Bank conference room at 7:00 pm. Use the door by the SW corner of the bank which is at the corner of 6th & Savage in Grants Pass.

Dick Adams

New Historian

Charlotte Holzen has been the club's historian for over 4 years and has done such a wonderful job of organizing photos, newspaper articles, various documents and correspondence. She has catalogued all the club's newsletters dated back from 1993.

Charlotte has passed the torch to me. The Board of Directors authorized the purchase of a Nikon Coolpix 775 digital camera which will make it easier to transfer photos for the newsletter.

To help in recording the history of the club I'm looking for photos, newspaper articles or anything you feel appropriate for the club to retain. If you have a fun picture of you or your buddy landing an awesome fish or a beautiful lake, river or stream please send that as well to: P.O. Box 229, Trail, OR 97541. Telephone: 541-878-8038 E-Mail: mornan@grrt.com

Nancy Fruitman
DENNY RICKARDS

Denny Rickards has dazzled us before with stories and pictures of the trophy trout country just over the mountains in Klamath Country. Come hear him offer his latest insights into stillwater fishing for large carnivorous trout in Klamath and Agency Lakes and other noted stillwater fisheries.

Denny is a full time guide on Upper Klamath Lake. Over 250 days a year are spent doing what he loves best: guiding, writing, tying flies, conducting fly fishing schools, and field testing and developing tackle manufacturer’s products.

As a professional fly tier, his suggestive patterns have appeared in various outdoor magazines. He is the author of two books: *Fly Fishing Stillwaters for Trophy Trout*, *Fly Fishing The West’s Best Trophy Lakes*, and is coming out with *Tying Stillwater Patterns for Trophy Trout* in the fall of 2002.

He spends a great deal of time studying trout behaviour, their habitat, and the various insects found within their environment. Denny helps unravel the mysteries of this challenging fishery. His emphasis on use of different sinking lines will give you the boost you need to succeed on some of our closest trophy trout waters.

Denny Rickards with a trophy brown
SOFF AT THE OLYMPICS
SOFF member Paul Cook was just doing a patriotic good deed. He made up lapel tags saying “Hooked on America” over the picture of an American flag. On top of the tag he mounted a colorful red, white and blue fly. He gave them out freely at both the auction and the December meetings. Many members wore them proudly. The first of February Gary Schwab from Eagle Point saw the lapel pin/fly in McKenzie’s display case in Medford. He was leaving to see the winter Olympics and wanted to own and wear that pin proudly. Paul gave him the only one remaining and refused any money telling him that if he really wanted to spend the money he could donate it to the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers. And that is just what Gary Schwab did. Paul forwarded the check to President Carey Williams and the Hooked on America lapel pin-tag went to the Olympics to be worn on the hat of a very happy and patriotic American. 

Morris Fruitman

Gerry Sinclair and Alyssa Curtis at Dutcher Creek Project

Bruce Murray
The Applegate is a natural for fly fishing. Especially with this winter's excellent run of winter steelhead there will no doubt be hookups on this outing. Although access is limited, we hope to be able to identify a few access points that will present members with a chance at a nice winter fish. If nothing else, just hanging out with the likes of your fellow club members can make for a most enjoyable day.

When: March 30, 2002

Where: Cantrall-Buckley Park area

Where to meet: Shari's for breakfast at 7:00 AM, in Grants Pass; Leave at 8:00

What to Bring: Flies: Egg patterns, March Brown nymphs #12's-14's, golden stone nymphs. Rods: 6-8 weight single hand or spey. Lines: Floating with long leaders; lunch, raingear and attitude to chase the elusive ghost fish: the Applegate winter steelhead!

Sign ups: Please sign up at the next meeting or contact Steve Bonner, 474-0090(w), 474-0018(h) or Josh White, 474-2414
FLY TYING CORNER

THE OLD MARE or WITHERWOX SPECIAL

This fly was designed by Hal Witherwox and used on the Rogue River in the early days. Hal, whose fly rod now is sadly quiet, was a flytier and owner of the Black Bar fishing Lodge in the now Wild and Scenic section of the Rogue River. This pattern is good for steelhead and Half Pounders on the swing across a seam or riffle fence. 

Rusty Randall

HOOK: #6-#14 Steelhead hook
TAIL: Mallard flank fibers, 15-20, shank length
BUTT: Sedge green silver tinsel chenille
BODY: #56 red floss or red Antron, thin
RIB: Fine gold oval tinsel, 4 turns
HACKLE: Brown, as a beard or full tied wet
WING: White bucktail, 1 1/2 times body length

GUEST NIGHT

Bring a guest and you and your guest will be entered into a special raffle of a Gary Anderson Custom Rod! This is a fun way to introduce new folks to our fine group and perhaps increase our membership!
The Emerger, by Morris Fruitman

Those that have read this for the several years it has been printed know it is about the novice fisher. The whole point is that we all learn continuously no matter what level of expertise we possess. Before you can learn you must be willing to ask and then listen and listen carefully.

Recently I upgraded to an 8 weight rod in order to better fish the winter steelhead runs. I asked questions of experienced fishers, fished with them and dined with them. Their contributions have been invaluable. To name them all would be to fully fill this article with familiar names you all know, but space does not permit. Many that have contributed to my education have not only given of themselves and time but labor as well. Of course I did ask but I always received more than expected.

My rod is in and better than I expected, the large arbor reel and line are ready to go. The leader is the proper strength and the knots as good as anyone can do. A trip is scheduled to the coast, location and access courtesy of another very generous member. Will it be fun, yes, thanks to the right attitude and perspective of this fisher. I want to take this moment in time to thank each and every person that has responded to my questions and requests. Your skills and insights are outstanding. You are what make this sport so worthwhile.

Morris Fruitman

Habitat Update

On Saturday sixteen SOFF members planted approximately 250 sugar pine and cedar trees at 682 Dutcher Creek Rd. Organized by ODFW, which did not have a budget to purchase the trees, SOFF’s board of directors stepped up and agreed to fund up to a set amount. Thanks to the help of new board member Dave Russell SOFF was able to purchase the trees for approximately one-half the sum the board approved to spend. Thanks Dave.

Thanks to the following members who were a great help: Morris & Nancy Fruitman, Carey & Beth Williams, Mike & Marylyn Canet, Tom & Vivian Fields, Rudge Heth, Jim Bignall, Mike Trask, Tony Brauner, Dick Butler, Gerry Sinclair, and a special thanks to young adults Alyssa & Daniel Curtis who are brother and sister. It was a real pleasure to have young people working along with us as they added much joy to this day.

Thanks to Chuck Fustish of ODFW for furnishing a great lunch. Great big thanks to all.

A possible tree plant on Sand Creek in Grants Pass likely 2nd week in March. Early summer we will help the Middle Rogue Watershed Council with a stream clean up. Late summer we will be working with Carl Summers on a smolt transfer project on Deer Creek. In October and November we will be doing some tree monitoring on our recent plants and then back to tree planting.

We will be working with Glen Ginder of the Illinois Watershed on a plan to do some fish counts, locating spawning areas and counting of reds. We will also be meeting with Donna Chickering of the Middle Rouge Watershed Council to plan where we are most needed in tree plants for this winter. We will have a wide range of projects and hope to see more members attend.

Jimmie Tehan
Is common courtesy a misnomer? I don’t think so. But on the other hand, lack of courtesy is not particularly uncommon on our waters. As our rivers and lakes get discovered, and particularly as our sport gains in popularity, special places will get squeezed. Tempers may flare. I hope we fly fishers can take the lead in demonstrating to all the virtue of courtesy, defined byWebster’s as: “behavior which is marked by respect for and consideration of others.”

This topic recently came to mind when I had the great pleasure to spend a day in the company of a professional guide and member of this club. I’ve seen lots of guides through the years and most are very decent folks. Same goes for fishermen. Occasionally you’ll have an incident.

One in particular I recall. A guide whose trade name was splashed across the side of his boat had a couple dudes wading out in the river with the boat parked in shallow water. We carefully pulled our boats in next to the bank, greeted them and quietly passed behind them, far from their fishing pool. Our other options were to camp out upstream while he blocked the river or drift over his pool. The guide refused to acknowledge our pleasantries, had a look of disdain and was obviously intent on proving something to his dudes, a point lost on us. Maybe he was catching more fish. Funny thing was my passenger from out of the area had the wherewithal and inclination to hire a guide on return trips, but do you think he’d consider the hiring of this particular guide? Not on a bet.

That’s not to say courtesy should be employed just for the benefit of commerce. A better reason is because it’s the decent thing to do. I suppose this guy just didn’t get that other fishermen on the river are potential customers.

Good guides, like the one I recently spent the day with, treat other fishermen with respect. Those guides make good will. People remember courtesy.

Dick Adams
The Applegate

This year’s season on the Applegate has been little short of phenomenal. The extraordinary run of winter steelhead allowed fly anglers to confidently fish over pods of sometimes dozens of large sea run rainbow trout. With a good showing of hatchery fish along with the beautiful natives, many folks took home a number of fresh fish for the table.

Many of our club members took advantage of the opportunity without regret. After counting all the ballots, Randy White takes the prize for the largest fish landed, 39”. Most giddy was probably Exley Mixon with his new spey rod getting enough exercise for a lifetime. Exley had some 20 fish days. The most persistent award has to go to Ben Adams who set aside most other things, including slowing down to put on waders on occasion, in order to take part in this year’s sensational fishing. The only thing keeping him from taking up residence on the river was his evening job in town. Also placing in the persistent category is Josh White who also had to leave the excitement on occasion to head off to work. Josh was also kept busy tying the specialized flies which were so productive and sought after by a crowd of out of state fly fishers.

These and other members represented our club well. Several persons approvingly asked me if I was affiliated with “the club.” After seeing repeated demonstrations of what makes SOFF great I was very proud to say, “yes.”

Despite the opportunity to personally catch unprecedented numbers of steelhead in the limited hours and runs available, Dick Butler and Jimmie Tehan repeatedly put down their rods to help other fly fishers hook or land fish, Jimmie with the camera ready. Randy and Josh White willingly passed on their words of experience on fighting these large fish and were always quick with the net.

Ben Adams was Mr. Goodwill Ambassador to all comers, directing traffic to good runs, pointing out the slots and the ideal drifts, and helping with terminal tackle rigs and fly selection.

Exley Mixon ended the season with grace. Ever in charge with his Type A personality, Exley was generously sharing the keys to his new-found success with others and spurring folks on to their own.

I was proud to be in the company of these Southern Oregon Fly Fishers.

Dick Adams
President's Message

Spring has finally arrived and usual spring things have happened. The Expo in Eugene was enjoyable with about 170 tiers demonstrating their talents. Thirteen of those tiers were from SOFF. A good showing for any club in a multi-state event.

March 31, Easter Sunday, marked the end of steelhead fishing on the Applegate. Steelheading on the Rogue has been good and should remain so for awhile. Salmon are beginning to enter the lower River with most fish being on the large side. Numerous 30 plus pounders have been caught.

The E. H. "Polly" Rosborough bamboo rod donated to SOFF by Rich Henry is now on display at Native Run Fly Shop. The Board decided that the rod should be displayed at various locations and raffle tickets should be sold in order to raise money for the club. If you would like to purchase tickets for the rod drawing, please stop by the shop.

For various events the club puts on every year we still need volunteers. At present we have no Picnic Chair and we will need volunteers to assist at the Women's Fly Fishing Weekend and also at the general, open to the public, Fly Fishing Clinic. At present plans are to have these events at the Casting Pond and adjacent shelter. So if you have time, please volunteer if you can.

Have a good spring, catch some fish, convert someone you know into a fly fishing person and above all, enjoy the spring and summer.

Carey Williams

Habitat & Conservation Report

On Saturday March 2nd SOFF was involved in the annual tree plant for The Forest Action Committee of Illinois Valley. We planted in excess of 400 trees on Deer Creek. This section has had wash outs due to high water. There has been rock placed in the stream just up from the area we planted in an attempt to keep the stream flowing in the main channel.

Jerry Sinclair, Beth Williams, Sean Williams, John Lemon, Jim Bignell, Dick Butler and Jim Tehan worked extremely hard to plant the 400 plus trees. The soil was very rocky and the trees are needed to provide much needed shade in the summer. Deer Creek was once thought of as a dead creek which is incorrect. Deer Creek is a great salmon and steelhead spawning area. Much of the area is fairly flat with little shade for the hot summer days.

On Saturday March 9th SOFF members once again planted trees. This time we were joined by members of Middle Rogue Water Shed Council and Zonta. The plant was coordinated by the Council and SOFF. Members of SOFF included Tony Brauner, Gerry Sinclair, Dick Butler, Mike Cagna, Richard Blake, Beth Williams, Sean Williams and Jim Tehan. Both Richard and Tony were also representing the Middle Rogue Council and Beth was also representing Zonta. The plant was along Sand Creek which runs near Redwood Ave., a steelhead spawning creek.

The areas planted were almost without any vegetation with the exception of blackberries which were removed. We planted over 300 trees including fir, cedar, pine, big leaf maple, dogwood, Oregon ash as well as willow. Donna Chickering of the Middle Rogue Water Shed Council will be contacting other property owners over the summer so that more areas can be planted this next winter.

This plant concluded the planting for this season. This year SOFF helped plant four sites with over 900 trees. We will be planting more in October, November and December of 2002 as the next planting season begins. Thanks to those who helped and we hope to see some new faces in the up coming plants this winter.

Jim Tehan

Membership Report

The following are new or rejoined members of SOFF since January 1 of this year: Larry Beach, Gloria Foley, Norrie Kammann, Alyssa Curtis, Daniel, Patti & Todd Curtis, Harold Brockopp, Scott Steubing, Roger Machado, Dick Magill, Alan Mohr, Rick Clarisse & Brian Alves, John Mac Diarmid, Mark Mc Ginnis, Kristen Higgins, Dewey Hamilton, Chelsea Hamilton, Mike Mathews, Mark Amrhein, Gary Miller, Joel Ockunzzi, Jay Prouty, Jim Bignall, Monika Froehlich, Judy Wolff, Bill Archuleta, Bruce Warren, Bob Shuck, Jim Dowd, Jim & Peggy Olson, Darin & Susie Pruhiere, and Donna Snyder. Please extend a hearty welcome when you see any of them at general meetings, outings, etc. Dick Butler
APRIL PROGRAM

APRIL MEETING
Fly Tying Night

When:
Thursday, April 18, 2002

Where:
Riverside Conference Center

Time:
Social Hour and Fly Tying Theater at 6PM
Meeting at 7:00PM
Dinner at 7:30PM
More fly tying after dinner
Raffle to close evening

What to Bring:
A friend!
Name tag
A hearty appetite

Members’ Fly Tying Night

Come watch a dozen of our tiers display their techniques. This is always a fun event and an opportunity to learn from some masters, and some that are not yet there. Come mingle, ask questions, share your own solutions to problem areas and just generally have a good time. Wear your name tag! Meet your fellow members and learn some new tricks from some veterans and some courageous neophytes.

Morris Fruitman (top) and Bruce Bochman at the Expo
Casting About

Duane Chebul on the Applegate

Clockwise from upper left: Bob Roberts, Carey Williams, Rusty Randall, and Gerry James at the Expo

Clockwise from left: Steve Godshall, Ray Slusser, and Steve Bonner at the Expo

Exley Mixon on the Applegate
OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Crystal Creek

We are very grateful to the new owners of Crystal Creek Lodge who have offered to open their premises for our outing. They will serve us a wonderful lunch for $15 per person. This is an opportunity for spouses and children to come and enjoy the scene. If you desire to stay overnight please make direct arrangements with the lodge.

There is no bank fishing on Crystal Creek so boats are needed. We will make every opportunity to provide boat access to everyone that signs up in advance. This is an opportunity to sight fish for large rainbows, 4-14#

When: Saturday, May 4, 2002
Where: Crystal Creek which runs into Klamath Lake
Where to meet: Crystal Creek Lodge
What to Bring: 6-7 weight rods; clear intermediate lines; long leaders; leeches and RPB's sizes 6-10
Sign ups: We need a head count by the regular meeting as boats need to be arranged. Please sign up at the meeting or contact Steve Bonner, 474-0090(w), 474-0018(h).

Tail gate party at the Expo prepared by Steve Godshall

Expo spectators
FLY TYING CORNER

PRINCE NYMPH

The Prince Nymph is an excellent steelhead and trout pattern. The pattern presents a basic stonefly nymph silhouette. A gold bead can be added to the pattern and will add both flash and weight to the standard prince.

Jeff Fox

HOOK: Size 6-12 1-2x wet fly
TAIL: Brown goose biots
BODY: Peacock herl
RIB: Gold oval tinsel or wire
HACKLE: Brown, Hen or other soft hackle
WING: White goose biots

The next Board Meeting will be held at 7:00PM, April 25th at the Community Bank conference room. All members are welcome to attend. Enter at the southwest corner of the bank.

Membership Renewal

- Regular............................. $25.00
- Family.............................. $35.00
- Youth.............................. $5.00
- Contributing...................... $50.00
- Lifetime (Individual)........... $250.00
- Lifetime (Couple)................. $350.00

Please make checks payable to SOFF and mail to: PO Box 1144, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Name(s): __________________________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________
Phone: Home (____) Work: (____)
Email: ____________________________
The Emerger

Getting ready for the Big Weekend. Pacific Northwest Fly Tying Exposition in Eugene at the Fairgrounds. Everything packed, dog to the Happy Camp kennel and on the road. Nervous? No. My first fly tying event other than the club’s yearly meeting. All details attended to.

Upon arrival the parking lot is full of SOFF and Rogue Fly Fisher club members. Lots of laughs and stories, some of which might be true. Jay Daley is there, my first fly tying instructor and former SOFF member until he moved to northwestern Oregon. The Friday evening get together is when even more club members arrive. There is Al Brunell, chairman of the event and Tony Brauner who is in charge of the Oral Auction. So many of our members are there that it seems like an SOFF meeting, at least to me.

Early to bed and early to rise and I report to Al for duties assigned. Collect delinquent flies from tiers that had not as yet turned theirs in for the Silent Auction. Six tiring hours later it’s prep time for tying. Unload vice and feathers, tools and light. Truck them into the designated spot and kick the resident tier out of the chair so they can get a little rest before dinner. Pressure? Nope. That was Gerry James I sent packing. Before him, Ray Slusser. What fantastic company I am in.

Concentrate. Set up and have at it. The right hook? OK. Which fly? The easiest one, of course. Oops, wrong hackle. Shelve fly. Next one, take more care and use all of the right materials. People staring, talking, asking questions, try to keep everything just right. Did it. Did it again. Nearly five, time for one last fly. The gang gathers around, telling stories, jokes, asking questions they already know. I lose concentration and FUZZ my fly. Laughs. Do it again. FUZZ my fly again. “And once again. The strangers fade away. Friends start laughing and saying things like “I did that too” or “I had a big head on my fly because I broke the thread four times....” Well, I feel better and finished that darn fly I wish I had not started.

Then a great dinner and auction. Another early morning meeting in the parking lot, Sunday, before we all say goodbye making commitments to get together in the near future to visit or fish. Then the idea is broached: Why not have our own fly fishing show in southern Oregon between SOFF and RFF? I liked the idea, how about you?

Greeters at Meeting
Thanks to Joe and Charlotte Holzen for doing a great job greeting people at the March meeting. For the April meeting Marlane Trask has volunteered. If any one would like to do future months see me at the meetings. Thanks to all.

Jim Tekan

Board Meeting Report
The board met on March 28, 2002. Steve Bonner reported our website is back up and running. Our address is www.soff.org. This is a work in progress and we’ll have a number of members with access for posting information. Work is ongoing for benches and distance markers at the casting pond. A scholarship committee has been formed. Planning is ongoing for a number of educational events for club members and the general public. Watch for details.

Dick Adams

Woman Members
Casting Clinic

On Saturday June 15, 2002, SOFF will conduct a women’s fly casting clinic open only to the women of Southern Oregon Fly Fishers. This will be free of charge and will take place at the casting pond at the All Sports Park from 10am until 2pm. Casting instruction will be provided by a professional instructor. Bring your fly rod and lunch. Sign up sheets will be at the April and May meetings.
Last month I wrote about courtesy. I want to do so again. One thing this club can do is add to how we define and advance courtesy on our waters. The members of our club who fished the lower Applegate this year did just that.

If you weren’t there let me lay some background. The Applegate is a small river, running around 350 cfs in the vicinity of the Highway 199 bridge in March of this year. Thousands of winter steelhead were coursing up from the Rogue this year. Access to the Applegate is limited by private property. From the 199 bridge downstream a ways is public access. The steelhead pod up in certain holding areas. Those holding areas present the angler with the opportunity to hook many and large winter fish. The problem is the competition for those areas between fishermen, both bait and fly casters. The solution to the problem is common courtesy.

Our club members did advance the cause of courtesy on the water on the lower Applegate. Our members made suggestions on how to allow everyone some opportunity to catch these fish. The heart of the suggestions was to employ traditional steelhead fishing protocol: cycle through the pool by starting at the top, fishing a cast, stepping downstream and doing it again. When through the pool walk back up to the top, wait your turn if necessary, and start again. When this system was employed everyone caught fish. The system doesn’t work when certain fishermen don’t move. Once some were in the high percentage slot they wouldn’t move. Tempers would flare and the experience would be degraded.

Our members showed excellent leadership by spreading the wisdom of the protocol. By the last weekend one fellow, knowing I was affiliated with the club, even approached me with a question about what he was supposed to do. The question was: “Since I hooked and fought a fish that took me well down into the next pool, when I come back up to resume, do I go to the back of the line?” Early in the week he wouldn’t even have asked.

Dick Adams
IRC 501(c)(3)

Our founders applied for and received exemption from federal income tax for Southern Oregon Fly Fishers. Such status is available for non-profit organizations which are exclusively devoted to educational, charitable and conservation activities.

Our mission statement from our Articles of Incorporation is: “(a) to provide public education in the art of fly casting, fly tying and fly fishing tactics, (b) to assist our governmental agencies with fisheries related research and habitat enhancement projects, and, (c) to promote the sport of fly fishing as a means of conservation of our natural resources by fostering a greater appreciation of our natural environment.” A review of the activities this club has sponsored over the last nine years shows we’ve lived up to the expectations of our founders.

SOFF has participated in upwards of two dozen habitat projects. SOFF has convened over twenty fly fishing clinics. SOFF has held an annual beginners’ fly tying class since 1994. Monthly meetings have offered informative and interesting speakers. This newsletter started out with two pages but shortly expanded to eight, a step many clubs never reach. SOFF has put its hard earned funds to good use with annual scholarship awards to two OSU students, contributions to conservation projects throughout the Rogue, Applegate, Illinois and Umpqua Basins, and the construction of a casting pond at the All Sports Park. So far SOFF has held true to its mission statement.

Dick Adams

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Members’ Fly Tying Night

Josh White

Dennis Nagel
**President's Message**

It's been a busy month. The Oregon Council - Federation of Fly Fishers held the annual leadership seminar at Camp Cascade near Mehama, Oregon on Saturday, April 20, 2002. Objectives were set for the next year with a planned mini-conclave at Seaside, Oregon on September 26th through September 28th, 2003. This will be a smaller version of the event held in Montana each year. More information will be forthcoming. Mark it on your calendar and plan to be there if you can.

The next two objectives were to get more youth and more women into the fly fishing family. On Sunday, April 21st, 2002, the quarterly meeting for the OCFFF was held and all the above projects were discussed. Several members volunteered to work on expediting the projects.

On Monday, April 22nd, 2002 ODFW held a “town hall meeting” in Medford. Seven more meetings are scheduled in other areas of the state. These meetings are designed to get a feel for the public view on how ODFW should handle budget shortfalls. The general consensus at this meeting was to increase license and tag fees rather than cut services. To date the legislature has closed three hatcheries in the northwest corner of the state and ODFW may have to close more due to budget cuts.

The scholarship committee met and two candidates were chosen to receive $1,000 each. Receiving the scholarships are Toby Carlson and Jess Jordan. One of them will be attending a meeting in the near future and we hope to meet the other later in the year.

I read on April 3rd, 2002 in the Grants Pass Daily Courier that the Corp of Engineers made an error in how water was released from Lost Lake Reservoir and that thousands of adult fish and smolts were stranded in pools. Hopefully, the remaining fish will have a very successful spawn and we will have good returns in the next few years.

Cast some flies, catch some fish, or just get out and see spring. For any who are interested there are nesting osprey on a power pole by the G.P. waterworks. They can be seen from the parking lot in Baker Park. There are also heron nests visible upstream from Chinook Park high in the trees across the river.

**Carey Williams**

**Habitat Report**

On April 20 & 21 I attended a leadership Seminar with the Oregon Council Federation of Fly Fishers. This was held at Camp Cascade in Lyons, Oregon some 30 miles east of Salem. Twenty fly fishing clubs were represented and the discussions were broken into two groups. The main objective was to have the clubs work together and share knowledge. At present I am working with Tom Gilg, Matt Haley of Clark-Skamania Flyfishers, Bill Mayer of Cascade Family Flyfishers and Bob Bumstead of McKenzie Flyfishers. We will be working together on habitat and political issues. I found that many clubs have not had the experience in habitat issues as our club has. I’ll share more information next month.

**Jim Tehan**

**Board Meeting Report**

The Board met on April 25, 2002. Our web site is close to being perfected. Board members will be able to individually post important information to the site for our members’ convenient access to current information. So far we have seventeen signed up for our Woman’s Members Casting Clinic. We are going to try to have weekly casting sessions at the pond on tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. Anyone wanting some practice in the company of some advanced casters are welcome. If anyone would like a morning session, call Steve Bonner who has offered to help. Auction planning is progressing. The board would like members to help out with the planning too AND HELP WITH DONATIONS! PLEASE GIVE US A HAND BY SERVING ON THE COMMITTEE! Our club also has an opportunity to obtain a quality rod/reel combination for signing up new members to FFF. Members are urged to join the FFF. Picnic planning is also in full swing. Any members with time are urged to help out. We’re increasing the budget for the May raffle so come to the meeting and win some quality items. The board reviewed the good work of the Oregon Stewardship Program and once again contributed $500 to their fine efforts. The board discussed the difficult budget times ODFW is facing and encourages members to support their efforts on things we fly fishers hold dear.

**Dick Adams**
MAY PROGRAM

MAY MEETING

Mystery Guest

When:
Thursday, May 16, 2002

Where:
Riverside Conference Center

Time:
Social Hour and Fly Tying Theater at 6PM
Meeting at 7:00PM
Dinner at 7:30PM
More fly tying after dinner
Raffle to close evening

What to Bring:
A friend!
Name tag
A hearty appetite

Mystery Guest

You'll have to show up at this month's meeting in order to learn the identity of this month's guest. It's sure to be a crowd pleaser. Will it be such recognized talent as Lefty Kreh? Joe Howell? How about Dave Hughes? How would you like to hear from the likes of Joan Wulff? Or will it be one of our local standouts like Jeff Fox, Dennis Nagel or Steve Bonner? Come join the fun and see what SOFF has in store!

More from:
Members' Fly Tying Night

Bob Roberts
Steve Godshall
Joe Holzen
Don Joslyn
Gerry Sinclair and Jim Tehan helped eight members of the Boys and Girls club of Grants Pass with their first attempts in fly tying. The eight boys were all successful in tying a couple woolly buggers and were able to take them home with happy faces. All wanted a return visit to learn more fly tying. The fun afternoon was set up by Gerry and more will be coming up. Anyone wanting to help with these classes please contact Gerry for future dates.

GREAT WORK GUYS!

Casting Practice

Come join fellow fly casters at the Casting Pond. Get some hints, get some practice. You'll feel better armed when you hit the river! Several members intend to get together Tuesdays from around 3:30 to 5:00 PM at the Pond. Randy White and Jeff Fox will try to be available then and will share their enthusiasm. Don't be intimidated! This is not competition. This is an opportunity to improve your skills and get a little coaching from some advanced casters. If late afternoons don't work for you Steve Bonner is willing to spend some time at the pond in the morning starting at around 8:30 if time is available. Give him a call, 474-0018 (h) or 474-0090(w). Please understand this is an informal get together and conflicts arise. If no one is present, string up your rod anyway and get in some practice!
OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

SURF PERCH

We’re headed to the beach! Check out the fast and furious surf perch action on the Oregon Coast. Steve Bonner will be leading us on this adventure to Gold Beach. Steve has coordinated the timing with the tide tables to maximize our opportunity for success.

When: Saturday, May 18, 2002
Where: Hunter Creek
Where to meet: Meet at Grant’s Restaurant on Hwy 101 in Gold Beach at 8:00 AM. Fishing to start around 9:30
What to Bring: 7-8 weight rods; waders (that water’s cold!), sink tips or floating lines with super fast sinking leaders, red, yellow, pink or orange surf perch flies, life preserver, rain gear, lunch
Sign ups: Please sign up at the meeting or contact Steve Bonner, 474-0090(w), 474-0018(h).

March Outing: The March outing on the upper Applegate was a successful event led by Jeff Fox. Those found wading the water in search of the winter steelhead were Tom Brandes, Joanne Simpson, Roger Machado, Duane Chebul, Dick Butler, Bob Graham, Teresa Kasza, and Jim Tehan. The group stopped at three locations ending up near the dam. At this point Jeff and Dick both touched fine Steelhead over 30 inches and Teresa hooked into her first ever winter fish with excitement. A wonderful day was had by all.

Jeff Fox  Dick Butler
FLY TYING CORNER

Rogue Goblin Spey

HOOK: Steelhead/salmon
TAG: 3 turns fine oval gold tinsel and fire orange floss
TAIL: Golden pheasant crest
RIB: Fine oval tinsel over the black floss body
BODY: Back 1/2 black floss-Front 1/2 ostrich herl
FRONT RIBS: Medium flat gold followed by small oval gold over the ostrich
SPEY HACKLE: Black, blue eared pheasant or substitute palmered over the ostrich
WING: Bronze mallard tented over the body
CHEEKS: Jungle cock eyes

Black and white does not do this fly justice. The Rogue Goblin Spey's orange and black brings out thoughts of Halloween and Rogue River steelhead. The long palmered hackle gives lifelike action sometimes so crucial to fish catching quality. The jungle cock eyes further the impressionistic deception. I'd confidently fish this for Rogue half pounders or just hang it on the wall and admire its beauty.

Dick Adams

The next Board Meeting will be held at 7:00PM, May 23th at the Community Bank conference room. All members are welcome to attend. Enter at the southwest corner of the bank.

Membership Renewal

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<td>Regular</td>
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<td>Lifetime (Couple)</td>
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Please make checks payable to SOFF and mail to: PO Box 1144, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Name(s): ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: ______
Phone: Home ( ) Work: ( )
Email: ____________________________
The Emerger

The Southern Oregon Fly Tiers (SOFT) originated at the Eugene Fly Tying Expo. It is composed of fly tiers from SOFF and the Rogue Fly Fishers in Medford. The first two meetings have been scheduled and will be split between Medford and Grants Pass. By the time you read this the first meeting will have been held, May 1, in Medford. The next will be held in Grants Pass, June 5, 7 to 10 PM, at the Native Run Fly Fishing Shop in Grants Pass.

As of this writing we are scheduled to meet the first Wed. of the month in alternating cities. This may change after the first two meetings if the group consensus is for a better day, time and location. Nothing has been locked in stone. Both clubs have endorsed this activity. OK, those are the details.

Now, why a fly tying splinter group made up of members from both clubs? For meeting new friends, information, development of new skills, improving old skills, share experiences, new fly tying techniques and much more. It is informal, casual, not for only the best but for all fly tiers of all skill levels. Men, women and youth are encouraged to attend. Goals and objectives might be added depending on those who attend and what they desire. On arrival, fly tying vice and tools in your hands, you will be required to place a fly on a styrofoam block. You will then be given a raffle ticket, free. Near the end of the meeting the block of flies will be raffled off. Winner takes all. Instruction will not be offered. Only fly tiers need apply.

Morris Fruitman

Upcoming Teaching Events

Several educational events for the rest of 2002 have been scheduled and all will be held at the All Sports Park Casting Pond. May 4 will be Youth Fun Fair Day, an event established to create an active youth group. This is the first event to reach out to and attract the youth of Grants Pass.

Saturday June 1 will be the Women’s Fly Casting clinic. This event will have professional instructor Kate Blubaugh from the San Mateo area. There will be no charge for this event and will be open only to SOFF members. Hours are from 10am until 2 PM. Bring your lunch. Sign up sheet will be at the April and May meetings.

July 13 will be the Beginning Fly Fishing Class. This one day event will be chaired by Carey Williams. More information will be forthcoming. Aug. 10th is the date for the Women’s Beginning Fly Fishing. This event will be all day and will carry over into Sunday. The cost and chair are still to be established.

Jimmie Tehan

Rod Building Class

The fifth annual rod building class was launched April 23rd at the Native Run Fly Shop with eighteen members. The class will run one night a week for 6 weeks. The instructor is Bob Roberts whose experience spans 45 years of building custom rods for his customers. If you have not tried building your own rod don’t hesitate to get involved. You will be pleased, and remember, any person who has built a fly rod had to begin at the same place as you will.

Bob Roberts

Woman Members Casting Clinic

(Note the change in date!)

On Saturday June 1, 2002, SOFF will conduct a women’s fly casting clinic open only to the women of Southern Oregon Fly Fishers. This will be free of charge and will take place at the casting pond at the All Sports Park from 10am until 2pm. Casting instruction will be provided by a professional instructor Kate Blubaugh of San Mateo. Bring your fly rod and lunch. Sign up sheets will be at the April and May meetings.
Fly fishing has many aspects. Flies, of course, should top the list. Fooling a fish with an illusion as opposed to luring the fish with a scent. The illusion is made up of shape, movement and color. Knowledge of what illusion to present involves an understanding of the fish’s diet. What bugs, or other prey, do the fish want? Some fly fishers, like Dave Hughes, know the bug life like they know the interior of their fly boxes. Read Western Hatches. Many of our seminars have included much bugology to the benefit of attendees. How can you know which fly to choose from your box if you don’t know just a little about what illusion the fish may favor?

Gear is another aspect. Some choose to fish exclusively with traditional cane rods and old English reels. Or first generation hardware store glass rods with Pflueger reels. Many more, I'd hazard a guess, choose to go with contemporary graphite. I have experienced the pleasure of casting a fine cane rod but I’d be afraid to use one for anything but brook trout fishing, or perhaps a moderate sized spring creek. Given their value they strike me as more wall hangers than fishing tools. Reels with good drag are yet another story. Trying to corral a winter steelhead (or shad, or Williamson rainbow or ...) on a non-drag reel could be a disaster for me. You don’t need to spend a lot of money but you need to spend enough.

But the most important aspect is the casting itself. Watching a casting master is like watching Rusty Randall at the fly tying bench. You know you’re in the presence of greatness! You can learn it by intuition, or by reading a book. But there’s no substitute for the experience of seeing and doing. That’s what’s so good about some of our members who are willing to show up at the casting pond on Tuesdays. They love to cast and their enthusiasm is infectious. Come out and practice some casting with the opportunity to watch as well. Check out the upcoming casting seminars too.

Dick Adams
WHY BUILD YOUR OWN FLY ROD?

A common term often uttered by a new recruit to the world of fly fishing is “my fly pole.” When I hear this it conjures up visions of my early exposure to the thrill and, ultimately, a lifelong love for fishing.

Growing up in SW Arkansas, largemouth bass, varieties of large perch and the lowly catfish were in abundance. In those days a fishing outfit for a youngster consisted of a Prince Albert tobacco can for a creel containing a length of cuttyhunk line, hooks and lead sinkers. My rod was a “pole” chosen from a handy cane break growing along the way to the stream. By cutting one in early spring it would remain flexible until late summer then it became hardened. A length of 12 to 15 feet was the norm. The cane dried stiff as a board, but nature provided a new one the following spring. A fishing “rod” came from a hardware store and many of us could not afford one. We were relegated to using a cane “pole.” When electricity first came to the area (yes, I remember that) the wires were strung on “poles.” So, at an early age I knew the difference between a rod and a pole.

What does it take? Only a modicum of dexterity by anyone is necessary. Then some hands-on experience and instruction from a mentor. What would entice anyone to take on the project? Personal finances may prohibit buying an expensive rod but building one will reduce the cost to an affordable level for many. If you are a fly tier you know the satisfaction derived from catching fish on patterns you have tied. Just like fly tying, building your own rod adds to the total enjoyment of fly fishing.

Ready to wrap kits are available and the beginner would be wise to start with one. In a class you will learn how to find the “spine” of a rod, proper guide spacing and alignment of the guides with the spine. Also how to wind thread over the guides and apply an epoxy finish to the wrappings. Talk to club members involved in the current class and let them help you make the decision. Remember, every rod builder stood on the same threshold from which you will take that first step.

Bob Roberts

Huck Finn
President's Message

If you wish to be happy for one hour, get intoxicated.
If you wish to be happy for three days, get married.
If you wish to be happy for eight days, kill your pig and eat it.
If you wish to be happy forever, learn to fish.

_Ancient Chinese Proverb_

This proverb reminds me that this time of year is when the club does most activity to fulfill the first statement of purpose goal in the club bylaws to, “Provide public education in the art of fly casting, fly tying and fly fishing tactics.” This year on July 27th we will have a clinic open to the public for both male and female participants.

On August 17th there will be a clinic for women only. Both will be held at The Casting Pond and the adjacent Harry And David Shelter. The cost of these courses will be $25.00 per adult participant with those under age 18 free. There will be donuts and coffee in the morning. Lunch will be provided.

The Board is still in need of volunteers for the following projects: the picnic, the auction and both of the above noted classes. If you can lend a hand on the classes, Steve Godshall is chairing the women’s (541)774-8812. Carey Williams is chairing the General Class, (541)472-1350. To volunteer for any activity you may be able to help with call any Board member. Give us a call, we need your help.

We are receiving newsletters back as undeliverable due to address changes. If you know of any member who has moved, please ask them to make sure the club has their correct address.

Get out there, do some fishing, and enjoy the good weather we usually have in the summer.

_Carey Williams_

Habitat Report

In May I met with Donna Chickering of the Middle Rogue Watershed Association. The Association is applying for some funding for a wide scale tree planting effort in the Middle Rogue. The goal is to plant 12,000 seedlings next spring on approximately 60 properties. The plan is to hire a contract work crew to do about twenty-five properties (the real tough ones). The association is hoping approximately 25 landowners will plant their own trees. The Balance of the planting is where SOFF will share the workload. Also we will be doing the yearly monitoring. We will be doing some watering and weeding in the summer months. The total amount of donated hours will be about 275 hours for planting trees. This works out to four or five plantings with ten members showing up. Ninety hours for watering and weeding during the first summer, and forty hours for monitoring growth over the next ten years. These volunteer hours SOFF donates are figured the same as donated funds. The rate used for volunteer efforts is $15.39. The total amount will be used for the matching funds portion of the grant. It will show SOFF donated $6,239 towards the repairs needed along our streams and rivers in the Middle Rogue Basin. These streams are all steelhead spawning areas that are in need of planting to provide protection for the fish of our area. I need some computer and telephone help in contacting and working with some other organizations and individuals. Please contact me any time. I can sure use the help.

_Jim Tehan_

Board Meeting Report

Beth Williams will take over as treasurer. Thank you, Beth! We will have benches at the Casting Pond shortly. Auction planning continues. We need tiers to fill SOFF boxes for the silent auction. Because of large demand for education the Board may direct budget money from habitat to conduct more and better seminars. The board has finally upgraded to a new computer for the 21st Century.

_Dick Adams_

Membership Report

For those of you wondering if the 2002 Membership Directory will be a reality sometime this year, the answer is yes! The printer is in the final stages of completing the Directory, so it will be available shortly.

We have added the following members to our rolls since my last report. They are: Arthur White, Grahame Johnston, Eugene La Haie, David Dennis, Burton Griffin and Patricia Clifton. Please join me in welcoming these new members.

_Please let me know when you change address, phone number or want to add or change your e mail address. Also, if you would like other members of your family added, I need to know that as well. Thanks for your help._

_Dick Butler_
JUNE MEETING
Cathy Tronquet

When:
Thursday, June 20, 2002

Where:
Riverside Conference Center

Time:
Social Hour and Fly Tying
Theater at 6PM

Meeting at 7:00PM

Dinner at 7:30PM

More fly tying after dinner

Raffle to close evening

What to Bring:
A friend!

Name tag

A hearty appetite

Experience NEW ZEALAND

This slide show will combine the fishing trips Peter and Cathy Tronquet have taken to New Zealand over the past 20 years. The most recent trip was last December 2001

......with the return to some favorite rivers, and the exploration of many new ones!

The show will also feature traditional music of the Maori, the native people of the country. Like Native Americans, the Maori people had close ties with their Tribal waters. Their music is hauntingly beautiful, as is the land they call Aotearoa, land of the long white cloud, NEW ZEALAND.

Cathy Tronquet

Brown Trout
New Zealand Adventure

After talking about the beauty of New Zealand which we had seen when each of us was there separately before we were married, we decided we had to go back—and do lots of fishing while we were there.

Our best fishing experience was west of Christchurch on the Hinds River with our guide Martin who was recommended by Cathy Tronquet. He was enthusiastic, energetic and had the best pair of fish spotting eyes you can imagine, especially since we were doing sight fishing only. We set out and within five minutes Ron had caught a 7 lb. Brown Trout which was a record for this small river. Okay, then it’s my turn. I kept saying I was a novice. He watched me cast and agreed. Then he informed me that I was on “acceleration” for the day. And believe it, I was! He would say “fish.” I would say I don’t see it. He would say “cast where I say.” And I would, and there would be a fish. He talked me through my first Brown and kept saying walk faster along the bank—(he meant RUN) until it was there in the net. I don’t know who was more exited but I think he was relieved.

The next day Ron used his “wee bit of a bamboo rod,” much to Martin’s dismay. What a day Ron had catching so many fish on the rise!

Linda Morrison
OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

HOLY WATER SALMON FLY HATCH

The hatch is on! Join other club members at the Holy Water for some fabulous salmon fly fishing. The hatch improves as the day wears on. Just show up, find another club member and start hooking into fish.

When: Saturday, June 22, 2002, anytime up to dark.
Where: Holy Water on the Upper Rogue. Just below Lost Creek Dam.
Where to meet: No set meeting time or place. Show up at your leisure.
What to Bring: 4-6 weight rods; waders, floating lines, salmon flies, lunch or dinner.

Crystal Creek Outing

Members in boats took off from the Crystalwood Lodge around 9:00 AM for a morning of casting to large cruising rainbows in the clear water of Crystal Creek. Kevin Daniels figured it out early and caught the most fish. His good karma was infectious as your editor got into one just as Kevin approached.

The fisher folks returned to the Crystalwood Lodge for a perfect buffet lunch, good conversation and relaxation in the midst of this most spectacular view of the Klamath Basin. The owners and staff of Crystalwood Lodge were outstandingly accommodating. Later in the day the wind was a mixed blessing, providing cover for the fishermen (and fish) but fouling the casts.

Over nighters enjoyed not only more excellent dining but a morning's symphony of sandhill cranes, red winged and yellow headed blackbirds, mama Mallards, bitterns and Canadian Geese. Bald eagles added to the spectacle.

Our thanks to the Crystalwood Lodge owners and staff. Dick Adams
FLY TYING CORNER

Improved Sofa Pillow

HOOK: TMC 200R, size 4-8
THREAD: Black or orange, 6/0
TAIL: Elk hair
RIB: Orange thread or fine gold wire
BODY: Burnt orange yarn or dubbing
HACKLE: Brown or furnace, palmered
WING: Elk hair
HACKLE: Brown

The Improved Sofa Pillow is a brushy high floating version of the salmon fly. These giant stoneflies are THE HATCH on many western trout waters bringing up the big boys from the depths to get into these bugs. The Improved Sofa Pillow is preferred for the big freestone waters like the Madison or Yellowstone with its impressionistic effect mimicking the giant stones. Tie this smaller and in different colors to match the golden stones or other smaller stoneflies.

The next Board Meeting will be held at 7:00PM, June 27th at the Community Bank conference room. All members are welcome to attend. Enter at the southwest corner of the bank.

Membership Renewal

Regular.............................................$25.00
Family..............................................$35.00
Youth.................................................$5.00
Contributing.....................................$50.00
Lifetime (Individual)............................$250.00
Lifetime (Couple)...............................$350.00

Please make checks payable to SOFF and mail to: PO Box 1144, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Name(s): ________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________
City: __________________ State: ________ Zip: __________
Phone: Home: (______) Work: (______) Email: ___________________________________________________________________

SOUTHERN OREGON
FLY FISHERS

The next Board Meeting will be held at 7:00PM, June 27th at the Community Bank conference room. All members are welcome to attend. Enter at the southwest corner of the bank.
The first meeting of the Southern Oregon Fly Tiers (SOFT) was a success. There were eighteen participants seated around the room tying and comparing notes, flies and styles. Members from both the Rogue Fly Fishers and the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers were there. Held at the Outdoor Store, Medford, the owner made tiers feel at home with tables set up and ready to go. He surprised those attending by donating a very nice fly box to be raffled off along with the flies donated by all attending. Tony Brauner won the fly box and yours truly won the flies. However, Nancy insists that she gets half of the flies since her ticket was in my possession at the time of the drawing.

All details of future meetings were reviewed and subject to agreement by all of those attending. All agreed that the meetings should remain open to all tiers regardless of age, sex or experience. The meetings will be held the second Wednesday of the month, beginning in July, alternating between Medford and Grants Pass from 7 to 10 pm. The free raffle will continue requiring that all tiers place a fly on the table on entry to the meeting. No fees will be required but donations will be accepted to cover the cost of a future special event. Contributions are voluntary.

The Cookie Detail will be shared by volunteers and the next two meetings are covered. There are no officers but I continue with announcements. The June meeting will be at the Native Run Fly Shop, Grants Pass. Special features at the next meeting will include a new method of tying a "false spey fly", a unique method of speed dubbing and a more efficient method to tie humpies.

All tiers from both clubs are cordially invited and encouraged to attend. We had fun, why don't you join us? Questions? Call Morris Fruitman at 878-8038.

Morris Fruitman

Youth Fun Fair

On Saturday May 4, 2002 SOFF held its first annual Youth Fun Fair. The turn out was not as great as was hoped for, but the event was successful. Nancy and Morris Fruitman roasted hot dogs which every one enjoyed. Joe Holzen, Paul Cook, and Nick Famoso helped the youth in tying their first flies which they all took home.

Steve Godshall demonstrated rod building and helped with casting. Tony Brauner, Bob Roberts, Ed Morphis, Gerry Sinclair, Buck Woodburn, and Carey Williams helped with casting instruction. Charlotte Holzen, Beth Williams and Joanne Simpson handed out drawing tickets and were the greeters.

The drawing gifts included two fly rod combos, tippet, Scientific Anglers fly lines and a box of donated flies from Bob Roberts and Brian O'Keefe.

Thanks to all the members who helped in the planning and those who turned out with their support. From this first event we have gained much needed information to make the next one an even greater day.

Jim Tolan

Nick Famosa helping a student at the Youth Fun Fair
I love Slough Creek and the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone. Grizzlies and wolves share the land with tourists, elk and bison. Or maybe grizzlies and wolves share the elk. When at the creek I’m alert to remote danger as I see large hoof prints and piles of scat. I admit to a little fear of an encounter with the Griz. I also hope for such an encounter, at a safe distance. Yet I’ve never seen the Griz outside of Alaska. But having heard the stories, one in particular arising just up the ridge from Slough Creek, bears don’t leave my mind while fishing in Yellowstone. Maybe they affect my powers of observation?

During one visit to Slough I became aware of something upstream and across from me. I looked up a couple times and saw only a snag. Twice I thought I saw movement; but everything was still. The tall grassy bank concealed everything. Was just the idea of the Griz getting to me? Was I imagining things? Then I studied the snag more closely. My mind was really playing games. The snag resembled a huge blue heron. I knew Jimmy Carter got a bad rap when he was attacked by that Georgia swamp rabbit. So I slowly worked down stream and away from whatever this apparition was. But curiosity took over. I crossed and slowly worked back up stream.

There was the snag which from a different angle was no doubt a tall man who could pass for Ed Abbey. He was holding the longest rod I’ve ever seen, longer still than our spey rods. Not casting, just standing still with the rod extended over a pod of fish dapping the fly onto the pool.

According to the International Glossary of Fly Fishing Terms, “dapping” is the “art of playing an artificial fly in such a way as to make it look as though it has just fallen on to the water from the branches of bankside trees or other natural obstacles.” His cover was his stillness. He had me fooled. He fooled a lot of fish that day too.

Dick Adams
TARPOON ON A FLY

The tarpon fishing season in the Florida Keys for 2002 has come to an end. The fishing was even more challenging than usual. This season was dominated by unstable weather, the climate wasn't its usual self; warm, sunny, and breezy. This season an extensive cloud cover with East winds dominated almost every day. As a result, sight fishing was almost impossible on the majority of days and a stiff wind blew and blew (my ears are still flapping). The persistent wind thinned out the fish population and kept the water well oxygenated causing the fish to roll very infrequently. These factors limited the locations we could fish effectively. Everyone I talked with experienced difficulty in getting the fish to "eat".

Several club members: Bob and Deanna Copeland, Robert and Ruth Hodge, Gary Anderson, Dave Dennis, Bryce White, Josh White and myself took on the challenge. We all came back with stories to tell and experiences we will never forget. The season was a success in spite of the difficult conditions and each of us can not wait until next year to do it again.

For me personally, the season taught me a lot. I admit, I mostly learned humility. I know I learn more from a position of humility than from easy success so I am sure I will be a better flats fisherman as a result of all the difficult days on the water. Still, there were many successes. My friend, Dave Dennis, hooked several tarpon and landing two on his first night. He is still smiling. My Dad hooked several tarpon during his stay. He will have stories to tell while he fishes the Chetco this winter. Debi even got in the act by hooking a couple of tarpon herself. The tarpon won, but she is hooked on trying again. Josh and I hooked over 100 tarpon during a four day worm hatch! We never expect to do that again. My partner and friend Jeff Bolander landed another large permit on a fly and I lost two. We will remember the flash of his fish taking the crab pattern as it screamed off the flat.

We saw water spouts, a 20 ft. hammerhead kill a tarpon, mating dolphin, sea turtles, wild weather including four inches of rain in 45 minutes, huge schools of permit, and almost too much of Key West. Friendships survived the intense fishing and the persistent difficult weather. Someday, we will all say, "remember the 2002 season...."

Come to the December meeting and get a taste of the Keys and a glimpse of: THE MADNESS CALLED TARPON ON A FLY.
President’s Message

Mike Fong passed away on June 14, 2002. Mike was a good friend to Southern Oregon Flyfishers. He was our guest speaker on several occasions giving presentations which were both informative and interesting. Mike, as a Fenwick representative, donated items to our annual auction.

Mike, a Life member of the Federation of Fly Fishers, also served as the editor of the FFF Flyfisher Magazine from 1977-1982. While Mike was editor the content and quality of the magazine was greatly improved. Mike and his wife were also feature speakers at the International Sportsman’s Exposition.

Many of us have read articles by Mike in magazines such as Outdoor Life, Fly Fisherman, and Fly Fish America. Mike and his wife Christine published a newsletter called Inside Angler where he gave information on how to fish numerous streams and when were the best times to fish those streams.

His wife Christine is an accomplished photographer and her photographs usually accompanied Mike’s articles. Mike and his wife both attended the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland California. Mike then went on to earn a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Iowa.

For more than thirty-five years Mike and Christine fly-fished from Alaska to Patagonia and most points in between. He also fished in the Bahamas, Norway and New Zealand. His fishing skills made him a notable fly fisherman among fly fishers.

Having had the opportunity to meet and talk to Mike I will remember the kind, quiet and gentle person he was. Michael Fong was a good friend to all fly fishers everywhere. Yes, he will be missed. Carey Williams

Membership Report

Those of you at the June meeting had the opportunity to pick up the new club member directory. The rest have been mailed and most of you will have them before you read this.

If the address label is incorrect on the directory, it should have been corrected by now, so there is no need to tell me. If, however, you did not receive the directory or the July newsletter either does not arrive or has an error in the address label, please let me know.

We have transferred data to a new computer and computer program, and there may still be some glitches!

If the new directory has an error in the listing I need to know that as well to ensure it wasn’t transferred that way to the new program. Thanks for your help! Dick Butler

Board Meeting Notes

Some changes have taken place on the board. Beth Williams has now assumed the duties of treasurer. Carey Williams is the new fly tying chairman. Jeff Fox has taken over the newsletter for Dick Adams, starting with this issue.

Steps are being taken to correct the algae problem in the casting pond. Alfalfa bales were placed in the pond to control the summer bloom.

The club has purchased the new computer and upgraded software to keep up with the club’s growing needs.

Discussion was given to offering a new style of ball cap with the club logo. Input is encouraged and should be directed to Dick Butler. Jeff Fox

Kirkland Estate

This year’s picnic on Sept. 14th has a very special event happening so you need to mark your calendars and plan to attend. Fishing equipment and flytying items from the estate of Bob Kirkland will be available for purchase. Great bargains await those who attend.

Announcement

The Board of Directors will meet in the conference room of the Community Bank at the corner of 6th and Savage. The next Board meeting will be July 25, 2002 at 7:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.
JULY PROGRAM

Sugar Creek Ranch

Sugar Creek Ranch is an acclaimed private trout fishery located near Callahan in the Scott River Valley of northern California's Siskiyou County.

Sugar Creek Ranch has seven ponds up to 5 acres in size nestled in 15 acres of the Ranch. The catch-and-release fly fishing is open year-round. A California fishing license is NOT required when fishing Sugar Creek Ranch waters.

Sugar Creek Ranch is located at the confluence of Sugar Creek and the Scott River in the Scott Valley of northern California's Siskiyou County.

The year-round spring water flowing through the ponds originates in the Trinity Alps and the Salmon Mountains. The "gin-clear" water and abundant natural food allow them to offer the hottest rainbow trout fly fishing you will ever experience!

The monster rainbows at the ranch have been spawning successfully every fall for the last nine years. The young trout which survive to maturity become a formidable challenge to land for anyone savvy enough to hook one. They are big, strong, and display an impressive array of aerial acrobatics.

Sugar Creek only allows catch and release Fly angling with barbless hooks.

Come see how Mike has created this unique fishery for large wild rainbow trout.

Mike Fong  Mike Kalpin

What to Bring:
Questions for Mike
Name tag
A hearty appetite

Jeff Fox
WOMANS CASTING SEMINAR

On June 1st SOFF held a women’s fly casting clinic at the new casting pond. The class was conducted by Kate Blumbaugh and assisted by Elaine Gong and Bob Sato all three are from the San Jose area where they belong to the San Jose Fly Fishers and all compete in Fly Casting tournaments. Kate and Elaine are part of the international fly casting association and Bob is a certified Federation of Fly fishers casting instructor. 23 women club members attend the 4 hour clinic including Joyce Pearice, Tresa Kasza, Patricia Clifton, Kathy Reid, Carla, Griffin, Trish Ennis, Carol LaBranche, Kim Devries, Gloria Foley, Norrie Kampmann, Mada Morgan, Beth Williams, Tanya Haight, Sandra Caffin, Judy Wolff, Monica Froehlich, Linda Morrison, Jan Young, Marilyn Canet, Gwen Adams, Joanne Simpson, Charlene Blake, and Deanna Copeland. Carey Williams and Steve Bonner also attended, offering to assist if needed. The three instructors handled the large group well, giving personal attention to all the students. Thanks to all those who participated, I am looking forward to more clinics in the future.

Jim Tehan
Josh White with a nice Williamson River Brown.

OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Klamath Basin

When: July 20, 2002 at 8:00am
Where: Chiloquin, Oregon
Where to meet: Waterwheel campground
What to Bring:
- Boat or float tube, 5-7 wt. rod with a floating, and an intermediate line. Hoppers, hex drys and nymphs, leaches, small mayfly and caddis nymphs, and soft hackles should cover most anything. Don’t forget water, a hat, and a lot of sunscreen.

For more information contact Steve Bonner at 474-0018 or 474-0090

Jeff Fox

HOLY WATER

After the casting clinic on Saturday, June 1, instructors Kate, Elaine, and Bob asked about possibly fishing on Sunday. I told them, “Sure,” as I was meeting a visitor from Eugene, Bob Bumstead of McKenzie Fly Fishers, at Shari’s Restaurant on Sunday and we were heading for the Holy Water.

Earlier I had invited Exley Mixon and his boys Exley & Westly. Saturday evening Carey Williams gave me a call and asked where we were meeting and what time as he wanted to join us also. At breakfast on Sunday the 3 instructors and Bob Bumstead were given a salmon fly, all were amazed at the size, and we then headed to the Holy Water.

This was a first for Exley, as well as Kate, Elaine, Bob and Bob Bumstead. As we were preparing to head out, we met up with Don Joslyn, Carol LaBranche and Kim DeVries. Yes, the salmon flies were flying and all 4 visitors caught trout.

While heading back to the parking area, Kate noticed a man fishing who displayed a great casting ability and was catching numerous fish. We just watched for nearly 20 minutes before learning he was club member, Bruce Bochman.

Steve Godshall was at the parking area with his boat and offered to take two guests on a 3-hour trip down stream to Elk Park. The 3 instructors had to leave for home in San Jose, so Bob Bumstead and Exley joined Steve for a short trip.

When I rejoined the 3 at Elk Park, Bob and Exley were all smiles as they had a wonderful time catching fish. Bob thanked us for a great day of fishing and says he will be back. Bob is the conservation chair of McKenzie Fly Fishers and a past president. He has been guiding and fishing the Mckenzie and Williamette for 30 years and has donated a trip for 2 to our SOFF auction.

Jim Tehan

The group rigging up at the Holy Water
**FLY TYING CORNER**

**Rusty Bullet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOOK:</th>
<th>Tiemco 7999, size 8</th>
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<tr>
<td>THREAD:</td>
<td>6/0 Black</td>
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<tr>
<td>BODY:</td>
<td>Fluorescent orange yarn</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEAD:</td>
<td>Bucktail, bullet style with collar hair extending to the bend of the hook</td>
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<tr>
<td>WING:</td>
<td>Pair of orange grizzly hackle tips tied in behind the bullet head. Stems may be stripped and left as feelers at the front of the fly</td>
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The Rusty Bullet was designed by Joe Howell. It is designed to be a skating fly but can also be fished wet. The Rusty Bullet mimics the fall caddis (Dicosmoecus). These flies are abundant in most Oregon coastal streams. Tie up a few, you may be suprised at how well they work.

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**THE HEX**

Scientific Name: Hexagenia limbata
Common Names: Hex, giant mayfly

Hexagenia limbata is the largest of American mayflies. Inhabititing some lakes and slow sections of a few rivers. Hatches usually occur between May and early July, depending on the local climate. The nymphs are mainly nocturnal predatory feeders, burrowing into silty bottoms during the day. It makes little sense to fish a nymph imitation most of the year as the nymphs are not available to the trout during legal fishing hours. When the hatch season begins pre-emergers will be exposed for the last hour or so. Fish a nymph pattern right on the bottom, strip the fly a couple of feet then let it settle back, and repeat.

Hatches begin just before sunset. When you see duns on the surface, forget the nymph and fish a dry. I like cripple imitations as trout like most predators will rarely pass up an easy meal. Look for the Hex hatch on the Williamson about mid July, with the best hatches occurring below highway 97.

Jeff Fox

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Hexagenia Limbata Dunn
Classes and Clinics
July 13
Beginning fly fishing
Carey Williams will chair the beginning fly fishing class. The class is open to the public and will cover the basic skills needed to enjoy a day on the water. For more information or to sign up contact Carey.

August 17
women’s fly fishing
Attention lady flyfishers. On Sat and Sun, Aug 24 & 25, I will be holding a seminar for SOFF, Women’s Driftboat Flyfishing, an Introduction. Cost is $25 for an 8am to 4pm class with 2 hours of dry land instruction and a 6 hour rowing, fishing float, lunch included. The class is limited to 8 women on each day and reservation will be secured upon receiving your $25. You may contact Steve Godshall (541) 774-8812 until July 14 or Mark McGinnis (541) 535-5027 anytime. We are putting together an excellent program that I think you will find enlightening and fun. Steve Godshall

September 14
SOFF club picnic
Burton Griffon will chair this years picnic which will be held at the casting pond. Look for details in next month’s newsletter.

September clinic
Buck Woodburn has agreed to host a float tube and pontoon boat clinic for the members of soff. The clinic will be held in September date and location still to be determined. Watch for details in the Aug newsletter and at the July and August general meetings. Sign up sheet will be available.

SMALLMOUTH BASS  
(Micropterus dlomieui)

Description:  
Smallmouth bass are most often bronze to brownish green in color, with dark vertical bars on the sides. In contrast to the Largemouth bass, the upper jaw does not extend beyond rear margin of eye. Eye is reddish in color. Shallow notch in dorsal fin. Soft dorsal fin has 13 to 15 rays. Length: 12 to 22 inches. Weight 8 ounces to 7 pounds.

Location and Habitat:  
They prefer rocky habitats in streams and lakes with clear waters.

Food:  
Shad and crayfish are consumed in lakes; and crayfish and minnows in streams. In streams, smallmouth can be very aggressive when hellgrammites and terrestrial insects are available.

The main stem of the Umpqua river is teaming with tough and eager smallmouth bass. They were introduced illegally around 1960, and have flourished in the river system. Large numbers of bass inhabit the mainstem around and west of the town of Elkton.

Smallmouth are aggressive feeders during the warm days of summer. The fish will readily take flies, although the larger specimens will hold in water to deep to fish effectively. Nymphs and steamers are excellent producers. For a real charge try fishing small poppers late in the afternoon and early evening.

Southern Oregon
Fly Fishers
Annual Dues:
Individual Membership  
$25.00  
Family Membership  
$35.00  
Contributing Members  
$50.00 (or more)  
Life Membership  
$250.00  
Family Life Membership  
$350.00

Send Dues to:  
SOFF  
P.O.Box 1144  
Grants Pass, Oregon  
97526
My son and I spent some time at the casting pond recently. I strung up a couple of rods while Sam inspected the pond. As he began casting into the pond, Sam informed me that he wanted to catch a fish. I explained that the pond was for practicing his casting and did not hold any fish to catch. Sam accepted this and turned his attention to casting at the “blue flies” flitting across the water. The damsels didn’t seem to notice the assault as they continued to hunt along the algae. A short time later an osprey began to scrutinize an area near the end of my fly line. Sam and I watched as the bird plunged in to the pond. After a brief struggle the raptor emerged with a 10-12 inch fish. The osprey repositioned the prize in it’s talons and it slowly returned to the perch above us. Sam exclaimed “WOW, BIG THISH” as only he can. I just stood there, stunned. Our new friend left me with a dilemma as Sam reiterated that he wanted to catch a fish.

How do you explain the probability of there being, let alone catching, another fish to a three year old? I pondered this for a moment, and I had it.

Hey Sam lets go get an ice-cream.  

Jeff Fox

What type of fly am I? 
Hint- I’m large and like mud 
Find out on page 6

Tuesdays
Casting instruction is still available at the casting pond from 3:30-5:00. Come out and practice while the instructors are available.
AM I IN CHURCH?
(A testimonial)

This summer, as is normal, my family spent the month of June in our SW Utah cabin. There was no snow pack there last winter, and the water problem is extreme. (We will not spend the month of August there, as is our wont.)

However, in my favorite stream, the fish were compacted and the fishing was great! Dry fly heaven. You couldn’t call it fishing. It was “catching.” I would go out for 1-1/2 to 2 hours and catch 15-20 browns, 14-16” long. Such “catching” gets boring at more than 6 days per week, and I looked for other activities.

In that land of dashed hopes and disappointed dreams, Vince and Bobbie, two years ago, opened a fly shop and B & B on the road into Bryce Canyon National Park. The fly shop is reasonably equipped, although you wonder why. They can’t have much business. But they have a young man who guides - whenever he can get away from irrigating. And, they have their own trout pond.

Having nothing “interesting” to do, I went by to pay them a visit. “Ya been doin’ any fishin’? Did ya do any good? Well, you’re the first I’ve heard of. Others who have been in say they haven’t done any good on that creek.” They were interested in the foam humpy (foampy) that I developed primarily for that stream, so I offered to demonstrate tying it for them.

(continued on page 7)
Presidents message
The Oregon Council Federation of Fly Fishers held their summer board meeting in Springfield, Or. on the 14th of July, 2002. At the meeting a change was made to the by-laws to allow members of the General Membership to be elected to the National Board. These members would serve with the President of the Oregon Council on that board. In the past only Directors of the Oregon Council could serve on the National Board which is limited to three members.

On the home front; I've been told that with the hot weather the Klamath Basin waters have heated up and larger fish are being caught in the upper Wood River. Nymph patterns seem to be doing the trick. In the Rogue Valley from Cole River Hatchery down stream to Rogue Elk Park is fishable. As of 7-17-02, 1177 summer steelhead were over the dam. More fish are moving up-stream every day so the fishing should be getting better with each passing day. Also small nymphs of peacock herl or peacock ice dubbing and golden bodies are recommended. Regular or bead- head patterns at present are both effective.

Its hot out there so remember to take lots of water, Wear a hat with a large enough brim to protect your ears, nose, face and the back of your neck. Don't forget the sunscreen and above all else catch some fish.

Carey Williams

FLOAT TUBE & PONTOON BOAT CLINIC
SEPTEMBER 28th

Buck Woodburn, Mark Swanburg and Redginald Heth have offered to hold a clinic on the use of float tubes and pontoon boats. This should be a great clinic as these three have been fishing the lakes in their tubes for a good length of time and are very knowledgeable in fly fishing from the tubes. Plan on bringing your tube, fly rod, and gear for a great day of learning and fishing. Some tubes will be available for your use.

LOCATION: LAKE SELMAC
(boat landing west end of lake)
TIME: 9 AM
DATE: SAT, SEPTEMBER 28th

Sign up sheets will be at the Aug. and Sept. meetings.

Jim Tahan

Auction 2002
The auction committee is busy gathering donated items for the 2002 auction. Any club member wanting to make a donation can contact any one of the board members, Mike & Marilyn Canet, Vera Edwards, Tony Brauner or Gerald Sinclair. Also items can be dropped off at the Native Run Fly Shop. Or give me a call at home (541-597-2455) I'm always willing to help

Jim Tahan

Announcement
The Board of Directors will meet in the conference room of the Community Bank at the corner of 6th and Savage. The next Board meeting will be August 29, 2002 at 7:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.
AUGUST PROGRAM

AUGUST MEETING
Brian O’Keefe

When:
Thursday, August 15, 2002

Where:
Riverside Conference Center

Time:
Social Hour and Fly Tying Theater at 6PM
Meeting at 7:00PM
Dinner at 7:30PM
Program to follow dinner
Raffle to close evening

What to Bring:
Questions for Brian
Name tag
A hearty appetite

September Speaker
Hal Jansen

Brian O’Keefe

If you have never seen one of Brian O’Keefe’s slide programs you need to be at the August meeting. Brian O’Keefe is an outstanding presenter and is one of the top photographers in the fly fishing industry. Brian entered the sport at a young age and has been professionally involved for most of his adult life. His casting and fishing abilities leave you speechless, the breadth of his fishing travels

Jeff Fox
but if it's hot, I will travel no more than ¼ mile up stream. The water is swift with a gravel and cobble stone bottom and no area over 3 feet deep. I have collected many good tips from the locals, including Mark who works in the Camp Sherman Store and Robert who is co-owner of the park where we stay.

The water of the Metolius stays in the middle 40's all year long and can be fished in the winter as well as the summer. During the summer there are Stonefly, Caddis, and May fly hatches. I never get on the water prior to 9 am since the largest stone fly hatch occurs around 1 pm. You will find the larger fish around the shade line, under the overhanging branches as well as the cut banks. This year the fish I brought to hand ran from 14 to 18 inches. Golden Stones tied to a size 8 or 10 hook and drop a nymph 12 to 18 inches below. Of course my favorite is the Prince nymph. I use a bead headed in size 16-18 and have caught fish when others do not. Another nymph is the Batman (blue & black).

During the early part of July each year the wife and I load up our travel trailer and head off to the Metolius River. My wife is not into fly fishing, but each year she attends a quilt show and quilt classes in Sisters, OR, which lasts a full week. Yes, I’m happy to take her as this gives me more than a week to spend on the river doing my favorite sport, fly fishing. Over the past four years, I have fished the river from the headwaters to below the Wizard Falls Hatchery. Near the hatchery, the water is swift with many deep holes. the water is so clear you need to be careful wading to avoid stepping in one of these holes, which can be over 8 feet deep. In this area you can find large trout including the very large Bull trout. I haven’t fished this area lately and have stayed mainly in the headwaters. I fish from Camp Sherman to approximately two miles up stream,
OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

North Umpqua

When: August 18, 2002 at 6:00 am

Where to meet: About mile marker 19 across from the tavern, the run is called Kentucky homes. Look for my red and white Ford F250.

What to Bring: 8-9 wt. rods or spey rods with floating and sink tip lines. Starlight leaches with and without added weight, green butt skunks, skunks, tiger paws. Bring your lunch. The best fishing is morning and evening. Call me for directions 541-474-0018 nights, 541-660-0540 cell, shop 474-0090.

Steve

BROWN TROUT

Salmo Trutta

The Brown trout or German brown is a European species which arrived in the U.S. for the first time in the early 1860s. The initial attempts to raise the eggs to adulthood failed. It wasn’t until 1882 when Fred Mather used a government sponsored egg shipment to successfully raise the first brown trout in two American hatcheries. And the rest as they say is history.

Brown trout now occupy rivers, streams, and lakes from coast to coast and border to border.

Its ability to adapt to a wide variety of habitats has lead to broad morphological changes that border on new species classifications. From creek strains that may only achieve 12” and a four year life-span to 18 year old lake fish tipping the scales at 30 pounds or more the brown trout is thriving in the new world.

These abilities come with a price, native species in many areas have been driven to near extinction and in others they have simply disappeared. This unforeseen side effect of importation has left many Fish and Game agencies scrambling to protect native species not completely replaced or consumed by the brown trout. Oregon has its share, the Klamath basin has watched the bull trout population dip dangerously low as the browns move in to fill the void.

Even with the damage its introduction has wrought this immigrant from the old world has brought a ravenous appetite and dogged fighting spirit to fly anglers all over the country. Brown trout will take a wide variety of flies from size 20 midge pupa to a dry the size of a small bird.

With this wide range in diet one would think salmo trutta would be fairly easy to catch, think again. Browns are about 7 times more difficult to catch than the rainbow trout all else being equal. Larger brain, better instincts? No one really knows why they are so much harder to catch, they just are. Fly fishers that often pursue these fish will (continued on page 7)
FLY TYING CORNER

Red Ant

HOOK: Tiemco 7999, size 4-10
THREAD: 6/0 Black
TAG: Flat silver tinsen
Tail: Golden pheasant tippet or red hackle
Butt: Dark olive chenille
BODY: Bright red antron
Collar: Brown hackle
WING: Brown bucktail
Cheeks: Jungle cock (optional)

This fly dates back to Izaak Walton and has been modified many times. In 1940 Mike Kennedy introduced a dressing which is very similar to this one. The major differences are he used peacock herl for the butt and red floss for the body. I prefer this version which was taught to me by Rusty Randall. It is very durable and tied sparse in smaller sizes makes a great half-pounder or trout fly.

Try fishing this fly down and across, or short strip retrieve from downstream. It may also be suspended in the current behind a drift boat and given the Rogue twitch.

Carey Williams

Terrestrials

Many Anglers overlook terrestrials, but terrestrials provide an abundant food source for trout in both rivers and lakes. Grasshoppers are one recognized and widely used pattern in our area. The Klamath Basin has a number of spring creeks (most notably the Wood River) running through grassland, where grasshoppers are particularly effective. The area offers excellent hopper fishing in late July and August.

Lesser-known terrestrials are available to trout at various times of the year. Swarming insects and mass hatches such as Cicadas, Flying Ants, Moths, and Bees can offer excellent fishing. Don’t limit yourself to Insects only when thinking of terrestrials. Mice, Lizards, and small birds can all be part of a trout’s diet. Those oversized fish we dream of often eat large prey and won’t pass up an easy meal just because it isn’t a small fish or insect.

Fishing terrestrials is generally a dry fly game and doesn’t require a hatch, so find something prevalent stream side and fish good holding water along the bank. This can be dry fly fishing at its very best.

Jeff Fox
CHANGING LINES

WANTED
Fishing buddy
I am a female fly fisher looking for another fly fisher to share river time with. Have had all my shots, don’t bite (generally), and am good around strangers.
Call Teresa @ 862-2086

For sale
Powell light touch
The rod is 9 feet and rated for a 3-4 wt. line. I can’t recall ever fishing this rod but did cast it a few times. The rod has its sock and tube. $200.obo
Tioga reel by Teton
This is a size 4 for a 3-5 wt. line. It is fully machined with a good drag system. Reel is in good to excellent shape. $50.obo
Call Jeff @ 471-0001

Kirkland Estate
Sept. 14th picnic news flash!!!! Auction and sale at the picnic—don’t miss it!!! Those members and guests attending the picnic will have a chance to bid via a silent auction on over 60 fishing items (perhaps more) from the estate of Bob Kirkland. There are also well over 100 items that are priced to sell. These are bargain-priced items as the family is anxious to close the estate. Numerous “free” boxes are loaded with goodies and we even have a “kids” free box. More details will be in your Sept. newsletter. If you have questions call Bruce and Becky Bochman, 471-1985.

Now, to the point of this little tale. When they saw me tie, they said, “Where did you learn to tie like that?” To which I responded, “You gotta be kiddin’, I’m not an accomplished tyer. I just have the great good fortune and privilege of belonging to one of the world’s greatest fly fishing clubs. We have world class presenters constantly, demonstrating their skills, and we have members who are professional fly tyers, rod makers, guides, etc., etc., who share their knowledge. I am not even qualified to tie in that crowd.” (Those who have seen me tie know that isn’t false modesty.)

As I thought about it, I realized how truly blessed I am to live where I do and belong to the SOFF. I think that I have never been to a meeting in which I did not learn something valuable about fly fishing.

Ed Morphis

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SOFF
P.O.Box 1144
Grants Pass, Oregon
97526

Brown trout continued
attest to the challenge presented by our brown trout. It is hard to believe that many fishermen once considered them to be ugly and unsporting (they probably couldn’t catch them).
Brown trout have excellent vision in low light and night time conditions. The ability to see in low light also makes browns shy away from bright sunlight, they will orient more towards cover and shade. When fishing specifically for browns look for undercut banks, suspended timber, and deeper water with areas of shade. These will be the primary holding spots for the better fish.
These beautiful and challenging game fish are a must do for fly fishers of all skill levels.

Jeff Fox
Fire!

No other word in the English language can generate more emotions than fire. A warm fire in the fireplace can be soothing or romantic. Wild fires on the other hand can elicit emotions ranging from anger to terror. Fire is both destructive and rejuvenating, it removes the old to make way for the new. We are witnessing many large wild fires this season and it is the worst I personally have ever seen. The fires in the Illinois valley and adjacent wilderness are particularly troubling. I know that in the long term the area will rebound, the trees and wild life will regrow and return. In the short term I worry for the water shed. With very hot and destructive burns, as these are shaping up to be, there will be little to protect the creeks and streams. These tributaries will be exposed to more sun, increasing water temperatures will have a telling effect on fish in the lower Rogue. An early wet winter could make matters worse as the water shed can no longer slow and clean the water entering the creeks. I hope as a club we will be able to work on restoration projects that will help our anadromous fish runs, and ultimately benefit us all.

Jeff Fox
SOFF PICNIC

Everyones ready for the picnic!

The SOFF picnic is fast approaching. It’s time to loosen up those casting arms and look for a larger belt. There will plenty to do again this year. Among the activities are the mens and womens casting competition, games for the kids, and the auction and sale for Bob Kirkland’s estate. The club will supply burgers, sausages, chips, soft drinks, water and coffee. Please bring your individual place settings and all whose name is A-M bring salad & N-Z bring dessert.

WHEN: Saturday September 14th From 12 noon
WHERE: The Harry & David Pavilion at the All Sports Park

Please RSVP at 479-7888
FROM THE BOARD

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Our Honorable secretary, Mr. Dick Adams, has submitted a letter to the City of Grants Pass Div. Of Parks in reference to our displeasure about the attempt to make the casting pond a soccer field. This stems from the women's softball problems of "not having a place to play". Then the soccer, "no place to play" comes into the picture and here we are; casting pond must go because a judge in the courts knuckles under to a group with a squeaky wheel that squeaks loud and often. Women are one of the most often trained at the casting pond and I think the women of the club should voice their objections if they have them. Granted we don't use the casting pond every day, but remember, it's not only usable to fly fishers but to spin and gear fishers also with accuracy targets. Hoola hoops, spots in the pond, the overflow pipe, all make good casting targets for all kinds of fisher persons. Let's get together and defeat this nonsense that the casting pond is not really a community worthwhile sports necessity.  

Carey Williams

HABITAT UP DATE

Living in the area of the recent Illinois Valley Florence fire, I was concerned as to how much of the riparian area along the Illinois River and its tributaries have been destroyed. I met with Glenn Ginter watershed coordinator of the Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conversation District, at his office in the county building in Cave Junction. It was discussed that most of the area is on federal land and the federal government would be working on these areas. The amount of damage done to the areas, which the council is working on, is unknown at the time this article was written. At this time as they have not been allowed into these zones. We can assume there is work to be done in Oak Flat, there may also be some fish counting stations destroyed, and may be some temperature monitoring stations also damaged. I will keep in touch with all the agencies involved to see where are volunteer help can best be used, and will be asking for help as the need arises.

Jim Telian

MEMBERSHIP

The following are new SOFF members who have joined the club since March of this year. Leo Bardes, Sylvia Barde, Mamie Holloway, Phil Wandke, Carla Griffin, Patsy Sakraida Arthur White, Grahame Johnston, Eugene La Haie, David Dennis, Burton Griffin, Patricia Griffin, John Easterbrooks. Please join me in welcoming them and saying hello at the next meeting. The revised new member application will be available shortly and will include several revisions suggested by club members. Also, a new member packet is being mailed to all those who have joined SOFF this year. SOFF lapel pins are now available for purchase at the for sale table at the membership meetings. Also, SOFF decals are being finalized and should be ready for the September meeting as well.

Dick Butler

CASTING POND

During the last month I have had several phone conversations with Martin Seybold who is the city director of All Sports Park. We have discussed the use of alfalfa hay in the casting pond to reduce the growth of algae during the hot summer months. The city did install a bale of alfalfa in the pond and it does seem to help stop the growth, in my last visit to the pond I could see the amount of algae has decreased. Martin and I have also discussed the use of chlorine to kill the existing algae so we can start with a procedure using the alfalfa to eliminate the growth of any algae. Carey and Beth Williams returning from their sons wedding in Washington brought a bundle of lavender and alfalfa, which is used in the ponds by a lavender farmer on San Juan Island. The farmer claims that this mixture used in a pond will retard the growth of algae. As soon as the chlorine treatment is complete we will be trying this method. My conversations with Martin have also included the use of city water to maintain the water level during the winter months when the irrigation has stopped and there is no longer any water being added to the pond allowing the level to drop. This will take some research but is an option and may be coming in the future. One other note of concern, there is a legal action pending where the casting pond could be filled in and the use of the area changed to a different sport. The city is greatly opposed to any changes and is doing their utmost to keep the pond and the use of this area as it was intended. Get out there and use the casting pond for what it is intended- a place to practice and learn the art of fly-casting.

Jim Telian
SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Hal Jansen

When:
Thursday, Sept. 19, 2002

Where:
Riverside Conference Center

Time:
Social Hour and Fly Tying Theater at 6PM
Meeting at 7:00PM
Dinner at 7:30PM
Program to follow dinner
Raffle to close evening

What to Bring:
Questions for Hal
Name tag
A hearty appetite

STILLWATER CLINIC

Join Hal Jansen and SOFF for a stillwater clinic. Hal will cover stillwater from top to bottom. Topics will include flies, lines, casting and tactics.

FEE: $25.00, Limited to 15 people
DATE: September 20, 2002
TIME: 10am - 2:30pm
LOCATION: ?
Contact Morris Fruitman at (541) 878-8038 to reserve your space.

Stillwater trout in Klamath Lake

STILLWATER CLINIC

Hal Jansen

Hal is an accomplished stillwater fisherman and technician our sport. Join us as he gives his insight and experience from 40 + years of stillwater fishing.
Casting About

FALL STEELHEAD

A nice 1/2 pounder in the middle Rogue

My palms are starting to sweat, I'm getting the shakes, and I can't see straight. This can only mean one thing. The Fall Steelhead are coming.

Good buck in October

Prams work wonders
OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Upper Rogue

Date: Sept.21
Rods: 6-7-8 wt. and spey rods.
Lines: Weight forward and sink tips, Sinking leaders.
Flies: Egg sucking leeches-egg patterns-nymphs-rubber legs.
Meeting place: Two Pines Restaurant, Shady Cove at 8:00 am.
Contact Carey Williams at 541-597-2205

and can give great insight on how to fish the water. Are birds or fish working? Is there a hatch or Terrestrials on the water? Once you discover the secret to the days fishing it's time to move in.

A slow, quiet approach and light, accurate casting will be needed. A fish in these waters can see very well and will use its lateral line to hear any anglers as they approach. Using streamside cover to hide your silhouette or even crawling may be necessary to get within casting range of many fish.

This approach may seem more like hunting than fly fishing and it may be. I often setup and cast to single fish as I move along a creek. That is catch and release hunting on a spring creek.

Patience is a virtue, and stealth is a necessity. Small creeks and streams can be some of the most challenging fishing in our sport. Some spring creeks we fish can be tiny, ten feet across and clear as any swimming pool. The success you enjoy on such waters will largely depend on how you initially approach the stream.

I enjoy fishing spring creeks and find I am much more successful if I sit and watch the river before attempting to fish. Watching all of the various interactions around the creek can be very relaxing.

Sam shows a stealthy aproach to check the hatch

The rewards of observation(almost)!

Jeff Fox
Lefty’s Deceiver

HOOK: Tiemco 811S, size 2-4/0
THREAD: White single strand nylon floss
TAIL: White saddle (6) and pearl Krystal Flash
BODY: Tying thread
WING: White bucktail, top and bottom
THROAT: Red Krystal Flash
EYES: Painted white with black pupils

The Albacore are coming!!!

Picnic time is almost here and it’s time to share more details with you concerning the auction and sale. The silent auction auction items include Gary Anderson rods as well as other brands; reels, both fresh and salt water; boxes of assorted flytying materials, each one valued at over $75 in merchandise; a float tube; tackle boxes, with “stuff” inside; lots of loaded fly boxes with trout, salmon-steelhead, and salt water flies; and lots of other really good stuff. An outstanding auction item is a pair of trout fly plates by René Harrop (11" x 7"). There are also over 100 items priced to sell at blowout, bargain prices. These include lines, reels, rods, tackle boxes, etc., etc. We also have two free-standing rod racks and a large heater to keep your flytying room cozy. All items will be available at the start of the picnic. Not to leave out the kids, there are free boxes especially for them. Bruce and I ask that you please pay by check instead of cash as it will simplify bookkeeping. Call me if you have any questions, 471-1985

Becky Boehman

Q C A E G D I M B A
G E N B A E T I S I
N B T M T L S A U N
A Y S D R T L O L E
T E I L I E E H P G
L I D A C E S F H A
P M D B O B B M G U X
K P A U F R A B R E
A R C P J C D T W H
D I M O S A U I T O

There are 10 flies (insects) in this puzzle.
Can you find them.

Jeff Fox
FLOAT TUBE & PONTOON BOAT CLINIC
SEPTEMBER 28th

Want an enjoyable time learning to fish from a float tube or pontoon boat? Learn the correct and safe way. Bring your lunch, fly rod, waders (optional). If you have a tube or pontoon boat bring it, if not we will attempt to have few for your use.

LOCATION: LAKE SELMAC
(boat landing west end of lake)
TIME: 9 AM
DATE: SAT, SEPTEMBER 28th
Sign up sheets will be at the Sept. meetings.

Auction 2002
Auction items are still coming in; any and all contributions are greatly appreciated. The October 17th date is quickly approaching and we are still in the need of items to be auctioned off. Some of the items donated to date include.

- Framed prints
  - Morning Drift
  - Sliver Shadow
  - Early Rise
- Guided float trips
  - Mac Huff of Eagle Caps
  - Bob Bumstead
  - Marlon Rampy of Wild West Fly Fishing
  - Steve Godshall
  - Jeff Fox of Fishtails Gear Co.

(Competition continued)

2 Night stay and 2 days guided fishing at The Lonesome Duck. Donated by Mock Ford, The Lonesome Duck and Wild West Fly Fishing

Equipment Etc.
One night stay in a river cabin at the Weasku Inn.
A signed copy of John Shewey’s Spey Flies & Dee Flies
A Caddis Float tube.
One day for 4 at Sugar Creek Ranch
Lap Quilt
Presentation grade Myrtle wood Float tube net and matching Fly Box From Fishtails Gear Co.

Announcement
The Board of Directors will meet in the conference room of the Community Bank at the corner of 6th and Savage. The next Board meeting will be September 26, 2002 at 7:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.

Southern Oregon Fly Fishers
Annual Dues:
- Individual Membership: $25.00
- Family Membership: $35.00
- Contributing Members: $50.00 (or more)
- Life Membership: $250.00
- Family Life Membership: $350.00
Send Dues to:
SOFF
P.O.Box 1144
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Remember the October meeting is the auction bring a friend enjoy the evening.

Jeff Fox

Jim Tohan
Competition

Competition is the driving force for every living thing on the planet. Species vie for its place in the food chain, individuals for the best habitat and food. These are subconscious acts, even plants compete. Success means survival, failure means a place on the list of the extinct. As the world's dominant life form we can look to the smaller, less ominous, competitions in our lives. As children, the races and games we played helped us grow, teaching balance and coordination. Organized sports brought rules and boundaries, leveling the playing field while testing the abilities of individuals and groups. These activities prepared us for the competition we face most of our adult lives. The business world can be relentless and unforgiving. The field is no longer level, the rules less defined and easier to bend. The competition can seem unfair as the new and the small must face the large and established, be uncompetitive and go the way of the dinosaur. (Oh well, we're back to the stress of survival.)

Is there competition in fly fishing? In a word yes. Does it belong in fly fishing? I believe it does. For the fly fishing industry competition drives innovation and improvement in tackle, products and services. We now have more companies, more products, more choices.

There are casting competitions and fishing competitions such as the single fly (Oct. 5). This competition is good natured, some will take the competitive aspect more seriously than others, and in the end the fish they chase will benefit. The event will provide revenue to the Rogue Fly Fishers and ultimately help the fish and fishermen through education and habitat restoration.

Friendly competition and rivalry can be beneficial to individuals as well. It's like being a kid again, we go out to play and the next thing you know our competitive instinct begins to show. Don't shy away from fishing with someone you perceive to be better. This is how I learned to ski, the falls were spectacular and sometimes embarrassing, the better skier was an 8 year old. I have (continued on page 7)
Southern Oregon Fly Fishers annual picnic was held on Sat September 14th. Burton and Carla Griffin, Doing a bang up job, chaired the event. 87 members, chowing down on hamburgers and sausages, enjoyed the day; members brought salads and desserts bringing enough food to feed an army. Bruce and Becky Bochman held a silent auction and sale for the items of the Bob Kirkland estate; the members enjoyed many great bargains. Once again the casting competition was a great show of the members talents. The Men’s longest cast was made by Robert Hodge with Dennis Nagel a very close second. Accuracy was a run off between Dick Adams and David Haight, David finally was successful in hitting the most rings. Women’s longest cast was made by Judy Nagel with Pat Waller just 3 feet shorter. Accuracy with laying the fly in 2 rings was Ruth Hodge right behind finding one of the rings was Charlotte Holzen. What was amazing the 10 women who competed in the longest cast were all within 12 feet of each other. This year the rod used in the casting competition was given in the raffle the lucky winner of the Gary Anderson Sage 4 wt rod and Okuma reel was Dennis Nagel. Winning the guess of Number of fish was Ruth Hodge, what a day for the Hodges. I think we all need to thank Burton and Carla for taking on the picnic and doing such a great job.

**A GREAT JOB THANKS!**
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This past summer has been a summer of many good things and some very bad things. The good things include the teaching opportunities the club had and the great turnout of members to assist and do some of the teaching. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those members for their help.

There has been progress made in cleaning up the casting pond. In the near future we should have an algae free area to practice casting and to teach that skill to others. Many thanks to Jim Tehan for the extra effort he put into this project.

We have had the second, or third (depends on the reporting agency), largest fire in the recorded history of the State of Oregon. This one has consumed around 500,000 acres, (again depends on the reporting agency). There are several other fires burning that are large and doing much damage to the environment, (once again depends on the expert you’re talking to. Some claim its more beneficial than harmful). It seems that mother nature must have felt we needed more reparation work to do and decided to add to our work load. In the springs to come I’m sure we will be asked to donate money and most of all, labor. So in the early part of 2003 be prepared to roll up your shirt sleeves and volunteer to plant trees and shrubs to help get the reparation zones back to shading the waterways and holding the banks against erosion.

The November meeting is the night we elect board members for the coming year. If you would like to serve on the board let a current board member know so we can get your name on the ballot.

Summer steelhead are in and I hear the fishing is good. Also hear that there are larger than usual salmon being caught. Get or tie some flies and go catch some fish.

Carey Williams

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 2002

Present: Jeff Fox, Dick Butler, Beth Williams, Dick Adams, Carey Williams, Jim Tehan
Treasureer’s Report: Data is entered into Quicken; detailed year to date budge review and check register summary presented.
Website: Work is ongoing. Jim will check other clubs’ sites for some models. He will also select an ISP. Dick B. will contact CDS.net to use his phone # to access SOFF email.
Mailing service: Approved use of the Mail Center to mail the newsletters. Costs and process reviewed.
Review of outings: We need photos and stories. Carey will call Joanne Simpson to request such.
Signs: We now have new good looking signs. J.Fair wants to hold a fly tying class. Carey will get more details.
Auction: We have 45 items for oral auction. Education: We may need to cancel the float tube outing because of low water. Alternate of Selmac discussed. Jim proposed setting aside 2nd Saturday of each month for education at casting pond. One person would sponsor it each month. Agreed we need to increase education for new members’ benefits.
Habitat: New wrinkle is property owners with completed tree projects may want them removed for fire fuel reduction.

Fly tying: Steve Godshall agreed to teach the January fly tying class
Membership: Dick B. distributed inventory of SOFF goods. He also handed out a proposed membership application form. He’s also getting quotes for new hat supply. Dick B. is also assembling a new members’ package.
Raffle: Carey and Dick A. will each spend $140 plus Carey will get a gift basket.
Newsletter: Approved change of standing rule to require all articles to be to editor by the 15th of each month. Board will proof newsletter at the board meeting.
Nominations for next year’s board: Beth, Steve, Bob R., Dick B. Buck W, Charlotte H., Mike or Marilyn Canet, Duane Chebul, Theresa Kasza
Review of standing rules: We’ve reviewed the standing rule on board member attendance and have agreed not to take any action with respect to board members who have missed three meetings at this time.
November board meeting: Moved to 11/26/02

Dick Adams

Announcement

The Board of Directors will meet in the conference room of the Community Bank at the corner of 6th and Savage. The next Board meeting will be OCT. 25, 2002 at 7:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.
OCTOBER PROGRAM

SOUTHERN OREGON FLYFISHER

ANNUAL AUCTION

6PM STARTING TIME

The evening will start with a silent auction with well over one hundred items. After a short meeting & dinner

WAYNE LISKAv

Will call our annual oral auction

Guided trips, Lodging, Fly Rods and much more

Bring a friend checkbook, credit cards, and cash
This is the only fundraiser for Southern Oregon Fly Fishers
All monies will be used to fund club programs

Southern Oregon Fly Fishers wishes to thank these individuals and businesses for their generous donations to the club’s 2002 auction:

Troone Wineries
Bridgeview Vineyards
Illinois Valley Building
Blue Marlin Inn
Morrison Lodge
Eagle Caps Fishing
Sugar Creek Ranch
Caddis
Sobroso Co.
Riverside Inn
Rocky Point Resort
Hobie
Frank Amato Publications
Steverino’s
Brian O’Keefe
Bauer Fly Reels
Teton Fly Reels
Bob Roberts
June Roberts
Denny Rickards
Mike Trask
Dick Butler
Bob Bumstead
Tony Brauner
Steve Godshall Fly Fishing
Fishtails Gear Co.
Wild West Fly Fishing
Mock Ford
Lonesome Duck Lodge

Pietro’s
Original Cut Co.
Carlos Restaurant
I.V. Building Supply
Valley Farm & Garden
Loon Outdoors
Able Products
B T’s Fly Fishing
Anglers Book Supply
Norlander Vise
Glacier Glove
Heritage Myrtle Wood
Anglers Evolutions
Scientific Anglers
Mel Krieger
Rio Products
Farmers Feed & Pet
Chota
Dr. Slick
Gerald Sinclair
John Edwards
Russell Leavitt M.D.
Native Run
Meadowlark Galleries
Endless Run Fly Fishing
Duane Dotts
Scott Rod Co.
Shop Smart Market
The Glass Forge

Vicki Henry
Vera Edwards
Bruce Staples
Joe Gomez III
Junction Inn
Selma Market
Taylors Sausage
Wild River Brewing Co.
Foris winery
Rogue River Lodge
Guadalajara Restaurant
Bel Di’s Restaurant
Two Pines Smoke House
Edgewater Inn
Jeff Fox
Herman & Catherine
Stetgerwald
Rich Hosley
Dutch Creek
Golf Course
Red Mountain golf Course
Grants Pass Golf Course
& Country Club
Meadow Lark Gallery
Recognition Specialties
Jim & Melanie Tehan

OCTOBER MEETING
Auction

When:
Thursday, October 17, 2002

Where:
Riverside Conference Center

Time:
Social Hour and Silent Auction at 6PM
Meeting at 7:00PM
Dinner at 7:30PM
Auction to follow dinner
Raffle to close evening

What to Bring:
Your Visa Card because we don’t take.........
Name tag
A hearty appetite

November program
Don Muelrath
CASTING ABOUT

The picnic

Exley Mixon casting for glory.

Food and fly gear, what could be better.

The cooks in action.

Keepers of the gate
OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Middle Rogue

October 19th
Meeting Place: 7:00 am at Sharis Rest.
Gear: Rods 6-8 wt single hand or spey
Flies: Egg patterns, nymphs and
egg sucking leeches
Bring rain gear and a lunch
Need someone to lead the outing

Robert Hodge Distance Champion

David Haight Accuracy champion

Judy Nagel Distance Champion

Ruth Hodge Accuracy champion
This time of year terrestrials become an important part of the trout’s diet. Grasshoppers, Jasid beetles, and Ants are available to the fly fisher and to the fish. It is time to look at the water and the brush along streams and lakes to see what is available to the fish. Don’t forget to look at the water, from a concealed position of course, to see what you can spot drifting by. If you see ants, give an ant pattern a try. They work very well. Fish, as many critters in the wild, seem to like the tart flavor of ants. There have been several articles written as to why, but I am only a fly fisherperson and if they catch fish, O.K. I will attest to the fact that they taste tart. Beyond that no comment...

Ant flies are usually tied to be wet flies or dry flies. Remember to observe the color of the ants and try to match that also. Ants run from black to amber to red or a combination of these colors.

**HOOK:** Mustad 94840 or 94833 Sizes 8-24

**THREAD:** 8/0 Black

**ABDOMEN:** Wet ant; Wrapped and laquered thread. Suspended or dry fly ant; Dubbed fur or substitute. Don’t forget to tie some with wings using white polly material tied aft of thorax and swept back.

**HACKLE:** Dry fly hackle to match body color. Clip bottom hackle barbules so fly floats low in the water. Hackle should be tied in at the narrow waist of the fly.

**THORAX:** Same material as thorax. (May be a different color depending on which ant you are imitating.)

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**Southern Oregon Fly Fishers**

**Annual Dues:**
- Individual Membership: $25.00
- Family Membership: $35.00
- Contributing Members: $50.00 (or more)
- Life Membership: $250.00
- Family Life Membership: $350.00

**Send Dues to:**
SOFF
P.O.Box 1144
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

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**The Emerger**

Fall. The Silver Bullet, Steelhead. Trout. Blustery weather with the chance of rain showers. Chill in the air and in your bones. Hot one day, cold the next. Cold nights. Perfect fishing weather. Fall calls for a change of pace. Fall run Steelhead, low water in lakes and reservoirs all require different fishing styles. Wading a stream while looking for ‘deep holes’, high sticking an undercut bank, it is all part of the game. Ask yourself “What have I not done in years that used to be so much fun?” My challenge to each and every one of you is to go back and re-examine your earlier years of fishing and think about trying to rediscover your past. A very short time ago I went up into the mountains with Joe Holzen and waded a stream in levi’s and tennis shoes, trying to find that perfect hole to drift my Humpy through. I wanted to see the silver flash of a native hit hard and drag my fly to the bottom. The water was crystal clear, and water gently cascading over the rocks was music to my ears. It was accompanied by the wind whistling through the trees. Big trees, and big windfalls and rocks and no trail to speak of. That was the way I started fishing a long time ago. I have never had a more gourmet lunch then that peanut butter and jelly sandwich, on a warm boulder, next to the river. With a friend. No, I did not get the big one but all of those little ones had to come from somewhere! Maybe next time.

**Morris Fruitman**
The SOFF web site is up and running. Soon you should be able to view much of what is happening in the club from this site. Items such as meetings, guest speakers, outings, clinics, including meeting place time and what to bring will be available. Just go to www.soff.org and check it out. If any member is up on web sites and would like to become web master just contact any board member.

KIRKLAND ESTATE

On behalf of the Kirkland family Bruce and I wish to thank those of you who attended the sale at the picnic. Your purchases of Bob Kirkland’s fishing items helped bring closure to his brother and wife. You are now sharing a part of what made Bob the true fisherman he was. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Becky Boehman

GUEST NIGHT

The SOFF board decided to have another member guest night in November. This will be a busy meeting as we also will have elections for the coming year. Plan on bringing a guest to the meeting and introduce them to our club. This is a great way to generate new members and to get your friends involved in a sport you love. Could be your guest will become your best fishing buddy.

C H A N G I N G L I N E S

Election for the 2003 SOFF Board of Directors will occur at the November 21st general meeting. There are 8 positions to be filled. The following members have been presented to the Board for approval, according to the by-laws, and all have been approved to seek a position and have agreed to serve.

Bob Roberts
Bob is also a charter member of the club and, in the past, has served as President and held other offices on the Board. Bob is well known throughout the club and most clubs of Oregon. He is always helping with the auction and whenever needed.

Dick Butler
Dick has been a member of the Board for 2002, holding the position of Membership Chair and taking care of the SOFF wear. He has worked hard over the past 4 years, helping with habitat projects and anywhere needed.

Duane Chebul
Duane has been a member for the past 2 years. He moved here from Southern California where he was a member of a club for more than 20 years, serving on the board and holding every office within the club. Duane has also served on the board of So. Calif. Council of the FFF.

Jim Tehan
Jim is a current member of the Board, holding the position of Vice President. He also chairs habitat, the auction, and has helped with the educational programs. He has been a member for 4 years and has helped with many different events.

Burton Griffin
Burton is a new member to the club, joining in March, 2002. Burton and his wife moved to Grants Pass from Texas where he worked for the state. Since joining SOFF he has chaired the picnic, which is no small undertaking. The event went very smoothly and was well planned.

Teresa Kasza
Teresa has been a member of SOFF for the past 2 years. She is a very happy person and always has a smile. She works hard at any project she takes on and has been in every event the club has held. Teresa is a very active member.

Dave Russell
Dave is a member of the 2002 Board, handling the raffle for the monthly meetings. He has been very helpful in our habitat projects with acquiring seedlings. Dave is a hard working individual, always willing to help where he can.

Steve Bonner
Steve is a charter member of the club and a member of the 2002 Board serving as Outings Chair. He also helped with this year’s auction, taking charge of procuring art work. Steve has served on the Board on several occasions.

Beth Williams
Beth joined the board in June of this year, taking on the position of Treasurer. She has been very active in all club activities for the past 5 years. Beth is a very busy person, always working with one group or another. Over the past 5 years, she has been very helpful with all the habitat projects and has helped the club in any way she could.

Carey Williams
IT'S A SMALL WORLD

When I say it's a small world the first thing that you may think of is that painfully hokey boat ride at Disneyland. With all due respect for Mickey and company, I am referring to the sport we all joined this club to enjoy and the industry that supports it.

Josh White and I recently attended the International fly fishing retailers show in Denver. I was surprised by the size of the fly fishing industry as a whole. The manufacturers and Wholesalers that supply the fly shops, guides, and fishermen is a very small group. We talked to many of the other exhibitors at the show and came away with the sense of community that I get when seeing our club members. Most of the people and companies, large and small, are willing to give advice and encourage the growth of the businesses and people in our sport.

The small size of our sport is a double edged sword, we have the internal support of a community and the vulnerability of being a small group in a big world.

The Denver show left me knowing that our reputation is the most important asset we have. People at the show know almost everything about everyone. Bad reputations go through the industry like wildfire. Burn your customers or other businesses and no one forgets. Our club and its members need to think about our collective reputation and goals. How individual members and the club are perceived by other members and public is vital to success and possibly our very survival. I encourage every member to share the things they learn and enjoy about our sport with other members and the public. Try to give something back by helping with our education classes or habitat restoration projects. Remember that in fly fishing IT IS A SMALL WORLD.

Jeff Fox
THE 2002 AUCTION

The auction was a big success again this year. The club raised over $14,000 and will have enough money to continue at the level our members have come to expect from SOFF. I personally want to thank all of the donors, bidders, and members who make it all possible. I particularly want to thank Jim Tehan for his tireless effort to make the auction what it was this year.

GUEST NIGHT

The meeting on November 21st will be our second guest night. Bring a friend, introduce them to the club, and let the club show why it was vote the top club in the country by the Federation of Fly Fishers in 2002. Guests and their recruiting member will each receive a special raffle ticket. The drawing is for a custom rod by Gary Anderson.

ELECTIONS

Elections for the board of directors will be held during the November meeting. There is a large slate of candidates for the board this year. This is a welcome change from the years when we had to fight to just to fill the vacant seats. I encourage everyone to attend and vote for the members they think will best serve the club in the upcoming year.

Jeff Fox
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The holidays are fast approaching. I can tell by the trash cans filling up with unsolicited catalogs. Must have ordered something from a catalog in the past year. The computer spam is also on the rise, another indication of the coming festivities. Trips to plan, letters and cards to send, shopping for food and gifts, decorations to put up and lights to make the longer nights brighter. Yes the holidays are approaching.

As we near Thanksgiving we are reminded of all the great things we have to be thankful for. Steelhead and salmon are in the river, the Oregon plan which has so far kept our fisheries open to our great sport. New fly tying materials to try, new patterns to tie and of course those catalogs we keep. The ones on fly fishing, fly tying and equipment to whet our curiosity and empty our wallets. Yes the holidays are approaching.

With all the things to keep us busy this time of year there are other things to keep in mind. We, the citizens of the United States, are among the best fed, best clothed, best housed people on earth. There are those in our own country who will need help to enjoy this year's season and I'm sure all of you have a favorite charity you donate to. Please be as generous as you can.

On to other things. I attended a reception put on by the Oregon Watershed Council recently. They are again on the "remove the dam" campaign. I informed them I would not write a letter to the powers that be on behalf of the club due there being members who want the dam removed, those who don't want it removed and those who don't care one way or the other. This is also a political issue which can and has in the past divided clubs like ours into factions which has done more damage than good. If you feel you would like to voice your opinion on this matter please contact the state lawmakers for your district and let them know. This is another of our things to be thankful for, the right to speak up and let our lawmakers know how we feel.

Don't forget that your board has made the November meeting another guest night. Hope to see all of you at the meeting for dinner and the program.

Carey Williams

MEMBERSHIP

Good news! The new membership application forms are here. Anyone needing some can either call or see me at the general meetings. Also, the SOFF decals are finally done. The cost is $3.00 or 2 for $5.00. I will have them at the software table during the meetings.

Now that the auction is over, the board will be deciding on the purchase of new caps. Several alternatives are being reviewed, and there will be more than one style available. Remember to bring a friend to the November meeting, there will be a special drawing for those that do.

Dick Butler

BOARD NOTES

The website is up and board members now have the ability to update individual areas of the site. The board discussed adopting a policy on using an individual's name or photo.

November will be an additional guest night. Members bringing guests, and the guests, will receive a special raffle ticket for a rod and reel combination.

Jim Tehan and Reg Heth are working with the Middle Rogue Watershed Council. Jim reported an 80-90% survival rate on tree planting projects from the spring.

Steve Godshall has volunteered to teach a rod building class.

The board worked on plans for the Christmas party. Glazed ham and sliced turkey will be on the menu. The price will be $15.00.

Dick Adams

Announcement

The Board of Directors will meet in the conference room of the Community Bank at the corner of 6th and Savage. The next Board meeting will be NOV. 26, 2002 at 7:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.
NOVEMBER MEETING

Don Muelrath

When:
Thurs, Nov. 21, 2002

Where:
Riverside Conference Center

Time:
Social Hour and Silent Auction at 6PM
Meeting at 7:00PM
Dinner at 7:30PM
Show to follow dinner
Raffle to close evening

What to Bring:
Questions for Don
Name tag
A hearty appetite

MINIPI RIVER

Don Muelrath is a free-lance outdoor and fly fishing photographer and writer. He has been published over 15 times in the last 5 years, and the list of national publications is impressive. Grey’s Sporting Journal, Saltwater Sportsman, Sportfishing, Sporting Classics, Fly Fishing in Saltwater, Fly Fishing and Tying Journal, Saltwater Fly Fishing, and Fish and Fly have all used Don’s work, some multiple times. His work also appears in The Complete Book of Flyfishing- A World Wide Guide and includes the Cover.

Don has presented at the International sportsman’s Exhibition shows as well as making many appearances for fly fishing clubs and other groups. The topics are as diverse as they are global. From trout fishing in New Zealand, Chile, Alaska, and the American west to flats fishing in Belize, Florida, Christmas Island, and the Mexican Yucatan there is something to entertain even the jaded of fly fishermen.

The program for our meeting will cover his trips to the Minipi River System in Labrador Canada in 1997, 99, and 2001. The Minipi system is arguably the finest Brook trout fishery in the world. It is home to some of the planets largest brook trout living in a spectacular setting. Come and experience this amazing fishery and find out how the Canadians are protecting and studying this great resource.

Jeff Fox
CASTING ABOUT

THE OBJECT OF OUR AFFECTION

STEELHEAD
OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Steelhead Clinic-Saturday November 9th
Meeting place-Sharis-8:00 am
Bring waders, boots, rods and reels
Find out everything you wanted to know about steelhead fishing.
Spay casting, single hand casting, reading the water and we will fish.
Any questions- call Steve Bonner at 474-0090 or 660-0540
Steve Bonner will be your Guide and Instructor for the day.

Steve Bonner

High pressure, full moon and a forecast for a hot cloudless day. On the face of it, my prospects were for lots of paddling interrupted by frenetic periods of “slapping water”. After several days of house guests and huckleberry waffles, I decided that I needed a day out, even if expectations were poor. Besides, summer was quickly disappearing and I would soon have to return to my classroom.

I had loaded up my Water Skeeter the night before the trip to Agency Lake and enjoyed the luxury of an extra hours’ sleep, besides the bite was early afternoon on my previous trip. Son-in-law Carmelo, a Sicilian who plays native Oregonian every August, opted for a float tube and the short walk to the lake. I like the row from the bird watchers parking area which avoids the August “salad run” through Petric Park. This morning the Wood was free of boats so I decided to spend a few hours in the cold water before taking on the warmer algaic stuff of Agency Lake. The water felt good so I used my fins and avoided the anchor. Stealth usually works here, but the glassy surface outshone two hours of excellent presentations!

As I finned toward shore to carry my rig across the road and into the lake, which is 3 miles easier than the 2-3 mile row, I noted the arrival of two very unlikely looking fly fishers. They managed a tentative response to my “howdy”, but the body language encouraged me to stay my distance in the boat. Soon enough plastic tackle boxes appeared opened and a jar of iridescent chartreuse power bait reared its ugly, lethal head. I would like to think that my buddies, the really sophisticated Wood river trout, would recognize and resist such a gaudy offering, but I was not about to take any chances. I ratcheted down my tenor voice to politely say that wild trout reside in these waters and only artificial flies and lures were legal. Squinty eyes accented by sunburned cheeks replied, “Thain’t no game wardens ‘round here today.” Trying desperately to think of how Steve, Marlon, or Jeff might respond, I blurted out, “I’m sure one will come if I call on my cell phone”, holding up my walky-talky and turning it off. There was no reply to my retort and I decided to row back up the channel, at least until I was out of shotgun range. A few minutes later their “compliance” was announced with the

(continued on page 7)
FLY TYING CORNER

The Casual Dress

Called "Polly’s Casual Dress". The original pattern was tied with muskrat fur. Synthetics are replacing the more hard to find traditional materials in many patterns and this is no exception. It is an easy pattern to tie and resembles the original, with a little sparkle.

Tie in a small bunch of the squirrel leaving the under fur in with the guard hairs. Form a loop of thread and insert some ice dub and twist to make a noodle (Remember, if you are right handed twist the loop left, and to the right if you are left handed.) Twist the loop to make a rather tight noodle. Wrap the noodle toward the eye of the hook. Leave enough room for the thorax and head. Make the body tapered. Make another loop and add ice dub. Make another noodle, but make this one fatter than the first so the thorax will be larger in diameter. Wrap to behind the eye, leaving enough room for the head. Tie in a black feather (short barbules are preferred) and make two wraps, stroking the barbules back as you wrap. Tie in herl and wrap to form a fuzzy head. Tie off and whip finish, apply head cement if desired.

HOOK: Mustad 9672 Sizes 6-12
THREAD: 6/0 Black
TAIL: Black or grey squirrel. (Short)
ABDOMEN: Black peacock or mice dub.
THORAX: Same material as abdomen.
COLLAR: Black hackle feather.
HEAD: Black ostrich or peacock herl.

Fish this pattern as you would any nymph pattern on a trout, steelhead, or salmon stream. It will also catch bass and bluegill in lakes. It may also be tied in different colors to imitate nymphs where you are fishing. I prefer black and dark olive. When properly tied this pattern should have a fuzzy or ragged appearance.

Carey Williams

A FISH STORY

On a cloudy morning in September I heard the sound of rocks clattering in the Rogue River in front of my home. It sounded like a clumsy walker in the streambed. I approached the river expecting to see someone stumbling through the rocks. I saw no one. On closer inspection I spotted a salmon flopping in the shallows. I quickly changed into shorts and wading shoes, went over the bank, across the shallow still water to rescue the stranded fish. I found a 40-inch salmon stuck in shallow water banging itself no the rocks.

I picked the stunned fish up and put it into the moving water, holding it gently in an attempt to revive it, as I would any fish I’d caught before releasing it. I sat on a rock for about 20 minutes talking to the fish, Explaining my philosophy of saving every creature on my river. Since I’m a carpenter and talk to walls often, speaking to a fish comes naturally. The fish was not doing well.

I left the fish with a promise, get better or be my dinner. It didn’t look good for the fish. Twenty minutes later, after getting out my cutting board and sharpening my fish knife, I went back to the fish.

(continued on page 7)

Southern Oregon Fly Fishers
Annual Dues:
Individual Membership $25.00
Family Membership $35.00
Contributing Members $50.00 (or more)
Life Membership $250.00
Family Life Membership $350.00
Send Dues to: SOFF P.O.Box 1144 Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
**ELECTIONS**

The November meeting is election night. Show up and cast your vote for the 2003 board of directors. There is a large pool of candidates for the new board. The direction and focus of the club will be decided by your votes on November 21.

**DECEMBER**

The menu for the December meeting will be glazed ham and sliced turkey. Hors d'oeuvres will also be served before the meal. The cost for the dinner will be $15.00. Come meet the new board of directors for 2003 and help us congratulate the 2002 award winners.

(continued from page 5)

splash of half ounce *daredevils* churning the water. I chuckled and knew that discouragement would set in within the hour. I turned my back after a while, not wanting to acknowledge any parting shots. I am most grateful to the Almighty who made sure that I did not aggravate the "good ‘ole boys" with a hookup while they were taking my name in vain.

Soon enough the shore was clear again and I emerged feeling more righteous than a teenage vegetarian. When I launched into Agency, I discovered the serious fishers. Jeff was working the weeds and Steve was about three hundred yards down the road. I changed to my "buffet rig" with a streamer trailing a soft hackle, one for show and one for catching. After three hours and only one lethargic "bump", I noticed that the professionals had left for more productive water, or maybe just dinner. Unwilling to drive home skunked, I decided to row the ten minutes toward the spot Jeff Thieme, from McKenzie Outfitters, had been fishing. I figured I was just about there when I got hammered. This was a good fish, headed out for the shallower water and making my wide arbor sing. I brought him up for a look. My heart headed north and my stomach south! This was the biggest fish I had hook all summer! Carmelo quickly paddled nearby, camera at the ready to provide the ego booster. The warm water near the top allowed me a quick landing. I had no convenient way to measure, so I got out my scale and weighed the net: between 8-9 pounds by my polarized bifocals!

Perhaps this fish was a payback for my protective efforts that day, but it was more likely dumb-luck. Summer 2002 was a glorious fishing experience. I covered less water and caught more fish. Thanks to the guides who showed me where to go and most likely did not notice since I always kept a polite distance. As I tie soft hackles to replenish my supply, my fantasies interrupt me as I paddle dumbstruck into the hookups to come.

**Gary Miller**

(A Fish story from page 6)

I carried it across the gravel bar to the still water. Fish, I said, you’re heavy, how about we try again to bring you back to life. After another ten minutes of resuscitation I was sure I’d be having my new friend for dinner.

To my surprise the salmon slowly swam towards the deeper water, made a U-turn, swam behind me, then swam between my knee deep legs creating a wake headed to deep water.

I’ll leave you to make your own appraisal of what the meaning of my experience was. For me, it’s my best fish story.

**Phil Wandtke**
As I sit here staring at this blank page, hoping that some great and inspirational message will drop from the sky, my mind wanders to the places I would rather be. It is late October and the steelhead are everywhere. Daydreaming about steelhead may not be very productive but at the moment I would dearly like the focus I have while fishing for them.

The predator in me comes out when I fly fish and bow hunt. This primordial instinct gives me the power to focus as nothing else can. As I fish through a Run all my energy and attention is on the task before me. The cast and mend are made. All of my senses focus on the drifting flies, hands and eyes search for the slightest sign of a take. The concentration is intense, every fiber of my being is set on that small point moving with the river. The line twitches, the rod comes back on its own. A steelhead shakes its head then takes off across the run. My focus changes to the fight, a shot of adrenaline speeds my reactions, everything seems to happen in slow motion.

I Pull as hard as I dare. The fish jumps, I bow, the fight continues. After a short time the fish tires and slides to my feet. Suddenly the world is on the task before me. The cast and mend are made. All of my senses focus on the drifting flies, hands and eyes search for the slightest sign of a take. The concentration is intense, every fiber of my being is set on that small point moving with the river. The line twitches, the rod comes back on its own. A steelhead shakes its head then takes off across the run. My focus changes to the fight, a shot of adrenaline speeds my reactions, everything seems to happen in slow motion.

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I Pull as hard as I dare. The fish jumps, I bow, the fight continues. After a short time the fish tires and slides to my feet. Suddenly the world returns, the sound of the river and road, cold water on my legs, the cramp in my arm.

Maybe this is why I fish, the ability to get away for a time without ever really leaving.

Boy, could I use some of that focus as I stare at this blank page.

Jeff Fox
THE 2003 BOARD

The 2003 board of directors are (from the left) DICK BUTLER, CAREY WILLIAMS, MORRIS FRUITMAN, BETH WILLIAMS, DAVE RUSSELL, JIM TEHAN, and BOB ROBERTS. Teresa Kasza and Buck Woodburn were not available for the photo. The new board meet for the first time on November 26th and a tentative slate of officers was discussed.

OFFICERS
PRESIDENT: JIM TEHAN
VICE-PRESIDENT: TERESA KASZA
TREASURER: BETH WILLIAMS
SECRETARY: DICK BUTLER

CHAIRS
MEMBERSHIP: DICK BUTLER
RAFFLE: DAVE RUSSELL
NEWSLETTER: MORRIS FRUITMAN

The program and outings chairs have not had a volunteer and will be filled at the December 12th board meeting. The slate of officers will be also be ratified at the December 12th meeting. If you have comments or suggestions are encouraged to attend this special December board meeting.
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Thanksgiving and Hanukkah are behind us, Christmas and New years are fast approaching. Let me take a moment to wish all of you the best of holiday wishes and may your new year be the best ever. This time of year in my family has always been very special as we usually get together to sample the bounties the various branches of the family concoct in an attempt to outshine the others at being creative with the dishes cooked for this feast of all feasts. I’m sure your family’s celebrations are no less enjoyable.

Club elections are over and the new board will be seated at the December board meeting. Remember all members are welcome at the board meetings. In the past five plus years I’ve been a member of the club each new board has done things a little differently and the club has become better for their efforts. Each board has different agendas of what they thought were important directions for the club to go. Each board accomplished some if not all of the goals set. This moving ahead has made the club one of the best in the country. Many clubs stagnate and cease to move forward or forget the basic reasons for their being and they start to deteriorate from the inside. Our club has been moving forward all the time and I hope we will continue to do so.

Support your new board, they are volunteers and need all the help they can get. The board can’t do it all. Sign up to plant trees, (it’s fun), teach what you know at one of the club clinics, or set up a clinic of your own on one of your specialties. Remember, helping each other and getting more people interested in fly fishing are the clubs reason for being.

Well the weather man’s done it to us again. I had hopes of viewing the Leonid meteor showers, but contrary to the prediction, it’s cloudy, darn, no luck at all with the astral displays this year. No clouds for six plus months, then the celestial fire-works begin and nothing but clouds. Maybe in thirty three years I’ll have another chance to view them... I should live so long!

Carey Williams

FROM THE BOARD

The new board for 2003 met and tentatively elected officers for 2003. We will be lead by incoming President Jim Tehan. Teresa Kasza will take over as Vice-President. Dick Butler will fill the Secretary position. Beth Williams will continue to keep the books as Treasurer. Morris and Nancy Fruitman will take over as co-editors of the newsletter in the new year. Planning for Habitat and conservation programs continues for 2003. We will also have a large number of seminars for the benefit of members and the general public. The board hopes to emphasize more committee work rather than just relying on individual chairs and plans to recruit people from our membership ranks. The December outing will be the traditional chili feed at the holy water, a joint outing with the Rogue Fly Fishers.

Dick Adams

SOFT

The southern Oregon Fly Tiers have set their meeting schedule and location for December and next year. December meeting will be held at the Outdoor Store in Medford on Wednesday, December 11, from 7-10pm. Next year all meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Outdoor Store in Medford, located at 2043 Roberts Rd. Mark January 22 for the first meeting of the new year. All participants will continue to donate a fly to the free raffle held at the end of the evening. Tiers need not be experienced, all levels and skills are welcome. Each meeting a member is encouraged to demonstrate a new skill which can range from simple to difficult. If you tie why not join us? Questions? Call Morris at 878-8038.

Morris Fruitman

Announcement

The Board of Directors will meet in the conference room of the Community Bank at the corner of 6th and Savage. The next Board meeting will be DEC 12, 2002 at 7:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.
Day of the Iguana

The Florida keys make up a remarkable ecosystem where the Tarpon is the silver king, the Permit are elusive and the bonefish are large. Randy White and his family have been traveling to the keys as do it your self fly fishermen for the past 14 years. He is an accomplished fly fisherman and photographer. Join Randy as he shares some of their experiences.

This show is a must for anyone interested in fishing the keys. Randy’s knowledge of the keys and its fishery will help prepare anyone planning a trip to the area. For those who may never go or know little of the area, he would like to share some of the sights and events they have recorded over the years.

This two part program will feature the sights of Key West and the surrounding waters and will be followed by the areas fishing and “THE DAY OF THE IGUANA”.

Come spend the evening with one of our own, Randy White, and experience the flavor of the nations most exotic fishing destination, the Florida Keys.

Jeff Bolander Releasing a nice tarpon

Jeff fox
As fly fishermen we tend to pull out photos to prove our success rather than opening the door to the freezer. This is a great thing, the fish goes free to fight another day and we still have a memento of the day and fish. These snapshots remind us of the places we have been and the fish we’ve caught. The photos can really put a damper on those great fishing tales though. I have many of these pictures as do most of you, I have seen them at the club meeting and when visiting other fisher. I have noticed that most of the pictures suffer from the same few flaws that turn a potentially great photo in to a simple snapshot. I’m not going to talk about f-stops, filters or fancy lenses, rather I will focus on three things, SUBJECT, BACKGROUND AND LIGHT.

SUBJECT: What is the subject of the top photo, the angler and fish or 80 odd feet of bleak brushy shoreline? Fill the frame with your subject. Most view finders have marked perimeters so keep your subject inside the lines, just not way inside. I have cropped the upper photo to the subject (lower right), same size photo, very different effect.

BACKGROUND: Try to control what is in the background. Nothing will ruin a photo more quickly than garbage or the dreaded porta potty, likewise having a tree branch sticking out of your partners ear or ...well, you get he picture. If you don’t like the background change your angle or move.

LIGHT: Lighting your subject properly can be the most difficult to accomplish. You are stuck with the ambient light of the moment, be that fog bound dawn to hot midsummer sunshine. Try to light the front of your subject, when this is not possible use your flash to fill the shadows and light the angler and fish. Partial shadowing caused by hats can completely black out an anglers face in an otherwise well lit photo, loose the hat, shoot from a higher angle, or use a flash to keep the happy angler in the picture. Use your flash in lower light conditions, it doesn’t need to be dark. The light from the flash will replace color lost to an overcast day.

When ever possible prepare for the photo before landing the fish. If this is not possible have the angler start reviving the fish while you get the camera ready. Set the angler up, frame and focus the shot before having the fish removed from the water. When you are set have the angler lift the fish, fine tune the focus and trip the shutter. The fish will only be out of the water for 5-10 seconds then back in for revival and release.

HAPPY ANGLER, HAPPY FISH!

Jeff Fox
OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

HOLY WATER CHILI FEED

The New years day chili feed has become an institution for the Rogue Fly Fishers and our own SOFF. Join us as we celebrate the new year and the anniversary of the berth of the holy water as a fly angling only haven on the Rogue river.

WHEN: JANUARY 1st
WHERE: THE HOLY WATER GAZEBO

Activities and food will be available from about 10:00 and will continue as long as there are willing participants. The clubs will provide the chili and coffee. Members attending the outing are encouraged to bring a side dish of other beverages.

Jeff Fox

Membership Renewals

It's that time again, time to renew your membership with Southern Oregon Fly Fishers. Renew early to insure the uninterrupted delivery of your newsletters and secure your spot in the club's directory.

Club members enjoying a Rogue outing.

Brad VanErt tries a spey rod during an outing.
The Gold Ribbed Hares Ear is an outstanding all around nymph pattern. The pattern works well weather fished around spawning salmon in October and November or drifted through pocket water on your favorite summer stream. This mayfly imitation works best when fished on the dead drift very close to the bottom. I would recommend tying the fly to match the bottom color of the river or stream you intend to fish. A good assortment of colors for our area would be natural (tan-grey), brown-black and an olive green. For extra weight and flash the pattern can also be tied with a gold bead applied to the hook before starting the recipe.

Carey Williams

Tuesdays
Casting instruction is still available at the casting pond from 3:30-5:00. Come out and practice while the instructors are available. For more information call Jeff Fox at 660-7939 or 471-0001
The Emerger

The Turkey Bird has come and flown the coop, if lucky. Soon it will be Christmas with more food, friends and good cheer. Then the new year. How quickly the years now come and go. It seems that it was just the day before yesterday that we held the New Years Chili Feed at the Holy Water. Now 2003 is fast approaching and the 'new' board of directors will be taking the helm, relieving a tired bunch of officers. I want to personally thank them, one and all, for doing such a good job. As you know some officers will be staying on while others will be leaving. Maybe they will have a chance to fish just a little more. How about you though? Do you see things in the club that need improving? Just step up to the plate and give us a hand. Contact a new board member and let that person know you have some ideas and, perhaps, you might want to help. It does not mean you will have a lifetime commitment to work on club projects, just that you are willing to do a little. That is not a bad thought and we certainly would like having you join in the fun. Yes, fun. Working on a project can be fun as well as rewarding. It gives you a feeling of pride in accomplishment. Just about every member knows that already, "Been there, done that." How about you joining us this coming year. We may not be smart enough to ask you to help but we could sure use your expertise. This holds true for new members as well as old. Thanks ahead of time for whatever consideration you might give this thought. Have a great, safe and wonderful holiday season!

PS Don't forget to go fishing!

Morris Fruitman

Fishing Report

The steelhead fishing has slowed in the middle Rogue. There are still large fresh fish moving the area, but you will need to cover a lot of water to find them. The best fishing is upstream from the town of Rogue River. Swinging leaches and dead drifting small nymphs have been the most productive methods.

The upper Rogue has large numbers of fish from the hatchery all the way to Gold Ray dam. The water is low and cold so you will need to get your flies down.

Don't forget to fish the slow current seems and tailouts, fish like this slow (very slow) shallow water. Good luck!

Jeff Fox

A tired trout comes to the boat on the Williamson.

Caster trying his luck for steelhead on the Rogue.

Old Florida Tarpon photo
THE OLD AND THE NEW

Something old, something new, something borrowed, somethi.... WOW WHERE DID THAT COME FROM!
The new year is almost upon us, time to dig out that old fishing licence and turn it in for a new one (you’ll need it for the chili feed). We practice one of the oldest activities around. Fishing with a hair and feather covered hook predates written language and yet we use equipment made of and by the most sophisticated materials and technologies on earth. A high tech reel on an old bamboo rod or a Hardy perfect on a new Sage SLT. Swinging an old golden demon or high sticking Josh White’s new holographic backed Ice Nymph, we satisfy a primitive urge with a new eco friendly purpose.

Our passion for the sport reaches to the future but is rooted in the past. Old stories, old friends and artifacts that remind us where we have come from. New friends, new destinations and the lure of where they will take us give the promise of rewards yet unknown.

When old stories meet new friends a door is opened. Events and individuals from fly fishing’s past help to shape and guide it in to the future. Those new to the sport bring enthusiasm and a desire to participate and learn.

Old members and new, we create a rich mix in the club. The history of our sport is passed along and protected by those of us with a deep passion for fly fishing.

The old and the new have come together with our new board of directors. Several new faces have arrived on the board this year. Old values with a new perspective. I am encouraged by what I see and look forward great year for the club.

As for me, well, I will be passing the newsletter off to Morris and Nancy Fruitman. Maybe I will get in a little more fishing and more time to play with Sam.

TO OLD FRIENDS AND NEW.

Jeff Fox