



VOLUME 53

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JANUARY MEETING

Thursday, January 18, 2018 @ Farmhouse Rest

Wet Fly / Social Gathering: 6:00PM

Dinner / General Meeting: 7:00PM

From The President!

By: Tim Cooley

I would like to start out wishing everyone a happy new year and tight lines. As the winter solstice has passed, and the days begin getting longer it is a time to get those spring flies tied, and equipment ready for fishing.

It was great to see that the Skagit was opened to Steelhead, on the 16th of December you would have thought that it was opening to humpies. From the number of cars as I drove along the Skagit on the south side of the river with everyone hoping for that tug.

Thank you to Cathy Schaffer as the chairperson of the Christmas party Robin LaRue, auctioneer; Christina Anderson, Sheila Tomas, Ann Nash, ticket sales, gift purchasing and decorations, Scott Hook, flowers and Dan Farmer, 50-50 ticket sales.

Additionally All the FFF members who donated gifts really made the raffle and auction happen! And all the members who purchased raffle tickets and bid on auction items were wonderful and supported the club! Thanks to everyone.

Based on the preliminary budget from our treasurer Mark Gilmore we had an income of \$2036.15, according to the by-laws ½ of the net income will be allocated to the club's conservation grant program in the amount of \$1018.08.

As a heads up, due to the **minimum wage increase** in Washington State, the meal prices will increase by **\$1.00**.

See you at the meeting.

This Months Presentation:

By: Terry Abrams



Guest Speaker: **Mark Raisler of Headhunters Fly Shop**, Craig, Montana <http://www.headhuntersflyshop.com>
. Marks Topic will be **Spey fishing for Trout and other Topics.**

Mark is a co-owner of Headhunters Fly Shop, and a longtime Missouri River guide and outfitter. Mark claims the Missouri River courses through his veins, and you will not find another angler with more devotion to the Mighty Mo', or more knowledge about it's history, fish, hatches and people. Mark is a "teaching" guide, and spends many days showing his guests the intricacies of downstream dry fly presentations.

Mark has learned a few things about catching trout in the Missouri River in the 25 years he's been fishing there.

Come with dry hopes, he tells his clients, but prepare to fish wet.

"Of the 275,000 flies we sell through our shop in a year, only 25,000 are dry," he said in a winter program for the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club. Wet flies and nymphs are lost more often than dries, but the statistic still speaks for itself.

In 2008, Raisler opened Headhunters Fly Shop in Craig, Montana, with optimism blind to the odds. "Craig had a population of 35 and there were already two fly shops,".

Shamelessly describing himself as a ski bum turned trout bum, Mark produces a Headhunters blog with copious servings of trout porn, updates, tips and advice attracting thousands of reads a day by anglers around the globe. "There's a lot of interest in this fishery," he said. "It's world-class." His observations – 5,100 articles over nine years – are worth reading even though Mark contends he's still "on the learning curve" of fishing the Missouri after logging "only" 3,549 days on the river downstream from Holter Dam.

With stretches holding up to 3,500 catchable rainbows and 500 brown trout per mile, the fishery can be well worth the 900-mile round trip. One stretch surveyed held 2,700 trout per mile with 50 percent of them being greater than 18 inches,.

February Meeting Time Change! Friday February 16th!

This Months Presentation

Fly of the Month:

By: Mark Raisler

The Carey Special



Materials:

- Hook: **TMC 5263 size #6-10**
- Thread: **Danville 6/0 Black**
- Rib: **Fine Gold wire**
- Body: **Peacock Herl** or **Dark Olive Chenille** or **Olive Floss**
- Tail: **Pheasant rump feather barbs**
- Collar: **Pheasant rump feather**, 1-2 turns

Headhunters Fly Shop

mark@headhuntersflyshop.com

[406/235-3447](tel:4062353447)

[blog](#) | [website](#)

Up Coming Events:

- **The Steelhead on the Skagit Outing** Coordinator: Patrick Smedile Dates: January 13th and January 20th weather and river cooperating. Approximately 20 Fidalgo Fly Fishers members responded to the initial survey and have expressed an interest in the Steelhead on the Skagit outing this January. There will be two days on the river and the first day, January 13th, will be held at the Skagit River Gravel Bar at the Hamilton city river access. This day will start at 8am at the Starbucks Coffee shop just off Cooks road for car pooling. Coffee and cookies will be provided. Refer to the Steelhead on the Skagit Outing <http://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/smf/index.php?topic=129.0> for more information, maps, etc..
- **On the Skagit January 20th**, Coordinator: Patrick Smedile . Tim Cooley has been kind enough to allow the Outing Members to use facilities on the river near Concrete. Directions will be provided at a later date.
- **Casting on the Skagit with Scott Willison Outing** Coordinated by Cathy Schaeffer. This January 20th day on the river will be integrated with the fishing outing. Refer to the casting on the Skaget outing with

Scott Willison here: <http://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/smf/index.php?topic=124.msg154#msg154> Scott will provide rods and lines for members to try out.

If you are interested in either of these outings and did not respond to the Survey, contact Patrick or Cathy so they can plan a great outing. This outing is for both two handed and over hand rods. The objective of this outing is to get members to be able to understand and control the swing and improve their casting.

Basically the instructors will be available to help improve your presentation. Maybe even catch a Steelhead.

Presentation is about casting and the swing, about getting the fly to the fish. Casting skills are a real asset. Turning your leader over, casting distance and accuracy are all important skills, but you can catch fish with a less than great cast. You are much less likely to catch a fish with a bad swing. The fish does not see the cast. Hopefully, it does see the swing. Winter and spring steelhead fishing is primarily about wet flies and sink tips, getting the fly down to the fish.

The choice of fly lines will be a determining factor. In two handed winter/spring steelhead fishing, the line/head of choice is mostly, but not limited to Skagit type heads. The method is to get the fly to the depth a Steelhead will be attracted to the fly. This means: the appropriate rod and rigging your fly line, sink tip, leader, and fly to fish deep. These are good question that our experienced instructors can answer

- **2018 Sportsman's Show** (Sport Fishing and Boating) **January 24th thru 28th**.
<http://www.thesportshow.com/shows/washington/show-information/>

Note: Please check the Outings and Event page on the web site, things get added from time to time.

Needed:

By: Tim Cooley

BLUF(Bottom Line up Front): **Request Volunteers for the Legislative committee.**

It was brought to my attention, that we do not have an Legislative Committee. With the email recent notification of the WDFW News Release and the hearings Scheduled for:

- **Mill Creek:** Jan. 12, WDFW Regional Office, [16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek](#)
- **Sedro-Woolley:** Jan. 16, Sedro-Woolley Community Center, [702 Pacific St., Sedro-Woolley](#)

It would be of best self-interest for us to be represented at the hearing. This would allow us to be informed as well as provide input into the hearing.

Request Volunteers for the Legislative committee.

Danny Beatty in the past has attended hearings all over the state and could provide advice to the Committee Chair on how best to proceed / participate in the Legislative matters.

Important Information:

By: Bill Brodie

Just a reminder, the following club documents can be found on line on the Bulletin Board.

Fidalgo Fly Fishers By-Laws. <http://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/smf/index.php?topic=9.0>

2018 Fidalgo Fly Fishers Committee Assignments <http://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/smf/index.php?topic=35.0>

The 2018 assignments are still preliminary and the 2017 Committee Assignments have been retained for reference and will be deleted the end of January.

CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION <http://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/smf/index.php?topic=34.0>

History of Conservation Grants <http://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/smf/index.php?topic=86.0>

Outings Committee Position Statement <http://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/smf/index.php?topic=146.0>

Website Position Statement <http://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/smf/index.php?topic=143.msg179#msg179>

Development of a Fly Fisher:

By: Russ Asbury

My fly fishing started when I was barely in my teens. The equipment given to me was well used and likely three or four times my age. The rod was bamboo and the fly line was silk wrapped. The gift came from my dad's brother - so, the casting instructor was my uncle and he was a purist - fishing with dry fly's only, so small several of his flies could be placed on a thumb nail. Casting instruction was pure totalitarian with no room for innovation - I was to cast exactly as my instructor did and there was to be no variation. But - variation there was because the rod I was learning to cast hooked to the left starting three feet below the tip. That left hook sent the line sailing off to the right at the stop on the forward cast. To put any accuracy at all in a cast required casting about twenty degrees left of where I wanted the fly to land. Surviving casting instruction I did with no physical injury, not to say that much for a young ego.

Then came the actual fly fishing instruction that took place on an ice cold stream in Northern Idaho, in early May. The instructor wading in hip boots - I'm in cutoff pants with gym shoes and snow remained along the shady parts of the stream. Learning the drag free dry fly presentation standing in ice water seemed to take a week on that day. Learn I did - the upstream presentation, downstream and cross stream with a midair mend. That was sixty seven years ago and in my mind fly fishing was done only on small streams in late spring, summer or early fall, best avoiding ice water. Twenty years later it occurred to me that a person could fly fish on a lake. Welcome to the world of wet fly's and sinking lines. The next discovery was fly fishing large rivers. Fly tying shifted from the minuscule drab dry fly's to much larger bright wet fly's and the delight of marabou.

Landing a large steelhead, on a fly rod, was a life changing experience and it came about on the Hoh River fishing with my older brother. Life changing because landing huge trout from Lake Pend Oreille did nothing to prepare me for big steelhead on a fly rod and I now seek that experience over and over again and will continue to seek until I drop.

What was the biggest development with the fly fishing I did over the years? Well I started with equipment that was given to me, wearing a hand me down shirt, old cutoff pants and gym shoes. In those days I did not wade far from shore and did my best to cast to the center of the stream because I believed the stream center held most of the fish - I caught a lot of fish because there was a lot of fish to catch, not that I knew what I was doing. Now days I like to think I know what I'm doing - so I spend many hundreds of dollars on rods, reels and fly lines. More hundreds on waders and boots, silk long-johns and quilted pants to go inside waders that might keep me warm.

With all this modern day equipment I now wade out to the center of the streams and cast back toward shore because I believe the majority of the fish will be near shore. And - I'm not catching near the numbers of fish that I did in the old days. I know what the problem is and this is my announcement to all Fidalgo Fly Fishers that I can and will remedy the situation. I'm going back to cutoff pants with gym shoes - and will be flailing the waters with an out of shape bamboo rod.

HAPPY NEW YEWR TO ALL, RUSS

For Sale:

By: Carl Hendricks

- **CavPro wooden oars** with rubber grip and 6 1/2 ft. length, Scotty oarlocks, and nylon bushings for half price or \$50. Contact: **Bruce Freet**.
- **North Fork Outdoors Dave Scadden's Skykomish Sunrise** - I have this for sale, the pontoon are blue. I have the travel bag as well. All but the up graded oars and aluminum back platform will fit in the bag. I have the original light weight oars as well. Have anchor and wheel for transporting the boat as well. The picture below shows the oars that I have for it. If you are interested and would like to see the boat please let me know. You can even try it out. The pump to blow it up comes with it as well. New with all the options \$1600. I'm selling it for \$1000.00 or best offer. Please contact: **Carl Hendricks**



Picture of the Month:

By: Russ Asbury



Fly Shops:

The Confluence Fly Shop
2620 N. Harbor Loop Drive #9
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 312-7978