

VOLUME 52

JANUARY 2017

NUMBER 01

JANUARY MEETING

Thursday, Jan 19, 2017 @ Farmhouse Restaurant

Wet Fly / Social Gathering: 6:00PM

Dinner / General Meeting: 7:00PM

President's Message:

By: Ryan Johnson

It was 10 years ago in January of 2007 that I signed up to take the Introduction to Fly Fishing Course at Skagit Valley College put on by the Fidalgo Fly Fishers. I had no idea at the time what a huge impact that would have on my recreational life as well as my personal life. I was instantly hooked. I joined the club within a couple of months to add to the enjoyment of this new found adventure and have been a member ever since. Throughout that time frame, I've made several friends within the club, been on several outings and have enjoyed a few trips with other members to try new waters. It's been a blast and very educational.

My hope moving forward is to refocus on the fly fishing experience and to bring those same opportunities that I've had to both existing and new members. The way to do that is to have a strong structure of committees and volunteers to help others learn the art of fly fishing, help support habitat conservation and enjoy camaraderie within the fly fishing community. I thank all of you who have worked to achieve these goals in the past and ask the rest of you to consider volunteering a little bit of your time to help the club out wherever needed.

We have an active schedule planned for 2017 and I hope that each of you will be a part of it. One thing that is missing this year is the fly fishing course we normally put on at the college. This was caused by some health issues of our lead instructor but we hope this is a temporary situation and have full intent of reviving it for 2018. We

AN ACTIVE MEMBER CLUB OF THE FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

still plan on getting our message out there through participation in other events throughout the year. Those events will be announced as the dates get closer.

Please feel free to get in touch with me or any board member regarding any issues of concern or ideas for the club. We will do our best to help out. Also, please take advantage of our website to stay up on club activities and feel free to share your fishing experiences at meetings and through the Wahoo if you have a story of interest. Thank you for allowing me to be your president this year and I want to thank the board in advance for their hard work and support to keep this club the great organization it is.

I hope to see you on the water soon.

Tight lines,

Ryan Johnson, President, Fidalgo Fly Fishers

This Month's Presentation:

By: Carl Hendricks

"A trip off the Bucket list, fishing the Selway River, Idaho!

September, 2016 I boarded a private airplane and set off to Idaho to enjoy the Selway River. Camping along the river bank, enjoying the food that was prepared for me, the wild animals that were all around me, hiking the hills around the airstrip were all part of this trip.

Fishing was the plan for each day, walking along this beautiful river looking for the right place to cast a fly to. As I watch the fly land on the water and start its drift down stream the water would explode and I would lift the tip of the fly rod and would be greeted with another beautiful fish at the end of the line.

I filmed many hours of me fishing and enjoying this wonderful river known as the Selway, this was a trip of a life time and one I hope to enjoy again in the near future.

I want to say thank you to Larry and Dan for allowing me to join them and enjoy the beautiful Selway River located in Idaho."

Fly of the Month:

By: Art Neumarkel

Griffith's Gnat



Hook: Dry #14-#18

Thread: Black 6/0

Hackle: Grizzly Palmered

Body: Peacock Herl

Note: This fly is used throughout the year as a very effective attractor pattern. The color is changed with the season:

Spring: Yellow

Summer: Yellow or Green

Fall: Orange

Fidalgo Fly Fisher of the Year Award:

By: Ryan Johnson

The Fidalgo Fly Fishers are proud to announce that Bill Brodie was the recipient of the 2016 Fidalgo Fly Fisher of the Year Award. The award was presented at the 2016 Christmas party event. Bill's hard work on the club's website as well as his contributions to various committees on which he served were well recognized and deserving of this honor. Bill has done a "super" job and his efforts are very much appreciated. Congratulations, Bill, and keep up the good work.

Holiday Dinner a Success:

By: Ryan Johnson

A special thanks to those club members who helped make our 2016 Holiday Dinner a success through their donations for the auction & raffle. Members Loren Greenwood; Chuck Smith; Jon Ballenger; Russ Asbury; Richard Raisler; Patrick Smedile; Tom Fulk; Russ Osenbach; George LeBlanc; Robin LaRue; Steve Thompson; Taylor Thompson; Allen Rhoades; Ollie Iverson; Don McKeehen; Ann Bodle-Nash; Jim Paget; Scott Hook; Tom McMichael; Art Neumarkel; Dave Barcott; Carolyn Sutton; Sheila Tomas; Christina Anderson; Cathy Schaeffer; Dan Farmer; Tim Cooley; John Freeman; Danny Beatty; Ryan Johnson; and any others we may have missed all donated one or more items that raised over \$3,000 before expenses. As a result of their generosity the club will have a substantial amount to apply toward our 2017 grants program.

Great Effort by the Holiday Dinner Committee:

By: Ryan Johnson

A special thanks goes to the members of the club's Holiday Dinner committee. Members Cathy Schaeffer, Boshie Morris, Christina Andersen, Sheila Tomas, Ann Bodle-Nash, Scott Hook, and Ken Futrelle devoted many hours of their time to ensure the success of 2016's event that was clearly evident by everyone who attended. Their hard work and resourcefulness were key to not only the great time had by all, but the success of the auction and raffle, the club's single largest money making venture in the year, which in turn benefits the club's conservation efforts and other notable causes.

About Those Dues:

By: Mark Gilmore

We are continuing to collect dues for 2017. For those who have already paid, thanks, and for those who haven't you can pay the Treasurer at the January 19th meeting by check (\$30 - payable to the Fidalgo Fly Fishers) or cash. Another option is to mail a check to the Fidalgo Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 325, Anacortes, WA 98221. IAW the club by-laws a notice will be sent to members with unpaid dues after February 1st. Members with unpaid dues after March 1st will be dropped from the rolls. As a reminder, the Gillie will collect the customary fine from any member attending a meeting who is in arrears with respect to dues after February 1st.

AN ACTIVE MEMBER CLUB OF THE FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT TO FIDALGO FLY FISHERS BY-LAWS:

Appendices to Fidalgo Fly Fishers By-Laws

Awards

Ad Hoc Awards

Existing Paragraph:

Ad Hoc Awards: While it is not the purpose of the Club to focus on awards, members are encouraged to recognize other members with ad hoc awards, either of a serious or humorous nature, such as the Skunk Award or Half-Ass Award. Nominations may be made at any time to the Awards Committee Chair and the Awards Committee will be responsible for determining presentation.

Amendment:

The third comma is changed to a period and the following is removed or stricken “*such as the Skunk Award or Half-Ass Award.*”

Proposed Amendment:

Ad Hoc Awards: While it is not the purpose of the Club to focus on awards, members are encouraged to recognize other members with ad hoc awards, either of a serious or humorous nature. Nominations may be made at any time to the Awards Committee Chair and the Awards Committee will be responsible for determining presentation.

Submitted by:

Fidalgo Fly Fisher Russ Asbury, for distribution to the Board of Directors and Newsletter Editor in accordance with Club By-Laws section IX AMENDMENT PROCEDURES.

Revive, don't Repeal, the Skunk and Half-Ass Awards:

By: Bruce Freet

At our January general meeting, some members will call for a vote to eliminate the Skunk and Half-Ass Awards. I urge you to vote, "No," and retain these awards ... and then, work together to revive them as well as ending our meetings with fishing reports! Here is my rationale:

In the case of the Skunk Award, the prospective recipient has voluntarily told the club membership during the fishing reports about a fly fishing incident in which either he or she didn't catch any fish or some humorous thing occurred. They have told this on themselves knowing full well that they are eligible for the Skunk Award. Since the fishing reports are the last item on our meeting agenda, we end our meeting with some laughter. The recipient has the pleasure of "gifting" the Skunk Award at the following monthly meeting. In the past, a can of beer was given with the Skunk Award, so the recipient had something to enjoy after the meeting.

Similarly, for the Half-Ass Award, the prospective recipient either voluntarily told someone or a member was with them when a humorous thing occurred while fly fishing. However, in this instance, the member giving the Half-Ass Award must obtain the consent of the prospective recipient and assure the Board of Directors that it is consensual. This is an annual award and the members giving and receiving the award work together to make a humorous presentation, occasionally using poetry, at the Christmas Party. The award is a plaque with the names of past recipients next to a half of a toilet seat.

We all make mistakes. Let's not take ourselves or our sport too seriously, and share the humorous mistakes or events with others during our meeting fishing reports.

Both of these awards have been in existence for a long time and considered as club traditions to add humor to our general meetings and the Christmas Party. They are not intended to be demeaning. Also, the awards sections of our By-Laws were revised in 2010 and there was no suggestion of eliminating them at that time.

The 2016 Board of Directors considered the proposal to eliminate these awards and unanimously voted to retain them for the reasons state above. According to the Club By-Laws any change requires a two-thirds majority vote. Let's vote to retain these traditions, and then work together to revive them.

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT TO FIDALGO FLY FISHERS BY-LAWS:

AN ACTIVE MEMBER CLUB OF THE FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

IV Duties of the Officers

Existing Paragraph:

Secretary: The Secretary shall keep club records and minutes of the meetings, handle correspondence, maintain an up to date mailing list, and submit to the Editor any notices to the membership required by law, or Articles of Incorporation, or these By-Laws.

Proposed Change: remove “ *maintain an up to date mailing list.*”

Existing Paragraph:

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall collect all dues and fees, make distributions required for Club activities, maintain the Club's financial records, keep an official list of paid-up members, ensure compliance with financial reporting or filing requirements, and prepare an annual budget for approval by the Board.

Proposed Change: add “*The Treasurer shall also be responsible for maintaining the club roster and email list.*”

Purpose: The Treasurer is better suited to maintain the club roster since he/she is already keeping the list of paid-up members. This amendment to the By-Laws shifts this responsibility from the Secretary to the Treasurer. The Board voted unanimously to approve this amendment and requests approval by the membership.

Lone Lake Restoration Project:

By: Terry Abrams

As I think you folks are aware, Jake Jacobson of the Evergreen Club has been leading

AN ACTIVE MEMBER CLUB OF THE FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

an effort to restore Lone Lake after the catastrophe that occurred this summer with the loss of all the trout. A perfect storm of high temperatures, low water and extreme algae bloom lowered the dissolved oxygen to unlivable levels for trout. Fortunately this is a pretty rare occurrence in Western Washington and the lake seems to be back due to lower temperatures, rising water levels and high winds that aerate. And no further fish kills.

Lone is one of the fly fishing gems in Northwest Washington and even though it is under Selective Gear regulations, (single barbless hook, no bait, no motors) with a limit of one trout over 18", the majority of users are fly fishermen and folks are rarely seen to keep a fish. Food wise, the lake is rich in chironomids, daphnia and scuds, growing fish to 18 to 20 inches. The normal planting is 3000 legal size trout (about 4 to the pound and 8 to 10 inches). Under normal circumstances these fish are in the 16 to 18 + inch size the following year. The WDFW says that is all they can plant this spring due to budget constraints.

Thus the request to help jump start the lake with larger fish in addition to the spring plant. Jake has authorization from WDFW and the okay to buy the planting permit and has been able to locate 400 trout in the one pound class (13+) from a source in Darrington for about \$3.00 a pound. Normally more fish would be available but due to Troutlodge no longer in business in western Washington there is an increased demand for fish. Adding 400 would increase the plant by about 13 percent and in a few months would improve the quality of the fishery and these fish would be protected by the 18" rule. Jake has commitments from four clubs so far to bring it before their boards (Evergreen, Olympic, Whidbey and Fidalgo). Evergreen's board met yesterday and approved \$325.00, Whidbey meets Friday and Olympic meets next Wednesday. Jake says those clubs are enthused and optimistic. So if each club contributes \$325 there will be \$1300 in funds to get this done. If the board approves the request we can put it in the budget and publish the request in the Wahoo, as well as in the Bulletin Board, to cover our bases, and forward to a vote by club members at this January's meeting. If the membership declines we merely delete from projected budget.

Why we should do this is covered under tenets 1,2 6 and 8 of our clubs "Aims and Purposes". The "Golden Rule" may apply here as someday we could have issues at Pass, etc..

If you have questions for Jake please email him at jcjacobson1@frontier.com

(Editor's note: this was written in early January so action by the Evergreen, Olympic, and Whidbey clubs has already occurred. The Fidalgo Fly Fishers Board approved the

AN ACTIVE MEMBER CLUB OF THE FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

proposal at its Jan 5, 2017 meeting to provide \$325 toward this project and membership approval will be sought at the January 19, 2017 general meeting.)

Bud Lilly Obituary:

By: Danny Beatty

Bud Lilly was well known in fly fishing and fish conservation circles. The Bud Lilly Fly Shop in downtown West Yellowstone, Montana was the crossroad for fly fishers everywhere who went to the Yellowstone area for its wonderful rivers. Going north from the Fly Shop you can fish the Gallatin; Northwest the Madison; south to the Grand Teton National Park and Jackson, Wyoming; west through Targee Pass to the Henry's fork of the Snake River; and finally west into Yellowstone Park and the famous Firehole, the little Gibbon and on to Buffalo Ford on the Yellowstone. Bud died on January 4, 2017 in Bozeman, Montana. Below is his obituary from the Bozeman Chronicle.

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/bud-lilly-prominent-fly-fisherman-and-conservation-advocate-dies-at/article_ee170491-c9a2-5ed2-91df-e17b4754ce43.html

Danny

The Flies We Use and the Materials Used to Make Them:

By: Danny Beatty

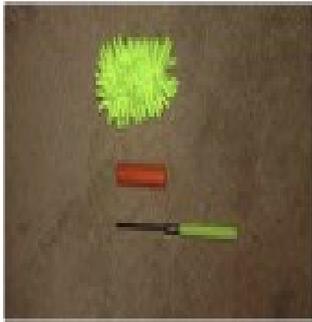
AN ACTIVE MEMBER CLUB OF THE FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

When I was about eight years old my cousin showed me a fishing “pole” which he said was for fly fishing. My first thought on such a method of fishing was, “How can you bait a hook with a fly?” Since that first introduction to the idea of fly fishing I have learned that the terms bait and fly fishing are not compatible.

Over the years there have been many articles about finding the difference.

My son-in-law sent me a newspaper clipping from the Kitsap Sun (Bremerton) which tells about fly fishers’ continual search for new fly tying material. “The Mop could change your fly-fishing life.”

Reading about the evolution of fly fishing we know that the earliest flies were tied with feathers, silk and maybe a bit of fur. Through the first centuries these materials did not significantly change. We added chenille, yarn, fine wire and a few other somewhat natural items but mostly stayed with the traditional feathers and fur. Then things started to change with the likes of tinsel, flashabou, crystal hair, Mylar, beads and many others.



Fluorescent Mop Head



Mop Head Tendril Fly

With fly tiers constantly searching for that material that changes the game and flies that never let you down, they found “The Mop”. It is the colored tendril of a certain mop head or dusting brush.

If you will Bing or Google “The Mop Fly” you will find a parade of web sites seeking your attention including Orvis. Mary Orvis Marbury was put in charge of the fly tying in the 1870s and researched the fly fisher’s preferences and wrote a book, “Favorite Flys and Their Histories” in 1892. Though the book contains the patterns and information on hundreds of fishing flies, they were of the traditional feathers, silk and fur variety.

Ginger Quill, an example of a dry fly tied with traditional materials.

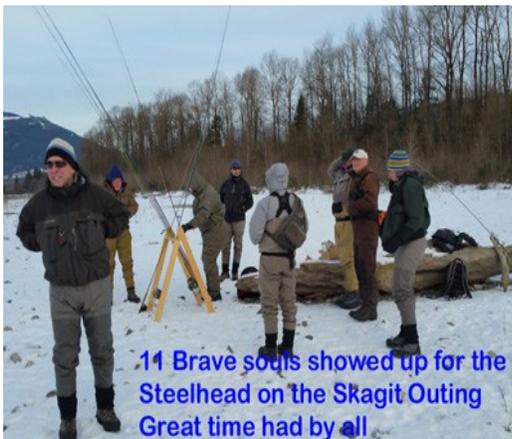


Continuing to review the history of fly tying, I used a book loaned to me by Don McKeehen, Hardy's Anglers' Guide, which was published in the early 1930s. There are 20 pages of colored fly plates including explanations on the flies. At the end there is one page of fly tying material with only tinsels and wax the non-natural items. Eighty some years ago, Hardy was the accepted authority of fly fishing in England. Orvis pretty much held that role in the United States but has bowed to the wishes of anglers. As Dave Shorett, author of the article in the Sun, states: "The question of what is a fly has been answered, at least in the United States". Shorett writes that "The Mop is the latest white hot, can't miss fly". I suggest you tie up a few and find out when the lakes once again become fishable.

Up Coming Events:

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

1. The Steelhead on the Skagit Outing had 15 respondents and Richard Raisler scheduled the event at the Hamilton Boat Ramp January 7th This event was to acquaint members new to steelhead fishing on the techniques needed and to practice casting and to get used to wading in river currents. Deene Almvig and Russ Osenbach were assisting Richard.
2. A second Steelhead on the Skagit event will be held Saturday, January 14th at a location near Concrete on a left bank situation.



AN ACTIVE MEMBER CLUB OF THE FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

3. Confluence Fly Shop will be sponsoring an Echo and Airflo casting and equipment event Saturday, **January 21st**, 10am-2pm on the Nooksack at Nugents Corner. This is a good time for members to get out and practice with some new Echo gear.

4. Spey Casting on the Skagit Coordinators: Christina Anderson and Bill Brodie Spey Casting Demo Day is scheduled for **February 11th** weather and river permitting. Scott Willison at the Confluence Fly Shop is working on putting together a spey demo day for the Fidalgo Fly Fishers. Spey casting is a fun and efficient way to fish large and small rivers alike throughout the Pacific Northwest. Spey casting allows anglers to minimize their casting time and maximize the time their fly spends in the water, deal with limited back casting room and cover sufficient distance with ease. The focus of this event will be on learning a variety of effective spey casts and having an opportunity to try out some different equipment. Scott will have some demo rods and lines to try, as well as the ability to try some different lines on your own equipment if you already have a Spey or Switch rod and are looking to dial it in. There will be several experienced Fidalgo Fly Fishers members to help with the casting experience.

The Spey Casting is scheduled to be held at Youngs Bar, but alternatives will be evaluated in case of high water. More information will be forthcoming at the January General meeting.

There will be Coffee and Cookies provided by the Club.

Fly Shops:

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