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SEPTEMBER MEETING

Thursday, Sep 21, 2017 @ Farmhouse Restaurant

Wet Fly / Social Gathering: 6:00PM

Dinner / General Meeting: 7:00PM

President's Message:

By: Ryan Johnson

September has arrived and along with it comes cooler nights, shorter days and the return of normal club business. I encourage all of you to join us for our next club meeting on September 21 at the Farmhouse Restaurant.

Hopefully your summer provided the opportunity to get away to your favorite river, stream, lake or shoreline to enjoy some fantastic fishing. As we are all aware, some of our local water opportunities have been impacted by several fishing closures including the Skagit, Sauk and Stillaguamish Rivers along with many of our favorite shorelines on Whidbey Island. We all hope these closures are a temporary situation and that we'll be able to enjoy fishing on our home waters again next year. This could be a good time to try out new waters to the north or south of us or to work on your stillwater skills this fall in several of our local lakes.

Planning ahead, please consider sharing stories and photos of your outings over this past year for our November club meeting. Please contact Tim Cooley if you would like to make a presentation to share with the club. It's also a good time to start thinking about donations to our Christmas party in December. This is our one and only annual fundraiser for the club and your donations go a long way in meeting club goals for conservation enhancement, outings, education and general expenses. Finally as we look ahead, please consider helping out the club in a more formal role if asked. We have several important committee positions opening up. As an all-volunteer organization, we only function as a result of dedicated members helping

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out where they can.
I hope to see you on the water soon.
Tight lines,
Ryan

This Months Presentation: Skip Morris

About Skip Morris...

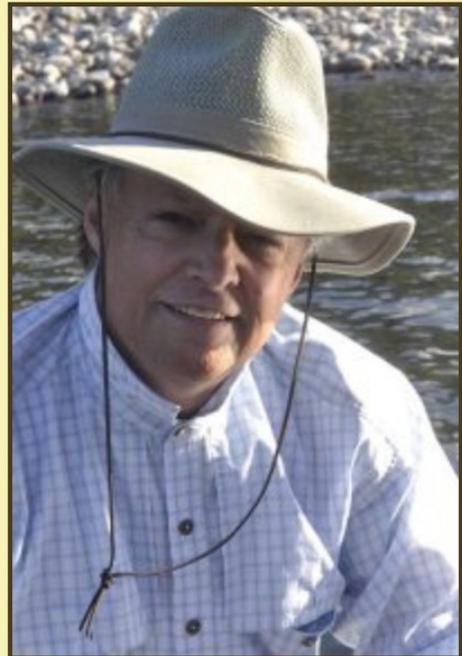
Skip Morris is among the most prolific fly-fishing and fly-tying authors alive—*his name is known to anglers around the world.*

He has **written eighteen books on fly fishing and tying**, including the established standard beginning fly tier's volume ***Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple***, and ***The Art of Tying the Bass Fly, Morris & Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes*** (with lake-fishing guru Brian Chan), ***Concise Handbook of Fly Tying***, and ***Fly Fisher's Guide to Western River Hatches***.

His **videos and DVD's** range from *instruction for tying nymphs*, to *tying bass flies*, to *tying and fishing flies for sea-run cutthroat trout*.

Skip has published **over 250 articles on fly fishing and tying** in magazines from *Fly Fisherman* to *American Angler*. For three years he was **among the hosts of the "Fly-Fish Television Magazine" show**.

As a **speaker and clinician**, Skip is **well-known as an entertaining, concise, and knowledgeable presenter**, with a *sly sense of humor* and an *easygoing manner* that draws in the audience.



***Noted fly fishing author and speaker,
Skip Morris***

Program information is unavailable.

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Fly of the Month: Information is unavailable

By: Tim Cooley

Meeting Date Change:

Per Terry Abrams, the date of the February 2018 monthly meeting will be Friday, February 16 instead of Thursday, February 15, in order to accommodate our presenter who is traveling from Terrace, B.C. and will also be participating in the Fly Fishing Show in Lynnwood on February 17 and 18. Please mark your calendars.

Introduction to Fly Fishing Course:

By: Bruce Freet

After a hiatus last year for health reasons, I will be coordinating the teaching for the Introduction to Fly Fishing again during the winter quarter of 2018 at Skagit Valley College, Community Education Program. Registration will begin the first week of November and the course will probably fill with 16 students by the end of the month. The course begins on January 3rd and ends on March 14th, every Wednesday night from 6:30 to 9:00 pm, plus some optional Saturday sessions for a total of more than 35 hours of instruction. The fly fishing topics include: Matching Rods, Reels, and Fly Lines; Casting; Selecting Leaders, Knots, and Tippets; Learning about Trout Foods; Tying Flies; Trout Habitats in Streams, Stillwaters, and Saltwater; Strategies and Methods; and Accessory Equipment and Safety. Also we will seek a private lake for student fishing on Saturday, March 10th. Our Club provides everything that the student needs for learning from rods, reels, and fly lines to fly tying vises and materials. The cost is \$125 per student. The College and Club share the revenue, and our Club disperses its money as stipends to instructors to offset their expenses and for replenishing materials. This will be the 12th year our Club has taught this course. We are still formulating a list of instructors so if any members would like to assist, please contact me.

Bruce Freet

Pacific Salmon: *Genus Oncorhynchus*

By: Danny Beatty

The Pacific Salmon is considered to be one of the favorite ICONS of the north Pacific Coast. Local communities where I have lived have a special regard for this prized fish that goes and comes from the nearby streams and rivers.

I have had many and various encounters with Pacific Salmon over the past 83 years. My first remembrance is of my father bringing home salmon after a fishing trip with his brother-in-law or a friend who had boats. These mid-day trips started at what is now Birch Bay State Park where they launched the open 15 or 16-foot lap strake boats. A small 3 or 5 horsepower outboard (often called a kicker) propelled them to the point south and west of the launch site. In the Spring (March or April), the salmon caught were called Spring Salmon, what we now call a black mouth. In the Fall the fish were Silvers, now called a Coho. The Springs were larger but harder to come by and were probably eaten fresh. It was the fall Silvers that I most remember because Dad would catch 3 or 4 and dump them in the galvanized wash tub to rinse and then clean. He had a favorite board which was used to cut up the fish for mom to can for our winter's food variation. This continued through my early years.

My next remembrance was when I was four or five years old (1937 or 38). It was in the late Fall, around Thanksgiving. We lived not far from a small salmon spawning stream. Fall rains were required to allow enough water for the stream to get deep enough for the salmon. One day Dad took me to the stream which was in a deep gully. As we approached the stream Dad cautioned me to be quiet and move slowly. We reached a spot and Dad kneeled down so he could quietly tell me where to look for the Silver Salmon. I kept my eyes on the water and finally saw two fish next to the other side bank. We continued to quietly wait until one of the fish moved out into the current and with the tail fanning at a seemingly furious rate, moved up and through the faster and shallower water. All who read this have either experienced or seen the process on TV. This salmon return continued to be a highlight for my brother and me the following years we lived at that location.

Fourteen years later I graduated from High School planning to attend College. I knew I needed a job other than the subsistence farm work we were used to. Mom heard that a small cannery was starting up in Blaine and I immediately drove there to apply for a job. I sensed that I needed to be 18 years old so when asked my age I lied and said I was born in 1932 to make me 18. The office worker did not ask for proof and filled out the rest of the needed information. A day or two later I got a call to go to work.

My job was to help Gary properly line up the fish as they went into the Iron Chink. (Yes, I know it is a racist term. But that is what it is known by. I think now, you will only find an example in a large museum such as in Vancouver B.C.) These fish were sockeye, probably headed to the Fraser River. I worked at the cannery for two years

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before it closed.

In 1961, after finishing college and a tour in the army, I had a job as a teacher in Anacortes. I moved my family to a house in Anacortes on 6th Street two blocks east of the Guemes Ferry landing. One of the teachers told me that the small cannery to the west of the Ferry dock needed workers. The purse seine and gill net boats were “swamping” the canneries with Humpies and a night shift was added to work in the warehouse. That afternoon I walked to the cannery and ended up working there a few nights until the big “run” of salmon ended.

From 1961 to 1985, when I moved to Gibraltar Road, I had numerous and enjoyable contacts with salmon. I owned a nice 16’ boat with enough power to get around Fidalgo and nearby Islands. Dale Elliott (one of the founders of the Fidalgo Fly Fishers) and I caught many a blackmouth near Fidalgo Head and other locations. My method of fishing was similar to what my Dad used in the 30s and 40s, a kidney sinker with a Canadian Wonder spoon. No downriggers or fish finders.

As noted above, in 1985 I was living on the south shore of Fidalgo Island. Being an odd number year, it brought another run of Humpies or Pinks to Skagit Bay. The day the Department of Fisheries opened the area to commercial fishing, we watched the gill netters scurrying about trying to decide where they would make their sets that night. As dusk turned to darkness their mast lights were brightly dotted across the bay and down Saratoga Passage. I don’t remember what year that commercial fishing ended. Our bedroom window faces the bay and when there were not any more mast lights we realized something was missing during late August - early September.

I bought DOKKA, a 14 ½ foot River Runner in 1989 to fish the lower Skagit. For its size, it is a pretty sea-worthy boat and could also be used in close, around the islands. It was 1991 or 93 that I first fished for Humpies at Ala Spit. I was the only fly fisher I could see. The shoreline from Cornet Bay to Ala Spit was lined with spin fishers. All were successful in catching the smallest of Pacific Salmon. As time went by more fly fishers were seen, some in their inflatable pontoon boats which were becoming so popular.

Since I am writing this for the Wahoo, I’ll tell a nice fishing story. The odd or Humpy year after John Freeman joined the club, I invited him to go fishing in Skagit Bay. It was a successful outing and John hooked a nice size Humpy near Lone Tree Point. After it was landed, John was very pleased. It just may have been the largest fish John had ever caught. He told me later that Lynn and he enjoyed a salmon dinner. If not John’s largest fish, certainly the largest humpy landed in DOKKA.

Now it is 2017 and the Department of Fish and Wildlife closed the 8-1 Marine area and the Skagit River to all fishing. Years past, when not fishing myself, I’d look across the bay to Ala Spit with the parking lot full of cars and fishers lining the shore. Recreational fishing boats trolled along the kelp beds between Hoypus Point and the spit. Today (9-7-17), when I looked there at noon, the end of the spit was

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vacant of people. One car was in the parking lot and the owner and others may have been on a picnic or just looking around at the view.

With over 80 years of close and personal contact with the Pacific Salmon, I wonder what will be next. Is there a future for this beloved Icon we fishers cherish? I certainly hope so!

Danny Beatty

September 7, 2017

What Was the Education Committee Doing Since Last May?

By: Russ Asbury

Last spring at our Club meetings you were told that volunteers were needed to instruct fly tying and casting at the Anacortes Middle School starting in October. This committee intended to do exactly that - meeting multiple times a month developing class plans, reviewing handout material and facility use request paper work. All seemed to be going well until last May when we were blindsided by an eighty dollar an hour facility use fee - yeah, \$80 per hour! The Committee Chair, Russ Asbury, notified the Middle School, the School District and Anacortes Parks and Recreation that the Fidalgo Fly Fishers Education Committee is withdrawing their request of facility use at the Middle School.

In the 2nd week of June the Education Committee regrouped and made a commitment to develop a summer program for youth 12 to 16 to receive fly tying and casting instruction at no cost to the students. Instruction would take place in the Anacortes Library and Causland Park, class size would be limited to ten students. Flyers were developed, an email address for students to register was setup, news paper and an advertising publication agreed to list the classes. By now we were well into July - school is starting prior to September and the Committee selected August 8th and the 15th for the classes held at the library and park. Flyers were distributed around town, numerous youth organizations were contacted.

Committee members told neighbors about the classes and talked of the classes with persons in town and in the county.

At class time on August 8th there were three (3) students.

On August 15th there were no students.

The Youth Education Program deserves the support of Fidalgo Fly Fishers - youth are the future of Fly Fishing. We can all kick around the activities laid out above - perhaps a change of venue and a longer duration of notice. Persons far more intelligent than I are at work on this.

Russ Asbury, Education Committee Chair

NORTH SOUND TROUT UNLIMITED PRESENTS

**VETERANS SERVICES PROGRAM
FLY CASTING CLINIC & BBQ**

SEPTEMBER 16TH 2017

11:00AM - 3:00PM



FREE FOR ALL VETERANS, MILITARY CIVILIANS, SPOUSES, CHILDREN

EDGEWATER PARK
MOUNT VERNON, WA

808-728-9832

CASTING SEMINARS / BBQ / CASTING CONTEST / PRIZE GIVEAWAY

Teaching veterans and their families the skills to cast a fly rod!

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Upcoming Events:

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

St. Joe River Outing

On September 14th several Fidalgo Fly Fishers will depart Western Washington for the St Joe River. This is a week long outing fishing for west slope cutthroat. There will be walk-in fishing, and pontoon drifting. Steven Foster is coordinating this Outing, and if you are interested just let him know. The group will set-up at the Huckleberry Campground upstream of St. Maries just off forest service road 50. The forest service campground has paved RV pads, tent camping on the grass, chemical toilets, and electricity. You can check river conditions at Calder, just below Huckleberry Campground here <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?12414500>
Refer to the Bulletin Board Here: <http://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/smf/index.php?topic=6.0>



2018 Proposed Outings

The Board of Directors have reviewed and approved the proposed 2018 Outings as presented by Bruce Freet and the Outings Committee at its September 7th Board Meeting. A summary Google slide Presentation of the Proposed Outings is available for Member viewing here: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vRFGoJ79ueUrhLo4iEysYlwSO452gGpbch5AWDyrqcKLBwQtkVO2W9cvdE-VNy0bZlyBnsPBjr9Xrix/pub?start=true&loop=true&delayms=3000> or for a PDF copy : http://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/fidalgoflyfishers/TEXT_WORD/CLUBDOCS/2018-Proposed-Outings.pdf

Bruce will be making a presentation to the Members at the September General Meeting. While the Proposed Outings have the input from the Outings Committee and others, if members have any further recommendations for 2018 outings, please send those recommendations to Bruce at outingsandevents@fidalgoflyfishers.com or submit them at the September meeting. The Outings Committee will be recruiting Outings Coordinators and the Coordinators will be setting the final dates and conditions. Your input is solicited and appreciated, so let the committee know if you have any way of improving this year's activities.

All the Outings have been entered on the Bulletin Board Outings and Events Page and cross referenced to the Outings as individual Topics on the Bulletin Board.



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Photos of the Month: Skagit River Salmon Festival

By: Bill Brodie

The Skagit River Salmon Festival was a great success and Richard and Russ want to thank all those who participated their time and effort. The following is a link to a slide show that shows many of the Participants from the club.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vT02OaDhxCmvqe0mQgPKmEsQckH2jlpfSwwPgmjGbcjRmgvorA7CDVWhoLW7KjVE4A0qe8OpRSXjWF/pub?start=true&loop=true&delayms=3000>

Fly Shops:

The Confluence Fly Shop

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

Other Retail Outlets:

FFF member suggested fly fishing services:

Holiday Sports, Burlington
Cabela's fly shop, Tulalip
Pacific Fly Fishers, Mill Creek
Orvis, Bellevue
North 40 Fly Shop, Omak
Carlton General fly shop, Carlton
Headhunters fly shop, Craig, MT

Please see: <http://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/fidalgoflyfishers/links.html>

If members want to add to the list on the Links, they can contact webproject@fidalgoflyfishers.com with their recommendations.