

WAVY NEWS



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AROUND THE BEND



January Meeting Thursday, Jan 16, 2014

Farmhouse Restaurant

Wet Fly: 6:00 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Mark Raisler, Headhunters Fly Shop

Mark will be speaking to us and sharing some wonderful photos about fly fishing on the Missouri River and elsewhere in western Montana. He and his dad, Dick Raisler, will also be demonstrating how to tie the "Buzz Ball" fly during our "Wet Fly" session.

Mark started fishing, against his will, at a young age. While he did not like angling as much as he does now, he did manage to break several fishing 'poles' in the process of learning to fly fish. In college, he found that his true love was snow skiing. Skiing

for a living in the winter months leads you to need a summertime occupation. So, he turned to fly fishing in the summer of 1993. He was living in Packwood, Washington near the entrance to Mount Rainier Nat'l Park, and found his way back to Mount Vernon to buy a Fenwick fiberglass fly rod. Mark soon broke this rod and replaced it with a \$15 graphite Black Beauty from a swap meet in town.

Today, Mark is a full time trout angler living in Craig, Montana. Mark jokes that he has experienced the downward spiral beginning as a trout bum, commercial tier, casting instructor, fly fishing guide, outfitter, full time blogger, and now the lowest of lows... fly shop owner on the banks of the Missouri River. He cannot think of any other career that would excite as much as this life does. "I am pretty damn energized on a daily basis. A lifetime of learning is ahead of me being involved in this people/fishing business."

Mark owns Headhunters Fly Shop & Guide Service in Craig, Montana, which is the second largest outfitter in the state. He looks forward to becoming the largest.... Check-out their website at www.headhuntersflyshop.com or call them at 1-877-379-3597 or 406-235-3447.

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Tight Lines from the 5wt. Gavel

Happy New Year to everyone. I am looking forward to being your president for the coming year.

Special thanks to Carl and Dan and the rest of the board for their efforts in 2013.

And a big thank you to Ellie for organizing an outstanding Christmas party!

Bruce has a great lineup of speakers for 2014, and Bill Fairey will be coordinating the tiers.

The fly fishing class at Skagit Community college is filled. Thanks to Bruce for his efforts.

Mark your calendar to attend the Lynnwood Fly Fishing Show Feb. 15-16

Our Feb. meeting will be on TUESDAY FEB. 18. This change in days was necessary based on the speakers schedule.

We have some great outings scheduled for the coming year. Check the web site for details.

I welcome your ideas for improving our club and outings. E-mail me at brianfaber01@gmail.com. Lets make 2014 an outstanding fly fishing year.

Thanks-Brian

2014 – Events:

Lynnwood Fly Fishing Show – February 15th and 16th. I hope that many of you can go and support this event. I due believe many carpool down to this event.

May 17-18 for the Atlantic salmon fly expo in Renton. You can view the particulars by going to www.asfi-expo.com. Or, if your browser won't open that link (and apparently some browsers won't), just Google Atlantic Salmon Fly International.

This promises to be a historic gathering of tyers from all over the world. I note the roster of U.S. tyers also includes Steve Gobin and Ted Niemeyer. Steve is a Tulalip Indian, an incredible fly tyer and a bamboo rod builder. Ted has been tying flies locally (and beautifully) almost since Adam.



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SPEY CASTING CLINICS

There are two dates set for Spey Casting Clinics.

January 25th, 9:00 AM - 12:00, Young's Bar, Skagit River, Mount Vernon, instructors are Russ Asbury, Russ Osenbach, Dick Raisler. The clinic is open to all: all levels of interest, style and experience. However, Russ Osenbach specializes in the, currently very popular, long belly casting technique.

February 8th, 9:00AM - 12:00, Young's Bar, Skagit River, Mount Vernon. Ed Megill from the Confluence Fly Shop will be the instructor and supplier of a variety of rods, lines and techniques. The morning session is open to all levels of interest and experience. Experienced Fidalgo Fly Fishers will assist the casters.

Ed has generously offered to stay after a short lunch break for individual instruction as requested. Check the Fidalgo Fly Fisher website "Bulletin Board" for information and comments.

Dick



Bruce Freet casts with a Spey rod on the Skagit River in Mount Vernon. The rods require the use of both hands. The rods run from 12 to 20 feet long. Frank Varga / Skagit Valley Herald

"Worm fishing " with Dave.

A blast from the past this was printed in the Feb 2004 Wahoo.

Late winter is "Worm fishin'" time! The worms I'm referring to are actually not worms at all, but the larvae of Chironomid. Let's back up and take a look at the whole scenerio.

Chironomids life cycle consist of three parts, the larval, pupal, and adult stages. The larva live in the lakes bottom for most of their lives. They then pupate, rise to the surface where it splits it's pupal skin, flying off for mating and death. Normally the larva are borrowed into the bottom structure and are not available for the fish to prey on. Twice a year, however, larva of certain Chironomids "migrate" in late fall, some species will migrate en masse to shallow water. Adversely, in late winter the Chironomids will out-migrate along the bottom to deeper water.

As late winter water surface temperatures rise to near 40 degrees F, turnover will occur. If by circumstance the larva's migration happens during turnover, many larva will be available to trout as they may be buoyed up into the water column. When the waters full of larva, the fish will gorge at their leisure. Also, any time the wind blows for long periods of time, the lake will take a slow roll. This may also lift these defenseless morsels onto the fish's menu.

Chironomid larva vary in size from 3/8's of an inch to over 1 and a 1/2 inches long. The larva are generally the same color as the adult and range from black, brown, red, and green. The red larva are referred to as "bloodworms". The larva are thin, segmented and can only writhe about and can't propel themselves in water.

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To imitate the larva by size and color, take the time to look in the water to spy one. Match the hatch! Fish your offering static in the water column. A long leader and floating line cast downwind will do the trick. Take up the slack and watch the end of your line. I like to leave a little line memory right at the tip. I watch this little bend to straighten as a strike indicator. If it moves in the slightest lift your rod straight up. Fish-on! Good fishing.

Dave Barcott



THE COCK'S WATTLES and other FLY-FISHING TERMS

Fly Line Sweet Spot - the location in a fly line that maximizes the casting ability of the rod. At some point in any fly line sufficient weight of line will be outside the rod tip to maximize bending (loading) of the rod during the casting stroke. If there is not enough weight outside of the rod tip, the rod will not load completely. Too much weight will overload the rod. Learn where the sweet spot is, and casting will be more fun and efficient.



BACKCASTS

Tidbits from the October, November and December Wahoo's past

By Robin La Rue

8 Years Ago: (2006) In October club members helped the Skagit Land Trust plant trees at their Minkler Lake property. Dan Ballard tied the Fly of the Month, a Quigley's mayfly cripple. The November program featured Bruce Freet, Robin La Rue, John Freeman, Dick Raisler, Dan Ballard, and Deene Almvig, and slides of their 60 mile float trip on the remote and scenic Smith River in Montana. Bruce Freet announced the popular "Introduction to Fly Fishing" course would be taught at the Skagit Valley College for the third year. In December, the annual Christmas Party was held at Flounder Bay Cafe.

12 Years Ago: (2002) Several club members attended the Fall Cleanup Work Party at Pass Lake in October. Ten garbage bags of litter were removed from the lake and shoulders of the roadway. The Fidalgo Fly Fishers Casting Team raised \$583.00 for Washington Council of the FFF, thanks to the generosity of club members. The November WAHOO had an interesting article about "Doc Spratley" the man and the fishing fly, researched and written by Dick Raisler. Robin La Rue was looking for a fishing partner for a Tarpon Trip to Florida.

17 Years Ago: (1997) Club members Jim Bishop and Bruce Backlund presented a program on Tarpon fishing on the Yucatan Peninsula at the November meeting. A discussion was held regarding the disbanding and liquidating of the club library. The Decem-

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ber meeting was held at Slocum's Restaurant with the ticket price set at \$17.00 per person.

32 Years Ago: (1982) Club coffee cups were available from Bob Williams Mug shop for \$7 according to Ed Capasso. Harry Dawson reported the mold for the club belt buckle had been found and brass belt buckles were available from Anacortes Brass Works for \$10 to \$15 a piece depending on the number ordered. The December Awards Meeting was held at the Harbor Restaurant at 7th and Commercial

37 Years Ago: (1977) Bob Whitney, Treasurer said we had a good year, with the bank balance at \$113.25. Danny Beatty was selected as the Club's delegate to the Washington Council FFF meeting in Moses Lake. Fidalgo Fly Fisher members, Dan Coleman, Mike Loyd, Ken Jacot, Bob Whitney and Robin La Rue tied flies at the Northwest Steelheaders Clinic in the Pay N Save mall in Mount Vernon.

Buzzball

The Buzzball fly pattern was designed by the late Gary LaFontaine, author, tier, fly fishermen, to simulate clusters of midges often found in tailwaters during the fall and spring. This fly is very effective on the Missouri River all year long because of the prolific hatches of midges; caddis, PMD's, Trico's and other mayflies. The surface film can be latterly covered with dead, dying, crippled bugs. One could say the Mighty Mo is "bug soup". The Buzzball imitates all these insects in a variety of stages, and for this reason, is one of Mark Raisler's favorite flies.



Hook: Tiemco 100 or 101 - standard dry fly hook

Hook Size: 14 to 16

Thread: 8/0 brown

Body: Medium dun and orange grizzly hackle palmered and trimmed all around the hook to the hook gape length.

Overbody: Grizzly hackle; feather barbules should be 1 ½ the hook gape in length; then trim on the top and bottom only even with the body hackle (above)

Wing: Antron, white or black

Head: Brown thread tied-off with a whip finish

Notes: This fly does a really great job of imitating those large midge clusters often found in early spring on tailwaters. Gary LaFontaine originally tied it without the Antron wing, but it was later added to make it more visible to the angler on those gray days. Go to "Tying the Buzzball" on YouTube.com for further instruction by Mark.

Bruce Freet

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**HAPPY NEW
YEAR**

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