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APRIL MEETING

Thursday, April 17, 2014

Farm House Restaurant, La Conner

Wet Fly: 6:00PM

Dinner/General Meeting: 7:00PM

Speaker of the Month –Dave Pflug

David Pflug is a fisheries scientist/strategic advisor with the City of Seattle, working on river flow management issues for salmon protection related to the operation of a large hydroelectric project producing much of the power used by the City of Seattle. David also plays a key role in the implementation of fisheries mitigation, restoration, enhancement and research programs designed to minimize the operational impacts of the hydroelectric project. David has over 30 years experience in water resource management, riverine restoration and salmon recovery activities across the United States including

Washington, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Virginia and Alaska. His experience has come from positions with a water resource consulting firm, Seattle City Light (public electrical utility), the University of Washington, and several Native American Tribes. His work has included hydroelectric flow management, strategic policy guidance, coordination with federal/state/tribal resource agencies, endangered species recovery, habitat restoration, salmon behavior and habitat use research, and stream restoration and monitoring. He received his M.S. and B.S. degrees from the University of Washington, School of Aquatic and Fisheries Science.

Wild/Hatchery Steelhead Interactions in the Skagit River Watershed

Program Synopsis:

Three organizations, WDFW, Skagit River System Cooperative (Skagit Tribes) and Seattle City Light formed a partnership study **to better understand how hatchery steelhead maybe effecting wild steelhead populations in the Skagit River watershed.** By answering questions regarding genetic impacts of interbreeding wild/hatchery stocks and ecological issues at the juvenile lifestage,

hatchery steelhead programs can be adjusted to reduce these impacts, which should result in increased abundance of the natural origin steelhead stocks.

The outcome of this genetic and ecological work may have profound effects on how federally listed Skagit steelhead are managed and hopefully recovered in the future.

Fly of the Month

Thompson River Caddis



Recipe:

Hook: Partridge, low water, #4

Thread: Black 3/0 monochord (Deene uses 6/0 green-grey & yellow dubbing loop.)

Tail: none

Body: watery green angora or light olive & white mixed 4:1 angora

Legs: Moose body hair

Wing: Pheasant body feather, green phase

Head: Moose body hair, spun and clipped; black thread & head cement

Formula:

1. Using 6/0 green-grey thread, tie-on behind the hook eye and wrap back to the bend;
2. Use the green-grey thread to tie-in a dubbing loop of 6/0 light yellow thread, add the mixed angora, spin the loop, and wrap the dubbing forward to 3/16 in. of the hook eye;

3. Tie the green phase pheasant body feather on top of the hook, so it extends to the hook bend or slightly short of it;

4. Cut about 1/4 in. of moose body hair, stack it to even the ends, hold it on top of the hook, take two soft (light tension) thread wraps over it, pull upward on the thread in a oblique motion to roll or spin the hair with one hand while using the other to aid the rotation;

5. Make another wrap of thread and pull downward hard to flair the front of the moose hair;

6. Make one or two thread wraps back toward the fly body to pull the hair closer to the body; then wrap the thread forward, weaving it between the moose hair butt ends to the bare hook about 1/8 in. back for the eye;

7. Tie-off the green-grey thread with a couple of half-hitches and tie-on black thread;

8. Clip the butt ends of the moose hair top and bottom as shown to form the head; and

9. Wrap the black thread to complete the head, whip finish, and apply head cement.



By: Deene Almvig

Harry Lemire's Thompson River Caddis

Our speaker this month, Dave Pflug, requested that Deene Almvig tie him Harry Lemire's Thompson River Caddis instead of payment. When I asked Deene, he graciously agreed and our interesting journey began to learn more about Harry Lemire and his fly. Today, there are several versions of the Thompson River Caddis, but Deene has tried to replicate Lemire's recipe as close as possible.



Harry Lemire (1932-2012) was a humble, mentoring gentleman, avid steelheader, and a true artist of a fly tier. For us, his story begins when he moved from his native New England to the Pacific Northwest to take a job with Boeing. He lived in Black Diamond and later Bothell, WA. It didn't take long before he was fly fishing and tying for steelhead. In 1962 he developed the first steelhead dry fly, the Grease Liner, specifically designed to create a wake on the river's surface. Over the years, Harry developed several steelhead floating fly patterns like the Thompson River Caddis that are the standard for today's fly fishers. He was renowned for tying flies at

fly fishing conclaves without a vise, holding the fly in one hand while tying it with the other ... this "in-hand" method is certainly not an easy feat! As a member of the Northwest Atlantic Fly Tyers Guild, his fly tying skills attained an artistic level that brought over \$1,000 per fly at auction. A brief search of the Internet will bring you face to face with many photographs of his colorful and magnificent flies.

Harry also influenced the development of the two-handed spey rod and fly lines for steelhead fishing. After returning from an Atlantic salmon fishing trip to the British Isles in the 1980's, he worked with friend Jimmy Green of the Sage Manufacturing company to test and produce two-handed fly rods and fly lines for steelhead, eventually revolutionizing these rods world-wide.

The Thompson River near Spencer's Bridge, B.C. is famous for its large steelhead, 25 lbs.+, its slippery bowling ball-sized rocks that require wading boot studs, and the use of 15 to 17 ft spey rods. The October caddis skim these waters when the steelhead return, and Lemire's fly certainly looks "buggy" enough to lure any fish into a grab.

"If you feel that I've given away a lot of secrets --- don't worry about it. After fishing for steelhead for over sixty years, steelhead fishing as I know it is almost gone." Harry Lemire (Hopefully, we will be able to restore the declining steelhead populations for the ecological integrity of our streams and the enjoyment of our future generations ... revitalizing this unique sport.)



By: Bruce Freet

Renzetti Vises Up Date

Wow! As a club we all came together and decided that supporting an educational program was really important. With the large response from many of you it has allowed us to purchase all the vises that we needed for the Fly Tying Class. The vises are Renzetti Travel Vises with a base plate (no more clamping issues). Each vise base plate will have the name of a donor engraved into it so that the students can see the support of club members'.



I want to thank each and every member that supports the educational programs the club provides. It is an outstanding way to support the community and future of the sport of fly fishing.

The following Members we want to give a special thanks to for donating a vise:

Ellie Wright, Don McKeehn, Oliver Iverson, Pam Church, Dennis Wilson, Carolyn Sutton, Dave Barcott, Dave Cortelyou, John Ballenger, Russ Osenbach, Brian Faber and Carl Hendricks.

We had a few others that offered as well, a big thank you to you as well.

Fly Tying Class –Skagit Community College

The class is full! The class will be every Wednesday at 6:30pm starting April 9th and running to May 7th. Class is at Skagit Community College in classroom T-41.

The following flies are scheduled to be tied:

1. Black Sally, Bloodworm
2. Damsel Nymph, Hare's Ear
3. Pheasant Tail Nymph, Callibaetis Mayfly Dun
4. Elk Hair Caddis, Tom Thumb
5. Chum Baby, Rusty Spider

A few of the students that have enrolled in the class are former students of this year's fly fishing class.

Up Coming Outings

Ellensburg Fly Fishing Fair 2014

Ellensburg, WA May 3-4. Sat. 9:00am to 5:00pm and Sun. 8:00am to 3:00pm. Located at the Ellensburg Fair Grounds. Lots of fly tiers and presentation. Go have fun!

Big Twin Lake, May 5th thru 7th

Near Winthrop, WA east side of the Cascades Mountain Range. Trailer and camp site for

you to stay at. Talk with Dan Ballard or Dan Farmer for info.

Last call: 2014 Janice Lake Outing

Planning on attending the June 5-9, 2014 Janice Lake Outing in B.C.? If so, you must reserve your spot with a \$155 deposit by April 17, 2014 general meeting. For more info, see the Feb 2014 Wahoo:

http://fidalgoflyfishers.com/fidalgoflyfishers/wahoo/wahoo_feb_2014.pdf or contact Dan Farmer at Fidalgoflyfishers@gmail.com



Janice Lake Lodge



Photo - Janice Lake

Fish Census and Report



Saturday, March 29th, the Fourth Corner Fly Fishers had their Pass Lake outing with several members measuring fish. We now have census data from the Evergreen Fly Fishers, Whidbey Island Fly Fishers, and the Fourth Corner Fly Fishers. I do not have any data yet from the Fidalgo Fly Fishers, and I will be at our “April Fools” outing on April 5th. If you have completed fish census forms, please give them to me now.

With few exceptions, the Fourth Corner Fly Fishers stayed in the first bay, closest to the launch ramp. The surface water temperature was 48 deg. F, the chironomid hatch was ON, and the swallows were flying low above the water to feed on flying midges. The most productive fly was a black body, silver wire rib, and black bead on a long shanked #16 or #14 hook or its reverse color pattern of anti-static bag, black rib, and gunmetal bead. The fish were feeding at 14 ft. depth and upward. One angler caught four fish in an hour and 15 minutes in the second bay (south-side near hwy.) on an olive body, black bead chironomid fly tied on a #16 scud hook. I was told that fishing the black body, silver rib fly with a hand-twist (slow) retrieve method using an intermediate fly line (fishing “blind” or without a strike indicator) has been productive this past week.

UPDATE: Despite the threatening weather, we had a good turnout for our “April Fools” event and the fly of choice was an anti-static

bag or “chromie” body on either a scud or long shanked #14 or #16 hook with a red rib and gunmetal bead fished from 7 to 17 feet depth. While there is still data to be entered and analyzed, the preliminary results (trends) from everyone’s fishing efforts between March 18th and April 5th are: the “volunteer” hours fished will exceed 100 hours; the number of fish caught will be close to 200, but probably average about 1.8 fish per hour; the number of brown trout will be about 15 fish or less than 8% when it should be 25%; the average fish length is 15.1 inches; the average weight is 1.2 pounds; the smallest fish was 13 inches and the largest fish, a brown trout, was 19.5 inches and 3.4 pounds. When completed, our fish census will be shared with the other clubs involved and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in an effort to improve the fishery.

By: Bruce Freet

A Big Thank You!



Bob Huddleston

BOB HUDDLESTON Steps Away as Wahoo Editor

Bob Huddleston has been editing **Wahoo News** since 1991. During almost 23 years of service to the club, Bob has brought many changes to the news quality and readability of the newsletter. Grasping an early understanding for the future of computers, online and email, Bob developed the Wahoo format which was better than the previous systems.

Gathering the material, organizing and publishing was still a big monthly project. But every month the members received a top flight newsletter about a week before the meeting. His thought was not to send it to early so the members would have the meeting date firmly in mind.

As the years moved along and more members were using computers, Bob expanded the newsletter to color for the mast and pictures. Circulation moved from mailing envelopes to where all but two or three members are getting their copy online. When there was not much material furnished from members and board, he had a wealth of material he could add from fly fishing websites. Always with a thought toward what is of interest to members.

When the club was formed that winter of 1974-75 our mentor, Ed Foss, member of the Washington Fly Fishing Club, told me that the club’s newsletter was the “glue” that held it all together. During almost forty years there have been four other editors. Bob has been responsible for that “glue” during 58% of the time.

Bob is a club past president. He is a proficient fly tier and one of only two members who have demonstrated fly tying at the International Fly Fishing Show. His year was the 25th Anniversary Show in Eugene, Oregon. He enjoys swinging one of his original patterns to coax a steelhead to a take and the ensuing play.

Thank you, Bob! Your years of service have been appreciated by all the members during that time.

By: Danny

Next Meeting, May 15th

Next month we have our annual swap meet and program about new equipment and tying materials. If you have something that you haven't used in the past couple of years, consider bringing it into our swap meet during the "Wet Fly" session from 6 to 7:00pm. For our program, The Confluence Fly Shop will show us the latest equipment as well as fly tying materials ... and perhaps, raffle something of interest. So, plan ahead for our last meeting before summer, offer an "old" item for sale, and buy a raffle ticket for that "new" must have item.

New Members in February



Robert Joyner – Jim Paget – Dan Ballard –
Tom Osgood

President Brian Faber introduced Robert Joyner and Tom Osgood as new members to those attending the February meeting. Jim Paget spoke on behalf of Robert Joyner and Dan Ballard told of his association with Tom Osgood. Please Welcome Robert and Tom when you visit with them at meetings and outings.

Robert Joyner has been fly fishing for over 50 years. His best fishing buddy is his son. After

An Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishes

retiring in Seattle, his wife and he moved to Mount Vernon. His preference is for fishing in moving water, both small streams and rivers. Jim Paget

I have known Tom for about a year since he began treating me for my macular degeneration problem. In the course of that time, I came to learn that he is a fly fisherman and expressed interest in joining our club. He has fly fished for most of his life mostly in lakes and smaller streams and has also advised me that he is interested in taking your (Danny's) fly tying course at the senior center if he can fit it in with his schedule as he is still practicing medicine full time. Tom moved to this area in January of 2013. He is a former member of the Wenatchee Fly Fishers. I believe he will become an excellent member of the Fidalgo Fly Fishers. Dan Ballard
By: Danny

New Members in March



Jim Rains Terry Abrams Danny Beatty
Will Moffitt

President Brian introduced a new member and a returning member at the March 2013 meeting. Jim Rains is the new member and Will Moffitt is the returning member. Jim was sponsored by Terry Abrams his father in law. Danny told the members that Will was an early member of the club and is in one of the

early pictures of club members at a Pass Lake outing/work party. Will has been attending meetings since last fall wearing his original name badge. Treasurer Patrick thought that the club could afford a new badge with the proper club name which changed during Will's absence. Danny pointed out that Jim and Terry represent the first family membership of this type for the fly fishing club.

Terry then told about Jim's background and interests. He works for Anacortes Parks and Recreation. "People like Jim are the future of the club. He is an enthusiastic sportsman with a great sporting ethic. Jim is very active in his church and a leader in its AWANA program. Jim looks forward to working with club members to further the sport and make new friends."

By: Danny

Committees

This is where the work gets done and we need help! We urgently need to fill our committees, particularly from new members. There are two future events that demand our attention: the Casting Games and the Anacortes Art Walk on June 6th and 7th (Friday and Saturday) in conjunction with the Waterfront Fest --- both events are the charge of the Education Committee.

NOTICE: We will be contacting new members via email to ask them to join a committee of their choice. A word to the wise --- if the committees are not filled, a raffle of new member names will be used to complete them. Of course, we will welcome old members too. The following committees need new members:

Awards; Dave Barcott, chairperson --- This committee manages the Club awards in

recognition of special service such as the President's Award or goofs such as the "Half Assed Award.

Christmas Party; Ellie Wright, chairperson --- This committee organizes and operates the annual Christmas Party, which is the third Thursday of December instead of a regular Club meeting. There are several spaces available.

Club Store; a new committee without a chairperson --- This committee will obtain hats, shirts, fly boxes, decals, etc. with the Club logo and work with the Treasurer for sale to members.

Conservation and Grants; Dick Raisler, chairperson --- This committee reviews fish habitat preservation and restoration grant requests and recommends organizations for the Club to donate money to and the amounts. We approved their grant recommendations last month.

Education; Patrick Smedlie, chairperson --- This committee organizes and participates with the Introduction to Fly Fishing and Fundamentals of Fly Tying courses at Skagit Valley College as well as the Skagit River Salmon Festival and similar events such as the Casting Games. The Fly Tying sub-committee is chaired by Bill Fairey and likely will play a major role in getting members involved in the coming Anacortes Art Walk. This committee will also take the lead in organizing our involvement in the Skagit River Salmon Festival on Saturday, Sept. 6th.

While Russ Asbury will continue to manage the Casting Games at the Federation of Fly Fishers Conclave in Ellensburg on May 3rd and 4th (Saturday and Sunday) this year, and has enough helpers. However, after doing this for several years, he needs a break, and we need to find an able replacement for 2015.

Membership; the chairperson role usually goes to the vice president, which is currently Bruce Freet. This committee receives membership applications, prepares membership packets and name tags, assists the President in presenting new members to the Club (induction), and takes photos of the induction and writes brief articles for the Wahoo.

Outings; Carl Hendricks, chairperson --- This committee organizes Club fly fishing gatherings, group events, or outings whatever you wish to call them. We just completed our Chironomid Capers and April Fools outings as Pass Lake. The next outing is at Big Twin Lake from May 6th thru 8th, and the catching has been great in past years so give this your serious consideration. There are other opportunities to get together, so consider getting involved here.

Wahoo; Carl Hendricks, editor --- Carl is doing a lot of work for the Club and it would certainly be nice to have a lending hand, so please consider helping him wherever possible.

Website; Bill Brodie, chairperson --- Bill has done an outstanding job in getting our website, www.fidalgoflyfishers.com, up and running, and Carl Hendricks and Dennis Wilson have been working with him.

PASS LAKE CLUB OUTING



Banner and Canopy



Frank and Dena

April Fools + Four 2014 (4/5/14)
Frank Barcott organized the April Club Outing at Pass Lake. Once again the weather was cool with a few sprinkles. With the canopy covering the picnic table the club purchased from Louie Corbin funds, Frank had the Coleman stove heating chili and boiling hot dogs when I arrived. A styrofoam box of warm baked potatoes were brought in by Tom Fulk. Building your favorite combination was aided by lots of butter, sour cream, cheese, condiments and a topping of fresh from the garden chopped chives. Soon the small boats and pontoons started lining up along the shore with hungry and cold members ready to eat and visit.



Patrick Smedile and Dick Raisler are enjoying some chili dogs and conversation about fishing prospects in Pass Lake. Frank reported that from what he heard the fishing was “spotty” during the morning. When Frank’s family dropped in and he introduced his wife and twenty something daughters to the members, those of us attending this outing over the years realized that Frank has been doing this for a long time. When he started the daughters were young teenagers enjoying some Saturday time with dad.

By: Danny

Photo of the Month



Photo By: Dave McCoy with Emerald Water Angles, Seattle WA.