



VOLUME 49

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DECEMBER MEETING

Thursday, December 18, 2014 @ , La Conner Seafood & Prime Rib

Wet Fly, Ticket Sale and Conversation: 6:00PM

Dinner: 7:00PM

Last Words form The Leader:

By: Brian Faber, President



As my year as president comes to a close I would like to thank the members of the board for their enthusiastic help and support. Also a job well done to the committee chairs and their members.

A huge thank you to Ellie for her masterful performance in orchestrating the Christmas party.

On another note-I just returned from a three week photo tour in Cambodia and Thailand. I saw heart wrenching poverty, extremely crowded living conditions, and traffic that would make I-5 on Friday afternoon seem like a cakewalk.

As I returned home to the beautiful Pacific Northwest I was again reminded how fortunate we are to live and fish in our area of the world. So as we approach the Holiday season stop and reflect on how lucky we are- don't take it for granted.

Best wishes to you all for a happy and safe holiday season, and thank you for your support during my year as president.

Brian

Fly of the Month

By: Carl Hendricks

Name: *The Christmas Fly*

To all member of the Fidalgo Fly Fisher, another year has passed and we have had many great flies tied for our enjoyment by many good tiers. So with that I wanted to do something fun and different for the fly of the month. We normally don't have a fly this month since we have our Christmas party. This fly is for fun, it may or may not catch a fish but I hope that it will catch the eyes of many that see it. So please enjoy!

Items Needed:

Hook: TMC 7999 Size 2

Thread: Monofilament, size .006

Tail: White Marabou w/ Red Accent Flash

Body: Red Chenille and White Chenille, size is fine.

Hackle: Bright Green Mallard Flank and Red Strung Chinese Saddle Hackle

Ornament: Glass or plastic can get at Michaels or Hobby Lobby (pack of mid-size, 4 to 6 balls is \$3.99)

Line: Some 4lb test mono fishing line to attach fly to top of ornament.

First thing is to get your favorite drink, fishing show, good warm heater and a nice comfortable place that you can sit and tie a fly! After that you create whatever comes to your mind. I used the materials listed above and did a few different flies.

I have a few pictures below so that you can see the final product:



Pass Lake Fly Fishing History - IV:

By: Danny Beatty

Review & Edits: Ken Jacot and Robin LaRue

On December 19, 1974 – one day away from forty years later when the Fidalgo Fly Fishers celebrate at the December 18, 2014 Holiday/Christmas Party – a group of Anacortes fly fishers gathered at Danny Coleman’s home to formulate the organization of a fly fishing club. The club’s history on the web site explains how Errol Champion (NW Federation Council President), Ed Foss (Council Secretary/Treasurer) and Bob Strobel met earlier in the month with local fly fishers to offer their support. Ed Foss and Errol Champion were members of the Washington Fly Fishing Club (WFFC) and had brought their club’s bylaws and other papers to the previous meeting which offered ideas and methods of getting the club up and running. Errol went on to be the Federation of Fly Fishers (Federation) treasurer and president. Ed was very involved with the sea-run cutthroat coalition.

At the December 19th meeting Danny Coleman was elected president and continued his membership for about ten years. Dale Elliott was elected vice president and remained in the club until his death about thirty-five years later. Dale suggested the club be called the Fidalgo Fly Fishermen which the group approved. Danny Beatty was elected secretary/treasurer and continues his membership in the Fidalgo Fly Fishers. Other fly fishers were soon added as we talked to our fly fishing friends.

From the beginnings of the club’s formation, Pass Lake was a topic of discussion and involvement. We knew about how the WFFC first petitioned the Game Commission to have Pass Lake fly fishing only. We also knew some “old timers” who had fished Pass Lake when it had larger fish. Three of these men (Emory Harrison, Russ Willis and Louis Corbin) eventually joined the club.

On March 8, 1975 Danny Beatty and Danny Coleman met Charles Gold and Ralph Wahl in Burlington and rode with them to Fife for the NW Council Meeting of the Federation of Fly Fishers. At that meeting and from then on, when Fidalgo members attended such events, Pass Lake was always a topic of discussion.

The Council Meeting and the ride down and back prompted Danny Beatty to write the following report in the March 20, 1975 club meeting minutes. “Is the club interested in doing some research on Pass Lake? I could fill a half page on what I learned at the meeting and on the way home about Pass Lake. Rainbow brood stock, Vibert boxes,

Quality waters, etc. I took notes on comments by Enos Bradner and Ralph Wahl on Pass Lake. Ralph has kept a fishing diary since 1939 and will share it if we are interested.”

Doug Fletcher, Game Department Biologist, and Jim Aggergaard, local Wildlife Agent attended that March 20th meeting. Doug presented the program on fish populations and the problems of illegal plantings. He went on to talk about Pass Lake and changing species which prompted much discussion. “Doug felt that the present method of planting rainbows meets the high pressure and demand of fishers now. Lakes of Fidalgo Island have high productivity for Western Washington and rainbows better utilize the zooplankton present in the lakes.” He would welcome the club’s involvement of creel checks and attitudes of fishers.

Three Pass Lake club projects were planned for the club’s first spring – 1975. On April 12, 1975. It was reported that more than a pickup load of trash was hauled away. On April 20, 1975 Opening Day Fidalgo members were at Pass Lake to do the creel census instead of fishing. The first project, headed up by Dale Elliott was the placement of a large sign from the Federation explaining the fly fishing only regulations for Pass Lake. The second project was a work party to clean up the lake’s shoreline and roadsides. These projects were completed



1975 Creel Census Operation. Left to right

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Danny Coleman, Jim Aggergaard and Marvin Elliott. Jim Aggergaard was the Game Protector and lives in Anacortes. He often attended club meetings and projects such as you see here. His interest was also helpful when contacting other Game Department personnel. (Picture by Robin LaRue)

Danny Coleman was asked by the NW Council President, Errol Champion, to be the chairman of a Pass Lake Committee which would work toward improving the quality of fishing. Danny and others developed a questionnaire which was circulated to members of the Fidalgo Fly Fishermen and other area fly club's members. By a large majority, those fly fishers that filled out the questionnaire were in favor of having the chance to catch a larger fish even if that resulted in an overall fewer fish available. Sample of the questionnaire: I would like to see Pass Lake regulated as Quality Water: Yes 52 No 19

During the years that the WFFC and other clubs were advocating that Pass and other lakes have lower creel limits was a fishing regulation pertaining to creel limits. At the club's April 17, 1975 meeting it came up again when Wildlife Agent Jim Aggergaard informed us that "fish brought to the boat or net and released must be counted as part of the bag limit and will be enforced".

With the backing of the NW Council, the results of the questionnaire and possible Naïveté, Ken Jacot and Danny Beatty traveled to Alderbrook at the south end of Hood Canal on August 20, 1975 for the Game Commission's meeting. Danny presented a paper to the Commission stating that Pass Lake should be changed to Quality Water status. The commission was respectful and asked for further study.

On September 18, 1975 the club did the second opening creel census. Game Department biologists were present. A new, more complete questionnaire was handed out. (Of interest to me as I remember these questionnaires, the first one was done with the spirit duplicator method; the second (and much easier to read) was done with mimeograph method.) By the club's October 1975 meeting, approximately 600 questionnaires had been sent to the entire Puget Sound fly fishing clubs and area sporting goods stores. By the January 1976 board meeting, 208 returned survey forms were analyzed and the results were overwhelmingly (86%) in favor of changing Pass Lake to Quality Water regulations.

Jim Johnston, Director of Research in Fisheries Management Division of the Game Department presented the program at the January 15, 1976 meeting of the Fidalgo Fly Fishers. After his program and while discussing the Pass Lake project, Jim commented that – "Letters written to state or federal agencies should be well thought out and not emotional. If this is done they (the letters) will be read and will have influence on the agency."

The March 18, 1976 Fidalgo Fly Fishmen's club meeting received a report from Dan Coleman that he had been in contact with Doug Fletcher and was pleased to report the biologist's surveys showed the Pass lake fish to be ¾ inch longer than the previous year. He also asked the club to do an opening day creel census from dawn to dusk.



Another Pass Lake Cleanup work party was held on March 27, 1976 fourteen of the club's members with Dave Rice the leader, again filled a pickup load of trash from around Pass Lake.

This is an example of an early clean up effort. From left – Ken Jacot (white turtleneck) Danny Beatty (behind Ken's shoulder) Dale Elliott (white stocking cap) Robin LaRue (plaid jacket) Danny Coleman (black hat) Dave Rice (kneeling left) Marvin Elliott (kneeling right) Most of the club members attended.

Doug Fletcher attended the April 1, 1976 Executive Board meeting. He explained some of his concerns about changing Pass Lake to Quality Water. With the reduced plant in 1975, the growth rate only increased $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, still below the twelve inch minimum hoped for. He said there was not any cutthroat in the test netting he conducted earlier in March. Doug has looked into other strains of rainbow and cutthroat trout to get greater growth.

On April 3, 1976 Danny Beatty, Danny Coleman and Robin LaRue attended the Federation's NW Council meeting. They gave a progress report on efforts to get the Game Commission to change Pass Lake regulations to Quality Water. Their report was well received and the council clubs continued to support the effort.

The late April 1976 Opening Day at Pass Lake received the VIP treatment! Brad O'Conner outdoor editor for the Seattle Times featured Dale Elliot and Ken Jacot in the write up about the creel census. O'Conner interviewed Dale and Ken early Sunday morning as part of his tour of popular lakes in Island and Skagit Counties. Gordy Young, WFFC member and Federation Senior Advisor, was on the lake that day and as his creel was checked remarked that it was his most delightful opener in many years. Doug Fletcher, District Fish Biologist, and Larry Lennox stopped by about noon to check on how things were going. Lennox was gathering information for the department's Public Information Office. Doug was pleased with the way the creel census was being conducted. Later in the afternoon, Cliff Millenbach, Chief of Game Fisheries, came to get a first hand view of the Pass Lake fishing. Club members checked 281 fishers with 515 rainbow and 43 cutthroat for a 1.99 fish per angler average. With the 190 reported released fish included, the catch was 2.66 per angler. The rainbow averaged 11.9 inches and the cutthroat 10.3 inches, which was a marked length increase over 1975.

On July 7, 1976, Doug Fletcher once again returned to Anacortes to meet with the club's Executive Board and other interested members with his position with regard to changing Pass Lake regulations to Quality Water. The following is taken directly from the July 1976 club newsletter.

"In a six page report to the State Game Department, Doug outlined his position on any changes in regulations. His recommendation is not to change the regulations at Pass Lake for at least one more year. He has reduced the planting level into Pass Lake by another 5,000 rainbow fingerlings which has the reduced planting level from 30,000 two years ago to 20,000 this year. In 1974 30,000 rainbow were planted; in 1975 20,000 rainbow and 5,000 cutthroat; and in 1976 15,000 rainbow and 5,000 cutthroat. The cutthroat were planted at the request of the Fidalgo club. Doug further stated that to make the change to 12 inch minimum, 80% of the fish must reach that length by opening day 1977. He used the data which the club has collected the past two years to show increased growth rate and also to show fisher hours per fish caught. His report also included the questionnaire prepared by the club." From the same newsletter the club did not fully accept the recommendation because Danny Beatty and Ken Jacot prepared a statement asking for the regulation change which was to be presented to the Game Commission on August 30, 1976. Danny had also prepared a histogram of all the creel census data on a large sheet of tag board. He had taken this to the Federation Council meeting and to the meetings with Doug Fletcher. Danny Beatty, Ken Jacot, Danny Coleman and Russ Willis wrote the position paper for the regulation change and had sent it to Game Department Commission members and Department officials. But by the Thursday, July 15, 1976 membership meeting there was some concern over making the presentation to the Game Commission. Doug Fletcher had proposed waiting one more year before making the change to Quality Water. A motion was made and passed that Danny Beatty and Ken Jacot contact the Federation council's officers for their input. We continued to make these necessary contacts which resulted in a final decision to go ahead and attend the Commission meeting and speak to the change during the public hearing session. Since all of the key attendees had received the position paper our efforts will mainly be to reaffirm our stand.

After eighteen months of continued club members work at the creel census, cleanups, Game Department contacts, questionnaires, visual aids, and with much club and council support the Game Department

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commissioners approved changing the fly fishing only regulation for Pass Lake to Fly Fishing Only Quality Water with a three fish, twelve inch minimum creel limit. We asked for barbless hooks but the commission members thought that it would be too much for the time being. While the issue of what constitutes a “controlled” or landed fish was not fully changed, it was accepted that released fish would not count in the three fish creel limit.

2014 in Review:

By: Bruce Freet

Program Speakers

January Mark Raisler; Missouri River, MT
February Phil Rowley; Fishing BC Lakes
March Dave Phlug, Skagit River Steelhead
April Jon Covich; Tropical Fishing Trips
May Scott Willison; New Fly Fishing Equipment & Tying Materials
June Summer, no regular meeting
July Loren Elliott; Fly Fishing Puget Sound & Vancouver Island (Special Program)
August Summer, no regular meeting
September Jeffrey Delia; Sea-Run Cutthroat Trout Fishing, Hood Canal
October Richard Brocksmith; Skagit Watershed Council & 2014 Restoration Projects
November Our Membership; 2014 Fishing Trips to Remember and Share
December Christmas Party; no program speaker

Courses

Introduction to Fly Fishing
Fundamentals of Fly Tying

Outings

January Spey Casting on the Skagit with Ed Megill
February Spey Casting on the Skagit with Ed Megill
2014 Fly Fishing Show, Lynnwood
March “Chironomid Capers”, Pass Lake
Pass Lake Fish Census
April “April Fools”, Pass Lake
May Washington Chapter, IFFF, Conclave; Ellensburg
Big Twin Lake
Anacortes Art Walk
June Janice Lake Fishing Trip
July Casting New Rods and Lines with Scott Willison, Ala Spit
September Casting New Rods and Lines with Scott Willison and the Whidbey Island Fly Fishers, Ala Spit
October “Cutts and Dogs” and the Pass Lake Fish Census



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New Members:

Article By: Danny Beatty

Photo By: John Freeman



Bruce Freet, V.P., introduced three new members at the November 2014 meeting.

From the left, new member, Raymond Ford, Danny Beatty (Mike's & Raymond sponsor), new member, Mike Connelley, new member Mark Nilson, and Chuck Smith (Mark's sponsor).

Raymond Ford is interested in getting involved with the club's fly tying programs. He also wants to help organize outings to some favorite lakes which offer some really nice size fish. Raymond lives in the general area of Alger. (Sponsor: Danny Beatty)

Mike Connelley grew up in Sandy OR where his father taught him to fly fish at an early age. The Sandy River offered some great opportunities to fish for steelhead. After graduating from Oregon State he was offered a job with Washington DNR and works out of the Sedro Woolley office. Often, during fire season, his job takes him some distance away. Last summer he spent time in the Twisp/Winthrop area. He enjoys fishing some of the smaller lakes such as Grandy Lake and Cooper Lake in the central Cascades.

As might be expected from a seasoned steelheader, fly casting is one of Mike's big fly fishing interests. (Sponsor: Danny Beatty)

Mark Nilson joined our club in November 2014 after attending every meeting since last May. Mark is a native Skagitonian who moved away for a while and returned in 2001. Mark currently lives in Clear Lake, in fact, on the waterfront of the lake. He has fly-fished for the past 25 years, mostly concentrating on streams and small rivers. He either wades or uses his float tube. Mark would like to focus on catching cutthroat trout, either in the saltwater along the shores of Puget Sound or on the Skagit River.

Mark is currently the principal of Lyman Elementary School and the principal of State Street High School, located in Sedro-Woolley and affiliated with Job Corps. Being the principal of two schools probably explains the wearing of a tie at our meetings. (Sponsor: Chuck Smith)

Algae Warning Issued For Pass Lake:

Sent to Wahoo By: Dan Farmer

From the Anacortes American, November 25, 2014

A water sample tested this week from Pass Lake in Deception Pass State Park on Fidalgo Island showed the presence of blue green algae toxins, according to the Skagit County Health Department.

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The level of microcystin toxin has triggered the posting of warning signs around the lake. Microcystin is a chronic liver toxin and can cause rash and other symptoms on exposure. Until further notice people should not swim in the lake, drink lake water, or allow pets or horses access to the lake water.

Fish caught from Pass Lake should be cleaned well and guts discarded. Areas of scum should be avoided when boating.

County Environmental Health Specialist Polly Dubbel said the calm sunny weather prior to rain sent the lake into the blue green algae bloom.

“We are finding that this can happen even through the winter months,” Dubbel said. “We won’t be able to have a follow-up sample analyzed until the first week in December due to the holiday ...”

The department asks that people and pets stay out of areas of intense color and scum in lakes. Exposure to algal toxins can have health impacts to people and animals.

For questions concerning lakes in Skagit County, email Polly Dubbel at pollyd@co.skagit.wa.us or go to the Washington State Department of Health at

www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Contaminants/BlueGreenAlgae or <http://skagitcounty.net/Departments/HealthEnvironmental>.

Up Coming Events:

-Christmas Party, December 18th

-Lynnwood, WA: February 14 & 15, 2015

-2015 Fly Fishing Fair Ellenburg WA, May 1 & 2 (Friday/Saturday)

-2015 International Fly Fishing Fair Bend OR @ The Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center, Aug. 11-15th

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

Outing Survey Form:

By: Bruce Freet

At our November 20th Club meeting Carl Hendricks and Bruce Freet circulated an Outings Survey for 2015. They have brainstormed some fly fishing trip ideas and really want to hear back from you, whether or not you wish to attend an outing or not, so please take a few moments to complete this form and return it on or before our next regular meeting on Thursday night, January 15th. If you prefer another trip than what is suggested, there is a “Other” section for you to let us know.

The Outing Survey is an opportunity to get members together that want to fish a particular area or insect hatch. When the survey is completed, Carl and Bruce will share the information with everyone. Each outing or fishing trip will need someone to volunteer as the coordinator and the interested group to help make arrangements. Carl and Bruce will gladly answer questions.

The Outings Survey form can be printed from the Bulletin Board section of our website:

www.fidalgoflyfishers.com .

Outings are a great opportunity to learn about new areas to fish, share fly fishing knowledge, hone your skills, enjoy beautiful scenery, meet new members, share expenses, etc. Also, don’t limit yourself just because you don’t have a boat because there are places where you can rent one. If you don’t like camping,

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there are places where you can stay in a motel and eat at restaurants. We want to be as all inclusive and get as many members involved as possible, and yet not have a huge group descend upon one relatively small lake or stream. On the other hand, just because a group is going to Kamloops to fish some of the surrounding lakes on certain dates doesn't mean that you can't form another group to be there at the same time or a week earlier or later.

We hope that you take plenty of photographs on these Outings, so you and others can develop presentations for our November "Show and Tell" program. Again, look at your calendars, talk to friends, and complete your Outings Survey form. The results will be interesting and lead to some fun times.

Fly Fishing Course:

By: Bruce Freet

Our *Introduction to Fly Fishing* course at the Skagit Valley College, Mount Vernon campus has 5 spaces available of the 16 total. We teach this course during the winter quarter only on Wednesday nights from January 7th through March 18th.

This introductory course focuses upon fly fishing for trout in western North America streams and lakes. The topics include: matching lines, rods, and reels; casting fly line; selecting leaders, knots, and tippets; learning about trout foods and related flies; basic fly tying; trout habitat and behavior; and fly fishing methods. About half of the classes will be actual 'hands-on' learning by doing. There will be a couple optional Saturday classes as well.

Used Fly Rod Sale:

By: Bruce Freet

Since the silent auction of used fly rods at our monthly meetings was not successful this fall, the remaining fly rods will be sold at The Confluence Fly Shop in February 2015. The exact date and time has yet to be determined. Two fly rods not shown here will be auctioned at our Christmas Party, and this list could change slightly because one successful bidder will have his or her choice of seven fly rods. However, Bruce will sell any fly rod to Club members this month only for the "Used Sale Price". All sales are on a first-come, first-served basis, and final. If interested, contact Bruce Freet ASAP.

These fly rods were donated to the Fidalgo Fly Fishers by Paul and Mary Ann Ford of Wenatchee, Washington to create a youth education and conservation fund. All funds collected from the sale of these fly rods will be placed in this fund to promote fly fishing learning opportunities for youth and the conservation of native salmonid fish.

The condition categories are: **VF** for used a couple of times, but no marks or other damage; **F** for used often, but shows almost no wear; and **G** for well used and may have a scratch or guide wear. The Sage Manufacturing Company will transfer their warranties. All fly rods were very well maintained, do not require any repairs, and have their original socks and cases.

Descriptions of Fly Rods	Condition	Owner's Price	Used Sale Price
R. L. Winston BL5 990-5: Warrantee, 6/1998, 61832	F	\$600	\$330
R. L. Winston BL5 790-5: Warrantee, 11/2003, 09812	VF	\$600	\$360
Sage RPL 7100-2: Warrantee 2/1989	G	\$175	\$150
Sage RPL+ 796-4: Action VF; Warrantee 2/1997	G	\$175	\$175
Sage RPLXi 1090-3 Warrantee, 12/1995	F	\$195	\$195
Sage RPLXi 890-5 Warrantee, 11/2000	VF	\$275	\$275
Sage XP 6110-4 Warrantee, 2/2002, V58887	VF	\$250	\$250
Sage XP 796-4 Warrantee, 930441	F	\$275	\$300
Sage XP 896-4 Warrantee 12/2001, V51019	F	\$325	\$325
Sage TCR 7100-4 Warrantee, 6/2005, Z14908	VF	\$750	\$375

Photo of the Month:

Fisherman: Bruce Freet, Deene Almvig (two classy fishermen!)



Please Note: We are looking for photos to add to the photo of the month so if you have a photo you would like to share with the club members please send to wahoo@fidalgoflyfishers.com

Poetry:

By: Danny Beatty

While reviewing early club minutes and newsletters for Pass Lake History I came across the following in the December 1975 newsletter which I think continues to have relevancy to our club's aims and purposes.

“Poetry is always appropriate when describing nature. The following Cinquain Poetry was written by three of my 8th grade students.”

Surf
Rolling Wet
Water Ocean Sea Moving
Salty Alive
Waves

Nature
Spacious Green
Growing Dieing Flourishing
Beautiful Cool Fantastic Far-out
Everlasting

Waves
Beautiful Big
Taking Crashing Giving
Useful Pretty Hazardous Wet
Breakers

“Perceptive students! To me fit into the idea that Roderick Haig-Brown was explaining when he said, ‘That no matter how pragmatic our future generation becomes, they will always retain their background in conservation’”

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Christmas Party / Yearly Dues:

To all Members, the Christmas party is just around the bend and another year has passed. The Board wants to remind everyone to do the following:

1. The sooner you get your Christmas party Invitation in with payment the better you are. We only have enough room to allow 90 people total to enjoy the evening; it is a first come first serve event. We have come close to this number in the past so please if you want to attend get your money in as soon as possible if you haven't yet.
2. The other thing to keep in mind, if you renew your membership before **December 13th** you are put into a drawing that will take place during the Christmas party. If your name is drawn then you will receive your dues back for this coming year (2015). That \$30 can buy more beer! I mean flies or something like that! Two names will be drawn this year so chances are good that you can win this drawing.

