

WASHOON NEWS



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AROUND THE BEND



October Meeting Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013

Farm House Restaurant, La Conner

Wet Fly: 6:00 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Our October program will be members nite. We have several presenters scheduled, but could use one or two more, so if you have a 5-10 minute program you would like to present let me know. Dan Farmer will be at the tiers bench. Brian-bri-anfaber01@gmail.com

Neilan Hart Auction and Raffle

Four year old Neilan Hart is doing well after his first round of chemotherapy for leukemia. At our September meeting, we sold 18 raffle tickets for a total of \$360. Neilan's father, Trevor Hart, is a fly fisher from Bellingham. The Confluence Fly Shop re-scheduled the drawing date to October 17th, so hang onto your tickets. There is

a great assortment of prizes. Thank you for your donation and good luck in winning a prize.

Message from the Tip Top:

Another day, I keep telling myself that I will get out and fish another day! It has been a busy year for many. This month we get to enjoy the outing that some of our club members did in the pursuit of fish and the dream of the big one. Please come and join your fellow club members this month.

Well the weather has changed, the rivers are flowing high and brown at times, I hear of a few fish still being caught in the salt but not many. The river for Pinks has dropped. I have talked to a few people and a few rivers on the east side have been fishing ok.

Next big event coming up for use is the Christmas party. Please plan on attending this year. Fellow club members spend time making this a nice event for us to gather and enjoy time telling stories.

Our general meetings resume October 17th at 6:00pm at the Farm House. Hope to see you all there.

Carl Hendricks, 2013 President

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2013 – Outings / Events:

Outings:

1. Christmas Party – December 19th –
More information to come.

Events:

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



Fly of the Month

Neut Special
By Dan Farmer

The Neut Special is a knockoff of the Little Fort Leech created by the Little Fort Fly shop located about an hour and a half north of Kamloops in the North Thompson River basin. The Neut Special gets its name from the neutered lab/border collie mix camp dog with the same moniker who roams the grounds of the Janice Lake Fishing Camp greeting guests and terrorizing most four legged intruders from chipmunks to bears. Neut will provide an essential ingredient for this fly in exchange for a dog biscuit unless he is off on patrol in the nearby woods.



Recipe:

Thread: Black Uni 6-0

Hook: Mustad 94840 size 6-10

Tail: Pinch of Neut's tail fur topped with
pinch of red kip tail hair

Hackle: Black or furnace rooster neck

Body: Hareline medium black cactus
chenille

Head: Ruby or orange bead

The Neut Special is a very effective trout fly for the hundreds of lakes on the Interlakes Hwy 24 which runs from Little Fort to Hundred Mile House in BC. Anchor over a shallow reef and cast out into deeper water stripping in a foot of line at a time. Hang on for the take when a Kamloops trout suddenly goes airborne with your Neut Special.



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Selective Gear Lakes Update

Our committee (Dan Ballard, Brian Faber, Dan Farmer, and Bruce Freet) met with representatives of the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club and the Whidbey Island Fly Fishing Club at The Avid Angler on October 2nd to discuss possible changes in Puget Sound lake designations and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) regulations to improve the quality trout fishing and fly fishing opportunities.

It was decided that rather than seek fly fishing only lakes, we should be more inclusive and advocate for selective gear lakes on the west side like Big Twin, Lenice, and Dry Falls on the east side. The selective gear would include single barbless hooks, knotless nets, and no internal combustion motors. We wanted these lakes to be open year-round and have a catch limit of one fish per person per day 18 inches or greater in size.

The criteria for selecting lakes were discussed, but no action taken. The greatest opposition to such changes may come from WDFW because of their concern over the loss of revenue from selling fishing licenses. It is estimated that fly fishers comprise only 10% of the sport fishing public.

The group agreed to pursue two actions before our next meeting: work with their clubs to select possible lakes and make contacts to gain greater participation. The next meeting is scheduled for November 6th.

Bruce Freet

NEW MEMBER



David RaDosevich and Ken Futrelle

President Carl Hendricks introduced new member David Radosevich. David's sponsor, Ken Futrelle, then told the club that he first met David when they were about 12 years old. Ken and David lived in different areas of the Sedro Woolley district and were brought together in the 7th grade at Cascade Middle School.

Ken told about David's interest in fly fishing for steelhead, fly tying (wonderfully organized fly tying space in his home) and fishing with bamboo rods. David is interested in attending outings, casting and conservation. Please welcome David to the club when you see him at a future meeting.

Roster update: 209 N. Ball St. Sedro Woolley WA 98284 425-223-9905
davidrad@hotmail.com

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Fly Fishing for the Beginner

By Bruce Freet

Matching Rods, Reels, and Lines

Fly Rods

1, 2, or 3 wt. fly rods are used for small lakes or streams for fish under 12 inches long and calm winds. These fly rods range in length from 6.5 to 8.5 ft, and they are best suited for casts under 40 ft. The leader tippets are usually 2-3 lb. test and the flies are very small, size 18 to 28 hooks.

4 wt. fly rods are best suited for casts under 50 ft., light winds, and fish to 18 inches long. It is used with 3-5 lb. test leader tippets and hooks, 12 to 18 in size. They are nice for casting a dry fly with a soft landing to give it a natural presentation on the water surface.

5 wt. fly rods cast easily less than 65 ft., can be used against moderate winds, and for fish up to 24 inches long. Tippets 5 to 6 lb. test and hooks 10 to 14 in size are commonly used, but it is versatile enough to cast a size 18 fly with a 3 lb. tippet. This is a good all purpose trout fly rod for most lakes and streams.

6 wt. fly rods can cast to 70 ft., are effective in stiffer winds, and for fish up to 30 inches long. Tippets 6 to 8 lb. test and hooks size 6 to 12 are commonly used.

7 wt. fly rods are similar in performance to 6 wt. rods, but can cast against stronger winds, using larger and heavier flies, and catching larger fish (8 to 12 lbs.). Use 4 to 8 sized hooks.

8 wt. fly rods are used for bonefish, smaller steelhead, and salmon in the 10 to 12 lb.

class. Casting distance can be 80 ft. Use 2-6 sized hooks as well as weighted flies.

9 wt. fly rods are used for smaller saltwater fish or large steelhead and salmon.

10 to 12 wt. fly rods are used for 30 to 60 lb. saltwater fish.

14 wt. fly rods are used for saltwater fish greater than 60 lbs.

Fly Reels

Hand Retrieve: Left vs. Right

Matching Rod and Reel: As a general rule, combine the same weight rod and reel. If you are fishing primarily for small fish that rarely run and take fly line, you can use a cheaper reel.

Arbor Size: Standard vs. Mid-Arbor vs. Large Arbor

Drag System: A large, numbered, click knob so settings can be easily made and repeated. A carbon and stainless steel system provides for less corrosion.

Materials: Aluminum, titanium, or carbon-fiber for light weight and corrosive-free use.

Freshwater vs. Saltwater: Saltwater rods and reels should be made of non-corrosive materials for easy maintenance.

Fly Lines

When casting a fly, you are using the fly rod as a tool or extension of your arm to throw fly line. Done properly, the fly line forms an aerodynamic arc as its leading edge cuts through the air and provides lift and distance, just like an aircraft or bird's wing. As a general rule, combine the same weight rod and reel, i.e. 6 wt. rod with a 6 wt. reel. However, if you are regularly casting 60-70 ft. or more of fly line, you can reduce the weight of line by one (5 wt. double taper fly line on a 6 wt. rod and reel). If you are casting less than 45 ft. or using a strike indicator, you could use a weight-forward fly line one size larger (7 wt. WF-FL on a 6 wt.

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rod and reel). Do not cut costs in buying your fly line because it is what you are throwing and the ease at which it moves through the rod guides can add or reduce your cast by several feet. Also, cheaper fly lines tend to retain reel “memory” and give your coils when you want it to lay flat on the water.

Floating: Double-tapered ; Weight-Forward; or Shooting Head

Intermediate: These are usually clear fly lines and sink at a rate of 1 to 1.5 inches per second.

Sink-Tip: I recommend a 10 ft. sink-tip fly line for many lakes and sea-run cutthroat trout fishing in the Puget Sound and its estuaries and rivers.

Sinking: Type or Class II (sink rate is 2 to 2.5 inches per second); Type or Class III (sink rate is 3 to 3.5 inches per second); Type or Class IV (sink rate is 4 to 4.5 inches per second); and Type or Class V (sink rate is 5.5 to 6.5 inches per second).

What to Consider before Buying a Complete Fly Rod Outfit (Rod, Reel, & Line)

The fly rod, reel, and line should form a balanced casting system that work efficiently with your casting stroke! Do not select your fly rod outfit solely upon the cheapest price because somebody else’s “deal” may be your misery. Match your fly rod outfit to your intended fishing purpose, cost, and warrantee.

You must decide what kind of fish that you will be fishing for (trout, salmon, steelhead, saltwater species, etc.), and where (lake, stream, saltwater) before you buy a fly rod outfit. For the beginning trout fisher, I recommend a 5 or 6 wt. graphite fly rod (8 ½ to 9 ft. long) for the beginner with medium

to medium-fast action because it can be used for a wide range of trout fishing and it is easier to cast.

Fly rods are commonly made in two, three, or four pieces. Three and four piece fly rods are easy to take with you on an airplane. A seven piece fly rod is nice for backpacking into the wilderness. Fly rod manufacturers include a rod sock and a hard-sided carrying tube with the purchase. Many established firms will also include a life-time, no fault warrantee and repair a broken fly rod at no to little cost to the customer other than paying the shipping.

There are a few important considerations when purchasing a fly reel.

First, it must match your fly rod. For example, a 5 wt. fly rod should have a 5 or 6 wt. reel because when loaded with backing and fly line it will “balance” where you hold the rod grip ... approximately equal weight on either side of your hand.

Second, this balance point is a function of reel capacity. The catalog or reel box should specify capacity similar to “WF6F 20 lb. Dacron backing 125 yds.” Double taper and weight-forward fly lines are thicker or larger in diameter than intermediate or sinking fly lines of the same weight, so the same reel spool could hold more backing for intermediate or sinking lines if desired.

Third, consider the drag system. For 5 wt. or less fly rods and reels, you will likely play your fish by holding the fly line in your hand and stripping or releasing line corresponding to the pull of the fish and the reel is primarily used for simply holding the fly line. At 6 wt., the importance of a good reel drag system depends upon the size of fish that you are targeting and personal preference. From 7 wt. and larger, the reel drag system becomes more important with increasing rod and reel weight.

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Fourth, make sure that the reel can be easily changed from right- to left-hand retrieve or visa-versa. And fifth, the cost can range from \$125 to \$1,250 depending upon the brand name, machine work, gears, etc.



The fly line is a crucial part of your cast and the last place to cut costs. To begin your fly fishing, buy a more expensive, weight-forward fly line when fishing for trout in western North American lakes and streams!

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