



VOLUME 40

Nov 2013

NUMBER 8

AROUND THE BEND



November Meeting Thursday, Nov. 21, 2013

Farm House Restaurant, La Conner

Wet Fly: 6:00 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

This Month's Guest and Presentation:

Ira Siebert. Ira Siebert has been fishing lakes for about 38 years now, started when he was 3 and fly fishing for about 24 of those years. As a visual learner He found indicator fishing early on and enjoying that technique so much he experimented with ways to continue using indicators at all times, even while dry fly fishing, I know ridiculous right?

So, this month presentation will be on "Vertical Presentation in Stillwaters using Indicators" it focuses on a case for fishing vertical, where to fish vertical, how to fish vertical and when. The use of indicators, beyond chironomids!

Message from the Tip Top:

Things have been busy for many us, and I do believe that we all will get even busier in the next month. With all the big holidays approaching, we can get overwhelmed at times. Please take time and enjoy all that these holidays can offer to you and your family.

As a club of fly fishers, we look at each month a little different than some around us. We are always watching the weather, looking at water conditions, taking inventory of our gear to see what we need. We sit and think about places we fished...we think about this a lot! (At least I hope so or I MAY have a problem!) We get those beautifully colored magazines each month with these great articles; we read about all these cool places we should go. We pull out the maps or pull them up on the computer, whichever is the easiest, and we look to see if we can make it happen. We make our lists of stuff that we need to get, think of which buddy or buddies who we want to ask to go.

We do this in a quiet spot in the house where we believe it is safe from an inquisitive

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spouse...only if our spouses are not fly fishers themselves, of courses. Then, we find we've been caught in the act of planning! They look at us with looks of "I don't think so," or they ask "what will be there for me to do while you are out fishing?"

All this kidding aside (maybe!), we each have that gift of planning and fishing must be part of the plan. As a club, we have many years of combined experience in many things (not just fishing right!). If you were to add them all up, it would be an impressive number of years and time spent on the water around the world. With that, I would like to see us as a club go out and continue to pursue our sport, teaching others and showing what we are as a club, we are fly fishers!

I want to remind you to please plan on joining us December 19th for our annual Christmas Dinner and fundraising party at the LaConner Seafood and Prime Rib. We will have many donated items again this year, and let's not forget the good food and fellowship. I'm a relatively new member to the club and this has always been a fun night. We get to see some faces we have not seen in some time and we get to see the spouses of the fly fishers we hang with.

Our next meeting will be are Christmas Party on Dec. 19th. Hope to see you all there.

Carl Hendricks, 2013 President



Lights, Camera, Auction!

The Christmas Party will be on December 19th and all items for the auction need to be turned at our November meeting on the 21st. If you have questions or need to drop it off just give me a call: Ellie Wright 293-1951

50-50 Raffle for Educational Purposes

We will be adding a new second raffle to the FFF Christmas Party this year. It's purpose will be to fund materials used by the club in our various educational efforts. We are looking to add to and/or replace gear used in our fly fishing and fly tying classes at Skagit Valley College and to augment other community outreach programs. The way it works is each \$5. ticket you buy has a chance to win 50% of the total jackpot collected for this raffle. The other half will go toward the club's educational budget. The winner might even want to reinvest in other items available later during the live auction.

Thanks Ellie

2013 / 2014 – 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.**

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Introduction to Fly Fishing Course

The Winter Quarter Skagit Valley College catalog is now available and the Fidalgo Fly Fishers are teaching the Introduction to Fly Fishing again at the Mount Vernon campus (See page 15). Please tell interested relatives and friends to register now because the course can fill before December. We only accept 16 students, so we can provide more personalized instruction.

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.

Wednesday nights: 6:30 to 9:00 pm
Winter Quarter: January 8 to March 19,
2014 (11 weeks)

Tuition: \$120 (includes over 33 hours of instruction and a 100+ page course notebook)

There are three options to register: it is BEST to call 360.416.7638 and pay with a credit card; next is go in-person at the Registration Office, Mount Vernon Campus; and lastly contact via the Internet at www.skagit.edu (click on Registration at the left column; then use the Mail-In Registration form at [Non-Degree Seeking Registration Form](#) . The course code is CPROF 035.

Bruce Freet

Program Speakers for 2014

As your incoming vice president, I am already working to get our program speakers for 2014. At this early date, the arrangements are tentative, but here is the line-up:

January, Mark Raisler of the Headhunters Fly Shop will be talking about the Missouri River and other western Montana streams; February, Phil Rowley of Fly Craft Angling will be informing us about his favorite British Columbia lakes and his fly fishing techniques;

March, Ryan Smith of The Avid Angler (hopefully) will be telling us about fishing Washington rivers;

April, Dave Pflug, fisheries biologist for Seattle City Light, will be giving us an update on Skagit River steelhead research; May, Ed Megill and/or Scott Willison of The Confluence Fly Shop will be showing us new fly fishing equipment to coincide with our annual swap meet.

Due to scheduling conflicts, Phil Rowley will only be able to speak to us on **Tuesday, February 18th**, so our monthly meeting would be on Tuesday rather than Thursday night. I know that this is perhaps unprecedented, but Phil is a great speaker and having him is a unique opportunity.

Then, this year's summer program was so well attended I thought that I would try for another special program. Loren Elliott was featured in the Northwest Fly Fishing magazine (Nov/Dec 2012) in "Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Part 2: Coho on the Inside Beaches". This young guy will tell us about his technique of wading his favorite Vancouver Island inside passage beaches and the flies he uses. By having his program in July, we could be prepared to fish these beaches for Coho ourselves in

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September as a Club outing. I will ask you at our November meeting whether or not you would attend such a summer program. If so, I will schedule it; if not, no problem we won't meet again until our regular September meeting.

Bruce Freet

More Selective Gear Lakes For North Puget Sound

On November 6th representatives from Fidalgo Fly Fishers, Evergreen Fly Club, Whidbey Island Fly Club, and Olympic Fly Fishers met to discuss proposing more selective gear lakes for north Puget Sound. It was agreed that each Club would use the same criteria to select lakes in their counties for change from general "open season" trout lakes to all year season selective gear lakes. Currently, less than 1 percent of the lakes in these counties is managed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) under selective gear or fly fishing only rules. Our efforts are now being endorsed by the Washington Chapter of the International Federation of Fly Fishers.

Our previous decision to allow the harvest of one fish over 18 inches per person per day was defined further by "Upon keeping a fish, anglers must cease fishing that lake for the remainder of that day." To avoid burdening or complicating our proposal for more selective gear lakes, two other interests will become separate 'rule change' proposals: the two rod endorsement; and an increased fishing license fee for these lakes.

To address WDFW's concern about lost revenue and to show that we wish to

continue being cooperative, it was suggested that clubs take these actions: obtain endorsements for more selective gear lakes from tackle stores selling fishing licenses; tell about our club's educational programs to promote fishing; commit to adopting a new selective gear lake as stewards to protect their watershed; monitor trout populations with club outings to catch, measure, record, and release fish --- giving WDFW the data; partner with WDFW to build information boards, donation boxes, and improve public access; and monitoring water quality.

Our group will meet in early December to decide which lakes to propose for WDFW rule changes to selective gear, then hopefully meet with them shortly afterward. Bruce Freet

Urge

*Ocean's bounty swam upstream
urge to spawn, quite extreme*

*On the redd is nature's call
each will die, in the pall*

*simple to find, final lair
putrid odor in the air*

*lifeless body cemented fast
rivers current, flowing past*

*toothy jaws protected mates
after death, useless trait*

*ribs and spine once quite fleet
bones now hold, rotting meat*

*sockets empty eyes they lack
birds are happy, tasty snack*

*colors faded, washed downstream
urge to spawn, quite extreme*

Dave Barcott...

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A Fishing Nightmare

By Jim Gibson - from the St Joe River Valley Fly Fishers Newsletter

On Sept. 7-2010 we were on vacation from SW Michigan and it was the first day of a guided fly fishing trip. I was with my wife, fishing in the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River in Wyoming and we had just finished lunch. We were situated down in a rocky canyon that was a steep three stories below the ridge. The fish were rising, so I stepped into the river to approach a wade and slipped down into a drop of unexpected speed. When my feet came to rest, I then tried to bend my right knee and it locked into horrible pain. I forcefully extended it and the pain then relaxed. After a short rest, I then I tried to use the left leg to get up out of the hole I was in and then to my shock, it also locked up in pain exactly like the right. I then forced the left leg straight and the pain subsided. It was clear any bend in either leg beyond 3 or 4 degrees would result in huge pain and locked knee. After several minutes of reviewing options with my wife and the guide, who was 68 years old and with a bad back, it was clear we were far out of cell phone range in need of help in Grizzly and Rattle Snake country. At 63 years old, I was, without a doubt, in a very ugly fix.

The option of waiting for the guide to go back toward town into cell phone range and return with help would have taken around 3 or more hours. It was getting late. So after forcing myself out of the river using only my arms, pushing in a backward direction while dragging my rear end with extended legs pulling behind, out of the river. I then looked up at the ridge and assessed the situation. I felt I could possibly make it up whole way. As I could not see where I was going, I asked the guide and my wife to point out the best way up as I was moving backward. They would also have to clear the way behind me and help me at times shifting my legs. The guides pickup was at the

top of the ridge and I could ride back to the hospital in the back of the pickup. It would be slow, but faster than they could get back to us with a helicopter or something to lift me out of the canyon.

The guide was skeptical, but I felt I could make it. It took us an hour to reach the top. Fortunately, I have good upper body strength and we did not encounter any Rattle Snakes. We reached the Cody Wyoming Hospital around 6 PM.

I cannot say enough good things about how well I was treated at Cody Hospital by all I encountered. After X rays and a MRI it was determined that I had a Bilateral Quadriceps tendon rupture and that immediate surgery would be recommended. I had torn the tendons of both legs connecting the quadriceps to the patella. The most common cause of a simultaneous bilateral quadriceps tendon rupture appears to be a sudden, violent contraction of the quadriceps mechanism with the knees slightly flexed and the feet in a fixed position.

I had a choice of first trying to go back to Michigan, braced up and in great pain. I would have had to be heavily doped up I assume. I would then have to try to line up surgery in either Kalamazoo or South Bend. The second choice would be having it done there in Cody immediately and going home for the Post Op. I chose the Cody route and It seems to have been the right choice. The surgery was done at 3PM on Wed. Sept. 8, a day after the event. I was kept there until Sunday morning Sept 12. We left at 9 AM and drove 23 hrs, straight though, back home. My son assisted with the drive and was able to get extended leave to do it. I have lined up South Bend Orthopedic to do the Post Op and have an appointment Friday Sept 17 to have the staples removed. So begins the long 9 to 12 month road back to recovery. My son and his new wife caught over 60 nice trout on the trip. I am sure I would have as well had I stepped in a different spot. I hope we can return in a year or so and try again.

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FLY of the MONTH

Balance Leech

Recipe:

Hook: Size 12 Jig Hook (I use the Allen jig hook)

Tail: Black Squirrel Body Strip

Body: Semi-Seal Black and Red (I mixed with UV white for deeper water)

Head: Straight pin cut with a tungsten bead on the end for balance.

Carl Hendricks



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