

Organized in 1971, the Rogue Flyfishers seek to promote fellowship among individuals and groups to further interest in the sport, to improve angling techniques, and to educate members and the public in ways to preserve and improve the natural resources, environment, and conditions for fishing in the Rogue Valley.

NEWSLETTER

December 2009

	Name	Telephone	Last Board Yr.	Board Members at Large		Last Board Yr.
President	Lee Wedberg	826-3718	08-09	Bill Ackerman	857-6154	09-10
V.President	POSITION OPEN		08-09	Dick Chambers	608-9686	08-09
Treasurer	Patrick Hurley.	774-1040	09-10	Kellie Christensen	776-4094	09-10
Secretary	Bill Childress	846-1514	08-09	David Haight	855-9043	09-10
Webmaster	Steve Ostrander	772-0749		John Ward	482-4859	09-10
News Editor	Kellie Christensen	776-4094	09-10	Malcolm MacNair	282-9871	09-10
Membership	Malcolm MacNair	282-9871	09-10	Gary Lewellyn	772-7210	09-10
Roadside Cleanup	Bill Ackermann	857-6154	09-10	Mike Masters	261-2243	09-10
Conservation	John Ward	482-2859	09-10			
Outings	Kellie Christensen	776-4094	09-10			

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: rogueflyfishers.org-

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A HOLIDAY DINNER AND PRESENTATION CALLED "REFLECTIONS", FEATURING THE TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS OF THE ROGUE FLYFISHERS IN 2009



This will be a unique holiday dinner with festive tables, decorations and special goodies that only Santa can provide!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16th - REDLION HOTEL

200 N. RIVERSIDE, MEDFORD OR

WET Fly Social Hour 6 to 7PM - Buffet Dinner and Raffle at 7PM

This is your chance to enjoy pre Christmas festivities with your fishing family here at the Rogue Flyfishers. Photos and video footage will he presented and narrated by several members of your club. Speakers include Bill Childress, "Fishing in the Tropics", Phil Hagar, "What's So Special About Fly Fishing?", Jack Patterson, The Wonders of Fishing the Klamath Basin", Phil Paden, "Excitement on the Dean River", Harry Piper, "Humorous Reading of the Clearwater", Mike Masters, "Learning to Steelhead/Swimming in Waders", and Bob Hunter's "Savage Rapids Dam Removal Video" will close out the show.

Come and find out what we accomplished in 2009, what we learned, and how we survived the challenges, both on and off the water.

You club needs your support so please plan on attending this very special evening

COME AND CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH US!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

December President's Message

It is enjoyable to play with one's hobby's tools and trinkets, and this is an excellent season for doing exactly that. This morning it was 27 degrees in Medford and foggy here at my place in Eagle Point, a miserable day weatherwise. But,on the other hand, what better time to repair the hopper for the Rogue Flyfishers raffle? The poor thing apparently dropped on the floor last month and fragmented into several pieces, most of which required gluing back together before it could be reassembled. Freezing fog strikes me as appropriate conditions for working on that, especially when our geothermal heating system raises temperatures and eliminates fog indoors compared with out. That loop on the end of one of my lines is coming undone - time to fix that. I have a spool of braided bass line that I use for that purpose, a job that takes an hour or so and does not depend upon sunshine or other favorable weather. Besides, the completed product gives just a touch of satisfaction when done, and also every time I string up the rod. This is the season for such maintenance and repair of our gear, so it isn't all bad. That's what hobbies are for, isn't it? I mean, at least partly. Isn't it? To help us get started on that job, Bob Claypool will be at the Newcomers table this month with a display of what to do and how to do it.

We had visitors last week. My son, stepson, and stepdaughter-in-law came up from southern California for a few days and we got on the river during their visit. This was the first time my stepson, Jeff, had held a fly rod in his hand, and on about his third cast he hooked a trout. Don't get all excited, though, because the fish took a long line release and that was also the last fish he hooked. Still, he had a good time. Stepdaughter-in-law, Carol, got a one-day license but didn't make much use of it although she seemed to enjoy the ride. Son Ed, though, did better. On several previous trips he was, shall we say, paying his dues, and remarked at the end of one of those days, "Someday I'm going to get one of those suckers." Why not now? And so he did fairly well this trip, landing several trout on nymphs and also with a dry fly during the noon hatch, and even caught a nice 15 inch Cutthroat that refused to pose for a portrait so you will have to accept our word on that one.

Here's wishing all you good people a fine holiday season. May your favorite teams win their bowl games, and may you catch numerous trout at the Holy Water on News Years Day.

Welcome New 2009 Members! The Club has 32 new members whose telephone numbers and interests (where information is available) is given below. Boat = drift boat, FW = fish with, FT = fly tying, Tech = technique and casting, Soc = social organizing activities, and Crsv = conservation interests. Give them a call, invite them to fish, tell them about John McDiarmid's spring casting classes, invite them to the fly tiers group, buy them a root beer at the monthly meeting, or show them how we conserve streams and plant trees.

Due to privacy concerns, the phone numbers have been eliminated form this publication. Contact the membership chairman To get the phone numbers of specific members.

F. Michael Bennett, 857-6249 Art Borland Kurt Brkich, 778-8865, Boat, Tech, Soc, Crsv Kurt Cubbison, 210-0813 Scott Engle, 770-6509 Roger Estey, 482-0319 Chuck Fustish Robert & Linda Garnett, 708-0330 Sam Glidewell, 245-9081, FW John Grimbergen, 499-5662, FW, Tech, Soc, Crsv Paul Hamilton, 846-0583, FW Karan Johnson Mark Juliana, 482-2398 Alan & Aurora Kelly, 488-0410 Greg Koenig, 245-6000 Ann Laferriere, 944-3116, FW

Daniel Laviolette, 779-8654, Boat
Keith Liddy, 951-4365
Terry Longshore, 482-5496, Tech, Crsv
Patten Matt
Jerry Merchant, 727-7393
Mark Parker, 761-7771
Earl Peterson
Brian Pindell, 840-0816
Robert Roos,646-8610
Steven Schulman
Layne Spelber,
Rick Ukena, 488-6875
Gary & Jeanne VanDyke, 944-8346, Boat, FT,Tech
Robert Walters, 779-4621
Dan, Wayman, 773-5584, Crsv

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by ROBERT J. CLAYPOOL

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Members of the Rogue Flyfishers, mention your affiliation for special consideration. 541-772-8280



Volunteer Riparian Tree Planting Dates

Volunteers are needed for the MRWCplanting along Quartz, Creek on January 9th. Your time and talents are greatly needed to protect and restore some of Oregon's most critical salmon and steel head habitat! Come enjoy a day of planting I trees and work alongside others who love the pristine beauty of the Rogue River.

We will meet at Ray's Food Place at 9 AM in Merlin. Planting will be done until approximately 2PM. To get to Ray's turn off from 1-5 at exit 61 and head toward the town of Merlin. Ray's Food Place, is the first food store on the right after the, I stoplight in Merlin. 3500 Merlin Road.

Bring a lunch; Middle Rogue Watershed Council will provide coffee and bagels or sweet rolls. Also bring your gloves. boots, and rain gear. If you have a shovel. please bring it, also, but planting tools will be provided.

Mark your calendar for another planting day on March 6th. Feel free to call John Ward if you have questions, and we look forward to seeing you!

RFF Founding Fly Fishers -("A Little Bit of History") by Malcolm MacNair

Of the 35 Charter Members of the Rogue Fly Fishers founding the club in 1971,5 are current members 38 years later. Clint Brumitt, Don Denman, Dale Heath, John Norris, and Irvine Urie joined the club because they were in a network of friends who were interested foremost in protecting the habitat of the Rogue and its fish and then sharing fishing information and improved fishing technique. They still maintain those interests. John Norris and Dale Heath especially approve the club work to restore the Holy Water, while Clint Brumitt, who now lives in Eugene and is also a Mackenzie Fly Fisher, believes the club could do more to restrict the native summer steelhead season since even in January there are many summer steelhead waiting with eggs to spawn before some Tributaries. Clint recalls that under the leadership of Don Denman as a Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, the state adopted regulations protecting young steelhead by redefining appropriate size, but that he believes recent changes have put the fish again at risk increasing the proportion of, and investment in, hatchery fish. While he still emphasizes conservation as the most important activity of the club, Dale thinksmoretechniqueclinicswouldbe goodespeciallybenefitingnew members. Dalewas one ofthe three signing the incorporation application and Clint and Dale are past presidents of the club. (Don Denman was not available for an interview).

What Is the Best Time of Dav to Fish? By Otis Swisher

Your style of fishing may be dissimilar from others. Therefore, your time for success may differ. Just to give your gray cells some food for thought, see what I recorded. These are the numbers of fish I personally caught between 15 January and 31 March, 2009 at public access spots on the Rogue. These were caught in all kinds of weather, in different air temperatures, at all different river flows and in all different water temperatures.

Statistics include three days of muddy water, standard and daylight savings times. Only the flies stayed the same: #14 March Brown, fished dry, and #14 and #12 Partridge and Orange, fished soft-hackle style.

These are fish that I landed. Not included are the hook-ups played but not landed which might very well double the numbers listed.

Time: 10-11 a.m. 8 fish 11-12 6 fish 12-1 p.m. 27 fish 1-2 p.m. 27 fish 2-3 p.m. 27 fish 3-4 p.m. 38 fish 4-5 p.m. 14 fish 5-6 p.m. 3 fish

So, I ask you: "What's the best time to fish trout on the Rogue in winter?"

Fishing Report:

As of November 24th,5800 Summer fish have crossed Gold Rey Dam. Steelhead this time of year behave more like winter fish. They are late to the party and are moving fast. Upper river from Shady Cove to the Hatchery will be your best bet for Steelhead. Swinging large flies on Sink Tip lines is a good bet as are Nymph fishing techniques. Don't be afraid to fish low in the riffle to the slower water when the temps are cold like this. The Holy Water has very consistent lately, especially on overcast days. Bring your small flies & long leaders to this party. Fish are seeing pressure and are a bit snobbish. Want to try something different here? Bring your sink tip and swing a big leech down through there and hold on! Reports provided by the members of The Rogue Fly Fishers and The Ashland Fly Shop - 541 488 6454



Happy holidays fellow fishers! I will be brief this month since the newsletter is filled with many other interesting things! I would like to take a moment to mention a couple of things that deserve some news space.

First of all, kudos are given to Steve Ostrander for a truly outstanding website. Anyone who hasn't visited it lately, (rogueflyfishers.org) is missing out! He has done a fine job and it takes a LOT of time and energy. Because of him we are an inviting and informative website for all those "two fingered surfers" out there who are interested in fly fishing. THANK YOU STEVE from all of us!

Secondly: if you have any fishing photos that you would like to share, please send them to me at kclmbr@msn.com AND to Steve at Ost247@charter.net. We would like to use them in future editions of the newsletter and online at the Rogue Flyfishers website.

Last of all, January is just around the corner and wouldn't it be nice if part of your "New Year's Resolutions" included donating some time to your fishing club? We still need a few people to help with Outings committee and the Auction committee. And of course, EVERY member of the club is expected to donate 5 hours per year to a conservation project, health permitting of course. Think about it for the sake of your club. Think about it for all of those fish that might be more inclined to dine on your offerings if you have planted some trees of their behalf!

Thank you for your support and be safe out there this "slippery" season!

New Year's Day Chili Feed

In keeping with tradition, members of the Rogue Flyfishers and the Southem Oregon Fly Fishers will meet on January 1 at the Holy Water to celebrate the New Year. Come join your fellow club members, and enjoy a hot bowl of chili, a wan11 fire, and great company; and possibly catch your first fish of the year. We will gather at the picnic shelter near the parking lot on the south side of the Holy Water. The fire should be going by 1OAM, and the chili will be served about noon. There will be opportunities to fish both before and after we eat.

As in past years, we need a few volunteers to make pots of chili, and a person or two to bring some fire wood. Others can help out by bringing cornbread, salads, desserts, or other items to share. Contact David Haight @ tmdrhaight({1)peoplepc.com or 855-9043 to volunteer.

Fishing in the Holy Water has been hit and miss lately, so it is hard to predict how it will be on New Year's Day. Several members have had some good days there recently, so we will hope for the best. Stripping or drifting small marabou leeches, woolly buggers, or nymphs along the bottom can be productive during the colder months. If the weather and flows cooperate, we could have a blue-winged olive or midge hatch. If you are going to fish, remember to get your **2010 fishing license**. Though the weather or the fishing may not always be ideal, the food and the company are always great, and we always have a good time at this event!

YEAR 2009 OUTSTANDING CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

The Outstanding Club Member of the Year Award is given each January to a member (s) as recognition for significant contributions to The Rogue Flyfishers. If you know of a club member worthy of this award, please submit the candidates name and qualifications to the Board of Directors either by regular mail, email or telephone. This award is given to a paid member who has contributed to the achievement of the club as set forth in the RFF Bylaws, Article 1. You may use the form below and mail it to:

Rogue Flyfishers, PO Box 4637, Medford OR 97501
Cut here
I recommend the following person or persons for the Year 2009 Outstanding Club Member of the Year Award:
My recommendation is based on the following:
Submitted By:



UPCOMING OUTINGS

(A compilation of outings for 2010 is in the works and should appear in the February newsletter. Anyone wishing to contribute should contact Kellie at kclmbr@msn.com or 776-4094. We could use YOUR help!)

JANUARY 1st - ANNUAL HOLY WATER CHILI FEED - See article in this month's newsletter for details!

**News Flash ** - JANUARY 9th - 12th - CHETCO RIVER STEELHEAD

The Chetco Inn has been sold so this trip is being reconfigured! You are invited to attend but here are the changes: Private accommodations will be provided at the Lewellyn Beach house for up to 4 people at no charge. Space is also available at this residence for RV's or trailers that are self contained. Provide your own meals or join your fellow fishers for dining out. Fishing on this river is featured in the November issue of NW Fly Fishing magazine. Jim Bansemer, a great Chetco fishing guide, has been booked for this trip and a spot is his boat costs \$200 per person. If you have questions or want to be a part of this fabulous outing, contact Gary Lewellyn at glewellyn@charter.net or 944-8085. The details may have changed but this still promises to be a great trip!

JANUARY 23rd - COASTAL WINTER STEELHEAD

(Joint venture with SOFF) Contact David Haight @ tmdrhaight@peoplepc.com or 855-9043.

If you own a pontoon boat and are interested in getting together with other "Pontooners" Gary Lewellyn would like to organize some outings. These are private outings and not affiliated with the Rogue Flyfishers. Call him at 944-8085.



December is the Month for Membership Renewal

December ends the club financial year and begins the period for renewing your membership for the coming year. Although you have until the end of February, please renew vour membership now by completing the application form found in this newsletter. If you act now you will save the club money in the printing and postage of follow-up letters. The savings will be applied toward productive club conservation projects and other activities of benefit to the environment and to the advance of the sport of fishing. This past year the club contributed to the Oregon State University Scholarship Foundation, Oregon Stewardship, Western Environmental Law Center, Bear Creek Watershed Council, Water Watch, Native Fish Society, Federation of Fly Fishers and Rogue Basin Coordination Council. We have provided seed money in the past for grants preparation by others to promote common interests and conservation activities. The club provided seed money, for example, to the Middle Rogue Watershed Council for grants preparation for restoration of the tributary creeks to the Rogue and the Board is committed to do so in the coming year. Additionally the club has operation costs for program, speakers, liability insurance, website, fly tying classes, dinner program guarantees, newsletter printing and postage, and so on.

Beginning with the new renewal period, you can reduce club costs by subscribing to the club newsletter in paperless-electronic form. Check this preference on the renewal form. This could provide a considerable substitution of funds to be applied toward conservation and environmental activities. Those without internet access and those who prefer paper copy will continue to receive the newsletter in its present form. Do not delay! Renew your membership now! Those not renewed by the end of February and the compiling of the club membership directory will be removed from the club ranks and its benefits, so don't miss out!

MEMBERS RENEWING DUES BY JANUARY 31st WILL RECEIVE 5 FREE RAFFLE TICKETS FOR THE FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING SO DON'T DELAY!

The Rogue Flyfishers would like to wish you the very brightest of holiday seasons and a healthy and prosperous 2010.

We are pleased to be a part of your "fishing family."



The Casting Corner by John MacDiarmid

Fast VS Slow Rods

Pick up a rod and wiggle in and you can get a feel for whether or not it is a fast (stiff) or slow (soft) rod. With the exception of Orvis, rod manufacturers do not quantify the rod action, just the recommended line size for the specific rod. The Big 0, (Orvis) has a Flex Index for its rods which describes the speed and amount of power required to make a rod bend in a predetermined load. The index ranges from 2.5 to 12.5 where generally the higher the number, the stiffer the rod. Other manufacturers just use the King's English to describe their rod actions. Even if some universal testing lab had a machine that measured every rod out there and gave it a stiffness value, a stiff rod in one caster's hand may be a soft rod in another's. For the purpose of this discussion, the major difference between a stiff and a soft rod is that for a given line and cast, the stiff rod loads with a short, fast casting stroke while a soft rod requires a longer, slower stroke.

A stiff rod will give you faster line speed which helps with casting longer distances, overcoming the wind and delivering heavy or bushy air resistant flies. We all run into one or all three of these situations. Why then would you ever prefer a slower rod? Three reasons that come to mind are: aesthetics, a softer presentation and playing fish. Really, an evening on the lake when the wind is absent and a delicate presentation of a dry fly is required, a soft action rod is supreme. Also, when playing a fish, the soft rod can absorb the strike and runs of a fish deeper into the butt than the stiff rod, thereby protecting the leader from breaking.

Soft rods are usually a problem for beginners because they are easy to overload with the resultant tailing loops. Moderately stiff rods are much better learning rods. For several years I steel headed with an old stiff 7 wt. rod because that is the rod that I had. Then one day I was demonstrating a stack mend for a friend who insisted that I do it with his rod. WOW, what a difference! I was able to send the mend down the line withjust a flick of the wrist with his soft tip Winston Boron 2X instead of raring back for a power stroke to get the tip bend on my stiff rod. I now steel head with the B-2X. My stroke is slower and I think I cast as far. Even if I don't, I sure enjoy the feel of the rod and I can mend and control the line better. Slow rods can be powerful, they just load deeper.

There is a place for the stiff 7 wt. It carries an 8 wt. line which puts more bend in the rod during the cast. It is waiting for a windy day on the salt flats where the extra mass of the 8 wt. line will drive into the wind better than the 7 wt. line. If your rod isjust a little fast you can experiment with a half size or full size higher lines. The Scientific American GPX, Rio Grande, and many of the Cortland Precision Tapers are sold in half size higher increments.

So, how do you slow your stroke down when someone hands you a noodle or a rod softer than you are accustomed to? First see how slow you can cast it and keep the line in the air with good loops. On the completion of the back stroke after the stop, drift the casting hand back to start the forward stroke from further back, and then slowly accelerate the hand forward to the rotation point. If the fly leg starts to tail, you need to slow down even more, especially at the beginning of the stroke. You could also try to underline the rod. You can see how one fly fishing shop tested 16 well known 8 wt. rods for flex and performance at:

http://tinyurl.com/2dioyfl/. Til next month......

On The Fly

"Fly tying is a school from which we never graduate"



TYING NEWS

The Southern Oregon Fly Tyers invite you to attend their next meeting, Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at 6:30 PM, at the Madrone Hill Mobile Home Park community building near Gold Hill. Bring a friend, come early so you don't miss anything, and stay late. Tiers need not be experienced, and those with all levels of skill are welcome. Each meeting a member is encouraged to demonstrate a new or different skill, from simple to difficult. For more information, call Dan Kellogg at 773-4724.

At the November meeting, Mark Teeters not only taught us how to tie several different versions of the Boss and Comet flies, he demonstrated several reasons for selecting bead chain over lead eyes. He also demonstrated how turned up eyed hooks and turned down eyed hooks differ in hooking and holding abilities. The entire evening was full of great tips and techniques. Thank you Mark.

DIRECTIONS: Take Gold Hill Exit #40, off of I-5 and go west, toward Jacksonville, 1.3 miles, until you reach the brick entrance way to the Madrone Hill Mobile Home Park on the right. You'll pass a golf course parking lot on Your left shortly after leaving the freeway. After you turn right into the mobile home park, proceed to the community building which is located about 100 yards ahead on the left. The address is 8401 Old Stage Rd. Please park your vehicle on the bare dirt in the parking lot to avoid the wooden septic covers in the grass.

PATTERN OF THE MONTH - Royal Coachman Softy

Hook: Daiichi 1550, standard wet, size 16-10.

Thread: Black, 8-0.

Tail: Golden Pheasant tippet.

Body: Peacock herl, red floss, peacock herl. Hackle: Coachman brown hen hackle



Tying Instructions

- Step 1: Mash the barb and mount the hook in the vise. Start the tying thread one eye width behind the eye and wrap a thread base back to just above the barb of the hook.
- Step 2: Select a small bunch of tippets one shank long and tie it on top of the hook just above the barb. Trim the butts.
- Step 3: Tie on a peacock herl at the base of the tail and wind it forward about 4 touching turns. To achieve fullness, do not let the herl twist while winding. Tie off and trim.
- Step 4: Tie in the red floss in front of the herl butt with a tag end long enough to reach the hook eye. Bind down the tag end up to the hook eye with close thread wraps forward. Trim the excess and let the thread hang at this point.
- Step 5: Wind the floss forward in smooth touching wraps up to just behind the eye. Tie off and trim excess.
- Step 6: Tie in another peacock herl, wind it forward 4 turns, tie off and trim. Be sure to leave room for the hackle and head.
- Step 7: Select a brown hen hackle feather with barbs 2 hook gaps long. Prepare the feather and tie it in at the base of the herl. Wind the hackle three turns forward while stroking the fibers rearward and holding them back on every half turn. Tie off and trim the excess. Tie back on the barbs slightly to hold them at a slight angle.
- Step 8: Form a neat, small, tapered head, whip finish and cement.

Unlike most other soft hackle patterns, with colors and shapes imitating a certain hatch, the Royal Coachman Softy's colors are unnatural. There doesn't seem to be a good scientific explanation as to why the Coachman style is so effective for any pattern. Based on results it makes a darn good attractor. We know how well the soft hackle patterns perform when nothing else will. Add the Coachman body to double the odds. So give it a try, tie some up, give them a test flight and let me know how you do.

Tie One On,

Dan Kellogg (you can contact me at FLYGUY@EZNORTHWEST.COM)

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Rogue Fly Fishers membership **Application** and membership Renewal Form

Applying, or renewing, as (check one): **Indivdual** ___ (\$30.00), **Family** ___ (\$35.00), or **Junior** ___ (under 18, \$5.00) Member. (Note: New members joining Rogue Fly Fishers before June 30th pay a full year dues; new members joining after June 30th pay half dues. **Dues accompany your application.** With membership, you will receive a member's patch, membership directory, name badge, and letter of further information and welcome. Monthly dinner meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month with a social Wet Fly from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. followed by dinner with raffle, announcements and club business, and program until approximately 9:00 p.m.