



The Tippet

December 2000

President's Message

What is it they say? Time flies when you are having fun. Well, the year has gone by quickly for your Prez, and I have enjoyed my duties, although at times it seemed that deadlines for speakers, The Tippet, etc. all seem to come at the busiest times of the work year for me. I have tried, and I hope I have lived up to members' expectations in fulfilling my duties. However, I must express my appreciation to my "cabinet" who does a good deal of work behind the scenes. These people include Tim Cavileer, our newsletter editor who always keeps me on task, Shirley Engerbretson, who is always aware of the current balance, and Jim Siebe who has headed up the Conservation Committee, and will move to the Vice Prez position despite his own busy schedule. Also, thanks to all the regulars who show up at Rico's forming our "Executive" Committee. Finally, I am happy to turn the reins over to John Toker as the incoming Prez who has some great ideas as well as previous experience in running a club. Unlike some recent elections, we do not have to recount any votes for John! Thus, he has a clear mandate!

Our speaker for this month will be Dawn Reynolds who is our representative to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. Dawn will provide us with an update of Commission activities including recent meetings on December 8 and 9, as well as share with us her thoughts regarding conservation issues, and conduct a question and answer session. This is also a time to let Dawn know what is on our minds. Dawn's commitment and enthusiasm were evident in our brief conversation over the phone, so we can look forward to a good meeting with her. Hope to see everyone there.

Brian McNeill



Backcast (November meeting)

Guests

Welcome to guest Zack Funkhouser from Lewiston (up with Craig Lannigan) and new members Sam & Debbie Duncan of Moscow who joined the club.

Fish (and other) reports

While Dave Engerbretson didn't catch fish he did give a borrowed pair of John Toker's waders a soaking on the last cast of an outing last month. Jim Siebe had a fantastic time on the St Joe late in the season. Bill Hendrix recently visited former member Tom Lofaro for lunch in Minnesota and passed on Tom's greetings to the club. Warren Wright spotted a cougar in Rainy Park.

Old Business

Conservation committee met at Rico's October 18th but only three members showed. The November's meeting time was moved to 5:30pm at Rico's. No nominations have been received yet for the Bill Alspach Memorial Fund.

New Business

Membership dues are coming up in January. \$20 individual, \$25 family and \$10 student. Dues can be sent to Clearwater Fly Casters, PO Box 2149 CS, Pullman, WA 99165 or given to Shirley Engerbretson at the meeting. Jim Siebe brought up the possibility of the club offering different levels of membership (eg. Life membership for \$100, etc). George Johnson brought up the WDFW's proposal to institute boat limits in salt water instead of having individual catch limits. A motion was made that the club respond to WDFW opposing the boat limits and instead suggest that "each person should catch their own fish". Motion passed with George Johnson to follow up with a response to WA-FFF and WDFW. George also indicated there was interest at the WA-FFF council level to suggest to WDFW that the department put a statement for support of C&R policy in the WA regulations. Jim Siebe was nominated and elected vice president in 2001.

Clearwater Fly Casters 2000 Officers

President Brian McNeill
Vice-President John Toker
Secretary/Treasurer
Shirley Engerbretson
Conservation Chair Jim Siebe
FFF Representative George Johnson
Newsletter Editor Tim Cavileer
editor's email: tcavileer@uidaho.edu

Virtual Tippet (CFC Website)
<http://www.uidaho.edu/~tcavi/clearwater/>

CFC membership dues are now \$20/year for individuals, \$25/year for families, \$10/year for students.

Meetings on 2nd Wednesday, Sept - May, at Shermer's Restaurant, 300 S Grand, Pullman, WA

Wet Fly time at 6:00pm, dinner at 6:30pm
and program at 8:00pm

Speaker

Steve Pettitt gave a dazzling multimedia presentation on steelheading in BC and answered questions on steelhead recovery efforts by the State of Idaho.

Tim Cavileer

QUOTE

Some act and talk as though casting were the entire art of fly-fishing, and grade an angler solely by the distance he can cover with his flies. This is a great mistake and pernicious in its influence. Casting is but a method of placing a fly before the trout without alarming it, and within its reach. It is merely placing food before a guest. The selection of such food as will suit, and so serving it as to please a fastidious and fickle taste, still remain indispensably necessary to induce its acceptance.

(Henry P. Wells in "Fly Rods and Fly Tackle" - 1885)

Conservation Committee Report

Jim Siebe reported mailing off a letter to Kent Dimmit concerning the nomination of George Hinman to the RFEG Citizen's Advisory Board (WDFW).

Consideration of various levels membership was discussed. It was suggested that more thought be given for offering lifetime membership. A sustaining or enhanced membership level, renewable each year was also encouraged.

No nominations for the Bill Alspach Memorial Fund have been received by the club. Award of the scholarship will probably be postponed until a later time.

A letter is to be sent to WA-FFF expressing the club's disappointment and questioning whether a two-day casting clinic will increase attendance. With the clinic to be held on the west side it was thought that there would not be much participation from CFC members.

Dave will start soliciting donations for the club auction, March 2001. Member donations are encouraged. Dave and Shirley Engerbretson have several donated items obtained during the FFF conclave.

It was agreed that the club draft a letter on behalf of the Idaho members to send to Idaho Governor Kempthorne criticizing the State for ignoring IDFG expertise and using outside biologist to write an opinion on the All-H paper. It was also suggested that the club request a copy of \$10K McKern review used in drafting the State's response. The letter is to be signed by Idaho members of the club (and others if desired).

Motion was made to have the club buy a set of each of Harrison Steeve and Ken Isawami tying videos.

John Toker passed around stitch-ups of hat logos for the club.

(Submitted by Tim Cavileer for Jim Siebe)

Jim Siebe

PROVIDING THE STREAMSIDE ENTERTAINMENT

The humor in fly fishing is sometimes overlooked or forgotten. For the past year or so I have been quietly enjoying a laugh at my own expense.

The setting is a warm late spring day on a Pennsylvania trout stream, fishing with a fellow fly fisherman. I was standing on a rock outcropping drifting a nymph through a nice run, when I accomplished a first, for me, in my many years of fly fishing for trout.

Suddenly my knee crumpled, the object of my recent surgery, and my world changed. Every thing happened in slow motion, mentally for me. As I started to fall my choices became, fall straight down among the rocks, risking injury and possibly damage to my rod, etc., or diving for the open water. I chose the latter. When I hit the water I was in the face down, arms outstretched position. I can only imagine what my fishing buddy thought as he first heard this huge splash and then saw the large wake I created.

It is amazing how lucid and calm a person can be in a moment of calamity. I remember thinking, I'm not hurt, I still have hold of my rod, and I need to get to the surface for air, etc. I calmly righted myself and was able to stand upright in water high up my chest and hideously filling my waders. The first thing I could think of to say to my buddy who was setting speed records

crossing the stream and bank between us, was how did you score my dive? He responded with a resounding 10!

Once my friend determined the only thing damaged was my pride, the typical comments started and never let up and continued when I arrived home and my wife was informed of the incident. A few days later we had our monthly club meeting and its amazing how many people were aware of my misadventure, even though it happened on an isolated stream with only one witness.

There is a lesson to the story. Accidents on the stream can and do happen and the lesson I learn was to always carry a complete change of clothes no matter how warm the weather is. I can attest that wearing a spare set of latex waders over wet underwear is not an experience I care to repeat. I have since packed a small duffel bag with spare clothes, towel, etc. Just in case!

Remember fly fishing is meant to be entertaining and enjoyable, even if you are the one supplying the entertainment.

(by Don Van Buren, Vice President of the North Coast Fly Fishers for the ClubWire Email Newswire)

Upcoming Events

December 13, 2000 6:00 pm. Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at Shermer's in Pullman, WA.

December 20, 2000 CFC Board/Conservation meeting, 5:30 pm at Rico's in Pullman, WA.

President	Brian McNeill (mcneill@mail.wsu.edu) 883-8493
Vice-President	John Toker (johnnoker@hotmail.com) 332-6603
Secretary/Treasurer	Shirley Engerbretson (shirle1@hotmail.com) 882-1687
FFF Representative	George Johnson (gjohnson@pullman.com) 334-3135
Conservation Chair	Jim Siebe (jsiebe@moscow.com) 883-0622
Newsletter Editor	Tim Cavileer (tcavileer@uidaho.edu) 883-4572

What to tie this winter? - Tim Cavileer

The streams are closing, the weather's deteriorating and I'm getting out less and less. What with gas prices and the fickle nature of steelhead, time at the tying bench is beginning to look better and better. So, the question that begs to be asked is 'what to tie this winter?' Perhaps you've asked yourself this same question. In the past I've spent way too many late nights before a trip tying, so when this fall rolled around I made a list of what I wanted to tie over the winter. Here are some questions I asked myself and some suggestions to help you generate a list of your own.

The very first thing I did was to salvage hooks. I went through my boxes and pulled the flies that looked hideous, those old unused poorly tied flies I did last year that now look unsuitable to my additional year's experience. These I added to a pile with those that the fish have mangled during outings and I take the razor blade to them. Doing this gives me a fresh perspective (not to mention a few recycled hooks) and satisfies the perfectionist in me.

With that done I asked, 'What did I use last year?' Opening all my boxes and looking for gaps tells me what was successful and what wasn't. It should be pretty obvious that those that are still there (and survived the razor) are those I

tying off parachute hackles. Most recently it was working with floss for low water steelhead fly bodies. Doing so didn't generate many usable flies, and I razored a lot of rejects, but I sure learned a lot. I know that you will too.

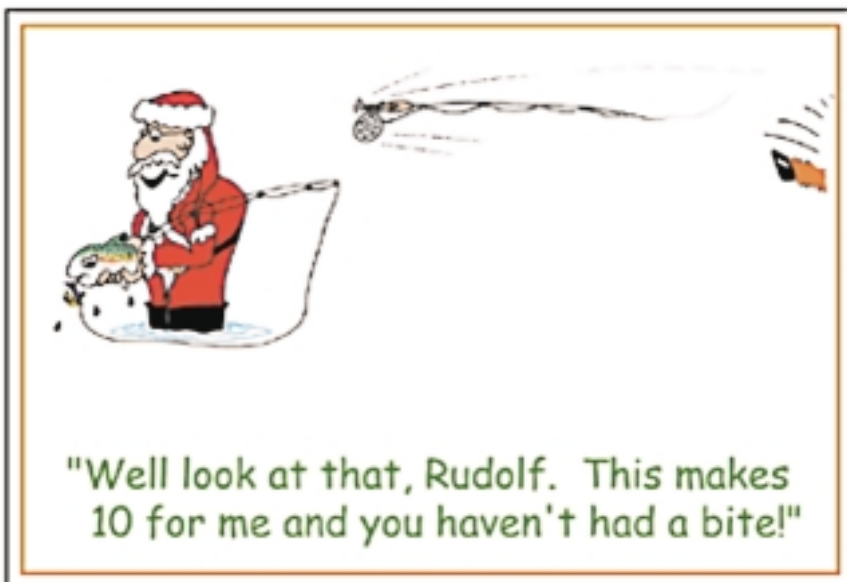
- ✓ Razor the rejects.
- ✓ Look for gaps in your boxes.
- ✓ Check your fishing journal.
- ✓ Think process, materials or techniques.
- ✓ Ask around for favorites.
- ✓ Tie by season.

Another place to check is that pile of patterns that we all seem to accumulate. How many times has someone handed you a fly and said, 'Here, try this'? Maybe while looking through a fly fishing magazine you've marked an eye catching pattern with a sticky note or picked up a new pattern in a fly shop? And don't be afraid to ask others what they like to tie and fish.

won't tie. Next I looked through my fishing journal and checked what worked and what hatched during my times on the rivers, streams and lakes. I also thought about what I should have had but didn't.

With a basic list down I add a few patterns that present a challenge or allow me to concentrate on a few techniques or materials that I want to master. In the past I've specifically sat down at my vise to practice tying humpies, - measuring, tying, cutting - until I mastered proportions and style. Another time I experimented with various methods of

Finally, once you've generated your list, sit down and decide the order you'll use the flies. Organize your list and tie them by season. Tie first what you'll use first and so on. Tie your early season flies first, for example, chironomids and wooly worms, then tackle your early summer attractors and mayflies. Next, move on to caddis and other late-summer dries, hoppers and terrestrials and then finish up with fall and winter steelhead patterns.



"Well look at that, Rudolf. This makes 10 for me and you haven't had a bite!"

(Gene Trump cartoon)

It is with a sad note that we mark the passing of Fran Lowell November 15th. Our thoughts go out to Sperm.

Don't forget your membership dues in January!

\$20/ Individual

\$25/ Family

\$10/ Student

Fly of the Month--October Sunshine, by John Toker

Tying tips: Tie in the underwing pointing over the eye of the hook first (to be tied back later). Next wrap the silver tinsel down the shank of the hook and back to the front again. Then wind thread down to the point where the tail will sit and place the tail on the hook. Wrap the thread to the front again and tie in the gold mylar, wrap it down the hook and back and secure. (For added durability lay a thin coat of head cement along the underside of the tinsel). Attach your hackle and then make a dubbing loop with the seal. Make about three turns of dubbing behind the hackle and then sparsely dub forward where you will wrap the hackle. Wrap hackle, tie back underwing, and attach a single piece of woodduck cupped over top the squirrel. Tie off and apply head cement.

The October Sunshine was born from my desire for a fly that would have a little flash during sunny conditions. Also I wanted a fly that would contrast the fly I usually start with, a variation of the Green-butted Purple. I find it a very attractive fly both in the water and out.

Remember, the reason we fish such flies is it does honor to such a magnificent fish and we enjoy the beauty of the flies we use.
THE FISH DON'T CARE!!

I do feel it is good to fish through a piece of water with contrasting flies and I like a fly that can be seen well. If you believe in placing importance on fly selection I will say that the October Sunshine has proven very effective. I have caught many steelhead on it in bright sunshine and it has been especially effective when fishing it through behind someone. If you see me, ask to hear about a particularly funny incident. Give it a try, it's a beautiful fly to see hanging out of the corner of a wild steelhead's mouth!



(Photo by Jim Palmershiem)

Hook: Salmon/Steelhead
Hook Sizes, 6- 2/0
Tail: Golden Pheasant Crest
Tag: Silver Mylar
Body: Gold Mylar
Dubbing: Claret Seal
Hackle: Red Claret Golden Pheasant
Underwing: Gray Squirrel
Overwing: Barred woodduck

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