



The Tippet

September 2000

President's Message

Welcome Back! I hope everyone has enjoyed a restful summer with family, friends, and good fishing. I know I have in places like Silver Creek, the Big Wood, the St. Maries, and Nelson Lake outside of Chewelah, Washington with a few other club members as we took advantage of Cascade Springs access to this small lake full of wild cutthroats. Your Prez was also made famous by Charlie Powell, who took pictures of this outing and put one of me in the Daily News. When I returned from a trip to California, the photo was laid out for me to see as I walked in my front door, pasted outside my office at work, and posted in the University Counseling Center on the WSU Campus! While I was not able to make it to the St. Joe fishout, I heard that a good time was had by all.

As Club tradition dictates, September is time for the annual "Show and Tell". So, be prepared with those stories and slides to let people know what you have been up to this summer. Maybe Charlie can show a few more pictures of the Nelson Lake adventure and provide his assessment for those who missed his review in the paper. Also, from what I have heard, the Steelhead are in on the Clearwater. Thus, we will look forward to some recent fishing reports.

Also, as part of our September meeting, we are planning to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Club. We will have some special festivities including a few words from some of our Charter Members. Unfortunately, your Prez will not be able to attend the September meeting, as my youngest daughter has been selected to attend some arts workshops and perform for the Governor of Idaho in Boise. However, I am confident in the abilities of my able Vice Prez John Tokar to take care of the September

meeting. Besides, if we can get him off the river for one evening, he needs a trial run for when his term begins in January!

Speaking of the Club's namesake, the Clearwater River, I still can't help but think of Bill Allspach whenever I am down there. I can still remember his fine figure in the distance casting what looked like 90 feet of line like it was nothing! Bill was always free in his advice to me on how to catch Steelhead, and more often than not, when choosing a fly, I pull out the Beats Me, and it still works. As the Club maintains the Bill Allspach Memorial fund, we plan to award another scholarship this year to a student in Fisheries Research and Management Studies at UI or WSU, and invite the awardee to present their work at our December meeting. Please pass on your nominees to me, Tim Cavileer, or Jim Siebe so the executive /conservation committee can make a choice. Thanks!

Brian McNeill

Clearwater Fly Casters 2000 Officers

President Brian McNeill
Vice-President John Tokar
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

Backcast (May meeting)

Guests

Guests at the last meeting included Si Whitman, Tony McDonald, Mike Bishop and Sharon Hart.

Fishing Reports

George Hinman reported floating the Bitterroot River with his daughter in late April. The guided trip started at Darby, MT with a number of trout being caught. Most ranged 18 inches and up.

Jim Siebe ran the Rouge River and because he was expecting flows to be over 25k cfs he didn't pack a rod. Flows turned out to be ~7500 cfs and the rolling the steelhead showed him no mercy.

John Read and Jack Mayfield fished Coffee Pot Lake catching fish in the 14-20" range. The club Fishout at Amber Lake was well attended and turned out to be a good day for all. Chironomids fished just off the bottom

were the ticket.

Andy Filer and Monica Hines spent several days fishing Mann Lake, OR and learned to envy those with campers. Fifteen mph winds and whitecaps didn't allow fishing the first day. However, things did settle down somewhat for the next couple of days and they were rewarded for their perseverance catching 16-24" cutts on wooly buggers lobbed downwind while wading the shoreline.

Other News

A motion was made, seconded and passed recommending that the club support the USFS Ragg Trail project. Because time constraints and summer schedules precluded a club organized participation, individual members were encouraged to make contact with Susan Jenkins for participation in the workshops.

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(Mike Croft cartoon - courtesy of Fly Anglers Online at www.flyangersonline.com)

CFC Triva Quiz

- 1) What is the "official" fly of the Clearwater Fly Casters?
- 2) How many charter members were there in 1970?
- 3) What is the Ben Collins - Steve Allured Award and why is it given?
- 4) What year was the Collins - Allured Award first given?
- 5) What image is scrimshawed on the Sherm Lowell Presidential Bolo Tie?
- 6) What is the 'Fishing Tree' and why is its appearance so dreaded?
- 7) How many CFC presidents have there been? Can you name them?
- 8) What two presidents have served more than one term?
- 9) What is the Lotus Blossom Juice mentioned in the first treasurer's report?
- 10) Who is the duly elected 'Club Historian'?
- 11) Who received the 1991 Allured - Collins Award?
- 12) The club has had three patches, can you describe each?
- 13) The president and vice-president are also known as?
- 14) The original newsletter was called?
- 15) What year did the club incorporate and prepare by-laws?
- 16) The very first fish out on the St Joe occurred in what year?
- 17) What month and year did the club affiliate with FFF?
- 18) Is it Clearwater Flycasters or Clearwater Fly Casters?

September Book Review - Don Shearer

Royal Coachman: The Lore and Legends of Fly-Fishing
By Paul Schullery
Simon & Schuster, New York, New York
224 pages, softcover, ISBN: 0684865971

Schullery writes on subjects ranging from the beginnings of fishing literature, equipment development, to what does "wild" in wild trout really mean. As the former Executive Director of the American Museum of Fly Fishing he has had access to a wealth of fishing history. He has not wasted his access to the materials.

From his unique perspective Schullery rallies against the elitism that has developed into the sport over the last one hundred years. He explains how this attitude may have derived and why it seems to perpetuate till today. He gives a good account of the history of a select few rivers in the United States; the anglers who fished them, the environmental factors that shaped them, and the flies created to fish their waters. The reader is also treated to an account of the development, naming, and metamorphosis of the Royal Coachman, hence the title of the book.

One gets the impression that Schullery feels that the history of the sport, its equipment, and literature is not very important and ultimately very important at the same time. The same sort of paradox exists in flyfishing itself. Paraphrasing Robert Traver, it isn't that flyfishing is so important, it is everything else in life is equally or more unimportant.

Ultimately the book is extremely well written and gives the reader a vision of where fishing has come from and where it maybe going. He gives us glimpses of the future struggles, which the sport may endure. Lastly, and maybe the best reason to read "Royal Coachman" Schullery gives the reader some things to think about while wading a stream.

Upcoming Events

September 13, 2000 Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at Shermer's in Pullman, WA.

October 7, 2000 Kelly Creek Flycasters Annual Fly Fair.
Steamwheeler Room, Quality Inn, Clarkston, WA. For more info contact Tom Anderson (509) 758-6794 or thunder@clarkston.com

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In appreciation for outstanding dedication and service to the Clearwater Fly Casters, Marv Slind was presented with an engraved Okuma fly box. Over the last 18 years he has served as President, vice-president, Conservation chair, and Tippet editor. Well done Marv!

James Foster won the Thomas and Thomas 2-piece 5wt fly rod. While the rod wasn't in from the FFF national office at the time of the meeting, James did report that later in the week it arrived and immediately got a break-in at Spring Valley. Congratulations Jim for your individual membership to the FFF.

The Annual Summer BBQ was held on July 12th, 2000 at Sunnyside Park in Pullman. Everyone had an enjoyable time with great food being provided by Porky's Pit Barbecue. Fourteen brave souls entered the casting competition. Gary Evers and Jim Palmersheim tied for first place with scores of 93.

It is in sadness that we note the passing of former member and past president Bill Hoge who passed away August ?, 2000. Our condolences to the family.

Tim Cavilee

Charter Photos



(Dave Engerbretson photograph)



(Dave Engerbretson photograph)

Charter members Steve Allured (left) shown here working on a scrimshaw carving and George Hinman (right) displaying his talents at Lake Lenice in the early 1970's. Both photos were taken by Dave Engerbretson.

Clearwater Fly Casters celebrate 30 years

The Clearwater Fly Casters began in May 1970 with an organizational meeting in the old Pullman Country Club located on W. Grand Ave in Pullman, Washington. At the first meeting Sherman Lowell became president, Myron Micky was appointed secretary and Chuck Frederickson, treasurer. The club newsletter, originally called the Kreeel Notz and (subsequently renamed 'The Tippet' in 1974 by Dave Engerbretson) was first published in July of the same year by Myron Micky (keeper of the Kreeel Notz). Charter membership during the inaugural year reached 27 members, with membership costing \$10.

Several items of historical interest can be gleaned from the earliest issues in the newsletter archives. In them we can see that time change some things and others not at all. We're still fighting the dams but it sure takes a lot more time on the water to catch those elusive steelhead!

In the very first issue of the club newsletter (Kreeel Notz, July 1970) it was reported that the membership voted to unanimously support the Northwest Steelheaders Associaton in their fight against dams in the principle rivers of the Northwest and that the ratio of fish caught to hours fished was 1 fish: 5 hours fished, and the likelihood of catching a steelhead was "on par with taking a steelhead with spin gear" according to Don Chatman from the Idaho Cooperative Fisheries Unit. Probably the most interesting(and cryptic) was the entry in the treasurer's report for \$38 to buy lotus blossom juice. Hmmm.

The club has a rich history - much of it retained over the years by the club historian, Dave Tharp. Stop by the table at the meeting and look through the Tippet Archives, the club photo album and files from the past. You won't be disappointed and may just come away with a greater appreciation of where the club has been.

Ben Collins- Steve Allured Award

First awarded in 1989, the Collins - Allured Award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the activities of the Clearwater Fly Casters, conservation and the sport of fly fishing.

1989 Sherm Lowell	1995 George Hinman
1990 Dave Engerbretson	1996 Denny Cartwright
1991 ?	1997 Leroy Hyatt
1992 Marv Slind	1998 Gene and Natalie Clark
1993 Andy Kleinhofs	1999 Dave Tharp
1994 Bill Hoge	2000 Bill Hendrix

Bill Alspach Memorial Scholarship Fund

In March, 1997 the Board propose to the general membership the establishment of a permanent scholarship fund in memory of Bill Alspach. Money from the fund would be used to provide scholarships to students engaged in Fisheries research and management studies at UI or WSU.

In November, 1998 a further motion was passed to a) continue to build the fund; b) spend up to 10% or \$300-500 per year for students involved in natural resource management; c) have the Board work to develop guidelines and qualifications for recipients and d) have the Board continue to work on ways to build the Bill Alspach Memorial Scholarship Fund.

First award given to Krista Nichols of WSU in December, 1999.

Fly of the Month--Royal Coachman

The Royal Coachman, a variation of an older British pattern, was the fly chosen by the Clearwater Fly Casters back in 1970 to use on its first patch and newsletter. Since then it has adorned CFC coffee mugs, decals, hats and two additional patches. Today it is most often represented in the distinctively western variation using white calf hair for both the wing and tail.

The fly itself was first tied by around 1878 by John Haily, a professional tier in NY who had been tying it for a personal client. This particular client favored the British 'Coachman' (which had a peacock body, brown hackle and white wing) but found it too frail and wanted Haily to tie some with red silk in the middle to make them stronger and to add a sprig of wood duck as a jib. Haily, also a tier at the time for Charles Orvis, had sent a sample for him to see. Debating whether to give it a new name or number, L.C. Orvis suggested that since "... all that scarlet makes it quite magnificent - call it ... the royal coachman".

The Royal Coachman reflects the ending of an age of fly tying that used colorful, gaudy materials in designing attractor flies to a shift in thinking to the more subdued entomology based American hatch-matching for fly design. Its naming also reflected the ageless debate of how to know when a slight variation in an existing pattern justified a new name. Given it's long history, survival and permutations throughout the years the Royal Coachman was appropriate in 1970 and still is today as the "official" fly of the Clearwater Fly Casters. Tie some up and relive a bit of the past!

Some of the material was adapted from Paul Schullery's 'Royal Coachman: The Lore and Legends of Fly-Fishing'.



Hook:	dry fly #12-16
Thread:	black, 6/0
Tail:	golden pheasant tippet
Body:	peacock herl and red floss
Wing:	duck quill
Hackle:	coachman brown

Clearwater Fly Casters
Tim Cavileer - Newsletter Editor
124 South Hayes St
Moscow, Idaho 83843

