



The Tippet

March 2002

President's Message

Staring out the window at today's blizzard conditions makes me wonder how many of us snow-shoed to a favorite fishing hole this past month. Guess I'll have to wait for the meeting to hear all about it during fishing reports!

This month's meeting will be at Lakey's in Pullman on March 13th, with the Wet Fly Hour starting at 6 p.m. Our speaker will be Trevor Chowen, the 2001 Alspach scholarship winner. Trevor will speak on his study of the phenomena of Chinook in the Hanford Reach of the Columbia changing chromosomal characteristics from female to male. If you recall, I falsely reported that he was going to speak in January (that might have been cause for a surprisingly big turnout on an otherwise stormy and cold evening). I promise to deliver this time.

Please be prepared to discuss dates and preferences for the Amber Lake Fishout, the BBQ and the St. Joe Fishout. I'll bring the Four Doctors and we'll sell raffle tickets for a chance at winning that outstanding collectors' piece. We will give you an update of the new by-laws and announce the winner of this year's scholarship. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Jim Siebe

Backcast

Old Business

Discussion about putting aside money to build a book library was discussed. Funding ideas ranged from a set amount put toward the library a month, to a 50/50 raffle. Funding was then handed over to the executive committee. Donations will be accepted care of Monte Elder. Be sure to write your name, address, email and phone number on donated books.

Tim Cavileer is keeper of the scrapbook photos. Any member wishing to put photos in the book must see Tim. Those wishing to see the scrapbook must also see Tim.

New Business

Current Alspach scholarship recipient nominations will be discussed.

Fishing

"It's been an incredible steelhead year," according to David Young. His "magic" rod, made by John Toker, has apparently been the key to catching fish. Young has had eight-fish

steelhead days with his magic rod.

Stacy Dean's 15-year-old came up for steelheading on the Snake, and caught first wild steelhead on fly rod. He then caught three the next day, on the Ronde, The fish were podded up, according to Dean. They would hit a run for eight or 10 casts, then move if no fish liked his long black wooly bugger with flash. The fish were moving for flies pretty well.

Fishing on the Lochsa has been slow, but fun for Zac Sexton. He has been doing best with bright and/or flashy nymphs, like a pink soft hackle sow bug or soft hackle, beadheads. He saw a pod of fish rising on the Selway, but was unable to cast far enough to put a fly in front of them. It looked like they were rising to midge pupa.

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CFC membership dues are \$20/year for individuals, \$25/year for families, \$10/year for students, \$50/sustaining and \$300/lifetime.

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



Quotes

There's a land where the mountains are nameless,
And the rivers run all God knows where;
There are lives that are erring and aimless,
And death that just hangs by a hair;
There are hardships that nobody reckons;
There are valleys unpeopled and still;
There's a land-oh it beckons and beckons,
And I want to go back-and I will.

The Spell of the Yukon

By Robert Service

Winter is the Angler's time to dream, and in his dreams his flies are right and his casts true. There are no hang-ups or snags in this winter fishing, no aching legs and wrists, no waders full of cold water. There are only trout.

Howard T. Walden II



Upcoming Events

March 12, 19, 26 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Fly Tying at Tri-State in Moscow.
March 13 6 p.m., Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at Lakey's Grill in Pullman.

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FLY FISHING QUIZ

1. In a double spey cast, the fly should land _____ of the caster, just before the final delivery.
 - a. Upstream
 - b. Downstream
 - c. In front of
 - d. just behind
2. Which of the following are change of direction casts?
 - a. Double spey
 - b. Single spey
 - c. Tuck
 - d. Both a and b
3. When using circle hooks, the recommended hook-set technique is:
 - a. Raise the rod sharply
 - b. Move the rod above your head
 - c. Use a strip-set
 - d. All of the above
4. The Leisenring Lift is:
 - a. Only used to imitate mayflies
 - b. A method of nymphing
 - c. Used only with sinking lines
 - d. Effective with dry flies and streamers

Answers: 1. (b); 2. (d); 3. (c); 4. (b)

(by Liz Watson of the Northwest Women Flyfishers)

HUMOR

THE BUM

A bum, who obviously has seen more than his share of hard times, approaches a well dressed gentleman on the street. Hey, Buddy, can you spare two dollars?"

The well-dressed gentleman responds, "You are not going to spend it on liquor are you?" No, sir, I don't drink," retorts the bum.

"You are not going to throw it away in some crap game, are you?" asks the gentleman. "No way, I don't gamble," answers the bum.

"You wouldn't waste the money at a shop for a fly rod, would you?" asks the man. Never," says the bum, "I don't fly fish."

The man asks the bum if he would like to come home with him for a home cooked meal. The bum accepts eagerly. While they are heading for the man's house, the bum's curiosity gets the better of him. Isn't your wife going to be angry when she sees a guy like me at your table?"

"Probably," says the man, "but it will be worth it. I want her to see what happens to a guy who doesn't drink, gamble or fly fish."

THE DOUBLE HAUL

You should always double haul ... not just on long casts. Efficient double hauls will generate more line speed on both the back and forward strokes for longer casts. You will be able to pick up more line, carry more line in the air, shoot more line, let your line hand share some of the work, and cast large flies in the wind with less effort. However, there are different opinions on how to make an efficient double haul. One school of thought, spearheaded by Lefty Kreh, believes that a haul should be made at the end of the stroke during the speed-up-and-stop. They believe that short hauls of four to twelve inches will increase line speed as much as longer hauls and that the "slack" developed by longer hauls is difficult to marshal back through the guides.

The other school of thought, practiced by Steve Rajeff and promoted by Mel Krieger (see *The Essence of Fly Casting II* video), believes that the hauling hand should mirror the rod hand as far as length of stroke, speed, and timing. The haul is started when the stroke is started, accelerates smoothly, and ends when the stroke ends. Hauls will be long for long casts and short for short casts. They believe feeding the hauled line back through the guides is no more different than shooting line, which you should always do on every cast to make a good presentation. Slowing the line being shot to a smooth stop will insure a straight line cast and properly turn over the leader.

Throughout a casting stroke, with or without a haul, the fly line moves at the same speed as the rod tip. It can do nothing else because only the rod tip can tell the line what to do. The inertia of the line, resisting the movement of the rod tip, causes the rod to bend. When the rod is stopped abruptly at the end of a stroke, the rod unloads by straightening. The line then forms a loop and starts unrolling in the direction the rod tip was traveling when the rod was stopped.

Recent scientific studies published in physics and engineering journals indicate that approximately 80 percent of the line speed is attributable to the casting stroke, and approximately 20 percent is attributable to the unloading of the rod. "The lever is more important than the spring." With a rod held vertical, have your partner pull on the line to form a good bend in the rod then suddenly release the line. The line will not carry far, do to spring action alone.

The casting stroke and the haul contribute to line speed. But because of the 4 to 1 ratio the primary effort should be to accelerate the stroke to speed, not to load and unload the rod.

When a haul is added to a stroke, the inertia of the line causes the tip of the rod to bend further back before starting to increase line speed. A short haul (or a quick wrist action) executed just before the abrupt stop, will increase the bend in the rod more than increase the line speed because the flexibility of the rod and the inertia of the line delays the build up of line speed. Furthermore, a short haul only adds about one foot of haul speed to the line speed.

A long haul, where the haul starts when the stroke starts, accelerates throughout the stroke, and ends when the stroke ends, provides enough time for the rod to overcome the line's inertia and build up line speed. A long haul can add as much as four feet of haul to the line speed.

While the best of casters on both sides of the double hauling argument can make long, beautiful casts (just as adherents of different casting styles can achieve equal results), those who achieve success with inefficient styles have to work harder.

I realize that this is a philosophical argument where neither side will be convinced by the arguments of the other side. I side with eleven times international fly casting champion, Steve Rajeff, and make a short haul for short casts and "rip the haul" for long casts.

(© Don Coleman of Florida's Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club for the FFF Club Wire Email News Wire)

Peeking Caddis

Hook: 3xl standard nymph, #10-18
Head: cream glass bead
Thread: 6/0 cream
Body: peacock herl
Case hackle: cream/brown soft hackle
(i.e. a webby saddle feather)
Rib: fine gold wire
Beard hackle: black hen saddle



- 1) Slide glass bead on hook. The barb may need to be pinched.
Do not try to force the bead over the barb - it will break. Start thread
And work back to hook bend.
- 2) Tie in wire, one cream/brown soft hackle feather and three strands of peacock herl.
- 3) Twist herl and wrap to just behind bead. Secure and clip excess. Palmer hackle to same place. Secure and clip excess. Loosely trim
hackle, tapering toward the rear. Don't worry about getting a perfect profile - just get the feather strands out of the way.
- 4) Tie in second cream/brown hackle behind bead. Palmer back to hook bend. Secure with wire by palmering the wire four or five times up
to bead. Clip excess feather and wire.
- 5) Tie in black hen saddle beard style, so the hackle points just touch the hook point. Secure and clip excess.
- 6) Build a body, behind the bead with the thread. Whip-finish and cement. Clip case to final shape.

This is the most requested fly, by friends who want me to tie for them. It has also caught panfish. The only drawback is the glass bead. It will break if cast against a rock. A cream brass or tungsten bead would be better, but then they don't have the translucence. Anyway, it's a good fly.

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