



The *Tippet* November, 2008

Clearwater Fly Casters
www.clearwaterflycasters.com
A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



November Speaker

"Fly Fishing for Atlantic Salmon in Russia" – Terry Nab

Clearwater Fly Casters Meeting – November 12, 2008 – Best Western University Inn, Moscow, ID – Presentation to Start 7:30 PM

A Note from Terry Nab

Picture reprinted from the Lax-A Angling Club Website (<http://www.lax-a.is>)

More than 34 years have passed since I caught my first Atlantic salmon from the George River in northern Quebec, Canada. Since making that first trip to the George River in September, 1974, I have cast my fly in many more salmon rivers throughout Canada, Iceland and Norway and have caught several hundred salmon over the years. Atlantic salmon fishing has become a passion with me.....I must admit I have become a salmon "junkie" and need to have a "fix" periodically or face the consequences of serious withdrawal problems.



Having heard story after story about the fabulous salmon fishing on the Kola Peninsula in northwestern Russia, since it was first opened up to fishing following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990, I finally decided to make the trip there in July 2007, to see if the stories I had heard were real or figments of some one's imagination. I convinced my good friend, Craig Lannigan from Lewiston, that he needed to experience the thrills and agonies of salmon fishing. Of course, Craig, being an ardent steelhead fisherman, didn't need too much "arm twisting" to be convinced he needed to experience such a trip either. So, after much planning and scheming, we departed from Lewiston on July 4th, 2007, to travel to Russia for a week of salmon fishing at the Pacha Camp on the Ponoï River. I will leave the rest of the details about the trip for my show on the 12th.

After traveling to the Ponoï River in July 2007, I decided to try another week at the Kola River in July 2008. My wife joined me on this trip. The lure of the Kola River are the huge salmon that are caught there. Each year, salmon of 30 to 50 pounds are caught in the Kola River. Visiting and fishing in Russia is quite an adventure, and I am looking forward to sharing my experiences there and my thoughts about it with you.

Calendar

**Nov 12: Terry Nab,
Flyfishing for Atlantic
Salmon in Russia**

**Dec 10: Reid Miller,
Flyfishing and Travels
in Australia**

**Jan 14: Kent Bowersox,
Steelhead Restoration
in North Central Idaho**

Information

The Tippet is available as a PDF file on our web site. Please submit short articles, recipes for favorite flies (with pictures), or other materials you would suggest included in The Tippet to the Newsletter Editor.

Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 PM

**Dinner: 6:30 PM
(buffet, \$16 per person)**

Program: 7:30 PM

President's Message

This is the time of year when folks have to decide what type of outdoorsman/woman they are. We've had very good trout fishing and the steelhead season is now in full swing. Some of us who want to spend time hunting have that conflict to add to the other issues of life. Now is the time to gather a cape to use during the winter to tie our favorite flies. Or maybe it is a hide we are seeking. The excitement of stalking wild game is the same as for fishing. Taking an outing with man's best friend is as rewarding as spending the day on the river with our best fishing buddies. I find it easier to tell the dog how great a hunter I am, rather than my hunting partner, who knows better. I've heard mixed reports on the steelhead fishing. Nice daytime temperatures have made October a pleasant time to fish this year. I hope those of you who key into the steelhead are being successful. This month we have Terry Nab to give our program (see above). I hope everyone will put the date on the calendar and attend. We will be selling raffle tickets, so please bring a fly or two, and the sold tickets will be added to the December Xmas fly rod drawing.

Steve Bush, President CFC

Backcast—October Meeting

Meeting Run by VP Fred Muehlbauer in Steve Bush's Absence

Fishing Reports

There were almost as many fishing reports as there were attendees. They were coming so fast and furious, I am sure I missed many of them. Here are some highlights. Bob Harwood reported he and his son joined a former CFC speaker over on the Big Horn River, where they caught browns and some rainbows to 20 inches. Kay and Lynn Youngblood had a recent trip to the Flathead, St. Joe and North Fork Clearwater, where the fishing was "good enough". Mike Decker reported some experiences on the Grande Ronde with steelhead. Andy Kleinhoff and Fred Muehlbauer were down there yesterday and had some action. Earlier, they were with their families up in Alaska, where they caught some coho.

Dave Tharp and John Read reported on the weekend over on the Clark Fork that they won at the last Kelly Creek auction. They had a cabin on the river and floated from Dry Creek to St. Regis, catching some nice fish. There was a foul-up with a vehicle shuttle, but it all got sorted out. Dave said the St. Joe was fishing well this fall, particularly from Marble Creek to the Huckleberry Campground. Doug and Lillian Young just got back from three weeks in Norway, and he had some spectacular brown trout fishing at some hike-in lakes in the far north, using a dry with a dropper. In the fjords, they used conventional gear and caught many cod and other species, netted 100 pounds of big herring, and even got some king crab (escaped from Russian rearing pens).

Dave Cuellar fished the DePew and Yellowstone Rivers this fall near Livingston, MT, recording some big fish and enjoying a large spinner hatch. Doug Baldwin fished the Black Canyon of the North Fork and Kelly Creek, where the fishing was slow and the weather spotty, but he enjoyed the beauty of the area just the same.

October Speaker: Ken Iwamasa – "Fly Fishing Colorado and Beyond" – Introduced by Jim Palmersheim

Ken started out by complimenting our club for the heavy involvement of women, something he doesn't see in most clubs he visits. He also complimented Jim Palmersheim for embarrassing him in their past fishing experiences together, one of the reasons he did not schedule some fishing on this trip. Ken talked a bit about his involvement in the development of fly fishing experiences and maintenance of environment in Mongolia, which was the topic of his presentation to the Kelly Creek Flycasters the next night. (continued on page 3)

Ken moved to Boulder, CO, in 1973, and started fishing the streams in this area. In 1976, he gave his first presentation to the local TU chapter, with much the same title as the talk tonight. He described the major drainages in the state and discussed both historical and current aspects of the fishing. There are some problems with individual species, such as the Rio Grande Cutthroat, which is endangered, but the biggest problems are that the high country waters are warming and the big hatches of bugs are disappearing. Spring creeks are the exception, as their water temperatures depend on underground conditions rather than on atmospheric temperatures. The mayflies are the most vulnerable, whereas the caddis flies are much more adaptable. Ken believes strongly that changes are occurring and urged all fly fishers to get out there and observe, to help us all understand the situation.

There are still wonderful opportunities for fly fishing in Colorado, and the fall and winter seasons are particularly rewarding to Ken. Not only are the rivers un-crowded, but there are warm-water fisheries available out on the plains, with bass, panfish and interesting crosses to test your skills. There are many dams in the state, with mixed blessings, resulting in some interesting tailwater and reservoir fisheries. For example, on the Frying Pan River, the shrimp that were put in the reservoir to feed the kokanee have escaped and feed the trout in the tailwater, resulting in 15-20 pound monsters. Of course, this is an unintended result, and these are not always good for the fishing. An example is the escape of pike into the warming waters of the Yampa River, with the pike now all the way to Lake Powell, eating all the other fish.

To Ken, the best part of the state is the South Central Region, with the Gunnison, Rio Grand and Conejos the best fishing and least used rivers. He particularly likes the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, where there are still hatches of the big, black Pteronarcys stoneflies. The headwater region of the Rio Grand is easy to wade, has few anglers and is great fishing. Ken also loves the quiet Conejos River, where there are 50 miles of big meadow stream that is not fished much. Also, there are over 12,000 miles of small streams in the state, particularly in the high country, and this is some of Ken's favorite fishing. Stealth and knowledge are most important here to be successful.

Ken described the many species of fish they target in Colorado, as well as his adaptations of flies and methods to catch them. His eye as an accomplished artist was evident in the beautiful pictures of the fish, as well as in the non-traditional materials and methods used to produce his imitations of the bugs. The talk was outstanding in stimulating the audience to think about all aspects of our fly fishing experience: the environment, the fish, the insects, the methods, the beauty, and the art. He urged us to personalize our fly fishing, as part of our human experience. He warned that things are changing: "We are likely to be the last generation of fly fishers, as this sport has come to be known."

The Copper John

By John Barr (Midcurrent, Oct 23, 2008)

John Barr has invented a number of versatile and popular flies, among them the the fly that has become one of the most popular of modern patterns: The Copper John.

Hook: Size 10-18 Tiemco 5262

Bead: Gold

Weight: Lead Wire

Thread: Black 70-denier Ultra Thread

Tail: Brown goose biots

Abdomen: Copper Ultra Wire

Wing Case: Black Thin Skin and pearl Flashabou covered with 30-minute epoxy

Thorax: Peacock herl

Legs: Mottled brown hen back



For an article on the history of this fly and tying instructions go to the web site:

http://www.midcurrent.com/articles/flies/barr_copperjohn.aspx

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CFC membership dues are \$20/yr for individuals, \$30/yr for families, \$10/yr for students, \$50/yr sustaining, \$300/lifetime. Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday, September through May, at the Best Western University Inn, 1516 Pullman Rd, Moscow, Idaho. Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM and Program at 7:30 PM.

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