



FOURTH CORNER FLY FISHERS

President's Message

Fishing is in the mind, as much as in the body and senses - a fortunate thing during the winter, when both water and our own juices flow slowly, if at all. We rely on our thoughts and peripheral activities, both of which increase as the daylight lengthens. The urge to be on the water quickens, earlier than the buds on willows. More flies may get tied than during the summer. I participated in my first fly swap recently. I now have a dozen innovative patterns from as many tyers, proof that winter steelhead fly design has vaulted ahead in the last decade.

Providers of goods and services for our little corner of the nations economy have decided that now, rather than spring or summer, is the time to meet our frustrated longings half-way. Angling and other outdoor shows cluster at this time of year, to be followed shortly by camping/recreational vehicle expos. Spey claves will be scattered among the next few months, climaxed by the big one on the Sandy River in Oregon in May.

The fish we seek don't have to plan ahead. Instinct, and favorable fortune, will bring them to the right places at the appropriate times. We can, and should. The annual calendar becomes a blank spreadsheet, to be filled in month by month. Don't just wait for last-minute invitations from others. Now is time to look at the big picture of 2009, negotiate other interests and responsibilities, reserve vacation time - and then bide our time, a little while longer.

Wayne McLemore,
President of the FCFF



"February is likely to have splendid days of bright sun after frost, with the first faint feeling of spring in them, for the sap is rising in the maples again and the willow shoots are scarlet with it and the alders and fruit trees budded with it."

Roderick Haig-Brown,
"A River Never Sleeps"

FEBRUARY PROGRAM



Kate Taylor, a former member of FCFF, is our program speaker for February. Kate grew up hunting and fishing and her love for all things outdoors has turned from an addiction to an obsession. After moving away from the east coast, Kate landed in Bellingham where she worked for H & H Anglers and Outfitters. Kate spent the past summer guiding in beautiful Bristol Bay, Alaska and now chases steelhead in the Pacific Northwest until she returns to Alaska again in June. This past season she spent time swinging flies with her spey rods on some of Alaska's great rainbow rivers. Her presentation for FCFF will cover fly fishing in Bristol Bay while highlighting the incredible rainbow fishery on the Naknek River with an emphasis on using two handed rods to swing big flies. Kate is extremely enthusiastic and excited for the opportunity to present to her fellow FCFF members.

For those of you who remember Kate from her days in Bellingham you can catch up with her on her blog dedicated to women fishermen at www.rogueangels.net.

Our meeting is February 26th at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club. Please send your email to fcff@verizon.net and let me know whether you plan to attend and if so how many will be in your party. If you don't have access to email give me a call at 312-9856.

Charlie Scaief,
Programs Chairman, FCFF

February Outings Report

The first of the fly tying sessions was held at my home the last day of January. About a dozen members and guests spent the afternoon tying a diverse set of patterns. From Jack Salstrom's chromids to a bunch of big clousers tied by Don Anderson for his next trip to Loreto. It was also an opportunity for several individuals new to tying or new to the area to pick up some pointers or see what all the fuss is about. And everyone got to look over lots of storage and travel techniques for all the tying material.

It was also an opportunity to sample some asian guacamole, salmon salad, North Carolina pulled pork and wash it down with a cup of US Senate bean soup or a glass of Don Anderson's home made "Willow" Riesling.

The next session will be at Dan Coombs studio on Saturday February 21st at noon. I look forward to seeing many of you there as well.

I am still completing the upcoming outing schedule for this year. It will be done by our meeting on the 26th. One event that I am finalizing with Reaction Fly and Tackle is a Spey session on the Frazier River. They have one scheduled for March 21st, a Saturday.

They will furnish the instructors and equipment and lunches are available for purchase. If we can get enough people they will put one on just for the club. They are also willing to do one after April 1st so the new license will cover it. Several members went on one during the last pink year and it was a blast. It is a chance to improve you skills, have a day on the river and even have your casting practice interrupted by a fish!

If you have any outings that you really want to make please give me a heads up and I will see what I can do.

Frank Koterba
Outings chairman.



NOOKSACK RIVER

The Nooksack River fishing and our sad shape of fish runs is caused by several things. Here is a list of a few of the major factors for our declining runs of Salmon, Steelhead, and Sea-run Cutthroat.

The Nooksack river system at one time was one of the most prolific fish producers of any river on the west coast. Through poor logging practices, agriculture, population increases, pollution in Puget Sound, over fishing both by commercial fisheries in salt and in the river, and the main problem of poor management of resources. One of main problems is having three managers of the resources. As we all know any time resources are entered into the political arena, the resource takes it in the shorts.

Have you ever tried to get a straight answer on who is in charge on the fisheries? I tried, here's what happened. I found tribal net fishing out of season. I called Tribal enforcement, received no response. Next called was federal fisheries and their response was to call the WDFW. I called the WDFW and their response was their hands are tied. So who's the top dog here?? And, who is EVER going to enforce the Judge Boldt decision??

Conversations and meetings with Sports fishing groups in our area have come to the general consensus that major improvements can be made and offer the following suggestions:

- A. Do what is being done with North of Falcon, but have enough meetings scheduled that every area of the state can be involved. After everything has been negotiated and settled, have one agency run the agreement, with the other agencies set up as satellites to enforce the agreements.
 - B. Enforce all laws and regulations that are in place to protect the environment of the river and its watershed.
 - C. Enforce all fishing regulations to the fullest. This includes Sports and commercial fisheries (non Tribal and Tribal). Make the fines substantial enough that it will detour poaching of the resources. The fines for an offense should be spelled out and put into regulations so that the court systems can't rescind the fine or reduce it. If poaching is occurring the Game Agents should keep track of their time and the cost be added to the fine.
-

(Continued Rant)

Well, you've read my rant and raving now. Please join me in burning the lines from here to department head quarters and let's make a commitment to making a difference.

WDFW Comm.

(360) 902-2267

WDFW Fisheries Manager for Nooksack, Samish, and Skagit

Brett Barkdull

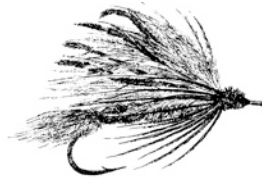
(360) 466-4345 EX 270

(360) 789-3805

The angry Viking,

JACK SALSTROM

Member: Fourth Corner Fly Fishers
Northwest Steelheaders (TU)
Coastal Conservation Association



Dues Reminder

It's probably time to remind everyone of upcoming dues for the 2009 year. Sending a check to P.O. box 1543 is the surest way to "Get 'er dun" It's sometimes difficult to sort out who all gave me cash during a busy meeting, so I appreciate checks whenever possible. \$35 for regular members, \$45 for family (Spouse, minor children) members.

March 1 is the no-penalty deadline and April 1 is the **automatic drop from membership**. Three members were subject to the re-apply clause of the constitution this past year. Hopefully, with plenty of notice this process can be avoided.

Crooked Island Revisited

After reading Dave Johnson's very disturbing article last month on how he was forced to spend Christmas on Crooked Island, I packed my rod, boots, and box of flies and went to see for myself what misery he was subjected to.

In January, I flew over to the Bahamas and imposed myself on the good graces of the Christensens, Scott and Wanda, and fished every day trying to find the sufferings Dave had endured.



Scott led me to a few mangrove streams on the north side of the island where Dave had fished, his foot prints were still visible in the soft, grey muck of a few lagoons. We caught a few bonefish, trigger fish (trigger tacos for dinner), and a stray baracuda but still couldn't find any signs of what made Dave so miserable.

We then hired a few guides to take us exactly where Dave had fished the flats. We found his

foot prints, again, among the red mangroves as though he was there minutes ago. We fished Thompson Creek, East of the Big Rock, Kenny's Key, and Tammy creek and threw "Wicked Wandas", "Chilli Peppers", "Pink Puffs", and a few "Gotcha's" at lots of bonefish escaping from the mangroves at low tide.

We had a BLAST and still no sign of the misery that caused so much pain for Dave.

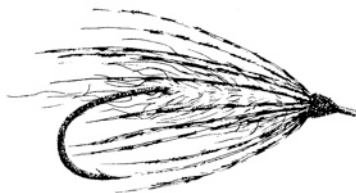
Personally, I caught more and bigger bonefish than ever. This was personally disturbing however, because I still was unable to understand what would make any "sane" person miserable on a truly magical island as Crooked Island with two incredible hosts.

Sorry Dave....I just don't understand. My only hope is that you and JoAnn give the Island another chance next year.

I tried to be miserable but....Scott and Wanda wouldn't allow it.



Sid Strong,
Member of the FCFF



**JOIN
CCA
WA
NORTH
SOUND
CHAPTER**



**February 11, 2009
6– 8pm @ Joe's Sports
Wednesday Night
220 E. College Way, Mt. Vernon**

- **Speakers:** **Brett Barkdull**, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Fisheries Manager for the Skagit, Samish and Nooksack rivers.
- **Topic:** "The Co-Manager Approach to Fisheries Management on the Skagit River Basins."

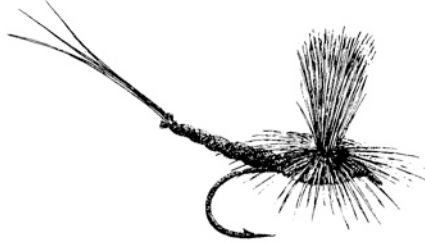
Website: www.ccapnw.org



"I fish because I love to; because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful...and, finally not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally important and not nearly so much fun."

Robert Traver
Anatomy Of A Fisherman (1964)

"The best things in life are
not things."



<http://kwsu.org/Offers/FlyTying.aspx>

Public TV station KWSU has three seasons of fly tying shows available free. That amounts to 30 half hour long shows with three or more flies tied in each session. KWSU has made it really easy to view these.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are ALWAYS needed in our club. Conservation projects, educational classes, and all chairman positions are always open for new and old members.

It is the responsibility of ALL members for ALL of the outings to obey ALL local, state, and national regulations. We represent an outstanding conservation and fishing club. Let's set a great example to ALL.

*All entomology sketches are drawn by Jack Salstrom,
Member of the FCFF.*

All Fly illustrations are drawn by Ed Ruckey taken from, "Diary of Northwest Trout Flies" by local author and FCFF Member Dan Homel.

Calendar

March's Board Meeting

March 3, 2009

Trinity Lutheran Church
119 Texas Street
Bellingham, WA

6:00 P.M.

February's Club Meeting

February 26, 2009

BELLINGHAM
COUNTRY CLUB
3729 Meridian St
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 733-3450

Wet Fly	6:00
Dinner	7:00
Program	8:00
Meeting	9:00

You have to make reservations.

Call or write Charlie Scaief.
(312-9856) fcff@verizon.net

Bring money for the raffles and a fly for the "Fly Plate".

FCFF Board Members

PRESIDENT:

Wayne McLemore (676-9417)

Outings Chairman: Frank Koterba (647-9715)

Secretary: T.F. Lambert (752-9997)

Treasurer: Larry Irwin (752-1506)

Program Co-Chairman: Paul Dudley (332-1958) &
Charles Scaief (312-9856)

Membership Chairman: Rick Todd (961-3539)

Trustees: Klaus Lohse, Sid Strong, Mike Riber, and
Ed Ruckey

**Environment,
Education, and
Conservation.**

Dan Coombs (398-1637)
djcmb@nas.com

Klaus Lohse (671-8453)
kpstnlohse@nas.com

Library Chairman

Brian Duim ((398-2030)

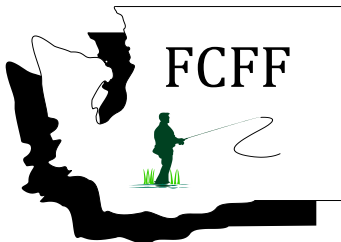
Newsletter

Sid Strong (715-8875)

Email: sidstrong@comcast.net

Raffle Chairman

Michael King (752-3217)



P.O. Box 1543
Bellingham, WA 98227

