



4th Corner Fly Fishers

Dear 4CFF Members,

I have broached the idea of raising membership dues periodically over the last couple of years and at the June Board meeting we continued our discussion of the topic.

For the last number of years the Club's expenditures have exceeded the membership dues revenue and, therefore, we have depended on the Club's share of the bi-annual Conservation Auction fundraising proceeds to make up the difference. I don't believe it's prudent fiscal management to depend on the Conservation Auction to cover the club's operational expenses.

For your reference you will find attached to the e-mail you received with this Newsletter a current budget status report. This report will give you an idea of the Club's expenses. I will not be at the June Membership meeting, as I will be fishing!, to discuss raising dues with you, so I encourage you to attend the July 3rd Board meeting and/or the July 26th Membership meeting to participate in the discussion of raising our dues.

Currently our annual dues are less than \$3 per month and it has been 15 years (1997) since the dues were last increased. Frankly, I believe if we increased the dues to \$6.25 per month it would still be a bargain, however, even at \$6.25 a month the dues will not cover our projected annual expenses.

It is important to the Board to hear your thoughts on the Club expenses, the benefits of being a Club member, and what you think the membership dues should be. To share your thoughts, please e-mail me or any of the Board members and/or attend the July Club meetings. Regards,

Lin J. Nelson

Your Club President



...perhaps the greatest satisfaction on the first day of the season is the knowledge in the evening that the whole of the rest of the season is to come.

Arthur Ransome, "The First Day At The River"

NO SHOWS COST US ALL!

Each month after the regular meeting, I stop by to pay for the speaker(s) meal(s) and any shortages from the meal count that Gary Jones has turned in earlier that week. Often the club has been charged for several meals that were requested but then not paid because the member or guest had not come to the meeting and had not bothered to let Gary know in time to modify the meal count.

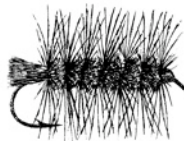
Thus begins the ritual of tracing down who had made the reservation and requesting reimbursement for the cost. This often requires retrieval of the original e-mail request to verify for that individual that indeed a meal had been requested and had not been paid. Plainly this takes an inordinate amount of time on the part of two of your volunteer Board members in order to keep the club from using funds for this purpose that could otherwise go toward the ever increasing costs of outings and programs we all enjoy.

Of nearly twenty such non-payments so far this year, all but two have been reimbursed to the club. Most without the need to retrieve the backup information and the many e-mails involved in the process. Several have sent the checks before we got the information together to request reimbursement. Our two derelict non-payers are still on the radar and will probably tire of monthly reminders and pay up soon.

If you have made a reservation and your plans change before the fourth Tuesday when the count goes into the Country Club, a call to Gary at 360 927 4010 will allow the count to be adjusted and no charge incurred. Changes later than Tuesday will result in a charge and it would be appreciated if you would just go ahead and send your check to 4CFF, PO Box 1543, Bellingham, WA 98227. This would save Gary and I a great deal of time and make our jobs a lot more pleasant.

In these times of tight budgets, we must all try to avoid using club funds to pay for the shortcomings of a few members and their guests who choose to schedule themselves irresponsibly and then be equally irresponsible for the financial consequences.

Larry Irwin, *FCFF Treasurer*



"So I hike and fish because it's pretty country and the trout are out there, with red slashes on their jaws and their fine, efficient coloring that changes from lake to lake. I look for two things, mostly: trout and solitude, in that order."

John Gierach, "Trout Bum"

June's Program

Jeff Galbraith, editor of "The Flyfish Journal", will be the presenter at the June 28th meeting.

Jeff is 44 years old, married to Jessica Galbraith (Creative Director of all our publications and custom jobs), grew up in Snohomish County, went to Cascade High School in Everett, graduated from WWU in 1990 with a degree in Communications. He worked for *Snowboarder Magazine* as an editor for 4 years and as a Sr. Editor out of house for another 5 years, my work has appeared in *Time*, *Rolling Stone*, *Men's Journal*, *Surfer*, *Powder*, *Sierra*, *The Drake* and others. He started FFLC in 1999, launched *Frequency: The Snowboarder's Journal* in 2000, *The Ski Journal* in 2007 and *The Flyfish Journal* in 2009. Jeff and Jessica have also produced custom work for Ski WA, EVO, K2 and Nike.

Jeff has flyfished since a boy, learned fishing for bass and cutthroat in Snohomish County on an old split cane rod in the 70s and early 80s. He lived in Ketchum, ID in the 90s, fished Big Wood, Silver Creek and Big Lost drainages extensively. He has fished in Alaska, Europe, Hawaii and the southeastern US. Still have my great-grandfather's cane rod from the turn of the century when he fished the Mashell River in Pierce county for trout and steelhead.



"June is transition from spring to summer, a month when everything has its full vigor, before anything is stale or mature. In June May flies may be thick on the water, stone-fly nymphs may still be crawling up the rocks to split their cases and fly away, midges will be dancing in clouds near the water's edge and falling spent on the water to move fish that the angler finds it difficult to tempt with his larger flies; and on June evenings may come the early sedge hatches.

When a June fish takes, he is into his run before you can move to raise the rod, and that run is fierce and long and dangerous. Almost always a June fish is a jumping fish, a bold, wild, jumping fish, and he is little concerned to keep within the limits of the pool in which he has taken the fly."

Roderick Haig-Brown, "A River Never Sleeps"

June Outings Report

We are finally getting into the concentrated part of our schedule. The gatherings to date have been varied and beneficial. Our members have been scattered wide and far over the Northwest on both sides of the border. I have heard that the BC Lakes still need some time to get warm enough to be productive: although I suspect there was a good time had by all!

Casting Classes:

We have had a great afternoon under the tutelage of Scott Christensen, making strides in our pursuit of the "perfect cast". In both groups, novice and intermediate, I could see definite improvement in skill, distance, technique and ability. Like I said in an earlier e-mail, the return on an investment of about a 3-pack of leaders you get from spending a couple of hours with Scott is pretty amazing. There was space, so I again took his "intermediate" level course. I thought I could use the "tune-up". **Wrong!!** When I try to double haul I still throw some tailing loops. Scott just said you are hitting it too soon with the power. His description of my experience was that I had an "epiphany". I really backed off and found that I could really let the timing and the rod do all the work! I am still discovering what this really means!! (Not bad for the cost or a 12 pack of good beer!!)

I was also able to see what issues some of the other participants had with their casting. Scott is willing to spend some time with us on the best teaching techniques for casting. After seeing his ability as an instructor, I would recommend that we use him to train anyone in the club that spends time teaching anyone to cast! **Thank you Scott for your work to improve our skill!**

Big Twin Lake:

It was another great turnout for this outing. There were several members that were there early, late and in between. The weather was great, the company was great, the food was great, and by the way...so was the fishing!! Brian Duim arrived early and determined that the fishing was good enough to add a day to his schedule. He eventually spent his time attempting to find a pattern the fish wouldn't take! Everyone was able to get into some fish. Most of us had some of the better days we have seen in a while. We had success with chironomids under indicators, Matt Roelofs was able to get into fish with his family, and Gary Jones did his usual hit parade.

I took a hint from Gary and I don't know how many fish I landed Friday, I lost a few but not many. On Saturday, things were different! I was a half-bubble off! I think I landed 1 of every 10 I hooked! I broke off more fish than I have in the last 5 OR 6 trips!

My older brother told me that in every golf round there would be a shot that would bring you back!! Fly Fishing is the same. I spotted a trio of fish working the surface on the south side of the lake. They were about 10-15 feet apart. I set up my presentation and took 2 on emergers and one on a soft hackle that didn't sink! Priceless!!!

It was great to see many of our members make the trek. The mix was a bit different. Errol was telling his jokes up in Canada so we did something different. On Saturday the new guard took over the campfire and we spoke of facebook, twitter, and phone apps. The most intriguing conversations were centered on George Farkas' investigations of the

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relationship between [Bourbon & Marshmallows](#). I think the man is on to something! We discussed the possibilities as a dessert and more. Sherri Roelofs suggested a Marshmallow-Bourbon Crème Brûlée! They might see something on that order when they finally get their Conservation Auction Dinner scheduled. I am still working with the idea and hope to make a contribution as well.

Earlier in the evening Ed raffled off his usual gem of a fly box. It was won by John Leighton, one of the newer members on his first outing! That wasn't the only surprise; he called over all the youngsters attending and let them each pick out their own fly! It was a contagious act. Ed had earlier given boxes to the Roelofs boys, so he gave the remainder of the "pick box" to Fisher Boccongelle (Mike and Tessa's son). He promptly offered to let all in attendance one last chance to pick a fly out for themselves! It was a pretty good indication that our club will be in good hands in the future.

Chopaka Lake:

I have only been there with the club on 3 occasions. 2 have been in the fall, and this year we went in the spring. Each time the weather has been a big factor and each time Chopaka has produced! Starting early in the week, we had waves (OK, ripples) of members make the long trek over the passes and up the valleys to get there. In all the count was a dozen souls cover the distance. I was concerned that we would be faced with a real crowd filling the campgrounds. Wrong! Dan and Don got there on Tuesday and secured one of the covered tables. They were followed shortly by Tom Farnell on his motorcycle no less, who secured another. Next Roy Wilson showed up and we had plenty of room to set up! **Great job!** It was nice to see the crowd. The trip to Dry Falls has pretty much ruined our existing canopy. We had to pull out the duct-tape to get it stand up for the Big Twin Outing. Steve Runge brought his 12x12 canopy and with one of the wooden ones at the lake we were set. It turns out that it is cheaper to buy a newer unit rather than repairing the old one by a factor of 2. We need to replace the existing so I will look for a larger one. (12x12)

Back to the fishing:

As I indicated, the weather was crucial to our success. The water was in the mid 60's, so the mayfly and damselfly were spotty at best and there were a few chironomids coming off. We did see a number of callibaetis spinners and fish were rising to take bugs at, near, or above the surface. Our time was spent deciding what was going to be the pattern to be on the fish. Some fished chironomids under an indicator. Other choices were dragging a pattern around the perimeter, striping nymphs or soft hackles or trying to get a take on the surface. Usually you selected a pattern, caught a couple of fish, caught nothing, changed the pattern caught a few fish, caught nothing, and did it all over again. There were some exceptions. Don camped out with a chironomid and landed a bunch (25+) on Thursday and quite a few on Friday. Dan also had some pretty good days as well. Almost everyone managed to get enough to keep it interesting. And there were several of us who hit the water after dark. It was pretty basic: 1 rod, floating line, 15 foot leader (10# tippet) and a box of basic black leeches. Simple rules: Never let go of your rod!!!! And if the fish stop hitting – tie on a larger leech. It was a very productive couple of hours. I believe we caught as many fish as we had all day. And some of the takes were pretty amazing. It also afforded you an opportunity to really feel the rod load as you cast it. And you learned to

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really pay attention to line management, tangles in the dark are not very pretty and can take a long time to straighten! Given all that you won't have to work very hard to get me to do it again!

Upcoming outings:

For the rest of June and all of July we do not have a scheduled outing. **This does not mean there will be none.** Look for what we call "*impromptu outings.*" They could be announced via the calendar, e-mail, announced at a meeting, or even a phone call. Some will be club sponsored with a lunch and some of Ed Ruickey's flies. Others might just be a quick trip to a local stream with a few buddies. If you are planning to go somewhere and want company send out an e-mail. It's a great way to learn from each other about where to go and what to use.

The Methow Classic:

This year the "Classic" outing will be held at the KOA campground in Winthrop from August 1st to the 5th, if you liked the trip last year with our Asada Cruz and the roasted leg of lamb, you are going to love this one! We will be hauling over Bob Cooper's new equipment...a full-scale BBQ/Roaster!! (See accompanying picture) This will be one of the first parts of our 40th anniversary celebration.

Winthrop is a great area for just about anything you want to do. If I tried to list all the things available, you would still be reading until you got there!

Your time on the water can be spent in a variety of ways. You can hit the Methow for big water and fish, several lakes for big fish, and a whole bunch of small streams that will have you convinced that you made the decision to fish with a fly rod - was a great idea!!!!

The campground is spacious and if you get too hot just jump in the pool. There are many trails in the area to ride or run. And if things just get to too much, head out to Sun Mountain for a great view and a little spa time.

I know it is still just about 2 months off but I need to know how many of us are going to be making the trip. The club will be picking up the tab for the meat we will be cooking and I need to coordinate with the KOA folks to handle the crowd. We have 7 tent sites together and a couple of RV hook-ups reserved. The tent sites can hold 42 and the others 1 group each. This might seem a lot however I already have 35 signed up to go. And that doesn't include any of the folks that will be in the area and not camping with us. So if you are not on my list, or think you are not on my list let me know you are coming and how many there will be in your party.

The Picnic:

This year we will be having the club picnic at the Willow Tree Winery! The event will be on Friday, August 23rd. Don Anderson will be hosting a wine tasting in conjunction with our festivities. Bob and his Pig Roaster will also make an appearance. As with the Classic this will be an event the club will be purchasing the protein so we will need to know how many of you will be in attendance. Since this is the first time we will be at the winery knowing how many will allow us to make all the required

preparations. There will be more on this as the time gets closer. I would suspect that some 40th anniversary festivities will also occur. Anyway this should be another great time!

I think I have run on enough, so I will see you out there! And bring a friend along too.

Frank Koterba
Your External Vice President/Outings Chair



(Is that a cell phone?)



“I waded to shore where I sat and considered the inconsistency of anglers in general and the dumbness of one in particular.”

Ray Bergman, “Trout” (1949)

Culinary Corner

Ed Dahl’s and Bob Coopers Roaster...need I say more! It will be roaring at the PICNIC!



WHATCOM HUMANE SOCIETY RAFFLE

I asked my wife, Debbie, if there was some place special she wanted to go for our 30th Anniversary. She said, "How about a fishing lodge in Montana?" Am I lucky or what? So I booked a room for a week at the Triple Creek Ranch. It was incredible!

The resort was named the #1 Hotel in America in 2011 by Travel and Leisure Magazine, and #6 hotel IN THE WORLD. This beautiful resort is in the beautiful Bitterroot Mountains south of Missoula. It offers five star dining, a 2,000 bottle wine cellar, indoor recreation, in room spa treatments, and year round outdoor activities for all interests and skill levels.

The Whatcom Humane Society has an annual Humane Hoedown event each year to raise much needed funds for its farm property. This year the Humane Hoedown will offer an opportunity to enter a drawing for the Triple Creek Ranch in Montana!

Please go to the resort's website, www.triplecreekranch.com to see all the fabulous amenities of this amazing prize. The vacation will be for two people over 18, for **five days and four nights!** Partial airfare (\$500 voucher) and travel arrangements to and from the airport will be happily arranged for you by representatives of the Whatcom Humane Society and the Triple Creek Ranch.

Each raffle ticket is \$50 and you may enter as many times as you like. **The value of the vacation is \$4,000!** All tickets sales and proceeds from the raffle directly benefit the animals in the WHS.

Raffle tickets in the state of Washington must be purchased in person at the Williamson Way or Baker Creek Shelter locations. You can also purchase tickets at the Northfork Brewery, Kushan Veterinary, Paws-A-While, PetStop, Dewey Griffin, Tails-A-Wagging, Maplewood Animal Hospital, and Katie's Cupcakes.

Debbie Strong, my wife, is a WHS volunteer, and both of us have tickets as well. Our phone is 360-715-0881.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the Bellingham Bells "**Fourth of July**" home game. You do NOT need to be present to win.

For more information, go to <http://www.whatcomhumane.org/index.php?HumaneHoedown2012>



Sid Strong, *Member FCFF*

EDUCATION

FCFF recently worked with about 30 students from Lynden Christian School teaching them fly tying and casting. The students chose our activity from a wide range of outdoor classes that were being put on.

Some of them had prior experience in both tying and casting while others had never attempted either. It is always encouraging to see how quickly they can develop skills with encouragement and instruction. All students came away with flies that they tied that will catch fish and with the ability to cast well enough to use them.

Klaus, Bill, and Ed deserve the club’s appreciation for providing the opportunity for us to work with young people to introduce them to this sport we all enjoy.

Joe Kelly, *FCFF Member*



“My father was very sure about certain matters pertaining to the universe. To him, all good things, trout as well as eternal salvation, come by grace and grace comes by art and art doe not come easy.”

Norman Maclean, “A River Runs Through It” (1976)



For Sale!!!



For Sale: Buck's Bags Southfork Pontoon - The Southfork is an 8ft pontoon with a stainless steel frame. This boat is in excellent condition and comes ready to fish with a high-back seat, mesh stripping apron, mesh cargo deck and saddlebags. Extras include the Buck's anchor system, brass oar locks and the wheel assembly (to make getting to the water easier). Asking \$450 (retail when new around \$1000). Call Matt at 360-319-1350 or email at msr@deepsnow.com.





4CFF CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Conservation Projects

Conservation is the corner stone of our club. Projects are continually being added to our calendar. The only thing that is needed is the willingness to give something back to the resource will all love. Call Dan Coombs at (360) 398-1637 and sign up to be put on the list of volunteers.

Fly Tying Sessions

Fly tying sessions are constantly being held. Whether you're an expert or just beginning, please join us. Check our website <http://www.4thcornerfly.com> for dates, times, and locations.

R.S.V.P.'s are required.

Education Classes

We need Volunteers to help teach fly tying and fly casting at various places throughout the year. Even if you have tied for a little while, your presence is needed. Please contact Klaus Lohse (671-8453) or Frank Koterba (647-9715) if you wish to participate.

OUTINGS

Our club has a constant list of fantastic outings every month. We also have smaller outings for those who can only make it on the weekends. For a list of outings, their dates, and locations, please check out our website <http://www.4thcornerfly.com>. Frank Koterba is our present Outings Chairman and can be reached at (360) 647-9715.

If you are new to fly fishing, our club has fly rods, reels, and fly tying equipment available for use. Also, if you attend conservation and fishing outings, it's wise to bring your own lawn chair. For more information, please contact the hosts.

JUNE's Meeting

June 28, 2011

BELLINGHAM
COUNTRY CLUB

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

Wet Fly	6:00
Dinner	6:45
Program	7:30
Meeting	9:00

Contact Gary Jones,
gary-jones@comcast.net
for ALL dinner reservations.

Be sure to check off your name on the list when you arrive for dinner.

BRING A FLY FOR THE
"FLY PLATE"!

July's Board Meeting

July 3, 2011

Trinity Lutheran Church
119 Texas Street
Bellingham, WA
6:00 P.M.

4CFF Board Members

President

Lin Nelson (360) 961-0408 lin.nelson@comcast.net

Outings Chairman

Frank Koterba (360) 647-9715 fwkphotography@comcast.net

Program Chairman

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Steve Runge

srunge@logos.com

Membership Chairmen: Brian Faloon and Nathan Weston

Raffle Chairmen: Errol McWhirk, Craig Lang

Directors: Klaus Lohse, Craig Carlile, Nathan Weston, and Matt Roelofs

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



4th CORNER FLY FISHERS



Aims and Purposes

The Members of the Fourth Corner Fly Fishers (located in Bellingham, WA) are united by our enjoyment of the sport of fly fishing and by our desire to preserve and enhance fishing opportunities for all. To these ends, we will strive to promote conservation of angling brotherhood and to broaden the understanding of fellow anglers.

The purposes for which the Club was formed are:

- To operate a social club for the pleasure, association and recreation of its members engaged in fly fishing activities.
- To work to protect wild fish and the habitat which sustains them.
- To work for the betterment and preservation of angling waters and surrounding land.
- To improve the "State of the Art" of flying fishing and to keep members informed of developments of interest.
- To develop and carry out programs of education designed to encourage individuals of all ages to become fly fishers and to promote ethical use of the resource.



P.O. Box 1543
Bellingham, WA 98227

<http://www.4thcornerfly.com>

