


FOURTH CORNER FLY FISHERS

President's Message

In many communities, there are theatrical subscription groups, which are funded by the more affluent citizens, allowing amateur actors and other producers of live theater to perform to their heart's content, and those members of the local public who love a good live play to take it in. The sponsors usually get effusive thanks and preferred seating.

A fly fishing club provides a number of benefits, one of which is entertainment. The program often seems to be the highlight of a regular meeting, and members and guests get to sit back and enjoy the presentation. A club like the Fourth Corner Fly Fishers, however, is not a vehicle for providing entertainment to the passive audience. We do various things, most of some importance, for the members and for a larger constituency. And none of these things get done by themselves. Members are working constantly, usually behind the scenes, to keep the machinery of our tiny government in motion, to move our aims and purposes to active fruition.

Having been at the focus of these efforts during 2009, and in smaller roles since the club's origin, I have a vivid sense of how things get done only because club members are devoting time and effort, in a process that seemingly never ends. (I've also seen how true it is that "many hands make the work lighter." Thanks to delegation, I can assure you that your President is not even close to being the hardest working person in the club.)

Sometimes, for a day or two, it can seem that the process powers and runs itself. But I know what a dangerous delusion that can be. The machinery can coast and grind to a halt. A few decades ago, the world's second largest superpower seized up and imploded. The burning revolutionary fervor that had powered it during its early decades had simply waned and winked out.

I see a few hairline cracks appearing in our apparatus. We need renewed fire, from new members and old stalwarts. This is the time of year when we are asked to serve. We cannot put on shows for another year by sitting back and writing checks. If you're proud to be a member of this club, step up. Roll up your sleeves and hammer some sets together, or learn lines and get fitted for costumes. It may not be true that the show must go on, but it is true that 2010 will be a better and more interesting year for all of us if it does.

Wayne McLemore, *President FCFE*



NOVEMBER PROGRAM

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING IS A **WEEK EARLY** DUE TO THANKSGIVING. Our meeting is November 19 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.

THE "*CHRISTMAS PARTY*" IS FRIDAY DECEMBER 11, so mark your calendar and save the date. It's also our December Meeting.

The program this month is provided by Barrett Mattison. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Barrett left the 9-5 rat race to pursue his true passion - fly fishing. His travels have since taken him from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, and many places in between. He spent the last several seasons in Argentina - as both a trout bum and fishing guide - resulting in the book, "[Fly Fishing in Patagonia: A Trout Bum's Guide to Argentina.](#)" He can be reached at Barrett@FarawayFlyFishing.com.



Barrett will tell us all about fly fishing Patagonia and will probably talk about some of his other fly fishing adventures.

Charlie Scaief - Programs



Barrett with a "Small one"....

Education Classes

“HELP” will be appreciated with the following classes:

For the Ferndale High School class on:

Friday, Nov. 6th. 11:30 to 1:00 -- tying a Woolly Bugger, at FHS indoors

Tuesday, Nov. 10th. 11:30 to 1:00 -- Fly casting, at FHS outdoors

Friday, Nov. 13th. 11:30 to 2:30 Fly fishing, on Lake Terrell.

Dress warm and dry for the outdoor stuff.

For the Blaine Public Library class on:

Monday, Nov. 30th. 6:00 to 8:00 -- tying a Carey Special

Thursday, Dec. 17th. 6:00 to 8:00 -- tying an Adams

Thursday, Jan/2010 28th. 6:00 to 8:00 -- tying a Green Butt Skunk

Anyone interested in pitching in, for car pooling and additional information please contact me

at 671 - 8453 or kpstnlohse@gmail.com

Klaus Lohse, Education Chairman FCFF



The FCFF Would Like To Thank...

- *Pacific Fly Fishers
- *The Avid Angler
- *Creekside Anglers
- *Worley Bugger Fly Shop
- *Reaction Fly and Tackle
- *Red's Fly Shop
- *Dave's Sport Shop
- *Sun Mountain Lodge
- *Yeager's Sporting Goods and Marine
- *Best Western Lincoln Inn & Suites
- *Mount Baker Vineyards
- *Chrysalis Spa
- *Gato Verde Sailing Adventures
- *Joe's Garden



Congratulations!!!

The auction took in a little over \$10,000 which included dinner tickets, raffle tickets and money from the silent and live auctions. Despite the economy this is a record for the many years the auction has been held. It is due entirely to the generous donations of these excellent businesses and the wonderful FCFF members and guests making donations by opening up their wallets and check books. Final numbers are still being worked out and there are still a few members who owe for auction items. If you are one of these please make out a check to FCFF and mail it in to Larry Irvin.

The auction committee thanks everyone for their participation.

Doc Hackles Corner

BB (Little Black Bugger)

A Coastal Cutthroat Pattern

Hook TMC # 5262 or #5263 Size 12

Thread Black 8/0

Tail Black Marabou & 4 strands Black crystal flash

Hackle Black saddle hackle

Body Small black chenille

Cap Over size black saddle hackle

Eyes Small bead chain



STEP #1 Anchor thread on the hook shank and wrap down to the hook bend and then wrap it back up a ways. Now tie on a small clump of black marabou for the tail. It should extend past the hook about a shank length. Now tie in your 4 strands of black crystal flash.

STEP #2 Now tie on the black saddle hackle, tip first shiny side up. Now tie in your black chenille. Here is where you can substitute, using black sparkle chenille instead of regular chenille.

STEP #3 Now wrap your chenille up the hook shank and tie it off. Now wrap your hackle up the hook working it into the chenille and tie it off. You should have about 3/16ths of bare hook shank behind the hook eye. Now tie in a over-size black hackle that is soft and webby.

Make two turns and tie it off.

STEP #4 Now take your bead chain eyes and tie them on the hook just behind the hook eye. Figure eight the wraps to secure the eyes and tie it off. Now add a drop or two of head cement over the eyes and you are finished.

NOTE; This is a Canadian cutthroat fly that works both in lakes and streams. It was shown to me by a tier for M&Y Fly shop and it is easy and quick to tie.



Doc Hackle, a.k.a. Ed Ruckey



"Nearly always by November the earth is wet and the swamps are full so that all rain that falls runs off to the rivers and rivers are high.

The return of salmon and steelhead is inevitable as the spring of grass or the fall of leaves; it may be delayed a little, reduced from year to year, affected in many ways, but it cannot suddenly and mysteriously fail altogether."

Roderick Haig-Brown, "A River Never Sleeps."

November Outing Report

This will be a rather brief report. The club's first outing for Canadian salmon occurred just after the Conservation Auction. Seven members traveled to the Stave rather than the Vedder River. The change was due to the high precipitation in the area. And since it was a weekend and one of the only places in shape to fish, most of BC was in attendance. I did manage to get a shot of an FCFF casting line dance though. (See accompanying photos) Even with the crowd, it was nice to get on the river. Everyone hooked a fish or maybe two. The hot flies were sparse and Ed provided everyone with enough to last the day. At noonish we got together for a nice pot of chili and cornbread. The coveted flybox went home with Emil Ekman. And even though we all got flies from Ed, Emil suddenly had a whole bunch of new friends.

There is only one outing left. On Wednesday we will again meet at the BC Hydro Park just below the Stave River Dam.

To get there, you cross the border at Sumas. This is Sumas Way and you follow it under Hwy 1 into Abbotsford. Once under the highway continue on to the 3rd stoplight. From the right lane take the soft right to continue on Sumas Way and Hwy 11. Follow 11 for a little over a mile until it hits a "T" and take a right. Continue on 11 for about another 6 miles, over the Frazer River, to the intersection with Hwy 7 or the Lougheed Highway. From the left lanes take a left onto & heading West. Follow 7 for a little over 4 miles until you reach the Hayward Connector. Take a right onto Hayward St and follow it until you see the left turn down into the park.

We will again be meeting at noon at one of the tables for chili and all the required accoutrements. Ed assures me that he has another fly box to give away and one to pick from as well. If you are going please give me a heads-up as I want to make sure there is enough. Hope to see you there!

Frank Koterba
Your Outings Chair
360.647.9715



Floating the Yakima...

Early last month I had the pleasure of floating a section of the Yakima River. I was the guest of Paul Bodenshot and Worley Bugger Fly Co. The all day trip was donated to the Coastal Conservation Association Fund Raiser, where Paul was the high bidder. I must say that he is living right because he had the winning ticket for the same trip Worley Bugger donated to our Conservation Auction!

We hit the water at about 10:00 am at a point 4 miles above the diversion dam, our ultimate destination. We were in the boat with our guide Russell Vogt. Since this was a new experience for both of us. I have improved a lot in the last couple of years but I still have a long way to go. For Paul, he is just starting his fly fishing journey. As a matter of fact he confided in me that when he goes along, he and probably no else one catches fish! After being informed of the challenge he faced all Russell said was "Great, let's go have a great day on the water"! We put Paul in the front seat, I batted clean up and away we went.

The river is pretty low and this time of year and much different than when we see it in the spring. The hot flies were going in were crane fly patterns and stimulators with nymph droppers. And if we were lucky we might get into a mayfly hatch. We were also set up for nymphing several setups. The key to the whole process was the drag free drift. And there's the rub! I had accomplished this with long leaders aka Upper Skagit 16' setups, but could I get it done with a 9' leader and mending? Paul was in the same "boat". There was also the challenge of getting the drift in the right place to find the fish!

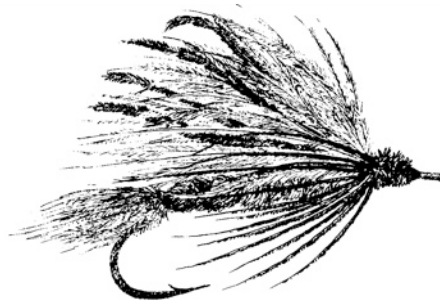
Russell had his work cut out. We spent the day working out the kinks, patterns, techniques, and drifts. The weather was beautiful, unless you were a mayfly nymph. We got to see some great water, swapped some great stories, had a pretty good lunch, learned a helleva lot about presentation, and had a great day on the water!!!

Oh by the way, Paul landed the biggest and most fish he ever caught on a fly and I didn't do too badly either. We got off the river at about 6:00 pm and got to watch Russell load his boat up a 45degree slope over riprap at the dam. A truly amazing end to an amazing day! While we weren't the "highest" of clients Russell and Worley Bugger have had in the boat, they really delivered. They really moved our game up several levels. It was definitely a great day on the water. We want to really say thanks!!

Steve Worley of Worley Bugger has been a great supporter of our club. This is the second year he has donated a trip and I can always count on him to give me good advice when I am planning outings in Eastern Washington.

Thanks Steve

Frank Koterba
Paul Bodenshot
Fourth Corner Fly Fishers



Pictures of the Yak...



Frank's Kitchen

I caught this one on a food blog by Eric Gower and it looked pretty good.

Butternut Squash Pizzettas

The greatest thing about these things, aside from their scumptiousity and being incredibly easy to make, is their versatility. Just as with pizza, you can come up with any "topping" you like or have on hand. In this version I use a basil puree topped with pistachios, but all herbs work; tarragon is especially nice. It's also good with goat cheese. Try a Japanesey version with soy sauce and minced ginger, or make some heavily spiced with star anise and ground fennel seed. These disappear instantly when served at parties. This makes 7 or 8 servings of two pizzettas each.

1 medium butternut squash, skin removed (see below)
2 cups basil
Kosher (or other) salt
Freshly ground black peppercorns
1 clove fresh garlic, chopped
½ cup extra virgin olive oil, plus some for brushing
¼ cup chopped pistachios

Preheat oven to 400F. Place the squash horizontally on a cutting board, and slice it into ½-inch wheels (a medium-sized squash should yield about 15 wheels). One by one, slice off the skin with 7 or 8 clean slices, leaving a kind of octagonal shape. Place on an oiled baking sheet, brush on some olive oil, and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake for about 30 minutes, until almost done.

While they're baking, add the basil, garlic, and olive oil to a blender, and blend. When the squash starts to brown and looks almost ready to eat. Spoon on some of the sauce, sprinkle with pistachios, and bake for another 5 minutes. Serve very hot. I like to slice them, pizza-style, into 6 bites per pizzetta.

Eric Gower

<http://www.breakawaycook.com/index.html>



Editor's Note...

Do you have a passion for fly fishing and read everything you can about it? Are you searching for a way to get involved in a fantastic fly fishing club? Well, becoming the next Editor of "Random Casts" for the Fourth Corner Fly Fishers is for you.

When I first started, it was "cut, paste, and patch". It was just after the "carbon paper" phase. The newsletter was copied, stapled, and mailed to all members. Now, it is all done electronically. At first, I thought I was over my head and then I remembered a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt, "Imagine how much you could accomplish if you knew you couldn't fail."

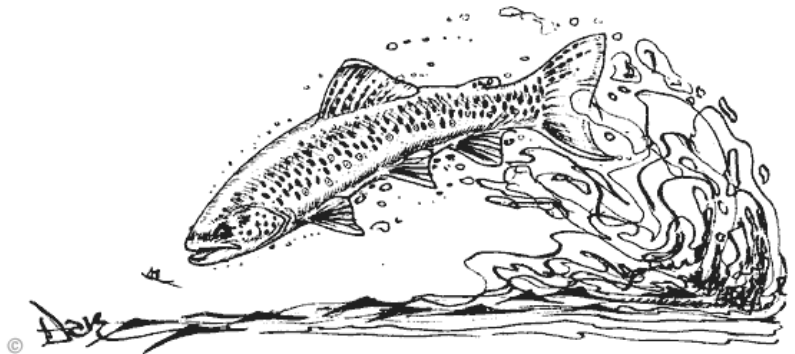
I gave my first newsletter to one of the founding members and all he said was, "It's the Fourth Corner Fly Fishers, not the FORTH!!!" I have made many mistakes, however, it's been extremely rewarding and lots of fun. (you can't get fired!.....I've tried...)

I will guide anyone through the process and help anyway I can to make this a seamless transition. It is extremely rewarding, a great way to get involved, and more fun than you might think. I am especially encouraging the newer members that are looking for some way to get involved. You **will** become a better fly fisher...guaranteed.

Anyone willing to assume this position, please call or write me as soon as possible. I have posted my wish to leave for a long time. My last issue **will be** the December newsletter.

Thank you.

Sid Strong, *Member of the FCFF*
(360)220-0099
sidstrong@comcast.net



OUTINGS 2009

August 7th & 8th

Methow River
Pot Luck and fly box

August

Saltwater Coho in Puget
Sound
Pot Luck and fly box

September 11th & 12th

Upper Skagit River
Potluck and fly box

OCTOBER 3rd-4th

East Side Lakes—
Chopaka,
Blue, Sidley, etc.
Fly Box & Food?

ATTENTION!!!

The position of Newsletter Editor is OPEN.

All that is needed is a computer and a desire to get involved. The computer can be either a PC or Type to enter text a MAC. Our newsletter is formatted for "Publisher" on both. You may use the current format or stretch out on your own.

I will personally guide and help anyone interested taking on this position with technical and moral support for a truly seamless transition.

As of January, 2010, I am retiring from this post. It's been a wonderful run and very rewarding. I will miss it.

Calendar

NOVEMBER'S MEETING

November 19,

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) fccf@verizon.net

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

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.

December's Board Meeting

December 1, 2009

Trinity Lutheran Church
119 Texas Street
Bellingham, WA

6:00 P.M.

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: 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)

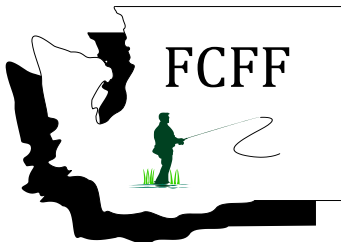
Newsletter

Sid Strong (715-8875)

Email: sidstrong@comcast.net

Raffle Chairman

Errol McWhirk



P.O. Box 1543
Bellingham, WA 98227

