Volume 58 Issue 5 "Random Casts" November 10, 2026



President's Message



In my element: sun, warm water, big fish

At the November Board meeting the Board approved our 2027 budget which includes an increase in dues. In 2027 regular membership dues will be $100 per year (*family $150*). A lot of volunteer time and effort goes into making our club successful, but there are some things we just need to purchase. Our biggest expense that is not offset is for program speakers. Other costs include insurance, webhosting, PO Box fee (*required*), Zoom & other tech licensing, rent for Board meetings, FFI membership, a bit for the club picnic and the Classic outing and a few other miscellaneous items. We offset or charge 25% of the cost "overhead" items to our Conservation/Education fund which helps reduce what our dues need to cover. Typically, we have a couple of conservation programs which are also charged to that fund. You may know that from the Conservation fund we also typically make three to five donations a year to organizations which support the purposes of our club and those donations come strictly from our Conservation/Education fund. The majority of the income to our Conservation / Education fund come from our auctions. And finally, because I know this question comes up, everyone should know that we don't make any money on the meals from the Holiday Inn. The cost of the meal includes a space rental fee so please remember that when you are signing up for meetings.

Presidents Message *(cont.)*

This is likely my final message as President, depending on when our next newsletter (*Random Casts*) comes out. Most of you know that I've been President before (1992-3) and I assure everyone this is definitely my last time. Managing our club has become a little more complex over the years as our club has evolved and I just think it is good for the club that we rotate and share duties.

I'm happy with what our Board has accomplished over the past few years. The Board has approved an update to our Policies & Procedures which spelled out Board and Committee roles, and this should make the transition of officers a little easier. We are also close to updating our Bylaws and those will be voted on by all members in the near future. I'm especially happy that we have resumed our newsletter and thank Bob Jorgenson for taking that on and doing such a great job. I also think the move to the Holiday Inn was good for the club along with being financially necessary.

It feels to me like the club is on an upswing. We've added nine new members this year (*current total is 68*). Most of our new members are coming through our casting classes and we are fortunate to have an excellent group of certified casting instructors. I love our winter fly tying sessions and as always, the best part of our club for me are the outings which take us on little adventures to find fish.

Thank you for putting up with me these past two years. I hope everyone will find your own way to support the club into the future. Our nominating committee has come up with a list of members who are interested in serving as club officers. We will be accepting other nominations and voting on candidates at our November meeting.

President	Angus MacArthur
External VP (Outings)	Jeff Taylor
Internal VP (Programs)	John Sanders (agreed to another term)
Secretary	John Boblett (agreed to another term)
Director at Large	Kevin McClurg
Director at Large	Bob Jorgenson (agreed to another term)

Continuing to fill out their two-year term of office and returning (no vote required) are:

Treasurer	Chris Thomas
Director at Large	Hugh Lewis
Director at Large	Steve Wimer

Thanks everyone, ***-Mike***

4CFF Calendar of Events

November 10 Fly Tying Class / Session 5:30PM - 8:30PM
All club members and their registered guests are welcome. Host Bob Jorgenson
Holiday Inn & Suites 4260 Mitchell Way, Bellingham, WA

November 19 Monthly Meeting 5:30PM - 8:30PM
Note: This meeting is one week early due to the Thanksgiving holiday
David Paul Williams will speak in person on Smallmouth Bass (inc. Whatcom County)
Holiday Inn & Suites 4260 Mitchell Way, Bellingham, WA

December 8 Board Meeting 6:30PM
Trinity Lutheran Church 119 Texas St. All club members welcome.

December 12 Annual Holiday Party
Be sure to look for the announcement with details on Zeffy
Holiday Inn & Suites 4260 Mitchell Way, Bellingham, WA

January 5 - Board Meeting 6:30 PM
Trinity Lutheran Church 119 Texas St. All club members welcome.

The Fly Fishing Show

by John Sanders

We have very sad news – The Fly Fishing Show is *not* coming to Bellevue this February. The attendance for this two-day comprehensive fly fishing and fly tying show has been decreasing the last few years, and therefore the number of vendors has also been decreasing. The show promoter finally decided to drop the Bellevue location. For those of us who have attended every hour the show was open each year this is a great loss. We were fortunate here in the Northwest as there were only seven of these shows held in the US annually.

Fly Fishing Show *(Cont.)*

Now there are six shows at the following locations and dates:

Georgia: January 9-10, 2027
Massachusetts: January 15-17, 2027
New Jersey: January 22-24, 2027
Colorado: February 5-7, 2027
California: February 26-28, 2027
Pennsylvania: March 13-14, 2027

Another event to consider that isn't as far as California or Colorado is the Northwest Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo held in Oregon annually:

Northwest Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing
Expo March 12–13, 2027
Linn County Expo Center, Albany, Oregon

Holiday Party 2026

Save the date! On December 12th we will be hosting our annual club holiday party at the Holiday Inn. Please look for a Zeffy invite in the near future. We are still working out all the details, but there will be our traditional raffle for a fly rod (*gift certificate*) and tickets will be $20 each. We are also planning on having a few nice no-cost raffle items to share. If you have questions, suggestions, or want to help out in some way, please contact the Holiday Party Committee (*Paula Faulkner, Marianne Mitchell, or Mike Riber*).



4CFF Nov 19 Meeting
David Paul Williams - Smallmouth Bass

4CFF Thursday, November 19, 2026 Program (One week early due to Thanksgiving holiday)
David Paul Williams on Smallmouth Bass (including Whatcom County)



5:30 - 6:00 The Wet Fly Social Time
6:00 - 6:45 Dinner: Three Cheese Baked Ziti, Sides, Green Salad, plus
Vegan or Vegetarian options
6:45 - 7:00 Club Business, Guest Introductions
7:00 - 8:00 David Paul Williams (In person)
8:10 - 8:30 Raffle

This meeting is offered as an:
1) In-person dinner meeting ($39.15)
2) In-person attendee, no dinner (No cost, but donation appreciated)

Please respond by Sunday 11/15 at 11:00 PM if you are attending the event in person and purchasing dinner. We need to notify the Holiday Inn in a timely manner so they can order food for us!

Speaker: David Paul Williams, author of *Flyfishing for Western Smallmouth*
Topic: Smallmouth Bass in the Central Basin and in Whatcom County

Smallmouth Bass in the Columbia Basin and in Whatcom County
The first thing to understand about smallmouth bass—they are not trout! David Paul Williams, "the acknowledged northwest master of smallies on the fly," teaches the essentials of how to catch smallmouth bass on the fly. He covers how to and where to catch these superb fighting fish in the Columbia Basin, the Columbia River, and in Whatcom County.

David Paul Williams
David Paul Williams has written for American Angler, Fly Fisherman, Northwest Fly Fishing, Southwest Fly Fishing, American Fly Fishing, Eastern Fly Fishing, Fly Fusion, Fly Fishing Bassmaster, Fly Fishing & Tying Journal, and Game & Fish magazines. He wrote the book on smallmouth bass, Flyfishing for Western Smallmouth. He is the former editor-in-chief of Flyfisher and department editor at Flyfishing & Tying Journal, where he wrote the Good-Gear Guide. He gives media presentations to clubs and organizations on carp, smallmouth bass, saltwater beach fishing, panfish, and alpine trout. Also known for his simple, yet effective fly patterns, he has been tying and fishing flies since elementary school. He is a keynote speaker and demonstration fly tyer at the Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo, a member of the Daiichi Pro Staff, and a TFO PNW Regional Ambassador. He has expanded his fly fishing horizons to include walleye and channel catfish and is always up for the next adventure.

Annual Picnic August 22 *by Bob Jorgenson*

Our Annual Picnic was generously hosted by Norma Williams and was attended by 40 members, spouses and friends. John Sanders organized the Burgers, Hot Dogs and coordinated the salads, hors d'oeuvres and side dishes. In addition to all that he did an excellent job cooking the burgers, bacon, and hot dogs. Rain threatened but thankfully did not materialize and the afternoon was spent telling fish stories and reminiscing about past adventures. The photos really tell the story:



Hugh congratulates Chef John on a great Job



Elizabeth made her very popular ice cream









Angus welcomes new Member Rick Pugel



New member Dale Aune visits with Dennis





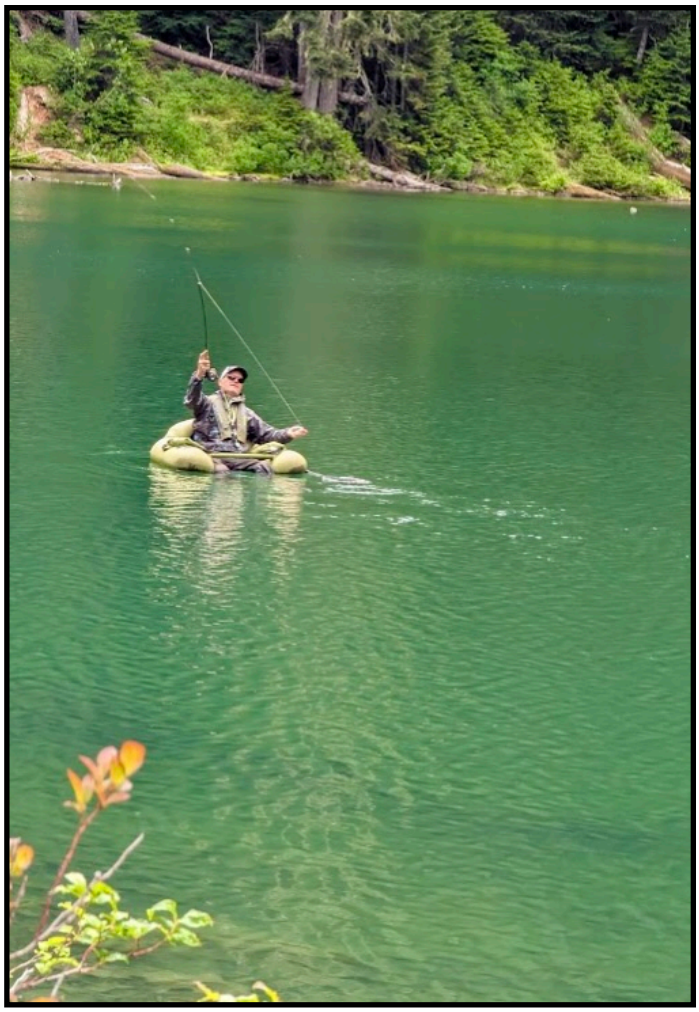
Bear Paw Lake Outing Report
July 28 *by Jeff Taylor*

On July 28, 2026, six intrepid adventurers bounced, bumped, and rattled their way over miles of washout-riddled, erosion-carved roads before tackling a slippery, tree-strewn trail that climbed 800 feet in just over a mile. Their destination? The beautiful alpine waters of Bearpaw Lake, nestled near Mt. Baker, where hungry cutthroat trout—and high expectations—awaited.

The fearless fishing crew included Bob Jorgenson, Chris Smith, Dennis Duncan, Mike Riber, Dale Aune, and Jeff Taylor. Once at the lake, float tubes were inflated, waders pulled on and rods strung up, and hopes ran high. Mother

Nature, however, had other plans. The day featured a little bit of everything: sunshine, gusty winds, and plenty of rain, making for a much chillier outing than most of us had packed for. Rain jackets and hoods quickly became the fashion of the day, and thankfully Dale Aune had packed extra warm clothes, which he generously loaned to yours truly—the Eagle Scout who, ironically, was *not prepared*.

The fishing was a mixed bag. Everyone caught fish, although most measured in the 6–10 inch range. A few larger trout made appearances, with Chris Smith earning bragging rights by landing the fish of the day, a beautiful cutthroat of around 16 inches.



Jeff uses a haul to get some distance while casting from his float tube

Mike Riber—better known as "Mister Automatic"—once again proved why the nickname fits. Using his patented strip-twitch retrieve, he probably caught the most fish, which seems to be the norm... at least whenever Steve Wimer isn't around to challenge him.

When the bite slowed, Dale suggested tying on a dry fly "just to catch something." After watching him hook fish after fish (okay, they were mostly little guys), I decided to follow suit. I tied on a Parachute Adams and was immediately rewarded with about 15 feisty little cutthroat eager to smash a fly off the surface—still my favorite way to catch a trout.

Bob had done some reconnaissance the week before and absolutely lit up the lake, landing numerous fish, including three over the two-pound mark. Needless to say, our expectations were sky-high. While we couldn't match Bob's trophy haul, Bearpaw clearly holds plenty of fish. The bigger residents were apparently still lying low, perhaps a little wiser after Bob had introduced so many of them to his fly rod just seven days earlier.

As always, whenever the 4th Corner Fly Fishers head off on an adventure, laughter is plentiful, memories are made, and everyone comes home with a story to tell—even if the biggest fish remain one cast away.

A special thank you to Bob Jorgenson for scouting the lake ahead of time and for handling all the organizing and club posts on my behalf. Your efforts helped make another outstanding outing possible.



Chris nets the largest fish of the day



When excitement overcomes organization



Mike puts one in the net



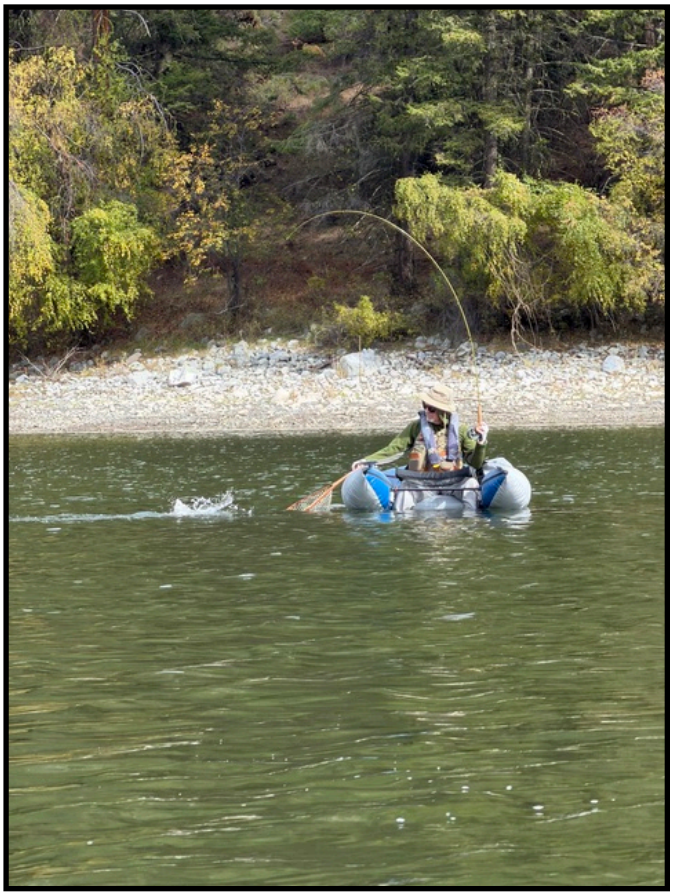
Fin View

Chopaka Lake Outing Report
October 1-4 *by Mike Riber*

Going to Chopaka in the fall is always a good idea. We safely arrived at the lake after the fire road closures thanks to persistent research from George Farkas. Because fire crews had been using the Chopaka Grade Road as a fire line, work had been done on the road and I've never seen the road in better shape. No fire damage could be observed from the lake and, likely because of the earlier road closures, we almost had the lake and campground to ourselves. The water level of the lake was down considerably so that all five old sunken wooden boats were above waterline, which made fishing a little challenging. Though fishing was a little tough at times, a good number of fish were caught, with a few measuring 20 plus inches. The weather was great, with sunshine, temperatures close to 70 degrees, and practically no wind. We all enjoyed homemade apple pie around the fire Saturday evening.



John Sanders Photo "Chopaka Late Afternoon"



Kevin McClurg with a nice fish



John Sanders trolls a Gomphus fly



Bob Jorgenson photo “Chopaka Sunrise”

South Cariboo Outing Report
October 24-29 *by Bob Jorgenson*

The South Cariboo outing was well attended, and the unseasonably cold weather and even snow did not dampen spirits. The threat of two more days of snow did shorten the outing.



Good Morning Valentine Lake!

We spent the first two days at Valentine Lake. The fishing was sporadic at times, but everyone fi nished with at least one fi sh that could count as a personal best. A three fish day is tolerable when at least one is of the 5lb - 8lb range. Hook ups seemed to come in twos or threes with long stretches of waiting at 29 degrees in between. There must be a reason that the fish have lived to grow so large.

The morning of the third day we packed up boats and headed down a deeply potholed road to Edmunds Lake. Bruce carried two boats stacked on a trailer and his pontoon boat in the back of his truck. Mike and I towed my pram with his pontoon boat strapped on top of it. Part way there Steve stopped in the middle of the road and asked what we had done with Mike's pontoon boat. To our amazement it was nowhere to be seen. Two oars and one of Mike's fishing bags was all that was left. There were no straps and no other evidence that we had ever carried an additional boat. Soon, Bruce came up from behind with an additional pontoon boat and announced "Hey look what I found sitting in the middle of the road! Did you guys loose something?" Thankfully there was no damage to the boat and Mike was able to fish a full day.

Edmunds is a lake known for its large fish but catching them can be quite a challenge. Thankfully, Chris and Jeff both had contact with big fish. It was quite unnerving to watch a local who was actively working a LiveScope catch 12 fish with at least two that were too large for his net. In all it was a great trip with two nights around a "Wimer-Sized" campfire. Great stories and warm drink took away the chill of the 26 degree nights. We left for home the next morning as the snow started again and wind picked up.



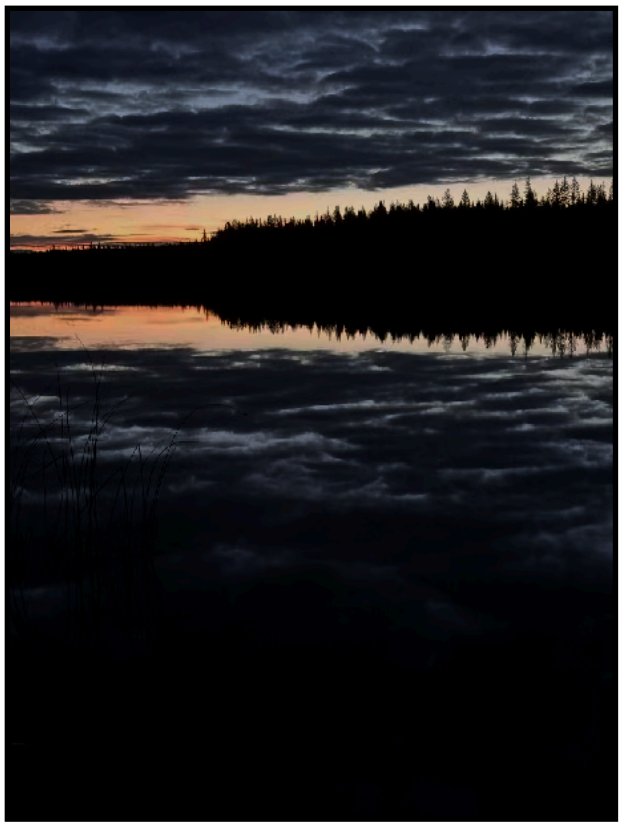
Kevin takes the weather in stride



Jeff Taylor auditioned a new net



A Wimer sized campfire



Bob Jorgenson Photo "Sunrise Reflection"

Ed Note: The tying class this month is November 10 and is specifically structured for the beginning tier. The pace will be slow as the instructor is relatively new to tying and understands the challenges. Join us!

Brian Chan's BMW *by Bob Jorgenson*



Most of Brian Chan's patterns are relatively simple but seem to catch fish. We will tie this micro leech using a jig hook and tungsten jig drop bead. The result is a leech that can be hung under an indicator when tied on with a clinch knot or trolled when tied on with a loop knot. One advantage of a balanced pattern using a jig hook is it tends to resist snagging.

Materials:

- Black Marabou
- Fulling Mill 5045 Jig Hook in size 12 or 14
- 2.8mm Tactical tungsten drop bead
- Fine wire to match the bead color
- Thread color to match the marabou

Tying Procedure:

1. Begin by placing the hook in your vice with the point up to make placing the bead easier. Slide the bead onto the hook concave side down so that the bead hangs over the hook eye when in final position.
2. Take some thread wraps at the bead to hold it in place and travel down the hook to prepare to secure the marabou to the hook shank slightly back of the point of the hook.
3. Select some marabou (pretty sparse, maybe 3/16 in diameter, with fibers long enough to wrap later) and pinch a hook length or more with one hand and tie it to the hook with 3 wraps. A clockwise thread spin at this point will make tying in easier. The marabou should be sparse and if it is too long you can pinch off the excess when finished.
4. Tie a length of wire on at the tie in place then take your thread around the clump of marabou and secure the rest of the wire that is poking through the front of the clump (you could add some flashabou at this point also if desired). Continue to run your thread up to the eye. The reason the wire is not tied in first is that I have trouble not changing the position of the marabou on this fly when I wrap the wire.
5. Lightly twist the marabou fibers and wrap up the shank making the wraps closer as you approach the bead, making the fly larger near the bead.
6. Carefully counter wrap the wire to make the fly more durable. Tie off the wire at the bead. You can put a little super glue on the thread and then whip finish, but I don't usually use it on a micro leech.

Flymph *(as shown in the book **Pheasant Tail Simplicity***

A Flymph combines the characteristics of a wet fly and an emerging insect fly. On a floating line with 12'-15' leader it will fish 0-2' under the surface using a twist retrieve. It is particularly effective when mayflies are emerging. We have also found it effective in the days just before and during a Caddis hatch.



Materials:

- Pheasant Tail center feathers (longer sections for ease when wrapping).
- Grey Hungarian Partridge (best from a cape but also available in a bag).
- Hairline Ice Dub Peacock
- Fulling Mill 5085 hook size 14. I also tie down to size 16.
- Brown or black thread
- Size Xsmall copper wire

Tying Procedure:

1. Dress the hook down to the start of the bend. If you go too far the tail will point down.
2. Tie a length of copper wire down the shank keeping it on the near side of the hook.
3. Begin by selecting 4 to 8 longer pheasant tail feathers. Even up the tips and pinch them and tie on in a similar way as the BMW. A good clockwise spin will make tie in easier.
4. Leave the thread toward the tail and begin wrapping the pheasant tail toward the eye of the fly. You are wrapping the pheasant tail and pushing up the thread at the same time. This will make the wraps more consistent. Stop wrapping ¾ the way up the hook shank so you do not crowd the head.
5. Counter wrap the wire up making 4-5 turns and tie off.
6. Dub a thorax of Peacock Hare's Ice Dub leaving room to wrap the hackle. Some use Peacock Herl in place of the dub because it is easier. We will practice dubbing. The ice dub creates air bubbles that imitate the bubbles of emerging caddis or mayflies.
7. Tying the hackle is the most challenging part for beginners. Begin with a small partridge feather and prepare it as shown here: https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/video-how-to- create -a-hungarian-partridge-collar (used with instructional permission from Tom Rosenbaum of Orvis). Tie in the hackle and finish the head.

Flymph *(cont.)*

Fishing a Flymph

Stillwater: I fish these on a 12 to 15 foot leader and floating line. When stillwater fishing I cast as close to weeds as I can, let it settle and then twist retrieve toward my boat with an occasional twitch. I watched a friend fish two without a twitch but a dead slow troll over the edge of a shoal with great effectiveness. I try to fish this 2"-12" under the surface film.

Streams: I fish the Fall River in LaPine several times a year. My greatest success is with a size 16 fly on a 9 or 10 foot leader 6X tippet. I cast across or slightly upstream and immediately make a short mend. As the fly moves downstream I try to keep it moving straight down the current. When it is 60 degrees downstream from me I begin a series of very slight twitches. There is a bridge I fish under and I have cast upstream and done downstream mends effectively.

Night Fishing

by Mike Riber



I first heard about fly fishing at night from a Sage Rep giving a program to the club. Of course I was interested and thought that it was something I had to try. At that time the club was scheduling outings to Lake Lenice near Vantage so that's where I started my night fishing adventures.

After fishing all day in the hot Eastern Washington sun, we went in to have dinner and decided to start night fishing about 11PM. It was a dark, calm, and moonless night. We knew we were getting close to the far bank because we started to catch fish. In the first few hours we had caught more fish than we hooked all day long. I was fishing in my old Buck's Bag float tube when I laid my rod on my apron to fiddle with something and the next thing I knew my rod was being dragged through the water and the fish was taking line off my reel. My reel was spinning and splashing up water as it moved farther away from me. Being in a float tube I had to turn around to chase my rod and I yelled to my partner, "shine your light!". Fortunately, the fish released itself and I reached my rod as it was slowly starting to sink to the bottom. That was the last time I left my rod unsecured.

Fall Cariboo Stillwater School

by John Sanders

At the 2026 Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue, I saw an advertisement for a stillwater fly fishing school in the Hwy 24 Cariboo region of BC that would be held in the fall. The school was sponsored by Lone Butte Fishing Adventures and would be hosted by Phil Rowley and the owner of the Lone Butte fly shop, Mark Roseboom. I've been on trips with Phil before and knew this would be a high value outing.



The Eight Students

The school ran from Sunday, September 20 to Friday, September 25. Four fishing trips took place Monday to Thursday. We stayed at Little Horse Lodge a few miles south of 100 Mile House. The lodge was closed for the season, so our group took over the entire facility. We each had our own cabin and outhouse, and all the meetings and meals were held in the central lodge. The attendees came from the Bay Area of California, central and eastern Oregon, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Kamloops, Bellingham, and Lone Butte. Cost for the entire package was $2,400 USD.

Phil is an excellent teacher and uses informative professional PowerPoint presentations and video animations for his teaching sessions. Mark was quieter and preferred to give his input on the water when fishing. Phil started the week with a couple of hours of presentation on Sunday night covering the basics of stillwater fishing, how to approach a lake, flies to use, leader setup, etc. Phil followed up with another presentation on Monday night. There was also much discussion at breakfast and dinner each day. Another positive feature was the cook evidently had worked for logging crews her whole life as we were fed an enormous quantity of hot, brown, delicious food. The sack lunches were so large I emptied half of mine out each day before fishing as I couldn't possibly eat it all!

Stillwater School *(cont.)*

A typical day started with a group breakfast and discussion regarding the lake that day. We then drove 30-60 minutes to that day's lake. Two attendees joined in Phil's boat, and two more in Mark's boat. The remaining four of us decided to fish alone or in pairs. I had trailered my 10' boat to the class, so I fished alone the two days when I wasn't with the guides. I happened to have the 4CFF walkie talkies with me, so we used them, and everybody was grateful as they proved so helpful.



John connected with a Cariboo Rainbow

We fished four different lakes, each of which was decided upon the previous evening. We fished Fawn, Simon, Bobbs, and Edmund Lakes. Fishing was difficult except for one day. I caught four fish on Fawn, which was actually pretty good. I was skunked the next day on Simon, and I think the entire group of 10 of us only landed one fish. The third day we located a lot of fish that were feeding on Chironomids. That was my day in Phil's boat, and I was fortunate to land 33 rainbows. Day four was the trophy lake day at Edmund. I was in Mark's boat and all 10 of us were skunked. This was despite the fact that both Phil and Mark were each using $5,000 Garmin LiveScope sounders. An interesting thing was that when leaving, Mark talked to another angler who had been fishing Edmund for a few days. A couple days prior he landed a 31" 16 pound rainbow, and he had photos which convinced Mark of its size!



Phil searching for fish using a Live Scope

Despite unpredictable fishing, the school was a great success. It was nice to make new friends in the serious stillwater fishing community, and everybody learned many things. As a bonus on Wednesday night after dinner Phil held a fly tying session. Only four of us were tyers, so it was a great opportunity to sit around the vice with a master for a couple of hours and learn some new techniques.

Stillwater School *(cont.)*

This class will be held again next September. If you think you might be interested in attending, check the Lone Butte Fishing Adventures web site at https://lonebuttefishingadventures.ca/, or Phil’s website at https://philrowleyflyfishing.com/. Sadly, the Fly Fishing Show has decided to drop the Bellevue show due to low attendance, so you won’t have the opportunity to inquire and sign up there in February.





John Sanders Photo “Cariboo Sunrise at the Cabins”

Squalicum Lake Report *(by Sid Strong)*

I was a member of the 4CFF for a long time, and it was a huge part of my life. I still have a few good friends in the club that I bother regularly, and many passed on or have moved away. Through some of them I constantly check the actions and thoughts of the club that was deep in my life for years. One good friend and fishing buddy, Brian Duim, sent me an email raising concerns over the club's and DFW's involvement with Squalicum Lake. This hit me personally.



Scott Willison catch fall 2026

The idea of the 4CFF **NOT** being involved with this incredible, precious jewel sent shock waves into my soul, enough to attend a gathering on July 31, 2026, with prominent members of both the 4CFF and with Justin Spinelli of the DFW.

Squalicum Lake has been under the club's management, not only for the clean-up, but also the construction of boat racks and the kiosk. The kiosk holds a box for updated creel reports that help the club and the DFW on the health and activity on the lake. If you fish the lake, please participate in the reports and remember to take your trash with you when you leave.

I took part in many of the club's conservation outings at Squalicum—cleaning, weed whacking, sawing, and raking—to keep the small lake access open and maintained. The club also made lasting contributions by helping build and maintain the boat racks, building and supporting a kiosk, collecting and updating creel reports, and organizing volunteer work parties to care for the area. Dan Coombs, Klaus Lohse, Don Anderson, Mike Riber, Hugh Lewis, Ralph Lloyd and many, many others joined these cleanups to help keep the lake alive and accessible.

This important gathering was made possible through Mike Riber, President of 4CFF. Mike understood the feelings and passions for this could not be digital or transmitted with an email and had the forethought of a personal connection with the various participants. The outpouring of stories, thoughts, facts, and ideas was amazing and incredibly comforting. It was an incredible gathering of fly fishers and wildlife department heads merging on one single goal - preservation of this incredible fishery.

Squalicum Lake *(cont.)*



Scott Willison Photo

The lake has an indigenous cutthroat species that is incredibly beautiful and fun to catch. However, they are small and rarely get over 8 inches. The lake has been planted with fish for a long time with rainbows and triploids to increase the lake's attraction for fishers requiring a bigger tug. The lake was planted this year after a two-year period of no fish planting. The truck could not get close to the lake because of the wet conditions and fears the truck would get stuck. Forming a bucket brigade with the help of volunteers with 4CFF was suggested for future plantings.

After all of the suggestions and opinions, I was assured this lake was in good hands. The lake will be stocked with trout in the foreseeable future for the enjoyment of the fly club and others. The good news is that if the access closed and the plantings stopped, it would return to a beautiful lake with the native cutthroat, and that is enough for me. The only danger is that some irresponsible people would plant it with bass, blue gills, crappies, or other invasive species to completely upset the balance and destroy this habitat forever. We **must** protect it.

This incredible, bucolic, and wonderful 33-acre (13 hectare), incredible fishery is in our back yard. If the thought of going to a lake with a little effort, a .3 mile access leading to an incredible view, and having a good chance that you have it all to yourself appeals to you, this is it.

The days that I have spent on that lake in my pram fishing and taking time listening to the wind and ospreys, watching damsels, swallows, and other life swirl around the lake is like heaven. It remains in my soul that these creatures make it their home make me feel like somehow, I belonged there as well.

Frank Zappa had a saying, "If you get it, you get it. If you don't, you're not supposed to." If you "get" this lake, you'll get it and it will remain in your soul for the rest of your life.

Thank you, Mike Riber, the 4CFF, and the DFW for caring and protecting this incredible habitat.

Reel Recovery (by Lin Nelson)

Club Members Volunteer with Reel Recovery at Sun Mountain Lodge

From September 14–16, four members of the 4th Corner Fly Fishers Club—**Angus MacArthur**, **Bob Jorgenson**, **Mike Riber**, and **Lin Nelson**—traveled to Winthrop to volunteer with **Reel Recovery**, a national nonprofit that supports men living with cancer through fly-fishing retreats.



Bob tries to convince his buddy to put his fish back in the water

Serving as *fishing buddies*, Angus, Bob, Mike, and Lin spent three days alongside retreat participants, teaching casting techniques, sharing practical skills on the Methow River, and offering encouragement and companionship on the water. Their role blended instruction with heartfelt support, helping each participant experience the calm, connection, and confidence that fly fishing can inspire.

The group camped together at Big Twin Lake, where they enjoyed some fishing of their own and plenty of camaraderie around the evening fire. It was a meaningful blend of service, fellowship, and time outdoors—reflecting the spirit of generosity and community that defines our club.

The 4th Corner Fly Fishers Club is proud of Angus, Bob, Mike, and Lin for representing us with skill, kindness, and dedication. Their contribution helped make the Reel Recovery retreat a memorable and healing experience for all involved.



Lin Joins the Hair Free Group



Special Evening at Big Twin Lake

Meet New Member

Dennis Doll



I am new to fly fishing! After a failed attempt to teach myself the fine art of casting I gave up. About a year later I discovered Project Healing Waters, a national organization for veterans to learn this fine art. Through this organization of vets and incredible volunteers I have discovered there is hope. I have had the opportunity to fish the Muskegon and Pere Marquette in Michigan with other like minded vets and stay in a fabulous lodge. My mediocre skills started to develop after taking casting lessons from Frank, Marion, and Steve. Their efforts enabled me to gain the FFI silver certificate. Gold is next! I've learned how to tie flies but it is still a mystery.

After 21 years of faithful honorable service I retired from the navy and for the next 27 years I was co-owner of a Real Estate Management firm. After selling our business I joined PHW as a participant and I now volunteer teaching rod building. My wonderful wife of 55 years says she is a fly fishing widow since I attend 3 PHW, Fidalgo Fly Fishers, and now 4th Corner Fly Fishers meetings monthly, plus numerous outings and more casting classes. It's an obsession. In my spare time I play golf and build furniture.

Meet New Member

Marianne Mitchell

I was born and raised in Western Montana, and have fished its rivers and creeks many times over the years. However, I call the rivers and beaches of the Olympic Peninsula my home waters as I lived and fished there, mainly for steelhead and sea-run cutthroats, for a couple of decades. I also love to combine fishing and travel and have fished, among other amazing places, the Blackwater (Ireland) for Atlantic salmon, the Andros flats (Bahamas) for bonefish and the Yellowstone for cutthroat, and made many wonderful new friends along the way. I also have been involved for many years in river and fish conservation efforts. In this regard, I served on the Citizens Advisory Policy Group for the development of the WA State Steelhead Management Plan, and a related steelhead and cutthroat advisory group later convened by WDFW. I look forward to learning more about the waters near Bellingham, my new home, and fishing with my fellow 4th Corner Fly Fishers members.

Meet New Member

Rick Pugel

I have really enjoyed times spent with the club this summer and am looking forward to fishing outings with you all next year. The informative presentations at the meetings, the patient instructors at the casting clinics, and friendly discussions at the annual picnic make this club a real treasure! I felt especially welcomed by Hugh as he restored my uncle's 1950-something bamboo fly rod.



Rick (center) fishing with family

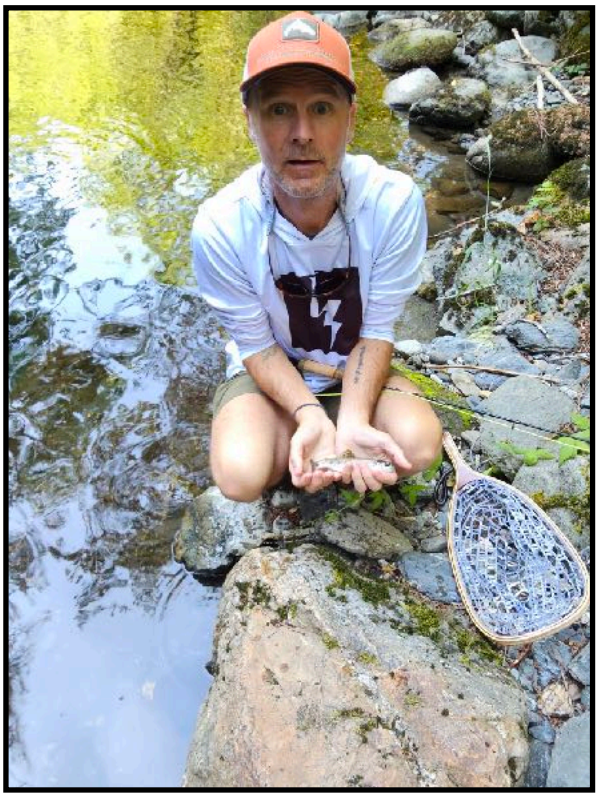
My wife (who has out fished me at times) and I moved to Bellingham a year ago to be near our high-energy cyclist, runner, hiker outdoor-everything daughter and son-in-law. We were drawn by the majestic views of Puget Sound, Mt Baker, and the promise of summer's greenery and cool days. I grew up in and we raised our family in the Northern California foothills – the Mother Lode, Gold Country. My favorite pastimes were flying and fishing – and even fly-fishing the beautiful clear high mountain lakes scattered throughout the granite topology of the northern-most Sierra Nevada.

My dad taught us all how to fish – trolling in a 10-foot aluminum boat with a 6 HP Johnson. A small enough boat that we could stick our fingers in the water and sense when the fish were going to bite. We out fished everyone - period. Fly fishing, however, was not conducive to our family trips. When I moved out on my own, my dad gave me his old fly rod and pointed me to the Eastern High Sierras – with not much more instruction than that. My favorite recent fishing picture is this one with my brother-in-law and my eldest son, fishing the Wind River near my son's property in Wyoming.

All that to say how much I'm looking forward to fishing this new territory and hearing your fish tales! Thanks to the fellas from Puget Sound Anglers that invited me to the club meeting and thank you all for taking me aboard!

Meet New Member

Sean Seymour



I was born and raised in Mount Vernon and grew up spending countless hours fishing the Skagit with my Grandpa to the point I rarely eat Salmon anymore because I overdid it as a kid. After my Dad remarried, my stepbrother Brandon and I would spend weekends together while I was visiting my father. We would fish the ponds, creeks, and saltwater in the Wollochet area of Gig Harbor. One of my most memorable fishing days happened a few years ago when I took my nephew fishing for his first time ever at the pond at Northern State Recreation Area in Sedro- Wooley. His first attempt at casting ended with the thankfully barbless hook in the lobe of my ear. My first ever cast hooked my Grandpa in the bridge of the nose. I first heard about the 4th Corner Fly Fishers while taking a private casting lesson from Brandon at The Confluence Fly Shop. I had been interested in fly fishing since my 6th grade teacher gave me a copy of *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories* but had never managed to get started.

My first cast with a fly tied on was on the Methow River at this year's Classic, and since then have been truly enjoying being a beginner and the excitement of new knowledge. It has been particularly nice to have so many people willing to answer questions and provide insights, I had grown accustomed in the Skagit Alpine Club to being on the other side of those conversations and had forgotten how good it feels to feel so welcomed and encouraged.

The 222 Loop Knot

We hope that you were able to attend our October Meeting. John Sanders introduced a new loop knot of his own design that several of us have already found quite useful. We will provide step by step instructions with illustrations in our next issue.

4CFF Celebrates the Life of Founding Member Wayne McLemore (by Hugh Lewis)



Wayne McLemore, a founding member of the Fourth Corner Fly Fishers and a devoted fly fisherman since 1972, died in August of 2025. His Will directed that his remains be mixed with the waters of the Skagit River, the favorite of all his many fishing haunts.

A group of 4CFF members who had known Wayne for many decades decided to honor his intentions on the morning of April 9th of this year. Those members were Klaus Lohse, Jack Salstrom, Ralph Lloyd, Sid Strong, Hugh Lewis, Marc Hurlbert, and Mitzi Sphak, who volunteered to serve as photographer. We gathered in Bellingham and drove east in two vehicles on Route 20, to the N. Lyman Ferry Road's river access clearing on the Skagit River.

The day was cool and overcast, and the river flowed by, gray-green, low and slow. A black Labrador retriever materialized from somewhere nearby and joined us.

Memories were shared and stories were told. Wayne had been a quiet sort who spent his quality time fishing, often alone on a river somewhere, and most often with 2-handed rods.

People recalled his 20-year stint of service as the Club's newsletter editor, and his unflagging willingness to help people learn to Spey cast. Wayne also had a sense of humor and a depth of knowledge and understanding; Sid Strong recalled an outing years ago where Wayne actually sang show tunes, recognizably, to a surprised group around the campfire.

After a bit, a presence of sorts emerged from the stillness. Hugh waded into the river with solemn purpose and began mixing our friend with the waters of his favorite river. To the delight of all, that black Lab also waded out to supervise the completion of our ceremony. It was truly rewarding to have been able to honor Wayne in this fashion.

Remembering Jim Swansen *by Bob Jorgenson*



Jim on Roche Lake with a smile

Jim Swansen was a relatively new member of our club but during his time he took full advantage of classes and outings and over about a year he moved from rarely catching a fish to being one of the most productive fishers on the lake. He was a sharp observer of nature and was often the first to notice bird activity or fish present on the surface of the lake. When on an outing we could always count on Jim being the first on the lake and giving a modest account of his success. He genuinely enjoyed a meal cooked on the tailgate no matter how cold or wet, and also a good camp fire.

Jim passed on a "hike in" fishing trip to Church Lake with a few friends. It goes without saying that it was a shock to all of us. I wrote this poem two days after our loss and it sums up what many of us felt about Jim Swansen.

My Quiet Fishing Buddy

Always first on the lake quietly enjoying the calm

You and your Flymphs stripping the shallows

There for a quick trip into BC or a mountain lake with an "I am in"

I will miss waking to your breakfasts

Helping me lift my boat over the rocks

Why go to the end of the lake when they are rising here?

How many fish? Always preceded by a "well maybe…"

No big guided experiences, just learning by doing together

Loyal, honest, calm, quiet

I will miss you buddy



Jeff Taylor Fishes the Course rather than Fazon



John Sanders on the South Thompson River below Little Shuswap Lake



Frosty Morning at Valentine Lake



Steve fishes the morning at Big OK

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Visit our public Facebook page: 4th Corner Fly Fishing Club
Private Facebook page: The Fourth Corner Fly Fishers

Editor's Note: Some say that as we age our "circle of friends" becomes smaller and smaller. I have found just the opposite to be true. We are working hard to make our club welcoming and inclusive and if you would like to increase your "circle of friends" please join us by participating in casting lessons, outings, and social events. We have added new members this year and all have added to our club experience. We welcome you! And when you join us at an activity please send me photos. -Bob