

4th Corner Fly Fishers



4CFF MEETINGS CALENDAR



General Monthly Meeting

Via ZOOM March 24 , 2022

Program: 7:00 pm

RSVP to Bob for reservations:
<http://4cff.eventbrite.com>

Virtual Board Meeting

April 5, 2022

Own home or Trinity Lutheran Church (maybe)

119 Texas Street
Bellingham, WA

6:00 P.M.

4CFF Board Members, Chairs and Directors

- President:..... Steve Kopp
- External Vice President - Outings:..... Kevin McClurg
- Internal Vice President - Programs:..... Bob Carney
- Secretary:..... Bruce Aigner
- Treasurer:..... Frank Koterba
- Conservation Chair:..... John Leighton
- Education Chair:..... Klaus Lohse
- Library:..... Wayne Mclemore
- Website:..... Marion Hiller
- Newsletter:..... Jamie Harrington
- Raffle Chair:..... Scott Willison
- Membership Chairs:.....Cassandra Spitzer
- Directors:.....Angus MacArthur, Dean Bates, Kevin Formway
- Events:.....Bob Cooper

President's Message

President's Corner

Yesterday I had the exciting pleasure of watching a few Giant Trevally working a bait ball. And now those who've seen the films of GTs in Seychelles are on the edge of your seat... My experience was a bit different and much closer to home, from 40 feet below them in a marine protected area in Hawaii. Still very cool, and educational to see how they slowly, casually cruise around the outside looking for to pick off then charge like lightning for the attack. I look forward to someday casting into something like that! I've caught smaller bluefin trevally off the edge of the flats, but these looked about 20-30 pounds and would surely put the hurt on me. If you're fired up about tropical saltwater, please join us at this month's meeting when Scott Willison tells us about his recent surface adventure chasing fishing in Belize.

By the time you read this, masks will no longer be required for indoor dining, Whatcom county weekly Covid case rates are down near last summer's pre-Delta low, and a large percentage of people have some level of immunity through vaccination, prior infection, or both. Community transmission risk is going down and expected to continue in that direction without some new variant popping up. All this good news means your board is working on our plan to begin meeting in person again.

We've got our 4th Thursday of the month reserved with the country club and trying to work out new dinner pricing, clubhouse Zoom sharing logistics for providing a virtual option, and decide which month we will start this. We are still virtual in March, might start in-person / virtual hybrid style meetings in April if we can get it all worked out. From the survey last fall and discussion of the board, we believe supporting both in-person and zoom for the meeting is important, not just for Covid, also travel, other illness, or just too busy to spent 3 hours but want to see an interesting guest speaker.

We are looking for two volunteers to step up and help make this successful.

We need a volunteer who expects to be in-person at the meetings to sell raffle tickets and run the raffle.

We need a volunteer who is comfortable with Zoom and computers to help run the virtual component of the meeting. This is something mostly handled by Frank but he needs some help once we go with the hybrid meeting style.

As we work on this over the next month I encourage you to reach out to me with your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions. stevekopp@hotmail.com 909-633-0734.



Steve Kopp, President

Monthly Zoom Meeting

March Zoom Presentation March 24, 7:00 pm: Our own Scott Willison on the luring fish of Belize!

Day one: Imagine yourself off a pristine white sand beach with only your guide in two feet of gin clear lagoon water with a riotous school of bonefish cruising off to your leeward side just coming within range of your 120' casts that you've been practicing with Frank. You have noticed they are thrashing randomly tearing up the coral sands with sheer abandonment and your tan and pink Christmas Island Special is trembling with excitement. Hopefully a Bonefish Bitter isn't the morsel of choice. You look to your guide to make sure the goddesses and gods are with you (she's been desperately holding back the urge to yell with glee at the sight). Then she nods and you start feeding line. Everything is falling into that neat orderly mosaic as the double haul lays out with a perfect tight loop and flies at subsonic speeds to within a 3 meters landing as a marabou feather would drift onto a placid lake. Then...more on this later.

Day two: Off one of the tropical fruit laden isles the atoll extends for what seems miles. As the boat glides over what some would say is glacial colored water, except for the optical pure lens of transparency only broken by surface disturbance of tiny wavelets, you anticipate the fish of a lifetime...a 8 kilo Permit. Your guide has a favorite channel off the azure deep water edge of the coral reef that Permit love to frequent on certain tidal fluctuations. The motor is cut and the poling begins as you delicately make your way to the rift of land and the holder of behemoth fish. You're 9 wt. Sage rod is set with newly cleaned and greased floating line and a clear intermediate sink tip with a 12 pound tapered leader/tippet adorned with the killer SS Merkin Crab in size 4. Yes, Del Brown's famous pattern. Lucky for you, the guide has X-Ray vision and sees your feeding targets and positions the boat so you have a perfect line for your double-haul to be able to lead the ravaging piscis. You feed out your line and start the cast sending out a clothesline that gently descends to the clear world of aquatic fauna. Bam...

Day 3: With your svelt Mr. Atlas physique aching as if you stopped a freight train with your bare hands from yesterdays war on the water, you decide you need more punishment...TARPON! Lucky you brought a 10 wt. Winston. What a hog! You decide to tie on a Black Death, size 3/0 over a Tarpon Toad that Gary Merriman developed. Your guide is puzzled...why? Then again, why not? Away you head for an area with backcountry lagoon systems and approaching Mangroves...the excitement is electric and growing. The wind is up today, but your ever knowledgeable guide puts you right where massive 40 Kilo Tarpon are feeding. As you prepare for battle with the fish gods, you dream of the trifecta of reef fishing in your trophy album. You feed the line start the double-haul andwhoosh...

Since a description of Scott's oration was not available I improvised...apologies Scott...Jamie Harrington

Conservation Report

Greetings all!

Much is happening on the conservation committee front. Seven derelict boats have been identified for removal at Squalicum Lake. WDFW has expressed willingness to haul them away on April 9th. We'll need a few volunteers to facilitate the removal. The troublesome tree should have been removed by then, also by WDFW.

The total number of anglers submitting cards at Squalicum Lake in 2021 (176) was down from 2020 (255) and so was the fish caught per hour (0.82 vs 1.3). Mike Riber submitted the statistical information to Justin Spinelli at DFW, but have not heard back from him yet. Once Mike hears from the DFW he will take the time to put all the historical information (2012 on) into electronic format and create some historical graphs. If anyone would like this data in a different format please let Mike know.

On February 17, Keven Formway and Mike took the new donated boat to Squalicum. The boat is locked and Mike will put a club decal on it next week for identification. The boat looks great and I'm sure it will be nice to fish from. Mike is worried a bit about how heavy the boat is and how easy one person can manage the boat even with the wheels. In reviewing the 2021 creel census cards you can tell you that most of the people who fish the lake or at least turn in cards, fish by themselves for about two hours. Mike, like most of us find the lake a nice quick getaway for some alone time.

In placing the new boat at the lake Mike moved the bluish plastic boat to the section of boats to be removed. Mike fished out of this boat earlier in February (caught 1) and it does have a crack on the bottom and leaks. Keven and Mike moved the green fiberglass club boat to the spot where the plastic boat was and placed the new boat where the fiberglass one was. The new boat may be easier to store and launch from this spot? We currently have one set of oars between the two boats and they are locked under the new boat.

If you have any questions or feedback for Squalicum Lake please contact Mike Riber direct.

The auction committee had a meeting on March 5th. The dinner auction will be held on October 15 at the country club, conditions permitting. Between now and then we'll be focusing on donations and the nitty gritty necessary to pull it off without any major hassles. We'll be having our next meeting on March 26th at 11:00 at Klaus' house. All are welcome. Let me know before hand. More information and request for help will be forthcoming in the coming months.

John Leighton
Conservation Chair



Treasurer's Report

March Treasurer's Report:

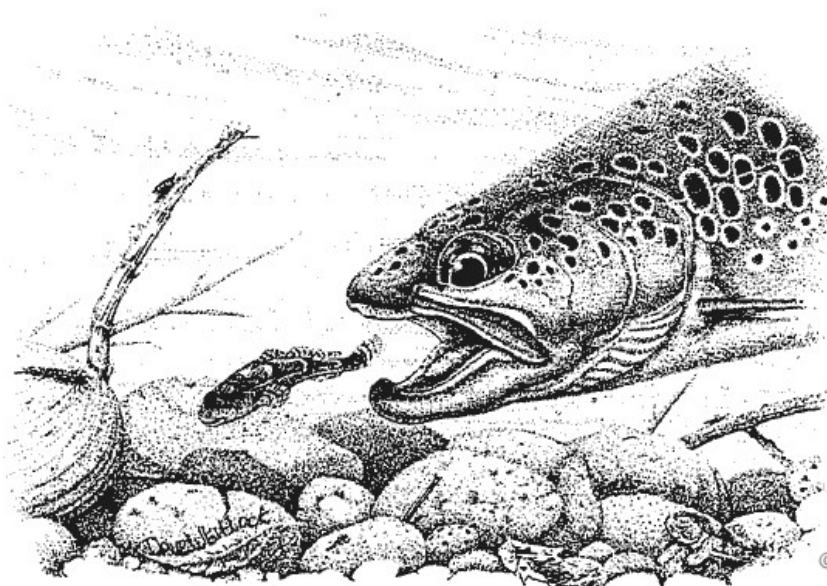
Dues: We are almost done for 2022. To date, we have 43 of 52 single and 5 of 8 family membership dues paid. If you are one of those still outstanding call or email me and we can get this done. Or please make your check out to "4CFF" and send them to Po Box 1543 Bellingham, WA 98227.

(Dues: single: \$60, family: \$90 plus the \$10 Late fee)

Believe me. I would rather be harassing you at a membership meeting with a beverage in hand! The next best thing, join us at our March Zoom virtual membership meeting on the 24th.

We are finally getting our face-to-face events returning. Join us at Lone Lake for the outing later this month and have a bowl of my chili!!!! The fish might not be on the bite but you can be. Go to our website 4th-cornerfly.com/ and sign up.

Frank Koterba,
4CFF Treasurer



Outings Report

4CFF Newsletter Outings Report February 2022.

Greetings fellow fly fishers.

Spring is almost here! Dust off your fly rods, finish up those flies you're tying and get ready to get out there. Below are the outings we have scheduled so far. Links for info and sign up are on the outings page on the club web-site.

1. **Lone Lake** change from Pass Lake , Friday March 25th as the parking area at Pass Lake is closed due to a sinkhole that won't be repaired anytime soon. Instead we will be going to **Lone Lake** on Whidbey Island. It is rumored that Frank will be cooking up something for lunch! Hope to see you there.
2. **Omak Lake**, April 21 – 24th. Angus MacArthur will be the host for this trip. We'll be angling for some big Lahontan Cutthroat. For details go to the link on the club website outings page which will bring you to the Evenbrite page.
3. **Big Twin Lake**, May 19-22nd.
4. **Fazon Lake**, June 10th. Blue gill and bass fishing.
5. **Methow Classic**, July 22-24th.
6. **Small Creek Outing** in August or September.

If you have a suggestion for someplace you'd like to go to for a club outing or if you're willing to be a host for an outing, let me know.

Cheers,

Kevin McClurg





4CFF Activities



Conservation Projects

Conservation is the cornerstone 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.

Contact John Leighton to 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 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>.

Kevin McClurg is our present Outings Chairman.

If you are new to fly fishing, our club has fly rods, reels, and fly tying equipment available for use. Also, if you attend ANY outings, it's wise to bring your own lawn chair.

(it's better than a rock or a tailgate.)

For more information, please contact the outing hosts.

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