

The Leader



Newsletter of the Dallas Flyfishers ♦ *September 2026*
Volume XLIX ♦ *Number 6* ♦ www.dallasflyfishers.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by Dave Smith

The summer heat has slowed down local fishing in area ponds. Early mornings or late evenings are your best times. The early onset of heat this spring has caused weed and algae growth in most ponds. A few bass are being caught and plenty of bluegill are available so dig out that 3 wt and go have some fun.

The members who had a chance to fish out of state in recent weeks think about writing a short article for The Leader about your experience and be sure to add

a picture.

Do you tie your own flies want to learn more and improve your skills check out the 3rd Tuesday tying class starting up again in September at Cabela's in Allen. Contact Dan Montayne to add your name for the class. The class is FREE and held in the evening.

Until next time I hope to see you on the water or at the tying bench.

Dave Smith
President, Dallas FlyFishers



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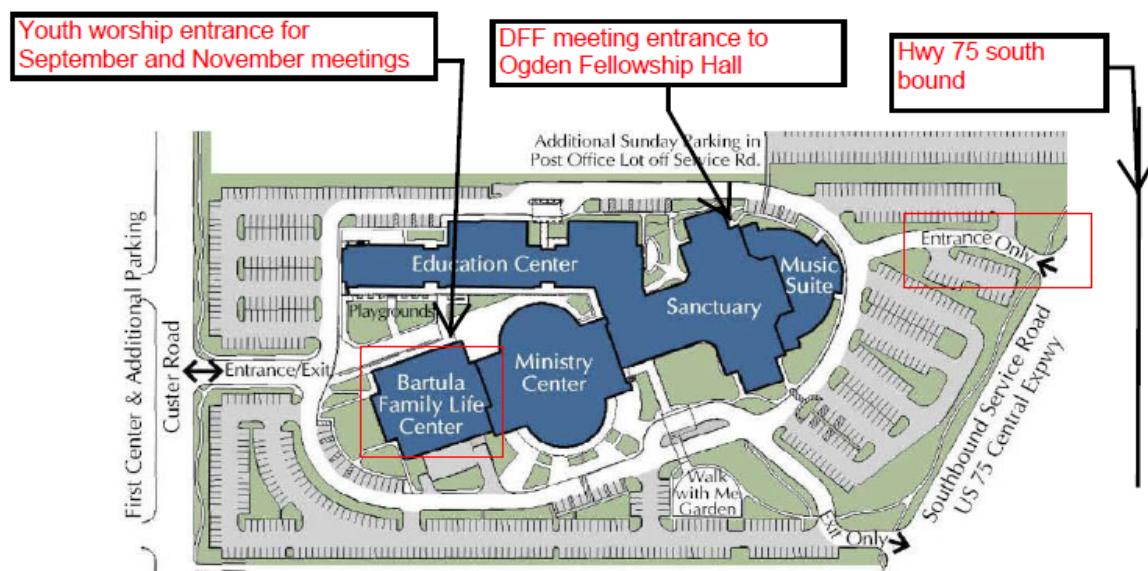
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DFF Program Schedule



located between Arapaho (to the north) and Beltline (to the south) Rds
address: 503 N Central Expy, Richardson, TX 75080

This month's meeting will be **September 14th**, at our regular meeting location at First United Methodist Church (FUMC), 503 N. Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080.

Location: Youth Room • **Time:** 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Casting Practice: Gym, 6:00 PM – 6:45 PM (unless noted)

September 14th—DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room, Gustavo Heibaum & Matias Claret of Set Fly Fishing

October 5th—DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room, Jim Klug & Bryan Gregson of Yellow Dog Fly Fishing

November 2nd—DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room

December 6th—DFF Holiday Party, Doubletree Inn, Richardson

January 11th – DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room

February 1st – DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room

March 1st – DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room

Happy September Fly Anglers!

If you have any content that you would like featured in the newsletter, please reach out to Chris Wegmann, bensdad87@msn.com

Sincerely, The Dallas Fly Fishers

Reach us: <https://dot.cards/dallasflyfishers>

or use your mobile to scan the QR code here:



2026 / 2027 Calendar

September 12th, 9am – 2pm — Beginner Fly Fishing Class, LLELA 201 East Jones ST, Lewisville, TX 75019; bring water and lunch or snack
September 14th — DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room, Set Fly Fishing
September 19th, 6 – 9 pm — Fort Worth Fly Fishers Annual Auction & Banquet, Ft. Worth Elks Club 3233 White Settlement RD, Fort Worth, TX 76107
September 22nd, 6 – 8 pm — FFI TX Council Giveback Night at Chicken & Pickle, 2965 S. Hwy 161, Grand Prairie, TX 75052
September 24th – 26th — FFI Fly Fest, Redding Civic Auditorium, 700 Auditorium DR, Redding, CA 96001
October 3rd, 9:30am – 1:30pm — Beginner Fly Fishing Class, Rosemeade Recreation Center, 1330 East Rosemeade PKWY, Carrollton, TX 75007; bring water and lunch or snack
October 5th — DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room, Yellow Dog Fly Fishing
November 2nd — DFF Monthly Meeting, Youth Room
November 6th – 8th — Toledo Bend Rendezvous, North Toledo Bend State Park, Zwolle, LA 71486
November 7th, 9am – 2pm — Beginner Fly Fishing Class, The Core, 267 Parkway BLVD, Coppell, TX 75019; bring water and lunch or snack
December 6th — DFF Holiday Party, Doubletree by Hilton, 1981 North Central Expwy., Richardson, TX 75080, 6:00 – 9:00pm
February 19th – 21st — Troutfest TX at Lazy L & L Campground, Andy Mill featured speaker

Introducing your new Newsletter Editor

Hello! I'm Chris Wegmann.

I'm a Native Texan, born in Dallas and grew up in Richardson. I am a retired Army veteran serving as an Infantry officer with the 82nd Airborne Division.

I retired in 2023 from a privately-held company that designed and manufactured high reliability electronics primarily for military and aerospace applications.

I've been fly fishing for about 23 years, fishing about 2 – 3 times a year when I was working. Now that I am retired, I fish about once a month, sometimes more. I've been a member of the DFF since retiring in July 2023.

I've been married for 45 years to my wife Lisa; we have one son, Ben, who lives in Cedar Hill, and I'm looking forward to assisting the DFF as the monthly Newsletter Editor.



Introducing your new Conservation Chair

Shawn Henderson is a recent addition to Dallas Flyfishers, and served as a Board Member at Large before taking over as the Conservation Chairperson. He is retired from law enforcement and now teaches Outdoor Trails, Robotics and Art Photography at Lakeview Middle School. A recovering bait fisher, he's now fully addicted to fly tying and fly fishing. Shawn is married and has two grown children, one of whom fishes, the other will follow. Locally he loves to fish the Brazos, Paluxy and the much maligned Trinity River. Outside of the metroplex, he'll fish wherever there's any combination of water and fish.



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

The UNT Department of Technical Communication is conducting an online research study on **Investigating perception of methylmercury exposure in North Texas fishing communities to improve food safety communication**

If you are at least 18 years old and fish in the DFW area, you may qualify to participate in a research study identifying effective food safety communication strategies related to methylmercury prevention and intervention in North Texas communities. Eligible subjects will complete an online survey and take part in a one-on-one phone interview. Participation in this study takes approximately 90 minutes. Subjects will be compensated with a \$50 Amazon gift card.

For more information, please contact the research team by email at Samantha.Cosgrove@unt.edu.

2027 Board Vacancies

The Dallas Fly Fishers declares the following Board vacancies for the 2027 calendar year: President, Dave Smith's term is expiring; Vice-President; Trustee 2028; Trustee 2029; and Programs Chair. Any member in good standing is eligible to fill the vacancy, and nominations can be made on any member's behalf as well as self-nominations.

In the October *The Leader*, nominated candidates are announced for each of the vacancies. The elected Board positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Trustees, as well as any appointed positions where there are more than one name put forward for a position, are voted into office at our in-person, November general meeting. The 2027 Board will be installed at the Holiday Party December 6, 2026.

The Board meets monthly via Zoom at 7:00pm on the Sunday evening before the monthly General Meeting. The Secretary takes notes of the Board Meetings, types the meeting minutes, and emails a copy to all Board Members. The Treasurer submits monthly accounting of the club's finances and emails a copy to all Board Members. All Board positions are equal voting positions.

Please submit your nominations to Dave Smith by 6:00 pm on September 24th 2026.

A festive holiday-themed graphic with a snowy background, pine branches, and red berries. The text is centered and reads: "DALLAS FLY FISHERS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY" in large, stylized letters. Below this, it says "Come celebrate the holidays with the DFF at Doubletree by Hilton Hotel". At the bottom, it provides the location and time: "1981 North Central Expwy • Richardson, TX 75080 • Sunday, Dec 6, 2026 • 6-9pm" and the ticket price: "Tickets \$50 / person".

DALLAS FLY FISHERS ANNUAL
HOLIDAY
P A R T Y

Come celebrate the holidays with the DFF
at Doubletree by Hilton Hotel

1981 North Central Expwy • Richardson, TX 75080 • Sunday, Dec 6, 2026 • 6-9pm
Tickets \$50 / person

South Fork Outing Recap

by Jeff Ziehm

This year's South Fork, Colorado outing took place July 11 – 18.

We had 22 attendees: Al & Mariya Palmer and their daughter Sophia, Dave Shatzer, Pat Kennedy, Vaughn & Janet DuBose, Cody & Julia Bell, and their niece and nephew McKinsey and Judson, Chris Wegmann and his friend Joe, Scott & Linda Balch, Frank & Cheryl Auditore, John Ashton, Cathy Chandler, Ted & Jeanette Warren and myself. If I omitted anyone, my apologies. There was also a good turnout from the FWFF's, headed by Russell Husted.

It was a very low snowpack year. The Rio Grande River flow at Wagon Wheel Gap was in the 143 cfs range throughout the week, about half of last year. And last year was a low water year. Average daily high was 75°, low 52°, a nice relief from the Texas summer heat. The rain chased us off the water a few afternoons, but that is what it does in the Rockies in the summertime.

I flew to Durango, Colorado Springs where I was picked up by Dave Shatzer. Dave drove since he and his family were going to spend the rest of July in Colorado. Chris and Joe also flew to Durango. Most others drove. Most of us stayed at Wolf Creek Lodge. This was the first time we stayed at Wolf Creek Lodge. Almost everyone agreed this was an upgrade from our previous lodging. Our plan is to stay here again next year.

Daily routine was to wake up around 6am, chit chat with folks about where they were going to fish that day, and leave for fishing around 7:15am. In the evening kibitz with people about where they fished that day, how was the fishing, what flies were used, and where they were going to go fishing the next day. We had five group events this week. These group events are one of the trip's highlights for me.

My agenda for the week.

Date: Sunday am

River: South Fork

Access: River Bend RV Park. Ted Warren was staying there and invited us to join him.

This is normally private water. We fished from a couple hours in the morning. A beautiful stretch of water.

Species: Brown Trout



Flies: Caddis

Date: Sunday pm

River: South Fork (further upstream from Ted Warren's place)

River char: Pocket water

Species: Brown Trout

Flies: Hi Vis Caddis

Date: Monday

River: South Fork and Beaver Creek

Access: Put in at the Beaver Creek / South Fork confluence. Dave fished upstream. I hiked downstream and fished upstream. My hike downstream was stopped by a box canyon.

River char: Riffle / Run

Species: Brown and Rainbow Trout

Flies: H&L, #16PT

Monday evening we had a potluck. I bet we had 50 people. Russell made the entrée, delicious pulled pork. Everyone else brought a side or a dessert. Highlight for me was Vaughn's Chicken & Mushroom casserole. Larry Johnson provided yummy ice cream sandwiches for dessert.

Date: Tuesday am

River: North Clear Creek

River char: Meadow / Riffle Run

Species: Rainbow

Flies: PT

Comments: Pretty crowded that day. Met another fly fisherman from Florida.

Date: Tuesday pm

River: Spring Creek

River char: Small w beaver ponds

Species: Brook Trout

Flies: Midge

Comments: Lots of beaver ponds built since last year. I caught from both the creek and the beaver ponds.

Date: Wednesday am

River: Beaver Creek

River char: Pocket water

Species: Brown

Comments: The Beaver was pretty crowded. We fished about an hour, then we ran into Michael (FWFFs), and all the pullouts upstream were full.



Date: Wednesday pm

River: Beaver Lake

Access: Upper end, next to the large parking lot

Species: Stocked rainbows

Comments: We could see fish rising. They took a wide variety of flies.

Wednesday evening the DFFers had a group dinner at Ramon's Mexican restaurant. Afterwards, Bruce from the FWFFs entertained us with singing and guitar playing. A South Fork tradition, and part of the trip I always look forward to.

Date: Thursday am

River: Hunter Lake

Comments: Pretty drive and lake. We saw lots of fish rising, but did not get any hits. Difficult casting, trees, mud.

Date: Thursday pm

River: Pass Creek

Species: Rainbow

Flies: H&L

Comments: Pretty creek. We only fished it for an hour, starting around noon. Trouble is it is one mile to the next access point. You must go all the way around the tunnel. So you have to double back and go downstream when you are done fishing.

Thursday evening we had a group dinner Rachel's. Rachel's started out as a Food Truck. Rachel's is one of a kind, and very fun.

Date: Friday

River: South Fork

River char: Pocket water

Species: All browns

Flies: Almost all fish were caught on a Hi Vis Caddis. A few were caught on a Royal Wulff. Both were trailed behind an H&L. No hits on the H&L. Also threw a dry/dropper rig. No hits with this rig.



Friday evening Mariya Palmer treated everyone to some of her homemade sausage and potato soup. Delicious. And we finished off the week by having dessert at The Malt Shop. I had the brownie chunk ice cream sunday that seemed like there was two pounds of ice cream.

Start making plans for next year's South Fork outing. It will be July 10-17 2027.

I hope to see you there.

Upcoming DFF Outings

Lake Fork Outing

Join us for the DFF September Outing on the morning of September 19th! We'll be fishing at **Lake Fork**, located at:

2872 FM2946, Emory, TX 75440

32.88725, -95.66817

We will meet on the northeast side of the first bridge on FM2946.

Schedule & Location

- Meet @ 7:30 AM
- Fish until you are tired

This location has limited back fishing. It is preferred if you have a kayak, canoe, or a boat.

Fishing Details

Target species include:

- Panfish

- Largemouth Bass

- Carp

- Catfish

We recommend bringing a 4- to 8-weight rod.

Recommended flies:

- Poppers
- Small to large streamers

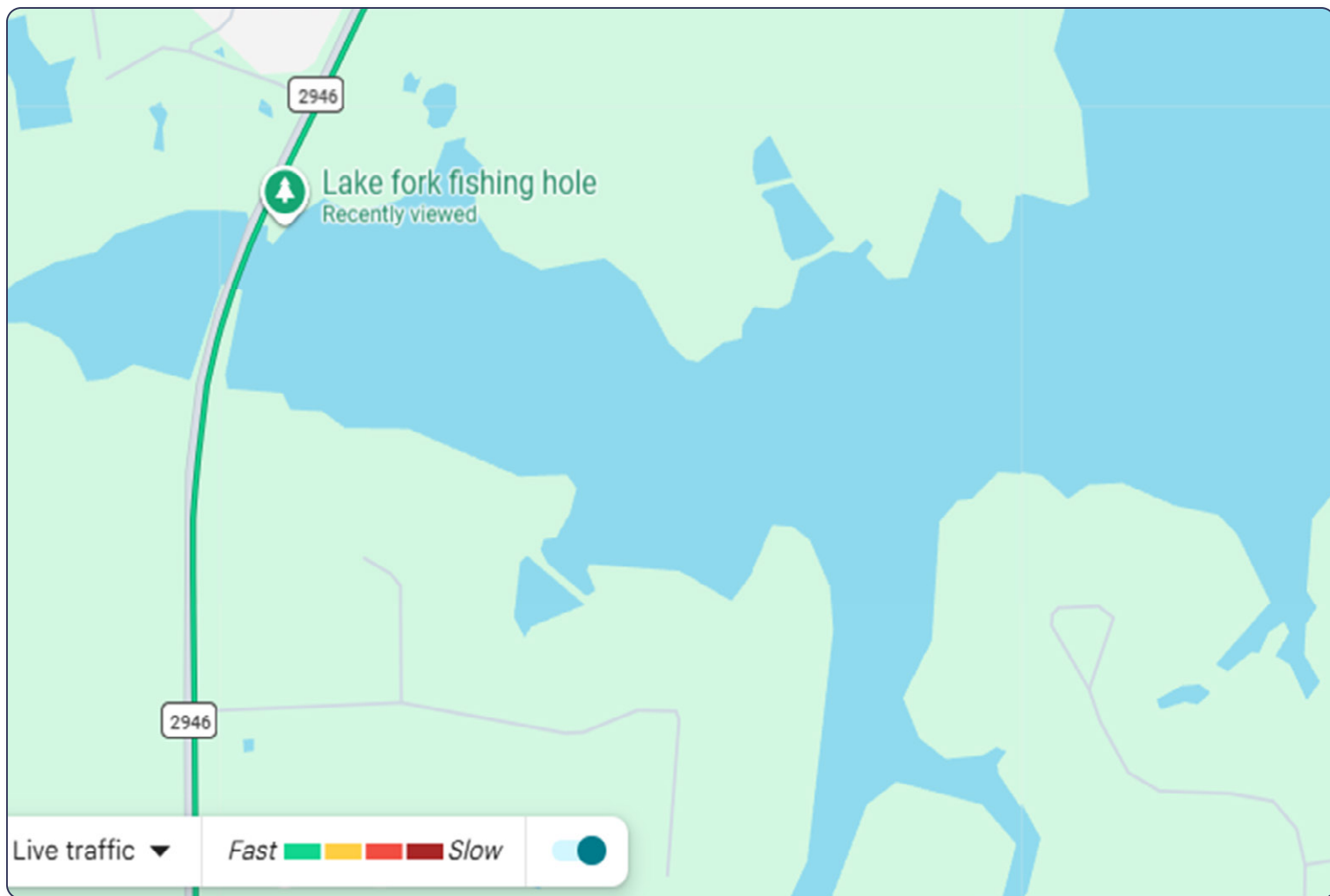
RSVP

Please RSVP with Joel Williams:

(972) 880-1788

joel.williams53@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you!



Live in the DFW Area?! Then come support the Texas Council by coming and enjoying yourself at Chicken n' Pickle in Grand Prairie!! Come play pickleball, eat some amazing food, and chat with us about what FFi and the Texas Council do, and of course, fly fishing.

CHICKEN N PICKLE.

GIVEBACK NIGHT!

SEPTEMBER 22ND • 6PM-8PM

Eat & Drink for a Cause!

Great food. Good times. 10% given back.

Dine in or order to-go at chickennpickle.com.

TEXAS COUNCIL FFI



2965 S. Hwy 161 Grand Prairie, TX 75052

Fort Worth Fly Fishers

Annual Auction & Banquet



Saturday, September 19th

6:00 ~ 9:00 p.m.

Doors open at 6:00 ~ Cocktails & Tickets

Silent Auction & Raffles

Buffet Dinner by Campisi's Italian ~ 6:30

Live Auction ~ 7:30

Fort Worth Elks Club

3233 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth, Texas

Don't miss the opportunity for a chance to bid on incredible fishing trips from Texas and Oklahoma to the wilds of Patagonia and the exotic Christmas Island in the Pacific.

Buy raffle tickets for chances to win a kayak, rods and reels and all the gear you need for a perfect fishing experience...

Plus so much more!

Don't Miss Out ~ Join the Fun

Tickets \$30 per person

Raffle Tickets and Dinner Tickets are on sale now!
(Scan the QR Code or go to FortWorthFlyFishers.com)



Buffet Provided By:

Campisi's
RESTAURANTS

Proceeds support the Fort Worth Fly Fishers mission of education, conservation, and community outreach.

Conservation Chair Update

by Shawn Henderson

Greetings Fly Folks!

I suppose I should start with an introduction... I'm Shawn Henderson, and I'll be serving as the new Dallas Flyfishers Conservation Chair to coordinate the club's efforts and activities related to conservation initiatives for waters and fisheries both near and far. I'm still learning what that actually means, so any suggestions or advice are greatly appreciated. You might ask, what qualifies me to serve as the Conservation Chair for the club? I'm pretty sure it's because I raised my hand during a meeting.

Like most fly fishers, I've always been concerned about and supportive of conserving natural resources. So concerned, in fact, that I failed out of college the first time due to too much time on the Pedernales and not enough time in class. Decades ago, I paddled and dragged a canoe down the Devils River and got to experience one of the last places in Texas that felt untouched. There are fewer and fewer of those wild and pristine places left in the world. Anything we can do to steward and protect the resources we have or clean up the ones we've destroyed is a worthwhile endeavor.

After retiring from law enforcement, I teach at a middle school in LISD, where my main focus is an outdoor education class called Outdoor Trails. I'm really looking forward to finding bridges between the conservation work we do as a club and bringing the next generation of fly anglers into the community of conservation work. After all, conservation

isn't so much about the water you're standing in right now; it's working to make sure those waters will be available for others to stand in long after we're gone.

One of the first things I want to do as Conservation Chair is to make sure I understand our current strategy and efforts related to conservation. For that, I'll need your help. I'm relatively new to the club, so my perspective is also limited. There's no need to start from scratch, but I've got to learn where we've been itching. From that foundation, I want to partner with conservation efforts that support the values and goals of DFF, and provide frequent opportunities to participate in conservation work.

It's great to learn about conservation, and even better to support conservation efforts with your checkbook. Knowledge, partnerships and financial support of causes will always be critical pillars of conservation programs. However, nothing will have as much direct impact on our local fisheries as rolling up our sleeves, getting wet and pulling trash from a river. As the Dallas Flyfishers, 'we' are the 'they' for local conservation issues and concerns. We can be the club that does something to make a difference. When most people drive by a creek or pond with trash ringing the edge and choking out the surrounding ecosystem, they think to themselves, "They should do something about that." I'd like for DFF to be the 'we' who actually does something about it. We can make a difference.

MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL									
To Join DFF, complete the form below and mail along with your check to: Dallas Fly Fishers 8349 Club Meadows Dr. Dallas, Tx 75243 You can also join or renew online at http://www.dallasflyfishers.org/membership.html	New Member ☐ or Renewing My Membership ☐ (Check one) Date _____								
	Name: _____ Spouse's name: _____								
	E-mail address: _____								
	Home phone: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____								
	Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____								
	Are you a current member of the Federation of Fly Fishers? Yes ☐ No ☐ (check one)								
	<table border="0"><tr><td>New Members:</td><td>Renewing Members:</td></tr><tr><td>Annual membership dues: \$36 per year</td><td>Annual membership dues: \$36 per year</td></tr><tr><td>After July 1st, pay \$18 for half year</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>After Oct 1st, just pay for the following year</td><td></td></tr></table>	New Members:	Renewing Members:	Annual membership dues: \$36 per year	Annual membership dues: \$36 per year	After July 1st, pay \$18 for half year		After Oct 1st, just pay for the following year	
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