

# Flyline

A Publication of the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon

FOUNDED 1961

**Join Us Tuesday, May 10th for The FCO/FFF Annual Dinner/Auction**  
[Multnomah Athletic Club \(1849 SW Salmon Street, Portland\).](#)

Registration, the Wet Fly Hour and the Silent Auction will begin at 5 p.m. The dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and be followed by the Oral Auction and the Keith Hansen Memorial Paddle Raise. **This year the Paddle Raise supports the Western Rivers Conservancy efforts to enhance the habitat and access on Thirtymile Creek: the most important steelhead spawning and rearing tributary to the lower John Day River.**

The cost for this outstanding event is \$75 per person and includes wine. Mark your calendars, invite your friends and plan to join the festivities. [Please register online!](#)

We have an outstanding list of auction items, including vintage bamboo rods, a finely crafted creel, new rods and reels, all kinds of fly fishing gear, float trips for trout and steelhead, boxes of flies, fishing at private and Cascade lakes, a gourmet dinner for 8, accommodations at a beach house, a Moro B&B, Bandon Dunes and at Steamboat Inn, fly fishing related books and art, fine wine and much more. [Download the updated list of Oral Auction Items](#)



[Make your dinner reservations here.](#)  
(pay ahead or at the door)

## *President's Message*

The sun is out and the skies are clear. These conditions are perfect for Fly Fishing for Carp in the Gorge. I plan to make my first trip of the year this Saturday. I will likely head up the Gorge as far as I need to go for the best water level. Sometimes I fish the Oregon side and other times the Washington side. Since Carp are on the invasive species list I am not required to have a fishing license for them. The Fly that seems to work the best is the Hybrid, which is a red worm body, green hackle and I prefer black weighted eyes. The first outing is always tough on my eyes until I get adjusted to the sight fishing. It's similar to that first day flats fishing for Bonefish. The beauty of the Gorge and the thrill of a large Carp will generally keep me focused on this type of fishing for the remainder of the summer.



I am also looking forward to our club outing at Rocky Ridge Ranch on June 11th. A few spots still remain and I have ordered perfect weather. We will be joined by Jim and Donna Teeny experts on lake fishing. We have access to borrow a limited number of float tubes through the Orvis Bridgeport store. It's really going to be a fun outing. The cost is \$135 which includes a wonderful lunch of BBQ Hamburgers and homemade apple pie. Each angler is responsible for their own gear.

I want to thank John Prych and his auction team for their time and hard work on the club auction scheduled for May 10th at the Multnomah Athletic Club. The items they have procured for this year's event are better than ever. I am looking forward to a fun evening with friends and a chance to improve my gear collection.

My best to you,  
Teri

## Member Matters

### **Membership Renewals are Brisk!**

It is membership renewal time and the renewals for 2016 continue rolling in! So far 160 members have renewed or updated their contact information. If you have not renewed yet, please do so soon as we will be updating the membership roster on the website with members who have renewed. Don't let your name be left off of that list!

### New Members

We have one recent new member to welcome to the club:  
Joseph Mayol – joins us as a regular member from Portland! He enjoys fly tying and photography. Joseph has already attended a meeting. When you see him, express your welcome to the club!

Everyone please invite your friends to the club meetings and help grow our membership.

---

### **River of Life**

*Editor's Note: Member Dave Moskowitz spotted this interview in the Camas-Washougal Post-Record about a woman's heartfelt dedication to friends facing the challenge or losing the battle to breast cancer. Staff reporter Dawn Feldhaus captures the spirit and passion of fly fisher Karen Hall, as she lays out her plans for remembering dear friends who no longer share the water with her. Ms. Hall has a crowdfunding page set up on Indiegogo to help her dedication become a reality. [Check it out.](#)*

### **Fly fishing film will be made in honor of friends**

A local woman who lost two of her best friends to breast cancer has written the script for a documentary about fly fishing.

Karen Hall's friend, Lena, died more than 10 years ago at the age of 50, within nine months of being diagnosed. Hall said Lena had a mastectomy and treatment, but it was not enough. Annamaria Hemingway died at the age of 61. She received chemotherapy and radiation treatments five years ago and was pronounced cancer free.

“But then it came back with a vengeance as stage four, just a few years later,” Hall said. Those deaths are part of Hall’s motivation to make a documentary about three women fighting breast cancer.

“She loved nature, and we spent years hiking everywhere including the Columbia River Gorge,” Hall said, regarding Hemingway. “She was eager to try fly fishing, but she died in August 2014.”

Hall, 60, will be the executive producer and writer of the documentary, “River of Life,” and Todd Moen, of Sisters, Oregon, will be the cinematographer, filmmaker and editor.

To find documentary participants, they are working with “Casting for Recovery” — a fly fishing program for women who have breast cancer.

The film’s budget is \$23,000. Hall is seeking \$15,000 from a Trout Unlimited grant, and she is hoping to raise \$8,000 through a [www.indiegogo.com](http://www.indiegogo.com) crowdfunding campaign as well as sponsorships and/or in-kind service donations.

Hall and Kelley Moen are donating their time for project development.

‘Getting back in touch with the natural world’

Hall took up fly fishing in 2014.

In March of that year, she joined Clark-Skamania Flyfishers.

Two months later Hall went on her first outing with the club, and she caught her first trout on the fly.

“Once you start, you won’t want to stop,” she said. “It’s so much fun.”

Hall said fly fishers do a lot of catch and release, and most are active conservationists.

“Clark-Skamania Flyfishers members volunteer and make grants regularly to restore fish habitat and deliver salmon carcasses to upper stretches of river that are blocked by the dams, so that nutrients are returned to the rivers,” she said. “They also have outreach programs with free casting lessons.

“Most fly fishers don’t use barbed hooks either, so it’s a much more graceful and environmentally conscious way to fish,” Hall added.

She is also a member of the Stonefly Maidens, which consists of Oregon and Washington women who like to fly fish.

Hall has fly fished in lakes around Mount Rainier, and in the Washougal, Klickitat and Deschutes rivers.

"There was so much comfort in getting back in touch with the natural world," Hall said, regarding fly fishing.

### *A creative background*

Hall and her husband, Tom, own the Camas Hotel.

Her employment background includes providing outreach and public relations for the California Department of Child Support Services. Hall is a former director of marketing and development for the International Center for Earth Concerns and the Ojai Music Festival, in Ojai, California.

She was previously a partner and producer for the Ojai Shakespeare Company, and an actress in film, TV and theatre.

"The subject of fly fishing has been covered in many joyous, adventure films, primarily by men," Hall wrote in the grant application. "This grant represents an opportunity to add a woman's perspective to the annals of fly fishing films.

"'River of Life' reflects ideas and feelings that most fly fishermen share, yet from a uniquely feminine perspective," Hall added. "Breast cancer is a feminine struggle, but when one in eight women in the United States are afflicted with it, it touches everyone's lives."

This article was reprinted with permission from the [Camas-Washougal Post-Record](#)



[fly-fishing-film-will-be-made-in-honor-of-friends](#)

---

### **Attention Bamboo Rod Enthusiasts!**

We received a message from the Corbett Rodbuilders to forward their invitation to a Rod Maker's Gathering May 12 – 15, 2016 in Kamloops, B.C. The Corbett Rodbuilders still had room for registrants as of early March even though they have a soft deadline of February 15th for registration. They are featuring topics of interest to beginners and experienced rod builders. Please follow the links if you are interested in learning more.

[Invitation](#)

[Registration](#)





## **FCO Fishing Trip, June 11, 2016, Rocky Ridge Ranch**

Please join your fellow club members for a day of fly fishing at one of Oregon's Premier destinations. [Click here for more information](#)

---

## *Literary Angler*

*Editor's Note: Member and fisherman of many talents, Geoff Roach, sends us this last hurrah for the 2016 winter steelheading season. If he had his fellow Club members in the audience, I believe he would have had a standing ovation! Enjoy! LKH*

### **Swinging through the OP**

by Club Member Geoff Roach

Is it just me or was it tough scheduling the OP this winter? It seemed out of sorts all season. A tribal guide I visited with while waiting on the lower end of a shuttle told me "today, I had my first clients in almost two months". One trip I'd set for early March was cancelled when NOAA introduced a new, to me, and strikingly ominous phrase in its near term weather forecast; "an atmospheric river setting up over the OP". YIKES! Quickly, lodging plans were scrapped and on the day we had set to start swinging big winter flies our river jumped from 7,000 to over 34,000 cfs. Myself and a few committed souls though just returned from a makeup trip over April Fools. That same river ran below 4,000 cfs while we were there. By the end of the day on April 1 I experienced my first 2016 sunburn – sunscreen, not hand warmers. What was I thinking?

Thursday evening we braved Portland traffic with a boat in tow, a cache of rods, a few cases of select microbrews and set off for Aberdeen, WA. It's hometown to short-lived Kurt Cobain, you know, and it explains a fair amount about that. Most importantly for us it is the last reliable gas stop before Forks and the gate way to the Olympic Peninsula.

Our quarry was a native run of winters, fresh from the ocean that was just seven miles away from our put in. And, we found them! Perfect specimens for the most part; gun metal chrome across the dorsal and halibut belly white on the ventral side. Most took large pink intruder style flies fished on T14 tips (heavy stuff) with our spey rods. Our river is always off color and we were thrilled to have on average about 1.5 feet of visibility.

On Saturday while waiting on my buddy to finish swinging the upper part of a classic 40 yard run I decided to row my drift boat out to some decent looking water that I could not wade and cast to – maybe in your range, but not mine. I put the boat upstream of the targeted water and then dropped anchor and pulled out my spey rod. This swinging of flies from a stationary boat is the way some of the old time Atlantic salmon fly fisheries work. I have always wanted to give it a go for our steelhead. I suspect though it works best when a friend is aboard and willing to work the boat while the angler stands, casts and swings.



I was about sixty feet out on the tenth pull of line and was swinging through the meat of the run. It was textbook steelhead country swing water if not a tad on the deep side. I got yarded. I mean finger burning - a full on hit and the fish turned and made a long run down river while rod, me, and boat were all dazed and in situ. Backing dwindling to dangerously narrow margins, I wondered for the first time in my life which part of the line tends to break first when a Hardy reel makes that final turn, I fell to the rowing seat, dropped the oars in and pulled anchor in pursuit.

With the rod draped over the top of the front seat and its butt tucked under my arse and my reel in free spool, I managed to bank the boat. A leap for land opened a mad dash across cobbles and down the run toward the fish that was now damn near back to salt. Despite barbless status the fish continued to want to play. I caught up with the him after some great back and forth plus a ton of reel time retrieving backing, running line, skagit head and tip. I got my hook released in a foot of water, then gave us both a well-deserved rest before we parted ways.

In my growing number of years fly fishing I have never spey cast a fly out of a drift boat for winters. I had not really processed what I would do if I actually hooked into one and had to manage fish, boat, anchor, rod, oars, water all alone. Turns out - it can be done. That brings winter 2016 steelheading to a close for me and I end the season satisfied.



## *Conservation Corner*

So you love swinging flies for wild steelhead? Have you been awed by the spectacular beauty of the canyon walls and desert landscape of the John Day River? Well you can thank Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) for their work in improving river access and steelhead habitat of the John Day. The first large acquisition WRC tackled on the John Day was the Murtha Ranch and its 16 miles on the lower river. The FCO helped make that purchase possible with a generous donation in 2009. In true WRC fashion, a sizable portion of this land was conveyed to the state and the public now enjoys the new Cottonwood Canyon State Park. Anglers enjoy miles of river access (along with some very special runs) on the old Murtha property.

This month your Flyfisher Foundation has chosen WRC again as the recipient of the Keith Hansen Memorial Paddle Raise at our annual auction. Their grant application proposes to restore the largest and most important cold-water tributary to the lower John Day: Thirtymile Creek. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) identified Thirtymile Creek as the most important steelhead spawning and rearing habitat on the lower river. Thirtymile runs through the Rattray Ranch about 44 miles upstream from Cottonwood Canyon State Park. In December 2014, WRC purchased the Rattray Ranch which encompasses four miles of Thirtymile Creek and twelve miles along the mainstem John Day River. WRC has developed a habitat restoration plan for the creek and has engaged the Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District and ODFW to assist in the effort. In addition to the conservation focus, WRC will convey lands to public ownership and secure public access to this reach of the John Day.

Conservation of land and water for wild summer steelhead and other fish and wildlife is a key aspect of WRC's goal for the Rattray Ranch property. According to their grant application, the restoration work will "protect and improve freshwater habitat conditions and connectivity for steelhead production; improve tributary habitat and channel structure; and help the John Day River run reach viable status." Improving stream flows and habitat on Thirtymile Creek is critical to recover steelhead populations on the John Day. Please join your fellow Club members in raising your paddle high on May 10th to support WRC and their work on the glorious and unique John Day River. Keith would be so proud of our Club! Tight lines,

Lisa Hansen



photo credit Don Elder



photo credit Tom and Pat Leeson

## **2016 FCO/FFF Dinner Auction**

### **Auction Update**

The FCO/FFF annual dinner/auction is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10th at the [Multnomah Athletic Club \(1849 SW Salmon Street, Portland\)](#). Registration, the Wet Fly Hour and the Silent Auction will begin at 5 p.m. The dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and be followed by the Oral Auction and the Keith Hansen Memorial Paddle Raise. **This year the Paddle Raise supports the Western Rivers Conservancy efforts to enhance the habitat and access on Thirtymile Creek: the most important steelhead spawning and rearing tributary to the lower John Day River.**

MAC's renowned chef Philippe Boulot has revised the menu so you have a choice of petrale sole dieppoise, Painted Hills short ribs or eggplant fritters with roasted vegetables and tomato coulis. The cost for this outstanding event is \$75 per person. Mark your calendars, invite your friends and plan to join the festivities.

([Dave Moskowitz](#) (971-235-8953) and [John Pynch](#) (503-235-6111) are collecting donations for the silent and oral auction. If you have items you would like to contribute, please get in touch with one of them.