

Flyline

A Publication of the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon

F O U N D E D 1 9 6 1

Join Flyfishers Club of Oregon on November 8th for a presentation by Tyler Allen of Rajeff Sports.

Bio:

Tyler Allen is the Marketing and Pro Team Manager for ECHO Fly Rods and Airflo USA Fly Lines. He directs the Fish Need Water conservation program, acts as the Zigzag River Steward for the Native Fish Society, and is a fly fishing guide based on Mount Hood. He splits time between homes in Rhododendron and Portland with his wife, Lauren.

Description of presentation:

Tyler will speak on sustainable sport fishing and fishing practices that help reduce post-catch mortality. He will discuss our local fisheries specifically and show how small efforts translate to more fish available to catch. He'll also discuss the fly fishing industry and how, as industry stakeholders, we have the opportunity to be catalysts for change.



President's Message

It seems the cold, sunny & leafy fall that I love the most isn't going to happen this season. The wet and windy weather has played havoc with the rivers and the fishing. It is at these times I find happiness in my float tube, flippering around, trolling a water boatman or wooly bugger in various colors. Years ago we joined The Oregon Fishing Club, which allows access to private land and stocked ponds as well as river frontage. These tend to be my go-to spots when the rivers are unfishable. With many locations to choose from, I can usually be on the water within 45 minutes of our home. I'm planning to head south to Turner Lake this Saturday in search of trout, bass and blue gill. Who doesn't love those little pumpkin seed blue gill! The drive down through the valley should be lovely and I may need to find a good pumpkin patch on the way home.



A couple of reminders about club issues. Our December Holiday meeting is a week earlier this year so please mark it on your calendar. The event will be December 6th at The University Club. This is one of my favorite events as we gather and enjoy the festive merriment of the club. I would also like to encourage everyone to share fishing stories with Lisa Hansen for the Fly Line. Don't be shy as Lisa will happily edit your piece and make you look masterful!

Enjoy the fall fishing.

My best to you,
Teri

Member Matters

We have 188 members as of October 23, 2016! Our goal for 2017 is to exceed 200! Please support your club by inviting your friends and fishing buddies to join the club and attend our meetings.

Teri Beatty has really improved the benefits of membership by 1) developing fly tying during the wet fly hour before our meetings, 2) increasing our community exposure by having a booth at the state fair for which we gained great acclaim at the 2016 fair, 3) having a casting clinic at the August meeting, and 4) having a fly fishing outing at the Rocky Ridge Lakes near Tygh Valley Oregon. These are many good reasons in addition to great speakers and a world-renowned newsletter that should attract new members to our club.

If a new member joins any time between now and year end, their dues are good through 2017! Again, encourage your fishing friends to join.

Tight Lines,

Rick



Does Securing the Fly Have you Tied up in Knots?

Come to the Wet Fly Hour this month and learn how to tie reliable and effective, secure knots for your leader and for your flies. Member Ross Beatty will be demonstrating the knots you need to know.

And Another Reminder

Please consider paying online when you make your dinner reservation for the monthly meeting. Even though the button says Pay Pal you do not need to have a Pay Pal account. Once you click on the reservation button you will have the option of using your credit card. Paying online greatly simplifies our reservation count and makes life easier for our dedicated University Club staff. If you have questions, feel free to ask any FCO Board Member. Thank you!

A Local Resource for Fly Fishers has Moved!



Roger Bachman wanted to make sure you all were aware that [Ollie Damon](#) has moved from its legendary space on NE Grand Avenue out east to 10240 NE Halsey Street. So when your favorite Hardy reel explodes, you know you can get it fixed here in town. They also have the parts for you DIYers. If you didn't know about Ollie Damon, you should go to their website and learn more. After all, they have been in the business for over 70 years. They know what they are doing! [Website](#).

The Distinguished Presidents of the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon presentation now available as a PDF - [Members Only](#) (Login required)



Literary Angler

We Bassheadin'

I enjoy being an optimist. I have a smile inside most of the time and often on the outside as well. So when Jim Cox and I set a date for my "walk and wade" on the John Day for the second weekend in October, I thought, "I won't freeze and I might just hook a steelhead!" The trip was a kind gesture of thanks for my paddle raise at this year's FCO auction that supported Western Rivers Conservancy's purchase of the Rattray Ranch, located about 40 miles upriver from Cottonwood Bridge. We met Friday evening at Cottonwood Canyon State Park and fished the run right through the day use area. Beautiful water, spectacular canyon, and quintessential John Day drifts. We enjoyed the casting practice and were entertained by a monstrous kite with a tail at least 20 feet long that rose up from the campground and playfully dodged the rim of the canyon. At dusk we headed out to Condon for an overnight stay at the Condon Hotel before heading out to Rattray the next morning. By the way, have you eaten at the Condon Hotel this year? If not, plan on it next year! They have a new chef who is adventurous in a good way. We heartily enjoyed our steak roulade with a lovely Washington Red. Next day we headed for the ranch by way of highway 206, then braved the tortuous 5 mile road down to the river. Anticipation was high and the day was an absolute gem. Light breeze and mild temperatures. Jim decided to fish a black and blue skater with a chartreuse butt – a real attractor. I believed in purple so went for a small Street Walker. Jim put me in at "The Rock" and I had a hook-up right away. A bright shiny . . . 11 inch steelhead smolt. He was off in a jiffy and Jim said he was probably migrating out. Then things got interesting. Oh, so you think we actually caught steelhead when the river was only running at 170 CFS and the temperature was a balmy 75 degrees? Well, about 10 minutes after the smolt resumed his journey, I had a fish hammer my fly on the mid-swing and start to pull line – for about 6 feet. A feisty 10 inch bass. Alright, I didn't get an adrenaline rush but there was a second or two of bubbling optimism. A few minutes later, WHAM! Right at mid-swing again. An even bigger bass. Jim said they were aggressive because they are trying to fatten up before winter. And he was pulling in bass right and left – on his skater. Which prompted him to offer up the first keen observation of the day – "Why doesn't a snob catch bassheads on skaters? Because no one fished skaters for bassheads!" Later on, in another run, we had the technique down. Every few minutes a bass erupted for his skater. And another hungry small mouth shot out and grabbed my wet fly. Which gave Jim another moment of inspiration when he said, "When is the best time is to catch a bass on the John Day? After you've caught your first bass on the John Day!"

I would much rather cast and swing, dreaming of a steelhead than cast and strip, knowing I'm enticing a bass. So with humor, I started humming, "You're doing the dance that can't be beat. We bassheadin'!" to the Robert Parker Motown song, "Barefootin'". How much more fun can you have when the steelhead are hanging out below Tumwater Falls?

When it was time to head home, we bade goodbye to the river. A family of four otters swimming river center followed our car for a bit, peering at us as if to say, "Why would you want to leave such a beautiful place?" We enjoyed another 40 minute/5 mile drive up to the top of the plateau and the locked gate. On the way, we spotted a flock of about 10 wild turkeys. I think one had a smirk on his face. "I can tell you folks 've been bassin'." Which brings me to the morals of the story. First, the words of John Buchan – "The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable [given the right conditions], a perpetual series of occasions for hope. And the second moral – With a steelhead, the tug may be the drug. But with bassheadin' you know you won't get a DUIS (driving under the influence of steelhead) on the 3 ½ hour drive home!

Lisa Hansen



Conservation Corner

Editor's Note: In case you missed the amazing photo Joel LaFollette of Royal Treatment Fly Fishing took back in September, you are in luck! Joel so graciously allowed The Flyline to reprint his piece on his visit to the Big Bend Pool on Steamboat Creek, plus said amazing photo. It captures the wonder of our natural world and the astounding beauty of a wild steelhead. If there is any doubt that Steamboat Creek and its surrounding forest deserves sanctuary status, this photo permanently erases them. LKH

From Royal Treatment's Weekly Newsletter – September 29, 2016

Greetings Campers!

I finally made it down to the North Umpqua this past weekend after a slight detour to Medford, the Rogue River and Crater Lake. While my intention was to be on the water at daybreak, reality found me swinging a fly through one of my favorite shaded pools with the sun well into the sky. Having lost the element of surprise my focus went from fishing to photography and back again. It took a bit longer to properly cover the water and soon the sun sparkled on the surface of the river. I retreated to lunch and slipped out of my waders content and refreshed. It was time to visit Lee Spencer at the Big Bend Pool.

Lee and I visited for a while, but soon fell silent as we watched his 300 charges resting in the water below. Movement at the head of the pool caught my eye as a fish broke formation and twisted through the gathered school resting there below Big Bend Creek. By diving deep then changing direction it had telegraphed its intentions and my camera swung to meet it as it broke through the mirrored surface. The shutter clicked and the fish returned to its watery home and slid back into formation as if nothing had happened. The pool was calm again as Lee and I sat quietly taking in this wonder, this sanctuary.

The folks in Washington, DC, are still wrestling with setting aside 99,653 acres of Forest Service land here in Oregon as the Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area. You'll notice that the word "Sanctuary" has been replaced with the phrase "Special Management Area." That's government for you. Why use one word that everyone understands when three words that add confusion will do? Whatever. Those of us who have seen this wonderful place know that it is truly a sanctuary no matter what they want to call it.

Joel LaFollette



More on the Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area

Several conservation groups have been hard at work to help make the sanctuary or SMA a reality. Senate bill 1448, sponsored by Oregon senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkely, would protect nearly 100,000 acres and approximately 50 miles of river and streams for salmon and steelhead. In late September, Congressman DeFazio introduced the House version of the bill, HR 6129. Momentum is gathering to honor Frank Moore for the years he has dedicated to help preserve and restore wild steelhead runs on the North Umpqua. The legislation would protect Steamboat Creek and the cold water tributaries that are critical to the survival of a large proportion of the wild steelhead population on the North Umpqua.

If you have never visited the North Umpqua or the Big Bend Pool on Steamboat Creek, you should make it a priority. Observing 300 or even 600 steelhead peacefully holding in the pool is truly a spiritual experience. And Lee Spencer, the guardian of the pool, can fill you in on his fascinating observations. Check out the organizations that are keeping the momentum going and consider getting involved yourself. The video on the Pacific Rivers website is great!

[Pacific Rivers Council](#)

[Wild Salmon Center](#)

[Trout Unlimited](#)

[North Umpqua Foundation](#)

[American Rivers](#)

[Steamboaters](#)

[Wild Steelhead Coalition](#)

Lisa Hansen



photo by Joel LaFollette