



FLYLINE

A publication of the Flyfishers' Club of Oregon

December Meeting



The annual FCO Holiday Meeting will feature Guido Rahr, Executive Director of the Wild Salmon Center! Mr. Rahr has dedicated his life to research and conservation of wild native fisheries, particularly Pacific salmon. His dedication to fisheries conservation, habitat restoration, and sound fishery management is chronicled in Tucker Malarkey's book, *Stronghold*. Join fellow members for a festive evening at the University Club on Thursday, December 12th and be sure to bring a guest!

Upcoming Events

Holiday Celebration with Guido Rahr
December 12, 2024, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

University Club

Registration Link:

www.flyfisherscluboregon.com/fishing-events

Watch your email and your NEW FCO website
for our exciting 2025 events!

www.flyfisherscluboregon.com/fishing-events

December 2024

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Officers

President: Mike Radakovich

VP: Vacant

Treasurer: Kevin Quinn

Secretary: Kevin Quinn

Flyline Editor: Lisa Hansen

Programs: Lee Fiedler

Communications: Kevin Quinn

About Our Club

FCO exists for three main purposes:

- Conservation. Through our Foundation, our club provides grants and scholarships that protect and restore the cool, clear water vital to our fishing ecosystems.
- Camaraderie. Whether new to fly fishing or seasoned anglers, we share fun experiences and build new friendships.
- Education. Learn how to cast, where to fish, what gear to use, and all about the sport.

Oregon Geography and Fly Fishing

by John Pyrch

I set a goal of catching a trout or steelhead on a fly in every county in Oregon. There are 36 counties in the State and I finally achieved my goal this year. Page 4 shows a list of the counties, the flies I used, type of fish caught and the water body where each fish was landed. If you enjoy exploring Oregon with a fly rod, I highly recommend you consider this approach. It is a great way to get your kids or grandkids engaged in flyfishing while they learn how to use maps to explore the geography of our great state.



Club Members Chase Baby Tarpon and Good Times in Campeche, Mexico

by Paul Franklin

Club member Jim Hillas and I spent four days with four other Oregon anglers in early November chasing baby tarpon in Campeche, Mexico. This was Hillas' second trip to Campeche and my third. Going is now an annual "must" for both of us.

Located about 100 miles south of Merida on the Gulf of Mexico, Campeche is a state capital, historic colonial town of about 150,000 people and the northern end of miles and miles of mangroves that are the rearing grounds for tarpon.

More about Campeche later; but, first, the baby tarpon and the fishing... The mangroves start just outside Campeche to the north and seem endless. The mangroves around Campeche are tarpon spawning grounds and then the rearing grounds of maturing "babies" who hang out until they are old enough and big enough to join the migratory routes of adult tarpon.

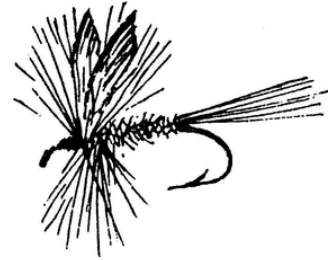
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New Members

Your Membership Committee has been hard at work recruiting new members to the FCO. Seven new members have joined The Flyfishers' Club of Oregon over the past several months. The new members learned about the Club from a friend or by attending an event sponsored/held by the Club.

The new members are:

- Amy Bogan
- Caroline Fitchett
- Julie Hulbert
- Rob Sims
- Tom Tegner
- Steve Meyer
- John Abel



Look for them at the next Club meeting, introduce yourself and welcome them to the Club.

President's Message

Well, 2024 is coming to an end. I hope everyone has enjoyed a fantastic year.

We will finish off 2024 with a great meeting on Thursday, December 12th. This is our Annual Holiday Gala held at the University Club, and you will not want to miss it. Guido Rahr, Executive Director of The Wild Salmon Center will be the featured speaker. Guido and the WSC have worked tirelessly to preserve, protect and restore salmon and steelhead runs in the northern Pacific and especially in the Pacific Northwest.

You can sign up for our Dec. 12th celebration event by clicking here: [Click Here to Register](#). While you are registering, you might want to click on the images to learn more about our speaker, The Wild Salmon Center, and the book written about Guido.

Continued on page 7.



FCO President
Mike Radakovich

Oregon Geography and Fly Fishing, continued from page 2

County > Fly > Type of Fish > Water Body (* - Oregon Fishing Club property)

Baker > Adams > Rainbow > Eagle Creek
Benton > Caddis Euro Nymph > Rainbow > E.E. Wilson Pond
Clackamas > Olive Woolly Bugger > Rainbow > Trillium Lake
Clatsop > Adams > Sea Run Cutthroat > Nehalem River
Columbia > Olive Bar-belled Leech > Rainbow > Upper Rainier Lake*
Coos > Purple Parachute Adams > Rainbow > South Fork Coquille River
Crook > Orange Scud > Rainbow > Crooked River
Curry > Mr. Wiggles > Steelhead (half-pounder) > Rogue River
Deschutes > Adams > Rainbow > Crane Prairie
Douglas > Egg-sucking Leech > Steelhead > North Umpqua
Gilliam > Yellow Humpy > Rainbow > Rock Creek
Grant > Golden Euro Nymph > Rainbow > Magone Lake
Harney > Mann Lake Special > Lahontan Cutthroat > Mann Lake
Hood River > Prince Nymph > Rainbow > Laurance Lake
Jackson > Parachute Adams > Rainbow > N. Fork Little Butte Creek
Jefferson > Pyrch Salmon Fly > Rainbow > Deschutes
Josephine > Green Christmas Tree > Steelhead (half-pounder) > Rogue River
Klamath > Caddis Nymph > Rainbow > Lower Williamson River
Lake > Coachman Bucktail > Rainbow > Chewaucan River
Lane > Adams > Rainbow > Waldo Lake
Lincoln > Cream Leech > Sea Run Cutthroat > Yachats River
Linn > Muddler Minnow > Rainbow > North Santiam River
Malheur > Copper John > Brown > Owyhee River
Marion > Coachman Bucktail > Brook > Fish Lake
Morrow > Royal Coachman > Rainbow > Penland Lake
Multnomah > Parachute Adams > Rainbow > Sandy River
Polk > Black Bead-headed Leech > Rainbow > Turner Lake*
Sherman > Olive Leech > Rainbow > Justesen Lake
Tillamook > Purple Intruder > Sea Run Cutthroat > Trask River
Umatilla > Yellow Humpy > Rainbow > Camas Creek
Union > Red Humpy > Rainbow > Grande Ronde River
Wallowa > Royal Trude > Rainbow > Wallowa River
Wasco > Purple Peril > Steelhead > Deschutes River
Washington > Black Bead-headed Leech > Rainbow > Howell Pond*
Wheeler > Olive Woolly Bugger > Rainbow > Upper John Day River
Yamhill > Tan Bead-headed Leech > Rainbow > Brookside Pond*



Chasing Baby Tarpon, continued from page 2.

There are hundreds of creeks that flow in and out of the mangroves with the tides. The outlets to the creeks, the creeks, themselves, and sometimes lagoons tucked way back up in the mangroves are the fishing target areas for baby tarpon. The tarpon range from 3 lbs. to 30 lbs. with most between 6 and 12 lbs. There are a lot of them, everywhere in front of the mangroves, in the narrow and woody creeks and way back in the lagoons.

The fishing opportunity is provided by Campeche Tarpon, outfitters extraordinaire and led by father and son Alejandro and Pachin Hernandez. Two anglers are paired in 17 foot skiffs with a seasoned Mexicano guide, short on English but filled with knowledge about how to find tarpon in the mangroves.

Fishing is tide dependent with the best time being from the time a tide turns to go out until it finishes its repetition. The tarpon get active during this period, moving in and out of the mangroves, up and down the canopied creeks and around and about in the back lagoons. They are not usually difficult to find. You often hear their splash before you see them – often many splashes at the same time. An "average day" for two anglers will find 12 to 15 or so tarpon jumped, with plenty more to cast to that don't eat. A very good day likely finds you and your partner jumping 40 or more tarpon while a poor day is in high single digits.



Paul Franklin with back lagoon tarpon

Chasing Baby Tarpon, continued.

Jim Hillas and I had one day together where we collectively jumped 45 tarpon or so and had plenty of shots at others. That was the best of the four days for both of us. But, still, fish were jumped each day by each of the three boats in our group and everybody had one great Campeche day and at least one more that would be counted as great nearly anywhere else. Note the use of “jumped” not “caught”. Tarpon are notoriously difficult to land with their aerial acrobatics and their hard, hard mouths making good hook sets difficult. Throw in narrow mangrove creeks where even finding a casting lane is a challenge. Add jumped fish flying into and under mangrove roots, and you soon learn that jumping not landing these tarpon is the measure of success.

One last thing about the fishing... there is virtually no competition for prime fishing spots. First, you have around 50 miles of mangrove front to explore. Secondly, there are only two outfitters in the entire area and absolutely no DIY sports. So, finding unfished water is an absolute non-issue.

Now back to Campeche... a beautiful colonial town of with amazing historic architecture. Mayan origins, clean, safe, festive with fun and friendly residents. The cuisine is over the top good, reasonably priced and varied. Octopus, shrimp and blue crabs are locally caught and often featured. Several restaurants focus on beef dishes that are the finest I have had in my 40 years of traipsing around Mexico. And, of course, there are taquerias that can't be beat. Campeche Tarpon puts anglers up in local hotels in the city, so you are not lodge bound and are in the middle of city sights and the restaurant scene. The sum is a fishing trip with some of the most fun angling to be had coupled with a great cultural and culinary experience, all at a very reasonable price.



Jim Hillas with nice mangrove tarpon and his guide, Shrimp

President's Message, continued from page 3.

In other news, we have a slate of officers for 2025 that we will vote on during our February dinner meeting. The slate is:

- President: Mike Radakovich
- Vice president: Ken Gustafson
- Secretary: Amy Bogran
- Treasurer: Kevin Quinn

At Large Directors:

- Mark Seligman
- Harold Weight

Many Club members have been working hard the past few months to position the Club to grow and prosper in 2025. Among the new developments for 2025 are:

The Communications and Social Media Committee, chaired by Kevin Quinn and Lisa Hansen, have developed a new Flyline format and website that is dynamic and will become a hub of Club and member activity starting in 2025. Take a look [here](#). Look for more information about how to put the new website to use as we move in 2025, including using the site to learn about upcoming fly fishing events in the Portland area and how to hook-up with other Club members for advice, to go fishing, or to engage socially.

The Membership committee, co-chaired by Paul Franklin and Stan Chessir, includes members Marty Balish, Harold Weight, Janet Arenz, and Jim Hillas. We have seven new members join in the past few months and are working to recruit another 20 or so in the next two months. The Committee will also run a “New Member Recruitment Campaign” in 2025 and hold a few events to introduce more prospective members to the Club. The goal is to increase the Club membership by 50 by the end of 2025!

The Programs committee chaired by Caroline Fitchett and her team Paul Franklin, Jerry Swanson, Frank Rodriquez and Marty Balish, are working to secure incredible speakers for the upcoming year.

Dates have already been set for all 2025 meetings on even numbered months.

Please mark your calendar: February 11th, 2025, April 8th, 2025, June 10th, 2025, October 14th, 2025 and December 09th, 2025. These will be dinner meetings with speakers.

President's Message, continued.

Annual membership renewal will occur just after the first of the year with a a simplified flat \$100 membership fee with auto renewal all done on-line, making the process virtually hassle free. Please login with to the new website and update your profile and create your personal password to get access to all member web content.

There is a new sense of excitement and energy alive in our incredible Club!
And, there is more to come... Stay tuned!

Thanks to all who have been working hard to move our Club forward.

See you on December 12th at the Holiday Gala.

With gratitude,
Mike Radakovich, President 2024.

