



## President's Message

February 2026

Happy 167<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Oregon!

Hello Fellow Flyfishers:

The rivers may be low, but our optimism is always high. Enjoy every moment you have on the river.

Our club events have been very well attended, and our sold-out dinner meeting on the 17th is no exception. I am excited to hear from spey casting legend – Dec Hogan, and look forward to seeing you there.

In other Club news, we're currently working to recruit 30 new members in the first quarter of 2026. We're asking you and other members to reach out to one person you know and encourage them to join the Club.

We're about one-third of the way to reaching our goal of 30 new members—a great start with plenty of time remaining to achieve it! To join, a prospective member simply needs to visit the Club website, apply, and pay the \$125 annual membership fee ([www.flyfishers.cluboforegon.com](http://www.flyfishers.cluboforegon.com)). If someone you refer joins, you'll get a chance in a raffle for a guided fishing **trip for two with Brian Silvey**.

Here is some February Trivia to lighten your day:

- On February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1859, Oregon became a State, the 33rd admitted to the Union.
- Four former US Presidents have Birthdays in February:
  - Ronald Reagan- February 06, 1911
  - William Harrison- February 09, 1773
  - Abraham Lincoln- February 12, 1809
  - George Washington- February 22, 1732.

- Bonus trivia: Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin were both born on February 12, 1809!!

Good luck in your recruiting efforts, and I'll see you on the 17<sup>th</sup>!

With gratitude,

Mike Radakovich, President. FCO

## Ways to Be Involved in Your Flyfishers' Club

With almost 40% of the Club's membership new in the last year, plus more new members joining every week, it seems appropriate to take some *Flyline* space to point out the various ways that members can get involved in the Club,

As a preface, the Flyfishers' Club almost totally runs on the steam and work of its members. That means we are a volunteer organization – no staff, no offices -- relying on a minimum of outside help – like a bookkeeper to keep us square with the bank and a contract webmaster to handle the most technical mysteries of operating a website.

Beyond those two small concessions, the Club relies exclusively on Club member volunteers to keep the Club moving forward. Here are the ways you, as a member, can get involved in the Club and help it continue to function and grow, including the quality and quantity of activities offered and its membership.

**Attend Dinner Meetings** – Nearly 75% of members attended one or more of the Club's dinner meetings in 2026. Dinner meetings are a cornerstone of the Club, offering members a chance to gather, share knowledge and experiences, and learn fly-fishing insights from distinguished speakers.

**Bring a friend to a dinner meeting** – This is the best tool we have for recruiting new members. Bring a friend, introduce them to other members, and then ask them to join the club.

**Attend the Club Picnic** – The picnic is scheduled for August 11 this year (mark your calendar). It is a free event that always offers great food, a chance to meet other Club members, and an opportunity to receive casting and other instruction from local fly shop staff and casting instructors.

**Read the bi-monthly *Flyline* newsletter**- The *Flyline* is online and has all of the most recent and upcoming Club news. You will receive an email with a link when it is available online. Be sure to check it out.

**Write an article for the *Flyline* newsletter** – We are always seeking article contributions from Club members. Write a summary of a recent fishing trip. Share your thoughts on a fly-fishing-related book you've recently read. Provide a recipe or tying

instructions for a hot fly pattern you're willing to share. Any topic you think would interest other members is fair game.

**Get involved in the new “Member Community”** - You can find it on the Club’s homepage in the upper right hand corner under “Member Community”. Explore and learn about the many new ways to interact with other Club members.

**Volunteer to be on a club standing committee** – Membership, Programs, and Communications are the three primary Club committees. All committee members are Club members (just like you) who have volunteered their time to make the Club work.

- **Membership** oversees renewals and looks for ways to attract new members, including motivating current members to recruit others. Membership is also managing the Club’s current new member drive.
- **Programs** finds speakers for the dinner meetings and manages the logistics of those meetings. It also is now planning a series of “mini-events” for 2026, including outings, “how to” workshops on various fly-fishing-related skills, fun gatherings of members like wine tasting events, book clubs, fly tying—really any topic of interest to a group of club members. The Program Committee also puts on the Annual Picnic.
- **Communications** – handles sharing information with members, including publicity for upcoming events, managing the bi-monthly Flyline newsletter, maintaining the Club’s website, and now overseeing the social media presence.

These committees are always looking for members to volunteer and get involved. Here’s who to contact if you are interested.

- **Membership** – Stan Chessir – [membership@flyfisherscluboregon.com](mailto:membership@flyfisherscluboregon.com)
- **Programs** – Paul Franklin [programs@flyfisherscluboregon.com](mailto:programs@flyfisherscluboregon.com)
- **Communications** – Kevin Quinn [communications@flyfishercluboregon.com](mailto:communications@flyfishercluboregon.com)

**Volunteer to be on the Board of Directors.** The Board sets the direction and policies of the Club and includes four officers and four at-large directors. The Board is elected annually at the February dinner meeting. The Board meets four times a year. For information about volunteer opportunities, contact President Mike Radakovich at [mwradakovich@gmail.com](mailto:mwradakovich@gmail.com).

**Volunteer to be on the Board of The Flyfishers’ Foundation** – The Flyfishers Foundation is the branch of the Club that funds annual awards for conservation to

Oregon non-profits working to preserve or improve Oregon's fisheries. The Foundation also offers a \$7,000 annual scholarship to an Oregon State University graduate student in a fisheries biology program to support their research. Additionally, the Foundation provides financial assistance to the Club to strengthen its educational programs. The Foundation's Board includes four officers and four at-large directors and is elected annually by the Club's Board of Directors. The Board meets four times per year. For volunteer opportunities contact Sally Bachmann [sallybach@coastside.net](mailto:sallybach@coastside.net).

**Donate to the Fly Fisher's Foundation** – the foundation is a 501 3(c) non-profit, so your donation is tax-deductible. You can make a general donation or earmark funds, for example, to support Club educational activities, including dinner meetings.

In sum, there are lots of ways to get involved in the Flyfishers' Club and help it to continue to thrive and grow. Pick one or two and go for it!

Have questions about getting more involved? Contact President Mike Radakovich at [mwradakovich@gmail.com](mailto:mwradakovich@gmail.com).

### **Meet Emily Treadway:**

#### **2025-26 Recipient of The Flyfishers Foundation OSU Graduate Student Scholarship**

Emily Treadway is a busy young woman who is not only a full-time graduate student in fisheries biology at Oregon State University, but also an employee of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife working out of the field office in LaGrande.

Emily won the \$5,000 Foundation's scholarship to help support her thesis work on spring Chinook Salmon in the Wenaha River in northeastern Oregon. More specifically, she is studying the impacts of hatchery-reared spring Chinook Salmon that stray into the Wenaha, a river not stocked with hatchery fish but one that has a viable run of native spring Chinook.

The issues she is analyzing include how wild and hatchery Chinook interact, including their behavior and the frequency with which they spawn together. The research is important to the entire Snake River system because the Wenaha is a major Chinook tributary of the Grande Ronde River, which flows into the Snake River.

Treadway is actively collecting data on the water. During the spawning season, she and a team kayak the Wenaha from the headwaters to the mouth four days a week, collecting data and observing the spawning fish.

She hopes her research will improve the collection and interpretation of spawning data, leading to the implementation of mitigation efforts that support healthy wild salmon populations in the Wenaha River and other areas.

Hopefully, the Club can invite Treadway to present a summary of her research when it's finished. Meanwhile, congratulations to Emily for winning the Foundation scholarship and for her ongoing research.

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Hello,

I just wanted to say thank you for the scholarship. As a self-funded student, having my tuition covered allows me to dedicate my time on my thesis. This project is already helping inform adaptive management in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha River basins to conserve natural populations of spring Chinook Salmon. My defense will be this February, and I will also be presenting results at the American Fisheries Society meeting in Portland this year. Here are some fun pictures from the field work in the Wenaha River and a bonus photo of a Bull Trout I caught on fly and got to PIT tag.

Best fishes,

Emily Treadway



## Member Profile: Jessica Maxwell

Jessica Maxwell, one of the first female members of the Flyfishers' Club, joined in the 1990s at the urging of longtime Club member Riger Bachman, her cherished fly fishing mentor.

After an extended hiatus, Jessica and husband Tom attended the Club's 2025 Holiday Celebration, and Jessica rejoined the Club this January.

Jessica has a diverse and engaging professional background. A graduate of the University of Oregon's School of Journalism, she enjoyed a long career as an independent journalist, writing conservation and travel adventure stories for Audubon, Esquire, Travel & Leisure, Town & Country, Forbes, and other leading publications.

She specialized in persuading her editors to send her to remote places to write about fishing for exotic species, including giant taimen salmon in Outer Mongolia and piranha and 500-pound catfish in the Amazon. Her feature on Bhutan's progressive environmental practices was included in Bill Bryson's Best Travel Writing anthology.

To date, Jessica has published five books. *I Don't Know Why I Swallowed The Fly* is a humorous account of her learning to fly fish under the tutorship of Roger Bachman and Len Dick.

***Roll Around: Heaven: An All-True Accidental Spiritual Adventure***, winner of two gold book awards, chronicles Maxwell's unintended deep exploration of "quantum reality," including her discovery of healing powers now well confirmed by Buddhist masters in Bhutan – Jessica's spiritual home for 25 years – and fully aligned with quantum physics principles.

Currently, while running her lively private healing practice, she also acts as "Chief of Stuff" for her husband, Tom, helping him with his duties as an Oregon State Representative. She recently finished her first novel, a work of historical fiction set in Oregon in the 1930s, "flyfishing included," she promises. After nearly six years in the making, the book will be released in 2027.

Welcome back to the Club, Jessica!

## Mark Your Calendar: Club Main Events in 2026

Here's a list and brief overview of each of the five dinner meetings and the Club's annual picnic scheduled for 2026. Be sure to mark your calendar for each event.

Each of the five dinner meetings are scheduled to be held at the University Club.

**Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – Dec Hogan** – one of the best known and respected steelhead anglers, spey rod casters, and instructors in the world. Dec's February topic will be: "Fishing for Steelhead in the Pacific Northwest: Past, Present and Future". **This event sold out.**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2026 – Scot Sadil** – is the author of six books that celebrate the sport of fly-fishing. His essays, short stories, and feature articles have appeared in all the major fly-fishing magazines over the past 30 years. Currently, Scot is a columnist for Fly Tyer Magazine and the fishing editor for Gray's Journal. Scot will share a very interesting story about fulfilling an unusual lifelong fishing dream.

**Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – Hale Harris** – co-owner of the Big Horn Trout Shop Lodge and Restaurant, a Big Horn guide for over 25 years, and author of *Fishing the Bighorn River*. Hale's topic will be: "The Seasons of the Bighorn".

**Tuesday, August 11 – Annual Club Picnic** – at Westmoreland Park casting ponds.

**Tuesday, October 20, 2026 – Brian O'Keefe** – premier fly-fishing photographer and world traveling angler, Brian is back by popular demand after his very popular Club presentation last April. Brian will do a seminar on "How to take great photos on your phone" in advance of the dinner meeting. His dinner meeting presentation will feature the saltwater flats of the Caribbean.

**Thursday, December 10, 2026 - Jeff Currier** – is an artist, a writer, a photographer, a speaker, a teacher, and a fly angler who has traveled to over 60 countries to fish for well-known and exotic species. Jeff is always a featured speaker and teacher at U.S. and Canadian fly-fishing shows and is on the professional staff of several fly-fishing equipment manufacturers. Jeff's topic will be "The World's Best Trout Destinations."

## **Series of Mini-Events Starts Soon**

Based on suggestions and requests from Flyfishers' Club members, the Program Committee is launching a new series of activities and events for Club members called "mini-events," because each is limited to a small number of participants.

The plan is to host mini-events throughout 2026, with the first group in final planning stages and scheduled from March to early June. Each event will be organized by a member of the Flyfishers' Club.

Assuming the first series of events engages members, additional events will be planned and scheduled for the rest of the year.

When registration opens, mini-events will be listed and detailed on the "Events" page of the Club's website. All these events will be small with limited spots available. Many will be free; some will require a fee to cover costs.

The first set of mini-events has just been added to the Club website.

Examples of mini-events now offered include:

- A day of fishing on two adjoining lakes located about 10 miles from Oregon City.
- An evening of fly tying.
- An ongoing Flyfishing-oriented Book Club
- A day of lake fishing in private lakes about two hours from Portland
- A hike on the Salmonberry Trail
- A tour of the Club and Foundation's Multnomah Library collection of fly-fishing literature.
- A day of guided fishing on the McKenzie River.

Check out the Member Events section of our website to register for these events.

## **How to Schedule a Library Visit to View the Club and Foundation's Collection of Flyfishing Literature**

The Flyfishers' Club and Flyfishers Foundation maintain a fascinating, valuable, and curated collection of flyfishing literature and history housed at the downtown Multnomah County Library.

The collection is available for individuals to see and browse. And, doing so is fairly easy.

**To make an appointment to visit the collection,** contact the Special Collections Librarian, Rachael Short, in advance at rachael@multcolib.or or call 503-988-6287. Arrange a convenient time and day with Rachael. You can also do a drop-in visit on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Drop-ins should go to the Welcome Desk in the 2nd Floor Lobby and request a visit to the John Wilson Room. You will have to fill out a registration form and show Photo ID.

Since drop-in visitors are limited at any one time, it's probably best to schedule an appointment in advance with Rachael Short.

### **New Happenings on the Club Website and Social Media**

The Communications team has been busy implementing the membership renewal process, Family Memberships, and the new Member Community Section of the Website. We are excited to announce that new volunteers, Daniel Riechers and Chris Brooke, have stepped up to take over updating and maintaining the Club's presence on Facebook and Instagram.

**The new Member Community:** This is a space where members can communicate peer-to-peer about their interests. Do you have an open seat on the boat you'd like to fill? Post a notice. Need to carpool to a meeting or event? Check the member profiles or post a note for someone nearby. Have an extra reel or other gear you'd like to sell? Post it in the For Sale Section. Share your thoughts on a good book or pictures from your last outing. This is meant to be an engaging space to keep us informed and connected. You can also subscribe to receive email notifications when a discussion thread you follow is updated. Rather than trying to explain it here, we encourage you to explore this section of our website, view the images from the holiday party and picnic, and create your own post. As always, we welcome your feedback.

(Chris and Daniel bookend Todd Moen at the Oct. Meeting)



**Revised Social Media:** It's been several years since the Flyfishers' Club has had an active and consistent presence in the social media space, but thanks to members Chris Brooke and Daniel Riechers, that will soon change.

Chris and Daniel have developed a plan and will take the lead in ensuring the Club posts on both Instagram and Facebook several times each month. The posts will focus on Club news and upcoming events, but will also feature members, local fishing spots (without revealing all secrets), and other fishing and conservation updates. The goal is to tell stories through photos and captions that generate interest in the Club and motivate people to join. Dan and Chris will need substantial help from other members, particularly in sending photos with captions for posting. Here's how you can help...

Send captioned photos you'd like to see posted on the Club's social media sites. These could include photos of you and/or friends fishing or with a fish, shots from a Club event, pictures of Club members doing something interesting, a photo of a favorite fly with a reason why it's a favorite, or the recipe for tying it. Essentially, anything that might interest Club members.

Send your captioned photos to: [social@flyfisherscluboregon.com](mailto:social@flyfisherscluboregon.com)

## **CLUB'S NEW MEMBER DRIVE Gets Off to a Promising Start**

The Club's Membership Committee set a goal of recruiting 30 new members in the first quarter of 2026. To achieve this, they've asked all members to **recruit one new member** each.

As of February 1, nine recruits have been added to the Club's membership roster – all but one encouraged to join by a current member.

Additionally, we are aware of 10 prospective members who have been contacted, encouraged to join by a Club member, and have expressed interest in joining. The Membership Committee is tracking whether and when these 10 will join. When someone on the list becomes a member, we will notify the referring member. After a reasonable period, we will also follow up with the referring member if their prospect has not yet joined.

The **drive runs until the April 8 Club dinner meeting**, so there's still plenty of time for you to talk to someone you know who might be interested in membership. Spark their interest, then direct them to the Club's website to join ([www.flyfishers.cluboforegon.com](http://www.flyfishers.cluboforegon.com)). The process takes less than 10 minutes.

If you have questions or need help, contact membership co-chair Stan Chesshir at [stan@chesshirarchitecture.com](mailto:stan@chesshirarchitecture.com).



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THE FLYFISHER FOUNDATION

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FOUNDED 1973

### **How to Donate to the Flyfisher Foundation**

The Flyfisher Foundation is a sibling of the Flyfishers' Club of Oregon. The Club was founded in 1961 and formed the Foundation in 1973. Legally, each is a separate organization.

The Foundation receives 20% of all Club members' annual dues, but also raises money from donors to fulfill its two most active missions:

- Education, through a scholarship to a graduate student in a fisheries-related program at Oregon State University.
- Conservation through an annual grant to a non-profit doing conservation work in Oregon.

The Flyfisher Foundation is a 501 3 (c) and, as such, facilitates making personal donations to the Foundation that are tax-deductible to the benefactor.

You can donate to the Flyfisher Foundation in all the usual ways, from a cash donation to a donation during an auction or another event, and your donation is eligible for a tax deduction based on your personal tax rate.

If you are over the age of 70 ½, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA, and the donation will be tax-free. QCDs also count toward your required minimum distributions (RMDs) without increasing your taxable income.

You can also request that donated funds be earmarked for educational activities and events for members of the Flyfishers' Club.

For more information about giving, contact Sally Bachman, president of The Flyfisher Foundation at [sallybach@coastside.net](mailto:sallybach@coastside.net). (Please also copy board secretary Sarah Lonigro, [saralonigro@gmail.com](mailto:saralonigro@gmail.com).)

