



Organized in 1971, the Rogue Flyfishers seek to promote fellowship among individuals and groups to further interest in the sport, to improve angling techniques, and to educate members and the public in ways to preserve and improve the natural resources, environment, and conditions for fishing in the Rogue Valley.

NEWSLETTER

November 2010

	Name	Telephone	Last Board Yr.	Board Members at Large		Last Board Yr.
President	Lee Wedberg	826-3718	2011	Bill Ackermann	857-6154	2010
V.President	Kellie Christensen	776-4094	2010	Dick Chambers	608-9686	2011
Treasurer	Patrick Hurley	774-1040	2010	David Haight	855-9043	2010
Secretary	Bill Childress	846-1514	2011	John Ward	482-2859	2010
Roadside Cleanup	Bill Ackermann	857-6154	2010	Gary Lewellyn	772-7210	2010
Conservation	John Ward	482-2859	2010	Mike Masters	261-2243	2011
Outings	Kellie Christensen	776-4094	2010	John Grimbergen	499-5662	2010
Webmaster	Steve Ostrander	772-0749				
News Editor	Steve Ostrander	772-0749				
Membership	John Grimbergen	499-5662				
Librarian	Curt Schlosser	646-2722				
Assistant Librarian	Dick Chambers	608-9686				
E-mail Coordinator	Tom Collett	855-8943				

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: rogueflyfishers.org

The Rogue Flyfishers proudly present
John R. Rantner



NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 - RED LION HOTEL
200 N. RIVERSIDE, MEDFORD OR

Wet Fly Social Hour 6 to 7 PM - Buffet Dinner and Raffle at 7PM

Redding angler, fly tier and author of over 50 articles, **John R. Gantner**, will present a program on fishing Canada own your own. His writing is clear, insightful and informative; his photos are post card perfect. If you've thought about a trip to Canada but haven't made it, this is a program for you. If you are fishing there, you will probably learn some new water.

President's Message - November

November's meeting you don't want to miss. John MacDiarmid has booked an outstanding program for us. But that's not news. John's programs have been first rate since he took on the job, and we are all sincerely grateful for his efforts. Personally, I look forward to hearing from a knowledgeable angler and seeing his pictures of angling in Canada. It should be interesting and entertaining.

But a second reason for attending the November meeting is the election. HOLD ON! BACK OFF! I'm not talking about the national midterm elections, so just sit back and calm down. I'm talking about our own Rogue Flyfishers election of members to our Board of Directors. At present the slate for election 2010 includes Bill Ackermann, Bill Brock, Kellie Christensen, John Grimbergen, David Haight, and John Ward. We encourage another nomination who would possibly replace one of these individuals. Such a nomination must be from the floor at the November meeting with the nominee present to accept. In the event that such a nomination should come forth, a secret ballot would determine which of the nominees would serve. All of that process is completed at the November meeting, and the new Board is seated at their meeting the first Wednesday in January when officers are selected by the Board. The Board's purpose is stated succinctly enough in our handbook: "The business and affairs of the club shall be controlled by its Board of Directors." We encourage any interested member to get involved in the decision making process of the club.

The business of the Rogue Flyfishers increases in importance every year. One important issue is limited public access to the river. The water in the river belongs to everyone, but over the last 20 years we have seen public access increasingly limited. For example, 20 years ago between the boat ramps at Shady Cove and Takelma there were two points of access, both with excellent holding water for trout and steelhead. One of them is now gone thanks to private development along the bank at Glasshouse Hole, and the only remaining public access is now threatened by development at Paradise Hole off Brophy Way in Shady Cove. Think about this for a minute. The distance from the public access along the top mile or so of the river below Jess Dam at Lost Creek Lake down to the site of Gold Ray Dam is roughly 26 miles, which approximates the distance from the south interchange in Ashland to Gold Hill, and there are more on/off ramps to I-5 in that distance than there are boat ramps on the river. Additional sites of walk in public access to the bank can be counted on the fingers of one hand. And they say that the river is publicly owned. Well, if the people own it, it would be nice to be able to get to it more than we can. Shady Cove City Council will be making a critical decision regarding a planned development at Paradise Hole soon, their next meeting scheduled for November 4. I'll be there, along with our Conservation Chairman John Ward, and a number of upper Rogue residents and Rogue Flyfishers members as well. Let's quit making a joke out of public access to what the people own and see if we can prevent losing one of the very few remaining points where we can actually drive and walk to the river for some fishing.

Angling Report—November

Fishing has been consistently spotty the past few weeks. For example, during my son's recent visit last week we drifted two days. Thursday we failed to touch a single fish of any kind all morning and into the early afternoon. Then about 2:00 P.M. we started hitting trout, and at the end of the drift we enjoyed strikes and hook-ups on almost every cast with several doubles to spice up the afternoon. And guess what. To top it all off he got his first steelhead. The next day was similar, except that on Friday it was his SECOND steelhead. So you see, it was consistently spotty. Ashland Fly Shop reports good days and bad days among its sources as well.

With the rains now coming one storm following upon the heels of another we can look for the tributaries to rise and turn the river cloudy. I cannot verify whether weather makes a difference in fishing success, but certain experts claim that cloudy skies and even light rain is definitely a good sign. In any case, steelhead ought to be in the river for the remainder of the year, and it is only a matter of bundling up and otherwise preparing for the cold and wet. As for fly selection, October Caddis are out, and Blue Wing Olive ought to be hatching soon, but nymphs are always good and the few hatchery fish that I killed in October were all loaded with Salmonfly nymphs, and none had eggs in their stomachs. November has been good on the river in previous years, and we recommend nymphing for steelhead this month. A heavy stonefly nymph with a smaller nymph on a dropper is recommended.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY FOR OCTOBER

DATE	KEY CONTACTS	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	RFF PARTICIPANTS
Oct 9, 2010	John Ward 541-482-2859 ----- Sponsors: Stream Restoration Alliance of the Middle Rogue & Seven Basins Watershed Councils.	RFF members supported the <i>See Our Salmon Event</i> at the Valley of the Rogue State Park by providing instructions in fly casting and fly tying to interested visitors. This free event attracted about 200 guests and the sponsors were delighted by the interest and participation in the RFF hands-on activities.	Tom Collett; Mick Cuffe; J.D. Jones; John MacDiarmid; Bruce McGregor; Otis Swisher & John Ward.

"OF NOTE " by Kellie Christensen

The leaves in their brilliant coats of orange, yellow, red and purple remind us that 2010 is almost over. There are a lot of things we need to be thinking about.

It's time to contemplate what we want to do to improve our club in 2011. Did you know that we will be celebrating our 40th "birthday" this year? Even more amazing, some of our club members have been a part of our group since its inception in 1971! Wow! Look forward to a special 40th BIRTHDAY dinner to celebrate your club in 2011!

Here are some things to be thinking about:

OUTINGS:

Have a favorite outing that you would like to see repeated in 2011? Did you participate in an outing that needs improvement or should be removed from the new outings schedule? **YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT!** If you have suggestions for outings that you would like to see added to this year's calendar or could spare a few hours of time, we could use your help! Your 2011 outings committee will be meeting in November to plan the schedule for the new year. **PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US IN THIS ENDEAVOR!** Contact Kellie by email at kclmbr@msn.com or by phone at 541-776-4094.

IMPORTANT—KLAMATH RIVER OUTING CHANGE:

The Klamath River Boat and Bank Outing originally scheduled for Saturday, November 20th has been changed. The new outing date is Sunday, November 28th. Contact Will at Ashland Fly Shop @ 541-488-6454 for more information.

DID YOU KNOW THAT GUESTS ARE WELCOME AT RFF OUTINGS???? Feel free to invite a guest and help them get a feel for our wonderful club!

DINNER MEETINGS:

John MacDiarmid has been putting together some awesome speakers this year and for those of you who have not been attending the dinner meetings, you have missed out on some very exceptional speakers. Your club must make the minimum of 60 dinners per meeting. Please mark your calendars for the 3rd Wednesday of each month and plan on attending!

THE DECEMBER "REFLECTIONS" HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING IS ALMOST HERE!

If you have a fishing experience or amusing story to share, contact Kellie. Each speaker will be given 5 minutes of time and photos, slides or videos are needed as well!

2011 is bringing some exciting new things to Rogue Flyfishers! Plan on getting your 2011 membership renewed early for free raffle tickets at our monthly meeting in February!
THAT'S ALL FOR NOW!

Accurate Casting,

#1 of 3 By Mark E. "Jack" Swisher

To be able to place a fly exactly where it belongs is a beautiful thing. The caster lifts line off the water before him, lets it uncoil into a straight line in the air behind, then uses the flyrod as a lever and forces the line forward so that it straightens out in the air in front of him. Once completely straight the fly line hangs there for just a moment, then gently drops to the surface of the water with the fly fully extended to the tip of the perfectly straight leader.

Many of us can learn to cast a straight line. Most of us have to practice to get any good at it. It is intuitive for very few casters. The key is providing a moment's hesitation at each end of the casting stroke, a microsecond pause where the rod tip is held perfectly still. Immobile, the rod tip anchors the end of the moving

flyline and thus permits the flyline to unroll in an ever-accelerating loop until it stops, fully extended. This small pause and its brief moment of relaxation transforms flycasting from mechanical science into art.

In my career as a flyfishing guide I don't know how many thousand times I said to my guests struggling to keep from piling their line in a heap: "Give it another 1/8 second on the backcast, and that'll straighten out your forward cast." The new caster so often wants to rush the casting stroke in frightful imitation of what Andy Puyans called "...an old lady chasing a bee with a broom." To get the new caster to slow down and halt the casting effort for a moment usually brings good results.

SOFT

The Southern Oregon Fly Tyers invite you to attend their meetings the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is November 9, 2010. The meetings start at 6:00 PM, at the Madrone Hill Mobile Home Park community building near Gold Hill. Bring a friend, come early so you don't miss anything, and stay late. Tyers need not be experienced, and those with all levels of skill are welcome. Each meeting a member is encouraged to demonstrate a new or different skill, from simple to difficult. For more information, call Dan Kellogg at 773-4724

For the November 9th SOFT meeting John Matthews and Bill Logan will tie Steelhead Flies; probably starting with the famous Green Butt Skunk. Since most of the traditional Steelhead flies look the same (except for the colors) we will concentrate on the method of handling and applying the materials. If anyone has a favorite fly, just bring the required materials and we will tie the fly for them. Bill says "This ain't rocket science!"

There should be plenty of time to tie flies at this meeting, so bring all your stuff and tie some flies. Try some new patterns. John and Bill will be available to help with any problem spots.

DIRECTIONS: Take Gold Hill Exit #40, off of I-5 and go west, toward Jacksonville, 1.3 miles, until you reach the brick entrance way to the Madrone Hill Mobile Home Park on the right. You'll pass a golf course parking lot on your left shortly after leaving the freeway. After you turn right into the mobile home park, proceed to the community building which is located about 100 yards ahead on the left. The address is 8401 Old Stage Rd. Please park your vehicle on the bare dirt in the parking lot to avoid the wooden septic covers in the grass

PNW Fly Tyers Rendezvous

The Pacific Northwest Fly Tyers Rendezvous will return to Glen Otto Park on Saturday, November 6th, 2010. For 2010 the event is going back to where it started, in the Sam Cox Building at Glen Otto Park in Troutdale.

This year there is no admission fee! Tell all your friends!

Casting at Hawthorne

Casting instruction at Hawthorne Park has ended for this year. We will notify you when it resumes in the spring. Get out on the river and practice your casting.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

John Bjorkholm of Medford (541-857-6147)

I Like to Catch Fish.

By Otis Swisher

Part II. Flyfishing Days

I like to catch fish with a fly. It took me awhile to feel comfortable with the method. The learning curve for understanding about the different lines, flies, knots, the cast, and presentation was steep, time consuming, and at times aggravating.

Then, son Mark became a fly-fishing only guide. Things improved exponentially for me after he attended a Mel Krieger class, and he started to teach classes for SOC and Medford Parks and Recreation. Boy did I learn.

The intricacies of lines, leaders, flies, knots became more manageable. And the cast, it began to take on some semblance of naturalness. The good habits of a good cast, at last replaced the "once learned, hard to overcome" bad habits I had picked up on my own. Wish I could say "I taught my son all he knows", but it is just the reverse. Thanks, Mark.

I did catch fish before my improvements: trout, suckers, bass, a few steelhead but my progression was "spotty". Still, my pleasure of taking fish on a fly never waned.

For steelhead, I started with a full sink line. That seemed right at the time since the common wisdom of the 60's seemed to be "Get to the bottom where the fish are." So I started at the bottom. But, I worked my way up.

My best hour with a full sink line was on a February day at Klamathon Bridge just out of Hornbrook, California on the Klamath River. Like clockwork, every 10 minutes I caught a fish of 5# or more...6 in the hour. Never moved from that one wading spot. Didn't have to.

The hour was spent like this: cast upstream at 45-degrees, allow the fly to move downstream naturally in the water column to 45-degrees below me. That was the "sure take" spot. It was Ray Bergman's classic cast, drift, take-down regime he had described in the 30's. That was, also, the day I learned to dip the rod into the river to de-ice the guides. Ooooh, it was cold!

But, full sink lines aren't much fun for me to cast, and so I elevated to "sink tip" lines. A great improvement for my aching muscles when casting, and still rather productive. Those were the days of the Montana Nymph, the "swinging" the fly down and across and that never-to-be-forgotten hard take-down because the line was nearly straight down below me and I got the full weight of the 5 to 10 pounds of fish when it struck.

Next, I was introduced to nymphing with an indicator. I must admit rather sheepishly, that I began with a spin rod and a bubble, and it was almost unbelievably productive. But, it wasn't fly fishing, to me.

Then, one day with my friend, Vince, we put in at Takelma Park, rowed up to bedrock, anchored, and there was an epiphany. Vince's "chuck-and-duck" was in its early stages of development (our first attempt, as I recall); but, when that "bobber" went down and that fish screamed away from him, giving Vince his first ever "finger burner" take-down experience, that was it. No more spin rod and flies. Now, real fly rod with flies. We still fish this way.

Next stage came when Bill McMillan talked to the Rogue FlyFishers about catching winter steelhead with floating lines with top water flies. I came to my final step: Flyfishing the top of the water column where every take-down is visible. It's the only way to go.

Now that I have beleaguered you with my many stages of fishing, I at last get to my favorite style...dry flies for trout, steelhead, pond fishes, frogs...whatever.

Just what is it about fishing surface flies that appeals like no other technique? I like to think of the surface of the water as the "meeting of two worlds"...the fish's, and mine. When the surface take" occurs, I have enticed the fish to come up out of his world to meet me in mine.

Have you ever been positioned such that you have witnessed this scenario: the fly is drifting along on top, you see the fish leave his "lie" on the bottom, you see him approach for 3 or 4 feet, you see the swirl and the take. You have seen it all. It's a kind of a "suck in your gut" kind of experience.

Or, have you witnessed this scenario: You have cast the dry fly upstream. You are intent on its float. Then, from upstream, from a spot over which it has already drifted, a large fish charges downstream for 5 or 6 feet to engulf the "missed meal". These are always hard take-downs. See this, and you will know it's something special in the bag of fishing experiences.

So, now I end with two short sayings which may come to you the next time you have attracted a fish to your dry fly:

"Out of mystery he rose". Ben Hur Lampman

"He came up to meet me in my world" Otis Swisher

BOARD ELECTIONS

Elections for the board of directors are coming up. During October we nominate new people to fill vacancies. The election takes place in November. Here is a short recap of the current board member's status.

Board members whose terms expire 2010:

**Bill Ackerman,
Kellie Christensen,
John Grimbergen,
David Haight,
Pat Hurley,
John Ward.**

All have agreed to serve again if elected, except Pat Hurley who will not be on the Board in 2011.

New candidate:

Bill Brock, to replace Pat Hurley as Treasurer.

Inasmuch as a couple of people listed above have indicated willingness to step aside, **we would like additional RFF members to step up and offer to serve.** Terms are for two years.

On The Fly

November 2010

Fly tying is a school from which we never graduate"

PATTERN OF THE MONTH - Peacock Caddis Adult

Hook: Daiichi 1170, Standard dry, size 18 - 22
Thread: 8-0 brown.
Tail: none.
Body: 3 strands of peacock herl twisted.
Wing: Wood Duck flank feather fibers.
Hackle: Good quality light brown.
Head: Brown thread.



Tying Instructions

Step 1 Mash the barb and mount the hook in the vise.

Step 2: Start the thread two eye widths behind the eye and lay down an even thread base to just above the hook barb and return thread to the start location behind the eye with open spiral wraps.

Step 3: Select 3 strands of peacock herl, tie in by the tips on top of the shank the full length of the body down to the bend. Grab the strands together and make one wrap over the top of the hook shank, ending back at the tying thread just above the hook barb. Wrap the 3 strands together counter clock-wise around and down the hanging thread about 5 turns. At this point grab the peacock herl strands and the thread together above the bobbin with thumb and forefinger, and wind this "rope" forward around the shank in touching turns to the 2/3 point of the body. Tie off and trim the excess herl.

Step 4: Select a small bunch of Wood Duck flank fibers and measure to about 1 1/2 times the shanks length. Tie this bunch on top of the shank, just in front of the body with the tips extending beyond the hook bend. Trim the butts so they lay flat on top of the shank under the entire hackle area. Return the thread to the base of the wing.

Step 5: Select a hackle feather with barbs a bit longer than the hook gap. Tie in at the wing base and wind forward 4-5 touching turns. Tie off and trim excess.

Step 6: Form a neat tapered head with the thread, whip finish and cement.

Last month's article was the first in a 3-part series on winter flies for the Rogue River, a mayfly, a caddis, and a stonefly. All three offer opportunity for the fly fisherman during the months that most of us hibernate and tie flies to fill the boxes for next season. Three different patterns, three different species, but one thing in common, the small size. In the fall and winter the rules change. The fish key in on size to the point where it becomes mandatory. For most of us, especially us older, optically challenged kind, that's the major problem. That size 20 spec in your hand is difficult to tie on the tippet and too tiny to tie at the vise. You will have to solve the vision problem on your own with cheater glasses or a magnifier and a good light. The tying objection can be overcome with these simple patterns, a little practice and a lot of confidence. Then it is a matter of walking out the door, away from the warmth of home, on those cold dark days of winter. The fish are there, and so are their meals, a size 20 at a time. If you need convincing collect some samples from the river and put them next to the fly patterns in your box. You will be surprised. Winter trout feed on what's available and can't remember that "bigger is better".

I enjoyed Dave Hughes program at the last meeting but I was sure looking forward to meeting and hearing Rick Hafele. I have learned so much from his books and articles throughout the years. If you get the chance go to his web site, "laughingrivers" and read the article entitled "Think Small in the Fall". It is one of the best on fall/winter trout fishing and the patterns that work. The Peacock Caddis Adult is one of his favorite small fall fly patterns.

Tying Tips:

Vary size and color to match the naturals. On the smallest sizes reduce the number of herls to two for a slimmer body. Also tying the herl butts down on top of the shank the full length of the body eliminates start and stop bumps and makes for a slimmer smoother body. By taking on turn of the herls over the hook before winding them around the thread eliminates the slack herl in the first turn of the rope. Trim off the fragile tips of the herl before tying in or they will break on the first couple turns. When you tie off the peacock herl rope body, be careful not to get too much thread buildup, the flank feather needs to lay flat over the body, a bump will cock it up at an angle. Again the butts of the flank feather barbs are tied full length under the hackle area to prevent bumps which make hackling more difficult. So tie some up, give them a cold weather test flight, and let me know how you do.

Tie One On,

Dan Kellogg, (you can contact me at: flyguy@eznorthwest.com)

Klamath River Outing

By David Haight

Our next club outing will be on Sunday, November 28, when we will head to the Klamath River in northern California. We will be going after steelhead and trout on the river between Irongate Dam and I - 5. The Klamath River offers a great late-season fishing opportunity that is reasonable close to the Rogue Valley. Will Johnson of the Ashland Fly Shop will lead this outing. Anyone that is interested in going should contact Will at the Ashland Fly Shop (541-488-6454, theashlandflyshop.com) for more information. To participate in this outing, you will need a California Fishing License and a Steelhead Report Card. You can purchase a one-day license, but not the report card, at the California Department of Fish and Game website. Both the license and report card are available at the Black Bird in Medford.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO ENJOY THE OUTINGS OF YOUR CHOICE:

Have a favorite outing that you would like to see repeated in 2011? Did you participate in an outing that needs improvement or should be removed from the new outings schedule? **YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT!** If you have suggestions for outings that you would like to see added to this year's calendar or could spare a few hours of time, we could use your help! Your 2011 outings committee will be meeting in November to plan the schedule for the new year. **PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US IN THIS ENDEAVOR!** Contact Kellie by email at kclmbr@msn.com or by phone at 541-776-4094.



John MacDiarmid took Dave Hughes and his wife Masako Tau Steelheading Thursday after the October program. They hooked 7 and landed three. They really enjoyed the Rogue. Here is Masako with a 26 " hen she caught

Club Members Enjoyed a Day Fishing the Rogue

By David Haight

Six anglers from the Rogue Flyfishers and Southern Oregon Fly Fishers braved the threat of wet weather to enjoy a day of fishing for steelhead on the Rogue River during the club's October outing. We loaded into two driftboats and floated from Chinook Park to Schroeder Park getting out along the way to fish the riffles below the spawning chinook. The weather turned out to be much better than expected, with only the occasional light shower--pretty good conditions for steelhead fishing. Three of the six anglers landed steelhead, and we all enjoyed a nice day on the river.



Frank Donato proudly displays his first steelhead, which he caught during the October outing on the Rogue River.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November--Redding angler, fly tier and author of over 50 articles, **John R. Gantner**, will present a program on fishing Canada on your own. His writing is clear, insightful and informative; his photos are post card perfect. If you've thought about a trip to Canada but haven't made it, this is a program for you. If you are fishing there, you will probably learn some new water.

December--This is the meeting we share slides and stories of our fishing trips with our fellow members. Bring 5-10 slides and be ready to talk 5-10 minutes depending on the number of presenters. You can use an alias for your favorite spot.

KLAMATH RIVER OUTING CHANGE:

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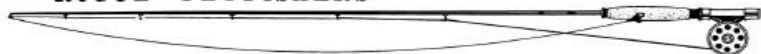
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Dan Kellogg 541-210-0949 or Dave Roberts 541-601-5658

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Rogue Fly Fishers membership **Application** and membership Renewal Form

Applying, or renewing, as (check one): **Individual** __ (\$30.00), **Family** __ (\$35.00), or **Junior** __ (under 18, \$5.00) Member.

(Note: New members joining Rogue Fly Fishers before June 30th pay a full year dues; **new** members joining after June 30th pay half dues. **Dues accompany your application.** With membership, you will receive a member's patch, membership directory, name badge, and letter of further information and welcome. Monthly dinner meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month with a social Wet Fly from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. followed by dinner with raffle, announcements and club business, and program until approximately 9:00 p.m.

Renew in December for the following year.

Name: _____ . If a family membership,

List Family Member's Names _____ - _____

Address _____ - _____

Best Contact Telephone Numbers: Area Code _____ Number _____ - _____

(2nd best) Number _____ - _____

E-mail Address: _____

If you do not want your e-mail address in the membership directory, check here ☐ **Member Federation of Fly Fishers?** Yes ☐ No ☐
Are you **retired?** Yes ☐ No ☐ Are you interested in, or want help in (check all as appropriate): **Casting** ☐ **Fly tying** ☐ **Fishing**
Techniques ☐ **Water Knowledge** ☐ **Conservation Activities** ☐ **Fishing Partner** ☐ **Organizing Social Activity and Group**
Outings ☐ **Do you have a drift boat?** Yes ☐ No ☐ **lake boat?** Yes ☐ No ☐ other interests?

Prefer receiving paperless **Newsletter electronically** ☐ (quickest receipt and saves the club money for other activities and uses, or by
US Mail ☐? Amount enclosed _____. Mail completed form and payment to:

Rogue Fly Fishers, PO Box 4637, Medford, Oregon 97501