



Rogue Flyfishers

September 2013

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 natural resources, environment, and conditions for fishing in the Rogue Valley.

PROGRAM

JOHN HAZEL

Rogue Flyfishers
PO Box 4637
Medford, Oregon 97501
www.rogueflyfishers.org

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John Hazel was born and raised in Oregon. He began fishing the Deschutes River in the early 1960's with his grandfather, an avid fly angler. In 1978, John began guiding steelhead and trout trips for fly fishermen on the Deschutes.

John , the owner of the Deschutes Angler Fly Shop in Maupin, OR will give us a program on Spey fishing the Deschutes. Deschutes River steelhead tend to take small flies close to the surface in August and September, a wonderful time to be in the Deschutes River Canyon. No one has been Spey fishing the Deschutes longer than John Hazel and no one does it better. He will be in our valley in September to participate in Gary Anderson's Two Hands at TouVelle Spey Clave. If you are curious about Spey, you will want to attend this annual gathering. If you are a regular spey angler you know to watch for this evening.

President's Message:

Lots of us brag a little about our adventures out on the water. Is it our pride or ultra egos that make us want to top each other? I want to share a heartfelt moment or two. I'm not really sure where this is going but I can't seem to find the right direction so I am simply going to run with my emotions.

Last month, I had a great fishing trip across Oregon, Idaho, Utah, and then into the Rocky Mountains where I fished along the way. I was pretty proud of myself while fishing along the Owyhee River. The browns are really special. It wasn't until I reached my final destination in Estes Park, CO that I had my lights turned on. I met up with a little "man" of not quite 5 yrs old.

I asked what he was up to while sitting on a rock near the water. "I'm waiting for someone", he said. How long have you been waiting? He said that he had been waiting for 3 days. "Are you sure your friend is coming? He looked up with a great big smile and said "Yes Granddad I knew you were coming". He gave me a big hug and asked if I brought my fly rod. "Is our first lesson today?"

Yes, my first lesson was that day. I hugged him for a long time. He helped me string up my rods and so it started. He was teaching me the art and balance of being a grandparent. We had a great time that day. Andrew did catch his first Brook Trout on a caddis dry fly.

His 3 days of waiting actually started from the time he and my daughter's family left Indianapolis. We met in the Rockies for a week. We shared several days together on the water. He held my hand one morning right after breakfast and asked if lesson 2 was starting soon.

We have so many moments in the world of others. Be sure to tell your special ones how really special they are to you. Tell them you Love Them. More than once a day is quite appropriate. Life is so short to not take a moment and embrace their love. Would a loved one ever get tired of hearing how much they mean to you? I think not.

On the flip side, one of my closest friends took up residence in heaven. Tom is a very special person. One night, while leaving my home after our bible study, he mentioned he would like to fish just one more time. We started making preparations and trying out different ways that my boat could accommodate him. In our best efforts to get this together, his time ran out. Perhaps he is fishing everyday now. I love you Tom.

May you always find peace on the waters of life.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Richard Acken

In Memory of Eric Overland M.D.

On 6/30/07 Eric and I were scheduled to hike to the Red Buttes on the PCT starting at Cook and Green Pass. I was looking forward to another day in the wilds with my friend but I received a phone call from his wife, Marjorie, saying that Eric would be unable to go. He had been diagnosed with brain cancer. I hiked alone and thought about my friend and his future.

While Eric was going through surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy, he briefly sported a blue Mohawk in honor of his "spirit guide", Chingachgook, The Last of the Mohicans. I used some of the blue hair to tie a fly with which he caught a nice rainbow in Crooked Creek. Despite an uncertain prognosis, Eric continued his enthusiastic lifestyle, traveling the world with Marjorie, driving to Seattle to be with the kids and grandkids, fishing, hiking, birding, gardening, beekeeping, woodworking, rafting, singing with the Rogue Valley Chorale. He was active with a number of conservation organizations.

He was a brilliant physician and was very highly regarded for his character and intellect. He had a delightful sense of humor and was one of the most articulate people I have known. During our drives to fishing spots, the conversation was nonstop and reflected his amazing range of knowledge and intellectual curiosity.

Eric passed away on August 5, 2013. He will be greatly missed but I can always find him in the sparkling waters where I cast my fly.

Jeff Thompson

Tying News

The Southern Oregon Fly Tyers invite you to attend their meetings the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is September 10, 2013. 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.

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.

EXPANDED FLY TYING CLASSES OFFERED

The Southern Oregon Fly Tyers will be sponsoring fly tying classes this fall for beginners. We have a new location which will allow us to double the size of the class to 25 students. Visers and tools will be provided to those who need them. We will have a large staff of experienced tyers to provide plenty of one-on-one instruction. Classes will be held at First Baptist Church, in the Fireside room, beginning Monday, September 23rd from 6 to 9 pm and will run for 6 weeks. Sign-up sheets will be available at club meetings.

2014 Auction Note:

Our annual auction/fund raiser will be held in May of 2014. Please start your very thoughtful considerations of Time – Talent – Money. We should all start planning a head. If you know of someone with items like Time Shares, Vacation Homes, or Fishing Trips, put a bug in their ear and see if they would like to help us succeed in our conservation efforts.

Don't just sit there, pitch in, if you're not on the water fishing you should have time to help the club.

Steelhead Tournament

As announced at the meeting last week we are taking signups for the Steelhead tournament. If you can't make it to the water on Oct 5th but would still like to help, I would cherish 1 or 2 that would like to help cook the dinner for the participants and rowers. I would be looking for a time slot of 12 noon until around 3pm. If you would like to help, give me a call.

Mike Masters 541-261-2243

Stairsteps on a River's Flat Gradient?

(Another piece on finding relief for the oarsman)

By Otis D Swisher

They are hard to see; but, they are easy to "feel" if you are rowing.

Ever look at a stretch of river and think "That's a nice steady flow, a nice uninterrupted gradient?"

Have you ever rowed back UP such a gradient since drifting through once wasn't quite enough to satisfy your thinking and you wanted another crack at some fish you just "knew" were there? And, to your surprise what looked like a flat gradient turned out to have imperceptible "stair steps"?

These were not "jump pool" stairsteps as you see in fish ladders at dams. They are only two or three inches difference to the eye' but what a difference they make to the arm muscles of the oarsman. You know you have risen those couple inches and will be on a flat spot for several yards more upstream. How do you know? The boat has lost its "heavy" feeling. Upstream progress is easier. The bank's trees speed along downstream instead of just inching along.

Dodge Bridge has three such stairsteps on river right coming upstream from below the bridge (on the boat ramp side) to the Handicap Fishing platform. (Experience says that to row back from below the Bridge, it is easier to row up River LEFT, to opposite the boat ramp, then "ferry" by using the water flow to assist you to get to the stairstep at the Handicap Fishing Platform) It has another three or four if you wish to put in at the ramp, skirt the "groin" and row up to the riffle.

Takelma Park has four stairsteps on river right below its boat launch. At low water flows you can fish nearly 200 yards down to the riffle at the lower end of the Park and still get back to the boat ramp easily.

Each of these Public access parks can give a good quarter of a mile of river fishing. Put in, then row back up to take out after a couple hours of good fishing . No need for a shuttle.

Great exercise. Better than paying for a membership in an exercise club. And, the setting is so much more attractive, unless of course you really like to look at sweating bodies and grimacing faces; or, you like the smells of the gym before the shower and the Right Guard.

I kind of prefer the tree-lined river bank, the ever changing reflections on the vibrant river's surface, and a time to myself for that greatest of past-times, the fishing with a fly.

.The Rogue Flyfishers Provide Financial Support to Oregon Stewardship

The Rogue Flyfishers continued our support of the Oregon Stewardship Program with a \$500 donation for 2013. Under the leadership of Program Manager Jim Hutchins, Oregon Stewardship reaches about 1000 students each month during the school year, teaching environmental stewardship of the land and water.

Oregon Stewardship leads students on activities such as viewing spawning salmon, studying stream ecology, maintaining trails, cleaning up recreational areas, controlling noxious weeds, and enhancing stream habitat for salmon and steelhead. Here on Bear Creek, Oregon Stewardship involved students with the City of Medford to remove invasive blackberries and replant the riparian area with native species. Future projects include the completion of five bio-swales to filter storm water before it enters Bear Creek.

Oregon Stewardship fulfills a vital role by providing environmental education to students in the five counties in Southwest Oregon. Through their efforts, students are gaining an increased respect for our natural resources. The Rogue Flyfishers are proud to support such a worthy program.

David Haight

Going to Salem

by Tom Collett

John Ward and I made a trip to Salem early in the dredging season. The purpose of the trip was to talk to Senators who were on the fence regarding Senate Bill 838. A schedule of meetings had been arranged to meet with these Senators. The House being able to pass SB838 was a non-issue since there were already enough votes for it to pass in the House. Senator Bates had introduced the bill along with the support of other Senators and it was in the process of going through the committee meetings and hearings. As a matter of efficiency the bills stay in committee until there are enough votes for them to pass. Compromises are made until there are enough votes or a stalemate occurs and the bill dies in committee. On SB838 a compromise was necessary to get it out of committee. The original bill was for a moratorium and that just didn't get enough votes to get onto the floor for a vote.

I was more than a little skeptical about what might happen when we got there but it turned out to be a great experience. First off, I was always concerned about the role of the lobbyist in our legislative process. As I found out they serve a very useful role in moving things along. They bring the sides together that have a hard time agreeing otherwise. They bring information that the staffers do not have the time or expertise to do for the legislators. Our lobbyist was able give us the confidence to tell the story about what was happening to us on the river. When John and I were there it was like having a fishing guide taking us to all the right places at the right time and telling us how to make the presentation.

We were greeted very warmly at each office we went to. Everyone said, "We love to talk to real people". They call us real people because we came from the outside world. They all said that they want to hear what the rest of the people need and want and get the feedback about how they are doing.

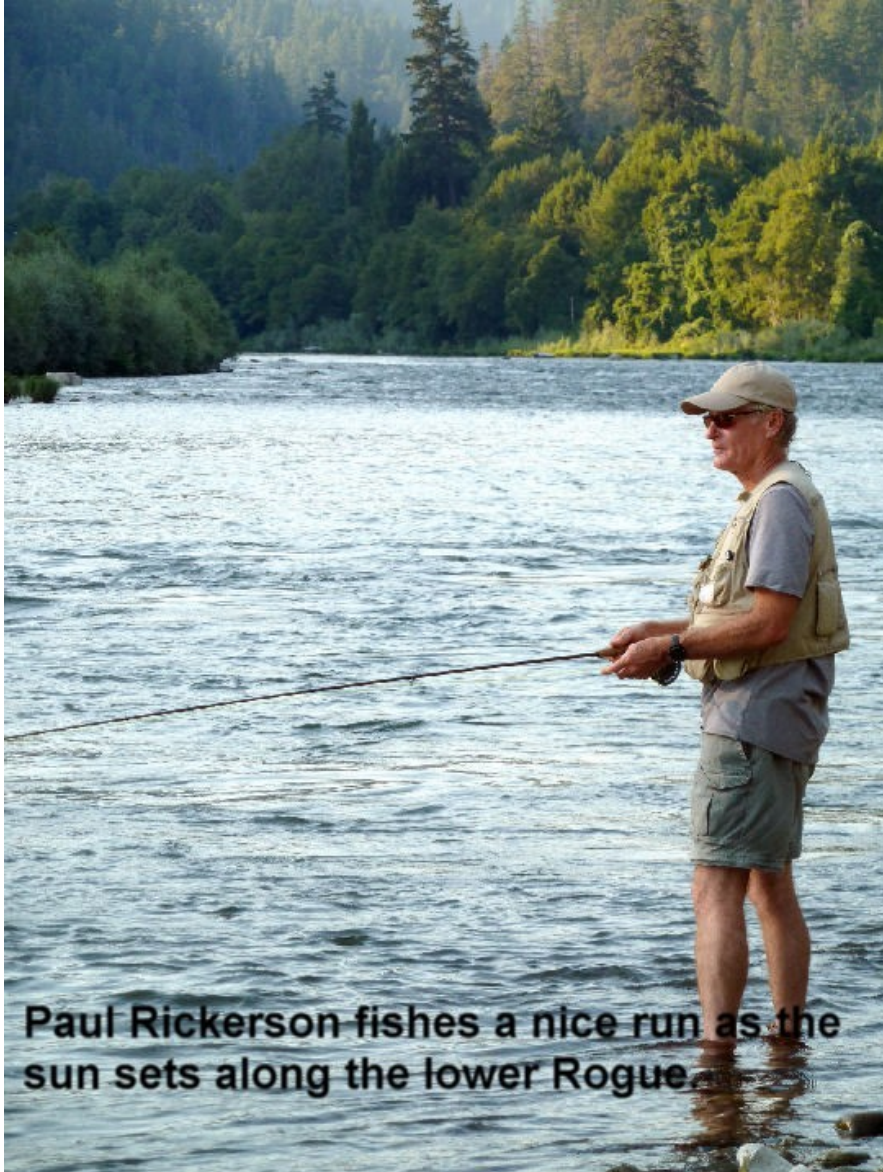
Was the trip a success? I think it was. Was the Lobbyist worth the money? I think he was. What John and I did was just one small piece of a much larger effort of many organizations and many people. Time and money was contributed from many sources. Having clean water and healthy fish stocks is worth it. You all know by now that the Governor signed SB838 into law and the rules for next year will be much better than what we have now. The end of August is the end of our local dredging season. More work on this issue lies ahead but SB838 gives us a nice respite. Dredging violations can be reported to OSP dispatch at 541-776-6111.

2 HANDS @ TOUVELLE



The annual gathering of spey anglers at the TouVelle State Recreation Site will be Saturday, September 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. You should bring spey gear if you have it, but equipment will be available for beginners wanting to learn. Waders are recommended as water can be quite cold. Lunch is provided, but you might want to bring water.

Agness Halfpounder Outing September 14 and 15



Paul Rickerson fishes a nice run as the sun sets along the lower Rogue

The Rogue is one of only a few rivers that support a unique run of young steelhead, called halfpounders, that return to the river after spending only a few months in the ocean. These 12 to 16-inch fish spend the fall and winter in the river before returning to the ocean again prior to their first spawning run. Halfpounders are great gamefish. They eagerly take flies and fight like crazy once hooked. When the fish are in, the action can be fast.

We will head to Agness for our outing September 14 and 15 to fish for these miniature steelhead. With one of the best halfpounder runs in recent years, this outing should be a good one. We will meet at the Cougar Lane Restaurant in Agness (located on the south side of the Rogue River a short distance above the mouth of the Illinois River) for breakfast at 7:00 AM. Those that don't want to eat should arrive by 8:00. After a short discussion about equipment, flies, techniques, and locations; we will head to various access points along the river. There is a lot of good bank access in the Agness area, as well as several good drifts for those with boats.

Agness is normally a two-hour drive from Grants Pass over the Bear Camp Road; however, as of this writing, that road is closed due to the fire. This means we will have to go around through Gold Beach. The longer drive will make spending a night or two a good option. There are Forest Service Campgrounds at Quosatana Creek and

Foster Bar, the Agness RV Park (541-247-2813, www.agnessrv.com) is next door to Cougar Lane, and rooms are available at Cougar Lane (541-247-7233) as well as several other lodges in the area. A good selection of motels and restaurants are available 28 miles downstream in Gold Beach as well.

A six-weight rod with a floating line is ideal for halfpounders. Swinging traditional steelhead flies through runs and tailouts works well. Good patterns include Golden Demon, Del Cooper, Skunk, Silver Hilton, Burlap, Brindle Bug, Tiger Paw, Golden Rogue, and Red Ant, all in Size 8 or 10. Nymphing is productive as well, even during the middle of the day. Hare's Ear, Pheasant Tail, Prince Nymph, Copper John, Bloody Mary, Glimmer Nymph, and Flashback Nymph in size 10 or 12 are good choices. Chinook salmon will be in the river as well, so you may also want to bring along a heavier outfit.

You can contact Dave Haight at tmdrhaight@infostructure.net or 541-855-9043 with questions. Any changes due to the fire will be posted on the website.

David Haight, Outings Chair

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Rogue Fly Shop	310 NW Morgan Lane, Grants Pass	541-476-0552
The Flyway Shop	9349 Hwy. 97 South, Klamath Falls	541-884-3825

Shasta Trout Guide Service	www.shastatroutr.com	(530) 926-5763
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Rogue Fly Fishers membership **Application** and membership **Renewal Form**

Applying, or renewing, as (check one): **Individual** __ (\$35.00), **Family** __ (\$45.00), 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. There is also a \$10 new member processing fee.) **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 __ **Do you have a drift boat?** Yes __ No __ **lake boat?** Yes __ No __

Prefer using the **Online Newsletter** __ (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