



The Lower Columbia Fly Fisher

January 2022

Issue 272

Meeting: None this month – Feb 3, 2022

Time:

Place:

Next Board Meeting: 5 PM , 2022. Longview Country Club

Program: January Meeting Cancelled – But Happy New Year To You All!

President's Message - soliciting input on important club topics

Dear Members,

At our last board meeting we discussed a number of topics that we felt were the most important at this stage of the year for our club. A number of fly fishing clubs are struggling to hold their clubs together while having to meet online. The Longview Country Club has offered us a meeting place and we are all vaccinated, so we choose to hold meetings in person and hopefully, keep our club moving forward. Some of the things we decided at the meeting are included in our newsletter, but a few of them I decided to speak to.

First of all, to have a **CLUB AUCTION** or not. As a group, we couldn't come to a decision, so we decided to make it a topic for discussion at our February meeting. For many years, our club has held an auction, usually in January, to raise funds for projects that our club supported while offering club members a chance to purchase something that interested them. Members contributed auction items such as fly fishing gear, fishing trips, art work depicting fly fishing, gift baskets, good wine or booze, etc. These items were auctioned off to the membership and guests. Some years we could fill a ballroom with members and guests while lately we probably only get 20-30 members to bid on items members have donated.

For the past few years, some have felt that the auction items were hardly worth the effort. First of all, many members have so much gear that they don't need a new fly rod or other equipment, so the auction prices paid didn't come close to the value of the item. On the other hand, many of the gifts seemed to be "re-gifted" items that were generally of little value, hardly worth adding to an auction to raise funds for donation.

So, is the auction a worthwhile effort or not? We want to hear your views. If you can't make it to the Feb. meeting and you have an opinion on the subject, please email myself or another board member.

The other item that we could use your opinion on is **FUTURE PROGRAMS**. In the past, we have had guest speakers come speak to us on a wide range of topics - fish enhancement projects, fish projections, clam digging, salt water cutthroat fishing, the lives of smelt, guides, fishing opportunities, . . . Once again, if you have ideas about future topics you would like to learn more about and you think club members would enjoy, let us know.

.....Speaking of future programs, **for our next meeting on February 3rd, I plan to share information about fishing opportunities outside of our club outings.** Places where some of our members have gotten together and made trips to experience some quality trout fishing waters. Chopaka Lake, Grass Valley lakes, Leech Lake, Hihium Lake in Canada and Montana. I hope anyone who has participated in these trips will show up and help substantiate what I plan to say. I plan to share some of the photos and video I have taken on some of these getaways. – *continued next page.....*

Lastly, it's been a good bit of work to get back to meeting in person along with finding a new landlord for our meetings. John Kenagy has done a great job getting us a spot at the Country Club which I appreciate. Our meeting nights are an important part of our club and to have good food and a welcome place to meet helps things run smoother.

Stay well, Friends. Hopefully, conditions for meeting in February will be good and we can toast in the new year.

Board Meeting News

Outings for 2021 at this point *(Editors note – hopefully we are able to get a bluegill outing this year?)*

- South Fork Toutle Winter Steelhead – March 5th
- Coldwater Lake – August
- Cowlitz Cutthroat – September 24th

Federation of Flyfishers International (FFI). The board decided that our yearly dues of around \$150 per year has resulted in nothing for our club, so we do not plan to continue our membership with the FFI

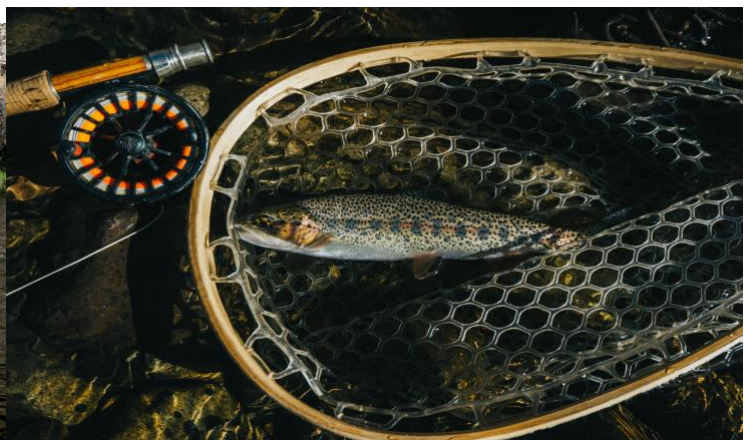
Editors Comment

If you are savvy on social media you might want to catch a Facebook group that's focused on Washington and Northern Idaho water, group's name is "Fly Fishing In Washington". Just sign in to Facebook and click on the magnifying glass in upper right of the opening screen, then enter the group name. Pretty much water throughout the state gets covered. Administrator of the site does a great job of policing no hotspotting your favorite haunts, while still providing some great contacts and info.

Today I spotted a young guy who posted he's just now moved to Longview, starting his fly fishing journey, and asking for some help in our local area. I invited him to check out our website and come to an upcoming meeting.

Browsing all the activity from this group it's pretty obvious that flyfishing proper is as popular as ever, it just doesn't NEED a physical group such as ours anymore to proliferate. This kind of social media tool represents both why social clubs such as ours are fading and the opportunity to keep it growing. I'd love to see if any of you know of other social media sites that may connect us to the next generation of flyfishers.

All the best to you all in the new year and may your 2022 bring your best fishing yet!



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If you have any article or item you would like to see in the LCFF newsletter, please forward it to me in MS Word doc or standard email text form. Photos can be included in your document or attached separately to your email. Send to ronandcindyphl@msn.com or mpihl@mail.com .