



The Lower Columbia Fly Fisher

December 2022

Issue 275

Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022

Time: Wet Fly; 6:30, Meeting @ 7 PM

Place: Longview Country Club Card Room

Next Board Meeting: 5 PM Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022. Longview Country Club

Program:

Wretched. Gift. Exchange!

Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye! Come one and come all, to celebrate the season we bring you the Wretched Gift Exchange. Though given our advancing age perhaps "we celebrate the season" might be more appropriate.

Please arrive bearing one delightfully wrapped gift, one carrying your special mark. Your personal interpretation of wretched, your 'piez de la excellence'. To help you along, we offer the following "wretched" interpretation as defined by Funk and Wagnall's most excellent dictionary.

"Wretched"; hapless, miserable, pathetic, piteous, not favored by fortune. Despicable, slimy, unworthy, vile, morally bad or wrong. Deplorable, woeful, inferior, my personal favorite "execrable", of low or inferior quality.

Of course, those not having the stomach for wretched are welcomed to bring something of practical value, for having a mix of wretched and desirable does drive a more rigorous and raucous game. More on that later.

Let's recap what to expect from the celebration.

The festivities start with gifts randomly being handed out to each one present. Should one receive his own offering it would at said parties' discretion to ask a different gift be assigned to him. Once the gifts are all handed out each is unwrapped, one at a time, and the prize is presented to the crowd to be viewed and appreciated before the next gift is opened. At times an explanation might be required, again the donor of said gift has discretion of speaking or remaining silent.

Once all gifts are revealed the master of ceremonies presents the game die, explains the rules, and sets the time limit for both of the two rounds of the games - typically something in the range of 10-15 and 5-10 minutes.

First round consists of each player having turns to roll the die, a roll of either 1 or 6 winning the right to trade the gift at hand with any other. All gifts must remain visible, and no trade can be refused. Any roll other than 1 or 6 passes the die to the next player.

Given trades are most precious, passing the die from one player to another as rapidly as possible is required. Everyone wants the most opportunities to discard the wretched, and possess the desirable, not unlike selecting your high-school girlfriend (or given today's climate, boyfriend). Woe to anyone rolling the die to the floor, taking one's own sweet time, or failing to pass the die immediately to the next player, for you can expect to be roundly chastised by the group and at risk of being tarred and feathered.

Trades are recorded for determination of prizes awarded at the end of festivities.

After close of the first round, the second begins. Rolling the die the same as first round, this final round allows for one to choose between trading away or keeping your gift at hand with the winning 1 or 6 roll. Once you've chosen to keep your gift it no longer is subject to trade. Once time runs out you are stuck with your gift at hand.

At close of the night Most Wretched and Most Creative are chosen by voice vote, Most Popular by that gift most traded for, and prizes are awarded the lucky winners.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

Reminder your **dues are beyond due** (October is start of the club year) and will be considered overdue as of Jan. 1. Please check with Dave Houten if you are unsure of your status. If you are current in your dues, thank you very much!

There is still a small **selection of "official" LCFF hats available for purchase**, complete with club logo. See Terry Frost if you are interested. Standard billed baseball style are \$12, lighted versions are \$20 but going fast, and some Gilligan (Island) style, also favored by MASH' own Lt. Colonel Henry Blake, are also available at \$10.

Club intention is to continue offering the newsletter and my apologies to all for dropping the ball much of the past 2+ years. While I enjoy the process, after some 20+ years of creating it has resulted in combination of writer's block, loss of focus, and changing priorities for me as I transition from the regimented life of a working person to the freedom retirement brings. After discussion at several board meetings, it was generally felt the tradition and communication of a formal club newsletter was critical to club survival.

Should any of you be interested in taking on this role I would welcome the opportunity to mentor and transition the responsibility to you. The club does deserve the best option in this important role. I would be happy to see someone interested in exercising their own creative process get the opportunity to put their mark on our club history. It has been immensely rewarding and really isn't as big a time commitment as it may seem. Let me or any of the club officers or board if you are interested.

In the meantime, I have committed to continuing to serve this role for the time being but ask the following.

1. Your contributions of any article you think may be of interest to the group in a format that is a simple cut and paste form (via email). I don't need one from everyone every month, a scattering throughout the years is ideal. Any topic real or imagined and related to fishing (bonus if fly-fishing) is appropriate. You can stretch this a bit as well; example would be your favorite fish and game recipe. The best format would be MS Word doc but I can copy and paste email document as well. It really only takes a few minutes to put together a newsletter if all I need to do is copy and paste what you send. I'd appreciate YOU taking the time to type out what you submit, if it comes long-hand it may be a while before it gets to print – or get cut on the editing room floor.
2. Your forgiveness when I miss a month or two going forward. Cindy and I are enjoying the freedom of retirement and I'm not always home or thinking of newsletters when on the road. I will ensure the critical months, such as club officer and board elections and this month's Wretched Gift Exchange, do get a newsletter published.
3. Suggestions of topics, challenges, etc. to prompt club input and encourage submission of articles by the members. Examples that we've done in the past are writing challenges, favorite recipes, and the cutthroat identification challenge. That last one was fun and contributed to keeping my interest up. If you have a suggestion for something that would be fun and interesting for the group, let me know.

LCFF Board has started putting some thought into official club outings and opportunities to fish together in out of the area locations. Last month Lyle brought up some suggestions and one of them has taken root.

Lyle, Terry, and I got together and reserved a campsite at Potholes State Park for April 23-28 fishing the area opportunities, specifically the seep lakes for trout and Potholes proper for bass. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us that week; you'll need to make your own arrangements. Don't wait too long as this is a popular spring fishery and camping/lodging options on the lake do fill up fast. Options are Potholes SP, MarDon Resort (just a mile or two away and within sight of the State Park), and nearby hotels. Moses Lake is about an hour drive away and closer to Moses Lake proper and Rocky Ford Creek. From Potholes you can reach Lenice, Nunnaly, and Merry Lakes as well as the lower Crab Creek area. Love to see you there!

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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 .