



The Lower Columbia Fly Fisher

November/December 2021

Issue 271

Meeting: December 2, 2021

Time: 7 PM

Place: Longview Country Club Card Room

Next Board Meeting: 5 PM December 16, 2021. Longview Country Club

Program: **Wretched Gift Exchange!**

Prepare for a holly, jolly, time celebrating the holidays at the wretched Gift Exchange! LCFF premier annual event continues its fine tradition allowing your inner Grinch to rear its bawdry head. The price of admission is merely presenting a single, wrapped gift hopefully vying for the evenings grand prize as Most Wretched. For those whose phones are being monitored for bad behavior we do have runner-up prizes of Most Popular and Most Creative. The truly skilled participant has opportunity to score 2, even all 3 prizes if your gift proves worthy.

So bring your gift, no name attached, and deposit it on the gift table. Once the meeting starts, Master of Ceremonies Terry Frost will announce “let the games begin!”.

For the possible newbie as well as those of you reaching an age you simply can't remember (and looking around the room there are many candidates) – here is the ceremony.

First, the gifts are randomly distributed. Before the first round everyone attending should end up with one. Once all gifts are handed out each is unwrapped one at a time and presented and described to the group. There can be a minute of Q&A so everyone appreciates what has been offered. Master of Ceremonies will pick the first gift to open and keep this round moving along.

Once all the gifts have been presented, why then the mayhem begins.

One single die will be blessed as the oracle and an announcement of time for **Round 1**. Oh, yes, there will be a round 2 as well. In round 1 the die will be passed around continuously from person to person, each rolling one time per turn hoping to roll a 1 or 6. Should a 1 or 6 be rolled you can trade for any gift in the room, or keep your own if you wish. These trades are tracked, and the gift traded most for will earn the most popular award. Roll any other number and you must wait for the die to make its round back to you for another try.

After each roll and the die **MUST** be immediately passed to the neighboring player. Woe the sorry fool who rolls the die off the table and disrupt the game's flow – you shall be cursed soundly, possibly flogged should it become a habit! The die **MUST** be constantly in motion ensuring all have many chances to rid themselves of the wretched and gain that most prized.

Round 1 ends at the buzzer and, again recognizing our collective advancing age, with a few minutes pee break.

Now we move on the **Round 2** and again the MOC will announce its time limit. Round 2 is largely the same as 1, but with an exit strategy. Should the lucky player roll the same 1 or 6 of the die they have option of either making another trade or keeping the prize in hand and pulling out of the games. Should this latter option be exercised the gift is no longer in trade and said player is no longer in line for next roll of the dice.

Once the time limit runs out the die is removed and games are over. At this point the prize in your hand is yours to keep; stuck with the wretched or blessed with the desirable. Awarding prize for the Most Wretched, Popular, and Creative are awarded.

Most Popular is determined by that which is most traded for in round 1. Nominations from the floor are taken for both most Creative and the granddaddy of all - Most Wretched. Vote is taken after nominations and granted to the winners. By now the joints are starting to stiffen up and we go home.

Please do join us for the festivities! Bring your wrapped gift, bonus points if you dress for the season. For those who have skipped and year, reminder our meetings have moved to Thursday **from** traditional Tuesday, so Wretched gift is Thursday, Dec. 2 this year.

December pre-party topics

Prior to the games there will be a short club discussion on a couple important topics.

First is getting **current information on permanent schedule** of both General Club and Board meeting dates and times. Presently John Kenagy is working with LCC to confirm schedule of 1st and 3rd Thursdays for General and Board meetings, respectively. There is possible conflict with another Country Club Thursday event and the Country Club will be closed the first 2 weeks of January. With this closure the Board decided to combine the January General meeting with the 3rd Thursday's Board meeting, returning to 1st Thursday general meetings beginning in February. Call it the (hopefully) closing chapter of COVID fallout.

One question that will be **posed to you is a change of meeting time** for General meetings to begin at 6 PM from its traditional 7 PM start (Board has already changed its meetings to 5 PM start) and earlier start should help mitigate potential conflict with other LCC events. Earlier start is hoped to facilitate earlier bedtimes for the elderly (you know who you are) while still being late enough to encourage new members of a working age.

Secondly there will be discussion on **whether we maintain the club auction** – or not – and what said auction will look like going forward. Lots of options discussed by the board ranging from abandoning an auction to moving to silent auction only - to keeping the auction as is. Considerations driving the question are poorer quality of what we donate (and “buy”) from each other in a dwindling (and ageing) population, Ron has retired and now on fixed income, and while we have been blessed to have Don Harris capable and willing as auctioneer those times are coming to end. We have no other experienced auctioneer willing to donate their time and skills to our cause.

While the auction has been the primary fundraiser for club activities at present time, we have a healthy treasury and there are other fundraising options such as quality monthly raffles or periodic in-house silent auctions should some significant donations be received.

The board determined these issues are significant enough to solicit membership input before making a decision, which will happen at the December 16 Board meeting.

Club calendar is likely to change, and online options posted to our website or other electronic means are being discussed. We may not publish a hard-copy 2022 LCFF calendar – more to come on this.

2021/2022 LCFF club dues are now overdue. If you aren't sure whether you are current contact club treasurer Dave Houten. Because it's always a question, annual club dues are \$25 with those members with 10 years membership and age 70 or over charged \$10.

Enough of this rain – how about planning a trip here?



LCFF Officers and Board:

President Jeff Sowders 360-355-5623

Vice President Dave Johnson 360-425-6350

Treasurer David Houten 360-431-3845

Ghillie Bob Buchman 360-274-6738

Board Jerry Schroeder 360-864-6964 Hal Mahnke 360-577-6077

 Jim Williams 360-414-8147 John Kenagy 617-515-7209

 Lyle Barker 360-864-2976 Terry Frost. 360-431-3078

Newsletter Editor Ron Pihl. 360-957-0636

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 ronandcindypihl@msn.com or rmpihl@mail.com .