



The Lower Columbia Flyfisher

December 2019

Issue 257

Meeting: Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Lv Country Club Dining Room

Next board meeting - Tuesday, December 17, 6:30 PM at Longview Country Club

PROGRAM: It's the Wretched Gift, Bob Cratchit, the Wretched Gift!

The time is nigh and its nigh time for a holiday party! Come prepared for the Wretched Gift by twisting on your Scrooge cap and bringing a gift worthy of giving the Cratchit family a royal screwing. Suitably wrapped, of course.

If you can't stomach the wretched, perhaps an offering of Christmas Grog in hopes of enticing the lovely Ms. Cratchit into some dark corner for a little amorous holiday celebration once ol' Bob passes out, the kids tucked in their beds with visions of sugar-plums and so on. It's long before the me-too generation after all. And to be politically correct, perhaps those roles could be reversed should that be your inclination and that's OK.

Should even that offend your sensitive soul, why we accept something even from you. Generous gifts, or those showing off your particular brand of craftsmanship are always appreciated. May I suggest a vintage 3-7/8" Hardy Perfect reel, or perhaps a Scandi shooting head in, say, 5/6 weight. A set of hand-tied braided leaders for you of the latter group should do nicely.

Of course the games, let us not forget the games. After distribution of the gifts we enter the burlesque phase, one where each gift is unwrapped and finally revealed, the veritable pole-dancing peep show of gifting. Oh, and you must show all, no hiding of the bits and everything laid bare. For all depends on fair knowledge of what each gift offers.

Once the gifts are suitably appreciated by all, the die is cast (heh, heh...I got a million of 'em!) for next round, the trading. A roll of the die and should luck turn up a 1 or 6 you get privilege of trading for any gift on the floor. This is a lively round, the die flies around the room from hand-to hand as everyone shoots for the most coveted items. Woe to the sorry bastard who drops it to the floor or engages in idle conversation and stalling the die! For those who have said propensity I suggest donning a hockey goalie outfit prior to attending, if not the helmet at least the nard guard.

There is time limit on this first round of trading to encourage speedy turnover of the die. Once the whistle blows we pause before enter round 2. Given our average age I recommend a pee break as all this activity undoubtedly has stimulated your bladder. I don't know about you, but I'd rather risk soiling my trousers than wear adult diapers and neither one is all that appealing.

Round 2 commences much as round 1, but now your 1 or 6 reward is choice between continue trading or pull your prize off the trading floor. Once out the gift is yours and no-one can trade for it. This final round has some lesser time limit as we are all getting somewhat toasted by now and it just won't do to incite inebriated brawls arguing over those gifts already off the table.

Regardless of your offering, virtually everyone has opportunity to earn one of three prizes. Most Popular, as determined by that most traded for, could be targeted by those bringing something of perceived value. Most Creative, determined by popular vote, goes to that individual who demonstrates the most imaginative gift, or perhaps that one showing the finest of craftsmanship.

But the Grand Prize, the Big Kahuna, Gran Premi, the Mother-Lode of all prizes is.....oh yes we are talking **THE MOST WRETCHED**. This also is determined by popular vote and on it's selection and the celebration that deservedly follows, closes out our night of merriment and starts our planning for next year's offering.

Dues = calendar which will be handed out at January meeting and Jeff is cooking up a good one for our 50th.

Regarding our 2020 calendar and what to put on it, LCFF board set the dates for our **2020 club outings**.

- March 7th has been targeted for the S Fork Toutle outing opener.
- The annual Bluegill fish fry is scheduled for May 23rd, week before Memorial Day.
- We return to Coldwater Lake August 8th for the summer high lakes outing
- Cowlitz Cutthroat is penciled in for September 26th

LCFF 50th Anniversary Celebration. The Board has compiled all of your excellent ideas on how to celebrate and is beginning to formulate a plan which may well be several events. By all means keep the suggestions coming in. We also hope to assemble a booklet of photos and history on the club so if you have photos or anecdotes of significant events in our clubs history, from any generation, please do submit them.

Reminder our **January meeting will be our annual club fundraising auction**. Never too early to put some thought into what you could contribute and we can expect this to be a higher cost year as we fund the anniversary events.

Sounds like we may not have much difficulty finding some young folks to sponsor to the **Youth Flyfishing Academy** this year with several already expressing interest. That being said we continue to encourage others who may be interested in submitting their application. Formal applications will be out soon, for now you can steer kids to their website to learn more about it... www.nwycffa.com

If you haven't heard, effective now through end of the year you the **catch limit for Coho has been restricted** due to low returns for hatchery broodstock needs. Here are the new rules, only hatchery fish can be kept;

- Anglers limited to 1 adult Coho on lower Cowlitz and lower Kalama Rivers.
- Release all adult Coho on the Lewis River, Cedar Creek (including all tributaries), and Washougal River.

It wasn't much of a challenge for several of you to recognize **Lahontan Cutthroat and Pyramid Lake** as the species and home water of **October's Cutthroat selection**. **John Clark got the gold star** and a new member of the winner's circle, besting a record number of entries who all got it correct. Historically Lahontan's lived throughout the Great Basin and Range country centered in Nevada but reaching across border regions of all Nevada's neighboring states but for Arizona.

Lahontan's are a primarily a lake dweller but spawn in rivers and streams, somewhat of a landlocked anadromous character. In fact none other than Kit Carson and John Fremont nick-named the Truckee the "Salmon Trout River" in 1844 on observing the huge Lahontan's from Pyramid Lake making a spawning run.

They are Nevada's state fish just as last months Greenback is for Colorado. Unfortunately they also share federally threatened designation with all of the usual suspects causing loss of the fish in most of it's native range. In fact both Pyramid, Tahoe, and Walker Lakes were determined to be barren of Lahontan's by 1943 and 1930 respectively with Walker somewhat before that. Fortunately stocking efforts are showing positive results to bring them back, but streamflow management is crucial to their long-term survival and remains a challenge. For now they rely on stocking efforts to survive. The only remaining pure strain of Lahontan's exists in Independence Lake and fortunately efforts to exterminate Brook Trout there have resulted improved spawning numbers.

As for the fish itself, Lahontan's have several specific characteristics not found in other sub-species. For one it is by far the largest cutthroat, the record 41 pounder (Pyramid Lake) rivaling anadromous fish in some waters. Their natural instinct for food source morphs from insect to other, smaller fishes, thus their propensity to grow large when forage allows. No surprise being centered in Nevada, natural selection has rewarded the Lahontan with ability to withstand much warmer and more caustic water than other cutthroat sub-species.

We are fortunate to have several opportunities to target Lahontans within a reasonable distance as their ability to thrive in elevated caustic water has them planted in Lenore and Grimes Lake in central part of the state and Omak Lake further north.

OK, lets find a new cutthroat. Hmmm, what have we here, and where?



Greased lines

.....Thanks to all of you that have submitted articles.....I really appreciate them and...If you have not seen your submitted articleI will be using them in future issues.....Thanks again and keep them coming.

.....If any of the rest of you have an article, editorial or fishing story for the newsletter, submit it to the Editor at least 10 days before the first of each month:

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