



The Lower Columbia Flyfisher

January 2018

Issue 237

Meeting: Tuesday, January 2, 2018

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: The Carriage, back room

Next board meeting - Tuesday, January 16, 6:30 PM at Kelso Red Lion

PROGRAM: LCFF Annual Club Auction

WHAT! 2018 already? And what does the first meeting of the year bring but none other than the annual LCFF club auction. And what does the annual LCFF club auction bring but none other than auctioneer extraordinaire Don Harris. Don continues to contribute his slippery tongued hawg-calling skills assisting the club raising funds to support yet another exciting year of outings, programs, and contributions to worthy causes such as Youth flyfishing camp and conservation activities.

Success of the auction depends in you, the members, to contribute items of value and/or loosen those wallets to purchase said treasures. I'm sure those Xmas gifts have given you opportunity to hi-grade your fishing gear. Perhaps the Xmas parties weren't quite as well attended and you can't quite close that liquor/wine cabinet. Always popular is hosted fishing trips to favorite locations.

Regarding your purchases, be generous knowing your funds are going to great causes. Hey, Christmas expenses are behind you and looking around the room I'm betting a new month's Social Security check is burning a hole in most of your pockets.

Also at the January meeting we have a special event to accomplish, you won't want to miss it.

Last month's Wretched Gift award was taken home by Jerry Schroeder who grossed us out with his "trout and creel" offering. Jerry's creation was so well presented he also took home "Most Creative". Vance Luff's fine bottle of vintage "Huckleberry Vodka and flask" took home "Most Popular", narrowly beating out the bottle of Fireball and a Rock Creek, Montana, "Testical Festival" T shirt by one measly vote, which I guess is fitting given this past year's political climate.

February Program preview: Fly Fishing for Tiger Muskie. Mike Sturza, of Lost Creek Fly Shop, Onalaska, WA is one of a few guides in the area that offers a unique experience of fly fishing Mayfield Lake for Tiger Muskie. Join us on February, 6th for this program. March program will be a slide show on the annual September excursions many of the club make to SW Montana's fabled trout waters.

Clarification on LCFF club dues

Every year there remains some confusion over club dues, notably free/reduced dues for elderly long-time members and the calendar period covered by dues.

Let's clarify regular member dues and dues year first. Club fiscal year is October to October. Standard dues are \$25/year and due October 1 of each year, covering October 1 to September 30 of the following year. Dues are considered in arrears if not paid by December 31. The LCFF club calendar will only be distributed to those who are current on their dues.

Club members who are aged 70 or older and have been an active (dues paying) club member for the most recent 10 consecutive years are eligible for reduced dues of \$10, which can be changed at discretion of the LCFF Board per Article III, Section 4 of LCFF bylaws. For some years this was a "free" membership but changed to \$10 several years ago given the declining number of members who don't qualify.

LCFF club calendar will be distributed and January general meeting to members current with dues.

LCFF Board News

Pursuant to both loss of Masthead and sentiment by general membership to find a more attractive location for general meetings, the board has begun investigating acceptable options. Brian Davern made contact with Red Lion and the board agreed to hold the January LCFF board meeting there to investigate further. Note this is only the January Board meeting, general meeting will remain at the Carriage.

Red Lion does have a small charge for use of the room and long-time members will recall we had a year or so meeting there before moving back to the original Monticello Hotel Rose room. There may be some food service expectations and we will likely return to a limited menu ala what we had at Monticello. Voice your questions during Tuesday meeting and we'll pursue them with Red Lion.

Rigorous conversations continue on club future, how to invigorate the membership, and make LCFF more attractive to new members. Look for resurgence of the old "wet-fly" cocktail hour educational topics in the hour prior to general meetings. Topics the board has discussed are fly-tying, knot tying, entomology, perhaps some cooking tips. Also in discussion are offering casting lessons and competitions, returning to a more formal club picnic, separating it from the blue-gill outing, and occasional family-oriented events.

Also in the conversation is how to return to more civil conversation during general meetings and avoid polarizing comments that may turn off prospective new members. Retaining the joie de vivre we have enjoyed over the years and finding balance between the familiarity & humor between long-time members (that might not be recognized as so) and sensitivities of prospective new members is a goal we all believe desirable and achievable. *On a personal note one thing that always impressed me as a new member was how well the LCFF membership got along despite the wide variety of economic, religious, and political views held by any given member - we truly enjoy each others company with common bond being love of the flyfishing pursuit.*

December Mystery Water

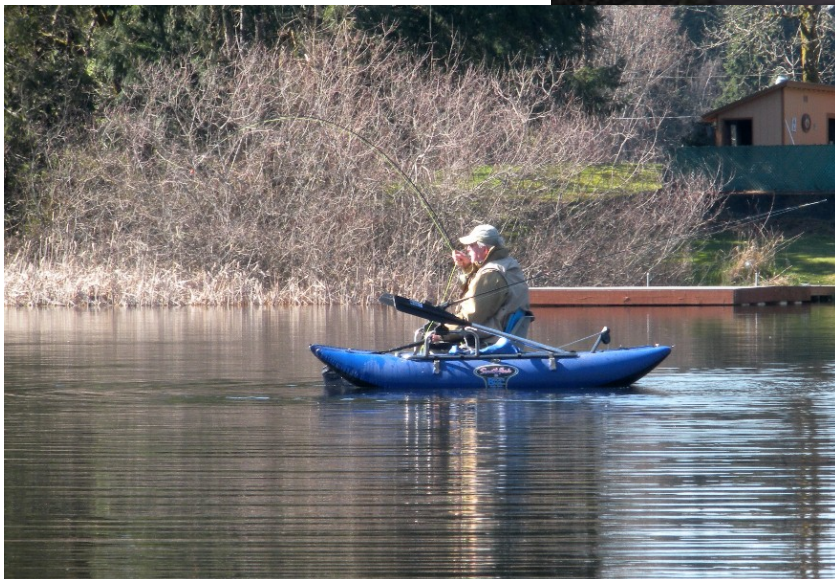
Not sure if it's a sign this series has run its course of interest or I've selected indistinguishable sections of the Kalama River, in either case somewhat of a shocker no-one sent in a response for last month's mystery water photo series.

Kalama has long been one of our more accessible and productive local fly fishing waters. Whether the Beginner's Hole or the "Holy Water" fly fishing stretch upstream the Kalama offers opportunity to sore-mouth nearly all of the area's anadromous fish depending on the season. Summer & Winter steelhead, coho and chinook salmon all swing up the Kalama to have a look-see for both a mate and a nice quiet pool to bed down in. While it is possible for sea-run cutts to visit the Kalama, reports of them are precious few. There's always something in season and in the river, though regrettably the most recent year's returns have been dismal.

Classic pools with plenty of runs, riffles and broken pocket water present the angler with all variety of fishing challenge one could hope for. Typically there is decent casting room throughout the river with good bank access and several boat ramps providing plenty of opportunity to explore the river.

Summer fishing rewards swinging a fly or nymph pattern on a dry line, probability of hooking into a winter steelie or any of the salmon pretty much requires dredging the bottom using weighted flies and/or fast-sink tips. You can fish pretty much any steelhead or salmon pattern here, but there is one named for the river, the Kalama Special. You should be OK with anything from 6-8 weight for steelies but go 8 or bigger for the salmon or you risk replacing your favorite lighter stick.

January mystery water remains within a day trip of home. In addition to rainbows, this lake offer a variety of spiny rays as well.



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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