



The Lower Columbia Fly Fisher

February 2021

Issue 268

Meeting: Getting closer!

Time: It would have been 7 PM

Place: Your Living Room or Den

Next Board Meeting: has been renamed the Bored Meeting until further notice

Program:

Vaccine Anyone?

I hope this month you all have either received or been offered the COVID vaccine. It and the new year bring promise we will be able to meet in-person again sometime this year, hopefully earlier than later. Being under 65, it looks like I will be later than most of you in getting vaccinated so you may find me masked a bit longer.

Regret we do **not yet** have a projection for when we can **resume in-person meetings**. Last we heard, Longview Country Club was enthused about our return and could set up seating to meet distance guidelines once the state declares it safe to do so. So, keep paying attention to the changing state guidelines.

In the meantime – you all should be starting to receive some group emails about various topics any given club member feels moved to share. LCFF Board determined we would pursue alternative means of keeping in touch with one another outside of the newsletter and website. If you didn't see Kenagy's Lake Sacajawea outing post I've included it in this newsletter.

S Fork Toutle Steelhead Outing is ON! Look for more info in your email and next month's newsletter to confirm, but as in past years sounds like Jeff and Vance will target first Saturday in March with the second Saturday as alternate should weather or other calamity cause postponement.

Jeff likely will be offering his famous chili, probably something pickled, and beverages though if you prefer in these challenging times you are welcome to bring your own grub and/or eating utensils. Tentatively we'll return to Harry Gardner park for the gathering – perfect opportunity outdoors for social distance gathering. Tradition has it morning coffee and donuts to go with noonish chili feed, so you'll get to visit a few folks whether you fish morning or afternoon.....or just want to drop by to visit.

Jeff, Gary Lindstrom, and Schroeder have all been prospecting S Fork, and surely will continue to, so we should get a picture of the catching possibilities. We all know the fishing opportunities are finer 'n frog's hair there.

LCFF Annual Dues are now overdue – please contact our new Treasurer Dave Houten @ 360-431-3845 on how to get paid current. About ½ members are paid but the rest not....and full disclosure - including yours truly. So, I'll be making that happen today. Yes, we still have dues and reminder our club year is Oct 1 – Sept 30.

Kenagy proves we don't have to go far.....or.....another "fish(y)" story? Perhaps only "Q" knows for sure



It was an overcast morning. No wind or rain. Water conditions were tough but manageable with the right technique. Sowders was there. He can vouch for it. I found a 10 ft 7 wt rod with a high D sink tip and 8-foot leader worked best. The fly that was most productive was #4 silver Clauser Minnow. The most productive technique was a long spey cast toward Washington Way with a vigorous mend toward R. A. Long. Then let it sink with an occasional twitch, while starting a slow retrieve toward the Fred Meyer fish freezer - when the line straightens out, hit it hard. We should try this for a January outing next year.....🦈

Tight Lines,

John

John Kenagy
M 617-515-7209

*I was with Jeff when we caught up with John at Sacajawea. Guess I can't say fish aren't catchable in the dark brownish water. Amazing really.
Gary (Lindstrom)*

Product Review – Aventik Mag Reel Combo Case

Actually, this began as simply a diatribe about winter cleaning and housekeeping all my fly gear. In the course of doing so, re-sorting my gear and flies between two gear bags, I ended up frustrated with how to keep my reels from getting knocked about and easier to find.

Voila! Why not their own gear bag? - and wouldn't you know but there is a plethora of them available out there. After a thorough search of options and contemplating my growing pile of reels one in particular caught my eye, one not so branded that only Sweet or DePriest could afford it.

And so I ordered the **Aventik Mag Reel Combo 12-reel case**. OK, fair warning it did end up made in China but at under \$50 (Amazon) it packs a lot of features into a well-made bag. 1200 Denier nylon, saltwater zippers, 12 adjustable pockets for different size reels, and impressive number of pockets for spare lines, leader, maps, and whatever. Padded, adjustable, shoulder strap with wader-type snap connectors.

Construction is quite heavy duty and seems very well made with enough padding that you really don't need to use your reel's original reel socks. I haven't had it long enough to testify on its durability but compared to other storage and travel bags it appears of sturdy construction.

Smaller than my other gear bags at 16"x11-1/2"x6" this case stores quite nicely. As I played around filling it with different combinations of fly reels and spare spools, it exposed my sickness...." Hi, my name is Ron, and I am a fly-fishing gear addict. The last time I bought a fly reel was 103 days ago and I'm faking it one day at a time....."

I guess statement of my endorsement is - on finding one bag didn't solve my problem, a second one is on order.

Photos next page

The Aventik Mag Reel Combo Case

Holds 12 reels – here from 3wt panfish to 10wt saltwater



Lots of storage for extra lines, leader, and other gear

Nice compact size, here next to my Sage gear bag



Pretty sure all of you recall Lee Wulff, maybe even watched him on American Sportsmen as I did, in pursuit of Atlantic Salmon. Here's a link to a few of his experiences – click on the blue text or enter it in search field;

An Atlantic Salmon Journal SPECIAL - Lee Wulff and the NL River of Ponds

Lee Wulff's series from the *Atlantic Salmon Journal* in the late 1980s describes his adventures on the Great Northern Peninsula, including guiding of 5-star general Hap Arnold and Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall during WW2.

<https://www.asf.ca/atlantic-salmon-journal/lee-wulff-and-river-of-ponds>



Lee Wulff used his J3 Piper Cub to access various lakes and rivers on the Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland

Given our clubs foundation around sea-run cutthroat this article might be something our club could rally around, maybe even become participants? *Thanks Brian for bringing this one to light – continues to next page*

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501
<https://wdfw.wa.gov>

January 21, 2021

Contact: [Eryn Couch](#), 360-890-6604

Big Fjord project: State and nonprofits team up alongside fishing guide community in community-science project to enhance coastal cutthroat research

Multi-year project to inform cutthroat migration patterns, areas most in need of future habitat restoration

OLYMPIA – Starting this month, some Hood Canal volunteer anglers fishing aboard guide boats and along the shore will be reeling in more than just fish – they'll also contribute to a year-long research project led by the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG), Coastal Cutthroat Coalition (CCC) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to inform coastal cutthroat migration and abundance. With funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the effort joins ongoing community-science projects in Washington studying sea-run cutthroat trout survival and life history.

"HCSEG staff are excited to be a part of this project and continue to contribute to the groundbreaking coastal cutthroat trout research gathered by Coastal Cutthroat Coalition and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in Puget Sound over the last few years," said Clayton David, HCSEG salmon and steelhead biologist. "We see an astounding opportunity to expand the knowledge surrounding coastal cutthroat trout life histories, productivity, and abundance with this project to inform future management decisions."

Throughout the year, WDFW and HCSEG staff will sample cutthroat caught and released by volunteer recreational fisherman for age, genetics, health and condition at pre-determined sample sites throughout Hood Canal to identify biological and environmental indicators that support healthy and abundant cutthroat populations. As part of the final phase of the project, expected to conclude in 2022, HCSEG will coordinate volunteer habitat restoration events with opportunities to plant more than 2,000 trees at areas the data indicates would provide the greatest benefit to cutthroat populations in Hood Canal.

"This project is unique in the fact that the work will be accomplished not only by trained professionals but will involve the angling public and the fishing guide community with the guidance of fish biologists," said Greg Shimek, Coastal Cutthroat Coalition executive director. "The Coastal Cutthroat Coalition is proud to work alongside HCSEG, WDFW, and other partners to advance the knowledge around coastal cutthroat and their habitat."

"It's not that often that we're able to engage anglers with such a clear window into the scientific work that fish biologists and researchers do every day," said James Losee, fish program manager for WDFW's coastal region. "We're thrilled to have an opportunity to collaborate on this project alongside the recreational angling community to expand the understanding around coastal cutthroat trout."

"Our team is excited to take part in such an important study of our amazing and unique local trout," said Justin Waters, fly fishing guide. "Unraveling the mysteries of these fish is half the fun of fishing and supporting the work of fish managers and conservationists provides a unique opportunity to do just that."

This project is funded by NOAA through its Fish Habitat Partnership grant program, which aims to enhance collaboration with the recreational fishing community and support improved habitat, with additional support from the Coastal Cutthroat Coalition and Western Native Trout Initiative. Anglers participating include those from the Bainbridge Island Fly Fishers, Kitsap-Olympic Peninsula Chapter Trout Unlimited, Puget Sound Flyfishers, and South Sound Fly Fishers.

Those interested in getting involved in fish conservation are encouraged to contact their local fishing club or [salmon enhancement group](#) for volunteer opportunities. Future restoration events for this project will be available [on HCSEG's website](#).

Anglers are reminded to continue to consult WDFW's 2020-21 Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet and emergency rules webpage for the latest regulations pertaining to coastal cutthroat.

WDFW is the state agency tasked with preserving, protecting and perpetuating fish, wildlife and ecosystems, while providing sustainable fishing, hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group strives to deepen the connection between land, people, and salmon through restoration, education, and research.

The Coastal Cutthroat Coalition is dedicated to the science and management of coastal cutthroat trout.

Washington Fly Fishing Club monthly fly-tying demo– Regret I didn't get a Zoom invite to forward so you could watch this fly getting pout together, but here's the materials list they sent.



Our next meeting is Wednesday Feb. 3rd. A ZOOM invitation will follow in a separate email. We will be tying a Parachute Callibaetis. The materials are as follows:

Hook: Any dry fly (Tiemco 100, etc.) #16 or #14

Thread: Tan 70 denier (this fly is also tied in gray. feel free to change tan to gray).

Tails: Coq de Leon or Microfibers. Light color.

Body: Goose biots / turkey biots or dubbing. Your choice. Color: Callibaetis / tan or gray.

Wing post: Poly fiber (McFlylon, ParaPost, Crinkle hair).

Thorax: Dubbing. Color to match the body, i.e., tan or gray.

Hackle: Brown or Grizzle. To match the thorax and body.

Our instructor will be Sam Matalone. He has joined us in our last tying session and monthly meeting.

LCFF Officers and Board:

President Terry Frost. 360-431-3078

Vice President Vacant

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 Dave Johnson 360-425-6350

Newsletter Editor Ron Pihl. 360-957-0636