



The McKenzie Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2015

Newsletter of the McKenzie Flyfishers
PO Box 10865, Eugene, Oregon.

www.mckenzieflyfishers.org

The club currently lacks a permanent Newsletter Editor.
We are publishing newsletters as best we can.
Thank you for your understanding and patience.

September Program

Bill Laing

Our September program will be presented by **Steve Mealey, President of the McKenzie River Guides Association**. His presentation will give us the latest information on the planning and progress for the **McKenzie River Interpretive Center**. As planned, the center will occupy the old ODFW fish hatchery site to the north of Leaburg Lake. The property has been secured and a marketing and feasibility study is underway. This is a huge undertaking on the scale of the High Desert Museum in Bend. Don't miss this interesting and exciting program and possibly a chance for the McKenzie Flyfishers to become involved. Plan now to attend the September meeting.



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Calendar

- **BOARD MEETINGS** are held the first Wednesday of the month, 7-9 p.m., Market of Choice Conference Room, unless announced otherwise. **Next meeting: October 7, 2015.**
- **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP** Meetings are held the third Monday of the month, 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Willie's, 400 International Way, Springfield, OR. **Next meeting: September 21, 2015**, then, October 19.
- **ANNUAL AUCTION:** will be held in lieu of our **November 16** General Membership Meeting.
- **HOLIDAY PARTY:** will be held Friday, **December 4.**

Prez Sez



Fifty years ago the McKenzie Fly Fishes hosted the first “gathering” of what is now the Federation of Fly Fishers, an international organization. The FFF came back to Oregon to celebrate its 50th anniversary at the Bend Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center from August 11th to the 15th. I

had the honor of helping staff our Club's table and sharing the history of how under Bill Nelson's vision and leadership he, Skip Hosfield, Mike Star, Bill Laing, Stan Walters and others helped start what is now the FFF (or IFFF to some others).

The Evergreen Fly Fishing Club, of which Bill Nelson was an active member prior to moving to Eugene, had a table next to ours. The Evergreen Club played an important role in the Eugene event and take a measure of credit as well for helping start what is now the FFF.

Our two tables were steadily busy with attendees looking at the materials and memorabilia provided as well as asking a lot of questions. It was clear to me the McKenzie Fly Fishers is well respected in the fly fishing community of clubs in the FFF.

Others who helped set up the nice table display are Greg Pitts, Jim Dougher and Jim Boyd. Bill Laing, Mike Star and Skip Hosfield spent time at the table as representatives who participated in the 1965 Eugene gathering. Skip and Greg both served as President of the FFF and are well known and respected by those in the organization today.

What an accomplishment it was back in 1965 to take a concept of bringing together the many individual fly clubs from around the country and leveraging them into a federation.

Many of the conservation measures that have occurred for both fish and the waters in which they live can, to some degree, be traced back to the power of the unified voice of the the fly fishing community.

It was indeed an honor to help represent our Club at the International Fly Fishing Fair.

McKenzie Flyfishers Garage Sale

Bill Laing

The McKenzie Flyfishers recently received a very generous donation from the family of our founder, Bill Nelson. Audrey Nelson called Mike Starr and said she would like the McKenzie Flyfishers to have Bill's fly-tying materials. She said there were several boxes of material and she wanted someone to pick them up.

Mike and I arranged a time to pick up Nelson's fly-tying stash. What we encountered was overwhelming! There were three large tables stacked

to above my head with boxes. There were boxes on the floor and under the tables.

We backed Mike's GMC Acadia up and started loading. We filled the back end to capacity and still had to stack several boxes on the back seat. I knew Nelson had a lot of fly-fishing stuff. And I guess I knew he was a bit of a collector and didn't ever throw anything away but I had no idea that he was a candidate for “Hoarders Anonymous”!

McKenzie Flyfishers Garage Sale

(cont'd)

We took everything to Mike's and unloaded it into his garage. NOW WHAT? We needed help! We needed a **Fly Tyer Materials Organization and Distribution Committee**.

I called Clint Brumitt for advice.

Clint, Gary McKenney, Jim Williams, Mike Starr, and I spent over 4 hours in Mike's garage sorting, separating, inventorying, and organizing Nelson's fly tying materials into a manageable condition.

Then what? We needed a plan. We decided there was too much stuff and too few fly tiers in the club to sell it at our auction in November. It was too complicated and too much work to sell it on eBay or Craig's list. We didn't want to just store it away and forget about it. We decided to have a "Garage Sale". Clint offered to have it at his house. A date was set, Saturday, August 29, 9am to 12 noon.

As you probably all know Clint Brumitt is a well-organized highly motivated individual. He knows how to get things done. Clint immediately notified all club members via our Google group. He also notified the other flyfishing clubs in the area including the Cascade Family Flyfishers. Clint collected Nelson's fly-tying material from Mike's garage, reorganized it into marketable packets, labeled and priced it, and had it ready for sale.

On the morning of the sale, I showed up at 8:45. There were four conference-sized tables covered with fly tying material and several boxes of material scattered about on the floor. There were already several people there. Clint was running around trying to keep up with the many hands shuffling through the treasures, answering questions, adding up sales items, taking money, and making change. I mostly watched, BS'd with customers and tried to stay out of Clint's way. Things slowed down about 11am and I suggested we begin packing up the remaining items.

About 11:15 a jeep pulled up, the driver climbed out, walked across the street into Clint's garage and

began fumbling through the remaining items. He didn't talk much or make eye contact with either Clint or I. He was intent in surveying the materials. He began assembling a collection. We bargained over a few unmarked items and after agreeing on a fair price he added them to his pile. Only after he had made his selection did he open up and begin visiting with us.

I have no idea who he was. He paid in cash. We learned he collects things; he's a big time collector, deals extensively on eBay, and tinkers with fishing equipment and materials, not exclusively flyfishing. He handed Clint \$100 and left after his dog crapped on Clint's neighbors lawn.

**Three hour sale
nets \$404!**

Clint and I closed up by noon, stacked the remaining items neatly in Clint's garage and counted our morning income, \$404 in less than 3 hours.

Thanks to Audrey Nelson and family for donating Bill's fly-tying materials to the McKenzie Flyfishers. **Thanks** to Mike, Clint, Gary, Jim, and Bill for the hours sorting, organizing, packaging, labeling, and pricing.

Thanks to Clint for organizing, advertising, and hosting the garage sale at his home.

Finally, thanks to Bill Nelson. I'm sure he holds the world record for the largest accumulation of fly-tying material in a lifetime by a non-professional, individual, fly-tier.

LEFT OVERS? The remaining Nelson fly-tying materials are in a secure place. While we did not withhold any materials from the garage sale, we did partially conceal, disguise, and/or intentionally mislabel some treasures. November is auction time. Don't be surprised to see some Nelson fly-tying material treasures reappear.

Report submitted by: MFFMO&DC (*McKenzie Flyfishers Fly-tier Materials Organization & Distribution Committee*)

OUTINGS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Clint Brumitt

A few years ago, a club president said upon taking office, "We are a fishing club and I think we should go fishing."

With that thought in mind, the scheduled club outings are below.

MILLER LAKE OUTING, SEPT. 17-20

The club's Miller Lake outing will occur the weekend BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING. Sept. 17-20 are the magic dates for this lake in the central Cascades. Bruce Anderson is the fishmaster for this event. If you did not sign up at the August meeting and you want to go, contact Bruce via the info in the club roster. It should be exciting to hook up with the larger than average Brown Trout that inhabit this lake. I hear they eat Kokanee year around.

Directions are pretty simple. Hwy 58 to Hwy 97. South to Chemult, OR. As you enter town there is a sign to a snow park and Miller Lake. 12 miles up on a reasonably good gravel road. Beautiful campground awaits overlooking the lake.

GOLD LAKE OUTING, OCT 2-4

The annual club outing and its "Death to Char" weekend occurs the first weekend of October; Oct. 2-4 to be exact. We will crown the Gold Lake Angler of the Year at the end of the day on Saturday. The Board of Directors will serve the evening brook trout and pot luck dinner. Everyone brings something other than the main course meal, which will be the Brook Trout we catch. Appetizers, salads, side dishes, and desserts should keep the hungry satisfied. Sunday morning we will have the coffee pot on and serve a traditional breakfast.

Rules for the Angler of the Year competition are pretty simple. The angler with longest total length for three brook trout that is at the boat dock **no later than 4 PM** will be declared the Angler of the Year. Stevie Brehm is last years champion and intends to

repeat again in 2015. He said something about using a Carey Special worked for him. The second place finisher last year used a woolley bugger.

KALAMA CUP OUTING, OCT 16-18

Right now the dates for this long running competition with the Evergreen Flyfishers is set for October 16-18 on the Methow River in Washington state. After recently confirming that we would be able to camp on private property right on the river, the region suffered from severe wild fires. As of press time we do not know the exact effects of these fires on the outing. The Methow R. is a great story of a steelhead fishery. A small 400 to 600 cfs flowing stream that drains the east slope of the Cascades as a tributary of the Columbia R.

Hefty summer runs return to this stream and complete the circle of life. We as anglers sometimes interrupt and tease the fish to a hook with fur, foam or flash.

This is one location where you can plan on using skating or floating steelhead patterns for the late summer steelhead.

This outing has been going on since the 1966 with each club rotating the hosting of the event. In recent years the McKenzie's have circled up on the No. Umpqua and the Evergreen fished the historical No. Fk of the Stilligumish R. Last summer a severe and tragic landslide took out human lives and a good portion of this great little river. The Evergreen club has access to the Methow and it should be exciting.

Gary Medema of the Evergreen club recent wrote the following. "The last time I fished the river 2 years ago one of the guys in our group had a 4 fish day and close to a 30 fish week. It can be really good! There is a lot of easy walk-in access and can be pontoon floated as well. "

DESCHUTES STEELHEAD OUTING, OCT 23-25

Sign up at the October meeting.

Outings Schedule

Clint Brumitt

Fellow club members:

Mark the following outings on your calendars. The next scheduled outing, the Miller Lake Outing immediately precedes the September general club meeting. Your fishing club is going fishing.

Two outings shown in red and voted for by our members, have yet to snag or even legally hook FishMasters. Any soul brave enough to herd cats to, at, and from either Davis Lake or the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Willamette can easily become famous by FishMastering one or both outings. There is no outing scheduled for either July or August.

SEE ME ON AUGUST 17, AT WILLIE'S TO VOLUNTEER.

Clint Brumitt

Remaining 2015 Outings

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Target Species</u>	<u>FishMaster</u>
Miller Lake	9/19-20/2015	Trout	Bruce Anderson
Gold Lake	10/2-4/2015	Brook Trout	MckF Board
Kalama Cup Methow R, WA	10/16-18/2015	Steelhead	Evergreen Flyfishing Club
Crooked R	10/23-25/2015	Steelhead	Bob Howell

Fishing Anchorage Style

Bob Bumstead

While staying in Anchorage on a family vacation this August, my wife, Carrie, and I decided to sample the fishing opportunities around Anchorage and found a world so naturally and culturally different that I thought it worth sharing.

Our biggest surprise was the size of the tides. In one case, Fish Creek, from ebb to flood, the creek rose thirty feet. And with that tide came an incredible abundance of silvers, sockeye, and pinks. Think of the cords of wood in racks we see for sale by Oregon roadsides and you get the idea of the density of salmon left in the upstream pools as the tides receded.

That abundance and the atavistic subsistence culture that looks at the natural world more as smoker/ freezer fodder than sport shaped a fishing experience I will not soon forget.

We started with Ship Creek, which flows through downtown Anchorage at about forty cfs before the tide comes in. Near the upper deadline the muddy banks of the creek were packed with anglers, many with fly rods. But the anglers were not flinging anything like the Clouser that I was using, but a bare hook with a hunk of florescent yarn tied about of foot above it and a heavy sinker about three feet above that. Since it's legal in Alaska to hook a fish on the outside of its mouth, the aim of the anglers was to cast repetitively and strip the line so that the leader passed into the fish's mouth and then snag it. Flossing. The ratio of snagged fish to "legally hooked" fish was about three to one. An illegally snagged fish was usually returned to the river by way shoving it along the mud bank with a foot. I stopped fishing after a few minutes and quietly watched the spectacle.

My son, granddaughter, her other grandfather and I tried Fish Creek the next day. Since it was an hour north of Anchorage, near Wasilla, we thought it might be less crowded. Wrong. We arrived at the creek at six a.m. and found the parking lot packed where the creek

crossed the road. We travelled down stream over a mud plain that had the consistency of wheel bearing grease. No one escaped falling on the way down to the fishing sites and our pants all looked like mud-dauber camo-wear. When we arrived at the fishing site, we were standing about twenty feet up a mud bank above a stream that flowed about fifty cfs. The bank was packed with anglers all jockeying for prime positions. A few early salmon raced through the little stream their backs out of water looking for shelter.

But in half an hour, the flood began. The little stream suddenly began flowing backwards and with it

**... the pool was stripped
of all the bright fish!**

came the fish. I admit I did cast my Clouser into the rising pool and the silvers took it readily. Getting them up the now fifteen-foot mud

bank, however, was difficult. If you tried to climb down to the water you would just slide into the drink. The more prepared anglers had long-handled nets and landed fish with surprising alacrity. All the fish that were hoisted up the bank, lay in the goo, flopping and squirming until they lay dead, almost indistinguishable lumps of mud.

The worst was to come, though. As the tide receded, the salmon were trapped in pools the size of a breakfast room table and the flossers gathered round shoulder to shoulder to pull them out until the pool was stripped of all the bright fish.

The next day Carrie and I tried Willow creek about a half hour north of Wasilla.

Because we were above the effects of the tide, we thought we might escape the crowds. Not so. When we walked down the trail to the confluence of Willow Creek and the Susitna, the smell was overwhelming. Dead pinks and sockeyes littered the bank and the filleted remains of silvers were always under foot as we waded. We tried to find a stretch to swing a fly, but no sooner than we found a reach, a fellow angler with an 'indicator' and salmon eggs would appear a few

Fishing Anchorage Style

(cont'd)

yards down stream. They were all cordial enough, just of a differing mindset.

Two days later, Carrie and I traveled two hours north of Anchorage to Montana Creek near the town of Talkeetna. We stopped at Three Rivers Fly shop in Wasilla to seek local knowledge, and while we talked with the owner who advised us to use indicators and beads, a very large man stood across the counter staring at us with a metal holster across his chest harboring a forty-five-caliber pistol. Not our Caddis Fly, Home Waters, or even Cabellas.

When we arrived at Montana Creek, we were very happy to learn from the woman at the private campground where we parked, that the angling pressure would be light as this day was the opening of moose season. Wandering down a labyrinth of trails, wary of the bears that also enjoyed the seasonal bounty of salmon, we found a very good-looking stretch of stream completely deserted. The river was full of fish, mostly pinks and chum, but with a smattering of silvers. For twenty blissful minutes we swung flies over likely water without a strike, but thoroughly enjoying ourselves. Then we saw a family of five appear on the opposite bank and proceed to cast indicators and eggs into the runs we were fishing. Shortly after this incursion, a young man who was flyfishing approached Carrie and showed her his winning fly, something like a purple peril. He proceeded to fillet his silver and throw the remains into the stream. We moved a bit downstream where I hooked a very spirited chum (see photo) who ran well into my backing and caused me to careen down the bank in pursuit. Well, I finally landed him a hundred yards downstream, I looked up and saw that I was just upstream from the confluence with the Susitna which looked like the annual meeting of the Alaskan Egg Dauber Club. Carrie and I decided to call it quits at that point, and drove back to our family in

**Nor do I
decry their
methods.**



Anchorage, happy that we had survived fishing Anchorage style.

Finally, I don't hold the anglers I met in contempt. They were a friendly lot even when violating our cultural space. Nor do I decry their methods. In a state where residents can walk down a salmon stream with a hoop net to gather food for the winter, their methods seemed sporting, and they used the fish they caught to supplement what could have been meager food budgets. Though their callous treatment of the fish they brought to the bank repulsed me, I can understand how the incredible abundance of the salmon runs engendered their lack of respect for the fish. Finally, though I enjoyed my Alaskan cultural experience, I am very happy to be back in the lower 48, where we honor our game fish and the traditions of our sport.

2015 McKenzie Flyfishers Auction

Lee Lashway

The Club Auction will be held on Monday, November 17, at Willie's, the home of our regular meetings. We are working directly with Willie to ensure the most advantageous use of time and space to make for a fun and efficient auction experience.

Success of the Club Auction depends largely on the members. WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS!

Popular items include outing trips offered by members; well-loved gear that seems to spend more time in the closet or on the bench than it does on the water; social packages; wine; and fly collections. Use your imagination! If you have gear of decent quality that you don't use much but think another member would enjoy, it probably belongs in the auction.

At the August meeting, nine of you volunteered to provide at least a dozen of your favorite ties to the November auction. That's a great start - we hope for more!

Clint Brumitt is wrangling the member-flies for the auction. However, Clint will be gone for a good part of September, including the September meeting. We need to maintain momentum in his absence. Member-flies are always popular items - the more we have, the better for the club.

Please email me or text me indicating your willingness to offer up a dozen of your favorite feathery concoctions for the auction. We have plenty of boxes, but you don't need to have a box before you start tying. I and your fellow members thank you!

Expect to hear more from me or the auction committee members before the auction.

In the meantime, please let me know if you have any items to donate.

Lee Lashway 541-953-4796
lee.lashway@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR?

Bob Rasmussen

Our quest for a Newsletter Editor, even a limited assignment, has, so far, garnered no apparent interest. We still hope to find someone interested, so . . .

If you know of a person who might have such an interest, no matter how slight or fleeting, please let us know or encourage that person to contact **JIM WILLIAMS** or **BOB RASMUSSEN** to discuss the possibility. Even if now is not the time, please contact us to register your future interest.

BOB HOWELL AND BOB RASMUSSEN ARE WILLING TO HELP anyone gain an understanding of the requirements of the post and to help with transition to said post. We will help you learn to do anything that you see on these pages. Contact any of the following for information about the post.

Jim Williams: jwilliam01@comcast.net or 541.747.5991

Bob Howell: bobhowell05@gmail.com or 541.505.7623

Bob Rasmussen: bobras1940@gmail.com or 541.687.9562.

CONSIDER becoming "TEMPORARY Newsletter Editor" for a period OF YOUR CHOICE (1 mo., 3 mo., etc.). At the end of your chosen period, YOU can decide whether to

- (1) continue as Newsletter Editor,**
- (2) extend your temporary status, or**
- (3) step down (not be editor any longer).**

I promise to reassume the post if you choose to step down.

Bob Rasmussen

Future Club Programs

2015 Board of Directors & Committees

Program Committee.

October:

Salmon On The Fly by Dean Finnerty

October's program is Flyfishing for Chinook and Coho Salmon. Our presenter is Dean Finnerty. Dean is a knowledgeable and experienced flyfishing guide and outfitter. You all met Dean in last month's newsletter article, *I never Met a Smallmouth I didn't Like*.

In his program, he will describe in detail the essential tackle and techniques necessary to pursue Chinook and Coho salmon with flies.

Dean will provide the when, where and how; patience and persistence is up to you.



Officers:

President:.....Jim Williams
President-Elect:.....John O'Conner
Secretary:.....Dave Thomas
Treasurer:.....Mike Layne

At-large Board:

Carolyn Mason
Clint Brumitt
Mark Campbell
Sparky Rice

Committees:

Auction:.....Lee Lashway
Conservation:.....Arlen Thomason
.....Dave Thomas
Holiday Party:.....Paul Kaplan
House/Raffle:.....Tom Fauria
.....John Ranstad
IFFF Representative.....Greg Pitts
Library:.....Ted Taylor
Membership:.....Al Eckardt
.....Eban Dobson
Newsletter:.....**VACANT** (Bob R, standing in)
ODFW Lawsuit:.....Arlen Thomason
.....Dave Thomas
.....Bob Rasmussen
Outings:.....Clint Brumitt
Programs:.....Dan Robinhold, Sr
Website:.....Liz Yocom

McKenzie Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 10865
Eugene, Oregon 97440
Club President: Jim Williams



MFF Club Statement of Purpose

The McKenzie Fly Fishers comprise a group of people who share an interest in fly fishing and water conservation. The Club was conceived and organized in April of 1964 to:

1. **Enjoy social contact**
with others interested in fly fishing.
2. **Encourage fly fishing**
as a method of angling, and
3. **Protect and increase the fishery resources.**

Membership is open to any person over 21 years of age who is interested in fly fishing. General club membership meetings, board meetings, and fishing outings are open to the public.

An Invitation to Join

You do not have to be an expert fisher to join our group. We have a monthly meeting to share tall tales of fish caught and lost, eat a fine buffet meal, and listen to an expert guide or practitioner of our sport teach us a few of the finer points of the art. There is a cash bar and many of us arrive around 5:30 pm to sip a beverage and chew the fat.

Joining our club gives you access to the expertise and insight of its membership. Many of us have years of experience and knowledge about fly casting, fly tying, and fly fishing in general. Some may even be persuaded to share the location of their "secret" fishing hole. There are occasional clinics in tying, rod building, and casting, as well as a chance to understand insects and their role in our fishing experience from well known biologists in the club.

Campouts and day trips are also arranged every month or so at nearby fishing locations and the camaraderie and social interaction on and off the water is thoroughly enjoyed by the members.

Interested? Call our **Membership Chair, Al Eckerdt**, 541-554-2388.

