



# The McKenzie Messenger

NOVEMBER 2015

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

[www.mckenzieflyfishers.org](http://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.

## Annual Auction

Lee Lashway

### REMINDER

This month's club meeting will be replaced by this year's Annual Auction. Thanks to all who have donated so many items, and to the diligent Auction Committee! You will have the opportunity to bid on unique items, both new and well-loved. Joe Moll of McKenzie River Trust will be our Special Guest Auctioneer. Remember that the proceeds of this event, coupled with annual dues, will fund the club's activities for the next year.

Please join us for a rousing evening of auction fun and entertainment and the chance to supplement your stash of fly fishing necessities with those hither-to-unknown but essential items.

First silent auction table will close at 5:45pm, so get there early and bring your wallet!

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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: December 2, 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: January 18, 2015\*.**
- \*Our **ANNUAL AUCTION**: will be held in lieu of our **November 16, 2015**, General Membership Meeting.
- Our **HOLIDAY PARTY**: will be held Friday, **December 4, 2015.**

# Prez Sez

JIM WILLIAMS



## WARNING:

### The End Is Near!!!!!!

We trout anglers know time draws nigh, the calendar is unforgiving, the end of the fishing season is upon us! What will we do???????

I know the steelhead and salmon anglers amongst us feel smug as they have evolved with a near year around answer to the "trout

only" angler's lament. I know the lower McKenzie is open year around for trout fishing but in most years rain makes the river go out of shape and off-color, particularly in the months of November, December, and January.

I'm a fair weather guy who actually helps around the house during these months accumulating "fishing credits" with Bonnie. Lucky for me, she also likes to fish but somehow thinks that spending time with our

kids and grandkids is also a worthy pursuit. Of course, my devious plan is to hope that, out of our four grandsons, I can find one or more who I can convince that learning how to row Grandpa's drift boat is a worthwhile family priority!

Like most of the other "trout only" anglers in the Club, I will clean fly lines, oil reels, and tie flies for the forthcoming season. When feeling down, I attend our Club's support group that meets Friday noon at Ocean Sky restaurant in Eugene. The meeting is affectionately known as "Liar's Lunch" and there is probably a good reason the name has long been associated with this gathering. The conversations are far ranging but mostly focus on the sport we all love. Plans are made for the upcoming season, trips past and future are considered, and there is much reminiscing about past members who are no longer here. Monthly Club meetings are also a great way to fuel one's fly fishing soul.

Finally, if you see one of our brothers and sisters feeling glum about the end of fishing season, give them a hug and assure them that things WILL BE OKAY.

## Deschutes River Outing Report Bob Howell, co-fishmaster

It had all of the critical elements for a fantastic outing: (1) seven easy-going fishing comrades, (2) a seasoned veteran of the steelhead wars to provide counsel to the rest of the group, (3) outstanding and unseasonably warm weather, (4) a ideal and lower than normal river flow, (5) lots of stimulating conversation and good food and liquid libations to relax the body and soul after a hard day of fishing, and (6) the requisite large inventory of manly DVDs. There was but one missing element. More on that later.

Dave Bailey, Jourdan Arenson, Milt McMinimy, Kurt Roble, and hosts - Bob Howell and Gary McKenney - all went over the mountain to Maupin on Thursday. Kevin

Hagerty, the only working stiff among us, arrived late Friday night.

The City RV park is close to town and right on the river and provided beautiful campsites with lots of trees and grass. After setting up camp we made the obligatory trip to the fly shop to purchase whatever flies they had over-inventoried and get a briefing on the fishing situation. Amy, the shop guide, intimated that the fishing had been less than stellar, mainly due to a very small steelhead run. Such news did nothing to lower the optimism of our eager crew, so we headed down river to check out and note the most likely fishing spots for the following day.

## Deschutes Outing Report

(cont'd)

Our reconnaissance complete, we met back at the RV after dinner to discuss and strategize. As night fell, the temperature dropped and we migrated from the fire pit into the RV to warm our bones with a dram of whiskey. The dram of whiskey therapy naturally generated many fishing stories and follow up lively discussion of fish related topics.

The next morning after breakfast with lots of coffee, the sun rose over the beautiful Deschutes. We just weren't sure why the sun was overhead. Gary and I headed up river to see if the water looked any better than downriver. We agreed that it all looked pretty fishy, but having never fished this lower part of the river, it was difficult to know where to start. We thought that switch rods and steelhead tackle would be a good starting point.

After too many unproductive casts, I became impatient and changed to my trout rod. After trying several different spots on the river, I finally hooked a couple of pretty little rainbows (small steelhead?). These turned out to be the only fish caught.

At the end of the day, we talked to a neighbor in the RV park. He said that he had fished the Deschutes for twelve years and today had been his best steelhead day ever -- four fish! Unfortunately details - where, when, pattern, etc. - were in short supply. We all secretly rolled our eyeballs until the next morning

when he returned to camp before we finished coffee with a nice ten pound steelhead that he filleted and put on ice. It was apparent that we should have followed him to see where he had been fishing.

It turned a little cloudy on Saturday. That increased our expectations for the day. We spread up and down the river all day, casting our hopes to the wind, knowing that the next cast might result in the thrilling whirl of line being ripped from the reel. The thrill never materialized for us.

Around the campfire we comiserated on our long, fishless day. The bright spot of our discussions was the anticipation of a nice dinner with a glass of wine. Spaghetti and meatballs in the RV followed by a thoroughly enjoyable viewing of the movie, *No Country for Old Men*, an ironic description of our steelhead weekend.

Sunday morning brought clouds, rain and a high propensity to return home. A pancake, bacon, and fruit breakfast fortified the group for its journey. As fishermen are wont to say, "The fishing was great, but the catching was not." As you have read, above, the saying held true for an otherwise fantastic outing.

We had a lot of fun and good companionship in spite of the lack of piscatorial success and fondly anticipate trying the D again next spring. We'll be keeping an eye peeled for a guy in a gray pick-up pulling an Airstream.

## McKenzie Flyfisher's 2015 Holiday Party

Jim Williams

Mark your calendar to attend the 2015 McKenzie Fly Fisher Holiday party. Details below:

When: Friday, December 4th.  
 Time: 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
 Where: Willy's Restaurant  
 Cost: \$10 per person. Club pays  
 \$20 per person  
 What: Sit-down dinner. No host bar.  
 Why: To celebrate another great year,  
 our 51st year as a Club.

Program: To be announced.  
 Two Club Awards to be given.

Expect to receive an electronic invitation soon. Please respond as promptly as possible. We will contact our "non-computer" members directly.

It promises to be a wonderful evening. Chef Waleed is preparing a delicious meal, the like of which, his regular customers rave about. The room will be festively decorated and music will be provided.

**McKenzie Flyfishers Presents:**

***Annual Holiday Party***

**Friday December 4th, 2014 at 5:30 pm  
Willie's 400 International Way, Springfield**

**Spouses or another Guest are welcome**

**\$10.00 per person**

**Dinner will be served at the tables - No Host Bar**

**RSVP to Paul Kaplan - [pkaplan@uoregon.edu](mailto:pkaplan@uoregon.edu) or 541-726-3962**

**Please send checks made out to McKenzie Flyfishers to:  
35900 N. Morningstar Rd Pleasant Hill 97455**

**Dress: Informal Holiday**



**McKenzie Flyfisher's DUES are due 12/31**  
**HOLIDAY PRESSURES?**

Remove one item from your "TO DO" list.

**Send a Dues Check to:**

**Mike Layne**

**1574 Coburg Road #399**

**Eugene, OR 97401-4802**

**and MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**"Dues Paid"**

**for your future reference**

**BETTER YET,**  
**bring your check to the Auction, 11/16,**  
**or to the Holiday Party, 12/4.**

**Regular Dues: \$45     Associate Dues: \$35**

**Please Note:**

**If, in the past year, you have changed your**  
**(1) address, (2) phone #, or (3) email address**  
**please record the change and send or**  
**submit it with your dues check**

**THANK YOU!**

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Said by John O'Connor during the good fishing on Friday prior to the 2015 Gold Lake fishing event:

**“We are going to have to drink more beer to make room in the cooler for fish”**

Thank you for your readership and support during this past year.

Please consider writing future articles for the newsletter.

Thanks to those of you who have done so this year. It keeps this publication interesting.

If you have ever entertained the slightest desire to edit the newsletter, please consider doing it next year or any year in the future. You will have all the help and support you desire. Talk to John O'Connor.

Tight lines and may your flyboxes be filled with well chewed flies during 2016.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Bamboo Rod Offer

In the interest of promoting the use of bamboo rods, I have purchased a few pre-war rods which appeared to be in good condition. My intention was to make whatever cosmetic repairs necessary and offer them to club members who might like to try fishing bamboo. This is a service, not a for profit offer. Anyone can purchase these rods at my cost. Anyone interested in taking a rod out and fishing with it is welcome to do so, before deciding whether or not they want to buy the rod. The available rods are:

1. Shakespeare (made by Heddon) 8.5 foot, 3 piece, 6/7 weight with two tips, rod sock and original aluminum tube. When this rod was made in 1942 it was their top of the line model. It had been stored in a hot place and the finish was blistered. All I did to it was replace the very small agate stripping guide with a new #9 agate guide, rub out the original finish and give it a new varathane finish. Frank Moore cast this rod at the recent Glide show and gave it a high rating. I will sell it for \$250 to someone who will fish with it.

2. Granger Aristocrat 9 foot, 3 piece, 6/7 weight with two tips, rod sock and original aluminum tube. This rod had a badly chipped finish on the burr section, so I stripped and refinished the section and replaced the small stripping guide with a larger one. Granger rods are in high demand and I could sell it easily on eBay for a nice profit, but a club member can buy this rod for \$200.

3. Weber (made by Heddon) 8.5 foot, 3 piece, only one tip, 5/6 weight with original sock and aluminum tube. This rod has had nothing done to it. Randy has fished this rod. If I could find a #11 male ferrule I would refinish this rod and make a second tip for it. But I will sell it as is for \$150.

Skip Hosfield, 451-345-5029  
skiphos@comcast.net

# 2015 Board of Directors & Committees

### 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.

