



# The McKenzie Messenger

JANUARY 2016

Newsletter of the McKenzie Fly Fishers  
PO Box 10865, Eugene, Oregon.

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

## January Program

Our speaker this month is Captain Eliot Jenkins. Eliot will be discussing the New England Saltwater Fishery, which includes a variety of species and the corresponding times of the season to target these fish.

Captain Jenkins is a passionate and adept angler whose experience is vast and ever expanding. He grew up on the seacoast of New Hampshire, where fishing with his grandfather was always fun, but it wasn't until at age 21, he moved to Oregon to attend the University of Oregon that he became the fanatic that he is today. It was in Oregon he learned the patience and truly technical aspects of flyfishing for Steelhead and Salmon. Eliot was able to graduate from the University of Oregon when he wasn't fishing.



Following graduation he spent four summers guiding in Alaska. He spent his winters fishing the Tropical waters of the

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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: **February 3, 2016**.
- **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, 2016**.
- Our next **ANNUAL PICNIC**: will be held on **July 18, 2016**.
- Our next **ANNUAL AUCTION**: will be held in lieu of our **November 21, 2016**, General Membership Meeting.
- Our next **HOLIDAY PARTY**: will be held Friday, **December 27/9? 2016**, at ???.

# Prez Sez



## Reflections and New Year Wishes!

As I write my last Prez Says I find myself in a reflective state of mind. I so very much enjoyed my year as Club President. It went by so quickly, I want to thank all of you as so many stepped up when asked by serving on the Board, committees or simply participating at outings, auctions or attending monthly

meetings. You are a special group of men and women.

As I turn 70 years old this coming September (I realize that makes me still "young" when compared to the elders in our organization), I am so thankful I took up the sport of fly fishing some 40 plus years ago. While I still feel like I am still "apprenticing" as I continue to learn to be a better fly fly tier, better caster of the fly, more open to understanding entomology of insects, I do, however, feel one with the river and the fish. Being around likeminded souls like you fuels my soul.

## New Newsletter Editor

It is my distinct pleasure to announce your, soon to be, new Newsletter Editor, **Barry Kent!**

Barry has volunteered to step into the editor's shoes and I can guarantee (1) that he can fill those shoes and (2) that you will not be disappointed. The McKenzie Messenger is about to undergo a wonderful evolution.

Barry's abilities are amazing, if you will allow me the use of that overworked word!

Please continue the support that you have been giving me.

\* \* \* \* \*

## JIM WILLIAMS

Bonnie and I have had the good fortune to live on the banks of the McKenzie river here in Springfield for 40 of our 46 years together. The river reminds us every day of its nurturing power -- that it is river of life for the fish and birds and animals who make their home. Oh yes, people too!!

As some of you know this is my second go around as a member of the MFF. I first joined in 1975 and served as Club President in 1984. I was asked to join a new conservation group called Oregon Trout and serve on its Board for a number of years. One of my greatest sense of life accomplishments was working with both great organizations on behalf of wild fish and the rivers in which they call home. None of this would not have happened if I wasn't introduced to the sport of fly fishing.

Thanks again for your support this past year. Please join me in helping our incoming President, John O'Connor, as he takes over at this month's member meeting. I wish everyone a fantastic 2016. May it be one of good health, new adventures and personal growth. May it also be a great fishing year with rod bending, reel screaming and the joy of letting "many" fish go to swim another day!

**Bob Rasmussen**

... and Thank You ...

Thank all of you for the support you have been giving me as Newsletter Editor.

I assemble my final newsletter with mixed emotions; a bit of sadness that I will no longer serve you in this enjoyable capacity and happiness to have been able to serve you for as long as I have in this capacity.

Thank you for your wonderful articles, photography, and advice. I have appreciated them far more than I may have expressed.

Please continue such support to Barry.

## 2016 Board & Committee Chair Nominees

JOHN O'CONNOR

**Officers:**

President John O'Connor  
 President Elect Sparky Rice  
 Secretary Dave Thomas  
 Treasurer Mike Layne

**At-large voting Board Members:**

Clint Brumitt  
 Carolyn Mason  
 Mark Campbell  
 Terry Willis

**Committee Chairs:**

Auction  
 Conservation Dave Thomas  
 Education Tim Knerr  
 Holiday Party Jim Rhoten

House/Raffle Tom Fauria  
 John Ranstad  
 IFFF Rep Greg Pitts  
 Library Ted Taylor  
 Membership: Al Eckardt  
 Eben Dobson  
 Newsletter Barry Kent  
 ODFW Lawsuit Arlen Thomason  
 Dave Thomas  
 Bob Rasmussen  
 Outings Clint Brumitt  
 Picnic Jeff DeVore  
 Programs Dan Robinhold, Sr.  
 Bill Laing  
 Mike Starr  
 Website Liz Yocom

## Future Meeting Programs

**McKFF Program Committee  
 (Dan Robinhold, Bill Laing, Mike Starr)**

Below is the current program schedule for 2016. All presenters have been confirmed. Newsletter write-ups, introductions and all other details will be prepared monthly by the program committee. We tried to have a balance of scientific, technical information, site specific fishing opportunities and techniques, conservation/restoration projects, and Fish porn.

Please think ahead about attending and inviting potential new members to hear these speakers. We have included fees and expenses for the presenters.

NOTE: If you have a program idea, please contact a member of the program committee (listed above).

**McKenzie Flyfishers 2016 Program Schedule**

**February** - John Kreft, Secret River, West of Sisters, program on the Metolious River confirmed by Bill. Fee = \$250 + dinner

**March** - Kate Meyer, South Fork McKenzie Restoration Project, cooperative effort among FS,

COE, & ODFW, scheduled and confirmed by Bill. No fee, dinner.

**April** - John Anderson, Insect Study on the Crooked River, scheduled & confirmed by Dan. Fee = driving expenses, lodging, and meals.

**May** - Jim Cox, Western Rivers Conservancy, confirmed by Dan. No fee; expects a donation to his organization + dinner.

**June** - David P. Williams, Smallmouth fishing, scheduled and confirmed by Bill, Fee = \$400 + dinner.

**July** - picnic.

**August** - OPEN (OSP Poachers, Dan is working on scheduling). No fee, dinner.

**September** - OPEN .

**October** - OPEN.

We are currently talking to John Schewey and several other possible presenters to fill Sept & Oct.

**November** - Auction

**December** - Christmas Party

## THE GREAT FROG RACE

**Devin Duncan**

### FROG RACING ()

[199303: When I indicated that I had reviewed the club archives. a nearly unanimous request was made by long time club members that an article or two by Devin Duncan be reprinted. One of the real gems I found was this July 1976 chronicle of a rather tame but very interesting Davis Lake frog race.

201601: Here it is for your enjoyment, again Ed.]

### THE GREAT FROG RACE By Devin Duncan (July 1976)

Giants of the frog-racing world clashed last weekend at Davis Lake in the annual High Lakes Toadfrog Tournament. Entrants were leapers trained by Lower Columbia Flyfishers and the McKenzie club. Scouts made contact on the west shores of the lake on the afternoon of July 16. Battle lines formed; a site was chosen for the encounter; challenges were issued: the battle joined the evening of Saturday, July 17.

At the outset portents boded ill for defenders of McKenzie honor. grassy frog prairies south of Ranger Creek, usually teeming with wild frogs, were barren of racing stock. Instead appeared hordes of tiny froglets in the 15 millimeter class.

President Hosfield of the McKenzie club, ex officio team captain, retired to his tent and cast the sacred frog bones, seeking an omen, but the gods were mute. Cowlitz warriors strutted about camp, beating fly boxes with rod butts and boasting of an evil green giant, fed on raw meat and buzzard bones, capable of leaping track-length in a single bound, powerful, implacable, and determined to establish forever the superiority of the Cowlitz frog.

One McKenzie frog trainer, grayed veteran of many encounters, was heard to mutter of possible default. President Hosfield ventured to the Cowlitz camp for parley. The northern warriors received him coolly, brandishing weapons of glass and graphite, and boasting of early revenge for past defeats. But Fortune, ever-alert when the heathen threatens, looked down on our hero, and entered the lists, disguised as a child.

Both clubs, irked by malicious rumors of rowdy conduct at past frog races, had opened the gates to

women and children to show the world that frog racing embodies the finest traditions of sport, and that the tenderest maid could be safer at a frog race than on Willamette Street at high noon. Indeed the track itself nestles under the sheltering bulk of Maiden Peak, named in honor of the occasion.

The Cowlitz group, emboldened by seeming inability of the McKenzie team to produce a suitable entry, raucously demanded forfeit. Doom loomed for McKenzie hopes; chairman Hosfield left the field, not in defeat, but to penetrate alone the night-shrouded fens of the Ranger creek delta, pledged to find and capture a long-leaping racing frog if a single such survived in the farthest reaches of the swamp.



Let the seeker tell the story in his own words:

"I was thigh deep in quicksand, festooned with leeches, slashing my way through giant pitcher plants and razor-edged reeds, when I heard a jubilant roar from far away. I assumed that the Cowlitz warriors had claimed forfeit aid were celebrating in berserk frenzy. At that moment a reddish gleam reflected from the last glimmer of my dying flashlight. It was the eye of a huge racing toadfrog, possibly the only one in the swamp. With a cry of triumph, I fell on the animal and wrestled it to the ground."

Meantime, back at camp, the Cowlitz team had introduced their racer, a dour greenish giant with thigh muscles like beer kegs. The McKenzie team huddled shame-faced on the smoky side of the fire, eyes downcast. All appeared lost when Sarah, young daughter of famed frog-trainer, Jim Dougher, stepped shyly up beside the glowering Cowlitz giant and said, "I have a frog who can win."

Lips curled and rueful snickers swept the McKenzie group. The Cowlitz team hooted derisively. "Let us see this frog," they chanted.

The little maid gently laid upon the track a tiny froglet in the 15 millimeter class. Upon release this infant battler headed for the finish line in springy leaps, not

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## THE GREAT FROG RACE

(cont'd)

waiting for the starting gun. The Cowlitz team blanched at the display of frogly determination.

"The frog is too small," they cried. "It cannot make the weight."

"This is an open race," a McKenzie parliamentarian countered. "No frog too large. No frog too small."

"It's a toad," claimed the Cowlitz men.

"It's a frog," countered the McKenzie men.

"Let it race," cried the crowd.

The Cowlitz team conferred-briefly and returned to the track with an offer. If Cowlitz won, it was a valid race. If the McKenzie frog won the race, it didn't count. Angry words flew. Rods of bamboo, glass and graphite slashed the air. Cooler heads counseled discretion. It was finally agreed that the race take place with the seemingly mismatch contestants. The Cowlitz group felt confident that no 15 millimeter midget could win against a full-grown, well-trained racing frog. The McKenzie men dreamed of a miracle, and put all to the touch.

A Coleman lantern was placed at one end of the course to make the finish line. A Cowlitz scout was seen to move the lantern back in order to lengthen the course, no doubt believing that a longer-legged frog would show better in a longer race. This unscrupulous strategem went unnoticed by the crowd. Spectators shouted and waved bottles of soda pop. The racers were positioned by the starting line. Little Miss Dougher whispered in the ear of her charge; instantly the tiny battler jumped the starting gun and charged up the track, headed for the finish line.

Luckily the Fortune-guided hand of little Miss Dougher rescued the racing frog before Cowlitz sharpshooters could fire. Again the contestants were positioned for a start. Norm Norlander, experienced and wily frog handler for the Cowlitz group, nodded. The race was on.

The tiny McKenzie entrant burst from the gates and took an instant lead. A furlong down the course the mighty thigh muscles of the Cowlitz frog gained advantage. Would size, strength, and experience beat the fighting heart of the McKenzie frog? No! It could not be. Nevertheless, the giant held his lead. Then the great frog staggered. Veins stood out on his forehead.

Overconfidence and lack of conditioning took toll. He stopped hopping and began to walk. Pandemonium reigned. Fists pounded on the course behind the contestants. Money was flung on the table in amounts up to twenty-five cents. As shouts of encouragement and derision achieved crescendo, the McKenzie frog passed the faltering giant and, in the last one hundred centimeters, won the race!

Cries of, "Foul!" came from the Cowlitz group. Cries of, "Fair!" and shouts of jubilation rose from McKenzie supporters. Even as the McKenzie men were claiming victory, a tattered figure staggered into the firelight. Over his shoulder hung trussed, a giant racing frog.

"Is the race over?" He panted. "Am I too late?"

"We have won," shouted the McKenzie crowd. "Our tiny entrant beat the challenger!"

Perceiving an opportunity to recoup, the Cowlitz warriors redoubled shouts of, "Foul!" and, "Ineligible racer!" Cries for, "Steward!" and, "Urine test!" were heard. "No race!" shouted the Cowlitz group. A brash McKenzie supporter screamed, "We can beat them with any frog!"

The crowd, stimulated by soda pop, howled for another race. The Cowlitz frog team demanded that their frog race "someone his own size". Racing officials, intimidated by the mob, cleared the track; the two giant frogs positioned for a start.

The second-race was a repeat of the first. The Cowlitz entry, ill conditioned at best, made a slow start. The wild McKenzie frog, fresh from the fens, led early and was never headed. With ill grace the northerners conceded defeat. One warrior, his tongue loosened by soda pop, confessed that Cowlitz entry was actually an Oregon frog hired for the occasion. Old hands nodded. No Oregon frog, venal though he might be, could ever give all for the Cowlitz cause. The northerners never had a chance, even racing an Oregon frog. His heart just wasn't in it.

Quite a little fishing also went on. Generally, the action was rather slow, but several good fish were taken. Stan Stanton's biggest went 6 1/2 lbs. Weather was excellent throughout. The cheerful presence of many wives and children enhanced the pleasure of the racing weekend at Davis Lake.

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## Salmon Watch Kudos

Bob Bumsted

**Congratulations and tremendous thanks** to the ten Flyfishers who volunteered on twenty-seven Salmon Watch trips this year. Once again we were by far the largest volunteer group of the season. This year's program was a great success with forty-one classrooms and 1250 students served. Think of all the future voters who now have a better understanding of the importance of salmon and the intact watersheds upon which they depend.

As you might suspect, Bob Rasmussen (Flyfisher of the Year) was the most stalwart of the stalwart, volunteering on nine trips.

In alphabetical order, here are the rest of our stewardship heroes who devoted so many days and braved such difficult weather conditions. Bruce Anderson, Jeff DeVore, Jim Dougher, Al Eckhardt, Gary McKinney, Mark Rauch, Sparky Rice, and Dave Thomas.

Special thanks, also, to Dave Thomas and Greg Pitts who diligently petitioned and ramrodded \$3000 of contributions to Salmon Watch from the Oregon and International Federations of Flyfishers.

If I missed anyone, please let me know. I'd love to credit you.

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**If you have not paid your 2016  
McKenzie Flyfisher's DUES,  
YOU ARE ARGUABLY NO LONGER  
A MEMBER OF THE  
McKENZIE FLY FISHERS !!!**

**To end the argument, send a Dues Check **NOW** to:**

**Mike Layne  
1574 Coburg Road #399  
Eugene, OR 97401-4802.**

**Regular Dues: \$45    Associate Dues: \$35  
(Any question about which applies to you, call Al Eckardt.)**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**If, during the past year or so, you have changed your  
(1) address, (2) phone #, (3) email address, or (4) marital status  
please send the change information to Al Eckardt.**

**THANK YOU!**

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**January Program** (cont'd fm pg 1)

Florida Keys, the Bahamas and Baja Mexico.

Eliot currently owns and operates "Greasy Beaks Flyfishing guide service on the North Shore of Massachusetts.

He runs trips for Stripers, Bluefish, and the notorious False Albacore out of his 23' Parker. He is an avid fly-tier and casting instructor who is always enthusiastic to teach and just as eager to learn. It is not unusual to find him on the water before and after everyone else, refining his skills and searching for the next hot spot. Eliot is very knowledgeable of the ecosystems in which he fishes, and has a high regard for the fish that live in them.

Come meet a true flyfishing fanatic, Cpt. Eliot Jenkins and learn about the New England Saltwater Fishery. — He may even have a few tips on flyfishing for Winter Steelhead.

**New Club Members**

Appologies to Karl Lockbaum for having introduced him to the club as Kurt Lockbaum.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**REMINDER – CLUB MEMBERS**

**"WAITING FOR THE HATCH  
WATCHING FOR A RISE"**

by E. William Laing  
is available at:

The Caddis Fly Shop, Home Waters Fly Shop, and the U of O Bookstore for \$12.

It is also available at Amazon.com/books for \$16.95 +S&H

OR any club member who would like a copy can contact me 541-688-5439 or wmlaing@aol.com. I have a few first run editions available for \$12.

**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.

