



Leader Line

A Learning Trip

I want to start by telling all of you that I am sorry for missing the September meeting. Since I fish the Cowlitz River quite often the program was one that I really wanted to listen to, but as often happens, other things get in the way. The other thing happened to be a trip to Trail, British Columbia and an opportunity to fish for landlocked steelhead with Bruce Kruk. Bruce is a spey casting guru and guide on the upper Columbia River and is based in Trail.

My friend, fellow club member, and fishing buddy Alan Yamashita and I scheduled the trip several months ago hoping to get some really good casting instruction as well as sample the fishing

in British Columbia. We have both fished the upper Columbia in the U.S. a couple of times and sort of knew what we would run into. We were wrong. The river changes drastically in B.C. as the flows are over shallow rocky bottoms and rather than fishing the edges like we were accustomed to, we had to get our flies out into the deeper runs. That's where the spey rods became mandatory.

Armed with our rods we ventured out and onto the river with Bruce and we soon found out that we had a lot of work to do on our casting. It took a full day of instruction while fishing to change what we thought we knew to what we needed to do in order to cast a line any real distance. First off, I had the wrong line for my rod which became immediately apparent. The line makes the cast and even though I have known this for

Next Meeting

October 12

Tower Lanes

6323 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA 98406

Dinner: 6:30

Program 7:15

many years, I had the wrong set-up for what we were going to do.

Other challenges occurred as well, like one of the soles on my boot delaminating. That caused immediate problems. "You should always carry an extra set of boots and waders on a trip," said Bruce, but luckily, he had a roll of tape to keep me going. He took the boot home that night and glued it up for me and so I was able to keep wading over the football sized boulders. It didn't hold, so more tape on the second day. Can you see where this is going?

I went swimming three times in the very shallow water, something that has never happened to me before. It was embarrassing to say the least but each time I was in only ankle-deep water so no bruises or wet waders. Even though I kept my wading staff at hand, it still happened due to shifting rocks, I presume. Fishing? Fish two, Steve zero.

To make this long story short, we had a great time and learned so much. Different grip, better lift, altered cast, 20-foot leaders, etc. If you are or want to be a spey fisherman, I highly recommend a trip to Trail and a few days with Bruce. All of this made the 8 1/2- hour drive easier as

we discussed what we had learned on the way home. Needless to say, I made a trip to the Puget Sound Fly Shop and am now the proud owner of a new pair of boots. Matt was more than helpful ordering up a new pair for me. This time they have felt soles and studs as opposed to the Vibram soles on my other boots. They in turn went to the shoe repair shop where the soles will be removed completely and re-glued. They are still a great pair of boots for saltwater fishing.

Interestingly enough, when I bought the new boots, I found that veterans and first responders receive a 10 percent discount at the Puget Sound Fly Shop. I didn't know that and am grateful for the consideration. Thanks, Matt! If you didn't know that or haven't taken advantage of the discount, stop in and support our local shop.

Tight lines and I will see you all at our October meeting. I look forward to seeing you again.



Steve Saville
Club President

An Island Getaway

Island Lake
Mason County, 9 a.m.
Saturday, Oct. 7

Breakfast at 8 a.m.
Blondie's Restaurant
628 W. Railroad Ave., Shelton

Now that I have your attention ... This lovely lake in Mason County is perfect for fly-fishing. Not to be

confused with the smaller one in Kitsap, this Island Lake has manageable depths — with areas deep enough (up to about 31 feet) to provide cooler water for the fish and shallow areas to provide the right conditions for insect habitat.

Island is a year-round fishery.

The 105-acre lake is stocked in April and May with catchable (10-12 inch) and some larger jumbo and triploids. Traditionally, it's also stocked with jumbos during the last week in September, which is why I chose this date for our fishout. The daily trout limit is 5 fish. The lake also provides fair fishing for largemouth and

smallmouth bass and good fishing for yellow perch.



Island Lake

Bring your favorite water craft, 4- to 6-weight rods, intermediate, sinking and floating lines and your favorite lake fly patterns.

Island Lake is in Mason County, less than an hour from Tower Lanes in Tacoma. It's only about 9 minutes from Blondie's, our breakfast meet-up spot in Shelton.

Johns Creek Outing

**New Time: 1-4 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 10,**

**Lunch at noon,
Blondie's Restaurant,
628 W. Railroad Ave., Shelton**

It's bulldog time at this special Veteran's Day outing as chum salmon arrive in large schools to Johns Creek estuary. These

toothsome line-rippers are a blast on a fly rod. They attack irritating fly patterns just because they can.

I'd like to meet up for lunch at Blondie's Restaurant in Shelton, timing it to catch the incoming tide as it rises towards to creek's mouth. I can help you find the parking area near the trailhead, which is across Highway 3 from a Shell gas station. The creek runs through a peninsula, a former golf course and now home to the Bayshore Preserve.

Bring a 8- to 9-weight single-handed rod, floating line — and perhaps a sink-tip — and chum fly patterns on stout hooks. YouTube is full of chum patterns. I carry chartreuse, pink, green and purple.



Chum salmon at Johns Creek estuary

The Johns Creek estuary is on Oakland Bay in the Bayshore area in Mason County off Highway 3. It's about an hour from Tower Lanes in Tacoma if you are traveling across the Narrows bridge via Highway 16; a little longer if you're driving via I-5 to Highway 101. It's only about 6 minutes northeast of Blondie's, our lunch meet-up spot in Shelton.

As always, please contact me if you are attending:

David Frazier,
dfrazier@wavecable.com
(360) 265-6963

Cowlitz River Report

It was great to be back on a river again. I do love lakes and fish them a lot, given our abundance



Mark Paul downstream of Barrier Dam on the Cowlitz River

of beautiful fisheries that are close to home. And casting to the tides in Puget Sound can take my breath away. But give me moving water and the secrets revealed in the mesmerizing flows and I'm in heaven. Returning to the banks of the Cowlitz and being with friends for three days (and even catching fish) was a soul-restoring experience.

The summer run steelhead were still rolling and being caught, at least by others. And I even saw one Coho taken. I eventually focused on the sea-run cutthroat, which were willing to take my swung wet flies and soft hackles. Most were in the 15- to 16-inch range. Lots of fun on my 2- to 3-weight trout spey and my 5-weight single.

I wish more of you would have been able to make it, even if only for a day. Or perhaps you were

there and I just didn't find you. I fished with Ryan Puddy and Bryan Habeck for awhile at the Blue Creek/Trout Hatchery section and fished two days with Mark Paul, who shared meals with me at the Barrier Dam campground. We also fished at Barrier Dam and Massey Bar, as recommended by Matt Klaiber, owner of Puget Sound Fly Shop and our September speaker.

It's still a good time to visit the river as the leaves begin to fall. Think about giving it a shot.

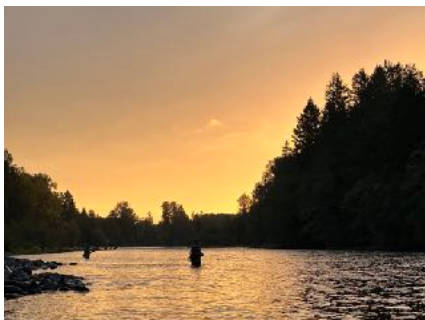
Upcoming Outings

DECEMBER

Cady Lake,
Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m



David Frazier
Outings Chair



Morning on the Cowlitz

October Speaker

Thursday, October 12

This month we welcome Steve Jones from Fly Fishers International. He has been president of the Washington Council of FFI since August 2019. He served as newsletter editor for two years before that. Steve learned to fly fish in Montana in 1980 and since then has gone after everything from carp to Marlin with a fly rod. He's a member of Clark-Skamania Flyfishers in Vancouver and is currently casting instructor for the club. His goal is to help revive FFI's statewide program after two years of pandemic shut down and make FFI the lively and successful group members expect.

Steve will speak on FFI, who they are, what they do and their plans for the future.



Mark Paul
Programs Chair

Join the Board of Puget Sound Fly-Fishers: Help Us Continue Our 67-Year Tradition of Excellence

I'm not sure if you know that PSFF is in its 67th year. That's right folks. Puget Sound Fly-Fishers has been in existence since 1956. This is a remarkable achievement. We're not just still around, we're healthy and strong. Many similar organizations have faded away, due in part to Covid. Yet, we haven't just survived, we are thriving and still growing.

The volunteer leadership has worked to guide our club to be strong; but what makes PSFF so special is the membership. The members provide the fellowship needed to welcome new members, have lively conversations, teach classes and pass on years of knowledge and experience. Our Club provides the environment for all of this, but the membership makes the club what it is.

As Membership Chair for the last 3 years, I've witnessed members make efforts to welcome a guest or new member at a meeting; offer in-depth information on lakes, rivers or special fishing spots, and what equipment and flies are useful. Our membership has proven that they are ambassadors of Puget Sound Fly-Fishers, the conservation of our waterways and the sport we all love.

That said, there are still a number of Board positions that will be vacant at the end of this year: President, Vice-President and Director 1st Year. Please contribute to the good health and strength of PSFF by serving as either a Board Member, a Committee Chair or a Director. Our club continues to grow. There are now 127 members and we need your help to guide the direction of Puget Sound Fly-Fishers. Many of you have filled out your membership application noting that you would like to help with certain aspects of PSFF. Here's your opportunity! Job descriptions can be found under the Members Only section of our website psff.org

Heads Up

Renewal notices will be sent out early December. You'll have ample time to renew before the deadline which is Feb. 1. There will be options for renewals, so stay tuned for the updates.



Tess Frazier
Membership Chair

127 # of PSFF Members

Welcome to New Member:

Rich Whitehill

Anniversaries/Years August:

David Frazier	6
Tess Frazier	6
Steve Knowles	10
Jim Maus	30
Michael Merringer	1
Mike Saville	10
Ted Werner	20



A Cowlitz cutthroat
in the bag

FFI/WSCFFI

The following report is on the proposed 2024 program planning in the Northwest

FFI National is engaging with the Furimsky Shows to have FFI engaged in each of the 6 regional Fly-Fishing Shows the company is hosting in 2024, including Bellevue Feb. 17-18. They are looking for support from WSCFFI/FFI in casting clinics, fly-tying demos, knot tying and other classes.

The WSCFFI has tentatively reserved Saturday, May 4, at Ballenger Center, Mount Lake Terrace for our next casting fair.

The Clark-Skamania Flyfishers have agreed to help host a Casting Fair in Vancouver, WA in the fall of 2024. The target is for September. The search is on for a venue and date.

NWYCFF Academy

The Academy website is on line at NWYCFFA.com and it is incredible. It appears that the application is available for girls and boys 12-16 and it is available for submittal now for future approval by the Academy Directors. The Academy will be conducted next year on June 22-29 at Panhandle Lake near Shelton.



Mike Clancy
Legislation/FFI

Library

As most of you know, one of the perks of club membership is access to our lending library, containing a wide array of titles related to fly-fishing, fly-tying, rod building, and fishing destinations. Right now we are limiting the number of new books that are added to the collection. This is due to the strict limit set by your librarian (and his wife) of four crates of books as the maximum volume he is willing to store at his house and haul back and forth to meetings. As a re-

minder, the guidelines for library use are as follows:

- You must be a club member to exercise check-out privileges.
- Check out a maximum of three books at a time.
- Fill out the library card with your name and month/year borrowed.
- Place check-out cards and returned books in the catch & release basket.
- Please return books within 2 months.

What's the penalty if you are delinquent returning a book? Chances are I won't spend much time and energy trying to track you down. But you can expect seven years of snags, tangles, and breakoffs...what some of us call normal fishing. Thanks for using the library.



*Tom Krughoff
Librarian*



*Fighting a feisty chum
at Johns Creek*

PSFF - Officers and Committee Chairs

Club Officers

President: Steve Saville
President-elect: Vacant
Vice President: Rob Jensen
Past President: Greg Shimek
Secretary: Amy Weller
Treasurer: Dennis Beardsley
Director, 1st year: Richard Stone
Director, 2nd year: Dennis Ehlers
Director, 3rd year: Bryan Habeck

Committee Chairs

Membership: Tess Frazier
Librarian: Tom Krughoff
Raffles: Jim Baker
Programs: Mark Paul
Education: Rob Jensen (Oct. start)
Outings: David Frazier
Web Site Editor: Bryan Habeck
Newsletter Editor: Bryan Habeck
Legislation/FFI: Mike Clancy
Conservation: Greg Shimek

Having Trouble Joining the Forum?

1) Launch the PSFF.org webpage as shown in **Figure 1** and click on the Log In link (circled in red). That'll take you to the Sign-up or Log-In form in **Figure 2**.

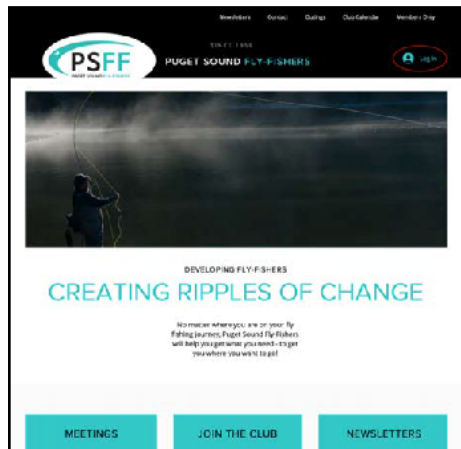


Figure 1

2) Log in or sign up

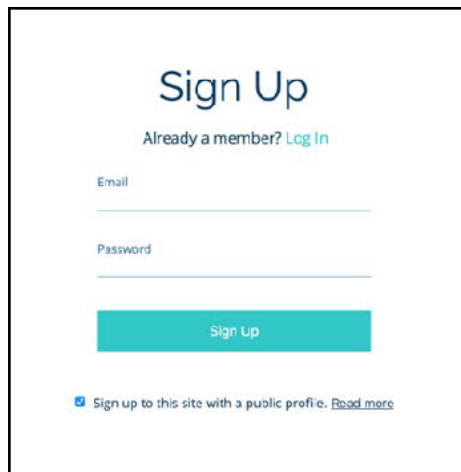


Figure 2

If you are registering as a new FORUM member, Sign Up first as shown in **Figure 2**. Enter your email address and create a password. Once you've done that and have received confirmation that you've been confirmed as a member and now have access,

then log in (clicking the teal type seen in **Figure 2**) and click on the Members Only link as shown in **Figure 3**.

3) Members Only will now be available to you

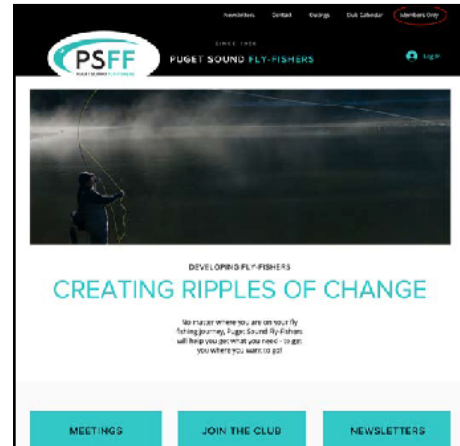


Figure 3

4) The Forum Page

Explore the different categories of discussions and learn about where others are fishing, and what they're tying.

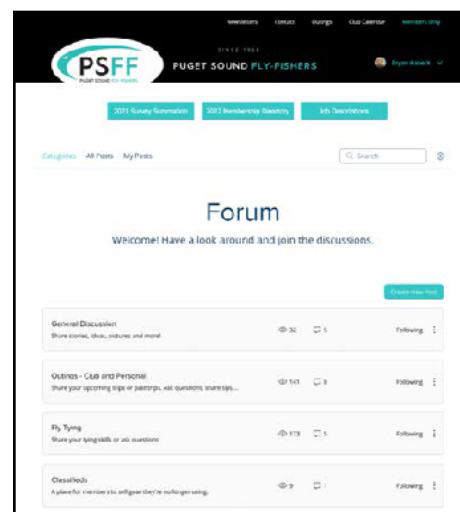


Figure 4