

February 2021

Volume 65 #2

Meeting via Zoom 2/11

Leader Line

Greg Shimek

Well, here we are in February already. The days are getting longer, I have spring flowers coming up in my yard and there is a feeling of things getting a bit better in general. However, the reality is that it is still winter. Cold, rainy, and windy weather continue to keep many of us off the water and COVID-19 still keeps us from getting together in person. So, we still face many challenges and need to adapt as best we can. With the Vaccine becoming more reliably available, yes, I know there have been some problems with the distribution, but be sure to schedule an appointment for your shot. Just do it! The quicker we can all get vaccinated the sooner we can get back together in person and start to enjoy the things we all love to do.

I want to thank everyone who has joined our monthly general meeting via Zoom. We have been able to talk fishing, have great presentations, laugh and see one another's face, even if it is virtually. I must admit, some of you are way more causal than others. Not mentioning any names here but maybe living in 85 degrees has something to do with it. I hope more of you will take the leap and join our February meeting. I want to thank all the board members and committee chairs for keeping PSFF running smoothly during these challenging times. Stay safe, go fishing if you can and I hope to see you on our February Zoom meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7522402188?pwd=NTBJSFVrYIBISW16citnc25uMTFWQT09>

Meeting ID: 752 240 2188

Passcode: PSFF2020

Out of the Salt and into the Pan

Okay. I admit it. I'm addicted to fly fishing. More appropriately, saltwater fly fishing. I've heard there is a twelve-step program for people like me, but I am too lazy to look for it. There are obvious reasons to get addicted to it. The number one reason is the size and nature of the fish. In my opinion, they fight harder than fresh-water fish mainly because they are larger and they have open water to run to, for the most part. Whether it is chasing Dorado and Sailfish, Tuna, Bonefish, Giant Trevally, or whatever, I'm in.

That being said, I don't always have the opportunity to travel to most of those fish so I have to stay closer to home; namely Puget Sound. It's also because of its proximity to my home, the boat in the driveway, and the beach just down the hill. I could continue but I am sure many of you share this and if you don't, you may want to give it a try. Oh, I forgot to mention the vast variety of fish that can be caught just out there in front of my home.

This should be a banner year in the salt. There are the venerable sea run cutthroat and resident Coho salmon. We can experience all varieties of salmon, including Sockeye if we travel a bit to the north but right here in our own neighborhood, we have the opportunity to catch King Salmon, Coho, Chum, and this

being an odd-numbered year, the Pink Salmon should show about late July or early August, all on a fly. There are other opportunities as well, like sea bass and Ling Cod (in season) but more about those later.

A few years back, I began to arm myself with some educational tools. I bought maps of North and South Puget Sound at one of the local retailers. I also bought a book titled Tidal Currents of Puget Sound. They are the basis for my scouting trips but there are a couple of other quality books that will help the new saltwater fisher. Fly Fishing for Sea-run Cutthroat by Chester Allen, Fly Fishing Inshore Saltwater for Pacific Salmon by Richard Stoll, and Les Johnson's book, Fly Fishing Coastal Cutthroat Trout. They are all available for check-out in our Club library.

As I stated in last month's installment, you don't need anything special to fish in the salt. A 6 wt. rod with either floating or intermediate line will get you started and of course, you will be wise to either make or buy a stripping basket. No wet wading, please. The water temperatures in Puget Sound are below 50 degrees most of the year and we wouldn't want to lose anyone to hypothermia.

Looking ahead in the coming months, the cutthroat fishing should pick up considerably by the end of January and early February. The fish will begin to fatten up and grow. It's still a bit early to start looking for Chum fry ...continued



but the euphausiid fishing should still be good as well as tiny squid patterns. To that end, you may wish to start fishing small Clouser minnows and a pattern called "Dehlia's Squid." Both can be tied in a variety of colors so it's a good idea to tie a couple and experiment before committing to a specific material or color. It doesn't hurt to have a variety along though because the fish can be chasing something different from trip to trip.

You'll most likely want to switch to a different line as these are weighted flies and will be fished sub-surface. I personally like Rio's Outbound Short, intermediate sinking line. It allows a fisher to do some work near the surface or deeper if it's allowed to sink. Others may like something different so that's okay, too. The flies and fish don't care. The most important thing is to get out, look at beaches, and fish. Tight lines, folks. Maybe I'll see you out there.

Dehlia's Squid: It's a pretty easy fly to tie. Here's my variation but the tier can vary colors and materials to match the local squid in the water.

Hook: size 4-8, saltwater preferably. Mash the barb.

Head: Cone or round bead of choice, sized to the hook

Thread: Clear mono or choice of color

Tail: Maribou colors vary by choice, length of the hook shank

Body: Pearl Estaz or Cactus Chenille of choice. Colors vary

Hackle: Optional but I used Mallard Flank

Steve Seville



It was how big ?

and that was just
between its eyes

Mentorship Program

Re-engages

Are you new to fly fishing and stumped by all the jargon, strange equipment needs, variety of rods and reels, and don't know one butt from the other? We can help you out.

Are your fly tying skills more reminiscent of an unclipped poodle or the dust bunnies under your bed? We can help you out.

Is your casting ending up in the trees behind you more often than in the water? We can help you out.

Do you wonder where the heck to fish, what to fish for, What they eat, when they are here and when they aren't, and what the heck lives out there in the water anyway? We can help you out.

The Mentorship Program has a number of PSFF club members who have volunteered to help you get the kinks out of your cast, your knots tied correctly, your flies tied so the fish won't laugh at them, and you know what it is that you've caught. Don't be stuck in a funk. We can help you out. No matter what your needs are we can help you out and make you a happier, more successful fly fisherman.

Just email me at ; mikek1801@gmail.com and let's chat about your hopes and dreams. I will set you up with the appropriate Mentor to get you on your way. No fees, No fuss. Just plain fun.

Mike Koslosky

Looking Ahead...

Puget Sound Flyfishers Program outlook for February and March:

February Program - "Long Live the Kings" with Executive Director Jacques White

Jacques White leads Seattle based nonprofit "Long Live the Kings," an organization that is dedicated to restoring wild salmon and steelhead as well as supporting sustainable fishing in Puget Sound and Hood Canal. We've had speakers in the past few years who have covered these subjects. It will be interesting to see what has transpired since then in addition to the effect of their organization on the fishery.

March Program - "Chironomids from Top to Bottom" with Stillwater guide Ernie Gulley

He really has the process and techniques down for tempting freshwater trout with chironomids that can account for up to 80% of a trout's springtime diet. He'll tell us about leader setups, lines, rods and reels, fly patterns and the chironomid life cycle. Ever wonder what color your tiny tidbit should be or how deep you should go or what the best retrieve looks and feels like. Well sit in on our March zoom club meeting to have all your questions answered

Chic Sundahl



Outings

February 17, 2021

Lions Park, Bremerton, Wednesday, February 17,

12:00 noon

251 Lebo Blvd, Bremerton

I've heard from others that this 17-acre waterfront park is a fun place to fish for sea-run cutthroat. The low is at 3:20 pm at 2.8ft and the earlier high is 11.5ft. So, we should have nice water movement and a big beach area to fish. If the weather cooperates it should be a fun day. We will meet at noon in the parking lot to discuss favorite flies.

I'm compiling the results for the 2020 outings feedback request I sent via email to all members. One key feedback was that folks want more salt and river fishing outings which I plan to deliver. I also I plan to change things up a bit. That is to visit a few new lakes instead of the same ones visited over last couple years. Yes, not always 'new' to everybody but you get the idea. The goals are more lakes that offer fishing without gas motors and hopefully less waterfront homes. I also plan to visit Eastern WA this year for outings. I'm not optimistic the BC border crossings will open before September. I did move my July 2020 reservation for Corbett Lake to 2021. It's also too early to know what the COVID related health or safe levels will be for the annual Park Lake club event. So, to offset this it could be small groups visiting the other side of the state. A few lakes on my radar for this year are Rattlesnake, Price, Teal, Coffeepot, Stan Coffin. Any suggestions, just let me know, bake5636@wavecable.com.

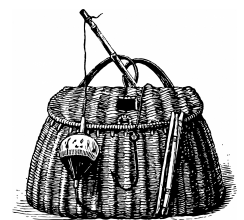
PSFF Mentorship program

I want to share my experience with this which Mike Koslosky offered last month

As some of you know I'm a novice at beach fishing for sea-run cutthroat. This means a limited number of flies and the knowledge which fly to fish. Combine that with my mediocre casting skills and you have a guy who needs help. So, I asked Mike or the Mentorship program to sign me up with a mentor on SRC flies and help fine tuning my cast. It's really more than just casting fine tuning if I'm being honest.

Within a couple days I was contacted. I have since visited with Dennis Beardsley to discuss flies, review his inventory, get tips and discuss various locations to fish. I also met Robert Gerlach at a local park for his generous critiques of the many things I need to change or improve upon. These guys really know their craft. I share all this as a sampling of what's available with the Mentorship program and to encourage others to take advantage of this. No matter what our skill level or experience there's probably an area or topic we all can improve on. Yes, YouTube offers much of the same but not the ability to answer my specific questions and address my casting issues. I'm still a novice on sea-runs and throw a line with excessive "noise" but better off than before.

Jim Baker



Fly of the Month -

March Brown Emerger



The following fly is Credited to FFI Website or FFI Clubwire for the of the pattern. Direct any questions or comments to FOM at flyofthemoth@fedflyfishers.org

The March Brown is an important spring mayfly. It is a reasonably sized insect so it is easy to imitate. Monica Mullen was tying this pattern at the 2008 N.W. Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo in Albany, Oregon. Many people I talked to during the Expo raved about the March Brown in their local streams. The March Brown (species *Rithrogena*) is a clinger mayfly, so they are found in fast flowing streams. They are widely distributed through the western U.S. and Canada along the Pacific Coast to British Columbia inland to the Eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Notable rivers around the western North America include McKenzie and middle fork of the Willamette in coastal Oregon, Yellowstone, Madison, the Henry's Fork, Rock Creek (Montana) and Crowsnest (Alberta). There are some populations of *Rithrogena* elsewhere, but hatches are not reliable. Oregon seems to have the earliest hatches in late February to March with higher altitude streams in the Rocky Mountains or Canada as late as mid-May. According to references, in faster streams the nymphs hang on to the bottom while the dun emerges underwater. Finally, the emerging dun is released from the bottom and floats to the surface. At the surface the dun's wings need to dry before it can fly off. This is a great time for trout as they seem to delight in feeding on drifting emergers. The angler can take advantage of this and float the fly behind

boulders, near eddies, along under banks and log jams. Use a floating line and a dead drift.

Material List

Hook: Dry fly size
Thread: Black 6/0
Tail: Antron yarn, tan
Rib: Ultra wire, brassy, red
Body: Peacock herl dyed red
Wing: Deer hair
Thorax: Hairtron, dark brown

Tying Steps

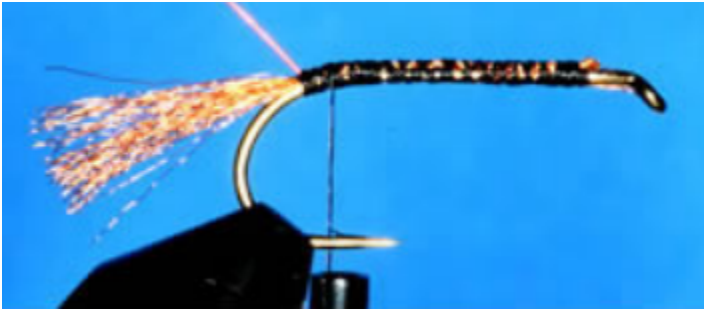
1. Start thread a little more than an eye width behind the eye, and wind back to the bend.



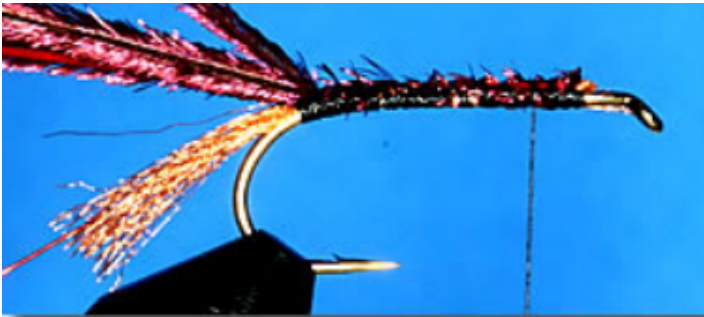
2. Tie on Antron yarn for tail. Wind thread rearward around the bend so the tail slopes downward a little. Then wind forward to about two eye widths behind the eye.



3. Tie on the wire rib and wind thread rearward over it to a little behind the bend. Bring thread forward to the bend. Keep the rib on top of the hook. Leave thread at bend.



4. Tie three peacock herls at bend and wind thread over them to a point about 2/3rds shank length in front of the bend.



5. Wrap peacock herls forward to the thread, secure and trim excess.



6. Counter wrap the rib, secure and trim excess with cheap scissors. Don't use the sharp points of your good scissors. "Counter wrap" means to wrap the wire in a direction opposite to how the herl was wrapped.



7. Take a small bunch, a little more than match stick, of deer hair, clean out the under fur and stack it. Tie the bundle at front of peacock herl with tips pointing backward. Trim flared hair at the 1/3rd shank length back from the eye. Wind thread over the butts.



8. Put dubbing on thread and build up thorax. Use two layers to get a large enough thorax. It should be fuzzy to stand out more than the body.



9. Grab deer hair and bring it forward over the dubbing. Tie it down right behind the eye. Hold up the deer hair and whip finish between the deer hair and the eye.



Closing comments: If you are near a stream that has March Browns in it be sure to tie a few of Monica's emergers to be ready for the hatch. The swift water habitat of a March Brown will make every fish feel like a monster. Always release the fish carefully so they can play with your fly another day.

Kristin Macy

Environment 2021

The Academy - Brad Trossell, Chairman, WCTU conducted a zoom meeting with the 5 directors of The Academy to discuss 2021. After discussion, it was unanimous to cancel the Academy for 2021. There are too many unsettled events that could take place during the weeklong event. Another concern is the staff, some had already confirmed that they would not participate this year because of the virus.

Fly Fishing International (FFI) - The FFI is conducting many new webinar programs. Fly tying, casting, fishing locations, etc. The best way to learn about these events, go to www.flyfishersinternational.org to learn what's being presented. It's really worth your time. The latest for me, I have been recruited to help establish a national youth camp program for the FFI, like The Academy, which is sponsored by TU.

Dams & Mines - As reported before, the permit for the Pebble mine has been denied by Alaska Army Corp of Engineers after over 20 years of trying to get a permit. It has now been reported, Alaska Governor Dunleavy has encouraged the mineral company, a Canadian firm, to appeal the denial

after the two Senators and Trump administration opposed the permit. TU thinks the appeal won't go far and also think the current administration will put a permanent hold on it.

The Washington Governor instructed the Office of Chehalis Basin to study an alternative to a flood control dam on the Chehalis River. I received notice from the Riverside Golf Course in Chehalis, the river has overflowed its banks twice so far this season, to the extent they had to close the golf course each time. I don't know how serious the flooding was for the rest of the area, that's to be learned. Happy New Year.

Mike Clancy,
Conservation Chair, WSCFFI

Conservation

As many of you may know the Electron Dam project, on the Puyallup River, has come under fire due to pollution caused by astro turf being used in the project that has disintegrated and caused rubber debris to enter the river. Two of the many local organizations who are suing or filed a notice to sue, are Citizens for a Healthy Bay and Puget Soundkeeper Alliance. Puget Soundkeeper Alliance is looking for folks that use the Puyallup River or Commencement Bay that would be willing to support this lawsuit. Here is a quote from Katelyn Kinn, staff attorney with Puget Soundkeeper Alliance

"Do you use or enjoy the Puyallup River and/or Commencement Bay? We are looking for members and supporters who use or enjoy the Puyallup River and/or Commencement Bay, and are willing to help our legal action succeed. These people will fill the vital role of being a witness - an

opportunity that many of our members find to be an important (and low-lift) advocacy opportunity. Your uses may vary broadly - ranging from recreation to employment to sustenance. (Kayaking, fishing, research, etc) Your enjoyment may be routine or deeply personal, and include aesthetic, spiritual and cultural use of the waterway. (Shoreline walks, family meeting spots, etc) Your use or enjoyment may occur at any point throughout the watershed. (From Mt Rainier out to Puget Sound!) Does this sound like you? If so, please reply to this email to let me know that you might be interested and include your phone number and a good time to call you. I would love to discuss the case and this opportunity with you more to see if it's a good fit." katelyn@pugetsoundkeeper.org or by calling (206) 297-7002.

As our club has done restoration work on Clover Creek in the past I thought many of you would find this interesting. This will certainly improve fish passage for Chum and Coho salmon as well as Coastal cutthroat trout.

Clover Creek to flow into its new channel through the McChord Field airfield bridge (**Week of January 11**).

The McChord Field runway re-opened to its full, 10,100-foot operational length Dec. 22 following the 11-month closure of almost half of the runway due to two failing culverts under the runway, taxiway and infield. A new concrete, arch bridge under the runway – a \$88.6 million construction project started in July by Brice Civil Contractors, Inc. – finished Phase 1, reopening the runway nearly one month ahead of schedule. The new 1,800 foot-wide, 50-foot span airfield bridge consists of 300 concrete archways, each 6'wide placed side-by-side. This bridge was designed according to current WA state and federal fish passage

...continued

standards. It is significantly larger than the culverts it replaced; this increased capacity means that it is expected to handle both a 100-year flood event with at least 3 feet of additional clearance, as well as a 500-year flood without significant backup



During the construction, pumps and pipes were used to divert Clover Creek around the construction site. Now that construction of the airfield bridge is complete the contractor will introduce Clover Creek into its new channel through the McChord Field bridge structure expected during the week of January 11.

When the water begins to flow through the airfield bridge channel we inevitably expect the wash out to initially be cloudy due to particles from the newly constructed channel. We expect this "cloudiness" to be temporary.

For more information about the McChord Field Airfield Bridge, please go to https://www.army.mil/article/242006/new_bridge_restores_full_mcchord_airfield_capabilities?fbclid=IwAR0nb_WUiy_7effp3o2yNcIpJN12MM_SEQIun2W8FipjSZT0KbLXvFv54U

Greg Shimek

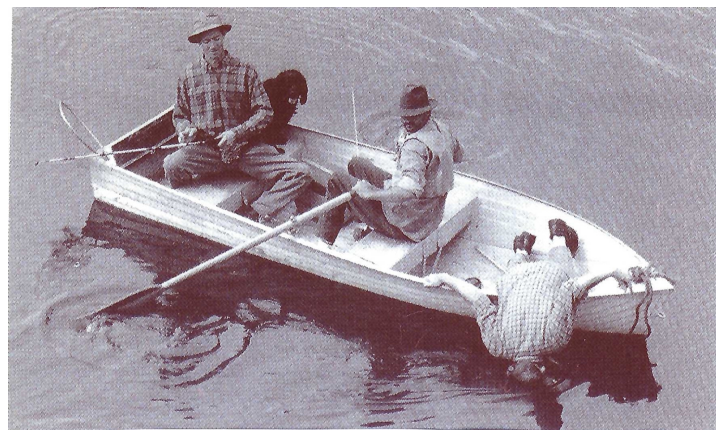
Directory

All current members had the Directory emailed to you. If you require a hard copy please get in touch with Kristin. If you didn't receive a copy or email has changed let Dennis Beardsley know as soon as possible

Anniversaries

James Brosio	7	Mike Clancy	20
Bill Cooper	1	Becci Curtis-Lillie	8
Tom Krughoff	1	Dick Kuykendall	17
Michael Lillie	8	Andy Lueck	1
John Mackiewicz	2	Ron McNeal	1
Steve Neubauer	4	Jay Reifel	5
Bill Sanders	10	Ron Shouse	1

"With Covid-19 putting the crimp on our lives in so many ways, including our wallets, we need to be resourceful like never before"



Marv and Ken's New Fishfinder (Fred).

PSFF Library

At this time, we are not checking out any book and we ask that you please keep track of what you do have checked out.

If you have read a good fly-fishing book write a review and we can feature it in the library section with a picture of you and the book. Nothing else has changed for the last several months for obvious reasons. Stay safe and keep your distance and wear a mask.

If you have some suggestions for the library please send me an email KHMacy@live.com - I'm happy to look at something new to add.

Missing and Lost books

Take this time at home to peruse your personal library and make sure that none of the pesky missing book had infiltrated and take residence. If you find something, there will be no questions asked - Just return to the Catch and release basket on the library table when we gather next. Our books have a stamp or hand written "Property of the Puget Sound FlyFishers" inside the front cover.

Library Organization

I have been working with the library now for a about 3 years. Most everyone has stopped by and checked out the books but I wanted to take a moment and let you know how I have everything organized so that you might find that special book that you want to check out a little bit quicker.

Books are setup in the following categories:

- General Fly Fishing
- Fly Tying
- Destinations
- Novels
- Rod building
- Conservation
- Women's Fly Fishing
- Reference

- Float Tube / Drift Boat / Kayak
- Knots
- Casting

Videos are setup with the following categories:

- Fly Fishing
- Fly Tying
- Destinations
- Movies
- Conservation
- Knots
- Casting

Please stop by and have a look around - I'm happy to help you find what you are look for.

Effective Immediately

All books that have been checked out since January 2019 and in the future are to be returned within two months or replaced if you are unable to locate them.

- Checkout requirements:
 - Current membership
 - Up to 3 items at a time
 - For 2 months at a time
 - Write Month/Year on checkout card
 - Return books to the basket





PSFF Supports Project Healing Waters

PSFF recently received a collection of fly rods and reels that were more than our club could manage owing to the fact that we have a nice stockpile of rods and reels in our club locker at Tower Lanes. But why not pay it forward to support other fly fishers in their quest to join this field? Luckily one of PSFF's members, Justin Fordice, is the coordinator of Project Healing Waters based at Joint Base Lewis McCord. He graciously accepted the equipment for use by the Veterans he works with and knows the gear will go to good use.

Thanks, Justin, for supporting these Veterans and getting them out on the water. To learn more about the terrific work of PHW go to; projecthealingwaters.org

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Vice President: Vacant

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