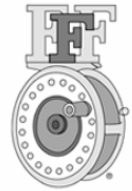




# The Central Oregon FLYFISHER



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

AN ACTIVE MEMBER CLUB OF THE FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

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Volume 26

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## **METOLIUS RIVER**

**OUTING  
ALLEN SPRINGS  
CAMPGROUND**

**October 23  
9:00AM**

**Harry Harbin 388-8841  
Bring Lunch**

## **GENERAL MEETING**

**STEVE LIGHT  
"WINTER FISHING THE  
MIDDLE DESCHUTES"**

**October 20  
6:30-8:30PM**

**Central Oregon Board of  
Realtors**

## **WILD WOMEN OF THE WATER FISHING THE METOLIUS**

**October 12  
6:00PM**

**The Fly Fisher's Place  
Sisters  
(Meet SHOPKO at 5:15PM)**

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## **RANDOM CASTS**

I attended the Kokanee Karnival Brown's Creek event last Tuesday. Kurt Boettger organized the event for 8 classes (4th graders I believe) over 4 days. The program included 3 presentations at Brown's Creek on fish habitat, stream ecology and fish lifestyle conducted by COF, a tour of the fish hatchery, and lunch by the Sunriver Anglers, plus a presentation by the Lama Club on packing fish into back country lakes. I was amazed by the rapt attention of the kids. A good time was had by all.

COF hosted a picnic (plus fishing) at the Crooked River for the STEP Advisory Committee (STAC) to the State Fish & Wildlife Commission plus COF volunteers assisting John Anderson in sample collection for his Crooked River study. Dick Mayer, a COF member, is Central Oregon's STAC representative. At the STAC meeting in Bend the prior day, the Committee recognized COF members Frank McKim, Steve Williams and John Anderson for their volunteer work. The Committee also awarded John Anderson \$750 for his ongoing Crooked River study.

Thanks to Ron Anderson for organizing the Lower Deschutes workshop at Maupin. Twelve COF members showed up for the class put on by Scott Richmond and John Smeraglio. The class started out with a bang when John was demonstrating no drag techniques on his 4 wt. rod and 5X tippet. On the first or second cast, John hooked a 30" steelhead, and landed it! It was a great demonstration of technique. Maybe COF should organize a steelhead outing to the lower Deschutes for steelhead fishing in the fall of 2005!- Neal Buxton

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## WINTER FISHING CURE... CLOSE IN

The Fall, Metolius and Crooked Rivers...when winter is upon us in Central Oregon, and we have a fly fishing itch that needs scratching, these local rivers are foremost on our list of options. But often overlooked is the one river that is virtually under our noses and very easily scratched with a little knowledge. Portions of the Middle Deschutes are open year round, and are extremely scenic, peaceful and can offer some great winter fishing. Water levels and hatches fluctuate greatly between summer and winter months on the Middle Deschutes, and so should your tactics in fishing this section.



Join us at our general meeting in October, as Steve Light, owner of Central Oregon Outdoors in Redmond, explores winter fishing the Middle Deschutes. Steve is a fan of this stretch of the river, and has some techniques and tactics he would like to share with COF members. Not only will he share his methods, but will also cover the hatches likely to occur during the winter months, what flies to use, and, very importantly, where are the best access points during these months.

We truly have a goldmine right at our feet in the Middle Deschutes in terms of fly fishing. With all the other super areas to fish in Central Oregon, this fishery is sometimes forgotten. Come join us in October, gain a little knowledge of this fishery,

give it a few casts, and I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

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## COF FISHERMAN ATTACKED!

This true adventure story began in mid August when I volunteered to help John Anderson with his research project on the Crooked River. I left Bend about 8 AM, drove out Highway 20, crossed the dam, and headed down river until I spotted John's vehicle just below Big Bend.

Kurt Boettger's car occupied a nearby narrow turnout, and he graciously pulled forward to allow me to park directly behind him. I started to put on my waders at the back of my car, and I could see Kurt ahead doing the same. Suddenly a major commotion erupted, and I could see Kurt dancing at the edge of the highway in his multi-colored shorts. I thought, "Way cool Kurt". I assumed the car radio was playing, and Kurt was just enjoying the beautiful day with his Saturday Night Fever imitation. But I was hoping that a deputy sheriff didn't happen to come by because we needed Kurt for the river sampling.

Then I realized something was wrong. Oh oh - I realized it could be a snake, and I went to help. By this time Kurt had turned his waders upside down, and he was liberating a nest of mice headquartered in his wader foot. Fortunately the compressed mice hadn't sampled Kurt's toes, and we suggested deep breathing and a few moments of meditation. After a pause, he commented that he hadn't used the waders for awhile, and they had been hanging in the garage.

Then rest of the day was uneventful, and Kurt was able to capture the largest fish of the day in the name of science. However, his experienced fisherman tip of the day is to turn waders and boots upside down before putting them on.-Ron Anderson

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## OCTOBER OUTING, METOLIUS RIVER

I don't think that there is anyone in Central Oregon who has any doubts about the beauty of

the Metolius River. However, many experienced fly fishermen take a look at the swift water and deep slots in the Metolius River and just can't get their minds around the concept of fishing it, particularly the swift lower stretches which are open in the winter. Where are some good spots to fish that won't knock your feet out from under you, or better yet, where could you fish from the shore? And where the heck is this "dolly hole" that everyone talks about?

On Saturday, October 23 at 9:00AM, COF will meet at the Allen Springs Campground on the Metolius, just downstream of the fish hatchery (look for the COF banner). Harry Harbin will lead a short discussion on fishing followed by a discussion of perhaps the most important issue in this stretch, where to fish. Harry and his assistants will then lead a caravan on a short tour of some of their favorite "holes".

One of the major attractions of the Metolius is the winter fishing that will be upon us before you know it. When the lower Deschutes closes to steelhead the end of December, and you just can't face going to the Crooked River AGAIN, this is the place for challenging rainbow and bull trout fishing. On the Metolius we are limited to the stretch between Alingham Bridge and Bridge 99 in the winter (this will be on the tour), but there is plenty of water to fish and no crowds. Check the regulations - this is catch and release, barbless hooks only.

Be sure to bring waders (no hip boots here!) and a wading staff. Come equipped for both nymph fishing and dry flies (mostly small blue wing olive and PMD's), but remember that nymphing in this fast water requires weight. Since this is fly fishing only water, you cannot add lead split shot to your leader, hook or line (see the regulations). You need some nymphs that are selected more for weight than fish catching ability as your point fly, and small nymphs such as blue wing olive size pheasant tails (18, 20) and a green drake nymph or two as your dropper fly. A Copper John tied with a tungsten bead makes a great, fast sinking fly that

actually catches fish! Tie some with various size beads and you can cover a lot of swift water conditions. A stonefly nymph with two or more cone heads in the body and lots of lead substitute wire also works, but has a bigger, slower sinking profile. Bring a seven or eight weight with a floating line (a steelhead rig is perfect) if you want to try bull trout, but remember that they are just finishing their spawn and you might want to wait a little longer. Bring a five or even six weight to toss some heavy nymphs for the rainbow trout. The new super strong fluorocarbon tippet works great because you never know when you might connect to a bull trout while nymphing for rainbows! And don't forget to bring your lunch!

The ODFW redd surveys (assisted by COF volunteers) of both bull trout and rainbow trout show substantial and increasing populations of good fish. If you tried the Metolius five or six years ago and were disappointed with the results, you need to give it another shot. And if you are new to the area or just have never tried it, this is your chance to pick up enough "good spots" and advice in a single day to get you started on some successful fishing in a beautiful location. Contact Harry Harbin, 388-8841

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### **KOKANEE KARNIVAL ACTIVITY UPDATE**

The Kokanee Karnival Youth Education Program kicked off the 2004/2005 school year with 250 nine and ten year old elementary school children in attendance at the Fall River Hatchery and Brown's Creek. At the hatchery, the children were treated to a tour and presentations covering the fish rearing operation; a presentation by the Central Oregon Llama Association discussing the process of stocking local lakes using llamas; and an interesting Native American storytelling session presented by Tom McCormack who discussed some of the sources of his beliefs and spirituality in addition to some entertaining storytelling.

At Brown's Creek, the students were lucky to observe spawning Kokanee in their native habitat, and they rotated among stations that taught them about fish life cycles (The Incredible Journey),

good fish habitat (Comforts of Home), and what fish eat (Nature's Restaurant).

A big "thank you" is in order for all the volunteers who showed up from our producing partners including Sunriver Anglers who run the show at the hatchery every year and continue to do a great job; the Central Oregon Llama Association; ODF&W, U. S. Forest Service/Deschutes National Forest, and COF. In addition we are indebted to the good folks at the Fall River Hatchery for providing their facilities and doing such a great job teaching the children about their operation and how valuable it is to the survival of our local fisheries. A special thank you goes out to the several new volunteers who showed up and helped out in many different ways. We look forward to seeing you all in the future. Last, but not least, our thanks go out to Kurt Boettger for doing another great job of running the entire operation and making it such a tremendous success.

Next up on the schedule are fall and winter egg deliveries in support of the Fish Eggs to Fry part of the program. Volunteers deliver fish eggs donated by local hatcheries to participating classrooms where students raise the fish to the fry stage, and then release them into an approved local body of water. Anyone interested in donating a little time to assist with deliveries should contact Project Manager, Terri Grimm. All we need is your vehicle and your driving ability. See you there! - Mark Reisinger

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### **KURT SAYS THANKS!**

I want to offer many thanks to the folks that made the 2004 Kokanee Karnival Streamside Presentations such a great success. During the four days, over 200 local school children were exposed to the habits of Kokanee. The people that helped included Dave and Sandy Dunahay, Tom Walker, Emil Seidel, Bob Griffin, Ron Anderson, Terri Grimm, John Champion, Vivian Rockwell, Keith Davis, Greg Pozovich, John Anderson, Nate Dachtler, Jen Block, Art McEldowney, Max Johnson, Mark Reisinger, Elly Styskel and Leonard

Swanzy. Thanks again to everyone the helped in making it all a success.-Kurt Boettger, Chairman,

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### **WILD WOMEN OF THE WATER**

#### **Fishing the Metolius**

When: Tuesday, October 12, 6:00 PM

Where: The Flyfisher's Place in Sisters

If you want to learn about fishing the Metolius, don't miss this meeting. Jeff Perrin, owner of The Flyfisher's Place, is an expert on where and how to fish this amazing river; and his shop has an abundant supply of flies for enticing those finicky fish. COF will host an outing on the Metolius on October 23. This meeting will provide you with an excellent introduction to the river. Meet in the southeast corner of the ShopKo parking lot to arrange a carpool. We will leave the parking lot at 5:15 - sharp!

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### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

A special welcome to new members! Look for board members with their green and white nameplates at the next meeting if you have any questions or special interests, and look up Delores Marsh, our Member Services committee chairperson at the back of the room if you have any membership issues, and to pick up your membership packet.

Gary Calicott

Dick & Marjie Tipton

Greg Pozovich

Mike & Susan Rippet

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### **LESLIE NEEDS HELP!**

Through Herb Blank we have received a request for volunteers to accompany Leslie Jones of the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council on her rounds to collect water temperature sensors at the end of the season. Here are the dates when she will be doing this work and could use a field buddy:

October 7:

Tumalo area

October 12 and 13:

Deschutes River (Wickiup to Bend), Little Deschutes River, Fall River, Hemlock Creek, Paullina Creek.

The commitment is for a full day between 8:00 and 5:00, and there will probably be no time for fishing, yet it is a fun way to see the region.



Interested COF members can contact Leslie for more details. -

Lesley Jones, Water Quality Specialist Upper Deschutes Watershed Council Water Quality Monitoring Program - 541-382-6850

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### **THINKING ABOUT ASSEMBLING A ROD?**

COF may have enough interest to offer a fly rod assembly class in the next few months. Have you ever thought about owning a short three weight for small streams? Perhaps an eight weight for steelhead and bonefish? Or a specialty rod just for dry fly fishing or heavy nymphs? This could turn your thoughts into an affordable reality if you are willing to do a little of the work yourself. So think about what type of rod you might like to add to your collection, and ask Ron Anderson to put you on the distribution list as details of the class are firmed up.

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### **NEW YEARS REVELERS - REJOICE!**

As many of you know, COF has had a New Years day tradition of meeting at Jake's Truck Stop for a big, greasy breakfast (great for your hangover!) followed by an outing on the Crooked River, the length of which is pretty much limited by the amount of snow on the ground and who forgets their gloves. As you may have noticed, Jake's will sadly be closing this month, but never fear - we have it under control! Reservations have been made at the Black Bear Restaurant on 3rd, so mark your calendars for 9:00AM on New Years Day and make COF a part of your holiday plans.

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### **YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**

#### **A Fly Fishing Adventure**

Ever since I first visited Yellowstone National Park several years ago as a sightseer, I have wanted to return as a fly fisherman. So, in September, Judy and I spent two weeks with our trailer at Madison Junction Campground 16 miles into the park from West Yellowstone. And the fishing was great! Over the course of the two weeks, I managed to fish ten different rivers, with additional visits to favorites such as the Firehole and Soda Butte Creek. The fishing ranged from the flattest possible spring creek water on Slough Creek to lots of eager Brook Trout on Hellroaring Creek to big river nymphing on the

Lower Madison. I never caught large quantities of fish, except for the Brook Trout, but I was never skunked for the day either.

The wildlife in the park was both the best and the worst part of fishing in the park. Fellow member Bill Goss joined me on the third day of the trip for a guided "walk and wade" trip from the Blue Ribbon Fly Shop in West Yellowstone. As we hit the Gibbon River canyon road on the way to fish Soda Butte Creek, we came upon a "Buffalo Jam". Worse than rush hour in LA, this occurred when a herd of buffalo left the lower Gibbon River meadow and traveled up the canyon road to the upper meadows. Within the canyon there is the road and the river, with steep banks on either side. Since the buffalo have no where else to go, they slowly wander up the road and the traffic behind them moves at the same rate.

While waiting for traffic to clear, an old bull traveling way behind the rest of the herd was sharing the road with us. When we could move, he politely moved to the right so we could pass. When



#### **A Traveling Companion**

traffic stopped, he shifted into the left lane and slowly passed us by. While stuck in traffic, we were passed by the buffalo four times, which has to be some kind of a record. Each time he passed, he stopped beside a big red bus two vehicles ahead of us to turn and bellow at the diesel engine, which obviously annoyed him. After a few hours of breathing fumes, we were egging him on. After leaving the fly shop at eight thirty, we didn't clear the traffic jam until almost noon.

I also had a lot of good experience with wildlife. While fishing upstream on Soda Butte Creek, for some reason I turned and looked downstream. On the path trotting up to me was a large, very blond coyote that stopped about six feet from me. We looked at each other for about a minute, he decided that I was too old to chew, and trotted around me on his way up the river. The elk and particularly the buffalo, along with deer and trumpeter swans, seem very curious about fishermen and come over to see how the fishing is. I often found myself way out in a meadow surrounded by wildlife while being photographed by sightseers from the road a quarter of a mile away. Why they don't walk down into the meadow, I don't know.



**A Curious Potential COF Member by the River**

I find that the thermal features are also interesting as a fisherman. The Firehole River flows through many of the geyser basins. The signs, particularly at Biscuit Basin geyser basin, have an interesting implication. They don't say it in so many words, but they imply the following: "DO NOT step off the BOARDWALK or you will BREAK THROUGH THE CRUST and BURN in the FIRES OF HELL - unless you are a fly fisherman in which case the path starts at the end of the parking lot!"

Most of the fishing in the Yellowstone area is dry fly fishing, most often to rising fish. You regularly drive along a section of river that is fishing well and are put off by the fact that there is a

fisherman at every pullout. However, if you



**Fishing the Firehole**

persevere and find an area that requires a walk of a mile or two before you begin fishing, you leave the crowds behind. After hiking about an hour to one of the upper meadows on Slough Creek, I fished for the better part of the day and never saw another fisherman. The lower meadow probably had 25 fishermen in the same sized area. The fish were also much more willing to take a fly than the ones in the stretch of the river below the campground where everyone fishes next to their car.

In general the camping was good and the living was inexpensive. The campground had heated restrooms with flush toilets and cost \$18.00 per night. For those of you 62 or older, the cost would be only \$9.00 a night. A week's fishing permit for the park was \$20.00 and Montana licenses for a few days were reasonable. Park access costs \$20.00 for a week. West Yellowstone has five fly shops by my count, one of which is the Blue Ribbon Flyshop which I think is one of the best around with excellent staff and guides. West Yellowstone also has all the services (even for my flat tire) and a good selection of restaurants and shops.

The one major problem with camping in Yellowstone is that the campground required all food and cooking equipment to be stored inside when not in use in order not to attract bears, and the rangers enforced the rules. While we were in the area, bears were visiting West Yellowstone at

night. The Northeast portion of the park seems to be the current hotbed for bears and I borrowed a bear spray while fishing in that area. Back country camping is closely regulated with lots of rules about bears.

The two times that I visited Yellowstone, I planned my trip after Labor Day to avoid the crowds. However, my fishing guide and several other fishermen insist that I should visit in July, especially around July 15 when the Yellowstone River opens for fishing. The story is that there are more sightseers in the park, but the number of fly fishermen is about the same. Many of the rivers fish much better then, although different parts of the park are better at different times of the year. In September the Yellowstone River does not fish well, for example, because the cutthroat have moved back up into Yellowstone Lake. Judy and I made tentative reservations to go back next July! - Harry Harbin

**A COF OUTING TO YELLOWSTONE?**

Our annual COF June outing to British Columbia has continued to grow, with 30 members in

attendance last year, and a high percentage of the club having been there one year or another. The discussion often turns to the fact that we should have a similar outing for members who prefer to fish rivers rather than lakes, or perhaps both.

Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding area with the Henry's Fork and the Lower Madison Rivers, among others, seems to offer a wide range of river types and sizes within easy driving distance. The scenery and wildlife is unbeatable, but the crowds of sightseers can be a problem. There is plenty for non-fishing family members to see and do in the area, and the support services in West Yellowstone are excellent. In addition to campgrounds within the park, there is a Gallatin National Forest campground a few miles north of West Yellowstone offering nice campsites with about half having electrical hookups. It does not take reservations, however, like the Madison Crossing group campground within the park. Hotels, cabins and lodges are available in the park and in West Yellowstone. Think it over and let us know if you are interested.

UPSTREAM EVENTS - 2004-2005			
	DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
OCT	7	COF Board of Directors Meeting	Neal Buxton
	11-17	Bull Trout Spawning Survey, Camping	Jenn Bock
	14	Metolius Bull Trout Redd Survey	Ted Wise
	20	COF Gen. Mem. Meet. Central Or. Out. Winter Fishing	Neal Buxton
	23	Metolius River Outing	Harry Harbin
NOV	4	COF Board of Directors Meeting	Neal Buxton
	13	Board Retreat	Neal Buxton
	17	COF Gen. Mem. Meet. Steve Shunk, Riparian Hatches	Neal Buxton
	Tues.	Fly Tying	Phil Havens
DEC	2	COF Board of Directors Meeting	Neal Buxton
	15	COF Gen. Mem. Meeting, Fly Tying	Neal Buxton
	Tues.	Fly Tying	Phil Havens
JAN	1	New Years Breakfast & Crooked River Outing	Gordon Chandler
	6	COF Board of Directors Meeting	Dave Dunahay
	19	COF Gen. Mem. Meeting	Dave Dunahay
	Tues.	Fly Tying	Phil Havens
FEB	3	COF Board of Directors Meeting	Dave Dunahay
	16	COF Gen. Mem. Meeting	Dave Dunahay
	26	COF Banquet	Earl Rettig
	Tues.	Fly Tying	Phil Havens

JOIN THE CENTRAL OREGON FLYFISHERS!

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THE CENTRAL OREGON FLYFISHERS • P.O. BOX 1126, BEND, OREGON 97709  
and receive Club Logo Patch and Monthly Newsletter

FULL NAME (S): \_\_\_\_\_  
member and partner

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: H: \_\_\_\_\_ W: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

FORMER OCCUPATION IF RETIRED: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

New 2004 Family or Single- \$36  Renewal by 12/31-\$30  Renewal After 12/31- \$36  Associate Member \$12.50   
(Associate Membership Available Outside of Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties.)

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But Want the Print Version Instead

Please check Interests:  Acquire More Knowledge  Find Fishing Partner  Volunteer For Projects  
 Improve Fishing Techniques  Social Functions List Other Interests on Back

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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The Central Oregon Flyfishers  
PO Box 1126  
Bend, Oregon 97709

