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Swirl Tips

EVERGREEN FLY FISHING CLUB

WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/EFFC2000

DECEMBER, 2004

MEETINGS

General Meeting - 4th Tuesday of the month, 7pm (6pm Wet Fly) Flying Pig Brewery
Board Meeting - 1st Thursday of the month, 7pm (6pm dinner) Cookbook Restaurant
Conservation Committee Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month, 7pm Village Restaurant



Meeting: January 25th, 2004 @ Flying Pig Brewery
Wet Fly – 6:00 p.m. Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Fly Tying Classes

by Rob Gamage

I hope everyone who signed up for the fly tying class is as excited as I am for this class to get under way! Class will be starting up in just a couple of weeks and, we've got a great group of tiers lined up again this year. Thanks again, you guys, for the generosity of your time, skills, special patterns and willingness to share with your fellow club members.

The first class will be on January 5th from 7-9 pm, and continuing every Wednesday, with the last session on March 23rd. All you have to bring is your own tying tools and thread. Actually, Jesse Scott told me, the club has 5 or 6 vises and some tools that would love to be made useful, if you don't have them yet.

To get to the Stillaguamish Senior Center; take exit #206 and head east to the first stoplight which is Smokey Point Blvd. Turn left at the light and head north for 7 tenths of a mile. The senior center is on the left and has three entrances. You'll want to take the last one. About 30 yards into the parking lot you will see a long building marked Arts and Crafts and Ceramics classroom to your left. (The club banner should be hanging outside or, just look for some familiar looking gents making their way inside).

The cost this year is \$20 for members and \$45 for non-members and you can all pay and register at the first session.

I'm looking forward to seeing you there.
If you have any questions, contact Rob Gamage at (360) 691-9997 or rgamage@eskimo.com.



President's Message

by Jim McGauhey

The year 2005 is the 50th Anniversary of the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club. We hope to have a new logo commemorating that fact, and I'll put together some new items for the club on-line shop www.cafeshops/effc. Visit it now and check out the "stuff."

January will be a very busy month; the fly tying classes every Wednesday, board meeting, membership meeting, & Jerry Buron's PowerPoint class on the 22nd and 29th. I hope to see you at most of these events.

Remember Jerry Buron's presentation last year on fishing the Skagit and British Columbia? It was a great show, and there were as many questions about how he put the presentation together as there were about the fishing he talked about. At that time Jerry said he would look into giving us a class on PowerPoint. It's not just about the background color and titles, you can include Picture in Picture, animations, video, and well, I'm sure Jerry will give us the details and how to put it together. This class would cost hundreds from a commercial venue, but it's free for club members (and members only). It'll be at a Marysville computer lab so everyone will have hands on mouse experience. That's right, you'll do it as he says it! Mark your calendars now for Jan 22 and Jan 29, two Saturdays, but make sure to sign up in advance, no drop-ins please. While PowerPoint is a program from Microsoft, we can also provide you with a free clone that's part of Open Office. See Jerry's article later in this Swirl Tips.

Membership dues are due. If your dues are in by Dec 31 you'll be eligible for a drawing for a new rod! Get your dues in now.

Please contact Eric Nordstrom or me if you have any photos for the next issue of the club calendar. Old photos, or ones from last year, make them available and the calendar committee will select and arrange photos for each month.

As outgoing president, I'd like to thank my 2004 board and committee chairs. We had a great year with wonderful events, including the Aeneas Fishout, the July meeting/fishout at Gordie's, the McKenzie Fishout, the auction, and a great Awards

Banquet. The Conservation Committee was very busy. Thanks to Gordon McKay and Carl Johnson we had more communications with the FFF than ever before. We had great programs, and Don Mathieson, our Treasurer, did a fine job herding our funds.

I'll still be on the board as Past President and look forward to working with Sandy and his new board and enjoying our 50th anniversary. See you at the fly tying classes, and at Jerry Buron's PowerPoint classes.



Conservation Report

by Jesse Scott

As many of you know, the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River has been muddied by sediment from a slide near Steelhead Haven for many years. The slide was also featured in the latest issue of the Osprey, a FFF Steelhead newsletter. This week the Salmon Recovery Funding Board approved a Stillaguamish Implementation Review Committee (SIRC) request for a grant to correct the slide problem. The lead entity for this project is the Stillaguamish Tribe. The Tribe's Environmental Manager, Pat Stevenson, was responsible for preparation of the grant request. Additional studies and permitting are next, with an anticipated completion date of Summer 2006.

The Salmon carcass distribution program is just about finished for this year. Close to one thousand carcasses were placed along North Fork tributaries that do not currently receive natural carcasses. We will be looking for volunteers to help with macro invertebrate studies to measure the effectiveness of this program later next year.

We are currently working with WDFW to develop a rough boat launch just downstream from the Cicero Bridge on the North Fork of the Stilly. This is a self-help project and may take awhile, but we'll get it done sooner or later.

There's also a perched culvert and a washed out boat launch we are looking at. We always have room for a few more helping hands and good ideas. Come join us.

Year 2005 Membership Dues

by Mark Simpson

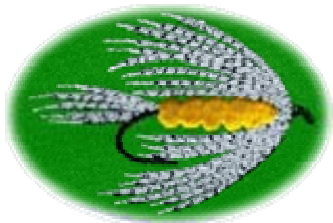
The new year is almost here and it's time to send in your membership dues for 2005. Thanks to those members who paid so far. Calendar year 2005 dues are \$30 for members, and \$25 for associate members. Our annual "dues incentive" raffle will be held for members that pay (postmarked) by December 31st of this year. Send them soon for your chance to win a new reel.

Please do not send your dues to the club's post office box or to club officers. To keep a good record of those who pay the membership chairman needs to receive your dues directly, preferably by mail. The membership committee also keeps the master club roster up to date so we need any change to your address, phone, e-mail, etc. Complete the at-tached renewal form and send it with your dues

so we can verify the current record of your information. It is highly recommended to pay your dues by check. After your dues are received you will be given a current membership card at an upcoming meeting. Your dues are important to the operating budget of our club. Please pay them on time – no later than the January regular meeting.

Just a reminder - Section 4.4C of the by-laws states that dues are delinquent after the January general membership meeting. If a member has become delinquent in the payment of dues, the member shall receive notice of delinquency. (via our Swirl Tips newsletter) After two such notices, the member will be dropped as a member 30 days after the last notice.

fill in and detach form below and send with check



EFFC Member Renewal Form

Name: _____
Spouse: _____
Address: _____
Mailing address (if different): _____
Telephone including area code: _____
E-mail address: _____
Committee Interests: _____
Amount Enclosed: _____

Please make check payable to EFFC, fill in the Renewal Form, and mail both to the following address:

Mark Simpson
2505- 5th St
Everett, WA 98201

EFFC 2004 Schedule of Activities

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Jan 5 th Wed	Fly Tying Classes start	To be announced
Jan 22 nd & 29 th Sat	PowerPoint Class	Marysville
Feb 26 th Sat	Winter Fishout	Village Restaurant (Marysville)
April 9 th Sat	Unofficial Lone Lake Fishout	Lone Lake, S. Whidbey Island

Pilchuck River Fishing Access

by Jesse Scott

A WDFW fishing access re-opened on December 1st at the end of Ray Gray road on the Pilchuck River. The area had signs indicating it was a school bus turn around and parking was not allowed. Actually, this was a WDFW fishing access.

The WDFW has replaced the signs with fishing access signs and invites the public to use the area as originally intended. Ray Gray road exits Hwy 92 just West of Granite Falls.

PowerPoint Training Workshop

by Jerry Buron

For those club members who were not present at the November monthly meeting I set up the training workshop I had promised for January 2005. The dates you'll need to commit to if interested are Saturday, January 22nd and Saturday, January 29th. The workshop training will be held in Marysville and will be an all day event.

There is no charge for the workshop and it will be a "hands on" experience for all attending. If you have already signed up with Jerry previously there is no need to sign up again. However, if you missed the November meeting, are a club member, and would like to take advantage of the training please notify Jerry Buron at (360) 659-2286. No drop-ins please!

The Gift

by Bill Cari (www.fishingstories.net)

It was a rough year of fishing for Santa Claus. In fact, it was the worst year he had ever had. Not a single fish.

"Face it," the old elf thought to himself as he trudged downstream toward his sleigh, "you're no fisherman. Better just stick to delivering toys."

The morning had started like all the others this past season. And then it had ended like all the others. No fish - not even a bite. What was really depressing was that this was the last time he would be able to slip away and visit his secret spot on the stream until after the Christmas rush. Fall production was heating up, and the demands on his time were increasing daily.

As Santa approached his sleigh, he was surprised to see an old man, clad in chest waders and a fishing vest. The man was petting Dasher and Dancer as he fed them carrots from a paper sack.

"Hello there," said Santa, casting a suspicious eye on the stranger. "I'm -"

"I know who you are," said the old man. "I've been waiting for you." The old man glanced toward Santa's empty creel. "No luck, eh?"

"No," replied Santa testily. "I'm not sure this stream even has any trout in it." He began to pack his rod into the back of the sleigh.

"Oh, I don't know about that," drawled the old man. Reaching down, he hoisted up a stringer that held three of the biggest trout Santa had ever seen. Santa's eyes opened wide.

"That's quite a catch, sir!" he sputtered. "Mind if I ask what you were using?"

The old man pointed to an ancient fly rod leaning against a tree. "See for yourself."

Santa bent down to examine the fly on the tippet of the old man's rod. A Royal Coachman! Just like the one he'd been using all morning. Now he was really steamed. "I've been casting that same fly all morning!" he complained. "How is it that you were able to make it work for you?"

The old man squinted at Santa's fly rod. "Maybe it's that new hi-tech rod of yours. Where'd you get it?"

Santa thought a minute, then remembered. It was right before Christmas, and he was making his usual appearances at the shopping malls around the world. While on a break, he had ducked into an upscale sporting goods store and grabbed the first rod off the rack. The clerk, a non-believer, hadn't even offered him a discount!

"Thought so!" the old man snorted. "Tell you what - try this rod, and see how you like it."

Santa hesitated. He had a 2:00 meeting with the elves to go over the list of new toys for this year. But, it was still early... ahh, what the heck!

He picked up the fly rod. It was indeed old, with many nicks on the stained cork grip. He practiced a few casts. The rod had a familiar feel to it. Comfortable.

"You know," Santa reflected, "there was a time when we made rods like this. I don't know why we stopped production on them."

"Is that so?" said the old man with a bemused expression. "Well, give this one a shot, and let me know what you think. I'll watch your reindeer for you."

Santa walked back down to the stream, and stepped quietly into the water. Near the opposite bank was a hole that he had fished several times that year with no success. With a flick of his wrist, Santa dropped the fly at the top of the hole, and let it drift over the dark water.

Wham! Suddenly, the old reel sang as a large trout gulped the fly and began peeling out line. But the old rod held, and after several minutes and a furious fight, Santa pulled his prize from the river - a rainbow that would probably top out at five pounds.

In the next hour, Santa had landed four more trout, including one monster that weighed almost seven pounds. Regretfully, he left the stream and returned to his sleigh, where the old man was sitting with his back against a cedar stump.

"That was the best fishing I've had in years," Santa exclaimed. "And this rod, it's perfect. Not too stiff, not too long. Where did you get it?"

The old man looked up and cocked his head. "From you," he said, his eyes misting.

Santa looked at the old man, and then he looked at the rod. And slowly, it dawned on him. He looked closely at the old man. The years melted away, and he saw the boy he had long since forgotten. "Jimmy?"

"You remember!" beamed the old man. "Yep, you gave me that rod almost sixty years ago. Probably saved my skin. I spent so much time fishing with that thing, I didn't have time to get into the kind of trouble my brothers got into. One of 'em even ended up in jail. Me, I started my own business.

"I sell fishing equipment. I can get any piece of tackle you'd ever dream of, but I only fish with this rod. Because it's special. Oh sure, I've gotten skunked once in awhile, but I usually do pretty good. That's because I believe - in myself. And I have you to thank for that."

Santa looked at the old man. He was speechless.

"You're probably wondering what I'm doing here," the old man continued. "Well, everyone needs a Santa Claus at some point in their lives. I'm just trying to give back to you what you gave to me, all those years ago. Take the rod. It's yours."

And Santa, the greatest gift-giver of all times, was humbled.

The old man looked intently into Santa's eyes. "You know, there's a kid in my neighborhood who's going to ask Santa for a fishing rod this year. His folks just got divorced, and he's having a pretty rough time of it."

A silent understanding passed between the two. And then, it was time for Santa to go. He had that meeting with the elves at 2:00, and now he would be adding a few items to the production list. Important items...

Santa laid the fly rod in his sleigh, climbed in, and turned to the old man. "Thank you, Jimmy," he said. "I won't forget this."

"My pleasure, Santa," the old man responded. "Oh...one more thing -"

"Yes, Jimmy?"

The old man's eyes twinkled as he wrinkled his nose. "I noticed a funny smell coming from those boots of yours. You might want to watch where you step around those reindeer."

**this story was submitted by Joan Miles in memory of her father and past EFFC member, John Hinchcliffe Sr. (photo below of John enjoying a past EFFC fly tying class)*



FFF Clubwire

DVD / BOOK REVIEWS

Reviewed by Bruce E. Harang

**Modern Spey Casting and More -
By Dec Hogan**

**Frank Amato Publ, Portland, OR – DVD
45 minutes, color, Suggested price \$24.95**

The author presents a master class in modern spey casting techniques using the popular short head spey lines and lightweight, fast action spey rods.

This is not an instructional program for beginners, but instead is aimed at the spey caster that has mastered the basics and is looking to improve and fine-tune his spey casting technique when using the short head and shooting head lines with the lightweight, fast action spey rods so popular in the Pacific Northwest and Scandinavia. The author shows you how to use a compact style of rod movement

which allows you to cast all the line you desire with a minimum of arm and body movement.

Casts illustrated are the single spey, C or Snap-T, snake roll, and reverse double spey. The top quality photography will allow a spey caster with knowledge of the basics to easily follow and emulate the casting strokes the author demonstrates.

In addition, to the casting instruction, the author also presents his thoughts on fly selection, fish release technique, wading, turnover of the fly, and using a spey rod in close quarters. These are a nice addition to the program to present a well-rounded fishing school. The lessons are interspersed with scenes of the author actually fishing, hooking, and landing some very nice steelhead.

Unfortunately, the DVD does not have a chapter menu so the viewer is forced to fast forward and fast reverse to find parts of the program he wishes to watch or review again. Other than this oversight, the DVD is extremely well done with excellent photography, sound, and editing.

If you are looking to fine tune, or improve your casting of modern lightweight fast action spey rods coupled with modern short head spey lines this DVD is an excellent choice.

The Hidden Fishing Tax

by Kim Lyons

from the NW Women's Fly Fishing Club newsletter

Every time you purchase fishing gear or a pleasure craft you are assisting many fisheries programs, boat ramps and public access areas in our state. A tax is already included in the cost of each item you buy, and you probably didn't even know it. Whether it's a rod, reel, flies or tackle, an electronic fish finder, trolling motor, or a pleasure craft along with a tank of fuel, you are contributing to our sport. This support is in addition to what the state Fish & Wildlife Department receives when you purchase a fishing license.

In 1950, the U.S. Congress passed a bill creating the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program. This legislation was modeled after the highly suc-



successful Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1939, and was broadly supported by conservationists, anglers, tackle manufacturers, and many others. It created a 10 percent federal excise tax on certain items of sport fishing tackle, with proceeds to be used at the state level to improve sport fisheries.

The main sponsors of the 1950 bill were Senator Dingell from Michigan and Representative Johnson from Colorado. Hence, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program came to be known as the “Dingell-Johnson” Act.

In 1984, Senator Wallop from Wyoming and then-Representative Breaux from Louisiana introduced significant amendments and the program became known as “Wallop-Breaux” or “W-B”, the name it is known by today. The “W-B” amendments added new provisions to the Act by extending the excise tax to previously untaxed items of sport fishing equipment.

These additions more than tripled the funding available for state sport fisheries programs. Subsequent amendments in 1992 and 1998 added even more products and money for the state programs. Many of these products sport the Federal Aid logo.

The excise tax is initially paid by manufacturers and is ultimately passed along to the consumer in the price of the fishing products purchased. The “user pay” concept is very important because as a condition of receiving the Federal Aid funds, states cannot use their state license dollars for any purpose other than sport fisheries or wildlife management. The penalty for “diverting” license dollars to other uses is severe – any state doing so would lose its Federal Aid funds! This is the primary reason state legislatures have not used license dollars to fund other government priorities.

Each year, the excise tax is collected by the U.S. Treasury and then turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They return it to the states on the basis of a formula. Forty percent of the funds returned are based on the land and water area of the

state, and the remaining 60 percent is based on the number of people who have purchased one or more fishing licenses. So, people who buy a fishing license contribute much more than the actual amount of the license dollars they pay. No state may receive more than five percent or less than one percent of each year’s total apportionment.

Before receiving any “W-B” money, states must submit project proposals for approval at the federal level. Money from the act can be used to fund up to 75 percent of each project and the states must provide the other 25 percent. Examples of approved projects include acquisition and improvement of sport fish habitat, stocking of fish, research into fishery resource problems, surveys and inventories of sport fish populations and acquisition and devel-

opment of access facilities for public use. Anglers and boaters can directly see these federal aid dollars used for boat access and public boat ramps, aquatic education, boating safety programs, hatchery projects and personnel, fish stocking, water access, stream improvement, fishing piers, docks, habitat protection and structure, wetlands conservation, angler surveys, parking areas, restrooms, tables, shelters and fish cleaning stations – among many others.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service final apportionment of Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Funds for fiscal year 2004 to Washington State was \$5,808,249. This is approximately 2.2% of the total federal 2004 allocations of \$261 million.

Allocation amounts for all states can be found at:
<http://federalaid.fws.gov/apport/SFRFINALApportionment2004.pdf>

So, “Thanks” to all of you anglers and boaters for your contributions to fisheries, conservation and access!



Evergreen Fly Fishing Club

PO Box 221

Everett, WA 98206

FLY TYING TIP

Superior Hackle Guard

This tying tip was taken from the Revised & Enlarged Fly-Tying Tips, edited by Dick Stewart. Try this tip when you are having problems tying in hackle or wings.

Fingers make pretty good hackle guards but then you're left with only one hand to work on the fly. The arrangement I'm going to tell you about keeps the hackle, or wings, or whatever, out of the way, but leaves both hands free. Your local Radio Shack store will be happy to sell you a package of heat shrink tubing in a variety of diameters.

A 1 to 2 inch section of 1/4" tubing slipped over the tube of your bobbin before you attach the thread to the hook will ride on the tube, out of your way, until you want to trim, or glue or whatever without the hackle or wing getting in the way. It's a matter of a moment to slide the tube off the bobbin and over the head of the fly, do whatever trimming or lacquering you want, and then remove the hackle guard to its resting place on the bobbin tube.

