



President's Message *by Ray Perkins*

The first day of spring was last Friday. Usually it takes several weeks after for the warmth to catch up with the season. But since we have been having spring like weather since February I am a bit confused. On Monday the 23rd I tried to fish the Owyhee River and experienced spring-like weather, first sun and warm, followed by dark clouds and moderate wind, followed by wind gusts to 40, then a little rain or splash from the wind on the river, and back to sun and warmth. I hope summer does not get here too soon.

Water reports from both southwest Idaho and southeast Oregon for this water year started off near normal in the fall. The reporting stations in both areas have gotten progressively worst over the winter, the amount of water available in southeastern Oregon is near record lows. This means that the large irrigation reservoirs in southeastern Oregon probably will be drawn down to dead storage sometime early this summer. Fish populations will most likely be severely impacted.

Trout fishing in March continued to improve as conditions warmed. I caught several browns from the Owyhee over 20 inches, with one over 25 inches. Trout began taking skwala patterns even though I have yet to see one skwala stonefly on the river. Along with the skwala also came anglers

most from the Boise area but the annual parade of out of state anglers from throughout the west is on again. Even on retired Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday it is hard to find a spot to fish. I will be in Central Washington fishing several of the lakes in the area with my family, so I will not be around for fly tying and a club outing.

Owyhee River Cleanup is scheduled for April 11, the Saturday before the membership meeting. The plan is to meet at 9:00 am at the BLM Wildlife Viewing Area. I will explain how the river corridor has been setup and give short safety talk. A barbecue for club members and guests will occur at the day-use area below the dam. Then the afternoon is open to fishing.

At the last general meeting five people signed up for Rod Building class. The class will held in Weiser at the public library. Jim Gulu has reserved the library room starting on March 27 and continuing through April. Even though Marv Orwig is not around to lead the class this year a couple of experienced club members signed up for the class, we should be able to help the less experienced builders and complete the rods by the end of April.

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257-4225
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Board Members



Continued from page 1

The end of the year drawing continues to get even better. At this time the year end drawing includes the club's end of the year prize at Anglers Fly Shop (gift certificate for \$500), two hand-made dip nets donated by Gorgon Adams, three hand-made rod tubes, a weekend at the Owyhee Irrigation District cabin on the Owyhee River September 5th and 6th, and Larry Williams (Steens Mountain Outdoors) donated two spey rods to the club.

Ray

Welcome to New Members:

No new members in March

Dues Reminder for This Month:

- Don Bollen
- Rory Caldwell
- Larry Williams

Filling up Field's Ponds

By Ole Mike Thomas

On Friday, March 20, John Field, Jim Gulu, and Mike Thomas had the experience of catching and then transferring largemouth bass and bluegill from one of John and Denny Fields ponds to another of their ponds. Hopefully this stocking will be successful and a new fishery will be created. Below is John holding one of the bass that got transplanted!





Tapered Leaders

by Grant Baugh

Tapered leaders are about the second or third point of confusion when a fisherman decides to begin fly fishing. They soon learn that a piece of monofilament tied to the fly line doesn't cast very well, especially with a dry fly.

Then somebody tells them that need a 9' leader tapered to 6X, and their most likely response is "what the [#@%] is that"? Then they go to the fly shop and find out there is a myriad of the things and they cost upward of \$5, 6, 7, bucks apiece and are told that they need several different ones for different fishing situations.

"Wow, this getting spendy!" is their next thought....and they are correct.

The solution is, tie your own. A few spools of different weight monofilament that they probably already own and a formula chart and they are on their way. At first I followed the formula chart religiously, but now I simply cobble them together to meet the situation.....unless I am snowbound in my man cave with a lot of time on my hands.

I still carry store-bought leaders for when I am fishing in thick scum or weeds where the knots pick up crap. Most of the time I use one of two knots, the double surgeons knot or the blood knot...which I prefer because it results in a smoother leader, especially if you clip the stubs short. If you want to know how to tie the knots, simply Google fly fishing knots and you will find far more that you will ever want or need....Or just ask an old club member like Ol' Mike Thomas to show you how.

Use the formulas shown on the charts below and whip up a few in your own man cave before you get out on the water and need them...it is good practice.



Quillayute River Coho

Formula Chart

Standard Dry Leader		Standard Wet Leader		Distance Dry Leader		Short Wet Leader	
Section Size	Length	Section Size	Length	Section Size	Length	Section Size	Length
0.019	12"	0.021	18"	0.021	30"	0.019	16"
0.017	12"	0.019	18"	0.019	24"	0.017	14"
0.015	14"	0.017	16"	0.017	18"	0.015	14"
0.013	14"	0.015	12"	0.015	12"	0.013	12"
0.011	12"	0.012	10"	0.013	12"	0.011	6"
0.009	10"	0.010	10"	0.011	12"	0.009	6"
0.008	10"	0.008	10"	0.009	10"	0.007	18"
0.007	12"	0.007	18"	0.007	12"		
0.005	18"			0.005	24"		



Clearwater has some nice fish! - by Tom Dyer

A few of the 14 very nice B-Run (13 native) steelhead caught fly fishing on the Clearwater river March 2nd near Kooskia. The Clearwater lived up to its reputation as a great B-Run (the fish stay in the ocean 2 or more years) river.



Ben Dyer holds one of the 7 he caught. This one was 36" long. Ben was nymphing, with traditional rod and reel.

I caught 3 and this one is 34"; caught swinging a green and yellow intruder fly with my spey rod. I also caught a 37", which is the largest I have ever caught with my spey rod.

Nathan Dyer flew in from Boulder, Colorado for the family fishing trip and he caught 4 great steelhead. He was also nymphing.



Fly of the month

All about the mighty gurgler

by Perry Kelley

When it comes to bass and the fly rod, the mighty gurgler is the first thing to come to mind. This fly pattern has it all. Movement, sound, shape, varieties of color make the gurgler an ideal fly pattern. What is in the bass's mind when its territory is invaded by this bizarre concoction of foam, rubber legs, chenille, marabou and who knows what else? Anger, hunger, curiosity or just instinctive bass bad behavior makes the bass strike at the gurgler. Whatever is the motivation, it certainly is excitement for the fly angler.



How do you tie the gurgler? Really, there is no set way but to pique the imagination of the fly tier:

What **hook** do you use? This is simple: a bass bug or bass stinger hook. Regular hooks do not have a wide-enough gape to work on gurglers. The possibilities are Tiemco 8089 which come in sizes 2, 6, and 10. They are great hooks but do not have the size variations that I like. I have recently been using Allen Bass Bug B200 hooks and really like them. Allen Fly Fishing has a great selection of hook sizes and they cost less. To order, Google Allen Fly Fishing and go

through the ordering procedures. I suggest you get sizes 6, 10, 12 and 14.

I use UT **thread** in 70 den or 150 den. Flat thread will not cut the foam and gives a better appearance. For **underbody**, chenille or dubbing works fine. Ice dubbing will give more sparkle and perhaps attract more fish. The **tail** can be anything that gives movement. Rubber **leg** material, marabou, bucktail, all work just fine. The **overbody** is 1/8" craft foam. This material is found in hobby stores—Joanne's, etc. It is inexpensive so get a variety of colors. I use white, chartreuse, orange, yellow and red. Cut the foam with either scissors or a rotary cutter. Adjust the width of the foam to the hook size. Cut point in the foam and tie in at the tail point. Bring foam over and tie in at about an 8th of an inch back of the hook eye. Make about a 16th of an inch band of thread and tie in rubber legs. I like to tie in six legs on each side. Be sure to have space for thread between the rear and front legs. Trim the hood of foam and shape to allow the gurgler to pop.

How do you fish the gurgler? Fish toward the bank. Look for structure. Rocks, trees, overhanging vegetation all harbor bass. Cast gurgler as close to bank as you can. Let gurgler sit without motion for 30 seconds or so. Rubber legs will be moving with the water. Then with the rod tip pop the gurgler. Let sit again and repeat until you have completed the retrieve.

Options: Vary the size: Sometimes smaller is better than larger. I seldom use a size 2 but often use size 6 and 10. I think now that I have size 12 and 14 I will fish with them a lot. They will be easier to cast. I also use a dropper with a nymph or a small bait fish streamer. It is not unusual to have a fish on the gurgler and the dropper at the same time. This brings up the point to make or not make the hook of the gurgler barbless. Two advantages to barb are, one tie in the dropper above the barb and it will not slip off the hook. The second advantage is that when a fish strikes the dropper, the hook will not pull out of the fish that originally struck the gurgler.

I promise you that gurgler fly fishing for bass can be some of the most exciting fishing of all fly fishing. Tight Lines *Look at the next page for more gurgler pictures.*

APRIL 2015





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- Apr. 7 - IFF Board meets Idaho Pizza 7 PM.
- Apr. 14 - IFF Membership & Guests meet at Idaho Pizza 6:30 PM - Fly Tying; 7 PM Meeting
- Apr. 21 - IFF Fly Tying at the Weiser Library 7 PM
- April 11 - Owyhee River cleanup. Meet 9AM at the Wildlife viewing area. BBQ after for members and guests.

Salmon fishing the “comfortable” way in northern Canada - *Grant Baugh*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8 AM Fly Fishing Breakfast at Homestead	2	3	4
5	6	7 IFF Board Meeting	8 8 AM Fly Fishing Breakfast at Homestead	9	10	11 Clean up Owyhee
12	13	14 IFF Member Meeting	15 8 AM Fly Fishing Breakfast at Homestead	16	17	18
19	20	21 IFF Fly Tying	22 8 AM Fly Fishing Breakfast at Homestead	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Fly Fishing Breakfast at Homestead	30		

Owyhee River Road Creation by Fishermen and Campers - *by Grant Baugh*



Look at the mess of roads pioneered along the lower Owyhee River by fishermen.

Is this the way a unique public resource we should manage?

There seems to be no official motivation to change or improve the status quo. Should the Indianhead Fly Fishers make it our issue....we do call it our home river?



During the last 10 years we have noticed a many-fold increase of fishermen (from all over the world) enjoying the river. With the increase of visitors, has come

additional roads being pioneered down to the waters edge, sometimes right to the water, degrading the resources and damaging the precarious desert and riparian vegetation.

The canyon is perhaps the most scenic, readily accessible and most visited site in all of SE Oregon. It is unique and should be better managed.





P.O. BOX 734 WEISER, ID 83672

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Call (208) 462-0402

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