

# The Hook



Lower Umpqua Flycasters  
Member, Federation of Fly Fishers

SEPTEMBER 2008

Volume 19, Number 7

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Outing Schedule	2
Membership News	3
Dues/ application Form	3
Club Officers	3
Sponsors	4

## Meeting times

- General Club meetings held at Reedsport High School at 7:00 p.m. the 3rd Wednesday of each month - note exception in September, see below.
- Executive Board meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Osprey Resort in Lakeside if there are items to discuss. Check with a Board Member before showing up.



**Next Meeting**  
**Sep 17 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Tugman State Park**

**PROGRAM:** Frank Moore, one of the world's top steelheaders, a formidable caster, and probably the best wader you'll ever meet, will be attending the meeting to teach us and talk with us. At 6pm there will be a Pot Luck Dinner, so bring a dish to share.

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

As we prepare for the Rogue River Outing I feel that although most of us know and practice good stream etiquette an occasional reminder of a few points won't hurt any of us.

1. Letting the fisherman that arrives first at a pool finish it without interference.
2. Share the water. After a reasonable time on a pool let the waiting person join you, tell them to pass through and fish below you, or vacate the pool entirely.
3. Allow the fellow fisherman room to fish so that his cast and drift are not interfered with and the fish are not disturbed.

Give room to another fisherman that hooks a fish near you.

Let's all enjoy the great outdoors and share it happily with other like minded souls.

*Cliff Newton*



## Fly Fishing for Pacific Steelhead – A Brief Primer

Fly fishing for steelhead is not an easy game. Generally speaking, success is not measured in fish per day, but in days per fish – sometimes many days per fish. That being said, the take and fight of a steelhead is truly a great thrill, which is why thousands of anglers are willing to endure the long droughts between fish!

In addition to mustering the patience it takes to be a successful steelheader, here are a few insights that might come in handy since steelhead techniques differ somewhat from standard trout fishing protocol. Mastering these tips will help increase your odds of bringing to hand one of these mighty, sea-going fish.

1. Find the right water. You have the best chance to present your fly to steelhead in water that's slow, but not too slow. Current should be about walking speed. Depth of three to six feet is about perfect. If there are big rocks in the water to provide cover, all the better. Stretches below rapids or following big bends in the river often provide good holding water.
2. Cover the water. Once you find a likely section of river, you want to do your best to swing your fly over every inch of the water so a steelhead that's present has a chance to see (and hopefully react to) your fly. Take a few feet of line out and cast downstream at a 45-degree angle. When the fly has swung directly below you, let it dangle a few seconds, then pull out three feet more of line and cast out again. Repeat this until you've cast out as much line as you can handle. Then take a few steps downstream, and cast again. This way, you'll cover all the water.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

Day	Date	Location	Upcoming Outing schedule
Sun	26-Oct	Lower Empire Lake	Scheduled to plant 2000 of the 2 lb.+ "Trophy Trout" Let's go get 'em. Plan to bring your lunch and have a great day.
Tues	4-Nov	Rock Fish at Charleston	The tides are so great on this day we just had to plan a trip going after the Rock Fish again. Meet at 8:00 am at Charleston Harbor boat ramp. Make your own arrangements for a boat and fishing partner.
Sat	8-Nov	Power Pond	This is the last outing of the year. They are scheduled to plant 1500 2 lb.+ "Trophy Trout". Meeting at 9:00 am and have a Pot Luck Lunch at 12:00 noon.
<p>For more details call Robert O'Bryan 541-759-2526</p> <p>Our complete outing schedule can be seen on the web at <a href="http://www.lufc.us">www.lufc.us</a></p>			

(Continued from Page 1)

3. Slow down the fly. For reasons no one can discern, steelhead seem to like a fly that moves slowly through the water. To slow the fly in the current, anglers will throw an upstream mend in their fly line. One or two mends after the fly hits the water generally will suffice. Once you've thrown your initial mend, DON'T MOVE THE FLY. Let it swing in the current until it's below you. Steelheaders needn't worry much about "matching the hatch." Instead, the angler will find success by controlling the speed of the fly. If the fly gets in front of a fish at the right speed, odds are decent that the fish will take it.

4. Let the fish hook itself. This is one of the toughest lessons to learn in steelhead angling. If you feel the grab of a trout, you lift the rod to set the hook. If you lift the rod when you feel the take of a steelhead – and believe me, you'll know it's a steelhead – you'll pull the fly out of its mouth. The idea is to DO NOTHING and let the fish take the fly, return to where it was holding in the river, and thus hook itself. Waiting to lift the rod as the fish rockets away with your fly is one of the longest moments in fly fishing, but anglers who can overcome the urge to set the hook will catch many more fish.

5. Let the fish run. Steelhead are renowned for their powerful fighting ability, especially on a fly rod. When you hook up, let the fish run. That's why you have all that line and backing on your reel. If you try to clamp down on the fish, it likely will pop your tippet, and that will make you cry. Usually the fish will calm down after one or two runs. If it doesn't, follow it as far downstream as you can to gain line back.

6. If it's wild, let it go. As the great angler and conservationist Lee Wulff once said, "A good game fish is too valuable to be caught only once." This certainly applies to steelhead, especially the wild stocks that are fighting for survival in the Pacific Northwest. Hatchery fish are there for your dining pleasure; wild fish have to go back unharmed. It's responsible, and it's the law.

#### **A Word About Equipment:**

For steelhead, a 7- or 8-weight rod with a floating line with 100 yards of backing and a reel with a good drag system will suffice for most situations. More and more steelhead anglers are opting for spey rods – 13' or 14' two-handed fly rods that allow long casts even if there's not much backcasting room. Favorite fly patterns will vary depending on what river you're fishing, though sparsely dressed Muddler Minnows in size 4 and 6 are a decent bet on any of the rivers discussed here.

For trout angling on the Deschutes or Donner und Blitzen, a 5-weight rod outfitted with floating line will work fine.

Anglers seeking the big trout on the Wood might do well to outfit themselves with a 6- or 7-weight rod and a sturdy reel equipped with both floating and sink-tip lines.

Though fall days may be warm, mornings and evenings – not to mention the rivers themselves – are cool, so you'll want some breathable chest waders. Slick riverbeds make wading on the Deschutes, North Umpqua, and Grande Ronde a bit tricky, so take a wading staff and cleated wading shoes.



**Membership News**

At the June meeting the first raffle ticket was drawn by Patti Timothy. Congratulations Patti!

Patti still wants to know if you don't have a member's name badge or have lost it. Please contact Patti at pattijo55@earthlink.net or by phone at (541) 572-2619.

At the last membership meeting it was decided that if any member of the club writes an article for the newsletter of 500 words or more, they will receive 6 free raffle tickets at the next membership meeting they attend after the article is published. The article can be about anything that would interest Fly Fishers, but needs to be original (not copied from another source). Send your article to Vicky at [svnewton@gmail.com](mailto:svnewton@gmail.com) for publication.

Please note that the next members' meeting is not going to be at Reedsport High School but at Tugman State Park (Eel Lake) at 5pm. Frank Moore, one of the world's top steelheaders, a formidable caster, and probably the best wader you'll ever meet, will be attending the meeting to teach us and talk with us. At 6pm there will be a Pot Luck Dinner, so bring a dish to share.

The Pacific Northwest Fly Tyers Rendezvous will be held at Mt Hood Community College on Sat Nov 1. For more details go to [www.lufc.us](http://www.lufc.us) and scroll down.

**Membership Draw Winner**

The winner of the \$25 cash prize at last month's Membership Meeting was **Tom Timothy**.

To qualify for the draw, all you have to do is be a paid-up member of LUFC, be present at the meeting and wait for the draw. Maybe next time you'll be the lucky winner.



**CLUB OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	Herbert Roche
<a href="mailto:hjroche@verizon.net">hjroche@verizon.net</a>	541.662-0723
<b>Vice President</b>	Cliff Newton
<a href="mailto:ccnewton@gmail.com">ccnewton@gmail.com</a>	541-888-5165
<b>Secretary</b>	Patti Timothy
<a href="mailto:pattijo55@earthlink.net">pattijo55@earthlink.net</a>	541.572-2619
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bob Cline
<a href="mailto:Bobcline_31@hotmail.com">Bobcline_31@hotmail.com</a>	541.271.4689
<b>Program</b>	Phil Brashear
	541.267.3116
<b>Newsletter</b>	Vicky Newton
<a href="mailto:svnewton@gmail.com">svnewton@gmail.com</a>	541-888-5165
<b>Webmaster</b>	Vicky Newton
<a href="mailto:svnewton@gmail.com">svnewton@gmail.com</a>	541-888-5165

**Fly of the Month: Silver Hilton**

**HOOK:** 7999, sizes 2-8 **THREAD:** Black **TAIL:** Grizzly hackle fibers **RIB:** Fine silver tinsel **BODY:** Black chenille **WING:** Grizzly hackle tips, flared slightly **HACKLE:** Grizzly

**Uses:** A traditional pattern, the Silver Hilton stills catches steelhead.

**How to Fish:** Traditional wet-fly swing.



***MEMBERSHIP DUES - please specify if 2008 or 2009***

*Annual Dues are \$20.00 within 50 Miles of Reedsport; \$10.00 if more than 50 miles*

***PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFO & RETURN ASAP—We need to update our roster so please send info with your dues***

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ H-PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ W-PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

*I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE HOOK BY ..EMAIL or Regular mail (please check one box)*

**\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE TEAR OFF THIS SECTION & MAIL WITH YOUR DUES TO: LUFC; P.O.BOX 521, REEDSPORT 97467\*\*\*\*\***

## Our Sponsors



**GOIN' FISHIN'**  
Fly Fishing Supplies  
*Butch Minich*

P.O. Box 95  
9461 N.W. Kimberly Way  
Seal Rock, OR 97376 (541) 563-6176

*Please call me either at the store or my cell: 253-334-3599  
before coming to the store. All club members get a 10% discount!*



**SPORTSMAN'S**  
WAREHOUSE


HUNTING • FISHING • CAMPING • RELOADING • OUTERWEAR • FOOTWEAR



**Days Creek Products**  
Fly Shop

Flies By Les --Les Graham  
Commercial Tyer  
P.O. Box 143, Days Creek, OR 97429  
Web: [www.dayscreekproducts.com](http://www.dayscreekproducts.com)  
Email us at: [sales@dayscreekproducts.com](mailto:sales@dayscreekproducts.com)  
Telephone #: 1-541-825-3605  
Fax: 1-541-825-3606

Allan Cline (541) 342-6691



**HOME WATERS**  
FLY FISHING

444 W. 3rd Ave. • Eugene, OR 97401

**Lower Umpqua Flycasters**  
P. O. Box 521  
Reedsport, OR 97467