



The Fly Line

Washington County Fly Fishers

Federation of Fly Fishers

"Cultivating the art of fly fishing through a spirit of fellowship and resource enhancement"

www.wcflyfishers-ore.com

Issue #71

August, 2006

August Chapter Meeting

Westbrook Club House

14255 S.W. 6th Street (one block east of S.W. Murray)

Beaverton, OR 97008

Wednesday, August 2, 2006

Note: Because of the annual BBQ, the meeting will start early, at 6:00 p.m.

6:00 – 6:05	Brief coverage of business matters
6:05 – 7:30	Feasting on ribs and fish
7:30 – 9:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casting contest • Raffle
9:00	Official end of BBQ and meeting, but who knows, things may wind on longer

Like to Eat? Come to the BBQ

It has become a tradition. Every August we celebrate with a BBQ for all of our members and their families. This event has proven to be one of our very best activities, so please plan on coming. Bring your appetite as well as your friends. The club will provide the entrée: Sockeye salmon, halibut, and country pork ribs. All you have to do is bring your favorite side dish: salads, baked beans, bread, casseroles, vegetables, or desserts. In addition to the feasting, other activities will be offered.

- If you want to come before the BBQ starts, the swimming pools at the clubhouse will be open for your use. Roger Lehman will make sure that both the deep and wading pools are available the afternoon before the festivities start.
- Casting games will be held after the meeting.
- And of course, we will have a raffle.

Don't forget that the start time will be at 6:00 p.m., which is one hour earlier than our normal start time. See you there.



It won't be long until Searuns like this will be showing up in our coastal rivers. There is a reason they are called "Harvest Trout."

Upcoming Events

- August 2ndAnnual Barbeque
- August 19thBoard Meeting
- September 6thMonthly Meeting
- September 20thBoard Meeting
- September 23rdSearun Outing, Location TBD
- October 4thMonthly Meeting
- October 28thCrooked River Outing

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August President's Message

The dog days of August are here, and autumn is just around the corner. I am anxiously awaiting the first rains because I know that they will bring new runs of Searun Cutthroat into our coastal rivers. As most of you know, these mysterious and unpredictable fish are my personal favorites. They are at once the easiest and the hardest to catch of all the Pacific Northwest anadromous fish. Finding them is the hard part; catching them once they are found is the easy part. They are always willing of the conditions are right.

What tricks can you use to locate them? And what conditions are the most favorable?

- Cover lots of water. Fish quickly. If they are there, or if they are willing to play, they will come quickly to your fly. Two or three casts to each spot is usually sufficient.
- Move quickly, but be thorough. Fish each foot of water throughout the hole you are searching.
- Look for structure: logs, overhanging trees, rocks, old car bodies, anything that provides sanctuary from predators.
- Don't pass up the "frog water." Cutts like still water as much or more than current.
- Fish the foam lines, including those in back bays or back eddies.
- Look for shade. Searuns do not like bright light. Overcast or rainy days usually prove to be the best.
- Fish early in the morning and at dusk.
- If salmon are spawning, fish below the redds. Searuns will not be far behind.

What kind of gear and what kind of flies should you use?

- ✦ A four or five weight rod is perfect.
- ✦ A floating line is all you need, but a sink tip is preferred by some who wish to fish deeper.
- ✦ Streamers are the most commonly used flies: muddler minnows, reverse spiders, spruce flies, wooly buggers, Purple Joes, etc. Simply cast them to likely water and strip retrieve them erratically. You can also swing them through riffles.
- ✦ Dry flies also work. Yellow humpies, stimulators, and poly stone flies work well, especially late in the fall with the October caddis start showing up.
- ✦ Nymphing also works well. Egg patterns dead-drifted behind the salmon redds are especially effective. However, I prefer the visual excitement of a bright Searun attacking a streamer or dry fly.

Searun cutthroat fishing is fun, but it is not as popular as fishing for rainbows or browns. This is probably because they are so elusive. Personally, I love the challenge.

Good luckPete

Fly of the Month: "Ray Charles"



Hook	Short-Shank Scud/Egg #16
Thread	8/0 Pink or Red
Body	Light Orange Ostrich Herl
Back	Clear/Pearl Flash-Back Mylar
Variations	Ostrich herl in tan, olive-green, gray to match scuds or red, orange, salmon to match fish eggs.


Submitted by Hal Gordon. Photo by John McNally.


History: This fly first appeared in the fly shops around Redding, California in the late 1990s. It has become a staple on many spring creeks and tail waters throughout the world. This fly is an excellent imitation of both scuds and fish eggs. Most crustaceans, including scuds, turn orange when they die (similar to cooked shrimp, crab and lobster) and fish readily snatch them up. Fish eggs are often orange colored as well.

How to Fish: This dual-purpose fly is a great searching pattern. Fish it deep in slow moving water, it was designed to undulate on a micro scale. It is best fished when tied as a dropper behind a well weighted nymph. Dead-drift it along the bottom below weed-beds or spawning gravel. It also works well in slow deep runs between riffles and pools.

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Tying Instructions: This fly was named after the famous musician Ray Charles because it's so simple to tie, even "a blind man could tie it". Fix the hook in the vise and wrap a smooth layer of thread over the shank back to the hook bend. Attach the flash-back mylar to the top of the hook. Take a close look at the ostrich herl, under a microscope it looks like a "Y", where the "v" is the feather fibers and the "l" is the feather stem. Strip the base of one strand of ostrich herl and tie the stem horizontally along the side of the hook (facing the tyer) with the stem pointing up and the "v" fibers pointing down. Wrap the herl tightly toward the hook-eye, with the leading edge of the herl stem facing forward. This will flair-out the feather fibers nicely around the hook shank and they won't be flattened by the feather stem. Pull the mylar over the top of the hook and secure with several generous wraps of thread and add a drop of cement to the thread.

Hal Gordon's Fall Adventure

Don't forget that Hal Gordon is organizing a week-long outing for this fall (October 2-7). The current plan is to start at the Owyhee River and end at the Donner and Blitzen or the Crooked River. This may be your best chance to be a trout bum -- these informal, affordable "no host" trips are a wonderful way to learn new water and experience the great fishing opportunities our state has to offer. Talk to Hal about joining this great trip.



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Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5 pm Sunday
Monday: “Gone Fishing”

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