



# Covering The Drift

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## Leaders Line

## Board's Work

By Carl Johnson, President  
I spend a lot of time thinking about what to say in these messages, usually while I'm driving. Fortunately I usually do a lot of driving. Unfortunately when I have a good thought, I can't find a piece of paper or pen to write it down. So I think to myself I'll remember that, but I generally don't. You see I do not like to write! It is the part of being Council president that I don't enjoy. One of my thoughts was about the things I do enjoy. One thing that always surfaces is people I've met.

This year's National Conclave or Fly Fishing Fair (as they now call it) had one event highlighting being Council President. I had the honor of presenting Les Johnson with the Arnold Gingrich Memorial Life

Award and John Newbury the Buszak award. Our Council was well represented at the awards banquet. Bill Redmond received the Conservation Award, Larry Gibbs received the Council Award of Excellence and I received the Don Harger Memorial Life Award.

Les made a comment when I presented him with his award which I don't think many people heard. He said "We don't do this to get awards but when you do it sure is nice." I agree with Les, receiving an award is nice but it is not why I enjoy my time as Council president. This got me thinking about why we volunteer or support the FFF. I'm sure we all have different reasons but I think one common theme is that we all enjoy fly fishing and want the sport to be available to others. My wife and I have 8 grandchildren and we have introduced the sport to most of them. I sure want there to be rivers and lakes to fish when they grow up. Please think about why you fly fish and let's take care of our resources, pick up some trash on your next time out fishing, volunteer on the club level or council level. Think about what you can do to make sure the future generations can enjoy this sport.

Save the date - the 2011 Washington Fly Fishing Fair will be April 29th and 30th at the Kittitas Valley Event Center in Ellensburg. I hope to see you there.

By David Williams, Secretary  
On July 17, 2010 the Board met in Ellensburg. President Carl Johnson called the meeting to order. Secretary Williams certified the results of the election and new board members were introduced.

1st Vice-President West Don Simonson recognized Larry Gibbs for his outstanding contribution and efforts to support the casting board of governors.

1st Vice-President East Len Zickler got into the swing of things by volunteering to work on the publicity poster for the 2011 Fly Fishing Fair.

The Board reviewed the 2010 Fly Fishing Fair income and expense report prepared by Jim Gee. The event was an educational and financial success.

There was a lively discussion regarding the Council newsletter which is a large expense item. The discussion centered on giving FFF members the option of receiving an electronic newsletter in an effort to reduce printing and mailing costs. Larry Gibbs noted that the newsletter is the only contact between the Council and all FFF members. He expressed concern that contact would be lost if we went email only. President Johnson stated the printed version would not be eliminated. Don Simonson moved that letters be drafted soliciting input from membership. The motion carried.

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## Project Healing Waters 2-Fly Competition

By Vicki Hoagland and Chuck Tye  
PHW is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled military service personnel through fly fishing and fly tying education and outings. On August 21, the 1st Annual Northwest PHW 2- Fly Contest achieved all these goals and more. Thirteen PHW veterans were paired with program volunteers and fished with 13 rower/judges on three different Yakima River beats. There was plenty of slack water, long runs, riffles, pools and eddies to cast a fly over with the hopes of obtaining



bragging rights for biggest and most fish caught for the day. The Ellensburg KOA was the staging area. There was ample room for all the event logistics and 16 tents. Even the three service dogs that came along had room to play and run. The entire crew at the KOA was very supportive throughout the entire event. The morning got off to a hectic start as everyone ate breakfast, packed lunches, registered the teams, conducted a final safety and rules brief and of course talked strategy and a bit of jive and boasting about the day's fishing outcome. By 11:00 the teams were anxious to get on the wa-

ter and fish. The river was running a bit high and fast but the weather was beautiful and the winds mild. Each boat was allowed four flies and limited to two patterns. So, would the teams fish low with a wet pattern or on the surface with a dry? Would they fish with a dry and a dropper or would they fish a single fly in hopes that they wouldn't lose two flies at once? Each team knew that if they lost all four flies they could buy a fly back from the rower/judge at the price of their largest fish?

As teams fished the river, the PHW support staff stayed busy with dinner prep and cooking, camp maintenance, watching service dogs, and running the shuttles. Without such a dedicated group of volunteers this whole event would have never been possible. After recovery of all the teams and boats, the camp came alive as

everyone streamed back from fishing. Oh and did the bragging and fish stories run wild! The only lull was when an incredible dinner was served consisting of prime rib, salmon, salad, special camp beans and Dutch oven cobbler.

After scores were tallied, an informal awards ceremony was held. The largest rainbow caught was 17.5 inches and the most

fish caught was 6. A raffle followed and everyone came away a winner. A pink TFO hat was awarded to rower/judges who lost their catch cards.

It was truly an incredible day watching the camaraderie and friendships develop during this two day event. There was a great deal of healing for all participants involved. Planning has already started for next year's 2-fly so stay tuned. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this event a success and a special thanks to Red's Fly Shop, the Trout Waters Fly Shop, the Worley-Bugger Fly Co., and the Ellensburg KOA for their generous support.

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## *Membership Report*

By Dan Ferguson, Membership VP

If you're reading this, you are currently an active member of the FFF so I'll be preaching to the choir! Our council, along with all but the Southwest council, is showing a decrease in membership. In part from the low renewal rate for the \$15 special membership for 2009. Those who have renewed at the standard rate, thank-you! Those that didn't renew aren't reading this anyway.

The challenge as I see it is convincing folks why they should join. It's too easy to ask "what's in it for my club"? As was pointed out to me, we need to look at the bigger picture, seeing what is going on at the national level. Nearly all of the projects taken on by national have a direct effect on one club or group of people at a local level. Using my own club, The Spokane Fly Fishers, as an example, we rarely give any thought to asking the FFF for help with any of our conservation or education projects. This is something that we need to change at the club level.

I would also point out that the FFF has trained numerous certified casting instructors, two for our club, to help with our respective fly fishing programs. The FFF was instrumental in providing 10 rod/reel combo's for our youth fly fishing class's and gave us a great deal on hundreds of hooks for tying instruction. These are real, tangible benefits.

As national doesn't do a lot as far as reminders are concerned, it's up to us encourage folks to re-up for another year. Along with your state board, we'll be working on a scripted presentation that can be made by the clubs FFF liaison or membership chair. Over the next few months, we'll be working closely with the clubs and would love to see our council's membership show an upswing.

If anyone has any questions they can feel free to email me at [nwfly-guy@comcast.net](mailto:nwfly-guy@comcast.net) or call at 509-325-8885.

## *Northwest Fly Fishing Events for 2010 & 2011*

November 6 Pacific Northwest Fly Tyers Rendezvous @ Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham OR  
[www.nwflytyers.org](http://www.nwflytyers.org)

February 26, 2011 Lower Umpqua Fly Casters Fly Fishing Expo@Reedsport OR  
[www.lufc.com](http://www.lufc.com)

March 12-13, 2011 Oregon Council FFF Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo@ Linn County Fairground Albany OR  
[www.nwflytyerexpo.com](http://www.nwflytyerexpo.com)

April 29-30, 2011 WSCFFF Fly Fishing Fair@Kittitas Valley Event Center, Ellensburg  
[www.washingtoncouncilfff.org](http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org)

June 2011 Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Fishing Fair & Casting Expo@Tye Park, Monroe  
[www.jimmygreenflyexpo.com](http://www.jimmygreenflyexpo.com)

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July 2011 Tenth Annual Metolius River Fly Fishing and Bamboo Rod Fair@ Black Butte School, Camp Sherman, OR  
[www.campshermanstore.com](http://www.campshermanstore.com)

August 2011 FFF National Fly Fishing Show (formerly known as Conclave) @ West Yellowstone, MT  
[www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org)

If your club, organization or Council has an event you'd like publicized, please email all the info to the editor



## Improving Your Fly Casting Skills

By Don Simonson FFF MCI, CBOG

While recognizing each of us learn in our own way. I want to share with you some areas of fly casting that have helped me improve my own casting and allowed me to enjoy the sport even more. While working with fly casters, of varying proficiency levels, I have noticed areas of weakness in the casting process that, if addressed, will greatly improve one's casting.

"Practicing is essential". With consistent practice comes proficiency. Committing to practicing three times per week for only 20-30 minutes, while focusing on specific tasks will significantly improve your skills. Don't just cast to be casting. Practice with a purpose.

The goal should be to perfect your fly casting. This is done by good line control and good line speed through the entire casting process. To accomplish this, allow the rod to do most of the work, by smoothly accelerating to an abrupt stop while moving the rod tip in a straight-line path. This technique will produce narrow energy efficient loops on both the back cast and forward cast.

Some essential areas:

Controlling the speed of the cast:

Many move the rod too quickly. If you can hear the rod moving while you are casting, it is moving too fast. The goal is to create a narrow loop on your back cast so you do not need to try to compensate with higher rod speed on your forward cast. If you have produced a wide loop on your back cast, which usually results in excessive slack, many people try to compensate by increasing the speed of the forward cast. This can result in a tailing loop where the top leg of the loop falls below the bottom leg of the loop.

Smooth out the casting stroke:

Smooth consistent strokes are essential to producing an energy efficient narrow loop. If an erratic application of power results in an uneven acceleration of the rod, a tailing loop normally results.

Elevating the back cast:

To accomplish the elevated back cast the motion of the rod hand is more up than back. Regardless of which casting style you choose: elbow forward, elbow out to the side or elbow low - the elbow should move upward on the back cast. The fly line is going to follow the path of the rod tip. If we abruptly stop the cast with the rod tip traveling in an upward direction a tight loop will be generated in the same upward direction.

Lowering the forward cast:

Conversely on the forward cast the motion of the rod hand is more down than forward. Executing the forward cast by simultaneously lowering the elbow while extending the forearm forward to an abrupt stop with the rod at approximately a 45-degree angle above the horizon will produce a nice forward loop. Concentrate on the elbow: up in back, down in front.

Stopping the rod:

Emphasis must be given to abruptly stopping the rod in the proper locations on both the back cast and the forward cast. The casting stroke is over the moment the rod is stopped and loop formation occurs. The line and fly travel in the direction the rod tip is going when the loop is formed. A short cast will necessitate a short casting stroke and a long cast a longer casting stroke. Consistency is essential: the stopping point of the delivery cast should be the same as the stopping point of the last false cast.

Practicing these five areas will improve your fly casting. If you would like to further explore these areas contact me for private lessons.

See you on the water.

*(Continued from page 1)*

David Williams will draft the letters. Vice-President Education Pat Herdt is working on ideas to keep school children coming to the Fly Fishing Fair in the face of school district and Council budget constraints.

Vice-President Conservation Don Bolstad reported on the Regional Fishery Enhancement Program. He noted there is a study trying to determine what is eating the coho salmon as they move through Lake Wenatchee.

Government Affairs Chair Mike Clancy reported on another successful Youth Academy event. The Council purchased a one-year membership for each participant.

The Council will have a presence at the Tri-Cities, Puyallup and Central Washington sports shows and the Jimmy Green event in 2011. The Spokane show has been cancelled.

David Williams was appointed to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition to replace Walt Walkinshaw, a long time Coalition and FFF member. Williams requested and the Board approved a \$500 donation to the WWRC.

The Board met again October 9, 2010 in Ellensburg. After President Johnson called the meeting to order, the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

President Johnson reported on the FFF National Fly Fishing Show (formerly known as Conclave). National is financially solvent, will be staying in Livingston and will move towards returning the magazine publication to quarterly. In Membership news, all clubs that become part of FFF after March 1, 2011 must consist wholly of FFF members. For clubs affiliated with FFF prior to March 1, 2011, FFF membership is optional. He reported that National would like more information from clubs for inclusion in the magazine, particularly

*(Continued on page 5)*



## 2010 NWYCFE Academy News

By Mike Clancy

One of the rewards of participating in the 2010 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy is watching the boys and girls develop their casting and fly tying skills, fishing ethics and etiquette and learning the value of conservation. It is the goal of the Academy to increase the opportunities for the boys and girls to learn and appreciate the sport of fly fishing and the importance of conservation. The quality of the students was amazing. The 23 boys and girls conducted themselves in a mature and responsible manner. Not one Band-Aid was needed the entire week.

The Academy is co-sponsored by the Washington Council of TU and the Washington State Council of FFF and hosted by South Sound Fly Fishers and the Olympia Chapter of TU. Sponsors and hosts did an outstanding job with a wonderful group of students.

This event would have not happened without the dedicated support of over 50 volunteers contributing long hours over the seven days. Jim Brosio and Mike Clancy co-chaired the event with excellent support from Ron Smorynski, Matt

Tuttle, Mel Hurd, Les Rosenthal, Tom and Karen Van Gelder, Tammy Mackey and many other folks that assisted with the casting, fly tying and ghilling at the Nisqually Pond and the Deschutes River. The students were very fortunate with the quality of the instructors and the folks that demonstrated their skills in tying and casting.

The financial support from the TU Chapters, FFF Fly Fishing Clubs, Washington Councils of TU and FFF, plus the private donors, makes this Academy possible. I think everyone involved realizes what the life long experience and values of the Academy has on our children and their future in both their careers and sports.

Worked has already started on the 2011 Academy which will be held at The Gwinwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey WA. on June 19-25, 2011.



(Continued from page 4)

regarding club conservation activities. Three locations are under consideration for the 2011 National Fly Fishing Show. Larry Gibbs reported that the auction went better than expected but not quite as well as hoped.

1st Vice-President West Don Simonson will try to visit Westside clubs with President Johnson.

1st Vice-President East Len Zickler attended the Walla Walla Fly Fishers banquet. He stated that Casting For Recovery is interested in having a retreat in eastern Washington or western Idaho.

Treasurer Jim Gee provided his report through President Johnson. The Council is solvent and budget requests are due from Fly Fishing Fair chairs.

Vice-President Communications and Webmaster Bob Bates was ill but advised President Johnson he was trying to upgrade the website.

The newsletter issue was revisited with the Board having an opportunity to review two draft letters intended to solicit membership comments. Board members were requested to send their comments to Bob Bates.

The 2011 Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg will feature Will Godfrey as auctioneer handling both the Friday "fun theme" and Saturday money raising auctions. President Johnson donated two hosted Clark Fork trips. Work is underway on the April 29-30, 2011 event.

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**Fly of the Season**

Ever notice that what you resist, persists? Like putting off going to the dentist, filing your Form 1040 or getting your brakes checked. For years I resisted using a Knudsen Spider—either in the original Al Knudsen 1930's dress or the 1970's Mike Kinney reversal. Of course I tied a few, carried them in my coastal cutthroat fly box, where they remained untouched. A couple of weeks ago, on a stunningly beautiful October day, Steve Bohne-meyer hit the Stillaguamish River. Steve started catching fish on a black Knudsen Spider. My concentrated resistance broken only by the occasional salmon crashing the pool, I con-

tinued trying to raise fish on a double dry fly cast. (This last sentence must be shock to those who know me and believe I only fish D-Dub's Chartreuse Caboose for small-mouth.) And despite what my brother says, Mama din't fetch up no dummy. I may be slow, but eventually I get there. In this case, it took a bit more resistance in the form of—a couple casts with this pattern, then that one, then another one—then a black reverse spider was spotted lurking in the corner of my fly box. Bent on, it soon was protruding from the mouth of sleek, silver-sided coastie. A quick release, another cast, a solid thump. Suddenly my fly line stretched across the pool. A salmon broached near where the line disappeared in the water. When that same fish jumped again and again

in quick succession always in the same area as my line, I determined (slowly) that silly salmon had attached itself to my black reverse spider. As a matter of fact, it still has my one and only spider—broken off as I was trying to get photos. Fortunately, Steve is a good friend and gave me another. Resistance is futile. Spiders have hatched in my fly box.



Photo by David Williams



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