

ISLAND WATERS FLY FISHERS



Fly of the month by John O'Brien

J.R.'s Water Boatman - 3 versions

The Island Waters Fly Fishers
Box 323, Lantzville, BC
V0R 2H0

The Purpose of our club is as follows:

- To practice, further and promote the art of fly fishing
- To practice and promote fish conservation and enhancement
- To encourage fellowship and sportsmanship amongst anglers

President:	Dave Connolly	758-3192
Vice President :	Keith MacDonald	758-2138
Secretary:	Frank Perilli	390-4400
Treasurer:	Harold Tinling	758-8685
Past President :	Steve Wawrykow	754-3650
Gilly :	Ray Honig	
Directors:	Bruce Cumming	390-2236
	Chris Depka	754-6569
	Bernie Heinrichs	390-3266
	Ray Honig	758-9930
	Wayne Legge	756-3114
	Bill McColl	722-3123
	John O'Brien	754-1432
	Hale Yardley	753-2970

Meetings on 4th Tuesday of the Month at the Ukrainian Hall at 4017 Victoria Ave. off Norwell Dr. Visitors and Guests welcome. Phone 754-3650



The British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers (BCFFF) is a registered, non-profit society whose main objective is to promote the conservation of the fishing environment in British Columbia. By networking with similarly minded clubs, organizations, businesses and individuals, the BCFFF provides a voice that reflects its member's and the public's concern for the future of B.C.'s natural resources. Our organization believes that concern for the future of our province's environment is not just the exclusive domain of fly fishers or other recreation groups, but should be the concern of all citizens. Consequently, it is with this broader population in mind that we strive to protect and promote our natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations to respect and enjoy.

Visit the BCFFF on their webpage at <http://www.bcfff.bc.ca/>

Email us at iwff@shaw.ca Ph 754-3650

Visit at www.members.shaw.ca/iwff

Gratitude Attitude

A special thanks on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club, to SEALAND TACKLE and ISLAND WATERS FLY FISHERS, for providing our first Fly Tying Course to children at our Clubs. These wonderful volunteers gave up their time and shared their wealth of knowledge to a group of our members from various clubs.

The children who took part in this five week course learned to create the flies at right for future fly fishing trips.

Thanks for your generosity!



Imagine the patience and detail work that went into creating this lovely morsel....

This is an excerpt from the Boys and Girls Club newsletter thanking our club for their work with their club.

Thanks to John O'Brien and Bruce Cumming for their involvement. Thanks also go out to the members who gave their time as well: - In no particular order- Harvey Stern, Gerry Stevens, Peter Huyghebaert, John Segal, Ray Evans and Chris Depka.

John and Bruce have indicated that there will be more work done and are asking for volunteers to help the cause.

Notice to lwff Members

Dues for 2003 are now due. This will be your last newsletter if you have not renewed. To continue receiving your newsletter please contact our Membership Chair Keith MacDonald, Harold Tinling or me. If you are attending the next meeting, bring your dues then.

Thanks to those who have already renewed.



Bruce Cumming with a Spring Salmon from the Big Qualicum River. (Picture submitted by Bruce)

Calendar of Events

February 25, 2003 - John O'Brien on a topic to be determined. Please let John know what topic you wish to be discussed or presented.

March 25, 2003 TBA

April 22, 2003 An Informal meeting - Don't forget the supper meeting with spouse or partners to be held on a Saturday Night as well.

Vice Presidents Report

As I write this President Dave is probably laying by the pool in sunny Mexico thinking about drifting the Cowichan. It was my privilege to chair the first meeting of 2003, what a great turnout. We 9 guests and we also had 3 new members join our club. The growing interest in fly-fishing is clearly reflected in our increasing club membership. To date we have 60 members on the books and I know of at least 4 applications forms that have been taken out. Please keep in mind that your 2003 membership dues are now payable.

The club will be losing one our members this year, Elizabeth Kristensen is leaving our fair city and will be relocating to Kamloops in the very near future, maybe we can get her to scout out some of the prime fishing spots for us.

John O'Brien, Chris Depka and I will be heading up the committee to coordinate our fish outs for 2003, if you have any ideas or would like to organize a fish out please give one of us a call. If you haven't been on one of the club outings you don't know what you are missing. John organizes a great trip and the fishing is usually great, the weather although can be questionable.

For those interested the fishing on the Stamp is at best very slow, the water levels are very inconsistent and fishing conditions have been difficult. I fished the Falls Pool on Sunday and there were 12 anglers fishing the pool, only saw 2 fish hooked and none landed. One can only hope for a much better spring trout season.

Good luck and enjoy your time on the water.

Thanks Keith, Well Done!

FLY CASTING SEMINARS

These are being presented most Sundays behind the Crow and Gate Pub in Cedar at 2 PM. John O'Brien requests that you phone Sealand Tackle at 754-1432 to confirm whether the session is on. Come and improve your casting.

FOR SALE

New Redington Fly Rod 9 ft 4 pc 6 wt \$150

Collectors - HARDY JET Glass Fly Rod 8 ft 6wt
good condition \$125

Orvis Magnalite Multiplier Fly Reel 3 1/2 inch
Great steelhead reel 2 extra spools \$75

STH Cassette Fly REEL new in box DiscDrag
c/w 5 wt double taper S.A. fly line and two
extra spools \$75

Contact Roy Sorensen at 390-4415 for
more information

Fly Tying Sessions

Phone Larry Miller for more information.

Sessions are being held at Ray Brunt's every first and third tuesday at 1:30 PM and every second and fourth Thursday at Harold Tinlings at 7:30 PM

Wanted

Submission of pictures and stories for the newsletter. Pictures can be photos. These will be scanned for the newsletter and returned. Please submit to Bernie or Steve.

I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.

You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me.

JANUARY'S GUEST SPEAKER



Bill Luscombe enjoyed our show of appreciation after his presentation at the January 28th, 2003 meeting

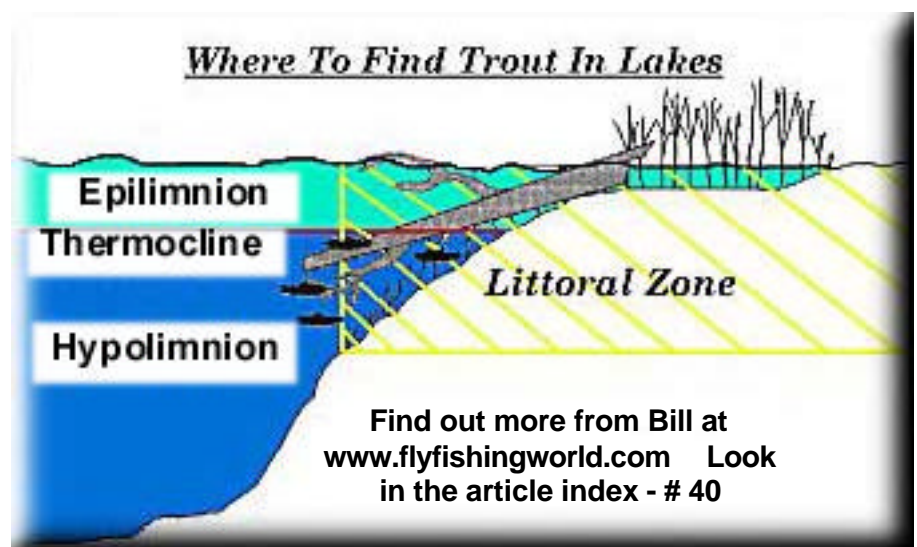
When Bill Luscombe was asked how to catch trout in the winter, his reply was "Did you notice the reports given at the Gilly?" He was referring to the lack of stories about trout being taken by the members since the last meeting. It pretty well sums up the fishing action in still waters from December to February on the island.

But take heart, there are great opportunities in store for us in the early Spring. Bill's presentation dealt mainly with going back to basics when we are back on the lakes and trying to entice those elusive trout. His main theme was to "think like a fish". You also need to understand its requirements and preferences. Trout hang out where there is food nearby, where there is shelter from their predators, where there is the most oxygen and as close to their ideal temperature (55F)

as possible. When the temperature and oxygen levels vary from the ideal, trout become very lethargic and are not as sporting. Food will lure them from their ideal hiding places. When there is a hatch occurring in the hot mid-summer they will swim up to the warm water at surface but will go back to the cooler, more-oxygenated water below the thermocline. A trout's food source in a lake is mostly in or near weeds. This is also a safer place from its predators. The only problem from the trout's view point is the temperature and oxygen level. The ideal location of these is often in deeper water. Bill's recommendation is to fish in both areas until they can be located.

If you can locate the thermocline, you can probably locate fish. If you do not have a depth thermometer, the thermocline can be located by counting down your hook to know how deep it is when you do get a bite. During the summer fish prefer to be slightly below the thermocline in the cooler water. They will come up to feed in the warmer water above the thermocline.

The diagram below shows the relationship between the Epilimnion (upper water) and the Hypolimnion (lower water). During the summer the Epilimnion is warmer than the Hypolimnion. The Littoral Zone is the area where the sunlight can reach the bottom of the lake. This is the area where weeds will grow and provides habitat for insects.



TO FLOAT TUBE OR NOT?



by Roy Sorensen

The mental competency or the measure of a fisherman's fanaticism can most often be gauged by simply having a look at the amount and type of gear and tackle he possesses, especially that which is neatly tucked away and hidden from his wife's view. After spending my first day on the water paddling around in a nylon wrapped inner tube, I was certain the line had been crossed.

For years I had looked on with keen interest whenever a 'Float Tuber' was spotted bobbing on a lake. It looked like downright fun to paddle about under one's own steam and sneak up on fish and other wildlife. My interest was peaked after watching one such gentleman appear to be out fishing many of the other boaters on the lake. He cast with seeming ease and quietly backed up in order to put tension on his line in preparation for the strike. He was able to twist around quickly in order to cover nearby rises and appeared to have no trouble going wherever he wanted. There was also no bending over the gunnels to net a fish; he merely extended his arm out to the catch.

From that time on, I began to ask questions of the people I had seen in float tubes (belly boats) and queried friends who owned them. The feed back on these little mini-boats was nothing but positive. The owners claimed that by being much more quiet than regular boats and allot lower to the water, the fish would be less likely to spook, thereby allowing one the ability to get closer and land a greater amount of trout. I eyed them with much curiosity and speculation and wondered as to the sea worthiness of such a minute craft. The float tube is simply a large inner tube of usually 32" in diameter, sown and wrapped with 400-denier nylon, the center

housing a cradle in which to sit. The fisherman is equipped with leak proof stocking foot chest waders and swim fins in order to propel himself. The retailer assured me the tube would comfortably float 300 lbs. An odd way to fish, but practical if you cannot afford a boat, or do not wish to pack heavy craft into the hard to get at places. I had to have one... And managed to sneak one into the house without anyone being the wiser for it, until a time later when my wife caught me pumping it up one morning. I simply explained that it had been purchased a long time ago, on sale and was it ever a good deal (one of her favorite reasons for buying clothes), besides which, look at all the money I saved by not buying a larger boat and outboard—it was payback time. Not to mention that belly boats are environmentally friendly. I think she bought it. Not! However, she did let me have my way. I shuddered at the thought of her next shopping trip.

Nearly everything I really needed to learn about this type of fishing was learned during my very first outing, with a group of my friends from our club. This was Island Waters Fly Fishers' premier fishout of the year. When I say "Fishout", I actually mean 'get together'. Our definition of fishout is not 'fish kill'. Catch and release is highly recommended whenever we have group outings, so as not to impact on trout populations. These gatherings, of rarely more than eight people, allow us the chance to get our families involved and join with other fishermen we may not always have the opportunity to be with. Even experienced members can see new places and novices can learn from the more experienced fly fishermen. On this day my friend Bent Hackle and I decided it would be perfect to try out our new float tubes. Destination: a not too secret small lake in the mountains.

The time was early May, roughly 6:30 a.m. Our group met at a local restaurant for breakfast. This gave us the chance to fuel up and discuss fishing strategy for the day ahead. For those of us that had not fished the lake, this meant saving a great deal of time, rather than fumbling about for hours in order to understand what these trout may be feeding on. It also meant I would not get lost on the way. After scarfing down a large meal and three cups of coffee, we were on the road.

Bent and I raced up to the Nanaimo Lakes gate only to discover we were early. The attendant did not arrive for another half-hour. So we broke out our thermos, poured another coffee or two and carefully checked out

the gear. The morning was sunny and already warming. The trip looked promising. To pass the time, we strung our rods and complained that we all worked too hard and didn't fish enough.

Upon arriving at our destination, a dainty looking, small lake lay before us, surrounded by thick green reeds pushing out a hundred yards from shore. The air above the water glowed in a light green haze. Perfect stillness in the reflected flora near shore created the illusion of double the plant life. The center of the lake appeared calm and slightly peat colored. The effect was pleasing...

This place looked just perfect for float tubing. Four of us had tubes and the rest had small boats. We quickly rigged up and swilled back another coffee and flopped our webbed feet clumsily toward the water. The shore edge proved to be very shallow. It just wasn't going to be easy to get these babies to float. I turned backwards and waddled my flippers through the mud and reeds a fairly good distance into the lake before the depth was sufficient enough for me to float. Once accomplished, the reeds had to be skimmed over while not catching my fly line. Now that I was finally into fishable water, a cast was made. The fly line didn't seem to travel quite as far as from standing position in a boat. No problem, I could simply back up when it was necessary. I also remembered what my friends had said about the fish not being spooked by belly boats. Upon scanning the area for predominant forms of aquatic insect life, I noticed the pipe cleaner sized reeds were covered in little brown husks. Damsel Fly exoskeletons dotted the shafts as far as I could see. Trout were surfacing at the edge as well as in amongst the greenery. The odd reed seemed to move on its own—the trout were smacking the reeds to knock off the larvae. It made sense to cover the area from out in the deeper water and cast into or near the reeds. I was using a Tom Thumb with my dry line and made another cast to the edge of the reeds. No sooner than the fly hit the surface, a substantial fish boiled at my fly and snapped off as it charged into the green mass. My next tippet was switched to six-pound test in order to prevent this from happening again. I hoped the fish weren't leader shy and guessed the darkness of this water might help to hide the leader. So far, I enjoyed the feel of being close to the water and admired the maneuverability afforded by this tiny craft. I did not have to drop anchor as in a boat in order to keep straight, or continually drag oars in and out so that the

boat might stay parallel to shore. Things were looking good.



Bent and I chatted back and forth about how and where the fish seemed to be feeding. Each of us had caught and released a couple. A slow, shallow ripple started to appear on the surface. I was beginning to feel a little pressure, but ignored it. My friend and I continued to talk and casually cast as we gently drifted to the far end of the lake. Very little leg movement was required except to keep us turned parallel to shore. Twenty minutes later, the end of the lake was before us. The pressure continued to build. There was no access to shore at this end of the lake due to the dense underbrush. With this, we slowly started to fish our way back up the lake.

Another twenty minutes went by before I noticed we hadn't moved at all. I cursed myself for having drunk so much coffee on the way here. The wind was picking up fast. Bent commented with a slight hint of urgency that we had best try a little harder to get back. I agreed...and paddled for all I was worth. Making headway was difficult and getting worse as the wind began to howl. The old legs weren't going to take much more of this, not to mention my already complaining bladder. Ducking in close to the weeds seemed to help somewhat.

To make an incredibly long story short, we finally beached ourselves almost one hour later and hurriedly flung our float tubes and fins off and ran for the hills, as it were. After a leisurely lunch and little to drink, we were off again. This time we worked in close to the foliage, cast parallel to it and worked up the lake into a few channels in order to be out of the wind. Later, we

would simply drift back to the launch site. Finally out of the wind, I relaxed and pursued a few rises amongst the reeds, where the bigger trout seemed to be. A few were hooked only briefly. The tall weed was just too tough for my leader to take when the fish wrapped my line up. However, some nice 12" and 14" fish were taken in the center of the channels. All in all, a very fine day. My friend and I had released roughly ten trout each that day. Everyone in the club had a good time catching fish and ragging on me about my bladder trouble. Only two fish were kept by members, one because it was the member's first fish on the fly and the other cooked his up right there. That's what fishing is all about. The experience is everything and the fish are a bonus.

When considering a float tube, look at the advantages and disadvantages I have described above and think about the following: prices range from \$125 to about \$400. make sure the tube will be large enough to carry your weight plus your tackle; make absolutely certain the cradle has a quick release in order to facilitate an emergency escape should your tube suddenly deflate; use a good quality inner tube and check it periodically for rot or leaks; try to get one with a large back rest as this will provide some floatation should the main tube deflate; fill the tube as hard as you can without bursting the nylon seams because the air will deflate somewhat in the cool water; on the other hand you must deflate the inner tube somewhat after use because the sun will expand the air and could burst the seams; try not to use swim fins larger than your legs can handle; wear neoprene stocking foot waders if possible and long johns to stave off hypo-thermia; wear shorty or mesh type vests to avoid wicking water up; wear Polaroid glasses in order to protect against the sun's reflection and see fish more easily; look for a belly boat with plenty of zippered storage; Velcro straps are a must when you put your rod down for any reason; try to use at least a 9ft. or longer fly rod due to it being slightly more difficult to cast, and lastly, do not drink to much fluid before entering the water for obvious reasons.

The benefits of this type of fishing often times outweigh the disadvantages: trout spook much less; tubes are light and compact; they are inexpensive compared to a real boat; you never have to take a

passenger; tubes can easily be carried a great distance.

In order to alleviate my primary problem with float tubes, my wife being a registered nurse, suggested a catheter and bag might solve the problem.



Newsletters

At the last meeting we had a discussion of printing and mailing newsletters. A sheet was circulated and ten members elected to forego receiving the newsletter in printed form and receive it via email in PDF format. It saves the club about \$1 per newsletter and the person receiving it gets all pages in color. Some members choose to print it on their own in this format.

To open the newsletters in PDF you must have Acrobat Reader installed in your computer. Once you have the Reader then the newsletter will open by double clicking the file attachment sent to you by email. If you choose to receive your newsletters by email please let us know by email.

Don't have Acrobat Reader? Steve will gladly help you install it.

The BCFFF Flylines has grown to a staggering 24-page document. We are presently printing 40 copies in black and white. These are available at monthly meetings when they are produced. (I believe 4 times a year). They are available from the BCFFF website. We are presently not mailing them, as the cost would be \$1 each for postage. It costs us about \$0.84 to print them. These are also produced in color. For us to print them in color would cost 70 cents per page for a total cost of \$16.80 for each newsletter. The executive has decided to just print them in black and white and distribute them at meetings.

Fly of the Month



J.R.'s Water Boatman

Hook: heavy wire shrimp /scud hook.#8/14

Thread: 6/0 danvilles or 8/0 w/nylon.

Shellback: dark green or black thin skin.

Body: glow bright chennille white.

Legs: superfloss black.

Thorax: gold or silver tinsel chennille.

Hackle: brown/ grizzly or black.

Instructions:

Prime hook with thread along shank/tie in thin skin strip about 1/4" wide long enough to fold over to eye and tie off. Tie in glow bright chennille and wind to middle of hook shank and tie off. Then tie in legs using 1" piece of super floss on top of hook. Then tie in tinsel chennille and wind 1 or 2 wraps then tie off. Now tie in hackle and wind 1 or 2 wraps then tie off, Pull scud back forward over eye and tie down/trim and whip finish,

Flies tied by J.R.O'Brien