



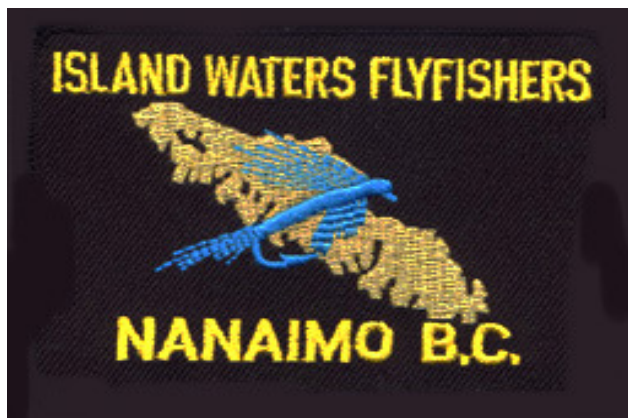
# ISLAND WATERS FLY FISHERS



At the “Gilly”, Bill McColl usually gets rapt attention from **most** of his audience

## Island Waters Fly Fishers

Email us at [iwff@shaw.ca](mailto:iwff@shaw.ca) or Phone  
390-3266  
Visit at [www.iwff.ca](http://www.iwff.ca)



Meetings at 7:00 pm. on the 4th Tuesday of the Month at the Ukrainian Hall at 4017 Victoria Ave. off Norwell Dr. Visitors and Guests welcome. Phone 390-3266.

## CONTACTS

|                  |                  |          |
|------------------|------------------|----------|
| President:       | Jack Toomer      | 756-0987 |
| Vice President : | Lloyd Erickson   | 390-4905 |
| Secretary:       | Frank Perilli    | 390-4400 |
| Treasurer:       | Harold Tinling   | 758-2655 |
| Past President : | Bernie Heinrichs | 390-3266 |
| Directors:       |                  |          |
| Youth:           | Leo Snye         | 729-7242 |
| Program:         | Ron Busche       | 758-2225 |
| Entertain:       | Bob Kissinger    | 758-8995 |
| Conservation:    | Wayne Pealo      | 743-4569 |
| Fund Raising:    | Tom Skilton      | 729-5685 |
| Raffle:          | Brian Lapadat    | 753-7440 |
| Webmaster:       | Mike Orr         | 754-6184 |
| Fly Tying        | Ron Busche       | 758-2225 |
| Videos:          | Wayne Legge      | 756-3114 |
| Library:         | Larry Miller     | 390-4495 |
| Gilly :          | Ray Honig        | 758-9930 |
| Coffee, Hall:    |                  |          |
| Newsletter:      | Bernie Heinrichs | 390-3266 |

## The Island Waters Fly Fishers

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



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/>



Five of the 26 campers who attended the fishout at Buttle Lake May 8th to the 13, 2009. Ray and Joan Honig, John Ellis and Dennis Mullins. Those who caught fish said that the fishing was great. Those who did not claimed that the fishing was not that good.

## President's Message

Hi Guys and welcome to May. The fishing reports I have been getting have been very good. Most of the lakes in the Nanaimo region have been producing very well, with some good reports from Kidney Lake. Talking with members from other clubs they have also been enjoying some very good fishing, so it sounds like the whole island is doing pretty good if one is to go farther afield.

I would like to thank Wayne Legge for organising a great camp out at Buttle Lake. Over fifteen Units and approx. 26 people. One of the best attended camp-outs we have ever had. We even caught a few fish.

At our next meeting we will have the Provincial Biologist speaking on the fish stocking program, and there to answer any questions you may have. See you at the next meeting - till then tight lines.

Jack Toomer

Jack Toomer



Jack Toomer



Some members doubted Jack's story during the Gilly - until he produced the proof!



The second trip to Ellison Lake was about the same as the first - slow for that lake. Wayne Pealo's grandson thought it was great fishing.

## Events and Services

### Pub Lunches

Come out to the Wellington Pub on Victoria Ave. every Wednesday from 11:30 A.M. to late noon. Guests and new members are especially welcome to join this very informal gathering.

### Club Library

The list of books has now swelled to over 100 books.

Wayne Legg is helping Larry Miller, the custodian, and he will bring your requests to the next meeting if you call him at 756-3114. Check out the list of books on our website. There will be some lists available at the meetings.

## Fourth Tuesday Meetings

**May 26, 2009:** An update on the stocking program by the local Department of Environment's new Fisheries Biologist, Scott Silverstein.

**June 23, 2009:** Picnic and fishout at Westwood Lake.

**July - August:** Too busy fishing to have meetings

**September 22, 2009:** John Snook is organizing a panel discussion on beach fishing

**October 27, 2009:** We are eagerly anticipating Bob Leaverman's Match the Hatch presentation.

**November 24, 2009:** Bill Pollard will show us how he puts his flies into glass balls for Christmas decorations. AGM and election of officers and directors.



Charles Thirkill presents a book he authored to Jack for the club library. It is in appreciation for the work the club has done on the Millstone River.

## Formula to estimate the weight of salmonids (salmon and trout)

by International Game Fishing Association (IGFA)

**Length (inches) X Girth X Girth (inches) = Weight (pounds)**

**800**

This formula is accurate within 5% for fish less than 10 pounds and within 2% for fish over 10 pounds.

## Skeena River System

by **Guest Speaker, Wayne Pealo**

Wayne Pealo, an Island Waters Fly Fishers Director, was invited by Nice Fish Productions Inc. to join two fishing buddies to participate in a fly fishing filming trip to the Skeena River System during the last week of October. They stayed in the Nicolas Dean Lodge for five days but were rained out for two of them. The Lodge provided guides who took them up the Copper, Extew and Kasiks rivers usually by jet boats. Rafts and drift boats are also used to access the far reaching pools. It is very difficult to get into the good pools any other way - the bush is just too dense and too close to the water for long stretches.

The Copper River trip was good and produced great steelhead. The Extew and Kasiks rivers expeditions were mainly for coho which were up to 20 lb. Wayne caught a sockeye which was only the 2nd one that the local guide had seen that late in that river. They also targeted cutties who were feeding on the salmon eggs.



Wayne proudly shows his largest Coho of the trip which was taken from the Extew River. It was 37 in. x 18 in. (20 lb.) and was landed after an incredible fight.



Wayne Pealo showed us his slides of his fly fishing trip to Skeena Country.

Wayne's gear recommendations:

- 12 ft. spey or double handed, 8/9 wt. rod
- 11 ft. 8/9 3 piece rod
- Large arbour reel with 150 ft. of backing
- Floating line with heavy flies or with short sink leaders.
- Flotation belt or vest and know how to inflate and use it.-
- Wading staff
- Wading boots
- 10 to 14 ft. leaders (the length of the rod being used)
- Assorted large, bright flies with flash (especially pink) flies in leach and other patterns.



One of Wayne's fly boxes used in the Skeena System. Note the large size and bright colours. They are also heavily weighted to get down in the fast currents.

## Winners



Brian Lapadat, right, receives his winnings of the Gilly Draw from Ray Honig



And Andrew Cathers won the second draw.



Jack Toomer, right, collects his flies from Tom Skilton at the Fly Draw.

Hey Frank, you can run but you cannot hide. You were overheard remarking, with a leer, that feathers can be put to much more exciting uses than for tying flies! We are expecting a full report at the next Gilly.



Phil Belt, wearing the guest badge, introduced himself and is eagerly anticipating some fishing this Spring.



Bill McColl tries to figure out what Frank actually meant with his remark about putting the feather to a better use.

## Casting Clinics at Westwood Lake



Jim McCoy demonstrates how to analyze and improve your casting skills. This is done by laying out a marker to show how the fly line reacts with different strokes and timing. Thanks Jim for organizing and your demonstrations.



Paul Inscho shows a guest how to grip and begin to use a fly casting rod. Thanks Paul.



Roy Sorensen demonstrates a basic fly cast. Thanks Roy.



Another instructor, John Snook, shows Doug Winters a few tips on fly casting. We appreciate your time and the sharing of your knowledge John.



Jamie Ker practices his improved casting skills.

These clinics ran April 14th and 21st at the second beach on Westwood Lake. As usual they were very well received and we now know what we need to practice to improve. Thanks again to the instructors and organizers.

*This is another story from last November's Tall Tales Night*

## TRU TALES OF FISHING IN THE NORTH

By Lloyd Erickson

In late August of 1970 I was privileged to fish the Kispiox River, mother lode of legendary steelhead. The Kispiox River flows into the mighty Skeena near Hazelton. It was where Karl Mauser caught the world record steelhead on a fly! It weighed 33 pounds. An even bigger steelhead of 36 pounds was caught on conventional gear! So you can tell why I was so excited!



Lloyd modestly and accurately describes his Kispiox steelhead

My good friend and fishing buddy, Ted Hardy, said he had the perfect fishing strategy. We had heard all sorts of advice from some local fishermen. One fellow told us to drive up the logging road until we came to the last bear poop, then hike through the bush to the "hot pool". Huh! Did he think we were some country hicks? Anyone can tell you that's how the grizzly bears fool people to join them for dinner! Oh no. Our strategy was to drive upstream past all the lodges, past where all the drift boats put in, past the last campsite, and hike into some places where other anglers weren't getting to. My buddy had a map showing where a small creek crossed the road, it looked like it would be just a short hop down to the river.

So we drove to Hazelton, we drove past the lodges and resorts, we waved at the nice fishermen. We drove up the logging road, past the campsites and the places where people launched their drift boats.

along you see glimpses of the river, and maybe little accesses at long intervals. Farther along, the road gets closer to the river, and you see it more and more often. So as we drove up the Kispiox River, we were getting more and more excited. Finally we came to the fork in the logging road where one fork crossed the river. This was the starting point for measuring how far to go. We continued on straight ahead. After a ways we passed the last point where people could launch a boat. Then finally we got to the creek that told us we had arrived at the right place to walk down to the river.

So we stopped and grabbed our rods, and pulled on our waders. As it turned out we needed the waders right away. The nice little creek had been found by beavers and their dams were flooding the bush. Although the Kispiox was only a couple hundred yards away, we had a real struggle climbing over fallen trees, wading, avoiding sharp snags, and dragging our rods through the willows.

But it was worth it. When we broke into the open we saw the fishiest river ever. We could hardly wait to cast our flies into the deep dark pools and drift the flies down the runs!



So we tried the first pool downstream from the beaver creek, then turned upstream and fished our way upstream. We cast and cast. . Changed lines. Changed flies. Tried skaters and tried Comets. Tried black flies, tried red flies. But we just couldn't entice a steelhead of any size, never mind one of

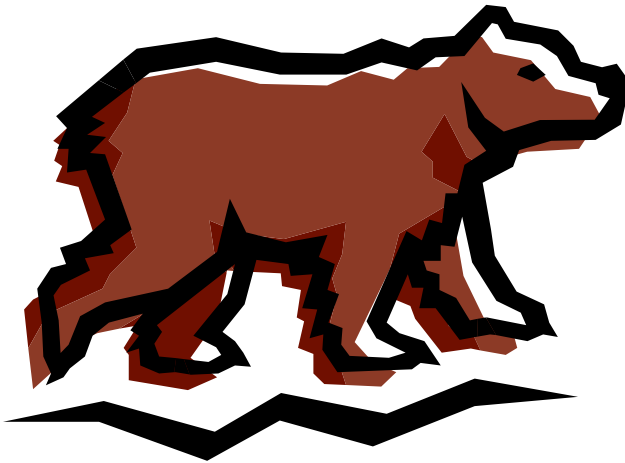
*Continued...*

trophy proportions! Finally toward the end of the day, on our way back downstream I hit the steelhead of my life! It ran up and ran down. I chased and retrieved line. It leaped into the air, but I hung on. Finally, luck was on my side and I slid the beautiful silver steelie through the shoals and onto the shore. It was about 17 pounds, maybe 20!

All of a sudden my fishing partner shouted a warning. I looked downstream to see a grizzly bear approaching, fast. I barely had time to remove my fly before backing away. My heart was pounding. But the great bear came only as far as the fish, which it grabbed in its mouth, then disappeared into the bush!

What a way to end the day! Ted and I retreated upstream a bit then bashed our way through the bush toward the road. We managed to come very close to our vehicle. Just beyond the vehicle what do we see but that same bear, just finishing off my fish (which I would have released, of course)? He spotted us immediately as we came into view. He deposited an immense black poop right in the middle of the road, then turned away and trotted off.

So now there really was a bear poo marking the hot fishing hole!



## Ellison Lake

Two fishouts to Ellison Lake was disappointing compared to previous years. We thought the first one was slow due to cooler water but the second one was still the same but warmer. The conclusion was that the fish had gorged on stickleback and were not that interested in the various flies that were presented to them. Oh well, they will be bigger and healthier next time.



Dennis Mullins shows off one of those “gorged on stickleback” trout that he landed.



Matt Hapala helps his grandson try to land a trout. This was taken after the second cast!