

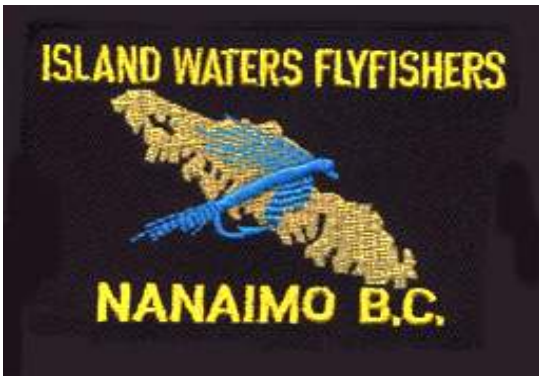


April 14th was a great evening for the casting clinic at Westwood Lake! But, swimming?!

## Island Waters Fly Fishers

## CONTACTS

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 Phone 250 754-3978  
 Visit at [www.iwff1.ca](http://www.iwff1.ca)



### Island Waters Fly Fishers

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.

President:	Ron Moll	754-3978
Vice President :	Ray Honig	758-9930
Secretary:	Ron Busche	758-2225
Treasurer:	Bill McColl	722-3123
Past President :	Jack Toomer	756-0987

Directors:		
Program:		
Entertain:	Bob Kissinger	758-8995
Divas...:	Wayne Pealo	743-4569
Newsletter:	Bernie Heinrichs	390-3266

Webmaster:	Steve Wawrykow	754-3650
BCFFF Contact:	Steve Wawrykow	754-3650
Fly Tying	Jack Toomer	756-0987
Videos/Library:	Don Ginter	756-4867

Welcome Table:	Leo Snye	729-7242
Membership:	Rick Wanhill	753-3982

## 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/>**

### Message from the President

Greetings Fellow Fishers. It has been a busy month. I am pleased that Wayne Pealo's project, Divas on the Fly, is progressing well. I

would like to thank Wayne and the club volunteers for pursuing such a worthwhile project. I would like to see the graduates become permanent members of the club.



**Ron Moll**

Tuesday, 04 May 2010 was a busy day for me. First I made a donation on behalf of the club to Alexandra Morton's Walk to Save the Salmon and secondly chaired a lively Executive Committee meeting. Steve Wawrykow is now our new point of contact for the BCFFF. One of the points of concern that always seems to come up when discussing peripheral people participating in club oriented activities is insurance. I am not going to go into any detail, however it seems to me that one of the first activities of a new executive is to review this important aspect of club activities. Insurance is like looking in a fridge and only taking out the things you like and not the items that are needed. A brand new item that will call for club volunteers. During the Nanaimo Hatchery Open House, Leo Snye was approached by Eileen Bossons, Nanaimo Recreation Coordinator. Leo got the gist of an idea from her about the club running some fly fishing activity as part of the city recreational program. I contacted Eileen the following day and had a very positive conversation. In general we would control the timing and content of the training. Eileen is in the marketing side of life and in order to get the right advertising, it would be an activity planned for the time frame of March / Apr 2011. So this is an idea in the formative stages and a lot of homework has to be done.

I will miss seeing you all at the next meeting as I am driving my wife on her holidays. Actually we will be in the Kamloops / Logan Lake area for two weeks. I hope to get back fished out. And then it is onto Pink Season.

May the jerk on your line be hard and to misquote Red Green "Keep your rod tip high".

### Pub Lunches

Come out to the Black Bear Pub every Wednesday from 11:30 A.M. to late noon. Guests and new members are especially welcome to join this very informal gathering. A few members have gone fishing in the local lakes after the lunches. An email will be sent a few days ahead.

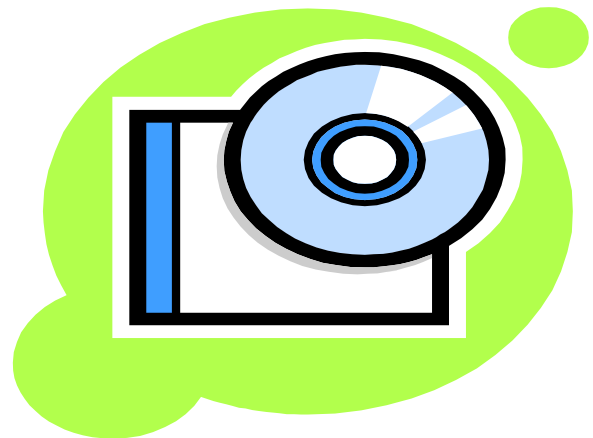
## Casting Clinic



Jim McCoy demonstrates his casting stroke at the April 21, 2010 Casting Clinic. This was the second clinic and the weather cooperated both times. Over 24 people showed up for the first one and about 18 for the second one. Many of them were novices and newbies to the sport. We hope that they were not too discouraged and will pursue it further in their back yards. Like most skills: lots of practice is needed. Nanaimo does not have a professional fly casting or fly fishing instructor. The City of Nanaimo has approached us to see if we would be interested. Our club definitely has the talent to take this on and there is definitely a demand for it. **All that is required is the desire and energy.**



Andrew Cathers tries out his new switch rod and line. These are getting very popular now especially if you are becoming partially handicapped. You can also lay out more line with this set up on the beach.



## Club Library and Videos

Don Ginter is the custodian for both, and he will bring your requests to the next meeting if you call him at 756-4867 or email him at: [donheather@shaw.ca](mailto:donheather@shaw.ca).



Check out the list of books and videos on our new website at [www.iwffl.ca](http://www.iwffl.ca). He is revising and updating the lists and will be bringing a few of the popular ones to the meetings. They are free to members - just sign them out.



### April Meeting Guests



Keene Anderson is welcomed to our club by Leo Snye, who also did the same for Wynn Taylor below. Leo, if you ever apply to Wal Mart as a Greeter, you can count on us for an excellent reference.



Roy Sorensen, right, brought and introduced John Blackmore.

### Winners



Bob Kissinger, acting Gilly, presented John Snook with the cash prize drawn after the Gilly



Harold Tinling, left, presented Jeff Gallimore with his collection of flies from the fly draw.



He also awarded the second draw prize, smoked salmon donated by Dan Reagan, to our President, Ron Moll. Harold stated that, after 10 years of running the fly draw, he never won it! But, he did not explain if it was due to extreme honesty or because he did not buy a ticket!

**Guest Speaker: Ralph Shaw**

**Topic: Jack Shaw**



Ralph Shaw described his fishing and other experiences with his 30 year association with Jack Shaw. Jack was such an inspiration to Ralph that he authored "The Pleasure of His Company - the fishing diaries of Jack Shaw". Our club bought a signed copy and it is in our library.

The other three copies of the book at the meeting were sold out. The proceeds from all the books go to McQueen Lake Environmental Education Centre and to the Fisheries Association of BC to teach children how to fish.



The display of books, pictures and flies that Ralph laid out prior to his presentation.



The legendary Jack Shaw.

Ralph told us that Jack Shaw was instrumental in changing fly fishing in B.C. and beyond. By careful observations on the lakes and in his home-made aquariums, he determined that the use of attracter flies were not that effective. He developed imitators of the insects that the trout fed on and a system of weighted fly lines to get them to where the fish spent most of their time.



Ralph donated these six photographs with descriptions of Jack's favourite flies done on Cibachrome. Cibachrome is a process of printing slide photos on a polyester base. This process is a very clear, accurate reproduction which will not fade, discolour or deteriorate for a very long time. It is typically used for archival work.



## Fourth Tuesday Meetings and Events

**May 25, 2010.** Peter Caverhill, a B.C. Federation of Fly Fisher's Director will give us the benefits of belonging to the BCFFF and their puposes.

**June 22, 2010, 5:00 pm.** Picnic and Fishout at Westwood Lake

## Other Events

**May 28 to 30, 2010** Campout at Elk Falls Park

**August 22, 2010, 3:00 pm.** Summer Barbecue at the Lantzville Legion.

**September 17 - 19, 2010** Campout at Buttle Lake

**December 4, 2010** Christmas Dinner and Auction.

*Some of the bookings are tentative and are subject to changes.*

## Nanaimo River Hatchery Open House



Ron Moll and Doug Peterson help to set up then land a rainbow at the trout pond at the May 2, 2010 Nanaimo Hatchery Open House. IWFF helped out in a big way again at the fish pond, fly tying, and fly casting venues.



Leo Snye fosters interest in fly tying for some kids at the Nanaimo Hatchery Open House



Gerry Stevens and Paul Inscho find out more about hatchery operations from the Co-Manager, Henry Bob.



Gerry introduces fly casting at the casting pond.

## **In Search of Wild Coho and Steelhead. A Fly Fishers Nirvana?**

by Wayne Pealo

“The **Buddha** described Nirvana as the perfect peace of the state of mind that is free from craving, anger and other afflictive states (*kilesas*). The subject is at peace with the world, has compassion for all and gives up obsessions and fixations. This peace is achieved when the existing **volitional formations** are pacified, and the conditions for the production of new ones are eradicated” (Wikipedia, 2009). This article is obviously not about Nirvana, but about the obsessions, compassion and other afflictive states of fly fishing for fresh wild Coho and steelhead, something that is not achievable any more on Vancouver Island!

The Skeena River (the river of mists) flows from the north eastern part of the province to the Pacific Ocean near Prince Rupert. As the second largest river system in the province, many salmon runs pass along the system throughout the year. The river draws its name from the Gitksan word “Ksan” (or K’Shian - later anglicized to ‘The Skeena’) which means “river of the mists”. The prefix ‘Git’ which means “people of” combined with the word ‘Ksan’ renders Gitksan (or Gitxsan), literally “the people of the river of mists”. Similarly, the name of the village of Gitanmaax literally means “people who fish by firelight” (Noel Gyger, 2009).

In October of 2009, I travelled to Yellow Cedar Lodge in Terrace in search of wild Coho and steelhead. It is during this time of the year that many of the tributaries of the Skeena hold large wild salmon and steelhead. They are primed to take a well presented fly. These monster fish, many in the 15-20 lb range have brute strength and readily attack the fly in a suicidal fashion.



### ***Author with a large wild Coho on a Skeena tributary***

Fishing the tributaries of the Skeena is not for the faint of heart. Bears, wild waters, ever changing weather and rugged access present the angler with many challenges, but the rewards are worth the risks! It is not unusual to have multi-fish days with our best this year of forty-plus Coho in one outing between the two of us! Many of the tributaries hold steelhead as well as other salmon species including Chinook, Pinks, Chum and Sockeye, so you are never sure what exactly you have on the end of your line!



### ***Wading a Skeena River tributary in search of summer run steelhead***



Summer run steelhead are in prime condition in the early fall and will readily take a well-presented dry fly. The fly is “waked” across the pool or slot and as the fly speeds up, hold on as the strike can be arm wrenching! We managed to catch a couple of fish on the dry fly this trip and had a few Steelhead tear up the pools on a swung wet fly. The energy these fish have is phenomenal and it is not unusual to see the fish come out of the water several times as it tries to shake the hook. On one occasion I had a large “hot” fish take my swung fly in the tail-out of the run and surge past me just off of my rod tip, streak upstream fifty yards and then across the river only to jump and leave me with one small scale on the end of my fly! This was definitely not a Steelheader’s Nirvana moment!



***Author with a Copper River Steelhead taken on a swung wet fly***

Yellow Cedar Lodge is located seven kilometers west of Terrace off the highway to Prince Rupert. The lodge caters to hikers, fishermen, travelers and skiers in the winter. As a bed and breakfast accommodation, it is extraordinary! It has very comfortable rooms, excellent gourmet meals and a gorgeous setting right on the Skeena River. The games room, bar, hot tub, gym and drying room provide an extra bonus after a full day of fishing the rivers. The cost of \$120/ for two persons sharing is a bargain and it is possible to fish on your own and/or arrange for guides through the lodge.



The variety of fishing and beauty of the countryside make this destination very desirable. If you prefer to fish for a variety of species, there are Cutthroat and Rainbow trout, Dolley Varden Char, Bull trout and Whitefish present throughout the system and tributaries. On one occasion on the Lower Copper river I was fishing a dry October Caddis for Steelhead. I had not much luck as I moved through the large run and when I reached the tail out of the run I struck a bonanza! Cast after cast, using a fast retrieve, I caught over a dozen Dolley’s and Bull trout! It was unbelievable action and most of the fish were 16-20". What a hoot! This is a must location and fishery for the Nirvana fisherman wannabe’s! I am planning to return in the Fall of 2010, so let me know if you are interested. Tight lines

**References**

Wikipedia, Retrieved December 08, 2009

B.C Adventure Network, Fishing in British Columbia, <http://www.bcadventure.com/adventure/angling/river/skeena.phtml>, retrieved December 08, 2009

Yellow Cedar Lodge, <http://www.yellowcedarlodge.ca/index.htm>, Retrieved December 09, 2009