



P.O. Box 4273
Sunriver, OR 97707

The Sunriver Anglers

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The Sunriver Anglers Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of responsible angling in the high desert region of Central Oregon. More information can be obtained by writing to P.O. Box 4273, Sunriver, OR 97707, or by looking at our website:
<http://www.sunriveranglers.org>

President's Message



Upper Deschutes River – no motor needed!

Hello Fellow Anglers!

Happy New Year! I hope you're all safe and well and enjoying the snow! Actually, I know some of you are in way warmer climates, like Arizona and Hawaii, but trust me, for a snowy winter it's been very crisp and nice as opposed to icy and slushy. (Cross your fingers)

We have a great lineup of speakers for the next 3 months. I hope that those of you that haven't tuned in to our Zoom meeting might give it a try. You don't have to have your video going so people are "watching" you, you can listen and watch incognito if you want. I'd be happy to show you which settings to use.

For January, we have Brian Smith, a great fisherman I met while fishing Dragon Lake up in BC. I had no idea he was quite famous in the Fly Fishing circles up there when I met him, but he gave me a fly and instructions on how to "skitter" it on the surface and that changed my whole fishing experience. All the books said nymphing was the way to go on that lake, but having some beefy trout slam flies off the surface was heart stopping.

In February, we have Yancy Lind, a member of COF who has fished and led outings to the Williamson River numerous times. The Sunriver Anglers are planning an outing at the Williamson (everyone crosses their fingers for a good water year!) in July or August. The Williamson holds fat trout, and is only a couple of hours away.

For March, we will be welcoming Bryon Salaz, who many of you know as the former lead guide for the Hook Fly Shop. Bryon has started his own guiding business (LegendaryFlyFishing.com) and will speak about the areas he guides (and he's been a steel header ever since I've known him) that include the Rogue, Lake Billy, the Williamson and the Lower D. He guided the local lakes and rivers for many years, so if you have any questions, no doubt he will be a fountain of knowledge.

As for outings, put an "x" on your calendar for June 13 for Paulina Lake. It's early in the season, and I half way hope the road won't be open due to record snow, but if it is, we'll have a go at some of the trout and kokanee that live there.

One more item, we really need a secretary to take over this year. The secretary takes meeting minutes, checks the mail (which are on Zoom for now- usually every other month or so) and communicates with the rest of us (treasurer, board) as needed. If you are new to the club, this is a great way to meet new members and find out firsthand what our club is involved in.

Hope to see you all on Zoom!
rynie
rynieSRA@gmail.com

January 20th Speaker - Sunriver Anglers Welcome a New Friend

A chance encounter with a stranger on a Canadian lake spawned a long-distance friendship that has resulted in many exchanges on fly fishing techniques and locations for Rynie Miyashiro., our Anglers club president. That friendship will bring Brian Smith, a central British Columbian, to the January Anglers meeting via Zoom. Brian plans to share his insights on fishing and expertise on fly patterns which are effective on the western slope rivers, streams and lakes of British Columbia (BC) he so cherishes.



Brian is a free-lance fly fishing author and serves as the current President of the Polar Coachman Fly Fishers, a 50-year-old fishing club with more than 50 members in Prince George, British Columbia. His work has been published in notable BC magazines, included in other Canadian authors collections as well as in his 3 books: Fly Fishing BC's Interior which was published by Caitlin Press in 2009, Seasons of a Fly Fisher published in 2013 and recently his third, Essential Fly Patterns for Lakes and Streams. In 2008 he was awarded the Jack Shaw Fly Tying Award by the BC Federation of Fly Fishers (BCFFF), an honor given to "that BC FFF member that has excelled in the art and craft of fly tying"

Brian readily admits his first love is for trout that come freely to the dry fly and he proudly displays a flag in his office that has "OCFD", i.e., obsessive, compulsive fishing disorder, printed on it. He regularly hosts a monthly webinar on fly tying for his club and will demonstrate his signature fly, the traveler caddis, for the Anglers. He will also share his in-depth knowledge of BC waters such as the Skeena, Shellako, Crooked, and Blackwater Rivers as well as Dragon Lake and the alkaline lakes of the Okanagan.

Brian's presentation to the Anglers will be via a zoom meeting, which will occur at 7:00 pm on January 20, 2022. The zoom meeting access will open at 6:30 p.m. Interested people may contact Rynie at ryniesra@gmail.com for information on the zoom meeting details.

Two-tone Flashback Copper John

Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner
By: Phil Fischer



Some years ago, I was fishing a small impoundment on the slopes of Mt. Lassen in Northern California when I had the absent-minded luck to tie on a Copper John fly pattern. This fly was a staple for rivers at the time, but I had never heard of it being fished in lakes and reservoirs. Much to my surprise, the pattern was very successful, and I started using it on my forays into various lakes in Oregon and California.

On East Lake, the Red Copper John is a standard for me fishing in the very early season just after ice-out. I'm not entirely sure whether it imitates chironomids at this chilly time of year, or small mayflies that exist in the lake. But the trout tell me it is a go-to pattern. Over time I have experimented with various colors, and the one I have settled upon as my most productive for lakes is the subject of this article.

The original Copper John pattern was developed by John Barr in the mid-1990's. It quickly became a very popular pattern, due to the design and sink rate that drops this fly in the zone quickly. It has since been adopted as a go-to pattern that is used worldwide. The original fly was tied with copper wire in the abdomen. Subsequent versions have used red wire, chartreuse, blue, purple, etc. My version used two colors of wire, copper and bronze, to create a two-tone ribbing effect, and I have had excellent success with this pattern in both streams and still waters. It is an excellent imitation for non-descript mayfly nymphs in rivers and is also a perfect imitation for *Callibaetis* mayfly nymphs that are so important in our local Central Oregon still waters.

The Two-tone Copper John pattern is also popular in olive and red, purple and silver, blue and red, and any other color combination you can dream up. I used a wider flash on the wing case than the original was tied with, hence the nickname Flashback Copper John.

I fish it both on an intermediate sink line stripped back in short choppy strips, or I will hang it under a strike indicator, often moving the fly with short pulls to pop the indicator underwater and allow it to resurface. I often fish this fly as the dropper in tandem with a balanced leech. This pair of flies was especially effective as fish congregated in the deep channels on Crane Prairie during the heat of summer.

For still waters I generally use brass beads, as the heavier tungsten beads sink too fast to be realistic. In rivers, I often use the Copper John as the top fly, both with brass or tungsten beads depending on flow rate and depth, and will attach a lightly weight nymph, such as a Serendipity as the dropper. I have even used both Red and Chartreuse Copper Johns to catch Steelhead in the Trinity and Lower Deschutes rivers. Give this pattern a try in your own favorite color combination this upcoming season

Two-toned Flashback Copper John Materials List:

Hook: 718, size 14-18

Bead: Gold or Copper Bead to match hook size (7/64" for a size 14)

Thread: Ultra 140 Denier, olive

Tail: Black or brown goose biots

Abdomen: Copper and Bronze wire, Size fine or medium

Thorax: Peacock Tail Barbs

Legs: Whiting Brahma Hen Saddle in Brown or Mottled Grey

Wing Case: Shiny bronze tailfeather off a wild turkey

Flash: Mirage Tinsel in Medium or Large, Opal

Tying instructions and steps are being published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/0sTZoa3OmM4>. Experiment with this pattern on our local lakes and rivers. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Two-Tone Flashback Copper John pattern, please do not hesitate to email me. Or if you have suggestions on future patterns to feature in this column, I welcome your input. I can be reached at Philfischer@sbcglobal.net.

SR Anglers New Educational Tool

SRA published the following YouTube page for Sunriver Anglers.

[Sunriver Anglers - YouTube](#)

Anglers are encouraged people to subscribe to this page so they can stay caught up on the videos we will publish periodically. Also, the recent Meeting on Crane Prairie is now published:

[Sunriver Anglers Meeting 10/21/21 - Crane Prairie Reservoir](#)



Brian O'Keefe's Presentation

For those of you who missed Brian O'Keefe's excellent presentation via Zoom this month, we have uploaded the video to the Sunriver Anglers YouTube page. You can watch the video at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/fwodgy-u2c8>

And if you want to be amongst the first to be notified of new content, please subscribe to this YouTube page. You will receive a notification when new content is available.



F3T 2022 Film Tour Dates Announced, More Coming Soon!

Feb. 11 in Bend

Another year, another fresh catch of fly-fishing films headed in your direction! We've locked in the first round of dates for our 2022 film tour, ***with many more shows to come***. Check back in as we continue adding more show dates to the calendar. Tickets will be on sale soon, so stay tuned!

Conservation

Lake Billy Chinook project holds promise for Deschutes Basin

The Lake Billy Chinook project potentially holds the promise of solving many of the water problems in the Deschutes Basin. A number of concerned water users and others interested in the health of rivers in Central Oregon are exploring the project at this time.

In a nutshell, under the proposed plan, river water would be stored much closer to where it's used and would result in more natural flows in the river. Most of the water stored in Wickiup is controlled and used by the North Unit Irrigation District. During irrigation season the water flows approximately 100 miles before getting used. In transit approximately 50% of the water is lost, primarily to canal leakage. Fish, frogs, insects and other wildlife suffer.

The project would replace irrigation water stored in Wickiup Reservoir with water from Lake Billy Chinook allowing higher winter flows (possibly 300 cfs) in the upper Deschutes and lower summer flows. A much more natural and fish-friendly pattern. The Crooked River would also benefit. The higher winter flows would be stored in Lake Billy Chinook and then would be pumped via canals to water right holders during the growing season.

Farmers would have a more reliable water supply during the growing season and the river, fish and wildlife would get the increased water they need during the fall/winter. In general, the river would be much healthier.

If there is a downside it's that the project would be pretty expensive since a pumping station would have to be built on the lake. Federal funding would probably be required. Project feasibility and funding is being explored now. If approved and funded it would take several years to implement but could be the answer to the major issues facing the Deschutes. Stay tuned for progress.

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