

**Subject:** Get out and FISH!

**Date:** Monday, July 3, 2017 at 2:32:46 AM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

**From:** Alaska Fly Fishers

**To:** Casey Andrysiak

*Featuring Fish Talk, Spring Seminar News, Tying Clinic News, AFF HERS Program and more!*



# FLYLINES

*Official Newsletter of the Alaska Fly Fishers*

*MAY 2017*

## *PRESIDENT'S HOOK*



So we have made it through the busiest part of The Alaska Fly Fisher's schedule for the year, successfully! And I would like to take a few minutes to thank some of the individuals who were instrumental in the successes. These lists are nowhere near complete, so if I miss someone - please accept my apologies:

F3T Event@ Bear Tooth 3/23 - Keith Graham

Mat-Su Sportsman's Show @ Menard Sports Arena (Wasilla) 3/24-3/26 - Kory Murdoch, Mike Harsh, Mariann Malone

Great Alaska Sportsman's Show @ Sullivan Arena 3/30-4/2 - Mariann Malone

and Finally - the 2017 AFF Fundraising Auction - April 7th - Brenda Brown, Cheryl Cline, Pudge Kleinkauf, John Horstkoetter, Scott Work, and our auctioneer Keith Graham.

Also, Rich Johnson's tireless efforts continue to make the AFF Spring Seminar a huge hit and bring new members to the club year after year, Thanks Rich!

ALL OF THESE EVENTS HAVE FOLKS THAT ANNUALLY VOLUNTEER TO HELP OUT, WHETHER THEIR TIME OR AN ITEM FOR THE AUCTION OR A RAFFLE OR GHILLIE PRIZE. WITHOUT YOU, AND THOSE WHO HELPED US THIS YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Now for a bit about fishin! So for those of us who have not been able to wet a line yet this year, its about time. Spring stream fishing is heating up in many areas and I've heard there are some local lakes that are about to open up as well. If you haven't picked up your 2017 fishing license, they are available many places including online at the ADF&G website. New prices are now in effect for this years licenses and there have been several other changes (Resident youth don't need a license until age 18), so its important to read up on the changes for this years' regs.

Along with preparing your fishing gear for the season, its also important to check your safety gear (Bear Repellent, Flashlight Batteries, CO2 cartridge if you use an inflatable PFD, other perishables, Etc.). A few minutes of prep time can save your life.

Finally, please show your appreciation to the many businesses who support us throughout the year. We have

listed our supporters on the website and even if you don't use their services or purchase something from them, at least thank them for supporting our club (you can also send other people their way). I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, May 1st (there will be a \$5 taco bar).

May the Fish be with you,

Patrick Malone

President, Alaska Fly Fishers  
[PMHSE@hotmail.com](mailto:PMHSE@hotmail.com)  
[907-354-8781](tel:907-354-8781)

## ***MAY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING***

Phil Brna is our next speaker and he's talking about one of his fabulous fishing trips (I think salt water but I'm not 100% sure).

[Brenda Brown](#) - AFF Vice President

## ***SPRING SEMINAR - LAST CLASS!***

### **Casting Call for Casters**

**We've had a great Seminar so far this year; I'm asking for your help to make the last session as successful as the last three.**

Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> is the casting instruction for our attendees. Mark Huber will be the head instructor for the basic casting we want to teach. Once he's done an introduction to casting, we'll head outside to work on the basic casting stroke necessary for attendees to begin fly fishing this summer.

All you need is one of your balanced fishing outfits and a willingness to teach people what you know. Once we're outside, the hands-on casting instruction is very informal.

The program runs 6:30 to 8:30PM, but given all the stringing of rods that will go on, I'd suggest showing up as early as possible. Dress for the weather as we will be outside for over an hour. AFF will provide yarn for the end of your leader (no hooks allowed).

The casting session will be at 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Anchorage this year. We'll be meeting downstairs in their social room, and walking across the street to the Park Strip for the actual casting.

No need to call me, just mark your calendar and be there.

*If you have any questions contact Rich Johnson at: 243-1093 wk; 440-1830 cell; or by Email:*  
[rich@2guysflyfishing.net](mailto:rich@2guysflyfishing.net)

## ***FISH TALK*** by Bill Hauser

### **Fishes**

Let's get back to some basics. First, a simple question. What is a *fish*? (No simple answer here.) Just how do we define this critter we always talk about? Our use of the word *fish* is actually just a convenient way to refer to a widely diverse collection of organisms.

The word *fish*, itself, can be confusing. In one context, it is a word that generally refers to these organisms.

The plural is either *fish* or *fishes*. In a proper context, the word *fish* refers to one or more individuals in a particular species and the word *fishes* refers to a grouping of two or more species. And, by the way, the word *fishery* refers to fish or fishes and the people who catch them. (In other words, a fishery may target a particular fish but it usually catches fishes.)

Fish are often very broadly defined as animals having a vertebral column, live in water, are cold-blooded, move by fin action, use gills to obtain oxygen dissolved in water, and are covered by scales. The key word in the previous sentence is broadly. Some fish species, such as lampreys and hagfishes do not have a vertebral column nor scales. Mudskippers, found in tropical and subtropical intertidal areas, are amphibious, forage out of water, and are capable of wriggling up slanted woody stems with modified pectoral fins. Some tunas and some sharks, in fact, are warm blooded. The Chinese fish called swamp eel have virtually no fins as adults. So they are better adapted for burrowing. Despite their name, they live in habitats where they survive periodic droughts by breathing air. Hagfishes have no true fins at all. Some species, such as our Alaska blackfish, have a special organ they use to obtain oxygen from atmospheric air. To be sure, of course, fish are designed to primarily live and work in water and be supported by water.

There is a total of about 24,000 species of fish in the world. All are arranged in a classification system according to their evolutionary history and relationships to each other. Each has been studied by scientists, its unique features are described, and a unique name has been assigned and they are plugged into a scientific classification system. Organisms are classified in a series of more and more specific ranks leading to the family level that includes similar *genera*. Within each *genus*, there is one or more related *species*, the lowest level of identification, or *taxon*. North American fish species have been studied by taxonomists (Scientists who study fish are ichthyologists and scientists who study names of organisms are taxonomists.) And the American Fisheries Society has established an *accepted common name* for each species. Note that it is very important for scientists to assure that when they communicate about a particular fish, they are talking about the same fish, but it is okay if the name you know and use for a particular fish may not agree with the one that scientists use. For example, in 'scientist speak', there is no 'red salmon' but rather, 'Sockeye Salmon'. (In English, the panfish, 'bluegill', has 17 different common or colloquial names.)

We can say, however, that vertebrates have an internal skeleton that provides a framework to hang muscle attachment and body form. There two important groupings of fish: those with a skeleton composed of cartilage and those with a skeleton of calcified bones. Cartilaginous fishes, such as sharks and skates, are evolutionarily older and more primitive than the bony fishes, represented, for example, by rockfish, salmon, or herring.

What does all this mean? There are many different species of fish because there are so many different environments and habitats and fishes have adapted to take advantage of the different opportunities.

Bottom line: There are different ways to describe a fish... but we know a fish when we see one.

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Do you have a question for FISH TALK? Contact Bill at [karellbill@gci.net](mailto:karellbill@gci.net).

Bill has published *Fishes of the Last Frontier, Life Histories, Biology, Ecology, and Management of Alaska Fishes and Letters from Alaska, The Inside to the Outside*.

Read sample chapters at [www.billhauserbooks.com](http://www.billhauserbooks.com).

## **TYING CLINIC NEWS**

April 20, 2017 (always the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month) 9 am to 3 pm

William Jack Hernandez Fish Hatchery on Reeve Blvd at Post Road, Upstairs

The clinics are open to the public. Materials and tools are on hand if you choose to tie and don't have your own things. And don't be shy about using a hand cart to wheel in your own tools and supplies as there is an elevator.

As is often the case there were interesting flies tied at the last clinic. Rich Johnson assisted with tying the club's Alaska Mary Ann fly. It is a classic for our club. Chad Gage took the lead from the April edition of FISH ALASKA, one of our club sponsors. They published the recipe for some of the "Musician Series Flies" in a

piece by Mike Brown of MOSSY'S FLY SHOP, another club sponsor. There were several "Willie Nelsons", "Al Greens", etc. that were produced, as well as a beautiful purple and blue version. What a creative group shows up willing to share.

There were some flies and boxes at the Fly Swap, but we will look forward to more participation the next time this event is scheduled.

At the May clinic, Dave Rooker will host the table for **beginners**. Other members that will be sharing will be announced later so watch your email for the e-blast just before the clinic.

Those that tied 10 flies for the Fly Exchange whose deadline was the April clinic will receive their share back of flies at the May clinic. If you missed the deadline and really want to still be part of the exchange, make arrangements with Cheryl to turn your flies in by May 10.

During this season we get several requests to assist younger students with tying. We still need 4 more volunteers to assist younger students with tying in early May. The club's vises and materials will be used. This is guaranteed to be an activity that puts a smile on your face. Please let Cheryl know about your interest.

No Slack on the water or on the bobbin,

[Cheryl Cline](#), Tying Clinic Coordinator

## FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

Did you know, AFF is a charter member of the *Fly Fishers International*? Formerly *International Federation of Fly Fishers*, FFI's mission and motto are posted below. If you need new logo wear, or just want to see what more they offer, please check out [their website](#).

### *Mission*

Our Bylaws state the purpose of the Federation as follows:

1. Advance the art, science and sport of fly fishing as a way of fishing most consistent with the preservation and use of game fish resources;
2. Be a political voice for organized fly fishing;
3. Promote conservation of recreational resources;
4. Facilitate and improve the knowledge of fly fishing;
5. Elevate the standard of integrity, honor, and courtesy of anglers;
6. Cherish the spirit of fellowship among anglers everywhere;
7. Establish and maintain liaison with other organizations of anglers and conservationists and government agencies concerned with the sport of angling; and
8. Keep its members informed of developments of interest to the membership.



### *Motto*

*Conserving, Restoring, Educating through Fly Fishing(sm)...aka "We are haunted by waters, so we choose to make a difference for the fish that live in them."*

## ***FUNDRAISER SUCCESS!***

The Annual Alaska Fly Fishers Fundraising Auction is now a memory of the past. By the measures of 1) raising funds and 2) members sharing an enjoyable evening the event was surely a success.

We apologize for the computer glitches that caused some waiting in lines. There are several solutions in the works to make sure that doesn't repeat at next year's event.

Many thanks are due to the many donors as well as buyers as well as the many volunteers who stepped forward to make this both fun and profitable. Watch for more specifics in the next newsletter. For now, a big **THANKS!**

## ***ALASKA FLY FISHERS - HERS PROGRAM***



April 26, 6 pm to 8 pm we will be meeting at the Jack Hernandez Fishery to demystify fishing regulations. We will have guest speakers from Alaska Fish and Game.

May 18, 6 pm to 8 pm, we will meet at Mountain View Sports to fill our fly boxes. This was such a big hit last year, we are doing it again. Bring your fold up money - I'm working with the owner of MVS to have a raffle for a fly rod. Should be another exciting event.

See you all then,

Brenda Brown, Coordinator and AFF Vice President

## ***MEMBERS' CORNER***

Interested in a split cane rod? Read on...

If you are in the market for custom split bamboo rods, Bill King, is crafting them in Ohio. He is crafting exact duplicates from vintage patterns which include Leonard 38, Payne 100, Phillipson, Winston, Garrison 206, and Thomas and Thomas among others. To break into the field, he is currently offering them for \$550.00 shipped to Alaska. Contact member, [Dennis Bromley](#) or Bill King's [website](#).

If you have an item to sell, something to share, or even a picture to post, please share it with the club. Contact the editor at [aff.flylines.ed@gmail.com](mailto:aff.flylines.ed@gmail.com)

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## **Special Fundraiser to support the Bristol Bay Fly Fishing & Guide Academy**

Last year I wrote a basic flying manual with the students at BBFFGA in mind. The book is almost 50 pages and covers tools, materials, techniques, and step by step tying instructions for patterns that start simple and get increasingly complex, all designed to teach basic tying skills.

Although I paid for that out of my pocket last year, it's not something I can do each year; so I am trying to raise enough funds to cover the cost of printing a small run of the manuals for the students at the BBFFGA this June. The books cost almost \$300 to print enough for each Academy.

So here's the deal; The AFF Board has agreed (in part) to allow me to hold a special raffle through the AFF

Gaming Permit. The funds will flow through the club, and AFF will get credit for paying for the books. I will be donating the prizes: two boxes of flies, one for salmon, and the other for native species. Both boxes will have a minimum of two dozen flies, some of which will be patterns I tie and fish with personally.

Tickets are \$5 each and a minimum of 60 will be sold before we draw for winners. The first ticket drawn will get their choice of boxes, the second ticket will receive the second box. You do not need to be present to win! The Raffle will start at the May meeting and will run until enough tickets are sold. In addition to the AFF meetings, you can contact me personally for tickets.

As a side note: If you would like to purchase one of the tying manuals for personal use, they are \$25. You will receive one raffle ticket for the flies for each book purchased. A first draft copy of the Fly Tying Manual will be available to see at the regular AFF meetings.

Contact Rich Johnson at 440-1830 or by EMail at: [rich@2guysflyfishing.net](mailto:rich@2guysflyfishing.net)



## PROJECT HEALING WATERS UPDATE

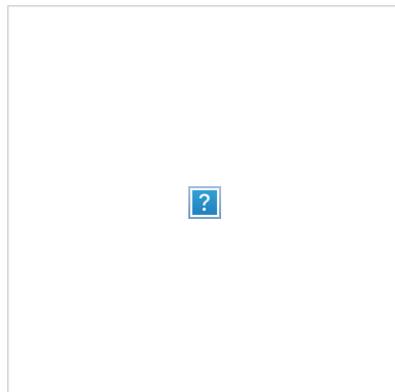
JBER Recognizes PHW Volunteers. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, numerous PHW volunteers were recognized for their volunteer efforts during 2016 at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. Eight volunteers received Presidential Volunteer Service Awards. Cindi Crawford, Bob Pawlowski, Dave Rooker, and Josh Shearer received the Bronze Award for volunteering 100 – 249 hours; Damond Blankenship and Mike Harsh received the Silver Award for volunteering 250 – 499 hours, and Frank Stevens received the Gold Award for volunteering more than 500 hours. Damond and Frank also received the Volunteer Excellence Award and Jan received the Lifetime Achievement Award for volunteering more than 500 hours per year and providing leadership over many years. This is the first time that the Lifetime Achievement Award has been awarded on JBBER. Congratulations and thanks to all the PHW volunteers for volunteering your time and helping to heal our service members.

PHW National Trips. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) is hosting numerous special national destination trips this summer for participants and volunteers. The Anchorage program is pleased to announce that Dale Aki was nominated and approved to go to the Bamboo Bend Rod Building Trip scheduled for May 6 – 14 in Grayling, Michigan; he will have the opportunity to build a bamboo rod and go fishing on the Au Sable and Manistee rivers. Jason Boyd was also accepted to go on the Smith River trip May 5 – 11<sup>th</sup> near Helena, Montana. This is a pristine fly fishing float trip that offers a truly unique wilderness experience. Congratulations on being selected for these trips.

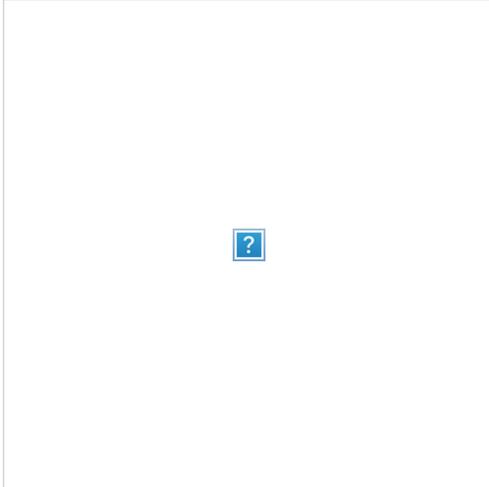
Wasilla Tying Clinic Update. Mike Harsh reported that 12 to 14 participants have been joining the tying clinics on a weekly basis. They are bursting from the seams and may need to add more tables and chairs to accommodate everyone. Bob Wrentmore has volunteered his teaching talents and all are enjoying the evening sessions.

Wasilla Outdoorsman Sports Show. This two and one-half day sportsman's show generated a lot of interest in the PHW program as well as the Alaska Fly Fishers in the Mat-Su Valley. Twenty-seven individuals signed a sheet indicating interest in the PHW program. Seven volunteers and participants staffed the information table including Mike Harsh, David Rooker, Gary Eichhorn, Dale Aki, Heidi Wild-Simpson and Duane McHenry.

Great Alaska Sportsman Show March 30 - April 2. This three



day plus sportsman's show held in Anchorage always enables us to spread the word about our program. Fifteen individuals indicated a desire to participate in the program; they were encouraged to come to the Hatchery on Thursdays from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. Mike collected contributions for Medal Flies during the event. Volunteers and participants who helped to staff the information table included Mike Harsh, Bob Pawlowski, Rica Gaines, Jerry Lewis, Bob Bechtold, Frank Stevens, Erin Smith-Cohen, Dave Rooker, Katie Pauterbaugh, Devon Green, Teresa Sellers, and Jason Boyd.



Hatchery Tour April 20. We have been waiting all year to view the fish! What a magical experience to see thousands of rainbows that will be stocked into lakes during the next month. The technology of this state of the art hatchery is truly amazing. **Andrea Tesch conducted the tour.**

From Jan Schnorr

Submissions to the newsletter are due no later than 2 Wednesdays prior to the first Monday of the month. Please type all considerations in a word document, in Arial font, size 12. Photos are to be attached separately in a .jpg file. Email to [aff.flylines.ed@gmail.com](mailto:aff.flylines.ed@gmail.com).

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