

Subject: Member Meeting - Happy New Year!

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From: Alaska Fly Fishers

To: Casey Andrysiak

Featuring Fish Talk, Tying Clinic News, and more!



FLYLINES

Official Newsletter of the Alaska Fly Fishers

JANUARY 2017

PRESIDENT'S HOOK



I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and wish you a safe, prosperous, and Happy New Year. Whereas its important to reflect and remember the trips and fish that came with 2016, its more important to look forward to 2017 and what lies ahead. One important thing to keep in mind is as of January 1, 2017, prices for nearly all fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses will increase. Some quite significantly, in fact. However, there is still time to get your 2017 licenses and permits at the lower 2016 prices! You must go to the ADF&G website and make your purchase by 11:59pm on 12/31/2016. Price increase information can be found by going to ADFG.ALASKA.GOV from there you can open the link to view the price increases and also click on the link to purchase your license. House Bill (HB) 137 was passed during the 2016 legislative regular session. It also increases the age limit for Alaska residents required to purchase a license from 16 to 18.

In November we elected several new board members, who have been hard at work familiarizing themselves with tasks and duties associated with their various positions. We are STILL looking for a new Treasurer! If you are thinking about it or have any questions or know anyone who might be a good candidate please tell a board member. Ben Rowell, our outgoing Treasurer has graciously offered to stay on for a short time longer until we are able to find someone eager to help the Alaska Fly Fishers succeed. I would like to announce that Fly Tying Coordinator Cheryl Cline and Vice President Brenda Brown have bravely volunteered to co-chair the 2017 AFF Auction. There is a lot to do in a few short months and we have already made a few changes. The biggest of which is the change in location: The 2017 Auction will be held at the Lucy Cuddy Center on the UAA Campus. The date is April 7th, 2017 and the times will be announced shortly. This change in venue offers us several positive opportunities, the biggest of which is a significant drop in cost for the facility (about \$5,000). As this is the Club's major fundraiser for the year, the board has decided to continue last year's implementation of selling tickets for admission. The specifics are still being sorted out so if you object or have any issues now is your opportunity to pitch in and help out. Brenda and Cheryl will need lots of helpers for various tasks both before and during the Auction so please don't feel that you "can't" help if you aren't available for Auction day.

Scott Work, one of our new members-at-large on the board is chairing a youth outreach committee and is open to volunteers for his committee as well.

At the December AFF board meeting, most of the club's budget for the year was voted on and appropriated. Whereas those numbers are not set in stone, it gives us a guideline for what we will need to break even and/or have surplus funds to invest in additional projects. Those numbers are available to club members and minutes will be published once approved.

As a reminder, the AFF board meets (typically) the second Tuesday at 6pm each month at the BP Energy center. Meetings are open to the public and club members are welcome to attend.

In closing, I would like you as a member of AFF to know if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or input, I am always happy to listen. I can be reached by phone at 907-354-8781, or email at PMHSE@hotmail.com

Once again Happy New Year and may the fish be with you,

Patrick Malone - *President, Alaska Fly Fishers (2017)*

JANUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 2nd, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Location: Elks Lodge, Northway Mall.

Pudge Kleinkauf is doing a presentation on fishing for Grayling

FISH TALK by Bill Hauser and Richard Nelson

GLACIER SALMON - Part II

WHY IT MATTERS—A LOOK AT THE PAST

For 35 years, Sandy Milner has carefully documented the progression of streams—from torrents of icy water (i.e., cold, sterile meltwater), devoid of all life, to the home waters for thousands of spawning salmon. When I asked Sandy about the significance of his work, he smiled self-consciously, then said he's published at least 25 scientific articles based on his studies, and nine of his students have done related PhD research on Glacier Bay streams and more young scientists keep adding to this remarkable accumulation of knowledge. The combined result is a powerful and important exploration of how salmon streams develop from the very moment of their birth.

During the last continental glaciation, which ended about 12,000 years ago, much of North America was covered by an immense sheet of ice extending all the way to the north Pacific Coast. As the climate warmed (very slowly compared to the rate of warming today) the glaciers retreated, and this gave birth to thousands of new creeks, streams, and rivers, some as large as the Columbia and Frazer. Eventually salmon colonized these waters in such abundance that salmon have come to define the entire Pacific Coast ecosystem.

Today in Glacier Bay, scientists can witness and document the same process on a much smaller scale. In this sense, Glacier Bay's salmon streams are a natural scientific laboratory and a window into the history of North America's great salmon runs.

WHY IT MATTERS—A LOOK AT THE FUTURE

The rapid colonizing of Glacier Bay by straying salmon demonstrates the resilience and adaptability of these remarkable fish. This is important in a time when thousands of salmon runs in the Lower 48 and Canada have been depleted or completely extinguished by human activities. Studying the biological development of newly born streams in Alaska may help us learn how to rebuild these damaged or lost salmon runs.

Recently, we've seen this process of recolonization happening in places like the Elwha River on the coast of Washington, where a major dam, which was a barrier to fish migration, was removed and salmon (all five species of Pacific salmon spawn here now) are quickly returning to their upstream spawning grounds after a 100 year absence.

Climate change is a more daunting problem for some salmon runs, especially in places like California, where warming streams threaten the survival of spawning and hatching fish. On the other hand, Glacier Bay shows us how receding ice creates new, cold streams where adult and young salmon thrive. Similar processes seem to be happening farther north, as straying salmon are beginning to appear in Arctic streams where they were

not previously known.

THE SCIENCE OF HOPE

On our last afternoon together, Sandy Milner guided us along yet another new and developing salmon stream. Going through a now-familiar routine, the crew weighed, measured, and tallied the catch of young salmon. Sandy pitched himself into the work alongside Leoni and Jessica, and I couldn't help noticing how tenderly he handled every fish.

Then Sandy led us farther upstream, to a broad sweep of gravelly outwash and braided river channels, backed by a long, steep, formidable ridge. Once again, he explained how the glacier that once buried this land had retreated and how salmon followed in its wake. To me, this place was exquisitely wild and glorious. To Sandy, I'm certain it was all this, plus a lot more. He seemed utterly contented to be in a place he so obviously loved, delighted with the work at hand, grateful for the good company, and certain about what this place—and its living community—had taught him.

Sandy Milner's studies show us the remarkable adaptability and resilience of salmon—when they're given a suitable home. And they remind us, yet again, where there are salmon, there is always hope.

By Richard Nelson for SalmonWorld

Learn more about SalmonWorld and read the original report by Richard Nelson as well as other stories and videos at: <http://www.aksalmonworld.org/> (BTW... Sandy and I are former work colleagues.)

If you missed Part I, please see the December issue of *Flylines*.

Do you have a question for FISH TALK? Contact Bill at karelbill@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.

KENAI RIVER CLEANUP RECAP

Alaska Fly Fisher's conservation and social activity, The Kenai River Clean-Up was quite the success this year. We had over 100 participating. The weather on the Kenai River September 9 & 10 was beautiful with the 11th providing challenging weather for the fly fisher.

Trash was collected from the upper Kenai River and along the highway to bring the area back to its pristine beauty.

Businesses from Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula and the Mat-Su Valley made contributions to make this activity extra special.

We would like to thank our annual core donors for the past 24 years—Conoco Phillips, Kenai Cache, City of Cooper Landing, Wildman's, Mountain View Sports, Kaladi Brothers Coffee, Great Harvest Bread Co. and Bill Stockwell.

Many other businesses and people, contributed gifts of prizes and or logistics.

Thank you to Alaska Recreational Management, Alaska Heavenly Lodge, Fish Alaska, Alaska Seasoning Co., Buckets, Catch A Drift, Chad Leader, Gwin's Lodge, Kenai River Drifter's Lodge, Kenai River Stream Watch, Kenai River Watershed Foundation, Mossy's, Northern Knives, Orvis, Publix Self Storage, Sackett's Kenai Grill, Sportsman's Warehouse, Sunrise Inn, Alaska Troutfitters, Trout Unlimited and Bob Fairchild and his band. Your donations made the Kenai River Clean Up much more fun, and exciting. Without the help of the following people, preparation, meals and camp clean up would not have happened. So thank you to Eric Booten, Susan Churchill, Leslie Holland-Bartels, Brittney Hogan, Stephan Johnson, Kevin Kleweno, and Sally Sellers.

Save The date for the 25th Kenai River Clean Up September 8,9, & 10.

Until next year and our 25th Anniversary Thank you one and all.

Mariann Malone - *Kenai River Cleanup Coordinator*

TYING CLINIC NEWS

Malisha Small, one of our new members, is the winner of the *One Feather - One Hook* challenge. Her selection of rubber legs as the single additional material resulted in a new combination that any fish would find interesting. The competition was tough with seven very different and creative flies.

The January Fly Tying Clinic will be on Saturday the 21st at the William Jack Hernandez Fish Hatchery on Reeve Blvd at Post Road. There will again be a full day of activity scheduled between 9 am and 3 pm.

Jim Galea, will be sharing his **Doddsi Nymph** with us. This is a fly that all will want to find out about and add to their arsenal. At 10 am **Brenda Brown**, will lead a tie along of the **Double Bunny**, a tried and true fly for our waters. You will enjoy her twist to this classic as well as discover that her substantial craft skills transfers well to fly tying. **Dave Rooker** will host the table for beginners. And door prizes and refreshments too!

The room in January should be as full as the last clinic where 30 members spent a relaxing day sharing our passion. Tools and materials will be supplied for those not bringing theirs along. It is always fun to see what a portable tying outfit might consist of from some of our dedicated members! Come along and enjoy!

[Cheryl Cline](#), *Tying Clinic Coordinator*

MEMBERS' CORNER

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



PROJECT HEALING WATERS UPDATE

No news this month from PHW.

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