

THE LOOP



Dustin New, Editor



Wednesday,
January 16 at The
Cove Upper Deck,
Downtown South
Bend

SJRVFF WELCOMES CAPTAIN ED MC COY

Captain Ed McCoy grew up in Northern Michigan fly fishing for trout, salmon, and steelhead. Ed attended Michigan State University and graduated with degrees in Zoology and Fisheries & Wildlife.

While attending MSU he worked on several research projects studying stream ecology and fish biology throughout Northern Michigan.

After graduating from MSU he was involved in post graduate research studying salmonid recruitment in the Muskegon River through the University of Michigan. He

was very fortunate throughout his college years to be able to study (and play) on some of our more notable rivers such as the Au Sable, Manistee, Muskegon, Pere Marquette, and Pine Rivers.

His background offers a unique perspective into fishing our local fisheries as his education and time spent on the water provide a comprehensive insight into our fisheries regarding every aspect from the habitat to the behavior of the fish we pursue.



Captain Ed's program will be "A Season on the Upper Manistee River" and will cover everything trout from the onset of spring through the dead of winter. He will also be tying a couple of his most successful flies.



Well thankfully the Mayans were wrong about the end of the world on December 21st, so it is my pleasure to wish you all a Happy New Year as the President of the SJRVFF. I look forward to working with you all in 2013 to keep this club going in the right direction. 2013 is the 35th anniversary of the club, and I hope that its success continues so many of us will see a 50th anniversary!

There were several other changes to the board for 2013. **Jim Gibson** took over as Club Secretary, **Lee Troyer** took over as Club Treasurer, and **Doug Moore** and **Tim Pote** are new 3 year Directors. **Dustin New** is also our new Newsletter Editor (lots of new's). **Mark Haley** will continue as Vice President.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the following individuals for their service to the club - **Brandon**

Rasler and **Earl Henderson** completed their 3 year terms as Directors, and **Doug Moore** completed his term as Secretary. Thanks to you all for the many hours that you put in behind the scenes to keep the SJRVFF running smoothly.

Now I would like to thank three individuals whose roles within the club required much time and effort.

Andy Kitson took the club newsletter to a new level during his tenure as Newsletter Editor. He made the newsletter a very visual and stylish publication. The new editor has a hard act to follow - Many Thanks Andy!

Dustin New served as Club Treasurer for several years and kept the clubs finances in great order. Dustin fine tuned the Treasurers position, so I'm sure the new Treasurer will be able to step right in to his new position. When you came to a

meeting the first people that you encountered were Dustin and his wife's smiling faces – Many Thanks to you both!!

Lastly, I would like to give a **HUGE THANK YOU** to **Todd Ezzell** for all his hard work as club President this past year, and Event Chairman for the past several years. I am already finding out how much time is involved being club president, but I can't imagine how much time Todd has spent over the years as the club's Event Chairman. From buying and preparing food for club outings and work projects, setting up/tearing down these outings, fly tying and casting clinics, and organizing the Fishing Wednesday's , Todd has left some VERY big shoes to fill. Hopefully one or more members will step forward to keep going what Todd has started. Thanks again Todd !!!!!!!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Membership renewal dues can be paid at the club meetings or by mail to:

SJRVFF
P.O. Box 933
South Bend, IN 46624

- The dues are still just \$20.00 for individuals and \$35.00 for a family membership. We would like to get all the renewals processed before the end of January 2013 so that membership cards and club rosters can be distributed in March.
- Anyone who joined the club after September 1st, 2012 is automatically covered for the year 2013.



MEETING DETAILS:

Doors open at 6:30 PM
meal at 7:00, Meeting
starts about 7:30.

Location: The Upper
Deck in Coveleski
Stadium, 501 West South
Street, South Bend

Parking is free.

Meal cost \$13.00 per
person.

MENU

Michiana Greens Salad &
Assorted Dressings

Cheese & Crackers with
hard salami

Slow Cooked Pork Loin
with honey mustard glaze

Herb Roasted Potatoes

Chef's Vegetable Medley

Dessert Assortment

Pineapple Iced Tea

Sweet Lemonade

Ice Water

Coffee

Cash Bar



The December meeting was the SJRVFF Awards night and some deserving members were honored for their service and unique accomplishments during the past year.

Fly Fisher of the Year was awarded to **Craig Myers**. Craig has only been fly fishing a couple of years but has taken to the sport with great passion and enthusiasm. He has also worked to get the on-line store for SJRVFF apparel on the club website. Plus he is one of the biggest Michigan fans I have ever met – GO BLUE!

The **Todd Ezzell Hustle Award** went to **Jim Lothary** for his hard work over the years as Auction/Raffle Chairman. Jim has taken the club auction to a new level over the past couple of years and manages to make the event a fun time for all. He continues to come up with interesting items for the monthly raffle, but hopefully he will now inspect the tickets for pine tar before putting them in the ticket hopper! Congratulations and Thanks Jim!

The **Okie Drifter Award** was given to **John “2-Rod” Law**. I have personally witnessed his ability to break fly rods with ease when salmon fishing, but I did not know that he possesses great wading skills as well. I did

not hear the whole story when it was told as John was given his award, but since it was a custom floatation vest, that says it all !!!!

The **Fly Tier of the Year** award was given to **Eric Wroblewski**. I was totally surprised to receive the award and those present saw me get a bit choked up. Jeff Thompson, who this award is named after, was one of the best fly tiers I have ever met. When I was learning to tie at the SJRVFF fly tying class back in 1984, Jeff was the first person to work with me. Until he passed away Jeff continued to help me and critique my fly tying. Receiving this award means a lot to me, and I thank those who thought I was deserving of it.

Two **Lifetime Member Awards** were presented. The first went to the man with the cool mustache, **Frank Fisher**. Frank has been in the club almost 30 years and although he pretty much stays in the background, he has been a staunch supporter of the SJRVFF. He designed both versions of the club pins and patches and is one heck of an artist. Every year he donates a nice creation to the auction which usually brings a tidy sum.. He received a nice Wheatly fly box and rumor has it that some FOAM hoppers might find their way into that box!

The second **Lifetime Member Award** went to **Kent Richardson**. Kent was not able to attend the December meeting but will be awarded his Wheatly Box at an upcoming meeting. Kent has also been a club member for almost 30 years. His contributions to the club are often understated but valuable and appreciated.

-EW

2013 FLY TYING SEMINARS

SJRVFF teaches Beginning Fly Tying through South Bend Parks Department

SJRVFF will start a seven week class on tying proven fly patterns for the local area and beyond. Classes will be held once a week for seven weeks starting on February 5th at the Howard Park Senior Center at 604. E. Jefferson, South Bend. Classes last from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

This is a beginning class, so no experience is necessary. The cost for non-members of St. Joseph River Valley Fly Fishers (SJRVFF) is \$30.00. For members of SJRVFF the class cost is \$5.00. The class is limited to 30 people.

SJRVFF will supply all the vises, tools and materials to tie during the class. If you have your own vise and tools, please feel free to use them for the class.

The patterns the class will tie are: Woolly Buzzer, Steelhead caddis, Griffith's Gnat, Ant, Black Gnat, Hare's Ear, Pheasant Tail, Clouser Minnow, Mickey Finn, Deer Hair Caddis, Sparkle Dun, Crystal Egg and the Sparrow.



Gary Krebs will be with us on January 19th for a one day fly tying seminar at the Elkhart Conservation Club. Gary is located in West LaFayette, IN. and has come up with some very interesting ways of tying poppers. Gary has a couple You Tube videos that you may want check out. Please contact Todd Ezzell at m3plus2@hotmail.com or 574-202-0255 if you need more information or would like to reserve a spot. This seminar will be limited to 16 tiers. The cost for this seminar is \$50.00 and is open to all who want to attend.

We are working on tiers for February and March and will provide updates as soon as we have the details worked out. At this time we are planning for February to be a guest tier. March will be special tag team effort by several local tiers sharing their favorite, most productive local patterns.

If you tie flies but have never attended one of the tying seminars you are missing out on a great opportunity to learn from some of the best tiers around. New techniques, refinements, new materials and a general broadening of your knowledge base are all there for you to experience. Come spend a cold Saturday with us by the warm fire and learn a thing or two.

Those attending the seminars will need to have basic fly tying skills. All tiers participating will need to bring there own vise, tools, lamp (if needed), and thread. Materials will be provided by the guest tier and we will provide donuts, lunch and drinks with your class fee. The seminars will start at 9:00 am and should conclude by 4:00 pm with a break at noon for lunch.

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Thanks to the coordinated efforts of club members Tim Scott, Tim Pote and John Law and the City of South Bend, the SJRVFF will have a substantial supply of Christmas trees for upcoming conservation projects. They were able to work out the details for the club to get as many trees as we need. Tim Scott made the necessary contacts with the city administration and Tim Pote is graciously providing a role-off container and truck to pick-up and drop the trees for an upcoming project John Law will coordinate. We have previously received Christmas trees from other area communities as well and put them to good use on our area streams. This is not only a great use for the trees but also saves the city the expense of having to grind up the trees.

7TH ANNUAL TIE-A-THON TO BENEFIT REEL RECOVERY MARCH 23RD

Tie-a-thon update - Following the *Indiana on the Fly* show a couple weeks ago down in Indianapolis, over 7900 flies have been committed to the 2013 Tie-a-thon. If you want to help us surpass 10,000 flies, contact Tim Scott or Terry Wittorp. Anything you want to tie will be appreciated, but if you are looking for suggestion these are the flies we ask you to tie:


Fly	Size
The Pink Lady	14
Elk Hair Caddis	14 -16
Ant (foam or other)	18-20
Griffith Gnat	20-22
Soft Hackle	14 -16
BWO Emerger	18-22
Caddis Nymph	16-18
Hare's Ear	12-14
Pheasant Tail	14-16
Woolly Bugger	10
Mickey Finn	8
Clouser's Minnow	8



FLY ENVY

With the exception of a couple of unusually warm days, the cold winter days are a good time to make piles of flies.



UPCOMING EVENTS	JAN 16	JAN 19	FEB 5	FEB 20
	<p>Club Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm - The Upper Deck, Coveleski Stadium</p>	<p>Tying Seminar</p> <p>Gary Krebs ECC Main Building</p>	<p>Tying Class Begins</p> <p>Howard Park Senior Center, South Bend</p>	<p>Club Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm - The Upper Deck, Coveleski Stadium</p>

THE DEMISE OF A FLY FISHING CLUB

Having been involved with clubs, councils and their boards at all levels for 20 plus years, I have witnessed the failure of clubs and yes several councils mostly due to the following shortcomings in their day to day operations:

- 1- Lack of a purposeful and mandated revolving of the board of directors*
- 2- Lack of sub committees to support the board members providing fodder to fill empty BOD slots*
- 3- Lack of active new membership initiative to fill the voids and offset the normal attrition*
- 4- The formation of cliques within the club discouraging new member involvement*
- 5- The un-imaginative speakers at meetings or none at all*
- 6- The "rut" of doing everything as it has been in the past*
- 7- Senior long term members (mostly past presidents) continuing to "run things"*
- 8- Only a few active workers who make the effort to do more than what is expected of them*
- 9- An egotistical president who cannot release the reign, delegate and wishes to be the only voice in and for the club and its members.*
- 10- Lack of membership commitment to attend meetings on a regular basis.*
- 11- Lack of fund raising efforts to enable the club to actually support/promote the sport of fly fishing as it was intended by our doctrine.*

Be honest, all of you reading this have experienced most or all of the above at one point or another. This is proven out by the dismal growth/membership statistics of the FFF. Forgetting that for a moment, how many of you actually look forward with great anticipation to your monthly meetings? When was the last time you left a meeting with the feelings of "more of the same"? What percentage of your total membership comes to your meetings? The average in my experience is about 40%. Yes, we have snow birds, health problems, vacations, birthdays, holidays, out of town guests...and on and on. Sound like familiar excuses? We too are getting older and young members are hard to find. But it can be done!

Simply by reversing the 12 failures above a club of any age or size can still be enjoyable, grow and still be fun for ALL the members. Tackling these issues head on can reverse the universal downtrend in our clubs. You are not going to make everybody happy in your club and a few will be grumps and leave for the "changes" but overall most will appreciate your effort and enjoy being included in the inner circle.

THINGS TO DO NOW:

- 1- Call for an election of new officers*
- 2- Form a committee to search out better speakers*
- 3- Plan more and interesting outings*
- 4- Hold casting and fly tying clinics regularly*
- 5- Find a meeting place that serves food and adult beverages*
- 6- Reward your worker bees with special recognition*

For what is worth I am writing this cause' my club needs all of the above!!! Only in its fourth year, our meeting attendance is down, cliques have formed and nobody wants to get involved trusting that "somebody else will get it done". In my club this has boiled down to about me and 4 individuals. Sound like your club? As such, I am kicking myself (and our membership) in the butt hopefully to change what Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers is about. (#9 above does not apply of course).

I was recently forwarded a copy of this letter and I included it for you all to see not because I think the SJRVFF is heading toward its demise or because I believe this describes the SJRVFF. In fact, just the opposite. It was encouraging to see we are doing many things right. I wanted to continue to be involved because the SJRVFF is valuable to me. I know many of you feel the same way. I would encourage you to not only get involved but get someone else involved too. Much like the old saying that 90% of the fish are in 10% of the water, our club thrives on the efforts of a few. You can make an impact just by bringing a friend to a meeting, getting involved in a committee or just helping out at an outing. With your help the club will be even better.

- DN

GET INVOLVED

We could use your help. With the transition of the treasurer position from Dustin New to Lee Troyer, the club by-laws require a review of the books. We are looking for a couple people with some financial background who are willing to give up a couple hours. You might recall that the books were reviewed about a year ago so it will only be a year of the books. If you are interested, please contact Dustin at dustinnew@sbcglobal.net or Lee at flyfish@maplenet.net.

2012 SJRVFF DONATIONS

Each year the club makes donations to various not-for-profit organizations based on our financial position at the end of the year. Your generosity at the annual auction is the primary fund raiser that makes it possible for us to both do service projects to improve our local waterways and make donations that allow many more to get out and experience our sport. In 2012 we made the following donations:

Little Elkhart Trout Unlimited	\$ 750
Elkhart Conservation Club	\$1000
Kalamazoo Trout Unlimited	\$ 250
Wounded Warriors Bamboo Rod Program	\$1000

DIRECTORS

President: Eric Wroblewski
Vice-President: Mark Haley
Treasurer: Lee Troyer
Secretary: Jim Gibson
1 Year Director: Larry Schmitt
1 Year Director: Erik Gilbert
2 Year Director: Billy Vail
2 Year Director: Mary Hellen Znavor
3 Year Director: Doug Moore
3 Year Director: Tim Pote

COMMITTEE HEADS

Conservation: John Law
Event Coordinator:
Librarian: Deborah Mowery
Ghillie & Auction Director: Jim Lothary
Newsletter: Dustin New
Webmaster: Brandon Rasler



SJRVFF

PO Box 933

South Bend, IN 46624-0933

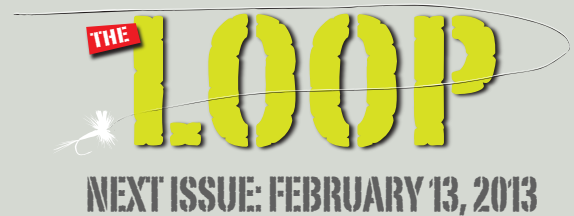
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The Loop is published the 2nd Wednesday of the month, September through May. If you have story, article ideas, photo, artwork, or need to get something off your chest, you contact me at: 574-286-6508 or dustinnew@sbcglobal.net

READY FOR THE APRIL AUCTION?

Yes, its only January but, if you're like me, something like the April auction can sneak up on you if you don't spend a little time preparing. Your preparations might include building a nice little two weight rod that I've been wanting. Or picking up an extra bobbin at the fly shop to donate for the auction. Or hitting up your favorite guide or lodge for a donation to the club. Maybe its starting to squirrel away a few bucks a week so you'll have plenty of cash available on the big night. What ever your preparations are, its a good time to start.

We recently received a numbered "Federation for the Future" print by David Ruimveld from the GLC and a "Fall Brown" print from Becca Schlaff for the auction. Our in-house overseer of all things auction, Jim Lothary, is well on his way to making this year's auction as good as ever. Get in touch with him if you plan to donate something special or can help him out.



SJRFFF

PO Box 933

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