



Southland Fly Fishing Club

May 2010

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www.SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz

"Ripples"

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Cover Photo...

John Day, tying his Smelt Fly, which is the first fly in our Fly Tying competition.

John has kindly demonstrated this at the last meeting, so it is important that you do try to get to view these demonstrations of each fly, for your fly needs to conform as near as possible to what John has demonstrated. See page 9 for instructions and photos. If you are in need of any materials please for this fly please contact John Day or Les Ladbrook.



Around the Club

On the 25th April onwards, serious rain fell around Southland, putting all rivers into flood, bridges being wash out, roads closed and lakes levels rising. To the point where Queenstown was on high alert, and shop owners there were either preparing for possible flooding of the premises by moving stock high off the ground, or moving the complete contents of the shop out until water levels started falling and it was safe to operate again.

You can of course imagine how much rain there must have been to take the Oreti at 3 Kings from just over 4 cumecs on the 24th April to 195 cumecs of flow on the 27th, indeed there had been serious heavy rain over a brief period, and that there would be no fishing for several days or even a couple of weeks on some rivers.

Another example of water volume, was the Waiau at Tuatapere going from 145 cumecs on the 24th April to over 1,966 cumecs on the 26th, that is a lot of water, that's around 13.5 times of an increase of flow.

This would not bode well for duck shooters I feel, with so much water about ducks would be out in the paddocks, probably many fish would be there as well, seeking worms and quieter water.

The April meeting started at Superframers, where we were shown a little bit about the art of framing photos and pictures from the myriad of options in framing materials possible.



Next was the interesting art of how you can restore old photos, this indeed opened a few eyes, and probably provoked some members into thinking they might have some photos at home, in need of, or could benefit with some restoration work. The last section of the meeting was how photos can be manipulated before being put onto canvas, and the benefits of having a good image to start with.

The club would like to thank Bruce Hill for taking the time to put on the demonstration for our members, which I found extremely interesting and informing.

Fiblet

The Source—New Zealand

Over the last few months I've been lucky enough to be involved with a new fly fishing DVD being produced by Gin-Clear Media called The Source - New Zealand. It has been filmed across the South Island and in my opinion will blow away any fishing DVD made to date. As well as great footage and scenery there are plenty of fish caught over 8 pounds and a few over the magic 10 pound also. There is some unbelievable dry fly action, the trouble so far for Nick Reygaert has been working out what to leave out!

The anglers involved may be known to you, Nick Reygaert, Dax Messet, Silvio Caldelari and myself.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9ds7G9hFM8>.



Michael Hartstonge

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Dads Beat

Patience, Observation, Opportunity, Presentation and Perseverance - the dictum of the fly fishing fanatic

April 10th : Fourteen brown trout caught this afternoon at 'Dads Beat' during the 'Mad Mataura Rise'.

Believe me this is not an every-day diary entry but it does happen. All caught in the space of less than 2 hours in ultra clear water and in good light. I was sight fishing to actively feeding fish in the gravelly shallows at the tail of the pool. I could see multiple pods of up to a dozen or so fish all of over 20" or more, actively feeding within 10 metres of my rod tip.



Four seasons experience of fishing the same pool on a almost a daily basis fine weather or foul, a typical Mataura 'flat' in the mid Mataura river, with some of the best hatches of duns that the river south of Gore is well known for has instilled in me the local knowledge that we all strive for. This knowledge has given me a footprint of all the nuances of the pool, the nature of the bottom structure, the holding areas, the defined areas in the pool where there are the most prolific hatches of mayfly and most importantly how to fish them. Why are some areas of the pool better than others? The river itself provides the answers. This particular pool is long and flat with a shallow gravel entry running into deep eddies at the eye of the pool. It then flows through the main section of boulder bed water finishing in a fan of shallow gravel. There is no doubt in my mind that this particular configuration creates a habitat that is conducive to phenomenal hatches of mayflies. There are pools that look similar but certainly do not contain the same habitat under the water. The ecosystem on this beat is diverse and there are many different hatches of duns that change over the season. Even the size of a given species of dun changes due to temperature and water condition.

I often see signs of duns hatching when they alight on my kitchen windows and there were plenty of them evident this day. As I reached the river the rise was prolific with dads favourites and blue duns lifting off the water in droves. Even after many moons of fishing the expectation and excitement of arriving by the river bank never changes. I hurriedly assembled my rod and tackled up. What fly to use? On checking out the hatch and the rise forms it was apparent that the fish were taking duns. Always a good sign as when on duns they are less discriminate than on emergers. Experience has taught me that the most productive way to present to them is from slightly across and downstream. This tactic is essential to catch these fish. With no line shadow and limited micro drag it makes all the difference between success and failure. A cast with a colorado stack at the end has also proved successful as the fly floats on the current with little or no drag and the fly is presented first to the fish. The wee dads favourite cdc emerger fished dry and floated downstream to the sighted fish resulted in some savage takes. Best fish was a 4 3/4 jack (weighed). I also lost 2 good fish after being bust off and missed a dozen others.

A halcyon day on the river perhaps but it was business as usual the next day with the fish back to their normal recalcitrant selves. The joys and tribulations of the Mataura rise!

Red Tag

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Lodge Trip 24 & 25 April 2010

This was to be the last fishing trip of the general season for Steven and I as duck hunting would take a higher priority for the month of May.

We arrived at the lodge late on Friday evening with the food and fishing gear, unpacked the truck, sorted beds and had a catch-up with Dave and Chris who were already there.

Saturday morning was not the usual early start with the alarm sounding about 6am, when breakfast was cooked (bacon and eggs) and the lunches made with us all doing our bit to get the tasks completed, dishes washed then heading away to our various destinations for the day. Dave and Chris were to head to the Aparima and Steven and I were heading to the Mataura at Ardlussa. On our way through Lumsden, "Trout Cottage" had people in residence for the weekend so we called in for a chat to catch up. It was great to see them all and it was decided that we would return after tea that night for a yarn about the days fishing. On we continued to Dale's access to find no other anglers there, clear water flowing at low levels. Our gear was assembled quickly then we set off downstream to find our piscatorial target. A large backwater that I knew of was our first stop and on seeing cruising trout we decided to have a go, but alas these fish had obviously been caught once or twice before, and as soon as the fly was landed in front of them they scarpered for cover. We carried on downstream to a piece of water that my Dad used to fish a lot and it was great to see it unchanged. We fished up through some ripples but touched nothing, Steven had some casting practice, watching the swallows swooping about feeding on the flies that were coming off the water. It was just a matter of time before the trout started.....



And then it began lots and lots of flies appearing on the surface of the water floating down with the dimples of rising trout rippling the waters surface. I found a trout rising not too far up from us and got Steven into position to cast to the fish with a little emerger fly I gave him. After a couple of attempts he landed the fly in the right spot for the fish to devour the offering and the hook was set. A good battle followed with me assisting Steven on the finer points of landing trout as he gently swung the fish across into the net. He was a very happy boy to land what would be his biggest fish so far fly fishing 3lb neat and returned.

We both continued fishing and I landed 5 fish for the rest of the afternoon while Steven had lots of chances to increase his total to no avail.

Back to the lodge we headed to cook the boys some tea and enjoy a cold beer or two. Steak, onions, potatoes, and salad was enjoyed by us all before heading back to trout cottage to catch up with the gang over there. Much lively debate over various topics occurred before we headed away, having consumed more beer. Thanks Chris for being our sober driver..

Sunday we got up and did it all again but before we left the lodge we had all packed up and tidied the lodge for the next guests. Everyone headed to the Mataura as it had fished well the day before and Steven and I headed back to the same place. Unfortunately the fish didn't follow up on the previous days efforts and we left just as the rain started pouring down. A pleasant weekend with good company and great fishing. The Lodge, It's a great place to stay.....

Linz

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President's Report

Well the season is about gone. As I write this there are still three weekends before this closing of the high country rivers so I may get a few more days in.

I have had a good season, in fact my best ever. I got off to a good start with five fish on opening day and managed to keep catching fish all season. I also managed to keep a diary all season and have managed to record what I caught all the fish on with the exception of a couple where I am not sure what nymph I was using. The lack of data is caused by not updating the diary soon enough after the fishing trip.

The main down side of the season has been the weather. A number of my entries in my diary include the words "strong wind" or "downstream wind". Fortunately I have managed to cope with this on most occasions and the fish I have caught prove it is worthwhile getting out even when there is a bit of wind.

I will try and give you a summary of my season (a bit like Johnny did last year) in a later Ripples.

Now that the season is over (or near enough) it is time to start planning for next season. This planning should include tying the flies you will need and also planning those special trips to special rivers. My plans for fly tying include learning to tie my own dries (wings and all) as I have bought these up to now. As I am planning to fish the Mataura a bit more next season I will be tying some very small dries as seem to be required on this river.

Of course there are the flies to tie for the Club competition. All these flies should be useful in local rivers making it worthwhile to tie them. You should give them a go.

Dave

Oreti Cycle Trail

As many of you will know, there are plans afoot to put a cycle trail down the side of the Oreti River in the Trophy Zone area, this very special area that so many of us who have fished there love. After it leaves the shores of Lake Wakatipu, it goes along the Walter Peak/Mt Nicholas road heading out towards Mavora, and near the upper bridge that goes over the top of the Oreti, it turns to go down the valley floor on the true left bank, over the Ashton Burn, through the bush at the Narrows, and then across the river, to the true right bank. Along the edge of Landcorp land to the "Three Kings", then back over the river and down the left bank again to just above the Windley, then back again and down the right bank to Mossburn (on the south side, not as shown in the map).

This track is a significant undertaking, and will involve the excavation and movement of a large amount of gravel and soil. The exact amount and dimensions of the track are not fully known as yet, but it is understood the track will be 2.4m wide across at the top of the track, and built to varying heights to account for the terrain.

There are a large number of culverts to install and this, along with track construction will disturb a large amount of soil. Heavy vehicles will be required to excavate and cart this material, some of it across the river—this will result in further soil disturbance and vegetation clearance and damage.

- There are to be 3x (90 meter) swing bridges across the river.

The disturbance, especially during the construction phase and into the future during storm events is likely to result in turbid water runoff that could make the river more discoloured than it is at the moment.



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This may not comply with the Conservation order, and could affect trout growth. Some bush has to be cut down, to make way for the track. When it is completed, besides the bridges and possible runoff from the track the effects on the fishery will be less but unknown.

Given the recent floods and high levels of water recently, there is a very real potential for bridges to be washed away or damaged, unless they are substantial structures, and that means big work.

Take a look at the flood waters around the F&G access sign Rocky Point (left), Weydon Burn (middle) and Mararoa Station bridge (right), this is a fair amount of water. Imagine the amount of water and the effect it could have on any upstream construction.



Photos courtesy - Stu Sutherland

Questions?

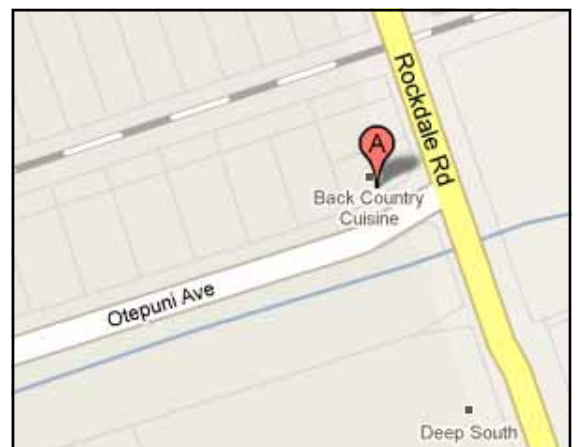
- Do you think this may spoil the tranquility and uniqueness of this area?
- Do you think it will affect the natural, wilderness aspect of this area?
- Given the size of the track and it having 3 bridges in such a small area of our most unique area of the Oreti, do you see if affecting the fishery, the area of fishable water and your enjoyment?
- Do you have a special affection for this place and have any concerns?

Then drop a line to Maurice Rodway, and let your concerns be known, so you can be kept up to date.

Maurice Rodway
Manager
Fish and Game New Zealand
Southland Region
PO Box 159
Invercargill
Maurice.Rodway@southlandfishgame.co.nz

[May Meeting 7pm - BCF](#)

Note:- **7pm start** - don't be late
Back Country Foods Ltd =>
150 Otepuni Avenue
(next to the overbridge)



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Club Trip to Lower Mataura – May 9

After two or three years trying we finally managed a Club trip on the planned day in May to the Mataura. Chris, Liam and myself met up at Fish and Game for a gentlemanly 10:00am departure. Chris had arranged to meet Kevin at the Wyndham Bridge so that determined where we were going.

We arrived a little later than the appointed time and met up with Kevin. Unfortunately the river was still above normal and had quite a bit of colour. However it looked to be fishable and the weather was good.

We headed up above the bridge and started fishing. I was the first to hook up, landing a little 1lber. Liam managed one a bit bigger and just before we headed back to the car for lunch Chris landed a 2 ½ lber.

After lunch we headed downstream. A number of fish were spotted below a bank and Kevin was sent down to try his luck. Unfortunately he didn't manage to hook any of them. A bit further down there were a number of terns working the river, taking the mayflies that were coming off. Unfortunately there were no fish rising to the mayflies.

There didn't look too much going on so we headed back up to where we had fished before lunch. Chris eventually landed another fish in the same place he caught the first one but there wasn't much going on so we pulled the pin relatively early and headed home.

Dave

Fly Tying Day and Annual Dinner.

We will be holding a fly tying day at Fish and Game on June 19th at 9:00am. This will be a day where we get together to tie flies. There is no formal program but tutoring will be available to those who need it. This will be a good day to build up your stocks or to learn to tie something different. You will learn something on this day regardless of how advanced your fly tying is.

That evening we will be holding our Annual Dinner at Ainos. There will be the usual exchange of \$5 funny gifts (one gift per person attending). If you are keen to go to Dinner let Chris McDonald know.



Competition Results

Fish Competition.

Winner of the 'Fish card draw' for April — **Linz Withington**



Photo Competition.

The best Photo (judged by popular vote) — **Simon Budd**

ALLAN WHITE SPORTS

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Competitions

Fly Tying

<u>Month</u>	<u>Fly</u>	<u>Hook size</u>	<u>Demonstration by:</u>	<u>General meeting</u>
May	Smelt	8	John Day	April
June	Stonefly	10	Simon Budd	May
July	Spotlight Fly	??	(to be advised)	June
Aug	Emerging Caddis	18	Linz Withington	July (2 flies this month)
Aug	Elk Hair Caddis	12	Les Ladbrook	July
Sept	Adams Para	14	Dave Harris	Aug

Fly Tying Competition.

We are now into the winter so it is fly tying time. The fly for May is a Jack Sprat. This is a good smelt/white bait imitation so should be useful in the lower reaches during spring. John Day demonstrated how to tie this fly at the April monthly meeting.

At the general meeting prior to the next one when your fly will need to be entered, you will be given a demonstration on how to tie the pattern by the people listed above.

The fly will be tied to a certain size of hook, and some other details will be given out by the respective demonstrators, there may also be some materials given out.

Come see, then have a go, if you don't have the required materials "sing out" and we will do our best to ensure you can enter a fly in the competition.

It does not matter how good or bad your fly is, the object of the competition is to learn and improve your skills through competition. Talk about your flies, with other members to see what advice they can offer.

The June fly is a stonefly and Simon will demonstrate this fly at the May monthly meeting.

You won't be short of assistance.

Annual Fish Competition.

Cards for these competitions will be accepted up to the June Executive Meeting (June 1). If you have any more cards to put in they need to be in by then.

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Smelt Fly - (May competition fly)

Hook: size 8
Thread: black
Tail: red whisks
Body: flat silver
Rib: oval silver
Wing: 3 or 4 badger hackles
Hackle: badger.

Run thread from the eye to the bend, tie in tail whisks, tinsel and ribbing, run thread back to head, leaving space for head. Wind on body tinsel to the head and back to tail, return to head and tie off.

Match up wing feathers & tie in at head so they extend about half the length of the shank over the tail whisks.

Bring the ribbing up through the wing fibers thus tying the wing down to the top of the shank, matuku style.

Lastly wind on hackle collar, and tie back at about 45 degrees then form the head and tie in usual way.



John Day

Quote

It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming.

John Steinbeck

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Coming Events

25th May	[MM]	7pm @ Back Country Foods Ltd, 150 Otepunu Ave
29-30th May		Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge, contact Dave Harris
1st June	(CM)	Fly Tying
19th June		Fly Tying day for club members by club members - Meal at night, (\$5 funny gift)
29th June	[MM]	Members Video & Photo night
6th July	(CM)	Fly tying
27th July	[AGM]	Election of Officers, MVM, Prize Giving - (Supper)



Club Contacts

Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand

- President Dave Harris, 30 Baxter Street Invercargill (03 215 6068) dcharris@southnet.co.nz
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) ChrisM@mdp.co.nz
- Editor Les Ladbrook, 31 Taiepa Road, Otatara, Invercargill (03 213 1015)
Les.Ladbrook@SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz
Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month
- Lodge Custodian Linz Withington, 234 Dome Street, Invercargill (03 216 4366) withingtons@xtra.co.nz

Club Items for Sale

Metal Badges \$15 ea.



Cloth Patches \$12 ea.



Club Meetings

The club meets at **7:30pm on the last Tuesday** of each month (except December) at the Fish & Game building, 159 North Road Invercargill. **The February meeting is on the river.**

Executive Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month following the general meeting, except for Dec/Jan, includes with fly tying, so come along and bring your gear if you want help with a fly—all members welcome.

Club Resources

The club has an extensive library of Books and Videos, contact the Librarian.

A blow up Rubber Boat and a set of five Radio's, which can be borrowed by club members, contact the Editor.

Disclaimer:

The opinions or views expressed in this newsletter, are those of the respective authors, and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Southland Fly Fishing Club. The Editor takes no responsibility for the factual content of this publication. News and pictures to Les.Ladbrook@SouthlandFlyFishingClub.org.nz

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