The Chair's Riach - #2

The Fly Tying Group Board of Governors voted on three items since the last quarterly phone conference. This vote was done by e-mail in order to expedite getting on task for our next yearly meeting which will be at West Yellowstone in September, 2013.

Item #1. Authorized the expenditure of funds up to $2500 to secure the place and menu for our BBQ.  
(Yes=18, No=1, Abstain = 1, Non-voting =1)

Item #2.  Cost of meal ticket will be set to cover actual meal cost charged to FTG. 
(Yes = 18, No = 2, Abstain = 0, Non-voting = 1)

Item #3.  The name of FTG meal event will be changed from "Tiers and Liars BBQ" to "The Fly Tying Group Rendezvous." 
(Yes = 18, No = 1, Abstain = 1, Non-voting = 1 )

We have been experiencing an increase in membership and renewal of membership. The ability to use the IFFF office personnel to help notify and collect membership fees has helped keep current members from letting their membership lapse. There has been a few inquiries made to the main office about "what are the benefits of joining FTG? What do I get for my money?"  Our promotional brochures answer part of this question. Each of us needs to do some PR work when talking to current and prospective FTG members. Much of what we do is not getting a physical entity for our membership but giving ourselves an opportunity to belong to, and or support, a group dedicated to the many facets of fly tying. Hopefully, many members will become involved in working on our various projects. Perhaps they can propose a project of their own that will enhance our tying community.

In this article, I would like to spotlight a few of our FTG projects and hope some of the membership might see an area to which they can contribute.
At the West Yellowstone yearly meeting in 2011, our group adopted the "FTG Strategic Plan" for our organization. This proposed strategic plan was centered around our developing a fly tying education program within the IFFF and the IFFF Fly Tying Group. A description of this proposal, prepared by Frank Johnson should be available under the Fly Tying tab on the IFFF web site. The initial stage of developing a questionnaire has been completed. The distribution of the questionnaire has been completed. Collection of the data has been almost completed with returns from international tiers being tabulated. A major job that now has to be done is to figure out how we want to use that data. One of the possible outcomes of this project will be an opportunity to list resource individuals willing to assist in fly tying education through demo tying or class instruction. Frank has collected a LOT of good meaningful data and we need to figure out what to use and how to use it. This is beyond a one person job now! Members willing to work on this strategic plan and the data analysis can contact Frank Johnson at bighornjohnsons@gmail.com

The Evergreen Hand Project involves the making and distribution of the Evergreen Hand Kit. The kit includes vise attachments and a dvd with instructions on how to use the attachments so a person can tie a fly using only one hand. Jesse Scott and Dean Childs head up this project. The FTG funded the making of the initial batch of kits and they have been distributed. This project has been a major activity for the FTG and we need to help see it through the next steps. Funding for construction of the kits is needed. David Nelson, several years ago, offered to have the FTG receive funds for the project so donations would have an account to go to for their needs. I re-affirmed this idea with Phil Greenlee and we can still do this. The project leaders will have to work out the details with the main office so they can start collecting donations for the Evergreen Hand Project. The Evergreen Hand has been very useful in some rehabilitation settings with vets and others having the use of one hand. The FTG needs to get involved, not only in assisting the funding of the project, but in learning how to use the device. I mean learn how to use the kit to extent you can teach others how to use it. That is where our role in fly tying education can really help. If you are interested in learning how to use the Evergreen Hand (EGH) contact Dean Childs or Jesse Scott. They should have one for demonstration at West Yellowstone next September too.

Steve Jensen heads up the Fly Art Framing Committee. If you have not had the opportunity to take his class on framing, matting, and mounting Fly Art, I urge you to take advantage of his expertise. Steve will periodically teach a workshop at the yearly Fly Fair. There was a lot of sharing of ideas on how to create fly plates of museum quality.

The project I am most involved with is the on-line fly tying instructor resource. This is a web site project still in its infancy. Frank is sharing a lot of the information from his project with me. We will be able to start putting some of the shared documents from his strategic plan project with the Resource offerings. I am willing to look at articles, tables, tying information, etc..... that instructors might find useful in their teaching of fly tying. We are concentrating on the introductory levels first. Help in locating and evaluating some web site tying dotcoms would be welcome-More interested in the tying videos of high quality and not the sales pitch oriented videos. Aides to the instructor for teaching techniques would be useful to look at. No promises are made that everything submitted will be used but will try to incorporate various ways of teaching a skill. The website is www.ftgFlyTyingInstructorResource.org
If you are interested in contributing to this project, contact me at j.ferguson@comcast.net

Other projects will be outlined in future articles. I urge FTG members to get involved with our projects from the standpoint of what you can do to promote our goals. You can make an impact on the fly tying and fly fishing community with your active participation.

Jim Ferguson
The 2013 Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo is scheduled for March 8th and 9th at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany, Oregon. A vision conceived by the Oregon Council of Federation of Fly Fishers (OCFFF) 25 years ago has now become one of the largest, and possibly the largest, fly fishing expositions on the west coast.

The mission of the OCFFF is to improve fly fishing in Oregon by providing information to fly fishers to improve their skills, by preserving and expanding fly fishing opportunities, and by improving fish habitats. This vision encompasses the total fly fisher and is visible throughout every aspect of the Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo.

Volunteers are the mainstay of the Expo, engaging over 400 volunteers from 23 chartered and affiliated FFF clubs throughout the Pacific Northwest to make this event the success that it is. In 1987, volunteers not only organized that first event but they offered their time as tyers. Today, the fly tyers you’ll see on March 8th and 9th are by invitation only, the best of the best.

Through the support of the OCFFF, Skip Hosfield and Keith Burkhart initiated the first Expo in 1987. Together, they hatched a plan to bring fly tyers together at the expo center in Eugene. Many members of the Mckenzie Flyfishers Club played critical roles in the first expos, establishing the auctions of flies and equipment as highlights of the Expo programming. A few key contributors were Cliff Adams, Bob Guard, Greg Pitts, Tom Porterfield and Stan Walters.

The Expo has grown from 40 volunteer tyers to well over 200 of the best. Dwight Klemin and Jim Fisher played key roles in moving the Expo to larger quarters in Albany. The larger facility created opportunities to add classes on tying and angling, demonstrations and instruction on casting, including single-handed and Spey casting, and added space for vendors to display the latest equipment in fly fishing and tying technology. These attractions and the expansion of the Expo to a full two-day event have resulted in one of the best fly fishing shows anywhere.

In 1987, the OCFFF developed the Expo with two primary goals: to create a solid and replicable fundraising event, and to provide an educational platform to promote fly tying and fly fishing. You will see when you join us in Albany on March 8th and 9th that the Northwest Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo has far exceeded these expectations. Thousands of attendees have been awed by the diversity of all aspects of fly fishing at this event. This year,
ORCFFF honors the Coast Cutthroat Trout and the Spruce Fly, a fly developed especially for this trout by Milo and Bert Godfrey between 1918 and 1919. The Spruce Fly is at its best during the sea run of the Coast Cutthroat.

Through your participation at the Expo, the OCFFF has funded two scholarships to promote studies in fisheries management. Yet the most universally favorite aspect of the Expo is reconnecting with friends and meeting new friends who share the love of fly fishing. See you at the Expo.

Learn more about the Expo at: [http://www.nwflytyerexpo.com/](http://www.nwflytyerexpo.com/)

From Your Raffle Committee **Tyers & Liars Bar-B-Q 2013**

I know it seems like a long ways off, but you should be looking for raffle items all year. It has become that time of year when the sales bin at the fly shop or sporting goods store start to get filled up with raffle items. Maybe you are at a garage sale and see some fly tying things that can be put into a bag to be raffled. Please start thinking about **Raffle items.**

I was in West Yellowstone a few weeks ago and talked to Bob Jacklin. Jacklin’s Fly Shop is willing again to store items for the raffle. Please mail all items to:

Att. Tyers & Liars Raffle

Jacklin’s Fly Shop

105 Yellowstone Ave.

West Yellowstone, MT  59758

Thank you,

Raffle Committee; Dave Roberts & Jim Crislip
To date we have received some 220 completed questionnaires. Of those, 189 tiers have asked to be included in the Directory. Of the 189 tiers indicating an interest in being included in the Directory some 59 are not IFFF members and 11 whose memberships have expired. Letters have been sent to those folks offering them a $20.00 one year membership in order to be included in the Directory. This offer was mailed November 15th. We have had some new members as a result (yippee). The IFFF office will give me a report on December 15th and those who have joined will be included in the Directory.

We have communicated with all of those 160 International tiers we have on our list. The emails went out on October 26th and the letters some ten days later. To date the response has been disappointing. We have received 5 or 6 completed questionnaires and about the same number of declines. We will keep working on this International project. One of our problems is that many of the names on the International list are quite old. Many of them have had no communication with IFFF for more than a decade.

We are working with IFFF Staff to get the Directory on the web site. We have proposed that when these tiers are posted on line that we have two click buttons. One saying “Find a Tying Instructor” and the other saying “Find a Demonstration Tier”. If you look at the IFFF site home page you will see a button “Find a Fishing Guide”. We are working toward configuring our tier information much like the guide information is configured. At this time we have 104 qualified Instructor entries and 113 Demonstration Tier entries.

As soon as we get the Directory up and running we hope to put the questionnaire and other information on the IFFF/FTG web site. By doing so other tiers can see what we are doing and more simply be added to the Directory.

We would encourage any Fly Tying Group member who is interested in being listed in the Directory to please do so. It is a simple process. Just email Frank Johnson at bighornjohnsons@gmail.com and ask for a FTG questionnaire. We would very much like to see as many Tying Instructors and Demonstration Tiers become involved as possible. By simply filling out the questionnaire you will be contributing to the Fly Tying Group and our Tier Education Program.

Al (Alfred) Troth, 82, of Dillon Montana passed away August 3, 2012 after a lengthy battle with Parkinson’s disease.

Al grew up and attended school in Monessen, PA. He worked at Pittsburgh Steel Company before joining the Navy. After his navy service he worked as a metallurgist for Pittsburgh Steel and attended California State Teachers College (California, PA).

During college, Al met and married Martha ‘Marty’ Manandise. The Troths moved to the Williamsport PA area where Al taught Industrial Arts for 15 years.

In 1973 Al, Martha and son Eric moved to Dillon, Montana where Al went into business as a fly fishing Outfitter and professional fly tier. Al was a very popular and demanding guide. His goal was to always have his clients successfully catch trout. In accomplishing that goal Al did a great deal of teaching as well as innovating fishing techniques that would help his not-so-expert clients become successful anglers.

He was an accomplished photographer with dozens of his images appearing in prominent fishing magazines and books. During his years in Dillon Al was a popular Workshop Presenter and Demonstration Tier and Teacher. For many years Al was a participant in many FFF and TU functions.

Al Troth may have been best known as the innovator of many popular trout fishing flies. His Troth Elk Hair Caddis, developed in 1957, has become an international standard. Al’s tying efforts were directed entirely toward tying flies that catch fish. His achievements in that regard were more than a little successful. Al was also responsible for the design and popularization of the
Pheasant Tail Nymph as we know it today. He fully recognized that his Pheasant Tail Nymph was a modification of the very simple Pheasant Tail Nymph developed by British angler and tier Frank Sawyer. Al added the peacock thorax and legs to make the original pattern more realistic. These two fly patterns taken together have probably accounted for more trout caught in Western America than any other two flies over the past 30 or 40 years. One would be hard pressed to find a fly box today that did not contain one or both of those patterns. These two flies and their spinoffs remain universally popular patterns today. It is doubtful that there is a fly shop in America that does not stock any number of variations of Al's two famous patterns.

A recent survey of Fly Tying Instructors in America conducted by the IFFF Fly Tying Group has revealed the following information: 65% of those instructors surveyed listed either the Troth Elk Hair Caddis or the Pheasant Tail Nymph or both patterns as being part of their curriculum. Of all the fly patterns available to teach today that is a real expression of the value of these patterns. To put this in perspective we need to note that only 25% of those instructors included the standard Adams dry fly in their teaching curriculum.

Tim Tollett, Frontier Anglers, Dillon, Montana wrote of Al:

I first met Al Troth in 1977. I planned to attend the University of Montana Western for a few years. Listening to Al was like being in college only in a different setting. Visiting with him on many occasions he asked if I would like to work for him as a fishing guide. That was the start of a long and everlasting friendship.

Al Troth was more than just a friend. He was my mentor and a teacher of a tremendous amount of knowledge, at the bench, and on the river. His typical straight forward, get it done the right way approach was very special. His knowledge of fly fishing history, the flies, and the foundation of the sport itself was very captivating. He was fascinated about the long history of fly fishing and helped me form my ideas and values of fly fishing and everything within it. When Al tackled something it was done to perfection. Al was a master and a perfectionist of everything he did.

I'll never forget my first trip guiding for Al. We were supposed to meet at his place 5:00 AM. We were heading to the Big Hole for an early morning float trip. Needless to say I was late. I found out that morning that it wasn't a good idea to be late for a float trip. Al forgave me and needless to say my punctuality changed from that day on.

Al was gifted at many things other than fly fishing. He built one of the first tree stands for hunting deer. His attentiveness to photography was beyond just mere point and shoot. I still have the poster of the shot he took of a brown trout that was awarded "photo of the year" from Trout Unlimited.

Al Troth will be missed. He was the father of many of today's most popular fly patterns, but more than that he was an extraordinary teacher, especially in the world of fly fishing. He was a master. Tim

Bud Frasca, Northwest Classic Tackle, IFFF National Director, Coeur d Alene, Idaho wrote of Al:

I met Al in 1961 on my first trip to Montana. He impressed me as I was a youth (14 yrs old) and he seemed to know everything there was to know about Montana Trout. I fell in love with Montana and decided to promise myself that I would go there every year.

I first fished with Al the next year on the Beaverhead and learned to throw Yuk Bugs with 12 lb leaders. He was very set in his ways and showed a love for Trout Fishing and his river that I have only seen in a few people. He was always ready to give you his opinions on how something should be done and how to fish a fly. A great guide and always fun to be with on the river.

Al's fly tying skills were unique as he was always trying to find a simpler way to tie a fly that was effective and durable. His Elk Hair Caddis and Pheasant Tail Nymphs are in every fly fisherman's fly boxes. His dry wit and presence will be missed by me as well as many other anglers.

Frank Johnson, Sheridan, Wyoming wrote of Al:

A true Master fly angler, a true Master fly tier, a true Master tying and angling innovator, and a friend who is missed.
FLY TYING  
WORKSHOP PRESENTERS WANTED!

Do you plan to attend the IFFF National Fly Fishing Fair in West Yellowstone, Montana in September? If so, please consider the possibility of presenting a Fly Tying Workshop at that time. The Fly Tying Group is working toward offering a greater number of workshops as well as a more balanced variety of workshops. The major objective of the Fly Tying Group is fly tying education. As a Fair workshop presenter you will help us achieve that goal.

If you have a tying specialty and would like to share your expertise with the Fair attendees please let us know. We would welcome workshops dealing with any type of flies or tying techniques. It would be really exciting for the attendees to be able to choose from new workshops by new presenters. We know that the Fly Tying Group membership abounds with awesome tying talent. Step up and volunteer. The workshops are where the real teaching goes on at the Fair.

If you would like to participate as a workshop presenter please know several things: The job doesn’t pay worth a hoot but you can be reimbursed for any materials you furnish for your students. Most workshops are scheduled for 4 hour or 8 hour time blocks. It is important that you let us know soon as the invitations to workshop presenters will go out soon.

For more information and to let us know of your intent please contact:

Jim Ferguson, Chairman, Board of Governors IFFF Fly Tying Group

Email: j.ferguson@comcast.net  Phone: 503-390-5043
Meet Board of Governors Member
TOM LOGAN of Tallahassee, Florida

Tom H. Logan is a certified wildlife biologist from Tallahassee, Florida who makes a living as a private wildlife consultant. He enjoys tying classic trout patterns and fishing them for southern bream and bass in his home waters, as well as for trout in the Smokey Mountains, Sierras and other streams of the western United States. He also ties Atlantic salmon flies, but has a special interest in tying historic and modern soft-hackles and other wet patterns. Tom teaches fly tying classes in Tallahassee, has taught tying workshops at shows and conclaves of the Federation of Fly fishers (FFF) and demonstrates fly tying at several FFF Council conclaves each year. He also has presented programs on the Laws Pertaining to the Possession and Transportation of Natural Fly Tying Materials. The Southeast Council of the FFF awarded him as the “2004 Tyer of the Year”. Tom is a life member of the FFF and a FFF Certified Casting Instructor. He serves as Vice President of Conservation for the Florida Council of the FFF and is a member of the Conservation Committee of the FFF. Tom also is a member of the Whiting Farms Pro Team and the Angler’s Sport Group Pro Team for Daiichi Hooks. He is the creator and manager of North Florida Fly-fishing Adventures and School dedicated to teach fly tying, casting and fishing activities that enhance the fly-fishing experience for anglers that fish with the artificial fly.
I moved to Oregon in June of 1970. I finally got a teaching job in August of 1972. Shortly after that, with a fellow teachers help, I started fly fishing. Within a year I took my first of many fly tying classes from Randy Kauffman. I moved to St. Helens, Oregon in 1997 to be a teacher and track coach at the High School. It was not long after the move to St. Helens I met Lee Clark of the Clark Stone Fly Fame. Within a year or so Lee invited me to tie at some one-day shows in the Portland area that he had the responsibility to arrange for tiers. After I retired from teaching in December of 2009 I wanted to get more involved with the Federation of Fly Fishers.

Current Involvement:
Federation of Fly Fishers
Delegate to the Executive Board of Governors of the Fly Tying Group
FFF Museum Committee
Delegate to the Oregon Council of FFF
2013 Northwest Expo Auction/Raffle Chair
Secretary, Washington County Fly Fishers
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