



# Flylines

SPRING 2014

**Spey Clave** by Peter Caverhill 30/03/2014

Another Clave day has come and gone. And, it was very successful! The weather out at Gill Road Bar, on the Fraser, was a bit iffy with some heavy rain showers interspersed with periods of tentative clearing. While it was a bit more lightly attended than last year, about 160 attendees enjoyed the expert casting presentations and the super burger/dog/potato salad/cookie/donut hole lunch. Many, many thanks to Michael and Young Fly Shop for once again very generously hosting this event. And, wow, the raffle prizes supplied by M&Y's various suppliers were without equal and covered the range of high end rods, reels, fly lines, waders, garments, hats, Limited Edition books and calendars. Participants in the clave were very generous, opening their wallets fully to buy tickets.

These gatherings of casting devotees are a great chance to meet new friends and renew old acquaintances! They provide an opportunity to try new rod/reel/line combos and to see and learn the latest in two-handed (and single handed) casting techniques.

This year, raffle tickets were promoted and sold by volunteers from the Steelhead Society of BC and BC Federation of Fly Fishers (they would split the proceeds which will ultimately be used to support conservation projects in BC). M&Y staff had worked hard to create raffle tickets for two raffles – a general raffle and a separate raffle of a Burkheimer rod (winner's choice). At day's end \$5360 worth of raffle tickets were sold which netted \$2680 for each organization. This was a record – the best result for the many years of the M&Y Spey Clave happening!

**Many thanks** to the following BCFFF volunteers who attended to manage the BCFFF raffle sales tent:

- **Ken Burgess** (down specially from Vernon and who provided the tent shelter that kept us dry),
- **Wayne Jones, Rob Way, Steve Hanson, Vic Rougeau** (relentless in their arm twisting to free ticket buyers from their \$\$)

I've included a few pictures to give you the flavour of the day.





**ederation of Fly Fish**  
**www.bcfff.bc.ca**



## **Working Together for the Good of Fish and Anglers by Pat Micek**

Sometimes we can work together constructively. About 4 years ago the VI Freshwater Fishery Regulations Advisory Committee (VIFFRAC) worked on establishing terms of reference that would help the committee function more effectively. That process allowed the members to create a very healthy and balanced relationship when discussing issues related to regulation changes and developments. This past December the group met once more to revisit and clarify the terms of reference and begin the process of considering regulations for the upcoming regulation cycle.



The primary role of VIFFRAC is to review and provide advice on regulation proposals that are presented to the ministry for Region 1. This is accomplished by having open and honest appraisals of regulations and assertive discussion, while remaining respectful and thoughtful. And, the committee has agreed in principle that we need to always consider the conservation of wild stocks of fish, to promote and facilitate sustainable angling opportunities and work to provide for diverse angling opportunities.

It isn't that the VIFFRAC members always see eye-to-eye on the topics presented for consideration, it is that members seem to be able to keep the focus on what is truly good for fish and anglers in the short and long run. In my long role as a fisheries and angling advocate this is a somewhat unique experience. Many times the self-interests and positions of people or groups seem to cloud the real opportunities that exist to work constructively.

Let me offer an example of how the group worked constructively. One of the members of the committee presented an issue that had surfaced on the Cowichan River, and for that matter on a few other rivers on Vancouver Island. Drift boats have been anchoring or allowing anchors to be pulled through salmon and steelhead redds, and this is believed to result in a loss of fry. Discussion developed around the difficulty in monitoring and managing drift boats anchoring. The ministry recognized the issue but reacting quickly to the situation was seen as difficult. So, what was to be done?

After a few minutes of brainstorming an idea surfaced for an approach that would reach out to drift boat users to consider where and how they anchored. An idea of putting up signage at all the put-ins and take-outs was offered. The BCFFF suggested that they would pursue funding the signage and the representative that brought the concern forward to the committee would manage the process. It wasn't long after that BC Wildlife Federation, the BC Federation of Drift Fishers and the Steelhead Society of BC offered to participate and pursue funding. The ministry offered to help review the signage and support the process and other governmental agencies local and provincial got involved in different ways.

In just over a couple of weeks signs were produced that had creative artwork (an anchor dropping on a bed) and wording to drive home the point. By the end of December the first signs were in place and the feedback was very positive.

The act of coming together to put up signage on the Cowichan River isn't within the purview of the committee, but it illustrates that the VIFFRAC works for the good of fish and anglers both within the terms of reference and outside of them. It should serve as a positive example for others.



***Sign at Sandy Pool boat launch on the Cowichan River.***

**A special Note:**

The Vancouver Island Freshwater Fisheries Regulation Advisory Committee will be reviewing proposals for **Region 1** regulation for the next regulation cycle. Proposals need to be submitted by June, 2014. For information on the process contact: Rich Ronyecz - [vipcare@shaw.ca](mailto:vipcare@shaw.ca); Pat Micek - [pjmconsulting@shaw.ca](mailto:pjmconsulting@shaw.ca)

By: Pat Error! Reference source not found.

## **DIVAS ON THE FLY..... Go Fishing for Recovery by Wayne Pealo**

Over the past five years the BCFFF sponsored Divas on the Fly program has introduced thirty-nine breast cancer survivors to the sport of fly fishing. The program operates as a weekend Retreat each spring at Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. Beginning as a research project of Dr. Wayne Pealo, in conjunction with the Island Waters Fly Fishers, the objective of the program was to investigate the impact of leisure activities on the lifestyle of breast cancer survivors.

Fly fishing as a leisure activity has grown significantly over the past twenty years and the involvement of women fishers such as Kathy Ruddick and April Volkey have helped to break the barriers of a male dominated sport in British Columbia.

Why fly fishing for breast cancer survivors? Based upon the research from dragon boating in the late nineties, it was demonstrated that physical activity and exercise of the upper body helped with joint mobility and soft tissue enhancement in breast cancer dragon boat paddlers. As well, the opportunity to share time and experiences of women with similar challenges proved to be very beneficial.

While dragon boating is a competitive team sport, fly fishing is an individual sport which connects the fisher to the outdoors and many related benefits, such as nature viewing, fresh air, peaceful settings and an exhilarating experience when connected with Piscator!

The weekend Retreat is free for breast cancer survivors and includes meals, accommodation, fly fishing instruction all equipment and operates out of Bethlehem Retreat Center on Westwood Lake in Nanaimo. Interested women can apply through the DOTF website at [www.iwffdotf.com](http://www.iwffdotf.com).

The dates for this year's Retreat are **May 23-25**. Tight lines

Wayne Pealo, PhD    Director DOTF - VP IWFF





## **FAMILY FISHING WEEKEND**    **TRY FISHING FOR FREE**

Each year the Family Fishing Society of BC coordinates special freshwater and saltwater community fishing events that attract over ten thousand B.C. residents. These free to attend events are open to the public and offer complimentary fishing tackle plus the guidance of expert volunteers. Anyone can learn the "how tos" of fishing in a safe and fun environment. The events also offer additional educational materials and displays that feature ethics of angling, fish and their habitat, safety around water.

Family Fishing Weekend is an annual celebration of the great sport of fishing. Residents of British Columbia are encouraged to get together with family and friends, to "GO FISH" during the **Father's Day weekend** and to have fun. "GO FISH" is our slogan to motivate more people to take up angling as a pastime and to enjoy BC's magnificent outdoors. Additionally, we are committed to educating the public of the vital significance of fish and their fragile habitat.

The program offers three opportunities to the public. First, BC's residents can go fishing anywhere in the province with a friend or family member and get reacquainted with the great sport of fishing in supernatural BC. Second, each year during the Father's Day weekend there are many popular community events around the province that help people, particularly kids, learn about fishing, fish and conservation in a fun and relaxed environment. Third, our website and literature offer information and education on angling and will teach the public how to fish.

During BC's Family Fishing Weekend BC residents can go fishing within the rules in many of BC's lakes, streams and tidal waters. The BC Government offers a complimentary 3-day basic freshwater licence valid only for June 13-14-15, 2014. Fisheries and Oceans Canada also encourages BC residents to try their hand at tidal (saltwater) fishing with free tidal water fishing licence.

Annually this program attracts an estimated 25,000 people who go fishing during the Family Fishing Weekend around BC and approximately 12,500 of those visit our popular community events. The Family Fishing Weekend has developed into a well liked and much anticipated annual event.

BCFFF is a co-sponsor of the Family Fishing Weekend, and one of our members, Don Grimway, attends meetings of the Family Fishing Society of BC. More information can be found at: [www.bcfamilyfishing.com](http://www.bcfamilyfishing.com). Or for more general information about fishing in BC, go to [www.gofishbc.com](http://www.gofishbc.com), the website of the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC.

## FLY TYING CORNER—Steven's Dragon Nymph



Hook: Mustad 9272, size 8 (or 6)

Tail: black (mink or other fur)

Body: olive ice dub over a pre-formed underbody

Rib: (optional) gold wire

Wingcase: mottled Thin Skin, (or other material)

Legs: brown Super Floss (or other material)

Eyes: olive dumbbell eyes

This fly is a basic nymph pattern and is quite easy to tie. The main trick is to lash the pre-cut underbody onto the hook. This underbody can be made from many different materials. In the fly pictured above, thin aluminum from a pop can was used. Its advantages include being light weight, quite rigid, and is easy to cut. Other materials such as foam, plastic, or lead sheet can be used. The underbody was cut at each end such that the tips were tied directly on the hook. Then the thread was wound along the whole body and glued, forming a base for the dubbing. Fine wire can be wound over the dubbing or can be used to make a “noodle” with the dubbing.

Fish it slow and deep.



Courtenay Fish and Game Club on beautiful Comox Lake.

Directions to the Property: (from the Courtenay Fish & Game website):

Go up Laketrail Road from Willemar (at Laketrail School), in Courtenay.

Go all the way up the hill past Marsden Road ... Go under the New Highway and continue around the corner till you come to a stop sign.

Turn Left at the stop sign (you'll see a small sign on the post across the road indicating the Fish & Game Club to the left)

Continue on this logging road for about 3 km (you will continue straight through one intersection on the hill)

At the next intersection, you will see the large yellow gate with the Courtenay & District Fish & Game sign.

Turn left through the gate

You will see the entrance to the Archery venue on your left about 300 Metres down this road

Continue along for approximately 300 Metres

You will see the campground gate straight ahead.

Turn left to reach the clubhouse (about 250 Metres down this road)  
You will see a road off to your left that will take you up to Trap & Skeet and Boomtown.

It is a spectacular location (checkout the website). Bring your camper at no cost (included in Dinner ticket approx the same cost as last year) Campers must be self contained, there are no hookups available. We will have access to the main hall all day long. The BCFFF business will not start before noon to give time to travellers to travel on Saturday am to avoid the Friday migrations. There are firing ranges on site which are busy till 3pm. We can migrate to the far reaches of the property or down the lake if need be during the day for whatever festivities we come up with.

“Contained camping” means that you will not be able to access water or toilet facilities. So you have to store and remove all your waste, water and solids from the site in your own container. Usually camper units have this facility built in. If a person has an extra person on board that person could avail themselves to a night out in a tent. Comox Lake is the municipality’s source of drinking water so the rules are strictly applied. So the necessity for these rules is easily understood. The campground nearby is for CVFGPA members only and on that weekend it will be filled to capacity and the washroom will be functioning at its limit.

Courtenay Best Western Hotel has given us the following quote. Group guest room rates start at \$105.00 (single/double occupancy) for a Comfort Room with 1 Queen Bed and \$115.00 (single/double occupancy) for a Comfort Room with 2 Queen Beds. Guests can ask about our upgrade room types at time of booking.

Corinne has set up a group account under the BC Fly Fishing Federation, there is no official guest room block (unless you wanted to be held to a contract), essentially, guests would be encouraged to book as soon as possible in order to receive the group rate and a guest room (as it would be subject to availability). Individual reservation cancellation policy would be 24hrs.

Up to two \$7 Food & Beverage Vouchers include in the rate, they can be used in any one of our 3 Food & Beverage Outlets.

Rates are based on availability and subject to change.

Please do call me or e-mail me if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

**Corinne Berg, Guest Service/Revenue Manager**

**The Westerly Hotel & Convention Centre**



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