

# GRAYLING GAZETTE

Midnight Sun Flycasters



## February General Meeting

- Princess Hotel Thursday February 10 -

The next general meeting will be held **Thursday February 10** at the Princess Hotel beginning at 7:00 PM. There will be an optional buffet dinner of "Fajitas". Same price \$10.50 adults, kids under 10 are 1/2 price! Remember to bring a fly for the fly box, but if you forget, you can buy one at the door, and still participate in the drawing. See you there!

## Kids Korner

*by Spencer Audie*

A couple of summers ago I went on my first major float trip. It was a blast. Tom and I, along with Bruce and some of his family and friends floated the Chili.

Early one morning Bruce and his son, Edwin, and Tom and I piled into a Suburban and drove down to Kenai. We met Malcom, Walt and Gary at a lake just outside of Kenai. Later that day we all boarded an Otter and flew off. The plane dropped us off at Twin Lakes. The area around the lake was beautiful. There was some of the best grayling fishing I've ever had at that lake. The water was boiling with grayling rises. We were catching big fish right and left. We spent one night at Twin Lakes then we headed off down the Chili. The Chili was a narrow fast moving river. During our six day float we floated some rapids. They

*(Continued on page 2)*

## The President's Corner



Greetings to all. as the days are getting longer and the water wider below the M.U.S. plant, I feel like the fishing season is close at hand. But then again I've always been a dreamer. After seeing last month's presentation by Doug Flemming, I'm ready to go. For those of you that missed the meeting, Doug gave a great slide show on the Copper River Basin and some very beautiful fish. A very special thanks to Doug Flemming for taking time to share with us, it was great.

Our next meeting is one you do not want to miss, if you do you could be elected to something you don't want to be on. Yes, it's that time of the year, time to elect new officers for OUR club. So don't wait, throw your hat in the ring and help make this a better club. If you can't toss your hat in, throw someone's in. We always need new people with new

*(Continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1)

ideas or old people with old ideas. As long as you want to help the club, that's all it takes, so now is your chance - don't miss out.

We hope to have Bill Ridder, who just retired from ADF&G, at our next meeting to discuss the current status of the grayling fishery in the Chena River. This is something that we all need to be aware of, as this is our home fishery. So please come out and be informed about the fish in our backyard. Hope to see everyone there.

Good news about the spring banquet, people are starting to donate prizes. Jim Perkins has donated a drift boat fishing trip for two on the upper Chena River. Jim has been guiding on the Chena for many years now and this will be a great time for someone. Thanks Jim. If anyone would like to donate to the banquet, please don't hesitate. Tickets for the banquet are at The Alaska Fly Shop and J & L Sports, don't wait get yours now.

Hope everyone can come to the next meeting, don't forget to bring a fly for the box and a kid for the club.

Think Fishing!

*Henry*

(Kid's Korner - Continued from page 1)

weren't too bad. Just big enough to get your heart going. The fishing was good the first couple of days, but then it started raining nonstop. Overall I'd have to say the fishing was decent the entire time. We caught quite a few grayling and some rainbow trout. The spawning salmon were too far gone to hit anything. Malcom, Walt and Gary brought a huge tent, so at night we would all play chess and cards in their tent. It was a lot of fun. It was an especially momentous trip for Walt since he had never been camping before in his life. It was a special trip to me because it was my first real float trip. I'll never forget it. It was a blast!

*Spencer*

## From the Editors:

Feel free to send articles, pictures, change of address or phone numbers to us at the e-mail address listed below.



*-Clint & Kemberly Adler*  
msfc@ptialaska.net

## Your Club Needs You!

2000 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGAN AT THE JANUARY 13 GENERAL MEETING. DO YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS EVERY MONTH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLUB? A SMALL AMOUNT OF YOUR TIME IS NEEDED TO ASSIST THE CLUB IN OUR GOAL OF PROMOTING THE SPORT OF FLY FISHING THROUGH EDUCATION AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT. WE NEED A DIVERSE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS TO KEEP OUR CLUB STRONG. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE MSFC CLUB OFFICERS OR E-MAIL THE CLUB AT <http://www.ptialaska.net/~msfc>

# QUOTE

## FINAL WORDS

An old man in his final breaths called in his family and said, "I must apologize to you all. I suppose I haven't been the perfect father and husband. I shamefully admit that I spent as much of my life as I could in the woods and on the streams. I was rarely at home during the fishing seasons and I'll admit that I spent too much time at the fly shop, and too much money on rods and lines and reels." He paused here to rest for a minute, then continued. "I've been a terrible father and I hope you all forgive me." Then he paused again and looked around. He closed his eyes and smiled and said in a half whisper to himself, "And on the other hand...I have caught a helluva lot of trout."

Anonymous  
(from FFF Club Wire)

# MARCH BANQUET

**DATE:** March 24th at the  
**PLACE:** Wickersham Banquet Hall (catered by Cafe de Paris).  
**Guest Speaker:** Rich Culver

Rich Culver is a writer, lecturer and photographer of fly fishing, and the owner of Flywater Adventures, an adventure travel and instructional fly fishing company, based in Juneau. Rich's feature stories and technical pieces have appeared in Saltwater Fly Fishing, Fly Rod & Reel and Northwest Fly Fishing. Over the past 7 years, Rich has explored, hosted and pioneered fly fishing expeditions throughout the island chain waters of Southeast Alaska. He is widely known for his contributions to saltwater fly fishing for salmon and his mother ship *expeditions for steelhead*.

**Presentation:** "The Island Chain Waters of Southeast Alaska - A Season through the eyes of a Fly Fisher"

The slide presentation will highlight and address the seasonal precession of the fisheries of Southeast Alaska. In addition, the region's geography will be discussed as it relates to the island waters. Lastly, fishing techniques and flies will also be covered.

**Rich will do a fly tying class the morning of the March 25<sup>th</sup> and fishing techniques in the afternoon at the Alaska Fly Shop. These classes are limited to 8 people and will last 2 ½ to 3 hours each. The cost is \$30.00 per person.**

*Tickets are on sale at the Alaska Fly Shop & J & L Sports.*

**FISH TALK  
FISH TALK**

**Check out these web sites sent to us by one of MSFC Members!**

<http://www.topozone.com/>

<http://www.thedam.com/trout/tradetrip.htm>

Thanks Jim!!!

## CHENA RIVER GREYLING

Recently, there's been discussion locally regarding the possibility Alaska Department of Fish and Game (AF&G) is seeking to change the catch and release (C/R) only regulations on the Chena River. As many of us who have watched the quality of the fishery improve dramatically since the C/R regulations began, this is a cause for concern.

Department officials are want to explain the public input process and how, within those confines, it works. That's fine. Yet, in all that description of process is lost the basic premise of simply why change the regulations now? What overriding concern for the fishery calls for an adjustment to a proven management technique? Who within the Department feels moneys should be spent to promote this idea past the normal process if internal review.

In fairness to AF&G, I have been told it's premature for the public to become involved at this time. The plan to be submitted to the Game Board hasn't been written yet. And, depending on who you talk to, it probably won't be implemented this coming season anyway. Implicit in that advice though, is the fact the folks at AF&G here in the Interior are past mere consideration of the idea and will be officially advocating it some time soon. Which brings me back to why. And that question hasn't been addressed further than people want to keep fish.

Even though every other body of water close to Fairbanks has a "bag limit" for Grayling, for some reason catch and release only management is frowned upon and to be used only when disaster is imminent. That is how it began on the Chena.

I'll be speaking to the person in charge of sport fish at the Fairbanks office of AF&G before our next meeting, and I'll ask him these questions. In the mean time, if you have any info., ideas, or comments let me know.

***Jim Johnston***

[jjff@mosquitonet.com](mailto:jjff@mosquitonet.com)

### ***"Trout Country"***

*(Book review by Bob Bates, Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, Spokane, WA)*

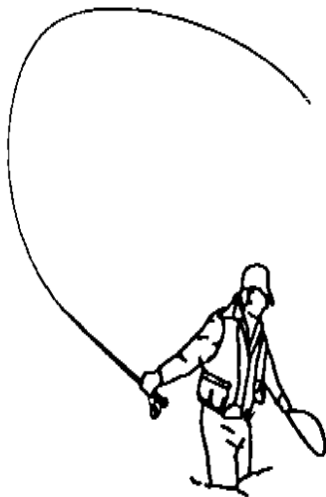
"Trout Country" by Bob Saile, formerly an outdoor editor for the Denver Post, is a collection of interesting stories with a bit of history thrown in. The subtitle "Reflections on Rivers, Fly Fishing & Related Addictions" gives a small clue as to what is inside the 19 chapters. He takes us on trips to a variety of places from the rivers of his home state, Colorado, to the wilds of Alaska and several places in between. He also shares with the reader his opinions on fish management and its attendant bureaucracy.

While reading the first chapter, "Chokecherry Heaven," I was convinced that here is a man who loves to fish. It is about fishing and catching fish. In fact he feels that "Fishermen who say they fish not for fish, but just to be on the water or just because I love to get out' are being somewhat dishonest." Although he admits that fishless days in recent years are not as disappointing as they once were.

These stories span his life from the early days to the present. It makes fascinating reading to follow his education of first learning to catch fish in a ditch near his Texas home, later bass in Caney Creek, then a brook trout in Idaho and finally trout in his home water of the South Platt River below Cheesman Dam.

On the South Platt he learned about small insects and the flies needed to catch trout. At that time there was only one guy in Denver who was tying and selling the size 20 and 22 flies needed. It was also on the South Platt that he found out about strike indicator fishing, which was looked down on by the "Method Police." While strike indicator

(continued on page 5)



# ALASKA FLY SHOP

1603 College Rd., Fairbanks AK  
456 3010

## **Simm's Wading Jacket (Raincoat)**

**25% OFF**

**Were \$299.95**

**Sale Price \$224.95**

(Book Review continued from page 4)

fishing wasn't developed there, he feels that it was certainly refined on the South Platt and later on the Roaring Fork. With the San Juan River strike indicator fishing, even smaller flies, size 26, came to his attention.

All the fishing Bob Saile talks about isn't of a wilderness nature, and he will convince you to fish in non-pristine places. He says: "There are only two compelling considerations that could induce a fly-fisherman to fish in a toilet bowl or under an interstate highway bridge. One is trout. The second is bigger trout." "The Toilet Bowl" is a real place with up to 20-pound overstuffed rainbow trout.

In a somewhat similar fashion every story isn't all sweetness and light. He has harsh words for some of the bureaucratic processes he saw, biological experiments that failed and organizations that promote a single species to the detriment of others. He is disenchanted with the "bean counters" who will tell you exactly how many of what length fish they caught. Real harsh words come if the bean counters also complain about the scars, torn jaws or missing gill plates.

One of my favorite chapters is "Stranger in Steelhead Country." In reading this chapter I could envision pictures of his early trips to the steelhead rivers of Oregon and Washington. It was a hoot.

You won't find many Latin names in "Trout Country" as Bob Saile said: "Recreational pleasure shouldn't require scientific equations to verify its value." all, "Trout Country" is a great collection of stories.

**("Trout Country: Reflections on Rivers, Fly Fishing and Related Addictions," 224 pages, \$24.95. Hardcover was published by Pruett Publishing, 7464 Arapahoe Road, Suite A-9, Boulder, CO 80303)**

# February General Meeting

**When:** Thursday February 10th

**Where:** Princess Hotel

**Topic:** Chena River Grayling

[http:// www.ptialaska.net/~msfc/](http://www.ptialaska.net/~msfc/)

## MIDNIGHT SUN FLYCASTERS OFFICERS

|                  |                        |          |                              |
|------------------|------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| President:       | Henry Garbowski        | 457-1734 | araven@gci.net               |
| VP:              | Logan Ricketts         | 388-4193 | aktours@compuserve.com       |
| Sec'y/Treasurer: | Bill Morgan            | 456-6182 | billm@mosquitonet.com        |
| Board Members:   | Bob Hook               | 488-8886 | grayling@alaska.net          |
|                  | Kathleen McCullom      | 488-8886 | grayling@alaska.net          |
|                  | Scott Peters           | 457-3276 | speters@polarnet.com         |
|                  | Liana Garbowski        | 457-1734 | araven@gci.net               |
|                  | George Plucinski       | 474-0550 | geoplu@ptialaska.net         |
|                  | Bob Dickerson          |          | backcast@mosquitonet.com     |
|                  | Jeremy Reynolds        |          | fsjr@aurora.uaf.edu          |
|                  | Tim Shannon            |          |                              |
|                  | Spencer Audie          |          | bntften@northstar.k12.ak.us  |
| Editors:         | Clint & Kemberly Adler | 456-2371 | clint.kemberly.adler@att.net |

## 2000 MIDNIGHT SUN FLY CASTERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MSFC is a non-profit group of fly fishers, whose chartered goals include promoting the sport of fly fishing, education, and youth involvement in outdoor activities. Each member will receive our monthly newsletter.

*Annual dues: Individual membership: \$20*

*New Member*

*Family Membership: \$30*

*Renewal*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND TO:**  
MSFC  
P.O. BOX 81031  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99708



Midnight Sun Flycasters  
P.O. Box 81031  
Fairbanks, AK 99708



**BRING A FLY TO THE NEXT MEETING!**