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<http://ncff.net>

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*The Taut Line Newsletter is a publication of the North Coast Fly Fishers, Inc. (NCFF) who is solely responsible for its content. The Taut Line is published ten times yearly from September thru June, under the direction of the Director of Communications, NCFF. All inquiries should be directed to:*

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*The North Coast Fly Fishers, Inc. is a Charter Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). Its purpose is to promote fly-fishing as the most enjoyable and sporting method of fishing. We are committed to provide education in the best practices and techniques of the sport, including fly tying, fly casting and resource conservation. Our members are committed to maintaining a current membership in the FFF.*

## President's Corner

*By Joe Wantz, President*

We are fast approaching the end of our year – only three more meetings, including our picnic! I bring this up because it's time to start thinking about plans for next year's meetings and events. The board has designated our May meeting for general discussion and open forum to plan and develop ideas for next year, as well as to discuss the state of the club, and any other issues you feel are important/relevant to us as fly-fishers and tiers.

As you know, we, the board, made some significant changes in meeting format and presentations for this past year. We relied more on our own members to provide programs, and we did two "road trips" to local fly shops for on-site programs. We have also had some fishing trips, and hope to have more. We feel that these were good and productive changes. However, we welcome your input as to what you thought about them – good and bad!

Of course, we are looking for new ideas, and want to continue to improve these programs for the benefit of all members.

With regard to some specific issues, we just had our annual tying marathon. It was well attended by members and guests! The camaraderie was evident, and we had flies to donate to Project

Healing Waters. Nevertheless, any input for improvement is welcome.

Also, as we know, the Expo was successful again! We are working to further improve the show, including programs and presentations, vendors and attractions for special interest groups (Boy Scouts, etc.). We are also looking into a location change for a better, more cost-effective venue. As before, thoughts and ideas are welcome.

We would also like to discuss any ideas for fundraisers other than the Expo and member dues. It would be nice to put a cushion back into the account for a rainy day, as well as any opportunities to benefit our club/members.

Finally, we are looking for members to join the board to fill vacant positions, and to help with planning. Please let us know if you can participate and assist!

As you can see, there is a lot to consider and talk about. We can use lots of input and ideas, so please plan on attending our May meeting and bring plenty of thoughts with you!

Don't forget about our April meeting, where our own Charlie Chlysta will be giving a presentation on warm water fishing. He promises to show us some excellent flies he has tied and uses, as well as to give some great tips!

## Next Meeting – April 2<sup>nd</sup>

The members meeting will be held at the Environmental Learning Center from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. The April speaker and topic is our own Charlie Chlysta, who will be giving a presentation on warm water fishing. He promises to show us some excellent flies he has tied and uses, as well as to give some great tips!

## Chagrin River Outfitters Store Visit

Well after the cancelation of our regular February meeting date due to the weather, Tim Linich was able to reschedule our February meeting at the Chagrin River Outfitters Store (CRO) in Chagrin Falls on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Prior to the meeting, about 10 of us were able to meet for dinner at Rick's Café, a very short walk to the CRO shop. Good food and camaraderie was had by all.

At the CRO Store, Dan Pribanic was very welcoming and accommodating, he had the store all set for us to sit and listen to a great presentation. There were 17 NCFE members in attendance and I believe all walked away with something newly learned.



Dan spoke on steelheading and some of the specific rigging and flies to consider when fishing. He also went into good detail on the technique of "swinging" for steelhead. If steelheading was not enough to keep us warm, Dan discussed Pennsylvania trout

fishing and the particular hatches and flies to use, especially around the Oil Creek and Little Juniata River areas. After the presentation, there was time for milling around the store and shopping.

The information and handouts that Dan provided were much appreciated. Also appreciated was the effort that Tim Linich took in arranging this special meeting.

## Letter From Eric Austin

The following is a letter from Eric Austin to Jim Gavacs, which Jim has shared with us.

*Jim, thank you so much....it's always a great time up there in Northern Ohio.*

*I have a story from this year's Cincinnati show. I had some people looking at my display [of] full dress flies off to the right early in the show, and my focus was on them, explaining history, etc.*

*Off to my left I noticed an older gentleman come up and start pawing through a tin of no-hackles that I had sitting open on the left side of the desk. I heard him say, "Wow, these are good." Then he said something to the effect, "These wings are just perfect." Then it was, "Eric, these no-hackles are just spot on."*

*I turned to acknowledge the compliments and thank the man, and then found myself blurting out, "Oh my God, you're A.K. Best!" I recognized him immediately and instantly turned into a teenage fan who had just seen their favorite movie star. I told him how much I believed in his quill body dries, showed him my quills soaking in water, and basically went into how much he had inspired my own flies, etc.*

*He said to me, "I never could tie those damn no-hackles, I tried for years," at which point I went into how many years I had worked on them myself. He was so gracious; it was such a thrill for me. I am completely inspired by the encounter, and it was some serious validation of the hours of work I'd done the last couple of months. He didn't see the 500 or so no-hackles that weren't the good ones that I have stashed here at the house, and that's a good thing. He is such a nice guy; fame has not gone to his head in the least! Jim, it was just an awesome moment for me.*

*And it all started up in Cleveland. I so appreciate you having me these past few years, and look forward to many more.*

*Warm regards, Eric*

## Open House & Fly Tying Marathon

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, we held our annual Open House and Fly Tying Marathon. 27 people attended, including 11 guests.

Some of the guests tied their first flies, and others brought their own vices and tied some very nice patterns.



At the end of the night, members and some guests donated flies to Project Healing Waters (PHW). Paul Blanch gratefully accepted the flies on behalf of PHW and assured us that they would be used this spring at several planned outings.

Thanks to Pete Haluska for bringing refreshments.



## Fly Fishing Expo 2014

The 2014 Northern Ohio Fly Fishing Expo was held on January 18, 2014, at the Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, Ohio. NCCFF would like to thank all the participants, sponsors, and vendors for the success of this year's Expo.

This year saw a 10% increase in attendance, and more vendors than last year, several of which were new vendors to the show. The seminar speakers did a fantastic job, at times presenting to standing room only crowds.

Here are a couple of pictures from the Expo. Check out our website Gallery page for more photos and a slideshow at <http://nccff.net/gallery.html>.

*Fly in construction*



*Overhead of the Expo*





## Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

By Dick Erickson

It turned out that the weekend of March 8<sup>th</sup> was a rare one for this year – good weather! I had to be in Chicago for a dinner so I stopped in Warren, Michigan for the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo. It is one of the oldest and largest fly-fishing shows in the country.



It is a two-day show – Saturday and Sunday – and draws a very large crowd. There were over 120 exhibitors including vendors, fly-fishing organizations, and tiers.



With the large attendance, they draw a wide range of vendors, but have fewer tiers than at our show. Vendors, tiers, and organizations are mixed together in booth spaces. The aisles are filled with people, saying a lot about the popularity of fly-fishing in Michigan.



Over the years, the show, sponsored by the Michigan Fly Fishing Club <<http://mffc.org>>, has raised over a half-million dollars for conservation projects in Michigan.

While the activity on the floor with exhibitors is most visible, the education program has to be the main draw. There are four locations featuring speakers on fly-fishing techniques, target species, and locations. There is also a theatre setup for tying demonstrations and a casting pond for casting demonstrations.



Each location had 6 or 7 speakers each day. The program highlighted a sequence of seminars for a beginner new to fly-fishing.



Each session I attended was very well filled. A couple sessions were standing room only. There was also a larger casting pond for vendors to use with potential customers.

Vendors at the show ranged from major manufacturers (who do not sell retail, but are there to promote their products and support their customers), to outfitters, to individuals making products as a hobby. I talked with a number of potential vendors for our show, particularly those with unique products.

There were many fishing lodges and guide services as well. It was good to see many of the vendors who participate in our show there. One booth was scheduled for authors to sell and sign books.

This was my second or third time to visit the show. Each time has been very enjoyable. Part of that comes from visiting with friends. And, part of it comes from ideas for our show. If you want to learn more about the show's exhibitors and program go to <http://www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com>.

## The Trout (Record) That Got Away!!

*Submitted by Debbi Sedlak*

In early February, Minnesota ice fisherman Rob Scott hauled in a 52-pound, 3-ounce trout after an hour-long struggle on the Ontario side of Lac la Croix. Scott's catch would shatter the record for the largest trout to be caught by tip-up by more than 20 pounds — but a four-pound trout he caught earlier in the day cost Scott the record.

Visit this link for the article from *USA Today*:  
<http://ftw.usatoday.com/2014/03/world-record-trout-disqualified/>



## Meetings and Events Summary List

April 2, 2014  
Members Meeting  
Held at the Environmental Learning Center  
6:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
April speaker and topic: Our own Charlie Chlysta from NCFE on warm water fly-fishing

April 9, 2014  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Held at the Environmental Learning Center  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

May 7, 2014  
Members Meeting  
Held at the Environmental Learning Center  
6:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
May speaker and topic: NCFE members, casting and brainstorming for NCFE future

May 14, 2014  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Held at the Environmental Learning Center  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

June 4, 2014  
Annual NCFE Picnic  
Held at the Lake Metroparks Chagrin River Park  
6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

June 11, 2014  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Held at the Environmental Learning Center  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## Pattern of the Month – Picket Pin

In January, Adam talked about a couple of fly patterns that he has found effective in Pennsylvania waters, one of which was the Picket Pin. Here is a recipe for one version.



**Hook:** Daiichi 1720, 3X-Long Nymph, size 8-14

**Thread:** 6-0 black

**Tail:** Brown hackle barbs

**Rib:** Fine gold wire

**Body:** Peacock herl

**Hackle:** Brown hackle palmered over body

**Wing:** Grey squirrel tail

**Head:** Peacock herl

## Tying Instructions

Step 1: Mash the barb and mount the hook in the vise.

Step 2: Start the thread one eye width behind the eye and lay down an even thread base to a position just above the hook barb.

Step 3: Select a small bunch of brown hackle barbs, measure them one body length, and tie them on top of the shank above the barb. Tie down the tail butts on top of the shank with spiral thread turns forward towards the eye.

Step 4: Tie on a section of gold wire on top of the shank just behind the eye.

Step 5: Select 6-7 peacock herls and tie them in on top behind the eye. Secure them, along with the rib to the top of the shank with spiral thread wraps to the base of the tail. Leave the wire rib hang to the rear for use later.

Step 6: Grab the herl strands and make one wrap over the shank and then counter-clockwise around the tying thread. Grasp the herl and thread together and wind the herl rope forward in touching turns covering the body. Leave a little over 1/8 inch between the front of the body and the eye of the hook. Tie off the herl and trim the excess.

Step 7: Select a soft brown hackle feather with barbs just longer than the gape of the hook, tie it in by the butt at the front of the body, and palmer it rearward (counter wrapping the herl) 5 turns to the base of the tail. Tie off with the rib wire and trim.

Step 8: Now take the ribbing wire and wrap it forward (counter-wrapping the hackle) over the herl body and through the hackle in 5 evenly spaced turns. Tie off and trim.

Step 9: Select a small bunch of squirrel tail. Measure it 1 1/3 the body length, and tie it on top of the front of the body. Tie off with several tight wraps and trim excess.

Step 10: Select two peacock herls, tie them on at the base of the wing, take one turn over the shank, wrap them around the hanging thread, and wrap forward 3 to 4 turns covering the thread wraps and forming a head. Tie off and trim excess. Leave a small amount of room before the eye for a whip finish and cement.

## **2012 – 2014 NCFB Board of Directors and Officers**

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