



Learning from Steelhead Fly Fishing Tactics

with John Sherman

While many people consider steelhead fly fishers a group of somewhat strange masochists (steelhead being the fish of a thousand casts, the weather often cold, etc.), we all should admit that tactics developed by steelheaders have helped everyone who is going to a trout stream. These tactics include the recent success of spey casting techniques (which are not just for two-handed rods but also for eight and nine foot, single-handed rods), but nymphing strategies as well and how to search for and locate fish. No one knows this better than John Sherman who, in addition to traveling regularly in California, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii representing Simms fly fishing gear and Hatch Outdoors sales (especially their fine reels), has fished *a lot* for steelhead in California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.



John, Fish & Friend

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OCTOBER 2014 MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, October, 14th
 Wet Flies: 6:00 PM
 Dinner: 7:00 PM
 Place: [Olympic Collection, 11301 Olympic Boulevard, LA](#)
 Cost: Prepaid, **\$32.00** per person
 Paid at door, \$37.00 per person
 Parking: \$3.50 underground – Free on the street.

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS: [RESERVE ONLINE](#)
OR CALL THE HOT LINE 310 280-3459

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Learning

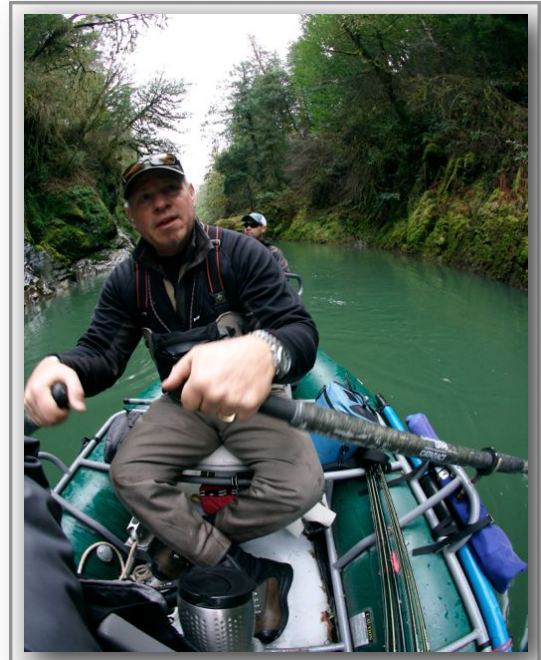
John has presented to our clubs before and, because of his highly professional photography skills and his wonderful storytelling abilities, has impressed everyone in SoCal. This month will be no exception, with John being the perfect guide for this topic -- we will see and learn about all the wonderful opportunities to fish up and down the left side of the country and how to increase our fishing skills for different species.

John was born and raised in Visalia, California where, at eight years of age and hanging around Buz's, the local fly shop, he learned how to fly fish. In 1999, John graduated from California State University Chico with a degree in Business Administration and Marketing. But fly fishing was his passion, so after graduation, he spent two months fishing for steelhead in British Columbia. (Didn't want to rush that getting down to work routine.)

While attending Chico State, John worked at the Powell Fly Shop and guided on the Feather and Sacramento Rivers for steelhead and salmon. Since then, John has fished the West Coast from Alaska to the Baja Peninsula for everything from steelhead, to salmon, stripers, black bass, trout and numerous blue water species. He has also hosted numerous trips around the globe, including taking fly fishers to such exotic locales as Australia, Russia, Iceland, Mexico, Canada, the Bahamas, Belize, Argentina and Indonesia. John is also a very accomplished outdoor



John Sherman.



Rafting on a Stream.



photographer who has had his work published in magazines such as *Field & Stream*, *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Rod & Reel*, *The Drake*, *California Fly Fisher*, *Northwest* and *Southwest Fly Fishing*. He has been documenting his expeditions with a camera since the age of 10.

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Learning

A few years ago, John teamed up with Captain Mike Costello to produce the first and only fly fishing book dedicated to the California Delta, **Fly Fishing the California Delta**, which has been a top selling book since 2010. John lives in Discovery Bay, on the San Joaquin Sacramento River Delta with his wife Natih, daughter Kalum, son Kasix and dog Portis.

To see more about John and his many photo skills, go to www.john Sherman.com



John's wife Natih Sherman.

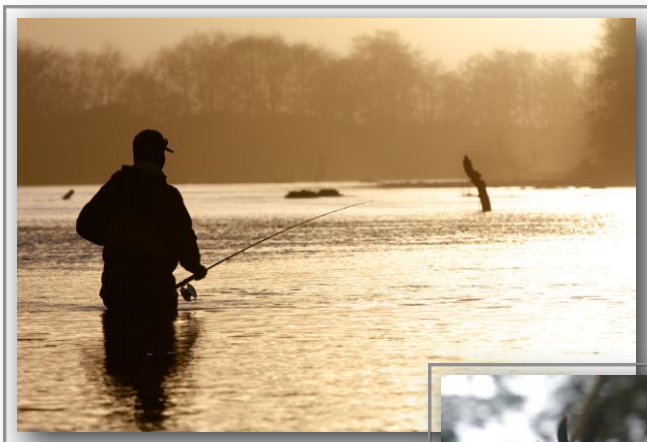


Photo by: John Sherman



Examples of John's photographic skills



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Programs	Jeffrey Pill
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Wildernessflyfishers@gmail.com

To join WFF, Visit our website
www.wildernessflyfishers.org

October Board of Directors Meeting

The October 7th Board Meeting will be held at 400 Bonhill Road Los Angeles, Ca 90049. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 P.M. All members are welcome. New members are especially encouraged to attend. Come and see how your club runs and you might pick up some fishing tips, too.

COMING EVENTS

For more information go to the WFF website [CALENDAR](#)

Tie One On	Thu	Oct. 9
WFF Weekend Wade	Sun	Oct. 12
WFF Midweek Meander	Wed	Oct. 22
WFF Fly Tying	Sat	Oct. 25
WFF Hot Creek Ranch Trip	Fri - Mon	Oct 31 - Nov 3

October Raffle Items

Value

Ion
7 Weight
9',
4 Piece Fly Rod



\$190

Scientific Angler
Sharkskin
WF5F



\$100

Albright
Bugati
7/8 Weight
Large Arbor Fly Reel



\$150

Catch-A-Hatch
Insect Collecting Net



\$25

Cliff
Bugger Box Beast Jr.



\$40

Notices

GREAT NEWS

Save the date! December 13th, 2014

Wilderness Fly Fishers will indeed be blessed this coming Holiday Season. We've just received word that Trays Funk and Jimmy McAndrews have ONCE AGAIN offered to host the WFF Holiday Party. (For a while they weren't sure they could do this because they had to resolve a possible event conflict, but they did that and immediately sent us the good news.)

This is the sixth year in a row that they have hosted the event and we cannot thank them enough. This party is indeed the best way possible for WFF to end the year and get ready for a new one.

Their 15865 Asilomar Blvd home in Pacific Palisades is lovely, always draped in spectacular holiday decorations, the food is spectacular (with the club supplying wonderful wine, beer and soft drinks) and Trays and Jimmy are the perfect hosts: amazingly organized, warm, friendly and a joy to be around.

Also, this is when we have the drawing for the terrific Conservation Super Raffle, when great two-for-one trips are drawn from the Super Raffle ticket bucket, along with some of the best rods, reels and luggage. (This year's prizes will include, among other gems, a Kelly Galloup St. Croix High Stick Drifter 4-weight, 9'6" 4-piece rod.) So get ready to buy your tickets – remember it's all for a good cause, i.e., WFF activities.

The cost of the party is only \$40 a person (a real bargain, considering all that everyone gets) and the raffle tickets are \$25 each, or five for \$100. So get ready: the WFF Holiday Party, December 13th, 2014 in the Palisades. An announcement with all the details and Super Raffle prizes will be in the November *Mending the Line*. **And please get ready to make your party reservations early so Trays can plan accordingly.**

Alagnak River, Alaska – Alagnak Lodge Great Silver Salmon Fishing

by Peter Haight

Rich Peters, my son Pete and I flew north to Anchorage on Friday, the 22nd of August, arriving early in the afternoon and checked into the Coast International Inn that is conveniently located near the airport. Rich and I then took a trip to the new, very fancy Cabela's store to check it out.

With us on the flight up, and in the hotel, was WFF club member Jeff Wiese who, the next day, was going to fly out to a rustic lodge in Cold Bay, far out on the Aleutian chain. But he met us at the Pipers Lounge in the Coast International for drinks. Jeff was the person who introduced me to Alagnak Lodge years ago. He and I had first gone to Alaska's Katmai Lodge, but subsequently we both went to Alagnak, where, for many years (and up until just a few years ago), Jeff held the lodge records for both the largest king salmon, and the largest king caught on a fly. Months ago I had tried to convince him to join us at Alagnak this year, but his mind was set on going to Cold Bay. I do want to mention that Alagnak has been very supportive of Wilderness Fly Fishers and our conservation efforts through our Super Auction -- Alagnak has consistently donated two-for-one trips to WFF and we told them that the club appreciates their help and loyalty.



Rich Peters in the Lodge



Father and Son at the Lodge tying bench



Alagnak Lodge

This was actually the fifth time I have fished the Alagnak, and this trip was, by far, the best: the most Coho (silvers), the largest Coho, and, because we were there the last week that the lodge was open, the river was mostly ours alone the whole week. As well, this late, there were almost no chum or pink salmon around to compete with the big silvers.

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Alagnak

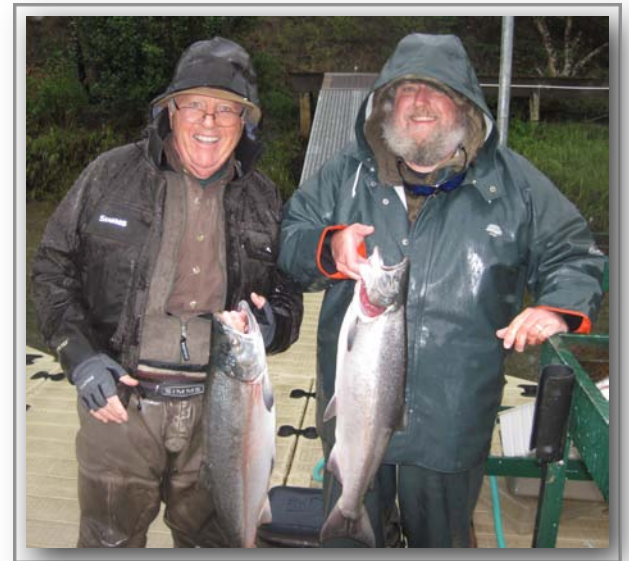
The next day, on Saturday the 23rd, we flew from Anchorage to King Salmon with no problems, but fog on the river held us up there for a couple of hours until Branch River Air felt it was safe to wind up the old 1954 deHavilland Beaver float plane for the last leg into the lodge.

Several of the guides were old friends from earlier trips (Scott, Dave, Ace, Mikey, and Blaine), which is always a sign of a well-run lodge. As well, Sheldon, the chef, and his assistant Debbie (a true baker- extraordinaire) had returned, and food was simply outstanding the entire week.

The next morning, Sunday, Pete and I headed out onto a wet and gray river with our guide, Trevor Covick, who usually guides with the lodge's head guide, Scott, in Washington during the fall and spring for steelhead. Both are expert spey casters, and their suggestions on my two-handed casting helped me a lot. Pete and I both limited out (three fish per day) in that first morning, as we did each and every morning, but we continued to catch and release for the rest of each day.



Rich Peters with a nice salmon.



Father and Son with the days catch



Peter's catch ready for the smoker



Pete with one mornings catch

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Alagnak

Rich, fishing with Blaine Davis, did equally as well only using flies (purple, chartreuse, and of course pink). I fished only pink the whole trip, as Pete did when fly casting, but he did use a drift rod with a Mepps Flying C spinner which he can cast a mile. When he did, he would catch a larger number of fish than I did.

By Tuesday morning, Pete and I, keeping bucks only, had 100 pounds of fillets in 2 freezer boxes for Pete to take back to Fish Brothers, the fish smoking company he works for full time in Blue Lake, California, which is near Arcata. The fishing got better and better throughout the week, with more and larger fish coming to us with every new tide. I don't know how many fish were caught, but I'll bet Rich and I caught 10 to 15 a day, and Pete probably twice as many; the size of these fish was up to 14 pounds. (As a bonus, I also caught a 25-inch rainbow.)

The only disappointment of the week was our fly-out to the famous Kulik River on Thursday for rainbows. It is a beautiful place to go with mountains on both sides, but apparently the sockeye had stopped dropping eggs during the week prior to our visit, and the big rainbows had probably moved from the river into the lake above. We saw nothing like the rainbow fishing I remembered from a trip there years ago.



Pete with one off his drift rod



This lady was released



Pete with a nice buck



Peter with a nice buck

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Alagnak

But at the lodge this year, we experienced the best fishing for large, chrome bright salmon that I have ever experienced. The river itself is gorgeous with its usual eagles, beavers and bears in attendance, with all of us focused on the same thing: fish! And I can't wait for the first LA delivery of smoked fillets to arrive from up north.

For more information about the lodge, visit the Alagnak web page at www.alagnaklodge.com



Print & Mail Coupons

If you prefer not to use our website, mail in a coupon with your check.



Wilderness Fly Fishers Membership Application

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Name: _____

Home
Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Annual Dues:

- ☐ \$35 Single - Regular
- ☐ \$55 Single - Golden Trout
- ☐ \$45 Family - Regular
- ☐ \$65 Family - Golden Trout

_____ TOTAL enclosed

Mail Check With This Form To:

Wilderness Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 3358
Santa Monica , CA 90408-3358

October 14th Meeting Reservations

Please make your dinner [reservations online](#) or send in this coupon.
Your check must be in the club mailbox by Wednesday, October 8th, 2014.

Names _____

Dinner \$ _____ (\$32 per person)

Total \$ _____

Please make check payable to W.F.F.

Mail to:
Wilderness Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 3358
Santa Monica, CA 90408-3358

Join us online, Visit our website www.wildernessflyfishers.org



October 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7 WFF Board Meeting	8	9 Tie One On Social Fly Tying	10	11
12 WFF Weekend Wade TBD	13	14 WFF Monthly Meeting Speaker: John Sherman	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 WFF Midweek Meander TBD	23	24	25 WFF Fly Tying
26	27	28	29	30	31 WFF Hot Creek Ranch	1 WFF Hot Creek Ranch

