

TIGHT LINES



NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

JANUARY 1998

JANUARY MEETING

Rock House, Clayton, Georgia, 7:00 PM, Social at 6:30 PM

This will be essentially a planning meeting for the Rabun Rendezvous, which takes place the following Saturday. That doesn't leave much time to put the final touches to the most important event in our coming year. So, please make plans to attend and to volunteer for several tasks important to the success of our fund raiser.

We'll need someone to assist Russell Johnson at the door taking in the money; several people to see that the silent auction and bucket raffle items are displayed, labeled etc., selling raffle tickets etc. Setting this all up is boring, but important.

You'll also hear the latest from the TU - Forest Service planning meeting. We have two projects scheduled and we may wish to have campouts in conjunction with them. Plan to come. Plan to participate.

DECEMBER MEETING

If you missed the dinner meeting and a darn good time. As usual, good eats. No business dis-most a year to plan on attending



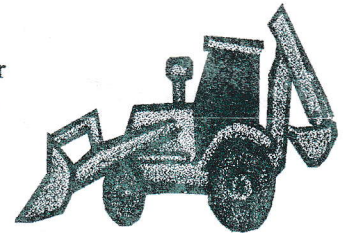
you missed a great meal, fun fellowship the Dillard House did a fine job serving cussed. Just a good time. You have al-next years soiree, so we'll see you there.

NEWS FROM THE FOREST SERVICE

Dave Jensen, District Ranger, Tallulah District (and chapter member) has some really good news for all of us who not only use Burrell's Ford Road to access area streams, but also have voiced concerns for the amount of soil and sediment finding its way into Reed Creek and the Chattooga River from the present road. Burrell's Ford Road was placed in their Capital Investment Program for reconstruction. In addition, a special request from the U. S. Congress for information regarding backlogged road reconstruction projects. The District submitted Burrell's Ford Road as the first and only priority in that inventory.

Dave recently found out that this road has been selected for special funding for reconstruction in FY'98. The USFS will begin redesigning this road from Highway 28 to the river in January, 1998. Once the design has been finalized, the various requirements met and there is concurrence from the various regulatory agencies, bids will be solicited and reconstruction will begin. Dave will keep us posted as this project progresses.

This has been a long time coming and is most welcome news.



FISHING REPORT

The water is ice cold and the clarity of gin. The helicopter fish are beginning to disperse a little bit but you still find schools of them in some spots, so they are pretty vulnerable. And, they certainly haven't had time to put on any growth. So, if you go to the river, be nice and release these guys and make an appointment for April or May. Inbetween these little stockers, there are some hold overs and wild ones. It's a wonderful time to be on the river. Not many other fishermen, few hikers and the air temperatures are most tolerable. That Red Squirrel Tail Nymph that Henry showed us how to tie last winter really works well for your interim editor. If the sun has had time to warm up the water a little, you'll likely to see Blue Winged Olives on the water. Size 16 and 18 BWO's or Parachute Adams get their attention.

How deep's the water?



*“With
Spirits
As
Free
As
The
River”*

Life's Treasures

There are moments in life that are pleasure
And there are moments in life that are fun
But the best are those that we treasure
When we finally realize what we've won.

Like marriage, children and profession
Which are shared with a wonderful wife,
Or when the kids reach their own graduation
And each leaves to start his own life.

When the challenge of job is accepted
And the results are hard won and of worth,
We can ease back on the throttle of living
And seek out our own place on this earth.

A few of us share the same treasure
Returning to a place we have known
Protected by mountains and forests
In a gorge over which trees have grown.

There a river runs clear as the crystal
With waterfalls chased by the sun
And the pools are marked only by ripples
Left by the trout's roll for the dun.

It's quiet in this world that we enter
And there's music when water flows fast
And the whisper of line that is running
Through the guides of a rod when it's cast.

With spirits as free as the river
And with friends that share the same feeling
Fly fishing is one of those treasures
Which makes life really worth living.

- Phil Klein

The above poem, written by Phil, was read at a Rabun Rendezvous three years ago and received more good comments than anything we had ever read. We in the Rabun Chapter will miss Phil until we can catch up with him, just around the bend.

IN MEMORY OF A FISHING BUDDY

Twenty-one Seasons ago, in 1976, I met Phil Klein at the Toccoa Airport. He was the new corporate Director of Engineering and was making his first visit to Burlington's Rabun Plant. Within 15 minutes we were talking trout and we were planning our first of many trips to the Chattooga.

Having fished the Chattooga since 1955, I was able to share many of its secrets and lore with Phil as we camped and fished together every spring since 1976. He soon loved the Chattooga as much as I do. We fished other places, too, including several years we rendezvoused "out past Hiawassee", and other streams in Georgia and North Carolina.

Phil was with us when we decided that we needed to organize the Rabun Chapter of TU in order to help protect and enhance the trout fishery in the Chattooga. He joined as a charter member of Rabun TU and a "Life" member of National TU.

Many of you met Phil at the Nantahala. Each year he drove over 500 miles so that he could camp and fish with the Rabun chapter during our Nantahala family campouts. Last spring, at the campout, he and I talked of his upcoming retirement in 1998, plans to travel together "out past Hiawassee", plans to fish in Alaska together, but most of all how we needed to get back to fish the Chattooga together.

December 10th, Phil died suddenly of a heart attack at his home in Greensboro, NC.

I miss him dearly. I have fished the Chattooga twice since Phil died and I could feel his presence.

Knowing of Phil's love for trout fishing and for the Chattooga, his son authorized a Phil Klein Memorial Fund at Rabun TU with all donations to help pay for the helicopter stocking program of the Chattooga. What a nice way for the family to let us honor one of our own.

Please make your donation check payable to: Rabun Chapter of TU
For: Klein Mem Fd

Mail to: Rabun Trout Unlimited
P O Box 65
Rabun Gap, GA 30568

From your vantage point, help us spot the big'uns, Phil. Tight Lines!

Doug

