

CONSTITUTION OF THE  
FOURTH CORNER FLY FISHERS

February, 2006 Revision

Beginning on the evening of April 12, 1972, and during the months which followed, a group of Bellingham area fly fishermen gathered to organized a fly fishing club in this, the fourth corner of our State and Nation. Their efforts resulted in the founding of the **FOURTH CORNER FLY FISHERS** and the enactment of the Club Constitution. Accordingly, let to be known that these men, whose names follow, are the **CHARTER MEMBERS AND FOUNDERS** of this club:

Glen R. Coulson  
William P. Gold  
Charles C. Gold  
Nicholas A. Lidstone

Wayne McLemore  
Byron D. Moser  
Rod W. O'Conner

Randall W. Payne  
Richard J. VanDeMark  
Ralph E. Wahl

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the **FOURTH CORNER FLY FISHERS**, are united by our enjoyment of the sport of fly fishing and by our desire to preserve and enhance fishing opportunities. To these ends, we will strive to promote conservation of angling resources, to advance the angling community and to broaden the understanding of fellow anglers.

**ARTICLE 1** This organization shall be known as the **FOURTH CORNER FLY FISHERS**, Incorporated, of Bellingham, Washington.

**ARTICLE 11 AIMS AND PURPOSES**

Sect. 1 To work for the betterment and preservation of angling waters and surround land.

Sect. 2 To promote the creation of fly only and/or quality fishing waters and encourage appropriate management of these waters.

Sect. 3 To private and advocate protection of the resource and the natural environment.

Sect. 4 To improve the state-of-the-art of flying fishing and keep members informed of developments of interest.

Sect. 5 To maintain high standards of membership by selecting as prospective members those persons who are dedicated to fly fishing, **show a high level of sporting this, and are conservation oriented; and to temper organizational growth** consistent with the maintenance of quality membership standards.

Sect. 6 To develop and carry out programs of education designed to encourage individual of all ages to become flyfishers and **promote ethical use of resource**.

Sect. 7 To respect the rights and wishes of landowners who provide access to fishing waters.

Sect. 8 To abide by the laws of the state, province or country where an outing is held.

## **ARTICLE 111 MEMBERSHIP**

Sect. 1 Types of Membership:

A. Regular: The usual type of membership. Regular membership is available to persons who are able to regularly attend club meetings and participate in club activities as required by Section 3 of this Article.

**B. Family: The spouse of the member and minor children. Family members will be accompanied by the regular members and that person will be responsible for their actions and behaviors. There will be one vote per family membership.**

C. Honorary:

1. Honorary Membership may be given to persons who have made exceptional or meritorious contributions towards achievement of the Aims and Purposes of the Club.

2. Nominations for Honorary Membership shall be made through the Board of Directors. If approved by the Board, the nomination shall then be voted upon in the manner prescribed for regular members.

3. The list of Honorary Members shall be reviewed periodically by the Board which shall have the authority to make deletions.

4. Honorary Members shall pay no dues and shall receive all Club notices and other communications, be eligible to attend all meetings and participate in all Club activities, except the right to vote and hold office. They are entitled to wear the club patch.

Sect. 2 Requirements for Membership

A. A candidate for Regular Membership must attend at least **four (4)** club functions during a 12 month period before being voted upon for regular membership.

B. Candidates for Regular Membership must complete and sign a club application form and a supplemental questionnaire, and must obtain the endorsing signatures of two sponsors (Regular Members in good standing) on the application. **All candidates will receive a copy of the constitution with their application.**

**C. Prospective members must pay the annual dues and initiation fee at the time they submit their membership application. These monies will be returned by the treasurer if the applicant is not accepted for club membership.**

**Note: If the initiation is prior to Sept. 1, full annual dues are required; if initiation is after Sept. 1, the first dues amount for the applicant shall be one-half of the annual amount.**

D. Acceptance to membership is contingent upon a 75% positive vote as provided in Sect. 3 following.

#### Sect. 3 Processing of New Member Applications.

A. The completed application form and the supplemental questionnaire shall be submitted to the Membership Chairman by one of the applicant's sponsors.

B. The Membership Chairman and the applicant's sponsors shall take such steps as are necessary to familiarize themselves with the applicant's qualifications and background.

C. The membership Chairman shall present the application at the next meeting of the Board of Directors for their review and recommendation. They shall require that one and preferably both sponsors be present.

D. The Board shall review the merits of the candidate and shall, by majority vote of Board members present, arrive at a positive or negative recommendation to the membership.

E. The Board can delay processing of an application up to two months if reasonable question exists regarding qualifications of applicant.

F. The names, addresses, phone numbers and email (when applicable) of all candidates and the names of their sponsors shall be communicated to the membership by the club newsletter in advance of the regular meeting at which the vote will occur.

G. Sponsors will instruct candidates NOT to attend the business portion of the meeting at which their membership status will be decided.

H. The Membership Chairman shall present the application to the next regular meeting of the club following Board consideration and recommendation. (S)he shall acquaint the members with the background of the applicant, advise them of the Board's recommendation and answer their questions. (S)he will also require that one or preferably both sponsors will speak in behalf of their candidates.

I. The Membership Chairman shall then conduct a secret ballot vote to determine acceptance or rejection of the candidate.

J. The Membership Chairman shall immediately notify the candidate of acceptance or rejection of the candidate.

#### Sect. 4 Leave of Absence

A. A regular member in good standing who will be absent from the area for an extended period of time or who will otherwise be unable to participate in club functions may select the following option:

1. (S)he may request a leave of absence, subject to the approval by the Board of Directors, during which period their name will be deleted from the mailing list and no annual dues will be payable.

#### Sect. 5          Expulsion

**A. Any member may be expelled if (S)he acts in such a way to subvert the aims and objectives stated Article 11 of the constitution.**

B. Any regular Member may initiate to expel a member by presenting a complaint to the Board of Directors accompanied by **\$25.00** which shall be refunded only if the complaint is sustained.

C. The Board shall consider the merit of the complaint and shall ask the accused to reply. The accused may, if (s)he desires, request the accusers to be present.

D. After reviewing the complaint, the Board shall:

1. Sustain the complaint by a majority vote and recommend expulsion to the membership.
2. Advise the complainant(s) that the complaint has been dismissed and the matter closed.

E. If the Board sustains the complaint, it may asks the accused to resign and, if the given the matter shall be considered closed.

F. If the accused refuses to resign, the Board's findings will be brought before the club membership. The accused may speak in his or her own defense.

G. The membership shall vote to expel or retain the accused. A majority note for expulsion shall expel the accused.

H. An expelled member shall be afforded a prorated refund of his or her annual dues upon request.

#### **ARTICLE IV:          DUES**

Sect. 1 The dues of Regular Members shall be \$35.00 annually, payable on January 1 of each year.

Sect. 2 The family membership shall be \$10.00 above the regular membership dues, payable January 1 of each year.

Sect. 3 Delinquent Dues

A. The initial statement of dues payable shall be made by the Treasurer as soon as possible after January 1 of each year. Written reminders shall be sent by the Treasurer to Members who have not paid their dues as of **March 1**.

B. Any member who has not paid by March 1, shall be considered delinquent and will be required to pay a \$10.00 fine in addition to his or her annual dues.

C. Persons who are still delinquent on April 1 shall be dropped from membership and the Club mailing list and must reapply for membership following the procedures of Article III.

Sect. 4 The initiation fee for new Members shall be \$10.00. This one-time fee shall be in addition to annual dues.

#### **ARTICLE V: LIMITATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

A limit on club size may be imposed at some future date by Vote of the membership should it be determined that this would serve the best interests of the Club.

#### **ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS**

Sect. 1 The officers shall be the President, Program Chairman, Membership Chairman, outing Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Trustees. Each will be elected to serve one year with the exception of the Membership Chairman and Trustees. Membership Chairman is a two year term; the first year as the Membership chairman and in the second year advances to the office of Program Chairman. the immediate Past President shall serve for one year after leaving office as a trustee. Four trustees shall serve for two years, two of the four Trustees to terminate their office each year.

Sect. 2 No member shall be eligible to serve in an office unless (s)he is paid up and in good standing, and has been a Regular Member for one full year.

Sect. 3 Nominations

A. A Nominating Committee of five shall be elected by written ballot of regular Members present at the September meeting.

B. Incumbent officers are ineligible to serve on the Nominating Committee.

C. The Committee shall be select one or more nominees for each officer, and their names shall be presented at the November meeting. The nominee receiving the largest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected.

Sect. 4 Elections of Officers shall be made by secret written ballot of Regular members present at November meeting. The nominee receiving the largest number of votes for each office shall be

declared elected.

Sect. 5 Officers elected shall assume office at the regular January meeting of the Club.

Sect. 6 Vacancies

A. In the event the President is unable to serve, (s)he shall be succeeded by the Program Chairman. The board of Directors shall designate a Membership Chairman pro term to succeed to the office if necessary.

B. Vacancies in other offices shall be filled pro term by action of the Board of Directors.

Sect. 7 Duties of Officers

A. The President shall:

1. Be responsible to the membership for the effective management of the Club;
2. Preside at Club meetings and at all Board of Directors' meetings;
3. Be empowered to take unilateral action in situations where the vital interest of the Club are involved, and time does not permit consultation with the Board or the Membership; and
4. Issue all general club correspondence, and ensure that other Club officers and committee chairmen issue correspondence related to their Functions.

B. The Program Chairman shall administer and share the internal affairs of the Club with the Membership Chairman. The Program Chairman's duties shall include, but not necessarily be limited to the following functions:

1. Shall perform the duties of the President in the event the President is unable to continue serving.
2. Shall succeed to the Presidency in the event the President is unable to continue serving.
3. Shall arrange for all programs at Club meetings.

C. The Membership Chairman's duties shall include, but not necessarily be limited to the following functions.

1. Shall be responsible for Club name tags and have these available at Club meetings.
2. Shall process applications for membership as outlined in Article III and conduct the initiation

ceremony for new members.

3. Shall succeed to the office of Program Chairman in the event the Program Chairman is unable to continue serving.

D. The Outings Chairman shall administer the external affairs of the Club. This shall include but not necessarily be limited to the following functions:

1. Planning and overseeing Club outdoor projects and activities.
2. In conjunction with the Board of Directors, assign chairmen or coordinators for specific outdoor projects and activities, and render assistance to these committees as necessary.
3. Organize and coordinate the FCFF Youth Program

E. The Secretary shall:

1. Take minutes at all Regular meetings and at Board of Directors' meetings.
2. Maintain a permanent file of meeting minutes and Club correspondence.
3. Maintain current listing of all Club property and its location.

F. The Treasurer shall:

1. Have custody of the money of the Club, which shall be deposited in the bank;
2. Keep an accurate account of all monies received and disbursed and render statements thereof;
3. To disburse funds for payment of the budgeted club expenditures;
4. Be responsible for the billing and collecting of all dues and maintain an official list of paid members;
5. Prepare an annual budget, present it for review at the February meeting of the Board of Directors, and present it at a subsequent regular meeting for approval by the general membership;
6. In the year following his or her term of office, present at the January Board of Director's meeting an itemized expenditure report for the preceding year;
7. Maintain a separate conservation fund which shall hold all monies designated by the

Board to be maintain for conservation purposes.

G. The four Trustees and immediate Past President shall:

1. Provide overall guidance and general direction concerning Club operation and activities;
2. Provide advice and counsel to the other officers of the club;
3. Share with other officer's responsibility for administering the Club.

## **ARTICLE VII      BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Sect. 1 The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Program Chairman, Membership Chairman, Outings Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Four Trustees, and the immediate Past President (if applicable).

Sect. 2 The immediate Past President shall become a voting member of the Board of Directors for the year immediately after vacating office.

Sect. 3 A voting quorum of Board shall consist of a least five Board members.

Sect. 4 Regular members are encouraged to attend Board meetings unless the Directors have designated a particular meeting as closed.

Sect. 5 The Board of Directors shall:

A. Transact the general business of the Club by meeting at least once between regular club meetings.

B. Address all matters requiring clarification or alteration of Club policy management, administration, and either:

1. Make a decision, or
2. Refer the matter to the Membership with recommendation.

C. Rule on any individual expenditure of Club finds up to \$500.00. Refer expenditures of more than \$500.00 to the membership with recommendations. (Approved budget items do not require approval by the membership. See Article VI, Sect. 7, E.

D. Appoint a legal advisor from the membership.

E. Authorize any political action activities to be take on behalf of the Club consistent with the Club aims and purposes.



F. Appoint Chairpersons of standing committees as provided in Articles IX below.

## **ARTICLE VIII DELEGATIONS**

A. The President or Board of Directors may send delegations of one or more members to conferences, conclaves and meetings of other clubs for the purpose of furthering the aims and purposes of the Club.

B. Only designated delegates may represent the Club in matters of official conference business.

C. Delegates will be dispatched either instructed or uninstructed.

D. Instructed delegates may not take any action beyond that for which the club has provided advance authorization.

E. Uninstructed delegates may not take any action contrary to the aims and purposes of the Club.

## **ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES**

### **Sect. 1 Political Action**

A. This committee shall consider and recommend action regarding political matters of concern to the Club.

B. This committee shall carry out political action subject to prior approval by this Board of Directors.

C. The Chairman of this committee shall be appointed and replaced, if necessary, by the board of Directors. The Chairman shall select committee members.

### **Sect. 2 Library**

A. The Club librarian shall have custody of Club books.

B. (S)he shall administer the Club library fund in accordance with the Board of Directors' guidance and approval.

C. (S)he shall levy fines, set by the Board of Directors, for overdue borrowing of books.

D. The Librarian is appointed and replaced, if necessary, by the Board of Directors. The Librarian may select assistant Librarians.

### **Sect. 3 Newsletter**

- A. The Newsletter Editor shall produce a monthly edition for FOURTH CORNER FLY FISHERS "Random Casts" to each Club member prior to the regular Club meeting.
- B. They shall be responsible to the Program Chairman for upholding the Aims and Purposes of the Club in the newsletter.
- C. The Editor is appointed and replaced, if necessary, by the Board of Directors. The Editor will select a newsletter staff.

#### Sect. 4 Environment and Conservation

- A. This committee shall be responsible for initiating and executing action on projects of resource and habitat management and conservation subject to the Board of Directors' authorization. This will include cooperation with other fly fishing clubs or outdoor organizations on such projects.
- B. The Chairman of this committee will be appointed and replaced, if necessary, by the Board of Directors. The chairman will select the committee members.

#### Sect. 5 Education

- A. This committee shall be responsible for instruction in skills and activities related to sportsmanship and fly fishing, such as fly casting, fly tying, rod making, outdoor manners, stream etiquette, entomology, etc.
- B. This committee shall coordinate the Club activities and participation in projects sponsored by other organizations when authorized by the Board.
- C. This committee shall procure and maintain Club teaching aids and instructional equipment.
- D. The chairman of the committee shall be appointed and replaced, if necessary, by the Board of Directors. The chairman shall select the committee members.

#### Sect. 6 Ad Hoc

- A. Ad hoc committees may be formed by the action of the Board of Director and/or a majority vote of the membership at a regular meeting. Such committees may be dissolved by the body that formed them.
- B. Individual members or a group of members wishing to form a ad hoc committee for any purpose or wishing to take action on behalf of the Club may petition the Board of Directors for approval.

### **ARTICLE X AMENDMENT PROCEDURES**

- Sect. 1 Written notice of proposed changes to the Constitution must be published in the Club

newsletter at least thirty days prior to the meeting at which changes will be voted upon by the membership.

Sect. 2 This Constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Club upon the concurring vote of two-thirds of the Regular Members present at such meeting.

## **ARTICLE XI STANDING RULES**

Sect. 1 Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all the business and parliamentary proceedings of the Club

Sect. 2 Club meetings shall be held monthly at a regular time and place as designated by the Board of Directors.

Sect. 3 Quorums

A. Forty (40%) percent of the Regular Membership shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business at a regular meeting of the Club.

B. Five (5) Board Members shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business at a meeting of Board of Directors.

Sect. 4 Any matter pertaining to Club policy, management and/or administration shall be referred to the Board of Directors by an initiation Member or Members for the Boards' recommendation before being acted upon by the Club Membership.

Sect. 5 The Presiding Officer shall each assign a member to act as "Ghillie" for the regular monthly meeting. The Ghillie will collect fines for such things as:

A. Member not identifying themselves by name when they speak for the first time at a meeting;

B. Dishonest or incomplete fishing reports;

C. Failure to wear nameplate at a meeting;

D. Anything deemed inappropriate behavior by the Presiding Officer or a major of the membership present.

Sect. 6 Newly elected Members shall be inducted into the Club by means of the following procedure:

A. The Membership Chairman will call the elected nominees and their sponsors to the rostrum.

B. S(he) shall next require the nominees to repeat the club oath. **“I solemnly swear to abide by the Constitution any by-laws and to support the Aims and Purposes of the Fourth Corner Fly Fishers.”**

## **ARTICLE XII      AWARDS**

### Sect. 1 Standing Awards

A. President’s Award: Given to the outgoing President in recognition of having held the highest Club office.

B. Club Service Award: For outstanding service to the Club in terms of furthering its aims and purposes.

C. **Ralph Wahl** Conservation Award: For extraordinary efforts resulting in positive effects in the areas of fisheries conservation, fisheries management, or environmental matters.

D. **Chas. R. Dawe** Achievement Award: For innovative accomplishments which have advanced the state-of-the-art of fly fishing, including but not limited to, original contributions to angling literature, original flying tying ideas and angling equipment craftsmanship.

E. **Ed Ruckey** Mentoring Award: For the Club Member who has gone beyond the norm in helping other club members and/or non-members to learn the art and science of fly fishing.

F. Hookless Barb Award: For those who have promoted conservation of the resource by consistently not catching fish.

### Sect. 2 Eligibility

A. The President’s Award shall be given to each outgoing President without exception.

B. The Club Service Award, **the Ralph Wahl Conservation Award, the Chas R. Dawe Achievement Award, and the Ed Ruckey Mentoring Award** shall be awarded only if clearly recipients can be identified.

1. Only regular club member are eligible for the **Club Service Award and the Ed Ruckey Mentoring Award.**

2. Members and Non-members are eligible for the Ralph Wahl Conservation Award, the Chas R. Dawe Achievement Award.

C. Qualifying members will always be available for the Hookless Barb Award.

Sect. 3 Special awards may be given when deemed appropriate by the Awards Committee.

Sect. 4 An Award Committee of at least three regular members shall be appointed each year by the President at the September Club meeting. (S)he shall also designated a Chairman at this time.

Sect. 5 The Awards Committee shall:

A. Select deserving recipients

B. Obtain suitable awards such as plaques, cups, framed scrolls or trophies.

Sect. 6 Awards shall be presented at the January regular meeting. The Chair of the Awards Committee, or designee, shall conduct the ceremony and make the Presentations.