

PUGET SOUND FLY FISHERS

December
2013



FA-LA-LA-LA-LA and HO-HO-HO!!

December Program - Jeff Brazda of Brazda's Fly Fishing



The Leader Line

By
Mike Trask

Another year has flown by and my term as your president has come to an end. I want to thank everyone that has helped me for the past three years. I would like to give special thanks to Ned Krilich, Chuck Tye, Mike Koslosky, Ralph Fry, John Clark, Steve Saville and Paul Fournier for their hard work for the past three years. I would also like thank all the members that help make our meetings and outings great. It's all the little things that the members do that makes this club great.

I would like to thank Al Lind and Mike Hardouin for their service to the club. They have been finding guest speakers for the past nine years. This is no small feat because they have accomplished this with little or no thanks. It is sad that we have

not acknowledged them more for their hard work. After nine years they would like to retire. We wish them the best and we cannot thank them enough. However, this leaves a very important position to be filled. If you would like to volunteer for this position please contact Chuck Tye at the next meeting.

As we approach the holidays, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. Call a club member and go fishing during the holidays. Yes your guides on your fly rod and something else might freeze, but you should have your favorite fishing spot to yourself because most anglers will be in bed dreaming about the one that got away. A quote from Aristotle; "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence; therefore, is not an act, but a habit." Have an excellent holiday.

Michael Trask

PSFF NEWS

Our Next Meeting
Thursday, December 12th
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Tower Lanes Entertainment Center
6323 6th Ave.

December 2013 Program

Jeff Brazda of Brazda's Fly Fishing is visiting us at the next meeting and he's bringing one of his guides, Aaron Oleary.

Aaron will be covering Hatchery steelhead on the Olympic Peninsula including Spey, Nymph and Pin rods.

Jeff plans on covering Springtime hosted trip opportunities including Ascension Bay bonefish, baby Tarpon and Snook. Also he'll revisit the Yakima river with lodging and guided fishing in June – September.

He also plans on briefly covering Chinook fishing with spey rods including fly selection and technique.

Winter indoor casting practice on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 9AM.

That's right indoor casting practice at the Puyallup Fair's Showplex. Put it on your calendar. Plan on perfect weather inside of the Showplex.

The Showplex is large enough to hold a Boeing 747 and can easily accommodate us fly fisherman. Nice and warm. Better yet.... no ice or wind!

We'll have some of our expert fly casting instructors on board to help you improve your technique. We will plan to meet at 8:30AM in the parking lot west of Catlin's Restaurant (north side of fair grounds). Shortly thereafter we will caravan on to the fairgrounds following our host Bob Carlson.

Plan on joining everyone for lunch at Catlin's at noon following casting.

Sign up at our December meeting.

FFF EVENTS

Events from the FFF calendar in 2014

Fly Fishing Show at the Lynnwood Convention Center

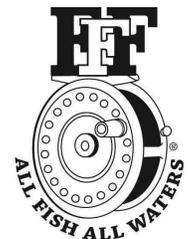
February 15th, 2014 from 9 AM to 5:30 PM
Info - <http://www.flyfishingshow.com/Seattle.html>

Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo in Albany Oregon.

March 8th and 9th, 2014
Linn County Expo Center Info - <http://www.nwexpo.com>

Washington Council Fly Fishing Fair, Ellensburg, Washington

May 3rd and 4th, 2014
Info - <http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/test/Welcome.php>



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PIX PICKS OF THE MONTH

From your newsletter editor -

I'm hoping to make this page a regular part of the newsletter, but I'm going to need your contributions to make it work. What I'm looking for is one picture that you think best represents your fishing or fishing related activity during approximately the past month.

I'm going to try to keep it down to a page (or two), so I'll do my best to fairly share the page space between members from month to month.

Only had one picture that fit the timeframe of activity submitted this month, so I dropped in one of my own.

Mike Koslosky:



I just got back from Mexico where the barracuda were hungry and the bonefish were running scared. I would be too if this beast was snapping after my butt!

Dennis Ehlers:



Made a couple of late October stops at Ollala and this 16 inch beauty was one of the results.

Gig Harbor Fly Shop – Fishing Report

Hopefully Thanksgiving was a relaxing event filled with good food, family, and friends and not the chaotic, crowded affair it can sometimes be. I've personally experienced both...

Thanksgiving also generally serves as the unofficial start to steelhead season, though some cagey anglers may have already connected with an early returning hatchery fish. And so it is that many anglers begin turning their attention toward steelhead in December. Hatchery smolt plants were up in several river systems for this year's returning age class and should provide increased opportunities. Please be sure to release wild steelhead!

The other primary "big fish" targets for December are chum salmon. As mentioned last month and as many of you already know, chum fishing is not usually characterized by solitude though it can be found for anglers willing to venture beyond the hatchery bottlenecks. Many smaller creeks and rivers receive chum runs and fish can be found milling around near the mouth of these streams as well as cruising marine shorelines in the nearby area. Chartreuse remains a favorite color for chums but purple, cerise, orange, or black should not be overlooked. Finally, it should be noted that chum are available in several rivers and for those looking to get their two handed casting techniques in shape for steelhead may want to try swinging a fly for big chums.

December usually means that we have arrived in the slower period for sea run cutthroat and that is mostly accurate. That being said, many locations still produce and some of the larger specimens of the year are frequently taken during winter months. Generally, smaller and sparser baitfish and sculpin patterns in darker colors like olive, brown, and black are good producers. This is also the time of year when the cutthroats' natural diet will be heavily comprised of amphipods, euphasiids, copepods, and mysids so make sure those patterns are in the box.

Speaking of all those little crustaceans and their predators, this is the time of the year when resident silvers begin to make an appearance. December and January are prime time for pursuing these guys and the Narrows is a known hot spot for rezzies. These fish move around a lot so there are a couple of different approaches when targeting them. If beach fishing there are two basic ways to go about it. One is to scan from the shoreline for jumpers then race down the beach hoping to get in front of them. The other is to pick a spot on the beach which looks promising and hang tight. The razzes may appear multiple times throughout the day as they cruise the beaches but the frequency with which they will show up is anyone's guess. These are serendipitous fish. If fishing from a

boat, you will have a distinct advantage as you can cruise the shorelines and spot jumpers.

Hope everyone has a Happy Holiday Season!

-James Harrington

New PSFF Fishing Reports

One of the coolest things about being a fly angler in this club is the sharing experiences with others. One thing is true. Every time we venture out to fish a story is born. The general meeting is a great place to share these stories to share. We all have varied interests in fly angling which makes this sharing rich and valuable. I love the fishing reports. I love how it makes some of us laugh and others groan.

Going forward, we are going to try some new ways of sharing these fishing reports with everyone during the meeting. At each table you will find 3x5 cards and a pen. When you arrive write down a few notes about your last fishing trip. The more colorful the story is, the better. Who knows, it may end up in a future newsletter article. Once your card has been filled out, pin it to the cork board located at the front of the meeting room. During the intermission, feel free to look over the reports that have been posted. You might even want to make a few notes about someone else's trip. Feel free to bring a pre-written fishing report to the meeting if that is easier to do.

I suspect the form/format of the fishing reports will change over the coming months and I am glad to be a part of making it happen.

Off to plan my next trip :-)

Paul Fournier

Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy

by Mike Clancy, Co-Director

It all started with idea of the founder, Dick Nye, a retired Tacoma middle school music teacher. Preparations for the Academy started in 2002 with Dick attending a youth camp, the nationally acclaimed, award winning Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp in Boiling Springs, PA. After 2 years of preparation, Dick conducted the first Academy on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. at the Gwinwood Christian Community Center in 2004.

The Academy is sponsored by The Washington Council of TU, The Washington State Council of the IFFF, hosted by The Puget Sound Fly Fishers of Tacoma, Olympia Chapter of TU and the South Sound Fly Fishers of Olympia.

Dick Nye retired after the 2009 Academy. Jim Brosio and I took over the responsibly of The Academy with our first challenge for the 2010 Academy. With the financial support of the Washington TU Chapters, the IFFF Fly Fishing Clubs, corporate and individual sponsors, we gave it our best and it worked. In all the years that Jim and I have been co-directors, we have been assisted by at least 50 volunteers, during the week of the Academy. Without the support of the groups I mentioned, this Academy would not happen. Ron Smorynski, TU/SSFF, has been involved since the very first Academy in 2004.

The curriculum is structured to provide students with a background in environmental science and includes lessons in ecology, hydrology, aquatic entomology, invasive species, watersheds, fish biology and behavior. Students also learn the skill of fly fishing, including fly tying, casting by CCI's, knot tying, stream side ethics and water safety. The Academy is for boys and girls, 12-16 years old. All equipment is supplied, tuition is still \$275, however; no one will be turned away because of money. Each applicant needs to write an essay, explaining why they would like to attend and a letter of recommendation from their school science teacher or counselor. The Academy for 2014 will be June 22-28 at The Gwinwood Center, on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA.

Contact: Mike Clancy, 360-753-1259, email: nwycffa@comcast.net or Jim Brosio, 360-943-9947

Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs)

by John Clark

On Saturday, October 12th, I received a call from a retired Missoula Police Department friend that Lee Meltzer, retired MPD officer and fly fishing friend had died during a float trip in the Clark Fork River while fishing with his son Max.

At the reception, after the memorial service, I learned that Lee and his son were fishing from pontoon boats and that son Max was downriver from his dad when he heard his dad yell to get his boat. Lee had hit something in the river that flipped his boat upside down and it was drifting towards Max. Max retrieved the boat and then saw his dad go under. He went to his rescue but Lee did not survive. Max was wearing a PFD but for unknown reasons Lee had not put his on.

This tragedy reminded me of an excellent article written by Beth Mason in the October 2012, newsletter concerning PFDs and the inherent danger of inflatable PFDs. Due to her article I examined Kath and my PFD. Both a waist model SOS PFD and a SOS Suspender model were found to have the red warning tag displayed indicating they were inoperable. A small plastic disc had fallen out on the waist model and the plastic tip on the CO2 cartridge on the suspender model had broken off. Per Beth's article we searched the Internet for rigid PFDs and each found ones we liked. Then we discovered Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe, located in Portland carried the styles we liked so we drove down to check them out. We had a chance to try on several different styles as well as get in and out of Kayaks that were in the showroom. We selected rigid PFDs that are comfortable wearing in either a pontoon or Watermaster type boat and do not impair casting.

We now feel a lot more secure on the water knowing we have immediate floatation sans trying to locate a tab to pull and hope the vest inflates.



Out of the Salt And Into the Pan

By Steve Saville

Well, here we are. Another month has slipped away. The Pink Salmon run came and went or never really came for salt water anglers. The projections of a great Coho run didn't really materialize though I have many friends who did well enough to brag a bit. We caught a few but not like we expected. One thing I noticed about my own fishing was that I didn't fish as much as in past years. I'm not sure whether that's a function of age, frustration at the runs, or the many other things that occupied my summer and fall.

Two things are for sure, however. The Sea Run Cutthroat fishing is arriving with a bang. The fish are reportedly larger and more aggressive than last year. They are beautifully colored and easily identified. The tactics remain pretty much the same. And secondly, the Chum run is in full swing. Many of us have already enjoyed the fishery and it continues to be strong.

I was going to take a hiatus this month because I was running out of soap boxes to stand on and because we are in a transition time for fishing. But, I was inspired at our last meeting by our speaker, Steve Raymond, not only by his subject of Puget Sound Fisheries but also by his ability as a speaker. Though speaking from a few pages of notes, he seemed as though he was eloquently reading the lines from one of his books. For those of you who may have missed it, he spoke of the enhanced efforts by Fish and Game to bolster the Pink and Chum Salmon runs in Puget Sound, Steelhead fishing in estuaries, and an interesting perspective of the bottom fish fishery here.

When he began that portion of his program, my ears perked up a bit sharper and as he continued, I glanced at my brother and we nodded to each other. We grew up fishing for trout on a pre-eruption Toutle river. We fished for Black mouth and resident Coho from the burned out remnants of the Dickson Mill and the abandoned Sperry Ocean Dock. But where we really learned to fish was on Burley Lagoon, under the Purdy Bridge, for Striped Perch and Red Tailed Perch. We had Aunts and Uncles who lived on the lagoon and we spent several summers and many weekends fishing for the Perch under the bridge. They seemed like monsters to a couple of kids but in reality they were probably no bigger than 10" to 12". They were relatively easy to catch on a long shanked hook deftly (or not) threaded through the back of a shore crab and dropped over the side. We had to tie up on the inner side of the West pillar because the beach fishers were sort of like the buzz bomb guys here during the Pink Salmon run. It wasn't safe to be exposed.

The fishing was good and we caught so many of the Perch; probably too many as I look back on it today but they were so darned good to eat! We either fried the fillets or cut them up to make fish and chips. We ate everything we caught and nothing was wasted.

Steve talked about overfishing the bottom fish and as I look back now, about the only place you can find a Striped Perch on Puget Sound is in an aquarium. It's a shame. I thought about the Rockfish we caught and ate, not realizing the number of years for one to grow to maturity and of the numbers of trout and salmon we brought home, as a family.

We grew up eating fish and now as I read the news I wonder what goes through some peoples' minds. Today I read about three individuals who were caught poaching Chum salmon at Chico Creek. They were after the Roe, supposedly selling for \$6.50 a pound. They caught and killed 22 female and 21 male Chum Salmon; then just threw the carcasses up on the bank and were planning to walk away. Or I think back earlier this year where three gentlemen (?) were caught poaching Lahontan Cutthroat at Lake Lenore.

Finally my thoughts go to two important programs that have been brought before the Board and the membership. First is the Youth Fly Fishing Academy championed by Mike Clancy and second to a proposal by Dennis Beardsley to donate money to a salmon education for third and fourth grade students. These are the types of programs that need to be supported so we don't lose the fisheries that we have and that we enjoy so much. Involving young people in our sport, in our club, and through our conservation efforts is one way we help to insure a healthy fishery on Puget Sound and on the rivers, streams, and lakes here in Washington and elsewhere. It's remarkable what kids will remember when they are given an opportunity to be involved in non-academic programs. Your thoughts and ideas are always welcome.

Education of our younger generation seems to be the only way that we can hope to save some of our fish. So, I urge you all to get involved with some kids and to teach them what's important when it comes to our fisheries, before there are no more fish.

Happy Holidays to you all and Tight Lines!



Thomas' Ties and Dyes By Thomas Lamphere

NIGHT TIME GLOW PARTY

The best things about Puget Sound is the year round fishing and that you can hit it on your way home from work for a few hours and still be home in time for dinner. In the summertime with daylight till after 9pm it makes it really easy fishing. When winter comes along though, it can get dark by 5pm if not earlier. In my opinion winter is one of my favorite times to fish. With south sound chum salmon coming in through December the Cutthroat are in feast mode.

November. This is the time of year when I start tying all of my glow flies (when I am not chasing chum). Though for the months of November and December I am mostly fishing baitfish patterns at night. An always reliable one is the clouser minnow. I tie mine out of Glow Flashabou. It works great and you can get a lot of flies out of it. Another pattern that I tie out of the glow flashabou is Gary Marston's Glow Fly. It's a very successful pattern and easy to tie which makes it even better. It consists of a Daichii 2546 or Tiemco 811S, a few different colors of Glow Flashabou tied like a baitfish, and with bucktail to help support the flashabou.



These are great for a fast strip and are also great for catching blackmouth in the winter time.

Once I hit late December and into February I throw a lot of glow amphipods. They are small and generally never tied on anything bigger than a size 6. When I fish these it's a full floating line or pulled behind a streamer. This is something that you will never see a fisherman without in these months, glow or not. But the one thing that most people don't think to put in the water is a glow squid. Rueben's Squid-licious is my favorite due to the size comparison and profile. Paul Fournier has another great pattern that can be turned into a glow that works very well, as well as Rueben's Chameleon glow squid. This one I love because it is on a smaller size and also works for a shrimp pattern.

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squid. This one I love because it is on a smaller size and also works for a shrimp pattern.

The number one thing to remember is that they feed just as heavy at night as they do in the day time. They're always out on the hunt for a meal. Just remember that there are more fish in the shallows at night than just sea-run cutties. You also have resident coho in the mix as well as a few blackmouth which can reach up to 20 pounds. My largest is 9 pounds, but it was one hell of a surprise on a 6wt! You even have the chance of running into a school of squid. This I've done on a few occasions when we were hooking so many that we decided to leave. Even after we put on glow squids! So it could be a good idea to have your shellfish license and bring a bucket!

The nice thing is that all your normal beaches are great for night fishing as well, except those that close like Docs/Narrows. The best thing to do is just get out on the water at night. You could improve your casting because you have to go a lot by the feel of your rod, and you might just get that fish that on any other day you would miss.

HOT SCOOP

Classifieds
None

New Members
None reported

Library Report
By Galen Hansen

Many thanks to Dennis Ehlers, and the Lampheres for helping me set up and remove the library at the last meeting. I need help setting the library up before each meeting. Frequently the clubs storage closet is blocked by bowling alley materials and accessing it is a problem. Since we are not charged for the space we utilize, we can't complain to Tower Lanes and I, for one, very much appreciate all they do for us. So...if some of you that are early arrivals at the meetings would give me a hand, I would be very appreciative.

As the year draws to a close, please let us know if there is additional material that you would like to see added to our inventory, please drop me a line, or let me know at the meetings what you think would be a good addition to the library. My email addresses are galen1943@gmail.com and galen1943@yahoo.com. Gordon Myers email address is gemyers50@msn.com.

After my check of the library records, I see that there are 8 items overdue. I have emailed each of you that have the items overdue, requesting you return them at the next meeting. In the future, please hand the cards at checkout to me or my assistant so we can ensure that they are filled out correctly. Remember...the date to put on the card is in the form mm/yy. If you put on month and day, we may be hitting you up for a book that we think is years overdue because the date is entered wrong.

A reminder...only club members that are current on their dues are eligible to check out materials from the library. Only 3 items may be checked out at one time.



PJ's TIPS

Tying Tip -

Split Tails the easy way

You dry fly tiers will appreciate this more than the wet fly guys but it works well on both types. A great number of patterns call for a tail made of 2 or 3 fibers that are then separated. If you examine a 'real' bug you will see that the very end of the body where the tails emerge from it is slightly bulbous or enlarged around the individual tails. Tying these fibers in at an angle to get the separation is a pain.

Next time you do one of these patterns try this. When you get your thread base wound back to the bend of the hook do not cut off the tag end of the thread. And if your fly will have 3 tails tie in another short thread and let it hang off the back. Now tie in the tail fibers lying horizontally on the hook. To spread them out perfectly bring the loose thread up between the tail fibers. Pull the thread(s) as snug as needed to get the required spread and tie them down and trim.

Perfectly shaped tails every time!

NEW 2014 PSFF BOARD MEMBERS VOTE by Chuck Tye

During the December meeting we will vote in four club members for the 2014 board.

They are Paul Fournier as VP, Bob Jimerson and Curt Stoner as Directors and Gene Jackson as Outdoor Activities. Hope you can make it and show your support.

Also, we are still looking for a third director. If you are interested talk to me at the meeting.

RAFFLE NEWS

by Bev Simpson

- # **Special thanks to Gus for donating** nine popular items for Club raffle table, much appreciated.
- # **Fly tyers** - Jerry Fremont and John Brett have both donated an assortment of animal skins, from bison to beaver, watch for them on the raffle table next few months.
- # **Congratulations John Shouse, raffle winner** of the TFO NXT series rod/reel combo, drawn last meeting.

Raffle Squares, drawing when all squares sold

TIOGA deluxe PONTOON BOAT, value \$500.00 \$4.00 per square 50% sold

FLYCASTING Course, River Run Anglers, 6 x 2 hour classes \$ 2.50 per square

JACK MITCHELL & THE EVENING HATCH (more info coming) \$20.00 per square

New Item ... FULL FOX SKIN, raffle of fifty squares \$1.00 per square

Raffle Gear, 6 tickets & a cookie for \$ 5 drawing mid meeting

- # **multi pocket tool** with pouch + bonus knife by Winchester
- # double sided **fly box** with some good looking flies
- # **arctic fox tail** for fly tying or your favorite grandkid's hat
- # light weight **stripping basket** with pockets & adjustable waist belt
- # **animal skin squares**, elk mane, musk ox, bison and bear for you or your fly tying buddy

Fly of The Month

Credit to FFF Website

Due to the passing of Bob Bates, who ramrodded the Fly of the Month at FFF, there was no new entry for this month. If there's a new one next month, I'll post it. Otherwise I'll start dipping into their archives.

Your editor

PSFF Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
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December 1	2	3	4 7 Seas tying?	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 PSFF Meeting	13	14
15	16	17	18 7 Seas tying?	19 PSFF Board Meeting	20	21 9 AM—Indoor Casting Practice
22	23	24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26	27 Newsletter submission deadline 5 PM	28
29	30	31				

			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 7 Seas tying?	9 PSFF Meeting	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 PSFF Board Meeting	17	18
19	20	21	22 7 Seas tying	23	24	25
26	27 Newsletter submission deadline 5 PM	28	29	30	31	

**Check for Newsletter Article Deadline Date.
Remember articles can always be submitted early.**

Puget Sound Flyfishers

Club was founded in 1956 and has a long and proud history of involvement, action, camaraderie, and fun. The club's website is located at www.psff.org

Aims and Purposes of the Club are:

1. To improve and encourage the sport of flyfishing by social, educational and political means.
2. To encourage flyfishing and other selective fishing techniques as a means of conservation and increasing fishing opportunity.
3. To encourage the conservation, enhancement of sport fishing.
4. To promote "Sportsmanship" in all aspects of club and individual activity.
5. To aid in the eradication of pollution and other practices destructive to fisheries.
6. To actively assist and encourage the public to become flyfishers, and to adopt the club's philosophies.

General Membership Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month (except August). These meetings are for social, entertainment and educational purposes.

Educational Activities: The club offers classes and

instruction in fly fishing, fly-tying, fly-casting and rod building. The club has an extensive library of books and videos. The club sponsors an annual Spring Clinic to promote flyfishing.

Outings: The club organizes monthly outings to various lakes, rivers, and estuaries. Experienced gillies provide expert information and instruction on how, when and where to fish.

Conservation Activities: The club has a long and proud history of encouraging flyfishing (and other selective fishing techniques) as a means of conserving and increasing fishing opportunities. The club is active in many of the important conservation issues of the day and in helping to fund local conservation projects.

Membership / Dues: Membership is open to anyone 18 or over. Dues are \$40 (Family \$60) per year plus a one time (\$10 Initiation Fee) per member.

Affiliations: The club is an active member of the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers

HOW TO JOIN THE PSFF YAHOO GROUP.

To receive and post to the PSFF Yahoo group you must first sign up as a member of Yahoo if you're not already signed up.

In your browser search for or go to Yahoo.com and look for the button asking if you want to join Yahoo. Click on the button and follow the instructions to join Yahoo. You will need an email address, a user name and a password. Remember these as periodically Yahoo will ask you to use them to resign in.

Once you are a member of Yahoo look at the top of the Yahoo page and find the search box. Enter PSFF in the box and press the 'Search' button. There will be a number of results as PSFF is used by several entities.

Scroll down though the list until you find Puget Sound Fly Fishers. Select the Puget Sound Fly Fishers and Yahoo will take you to the group site. You will notice a small box that asks you if you want to join the PSFF group. Select (yes.)

Another page will open up seeking your sign in information for the PSFF group. This information is separate from the information you entered for Yahoo itself. There will be a box for you to enter a short message telling the moderators why you want to join and basically who you are. Again you will be asked to select an email address where the PSFF group messages are sent.

You will need to select whether you receive individual messages or a Daily Digest. I suggest a daily digest but you can change this selection at any time later. At the bottom of the page you will have to enter, repeat, a displayed code of mixed letters and numbers. When you have done this go down to the bottom right and select 'Join'. You are done.

All new members are on a moderated basis and unable to post until approved by a moderator to help prevent SPAM and malicious posting. One of the moderators will handle your status usually within 24 hours.