

ELOSTA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday June 17, 2009

(Also available at www.elosta.org)

President Charlie Ames called the fourth monthly meeting of the 2009 summer season to order at 7:08 PM on June 17th in the meeting room at Gander Mountain's Cicero store. Fourteen members/guests attended and Mac MacKenzie acted in his capacity as Secretary.

Charlie motioned that the minutes in the May Newsletter be accepted as they appeared in the Newsletter. His motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Tom Lott gave a detailed summary of payments and account transfers as they appeared in his Financial Report for the period May 21 – June 17, 09. Checks, totaling \$505.86 were written for postage, Newsletter editing, and Newsletter printing. Checking deposits totaled \$544.00. Elosta's current savings and checking accounts total \$15, 105.87 including the \$1918.17 remaining in the Pro -Am netpen account. Copies of Tom's Report were also made available to the Officers and Board members present. The motion to accept the report as presented was seconded and unanimously carried.

Tom Lott also mentioned, for information purposes, that notices regarding the annual fees for placing ads in the Newsletter were mailed to advertisers on June 1st. As of this date eight out of the nineteen persons contacted have responded.

At 7:30 pm Charlie Ames introduced (Fred Kuepper Mid Atlantic Regional Coordinator) for **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing** (PHWFF). Fred pointed out that the "National Program is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active duty personnel and veterans through fly fishing and fly tying education and outings."

"Since its inception, PHWFF has been helping disabled active duty personnel and veterans to overcome the obstacles associated with their military service related injuries. The relearning of fine motor skills required in fly fishing and fly tying has proven to be particularly effective in the overall rehabilitation of the disabled". Perhaps the greatest benefit from the program is the reestablishment of the realization of accomplishment and the ability to lead a more normal life.

This is a win/win program that is made possible through the efforts of dedicated volunteer staff members, tackle and lodging suppliers, anglers, fly tiers, rod builders, licensed guides, and the list goes on. Funding is made available through tax exempt donations, tournaments, fundraisers, or auctions. Promotional information and materials is provided by PHWFF.

Fred fielded a number of questions from the floor. Foremost was the question "What can ELOSTA do". Fred made it clear that this is a fly fishing endeavor and that organizers of events are members of a fly fishing club that is affiliated at the National level. At the present time they are not in a position to expand the program to offer open water boat fishing opportunities – perhaps sometime in the future. There is always the

question of liability etc. At the present time it appears the ELOSTA's involvement in the program is limited to monetary support. ELOSTA members interested in participating on an individual basis are welcome to inquire. Email Fred at fredkuepper@aol.com for information.

Fred completed his PP presentation with the announcement that another field outing will be held on the Salmon River this fall and returned the meeting to President Ames at 7:30pm.

Tom Lott suggested that ELOSTA members would be quick to offer their boats if the fly fishing effort is ever expanded. Fred reiterated his appreciation for the offer and suggested a consideration for monetary or personal support. It was noted that the majority of the volunteers and officers involved in these organizations are senior citizens and have been for quite some time. It seems that very few younger people are willing to get involved.

Dan Bishop reported that netting results on the Salmon River indicate fewer naturally produced young of the year Chinook. The returns could be negatively influenced by frequent high river flows over the period.

Comments from the floor were once again consistent regarding returns from the big lake. In general, those at the meeting agreed that the hot start to the season has slowed considerably. There are still a few boats out taking fish from Oswego-west with flasher/fly combinations. Boats out of Oswego go set up outside the break wall in 60 – 100 feet of water for browns and, depending on the action, continue to troll deeper for Kings. Others are simply biding their time at the dock until a thermocline is established. With fickle winds bringing cold water in every other day this could take a long time. All agreed that they had not marked schools of bait fish of such proportions in years.

Tom Lott reported that walleye fishing on Oneida Lake continues to be slow . This means, if it is slow for Tom it is non-existent for others. He suggested fishing over the weeds or trolling in 26-30 feet of water until you find something that works.

Motions were made from the floor regarding the offer of a specified contribution from ELOSTA to PHWFF; and, the purchase of some of the veterans fishing licenses. Both motions were tabled pending further review by the Board Members. An amount, to be established, will be presented at a future meeting for ratification by the members.

President Ames thanked all those who attended and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM. Next meeting is at 7PM, July 15th at Gander Mountain in Cicero. As always, walk-ins and their input are welcome. **Mac MacKenzie**