



TIGHTLINES



Les Jones, Joe Conner & Bud Camandona working a foam line on the Yakima.

Dick Simmons

March 16th – It was snowing and cold at Elk Heights but at the Cottage Cafe in Cle Elum the atmosphere was warm and convivial as twelve of us gathered to eat breakfast and plan the Club’s annual float and wade on the Yakima River.

Our flotilla consisted of two drift boats, a two man Livingston and a stout one man pontoon boat. The first order of business was to draw names from a hat to determine who would ride with Eric Sauer and Joe ConnerContinued on Page 2

There are times on the Yakima River when all the things that matter in your life shrink to the size of a small tuft of hope – now drifting along innocently in a line of foam.

Eric Sauer photo

Calendar

Meetings:

April 12: General Meeting

Guest Speaker: Dave McCoy, Emerald Water Anglers.

Susan Horton, Director of Noxious Weed Control for Island County, will also update the Club on Lone Lake.

April 26: Board Meeting

Special Events:

April 5, May 3, June 7: Fly Tying Round Table, 7 – 9 p.m. Frances Anderson Center, Edmonds, Room 206 or 302.

Outings:

April 29: Blue Lake. Hosted by Mike Truax 425-672-6963.

Upcoming Speakers:

May 10: STS Guide Service “Lower B.C. Lakes and streams.”

June 14: Writer, conservationist & respected fly fisherman Les Johnson, author of *Fly Fishing for Coastal Cutthroat Trout*.



"Yakima" Continued from Page 1 ... in their drift boats. The lucky winners in Eric's boat were Hal Rowe and Mike Alunni, and in Joe's boat, Les Jones and Bud Camandona. Bud was hoping to get some rowing-practice in along the way so Joe could fish. Bill Vincent was joined by a guest Jim Arvidson (who, luckily for Bill, just happened to bring along his Livingston).

Doug Pendleton would fish solo from his 10' Creek Company pontoon boat. And, if you're counting, that left three waders. Phil Sacks teamed up with David Claude and, since I'd fished the Lower Canyon the day before, I decided to fish a couple of places I like on the Upper River.

The cash register at Red's was smokin'.

The floaters put in at Red's. And on their way from the parking lot to the river they pretty well cleaned out the shop of Skwala nymphs and dries, Stimulators, and Blue Winged Olives.

"Most of us were on the water by 11:30 and we were all in great spirits," said Doug. "I'd brought my boat over from Leavenworth and the weather was so bad over Blewett I thought when I got to the Cottage Cafe everyone would be talking about calling off the trip and going home."



Doug Pendleton leaves Red's. "Had a few bumps. Next time I'll bring my casting platform."

OFF Clubbers unstoppable.

No one went home. However, Phil Sacks said the only thing he hooked was a rock. And, after making a pit stop at the Umtanum lou, decided it was too much hassle to put all his gear back on and went off to sit in the car and read.

The Californian.

As Dave Claude tells it: "Phil and I pulled into the lot at Umtanum and this nicely dressed guy with dark glasses was sitting next to us talking on his cell phone. He didn't look like a fisherman, but then he starts putting on waders."

"It turns out he flew all the way up from LA to fish three days right here. He wasn't going anyplace else. That was really something!"

Dave saw fish rising but didn't hook up. He also didn't sit in the car with Phil.

Everyone had a great time.

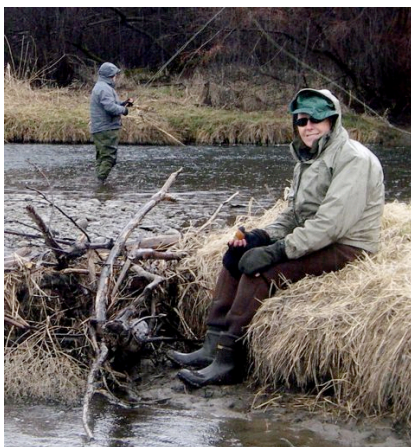
But the fishing was not spectacular. Eric Sauer rose four to dries. "One gave me a couple of throbs," he noted, "It was nice just being able to fish." Bill Vincent and Jim Arvidsen had similar feelings. "We raised a couple that didn't take," Bill said, "We mostly enjoyed having a great time in a beautiful place."

The Upper River was as beautiful as ever, but I too went fishless. Club President Joe Conner, who sponsored the trip, was happy about his catch and added: "I'm just glad everyone stuck around. The fish were looking up so it wasn't all bad. Not the worst day on the Yakima and not the best. Hey! Any day on the Yakima is fine with me."



Eric Sauer Photos

Top: Mike Alunni and Hal Rowe share a laugh. Bottom: Joe Conner switches briefly from rowing to fishing. Despite our duties, Joe had three of the days four fish caught.



Bud takes a break on the bank.



Central Washington's Region 2 has a lot of fish and a lot of work.

At the March General Meeting, OFF Members had a chance to hear first hand where the best fishing prospects are this season in the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife's Region 2.

The Region includes Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Adams Counties and has some of the best, and least fished, rivers, streams and lakes in the State.



"So, Jim, how big are those trout in Region 2?" Program Manager Jim Miller (left) gets a rise from Blair Scarth and Dave Claude.

Fishing Programs Manager Joe Miller, and biologists Bob Jateff and Jeff Korth battled their way through tough weather in the passes to make it to the meeting just in time for dinner and a brief chance to relax before sharing their favorite picks for 2006. They also related some of the benefits and challenges they face in managing Eastside lakes and rivers.

"With fewer people on the Eastside we can do a lot of unilateral good work in rehabilitating lakes to

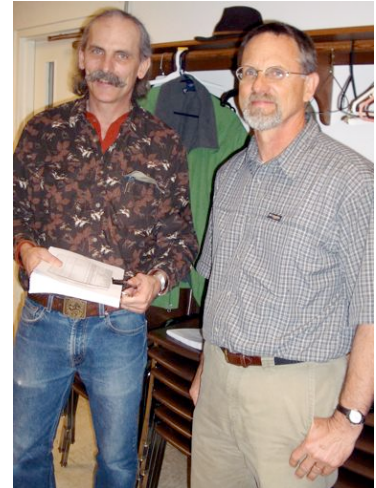
enhance sports fishing and remove problem species," Korth explained.

He made the point that on the Westside, with more people living around a lake, there are more differing opinions on the best way to manage the lake.

"And when you get into anadromous species it gets even more complex," he added.

Miller said that all regional fish managers are in a tough spot because of personnel cutbacks and budgets that get smaller and smaller each year.

Ultimately the solution to improving fly fishing in the State is for the users to go on the offensive. If all the fly clubs banded together and put pressure on fisheries commissioners and elected officials, they could make significant changes in the way the resources are being managed.



Region 2 Biologists Jeff Korth and Bob Jateff.

The oar that pushed back. A true story.

The rest of the guys had left Red's earlier and were heading home from the Yakima trip. Doug Pendleton was alone, on his way up from the take out, towing his pontoon boat on a trailer.

"I decided to stop before I got to the main road and check the boat to make sure everything was strapped down tight," said Doug. "So I got out, shut the door, checked the boat. It was OK. But when I went to get back in the car, the doors were locked."

Doug had stowed one of his oars alongside the car seat and it fell on the lock switch when he slammed the door. So there he was: Standing on a dirt road in the dark. His cell phone and everything else inside a locked car with its engine running.

"I thought, this can't be happening. What now?" said Doug. "Red's was closed, but I saw a light in a house nearby, so I knocked on the door."

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Bob & Jeff's Best Picks in Region 2

Lakes:

- Big Twin - Triploids. "They're fat and doing real well."
- Dusty - "Rehab in 2003. Rainbows to 14" carryovers to 22"
- Blue - (Oroville) Under fished, Lahonton cutthroat to 16"
- Chopaka - Fly fishing only, no motors. Rainbows to 18"
- Davis - (Winthrop) C&R through Aug 31. Lots of fish to 13"
- Forde - (Sinlahekin area) Triploid Brook and Tiger Trout
- Palmer - Smallmouth, Largemouth and Kokanee
- Washburn - (Near Loomis) Triploid Brook Trout & Tiger T.
- Reflection Pond - (Sinlahekin) Small scenic, Triploid Brook
- Whitestone - (near Tonasket) good for Largemouth Bass
- Lenore - (Best in Fall) Lahontan Cutthroat 1 to 4lbs
- Beda - (Douglas Cty) Rainbow, Tiger & Brook Trout
- Quail - (Adams Cty) Rainbow, Brook, Tiger & Lahonton Cutts
- Pillar/Widgeon - (Grant Cty) 10 lakes, "Beautiful country"
- Seeps Lake Area - (Grant Cty) "Off the beaten track." Sage, Janet and Katey lakes are all recommended. For more information: Bob Jateff (Okanogan) 509-826-7341; Jeff Korth (Ephrata) 509-754-4624



The OFF Beat

A true story continued...

"Doug arrived just in time for dinner," said Steve Joyce, a guide for Red's, who was sitting down with his wife, Natalie, and their daughter.

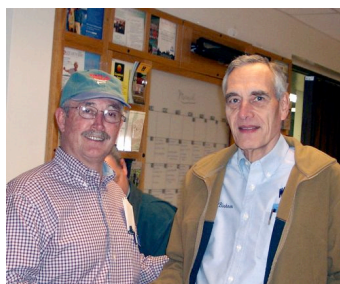
"What wonderful people," said Doug. "Here I walk into there house just when they're having dinner. Scare their dog, frighten their daughter, and Steve insists I stay for dinner."

Steve, who moved here from Montana four years ago, took it all in stride.

"This sort of this just comes with the territory," he said philosophically. "By the time we finished our chili, the Triple A guy showed up and Doug was on his way again."

And Doug's final comment:

"Just one of those fabulous adventures you have when you join a fly fishing club."



OFF President Joe Conner welcomes Washington Fly Fishing Club President Bob Birkner, who joined 50 of us for dinner and a lively March meeting.

And another true story.

Perry Barth... By Ray Gould

Our friendship started some 50 years ago. Since then we've fished the Yakima River, Eliguk

lake and Glimpse lake together and had some wonderful times. Perry is a very dear friend whose friendship I truly cherish.

He's a great person to be with and one heck of a good fly fisherman. But you need to understand how it all started back in the 1950's.

You see we used to live just a couple doors apart on a little cul-de-sac in the north end of Seattle close to Echo Lake and near the King-Snohomish county line. He was teaching music in the Seattle school system while I was working as an engineer at Scott Paper Co. in Everett.



Perry Barth

Now picture this: It's the middle of the night and I mean about 3:00 a.m. and it's dark outside. It had been a long day and we'd finally gotten the kids to sleep. Man I was tired! But then waking me from a deep sleep was the telephone's incessant ringing. So what could be wrong at that time of night, a crisis with a family member, a disaster at the plant? Here's the conversation that then took place at 3:00 a.m.:

Ray: "Hello."

Perry: "Geez I'm surprised you're up!"

Ray: "Well I had to get up to answer the friggin' telephone!"

Perry: "As long as you're already up why don't we get an early start and go play a round of golf?"

Ray: "You've got to be kidding!"

Perry: "No, we can get an early breakfast and be the first ones out on the course!"

Ray: (much relieved that it wasn't a crisis of some sort)

"Okay, I'll be ready in 5 minutes."

And so it was that we played the earliest possible game of golf. You know a friendship is solid (and it is) when it can survive that type of test.

So when your phone rings in the middle of the night don't worry, it's probably just Perry calling for a round of golf!



General Information

The General meeting is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the South County Senior Center, 220 Railroad Ave., Edmonds, WA. Social hour: 6:00 p.m.

The Board meeting is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Alf's on 196th Avenue, Lynnwood, WA. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Officers:

Joe Conner, President, 425-744-8085
Don Summers, Vice President, 206-935-1194

Bud Camandona, Secretary, 425-337-5840

Mike Bunney, Treasurer, 425-672-3345

Dick Simmons, Communications Dir. & TIGHTLINES Ed. 424-778-9804

Phil Sacks, Gillie 425-741-7311

Steve Murray, Trustee, 360-422-7335

Dan Reynolds, Outings, 425-673-7028

Chairs:

Eric Sauer, Education, 425-776-3811

Fran Fatigati, Conservation, 425-485-1975

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