



# TIGHTLINES



**Jim Melnick, Randy Sobczak & Doug Pendleton represented OFF at the recent Steelhead Jamboree sponsored by the Avid Angler. Here, participants get pointers from Dave McCoy, founder of Emerald Water Anglers. Doug Pendleton Photo**

*“From deep in the dark water, something **BIG** flashed silver.”*

— From *“One Man’s Steelhead Shangri-La.”* by Ralph Whal, published in 1989.

The “Golden Age” of steelheading, as the late Ralph Whal describes it in his remarkable memoir, ended more than 40 years ago. Those were the days of chrome bright wild fish to 20 pounds that literally left you dazed and shaken.

Today we have hatchery fish and just enough wild steelhead mixed in to keep the thrill alive and still put your heart in your mouth when you see that silver flash.

Whal’s Shangra-La was on the upper Skagit River, east of Mount Vernon. And that’s where three OFF members and ...See *“STEELHEAD”* Page 3

## *Just how windy was it at Pass Lk?*

If you can believe the fishing reports at our last meeting, (suspend your disbelief, as they say) Pass Lake on New Year’s Day was definitely not for wusses.

We may be embellishing this a bit, but did Jeff Bandy report that when he raised his 5,000 grain, lead core sink tip out of the water the wind ripped it off like a two weight line in a wind tunnel?

Did Jim Traner say he hooked a ...See actual photo on Page 2

### February Calendar

**FEB 7:** Fly Tying Round Table, 7 p.m. RM 302 Frances Anderson.

**FEB 6, 13, 20, 27:** Beginning Fly tying Classes, Edmonds Library (Helpers needed and welcome).

**FEB 14:** Discover how guest speaker and guide Dan “Rooster” Leavens earned the nickname “Rooster.”

**FEB 16:** Float and wade the Skykomish for steelhead. Host Eric Sauer. Details on Page 2.

**FEB 28:** Board meeting. All members welcome.



**Dan “Rooster” Leavens, of Four Rivers Fishing Co., Twin Bridges MT, will discuss the Big Hole, Beaverhead, Madison and Jefferson Rs. at our Feb 14th meeting.**



....**PASS LAKE** from Page 1 a lunker at mid-lake and was blown all the way back to the parking lot before he could land it? *Hmm.*

And what was that rumor about the game warden tracking down a couple of sinister characters and almost booking them for using a motor?

Then there was Terry Zeitner, who apparently stayed in the parking lot the whole time because of something he would only describe as: "equipment failure."

***For the real story of what happened at Pass Lake, we can only rely on this report from Steve Murray:***

"It was an unusually warm day for January 1st. The sun was shining and the water so still it reflected the majestic trees along the shoreline like a mirror. The colors were crisp and the air smelled like the moments after a summer rain. We had been at this for only minutes before the first fish I hooked began spooling line off the reel like a fast moving freight. After fighting this monster for what seemed like hours I had the fish worn to the point of exhaustion and ready to net when .... BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP THAT DAMN ALARM WENT OFF!

Alas I was only dreaming. The fact was it was January 1st and the wind was blowing, the rain falling, and the water temp was 39F. We had another typical New Year's Day outing with some catching fish, some not, and all were cold after a short time in the strong winds. However, fellowship with friends is always good and the few who braved it came over for some hot chili and beer. We watched a game and talked fishing."



**The put-in at Pass Lake was a bit "tricky" on our New Year's outing.**

***"I loved the Pass Lake outing in 2006 and I truly regret missing this year's trip but I was called out of town." Dan Wilson***

For Dan and his wife Judy, "out of town" was the Yucatan Peninsula's Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, a 1.3 million acre tropical ecosystem in the State of Quintana Roo, Mexico.

The Reserve is famous for many things, but for fly fishermen, its the snook, permit, tarpon and bone fish flats of Ascension Bay.

That's where Dan spent a great day fishing for bone fish similar to the one he's holding here. All the time wishing he was back home fishing in the rain at Pass Lake.

*Yeah, right....*



**Steelheading on the Skykomish**

Our February outing will be to the Skykomish on Friday the 16th for steelhead. Eric Sauer is hosting the trip and will have more details at the OFF meeting on the 13th.

It will be a float and wade trip and if you plan to attend, Eric suggests 7+ Wt outfits with interchangeable heads, lines, or at a minimum, Type III-IV, and Type VII sink tip lines with moderately long (10 to 15 feet) tips. Full sinkers work but are impossible to mend. Tapered leaders not needed. A four foot section of 10# to 12# mono is sufficient.

Your choice of flies. Marabou and rabbit provide more motion in slower runs. Bucktail and synthetics seem better in faster runs.

Waders a must. Bring extra fleece coat, raincoat and gloves, thermos with hot drink, and don't forget your camera! For more info, Eric's number is 425-776-3811.



**Randy Sobczak was one of 30 attendees at the Jamboree.**  
...Doug Pendleton Photos

...**STEELHEAD** from Page 1 about 30 others gathered at Steelhead Park, in Rockport, to learn more about steelheading and improve their skills,

“It was a thoughtful and well-presented mix of demonstrations, seminars and hands-on clinics,” said Doug Pendleton.

The Jamboree was sponsored by The Avid Angler. Owner Nathan Keen, with the help of Dave McCoy, of Emerald Water Anglers and Deschutes guide Brian Silvey, covered the basics: handling sink tips, spey casting techniques and other subjects related to steelhead on the fly.

Nathan is an excellent spey caster. He teaches classes through Avid Angler.

We later learned that, while Randy Sobczak was practicing his spey cast at the Ben Howard drift on the Sky he hooked up with a bright Sky steelie on a tube leech pattern tied by Doug Pendleton.  
.....Practicing his spey cast? Why bother?



**The Avid Angler’s Nathan Keen demos the proper technique for pleading with the steelhead gods for a hook up.**



**Someone slipped a “Women in Waders” calendar into the prize selection for the raffle at our January meeting. Here, guest speaker Tom Larimer displays it with the help of Bill MacDonald (L) and Larry Kiriluk (R). The calendar was the “hottest” item in the raffle (as in “hot potato”). Apparently, no one wanted to walk in the front door after the meeting with the greeting “Hey, Honey, look at this cool calendar I won in the club raffle.” The calendar was the last item picked, which definitely qualified it as the evening’s “booby prize.”**

**“Steelhead are incredible animals. Every one has it’s own personality.”**

— Oregon steelhead guide Tom Larimer

If there’s anyone who can back up that statement, it’s Tom Larimer. Tom has spent the last eleven years as a full time guide on rivers and lakes from Alaska to Oregon to Upper Michigan. Currently he’s the only fly fishing guide offering both day and camp trips on the lower twenty-three mile stretch of the Deschutes.

At the January meeting, Tom gave us an excellent slide presentation and a lot of pointers about fishing his favorite rivers, the Deschutes, Klickitat, Clackamas and Sandy, Oregon’s oldest wild and scenic river. A few of Tom’s pointers:

— Leech patterns are the best to fish year round — especially in clear water.

— In low, warm, summer water, fish small lightly dressed patterns; in cold, winter water fish larger, fully dressed patterns.

You can learn more by visiting his website: [www.larimeroutfitters.com/](http://www.larimeroutfitters.com/)



# The OFF Beat

## ELIGUK & NORTHERN PIKE

Over the years, Ray Gould has done a stellar job of organizing an annual outing to Eliguk Lake in Central BC.

Perry Barth reports that Ray is not planning to fish Eliguk this year. The good news is that Perry has graciously offered to step in. Says Perry:

"If any of you handsome, intelligent, outstanding fisherman would like to set up a trip to Eliguk I would be glad to make the arrangements if there is any interest."

Perry Also has room for anyone interested in a Northern Pike trip to Gypsy Lake, North of Edmondton, Alberta, during the last week of June.

"It's inexpensive, and a real hoot to catch these fresh water alligators," says Perry. "Let me know if you're interested." 425-774-0762. [plbarth@juno.com](mailto:plbarth@juno.com)

## BIG THANKS FROM BIG TWIN

Duncan Bronson, of Methow Fly Fishers sent a note of thanks to the club for our \$500 donation to their club's aerator project to help sustain the fishery.

"Come on over and fish this summer," he added.

## CASTING CLASSES

Joe Conner has set up a series of casting classes for OFF members with Jimmy, from Patrick's Fly Shop, instructing.

Each class will last two hours and the series will be spread over four weeks. Classes will be limited to 6 people and will be held at Gasworks Park on Lake Union from 7:30 to 9:30AM. The cost is \$150 total. This is a very good deal. If you're interested, give Joe a call at 425-744-8085.

### First Section

Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>

### Second Section

Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup>



## NEW FFF PRES. GETS FEED BACK.

Carl Johnson, new president of the Washington State

Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers dropped by in January to hear what OFF members thought. It was a very candid discussion and many members were pleased to see that FFF is looking for new ways to support member clubs.

## Norm Primc has gear for sale.

St Croix Legend Ultra 9' 5wt 2pc with case **\$135**  
St Croix Imperial Reel & 'Floating line (never used) **\$150**  
Two Rocky Mountain Large Arbor Reels 3/4 wt (can be used for 5/6wt) both for **\$85**

## TYING CLASS HELPERS

If you can tie a decent fly and have a couple of hours on any Tuesday evening between now and March 6th, Eric can use helpers in his beginning tying class. Call him at 425-776-3811.

*See you on the water! DS*



### 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  
Norm Primc, Vice President, 425-481-1653  
Hal Rowe, Secretary, 425-776-4081  
Mike Bunney, Treasurer, 425-672-3345  
Dick Simmons, Communications. & TIGHTLINES Ed. 425-778-9804  
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  
Terry Zeitner, Conservation, 425-640-2994

### E-mail Contacts:

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