



TIGHTLINES



Doug Pendleton had plenty of time to practice his spey casts on the North Fork of the "Sky." A little "netting" practice would have been nice, too. ...Bill MacDonald Photo

Once again, the "Sky" proves to be an elusive catch.

By Eric Sauer

Thirteen people signed up for our annual steelhead trip on the Skykomish and on the morning of February 16th, ten showed up at Petosa's Restaurant in Monroe.

There was, of course, the usual good cheer and fellowship. Jim Traner, one of the scheduled oarsmen, had a family emergency and was unable to attend. He offered the use of his boat, which I declined.

SUCKER FISH EMERGENCY

Mr. President, Joe Conner, called an emergency meeting of those present near the end of breakfast to discuss a

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Bill Vincent learns the power of ONE.

A year ago at our club meeting, Bill Vincent sat at a table listening to guest speakers Bob Jateff and Jeff Korth. The two biologists from the WDFW's Region 2, in Eastern Washington, were talking about upcoming fishing opportunities in their region.



Bill Vincent champions statewide Trout Bill.

During the presentation, one of the biologists said there were many things they'd like to do to enhance trout fishing but the funding just wasn't there. As a result, trout populations were coming under increasing stress.

Today, Bill Vincent has proven that one person with a good idea can truly make a difference. Not only has he written a bill, that bill is in the State Legislature, it has a sponsor, and will soon have an official number.

See "TROUT BILL" Page 4

March Calendar

MAR 7: Fly Tying Round Table, 7:30 p.m. RM 115, Frances Anderson.
NOTE: NEW PLACE & TIME.

MAR 6: Last session!. Beginning Fly tying Classes, Edmonds Library

MAR 14: WDFW Biologists Jeff Korth and Bob Jateff will give us the inside scoop on what's hot and what's not in Region 2 this year along with their best picks.

MAR 16: Outing to Lone Lake. Host Norm Primc. More details on Page 4.

MAR 26: Graphite rod building class-begins. Currently full, but check with Terry Zeitner: 425-640-2994

MAR 28: Board meeting. All members welcome. Alf's Lynnwood, 6 p.m.

**... "SKYKOMISH" from Page 1**

membership issue. It seems that allegations had arisen that one of the members, who happened to be present, had been using his fly gear to snag sucker fish in the river, a breach of the club's code of ethical angling.

Someone mentioned that this is a difficult addiction to overcome once it takes control of a man. To their credit, those present felt that expulsion from the club was too severe and, in any case, would not help that member to overcome his problem. It was resolved to search the country for a 12 step program which could help him and an intervention then took place. This member rigidly denied the addiction, however, and a final resolution has not been reached.



Railroad Bridge on the Skykomish near Sultan.
The great thing about fly fishing is that it often leads us to beautiful places.

— Doug Pendleton Photos

The "highlights."

- Eric runs boat aground once.
- Doug "Machismo" Pendleton drags boat upstream for a second shot at the run.
- Doug hits rock broadside and almost throws Hal out of boat. Later, Hal fall out of boat with no help from anyone!
- Doug leaps into action ... and takes picture of Hal hanging onto back of boat.
- Doug assumes role of teacher and coaches Eric on rowing and helps Hal & Eric with their spey casts.
- The threesome gets off the water when sun is low. By the time their packed, they head for home in the dark. A good day.



Eric (left) congratulates Hal shortly after his superb execution of the "falling out of the boat" technique.

HIGH WATER

Following breakfast, and the unpleasantness of the business meeting, we all went out to take a look at the river. We knew it was high and fast but held out some hope it would be fishable. One look dashed that hope. Visibility was about 8". Reluctantly I cancelled the trip and was surprised by how many members eagerly accepted it!

Mike Truax, Bill MacDonald, and Doug Pendleton set out to explore by car and foot to find some fishable water. They found some fishable water on the North Fork of the Skykomish near Index. Though they gave it their best, none caught any fish.

A SECOND TRY

I began organizing for a second shot at the outing. Based on water level trends and the weather forecast (not to mention my work schedule) I set the trip for the following Thursday, Feb 22. By the time the day rolled around only three could go; Doug Pendleton, Hal Rowe, and myself. We met at Petosa's again and had a pleasant breakfast. Since the member with the "problem" was there we uncomfortably avoided the snagging issue.

We decided to give the High Bridge to Sultan drift a shot. We had a little bit of every kind of weather for the day. We caught no fish. We had fun.

Doug's Valentine Comet

Hook: TMC 7999 (heavy wire).

Thread: Red Kevlar (for durability).

Tail: Small bunch, orange bucktail fibers; 6+ crystal flash fibers; 4-5 red flashabou strand; 4 fuchsia rooster hackles.

Body: Cascus chenille.

Wing: 4 fuchsia rooster hackles, 2 on top, 2 on sides.

Hackle: Pink maribou.

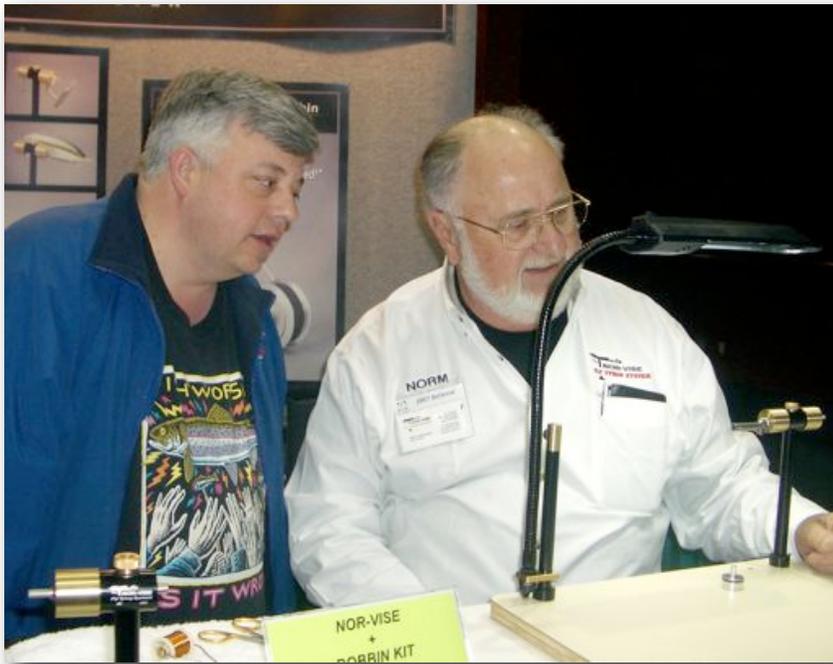
Collar: Pink Guinea hen, strung.



Doug Pendleton created this fly on Valentine's Day, just for the Sky trip.



Everyone loves the fly fishing show.



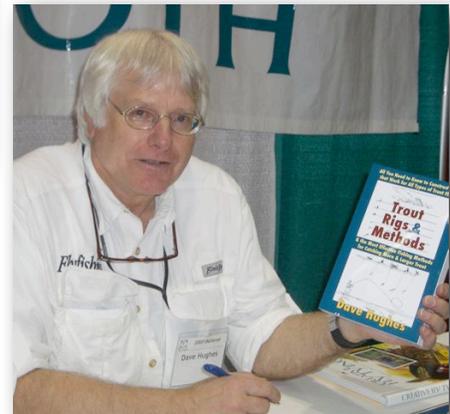
Blair Scarth succumbs to his vise. After two years of looking at the Nor-Vise, this year, Blair finally sprang for one. Here he gets some pointers “first hand” from the vise’s inventor (and Letcher Lambuth Award Winner) Norm Norlander. —Dick Simmons Photos

And why not! Because, other than GOING fishing, what could possibly be more fun than going to the annual fishing show and salivating over all the cool gear we’d like to use when we actually do go fishing?

Or the cool places we’d like to be when we actually go fishing. Or the cool stuff we need to tie the flies we take when we actually go fishing. Or talk to the people who know so much more about actually fishing than....

Ahhh the list goes on and on.

Plenty of OFF clubbers were spotted wandering up and down the aisles. Their eyes glazed from watching demos and



With more than 20 fly fishing books to his credit, Dave Hughes, editor of Flyfishing & Tying Journal, has an understanding of fly fishing that would humble the best in our sport. He’s also one of the least pretentious and nicest guys you’ll ever meet. He’s a great writer. Go buy his books. All of them!

dreaming about what great fishermen they would become if they just had a newer, or better or bigger (*Insert appropriate noun here*) to fish with.

When I think about the “industry” that has grown up around the sport of fly fishing and those of us who support that industry with our cravings for gear and gadgetry, I’m reminded of a quote I read recently in the book *Fly-Fishin’ Fool*, by Jim Babb, editor of *Gray’s Sporting Journal*.

The quote is attributed to Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings:

“It’s a wonderful thing just to set down and figure out how many different way there are to be crazy.”
Dick Simmons

A passion for fishing.

When Frank Kneeshaw was a crew member on a purse seiner in SE Alaska he fished when he worked and fished when he relaxed.

“If we had a closure or layover we usually anchored near the mouth of a stream or river,” he says. “And I’d take the zodiac and head up the river to fish.”

The skipper thought Frank was crazy, but by the end of the season, just about everyone *but* the skipper was going with Frank to fly fish.



“Dick ‘Hedgehog’ Hedges meets Frank ‘The Tank’ Kneeshaw.”

Wasn’t that on WWF Smackdown?

“You might say I was destined to be a fly fishing guide,” he adds.

If the passion and enthusiasm he brought to his February presentation on the fishing opportunities in and around Twin Bridges, MT, is any indication, you know Frank is a great guide.

Frank is the “Cornerstone” of Four Rivers Fishing Company in Twin Bridges. You can book a trip with him on the Big Hole, Beaverhead, Madison, Jefferson and some very “special” waters he knows well at www.4riversmontana.com/



The OFF Beat

.. "TROUT BILL" From Page 1

"There had to be a way to fund some of these needy projects efficiently," said Bill. "With the funds managed by people who knew what they were doing."

After a lot of research, Bill came up with the idea of a surcharge on State fishing licenses. But it would only be applied to fishermen who included trout species as one of the fish they planned to target. (*for purposes of the Trout Bill, steelhead are not included as trout.*)

But a surcharge requires a resolution by the State Legislature and that requires a bill.

So Vincent asked some fly fishing attorneys he knew to help, they liked the idea but never got around to it.

Did that stop him? No way. Bill wrote the Trout Bill himself, found a sponsor, with the help of former State Senator Sue Gould, and is now, once again, on his own, contacting 150 organizations across the state to urge their support for the Bill.

Vincent admits its a long way from becoming law.

"It will take at least a year and the wording will change in a lot of ways, but we've have a start."

If you'd like to help by sending a letter to your legislator in support of the Bill, you can con-

tact Bill Vincent at **206-979-3218**.

If the Trout Bill comes to pass, and trout fishing gets better because of it, there is literally one man to thank for getting the ball rolling and keeping it rolling, OFF's Bill Vincent.



Beginning Fly Tying classes end March 7th. A big thanks to Eric Sauer for making it happen, and to Mike Bunney, Lyle Chrisman, Joe Conner Barry Hutton, Hal Rowe, and Blair Scarth for their help in making it so successful this year.

NOTES...

LONE LAKE

March 16th: Meet at 8 a.m. at the Buzz Inn near the Mukilteo Ferry landing. (It's the former Seahorse Restaurant across the street from Ivar's). OR: Meet at the Lone Lake put in at 9:30 a.m.

CASTING CLASSES

There are still a few openings for the casting classes with Jimmy from Patricks. Four two-hour sessions for \$100. That's a deal. Call Joe Conner: 425-744-8085.

EILIGUK & NORTHERN PIKE

Perry Barth is organizing this year's trip to Eliguk as well as a trip for Northern Pike at Gypsy Lake, North of Edmondton, Alberta, during the last week of June.. If you're interested, Perry's number is **425-774-0762**.

plbarth@juno.com

ROUND TABLE

Please see Page 1 for changes to place and time. The fly du jour will be the Darner Dragon Fly nymph from the Kamloops. You will want a pair of pliers and some tweezers or fine forceps.



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 Alfys 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:

General:

info@olympicflyfishers.com

TIGHTLINES:

news@olympicflyfish.com

Olympic Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 148
Edmonds, WA 98020

See you on the river! Dick S.