



TIGHTLINES



The fish Keith Stamm is playing in this Westside lake on the Tahuya Peninsula is a 25" rainbow that fell to a chironomid pattern. Keith has spent a lot of time fishing chironomids and will make a special presentation to fellow members in June.

OFF floaters remember their Alaskan adventure at April meeting.

We've heard some great stories and seen a few photos of the 2006 float trip some of our guys made down Alaska's Chilikadrotna River last year. So it was a treat to see the full story at our April meeting.

Steve Murray culled through 1,500 photos taken by Doug Pendleton, Mike Bunney and others to put together the presentation which showed
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May Calendar

May 9: General Meeting. Guest Speaker will be Randy Diefert. Randy is a Whidbey Island fly tyer who also sells tying supplies on-line. He is an excellent tyer and will demo liquid lace techniques.

MAY 23: Board meeting. All members welcome. Alf's Lynnwood, 6 p.m.

MAY 25: Corbett and Chopaka outing. Contact Steve Murray for details: 360-422-7335

JUNE 13: Guest Speaker will be OFF Member Keith Stamm who has studied and written about lake fishing techniques

JULY: No meeting.

Corbett/Chopaka both on May menu.

On May 25 a delegation of OFF members, led by Steve Murray, will arrive at Corbett Lake, 11 miles southeast of Merrit, B.C. for a couple of days of what is traditionally excellent fishing.



With lots of aquatic insect life, including an excellent spring chironomid hatch along with a good mayfly hatch, this small lake is great for fly fishers. Corbett is a consistent producer of rainbows in the 1 lb. range, with some going to 3 lbs. or larger. The example Steve is holding in the picture to the left is definitely in the "or larger" category. (Doug Pendleton Photo)

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Corbett Lake near Merrit.

Doug Pendleton Photo

Corbett/Chopaka trek still has room for more.

After fishing Corbett, some folks may head back home, but Steve plans to drop down just across the border near Oroville for a couple of more days at Chopaka, one of Washington's premier flyfishing only lakes.

The road into Chopaka is, as they say, "unimproved" but the fishing is first rate with plenty of surface action for large rainbow. It can be crowded but there's plenty of shoreline available for everyone. Float tubes, pontoon boats and prams, no motors allowed.

If your interested in this trip, talk to Steve at the meeting May 9th or call him at 360-422-7335."

"You try living in a pair of wet waders for a week."

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just how scenic, rugged and dangerous the float down the "Chili" could be.

The rain lasted for seven days, which often meant sleeping in your waders or crawling out of them and into a soggy sleeping bag.

The rain also made the river rise, which eroded tree roots along the banks and dumped dangerous sweepers into the river. The rising water also erased gravel bars, bank side grassy areas and other places with room enough for 12 men and four rafts.

"The river was changing so much from day to day it was impossible to plan," said Steve. "It definitely wasn't for the the feint of heart."

He also thought that a group of 12 was just too many people. Next time it will be six to eight.

Mike Bunney said that the trip became more and more difficult with each passing day But the



fishing was pretty good and the trip did have some memorable moments.

"On the last day, we used our satellite phone to call in for GPS coordinants and found out that we were still 30 miles from the take out," said Mike. "It was getting dark and we knew we had to get off the river fast at the next inlet we could find, even it we had to sleep in the boats."

Luckily, they found a small grassy area at the next inlet with barely enough room for 12 people to cram together in sleeping bags.

By this time they had run out of propane. So, with literally one dry match left, they gathered as much "dry" wood as they could find and nursed a small fire to life and Steve was able to cook dinner for the crew over the open fire.

"Everyone said it was the best meal of the trip," added Mike.



Don Summers, who celebrated his 80th birthday on the journey, volunteered to keep the fire going during the night for warmth and to ward off bears which were a factor throughout the float. He also had a rusty six shooter with him just in case.

To everyone's credit, Mike said "Nobody was ever in a bad mood the whole way."

A long time resident of the area, Richard Proenneke, who was able to observe the entire trip from a unique vantage point, said he'd had serious doubts about their chances.

"It was the coldest, wettest year we've had in 50 years," he said. "And at first these guys looked to me like a bunch of amateurs. But I have to hand it to them, there was some tough going along the way and they all hung in there."

Trip photos by Doug Pendleton



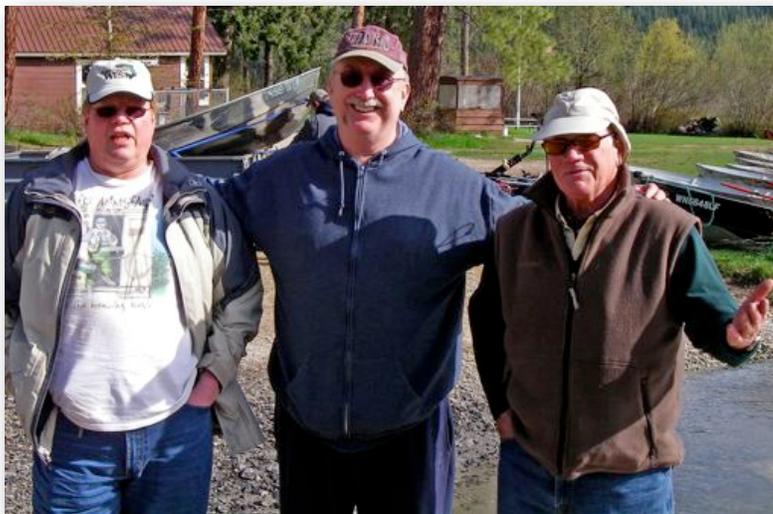


Fish Lake stocked with people for Opening Day.

The weather was great and so was the fishing pressure as Mike Bunney (*flanked here by Don Corwin and David Claude*) led an OFF group to Fish Lake April 28th.

It's rumored that fish were caught by Don Corwin, on a deeply sunk Hare's Ear, every time he got near David. That's probably because David was kind enough to give everyone else an advantage by not using his motor. (*That's David below having a private conversation with his outboard.*)

Doug Pendleton Photos



Brown was beautiful on the Beaverhead.

Your editor spent a great week in mid April fishing the Big Hole, Ruby, Madison and Beaverhead Rivers with Keith Stamm. Our best day was on the Beaverhead. We weren't counting, but guessed about 40 fish apiece.

Most were browns on size 20 and 22 BWO nymphs and copper Copper Johns. We had snow and sleet for a couple of days but no one seemed to notice.

April is a great time to fish before run off. We stayed in Dillon MT and booked accommodations with Back Country Anglers. Tom & Mary Smith are great!

...Keith Stamm Photo





The OFF Beat

“Grandpa Fish” is the nickname Walt Wojcik’s grandkids think is perfect for their grandad who loves to fish. So it’s no surprise that when Walt went looking for a new runabout, he found this beauty. “It’s the perfect size for taking my grandkids fishing,” says Walt.



SPEY CASTING CLINIC A GREAT SUCCESS.

On April 26 & 27 Red’s Fly Shop, on the Yakima, hosted a two day, “unofficial” spey casting clinic.

The clinic was led by Doug Pendleton and Doug’s long time friend Gary Thompson. Gary is a former manager of Kaufmann’s shop in downtown Seattle and now works for Red’s. Both Gary and Doug are excellent spey caster and teachers.

OFF members attending in-

cluded Joe Conner, Steve Murray, Randy Sobczak and Buzz Burgett.

Over the two days, everyone honed their spey casting skill and learned more about this unique aspect of fly fishing that combines both art and pragmatic problem solving.

Even though some people say that the double spey cast is a “chic magnet,” we are confident that thought never occurred to any of the participants.

Did we mention that Doug is soon to become a qualified guide? Some dreams do come true.



If there’s a lovelier place in the world to spey cast than this spot on Yakima? You’d have to prove it these guys. *Doug Pendleton Photo*



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 Alfy’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

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