



# TIGHTLINES



Hal Rowe and Walt Wojcik study carefully as Nathan completes a steelhead pattern. — Dick Simmons Photo

***The smartest way to take more steelhead is to apply more good “common sense” says Keen.***

For Nathan Keen, there are no "mysterious secrets" you need to know to catch steelhead. Well, granted there may be a few, but in Nathan's opinion, common sense definitely outperforms magic. And he has a lot of great pictures to prove it.

Nathan, an avid steelheader and owner of the Avid Angler, in Lake Forest Park, shared some of that common sense with Club members at our January meeting.

"Steelhead fly fishing is not all that difficult," he says. "In fact it's relatively easy as long as there are fish in the river."

His observations over the years have convinced Nathan that the flies we tie for steelhead are not the major reason we catch fish. Even colors don't **See "STEELHEAD" Page 2**

## ***Eli leaves his fly fishing legacy to OFF.***



A burial service, complete with an honor guard and 17 gun salute, was held for Eli Perlman on January 23rd at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent.

Eli's daughters, Rikke and Signe, and son, Mikkel, from the Netherlands were there as well as friends from the Danish Center, and Joe Conner and Norm Primc from Olympic Fly Fishers.

Before he died, Eli told his daughter Rikke that he wanted to leave all of his fly fishing equipment — **See "Eli" Page 4**

### **Calendar**

**February 13:** Chad Jackson, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Region 4 biologist will talk about a project the WDFW plans to implement on the forks of the Snoqualmie River.

**February 27:** The club business meeting will be at 6 p.m. at Alfy's on 196th, Lynnwood. All members are welcome.

**February Outing:** Tentative for Lone Lake.



# Of course you need a new rod. The only question is which one?

It was "Kids in the candy store" time again as fly fishermen from all over the state descended on Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue for last weekend's annual Fly Fishing Show.

OFF Clubber were well represented at the fly tying demos, clinics, and the Destination Theater where they had a chance to see, and dream, of exotic places to fish. And speaking of exotic, there was plenty of new gear to see, sit on, try on, crank, wiggle, and cast as well.

"It's always great to come over to the show," said Dan Wilson. "It really gets me thinking and making plans for spring."

It's also a fine time to see some remarkable casting and to talk one on one with many of the great fly fishermen, tyers, and casters of our time. Learning a few tricks from likes of A.K. Best, Dave Hughes, Rick Hafele, Ed Engle, Simon Gawesworth, Tim Rajeff, Mike Lawson, Phillip Rowley and Way Yin is easily worth the price of admission.



**New OFF member Paul O'Brien, along with David Claude attended the show on Sunday. Tops on their lists: Korker Wading Boots and Sharkskin lines. —Dick Simmons Photo**

## "STEELHEAD" continued

matter that much in most cases.

"Flies are the fancy of the angler," says Nathan. "They're not that important to the steelhead. What is important is finding the fish!" Recognizing good holding water is crucial to success.



"Take a look at the rocks along the shoreline," he suggests. "The rocks on the bank indicate what the structure in

the river looks like. Big rocks onshore usually mean big rocks offshore."

Steelhead will be looking for places to rest, away from the big heavy main flow in the middle of the river. That usually makes the area from the rocks along the bank out to the edge of the white water in the main current prime holding area. Look for the edges of flat water and the tailouts.

Dry flies in the summer and fall can be productive but in winter when the rivers are higher and dirt-

ier you need bigger

flies down. "Choose seasonally appropriate flies and have confidence," he adds.

Presentation and technique are critical components of success and some of the techniques are not all that easy to master. The two most common methods are the swing and the dead drifting nymph. There are a variety of ways to swing a wet fly, nymph or streamer. The objective is to keep the fly moving at a slow and natural pace. (Ed. Note: *Tactics for Trout*, Dave Hughes, is an excellent reference.)

The dead drift nymph method is a newer technique that uses big, heavily weighted flies with indicators. It also requires slowing the fly down to create tension and natural action. Cast across, mend, drift slowly.



Nathan says that our wild steelhead stock is in serious trouble and urges everyone to avoid fishing on redds and when hooked up "let the fish go crazy and when it slows down use sideways pressure to bring it in and release quickly."



# Mike Truax gives conservation Hi priority.

Our new Conservation Chairman, Mike Truax, is wasting no time in finding interesting ways for OFF members to get more involved in worthy projects.

At the recent business meeting he suggested that the club might be interested in supporting a group called the Hi-Lakers in their efforts to convince the National Park Service to continue stocking certain alpine lakes.

This is one of a handful of groups in Washington State that annually stocks certain high mountain lakes that can support fish habitat. Of the 4,700 high lakes in Washington, only 1,777 (38%) presently have fish in them. The WDFW stocks some mountain lakes directly by aircraft, and a few by truck, but by far the majority are stocked by volunteer groups, under the guidance of the WDFW.

The Board voted to send letters to our congressional representatives endorsing the recommendations of the Hi-Lakers.

The Club will also be donating \$500 to the Western Rivers Conservancy, We're also exploring ways



**Panorama Lake, Elevation 5,262'**

we might support local efforts to improve the water quality in Lake Ballinger. And Mike will be contacting a local property owner on Cochran Lake, Northeast of Monroe, to see if a private access can be negotiated for club members and at what cost.

## What should we do with the extra cash?

At the last general meeting Don Summers made a motion that generated some lively discussion among the membership. He moved that any funds in the club's bank account over \$18,000 should be returned to club members by upgrading or expanding the raffle prizes.

While many members weren't opposed to returning value to the membership, there were disagreements on how best to do it. Was there a more equitable approach than simply buying more expensive raffle prizes?

Don agreed to table his motion and the club officers agreed to discuss the issue at length during the next business meeting.

Several suggestions were made at the business meeting. Yes, money could be directed back into the monthly raffle fund. But it could also be used to expand the club's conservation objective.

Or it could be spent to help support the Trout Bill. Or, since we have *See "EXTRA CASH" Pg, 4*



**Don Summers**

## Slots still open for Spey Clinic March 1st & 2nd on the Yakima.

First of all, Spey casting is fun. And secondly, if you're up against the bank and can't make a back cast without snagging a tree, good news! You don't have to. Doug Pendleton will be conducting a two day Spey Clinic at Red's. All meals, lodging and equipment will be provided. Cost: \$649 + Tax. It's worth it! Call Doug for info: Cell: 206-605-6286.





# The OFF Beat

## *“ELI” continued*

and books to the club, but he forgot to give her a name of someone to contact.

"She went through all of Eli's papers and finally came across my name," said Norm. "So I received a call and she asked me if I was in a fly fishing club and we kind of went from there." That's also how Norm and Joe learned about the service.

Eli had a lot of excellent tying materials, vices, rods, books and more. Norm is currently sorting it all out and at some point a decision will be made on how to deal with it.

## *(Editor's Note)*

Besides one first rate fly tyer, other notable people interred at Tahoma include two Medal of Honor recipients: 2nd Lieutenant Jesse T. Barrick (Civil War), 57th Regiment of the U.S. Colored Infantry, and Private First Class Dexter J. Kerstetter (World War II), Company C, 130th Infantry, 33rd Infantry Division.

Sergeant First Class Nathan Ross Chapman, the first American serviceman to die from hostile fire in the war in Afghanistan in 2002, is also interred at Tahoma. Sergeant Chapman was a communications specialist with the 1st Special Forces Group at Fort Lewis.

## *“EXTRA CASH” continued*

a tradition of making the annual picnic free of charge to members, perhaps we could apply some of the extra cash in our account to reducing the cost to members for dinner at the annual auction banquet, These along with other suggestions will be entertained and possibly voted on at the general meeting February 13th.

## **Other Business Meeting notes:**

A budget of \$500 was approved for the purchase of items that would be of more interest to women bidders at our Annual Auction. Items other than fly fishing gear. Therefore, our November outing destination has been changed to Victoria's Secrets.

The officers reaffirmed the Club's policy of not refunding dinner payments for the Annual

Banquet to members who are unable to attend.

The issue of dissatisfaction with the Club's clothing vendor was discussed. The board agreed the clothing is too expensive, particularly in view of its unremarkable quality. The board agreed that a different vendor should be found in the near future.



## **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 Business 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:**

Mike Bunney, President, 425-672-3345

Dick Hedges, Vice President, 425-337-9070

Jim Gauntt, Treasurer, 425-776-1017

Keith Stamm, Secretary, 206-368-5596

Dick Simmons, Communications. & TIGHTLINES Ed. 425-778-9804

Phil Sacks, Gillie 425-741-7311

Joe Conner, Trustee, 425-744-8085

## **Chairs:**

Outings, Dan Reynolds, 425-673-7028

Education, Eric Sauer, 425-776-3811, Doug Pendleton 206-282-5366

Conservation, Mike Truax, 425-672-6963

## **E- mail Contacts:**

General:

[info@olympicflyfishers.com](mailto:info@olympicflyfishers.com)

TIGHTLINES:

[news@olympicflyfish.com](mailto:news@olympicflyfish.com)

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

## **NEW MEMBERS**



**Dick Buss**



**Capt. Larry Roxby**