

# TIGHTLINES



**ROY DUNBAR CASTS** into a cold wind at Richmond Beach on a rainy, blustery morning. The big surprise of the day was that five guys actually showed up for this outing. But not for long.

*Photo by Dick Simmons.*

***Year's first outing to the salt is excellent "character builder."***

A soft, soaking rain was already working its slow way through my "rain proof" Gore-tex jacket. The skies above Admiralty Inlet reached down and dark for as far as the eye could see. Not the most promising morning for salt water angling.

On the positive side, the wind had died down, or so it seemed, and despite the weather, at least five of us had shown up to learn the secrets of fishing Richmond Beach from a man who knows them well, Roy Dunbar.

Roy is a wooden boat builder and restorer by profession. Dunbar Marine, on the Ship Canal, is an icon among wooden boatworks in Seattle. He began his career in 1957 and apprenticed at eight boat building shops before he opened his own in 1969.

"In those days you were only allowed to apprentice for one year at any one place," he says. Needless to say, after those eight years, Roy had learned the right stuff. Only one or two of about 20 wooden boatworks in 1957 exist today.

At 70, Roy still runs his shop. He also crews on big racing sailboats and races his own boat. The racing season starts this month so you probably won't see him at a club meeting until August. When he's not working on boats or racing them he's often fishing Puget Sound beaches. And often with excellent results.

**See "SALT" PAGE 2**

**FOR A WARMER STORY... —SEE PAGE 3.**

**Sam's "the man" on B.C. lakes.**



**Mike Bunney at Lake Lenice.**  
—Photo by Steve Murray



**Sam Sapruff**

Besides being a heckuva nice guy, Sam Sapruff knows a heckuva lot about fishing Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland.

And the good thing is, he's happy to share what he knows. (*Well, maybe not everything.*)

Sam was the Club's guest speaker for March and also provided members with detailed notes about the areas he discussed. For a copy, e-mail: [dick.simmons@comcast.net](mailto:dick.simmons@comcast.net)

## April Calendar

**4/8: General Meeting.** WDFW Biologists Bob Jateff & Jeff Korth discuss 2009 Eastside opportunities and best picks. *Wet fly hour at 6 p.m.*

**4/22: Business Meeting.** At Alf's on 196th in Lynnwood.

**4/10: Outing.** Lone Lake, hosts: Steve Murray, Mike Bunney & Norm Primc.

**4/21: Outing.** Pass Lake, hosts: Dan Wilson & Dick Simmons.

## "SALT" from Page 1

"I can't imagine why any one would be so crazy to come out on a day like this," Roy commented, as Don Corwin, Bruce Johnson, Roy, and I strung up our rods. Larry Kiriluk had also joined the party but was here on "observer status."

"I never fished the salt from the beach," Larry said. "I'm just here to watch you guys and see how it's done."

Definitely focus on Roy. Definitely ignore me, I thought.

On our way down to the foot bridge over the railroad tracks, Don came chugging past and noticed the thermos in my coat pocket.

"Hey you brought coffee!" he grinned. "Hope you have enough to share."

I grinned, too. I was trying to imagine the look on Don's face when I would pass him the thermos later this morning and he took a nice big swig of my Jack Daniels "coffeeless" coffee.

In his hip boots, which were rolled down to his knees, Don looked just like a big swashbuckling pirate right out of central casting. All he needed to look the part was a dagger clenched in his teeth and an eye patch. Maybe it was time to take down his architect's shingle and head for the Gulf of Aden.

Unfortunately, as we crossed the bridge, our hopes for a windless day blasted us in the face. Wind and rain, fresh off the Olympics with a good run across open water, stirred up a cold and nasty cocktail. "Not real promising," Roy noted.

When we reached the beach the tide was well out, uncovering a broad swath of rocks, mostly soccer ball size. Classic cutthroat territory and, we hoped, blackmouth. Roy pointed out the best places and we split up. Bruce and I headed directly for one of the covered cooking shelters to finish rigging up. At one



**Bruce Johnson**

of the picnic tables we sorted through our flies and picked out the bait-fish patterns that looked right — dark cream bodies, light olive backs. Bruce showed me the new four piece rod he'd just built on a Rainshadow RX-8 Extra fast blank. He'd loaded it with the pale blue six weight line he'd had won at one of the club raffles.

"Hey, I had the line so I decided to build

the rod to match it," Bruce said. As an occasional rod builder myself, this made perfectly good sense.

"I think it's going to be a winner," Bruce added. "I got the components and did the finishing work at 'All About the Fly' out in Monroe... I did the wrapping at home."

Bruce had done the wraps with blue thread and gold trim to match the line. That's what rod building's all about — custom. Bruce had also made a stripping basket out of a plastic tub his dad had acquired during a recent stay at Stevens Hospital.

That seemed like a pretty special way to remember a father.

So we headed down to the water.

Roy was making excellent casts into the wind,

stripping and mending. Don was doing well against the wind, too. I waded in and began practicing aikido with my spey rod. Despite rampant operator error, it did a much better job in the wind than I expected.

After 45 minutes of fishless flailing I went back up the beach to talk to Larry. He's a patient and observant man. I knew from previous conversations that he grew up in a family with roots in the practice of medicine. That nurturing led him into a career helping amputees get properly fitted with prosthetics and restarted with their lives. Even though he's retired he still gets cards and letters from the patients he's helped over the years.

In those earlier conversations we also talked

about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the VA's sad performance, and the future in store for so many young men and women who lost parts of their bodies that can never be fully restored despite the best efforts of people like Larry.

But on this Saturday morning at Richmond Beach we didn't talk about wars. Instead we watched three other guys down in the surf hoping for a battle of a different kind.

"This beach fishing is a lot like a river," Larry said. "Cast, mend, strip, watch your line, anticipate a strike, retrieve, cast again."

True. However, after another half hour or so, on this particular morning, there were still no strikes. So around eleven o'clock we called it a day, reeled in, packed up and went home. But you know, all things considered, it was still a damn fine day of fishing.

— Pictures & report by Dick Simmons



**Don Corwin**



**Larry Kiriluk**

# The Fly Fishing Life



**“THIS BOW’S FOR YOU!”** OFF’s recent outing to Lake Lenice was a great success, as Steve Murray demonstrates. (Also see Mike Bunney Page 1.) The weather cooperated, Capt. Larry set up his tent lodge to host the event, and members who showed up included Steve and Mike, Don Corwin, Mike Truax and David Claude. (If your name isn’t here, sorry, please let us know.)

— Photo by Mike Bunney



## Keith Stamm tests new landing techniques.

Keith Stamm is a serious fisherman. On the water nearly 100 days a year, he’s always developing new techniques to improve his success. Keith sent along these photos from Beda Lake, near Ephrata. "Note the power stance in the pram," says Keith. "This was necessary to prevent being pulled overboard by these very strong triploids."



A week later at Lone Lake Keith developed another new fish landing technique that he simply calls "The DIH." Apparently it's a multi-tasking approach that involves two different rods. No photos are available from the Lone Lake trip but you may want to ask Keith about it.

## Conservation projects move ahead well on all fronts.

At the March business meeting Conservation Chairman Mike Truax reported that the aerator for El Lake is funded and will be installed soon. OFF has contributed \$500 to the project that will be monitored by Spring Creek Prams.

After seven years of negotiation with three successive corporate landowners of the same property, Western Rivers Conservancy reports final purchase of property along the Hoh. This means that one of the finest remaining salmon and steelhead rivers in the world will be preserved for its entire mainstem from the Olympic National Park to the Pacific Ocean. OFF is a contributor to WRC.



**Duane Uusitalo replaces a drain filter cover on one of the fish rearing tanks at Lund’s Gulch Creek fish hatchery. Right now the hatchery is preparing 1,000 Coho and 12,000 chum salmon for release into the creek later this year. Inset photo shows fingerling coho about an inch and a half long. They will grow to three inches by the time they’re released.**

—Photos by Dick Simmons

## Club picnic to be in Mount Vernon.

Steve and Rebecca Murray have graciously offered to host our yearly Club picnic at their home in Mount Vernon. It will be held on Saturday, August 8th. Spouses are invited and encouraged to join in the fun. Directions and details to come.

# The OFF Beat



## Long time "member" up for sale

When former club member Rudy Langer passed away, Steve Murray bought this Hi-Laker Boat from Rudy's estate. It has a 13' fiberglass body with seating for three. "It's a great boat for fishing lakes," says Steve. "It's been a part of the club and outings for at least 20 years." The sale includes an Evinrude 9.9 HP gas motor and Minkota Electric motor, gas can, oars, and boat cover. Trailer is like new. Asking price: \$3000. Call Steve at 360-422-7335.

### CLASSIFIED

14ft, 8wt Scott LS2 Spey Rod. Medium-action, perfect condition: \$300. \$595 New. Dave Markle: 206-498-3440.

## Ted Leeson on fishing partners:

*"In searching for trout streams, I was also seeking out fishing companions, though it mattered little to me how well they fished or how quickly they learned or, odd as it may sound, whether they were interested in fishing at all. Without really being aware of it I was looking to see if they felt some chemistry, a rapport with place that is still the first and best quality in a fishing partner and also the reason that it is not necessary that a good fishing companion actually fishes."* From "Jerusalem Creek"

See you on the river...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 Business meeting is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Alf's 4820 196th SW, Lynnwood, WA. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

### Officers:

Mike Bunney, President, 425-672-3345

Rolf Mogster, Vice President, 206-546-2677

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, Norm Primc, 425-481-1653

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

Conservation, Mike Truax, 425-672-6963

### E-mail Contacts:

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## A better man for it

If Club President Mike Bunney looks different these days it's because he is. 75 lbs different. Congratulations Mike!

## NEW MEMBERS

## Welcome Gary Gales

Gary took the fly tying class and decided to join the club. Say "Hello" to our new guy!



## Auction team seeks volunteers.

Terry Zeitner is shipping his 110th custom made bamboo rod to an eager customer, he's building an 11' switch rod for Doug Pendleton plus he has a full time job. But, as they say, "If you want to get a job done right, give it to a busy man."

Terry has volunteered to head up the Auction Committee this year but needs the help of more volunteers like you. Stalwarts Phil Sacks and Bruce Johnson have already thrown their hats in the ring and we still need more members to help spread the work.



Terry would like anyone who is willing to pitch in to help the club with it's only fund raising activity of the year to contact him and get together for a meeting. "Morning is best for me-breakfast?" says Terry. "We can work out time, place and date. Or if that's not convenient, we are having an information meeting for

all those who are interested. It will be at 5:30 just before the general club meeting on April 8th."

Please give the club and Terry your support. Call him at 425-640- 2994 or e-mail [tmzeitner2@msn.com](mailto:tmzeitner2@msn.com)