

TIGHTLINES



Hafele offers good advice for tricking trout in lakes.

Biologist and fly fisherman extraordinaire Rick Hafele joined our meeting last month to talk about some practical entomology applications for lake fly fishers.

Rick and his sometimes sidekick and co-author Dave Hughes have probably forgotten more about fishing western lakes and streams than most of us have learned. Fortunately for us they've compiled a great deal of their knowledge into more than 20 books.

Both are experts on all aspects of flyfishing but, simply put, Rick excels at identifying what the fish are eating and Dave excels at explaining the most effective ways to deliver the goods.

When he approaches a lake, Rick devotes plenty of time to observing.

"I look for edges," he says. "Edges of habitat, plants to water, deep to shallow, sand to rock, darker to lighter."

He also knows what to expect for bugs. For example, there's only one mayfly in lakes, the callibaetis.

"They start hatching in Spring after ice off and get smaller as the season progresses," he says. "The nymphs are

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SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE "FUN!" For instance: Nick Wisser, Bill McDonald (*standing*), Dave Markle, Norm Primc, Ken Martin, Mike Truax, Hugh James and Barry Hutton. But hey, if the "Great Storm of the Century" wasn't enough to put a damper on this year's Chico outing, guess what? Everyone got skunked, too!As they say: "You should have been here yesterday." *Photo by Mike Bunney*

Mike Truax to meet with WDFW on lake proposal.

The Club's efforts to have a local lake designated fly fishing only during the non regular season may get the "sniff test" soon.

Conservation Chairman Mike Truax reports that he plans to meet with Region 4 officials to discuss the possibility of creating a "split season" on a local lake close to area fly clubs like OFF, Evergreen, Overlake, North Sound and others.

The season would run from "approximately" November 1st to the third week in April.

"This is not a wild, new idea," says Mike. "It's being done already on Anderson Lake on the Peninsula
See "SPLIT SEASON" Page 4

"SOLD!"



When Auctioneer Don Bayes opens the bidding at the Club's annual Banquet and Auction you
See "AUCTION" Page 4

December Calendar

12/9, Annual Banquet & Club Auction: Join fellow club members, spouses, friends and significant others at our annual gala dinner and auction. The foods great, the bar generous and the auctions awesome. Call Jim Gauntt: 425-776-1017 (jimgauntt@msn.com)
12/23, Business Meeting: 6 p.m. At Alfys on 196th. All are welcome!

“Mojo” moments on the Bone Flats.

The Sorcerer and His Apprentice.

—By Keith Stamm

A good guide is indispensable to the novice bonefisherman. Because a good guide understands the close relationship between fish and tide changes and can position you in the right place at the right time. But most of all he sees fish that the novice doesn't.

He's the sorcerer conjuring up bonefish from twelve inches of “skinny water” and you are his apprentice trying to see what he sees. That's how it was for me and my fishing partner Pat “Buzz” Burdick on the Christmas Island bonefish flats last month.

We were on a two-week fishing journey to this remote island 1300 miles south of Honolulu. Our guide Peter, head guide for a bonefishing resort known as Shark Place, definitely had the “mojo” for finding bonefish.

If you think I'm stretching a point, consider this. If Peter says “Bonefish, 11 o'clock, 25 feet” you can't see a fish there and you have no idea how he knows the fish is there. But you cast to the spot, and if you strike correctly, in a heartbeat your reel will be screaming.

After a few ten hour days of fishing, Buzz and I were beginning to get the idea. Peter doesn't always see the bonefish. He sees the subtle evidence of its presence. The slight deflection of water flowing around its body as it swims toward you. Light reflecting off the fish differently than off the bottom. And when the sun's out the fish's shadow on the bottom.

On our last day on the flats I started out alone to test my own “mojo” and caught several bonefish. I could say I “spotted” them, but in most cases I can't tell you how I even knew a bonefish was there. The proof was in the catching: casting to shadows and deflections and hooking fish.

The magical perception of the guides was beginning to rub off on me I was becoming a part-time sorcerer.

After my productive



Keith Stamm with Guide Peter and Bonefish Bill on Christmas Island.
—Photos by Pat Burdick

“wadeabout” on the flat that morning, Peter announced, “We're going to my favorite flat for big fish.”

We arrived at his spot and waded onto the flat in thigh-deep water with a strong Trade Wind blowing, both of which made spotting fish more difficult. But almost immediately we spotted a trio of large “bones.” I cast but the wind kept me from getting the fly to them in time.

Then we saw a single large bone coming toward us 60 feet away, his size and presence betrayed by the water he displaced.

“50 foot cast twelve o'clock!” I cast.

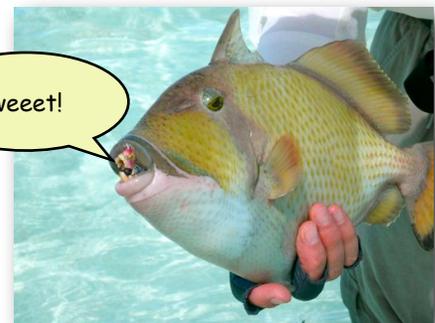
“Wait, long strip, wait, long strip!” I stripped. He grabbed.

The big bone made three runs into the backing. On the first, he got way off the flat into deep water and I worried he would cut off on the coral.

“He'll be okay,” Peter assured me.

Finally, he tired and I brought him close on a short line. A touchy moment. A sudden lunge could snap the leader. I eased off on the drag and gave him slack every time he bolted. Finally, Peter

grabbed the leader and scooped him up in one deft move. A 28-inch, 9-pound bonefish. Perfect! The sorcerer and his apprentice **at work.**



OFF donates \$2,500 to Western Rivers.

The Club is a strong supporter of the Conservancy and was the first club in the state to donate to its work.

“It's one of a few organizations that's actually doing something to preserve habitat,” says Mike Truax, OFF Conservation Chairman

The donation puts OFF at the “Steelhead” Level of WRC contributors, the highest level below major grants. Recently, two other clubs have donated, Overlake and Southern Oregon Fly Fishers.

The Fly Fishing Life



BARRY & MIKE EARN THEIR "WINGS." Or should we say their "propellers." Along the way to the Blue Lake outing Barry Hutton found a neat fly with a little propeller on it in a fly shop. "Right next to the regular flies." Barry and Mike Bunney both tried it and it worked pretty good. But Barry wondered if it was legal and after a "long" discussion with a game warden found out it was not (on FFO lakes). OOPS! Barry and Mike received the Club's "I'm not a crook" Propeller Head Award at our last meeting.
Photo by Dick Simmons



Dan Reynolds (left) with guide Dean Finnerty admire a bright 20+ pound Chinook salmon from Southern Oregon's Elk River. Congratulations to Dan who has now caught all five species of Pacific Coast salmon on a fly rod. *To find out more about the Elk and Sixes Rivers see Page 4.*
— Photo by John Hjort



Damn!
 Why didn't these guys tell me about the hat "Dress Code" before we came to Alaska?

Above: Gene Anthony snapped this scene on a recent trip to Sitka Alaska. More great shots from that trip will appear in upcoming issues. *Right:* Mike Bunney cradles a bright Methow Steelhead. One of 12 he brought to hand after hooking up 15 times. (Yes, that's not a typo. 15!) *Below Right:* Guide Jeff Brazda tails a nice Methow Steelie caught by Jim Traner.



Dave Markle works a hefty Alaskan salmon with his two handed rod.
— Photo by Gene Anthony



The OFF Beat

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Say hello to Tom Strother, of Edmonds. He's never fly fished and is anxious to "get started."

AUCTION

will have an opportunity to bid on some truly great items including the Dean Crouser limited edition print shown below of an afternoon fishing on the Deschutes.

The place to begin your evening is with the Auction Guide listing the items in both live and silent auctions.



The silent auctions are a good place to find flies tied by some of the Clubs excellent tyers. You'll also find jewelry, clothing, books, artwork, blanks fly fishing equipment and gifts.

Our dinner this year will once again feature your choice of prime rib or salmon catered by Celebrations. As we did last year, the Club will be subsidizing the meal cost which makes the dinner a great bargain at only \$25 a person.

This year's Auction Chairman Terry Zeitner has worked hard and diligently to make this a wonderful evening for all.

If you haven't signed up yet please check the Calender Box on the front page and give Jim Gauntt a call.

HAFELE

fast swimmers, generally hang around shallow aquatic vegetation and hatch between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Rick suggests a Speckle-wing quill, Hare's Ear or Flashback Pheasant Tail in sizes 12, 14 and 16.

His best technique for fishing callibaetis nymphs is on a floating line with a 15 foot fast sinking leader Dragon and Damsel Flies were also on the agenda as well as Caddis and Chironomids.

Rick explained the difference between sprawler and climber Dragon Fly nymphs and discussed tactics for fishing each.

ELK RIVER CHINOOK

Dan Reynolds and fishing pal John Hjort (*who will soon be joining OFF*) traveled south to the Oregon coast to fish a late run of Chinook salmon in the Elk and Sixes Rivers.

"These are beautiful small rivers," says Dan. "The Chinook run starts in late October and lasts till early January. Fish to 44 pounds have been caught this year but the average will be around 20 pounds. Nice on a 7 or 8 weight fly rod. The river can also be fished from a drift boat but put-ins and take-outs are limited."

According to Dan, catching these fish requires three things. Finding where the fish are, getting and keeping the fly close to the bottom and making a lot of casts. "On our first day we started fishing at 7 a.m. and walked off the river in the dark after 5:30 p.m. I caught both of my fish in the last hour of daylight."

SPLIT SEASON

and possibly other lakes.

The lakes Mike has researched are Martha Lake, Lake Ballinger and Lake Serene. All have easy access.

He also suggests that clubs would probably need to do some stocking in the lakes and contribute to signage that would explain the split season to anglers who are used to fishing the lakes with gear.

Damsel Fly nymphs require two to three years to mature. He suggested Brian Chan's Micro Damsel size 16 for Fall Lake fishing and sizing up to a size 10 for Spring Fishing.

Rick had a lot of great information, (*far more than we can include here.*) You might want to delve into his books or go on line to search key words.

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.

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Rolf Mogster, Vice President,
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