

TIGHTLINES



NOW THAT'S ONE BIG SILVER! Dan Reynolds, his son Paul and a couple of other friends fished the Eyak River and some smaller streams in the Cordova, Alaska area last month. They were fishing for Copper River Silvers which Dan says are "...the biggest and hardest fighting silvers I have ever caught!" He added that the fishing was not easy most days. But there were three methods that worked on these waters. You can find out what they were on Page 3. — Paul Reynolds Photo

Auction team closes in on finish line but still needs a few more donations.



Waterworks Hard Alox Velocity 2. Will you be the "lucky looser"?

Auction Chairman Terry Zeitner reports that most of the items for OFF's December 9th Auction will be in soon. But he still needs member donations including fly rods, fly lines, leaders, fly tying tools and materials, books, fly assortments tied by club members, outings sponsored by club members, donations from area fly shops, trips to the Olympic Peninsula, Puget Sound, WA, OR, or BC etc. donated or specially priced from local area guide services, and other items donated from local merchants or club members, and items for the ladies.

Please help where you can to support your club.

Is one of our State's best streams one of its most often ignored?

It's Fall. It's the Snoqualmie River. Life is good. And at our last general meeting, Emerald Water's



Dave McCoy told us, and showed us, just how good this River can be at this time of year.

The River offers its share of Steelhead, Salmon and Cutthroat in addition to hatchery Rainbow plus resident to 18 and 20 inches. Not quite as many as other destination streams but for McCoy there's something special about this part of the world.

So just why does Dave McCoy keep coming back to the Snoqualmie?

See "SNOQUALMIE" Page 2

October Calendar

10/14, General Meeting: John Easterbrook, WDFW Yakima area chief, will speak on streams and high lakes.

10/15- 19, Outing: To Okanogan Lakes including Chopaka, Blue and others TBD. Contact Mike Truax for details 425-672-6963.

10/28, Business Meeting: at Alfy's.

11/9, Outing: Chico Creek for Chums. Sign up at our 10/14 meeting. Hosted by Norm Primc 425-481-1653 and Ken Martin 425-747-2607.

“I don’t know any place just an hour away from a major city that offers so much.”

— Dave McCoy

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“The scenery along the Snoqualmie and its forks is beautiful,” says Dave, “It’s amazing how many fishermen drive through here on their way to Eastern Washington and miss it completely. I don’t know any place just an hour away from a major city that offers so much.”

There are other reasons, too.

“Most of the fishermen are fly fishermen so the fish are better taken care of and there’s more oversight by other fishermen,” McCoy notes. He also says the structure is some of his favorite in Washington State.

In Fall, as the water cools down and flows drop to around 500 CFS, McCoy likes to wade “because the fish are easier to get to” and he goes lighter “just to see what happens.”

He recommends a 0 to 3 weight rod with a dry fly as an indicator and a Pheasant Tail or Copper John trailing. “But fish the fly you’re confident with,” he adds.

To make his point, Dave said that one year he fished from Southeast Alaska to California and Montana with only one fly, a black Egg Sucking Leech. “It worked everywhere.” He’s also fished a Silver Hilton Intruder from Summer to Winter another time with similar results.

Clearly, presentation counts. Dave likes to cast up and across and let the fly drift all the way down. “They’ll pick it up on the swing, so give it plenty of time,” he says. “And wiggle it on the retrieve. You’ll be surprised!”

Unlike the Yakima, the Snoqualmie doesn’t have regulated flows. So rocks that cover and protect food sources get washed out on a regular basis. That’s what makes Snoqualmie fish opportunistic and more likely to strike.



A “River Runs Through It” moment on the Snoqualmie.

He likes steelheading the main stem stretch from Fall City up to Snoqualmie Falls. Fall caddis patterns, stone flies size 8 – 10 and lightning bugs for BWO hatches are all effective this time of year.

“That section has become a favorite for spey casters,” he says. “I think spey casting makes every fly fisherman a better all around caster. All three fork of the Snoqualmie are open year-round and Dave spends a lot of time on the Middle and South Forks.

He’s especially fond of the South Fork because it’s virtually untouched, especially in the lower reaches.

His other favorite streams in the area are the Pratt and the Taylor Rivers. He thinks the Taylor is a great fishery because it’s fished so lightly.

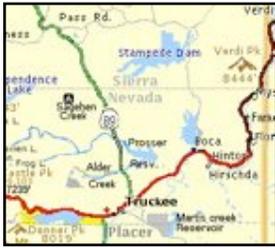
“It’s a nice stream to slow down on and fish carefully. Swing a Lafontaine style pupa.”

He suggests, if you go alone, he recommends you tell someone you know who knows the river well. And watch out for cats and bears. **DS**



Snoqualmie Falls & the Middle Fork

The Fly Fishing Life



The Little Truckee is located off Hwy 80 near Truckee, CA between Stampede and Boca reservoirs.



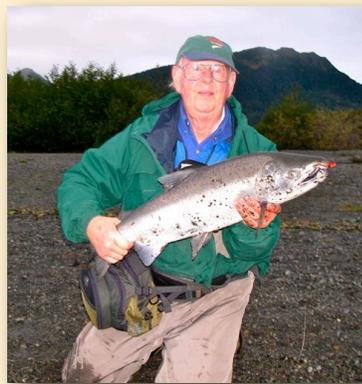
Cordova, AK is a small city located near the mouth of the Copper River at the head of Orca Inlet on the east side of Prince William Sound. Pop. 2327.

Keith Stamm recently fished the Little Truckee in Northeastern California and says he was especially proud of this brown he calls a "20-20" (20 inch trout on a size 20 fly.) "The fish were sipping small BWO emergers. I was able to figure it out, make the presentation, and keep the fish out of that nasty log jam just upstream from me. I took five fish that day, all 18-20 inches, four from the same pool."



Dan's tactics for big silvers on the Eyak near Cordova.

One: *Swinging flies.* "But here the catch. You cast a very heavily weighted fly and get it on or close to the bottom. The flies had two metal beads and sometimes we added a couple of spit shot. Casts needed to be 40 to 60 feet. Needless to say I was not that good. You also had to use a floating line with a 10 ft leader. The end of the leader was your strike indicator. If the line stopped, or moved up stream, you set the hook.



Two: *High sticking.* "We used a weighted fly right next to the cut banks which were usually very brushy with a lot of logs and snags. No place to land a fish. Getting a 10 or 15 pound silver on the bank was a two man effort."

Three: *The best.* "We fished the braids of the main river casting only 30 to 50 feet to the cut banks. The water ran slower here and we used unweighted flies and retrieved them just a couple of inches under the surface. This I could do and what fun!"

"Cordova doesn't have any big lodges or guide services," Dan says. "We were lucky because one of the guys had a friend in the area so we knew where to fish. It rained every day. Bring bug juice, they're thick. The only bear I saw was in town but we did see many of tracks along the river."

The OFF Beat

Please say hello to our newest OFF member



Dan McCain joined OFF at our September meeting. He taught himself to fly fish and owns a nursery specializing in NW native plants.

Pristine 2004 Dodge Dakota with only 12,225 Miles



The husband of our Edmonds neighbor Mary Schulz passed away last year and she's selling his truck. Rube kept it in immaculate condition and rarely drove it. The truck has a V-8 engine, four wheel drive, automatic transmission, air conditioning, CD player, alloy wheels, bed cap and a towing package. She's asking blue book (around \$13,000). This is a nice truck. Her number is 425-774-9155. **DS**

There's still time to make the Okanogan Lakes trip 10/15.



Does this drift boat come fitted with a parasol by any chance?
— Capt. Larry Photo

Many club members consider the 2008 trip to the Okanogan as the best ever. The fishing was great, the weather was great, the wildlife abundant and the fellowship superb.

This year's trip has the same potential. Officially, it runs from October 16th to the 19th. Mike Truax suggests that the group staying in Conconully advance their travel plans by a day to the 15th which is mostly a travel day.

"I plan to begin fishing at Chopaka on the 16th followed by a trip to Blue Lake on the 17th," says Mike. "I expect Capt. Larry will be in his camper at Chopaka beginning about the 15th."

Other lakes on the agenda could include Green, Sidley and Aeneas so you may want to consider adding a day at the end.

Last year's successful flies included green or olive Wolley Buggers, Nyerges Nymphs, black mini leeches, black leeches and Carey Specials.

The fish are big and hit aggressively in late Fall so plan to use 3 or 4X leaders. Rod choices are generally 5 and 6 weight, with the exception of David Claude, and most guys troll deep.

Small boats, prams, pontoon boats and float tubes are the preferred mode of transportation, Capt. Larry excepted, of course, and no motors allowed.

You'll need to bring some

rain gear and warm clothing (this is Eastern Washington after all).

Accommodations: Camping spots available at Chopaka and Blue Lakes; Trailer camping at Spectacle Lake and Conconully State Park; Sun Cove Resort at Wannacut: 509-476-2223; Other motels available in Tonasket & Oroville.

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,
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