

# TIGHTLINES



**THE VIEW FROM CHOPAKA LAKE.** Capt. Larry Roxby sent along this fine photo of Big Horn sheep that he took on a recent trip to Chopaka. What a great scene this is compared to the scene that was evolving on the banks of the Skokomish River about the same time. In a front page story, the *Seattle Times* reported on “sport anglers” fouling the banks of the River “...with human waste and garbage...” to such an extent the State declared an emergency pollution closure of shellfish beds that cost commercial operators thousands. No OFF members were there but we all get tarred with the same brush. Perhaps we need to remind people that real “sport anglers” respect the environment, pack out their garbage and practice catch and release. Unlike the combat fishing crowd of meat hunters (“meatheads”) on the Skokomish. Perry Barth had a wise comment on the subject: “Fish and Wildlife should have shut down the fishing, not the shellfish harvesting.”

## “One fine day” for Max and friends.



**Max keeps his cool in Steve's pond.**

You might call it a “Goldilocks” day, not too hot, not too cold — just right. Nearly 50 OFF members, spouses and guest headed North to the outskirts of Mount Vernon to attend this year's annual picnic, graciously hosted by Steve and Rebecca Murray.

They were well rewarded for the effort as Steve and Rebecca prepared an excellent spread of grilled beef, chicken and a tasty range of side dishes with a variety of pies for dessert and, of course, *See PICNIC on Page 3*

## *December Auction shaping up to be one of our best.*

**Flies and member hosted trips still needed to the fill the bill.**

The Olympic Fly Fishers annual auction on December 9th promises to be one of a kind.

Over the years, Chairman Terry Zeitner's involvement in custom bamboo rod building and the various crafts that go along with it has introduced him to a wide range of artists and craftspeople across the country. Recently he's drawn upon some of those friendships to help make this year's auction truly unique.

“I've been able to call gallery owners and friends that are well respected in their fields and tell them what we're doing as a non-profit, conservation oriented club and they've been more than happy to help us by providing some remarkable pieces of art for our auction,” says Terry.

Terry has also included some art  
*See “Auction” Page 2*

### **August Calendar**

**9/9: General Meeting, guest speaker** Dave McCoy, Emerald Water Anglers will discuss strategies for fishing the Snoqualmie.

**Outings.** Have all the Pinks come through? Is it time to hit the rivers? These weighty subjects will be discussed and outing determined at our Wednesday meeting.

**9/24: Business Meeting:** at Alf's.

# Families, friends, food & dogs: A great picnic for all.

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an outstanding selection of libations.

Steve's pond is now a reality but he hasn't stocked it yet. It's primary occupant this past summer has been the Murray's dog Max.

"On a hot day he'll sit in there for hours," Steve said.



**Picnic hosts Steve and Rebecca Murray**



**A pleasant afternoon around the fire pit**

"Once in a while he might come out for food."

It was good to see Jack Byrd up and about at the picnic. He's getting around well with a walker, "and some

times without." he noted with a big smile.

One of the day's highlights was the raffle. Everyone was pleased to see that the top prize, a Powell six weight rod,

was won by Ken Martin who has been needing a new rod for a long, long time.

All in all, a beautiful day and good conversation with good friends. Who needs more?

## "Auction"

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pieces of his own, including framed, mounted and matted fly plates of trout, salmon and steelhead flies, and burl'd Myrtle fly boxes with scrim-shaw of Rainbow and Kamloops trout and mayflies.

Terry has also donated two bamboo rod blanks to the auction.

"But we still need donations from members," says Terry. "The most popular items in the silent auctions over the past few years have been the boxes of flies tied by members."

He also hopes more members will volunteer to donate hosted trips to some

**"Until We Meet Again," a bronze sculpture for the live auction depicts an angler releasing a fish he has just caught.**



of their favorite waters and provide pointers on how to fish them effectively

As we mentioned in last month's Tightlines, Terry is also racing to finish the auction plans early because he needs a liver transplant sometime in the near future.

He has a donor, his sister, and at just about any time between now and the auction he could get a call from his physician that his condition has reached the point where he needs the surgery "now." He hopes that call comes after the auction.

Meanwhile, he's as busy as ever: he works full time, he builds bamboo rods, he ties flies for his fly plates, and volunteers on many other projects he loves that have nothing to do with fishing. Let's hope he's with us December 9th.



**A sculpture of a leaping brown trout will also be featured in the live auction.**

# *The Fly Fishing Picnic Life*



Mike and Mary Bunney with Sophie



Ray Gould, Jim Gauntt and Bill Scott



Bud Camandona and Perry Barth



Dave Markle, Steve Murray and Bill McDonald



This photo of Murray Creek Meadows was taken by a remote controlled model aircraft equipped with a remote-activated camera.



Jack Byrd and Mike Bunney

## The OFF Beat

### Is the faucet "on" today or is it "off?"

This year's Humpy salmon fishing has been "interesting," to say the least.

The bi-annual run of "Pinks" began moving into the Sound about mid-August. Big schools came rumbling through like random freight trains. And if you weren't there at the right time you could count on getting skunked.

Norm Primc, Dan Reynolds, Ken Martin and Dave Markle all spent some time at Ala Spit on upper Whidbey Island and all had varying degrees of success.

"One school came through that was about a hundred yards wide and half a mile long," Norm said. "We did great that day but next day nothing."

After the Labor Day weekend rain, most of the runs will probably be heading up rivers where fly fishers have a better shot.



Pinks average four to five pounds with some running to eight or more. They aren't great fighters. Someone described them as "the saltwater equivalent of a white fish."

What endears them to fly anglers is their aggressiveness to take a fly. Specifically, just about anything pink or fuchsia. Use pink streamers, pink wooly buggers, or make up your own patterns on size 4 or 6 hooks, but make them bright. Red and purple can also be effective.

Five or six weight rods with sink tip lines, intermediate lines and even floating lines can all work. Use longer leaders with tippet tests of 8 to 10 pounds.

In the rivers you can usually reach Pinks with shorter casts. Twenty to 30 feet will work. Strip your fly at a medium speed and cast again.

### Mike Truax has a great idea. Will you and WDFW buy it?

At the August Business Meeting Conservation Chairman Mike Truax presented an idea that makes great sense. He plans to present it to OFF member at this month's meeting and hopes to gain your support.

Here are the basics:

Over the past year, Mike has been looking for private and semi-private lakes close to home that nearby residents would allow us to plant and use on a somewhat exclusive basis. He's found some lakes that fit the description but hasn't had much luck beyond that.

Now he has another approach.

**The lowland lakes unrestricted gear, catch and keep season runs from the third Saturday in April to October 31. Why not have a catch and release, restricted gear season that runs from say the first of November to the third Friday in April?**

Such a change would not require the approval of the State Legislature. It's a simple rule change that is completely within the purview of the WDFW.

Mike's proposal requires pledges from local fly-fishing clubs to provide the funding needed by DFW to purchase supplemental catchable size stocking to be made available for planting prior to October 31st.

He is also proposing that Martha Lake be made the test case for the rule change. Why Martha Lake?

"It's a quick drive for members of Everett, Edmonds and Lake Washington fly fishing clubs and for DFW personnel located at the Mill Creek Regional Office," Mike explains. "It offers excellent parking and boat access, and it creates few, if any competing uses for parking or use of Martha Lake during the proposed expanded season."

Mike admits that it's not going to be an easy sell. Some people don't like change, even if it's for the good. But he hopes to get the

support he needs, starting with OFF. Will you and members of other clubs in the area be willing to fund fish plants? Will WDFW support the idea? Is there a better test lake? How much do purchased fish cost and how much will clubs be willing to pledge? Will non fly fishermen fight the idea?

Hey! Let's find out!

*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:

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