

# TIGHTLINES



**THERE'S A REASON WE'VE CHOSEN FLY FISHING.** You can argue the point ad infinitum, but in most cases, more fish are caught with "gear" than with flies. So you might say a day like Jim Hagy's on the lower Snake with just a couple of fish landed and released is pretty boring. Yes! Absolutely! Terrible scenery, too! —Les Jones Photo

## Jim Traner looks for a "home grown" success.

As a professional CPA, Auction Chairman Jim Traner sees first hand how tough the current economy has been on small businesses. And auction donations from fly shops and guides reflect it.

"Sure, we're getting some donations," says Jim. "But not like in past years."

So this year, instead of buying items to place in the auction, Jim is asking members to go through their gear and weed out some items they don't use. He's also urging members to donate a day or half-day trips to one of their favorite *Continued on Page 4*

## "...MAY I HAVE THE ENVELOPE PLEASE ..."

It's time again to cast your vote for our club's "Man of the Year." This is your opportunity to honor the person you believe has made the strongest commitment to the club and fellow club members during the past year.

The process itself is confidential and straightforward. Simply respond to the e-mail you received recently from Club President Rolf Mogster or write your nominee on a slip of paper and give it to Rolf at our November meeting. The Honoree is announced at our December Club Auction.

Last year, two members shared *Continued on Page 4*

## Bored with watching bobbers and dragging leeches? Skip Morris says it's time to "rise" to the challenge.

Lake trout feed on, or just under, the surface at least forty to fifty percent of the time. Author and fly tying master Skip Morris joined us at our October meeting to help us gain some insights into how we can improve our top water skills.

Morris has nothing against nymphing, but for most of us it's always more fun to sight cast to a rising fish or drift a dry fly over a promising lie than it is to sink a fly and watch an indicator.

"Fish are very observant," Skip notes. "If there's a hatch they'll know about it. If there's something to come up for they will." *Continued on Page 2*



**Skip & Carol Morris.** Carol is a professional photographer. —Dick Simmons Photo



**Is this the new "Green" Pet Rock?** Will Joe Conner, Jim Hagy and Les Jones soon be marketing their new environmentally friendly boat anchor? See Page 3.

—Les Jones Photo

## November Calendar

**11/10: General Meeting.** Mike Dickson, respected guide and instructor, talks about steelhead opportunities throughout the State.  
**11/24: Business meeting.** Auction status to be discussed. 6 p.m. Alfy's on 196th.

*"You need to become a fly fishing detective."* — Skip Morris



**SKIP MORRIS visits with Bruce Johnson, Blair Scarth and Hal Rowe.**  
—Dick Simmons Photo

### **SKIP MORRIS Continued**

Like many of our guest speakers, Skip is a great advocate of spending time observing before you ever cast a line.

"Keep your eyes open and you'll observe lots of things. When you see swallows swooping down over the water you know they're taking insects. When you see chironomid shucks you'll know they're hatching. And you'll be surprised to see how many fish will be rising in just two feet of water along the shoreline."

Early evening is a good time to fish a chironomid hatch on the lake's surface because that's when the females are ovipositing.

"You need to be a fly fishing detective," says Morris. "When you see something a little different, go out and investigate. If you find a chironomid hatch you've found something special."

If you can't get a specific read on the right chironomid color, Skip suggests starting with a TDC (Thompson's Delectable Chironomid) the most basic of chironomid patterns. Hatches are more likely on cloudy days. Fish an unweighted fly on or just under the surface.

Many Pacific Northwest lakes above and below the border have good callibaetis mayfly hatches. Midday on overcast days are when these mayflies emerge and a good place to look for them is in weedy or shaded areas. Skip highly recommends the Morris Emerger as a fly to open with.

Skip's favorite time to fish chironomid or mayfly hatches is on the evening rise.

"The lake flattens out. A new cast of characters — animals and birds — come out," says Skip. "Fish feel safer and are less worried about predators. The osprey can't see them, so they rise more rhythmically, in a pattern, and less randomly. That's when you can bushwack them. Figure out the pattern and drop your fly where you expect the next rise. Plan to be casting 45 to 50 feet from the spot. That's fun!"

When you're fishing on top during a sedge (caddis) hatch you'll need a dry fly pattern that you can skate across the surface. A good choice is the ubiquitous Deer Hair Caddis. "Skid the fly and  
**Continued on Page 3**



**"I HATE LOONS!" Skip is unequivocal in his disdain for loons. "No matter what! They're going to get your fish before or after you catch it! You release the fish you love and a loon comes along and bites off its head."**  
—Keith Stamm Photo



*Editor's note: Despite a rash of unsavory traits, fly fishers are, for the most part, optimists. Often, the mere rumor of a difficult to find, rarely fished lake or stream will have us thrashing through alpine forests and slip-sliding along muddy logging roads hoping to find that magical place. Keith Stamm and his fishing buddies Pat and Herb took their pursuit to British Columbia for a few weeks recently. Keith wrote a lengthy memoir of the trip. This is an excerpt.*

**By Keith Stamm**

Where to fish on the weekend in Canada can be a problem. Weekend anglers are out in force, and we weren't ready to join forces. Earlier in our trip, Bruce Southern, a guide working out of Logan Lake had dropped a casual hint that we quickly picked up on.

"Have you ever been to Wise Lake," he asked. When I said "no," he said offhandedly, "It's a nice

**ON A LONELY BC LOGGING ROAD a driver in a pick-up, with a pram in the back, searches for a mythic lake he's never fished. All that's missing in this picture is a rainbow and the pot of gold.**  
Photo provided by Keith Stamm

# The Fly Fishing Life



**THE HENRY'S FORK** gets a lot of pressure and the environment is fragile. Joe, Les and Jim recognized this and used a rock instead iron for a boat anchor. It worked just fine. "It was the right shape for duct tape" Les noted. **CENTER:** the headwaters of the Henry's Fork. **RIGHT:** Joe on the sticks. Jim in the bow. *Les Jones Photos*

**SKIP MORRIS Continued** they'll go crazy," says Skip. They get very aggressive and can break off a 3X tippet."

On types of rises: Small, quiet, gentle ring rise with no splash. Fish are probably taking small or helpless insects (spinners); Splashy rise. Caddis or boatmen; Boil. Nymphs just under the surface.

*Skip is currently working on a new book for beginning fly fishermen. What will make it different from other books for beginning fly fishers?*

*"There are a lot of books for beginners out there and I've read many of them," says Skip. Some are excellent. What I want to do differently is write a book that's less encyclopedic. A beginner doesn't need every tiny detail. In my book I plan to provide the beginner with four ways to fly fishing that will cover all your fishing in the United States or British Columbia. Including species and type of water."*



**RIGHT NOW IS A GREAT TIME** to go through your fly fishing stuff and find a few gems to donate to our auction. Pontoon boats, float tubes, books, lines, reels, rods, nets and other items will all help.

little lake."

When he told us how to get there we realized it was a place most people would pass on.

"There's a jeep track off the logging road that crosses a meadow and goes through a creek and you come to small pond," Bruce had said. "You have to cross the pond but it's not connected to the lake.



**Keith lands a Kamloops.**

You'll have to portage over a small hill into the lake." Sounded great to us. We found our way judiciously along the road, over the soggy meadow and across the creek without getting stuck, which took some time and careful scouting. When we found the pond, we carried our

boats down along with all our gear: anchors and ropes, oars and oar locks, fly rods and gear boxes/bags, and lunch boxes. Then donned boots and rain gear. Docking our boats on the other side of the pond was a problem. We pushed and pulled them through a narrow, marshy channel to get to solid ground.

Once there we unloaded all the gear and carried it and the boats up and over the portage to the lake. It really did take three strong guys to carry Herb's solidly built pram up and over that hump. Then it was load all the gear back in to boats and set up the fly rods. Naturally, this all had to be repeated on the return trip. This was not just a fishing trip, it was an adventure, and a workout.

The nicest thing was we had the lake to ourselves, and a pretty little lake it was, nestled in among the spruce with several shoals around the shoreline and depths running to 40 feet or more, very unusual for a lake this size. Fish would over-winter well in this little gem and all the shoals would be bug factories that would keep them well fed. I looked at

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## The OFF Beat

### **AUCTION Continued**

favorite lakes or streams.

"These don't have to be big deal trips," Jim points out. "But we all have favorite places that we wouldn't mind sharing with other club members and providing tips on how to fish them. Why not let people bid for the opportunity?" Rods, reels, books, float tubes, flies and more all qualify.

"Especially flies," says Jim. "We need lot flies. And you can make them more valuable to the bidder if you label the flies and add a note or two about where, when and how to fish them.

"This year we want to save money and make money with a leaner home grown auction," Jim added. "Music to the ears of a CPA!"

### **MAN OF THE YEAR Cont.**

the honor and both demonstrated the values that matter.

Mike Truax sought out worthy conservation projects that the club can get behind and support. And after discovering that Ebey Lake, Snohomish County's lone fly fishing only lake, was totally inaccessible because of private property issues, spearheaded a movement to have a new Snohomish County lake designated FFO/selective gear. Terry Zeitner, last year's co-recipient, worked tirelessly to make our 2009 auction successful. He is also very involved in professional bamboo rod building and has helped many members get into this exciting aspect of fly fishing.

### **Nominees for 2011 officers and committee chairmen.**

At the October Business Meeting nine members were confirmed as nominees for the eleven officer and committee chairman positions open for 2011:

President, Rolf Mogster; Vice-President, Bruce Johnson; Communications Director, Tom

### **WISE LAKE Concluded**

the lake and thought, "Leeches." And so I trolled one to the far end of the lake with no grabs. Pat trolled a caddis pattern called a "B-52 Buick" with better results, two nice fish, then nothing more.

This was looking like a tougher little lake than we expected. The fish weren't exactly jumping all over our flies. Herb set up on the edge of the biggest shoal with two chironomid rods out, got one fish, then nothing. I tried chironomids in several patterns and still nothing. But we could see the lake held plenty of fish. They were jumping everywhere. It was a matter of finding the right combination, and Herb finally did, fishing Chironomids 8 feet under the surface instead of all the way to the bottom. Pat joined him and they began catching fish in the 14 inch range.

I decided I would rather troll with a caddis pupa than sit in one place and watch an indicator. I had the rod butt between my knees which allowed me to use my legs to bounce it up and down imparting a darting action to the fly. Hopefully this would "tease" a larger trout into striking.

There was a nice little chop on the water and I worked up close to the largest shoal and the line tightened and started to jerk violently. This time it was a strong, heavy fish. I played him a long time before I got him to the surface near the boat where I could see him. I should have/could have put him in the net right then, but I wanted a picture outside the net, so I was playing

Sawtell; Treasurer, Bill MacDonald; Secretary, Keith Stamm; Gillie, Phil Sacks; Trustee, Mike Bunney.

Membership Chairman, Terry Zeitner; Conservation Chairman, Mike Truax. The Education Chairman and Outings Chairman positions remain open.

the fish with one hand, camera in the other hand, and he got off. At least I got a good look at him, a solid 18 inches, a fish well worth the portage into the lake.

Then the rain drops started falling. We could see black clouds moving toward us, so we pulled in our lines and headed for the portage. Good move. We got off the lake and back to civilization and our cabin nice and dry before the sky burst forth huge, cold rain drops so close to hail they exploded like mini-grenades on our front porch.

It was a good evening for Swedish meatballs and mashed potatoes, and one of Pat's excellent salads. Then rebuilding leaders and treating fly lines so they'll float again. At least we hope they will.

*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. at 6:00 p.m.

#### **Officers:**

Rolf Mogster, President, 206-546-2677  
Bruce Johnson, Vice President, 425-742-2252  
Bill MacDonald, Treasurer, 425-774-4769  
Dick Simmons, Communications & TIGHTLINES, 425-778-9804  
Keith Stamm, Secretary, 206-368-5596  
Phil Sacks, Gillie, 425-741-7311  
Mike Bunney, Trustee, 425-672-3345

#### **Chairs:**

Mike Truax, Conservation, 425-672-6963  
Steve Murray, Outings, 360-422-7335  
Open seat, Education  
Beverage Meister, Jeff Bandy

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