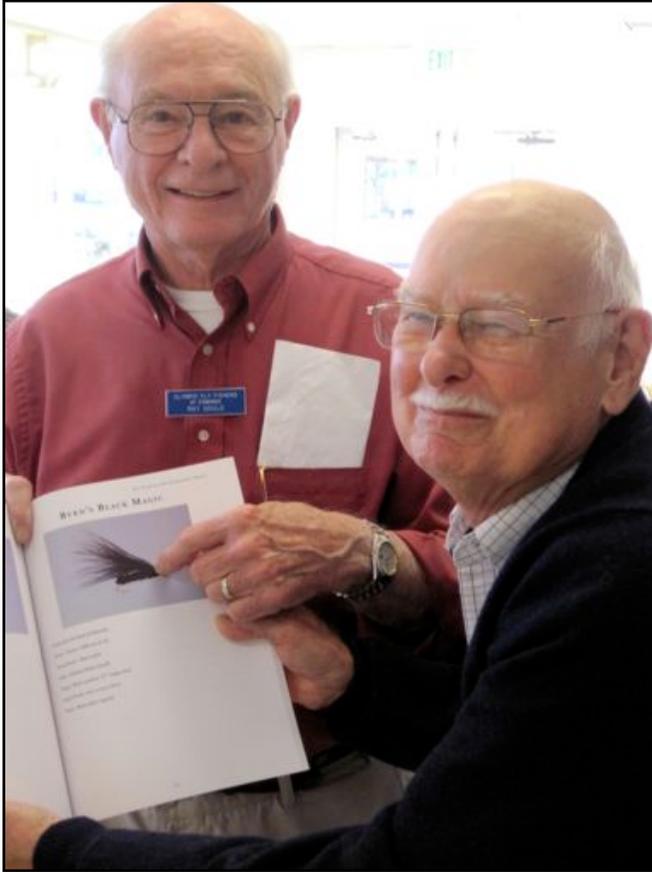


TIGHTLINES



BYRD OF A FEATHER. Maribou that is... Jack Byrd beams as Ray Gould points out his fly, the "Byrd's Black Magic," featured in Ray's book, "Fly fishing for Kamloops Trout."

Sitka trip makes up for "Chili washout" but still has its share of "drama"

"The second time was the charm," said Steve Murray as he opened his presentation on the trip he and five other club members had taken to Salmon Lake near Sitka, Alaska during the past year.

He was referring to the disastrous and, at times, life-threatening adventures he and others had on Alaska's Chilikadrotna River two years earlier.

On that trip they had to overcome torrential rains, hundred year high water flows, a punctured pontoon boat, a river littered with deadly sweepers, non-stop sogginess and the threat of hypothermia just to make it to the take out. And, needless to say, the fishing wasn't very good either.

By comparison, Salmon Lake and the two miles of river that flowed from the lake to the salt, turned out to be (for the most part) a fly fisherman's dream vacation.

Steve had censored the best photos, added a few

See "SITKA" Page 2



CAMP SITKA! "What more could anyone want?" asks Mike. — Steve Murray Photo

"We need to hustle. Now!" says OFF Auction Chairman Jim Traner.

Pulling everyone together to make our club auction a success is a bit like "herding cats" says Chairman Jim Traner. But he's confident members will rise to the occasion.

"We've collected a few items and team leaders like Bill Scott have done a great job contacting donors. From now to December we need to hustle," he explained.

The economy has impacted

many fly shops and some are simply unable to make commitments. Jim hopes to pick up the slack with member donations and "experience" items like guided outings, casting or fishing seminars.

Jim has also prepared a letter on OFF letterhead which members can download and use to help reach potential donors. Contact Jim at: jtraner@tranersmith.com



CAN YOU NAME the legendary river behind Joe Conner and Les Jones in this photo from Jim Hagy? For the answer, see Page 3.

October Calendar

10/13: General Meeting. Skip Morris, noted fly tyer and author, will speak on tying, fishing and other topics of interest.

10/27: Business meeting. 6 p.m. Alfy's on 196th

10/16-22: Club Outing to Blue Lake and other venues in the Okanogan. Sign up at October meeting or call Mike Truax at 425-672-6963.

"The river was full of Pinks, Chums, Kings and Sockeye."



Nice place to fish!
—Dave Markle Photos

Hmm.
I hope Ken doesn't
overload the plane.

"SITKA" Continued from Page 1

appropriate titles (or inappropriate, depending on your perspective) and gathered them into an entertaining slide show. His presentation was also enhanced by impromptu comments from other members of the audience.

It was also an excellent guide on how to plan an Alaska fishing trip on a modest budget. Not counting the \$2,000 the group spent at the local Sitka fly shop (everything 60% off), the travel costs came to about \$700 per person.

Steve did note that, if the Sitka lingerie store they passed while wandering around town the first night had been open, they probably would have spent additional funds purchasing some of the beaver pelt panties prominently displayed in the window. (Always nice to take a little something home for your significant other.)

One cost saving move was to palletize and ship all their gear North by Alaska Marine. It arrived two weeks before the group arrived and was waiting for them in Sitka.

"We all flew to Sitka a couple of days early which was also nice," said Steve. "That gave us time to relax and get organized before flying in to Salmon Lake."

The group stayed at the Fly In Fish Inn, A new ten room inn on the waterfront overlooking the seaplane dock. "The food was excellent and the woman who



THE SITKA SIX (less Dave Markle). Gene Anthony, Ken Martin, Steve Murray, Mike Bunney & Don Summers.

ran the B&B was very helpful. It's the best place to stay, coming and going," Steve added.

"The night before we left we heard a racket down on the floatplane dock and went down to find a couple of guys tearing apart the engine on a Cessna 185. It just happened to be the same one we were flying out on the next morning," Steve said. "Suffice to say that gave us some concern. Apparently it needed a new cylinder that was 'on order' but hadn't arrived."

However, next morning, the plane's engine compartment had been buttoned up and was ready to go. That, according to the pilot, who had been billed as the "best bush pilot" in Sitka. And who's to argue with that? (Unless he's the only bush pilot in Sitka.)

"But now the pilot was complaining that he'd never flown a group in with 'so much crap' as we had," said Steve. "I didn't think we had too much stuff. Most of it was food, anyway. I think the overweight problem was because Ken Martin was wearing \$5000 worth of bling and gold chains." After a few adjustments the issues were resolved and eventually everyone made it to the lake.

Another cost saving move was the cabin at the lake. It's one of many that were built years ago by the Forrest Service on various sites around Alaska. All to the same specifications as the one at Salmon Lake: 8' x 12', single wood stove, sleeps 6 on plywood bunks, outhouse up the path, fire pit outside, \$30 per night, available year round.

There was also a huge stash of dry firewood supplied by the U.S. Government. Sweet.

The lake cabin was the Taj Mahal compared to the sleeping accommodations on the Chilicodratna trip. (Unless you really enjoy **Continued next page**

"Those guys could light a fire in a pouring rain."



THE CABIN BUILT by the Forest Service was old, but sturdy and had some nice architectural details. Plus lots of firewood!

—Dave Markle Photos



sleeping under a tarp, snug in your wet polypros, inside wet jeans and sweats, inside wet waders, inside a wet sleeping bag.) Compared to the Chili, the fishing was better, too.

"The river was full of Pinks, Chums, Kings and Sockeye," said Steve. "And the lake had a good population of trout."

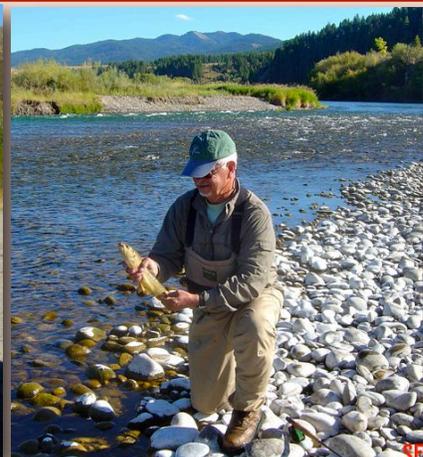
The only disappointment was that they really came for the Silvers. Dave Markle caught the only one and that was toward the end of the week. There were plenty of them in the salt but they weren't ready to move into the river. Steve said the fishing **Continued next page**



Hmm.
Did they say come back Thursday or was it Friday?

If you said "Henry's Fork, of the Snake," you win!

Joe and Les rig up before launching on the lower Henry's Fork. Les with a brown taken later on the Snake.
Jim Hagy Photos



At last year's Club Auction, former Club President Joe Conner donated a float trip and Jim Hagy and Les Jones were the lucky bidders. They assumed the float would be a most pleasant day spent on the Yakima with one of the nicest guys you could ever fish with at the oars.

How the trip ended up on Idaho's fabled Henry's Fork of the Snake is a long and convoluted story filled with coincidences and best told by the participants themselves.

But the Henry's Fork it was. They spent a day fishing the Harriman Ranch section of the upper river and a day floating the lower section.

By September, fishing the Henry's Fork is, in a word, **TECH-NI-CAL!**

"It took me two days of coaching from Joe before I could even get a fly near a fish," said Jim. "Basically you have to spot a feeding fish, **Continued next page**

The OFF Beat

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2011 NOW OPEN.

OFF members will nominate a new slate of officers at the October meeting on the 13th.

Current club president Rolf Mogster has generously agreed to keep his job for next year as have club secretary Keith Stamm and Gillie Phil Sacks.

Two positions that will definitely need to be filled are vice-president, now held by Bruce Johnson, and communications director, now held by Dick Simmons.

If you're interested in serving your fellow club members by running for either of these positions and would like to know more about the duties please contact Bruce or Dick.

"SITKA" Continued

wasn't real technical and there was plenty of backcast room.

"All six of us could wade out a hundred feet or so and cast in six different directions without getting in each others way."

Despite the lavish amounts spent on flies in Sitka the only fly they needed was a Crazy Charlie. That seemed to do the trick

"Every time I saw Mike Bunney he either had a fish in his hands or a smile on his face."

Next to fishing, the highlights were the firewood and the food. Steve and Gene Anthony are both great camp cooks and the menu included items like Salmon Benedict with red beans and rice. And Gene and Don Summers also kept the cabin warm and cozy every night.

"Those guys could light a fire in a pouring rain," Steve commented. "The rest of us couldn't light a fire in a haystack."

DON'T THROW OUT THAT PLASTIC PIPE!

The Stilly Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force is looking for scrap plastic tubing, two to three inches wide, for a new restoration project. If you have any or know of a good source, please contact Jason at

Jason@stillysnofish.org

Plan now to attend a two day Fly-fishing Symposium in Victoria B.C. on November 13 & 14. It's presented by the Haig Brown Fly Fishing Association and features some great speakers. Details at: <http://www.hbffa.ca/> Then click the more link.

"We didn't see any bears but we saw plenty of fresh evidence," Steve noted. "We all had guns except Ken."

At this point in the presentation, Ken pointed out that he didn't really need a gun.

"I wasn't worried," he said. "Any bear that came along wouldn't bother with me. When it comes to size, I was just a light snack compared to the girth on the other guys." (*He did have a point.*)

The weather was also perfect throughout their time at the lake. The only glitch was that the pilot never showed up to take them out. Apparently he got the date wrong and was on another job.

"We needed to make our connections back to Seattle," Steve said. So they ended up leaving the heavy gear at the lake and hiking down to the saltwater where they were met by a water taxi they'd contacted by satellite phone.

The hike back was not easy, but octogenarians Don and Gene came through strong.

It took a month to get their gear back and the pilot charged them to pick it up back at the lake.

In retrospect, Steve said he'd love to do the same trip again. "Next time we'd pack lighter and take the water taxi both ways." DS

"SNAKE" Continued

then creep up stream slowly, cast your size 20 BWO dry on your 14 foot leader with its 6X tippet into the feeding lane above the fish without spooking it, and then hope it takes the fly. If it does, it will probably break you off immediately. At least that was my experience. It's more like 'fish hunting'," he added.

Between the three of them they landed about six to eight fish. "Joe was the best fisherman but we had to make him get out of the boat and fish otherwise he would have stayed on the oars all day long."

All in all, they had a great time. The weather was beautiful, the company excellent, and the lessons learned invaluable. Jim and Les also fished the St. Joe and Snake during their trip. DS

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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