



TIGHTLINES

A wild ride through “paradise.”



The headwaters of Alaska’s Chilikadrotna looked peaceful and serene. Down stream was another story. – Neil Moomey Photo

Annual auction wraps up a great year of excellent outings and growing membership.

Many club members are currently at work preparing for OFF’s social highlight of the holiday season, the 2006 club auction slated for Wednesday, December 13th.

This year’s event promises to be a fun one. The evening will feature a silent auction, followed by a fine dinner, with choice of entrees provided by Celebrations, and wrap up with the live auction called by legendary auctioneer Don Bayes.

Cover Photo: the shot of the Chilikadrotna River was provided by respected Alaska outdoors photographer Neil Moomey. To see more of Neil’s remarkable work go to: www.neilmoomey.com/

Flies, float trips and a hand built cane rod will all be going on the block along with many other desirable pieces of gear most of us can’t do without. Wives and significant others will also have their share of goodies to bid on. And this year, to help
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The two men in the blue river raft searched the fast moving shoreline for a safe take out — a dry gravel bar big enough for their boat and the five others that followed. But there was nothing. And now, darkness was coming on fast.

Day after day of pelting rain had bloated the river, swallowing everything. Leaving mile upon mile of cut banks, deadly sweepers a hundred feet long, and jagged mid-channel roots sharp enough to shred a raft bladder in seconds.

“There!” shouted the oarsman, as he began to backrow furiously against the powerful current. “There’s a back channel!”

His partner grabbed his walkie-talkie and alerted the other boats to get into position to duck into the back
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November Calendar

Meetings:

NOV 8: General Meeting, Planning for the Christmas/Chanukah Auction. Election of Officers for 2007. Speaker to be announced.

NOV 22: Board Meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

Outings:

NOV 10: Fishing for Chums at Tom Creek near Belfair.

NOV 11: Officers Retreat, Belfair.

Special Events:

The Fly tying Round Table has been cancelled for the months of November & December.



“CHILI” From Page 1

eddy’s safe haven.

With adrenalin pumping and every muscle in his body screaming, the oarsman in the lead boat



Chilikadrotna River

inched the big raft back toward the narrow opening in the river-bank. Fifteen minutes later they were bumping softly against gravel near a small clearing as the other boats began to arrive.

There wasn't room enough to pitch tents, but there was just enough for a dozen men to sleep under the stars. And as luck would have it, after seven straight days, the rain was easing off. Now, in the quickly fading light, all they had to worry about were the bears.

THE BEAR’S DEN

“Rowing against that current pretty much wiped me out for the rest of the day,” said Steve Murray, who was manning the oars in the lead boat. “Don Summers stayed up all night to keep the fire going. But if any bears came around I think they would have been scared away. The noise from ten guys snoring sounded like the biggest bear den in the woods.”

“LUCKY” BREAKS

Mike Bunney, Steve’s partner in the lead boat, said that finding that back water with darkness coming on was just one of their lucky breaks. At one point on the trip they rounded a bend and found themselves in a section of river they now call the “Bone Yard.”

“There were sharp deadheads sticking up all across the river,” Mjke said. “We hit one and ruptured a bladder. It deflated immediately.”

Luckily, they were close to a grassy bank and were able to get off the river quickly. Only one of*Continued next Page*



A soaked Doug Pendleton enjoys some heat. —Mike Bunney Photo



An iridescent Grayling fins in the shallows. —Neil Moomey Photo



Mike and Steve survey the damage to their raft after hitting a snag in the “Bone Yard.” Dennis Summers holds a fat Rainbow before releasing it. Despite the high river and muddy water everyone did well. — Mike Bunney Photos

the raft’s five bladders was damaged. But when they opened the repair kit they discovered it was missing some pieces and there wasn’t a patch big enough to cover the 18 inch gash in the bladder.

“It was a crappy kit,” said Steve. “And the glue took 48 hours to dry. Neither option was acceptable because the next day they had to be at the final take out.

“We scabbed a patch together with pieces and waited four hours,” said Mike. “It held air. So we put the boat in the water, floated a half day and added more glue. Next day, just when we arrived at the take out, the patch blew. Now that’s called luck!”

STAY TUNED FOR MORE

Twelve guys made the trip and caught plenty of Rainbow and Grayling on egg patterns. There are a lot more stories and Steve will share them at the February meeting along with a slide show.

When asked if they’d do it all over again Steve and Mike both grinned and gave the same answer: “Hell! Yes!” *Dick Simmons*





The OFF Beat

December Auction

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move the live auction along faster, there will be fewer items.

Many members are tying flies to be auctioned this year, but if you would rather donate money, or have something you think



Norm and Carolyn Primc check out items in last year's silent auction

would make a good auction item, please bring your donation to the November 8th meeting or call Joe Conner at 425-744-8085 to make arrangements for pick up. We can also use help at the check out desk and behind the bar.

The cost for this year's event will be \$40 per person. Reserve a table for eight and it comes with a free bottle of wine.

Pierce Co. Upgrades Bass Lake Facilities

Lake Kapowsin has long been one of the best Westside lakes for warm water species and now the WDFW has made it even better.

The department has added a boat ramp and dock, as well as bank-access fishing opportunities, paved parking, ADA access, a gangway, new signs and a toilet with overhead lighting.

The nine-acre access site was undeveloped when the department acquired it in 2001. The Inter-agency Committee for Outdoor Recreation provided funds to help purchase and develop the site

The Champion Timber Company previously owned the property and allowed limited public access to the lake via a gravel road, said Steve Sherlock, state-wide access coordinator.

"Instead of simply replacing ramps and toilets, we created a new outdoor recreation facility that offers amenities for anglers, hunters, boaters and wildlife viewers," Sherlock said. "

The lake is open for fishing year-round. It has trout, large-mouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, yellow perch, pumpkinseed sunfish, rock bass and brown bullhead.

WDFW enforcement officers have increased patrols to assure safety of the site and those who use it. A WDFW access decal permit-is required to park at the site.

Officer Elections

The day after you vote in the general election you'll have the opportunity to vote in OFF's election for next year's officers. Up for offices are:

Joe Conner, President, Norm Primc, VP, Hal Rowe, Secretary,, Mike Bunney, Treasurer, and Dick Simmons, Communications.

For Sale

Orvis "Henry's Fork" wading boots, size 11 with felt soles: \$40. Worn once. Call Dan Reynolds at 425-673-7028.



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 Board meeting is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Alf's on 196th Avenue, Lynnwood, WA. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Officers:

Joe Conner, President, 425-744-8085

Don Summers, Vice President, 206-935-1194

Bud Camandona, Secretary, 425-337-5840

Mike Bunney, Treasurer, 425-672-3345

Dick Simmons, Communications Dir. & TIGHTLINES Ed. 425-778-9804

Phil Sacks, Gillie 425-741-7311

Steve Murray, Trustee, 360-422-7335

Dan Reynolds, Outings, 425-673-7028

Chairs:

Eric Sauer. Education, 425-776-3811

Fran Fatigati, Conservation, 425-485-1975

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See you on the water.

Dick Simmons, Ed