



# TIGHTLINES

## Norm Primc is “Man of the Year”.



### *Norm accepts award from OFF President Eric Sauer.*

”This should come as no surprise to anyone.” And with those words, OFF President Eric Sauer announced that Norm Primc was Olympic Fly Fishers Man of the Year for 2005. It’s the first time the award has been given since 1995, when it was awarded to Scott Lewis. As one senior club member put it: “It’s only awarded when it’s appropriate.”

Norm, who served as Club Treasurer for six years, said “I appreciate the award and feel very honored to be selected.” *Continued on Page 2*

### Calendar

#### Meetings:

**January 11:** General Meeting

**Guest Speaker:** Canadian Bob Sheedy, author of “Lake Fly Fishing Strategies” shares his knowledge of still water techniques and top flies.

**January 25:** Board Meeting

**February 8:** General Meeting

**Guest Speaker:** Joe Cummings, guide. For more info about Joe, please see “Bitterroot” story on Page 3.

#### Special Events:

**Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 5:** Fly Tying Round Table, 7 pm – 9 pm Frances Anderson Center, Edmonds (Awaiting confirmation from Parks & Recreation.)

**Jan 17,24,31; Feb 7,14,21,28; Mar 7:** Beginning Fly Tying Classes, 7 - 9 pm Edmonds Plaza Room (above Library). Pre-registration through Edmonds Recreation suggested. Call 425-771-0230 and refer to Course #6562. \$37 registration fee, \$25 materials fee. All instructors are club members.

**February 11:** Skykomish River Steelhead Outing. See insert Pg. 5 & 6.

**All Member Alert! Your annual membership fee of \$30 is due now. Thank you.**

## Ray Gould builds a legend.

**Question:** What do King-TV anchor Jean Enerson and renown fly fishing writer Steve Raymond have in common?

**Answer:** They both fish with cane rods built by Ray Gould, an OFF member since 1965.

Enerson and Raymond aren’t the only fly fishers who respect Ray’s gifted touch with cane.

Recently, Ray gave the keynote address to



the Great Western Rod Builders Gathering at Dunsmire, California. The Gathering is the major event for cane rod builders in the West. Ray has also been nominated for the prestigious Letcher Lambuth Award given each year by the Washington Fly Fishing Club.

Ray’s built 178 cane rods from scratch and rebuilt hundreds of others since he “got serious” about building with bamboo in 1978

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*Ray Gould Continued from Page 1*

“That’s when my wife gave me a book on cane rod building by a very famous builder, and in the back of the book there was a big section on the mathematics of calculating stress in a rod,” Ray, who has two degrees in mechanical engineering and admits he’s a “math nut,” decided to test the numbers himself. “So I worked through all the calculations in longhand. It took 23 pages of numbers but I came up with a rod design that had the right stress factor.”



What Ray accomplished with that first rod was a unique breakthrough in cane rod design. He’d

calculated the taper based on a parabolic stress curve. In practical terms, his rod didn’t require the flared strengthening butt you see on many cane rods. It was lighter, faster and worked better.

“Many of my customers who are used to graphite say they don’t like cane because the action’s not fast enough,” says Ray. “But with a double parabolic design I can change the rod action. I don’t like to fish with a wet noodle either.”

Ray builds his rods in a compact, neatly organized shop in his Edmonds home. He’s also designed many of the tools he uses, which aren’t many, because he does most of the work by hand.

He starts with culms of 10 to 20 year old cane he gets from a small province in China; splitting and cutting them into 12 four to four and a half foot lengths, six for each section of the rod. He then files, straightens, and planes each piece into 60 degree, triangle shaped, tapers ready to be glued, wrapped, assembled and varnished.

The end result: an elegant, hexagon wand that transforms fishing into art.

Ray doesn’t have anything against graphite, but he does say cane is stronger.

“Graphite rods are made with a really thin-walled tube and they have a high stress riser,” he explains. “If they get hit on the edge of a boulder or get nicked on anything, they break. Cane won’t do that. You can knock it around and it may need a new coat of varnish, but it won’t break”



Ultimately, what Ray appreciates most is the craftsmanship that goes into a cane rod.

“You spend a little more money making the rod but you get a very high quality product. Many cane rods become heirlooms. They’re passed down from father to son, father to daughter.”

Ray Gould sells most of his rods by word of mouth. The average price is \$750, including rod tube, considerably less than you’ll pay for an Orvis or other familiar name. For more information, check out Ray’s website: [www.canerodsbygould.com](http://www.canerodsbygould.com).

*Dick Simmons*

OFF members have some great stories to tell. If you’d like to recommend someone for a story profile, e-mail your suggestion to [news@olympicflyfish.com](mailto:news@olympicflyfish.com).

**Man of the Year** *Continued from Page 1*

As Treasurer, Norm has helped the club gain a stronger financial footing.

“His work has given the club more flexibility to help support outings, conservation, community outreach programs and club social events,” said one Board member.

Anyone whose watched Norm in action knows that he’s a man who gets things done. Whether he’s playing racquetball at 6 a.m., organizing a club trip, or tracking down items for the annual auction, Norm gives it his all. He’s always there with a big smile and a helping hand.

The Man of the Year is determined by the club membership through balloting over a two month period. It’s truly an honor bestowed by one’s peers, and in this case, a well deserved honor. Congratulations and thank you, Norm Prime!



## DICK HEDGES GOES “HOG WRESTLING” ON THE BITTERROOT.

*On February 8th our guest speaker will be fishing guide Joe Cummings. Joe owns and operates A Classic Journey Outfitters, Missoula, Montana. He was guiding Dick the day Dick caught the brown in the picture. As Dick tells it:*

“Joe had been getting a lot of razzing from the other guides because none of *his* clients had landed a fish over 23 inches and *they* all had. So on this particular day, Joe was on a mission.

“We were fishing the Bitterroot and had landed a lot of nice fish but nothing spectacular. I could tell Joe was getting a little frustrated. So we came to this one spot and he said ‘let’s try this back channel.’ So we headed up this little channel. It was just like a spring creek. We were up a quarter mile and had seen a lot of great water but no fish. I was using a hopper-dropper set up and popped it into a nice looking riffle when Joe shouts ‘There’s something big in there!’ And sure enough, the next pass through, the brown hit. I knew right away it was a big fish. Joe was on his knees, eyes big, yelling ‘Dick! Don’t lose that fish!’ Now Joe’s around 6’ 3” and 240 pounds. I think he played pro football. There was no way I was going to lose

that fish. ‘He wants to run! Let him run!’ Joe shouted.



The truth is, watching Joe was as much fun as playing the fish. I finally landed him. He was 23 and a half inches. We got the picture and released him. When it was over, Joe said ‘Look at this.’ He held out his hands and they were shaking. I had to laugh. Usually in a case like this it’s me who’s doing the shaking.”

### Can you find this “secret” fishin’ hole?

A pleasant stroll through the woods from the parking area takes you to a stretch of classic freestone water, with riffles, runs, a bend pool, plenty of holding water and fishy-looking lies. It’s a short cast to the opposite bank, so approach carefully. Your presentation will need to be subtle and precise. And if you’re successful, you’ll be rewarded with your share of healthy 12” to 16” Bows. If you’re lucky enough to hit this stretch during a Green Drake hatch hold on! Yes, that is a deer in the picture and that roar you hear is not a waterfall.

**If you think you know where this month’s fishin’ hole is, e-mail your answer to [news@olympicflyfish.com](mailto:news@olympicflyfish.com) or to OFF TIGHTLINES, P.O. Box 148, Edmonds, WA 98020.**

**Everyone who guesses right or submits a “Secret” Fishin’ Hole of their own (with photo) will be entered in a special prize drawing to be held in June.**





# The OFF BEAT

“And the winner is: Olympic Fly Fishers!”

More than 100 members and guests turn out for annual auction.



### 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 PM

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

#### 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., 424-778-9804
- Phil Sacks, Gillie 425-741-7311
- Steve Murray, Trustee, 360-422-7335

#### Chairs:

- Eric Sauer, Education, 425-776-3811
- Fran Fatigati, Conservation, 425-485-1975

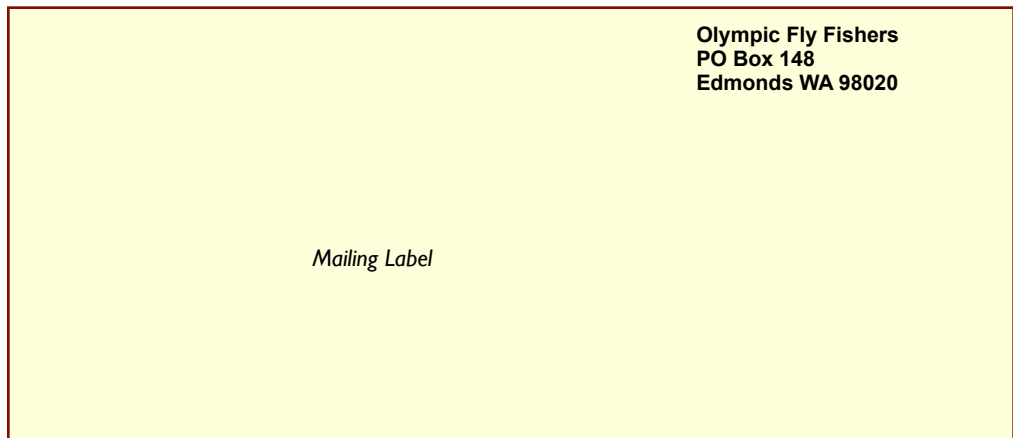
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*Auction Central*  
Clockwise: Auction Coordinator Steve Murray looks on as Treasurer Mike Bunney and Communications Director Fran Fatigati keep track of 200 auction items and more than 100 bidders.

*Below clockwise:* Sonny Tremoulet & Club Secretary Bud Camandona check live auction items; Bartenders Buzz Burgett & Randy Sobczak keep the action flowing; David & Cindy Wiegand inspect a rod.



Olympic Fly Fishers  
PO Box 148  
Edmonds WA 98020

Mailing Label



*Feb 11. Mark the date!*

# CAST YOUR FLY ON THE SKY.

In February, Eric Sauer will sponsor a float down the Skykomish for Steelhead. On past trips members have also caught dolly varden and whitefish.

"This is a low success, high fun trip when nothing else is going on," says Eric. "If catching a lot of fish is what someone has to have, this isn't the trip for them. This is mostly about the fellowship and fun."

Both Eric and Joe Conner will bring their driftboats. Each can accommodate two people plus the rower. The river can also be floated with a pontoon boat.

"We'd like to solicit any others with drift boats who can carry people," Eric says. "If enough want to go we will arrange someone to sponsor a road/foot/wading trip simultaneously and we will draw from a hat for the seats on the boat, as we did last year."

Eric will provide a hot lunch on the river for the drift boat group but hasn't worked out the waders yet. He will be taking names at the January meeting.

**WHERE:** Skykomish River.

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 11th. Meet for breakfast at 7 am, Petosa's Restaurant in Monroe. After breakfast, drift boaters will travel to take out, leave downstream cars, and continue on to the put in. Waders will finalize plans at breakfast.

**SUGGESTED GEAR:** 7+ Wt outfits with interchangeable heads, lines, or at a minimum, Type III-IV, and Type VII sink tip lines with moderately long (10 to 15 feet) tips. Full sinkers work but are impossible to mend. Tapered leaders not needed. A four foot section of 10# to 12# mono is sufficient.

**FLIES:** Your choice. Marabou and rabbit provide more motion in slower runs. Bucktail and synthetics seem better in faster runs.

**ALSO:** Waders a must. Bring extra fleece coat, raincoat and gloves, thermos with hot drink, and don't forget your camera! If you need more info about gear or going, Eric's number is 425-776-3811.



# Last year's trip was great fun.

Paul Greenhalgh, Steve Murray and Eric Sauer.

*(Note the absence of fish in these photos. The emphasis here is definitely on fun and camaraderie.)*

Joe Conner, Sonny Tremoulet, Eric Sauer, Mike Bunney and Barry Hutton.



Bud Camandona, Joe Conner and Dave Claude.