



TIGHTLINES



Buzz Burgett and Norm Primc clearly enjoyed the Club's recent outing to Lone Lake on Whidbey. Nice fish. Nice weather. See "LONE LAKE" Page 2Doug Pendleton Photo

Region 2 may offer best lake fishing options for new season.

It's getting to be an annual event. WDFW Biologists Bob Jateff and Jeff Korth joined our March meeting to share their best tips for fishing Washington's Region 2.

The region, which includes Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan Counties, contains some of the State's most hallowed waters: Dry Falls, Blue, Big Twin, Lenice, Nunnally, Fish, Lenore, Chopaka Lakes and Crab Creek to name a few.

...See "REGION 2" Page 2

"Midge Madness"



Don't miss Keith Stamm's adventures with winter midge fishing. See Page 3.

Keith Stamm Photo

April Calendar

APR 11: *The Chilikadrotna River Chronicles.* Steve Murray will present a slide program on a trip down this fabled Alaskan river. The photos have been culled from more than 1,500 that Steve and other OFF members shot along the way. At time, the Chili was a chilling adventure! Don't miss it.

APR 25: Board meeting. All members welcome. Alfys Lynnwood, 6 p.m.

MAY 3,4,5: Outing to Big Twin Lake. More details at the April 11th meeting.



Don Corwin gets "beached" at Lone Lake! What happened?

See Page 2 *Doug Pendleton Photo*



Lone Lake Highlights (and Lowlights)

A big thank you to Doug Pendleton for helping us sort fact from fiction.

8 a.m. Hungry fishermen converge on Buzz's restaurant near Mukilteo Ferry Landing to plan the day's outing. Restaurant closed. Not open 'til 10 a.m. Decide to press on.

Arrive at lake. Don Corwin demonstrates great poise and restraint upon discovering that he's left boat at home. Demonstrates more poise and restraint regarding many helpful comments from fellow anglers. Discovers, deep "zenlike" meaning of "lone" as he begins fishing Lone Lake from the beach.

Buzz Burgett lands first of many 17 inch plus rainbows he hooks up with on black bodied, copper ribbed, beadhead "snow cone" fished near a short stretch of shoreline. Within minutes discovers many of his acquaintances in the Club are now his closest companions.

Steve Murray generously decides to host hot lunch of chilli and franks. Discovers he has forgotten can opener for chilli. Sage Don Summers once again comes to rescue and hacks open can with personal rescue knife, demonstrating to all why it's called a rescue knife. Lunch is delicious.

Randy Sobczak conducts clinic on precise techniques for mounting electric motors on pontoon craft. Noting the outstanding competence level of his class, Randy is able to reduce the lesson to two basic points: A. The motor goes on the back. B. The heavy rectangular object with the two posts and cables is not an anchor and should not be thrown into water.

Doug Pendleton demonstrates his own approach to anchor management by mounting electric motor on his "Queen Mary" pontoon yacht. Engine torque nearly flips motor into lake. Joe Connor complements Doug on his keen understanding of engineering physics.

Bottom line: The weather was great, the camaraderie exceptional and a grand time was had by all!

Upper Right: Randy conducts motor mounting clinic.

Lower Right: Doug conducts rainbow catching clinic.



Biologist Jeff Korth & Stewart Scham.

WDFW Region 2 biologists reveal their top picks for the 2007 season.

(Be sure to check WDFW fishing regulations for specific information.)

TOP PICKS: Dusty, Upper Hampton, Pillar, & Widgeon Lakes.

GOOD BETS: Davis, Ell, Dry Falls, Lenice, Lenore, Quail, Homestead, Beda, Grimes, Rat, Stan Coffin, & Rufus Woods Lakes.

BEST WARM WATER BETS: Leader, Palmer, Whitestone, Shiner & Hutchinson Lakes.



Dan Reynolds & WDFW's Bob Jateff.



"...perhaps the fish couldn't see them either..."

The mystique of winter midge fishing.



By Keith R. Stamm

The big diesel pickup chuffed into the shopping center where I waited on a dark and blustery Seattle morning. Out jumped fishing guide Ryan Smith, obviously a little daunted at the prospect of driving over the Cascade

Mountains to fly fish the Yakima River.

"What do you think?" he asked. "They're saying chains are required. I don't have any."

"We don't need chains if your truck has 4-wheel drive," I said, passing the decision back to him. After a 10-minute parlay we decided to go for it. After all, winter midge fishing is about braving the elements and being out on the river when everyone else stays at home. And soon we were fishtailing over the slippery snow and slush of Snoqualmie Pass, passing all the semis parked along the side of I-90 like a string of boxcars.

What exactly is a midge, you may wonder. Well, a midge is a really small insect about the size of a speck of dust. Trout snack on them, especially during the winter when snacks are hard to come by. As we glided over the cushion of snow Ryan handed me the small box of killer midge patterns he had tied the night before. I opened the lid and stared.

"Where are they?" I asked.

Not being able to see the flies we were going to use did give me pause but not cause for doubt. This was all my idea. For years I'd been reading about midge fishing in the fly fishing magazines and books.

My curiosity originated from an experience on the upper Colorado River on a day when I watched a pod of huge brown trout sipping tiny insects from the surface. I couldn't catch them because the very smallest flies I had were many times larger than those floating by.

After that, I became as obsessed with these very tiny insects as a physicist searching for sub-atomic particles. Midges were the new frontier of fly fishing and I was jealous of more advanced anglers who caught enormous trout on tiny flies with names like "The Smidgen."

My only experience catching trout on midges involved a fly called "Griffith's Gnat," a fly I could tie

without investing in an electron microscope because it was designed to imitate a cluster of dozens of mating midges, not a single individual. I was intrigued with the idea of catching trout on a fly that mimicked an insect orgy but it fell short of the ultimate angling achievement of catching a 20-inch trout on a size 20 fly.

That also explains why Ryan and I were now standing on the snow-covered bank of the Yakima.

"There's one!" Ryan exclaimed.

"One what?" I asked.

"A midge!"

I never saw it even though I was wearing my best expensive glasses. We climbed into the boat and rowed to the other side of the river where Ryan handed me a fly rod, which he claimed, and I believe him, he had rigged with two flies on the leader, one floating fly (the adult stage of the insect) and one sinking fly (the pupa stage).

The idea was that a trout would most likely eat the pupa, which would pull the floating fly under. When I saw that fly disappear I was supposed to set the hook. An excellent plan, I thought as I cast the line upstream.

"Nice cast." said Ryan.

Everything was going according to plan except that as far as I could tell both flies had disappeared as soon as I cast them, if not before.

Despite three cold, rainy hours on the water we didn't catch any fish that day. No fish showed up to

snack on the invisible flies. I wondered if perhaps the fish couldn't see them either. But Ryan assured me they could. The problem in his opinion was that the water

was too cold and the midges were refusing to come out, which proved they were smarter than us.

Ryan noted that when they do come out they show up in clouds like dandelion fluff. But not that day. So we quit early and drove home in wistful conversation about the big, fat macroscopic insects of summer. My 20-inch trout on a size 20 fly would have to wait until next year.





The OFF Beat

MAN OF THE YEAR GONE

At the March meeting, OFF members voted unanimously to replace the Man of the Year Award with two new awards.

A "Service Award" would be given to a deserving member who consistently demonstrates a high level of participation in governing, promoting and serving the the Club and its members.

A "Lifetime Achievement Award" would be given to a long standing member who embodies the values set forth the "Service Award" as well as a range of other values and skills unique to the Club's Aims and Purposes and to all aspects of the sport of fly fishing.

Any member may submit a nomination for either award at any time. These nominations should be given to the existing president. After a board review, qualified nominees will be presented to the members for their consideration. Awards will be made at the December meeting.

DINNER COST NOW \$20

For the past four years, the cost of the Club's monthly dinner has been \$15, but the cost of preparing the dinner has risen steadily. At the March meeting, members voted to increase the cost per meal to \$20 and take cost saving measures as well.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S & PITT R. ON MAY PROGRAM

Nick Didlick, a photographer, digital imaging consultant & fly fishing guide will present a slide show on fishing the upper Pitt River and the Queen Charlotte Islands at the May 11th meeting. Nick is publisher of the website "A River Never Sleeps" You can see his work at:

www.arivernever sleeps.com/

RAINBOW OVER RAINBOWS



Stewart Scham took this photo on a recent trip to Chile with fishing partner Art Larson. The trip was good and Stewart will go again if he has the chance. He also spoke a lot of Spanish which helped. One glitch, all of Art's flies were confiscated at the airport by a not-too-bright but officious bureaucrat. The reason: "Fear of spreading avian flu virus." He got his flies back on the way home, Yeah thanks. Art has since contacted officials about the incident. It shouldn't happen again. However, if you go, hide your flies.

SOME GUYS GET LUCKY



Jeff Bandy is all smiles these days after he and his wife completed the Club's annual fly tying class. It turns out that they both enjoyed tying but

Jeff's wife loves it and, he admits, she's better than him. "She ties flies for both of us and I get to do more fishing." he says.

Finally, welcome to our newest member Pat Spemce!



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 Alfy's on 196th Avenue, Lynnwood, WA. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

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.....See you on the water,
Dick Simmons