



TIGHTLINES



French impressionist Claude Monet couldn't have captured it more beautifully. There's a reason we love to fish in the Fall and this photo, taken on the Klickitat by Doug Pendleton, says it all.

November meeting will include special auction for Olympic Peninsula float with Troy Dettman.



It's time to sharpen up your bidding skills. Guest speaker and worldwide fishing guide Troy Dettman has donated a float trip and we'll be auctioning it off at our meeting Nov. 14th.

The trip will probably be for winter steelhead on the Peninsula. If you want to see how spectacular that can be, go to: www.troysflyfishingtrips.com/

Golden Browns, Rainbows, and Green backs, our favorite Fall colors.

OFF members were off to some of their old familiar places in October. Mostly to fish, but also to kick back, enjoy the slower pace of the "fringe" season, and watch the leaves turning to gold.

Don Summers and Gene Anthony made their annual pilgrimage to the Grande Ronde with Gene's fifth wheel rig in

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Calendar

November 14: Monthly meeting. Our guest speaker is guide Troy Dettman. Troy lives on Bainbridge Island and guides on the Grande Ronde, John Day, and Olympic Peninsula, as well as in Puget Sound, Alaska, Argentina, Africa/Seychelle Islands, and the Yucatan. He will speak on NW Steelheading, bass and trout.

November 28: Business Meeting at Alf's Pizza on 196th. All members are welcome.



Grand Times on the Grande Ronde.

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tow. Once they set up camp they put out the welcome mat for any club members who wanted to come down during the month of October for a few days of fishing and general hanging out.

"I don't know how many years we've been doing this," said Don. "But at my age it's probably more than I care to remember."

The fishing wasn't particularly stellar, but no one expected it to be and no one was counting. It was just a nice place to be on a Fall day with a hint of winter in the air.

Doug Pendleton and Jim Melnick came by for a visit. Doug also spent a week up river as camp cook for Red's Steelhead Camp (That's another story). Jeff and Tami Bandy dropped by for a few days as well as other club members and friends who've gotten to know Don and Gene over the years. All in all, another successful October on the GR.

MONTANA TIME

Mike Bunney, Ken Martin and Steve Murray were off to Montana in October to fish the Madison. Over the past few years they've concentrated on the Madison and have managed to fish just about every section. This time they headquartered in Cameron.

Clockwise from top: Gene with a nice steelhead; Jeff & Tami with faithful companions; Gene at his command station; the good ship "See Ya"; Don relaxing after a hard day on the river.

Doug Pendleton photos

"We fished a lot of different spots in the area but my favorite was the Kirby Hole," said Steve. "We always caught fish there, mostly on size 18 calibaetis patterns and size 20 WD 40's together on a dropper."

The Kirby Hole is named for the Old Kirby Place, an historic lodge in the area.

Steve and Mike both agreed that Ken has definitely signed a pact with the Devil. "He always out-fishes us," said Mike. "He's a fishing machine."

Ken did have one mishap when he slipped and fell on a sharp rock when the threesome was fishing at the base of the Madison Dam at Ennis on their last day. "The rocks were all f#@ing loose and slippery as snot," Steve observed demurely.

Steve and Mike also fished the Birkenhead River in BC and the club outing to Blue Lake with Mike Truax, Bill McDonald, Jim Hagy and David Claude.

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At Isaak's Ranch, Keith finds the true meaning of "out there."



(Editors Note: Keith combined his trip to Isaak's with a successful afternoon at Rocky Ford. Now that's a perfect double header.)

By Keith Stamm

I love being "out there." "Out there" being any place far enough from Seattle to have open spaces to

look at, clean fresh air, and water that grows humongous rainbow trout.

Isaak's Ranch is such a place. It's way out there, way up on the Waterville plateau in Eastern Washington, 250 miles northwest of Seattle. So far up the road you climb for 2 miles above the Dry Falls Café in Coulee City, which is already out there itself.

The thing is, getting out there is not that easy, otherwise everyone else would already be there and it wouldn't be out "there" anymore. First, I had to get out of the city, either by dashing out at 5 a.m. in the morning ahead of the commuters, or by scooting out in the midmorning lull, which is just what I did one recent Monday

Then it was on to Vantage, over the river, up and

across 75 miles of irrigated hay, corn & alfalfa fields to Ephrata, home of the Desert Fly Angler, the outfitter for my trip to The Ranch.

I checked into the Best Western Motel for \$84 – the senior/AAA discount rate for being "out there," and Next morning I met Darc Knobel of the Desert Fly Angler at Big Wally's on Banks Lake. Our breakfast came with four huge slices of bacon, not the girlie bacon they serve in Seattle but real "out there" bacon.

We finished breakfast and Darc said, "Follow me. He roared up onto the Waterville Plateau at 70+ mph and I could hardly keep him in sight. Fortunately, Darc waited by the long gravel road that wandered back to The Ranch.

It was quiet back there, 45 miles from any town, if you could even call Coulee City a town. It felt like freedom. I trolled to the far end of the upper lake, catching two very fat 18-inch rainbows on the way. Darc gave me a couple of bright green chironomids with white beadheads, and the serious fishing commenced. We caught a dozen or so fat trout apiece. Then switched to a dry fly and caught a half-dozen more that were rising in the shallow weed beds near shore

Then Darc and I moved to the lower lake where there are fewer fish, but they are special.

"These are really big, mean fish so you have to hook them and let them run," Darc cautioned. "If you don't, they'll break you off"

This sounded really good. There were some big

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At Birkenhead all the fish were only about 14 inches," said Steve,

"But they all weighed two to three pounds!" There are still a few weeks of Fall fishing left. We

hope you have a chance to take advantage of it.

Dick Simmons

Ken cradles a beautiful brown beside the Madison.



Ken and Mike scout the broad pool at the base of the Madison Dam at Ennis. Steve Murray Photos



Mike asks: "Can you find the fish in this photo?"





The OFF Beat

PRESIDENTS PAST AND PRESENT.



When Roy Stevens was OFF president some 25 years ago, or so, the club was small, but active.

"We fished in Canada, Eastern Washington and a lot of streams around here," he said.

Roy, now 90, came by our October meeting to say hello and let people know he's moving into a retirement place and is liquidating his gear. Roy added:

"Father time and a bad back have caught up with me. Its time to retire from the fraternity,"

Roy is .selling:

1998 Ford Ranger pickup, only 20,700 miles and garaged. 7 foot bed w/liner and canopy.

7 foot Livingston, oars, two anchors and seat with backrest.

Shakespeare 3 speed. motor.

Battery charger.



Dan Reynolds landed this nice chunky cutthroat a couple of weeks ago on the Methow.

Paul Reynolds Photo

Large fly tying kit with all tools accessories and materials.

Table top vise.

Assorted necks, feathers, furs, yarns, boxes and gadgets

For details call Roy at:

425-771-2188

Or e-mail:

stev911@horizon.net

"OUT THERE" Continued
fish working the top of the submerged weeds in a little cove and I began casting a big, sexy, outrageously red fly to the rises.

"Cast to either side of the rise, not right at it," coached Darc. "If you cast to it, they're already gone."

I cast to the right of the next rise. There was a heavy, strong pull, the fly rod bucked violently, and Darc yelled, "Let him go." I did and immediately this huge brute of a rainbow jumped clear of the water. It was amazing to see a fish this bulky capable of

jumping so high. He came down with a heavy splash and the line went limp.

After a respectful silence, Darc said, "You should come back in the spring."

Definitely! I thought.

See you on the water. 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 Board meeting is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Alfys on 196th Avenue, Lynnwood, WA. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Officers:

Joe Conner, President, 425-744-8085

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