

TIGHTLINES



DOES IT GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS? Don Corwin demonstrates his own style of "multi-tasking" as he admires a stout Chopaka Rainbow before releasing it. For more, see page 3. —Steve Murray Photo

Head North for fun, friends and food: Saturday Aug. 8th.

Steve and Rebecca Murray have graciously agreed to host the Annual Olympic Fly Fishers picnic at their home East of Mount. Vernon.

It will be a great day for club members and their families with a casting contest on Steve's pond, room for kids to roam and a lunch featuring Steve's famous ribs and brisket of beef.

The picnic is sponsored by OFF and lasts from noon to 5 p.m. Driving directions Page 4.

Tense seconds on the Yakima.

These excerpts are from a story by Beth Sterten who floated the Yakima earlier this year with her friend Nancy Lambert. The two of them, and their guide, OFF's own Doug Pendleton, had quite an adventure. Read for yourself:

My husband, Bruce and his good buddy, Carlyle Boyd, were fishing in the lead boat with Steve Joyce, Red's owner. Nancy and I were in the second boat with Doug Pendleton, an experienced Yakima fishing guide also with Red's. We had nymphed the "farmland" section of the Yakima all morning and had stopped for a lunch break.

— *Continued on Page 4*

OFF Auction needs your help, STAT!

When December 9th arrives — the evening of the Club's Annual Charity Auction — Chairman Terry Zeitner has three wishes: He wants everything running smoothly. He wants everyone to have a great time. And for good reasons, he's "hoping" he'll be there with the rest of us to enjoy it.

"The problem is I need a kidney transplant," Terry explained at the recent business meeting. "The good news is my sister is a perfect match and has agreed to donate a kidney. But my kidney function is getting worse and I'm worried that my doctor is going to call sometime between now and December and tell me it's time for the operation."

If that happens, Terry will be out of commission for a few months, including December. Meanwhile, He and members of the Auction Committee are working fast to get the majority of their work finished by October.

They've already acquired some remarkable items, including artwork and flyfishing gear, but Terry now needs the support of club members for items that are perennial favorites and often generate the greatest return.

See "Auction" Page 2

August Calendar

8/8: Annual Picnic. Please see story in the box to left and driving directions on Page 4.

8/13, 14, 28 or 29: Outing: Tentative outings are in the works for Ala Spit for Pinks and Eglon Beach for Silvers. Stay tuned.

8/26: Business Meeting: at Alf's.

9/9: Guest Speaker: Dave McCoy, Emerald Water Anglers discusses strategies for fishing the Snoqualmie.

"Auction"



"We'd like everyone who ties to start tying up some of their favorites flies for the silent auction and we really need members to host trips to some of their favorite waters," says Terry. "Even if it's just a matter of taking someone to breakfast and then wading a

section of a stream or river you've fished before. Or packing a lunch and heading to a lake you know and have fished a few times."

Trips and flies are great auction donations. But what's happened in the past is that a lot of members come forward at the last minute. This year we need commitments now.

"We're publishing an auction catalog this year with

photos of items for the live auction and a list of items for the silent auctions," Terry explained. "We'll be printing the catalog and sending it out to everyone before the auction. That way they'll be able to see what they want to bid on or they can get together with other members to bid on trips."

The catalog will need to be designed, photographed and printed and that will take time. Our deadline for donations will be September 30th with mailing to members and printed copies available by our November 11th General Meeting.

Terry wants this year's auction to be one of the best. And with help from Phil Sacks, Rolf Mogster, former auction Chairmen Norm Primc and Joe Conner, and other volunteers it's shaping up to meet that objective.

"We just need a final push from other members to make it happen," he added.

If you have items to donate please contact anyone mentioned above or any club officer. **DS**

Maybe its time to take a closer look at Chironomids.

If you're a dyed in the wool lake fisherman you probably know already that chironomids are the most important food source for game fish in lakes. To be a little more specific, in Spring, they make up 50% of a trout's diet. In summer, it's 22%. And in fall, it's 23%.

So why do so many fishermen "hate" to fish chironomid patterns? You've heard most of the reasons: "It's boring." "I can't stand looking at a



In her class, Brita Fordice includes tying techniques and instructions for some of her own patterns.

Chan's Chironomid shown here is a pattern developed by Brian Chan and is effective in both lakes and on rivers

bobber all day." "It's too technical." "There's no casting challenge."

Excuses aside, the bottomline is this: If you want to increase your chances of catching more fish in your favorite lakes you need to learn more about fishing the chironomid.

There's plenty of misinformation around. But you can get some excellent pointers and patterns from books by Philip Rowley, Brian Chan, Skip Morris, Denny Rickards and Mike Croft.

And, no matter what your level of expertise, if you want a brief but well-rounded perspective on the entomology, habits, fishing techniques, gear, tying materials, tying instructions and best regional lakes you may want to take a day long class from Brita Fordice at Avid Angler.

You'll tie some flies, get pointers on the best materials and take home a binder with photos on tying steps, along with lake maps. To find out more call Brita at 206-362-4030. **DS**



The Fly Fishing Life



Clockwise:
 "Welcome Home Camp" at Chopaka...
 Mike Bunney and Don Summers take a break at Douglas Ranch...

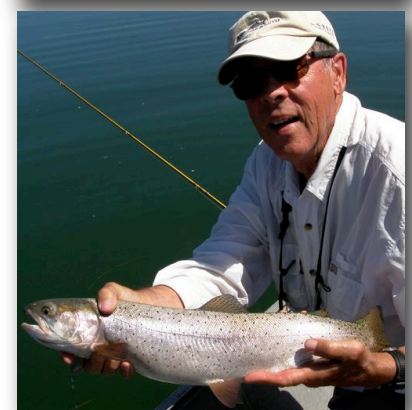
Relaxing after a hard day's work at Chopaka. If you wonder why they're sitting so far away from each other just remember they'd been fishing two weeks without a shower...

Steve Murray is all smiles as he releases his 10,000th Rainbow over two pounds.

— Steve Murray Photos
 Except the one of him.

Right: Keith Stamm cradles a Lahonton Cutthroat he landed at Mystery Lake on the Eastside of Unrecalled State.

— Sum Guy Photo



Far left: There's more to life than fishing. There's dog sledding. Capt. Larry takes the team for a run at Ocean Shores..... Left: March Guest Speaker Sam Sapruff proving that BIG rainbow can be found in Lake Shuswap, BC eg: this 8 lb+brute. Guide: Paul Morris

The OFF Beat

"YAKIMA ADVENTURE" continued

After lunch, it had warmed up enough to cast without the cumbersome fingerless gloves. Ahead of us, Bruce was just landing another fish when I felt a tug and finally had a fish on. Doug pulled into the bank for a "Yakima double-catch photo op" and dropped anchor.

Then the unexpected happened. The anchor slipped off the edge of the narrow bank-side shelf and we were pulled into the fast moving current.

Oblivious to any danger, I was focused on releasing my pretty little rainbow. As she swam away, I felt the jerky pull of the boat and wondered why Doug was rowing so hard. A glance up told the story - we were on a collision course with a huge fallen tree. It was blocking our way and we weren't getting around it. I saw Nancy in the front of the boat with the tree branches surrounding her. It seemed like an age before my brain transmitted a lame warning shout - "Nancy, your rod!"

Before she could react, her rod tip caught in the branches and bent sharply back. That was the last I saw as we hit a submerged log and plowed under the tree's suspended trunk. The boat tilted up beneath me; I was thrown forward and into a rush of water filling the boat. I closed my eyes as the cold water slid over my head and down my back. Luckily the current and weight of the boat pushed us through the mire of branches. It was over in an instant. And somehow Nancy, Doug and I were all on board, stunned, in the nearly submerged boat.

It took a second to realize that I was standing empty handed - my rod gone! But I had no time to think about it. Water was up to a precious two inches from the gunnels so I grabbed the trash bucket and started bailing.

The coolers that had been at Doug's feet were floating up impeding his ability to work the oars. Nancy quickly cleared these out and Doug regained control of the boat. But we weren't out of trouble yet. Just below us was a second downed tree!

With determined skill, Doug maneuvered us straight in to and out of a wispy part of that tree and on to a slow moving stretch that allowed us to limp over to the bank. We were all in shock and at the same time thankful that everyone was OK.

Nancy had scratches on her chin but had saved her rod. Our biggest concern was hypothermia. Fortunately, all those "Be Prepared" lessons of our boys' scouting years had rubbed off on us, and we each had dry things to put on.

I changed quickly, but now the enormity of losing my rod put me in a gray funk. I tramped back up river to see if my 5 weight Sage Z-axis 4-piece beauty would miraculously appear but no such luck. I felt bruised in fact and in spirit. I loved that rod too much! It was irreplaceable to me - I would never splurge on such an expensive toy again.

Reasonably put back together and with the boat bailed out, we were still a good hour from the takeout. Our best option was to carry on, so with a second dry layer and Doug's spare rod, I hunkered down in the back of the boat trying to get some "mojo" back and work the chill off my spine. A fish might have helped, but this was not a contrite river, and it offered not even a white fish in atonement.

The following morning, we went to Red's Fly Shop to return borrowed clothes. When we walked in, there was a new Sage Z-axis 5 weight 4 piece rod waiting for me, complete with my choice of reel and line! Gary, the manager, left no room for objection. He just said that's what they have insurance for; and Doug and Steve were determined to replace my rod.

If I hadn't lost the rod and we had all come out OK, as we did, I would have thought this all just another great adventure - a good story - an E Ticket at Disneyland. But now I am wiser about river hazards, thankful for the expertise of Doug who somehow got us through those trees, and humbled by Steve and Doug's generosity. I am anxious to try out my new lustrous sage-green, sweetly-balanced, rod. I've decided to call her "Mojo" for obvious reasons.

Directions to Steve's place.

Go North on I-5. Near Mount Vernon, take exit 227 for College Way (WA-538). Turn right at E. College Way/WA Highway-538. Follow the roundabout around to go N on Hwy 9. At the first right (Gunderson rd) go R. Stay on this for about 4 miles till you come to Walking M Lane. At Walking M Lane go right. When you come to the first drive on your right you are there. Steve & Rebecca's address is 16502 Walking M Lane.

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. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Officers:

Mike Bunney, President, 425-672-3345
Rolf Mogster, Vice President, 206-546-2677
Jim Gauntt, Treasurer, 425-776-1017
Keith Stamm, Secretary, 206-368-5596
Dick Simmons, Communications. & TIGHTLINES Ed. 425-778-9804
Phil Sacks, Gillie 425-741-7311
Joe Conner, Trustee, 425-744-8085

Chairs:

Outings, Norm Primc, 425-481-1653
Education, Eric Sauer, 425-776-3811, Doug Pendleton 206-282-5366
Conservation, Mike Truax, 425-672-6963

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