

TIGHTLINES



“ARE THEY BITIN’ TODAY?” Why *snowshoe* to the lake when you can drive your own *sled team*? Capt. Larry Roxby teams up with “The Flying Furs” on a recent ice fishing run to Lost Lake near Stampede Pass. But alas, the ice was under five feet of snow. The dogs don’t seem to mind.

OFF fly tying classes bring out the best in all of us.

On this particular Tuesday night in Edmonds it's cold outside and the big meeting room above the Library is mostly dark and mostly empty. "Empty" except for one warmly lighted corner where 17 people are busy teaching and learning one of fly fishing's greatest joys — tying.

2009 has turned out very well for OFF's Beginning Fly Tying Classes. Open to everyone in the community, this year's group has ten students, including four club members: Jim Hagy, Les Jones, Bill MacDonald and Mike Truax.

It's a unique opportunity for students to learn tying basics from some fine tyers. Keith Stamm is leading the class, following in the footsteps of previous instructors Joe Conner and Eric Sauer.

It's also a fine year for club volunteers who are giving one-on-one help to students. Mike Alunni, Mike Bunney, Barry Hutton, Bruce Johnson, Rolf Mogster, Hal Rowe, Blair Scarth and Stewart Scham have all contributed their own tying tips, tricks and wisdom.

Barry has even shared his secret for finding excellent fox masks. "I go to the Indian Potlatches. People who sell fox rugs will sell the masks pretty cheap because nobody wants them." He proved his point by passing around three beautiful masks, white, black and grizzly. But added sadly, "I thing they're starting to get on to me." See **“TYING”** on **PAGE 2**

SO WHO'S THE “REAL McCOY?” SEE PAGE 3.

February Calendar

2/3, 10, 17, 24: Fly Tying Class. The Club's annual fly tying classes for beginners continues at the Frances Anderson Center in Edmonds led by Keith Stamm.

2/11: General Meeting. Don Elder, an avid angler and Director of Western Rivers Conservancy, will speak on Hood River and bass fishing in Oregon and Washington.

2/25: Business Meeting. At Alfy's in Lynnwood. Come and witness the true meaning of "government by the people and for the people."



Barry Hutton: “Trading with the Indians” Circa 2009.



Clockwise from the top:
Class in session at the Edmonds Li-
brary's main meeting room.
Keith Stamm shows hackle tech-
niques to new student Bill Hall.
Tyers Les Jones, Susan Lahti, and
John Leighton at their vises.
Students Bill MacDonald and Mike
Truax get some tying tips from Club
President Mike Bunney.
Hal Rowe shows Jim Hagy how to
wrap tinsel on a Carey Special.
Blair Scarth watches Les Jones as he
measures a wing.



"TYING" continued... When Keith Stamm volunteered to take on the class he admits he was nervous. As a former UW professor he could handle getting up in front of a class of students, but tying is such a "hands on" activity he was concerned about being able to help each individually. Those concerns were erased when so many members came out to volunteer. Last Tuesday's class had seven volunteers for ten students. "I'm so grateful for all the support from the guys who show up to help," says Keith. "We have some amazing volunteers. It really makes it easy for me and speaks very well for the quality of the club."



Student John Leighton, two months away from retirement at Seattle City Light, is looking forward to fishing and tying in months to come. "There are so many ways to enjoy fly fishing," he says. "The possibilities are endless. You never know what you're going to learn next." Susan Lahti of Mukilteo hopes that tying will help her learn more about the sport of fly fishing and how to hone her skills. "I was given a fly rod and reel as a gift more than a year ago and I jumped into the sport with both feet. There is so much to learn and it's a lot of fun," said Susan. Edmonds resident Gary Gales retired and needed something to do. "This class has really been interesting," he said, and added with a grin: "Humbling, too!"

The Fly Fishing Life

Dave McCoy comes to talk about warm water fishing and gets a little heated.

It was the fifth time over the years that internationally respected guide and Emerald Water Anglers' Owner Dave McCoy has spoken to OFF members. But for Dave, the fifth time wasn't exactly the "charm."

Problems with his laptop dogged him most of the evening. But after hitting it a few times (*always a good tactic with a misbehaving computer*), he finally got his Bahamas, Baja and Hawaii photos to come up on the big screen. A little small, but big enough for everyone to wish they were in Pelican Bay, Eleuthera, Andros, Belize, Oahu or anyplace that wasn't cold and in the Pacific Northwest.

A few tidbits: You don't need to cast a country mile to catch bonefish (*"the whitefish of saltwater," as Dave describes them.*)

You do need to be able to cast in windy conditions. (*Which is about 100% of the time at Andros.*)

From October through January the weather is generally worse but the fishing is best. March through June the weather is better but the fishing is average.



IS THIS THE REAL DAVE McCOY?



OR THIS?

Hawaii has phenomenal big game fishing. World class bonefish and tarpon. (*Pray you have 300 feet of backing. Bring flies that are indestructible.*)

Mexico has the greatest diversity (*30 species*), more water to fish, and more guides to go with.

"It's the closest and best place to go if you're putting together a do-it-yourself trip," says Dave.

If you'd like to set up a trip or get some tips from Dave you can reach him at 206-545-2197.

Statewide fishing prospects may be shrinking along with State budgets.

The economic downturn is hitting home in many places, according to OFF Conservation Chairman Mike Truax, who gave a somewhat downbeat report at the recent Club Business Meeting.

The final State Budget arrives in April, but the current proposal calls for cutting up to \$30 million from the WDFW's last budget and includes shutting down the Omak hatchery which supplies fish to about 50 lakes in Okanogan County. Last year that included 325,000 rainbows, 225,000 kokanee, 50,000 triplet eastern brooks, 5,000 tiger trout and 25,000 Twin Lake cutthroats for about 630,000 fish total.

Regional manager Jeff Korth, who will be our guest speaker in March or April, says these are the largest proposed cut he's seen in his 20 years with the department.

"Department personnel know hard times are ahead," said Korth. "But cutting fish programs will be difficult, since they produce a large portion of the agency's funding through license fees."

He doesn't believe closing the Omak hatchery, or a similar one at Arlington, makes much sense.

"A large portion of state anglers fish lakes in those regions," he points out. "Not being able to plant as many lakes would reduce license fees and create a downward spiral that hurts the bottom line."

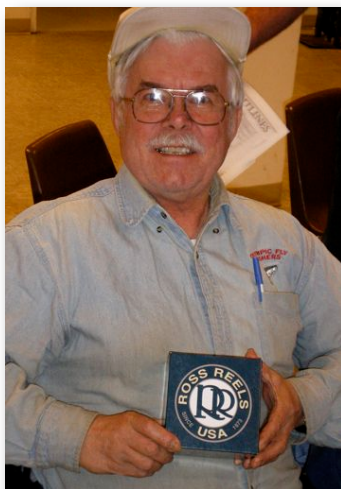
But he added, a decision for closure remains a ways off. A lot could happen between now and March.

In addition to helping with fish plants similar to the one the Club donated to at Chopaka, Mike would like OFF to support an aerator at El Lake in Okanogan County. El Lake is a fly only lake and, while very small, is among the most productive lakes in the County and capable of growing large trout. Persistent low water conditions have resulted in winter kill. The aerator, just like the one we donated to at Big Twin, is a top priority of WDFW's Bob Jateff, who will probably be coming over with Korth in March or April.

Mike would also like us to stay involved with Lund's Gulch Creek in Meadowdale County Park, but only if funding projects produces meaningful results. He plans to attend an upcoming meeting of developers, county officials, residents and railroad representatives to determine what the future might hold.

The OFF Beat

RON SATHER IS OFF'S 2008 WINNING LOSER



Ron Sather is all smiles as he proudly displays the box holding the Ross Reel he won when his raffle ticket was selected from the thousands of losing tickets collected during 2008.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE OUR 2009 AUCTION CHAIRMAN?

One of the most coveted positions in the Club is that of Chairman of our Annual Auction.

Not only does it gain you the instant respect and admiration of your fellow members, it provides you with valuable career and life skills in management, personnel relations, budgeting and material acquisition.

If you would like to avail yourself of this unique opportunity, please contact Mike Bunney before someone beats you to it.

LONG TIME MEMBERS EARN LIFE TIME HONOR

Jack Byrd, Ray Gould and Roy Stevens have been named "Honorary OFF Members."

While it's not the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame, it's an important honor in our Club and comes with free membership for life.

Jack, Ray and Roy have contributed much to the Club over the years. They've been active in leadership positions, education, conservation, outings and other club activities.

We don't have an exact calculation, but their combined years of membership add up to around 80 years plus.

At 91, Roy is the Club's oldest member.



Jack Byrd



Ray Gould



Roy Stevens

CAR POOLING TO FISH- ING SHOW IS WAY TO GO

If you plan to attend the Fly Fishing Show at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue on February 6, 7, and 8, why not try car pooling this year. It saves money, gas and gives you a chance to hang out with guys you know while you travel the exhibits.

NAME TAG FINES COULD GENERATE MILLIONS

At the recent business meeting someone (*unnamed here*) suggested that members who don't wear name tags to meetings should be fined. And then suggested five bucks per offense.

No one came to blows over the issue and it sort of died its own slow death. But everyone agreed it would be nice if people wore their name tags so we could get to know their names.

OUR BIG MAC MISTAKE

In our last issue we mistakenly identified Bill MacDonald as Scott McCracken in an Auction photo. As it turns out, at the time, Scott was actually holding down his bar stool at Dukes Barefoot Bar in Lihu'e Kauai — probably wishing he could be at the Club Auction. Right. Of course. . .

—See you on the river. Dick



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

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Phil Sacks, Gillie 425-741-7311

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Education, Eric Sauer, 425-776-3811, Doug Pendleton 206-282-5366

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