

TIGHTLINES



IN HIS TENT LODGE AT CHOPAKA, Capt. Larry scans his CD collection while a benevolent Hindu goddess, on the tapestry in back, sends out good fishing karma. It must have worked because many OFF members racked up huge numbers of big fish on separate outings during the month. Chironomids accounted for most.

—Dick Simmons Photo

Are you a typical OFF member?

More than 60% of you responded to our recent survey designed to find out how members feel about outings, guest speakers, club activities, conservation and other things.

Thanks to the information you provided, we will be looking at ways to make a great club even better in the future. If you'd like to see some of the interesting statistics see Page 2.

Our Club Picnic will be noon to 5 p.m., Sat., Aug. 8th. at Steve and Rebecca Murrays in Mt. Vernon. Families and kids are invited for ribs, beef brisket, casting contests and games. Driving directions in August Tightlines.

Elder makes life saving spey casts.



Don Elder Remember Don Elder from Western Rivers Conservancy? He and Phil Davis, Director of the Hoh River Trust, spoke at February's meeting. On May 24, Don was spey casting on Oregon's Sandy River when he heard screaming and saw a man and a woman struggling in the middle of the river. The man was holding a small girl and all three were in trouble and needed help fast.

Don didn't have time to shed his boots and waders so he did the first thing that came to mind. He bit off his leader and started casting.

See "SPEY RESCUE" Page 4

Chopaka was Nirvana for Olympic fly fishers on May outings. Or was it?

As you may recall from high school English, "It was the best of times and the worst of times."

If you were getting blown off the lake by gale force winds it was the worst. If you were at the south end of the lake, anchored, with your cigar smoke drifting lazily into the clear blue sky, and hooking up on every other cast it was the best.

If you were standing in the line for the outhouse with a dozen of your new best buddies you'd probably like to be somewhere else. But if you'd just found the sweet spot at the deep end of the lake and no one else was around to notice? Nirvana.

That, in a nutshell, is the way it

See "CHOPAKA" Page 3

June Calendar

6/10: General Meeting. Guest speaker Scott Montgomery, a high lakes outfitter, will tantalize you with stories about packing into lightly fished lakes and streams, good food and swapping tales around campfires. *Wet fly hour at 6 p.m.*

6/13: Outing: Rattlesnake Lake trip may be changed. Contact Jeff Bandy, 206-546-6786, or Barry Hutton, 425-771-3319 for possible new venue.

No General Meeting in July.

No Business Meeting in June.

Next Business Meeting July 22 at Alf's.

Survey reveals interesting data about OFF members.

It appears that everyone in the club is pretty happy about the way things are going. At least no one who responded to the survey questionnaire said they weren't. And many said they were quite happy.

"I really enjoy the club and its members," said one person. "It's a great group and I'm proud to be associated with it."

That sentiment was shared by many members. "Great club." "Great guys." "Great food." One member suggested that we have more "fun" with the Ghillie. (*However we're not quite sure what Phil would consider "fun."*)

When it comes to club sponsored clinics, a number of members would like casting help, both two handed and single handed. Others would like advanced tying clinics with pro tyers as guests. And some who are new to fly fishing would like more mentoring from experienced members.

On outings, some would like more advanced e-mail communications about trips. Outing ideas suggested by members included: "Anywhere in BC for Kamloops trout," plus Dry Falls, Issacs Ranch, Banks (*Carp*), Cady and Merrill Lakes; the Hoh, Quinault, and Clearwater Rivers; Grant and Skamania Counties, plus Northeast and Southwest Washington. One member would also like a trip to "wherever the Women in Waders are when they're there in their waders."

There were plenty of other ideas: "every member should donate an item to the auction — "...tie it, buy it or recycle it." "Make the names on name tags bigger." Most members would like to continue the fly exchange, and fly tying round tables. However some weren't aware of the round tables we've had at Anderson Center.

A more complete report on the survey will be available soon.

A few of the statistics...

Working Status:

70% of OFF Members work part time or are retired.

30% work full time

21% work part time

49% are retired

Fly Fishing Skills:

76% of OFF members consider themselves average to good fly fishermen.

5% consider themselves beginners

10% consider themselves novices

39% consider themselves average

37% consider themselves good

9% consider themselves pro class

How often we fish:

Most OFF members fish fewer than 30 days a year.

23% fish 1-15 days a year

38% fish 16-30 days a year

26% fish 31-45 days a year

5% fish 46-60 days a year

8% fish more than 60 days a year

Where we like to fish:

Rivers vs lakes too close to call.

36% prefer river fishing

34% prefer lake fishing

15% prefer saltwater fishing

13% prefer spring creek fishing

2% prefer pond fishing

Our favorite home waters fish:

No contest.

62% favor fresh water trout.

13% favor salmon.

14% favor steelhead.

6% favor sea run cutthroat.

5% favor bass.

How we spend our fly fishing related time.

52% out on the water.

22% at the vise.

14% at club meetings.

6% reading about fishing.

6% building rods.

Our commitment to conservation.

85% of OFF members would volunteer on a weekend work party every few months if they had enough time ahead to schedule it.

15% said they would be unable to because illness or other commitments.

How far would we go for a club outing?

Not everyone responded to this question, but of those who did here's how they answered:

100% would travel up to 150 miles on a weekend or one day trip.

91% would travel up to 200 miles for an overnight.

86% would travel beyond 200 miles for a two or three day trip.

39% would fly out or drive to destinations in Canada, Idaho or Montana for longer trips.

The Fly Fishing Life

“So where’s the fish?” asks David Claude.

“OH!”



Jeff Bandy & Mike Truax take a break from the Chopaka wind with Mike’s faithful boat dog Lakota.



“CHOPAKA” from Page 1 was in May. Small crowds early and big crowds later. Lots of fish or no fish depending on the weather.

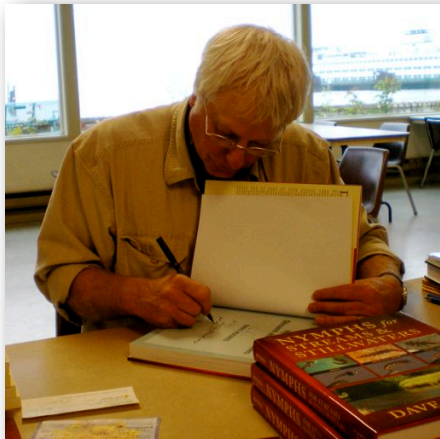
About what you’d expect from our States premier fly fishing lake.

Left: Bill MacDonald & Bud Camandona. Right: “Power by Parasol” at + four knots per hour. Above: Capt. Larry gives Les Jones some tips on chromomids.

—Jeff Bandy Photos



The OFF Beat



It's always interesting when Dave Hughes comes to speak. Our May meeting was no exception. He has that ability to reduce the complexities of fly fishing to their basics and his presentation on "Matching the hatch simplified" did that excellently. Among other things, he demonstrated how a Sparkle Dun pattern can be used to match any mayfly dun simply by changing sizes and colors. He also stuck around afterwards to visit with members and sign copies of his latest book: *Nymphs for Streams & Stillwaters*.

Catch more fish with Chronomids

Brita Fordice at the Avid Angler in Lake Forest Park will be heading up a day long class on tying and fishing Chronomids on Sunday July 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During the session you'll learn how to tie patterns for a variety of situations and specific lakes in the area and you'll also learn fishing techniques and appropriate rigs.

The class has room for six and each participant will receive a ring binder with full color shots of tying steps for each pattern and maps of specific lakes where the patterns are most effective. Cost for the day is \$80. To sign up call the Avid Angler at 206-362-4030.

"SPEY RESCUE" From Page 1

Don's first cast landed near the woman. She was closest to him. She grabbed the line and he lowered the rod and began stripping her in slowly with short tugs. The current drew her toward the river bank where others waded out and helped her from the shallows.

He then ran downriver to get within range of the man and little girl who were quickly approaching the head of some rapids.

His first two casts missed, or weren't seen by the man.

"On my third cast the man seemed to realize what to do," said Don. "He grabbed the line with his free hand." And again Don began making short strips as he worked his way down stream where he eventually brought them both to shore, still gripping the brightly colored line.

Someone waded out and grabbed the little girl and Don wrapped his arms around the man to help him out of the water.

"He kept saying 'Thank you, thank you,' then he passed out," said Don.

Thankfully, everyone survived and are in good condition.

Parts of this story were posted on OregonLive.com.



If you've ever wanted to climb up to a high mountain lake for some beautiful scenery, fine cutthroat fishing and great camp food you'll definitely want to attend our June 10th meeting and hear back country guide and outfitter Scott Montgomery introduce you to the joys of the Alpine wilderness — without a 50 lb. pack on your back.

Remember, there will be no General Meeting in July. Enjoy the good weather and go fish!



Q: Who would be crazy enough to drive a motor home up a bad one lane road full of rocks, ruts and high cliffs? A: An electrician?

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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