

TIGHTLINES



THERE'S FISHERY, AND THEN, THERE'S FISHING. Twigg's Place, on Salmon Lake BC, managed by Douglas Lake Ranch, was a recent destination for club members Dick Hedges, Perry Barth, Jim Gauntt, and Terry Zeitner.
 See "TWIGG'S PLACE" Page 3
 —Photo by Dick Hedges

Region 3 has it all: from a blue ribbon trout stream to high alpine lakes.

Most fly fishermen think about fishing in terms of destinations, not WDFW "regions." So when Region 3 Fish Program Manager John Easterbrook came to speak about fishing opportunities in his territory, some of us were surprised at what we learned.

Region 3 includes Kittitas, Yakima, Benton and Franklin Counties. Oh, right, the Yakima River runs through Kittitas County. So, Washington's premier blue ribbon trout stream is in Region 3. But there's a lot more, too. By the end of his presentation, John had many of us fired up to explore some new waters.

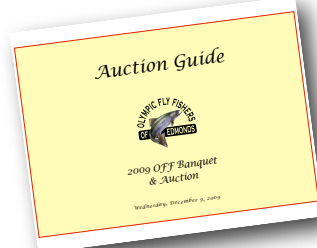
Of course, the star of the show is the Yakima. But some other Region 3 destinations include the Hanford Reach

See "REGION" Page 4



Photo #1: Ken Martin jokes around with OFF pals on recent trip to Sitka, Alaska.
 See Photo #2 on Page 3
 —Photo by Steve Murray

Your guide to auction action.



For the first time ever, this year's Club Auction comes complete with its own guide, listing all the items up for bid as well as photos of items in the live auction.

There are some other "firsts" this year that will delight both art lovers and fly fishermen alike.

See "AUCTION" Page 2

November Calendar

11/11, General Meeting: Author, biologist and fly fishing maven Rick Hafele shares his great sense of humor and vast knowledge of fishing. Wet fly hour begins at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm.

11/25, Officers Retreat & Business Meeting: 6 pm to 8:30 pm at Barlee's Restaurant, 7929 Lake Ballinger Way, Edmonds (Just East of Scott's.)

2009 Auction features the art of fly fishing.

Members and guests attending the Annual Club Auction on December 9th, will be able to enjoy a feast for their eyes as well as a feast for their palates.

The art of the fly tyer, the art of the sculptor, the art of the painter, and the art of the rod maker will all be on display.

Auction Chairman Terry Zeitner has been able to acquire sculpture pieces from many of the artists he's gotten to know over the years.

He's also tied and mounted three plates of classic salmon, spey and Carrie Stevens patterns. Terry has been tying for more than 40 years and estimates that each of the classic salmon flies took about a day apiece to tie. All the ties are with materials authentic to the original patterns.

"I've collected these materials over many years," says Terry. "Some of them are no longer available."

Terry has also donated one of his hand crafted bamboo rods to the auction, a 6' 10"



Rainbow Trout sculpture by well respected artist Marc Demott.

4 wt that would normally sell for more than \$2500. The rod will be the last item of the night. It's featured as the prize in a special raffle after the "losers" raffle and will be another first for this year's auction.



Auction Chairman, professional bamboo rod builder and artist Terry Zeitner.

The new Auction Guide will be distributed at our November Meeting on the 11th and at the door the night of the auction. If you'd like to have a copy e-mailed or sent to you please contact Dick Simmons.

Auction items can still be donated at the November meeting.

Dinner tickets for the banquet are only \$25 apiece because the Club is subsidizing nearly half of the total cost. Please let Jim Gauntt know as soon as possible if you plan to attend and your entree choices. DS



This beautifully tied plate of nine classic salmon flies is one of three created for the Auction by Auction Chairman Terry Zeitner. —Photos by Dick Simmons

OFF Auction and Banquet December 9, 2009

Salad Course

Winter Greens with Sliced Pears, Gorgonzola, Red Onions & Candied Pecans with a champagne Pomegranate Vinaigrette

Artisan French Rolls with Butter

Plated Dinner

Slow Roasted Prime Rib with a Horseradish Cream Sauce

King Salmon with a Champagne Sauce

Whipped Yukon Gold Potatoes & Yams

Chef's Choice Fresh Seasoned Vegetables

Dessert Course

Chocolate Tuxedo Cake with Chocolate Ganache

Fresh Roasted Regular & Decaffeinated Coffee Service

Sign up for a table of eight and receive a free bottle of wine.



The Fly Fishing Life



Photo #2: Unfortunately, an amorous female brown bear, who had taught herself to read by studying discarded candy bar wrappers, happened to wander by at just the wrong time (*For Ken, not the bear*).

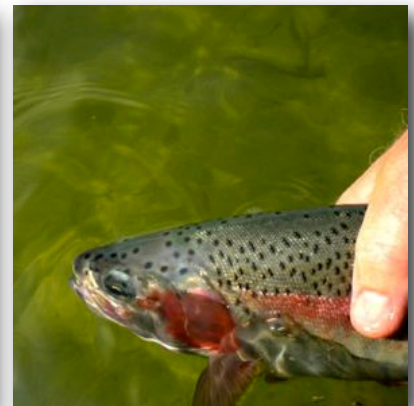
—Photo by Mike Bunney



OFF's Ambassadors of Good Will to Sitka from left: Ken Martin, Gene Anthony, Steve Murray, Mike Bunney, Don Summers and Dave Markle.—Photo by heartbroken Brown Bear



It's now official. After a thorough review of all past newsletters, the judges have decided there are more photos of Steve releasing fish than anyone else in the club. That's awesome! —Photo by Don Summers



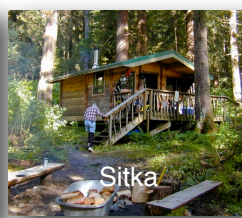
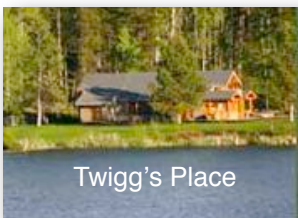
Rainbow and Cutthroat were the targets at Salmon Lake BC.

“TWIGG’S PLACE” Continued from Page 1

In addition to Salmon Lake, the Twigg’s contingent fished other impoundment lakes in the Merritt area including Little Sabin, Pike and Harry’s Dam.

Dick Hedges reports that a conversation with the Fish Master at Douglas Lake Ranch led him to tie on a Water Boatman pattern.

“You don’t see many boatmen on the water and you definitely don’t see them under the surface, but they’re a major food source,” says Dick. “I used a full sinking Type III line and slowly fished it clear to the surface. My leader was just starting to come out of the water when ZOOM a big fish, BIG FISH hit it and kept going. It almost straightened my hook, just a little curve left in it. I was shaking. . .”



The OFF Beat



Leech Lake (Elev. 4,500 ft.) at White Pass is fly fishing only.

“REGION” Continued from Page of the Columbia River as well as aquatic habitats ranging from alpine lakes and streams to warm water lakes and ponds.

White sturgeon, summer steelhead, bright fall chinook, and walleye are available in the Columbia. Bass, perch and bluegill can be caught in many local ponds. And higher elevation streams host rainbow, cutthroat, and brook trout. The Region's lakes offer fair to excellent rainbow and cutthroat trout fishing as well as Brown, Golden, Bull, Eastern Brook, West Slope Cutthroat and Kokanee. That's diversity!

Easterbrook's pick for fly fishermen is Leech Lake (elevation 4,500 ft.) on White Pass. It's fly fishing only and is home to naturally reproducing Brook Trout to 19 inches. It's recently been planted with triploid Rainbow to help thin out the smaller Brookie. Imagine what all that means.

Leech can be reached by car as well as two other nice high Alpine lakes: Dog Lake and Lost Lake. Lost Lake is a big naturally formed lake that can be accessed from the Stampede Pass exit on I-90. The lake holds Eastern Brook Trout that grow to 7+ pounds on Kokanee smolt. It also has some nice camping spots, according to Easterbrook.

All the lakes in Region 3 are open year-round.

The Natches River also runs through the Region and Easterbrook recommends the catch and release section, which is still accessible despite the recent slide on highway 410 (For latest update call 509-577-1635 or 5-1-1).

The “Man of the Year” needs your support.

At press time, only 26 of our 60 members have sent in their votes for OFF's Man of the Year for 2009.

It's been Club tradition to keep the names of Man of the Year nominees confidential so it will be a BIG surprise at the Annual Banquet.

Only two members, President Mike Bunney and Dick Simmons, who is compiling the votes, know the status. The race is close but we can report this:

9 members have been nominated.
6 have 3 or fewer vote.
3 have 4 or more votes.
The leaders are tied.

The Natches is too small and shallow for drift boats but excellent for pontoon craft. The river holds wild West Slope Cutts to 20+ inches as well as Bull Trout (*protected*).

A couple of other interesting rivers in the Region are the Cle Elum and Cooper.

Besides trout, the Cle Elum has a run of Sockeye, which came from the Priest River and it also has a run of summer Steelhead. Despite the Suncadia Development, Easterbrook says there's still has good access on the Cle Elum.

The Cooper River, that runs into and out of Cooper Lake is a small pristine River that is said to hold (*but not proven by this reporter's experience*) some nice Brown Trout. It's also rumored that Cooper Lake holds four varieties of trout (*also not proven by this reporter's experience*). *However we do know it holds one nice Sage Rod and a nice reel once owned by Dan Wilson*.

Other lakes on Easterbrook's radar include Thorp Lake, Bumping, Kachess, Keechelus, Gold Hill (*off 410*), Pleasant Valley (*off 410*), Richmond (*for Rainbow*), Surprise, Bauer (*Elevation 6,500 ft. for Golden*) and Hell Lake, across the road from Leech.

If you're interested in some Large Mouth Bass fishing, he recommends fishing the I-82 ponds and lower Yakima in April and May and suggests 3' streamers with a lot of silver. For a primer on Region 3 high lakes, here's a link: wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regions/reg3/highlakes.pdf

As you can see, this year we need your vote more than ever to make this honor meaningful.

You can e-mail your choice to me at the TIGHTLINES address in the box below, or write the name of your nominee on a piece of paper and drop it in the box at the check in table at our November 11th meeting.

Thanks for your help.

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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