

TIGHTLINES



LIFE IN THE FAST LANE. Norm Primc (right) and Don Roberts take a break during a trip to the Southern Oregon Coast where he and Dan Reynolds fished the Elk River for a late run of Chinook Salmon. Don, a friend of Dan's, is an Oregon outdoor writer and photographer. To see why Norm (and Dan) are smiling turn to Page 3. —Dan Reynolds Photo

The Queets is “the queen” for fly rodding steelheaders.

It's safe to say that between Dennis Dickson and his son Mike there's probably more real knowledge about steelheading than you'll find anywhere in the West.

Dennis is a former fisheries biologist who spent eight years working in the Stilliguamish system (*when it was still “decent”*) and eventually left fisheries to pursue his lifelong passion, steelheading.

He and Mike operate Dickson Flyfishing Steelhead Guides and they put an emphasis on instruction.

Dennis and Mike focus on steelheading in Washington State and also spend part of the year guiding for Tarpon in Puerto Rico.

The father and son team spoke at our
Continued on Page 2

If it's December it must be Auction time!

This year's Club Auction and Banquet promises to be another excellent evening of fun and finesse.

The fun part comes with getting together with friends over drinks and a great dinner.

The finesse part is all about timing your bids for just the right moment in the silent auctions and determining a bidding strategy for

winning some of the great items that will be up for bid in the live auction. (*Think John Day River trip with Don Elder of Western Rivers Conservancy. Did someone say “special access?”*)

Chairman Jim Traner has placed a priority on great fly fishing experiences this year. Great trips, classes and home grown adventures will all be part of the action as well as some special gear and art items donated

AUCTION CHAIR Jim Traner, seen here, has barricaded himself in a remote fish camp in the Methow Valley. He has named it “Auction Bliss.” An OFF team is enroute to bring him back alive to wrap up final plans for the December 8th event but there's concern that Jim may be armed.



by various club members, fly shops and manufacturers.

“The economy has hit hard for a lot of fly shops and gear manufacturers,” says Jim. “It's reduced our donations. But that's been okay. We've had to think differently and the result is that this year we have more items that
— *Continued on Page 2*

December Calendar

12/8: Join fellow OFF members, spouses and friends: It's our annual Club Auction & Dinner. And this year's gala promises to be as good as they get. 6 p.m.

12/15: Officers' Annual Retreat: Auction results, budget planning & more. Scott's Bar & Grill.

"Where we fish, six boats a day is a lot of pressure."



MIKE DICKSON, with a two hand rod, scouts the water from a Queets River boulder.—Dennis Dickson Photo

STEELHEAD Continued

November meeting and passed along some of the practical knowledge they've gained from many years of steelheading in Washington.

"There are a lot of good steelhead rivers on the Peninsula," says Dennis. "But only a couple are good fly fishing rivers, the Hoh and the Queets."

Dennis and Mike focus on the Queets because most of the river is located inside the Olympic National Park and the park management makes for a more consistent steelhead fishery. Dickson Fly Fishing is one of the few guide operations with a permit to fish inside the Park.

"Both the Hoh and Queets are great rivers," says Dennis, but the Queets gets one tenth of the fishing

WHEN YOU CATCH ONE, YOU'LL KNOW. A wild steelhead is unlike any other fish. It becomes an obsession.

pressure the Hoh gets."

March and April are the best months for the Queets and fly anglers should be aware that the Queets has consistently low visibility. About four feet on a good day.

The solution is to use big flies and get them very close to the fish. "Fly lines catch fish, not always flies," Dennis points out. "Think of a steelhead like a kitten. If you want it to strike at something on a string you need to get the string close."

The Dicksons primarily fish with sink tips. Type 2, 3 and 4 in shallow water and 5, 6, and 7 in bigger water.

In the winter the fish are more likely to be down on the bottom and in summer they'll be nearer the top. For more tips go to flyfishsteelhead.com. **DS**



IN DIRTY WATER scale up the profile. It's often more productive than the pattern.



AUCTION Continued

fly fishermen will appreciate — especially the trips."

By making this year's auction more of a "home grown" event Jim also hopes to recoup a greater percentage of the profits than we have at times in the past when the Club purchased items to auction at a discount and barely broke even. "That's the CPA in me talking," Jim added.



A SHADOW BOX plate of authentic spey flies by Terry Zeitner will be an Auction highlight.

The Auction will again be catered by Celebrations which always does a great job.

This year, members and guests have a choice of two main entrees: Grilled center cut sirloin and pancetta,

tomato confit and cabrales butter, or potato encrusted salmon with braised fennel and roasted Herb beurre blanc.

A spinach salad with apples, avocado and pancetta with a cider vinaigrette, artisan rolls and butter and side dishes of mashed potatoes and Chef's choice of fresh seasonal vegetable will also be included.

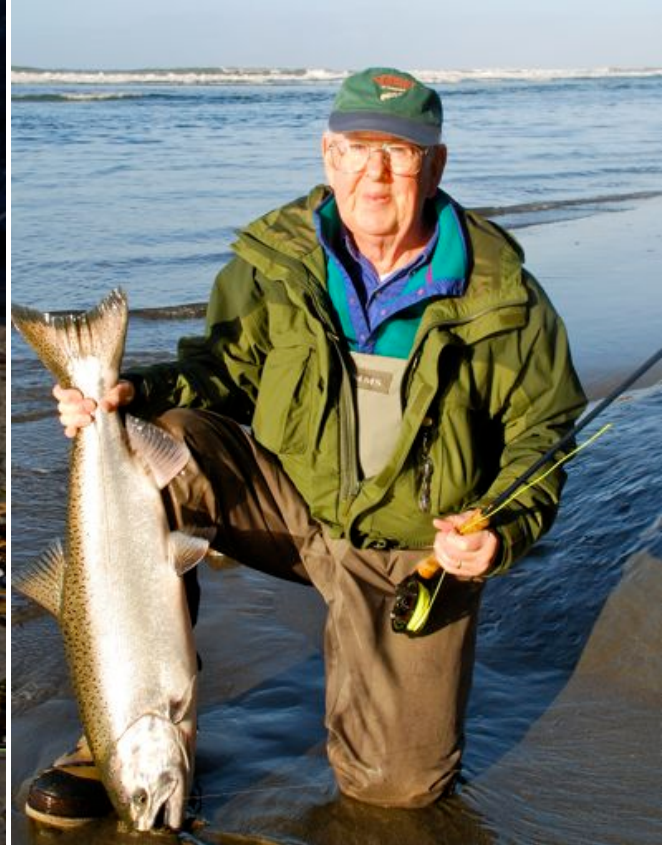
A dessert of pumpkin cheesecake with a pecan caramel sauce along with regular and decaf coffee will top off the dinner.

Cost for the dinner is only \$30 per person with the Club subsidizing the balance of about \$25.

Doors open at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center and you still have time to make reservations. Call Bill MacDonald at 425-774-4769.

Volunteers are also welcome to help set up. Bill can give you more information.

The Fly Fishing Life



IT DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER. Chrome bright Chinook Salmon caught in the fresh waters of Oregon's Elk River by Norm Primc and Dan Reynolds just 100 yards from the salt. Says Dan: "These fish are as strong and fast as any salmon you will ever hook. They come out of the water like a Silver and run you into your backing more than once before you ever land them." Dan and Norm fished with Dean Finnerty of Five Rivers Guide Service. Steelhead season on the River is in February and March.
—Don Roberts Photos

Evergreen Fly Club proposes joint effort on quality lake project.



OFF Conservation Chairman Mike Truax reports that the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club of Everett has offered to join forces with Olympic Fly Fishers in our effort to gain a "Quality lake/ selective gear designation for a lake in Snohomish or Skagit County.

Earlier this year Mike Truax met with Region Four Biologist Chad Jackson who was supportive of the idea and encouraged Mike to prepare a proposal. Mike did and sent it off to WDFW officials in Olympia. Theoretically, commission officials will review the proposal and provide feedback.

Unfortunately, personnel downsizing in the WDFW and Jackson's transfer to another region has made it difficult for Mike to find out where things stand at the current time. Hopefully, with both clubs working on the issue, we might get some push.

"Evergreen led past efforts to secure a quality designation for Lone Lake," says Mike. "They've also investigated candidate waters in this area just as we have."

Mike has been invited to attend a January meeting of Evergreen's Conservation Committee to exchange ideas and timelines.

TROUT PLANTS PROVING SUCCESSFUL

Mike has received strong positive feedback from club members that have visited lakes the club stocked earlier this Fall. All the fish hooked are at least 12" and a number over 20" have been released. Those fishing appreciate the fact that stocked lakes are less than a one hour drive from Edmonds.

One half of OFF's \$4,000 conservation budget for 2010 has been spent to stock nearby lakes to promote fishing opportunities during the winter and early spring period. Subject to the approval of club officers, other 2010 contributions will be made to Western Rivers Conservancy and the Coastal Conservation Association.

The OFF Beat

"So long, and thanks for all the fish!"

In a very funny novel, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," by Douglas Adams, the planet Earth is blasted away by aliens to make room for an intergalactic freeway project.

Shortly before the cosmic road crew arrives to remove the "obstruction" all the dolphins on the planet fly out of the oceans in search of another place to live. Their parting message is the headline you see above.

This is my last issue as Tightlines Editor. As I think about the last five years, the first thought that pops to mind, with apologies to the late Douglas Adams, is "So long, and thanks for all the great fish stories."

OFF is fortunate to have so many truly gifted fly fishermen, tyers and rod builders among its members. All of whom appear to be modest about their skills and eager to help others.

There's also a unique sense of humor and good natured skepticism within the club that prohibits the growth of outsized egos and the snobbery that seems to inflict so many fly fishermen we meet.

For all of these reasons, I have enjoyed and am honored to have been your scribe these past five years. The newsletter would be empty without the tales, both tall and short, that you've created and the photos you've sent along to document them. Thank you!

Your new Editor, Thomas Sawtell, is a very creative guy with some excellent ideas about how to make communications among the members even more fluid and timely. He outlines some of his thoughts in his column to the right. Please give him all the support you can, with photos, fishing reports, and adventures.

See you on the river! Dick



As your newly elected Communications Director and Editor of Tightlines it is my pleasure to lead with a call for all members to applaud Dick Simmons for his gracious service.

Thank you Dick, you gave the legacies of OFF the bright light they deserve, your journalistic style added insight and credibility to many a fish tale, while making even the most rain soaked members appear well outfitted and their catches - regardless of size, noble in deed.

The publications are truly an asset to the Club. We will index past issues to facilitate access to information for the benefit of organizational development, education and individual member to member camaraderie.

Dick has been kind to offer on-the-job-training to make the January and February Tightlines the transition issues from his Mac software to my PC software.

Members Notice: Please submit your news for the January issue to both me and Dick as early as possible. Come March, we are on our own, heaven help us!

Our intent will be to keep the in-print version of Tightlines faithful in design, content, and style, however the reality is those qualities were the product of a seasoned veteran member as Editor, whereas the newly elected Editor is not. Therefore, it is requested that members do their best to submit well written and insightful contributions during this transition period of 2011.

Look for an email outlining Tightlines news categories that will be crafted to facilitate and broaden member contributions, as well as an editorial calendar / schedule for input and comment from members and Committee Chairs. With some extra effort on planning we hope to improve our lot with respect to newsworthiness during the transition.

Once we can get a newly formatted Tightlines launched, we will focus on tightening the lines of communications and improving access to Club information via a more robust web site, direct e-mail, and social media technology. Members - look for a forthcoming email on this topic with examples for your exploration, consideration and comment. Idea being, to facilitate member to member communications about current and near term future fishing reports, informal Club activities, and logistics during in-progress Club events.

Thomas Sawtell



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. at 6:00 p.m.

Officers:

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Bruce Johnson, Vice President,
425-742-2252

Bill MacDonald, Treasurer,
425-774-4769

Dick Simmons, Communications. &
TIGHTLINES, 425-778-9804

Keith Stamm, Secretary, 206-368-5596

Phil Sacks, Gillie, 425-741-7311

Mike Bunney, Trustee, 425-672-3345

Chairs:

Mike Truax, Conservation, 425-672-6963

Steve Murray, Outings, 360-422-7335

Open seat, Education

Beverage Meister, Jeff Bandy

Olympic Fly Fishers

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