

# TIGHTLINES



**LES JONES FISHES THE WILDLY POPULAR** and heavily pressured Road I/645 Drain stretch of the Frenchman Hills Wasteway that passes through the Desert Wildlife Area in lower Grant County. Les and Jim Hagy were following up a tip from the WDFW team that spoke at our March meeting. *More on Page 2* —Jim Hagy Photo

*Mitchell shares his deep knowledge of the Yakima, and other rivers north, south and east, at March meeting.*

If you're producing an online magazine, a video or TV show, writing a book, publishing a catalog or doing a magazine or newspaper article on the Yakima River, you're bound to run into Jack Mitchell along the way.

At one time or another, Jack has appeared in, been quoted in, or photographed for all of the above mentioned. And with good reason. He's guided on the River for nearly 25 years. His company, the Evening Hatch, is the only guide service covering the Yakima from Easton to



Roza since 1988.

At our March meeting Jack shared his personal experiences about the best times to fish the Yakima, his favorite sections, flies that work, and proven techniques. He also told us about some of the other rivers he and his guides are working these days and why they are some of the best fly *See "JACK" Page 2*

*If this guy tries to slither on to your boat on the John Day what should you do? Page 2*



**It's a Club favorite: Don't miss the May madness at Chopaka & Blue with all your new best friends.**

Last year David Claude called the spring fishing at Chopaka "the best he'd ever seen." This year could be even better (*or worse*).

Dates are May 2-6. If you're one of the 14 who have signed up already get set for some fine action. If you haven't, but can make room for it at the last minute, contact Mike Truax (425-672-6963) for the latest information.

### May Calendar

**5/12, General Meeting:** Guest Speaker Brita "It's all about Chironomids" Fordice will talk about these ubiquitous creatures and how they can change your luck. And don't forget to bring a fly for our Club Fly Swap. Tie it or buy it.  
**5/26, Business Meeting:** 6 p.m. At Alf's. **5/26, 5/2-6, Outings: Chopaka & Blue** One of the year's favorites. *See left.*

# How you can make the best of the Yakima.

fishing destinations in and out of Washington State. Mitchell gave us an overview of the five sections of the Yakima: Easton Dam to the confluence of the Cle Elum River, Cle Elum River to the State boat launch at East Cle Elum, the boat launch to Diversion Dam, Diversion Dam to Ringer, and Ringer to Roza.

Each section has its own unique personality, from a swift mountain stream, through farmlands and eventually into broad high walled basalt canyons.

Most of the fishing (*and the fish*) can be found in the lower canyon stretch. And from mid April to September most of that fishing is done from drift boats because flows are raised for irrigation and the river is too swift and high for wading in most areas.

Jack's favorite sections are primarily in the Upper Yakima. It's less crowded and there's more interesting water to fish.

"It's smaller and in some places more like a freestone stream than a typical tailwater stream," says Jack. "But there are also fewer fish per mile than the lower river."

Mitchell has long been a big fan of the Golden Stone hatches on the river that can last for two and a half months during June, July and August.

You won't see a blizzard of Golden Stones like you do on some Montana rivers and creeks but from Easton to Roza they'll be looking.

"I like a yellow or orange stimulator with rubber legs or a dirty olive/yellow double wing, or orange double wing," says Jack. "If they're picky I use a realistic stimulator that has a fly foam wing under a sparse deer overwing and I like to move it with controlled twitches." The best time to fish the hatch is the first two weeks after the first full moon in the month of July.

Jack predicted that the Mother's Day Caddis Hatch



Lower Yakima Canyon near Umtanum.

## Jim Hagy and Les Jones check out an unlikely "stream" in Frenchman Hills.

At our March meeting the WDFW Biologists mentioned the I/239 & I/645 irrigation drains in Grant County as good opportunities for stocked Rainbow. So Team Jim and Les went to check it out. After a long time finding them, Jim reports: "Beautiful weather and a fun day but we did not find much evidence of the 2007 plants. Had a few strikes but only landed one 8 inch rainbow." *Thanks Guys. It's the effort that counts.*



Club VP Bruce Johnson and The Evening Hatch's Jack Mitchell talk about their recent float trip on the Yakima. Everything that they claimed happened really did. (*And that's the god's truth*). —Dick Simmons Photos

would come before May 1 this year. (*We haven't called to confirm. Did it?*)

He also likes fishing the spawning redds in the upper river for Rainbow in late September.

The Evening Hatch has also been guiding on the Upper Columbia and the Klickitat and Mitchell says landing a native Steelhead on the Klick is one of the most challenging experiences he's ever had.

"They're just a different breed of Steelhead" he believes. "They're nearly impossible to land."

The best fishing is mid-August into November when it's about 50 degrees at night and not more than 80 degrees in the daytime. 95% of the Steelhead he's taken have been on the swing in the tailouts. He fishes Muddlers from size 10 to 2 and says most wild fish are in the river in November.

## Western Rivers Conservancy thanks OFF for helping preserve 7,000 acres on Hoh.

Over the past couple of years OFF has donated \$2500 to the WRC and Hoh River Trust in their efforts to place land along this pristine free flowing river in a permanent protective stewardship. Today, nearly the entire length of the River is protected.

Camping, fishing, hunting and hiking are now allowed in this 30 mile conservation corridor from the Olympic Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

In a letter to Conservation Chair Mike Truax, Phillip Wallin, President wrote:

"Thank you for your steadfast support in this decade-long effort...let us know if you are interested in a hike or tour of this incredible landscape along the Hoh." "*Maybe we should do a group tour,*" Mike suggested at our recent business meeting.

# The Fly Fishing Life

## BUCKETS AND BACK EDDIES

By Keith Stamm

*Editor's Note: Keith Stamm fished Montana's Clark Fork River recently with Guide Tim Linehan, of Linehan Outfitters out of Troy. Here's Keith's report.*

The Clark Fork below St. Regis is a big river but the trout are easy to find. They inhabit a narrow band along each bank, the buckets and back eddies. Tim gave me a marathon lesson on how to recognize them and how to fish them. We floated 14 miles of the Clark Fork on three consecutive days. Tim was my instructor and cheering section. It sounded like the Boston Red Sox infield coming down the river.

"That little break next to the bank. There's a bucket right below it. Put your fly right on that break. Nice cast! Downstream mend. Good work! Set, set!"



The buckets were easy compared to the back eddies, especially when the drakes started coming off the first morning. It involved casting over a seam of downstream current into water moving upstream

along the bank. Sometimes it was possible, by throwing a slack line cast, to get a few feet of drag-free drift before the fly pulled under. The casts had to be accurate, made all the more difficult by the need to throw slack line behind the fly or, sometimes an S-cast or a pile cast.

In one back eddy a fish was rising in the middle of an opening in the foam. "Can you land the fly in the middle of that opening," Tim asked. He didn't mean just any old cast. The situation demanded a pile cast. The fly landed and was immediately sucked down by a hefty 16-inch Cutty.

The drake hatch tapered off around 1 p.m. Then it was a game of drifting stonefly and mayfly nymphs through the deeper current seams, working hard to

mend line ahead of the indicator. A difficult job when the current keeps pulling the tip of the line under.

"Big mend," Tim instructed, "Don't worry if you move the indicator."



This method yielded several nice Bows and Cuttys, most often from the deep seams on the outside of the back eddies. Before we knew it, it was 7 o'clock and time to get off the river.

The next two days were warm enough to get the Skwalas coming off and bright enough to make the fish cautious. They all but ignored the Skwalas on the second day despite their numbers on the water. We took our share of fish but again, only from the deeper seams and foam-covered back eddies. The third day the Skwalas were really out in force but the fish didn't get on them until mid-afternoon, and even then only along the shaded banks. It was difficult to target these fish as they moved around chasing the bugs; you never knew where the next rise would be. But the fish were definitely more active and the float gave us the two largest fish of the trip, an 18-inch Cutthroat and 20-inch Rainbow. Both fish were in excellent condition and fought tenaciously.

*"The River below St. Regis is an easy day's drive from Seattle," say Keith. "It gives you the opportunity to catch some of the most gorgeous West Slope Cutthroat and Rainbows in Montana. You won't find a better teacher or hard-working guide than Tim. The best time to go is spring season (March-April)."*

## What to do with a pesky Rattlesnake — in 3 easy steps.

1. Whack it on the head a couple of times and bring it aboard.
2. Carefully, *very carefully*, attach it to your bass jig.
3. Go flip it into that big brush snag on the other side of the river. Strip! Thump! Whoa! Carefully lip side of bass mouth opposite to snake. Take picture, release bass. That's what Oregon Guide Len Self does. So Easy. — Thanks to Walt Wojcik for sending along these great pix.



# The OFF Beat

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER



Say hello to Bill Goodman of Edmonds. Bill is an Edmonds native and a gym instructor.

### Club auction leaders will meet at 5:30 on May 12.

Team leaders for the annual Club Auction will meet at the Senior Center a half hour before the General Meeting on May 12.

Team leaders are Jeff Bandy, Mike Bunney, David Claude, Jim Hagy, Bruce Johnson, Bill MacDonald, Larry Pinnt, Capt. Larry Roxby, William Scott and Mike Truax.

### Tie one or Buy one.

Barry Hutton has organized a Fly Swap for our May 12 meeting. All you need to do is bring one fly and give it to Barry who will explain how it all works. You might also tag the fly with its name.

### Jeff steps up to the bar.

Be sure to give Jeff Bandy a big "thank you" for taking over as Beverage Chairman from Don Corwin. And when you see him lugging the good in and out be sure to give him a hand.



### Britta Fordice will Demo and Discuss Chronomids May 12.

You may have Talked to Britta when you've been to The Avid Angler but you may not have realized that she's one of the finest Chironomid tyers, instructors and fishers in the Pacific Northwest.

If you want to learn how to improve your lake fishing don't miss our May General Meeting.



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. at 6:00 p.m.

#### Officers:

Rolf Mogster, President, 206-546-2677  
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  
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#### Chairs:

Mike Truax, Conservation, 425-672-6963  
Steve Murray, Outings, 360-422-7335  
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#### Olympic Fly Fishers

P.O. Box 148  
Edmonds, WA 98020  
[www.olympicflyfish.com/](http://www.olympicflyfish.com/)

## Boats For Sale



**Steve's Hylaker & new EZ haul.** This is a screaming DEAL! Reduced from \$3,000 to only \$1,645. 13' fiberglass, 6 hp Johnson, Minnoka elect., oars,, gas can, canvas cover, seats 3 and stored inside. **JUMP ON IT!** [flyfisher42@verizon.net](mailto:flyfisher42@verizon.net)



**Dave's 10' Skookum "white water ready" Steelheader & Trailer** It would take an entire page to list all the extra features of this incredibly stout river boat. But the most incredible? **HE'S ASKING ONLY \$2,000!** Call Dave Markle, quickly. 206 498-3440 for all the details.



**Jack's Dave Scadden Madison River 9' 450lb capacity pontoon boat.** Motor, battery & charger, extra storage bags, wheels, extra prop, depth finder, anchors... **THE WORKS for only \$600!** Call Jack Byrd 425-275-8313.