

TIGHTLINES



“HELLOOOO DOLLY!” If you hear someone complain about the lack of big trout in Westside rivers, tell them to take a hike up the Skagit. This fat, beautifully spotted Dolly Varden (Bull Trout) weighing in at five pounds was caught & released on the River above Marblemount. See **“SKAGIT MASOCHISTS”** Page 2 — Photo by Dick Simmons

Where will you be fishing from now to December?

So many places, so little time. That’s the way many of us feel this time of year. If you’re having difficulty weighing your options against the reality of your commitments, never fear, Outings Chairman Steve Murray has plans for you, beginning this month.

The Club’s first outing for the year will be to Lone Lake on Whidbey Island. It’s scheduled for February 20th and hosts for the event are Norm Primc and Steve. You can See **“OUTINGS”** Page 3

Rainless and *Windy* at Pass Lake on New Year’s Day.

OFF’s “Manly Men” contingent started the New Year with our traditional January 1st journey to Pass Lake.

“We had a good time,” said Norm Primc. “No rain but a little cool. Ken Martin got one seventeen inch Brown and Jeff Bandy landed two.” See **“PASS”** Page 2

Left to Right: Nick Wisser, Mike Bunney, Norm Primc, Dave Markle and Steve Murray Not shown: Jeff Bandy, Barry Hutton and Ken Martin.

— Photo by Jan Fisher



Nick, Mike, Norm, Dave, Steve

February Calendar

2/10, General Meeting: Guest Speaker, Peninsula Guide Bob Triggs, will talk about huge Rainbow, Steelhead & Salmon on Russia’s Kamchatka River.

2/24, Business Meeting: 6 p.m. At Alf’s.
Lone Lake trip: Details at General Mtg.

Should the guy on the sticks catch all the fish?

Masochism on the Skagit.

First of all, let me just say that Herb Conyers is a nice guy and a first rate fly fisherman. He's even a past president of the South Sound fly club.

Herb's also Keith Stamm's fishing buddy and provided the drift boat for our float last month on the selective gear, catch and release section of the Skagit from Copper Creek down to Marblemount. Herb even rowed most of the way.

So, having said all of that, here's how things went.

The day was very promising. Overcast, no rain, river a little high, but clear, and not another boat in sight. Keith and I worked out of the bow pitching and stripping weighted streamers on fast sinking lines as Herb maneuvered us into all the best water and gave us the first shots.

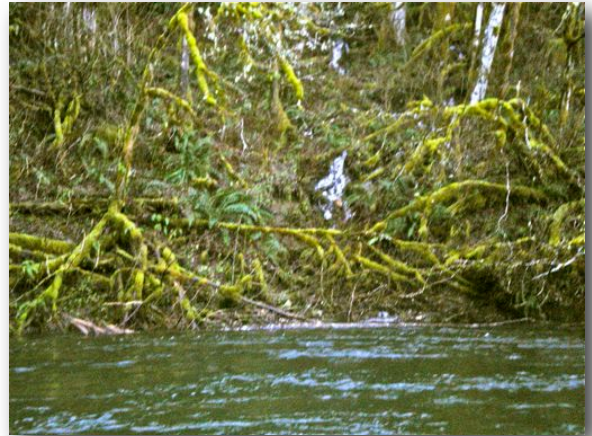
After about an hour without a single hit, Herb suggested that we might anchor up for awhile so he could do a little fishing himself. Fine with us. We needed a break.

Herb picked up his bait casting rod, rigged with a Rapala minnow jig he'd retooled with a single barbless hook (all legal), and swished the lure out into the middle of the river. Five strips and wham! Fifteen minutes later he was releasing that porcine Dolly on the cover of this month's newsletter.

You can probably guess how the rest of the day unfolded. Keith and I pounding the water with streamers and, every now and then, hearing "Swish." "Plop." Brief pause. "Hello Dolly!" Herb offered to let us use the bait casting rig but, pure of heart, we pressed on with eight weights and Type III.

Sometime along the way, Herb, who's never met a joke he didn't like, began telling stories that all seemed to start with: "Did you hear the one about the two masochists who..."

We finally arrived at the take out. Keith and I, net zero, Herb, net 15 or so. But in the scheme of things it wasn't such a bad day. We had each landed one of Herb's fish "So you could know the feeling." said Herb "sweetly." But since we didn't really *catch* the fish we figured that would be okay.



There's more to the Upper Skagit than fish. Mossy Rain forest-like banks and bald eagles on the wing and high in the snags make for a memorable day on the River. —Photo by D.S.



Keith lands one of Herb's 15 or more Dollys. We know why Herb's smiling, but why Keith?

And, as we later said our goodbyes, we all agreed that it was a fun day on the water. Of course, as Herb noted "it was probably a really good experience for you guys getting to watch me catch all those fish." *Dick Simmons*

NEW YEAR'S DAY AT PASS LAKE Cont.

It was the "windy" part that gave Jeff Bandy problems. He brought his float tube for the day and let the wind take him on a pleasant ride to the far end of the lake. He was also counting on the wind to die down in the afternoon so he could kick his way back easily. Unfortunately the wind just got stronger.

"I'd be working my ass off to make headway then I'd catch a fish and be right back where I started," he said.

Jeff was hoping someone would row down and give him a tow but most of the guys were already on their way to Steve's place for a great lunch of chicken wings and nachos.

Jeff made it back eventually but did make a comment or two during January's fish reports.

Jeff is here



The Fly Fishing Life



Gene Anthony (left) traveled to Sitka, Alaska last year with his long time fishing pal Don Summers plus Steve Murray, Mike Bunney, Ken Martin, and Dave Markle. Along the way Gene took some great photos. We'll try to include one or two, like the one above, when we have room because they're fun and the setting is beautiful. The trip was memorable in many ways and we're still waiting for answers about, Why was Ken tied to that tree and what was that thing about the fire dancing? Or was that a different trip. Thanks, Gene!

Top: Guide Bob Triggs from Port Townsend will take us down Russia's Kamchatka River on February 10th. Bottom: OFF's Doug Pendleton has found a way to compete against Super-bowl Sunday. This year he's offering his guided clients on the Columbia River footballs like this one.

2010 "OUTINGS" Continued

sign up and get directions to Lone Lake at our February meeting.

In March, Steve and Mike Bunney will be hosting a three day trip to Lake Lenice in Eastern Washington. The dates for this outing are the 13th, 14th and 15th.

April is one of those months when fishing opportunities start cropping up everywhere. Pass Lake, Lone Lake and Cady have all been mentioned as options but it's also a good month to fish Eastside rivers like the Yakima. If the warm El Nino weather continues to favor the Northwest, the Yakima could be an excellent destination.

In May, a significant contingent of OFF members like to head for some of the Eastside Lakes. Tops on the list are Chopaka, Blue, Big Twin and Dry Falls. But the choices from the Canadian Border to Oregon are almost overwhelming.

Our guest speakers in March will be WDFW Fish Biologists Bob Jateff, Chad Jackson and Chris

Donley who can provide us with some insight on where to find the fishing experiences we each want.

Some Summer destination still need to be nailed down. With new rules at Rattlesnake that could be a good local destination. And we'll also be getting into salmon season when Ala Spit, Eglon, Kayak Point, The Stillaquamish and Quilcene Rivers all offer good potential.

There are so many great places to fish in Washington State we certainly can't include them all here and it's doubtful we'd could fish them all in half a dozen lifetimes. If you'd like to go exploring here are some references:

Fly Fishing Guide to Washington by Greg Thomas; *Fishing Washington's Endless Season* by Steve Probasco; *Washington's Best Fishing Waters* from Wilderness Adventures Press, and *Washington River Maps and Fishing Guide* from Frank Amato Publications. A *Thomas Guide* to the area you're planning to explore is also extremely helpful.

February 2010

The OFF Beat

OFF Members to vote on 2010 Budget at February Meeting.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Tom Sawtell

Tom is a marine and aquatic nature photographer and lives in Edmonds. He was beach fishing one day and ran into Bill MacDonald and decided to join the Club anyway.

Club members will be asked to approve our 2010 Budget at this months General Meeting.

preparing the new budget is the last official duty for outgoing Treasurer Jim Gauntt who has done an outstanding job for the Club during his tenure.

The 2010 Budget was completed at the Officers Retreat last November and the amounts are based upon actual

2009 year expenses with adjustments made after discussion by officers.

In 2009 the Club's annual estimated expenses were \$17,500 with estimated income of \$9500. The actual numbers came in at \$13,401 in expenses and \$10,189 in income. Deficits are covered by the Club's General Fund.

For 2010, expenses are estimated at \$16,700 with estimated income of \$9,450. The General fund currently has a balance of \$21,337.

See you on the river. DS

Introducing your new Club Officers for 2010.



Rolf Mogster, President



Bruce Johnson, Vice-President



Bill MacDonald, Treasurer



Dick Simmons, Communications



Keith Stamm, Secretary



Phil Sacks, Gillie



Mike Truax, Conservation



Steve Murray, Outings



Mike Bunney, Trustee



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

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. Don Corwin

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