



# The Windknots

A Publication of Overlake Fly Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 52894 Bellevue, Washington 98015-2894

Volume34 No9

Bellevue, WA

September 2008

## ♦♦ 2008 Officers & Board ♦♦

### President:

Ed Kane (425)746-8542

### 1st VP, Membership

Dick Lange (425)481-3063

### 2nd VP, Program:

Joe Kristof (206)910-7954

### 3rd VP, Education:

Tim Allen (425)256-0325

### Treasurer:

Christy Leer (206)310-7013

### Secretary:

Carol Kane (425)746-8542

### Trustees for 2007:

Vern & Tracy Olson (2008) (253)850-6211

Ron Romig (2008-2009) (425)222-7654

Pat Peterman (2008-2009) (425)503-5979

Bill Ball (2008) (206)232-7529

### Committee Chairs for 2007:

Con'vation: Alan Olson (425)869-9476

Fund R'sing: Tim Allen (425)256-0325

Historian: Lory Watkins (206)243-1182

Outings: John Waggoner (425)277-6799

Picnic: Andy Wade (360)319-5666

Raffle: Brian Ayers (425)394-1013

Library: Bob Kulwin (425)417-3606

Windknots: Tim Langton (360)863-0998

Website: Michael Alfe (425)391-3658

Ghillie: Rich Streifel (253)277-2583

## ♦♦ Club Meetings ♦♦

### Club Meetings

**Place:** *Holiday Inn of Issaquah  
1801 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW  
Issaquah, WA 425-392-6421*

**Time :** *6:00 PM Cocktails & Tales  
7:00 PM Dinner*

### Board Meetings

**Place:** *Issaquah Library  
10 West Sunset Way  
Issaquah, WA*

**Time :** *6:45pm to 8:58pm*

### Chubski Roundtable

**Place:** *Brew Pub (across from Issaquah Library)  
35 West Sunset Way  
Issaquah, WA*

**Time :** *6:30pm Check for date changes*

## ♦♦ OFFC Calendar ♦♦

### September

- 2 Board Meeting
- 8 Chubski Roundtable
- 23 Dinner Meeting – Wenatchee River – Steve Joyce (Red's Fly Shop)
- 27 Outing – Cooper Lake (BBQ)- Trout

### October

- 7 Board Meeting
- 13 Chubski Roundtable
- 25 Outing - Lone Lake - Trout
- 28 Dinner Meeting-Grande Ronde Steelhead- Ron Romig & Bonefish on a Fly – Ed Kane

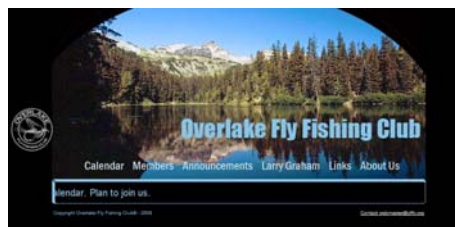
### November

- 4 Board Meeting
- 10 Chubski Roundtable
- 25 Dinner Meeting-Coastal Conservation Association-Gary Loomis

### December

- 2 Board Meeting 6:45
- 9 OFFC Holiday Party

## ♦♦ Visit our website ♦♦



OFFC's website is a great resource for up-to-date information. With links to contact officers; Library info; Flytiers page; Topo Maps; Entomology; Post a Picture; Bulletin Board; Calendar dates; Outing times and Locations; etc...

Please send picture files to: [webmaster@offc.org](mailto:webmaster@offc.org) for publication.

OFFC website, make it your resource.  
<http://www.offc.org/members.htm>

## President's Message



Here it is the last days of summer and I can only marvel at how quickly both spring and summer have past by.

Fortunately, a great deal of the time was spent fishing from the Bahamas to Alaska and everywhere in-between. Carol and I just returned from a week at Corbett Lake and really enjoyed the dry fly fishing that the lake has to offer at this time of year. The fishery appears to be in great shape, the fish were especially strong, active and big. The largest I caught was 7 pounds and it acted like a steelhead, clearing the water at least 5 times before I was able to net and release it. Great fun!

The last membership meeting in August was well attended, and we exceeded our minimum number of dinners to cover the cost of the room. Thanks to everyone for your continued active participation. In addition, we have several new members and the meeting was attended by several interested guests. Our new members are readily becoming contributors by taking on responsibilities to help the club run efficiently. Thanks to all who continue to volunteer and help out. The program was preceded by a brief memorial celebration of Bill McKay's life and contributions to the club. It was led by Martin Kasischke. The .....continued

members shared a number of stories of Bill's life, contributions to fly fishing and fishing exploits. I think that we all got to know him much better as a result. The program that followed was on fishing the high lakes in Washington presented by Dave Weyrick from the Washington High Lakers. He brought most of the equipment that he uses in fishing and stocking these lakes which provided a lot of interest and interaction as the members helped him set up his gear and inflate his incredibly light weight fishing rafts. Dave is a real light weight gear nut and his display was most enlightening. This was followed by a great slide show which featured not only pictures of colorful mountain lake trout but some wonderful scenery.

There were a couple of decisions made at the last board meeting that should be of interest. We decided to rename the Hall of Fame Award to honor Bill Mckay. Bill was the first recipient of that award 2 years ago. From here on out it will be the "Bill Mckay Hall of Fame Award." The board will select the next recipient, and the name plate on the trophy will be changed. In addition, we decided to change the venue of the September 27 outing to Rattlesnake Lake and make it an event to celebrate Bill's life. All members of OFFC and other clubs are invited to attend, fish, eat and celebrate the life of a great person and flyfisher. The club will provide the food and some drinks. Please plan to attend if only to socialize and eat. Fishing, however, is recommended. See you all there.

Tight Lines!  
Ed Kane

### September Outing – Rattlesnake Lake Sept 27

The Cooper Lake Outing scheduled for Saturday, September 27 has been moved to Rattlesnake Lake. This special outing is planned to celebrate the life of Bill Mackay. We will meet at the picnic area near the boat launch at Rattlesnake Lake. Fishing will begin around 3PM. A BBQ dinner will be served starting at 5PM. All members are encouraged to participate in the special event..

### August Outing on Upper Snoqualmie River

#### Upper Snoqualmie River Float August 9, 2008

The fishing club had scheduled a trip to float a section of the upper Snoqualmie River that I hadn't fished. The river is basically divided into two parts: the lower part below the falls, and the upper section above the falls. The upper section is made up of three forks, each a fine small trout stream. The area we were floating was the section of upper river where the three upper forks of the river come together, but above the falls. The launching is unimproved, and limited to pontoon boats

In order to reduce my typical last minuteness, I had gotten everything ready to go the night before. The morning of the trip was gray with a light rain coming down. I had

anticipated this, and had covered my pontoon with a tarp. I rolled out at about 7:30am for our meeting at 8:00. I pulled back the tarp and found one of my pontoons had lost about 50% of its air. I hoped it was a small leak so a top-up pumping would let me make the float. So I was off to the McDonalds in North Bend.



Heading to the river on a gray day

I got to the McDonalds at 8:01am (not bad for me!) driving thru on-again off-again rain the whole way. I met up with Ron Roming, John Waggoner, Chas Wade, Michael and his son, Nick. Michael and Nick had not brought boats, so Ron was able to pick up a couple for them. After a few minutes for any late arrivals, we were off! We drove thru North Bend, and made it to the river about 8:15. By 8:30 we were fishing.

This section holds mostly cuts in the 6-12" range. Several of the guys were into fish right away. I started with a special fly from Ron, the "Rons' Charley" Others were fishing this same fly, and having some success, but not me. I believe I started with one that was too big. The suggested method for fishing this fly was to cast it tight to the bank, let it sit for a few seconds, and then retrieve it using a wiggle of the rod tip. The objective is to get the fly to dive just under the surface. I later switched to a traditional Little Yellow Sally. Using the same retrieval, I started getting into fish. Most would hit the fly on the retrieve after it had submerged. I also tried a little indicator nymph fishing. I picked up a couple fishing a rock embankment on a size 12 olive flashback nymph with a mid body gold bead, and rubber



Rigging the boats to hit the Snoqualmie River at the confluence with the South Fork

legs and a size 14 lighting bug. Overall I think I got 12-14 fish all cutthroats, with 2 monsters of 12" being the largest.

Ron said that this was an off day, and that 30 fish days are more typical.

The section of river we were floating was generally fairly flat, averaging about 5-6 feet deep, and 30-50 feet across. There were a few bends where the water got shallow, and there were a few stick-ups. There was one section where the river split into two channels, with the right channel being fully blocked by a tree. By the time we reached this section, I was riding quite low on my right side due to my leaking pontoon. I pulled onto the island between the channels and pulled out my pump. Luckily, my pontoon had two air chambers. After a little experimenting, I found that the leak was in the rear chamber. I was able to fully deflate that chamber, and fully inflate the pontoon using forward chamber. Once that was done, I didn't have any more problem losing air.



In a bend just after the two channels rejoined, we did have some excitement. Overall this river is calm, but there were a few areas with stick-ups and logs. Ron was working with the Michael and Nick to get them familiar with rowing, and with navigating the boats on the river. In this last challenging stretch, Ron was working with Nick to get him through, but he was still getting the hang of steering by rowing up-stream while moving downstream with the current. On the turn, Nick got hung up on one of the stick-ups coming out of the bend. Just as I looked up, his boat tipped and sent him into the water. The water temp was 58 deg, so it was cold, but overly dangerous for short exposure. I rowed over, and grabbed Nick and his boat and rowed them to shore. During the excitement, Nick lost the top three sections of his new 4 piece Sage rod, and one of the oars. Just as we got Nick to shore, I looked up to see Michael flip on the exact same stick-up. He was able to grab the upside down boat and kick himself to shore. Neither of them got hung up or went fully under which would have been bad! Of course, everything they had got wet, including phones, wallets... At least no-one got hurt or ended up in the emergency room getting staples in their head (which is what happened to me last time I floated the Snoqualmie now that I think about it). There was a take-out nearby so they cut their day short. Michael walked back upstream about a mile to the put-in spot got their car and they departed.



The float took a leisurely 6 hours

While executing the rescue, I lost the fly I had been using, which hadn't been working and switched to the Yellow Sally which worked well. After "The Incident", the sky showed a few fleeting patches of blue sky. Soon the sun was fully out improving picture taking, but slowing fishing. It took a while for the fish to put on their sun glasses and start looking pup for flies. This happened as we approached the take-out point. We picked up a few more fish before we pulled out.

We took-out just before the last bridge before the falls ("beyond here lie dragons") at around 2:30. There was a good spot to stow the boats while we shuttled back to get our vehicles. A few minutes got our equipment loaded and everyone ready to go. After the handshakes and "good trip" discussion, we were off. In 30 minutes I was home unloading my stuff.

### Lessons Learned

- Keep important things in a waterproof bag when floating, be ready to be dunked
- Wear that wading belt, and PFD, even slow moving water has a lot of force
- Striping in a dry fly can be quite effective for these cuts
- Chas had a nice dry bag tied on, and stowed behind his seat. Looked like a good technique for keeping things safe and dry, but while still providing good access
- When stowing rigged rods in the truck bed, always face the tips backwards (duh, I dodged a bullet when my rods flipped around during the trip)



Looking upstream at Mt. Si over the Snoqualmie

A nice day out on the river!

- An anchor would have come in handy to allow extended fishing time in the slower moving water without wearing out your legs kicking.

- There was another put-in upstream, but it was unknown if there were any blockages
- A black trash bag poncho is always in fashion!
- Two of the last three club outings has included some kind of dunking
- If you don't fish in the rain, you don't fish!
- There is a good walking stretch up-stream from where we started
- The same fly/retrieve technique works for sea run cuts up to 3lbs below the falls ( Fall City to Carnation float is a good 8 hours)



**Ron's Charley**

Hook: 2x long dry 6-14  
 Thread: Red 6/0  
 Tail: Golden Pheasant Tippet, waste tied in to form body  
 Body: Red thread over tail waste  
 Body Hackle: Brown palmered over body  
 Wing: Calf Tail  
 Head: Tapered red thread



**Traditional Yellow Sally**

Hook: dry 1--16  
 Thread: Yellow 6/0  
 Body: Yellow ploy dubbing  
 Wing: Light natural elk hair  
 Thorax: Yellow poly dubbing  
 Hackle: brown  
 Head: Yellow thread



The Windknots  
 Overlake Fly Fishing Club  
 P.O. Box 52894  
 Bellevue, Washington 98015-2894

