

Fall Edition
October, 2005

Special points of interest:

- Fall Forecast
- New Developments
- Fidget's Return
- Clackcraft Factory Pricing



Inside this issue:

River Clean-up 2

New Developments 2

New Boat Pricing 3



Canyon News

Fall Fishing Forecast

By Rod Griffin

Although we started this summer with plenty of concerns about the low water levels due to minimal snow pack in the high country; we made it through with an average river flow of about 3100 cfs. High water temperatures (70+ degrees) did plague us for a few weeks in mid and late August, but the fish have made it through in fine shape and are as feisty as ever.

By the way, thanks to all of you who supported restricting your fishing to the morning hours while we experienced the high temperatures. The "Flip Flop" was right on time, and thankfully some cooler weather conditions accompanied the drop in flows.

Currently, flow levels are around 700 cfs, which is pretty skinny for this time of year in the canyon. We are still floating the river, but be prepared to rub a few rocks in several of the wide spots.

Both dry fly fishing and nymphing should be very good, and for those who prefer to wade fish now is the time. Wade fisherman can access the river throughout the entire canyon. At present, nymphing a medium sized stonefly pattern with a small



head head dropper (Copper John, Lightening Bug, Pheasant Tail, WD-40) under a shallow indicator has been our most productive morning tactic. Over the past week, the BWO hatch has been great between noon and 4:00. Cloudy days lend themselves to more consistent activity and less finicky fish, but even the sunny days have been productive. October is rated as one of our "top 3" months of the year because of the dry fly fishing opportunities that it offers. The middle of October is prime time for Blue Winged Olives (BWO), both dries and nymphs, as well as Mahogany Duns and October Caddis. The canyon section of the

river produces excellent BWO hatches we catch a few fish on October Caddis in the evening hours; but, these big orange bombers are more numerous upstream of Ringer. If the weather and temperatures stay mild into November, we can expect to see some decent dry fly fishing through the end of the month. Although, with reservoir water levels being so low, I doubt that any of us will be complaining if we get some early snow and colder weather this year. We probably need to be a little more focused on the long term water storage conditions, rather than on the short term gratification of being

continued on page 4



“The beauty of this landscape . . . can only truly be appreciated by being there in person”



New '05 Boats for Sale



2005 River Clean-up

October Continues “Bug for a Bag” Program

We had such great success and positive feedback from this program last Fall that we are going to repeat it this year! September 1st marks the beginning of the “Bug for a Bag” Program sponsored by Red’s Fly Shop. For the months of September and October, we will give any customer a free fly and a garbage bag, if they make the commitment to filling the

garbage sack up with litter collected from the river corridor during their day of fishing. As the river drops this time of year, much of the trash that got away from summertime traffic becomes exposed and accessible to pick up. The earlier we can get the river picked up this Fall, the more enjoyable it will be

By The Staff at Red’s

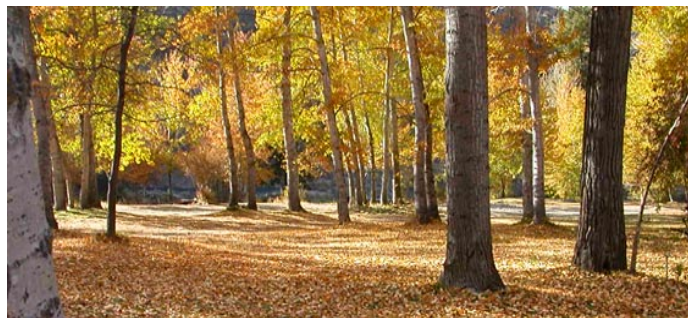


for all of us. One free fly per customer per visit – no limit on number of visits.

New Developments at Red’s

It has been nearly four years since we assumed ownership and operations at Red’s Fly Shop & Campground in the Yakima River Canyon. We have made a few minor changes and improvements, but have mostly continued with business as usual. We have been listening to your suggestions over the years, and have decided the time has come to take action.

We are excited to announce that we will be building a brand new Red’s Fly Shop! It will be closer to the lower boat launch area, and have more services available. Most importantly, a café with a river view patio will be at your service. Catch an early breakfast, have lunch on the patio, or dinner after fishing, and chat about the day over a frosty mug of beer or lemonade. In addition to fly fishing gear, we will offer retail sales of Washington wines, gift items, and a selection of cigars. During construction, the current shop



may be moved on site, but will remain open and in full operation. Construction should begin sometime this summer. If all goes smoothly, we will be operating out of the new facility by 2007.

The camping experience will also change, as the on-site buildings, septic systems, and electrical operations are simply worn out. Replacing them is not feasible, economically or environmentally. Instead, our camping will be focused on the group camping area south of the boat launch. An eco-friendly self-contained bathroom facility will serve these sites. Other camping in the area re-

mains available at Big Horn, Umtanum, Lmuma, Big Pines (The Slab), and Roza. RV sites are offered at the Yakima River RV Park near Ringer. The Bureau of Land Management plans to upgrade the camping facilities at Big Pines over the next 2 years.

The current campground will see some big changes. In lieu of the 68 campsites, a 10-suite lodge building and a very limited number of cabins will be constructed, set back far from the river. The focus will change from overnight tent and RV camping accommodations to an ownership offering in a private setting. These cabin

Nits 'n Gnats

Fidget Returns

Fidget, the Chocolate Lab, that most of you have seen lying on the floor in the shop or riding at my side in the drift boat, is back in action after being placed on the "Pregnant Reserve." She has been somewhat out of commission now for the past 3 months, as she neared her delivery date until about a month ago, when the pups were placed with their new families. Other than us having to say goodbye, everything went very well with the litter of 8 cuddly Chocolate Labs.

We have a co-ownership program for Fidget with Stephanie Harris, of Skyfire Labs. Skyfire has a great reputation for producing show quality English Labs. With the co-ownership program, the kennel retains mutually agreeable show rights and breeding



rights to Fidget, and then takes care of her anytime we are out of town. When she is bred, we can keep two puppies from the litter if we choose to do so. Another of Skyfire's Chocolate Labs, Alibi, sired the litter, which was composed of all chocolate puppies.

www.skyfirelabs.com

Having pups is a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. It's neat to watch the different personalities

develop in this early stage. They were all great dogs, but there always seem to be a few that really stand out. It was a hard decision for us not to keep any pups, but between kids and the White dogs, we have our hands pretty well full right now.

ClackaCraft Factory Pricing!

We have 2 brand new Clacks in stock and ready for same day purchase and use! The color scheme on the Low Profile (LP) is White hull with a Black stripe and Blue top. This boat has pedestal seats, the new Gulf Stream bottom, AND is one of the first boats built with one rod holder facing forward and the other facing back - A great NEW feature! Delivered LP price: \$7345.00*. The FB model in stock has a brand new color scheme with

white hull with a Charcoal stripe and Black top. Set up with bench seat in front for versatility in putting 2 anglers side by side for fishing the coastal waters. Delivered FB price: \$7050.00*. Prices include anchors oars, and Adams trailers - River Ready! *These prices are factory direct from Clackacraft. All sales transactions are processed through



the Clackacraft sales office. Call us for details.



One of Fidget's New Puppies



Bighorn Sheep on the ridge.



Fidget inspects a Yakima 'Bow



Sheep moving up the draw.



FROM THE BANKS OF THE YAKIMA RIVER

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New Developments—cont'd

sites and fractional lodge suites are available for purchase.

Another change will take place next April with the planting of Syrah grapes on the East side of Highway 821, across from the shop. A picnic/wine tasting area will be constructed atop the vineyard overlooking the Yakima River, as well as two or three cabin sites. Many of our fly-fishing customers also enjoy the growing selection of fine Washington wines that come from the Yakima and Columbia Valleys. We look forward to hosting some fantastic events that will combine wine, dining, and fly-fishing.

The natural beauty of the Canyon, the wildlife that call it home, and the wild trout in the river are what make this place so special and attractive to each of us, and we do not wish to upset that balance. For this reason,

we have carefully selected a project team with a great reputation for eco-friendly development and construction. Ecological improvements include removal of three outdated septic systems, one of which has been located within 60 feet of the river since the 1960's. The overnight guest count will drop significantly with these changes.

It's hard to believe that nearly four years have passed since the days when we were driving down the canyon to paint walls in the trailer that was to be our new Fly Shop. During this time we have met many terrific people and made some great friends. We realize that many of you have been coming to Red's for a long time, and have fond memories that extend far beyond the years that we have been here. We sincerely appreciate your business and hope you will continue to support us through this construction process. The honest advice, friendly and efficient service, and personable atmos-

phere is not going to change, nor is our commitment to continue our participation in the conservation of our valuable Yakima River resource.

To learn more about the plans for Canyon River Ranch, visit www.canyonriverranch.net.



Fall Fishing Forecast—cont'd

able to fish a dry fly for a couple of extra weeks.

All things considered, we can be thankful that we have experienced another good summer season and look forward to the remainder of the fall season that lies ahead. The best of the fall fishing has arrived, and we hope to see you on the river.

