

# 2008 Kaufmann's Spey Days Report

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Kaufmann's Spey Days event was held, as usual, on the Skykomish river in Washington at High Bridge on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2008. As usual a host of spey luminaries were in attendance; demonstrating and giving one-on-one tuition to the spey-heads that ventured out.

The event was blessed with some fine weather. The pleasant temperatures, light wind and occasional rain shower (to remind everyone that they were in Washington) helped keep the Kaufmann's staff, demonstrators, reps and attendees in good humor. As usual, the Skykomish was closed to fishing - which is probably a good thing as many of the exhibitors (including yours truly) would have been A.W.O.L., only found hours later "product testing" on a nice run!

Not only were some of the top spey casters in the country demonstrating their skills, there was a chance for a quick fix lesson with these Jedi masters. Attendees also had the opportunity to test out a great range of gear; rods from Sage, Loomis, Winston, Echo and CND, as well as the latest fly lines from RIO, CND and SA and many casters took full advantage of this chance to find out what rod and line combinations worked for them.

On both days, a breakfast of Krispy Kreme doughnuts and Starbucks coffee was provided by Kaufmann's Streamborn and a delicious lunch of stew and brats (not together) provided by Mike Peruse (Loomis) and John Kovic (Winston and SA). Feeding time certainly seemed to draw the biggest crowds of the day.

While many casters were testing gear and getting lessons, plenty hung around to watch the demonstrators showing their skills and booming out laser-tight loops. This year the demonstrators included a feast of talent and "names" in the spey casting world; George Cook, Simon Gawesworth, Tyler Kushnir, Mike McCune, Scott O'Donnel, Ed Ward and Way Yin all provided the entertainment.

For anyone remotely interested in spey casting, these events are a "must attend" affair. There is no better opportunity to try rod and line combinations - ensuring they work before outlaying a well earned dollar (or \$700), no other type of event where you can get that important one-on-one tuition and attention required to eliminate mistakes, or take casting skills to the next level and no other chance to see all varieties and styles of spey casting demonstrated and explained - be it Skagit, Scandinavian, classic long belly, modern short belly and even single handed spey casting. If you have the spey casting bug make sure you attend one of these great gatherings - even if it means missing out on a hot date!

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*“Way Yin holds the crowd captive with an excellent demonstration and talk, featuring both single hand and two hand spey casting techniques”*



*“Ed Ward amazes everyone with the effortless Skagit style of his, throwing great chunks of T-14 without seeming to move – surely it must be magic!”*

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*"Mike McCune and Scott O'Donnell give an outstanding demonstration on the importance and significance of the D-loop."*



*"George Cook, with great humor, explains the subtleties of the Snap T, Snap Z and the Wombat casts"*

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*"A plethora of rods and lines for consumers to try."*



*"The most popular event of both days was the feast of brats in buns and hearty stew."*

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