

Kaufmann's Spey Clave 2006



Saturday's demonstrators

The 2006 Kaufmann Spey Days was held on the Skykomish River in Washington during the weekend of 18th and 19th March. The well-known fly shop "Kaufmann's Streamborn" organized the event.

Saturday was a cold day with sleet and snow in the wind and temperatures in the low 40's – typical steelhead weather! Generous quantities of single malt were in evidence on this cold day and this helped many a caster perform. Sunday was calm, warm with hardly a cloud in the sky and much more favorable temperatures in the high 50's.

In addition to the celebrities, reps, Kaufmann staff and other industry folk, about 50 people turned up to attend the event on the Saturday with about 60 - 70 attendees on the Sunday.

Sage, Winston, Scott, CND and Loomis rods were all available to try as well as Rio, SA and CND fly lines.

The theme for the event was “**Spey Wars – Revenge of the Skagit**”.



The ever busy Nobuo Nodera teaching. He seemed to be everywhere: teaching, demonstrating, pouring drinks...

Nobuo Nodera, the chief kahuna of CND flew all the way from Japan for the event and along with CND pro staffer Tyler Kushnir and the new CND US distribution team of Lee and Nancy Davison provided the now famous CND display - all the latest CND rods, CND lines and generous amounts of single malt whiskey and Sake! Well done, Nobuo!

The demonstrators were Nobuo, Scott O’Donnell, Mike McCune, Ed Ward, Simon Gawesworth, Dana Sturn, George Cook and Al Buhr – in other words, most of the cast of the new epic “**Spey Wars – Revenge of the Skagit**”.

In this forthcoming production Dana Vader controls the force. “**Use no force**”, he constantly states as he crushes the spey casters that insists on using too much force.



“Luke Skywalker” and “Han Solo” show their teamwork

Scott “Skywalker” O’Donnell and Mike “Solo” McCune work well together and are the swashbuckling heroes of the spey world – rebels to all forms but the truest of the Skagit style.



"Yoda" wields his Spey Saber!

Ed "Yoda" Ward starts his demos with some simple tips for the beginner. He is the true master of Skagit casting, wowing the spectators with how easily he wields his spey saber. "Effortless this style of casting is" he says.

When George "Chewbacca" Cook gets up to demonstrate he tells you the way it is. His style is humorous and matter-of-fact and he has most of the audience wishing they could master two-handed casting like this.

Al "Obi-Wan" Buhr shows some really neat tricks that few people have seen. His demonstration is pretty awe inspiring and shows a different slant of spey casting that can get the caster out of a few tight spots.



The most popular event of the day!



Industry reps provided a great lunch

(YES! That is a rod butt that Mike is using!!)

Breakfast, coffee and lunch were provided each day by the hard working industry reps. Lunch was definitely a feast with Mike Perusse (Loomis rep) providing a smack up chili for lunch and George Cook and Eric Neufeld (Sage and Rio) bringing a ridiculously large amount of Bratwursts. The highlight for me was watching Mike Perusse stirring a large cauldron of chili with the butt section of a spey rod – talk about being adaptable!

Great thanks indeed must go to the staff of Kaufmanns and in particular Jerry Swanson, Gary Thompson and Ryan Petzold for making this another enjoyable and educational event.

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