

Recreation

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DAN HURZELER
Fishing Guide

Try spey casting

Every October my friend Ed Link and a group of other misfit spey casters gather at Bobcat boat ramp in between the towns of North Fork and Salmon in hopes of spreading a disease called spey casting. And it is a very contagious style of casting.

The beauty of spey casting is it opens up waters that I have always wanted to fly fish with a single-handed rod. But I have never been able to reach my target due to the length of my back cast and the trees it would always get caught in. A two-handed rod that requires no back cast, gives you the ability to hit water that looks fishy.

Being able to throw 60 feet of line effortlessly onto a nice current seam with no back cast seems like a no-brainer. So I picked up one of these rods — a mistake with my addictive personality. It's a good thing that my wife has also been bit by the spey bug!

These two-handed rods can be as long as 18 feet; however, the average rod length used today is probably between 13 and 15 feet. The rod I use is one of the Scott Fly Rods called the LS2. This rod weighs 7.1 ounces and is 13 feet long with my reel, backing and line. The whole set up weighs just under a pound.

There are a lot of different casts that can be used with a spey rod: the snap T, double spey, single spey, and the controversially perry poke using a skagit line, which has been the source of many heated debates around spey camps due to its lack of traditional spey casting. Still, many of the industries leaders have designed both rods and lines to be used for Skagit-style casting.

Traditional or not, the skagit works. There's a lot of untapped water in the narrows that run through the canyons of the River of No Return for just this style. So get out your rods and a pocketful of intruders and fish deep.

Dan Hurzeler is a trout and steelhead river guide, freelance writer and photographer. Send comments for Dan to news@ricercityweekly.com



Team INL members Dave Inskeep, left, and Eric Anderson adjust framework to fit the exterior of a window.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Making a difference Team INL builds programs, community

BY SHEL WILLIAMS
River City Weekly

Andrea Oliver recently found herself trapped in a hotel for three days with a horde of people she didn't know.

And all they talked about was drinking and driving.

Along with nearly 80 other high school students, Oliver participated in Bonneville Youth Council's Trapped Sober, just one of the opportunities Team INL has made possible through its volunteers.

During the event Battelle Energy Alliance employee Bob Nii shared his experiences surviving a collision with a drunk driver, an accident in which his sister was killed.

"He was one of our most powerful speakers," Oliver said. "Everyone was in tears."

Team INL is a volunteer program set up to facilitate employees working on volunteer projects in the community, said coordinator Lori Priest. Since June 2006 Team INL has organized 60 service projects, from remodeling rooms at the Ruth House and Haven emergency shelters to building a rappelling wall at Swan Valley's Camp Magic Moments, a camp for children with cancer.

Projects accepted by Team INL are assigned to a BEA employee to coordinate. The team leader recruits 10 to 12 people — other employees, family

members or friends — to assist with the project. At the team leader's request, up to \$400 can also be provided to help with project costs.

Special Olympics Idaho, Dream Night at Tautphaus Park Zoo and the Salvation Army bell ringers have all benefited from hours of volunteer service. Sometimes a project takes only a day, sometimes the work is spread out over several sessions, but the results always make a much-appreciated difference to local organizations.

"To give money is one

thing, but when you see people who are giving back through working on a project it's heartwarming," Priest said. "We have so many people, and they are so generous and so creative. They want to make a difference in the place that they live."

In addition to improving the condition of a building or program, Priest has watched Team INL's efforts strengthen the community.

"It spreads from employees to their family, to their friends and then their neighbors, and it spreads camaraderie as well," Priest

If you have a project you would like Team INL to sponsor, you can submit an application at www.inl.gov. Click on "Community Outreach," then choose "INL Community Support and Donations" and follow the link to "Team INL."

While not every project is approved, many are selected from areas representing INL's corporate citizenship priorities: arts and culture, civic and community, education, and health and human services. For more information, call program coordinator Lori Priest at 526-9154.



John Knox refreshes the window trim on the Head Start building in Blackfoot.

said.

Oliver knows many of last year's Trapped Sober captives who have now become more involved in Bonneville Youth Council as a result. And after participating in Trapped Sober, Oliver found herself more actively standing up against drinking and driving.

"After this we were adamant — don't drink and drive — with anyone, but especially with people we knew," Oliver said. "It isn't just your life anymore. The second you get behind the wheel you're choosing for someone else."