



## The largest public **SPEY CASTING** event in North America, to be held May 13-14, 2006



PORTLAND, Oregon – February 14, 2006 – If you've fished steelhead and salmon rivers in the Pacific Northwest, you've probably seen fly anglers wielding two-handed rods that can send a fly line soaring for jaw-dropping distances and land big flies with an engineer's precision. You were undoubtedly struck by the beauty and power of this fly fishing technique. It is called Spey casting or Spey fishing (named after the River Spey in Scotland, where it became popular in the mid-1800's).

Since 1990, Spey fishing has become the rage on big rivers in the Northwest,

Alaska and British Columbia – after migrating from the British Isles, where it has remained in vogue for the last 150 years as a technique for catching Atlantic salmon.

Spey casting requires special two-hand rods (typically 12- to 15-foot long) and casting styles that are commonly referred to as "change of direction roll casts," which don't utilize aerosolized back-casts, thus avoiding contact with annoying stream-side vegetation.

One of the fastest and best ways to master this form of fly fishing is available in a **free two-day on-the-water seminar** hosted by The Fly Fishing Shop in Oregon ([www.flyfishusa.com](http://www.flyfishusa.com)), which has been at the forefront of Spey fishing in the U.S. for over 15 years.

The **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sandy River Spey Clave** – the largest such gathering in the Western Hemisphere – uniquely features instruction by world-class experts and plenty of demo time for participants to experience the latest Spey equipment from all the major tackle manufacturers on a big, fast-moving steelhead/salmon river.

The event is scheduled for **May 13 – 14, 2006**, and takes place on the Sandy River at Oxbow Park, which is easily accessed from Portland, Oregon. The Sandy, a federally-protected “wild and scenic” river is famous for its salmon and steelhead runs, which will be present during this event.

This year’s acclaimed presenters include international casting champion **Steve Rajeff**, who holds 29 national and 13 world titles, along with the two-handed distance casting record of 295 feet; **Simon Gawesworth**, widely-regarded as the most sought after Spey casting instructor in North America; **George Cook**, who was in charge of the Sage Fly Fishing Schools in the 1980s and is the angler featured in the Sage “Tight Loops” poster; **Andy Murray**, who travels the world developing new Spey tackle for the House of Hardy in Great Britain; **Andre Scholz** of Germany, a member of R. L. Winston’s Pro Staff; and **Steve Choate**, the 2002 Musto Champion, after winning the International Open Spey Casting Championship on the river Test in England with a 50-yard cast.

The manufacturers’ reps who will be present to assist participants and/or lead classes will be international casting champion Tim Rajeff (Echo, Airflo), Jon Covish (Winston, Patagonia), George Cook (Sage, Rio, Simms, Ross, Tibor), Greg Snider (Thomas & Thomas, Echo), Randy Sholes (Cortland, Hardy), Dick Sagara (Temple Fork Outfitters Rods, Wheatley, Jim Teeny), Mike Perusse (G. Loomis), Kerry Burkheimer (C. F. Burkheimer Rods), Kevin Thompson (Redington, Nautilus), Brian O’Keefe (Scientific Anglers), Dan Marshall (Scott), Dean Sullivan (Loop), and Tyler Kushner and Lee Davison (CND).

**The event is free, including meals:** a complimentary BBQ dinner hosted by G. Loomis on Saturday, lunch both days, and breakfast on Saturday.

The only fee participants can expect is \$4 per vehicle for parking in Oxbow Park, site of the conclave.

**For more information** about the Sandy River Spey Clave or where to stay in the area, go to [www.flyfishusa.com/spey-clave.htm](http://www.flyfishusa.com/spey-clave.htm) or call **The Fly Fishing Shop at (800) 266-3971**.

If you can’t make it to the Clave, [www.flyfishusa.com](http://www.flyfishusa.com) also offers one of the world’s largest online inventories of the latest equipment, videos, books and tips on the sport.

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