

**Womens Deschutes Steelhead Spey School
with Mia Sheppard & RWFFA Host Rachel Finn
August 30 - Sept 2, 2021**



7:00 AM: Breakfast

8:00 AM: Meet downstairs at Kaufmann house

TOPICS:

Spey casting (what and why) and Steelhead Lore

Lines, Sink Tips - KAIT

- Turning over a fly
- Knots
- T- 8 - T-17
- Length of tips (when and why)
- Tippet lengths (short more control vs. longer for low and clear etc.)
- Weighted fly vs. unweighted fly (when and why)
- Quick bit on lines (when and why)

How to Read Water and Target Steelhead - MIA

(Indoor with drawings and outdoor as we continue the class)

- Couch water/ Slow pools
- Chunky water
- Boulder gardens *reading surface disturbances/eddy behind rocks
- Pinch points
- Tail outs
- Classic swing run
- Water speed and depths
- Traveling vs. holding steelhead

How to play a fish/ fish take - KAIT/MIA

- Set to the side and toward the bank if possible/ rod angles
- Let the fish take 10 ft. or count 10 seconds
- Hoarse vs. proper fight for quick release
- Soft take/blistering takes/ big buck takes/ fish jumps
- To lift or not to lift

How to land a big fish and Methods and Proper Fish Handling - MIA/KAIT

- Keep-em' - Wet principles
- Rod pointed upstream/ brush behind you
- Tailing a fish
- Being calm



River Etiquette – Mia LEAD

11:30 - 12:30 PM: Lunch at Kaufmann house (Video)

12:30 PM: Wader up and head to river

1:00 – 3 :30 PM Casting Techniques

What is the Casting stroke?

- Holding Rod
- Facing target
- Work on Roll Cast, Snap-T, Double Spey

CASTING FAULTS AND HOW TO FIX Pulling anchors, Bloody L, trunking and more

- Line management - D-Loop and forward cast (180 degree rule)
- Anchor placement - brush behind you and water speeds
- Evaluate anglers casting and help with issues

Answer questions

Advanced wading tactics – Kait

- Wading staff vs. no wading staff
- Center of gravity-center of feet
- Building confidence- a safe place to do some Dyno jumps to casting stations
- Move strongly through swift currents

Fly Presentation on the Swing – MIA

- Casting Angles
- Quartering Down
- High Stick Method
- Sink Line Presentation
- Creative Presentations
- Managing the Swing and mending (will transition nicely into next topic)

Mending and Managing Line - KAIT

- Variable current speeds; soft pocket water vs. fast water
- High sticking/ soft rod vs. low and leading or following your line
- A trick for not getting your fly stuck and when it does happen how to get it unstuck



4:00 PM: Questions/ Wrap Up