

# Creel Notes from the



P.O. Box 639, Mercer Island, WA 98040



August, 2012



## President's Riffle: Long Range Plan

At the July membership meeting, I was a winner during **Hawk's** raffle. I took an atlas of Washington State and a copy of Tom Rosenbauer's Fly Fishing in America. Tom Rosenbauer is with Orvis.

The book utilizes as illustrations a variety of items from The American Museum of Fly Fishing, which is located in Manchester, Vermont, also the location of the headquarters of Orvis.

On page 68, Rosenbauer included a photo of Letcher Lambuth's line winder. On page 66, Rosenbauer mentions Enos Bradner's Brad's Brat and Ken McLeod's Skykomish Sunrise. Once again I was reminded of the reach and strength of the Washington Fly Fishing Club.

In 2000 this club engaged a consultant to formalize the Long Range Plan for the WFFC. I suspect the report was reviewed, and filed on a shelf. I would briefly like to discuss that report.

The WFFC Mission Statement is as follows:

"The Washington Fly Fishing Club is a social organization of fly fisherman whose mission is to provide resources to members, improve fisheries and habitat, and develop a public conservation ethic through fly fishing."

I believe as members we should examine the various activities of the club to ensure that they are focused on our mission statement. For example, do our meeting presentations, "provide resources to members"? I believe they do.

Concerning the social aspect of the club, I have two immediate suggestions:

1. Several club members have obtained access passes to the Hancock Farms. I would propose that we have a club outing in September or October to the Hancock Farms property. If you don't

have a Hancock Farm access pass, obtain one in 2013 and join us.

2. I know the Washington High Lakers Club has a club outing to Lake Hannon and utilizes the church facilities on an overnight basis. There is no reason we can't do the same thing.

I believe I can much better appreciate the individual members of this club at an outing than I can during a meeting. Somehow we need to institute more day trips and overnight outings to encourage members to join us fishing. I have two quick suggestions: Pass Lake and Lone Lake (no hiking, no camping, great fishing). Again, the idea is to "provide resources to members".

For several years now I have participated in the budgeting process of the club. Simply put, this process follows the same process, we check how much each line item was last year, adjust the projected expense, and submit the budget. I suggest that we look at the Long Range Plan, and ask the questions:

1. "Is our budget focused on attracting new and younger members?"

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Inside.....

This Month's Speaker: Dave Schorsch	2
July Meeting Report	3
Leech and Domke Reports	4
US Navy Seafair Event	4
Hood Canal Outing and Home Waters	5
Boyd Aigner Results	6
August Garage Sale	6
WDFW Website	7
Creel Notes Request	7

## 2. "Is our budget aligned with our Mission Statement?"

Lastly the current discussion of the future status of the Yakima Home Waters speaks directly to the Long Range Plan of the WFFC. And, I believe, any decision on that matter should be considered in light of, again, the Long Range Plan of the club.

I am more than ever willing to listen to your thoughts and suggestions.

Mike

## Speaker Dave Schorsch Autobiography

Born in 1955 to a ridiculously young couple in Quincy, Washington. Mom was a farm girl, and Dad was scratching out a living surveying the Columbia Basin for the new "reclamation" project that would "make the desert bloom". Being from Montana, and being broke a lot, a bucket of bluegills and perch was not a bad thing. So while Dad was working out on the scablands, or studying to be an aerospace engineer, Mom and I would go fishing. She still has a picture of me in diapers, holding a fishing line somewhere near Soap Lake. After Dad got his degree, he worked in the Minuteman missile program for Boeing, eventually moving his family to the Puget Sound area.

I was 5 when we moved to Federal Way, and I was in heaven! Forests full of big trees across the road, and a beach at Redondo with a big dock over the water. All within pedal bike range! I spent the next 13 years on, in, and around the water. Eventually the pedal bike turned into a ten-speed, and my range grew to include all the bays and estuaries from Seattle to Olympia. A collection of rowboats and blow-up rafts helped me keep the freezer full of fish. (A good thing again when the Boeing crash came.)

All the while I was on the water, these mysterious fish would appear, ignore my perch bait, and zing around under the dock, flashing green. I knew they were trout, and something special. One day I was poking around Footes Tackle shop on old Hwy 99 (long gone), and found a paperback book by a guy named Les Johnson. It was about those trout! Not only that, but he wrote about fishing for them with June-bug spinners right where I kept my row boat! I forgot about the hooks and sinkers I wanted, and bought the book. I've pursued that path, or one near it, for more than 30 years.

Following my interests in all things fishy, I went to community college, then the U.W., with an eye toward a career in fisheries. Paying my way with summer jobs and guiding on rivers for steelhead. Nobody told me you could starve to death as a biologist in 1976. I eventually ended up in the glass business for a living, and continued with fishing as a first love. I taught myself to fly fish in the seventies, moving from streams and lakes to saltwater around 1980. That's when I started having real success with the Cutthroat! They will always be my favorite fish in my favorite places. I joined the WFFC in 1983, and have not lacked for like minds ever since.

## Creel Notes

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## Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout, steelhead, and salmon in state waters.
4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
5. To encourage and assist others — particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.

## July 17th Washington Fly Fishing Club Meeting *by Hugh Clark*

Members threaded their way through the white-clad tennis throng, accepting the stares as a comment on their uncouth clothing. **Ron Dion** was already hard at work at the demonstration desk, assembling his bullet-head minnow, the pattern purloined in classic fly tier mode from a fly shop to the north. Body of crinkle chenille, white of wing and button-eyed, it is reported to be essential on Pass Lake, in fact on all lakes with an active minnow population.

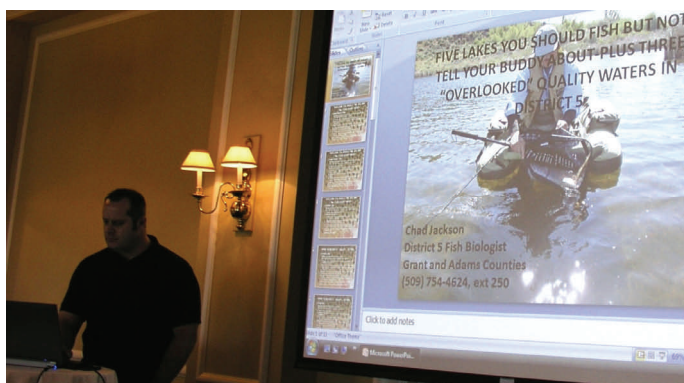
Claiming presidency, **Mike Wearne** gaveled the meeting to order at six-forty five pm. Enthusiastic applause supported his assertion. He introduced past president **Frank Webster**, now only a summer visitor to the northwest. Polite applause followed as some members recalled how he often opened meetings with jokes that hobbled. Fishing reports from Leech Lake were summarized by **Schorsch** as “bad, good, bad and then good”, punctuated by thunder, lightening, and the wake of boats seeking the shore. He also reported the steak count for the benefit of the treasurer, and the blueberry pancake breakfast that benefitted all. Steve Raymond reported high water and high temperatures at HiHium, subsurface success during the day and a sedge hatch at night. **James Schmidt** re-read **Al Pratt**’s How to Prepare to Get Lost, and followed the directions accurately while seeking and failing to find the Tahuya River. **Pete Baird** fished with former president **Ron Mazurek** on the upper Coeur d’Alene and found cutthroat to seventeen inches. The writer gave a strong report after fishing the Chilko River with **Narver, Henry**, and Booth. Almost all fish were taken on dry attractors (is the chernobyl ant a fly?), although salmon flies and sofa pillows also produced. We got 12-20 fish a day averaging 16, and all fishers got at least one over twenty inches. These deep-bodied rainbows fight like steelhead, perhaps due to shared DNA.

President Wearne asked for boats and guides for the Rattlesnake Lake naval maneuvers on August eighth. **Bob Burdick** reiterated his role as world’s best fly tier, and announced Dave Schorsch as the August tier and speaker on cutthroat in the salt. Bob’s extravagant preface found Dave covering his face with his hands.

Program presenter Chad Jackson, District Five Fish Biologist, gave a masterful review of lakes in his area, and passed out a fine summary on “Five Lakes You Should Fish But not Tell Your Buddy About”. It was hard for him to name a lake that at least two in the club had not fished in the last couple of years! Conversely, many members asked questions about their hidden lakes, and he had information on almost all. So much good information was shared that a plea went out for recording presentations, and that may be possible in the future. Many thanks, Chad, for a superb job.

**Doug Schaad** assured the club that the Conservation Committee will review in detail the upcoming major round of regulation proposals and will alert us when special action is needed. Pete Baird noted the passing of 1976 President **Jack Challender**. Upcoming outings include the Scottish Lakes on 8/18-19 and Hood Canal, kindly hosted by **Jay Deeds**, on Sept 8-9. Be sure to indicate when you sign up if you need a place in a boat! **Kris Kristofferson** asked for volunteers to help with Reel Recovery at the Canyon Ranch on 9/19-20. Fishers are needed to guide cancer survivors while fishing the Yakima.

A generous raffle table was prepared by **Dave Hawkinson** and prizes distributed to the fortunate, including to almost-always winner **John Townsell**, a strong supporter of the raffle over the years. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15, and we retreated to our cars as the tennis players continued to swat in the darkening light.





# REPORTS

## Leech Lake Outing *by Dave Schorsch*

The club held its third annual outing at Leech Lake on July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The weather was everything it should be for a spring weekend in the mountains. Sunny and warm to cold and windy, sometimes five minutes apart!

We started fishing Saturday, along with a whole bunch of the South Sound Fly Fishers, in warm weather on a flat lake. Fishing was kind of slow, at least in part because of the huge flotilla of anglers. In spite of the splashing, most of us caught a few fish, including triploid rainbows to 20 inches or so. If you fished a dry long enough, something would grab it, but most were taken on nymphs and intermediate lines. The weather got a little “iffy” Saturday afternoon, as a big lightning storm came in over the lake. Most headed for the boat launch to wait it out; those who kept fishing (about eight of us) enjoyed the unusual experience of a lake “turning on”. For the duration of the storm, in spite of the wind and lightning, the fish bit like crazy, with most of us getting six or eight fish in less than an hour! When the storm quit, so did the fish. Weird.

The weather cleared just in time for happy hour at White Pass Village Inn, where we held our barbeque. A fine collection of side dishes and appetizers were consumed with 22 steaks from the grill. Bonfire and monster marshmallow roasting followed. A fine time, with no appreciable rain.

Sunday morning we held a pancake breakfast at the Inn, with **Jim Macdonald** directing the production of his ancient family recipe. Mountains of sausages, gallons of coffee, and piles of cakes later we’re ready to fish again.

A later start on the lake, with many fewer anglers may have made a difference. Fishing was much better, with everyone getting a few big rainbows, and several really nice brookies. Many of the brookies were 14 to 16 inches, and very fat! Nice fish indeed. A sinking line with a callibaetis nymph was the ticket.

Finally wrapped up around 1:00 and headed for home. I like this trip! Gonna do it some more.

## Domke Lake *by Don Gulliford*

Domke Lake, 62<sup>nd</sup> year and still excellent fly fishing. Weather perfect for 4+ days. Shoreline photo 2686 shows Emerald Park Cr. inlet; creek had good collection of big spawners (Domke had hatchery in 30s & early 40s), but also Ma and Pa Canada in picture with their one gosling, highly annoyed with my fly in mouth of creek. Proprietor Sid Burns’ boats and cabins made the trip, as usual, a great summer trip. Not much dry fly action, bucktail Coachman best in the past, but #10 green or carrot-bodied Carey wet very productive for cutts and rainbows. Eagles, ospreys (crash dives marvelous), and mule deer in attendance.



*Domke Lake*

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## U.S. Navy Seafair Event *by Mike Wearne*

The WFFC hosted personnel from the U.S. Navy during Seafair at Rattlesnake Lake. The initial idea was to extend an invitation to personnel visiting Seattle for Seafair. Instead we got responses from members currently stationed in the Puget Sound Area, from Bremerton to Oak Harbor. It is possible we may get several potential members from this event!

We met near the boat ramp where the club members had set up awnings that were used in the morning for fly tying demonstrations. Later in the day this was used for dining on great hamburgers.

Some of the Navy personnel were specifically interested in learning fly tying techniques, while others were more interesting in the casting demonstra-

tions and practice. From the reports I heard, **Rocco** and his Navy partner were the only party to land a fish, although **Jack Crowley** reported catching a hat and a float tube.



*Rattlesnake Lake Outing*

## Hood Canal Outing *by Dave Schorsch*

We are returning to Hood Canal Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to chase sea-run cutts and silvers in the salt! Club member **Jay Deeds** has again generously offered to host at his home on Scenic Beach.

This is a great day trip, only a drive to Silverdale and a hop over the hill to Seabeck. There is beach fishing in front of Jay's place, and Scenic Beach state park right up the road. A nice public boat launch is about a half mile from the house. Protected water at Seabeck Bay is right around the corner. Stavis Bay sits just south of Jay's, and has been a great cutthroat fishery for generations. There are lots of beaches and estuaries in the region, so a motor boat will increase your chances greatly.

I encourage anyone with trailerable boats to attend this outing! It's a great way to learn the fishery first hand from those with years of experience. Also sign up on the Website and let us know if you might have an open seat in your boat for those without.

The fishing is mostly sinking lines and shooting heads in shallow water near the beach. "Minnow" type streamers in olive over white, and clousers work well, and orange or yellow attractor flies are always the "go to" backup. Rocky beaches are the key most often.

We'll be having a pizza feed from Seabeck Pizza at Jay's around 6:30 or 7:00. Most folks fish for the day, have dinner, and head home. A great day trip.

We will have specific driving directions on the website for those who haven't been before, both to Jay's and the launch. Overnight camping is available at the state park as well. Please sign up for head-count, and let us know if you're bringing an extra seat in your boat. Jay's address is 15350 Maple Lane, Seabeck. Any questions, call Dave Schorsch at 206-227-6134 or Jay Deeds at 360-830-4885.

See you there!



## Home Waters

At the coming August meeting, the WFFC membership will be asked whether the board should proceed with negotiations to renew our lease (expiring in Sept.) on the Yakima Home Waters property. Please give some thought regarding use of this facility and its future in the club.



## WFFC Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition Results for 2012

*by Jim Macdonald*

While perusing the current WFFC Roster, it came to my attention that for the Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition, it would appear that the competition did not begin until 1997. I was amazed that this competition was so young. This year, as in past years, we had a large number of club members entering the competition. The three flies to be tied this year were the Adult Damsel, Callibaetis Cripple, and Crayfish. **Bob Burdick** was heard to say he was going to sit out this competition to give others a fighting chance. There must have been some truth in this as he did not garner any of the winning slots.

The winners in each of the three categories were as follows:

- Adult Damsel: Dion #1, Ballard #2, Swanson #3
- Callibaetis Cripple: Clark #1; Swanson, Ballard, and Dion all #2
- Crawfish: Ballard #1, Swanson #2, Campbell #3

The three overall winners were as follows:

- Chuck Ballard #1
- Ron Dion #2
- Walt Swanson #3

If you tie flies or would like to learn, there are many opportunities to learn in the club. I have entered the competition every year since I joined and have never won a first, second, or third, but I really enjoy entering the competition anyway. You can't brag if you don't enter.



A Ron Dion Tie

## August Garage Sale

The August meeting will feature the traditional Garage Sale, where members can bring gear to sell to other members and guests. The club gets a cut. Do your garage a favor and bring your unused, no-longer-needed fishing gear to the meeting for sale.



My kind of cutthroat--some throat slash... Don Gulliford

## New WDFW website details salmon conservation efforts

[The following article passed along by Doug Schaad, Conservation Committee chairman, is reprinted from a WDFW News Release.]

Finding current information about the state's salmon runs and tracking ongoing efforts to recover at-risk stocks on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) website has never been easier.

A new online tool called the Salmon Conservation Reporting Engine (SCoRE) consolidates current information about state salmon populations, hatchery production, conservation guidelines and other aspects of salmon management in a single website.

The SCoRE website, available at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/score/>, outlines major recovery initiatives under way around the state to restore salmon habitat, restructure hatchery operations and redesign fisheries to conserve wild runs.

While focusing on WDFW's role in these efforts, the website also provides information about an array of local and regional organizations, tribal governments and volunteer groups involved in the state-wide effort. Readers can link directly to salmon recovery efforts in their area, and to statewide information such as the annual State of the Salmon Report.

This information provides a context for SCoRE's detailed status reports on all biologically distinct salmon and steelhead populations around the state, describing their history, spawning escapement and recovery goals. This same information is also included for coastal cutthroat and bull trout populations, many of which are also listed for protection under the federal Endangered Species Act.

"Our goal was to make this information as easy to access as possible," said Sara LaBorde, a special assistant to the director at WDFW. "With SCoRE, people can switch from an overview of statewide habitat-restoration efforts to spawning data for a specific salmon run with a few mouse clicks."

Various issues addressed on the website include:

- Which salmon and steelhead populations are increasing, decreasing, or showing no change?
- What are specific salmon hatcheries doing to support salmon recovery?

- Who is involved in the effort to restore wild salmon and steelhead runs?
- What can individuals do to get involved in salmon recovery?

LaBorde said WDFW designed the website for a variety of users, including policy makers, scientists, department employees and the general public.

"Our state made a major commitment to salmon recovery, and people have a right to know how that's going," she said. "By providing a common base of information, we also hope this website will encourage more people to get involved in this effort."

Like salmon recovery itself, the new website is a work in progress, said LaBorde, noting that WDFW will continue to add information to the SCoRE reporting system throughout the recovery effort.

### Creel Notes Request *by Don Gulliford*

I'm looking to borrow an original Creel Notes for June and July of 1984. I was editor or co-editor with **Bill Rundall** then, and used a one-of-its-kind photo of my Dad at Lake Snoqualmie in about Sept. 1922, and one of me and my Dad in Sept. 1972 (not realizing the date coincidence at that moment) at Lake Snoqualmie by Ranger Nordrum's cabin site or the decayed remains. As I looked through the view finder, I realized my late father was actually standing on the remains of the then 1922 new Alaskan Yellow cedar foundation log where he stood in 1922.....some nostalgia. I can't locate the 1972 photo, but my 1984 master CN shows it was in the mail out—but not on the master pasteup I still have. Present digitizing does wonders and if I had a 1984 CN, I could produce a digitized copy.

Does anybody have a 1984 June/July CN? Thanks. P.S., I thought some WFFC "librarian" would have them, but that apparently isn't so.



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Stamp  
here

August, 2012

### Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Seattle Tennis Club, 922 McGilvra Blvd. E.

The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.

This month:

**Dave Schorsch** will present "Sea-Run Cutthroat in the South Sound."

Fly tyer: Dave Schorsch tying his Cutthroat Willie.