

Creel Notes from the



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



President's Riffle

I have just returned from the Dry Falls outing. What a joy!

On the return trip, I was reflecting on the various outings I have attended, both this year and in previous years. Earlier this year, I spent the day floating the Yakima

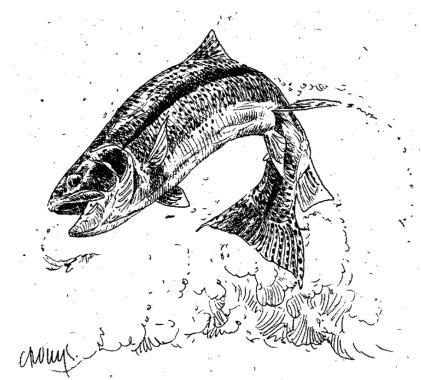
with **Chapin Henry**. Chapin mentioned that his “tradition” of floating rivers was chocolate cupcakes. I was thinking what my “traditions” were. Maybe it is stopping at McDonalds. The only time I ever stop at McDonalds is on the morning of an outings trip. I meet Mark Pratt at the Monroe McDonalds before our Janus Lake trips. When I go to Dry Falls, I often have a meal at a restaurant in Ephrata; mostly just to listen to the conversation. I like coffee, so in Eastern Washington I rely on Starbucks. I know where all of the Starbuck outlets are located in the areas I fish.

One aspect of the outings that I enjoy is the various conversations I hear. This last weekend I watched **James Schmidt** and **Ray Willms**. I found out they have known each other for years; who knew! Last year **Jim Young** and I captured a praying mantis at Dry Falls. I took it back to Seattle to share it with my grandson Anders. Jim and I talked about the joy of grandchildren. I enjoy the interplay between **Dave Schorsch** and **Mark Pratt**. These two are champions in my book.

Several years ago, I hiked to Buckskin Lake on the High Lakes trip. **Dick Brenning** read a newspaper article about walleye fishing in Minnesota. It was wonderful; almost better than a campfire ghost story. I will never forget listening to **Maury Skeith** telling jokes on the lakeshore campsite as the last light faded into night and the campfire lingered.

My point is simple; if you are not participating in the outings this club provides, you are missing the joy of being a member of this club.

Thanks,
Mike



Inside.....

This Month's Speaker	2
On the Fly	3
Dry Falls, Mutiny Bay, and the Salt	5
Yakima River Outing	6
Mud Snail	6
Reel Recovery	6
Christmas Party	7
New Member: Jim Goedhart	7

This Month's Speaker: Bruce Staples

Bruce Staples, of Idaho Falls, Idaho, has fly fished the Greater Yellowstone area for thirty-five years. He began tying flies in the 1970's, and during the 1980's began writing of his Greater Yellowstone angling adventures.

His literary contributions include articles to Fly Tyer, American Angler, Fly Fishing the West, Yellowstone-Teton Country, and Fly Fisher magazines. During the 1990's, he was a columnist for the Idaho Falls Post Register. His three books, Snake River Country Flies and Waters (1992), The Yellowstone Park River Journal (1996), and Trout Country Flies (2003), are published by Frank Amato Publications. Currently he is contracted with Stackpole Books to author Flies for the Greater Yellowstone Area. Bruce is an advocate for protection and preservation of regional coldwater fisheries and is active in preserving the fly fishing heritage of the Greater Yellowstone region.

Bruce is a member of the Upper Snake River Fly Fishers of Rexburg, Idaho, and the Snake River Cutthroats of Idaho Falls. He is a driving force behind the East Idaho Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Exposition and originated its concept. He has demonstrated his fly tying skills on an international basis. He has taught all skill levels of fly tying for over twenty years. He is active in the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), being recipient of the Western Rocky Mountain Council, FFF, Fly Tier of the Year award in 1990, and the Charlie Brooks Memorial Life Membership in 1998. In 2001, he was the thirty-second recipient of the FFF's Buz Buszek Memorial Award for fly tying excellence. He is a member of the Whiting Farms and Daiichi Pro Staffs.



Creel Notes

...is the official publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscription is free with membership.

Tim van de Erve ... Editor
425-489-0971 jimvde@comcast.net
Ron Tschetter ... Publisher
425-746-6652 batribble@juno.com

President
Mike Wearne michael_wearne@msn.com

1st Vice President (Membership)
John Gravendyk john.gravendyk@boeing.com

2nd Vice President (Programs)
Bob Burdick reburdick@comcast.net

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)
Open

Treasurer
Don Barton dbarton44@comcast.net

Secretary
Ron Tschetter batribble@juno.com

Ghillie 1
Jim Macdonald macdonalco@msn.com

Ghillie 2
Peter Draughon pjdrcp@hotmail.com

Trustees
Andrew Bennett '10 Craig Koeppeler '10
Bob Young '11 Chapin Henry III '11
Don Schroder '12 Gene Gudger '12

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.

On the Fly by David Ehrich

Mike started off by announcing that he happens to be the President of the WFFC, which set off a round of applause. A few guests joined us with two up for membership. **Chuck Ballard** started off the fishing reports with a great report from Chopaka, including some aggressive damselfly takes late in the season. **Doug Schaad** hit High Hume in the cold, snowy wind where they waited out a few days of squall to get some 20+ inchers in 20+ degree weather. **Bill Redman** pre-announced that his tale would diverge from fishing and that things didn't work out that well on the Ruby, Beaver, Big Sheep area near Dillon heading up to Big Timber through clouds of caddis. From there we heard about busted reservations, bats, sick dogs, rattlesnake bites, anti-venom, and good news. We lost track of the fish, but the dog survived. **Rocco** hit the Stilly for smolt, the Sky for Skunk and the Sultan for Squat. **Greg Crumbaker** hit the Clearwater for some smoky wading and great fishing. **Hugh Clark** had some bad fishing at Williams Lake in warm water, but found good fishing at Horse lake. Then dinner arrived....

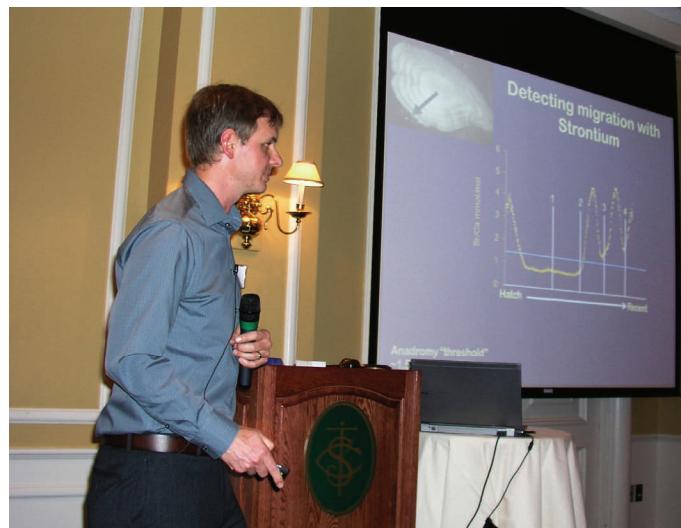
Picking up from the steak, President Wearne opened up the question of renewing the Home Waters lease on the Yakima. Mike explained that the lease had been renegotiated from \$2500 to \$1500 a year with a one-year option to renew at that price. Members can also take a guest without cost. A few of the gentlemen spoke in favor, no one against, and ballots got passed out.

While the members drew their X's, **Don "the reformed braggart" Barton** introduced our team of speakers, including Morgan Bond and Eric Waters. Morgan recounted research the WFFC helped fund. Morgan, a PhD. candidate at the U. of W., started with some definition, defining a spectrum of salmonids from fixed to variable in terms of their migration. The sea is hands-down the best place to grow big, but the ocean is a dangerous place with many mouths. Using char as a test case, Morgan showed how one lake can host adult char that vary in almost all ways, including size, feeding scheme, and variability of migration to open waters.

Next he reviewed the complicated patterns of Dolly Varden migration in a unique ecosystem in Chignik Lakes, Alaska. Why do they migrate? At what age? And for how long? He catches fish (with

help of fellow member **Conrad Gowell**) and measures their otolith, or the stone-like thing in a fish's head that helps tell the quarry how to tell up from down. The otolith grows like a tree, with rings that reveal its life cycle in terms of life destination. For example, by looking at the color of the rings, one can tell if the fish was in fresh or salt water. He uses a chemical analysis (looking for strontium) to determine the specific life pattern month by month. One fish, for example, had a mom who was in the salt, hit the fresh, hung out for a couple years, headed out to the salt a few times, and then fell victim to the hook. After a large pool of study, he discovered about one fifth start out in fresh water and never migrate, most do, but the fish with long lives seem to give up migration. If this reminds you of your love life, the metaphor is flawed. Remember, the sea is dangerous; fresh water is safe. So those older fish avoided the predators, but still had a good time in fresh water. Take notes, brother, there's a lesson here.

Why retire? Well, why take a long trip when the ocean (as in sockeye return) comes to them and lays lots of eggs. They eat big in the fall, skinny up in the winter, and start over again. This growth not only stretches out their gut for the meal like you do on Thanksgiving, they also grow bigger livers and stomachs. Seriously, they eat enough in 5 weeks to live until ice out. But, here's the catch, only big fish can pull this off (regain metaphor here) because only big (old) fish can eat enough to take advantage of the reliable feast of sockeye eggs, aka, nature's perfect little fat ball of goodness. And here's the best



(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)



part; youngsters don't get much of chance to spawn. It is the older residents that "show up", if you know what I'm saying, at the breeding opportunities.

You might be overwhelmed, but Morgan's talk was just the first of two. Next Eric Waters spoke on Biotelemetry. Eric, lacking credentials in the academic regions, makes up for lost ground when it comes to technological tracking of salmonids in the Columbia system. BioSonics, his company, boasts several small tracking devices which you might find in various parts of the next fish you clean. Lotek, from Toronto, has tracking devices at work around the world. From listening devices in the river, to fancier boxes on the shore, they use lots of ways to collect data. Who, what, where, and when? The funding comes from the usual suspects: the tribes, the utilities, NOAA, the BPA, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, and other smaller players. Such information is handy to academics like Morgan who get info from living fish.

Eric believes that the great NW is still managing to keep salmon populations "in the game" despite being the most heavily dammed region on the planet. If one used the money spent as an indicator of health, then he might be right. In terms of fish count, debate ensues. He showed some of the ways these fish get tagged, from needle implants to full-blown sutures.

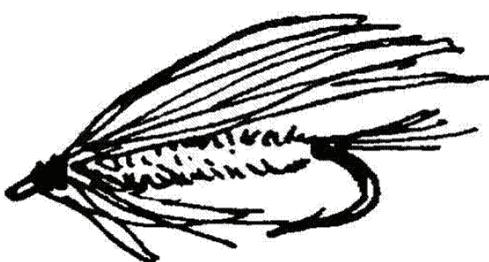
Most handy, in my opinion, was the warning Eric gave anglers about finding the devices and what the hardware looks like on the side of the river, from boats and in the water. Like your phone, the fish transmit and Lotek has multiple sensors in place that receive the data and transmit it to a collection center and from there, the PhD.'s take over and make the data sing. If you happen to cut open a fish and find a tagging device, take note of time and place, and give the number a call. Some dissertation jockey will appreciate your effort (or tribe or power company or...).

Hugh Clark awarded Gary, our guest fly tier from the Casting Forward, who tied some mean caddis - blind! - a nice reel and rod combination donated by the late **Marve Young**. Gary finds fly tying easier than one might imagine once he got the hang of it.

Next we nominated the nomination committee which took just a few minutes since the pool was talent-packed.

Our prospective members (**Ben Davidson & Jim Goedhart**) hit the road and the nip & tuck of member voting began. Ben is a shoe-string relative of Mark Pratt, he loves to take fish on the fly, and is free of gray hair. He also is the guy who found Schorsch's oars on Chopaka. 'Nuff said. **Mike Mo-scynski** gave a good run down about another Boeing to angler migration. From there, it was a slam dunk.

Committee reports were drown out by chatty members in the wings. But I think we have a couple outings on the way. The Foundation added \$2500 to Real Recovery. **Dave Hawkinson** has retired for 2013 as raffle master. And finally, **Bob** announced that Bruce Staples will speak about the Henry's Fork & South Fork of the Snake River and other small waters in the area.





Dry Falls Lake Outing by Dave Schorsch

We had 36 members and guests attend a sunny outing to Dry Falls Lake Oct 6th and 7th. The lake is at the lowest level ever seen by anybody, with the "aquarium" section now completely high and dry. The "shark flats" area is 6 to 8 inches above water level. Scary low. The fishing, however, still remains pretty good. Those who hit the early morning "feed" that happens at first light, got lots of nice big fish on top. Fishing dropped off after 8:00 until the evening hatches started, with damsel adults and cream mayflies being the ticket. As usual at this lake, the early birds get the worms. If you dinked around and got on the water at mid-morning, you probably didn't do very well. The fish that were caught were very fat and healthy.

Happy hour was awesome, with lots of chow, as usual. **Mike Wosinski** brought a ton of sweet corn, and grilled it to perfection for everybody to have with their steaks. There is a total fire ban in the state, so we couldn't have our bonfire, or club charcoal grill. Several volunteers brought their home gas grills for the barbecue, with seven set up for dinner. Without a fire, we decided not to have folks sit around in the cold and dark to listen to music, so it ended up a pretty early evening. All in all a great evening, though.

Sunday, some went back to Dry Falls, and others went to Jameson Lake, where lots of dumb trout were found on the way home.

Thanks to everyone who helped out on this year's fall outing, we all had fun. Maybe next year everything won't be on fire.

Mutiny Bay/Admiralty Inlet West Shore by Don Gulliford

For first time in several years, a young guy waded out for sea-run cutts, using a green and white Clouser Minnow, short sink tip on floater line on beautiful weather and tide, but success. It look nice on coming



dismal, drismal cold rainy days. The floating line is needed because of large amounts of eel grass that usually loosen up silver salmon and cutt fishing, making jigs like BuzzBombs and Rotators necessary to get down past weeds. Couple of 8 pounders I got in 15 minutes 10/4 with such jigs off beach.

Fishing the Salt by Bob Young

I've been waiting a long time for the silvers to return, and finally some have showed up. In the last couple of weeks, I have managed to hook and land seven silvers and one chum. The chum was pretty colored up and had big ugly teeth, but the silvers have all been bright and shiny. Most have been better than 8 lbs.

Fishing a small chartreuse flashabou comet pattern tied on a #4 Gamakatsu bait hook with a 6 wt. rod and a slow intermediate line has done the trick. There was a lot of casts between hook-ups, however.

Most of the fish were taken while casting from a small boat just off of the mouth of the creek entering Colvos Passage at Olalla. One was taken off a beach within sight of the state capital building.

The first morning we arrived at Ollala, some native Americans were just hauling in a large beach seine with quite a number of nice fish. They didn't get all the fish, though, as we managed to land three later in the day.

(Continued from page 5)

Yakima River Outing by Dave Schorsch

The club had a day trip to the Home Waters section of the Yakima river on Saturday, Sept. 29th. For those of us who had never fished it, like me, it is pretty impressive water.

The river is big, but crossable in several places at fall level. Lots of structure, and long riffles dropping into deep runs under the trees. I'd like to say we hit tons of big fish, but we were limited to mostly little guys whacking dries and nymph droppers. Biggest beast of the day, probably 12 inches.

Eight club members fished pretty hard 'til around 1:00 and regrouped at the Home Waters buildings to console ourselves with cold beverages and lunch. **Chapin Henry** and **Mike Wearne** floated the river in the same area with the same results. We all saw fish working occasionally, but just couldn't outsmart them. Definitely a "match the hatch" scenario.

A beautiful day on a pretty river, with much to learn.

Mud Snail Infestation

On a depressing note, it has been confirmed that New Zealand Mud Snails are in Valley and Kelsey Creeks. Please be VERY careful if you are moving anywhere in the watershed. Since it's confirmed in Thornton Creek in Seattle, and in Valley and Kelsey Creeks, there may be other places, as well. These are nasty little critters with no means of eradication. They're tough enough to be eaten by fish and survive – starving the fish in the process and potentially allowing the fish to transport them to other areas. The most common means of mobility, though, are humans – catching a ride on boots, gear, pant cuffs, etc.

People need to NOT use felts (which stay damp for weeks), clean their gear at the stream, brushing off ANY mud or sand – the snails are about the size of a grain of wild rice. Then, completely dry your gear for 48 hours prior to getting into another stream. If you don't have 48 hours, a 120 deg. F. water bath for 5 minutes will also kill them. 409 cleaner works, but degrades the gear and can pollute

the next stream. Bleach and other typical cleaners don't work on mud snails.

For more information: <http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/sgpubs/onlinepubs/g10001.pdf>.

(This article is reprinted from KPausen@bellevuewa.gov.)

Reel Recovery by Dick Brening

At the September Reel Recovery Retreat for men with cancer, your WFFC donated a handcrafted fly box and six dozen flies tied by members at the monthly Fly Tyer's Round Table.

Kris Kristoferson, Event Coordinator and WFFC Member, displays the donated box of flies.

Closeup photo of the flies tied by WFFC members and donated to the Reel Recovery Program.





New Member Autobio: Jim Goedhart

Born and raised in Southern California on a dairy, and learned fishing from my father who fished with conventional gear for Yellow Tail and Albacore out of Point Loma in San Diego. I started trout fly fishing when I went to school at Chico State in the mid-sixties and in the early nineties, salt water fly fishing with my wife Caroline, in Rhode Island, Islamorada, and the Bahamas. We moved to Sammamish in 1998 from Chicago, and have fished mainly on the Yakama with trips to Alaska, B.C., Utah, Oregon, Mexico, and Christmas Island over the past years. My two sons, who both fly fish and live in Washington, and I went to Belize the year before last on a trip organized by **Jimmy Lemert**. I look forward to learning more about fly fishing and where to go fishing from the WFFC membership.

2012 Annual Christmas Party and Fundraiser *by Bob Young*

This year's event will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 11th, at our usual meeting place the fabulous Seattle Tennis Club. So be sure to mark your calendar. The menu is not set yet, but the price will be about \$65 a dinner.



Washington Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 639
Mercer Island, WA 98040
www.wffc.com

Stamp
here

October, 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:

Bruce Staples on Fly Fishing Gems of SE Idaho