

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXIII No. 9

September, 2013



President's Riffle

By 2013 President Mike Wearne

Volunteers

There are two items I want to discuss, contributions by volunteers and the Legacy of Dick Thompson

The success of the president of an organization such as the WFFC is

totally based on the contributions and efforts of individual members.

Here are some examples:

Membership: When I became the president, John Gravendyk was in charge of this responsibility. When it became necessary for him to step aside, Ron Little stepped up and filled that position. I remember the evening I was leaving the Seattle Tennis Club and I was walking to the parking lot with Ron. He said, if you need help, I will be glad to contribute. That was after the meeting when John had said he needed to step aside. The planets must have been lined up. Charlie Davis, a new member stepped in, when Ron needed to back off. Charlie is a gem!

Creel Notes: As most of you know Jim Macdonald took over the responsibilities of editor of the Creel Notes at the same time his parent's health began to fail. Ron Tschetter assumed the responsibility of that job when it became too much for Jim. I appreciate Ron's willingness and brilliance at producing an extraordinary newsletter each month.

Social Media: A couple of months ago I wrote about the importance of the social media in finding potential new members. At the September meeting we will be inducting Steve Boyer, he wants this job!

Education: Jim Higgins had done a wonderful job, he recruited Pat Peterman to take over this responsibility. I could not be happier!

Programs: I had to really work on Bob Burdick to take the job of being responsible for the programs, he is now booking speakers for 2014! I am not sure he will ever relinquish the job.

Other committees: There are a variety of club mem-

bers who simply show up and consistently do their job, including Doug Schaad on Conservation; Pete Baird on Fruit and Flowers; Bill Neal on Awards; Brening and Ballard and the Christmas fly Boxes; Roger Rohrbach on the club website; and Dave Schorsch on the Outings. Stop and think what this club would be like without each of their contributions.

Special Requests: From time to time I have asked individual members of the WFFC to take responsibility for a specific task. Some tasks were real commitments; some were over in a day. In each occasion I was never turned down when I asked. I have to say in a couple of these occasions, I never did any sort of follow-up. To each of you I can only say thank you.

This brings me to Dick Thompson. The first time I met him was in Yakima, in late August at an event organized by Perry Barth. I attended his memorial service at Red's on the Yakima Canyon with several club members. One of the things I learned last Saturday was that Dick was in charge of the committee from the Kittitas County Field and Stream Club production of the Recreational User' Map of the Yakima River. I have used that map for years. He was truly an extraordinary person.

Thanks,

Mike



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September Program

Bonefishing Opportunities on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii '

Speaker: Terry Duffield

By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for programs

Biography

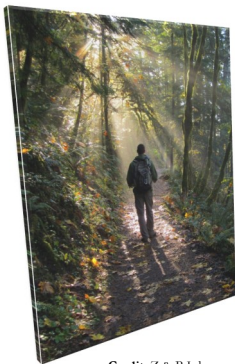
Captain Terry Duffield "Coach Duff" is Washington born and raised and a longtime steelhead bum. He served his country in the elite 2nd Force Recon Company in Somalia, and Desert Shield/Storm, coached football from Washington High Schools to the 2007 Sugar Bowl with the University of Hawaii and brought the first flats boat into Hawaii for guiding.



His stamp and pioneering are all over this now known angling destination for the world's biggest bonefish. From his signature big bone fly "The Spam and Eggs" to his appearances in every major flyfishing magazine (including angling magazines in Japan and Scandinavia) (as a feature guide/angler and writer) and on TV in Cabella's Wana Go Fishing, video in Mikey Wier's Soufish 2 flyfishing movie. He has put anglers on dozens of 10 plus pound bonefish in Hawaii with a client best of 14.8 pounds. He can be seen at <http://www.Coachduffhawaii.com> or reached at 808-292-9680

Fly Tier: Coach Duff, tying his signature big bonefish fly, "The Spam and Eggs"

In Memoriam



Credit: Z & B Johnson

Dr. Richard B. (Dick) Thompson June 1, 1926-August 25, 2013

By Pete Baird

When 13 Club members plus spouse Bev Jennings attended the August 17th Barbeque at Cal & Jeanne's home in Yakima we had no inkling that that would be the last time we were to see Dick alive. Cal was quick to contact us on Sunday the 25th to inform us of Dick's passing at 5:30 am that morning as the result of an earlier heart attack.

The August barbeque was proposed by Perry Barth, who then proceeded to do a superb job of coordinating all the details for the gathering held at the home of Dick's son, Cal and his wife, Jeanne. Dick has been an Associate Member since about 1992, when he first moved to Ellensburg and more recently to Yakima. The details of our gathering are well recorded by Dave Wands (*Privileged Visit*) both pictures and write-up which follows.

Creel Notes

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

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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.

On Saturday, September 7th, Eight of us, Jim Young, Fran Wood, Mike Wearne, Hugh Jennings, Gil Nyerges and both John & Ann Callahan and me made the journey to Ellensburg for the memorial service, held at the Canyon River Ranch Lodge.

I think Dick would have heartily approved that his family and many friends chose that location to celebrate his life from 2 to 6 pm. When we arrived there was a workshop in progress down by the river to demonstrate how a fish should be played once a hook-up was achieved. Once seated for the service the topography visible to the audience was a canyon hillside reminiscent of the country chosen for habitation by Chukar, one of Dick's favorite game birds.

Jim Paine, a Pastor and son-in-law of Dick's conducted the Service. When the audience was invited to share remembrances of Dick, Jim contributed a wonderful story about the sharing of rattlesnake hors d'oeuvres which took place at Chopaka in the past. (If you are not familiar with this story ask Jim for a retell at the meeting.) Many among those present shared the perception that this was classic Dick! Following the service the audience was invited to participate in the release of a fingerling cutthroat trout into the river. Cal had coordinated with the WDFW and obtained some 75 or so fingerlings contained in a cooler for this further tribute to Dick.

Dick's wife Betty had passed on in 2007. Although it was a 2nd marriage for both, the two families developed a very strong bond and continue to celebrate at least one annual reunion.

Dick was a treasured long time member of our Club, sponsored in by Carl Elling in 1955. He served as our president in 1960, won both the Empty Creel and the Half Assed (not sure why) Awards in 1971, and the prestigious Tommy Brayshaw Award in 1980.

Although Dick has been gone from the Seattle area for over 20 years, for those who new him it is still a significant loss. 'The Fish Doctor' or 'Mister TDC' as he was fondly known created true heritage for this fine Club of ours. He will be greatly missed, but always remembered by many!

Reel Recovery

225 Flies Donated By Dick Brening

Again this year 225 flies tied by WFFC club members at the monthly Fly Tier's Round Table are being donated to the men's cancer recovery program, Reel Recovery.



Introducing a New Member

Bill Wheeler

A warm welcome to **Bill Wheeler** our most recent new member.



New Member Biography

Biography of Bill Wheeler By Bill Wheeler

I am a relatively new comer to fly fishing, only taking it up about 8 years ago when we moved to the Seattle area for a job.

I am a retired interventional cardiologist who worked in pharmaceutical drug development for about the last 10 years of my career. We bought a house on Lake Alice near Fall City and it just seemed reasonable to take up fly fishing. Well, "reasonable" is a relative term and my all-encompassing submission to this sport has been anything but reasonable. Luckily, I have a very understanding wife. I wanted something that required both concentration and physical skill.



There were several fly fishers on the lake and we were soon taking trips to Montana, the Yak, and the Sound. Early on I took up fly tying and advanced to the point my flies were "fishable", though not pretty.

I joined the Overlake Fly Fishing Club (OFFC) and soon became the editor of the newsletter, the Wind-knots. Ultimately I ended up becoming President of OFFC. At a WFFC casting class I first met my sponsors, **Pat Peterman** and **Don Simonson**. It was Pat who mentored me in getting my International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) Certified Casting Instructor and continues to work with me in my slow trudge to the Master Casting Instructor. I am also a board member of the Washington State Council of the IFFF. This year I helped teach parts of both the Beginning and Advanced Casting Classes offered by WFFC.

I did not initially pursue WFFC membership but after the bylaw changes when Pat offered to sponsor me to the WFFC, I jumped at the opportunity to join an organization that has had so many pioneers in fly fishing in the North West and now has an inclusive membership.

I hope to become very active in the WFFC, enjoy the company of good people, learn from better fisherman, and contribute where I can.

Privileged Visit

Before His Passing
Saturday, August 17th, 2013
By Dave Wands

WFFC members Gil Nyerges; John Callahan, Chuck Ballard, Jim McRoberts, Bob Birkner, Pete Baird, Ron Dion, Hugh Jennings, Richard Stearns, Fran Wood, Mike Wearne, Perry Barth and Dave Wands met at Cal Thompson's home high on a hill top in Yakima for a summer steak BBQ and visit with Dick.

Dr Richard B. (Dick) Thompson



Gathered Attendees, Yakima WA

Perry Barth arranged the affair which included delicious steaks he provided accompanied by a scrumptious pot luck buffet.



Host & Hostess: Cal & Jeanne Thompson
with member John Callahan

After lunch Dick was entertained by stories of memorable events we experienced with him in past years with lots of laughs. Pete recited a Robert Service poem to provide some spur of the moment entertainment.

Sure great being with Dick again and a fun time for all of us.



Dick Thompson and Perry Barth



(L to R) Mike Wearne, Chuck Ballard and Bob Birkner



(L to R) Gil Nyerges and Fran Wood



(Back) Hugh Jennings (Front L to R) Fran Wood,
Ron Dion and Jim McRoberts

Upcoming Outings

Jay Deed's Place, Hood Canal September 14th and 15th

By Dave Schorsch

It's our annual outing for cutthroat on Hood Canal again. We'll be fishing all over the place, in the Seabeck area, and retiring to Jays for a pizza feed sometime after 6:00 on Saturday. All the dinner and drinks are provided!

Those wishing to fish Sunday can stay at Scenic Beach state park, right down the road. Reservations are strongly encouraged!

His address is 15350 N.W. Maple Lane, Seabeck. Easiest way there from Seattle is to drive to Silverdale near Bremerton, and hang a left over the hill to Hood Canal.

Fall Outing Big Twin Lake and Resort October 5th and 6th By Dave Schorsch

And now for something a little different.... Big Twin Lake Resort

After many years, and many great experiences, we will be trying a new location for our annual fall outing. In spite of continued good fishing for many, some of our members had a hard time at Dry Falls, fishing in different spots while gazing longingly at the dry flats where they used to sight fish big trout.

So on good authority (according to the authorities) we will continue to have great fun at Big Twin lake Resort near Winthrop. Intense research by your dedicated outdoor committee revealed great damsel hatches, lots of triploid rainbows, a really nice campground, and an "overflow" area suited to happy hour activities. Several other fly clubs have spring trips here, I think we will be the first for a fall gathering. (maybe)

Fishing the drop-offs and openings in the weeds adjacent to the 10 foot "zone" seem to be the key. Yes you chironomid soakers can fish here without shame, the main hatches other than adult damselfish should be off. But who wouldn't want to do twitch a big foam damselfish in the reeds? KABOOM! SPLASH! ZZZZZZZ.... nah, lets watch that bobber....

I digress. Lets make this an outing to remember. Happy hour around 5:00, club grill set up, bring your best appetizer and/or side dish, club will provide steaks and beer and cheap wine for those that sign up. This is how you get your dues

back! Fishing will be great, sun will be great, FUN will be great, all we need is you!

SEE YOU THERE!

Dave Schorsch (206) 227-6134

Big Twin Resort Information

e-mail: bigtwinlake@comcast.net

Phone: (509)-996-2650

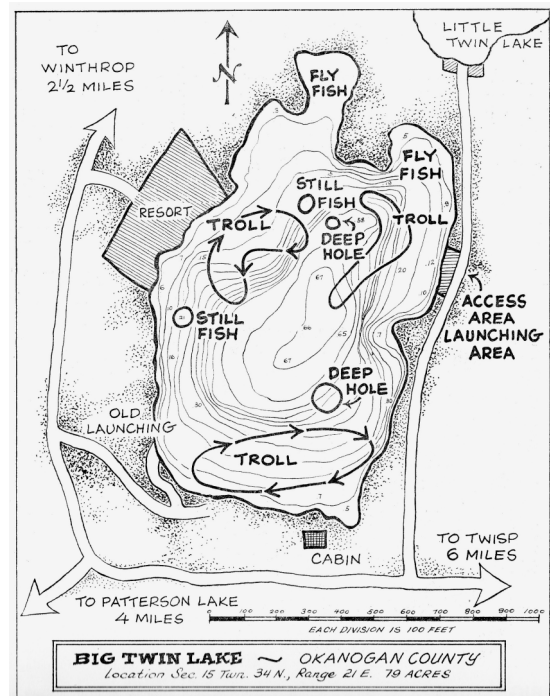
Tent sites: \$25.00/nite

Hookup sites: \$30.00/nite

Location: 2 miles out of Winthrop on Hwy. 20



Big Twin Lake and Resort



Map Credit: Fred 'Piscatorial' Peterson, era ~1968

Project Healing Waters



August 24, 2013

Some drizzle on the windshield as the usual gang of WFFC members headed down to Bill's Fishing Hole for another fishing outing with the veterans.

Just because it's a fish farm doesn't mean the trout don't get prudent to passing human shadows, low oxygen levels, noisy anglers, thrashing water and gaudy flies.

The day eventually cleared up and fishing, although challenging, was successful.



Luis, 7 lb Rainbow



Healing Waters Veterans and Volunteers August 24, 2013



Pitt River, British Columbia

Pitt River BC

By Jay Deeds

Bob Burdick and I fished the Pitt River with guide Erik Skaaning (he spoke at the June WFFC meeting). Our primary objective was Chinook with sockeye and Bull Trout as a bonus, all on the swung fly and all catch and release. Our fishing day started with a 45 minute drive to the boat launch followed by a 45 minute jet boat ride the length of Pitt Lake to the Pitt River and then as much as 18 miles up the Pitt River. The Pitt is about the size of the Skykomish in summer and is very picturesque with blue/green glacial water and lots of wildlife nestled in a steep walled canyon. Pitt Lake is a very unusual tidal lake which is influenced by the tidal effects on the lower Fraser River.

The first day was frustrating with a few sockeye landed and numerous takes on the hanging fly but few hookups. Two of those hookups were by Bob on Chinook which tail walked out of the pools after running off 100 yards of backing. Also a few bull trout were brought to hand. The second day like the first dawned to sunny skies with the temperature reaching the low 80's with the ever present late afternoon stiff breeze. Again, large Sockeye dominated the action with Bob bringing several including a 15 pounder to hand. Bull trout to 2 1/2 pounds could be caught all day if that was your game. As we were waiting for the wind to die late in the afternoon, I caught the one and only Chinook of the trip, a bright 15 pounder which spent a lot of time airborne; a fitting end to a great trip.

Erik was a super guide with an excellent boat, superb fishing knowledge, and an engaging personality which made the end of the day come all too soon. He has a plethora of other fishing options for a trout, steelhead, sturgeon, Coho in the Pitt as well as other BC destinations. I know that I will not hesitate to go with him again.



Jay Deeds - Pitt River



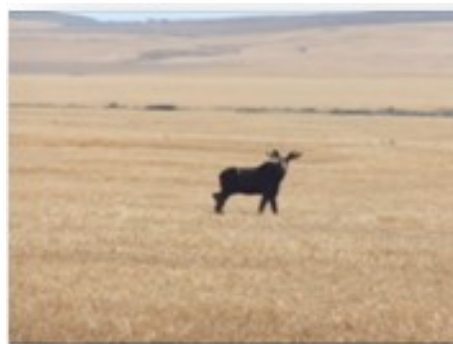
Bob Burdick - Pitt River

The Unusual

Douglas County Washington

I thought this may be of interest since most fisherman are observant of wildlife. I've seen a lot of creatures on the ranch during wheat harvest.....but never a bull moose moving through the field.

This photo was taken in August. The ranch is located in Douglas County southeast of Waterville WA.



Douglas County 'Bullwinkle'

An Extra Tip

Flag Small Gear From Field and Stream Magazine



While hunting, fishing or camping, I put a piece of fluorescent orange ribbon or tape on my knife and anything small that I might drop or lay down, so I can spot it against the leaves and rocks.

Fly of the Month

The 'Famous' TDC Nymph (Thompson's Delectable Chironomid)

In honor of Dr. Richard B. Thompson

From the book 'Flies of the Northwest'

From Pete Baird



The T.D.C. Nymph

Dressing:

Hook: 10, 1X long, 1X fine.

Body: Built up in a taper with tying thread, over-wrapped with small black chenille.

Rib: 4 or 5 turns of narrow silver tinsel.

Collar: 3 turns with ostrich herl.

Data: Created by **Richard B. Thompson**, a fishery biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to represent the pupae of midges.

'Fish with a dead slow retrieve'

The preceding write-up appeared in the third edition of "Flies of the Northwest" published by Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, Copyright 1974. And so began the craze of the chironomid imitation fishery.

Want Ads/Buy and Sell

FREE, FREE, FREE

By Bob Burdick

I have a 8 foot x 2foot square smokehouse in my back yard that I would like to give away. The two accompanying photos illustrate this item. It has

served me well for the last 6 years. Built of tongue and groove, it has 7 shelves, will smoke as many as 8 or 10 salmon at a time, and can be fired by wood in the firebox or can be changed to propane with a burner I'll provide.



A great addition to someone's in-city home, or a beach or country get a way. I can be contacted at 206-329-5948 or reburdick@comcast.net



Laptop Wanted

By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for programs

I need suggestions on how to obtain the least expensive PC laptop with Power Point installed (or bought separately) for our monthly club speakers.

The Tennis Club provides the screen and projector, but asks us to provide a PC laptop with power point for each speaker. Up until the last 4 or 5 months the speakers have been bringing their own laptops, but more and more speakers want to just bring their talk on a thumb or jump drive and are asking me to provide the laptop.

So far I've been able to scrounge up a laptop for the last 3 or 4 talks, thanks to the generosity of Bob Young. However, my constant requests to you who have laptops is wearing thin and I'd like to get a laptop for the club to be dedicated to this purpose. Jim Morrison has kindly suggested a Sony Vaio Pro-11 Untrabook.MHT at around \$1,400, but I'm wondering if we couldn't get something much less expensive.

Anyone have a laptop they want to sell to the club? Know anyone who has a used one for sale? Know where we could buy a used one? I'm clueless in this area and any help anyone can give me would be most appreciated.



Loon on Nest

Upper Hardcastle Lake B.C.
Photo Credit: Hugh Jennings



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Stamp
here

September, 2013

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:

‘Bonefishing Opportunities on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii ‘

Presenter: Terry Duffield