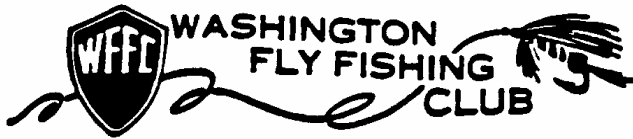


# Creel Notes from the



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



January, 2008



## President's Riffle

Happy New Years, fellow fly fishermen!

A couple of months ago I had an opportunity to see some of our members in action as they supported men recovering from cancer through the Reel Recovery retreat held at Suncadia. Seeing how grateful these courageous men were to have our help coaching them on the finer points of casting, or helping with knots, or where to cast -- and how it seemed to improve the spirit of these men so much -- made me very proud to be a member of this club.

Hearing of all the people we've helped introduce to our sport through our casting and fly tying classes also makes me proud. Then as I learn more about our upcoming involvement in the FFF conclave, and just how much work we do on behalf of our sport throughout the state, the pride grows even more. And when I stop to think about the many fine men who have graced our rosters, I am simply humbled -- men of the past who formed this club and were instrumental in creating fly fishing-only waters; men who have been influential in getting legislation passed to protect the targets of our passion; men of both the past and present who are truly world-class fishermen, casters, fly tiers, writers, and craftsmen. Next month we even celebrate a member of this club who has walked this earth for a hundred years! This is a truly special organization.

As the new year unfolds, I encourage you to reflect on why you joined this club. Was it the camaraderie of fellow fishermen? Was it to learn more about the sport, and perhaps some new waters to try? Was it to work with youth to introduce them to this great lifelong sport? Was it to be able to go on outings with other fur- and

feather-flinging fanatics? Or was it an excuse to just hang out with your fishing buddy and have a few drinks and a nice meal once a month? My guess is it was probably a little bit of everything.

So, as you write your check for your 2008 dues, think about what the club has meant to you, and what you want it to be in the future. The board of trustees, the other executive officers, and myself are here to be your representatives. Talk to us, let us know what you want. You can send us your complaints too -- but if you do, you'd also better have an idea for a solution!

With your input I hope to see many exciting and positive things happen, so that we can all be prouder than ever to be a member of the WFFC.

Tight lines to all,

**Bill Kuper**

President, 2008

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## Award Presentations Highlight January Program

by Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

January is Awards Month at WFFC. Please join us in this opportunity to recognize club members or others who have distinguished themselves through service to the club and the community. **Please wear a coat and tie for this meeting.**

Here is a brief description of the primary awards:

- *Empty Creel Award*, presented to a member for exceptional dedication and contribution to the welfare of the club.
- *Tommy Brayshaw Award*, presented to a member for distinctive and meritorious contribution to the general community through furtherance of the aims and purposes of the club.
- *Andy Award*, presented to a member who has “suffered most cruelly from the vagaries of Murphy’s Law”.
- *Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsmanship Award*, presented to a fly fisher within Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia for original, significant, and lasting contributions to the art of fly fishing.
- *Half-Assed Award*, presented to a member for, well, you know.

There will also be other presentations to recognize additional deeds or misdeeds by club members.

## Housekeeping Items by Bill Kuper

- Don’t forget that the January meeting, our Awards Night, is a coat-and-tie affair!
- Best way to contact me is via email: [billk@digitalfarm.com](mailto:billk@digitalfarm.com), or mobile 206-941-8056.
- If you have something that needs to be brought up at a meeting, please let me know in advance. I may not be able to accommodate your request if you ask me that night. I plan to keep business to a minimum at meetings and use the Creel Notes as our main vehicle for club communication, so as to allow our guest speakers to begin sooner.
- Visit and use our revamped website ([www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)) often! I envision it becoming a great tool for sharing information between members.

## Creel Notes

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Mike Wearne '07 Ed Sozinho '07  
Rocco Maccarrone '08 Ed Pettigrew '08

### 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 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.

## **NEW MEETING LOCATION THIS MONTH!** The Seattle Tennis Club

January 2008 will be the first time that the WFFC monthly meeting will be at the Seattle Tennis Club. If you haven't been there yet, prepare yourself for a treat. It is a beautiful facility rich in history (since 1919), with classy rooms and stately grounds. On the shores of Lake Washington, the eight-acre club includes nineteen tennis courts, a fitness center, a pool, beach, boathouse—and, of course, banquet facilities. (Hmm, wonder how the fishing is off the beach...)



*The Seattle Tennis Club*

### **Directions**

Getting to the Seattle Tennis Club requires a little more driving on surface streets than we were used to with the College Club. But once you take E. Madison Street to the Madison Park neighborhood, you're almost there. The address is 922 McGilvra Blvd. E, and the phone is 206-324-3200. More complete directions:

**From the South:** Travel north on I-5, and then take the Madison Street exit. Turn right (eastbound) and drive toward Lake Washington approximately 3.5 miles. At McGilvra Blvd E., make a sharp right (there is a Wells Fargo bank on the corner) and then travel south about 3.5 blocks. The Seattle Tennis Club will be on the left side of the street.

**From the North:** Travel south on I-5, take the Bellevue/520 exit, and then get off the freeway at the Montlake Blvd. exit. At Montlake, get into the right-hand lane and then go through the intersection on Lake Washington Blvd. After one stop sign, veer right into the Washington Park Arboretum and go until you reach Madison Street. At Madison, take a left (east) and then drive about 0.5 miles until McGilvra Blvd E. Turn right onto McGilvra (there will be a Wells Fargo Bank on the corner). The Seattle Tennis Club will be on the left-hand side of the street.

**From the Eastside via 520:** Travel west on the 520 bridge (Evergreen Point Floating Bridge) and then take the Lake Washington Blvd. exit. At the stop sign turn left, and then veer right into the Washington Park Arboretum. Go until the stop light at Madison Street. Take a left onto Madison and then drive toward the lake about 0.5 miles. Turn right onto McGilvra Blvd. E (there is a Wells Fargo Bank on the corner) and travel south about 3.5 blocks. The Seattle Tennis Club will be on the left-hand side of the street.

**From the Eastside via I-90:** From I-90 westbound, take exit 3A to merge onto Rainier Ave S. Turn left at S Massachusetts St. Turn right at 29th Ave S. Turn left at S Massachusetts St. Turn left at 31st Ave S. Turn right at E Yesler Way. Turn left at 32nd Ave. 32nd Ave turns slightly right and becomes Lake Dell Ave. Take a slight right at E Alder St. Turn left at Lake Washington Blvd. Take a slight right at McGilvra Blvd E. Turn right at 922 McGilvra Blvd E.

### **Parking**

If you are driving south on McGilvra, turn left at the sign that says "STC Members Entrance". The entrance to the parking lot has a sign that says "Parking reserved for members". That's OK: on meeting nights we're virtual members and can park in the lot, but we have to park in the two rows of parking spaces on the north end of the lot, away from the building (those that you see straight ahead of you as you come in off the street). If you want to drop someone off, go right, past the guard shack, and then down the driveway.

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## Meeting Room

We will be meeting in the Banquet Room on the second floor of the STC building. To get there, walk down the walkway/driveway to the entrance on the third floor of the building. Inside the door is a reception area with a desk. There's a coat room to the right, an elevator to the left, and a little further on, a stairway down. Go down one floor, and you enter a sitting room/standing area that presumably we can use during the wet fly hour. The banquet room is straight ahead; the restroom is just behind.

Let the fun begin.

## Christmas Party 2007

WFFC Members and Guests:

Thanks for making the 2007 fundraiser one of the most successful ever. We generated about \$16,000 in net revenue. Particularly impressive were the numbers from raffle ticket sales. The "Hawk" must have been particularly persuasive this year.

Dick Brening's contribution of 20 custom-crafted fly boxes and members' generous donations of many dozens of flies were also significant contributors to our "bottom line". Once again, Andrew Bennett's Andros South trip was well received. The Pella Dinner Cruise with Ed and Earl aboard a 72' luxury yacht was our most profitable fund raising item. Sincere thanks go out to Orvis and Kaufmann's for their generous donations. Thanks to Steve Sunich for building and donating the hand-built mahogany pram. Thank you, everybody who contributed items.

Many thanks are also due to those of you who assisted in the organization, setup, and take-down of this year's fundraiser. And thanks again to the College Club. We will miss them. This was a very successful event.

--2007 Fundraiser Committee



## New Members This Fall *by Pat Peterman*

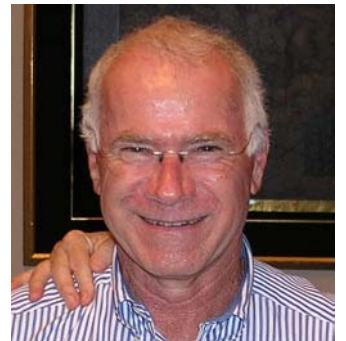
Keep up the good work! Our membership has been enhanced by the new members we have elected into membership in the last few months. Since the last membership article, we have inducted Tom Dillon in August, Paul Lesh and Robert Tovar in September, and Kirk Mulfinger and Paul Johnson in November. The first three brief bios are shown below...more to follow.

Keep in mind as well that you would not probably be a member here unless someone took the time to invite you to a meeting or two and introduce you around a bit. Have you traded a tale and an ale with someone recently who would enjoy (and make a contribution to) our motley crew? Ask them to a meeting!

### Tom Dillon

I was born and raised in Nebraska and Kansas, hardly fly fishing hotspots. So, it wasn't until I moved to Redmond in the late 70's that I discovered that fishing did not have to involve worms, marshmallows, or little bells on the end of your

rod. Actually, my first try at fly fishing was when I went on a trip on the Metolius River in Oregon, where I bought a combination spinning/fly rod at a local sporting goods store (saw me coming, didn't they?), a reel, a floating line, and several



flies. They didn't bother to tell me that a leader and tippet might help. Imagine my chagrin, standing in the river with fish that I can see, trying to tie a fly directly to a 5 wt. floater.

Gave up fly fishing for a while; till those fish stopped laughing. But was rescued by a couple of friends years later, both excellent fly fishers, who trained me at Rattlesnake Lake on trout and on the

Skykomish River, where I caught my first steelhead. Since then I've tried to fish all kinds of waters, rivers, streams, lakes, and the salt. Last year I discovered beach fishing and love it. Very much hope to find new friends at WFFC who also enjoy beach fishing.

For a day job I work as a commercial real estate broker in Kirkland, selling and leasing retail centers. My wife, Beverly, and I live in Trilogy on Redmond Ridge, where I slice golf balls into the woods between fishing trips.

I look forward to meeting most, if not all, members of WFFC, and look forward to new friendships and fishing adventures.

## Paul Lesh

I was born and raised in Seattle in the 50's and graduated from Cleveland High School in 1970. It was during my high school years that a teacher inquired of a few of the athletes if we had ever fly fished. Several of us took him up on the idea and from there we began our fly fishing experience. Using rods that we made from materials at Patrick's Fly Shop (I still have mine), we began to pursue various lakes and streams in the area (Lake Desire, Pass Lake, Green Lake, Snoqualmie R.). This eventually led to trips to Montana, Vancouver Island, and Oregon for the elusive trout. Any time we had a chance we would be out fly fishing, led by our teacher and friend.



Well, then came college, Seattle University (BA Ed 1974), a teaching career in the Shoreline School District (22 years teaching, 8 years as District Athletic Director), and a wife and family (son and twin daughters). I also worked 17 summers at Longacres Race-track selling and cashing mutuel tickets. This coupled with coaching three sports at Shorecrest High School made for a very busy time. Needless to say, fishing took a backseat to all the family activities and work.

I was able to spend a fair amount of time fishing for steelhead and salmon all throughout the state. Through the 80's and 90's, I made several trips to Alaska and the Kenai River. Fishing was at times excellent for the huge kings, and in 1994 I was able to land a 74 # buck. One of my fondest memories was fishing out of Deep Creek for halibut at 12 midnight

in the twilight. We were seven miles out into Cook Inlet, and it was dead calm with the silhouettes of the mountains looming nearby from a spectacular moon, truly a magical experience.

In 2004, after 30 years in the school business, I decided to retire. I immediately got back to my fly fishing gear and started to reassess what I was working with...mostly a bunch of old stuff.... So, I headed down to the local fly shop in Lake Forest Park, Avid Angler, and starting talking with Nathan Keen and his staff. As I was at the counter, I heard a familiar voice from a person who was being waited on in another part of the store. Yes, that old teacher from high school who originally got me interested in fly fishing was in the store. Soon, he came over and several of us were all chatting, when I ask him if he recognized me. He kind of became flustered a little, and I told him he had taught me how to fly fish in the late 60's. Then it all fell into place. After taking him to lunch and reminiscing for a couple of hours, we were off the next week fishing and have continued to fly fish on a regular basis.

I have started to immerse myself in all types of fly fishing activities. This includes rod building, fly tying (WFFC class 2005), and salt-water fly fishing. I was very impressed by the enthusiasm of the WFFC, and after talking with members at various fishing shows and knowing Bob Birkner from the Shoreline area, I came to a few meetings and was able to join. I look forward to being an active member of the club and participating in club outings.

I was 5 years old the first time my father took me fishing. We had stopped at a small gravel pit near our home in Wapato after dinner one summer night. The "lake" was known to have some bass and countless sunfish. I was hooked on fishing from the very first peck on the line.

Since then, many of my most favorite moments in life were during family fishing trips to the Seep Lakes Wilderness area and along the Columbia, Snake, and Yakima Rivers. Our family owned a small trucking company and ran a hop ranch in the Yakima Valley near White Swan. We worked very hard 11 months of the year, but didn't hesitate to take off the second half of June and the entire month of July to go fishing all over Washington State.

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## Robert Tovar

I was introduced to fly fishing in 1983. It wasn't long before I realized the obsessions that follow a person once they discover the joys of this sport. Soon, I was tying my own flies, collecting rods, building leaders, and attempted on a few occasions to assemble my own custom-made rods. Not long ago, I was very content with my collection of single-handed rods until a fateful steelhead trip I took with Rocco to the Grande Ronde River in October of 2005. I returned convinced I needed a two-handed rod after watching a fisherman pull two steelhead from the same stretch of river I had just finished fishing. I noticed he had more line control and was able to cast further than I could with my single-hander. I am now the owner of two two-handed rods! What direction will this sport take me to next?



I have known Rocco since our college days in the late 70's and had been his guest to many fly club meetings for the past 6 or 7 years. I am very excited to finally become a member of the Washington Fly Fishing Club and look forward to developing strong friendships with people who enjoy fly fishing as much as I do.

## Dues Are Due

Dues were due the first of the year, but submitting them was complicated by the fact that the dues notice was not included in the December Creel Notes. [Editor's Note: My apologies.] If you haven't already, please submit your dues as soon as possible (make out your check to WFFC). Club policy is that if they are not paid before March 1<sup>st</sup>, the club is required to drop the membership—we don't want that to happen.

You can get to the dues notice directly online (without going through the WFFC Web site) by navigating to [http://www.wffc.com/pdf/2008Dues\\_notice.pdf](http://www.wffc.com/pdf/2008Dues_notice.pdf).

## Boyd Aigner Competition for 2008

by Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

This is the official notice of the 2008 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition. This year's competition will again be on the basis of a "best" fly selected by each participant that will permit him to demonstrate not only tying skill, but also creativity, by submitting flies that in his opinion best represent the specified patterns. Like last year, there will also be a designated attractor pattern. Members of the club will be the judges, so everyone will have an opportunity to participate in the process.

The patterns for 2008 are the following: (1) chironomid emerger/adult, size 14, (2) small sculpin, sized to fit within display box having an internal length of approximately 3½ inches, and (3) Brad's Brat, size 8. Each participant may submit only one set of flies.

Display boxes will be distributed at the February Members Meeting—please note that all flies submitted for the competition must be mounted in the display boxes. Flies will be due by the March Meeting so that they can be displayed and judged at the April Meeting, with the Award presented at the May Meeting.

Dick Scales and I are the coordinators for the competition. Please contact us if you have any questions. Bill Neal (w) (206) 667-8211; (h) (206) 232-0603; [wneal@staffordfrey.com](mailto:wneal@staffordfrey.com). Dick Scales (425) 898-1608; [rls2arc@earthlink.net](mailto:rls2arc@earthlink.net).

## WSCFFF 2008 Fly Fishing Conclave

by Ed Sozinho

For years the WFFC has been the dominate club at the annual WSCFFF casting competitions. Last year there were no casting competitions held—that is all changing this year with the introduction of the WSCFFF 2008 Fly Fishing Conclave. The Conclave will consist of fly tying and casting demonstrations, classes, games, and competition throughout the day. The WFFC will take the lead in the organization and refereeing of the casting competition. There are new rules that will require everyone to study them closely, especially the judges/referees. We are looking for 8-10 individuals who would like to take part in the running of this event.

Additionally, we are looking to put forward two teams for this year's casting competition. Please

contact Ed Sozinho if you are interested. We will start meeting at Green Lake for casting practice and to start learning the rules and procedures for the judges/referees.

## **February's WFFC meeting Will Be Very, Very Special!!** *by Pete Baird*

God willing, we will celebrate the 100th birthday of our oldest and still active club member on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Seattle Tennis Club! The evening will honor Frank Headrick, and the memories that he and other senior club members share, via a panel discussion of times past. There will be a cake—a big chocolate cake because that's what Frank likes—that will serve as our dessert for the evening, and perhaps also even a little champagne! The panel members will include Frank Headrick, Earl George, Hu Riley, Gil Nyerges, Steve Raymond, and Perry Barth. Thanks to Greg Minaker, there will be a PowerPoint background slide show featuring a collection of photos that capture important memories in Frank's life. There will also be a second series of projected photos that will support panel session discussion topics.

Circle Feb. 19th on your calendar—it is going to be a great evening and definitely one to be remembered!

**Special Request:** If any long-time club members have any relevant photos, contact Greg Minaker (360-435-8133H or 360-435-1113W, e-mail [wakingflies@stillaguamishsteelhead.com](mailto:wakingflies@stillaguamishsteelhead.com)). If you have any memorabilia pertaining to Frank that could be put on display for the evening (e.g., I have a shadowbox steelhead fly tied by Frank in 1991), please contact me (206-232-7682 or e-mail, see roster). Many thanks and see you at the grand celebration!

## **Outdoor Chairman Needed!**

Ron Dion is passing the baton for the Outdoor Committee Chairman. Ron has done a really great job for the club, but now we need someone else to step up in this new year to organize our outings. If you have the desire to work with some great guys to plan some fun trips and get lots of our members involved, please let Bill Kuper know asap. See Bill's Housekeeping Items article on pg. 2 or the member directory online for contact info.

## **Fruit & Flowers Update** *by Pete Baird*

An aging club seems to provide more material for this committee than I would like to be seeing! Here's the latest on club and family members bearing the burden of grief or ailments as of Jan 4th:

**Lyle Manson:** Passed away on Dec 31st. A memorial service will be held at Auburn First United Methodist Church on Sunday January 13th at 2:00 pm.

**Walt Walkinshaw:** Spent a good half hour on the phone with Walt recently. His recuperation progress from the broken neck and other aches and pains is much slower than hoped for. He did spend a good New Year's Eve in the company of Fran & Bunny Wood and another couple. His only outside-the-house activity has been a meeting with his book club. He has 24 hr/day caregiver support and is not able to turn his head to recognize well wishers—a great frustration! He welcomes calls from those with whom he has fished in the past.

**Les Johnson:** Spent Christmas in bed with a bad cold and both he and his wife Carol saw the doctor next day, were given meds, and sent home. Shortly thereafter, having had to turn down attending "The King & I", Les checked in again and was hastily checked into the hospital ICU. He returned home on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, and is continuing to acquire some much-needed rest. Calls should be OK by the time the Creel Notes are received.

**Chris Rundall:** Also a case of the healing process just taking too darn long! Having left the Columbia Lutheran facility, Chris is back in the ICU. She is experiencing both good and bad days and considerable discouragement. On the hopeful side, she will next be going to the Highline skilled nursing facility in Burien, which specializes in treatment of lung and breathing disorders. Bill continues to welcome calls from well wishers (206-215-1334).

Thanks for keeping me updated on our WFFC family health, and please keep each of these folks/families in your thoughts!



Washington Fly Fishing Club  
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www.wffc.com

Stamp  
here

January, 2008

## 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 (this month) is served at 6:30 PM.

This month: Award Presentations

**We will honor people in our sport with some prestigious awards. Be sure to be there for this outstanding occasion at the Seattle Tennis Club!**