

Creel Notes from the



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



January, 2011



President's Riffle

Greetings and Happy New Year! I hope most of you were able to get out for some fishing, or hunting, over the Holidays. I fished locally on the Sky and Snoqualmie a couple of days without any luck. However, I did go pheasant hunting outside of Yakima with my long-time friend Gary Corra (a prospective club member) and his 12 year old son, Carson (also my Godson). The planets must have been in alignment, as I shot my first pheasant in many a year. Not sure who was more surprised ... Gary? ... me? ... my dog?...or the pheasant?

A few brief words about 2010. What makes this club special is the *passion* of our members. We are passionate about the sport we love, fly fishing. The fact that we belong to a fly fishing "club" reflects that passion. 2010 could be viewed as "contentious" because of that very passion that we feel for our club. Two sides sat opposite each other on an issue that was very important to them, passionate about their beliefs. But let's pause and think about that for a moment ... we have people in our club, the WFFC, who feel **that** strongly about how we conduct ourselves, form bylaws, etc. And it is precisely for that reason that we remain the oldest, and the **BEST** fly-fishing club in the state. I believe 2010 was contentious, but also believe it was healthy for our club. We will be stronger for it as we continue to evolve. I applaud last year's administration for having the *cajones* to ask the question that needed to be asked. But, change is inevitable folks. The question WILL come up again. We cannot let a vote for a bylaw change be divisive. Our club should not and will not be defined solely by gender or gender bias. Go ahead, be passionate, state your views, but respect the opinions of other club members and don't quit the club!

My goals and objectives for 2011 are rather modest (I think we owe ourselves some time to breathe). I promise, we will not take on the gender issue this coming year. We will continue to search for a localized conservation project(s) worthy of dispersing our earmarked funds to. A committee is being formed to establish a RFP (Request for Proposal) to distribute to prospective organizations. We are forming another committee to investigate why water in Dry Falls continues to drop, and to see how we can help to turn that around. The South Sound Coho issue is something near and dear to the hearts of many of our club members. We will be working with various groups in an attempt to improve those runs and that fishery (however, this won't happen overnight). Our monthly programs will have more of a regional feel to them. **Mike Wearne** has a great slate of local biologists, authors, etc. lined up for 2011. Finally, the objective most important to me ... **CLUB OUTINGS**. Last year we had fantastic turnouts for our outings. I want to parlay that success into even bigger and better outings. **Dave Schorsch** and **Mark Pratt** are the ringleaders for this traveling circus. Let's lean on them! We are going to have fun at those events

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and we are going to have fun this year. I want to hear fishing stories, true or not. My motto ... don't let the facts get in the way of a good story.

Your WFFC President for 2011,
Rocco Maccarrone

January is Awards Month *by Bill Neal, Awards Chairman*

The presentation of awards will highlight the January members meeting. Please join us in recognizing club members who have distinguished themselves through service to the club and the community. Here is a brief description of our 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 flyfisher 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 be other presentations to recognize accomplishments by members—meritorious and otherwise!

Please remember to wear a coat and tie for this meeting. See you there.

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.

WFFC 2010 Christmas Party Extravaganza

by Jim Macdonald

Many of the club members who agreed to help with the setup of the Christmas Party started showing up at **Earl Harper's** Studio at about 1 pm to help set up the auction and raffle items that needed some kind of work done to them. A mass exodus started about mid-afternoon to haul all the stuff over to SoDo Park by Herban Feast on 1st Ave. All the auction and raffle items were set up and identified along with their raffle buckets, etc.

A bar was set up with a container for the good of the order similar to the bar we had at the College Club—with some really good liquor, beer, and wine to be had behind the bar. Members and guests started filtering in over about a two-hour period and spent time sampling the bar and previewing all the auction and raffle items. There must have been at least 10 fly rods, one of which was a dandy Sweet Grass Bamboo rod.

The number of raffle and auction items was astounding.

The dinner was served and about half way through, the auction started and continued through to the raffle drawings. Many people won something and some two or three things, and that is just the way it is.

Everyone appeared to have had a wonderful time and if they won something, that was just icing on the cake. Everyone started filtering out and paying for the auction items they had won, and the Ghillies and Treasurer put things to bed and then we left.

P.S. Did anyone loose a blue XXL L.L. Bean Jacket? The club has it if you want it back. Contact **Jim Macdonald**.



Gil Nyerges Fly Plate and its Caretaker

Christmas Party Thank Yous

by Earl Harper, Third Vice-President in charge of the Christmas Party

Well, another year has come and gone and before you know it, this year's Christmas party will be upon us. I guess one of the true measures of a successful party is whether or not everybody had a great time. I know I had fun—even if I didn't win any of the big raffle prizes—and I hope you all had a good time, as well. Without the help of club members, retail shops, and manufacturers, this party would be impossible and for that I think we owe a big thank you to them all. Here is a list of club members you can thank throughout this next year:

Roger Rohrbeck, John Schuitemaker, Doug Schaad, Kris Kristoferson, Gil Nyerges, Scott Rosenkranz, Jay Deeds, Keith Robbins, Jim Macdonald, Don Simonson, Chuck Ballard, Jim McRoberts, Dick Brening, Per-Olav Christiansen, Art Alton, Joe Kristof, Jim Higgins, Robert Tovar, Peter Crumbaker, Ed Sozinho, Don Barton, and Dave Hawkins.

And here is a list of businesses to thank:

Far Bank Enterprises, Classic Accessories, Cook Canyon Hunt Club, Will Preston, Avid Anglers,

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Creekside, Patricks, ExOfficio, Built Burger, Nor-Vise, Trophy Lakes, Simms, Outdoor Research, Corson Building, Contour Cameras, Heritage Dog Products, and Schooner Exact.

And last, but not least, Tini Bigs for allowing us to borrow our two helpful and beautiful elves.....

And I must ask for forgiveness in advance because I know there are more people we should be thanking, but due to my lack of organizational skills, I may have missed a few people.

Thanks again, everybody, for a fun party.....

Dues Renewal *by David Ehrich, 1st Vice-President in charge of Membership*

As First-Vice in charge of Membership, I open the mailbox (or website) everyday to a pile of Dues Renewal forms. Slowly, but surely, members fulfill their annual duty to renew their “vows” to the club. Thank you.

For those of you who took the “slowly” part more seriously than the “surely” part, let me humbly request that you look for the renewal form (attached to the Creel Notes or online in the Member Area), fill out your latest data, write a check for your current level of membership, and send it off to yours truly with a stamp.

Of course, there is a second option: complete your renewal online in the Member Area of our wonderful website. I tried it this year and finished the process in the time it took the football game to meander through a “30-second” time out.

So pick you poison, get the job done, and you won't have to get a call from me reminding you to dues up. Thank you, gentlemen, for your immediate attention.

WFFC 2011 Officers and Trustees

by Bill Redman

The following men have stepped up to be your officers and trustees for 2011. Welcome, guys, to your positions!

President: Rocco Maccarrone

Rocco is a Seattle native who began fly fishing in high school. He fishes primarily for trout in lakes and streams in the Northwest, and for steelhead on area rivers and in the North Umpqua and the Grande Ronde. He joined the club in 1997, and has done publicity for the Education Committee, been active in the Home Waters Project, been a regular at many outings, served as 1st Vice President when it was responsible for both membership and the Christmas Party, and just finished a three-year term as a trustee. He is an analyst with Boeing, and earlier in his career was a producer for Fox Sports Northwest, co-producing the *Fly Fishing Northwest* TV program starring our own **Pete Van Gytenbeek** and **Les Johnson**.

1st Vice President (Membership): David Ehrich

David is an avid and accomplished backpacker and high-lake fisherman. You get to know people really well on these strenuous, sometimes “epic” trips, and he gets high marks from his fellow high-lakers. He joined the club in 2005, and has served as secretary, but he is probably best known in the club for his lively, witty, and sometimes opinionated descriptions of the proceedings at club meetings that appear regularly in the Creel Notes. He is a high-school English teacher.

2nd Vice President (Programs): Mike Wearne

Mike is best known in the Fly Club for his long-time work as Librarian, having done an outstanding job improving our collection of literature, along with writing reviews and keeping us current on book readings, signings, and so on. He will continue to do this work as he lines up 2011 programs. He has developed a list of prospective program ideas for 2011 and would like input on them from club members (see page 6). He joined the club in 1998. He is a real-estate appraiser in his day job, and is also a board member of a non-profit that provides shelter and services to battered and abused women.

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party): Mike Santangelo

Mike cut his fly fishing teeth while living in Colorado. His fly fishing experience reads like a roster of premium destinations: the Rocky Mountains, Alaska, Europe, The Caribbean, The Bahamas, Mexico, and even the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean. He most recently has been focusing on Northwest lakes. He joined the Fly Club in 2008, and immediately became active, serving as Assistant Ghillie last year and currently as acting chair of the Yakima Home Waters Committee. He retired from Paccar to spend more time with his kids, and I would guess, to fish.

Treasurer: Don Barton

Don has wide-ranging fishing interests: freshwater and salt, flowing and still. He likes the club outings, especially Chopaka and Leech Lake, and has recently gotten into spey fishing. His hobbies are his wife, four grandchildren, and fly fishing, in that order. He joined the club in 2006, and was the Assistant Ghillie of the club this past year. An attorney by training, his varied career has included the law, hotel general management and ownership, and real-estate investments.

Secretary: Ron Tschetter

Ron is a Seattle native who has been fly fishing since 1964. He was a student in the first-ever fly fishing class for college credit in Washington when a student at Eastern Washington. He joined the club in 2008, and is the guy who gets the Creel Notes printed, stamped, and mailed every month. He has not missed a single club outing this year, and is a regular at the Wednesday fly-tying round table. He is a Navy veteran, and his first job out of college was as a nuclear power plant operator. He is a career Boeing man who recently has been focusing on quality control.

Ghillie 1: Jim Macdonald

One of the requirements of the Ghillie office is to offer a big smile and friendly greeting as people arrive at club meeting. Jim excels at this. He joined the Fly Club in 2003, and finds time to do a lot of the heavy lifting at club outings. He often spends more time working than fishing. Jim runs a company with his own name on it that repairs and improves manufacturing. He's also an inventor.

Ghillie 2: Conrad Gowell

Conrad is from the Oregon coast and is the successor to **Doug Schaad's** father and Doug himself as the third River Keeper of a remarkable Ten Cent Creek on the Central Oregon coast. He fishes all around the Northwest. He joined the club in 2008, and is a regular at club outings, helping out where needed and developing quite a reputation for his culinary skills at the outings. Conrad is a senior at the University of Puget Sound, and will graduate this spring. He has done graduate-level fisheries research in Alaska under Dr. Tom Quinn during the summers, and has also done research in The Caribbean and Honduras, where he had the opportunity to fish for bonefish.

Trustee: Bob Young

Bob is a Puget-Sound native who has fished the Eastern Washington lakes, the Yakima, Puget Sound streams, and Alaskan and B.C. waters. Now he mostly chases sea-run cutts and salmon along Puget Sound beaches. He joined the club in 1997, produced the Creel Notes for several years, does a little guiding, and works at one of the local fly shops. He is a Navy veteran and electrical engineer who lived a lot of his adult life in the Bay Area of California, where he converted to fly fishing on the streams of California, became a life member of the FFF, joined several fly clubs, and became President of one of them. He retired from Pacific Gas and Electric, and moved back to the Northwest in 1990. Bob has a strong conservation bent and has served on the board of the Wild Steelhead Coalition for several years.

Trustee: Chapin Henry III

Chapin is a Seattle area native who has primarily been a stream fisherman. Montana, Eastern Idaho, Southeastern British Columbia, and Eastern Oregon are among his favorite haunts. He is just getting into steelhead fly fishing. He joined the Fly Club in 1989, and in the early 1990's was the 2nd Vice President and program chair of the club. Earlier in his life, Chapin spent a couple of seasons as a fly fishing guide at Three Rivers Ranch, an upscale fishing lodge in Eastern Idaho. Sounds like a nice way to spend a summer. Beyond fishing and the Fly Club, Chapin has had a varied career in business.

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Thanks to all of the above who have so generously agreed to serve as officers or trustees of the Washington Fly Fishing Club for 2011.

Stepping Down

At the end of December, the following officers and trustees handed off their duties (excluding those who assumed a different office). Thank you for your service!

- President: **Ed Sozinho**
- 1st Vice President: **Peter Crumbaker**
- 2nd Vice President: **Keith Robbins**
- 3rd Vice President: **Earl Harper**
- Treasurer: **Jim Morrison**
- Secretary: **Leland Miyawaki**
- Trustee: **Rocco Maccarrone**
- Trustee: **Ed Pettigrew**

The Nominating Committee

The following members served on the Nominating Committee: Chairman **Bill Redman, Jim McRoberts, Don Simonson, Dave Schorsch, and Dave Hawkinson**. Thank you!

Boyd Aigner Competition for 2011

by Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

The 2011 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition is underway. Last year we had ten participants, and we are hoping for more in 2011. The Competition is intended to be a “friendly” event in which each participant can demonstrate his creativity as well as tying skill. Each participant is to submit what he regards as the “best” fly in each of three categories, and may submit only one set of flies. As before, members of the club will be the judges.

Here are the patterns for 2011:

- (1) Parachute mayfly (any species), size 18;
- (2) Orange Stimulator, size 10 (for general reference, see [Fly Patterns of Umpqua Feather Merchants](#) (1995), page 61);
- (3) Moosetail Irresistible, size 8 (for general reference, see [Fly Patterns](#), page 124).

Special thanks to **Dick Scales** (three times Competition winner) for his continued help in selecting the patterns. Contact me if you need pattern information on the Orange Stimulator or Moosetail Irresistible.

In the past the club has provided some financial incentives to encourage participation. It is anticipated that this will occur again, following confirmation at the next board meeting.

Display boxes for use in the Competition will be distributed at the February members meeting—participants are responsible for mounting their flies 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.

I will serve as the Coordinator for the Competition. Please contact me (Bill Neal) if you have any questions. (w) (206) 667-8211; (h) (206) 232-0603; wneal@staffordfrey.com. Good luck to all.

2011 Meeting Programs *by Mike Wearne, 2nd Vice President (Programs)*

The following programs will be presented at the WFFC general-membership meetings in the first half of 2011:

January

No speaker: **Awards Program**

Fly Tying: **Jim Higgins**

February

Speaker: **Dave Williams, CARP**

Fly Tying: **TBD**

March

Speaker: **Bob Jateff, Okanogan Lakes**

Fly Tying: **Jim McRoberts, Bob Burdick**

April

Speaker: **Doug Rose, Olympic Sea-Run Cutts**

Fly Tying: **Jim McRoberts, Bob Burdick**

May

Speaker: **Ray Gould, Kamloops Lakes**

Fly Tying: **TBD**

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June

Speaker: **Donn Mills, Methow River
Secrets**
Fly Tying: TBD

Casting Forward

*A program to give a new direction to formerly
homeless people*

by Greg Crumbaker

Casting Forward is a new program under the Educational Committee of our WFFC. The first session was held October 28th, and since then we have had seven fly-tying classes and two fly-fishing outings. Sessions have had a low of two attendees and a high of 11. Six is the norm.

Who are the folks? Two have attended all sessions but one. Two are known vets, one a young man recently discharged from Iraq and one a Navy submarine vet. Three are women, two of whom have attended the outings. One is blind, and he has both tied and fished. All are enthusiastic, respectful people.

The WFFC members who help out with tying and/or fishing have done a great job, and there have been numerous requests to “be sure so and so is back next week”. The participating members are **Brian Hata, Warren Gibbs, Mike Wearne, Jim Macdonald, Maury Skeith, Per-Olav Christiansen, Peter Crumbaker, Greg Crumbaker**, and new members **John Prudden** and **Art Alton**. A participant in Project Healing Waters has also helped out with teaching fly fishing.

The program meets every Thursday night from 7 – 8:30 pm at the Canaday House located at 424 Minor Ave. N. in Seattle. If you’d like to help out, contact me (Greg Crumbaker). If you have any extra fly-tying materials, their donation would be appreciated. We are in particular need of **hooks (all sizes) and dubbing**. If you could bring it to the January general meeting, I can pick them up there.

One night after the tying session, I said to Jim Macdonald, “We made them feel pretty good tonight”, and Jim responded with “That goes both ways.”

Cost of Dinner Meals to Increase in February *by Rocco Maccarrone, President*

Beginning with our February 15th general membership meeting, the cost of our dinner meal will go up \$2, to \$29. The WFFC Board was given the option of maintaining the same meal price but with a plated salad, or increasing the price and keeping the salad bar. Aware of the tradition and importance of the salad bar to our membership, the board voted in favor of the price increase and keeping the salad bar. Please be aware, folded into the \$29 cost of the dinner meal is room rental, staffing, and all other catering expenses. It remains a darn good deal.

Beckler and Wallace Fishing Report

by Peter Crumbaker

Last Thursday on December 30th, a friend and I decided to hit Highway 2 and see if there were any late runs still holding in some of the rivers. We went straight past the Sky, the Wallace, and made the Beckler our 1st stop of the day. A gorgeous river, thin, but with deep pockets and large boulder-size rocks. I have seen salmon holding here before, and have read of people catching trout, so thought it could be fun. The river was in good shape and maybe a touch high. Wading was difficult and given the conditions of the road due to snow, we were forced to fish close to the confluence where it flows into the Sky. Casting was difficult since we were pushed high on the bank amongst the trees and fly-eating branches. The water was perfectly clear and since neither of us could see any signs of fish holding in the stretch we were fishing, we decided to double back and check the hatchery on the Wallace. Once we arrived, at least we could smell the signs of a salmon run. A salmon run that had passed. We hiked up river about a 1/4 mile, then saw some salmon rolling and decided to cast out. We figured with the salmon decaying maybe some other fish were in the area for the lightly attended party. My friend ended up bringing in one cutty at about 13” and I brought in a leather-skin coho. With the sun dropping, we quickly got to the car and called it another pleasant day.



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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Stamp
here

January, 2011

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:

The WFFC Awards Meeting. Don't miss it.