

Creel Notes from the



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



February, 2009



President's Riffle

Hello one and all!

The Fly Fishing Show saw a strong WFFC presence, and the crew from the club did a great job of informing people about our club and its activities. Thanks to **Bill**

Deters, 1st VP Membership, for getting us organized and there, and thanks to each of you who manned our display table.

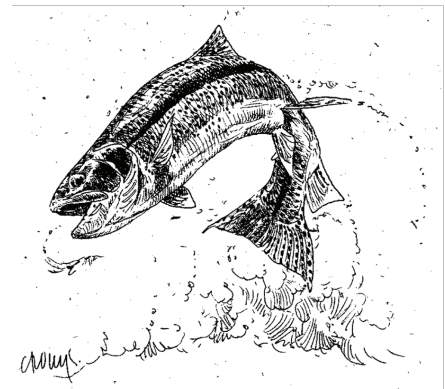
We have just gone through the budgeting process and will be presenting the budget for your approval. The financial health of the club remains strong. By expanding the level of detail on the expense budget, we hope to be able to better track income and expenses. We have budgeted expenses greater than income this year and for the last few years, yet the balance in our checking account has grown about 20%. A financially conservative group, we usually spend less than budgeted and make more than planned. We have the income and reserves to meet our obligations as forecast.

I am ready for spring. It seems like the winter weather is keeping me off the water more this year. I have signed up for the Dry Falls outing on line and am looking forward to it...hope many of you sign up as well. The planned outings are listed there in the member's area and if you sign up now and reserve the dates on your calendar, it will be easier to attend. If you don't see an outing there you would like, contact Robert Tovar and get it included. Let's go fishing.

We have John Herzer, a well-established Montana guide, presenting at the dinner meeting this month. He will be informing us about some favorite Montana water and catching trout in any water. Good company, good program, good food...I'm going. See you there.

Go Fishing! Take a Friend!

Pat Peterman
WFFC President 2009



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February WFFC Meeting

John Herzer: Fishing Montana's Best Variety of Water, Seasons, and Flies

by Steve Sunich, 2nd Vice President

Blackfoot River Outfitters is based out of Missoula, Montana, which gives them access to over 400 miles of the state's least known, yet most productive trout water. The area's relatively low elevation also affords Montana's longest dry fly season, initiating in early March and continuing on through October. Their primary waters are free-stone, and angling techniques are as varied as the streams. They fish streamers, nymphs, droppers, and dries, in sizes ranging from #2 to #20, sometimes all in the same day. If you want to learn more about this exciting Montana destination, please join owner and 26-year veteran guide, John Herzer, for this presentation.

Boyd Aigner "Enticements", a "Challenge", and a Schedule Change

by Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

Participation in the 2008 Boyd Aigner Competition was excellent, but to encourage even more members to join in, the board has authorized \$500 in prizes. Each prize will be in the form of a gift certificate for a local fly fishing shop of the recipient's choice. The prizes will be \$250 for first place; \$125 for second; \$75 for third; and \$50 for the highest scoring "first time" participant. For this purpose, a "first time" participant is anyone who has not participated in the competition more recently than 2002.

In addition, at the January members meeting, and in a manner imitating Muhammad Ali, last year's competition winner **Bob Burdick** proclaimed himself to be "the greatest". He then announced that he personally was putting up \$50 as first-place prize money and challenged anyone to beat him. So, gentlemen, the gauntlet has been thrown down!

To accommodate all those who are now motivated to participate, the schedule for the competition has been stretched out by one month. Accordingly, fly patterns will now be due at the April meeting; they will be displayed and judged at the May meeting; and the award will be presented at the June meeting. Information for the competition is in the January Creel Notes, and contestants can also contact **Bill Neal** or **Dick Scales** for more information.

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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 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.

2008 Awards Recap

by Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

Congratulations to the winners of club awards for 2008. The January meeting is the time when the club recognizes its members and others who have made outstanding contributions to the club or the community. Many of these awards recognize hard work and dedication. Others are presented to those who have contributed to the good humor of the club and to the fun of pursuing our elusive quarry. Several awards are named in memory of past members whose activities or personalities have helped form the character and lore of the club. Our presentation of them not only recognizes present activities, but also honors the memory of these fine men. Here is a short recap.

The club's traditional awards were presented to the following individuals:

Empty Creel Award, to a member for service to the club, was presented to **Jim McRoberts** for his service as President; First Vice President; Trustee (two years as Past President); club representative for the Healing Waters program helping injured soldiers; active participation on the Conservation Committee; and club representation for Salmon Cutthroat Policy Advisory Group, Washington Environmental Council Legislative Days, and King County Critical Ordinances.



Jim McRoberts Receives the Empty Creel Award

Tommy Brayshaw Award, to a member for service to the community, will be presented to **Bob Young** for his service as a board member of the Wild Steelhead Coalition for more than five years, as well as service in the much-needed position of its Treasurer; active participation as a board member providing testimony and as a proponent and advocate for wild steelhead before the Fish and Wildlife Commission; service as unofficial editor for the Coalition's newsletter, The Adipose; and Treasurer of the Steelhead Summit Alliance. Bob was unable to attend the January meeting, but his selection was announced then, and presentation will be made at the next possible opportunity.



Bill Neal Awards Don Schroder the Andy Award

Andy Award, to a member who has "suffered most cruelly from the vagaries of Murphy's Law", was presented to **Don Schroder** for the torment he has suffered, but endured as a gentleman, involving failed zippers on his trousers, passport issues and confrontations with border authorities, trailing fly lines and whirling propellers, failing motor batteries, and other perils too numerous to mention.

(Continued on page 4)



Richard Embry bestows the Half-Assed Award on Robert Burdick

Half-Assed Award, to a member for various and repeated acts of “half-assedness”, was presented by last year’s recipient **Richard Embry** through a creative narrative, although not the traditional poem, to **Bob Burdick**. The presentation identified a variety of situations resulting from Bob’s zeal for anything related to fishing or hunting, including arrows piercing neighbor’s downspouts, kitchen faucets left wide open and unattended while pursuing needed supplies from hunting or fishing equipment purveyors, seat belts left unfastened while pursuing same (and openly flaunted in front of law enforcement personnel), and well, actually, you really needed to be there to hear it all.

Letcher Lambeth Angling Craftsman Award, for significant contributions to the knowledge, art, philosophy, and techniques of fly-fishing, will be presented to **Dave Hughes**, of Portland, Oregon, for his development and dissemination of serious entomological information concerning aquatic insects, particularly those native to the West, as well as being a prolific author, having co-authored *The Complete Book of Western Hatches* and *Western Mayfly Hatches* with professional aquatic entomologist Rick Hafele, and having written over 25 titles of his own dealing with all aspects of fly fishing. Dave was not able to attend the January meeting, but his selection was announced then, and presentation will be made

at the October meeting, when Dave will be the featured program speaker.

Current President **Pat Peterman** presented a Past President’s pin to the club’s outgoing President **Bill Kuper**. Pat also presented to Bill the traditional fly fishing reel, which for this year was a Sage Click II.

The Awards Committee always reserves the right to give special recognition to other club members for their accomplishments. In January 2007, we recognized **Earl George** for his exceptional 12,000-mile solo trip to Panama in 2006, at age 92, but more recently he has been off again. This time he made a 5,500-mile solo round trip last summer from Lynnwood to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, and then a solo trip to New England early this fall. We proudly presented to Earl a special **WFFC Travelin’ Man Award**.



Bill Neal presents Earl George with the WFFC Travelin’ Man Award

The club continued the practice started last year of recognizing individuals for their longstanding status as members. Certificates for continuous membership and support were present to **Phillip Aigner** (Spokane) and **Jerry Sammons**, for 40 years, and to **Pete Baird**, for 50 years. Obviously, all were mere lads at the time of joining, with waivers of the minimum age requirement.



Pete Baird receives the 50 year award for continuous membership and support to the WFFC

No Gold Button Certificates were presented. The club is reviewing the program to encourage participation. One possibility is lowering the minimum size requirement, which is being reviewed with the Conservation Committee

Finally, we again recognized **Bob Burdick** for earlier winning the 2008 *Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition*. See more about the 2009 Competition in a separate article.

Special thanks to the other members of the 2008 Awards Committee: **Pete Baird, Chuck Ballard, Dick Brening, Ron Dion, Kris Kristoferson, and Don Simonson.**



New President Pat Peterman presents a Past President's pin to Bill Kuper

WFFC Outings Schedule for 2009

The Outdoors Committee has lined up the following outings for 2009. Mark them down on your calendar.

Dry Falls Lake, April 18th and 19th. Sat.: BBQ pot luck dinner. The club will provide steaks and libations. This is the weekend before the lowland lake opener (Park and Blue Lakes.)

Lone Lake, New Member Outing, May 9th (one-day outing). Sat.: Lunch and libations provided by the club. Special 1-day outing for new members and their sponsors. All members welcomed.

Chopaka Lake, May 23rd through 25th. Sat., pot luck dinner. Sun., pancake b'fast, and tempura dinner. (Club: Libations, tempura, and Sun. b'fast.) Memorial Day Weekend.

Yakima River (tentative), late July. Sat.: BBQ pot luck dinner. (Club: steaks and libations.) This is a combination fishing outing and work party to develop the Home Waters Site.

Leech Lake (White Pass), Aug. 22nd. Details to come.

Scenic Beach, early Sept. Jay Deeds will review the tide tables and recommend a specific weekend.

Dry Falls Lake, Oct. 3rd and 4th. Sat., BBQ pot luck dinner. (Club: Steaks and libations.)

Fish Lake (near Lake Wenatchee), Oct. 24th and 25th. Sat: BBQ pot luck dinner. (Club: steaks and libations.)

WETBUNS @ Penrose St. Park, Nov. 7th and 8th. Sat. pot luck dinner. (Club: entree and libations.)

Open dates include late March, early April, early June, late June, early July, early August, late September, and late November. If you have suggestions for these time slots, let Robert Tovar know.

The Outdoors Committee consists of Chairman **Robert Tovar, Don Barton, and Randy Hieronymus.** Thank you, gentlemen.

WWU Fly Fishing Collection Honors Jack Hutchinson *by Marian Alexander*

From March 2006 until his untimely death in December, 2008, **Jack Hutchinson** donated more than 300 books from his extensive personal collection to The Fly Fishing Collection at Western Washington University Libraries Special Collections. Many of these are rare editions of classics in the fly fishing literature. In addition to books, Jack donated rods, hooks, flies, and fly plates. He was dedicated to helping WWU create a unique collection of fly fishing resources, and we will forever cherish our friendship with him.

In Jack's memory, The Fly Fishing Collection has established a fund for the purchase of books in areas of special interest to Jack, including bamboo rod building, aquatic entomology, fly tying, and fly tying materials. We hope that his many friends in the fly fishing community will join us in honoring and remembering Jack in this way, while helping us to grow the collection as Jack would have wished. For more information about the fund, including information about how to donate, please visit http://www.library.wvu.edu/specialcollections/FlyFishing/Hutchinson_Memorial.html or contact Marian Alexander, Head of Special Collections, WWU Libraries, MS-9103, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA 98225; phone, 360-650-3283; email, Marian.Alexander@wwu.edu.

Note: You can read WWU's interview with Jack Hutchinson at http://www.library.wvu.edu/specialcollections/FlyFishing/Oral_Histories/Jack_Hutchinson.html.

Fly Fishing Film Tour

This event presents fly fishing films by independent outdoor filmmakers. It is scheduled to hit Seattle on March 8th, at 7:00 p.m., at the King Cat Theater (2130 6th Ave, Seattle). For more information, see <http://www.flyfishingfilmtour.com>, and check out the trailers.

Appointment for Les Johnson

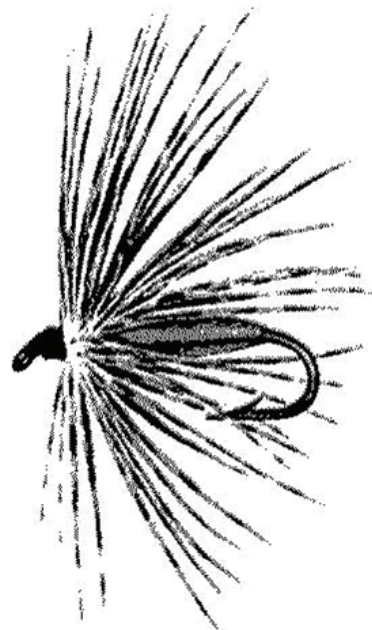
Les Johnson has received a two-year appointment to the Puget Sound Resident Salmon Oversight Committee. The term runs from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2010. The Oversight Committee meets quarterly to monitor the resident salmon programs throughout Puget Sound and Hood Canal. The first meeting this year will be held on March 4th at 5:00 pm at the Lakewood Hatchery.

Les would like to express his appreciation to the following for supporting his appointment: Conservation Committee chair **Doug Schaad**; Oversight Committee member Kevin Ryan (South Sound Fly Fishers); his long-time friend and writing partner **Bruce Ferguson**; and Steve Thiesfeld, WDFW Puget Sound Salmon Manager.

One of the first agenda items will be improved access throughout Puget Sound and Hood Canal for anglers who fish from our beaches. Les will submit a report to the Creel Notes after every quarterly meeting. If any WFFC member has an issue that they would like to have proposed or clarified, please contact Les at the following:

Phone: 425-869-4254

E-mail: cutthroatles@comcast.net



The Secret Weapon:

Golden Girl by Preston Singletary

Tier: Preston Singletary

Originator: Roderick Haig-Brown

Hook: 8-2/0 TULE Salmon hook

Thread: 6/0 black

Tip: Orange floss

Tail: Two small golden pheasant crest feathers

Body: Flat gold tinsel

Hackle: Yellow

Wing: Two golden pheasant tippet feathers, back to back, enclosing a small bunch of orange hair, with a golden pheasant crest feather over the top.



Tier's Notes:

The Golden Girl is one of Roderick L. Haig-Brown's patterns. According to Art Lingren (*Fly Patterns of British Columbia*), the fly was developed during WWII when Haig-Brown was serving in the Canadian Army. Its Atlantic salmon fly heritage is apparent, and he fished it primarily for steelhead, but also for cutthroat and coho. There are several salmon patterns that use the G.P. tippet wing (Red Sandy and Durham Ranger, to name a couple). The earliest version of the Golden Girl featured an Indian crow feather tail, which was later changed to G.P. crest. The final pattern was described in a letter to A.J. McClane in 1949.

I always seem to have to struggle with mounting the two tippet feathers for the wing. The configuration of the feather's quill and the way the fibers grow from it tend to make it twist as it is tied down. I find that I usually have to flatten the stem with thumb

and fingernail or even with pliers to make it behave, and it usually requires winding and unwinding the tying thread a number of times to get it just right. But I think it's worth the effort.

In the winter I fish it with a typical steelhead swing, and in the summer I fish smaller versions (down to size 8) with the greased line technique.

Note: The Secret Weapon highlights new patterns originated by, or standard patterns uniquely modified by, club members. If you have a secret weapon that you would like to share, please let your Creel Notes editor know.

Fishing Violation

 by Gil Nyerges

In case you didn't see it in a recent Sunday Times sport section, Outdoors column, I want to make certain that this is passed around as far as it will go—for general fishing knowledge!!!

A Moses Lake man was charged July 26th at Rufus Woods Lake in north central Washington for possessing 13 rainbow trout—11 over the legal two-fish daily catch limit—and for failing to display his catch for inspection to officers when requested.

The violations cost the man a \$250 fine, and the loss of his boat, boat motor, boat trailer, cooler, and fishing rod and reel. A Washington state hearings officer recently finalized the forfeiture of the equipment, valued at an estimated \$2500.

“This is a good example of how a fish and wildlife violation can end up costing much more than a standard fine,” state Fish and Wildlife Sgt. Jim Brown said in a news release. “Loss of equipment for serious intentional violations is a strong deterrent to others.”

We ought to invite the alert officers to a meeting for commendations!!!



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here

February, 2009

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: "Fishing Montana's Best Variety of Water, Seasons, and Flies"

John Herzer of Blackfoot River Outfitters will speak about the fishing in the area around Missoula, Montana.