

Creel Notes from the



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



March, 2004

President's Riffle

Your Board (as provided for in Operations Procedure 102, Section III, B. 2. c) voted to have what may be called an **"Indoor-Outing"** for the July meeting. We will invite the following clubs to attend: Seattle Police Department Fly-Fishing Club, Northwest Fly Fishermen, Northwest Women Flyfishers, Northwest Fly Anglers and Overlake Fly-Fishing Club. They will receive a formal invitation along with a reservation form similar to the holiday party. We will require advanced reservations in order to have an accurate number for the College Club. We do not plan to conduct business at the July meeting, just have fun. It will take the place of the "Garage Sale" usually held at the August meeting. We have a great speaker in Tim Borski. These clubs have worked hard to promote fly-fishing in our area. The "Devil is in the details" so stay tuned! We will need help and ideas.

I testified on March 2nd along with other conservation folks before the Board of Natural Resources concerning their proposal to increase the cut levels in our state owned forests. We were opposed to their recommended 30%-40% increase in cutting levels. As of this date it seems we have lost. There will probably be increased sedimentation and higher water temperatures in some streams as a result.

Other news from the legislative arena is not looking very promising either. The legislature is due to end this session on March 11th. The **Instream Flow** bill died in committee. It looks like one of the Forest Certifica-

tion measures may pass. It would require the Department of Natural Resources to come up with a plan by the end of this year. There will be some monies in the budget for habitat protection. It seems we have one department fighting another! There is also money for **Toxic cleanup and prevention**. What is good for birds is probably good for fish and legislation passed to designate **Important Bird Areas** throughout the state. Audubon pushed hard for this and it passed. One more item that failed was **Promoting Environmental Education** in our elementary schools. That is a real loss for our children!

Closer to home I attend a meeting of a group which intends to lobby the King County Commissioners on changes to the **Critical Areas Ordinance**. This is to ensure that we have a say in the protection of local streams and wetlands such as **Griffen Creek**. This includes such things as stream buffers, runoff and culvert installation or replacement. If you have an interest in attending any one of six King County hearings in your district next month, please call me.

Jim McRoberts, President

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REVISED BOYD AIGNER COMPETITION

By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

The Awards Committee has been working to revamp the Boyd Aigner Competition to encourage greater participation from Club members. Everyone says there are a lot of good, creative tiers among us, but we just don't seem to be reaching out to them, other than the 5 or 6 regular Competition participants. The Committee has received some very good comments from members and has incorporated them into Revised Guidelines for the 2004 Competition. These Guidelines appear at the end of this article.

Two major changes are to make this a "best" fly competition, reducing the structure and permitting members to demonstrate their creativity, and to leave the judging to the members of the Club, giving everyone an opportunity to participate in the process. We are all excited about these changes and hope the members will reward our efforts through increased participation.

For the 2004 Competition, participants are to submit their best patterns to imitate (1) a candlefish, (2) a damselfly nymph, and (3) a pale morning dun adult. Patterns are due by the April 20 Members Meeting and will be displayed and judged at the May 18 Members Meeting. The Coordinators for the Competition are Dick Scales and me. Please contact either of us for more details and procedures. Bill Neal (w) (206) 667-8211; (h) (206) 232-0603; wneal@staffordfrey.com; Dick Scales (425) 746-1723; rls2arc@earthlink.net.

Boyd Aigner Fly-Tying Competition Year 2004 Revised Guidelines

The purpose of the Competition is to honor the memory of Boyd Aigner and his contributions to fly fishing, particularly fly-tying, through a friendly, annual event that will encourage participants to improve their skills, develop patterns and techniques, and share ideas and information with other Club members.

1. The Competition will be conducted under the Awards Committee, who will designate the Coordinator(s) to administer the Competition. The Coordinator(s) shall have the discretion and authority to consult with others on any aspect of administering the Competition.

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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 work to the outlawing the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season.
3. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
4. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
5. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
6. To encourage and assist boys — particularly of high school age—to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen.

(Continued from page 2)

2. All members of the Club may participate in the Competition, including those who are on the Awards Committee, except that the Coordinators shall not be eligible to participate. All participants will compete on an anonymous basis, except that their identity will be known to the Coordinator(s), and all participants shall compete in one class.
3. The Competition Coordinator(s) will specify one or more categories of flies to be submitted by the participants. Each fly specified will be a “natural”, that is, one that is primarily an imitation of an insect, baitfish, or other life form found in waters of the Pacific Northwest. The Coordinator(s) will have the authority and discretion to determine how narrowly or broadly to define each category and to establish any specific requirements.
4. A participant will submit what he regards as the “best” fly to imitate the specified natural for each of the categories, together with a pattern recipe for each fly. A participant may submit more than one pattern in any category.
5. The judges for the Competition will be the members of the Club, including those who are participants in the Competition, except that the Coordinator(s) shall not vote. Members shall vote for the “best” fly in each of the categories and will have one vote for each category. All voting must be done in person. The winner will be the participant who receives the most votes for all flies submitted by him. In the event two or more participants tie, the winner shall be chosen from among them based upon the participant who received the greatest number of votes for any one fly.
6. All flies submitted in the Competition are to be judged primarily on “fishability”, creativity, and like factors and to a lesser extent on the more technical aspects of fly-tying.
7. The Competition and the categories of flies for each year’s Competition will be published in the *Creel Notes*, together with a cutoff date by which participants must deliver their flies to the Competition Coordinator(s), but not sooner than the third Members Meeting following publication.
8. The judging for the Competition will take place at the beginning of the next Members Meeting after the cutoff date for delivery of the flies. The Coordinator(s) will announce the winner at that Meeting and may also announce the second and third place finishers.
9. The name of each year’s winner will be engraved on a permanent, rotating trophy featuring a Chopaka May dry fly pattern developed by Boyd. The trophy will be presented to each year’s winner to be held by him for one year.
10. All flies, pattern recipes, and other materials submitted as part of the Competition will be the property of the Club and may be used for fly-plates, *Creel Notes* articles, or other purposes as the Club may determine.

North Idaho Fly Club 2004 Annual Day

By ex-El Presidente, Ron Mazurek (as Bill Rundall would say)

This year, our North Idaho Fly Club 2004 Annual Day is being held a little later this year. Please mark your calendar and save May 8 for a day of mingling with East Side fly fishers and expert fly tyers from all over the Inland Empire. I am again hoping to entice an even larger participation from the WFFC. The friendships that were begun last year were a great start for a lasting relationship between the Westside and Eastside clubs. We will promote fly tying as the primary interest and provide seminars, a renowned guest speaker (to be announced later), raffles, live and silent auctions and a sit-down dinner with entertainment of some sort. A lot of planning is in the works at this time. The event will again be held at the Coeur d'Alene Inn (not to be mixed up with the CDA Resort). Last years Annual Day was a great success and provided the Conservation Committee with significant funds for financing and providing seed monies for much grander stream and fish enhancement projects with the Idaho Fish and Game Dept., the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM. See you all there!

Yakima River Clean Up *By Jim McRoberts*

On Saturday March 6th, **John Huey** & his son, **Chuck Ballard** and I along with about 20 others met at Red's on the Yakima. **Dick Thompson** was also there representing WFFC as well as the Yakima River Fly Fishers. The Yakima club sponsored the spring cleanup day. We picked our sections of the river/highway to gather litter, had free coffee and muffins grabbed garbage bags and departed. They picked a great day. It was sunny and pleasant. Chuck and I picked up **eight** plus bags of trash (some of it quite foul) between mile-

posts 16 & 17! After lunch we fished the same stretch of the river. There did not appear to be any surface activity, however Chuck picked up four on the surface. I went down and dirty and connected with one 14" rainbow and a 15' whitefish! One drift boat went by with **Earl Harper, Ed Sozinho** and **Scott Rosenkranz**. You will have to pump them for their success stories. We saw several mountain sheep & two bald eagles! It was a great way to start the season!

Griffin Creek Riparian Restoration (See page 6)

Fisherman's Prayer

Reprinted from Sequim Gazette,
10/08/03.

Our Father above the water hallowed
be thy name.
Thy rain will come. Thy rivers run
on earth
As they do in heaven.
Give us this day our daily fish and
Forgive our excess limit,
As we forgive those who set the
limit.
Lead us not into rough water.
Deliver us from the end of the sea-
son.
For Thine is the river, the ocean
and the glory.
Forever and ever. Amen.

*Thanks to Perry Barth for finding
this, ed.*



UNDERSTANDING THE CAST ARTICLE 5

By Don Simonson

Critiquing the Cast

Hopefully by now you have progressed nicely and are forming nice tight energy efficient loops. As you observe these loops, both during the back cast and forward cast, they should be 3 ft or less from the top of the loop to the bottom of the loop. My hat is off to you if that is the case. Now you can progress by lengthening the line in one-foot increments while still accomplishing the 3-ft or less criteria. If your loops are still lacking tightness you might want to read further. One substance item in casting is that the line will follow the path of the rod tip. Remember in the first article where we state that the rod tip needs to travel in a straight line path to produce a narrow loop. If the rod tip travels in a convex or doming path the line will form a large wide loop. The loop size will be proportional to how much convex travel the rod tip attains. The following are some things that will contribute to this condition.

- Bending the wrist. Especially when we stop the rod during the back cast. It is a natural motion to open the wrist just when we stop. To check for this condition look at your forearm thumb relationship when you stop. The forearm and thumb should form a straight line with one another.
- Not raising the elbow on the back cast and lowering it on the forward cast. An easy drill to use to establish the elbow rise is to touch your ear. You will notice that in order to touch your ear you will not only bend your elbow but also raise it. Remembering when we do this drill we keep a nice straight wrist.

- Not generating efficient line speed. Be sure to start slow and end fast with a nice abrupt stop.

The opposite of a wide loop is a tailing loop. As you observe your loops if the top of the loop cross's below the bottom of the loop you have created a tailing loop. Tailing loops happen because the rod tip travels in a concave or dipping path instead of the straight line path we want. If you are experiencing tails the following points may be of help.

- Smooth out your stroke. Back to starting slow and progressively accelerating in stroke speed.
- Lengthen your stroke/timing. Try pausing a little longer before beginning your forward cast.

We must realize that 80% of the end result lies with the back cast. A good tight loop back cast will almost always result in the good final forward cast.

I hope by improving your casting skills you will have a more enjoyable fishing experience. If there is any area of casting you would like me to explore further please e-mail me or give me a call.

donjoans@seanet.com, 206-932-4925

ELIGUK LAKE

Wild rainbow trout fishing in Central B.C! We still have room on both weeks that club members will be going this year. June 5 to 12 and June 12 to 19. With our club discount (\$1,000) the total cost for this week of fantastic fishing and tremendous camaraderie is \$1,500. And total means total! If you are interested, call either **Gil Nyerges** or **Perry Barth**.



Frank Headrick attended the February meeting of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Frank joined the club in 1940 and served as its president in 1942 and 1943. Born in Bellingham, Frank currently lives in Seattle and is looking forward to his 96th birthday. He is the club's most senior member.

Restoration Scheduled on Griffin Creek

Saturday 10 April 2004 Start Time 08:30

The WFFC will continue the riparian restoration effort at Griffin Creek on Saturday, the 10th of April. At this point I don't know whether we will be working in the upper or lower meadow. And, for all pragmatic purposes, it doesn't really matter. There will be enough blackberries available in both areas that everyone will have a chance at destruction of same while encouraging the survival of the native species previously planted.

Lunch will be served between 12:00 and 12:30. To insure a reasonable supply of grub, I'd appreciate a response via email to: Doug Schaad at dcschaad@comcast.net if you plan on attending. Family, friends and potential WFFC members are all welcome to join in the activity.

While tools will be provided by King County, if you have a favorite set of gloves, brush-cutter, pruning shears or other gardening implements; you may wish to bring them. April weather is unpredictable, plan accordingly.

Directions to the site remain the same. Just follow these directions to Camp Don Bosco and you'll find the King County signs as you approach.

CAMP DON BOSCO

Camp Don Bosco is located near Carnation, Washington, approximately a 45 minute drive from Seattle. From I-90, exit at Preston. Follow the signs through Preston to Fall City. At the stop sign, go straight continuing north. As you cross over the Snoqualmie River Bridge get into the left turn lane and turn onto Highway 203 (Fall City-Carnation Road). Continue approximately five miles to NE 11th. Turn right and follow the signs to Camp Don Bosco.

From State Highway 520 (Evergreen Point Bridge) continue to 1st stop light, turn right onto Highway 202 (Redmond-Fall City Road). Take a left on Tolt

Hill Road (Sign to Carnation Golf Course). At the intersection with Highway 203 turn right (south), less than a mile, to NE 11th. Turn left and follow the signs to Camp Don Bosco.

I look forward to seeing a good turnout on the 10th of April

NEW MEMBERS APPROVED

Last month the membership approved the following gentlemen as members of our club, and they will be inducted this month:

Rob Masonis, sponsored by **Bill Redman** and **Ed Pettigrew**.

Doug Smith, sponsored by **Steve Raymond** and **Don Simonson**.

Walter Alexander, sponsored by **Blair Alexander** and **Leland Miyawaki**.

Congratulations fellows, we look forward to your participation!

MEMBERSHIP VOTE THIS MONTH

The Membership committee is recommending two individuals for club membership, to be voted on at this month's meeting:

Dietmar Lang

Dietmar came to us on his own, seeking out a quality club to join to enrich his fishing experience. He is a native of Germany, and lives in Kirkland with his wife, and is employed by Microsoft. He is probably the only one at Club meetings with a German accent, and most assuredly is the only one who has caught fish in a real moat surrounding a Chateau in Bavaria. Dietmar's sponsors are **Jim Morrison** and **Bill Kuper**.

Ray Willms

Ray comes to us with quite a flyfishing and conservation pedigree. He was a founding member of the Coalition for Washington's Fish and Wildlife that ran Initiative 90, and later became the director of that foundation. He has also served the FFF as conservation chair, president of the NW Regional Council, and national director. Ray has fished many of the Western states, including much of Alaska, ties his own flies, builds rods, and has a library of over 400 fishing books.

Ray's sponsors are **James Schmidt** and **John Olson**.



Sauk River Destruction

This exchange of email and photograph was posted 3/7 and 3/8. - ed.

Dear Dr. Koenings:

I attach a slide of what some citizens living on the Sauk River just downstream from Darrington are doing to the Sauk River's bed with dozers and backhoes. This particular patch two weeks ago was forest and

beaver houses. These people have run off their land anyone trying to access the main damage point. The Sauk as you know is a U.S. Wild and Scenic River. It provides habitat for all Skagit-Sauk salmonids, including ESA listed chinook and for part of the Skagit River System's rapidly declining run of wild spring steelhead.

The same people a few years back undertook similar destruction on their own and no agency, including the one you direct, took action against them.

I trust that will be different this time.

Jack de Yonge
Skagit River Coordinator
Steelhead Committee
Federation of Fly Fishers

Guys -

WDFW has been aware of this problem for about 2 weeks. There is an ongoing investigation by the enforcement officers with 2 site visits (one with the original reporting party) and a flight is scheduled for later in the week.

Curt

WHAT DRESS CODE? *By James Schmidt (reprint from August 1999)*

The current enforcement of a dress code that does not exist anywhere in our bylaws is no longer valid. The Club needs to clarify its position on acceptable forms of clothing to be worn at the general membership meetings and write it into the Club's bylaws. It thus would become our dress code as written into the bylaws.

Any change or addition to our bylaws requires that the proposed change be published in the Creel Notes for two consecutive months.

I propose that our dress code be written to accept "business casual" as appropriate attire for general meetings: a jacket and shirt with collar, along with long dress

slacks or khakis. No tee shirts, no shorts and no sandals – or no dinner. Summer months of June, July and August would allow short-sleeve polo-type shirts or short-sleeve dress shirts without jackets.

I expect others to have their opinions about what our dress code should or should not say. I welcome those opinions as we are formulating our dress code. Whatever our dress code will be, it needs to be decided by the membership and voted into the bylaws.

Editor's Note: Members with opinions on this subject are encouraged to express them to Jim McRoberts, President 2004, or any of the other Board members or send your thoughts to Leland Miyawaki for inclusion in the Creel Notes.



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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Stamp
here

Meeting Announcement

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at The College Club, 505 Madison St. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM



Fishing Around the World for Billfish and Tarpon

Billy Pate is one of the world's foremost big-game fly fisherman. He is best known for his 188 lb. world record tarpon on 18 lb. tippet, for starting World Wide Sportsman in 1987, for catching the first blue marlin and black marlin on a fly rod, and the first person to catch six billfish species on a fly. Pate has journeyed to 40 countries in search of his quarry and has won numerous tournaments. And most recently, he has been inducted into the IGFA Hall of Fame.

Please come prepared to ask Billy all you ever wanted to ask about billfish and Tarpon.