

Creel Notes from the



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



April, 2010



President's Riffle

Have you been feeling a bit sick? Maybe the economy is really starting to hit you where it hits your fishing supplies. I can tell you this: it will really be bad on Tuesday, July 20th — that's right, July 20th. So call in sick now and tell your boss the WFFC said it was OK to miss work on that day. The club is renting buses and we are all heading over to the Yakima for the day. We will be fishing all day, having drinks by the waters and our monthly meeting/ribbon cutting at our new home waters. This is shaping up to be one of those days that will be talked about for years. See the article by **Keith Robbins** later in the Creel Notes.

Many members are gearing up for the Dry Falls outing, which looks like it will be well attended. Outings are a great way to get to know your fellow members, and share a drink, and maybe some fishing techniques. I have not been on the lake in years and I'm looking forward to reacquainting myself with her fish this weekend.

The Boyd Aigner competition fly patterns are ready to be judged. The members get to review and vote for their favorite patterns this month during the Wet Fly hour. Time will tell if Bob will uphold his title or if he will be brought down in a surly mess of chicken feathers and tinsel.

Grab your rod and going fishing.

Ed.



Photos by Ed Sozinho (see pg. 6)

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This Month's Meeting:

Dave Delisi presents "Bamboo: From Shoot to Rod"

Dave will discuss the progression of bamboo from the cultivated forests in southern China to finished fine cane rods in southwest Montana. Discussion will cover a three-week trip to Aozai, China, where Sweetgrass Rods sourced enough bamboo to keep them building rods for 20 years, as well as a brief overview of the bamboo-rod building process. Dave Delisi is the latest addition to the Boo Boy team. With a strong background in business and finance, his gifts differ from the traditional rod-builder. Responsible for much of the back-office necessities, he may represent your first encounter with Sweetgrass. Building rods is an ethereal art, but Dave brings a sense of organization that anchors Sweetgrass to the necessities of the business world. He is also a student of the rivers and is learning, under Jerry and Glenn's patient tutelage, to build rods in the time-honored tradition.

For a visit to the source of Tonkin cane, and a very brief primer on rod building, see the Sweetgrass Rods Web site at <http://www.sweetgrassrods.com>.

There will be no demonstration fly tier at the meeting this week, because we will be voting on entrants in the Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition.

Sign up now.

Keith Robbins--
Your Second VP

The Creel Calendar

- **Dry Falls Lake**, April 17th and 18th.
- **Lone Lake**, May 1st (one-day outing). This outing will include the Port Angeles and Whidbey Island fly clubs.
- **Chopaka Lake**, May 29th through 31st. Memorial Day Weekend.
- **Leech Lake** (White Pass), Aug. (second week).

Outcast Pac 800 For Sale by Steve Damm

Pac 800 pontoon boat used nine times. Has many extras: saddle bags, swivel seat, pump, oars, anchor system. \$375. Phone: 206.713.8648. email: steve_damm@fws.gov.

Creel Notes

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Jim van de Erve ... Editor and Publisher
425-489-0971 jimvde@comcast.net

President

Ed Sozinho esozinho@earthlink.net

1st Vice President (Membership)

Peter Crumbaker wolf_fenris2nd@hotmail.com

2nd Vice President

Keith Robbins flymooch@aol.com

3rd Vice President

Earl Harper earl@ecostock.com

Treasurer

Jim Morrison jamescmorrison@mailhome.com

Secretary

Leland Miyawaki lelandmiyawaki@comcast.net

Ghillie

Jim Macdonald macdonaldco@msn.com

Asst. Ghillie

Don Barton dbarton44@comcast.net

Trustees

Rocco Maccarrone '08 Ed Pettigrew '08
Scott Hagen '09 Jim Young '09
Andrew Bennett '10 Craig Koeppler '10

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.

March Meeting *by Jim van de Erve*

Dick Streater didn't just show up at the March meeting. He brought a table full of contraptions. These included "fishing technology" from the 40's, 50's, and 60's, and a lot of gadgets that some ingenious and inventive soul thought up with the express intention of making our fishing experience more successful and enjoyable. But while these implements were undoubtedly conceived with a germ of usefulness, the design must have gotten handed off to Rube Goldberg and the Marx Brothers.

Dick's tricks included self-propelled devices for the fisherman who doesn't want to overexert himself. Like a switch-blade extending net. A Gun Caster, which Dick couldn't take it on a plane because it looks like a gun. A spring-loaded, jet-action auto caster. And an extending 24-foot rod that when Streater activated it shot across the room not far enough above the heads of unsuspecting WFFC members.

As Dick said, there was definitely some slapstick involved with creating these implements. "And if you're not careful," he said, "you can end up on the sock end of the slapstick."

There were sure-fire, improve-your-catch-rate implements, like an Aqua Shoot that deploys a parachute that opens and fights the fish. Then there's the Pro Chummer that lays down a stretch of chum from a plastic fish with chopper blades (1-800-PRO-CHUM). Since Minnesota is the land of ten thousand lakes, and 10 gazillion mosquitos, Dick has a net that fits over the fisherman's head and comes complete with a built-in pipe. Along the same lines,



Dick Streater with his fishing gadgets

there's a Budweiser casting reel with a beer can next to the reel, so you don't care so much if you get skunked.

You have to wonder how many people bought these contraptions because they thought they were hilarious, and how many people bought them because they thought they'd work. As Streater says, "You have to think like a fisherman to enjoy the thought that goes into the gadgets." Presumably that works better after a couple of scotches and several beers.

Meanwhile, Dick related how Sven and Ole, who as good Swedes liked to fish, wanted to go on a big-time fishing trip. So they flew from Vancouver to a gourmet fishing lodge in Alaska. They stayed there five days, but during the whole time they only caught one 12-pound salmon. During the trip back to Seattle, Sven asked Ole, "How much are the receipts for the trip?" Ole replied, "\$3200. That salmon cost \$3200." To which Sven exclaimed, "That there was one gosh-darn expensive fish. I'm glad we only caught the one!"

Naturally, Dick's bag of tricks also included guaranteed-to-result-in-a-slamfest lures. Such as the Tailbiter, a hook with a hammer that hits the fish right between the eyes, tailor-made for those empathetic people who don't want the fish to feel pain. There was a lure that you stick a herring inside of, and voila, you can fish all day with one herring. There was a hook that wiggles, battery-operated, made in Hong Kong. And a Dynamite Lure, which the conscientious manufacturer tells you in the instructions not to throw upriver and not to use if you are fishing with your faithful Labrador Retriever.

With all that technology, you have every right to expect that you will catch fish. But, if all else fails, Dick has a Dead Ringer Stringer, a rope with convincing fish lookalikes. The only problem is that it includes freshwater and saltwater fish on the same stringer. Oh, well, who will notice?

The Business End of the Meeting

After all the leg-pulling gags of the first half of the meeting, we actually did get some business done in the second half. President **Ed Sozinho** started by announcing the members of the committee that will do research on the gender issue. They include **Richard Embry, Jim McRoberts, Ron Dion, Bill De-**

(Continued on page 4)

ters, Chapin Henry, and Roger Rohrbeck. **Peter Crumbaker** and **Gil Nyerges** then inducted three new members: **Kent Lufkin**, **Reggie Harris**, and **Per-Olav Christensen**.

For upcoming events, **Kris Kristoferson** announced that there will be a Reel Recovery Retreat on the Yakima on Sept. 14th through 16th. If you would like to be a fishing buddy at the retreat, let Kris know. Kris announced the kids outing that was on his property the weekend of the 3rd or 4th of April. **Doug Schaad** then told us of a request from the Cub Scouts to teach them how to tie flies during an event over the 15th of April.

Fishing reports started with **Greg Crumbaker** and **Kris Kristoferson** on the Crooked River where they saw lots of action on a size 22 emerger and dries at 8 am—in February. **Leland Miyawaki** caught salmon; however, his report lacked detail about where (“a beach”), on what (“a fly”), and how big (“between 9 and 27 inches”). This resulted in loud cries for the ghillie.

Doug Schaad, fishing in Oregon, hooked four wild steelhead and landed two, while **Galen Rowell** hooked three more. Unfortunately, Doug also reported that his truck was stolen during a recent meeting at the Seattle Tennis Club.

Mike Santangelo enjoyed good fishing at Lenice on a size 14 chironomid. **Peter Crumbaker** reported that he enjoyed a cigar for each of the three fish he caught on a trip with **Earl Harper**. And **Keith Robbins** engaged in a little cast-and-blast at Canyon River Ranch, catching eight trout on Skwala dries and hunting pheasant. “The lodge,” Keith said, “will spoil you.”



Kent Lufkin and Reggie Harris being inducted

“Home Waters Ribbon Cutting, Take-the-Day-Off-of-Work” Party/Outing, July 20, 2010 *by Keith Robbins*

The WFFC has reserved two 50-passenger buses, three guide boats, and five drift boats for this event in beautiful Ellensburg, WA. This will be the inaugural Home Waters outing, but it will also be much more. The cost to attend is \$30 and includes travel by bus to and from the Home Waters site just outside Ellensburg; beverages and Top Pot Donuts on the bus; appetizers and beverages at Reds/Canyon River Ranch; and Mexican food from the best Taco Truck in Ellensburg at the Home Waters.

All reservations will be held through June 20th, and then released if not needed. If you are planning to attend, whether by taking the bus or just coming to the ribbon cutting for dinner, you must sign up on the WFFC web site before June 20th, or send **Keith Robbins** a check made out to the WFFC on or before June 20th. The address is 2585 Magnolia Blvd West, Seattle 98199.

The five drift boats and three guides are reserved through Reds Fly Shop. Like the others, they are being held until June 20th, at which time they will be released if not needed. If you are interested in renting/hiring one of the boats or guides, you must contact Reds Fly Shop directly at (509) 933-2300 or www.redsflyshop.com. When you do, indicate that you want to make arrangements for one of the guides or boats that are being held for the WFFC on July 20th. The club will not be paying or signing for boats or guides due to liability reasons.

The “Home Waters Ribbon Cutting, Take-the-Day-Off-of-Work” party/outing takes the place of the monthly WFFC meeting. The schedule of events is as follows:

- 7:30 am: Bus pick up in Seattle (location yet to be determined)
- 8:00 am: Bus pick up in Issaquah (location yet to be determined)
- 10:00 am: Home Waters
- Hang out and/or go fish
- 3:00 pm: Meet at Reds for cocktail (beer) party
- 4:45 pm: Depart to Home Waters for ribbon cutting ceremony

- 5:00-7:00 pm: Home Waters ribbon cutting. Enjoy dinner with a ton of food from Ellensburg's favorite Taco Truck.
- 7:00 pm: Bus departs for SEA/ISSA
- 8:30 pm: Arrive in Issaquah
- 9:15 pm: Arrive in Seattle.

All of the above information is subject to change. If you have suggestions for pick-up locations where we can park all day in Seattle and Issaquah, please e-mail Capt. Keith at flymooch@aol.com.

Improving Your Fly Casting Skills

by Don Simonson FFF MCI, CBOG

While recognizing that each of us learn in our own way, I want to share with you some areas of fly casting that have helped me improve my own casting and allowed me to enjoy the sport even more.

While working with fly casters of varying proficiency levels, I have noticed areas of weakness in the casting process that, if addressed, will greatly improve one's casting.

Practicing is essential. With consistent practice comes proficiency. If you commit to practicing three times per week for only 20-30 minutes, while focusing on specific tasks, you will significantly improve your skills. Don't just cast to be casting. Practice with a purpose.

The goal should be to perfect your fly casting. This is done by good line control and good line speed through the entire casting process. To accomplish this, allow the rod to do most of the work, by smoothly accelerating to an abrupt stop while moving the rod tip in a straight-line path. This technique will produce narrow energy-efficient loops on both the back cast and the forward cast.

Some Essential Areas

- **Control the speed of the cast.** Many move the rod too quickly. If you can hear the rod moving while you are casting, it is moving too fast. The goal is to create a narrow loop on your back cast so you do not need to try to compensate with higher rod speed on your forward cast. If you have produced a wide loop on your back cast, which usually results in excessive slack, you may try to compensate by increasing the speed of the

forward cast. This can result in a tailing loop where the top leg of the loop falls below the bottom leg of the loop.

- **Smooth out the casting stroke.** Smooth, consistent strokes are essential to producing an energy-efficient narrow loop. If an erratic application of power results in an uneven acceleration of the rod, a tailing loop normally results.
- **Elevate the back cast.** To accomplish the elevated back cast, the motion of the rod hand is more up than back. Regardless of which casting style you choose (elbow forward, elbow out to the side, or elbow low), the elbow should move upward on the back cast. The fly line is going to follow the path of the rod tip. If you abruptly stop the cast with the rod tip traveling in an upward direction, a tight loop will be generated in the same upward direction.
- **Lower the forward cast.** Conversely, on the forward cast the motion of the rod hand is more down than forward. You will produce a nice forward loop if you execute the forward cast by simultaneously lowering the elbow while extending the forearm forward to an abrupt stop with the rod at approximately a 45-degree angle above the horizon. Concentrate on the elbow: up in back, down in front.
- **Stop the rod.** Emphasis must be given to abruptly stopping the rod in the proper locations on both the back cast and the forward cast. The casting stroke is over the moment the rod is stopped and loop formation occurs. The line and fly travel in the direction the rod tip is going when the loop is formed. A short cast will necessitate a short casting stroke and a long cast, a longer casting stroke. Consistency is essential: the stopping point of the delivery cast should be the same as the stopping point of the last false cast.

Practicing these five areas will improve your fly casting. If you would like to further explore these areas, contact me for private lessons.

See you on the water.

Hey guys! Let's go fishing!

by Dave Schorsch

The Dry Falls outing is nearly upon us! April 17th and 18th at Sun Lakes State Park. As usual, on Saturday we will have a happy hour and barbecue toward the rear of the campground, hopefully in one of the more sheltered spots. We usually start trickling in from the water around 4:00 pm. Happy hour starts around 5:00, with everyone bringing their favorite appetizers to share. The club will be providing beer, soft drinks, and some wine. BYOB if you prefer harder choices. The grill will get fired up for everyone to use, and the club will provide steaks for all who signed up by Thursday, April 15th.

The fishing! Dry Falls lake is one of my favorite places on earth. Every style of fly fishing can be done here, with all effective at one time or another. While some like “dredging” with sinking lines and a black leech, or hanging a chironomid under a bobber, I like fishing the shorelines with a dry line. A long leader and a buggy soft-hackled nymph fished in just a few inches of water is a blast. The fish prowl the reeds for dragon and damselfly nymphs, and are very aggressive. They also eat crayfish, snails, and leeches. A fish killed on opening day last year had two finger-size crayfish, dragon flies an inch and a half long, and a quarter cup of snails in its belly! Big stuff!

The regional biologist has been working on creating a trophy fishery at Dry Falls, and I believe he's succeeded! So come join us! See you there!

Lone Lake Outing *by Dave Schorsch*

We'll be participating in an outing on Whidbey Island's Lone Lake on May 1st. We'll be joining the Whidbey and Port Angeles fly clubs there for lunch on Saturday. This is a great opportunity to learn how to fish one of our best “backyard” lakes from the guys who really know their water. We will be providing libations for the lunch; the other clubs are bringing the chow. This is one of our new-members outings, so sponsors are encouraged to bring their new members to meet and fish with the old guard. Fish in the morning, have lunch, and be home before dinner. How cool is that? Sign up on the Web site for head count, or call Dave Schorsch at 206-227-6134 or Mark Pratt at 425-488-6689. See you there!



Cabin on the river

Photo Essay: Idaho

by Ed Sozinho



Leland and Ed taken a cigar break



A stillborn and a dun BWO



New 0 wt and a size 18 BWO pattern



BWO on ice



Leland with a 17" 'bow that was taking midges

Photo Essay: Idaho

by Ed Sozinho



Nice Idaho 'bow



Washington Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 639
Mercer Island, WA 98040
www.wffc.com

Stamp
here

April, 2010

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 6:30 PM.

This month:

Dave Delisi: "Bamboo: From Shoot to Rod"