

# Creel Notes from the



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



May, 2008



## President's Riffle

Fellow Fly Fishermen,

As I write this the forecast shows weather in the 80s fast approaching -- could winter's grip *finally* be relenting? Here in mid-May there is amazingly still much snow on the hills surrounding the Upper Yakima. Although tough on the angler, this long cold winter and spring is good for our rivers, providing favorable conditions for our favorite finned prey. So I shall complain no further.

Though this warm weather will likely blow out the Yakima for some time, you can still find something to do near the river while waiting for the waters to recede. On pg. 7 you'll note a call for help to serve on the Yakima Home Waters Committee. This is a great opportunity to get involved and reinvigorated with your membership, so please let me know if you can help with this fun, but important mission.

Another way you can reboot your relationship with the club is by attending the Chopaka outing on Memorial Day weekend. I'd love to see a turnout of epic proportions, a rightful celebration of the spirit of this great organization. Be sure to sign up on the website if you are planning to go so we can be sure to have enough supplies. These club outings are a tremendous way to make new friendships, for try as we might, it is difficult to learn much about a fellow member in the confines of our regular meetings. One really only gets to know another after a day on the water or a night next to the campfire.

I think we were reminded this past week that friendships are truly the most valuable asset of this organization. As many of you know, we lost a good club friend last week. Ted Pearson was a good and gentle soul, and

he will be missed. Don Gulliford's lovely words on pg. 7 give us even more insight into Ted's spirit.

Ted's sudden passing calls to mind the frailty of our existence. We all share this wonderful sport, let us also share our time and camaraderie together. Have a laugh, make a toast, light a cigar, make some music, give someone some BS. Have fun together. When it's all said and done, that's all that matters.

Tight lines to all,

Bill Kuper



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## May Meeting: Troy Dettman

Troy's been a fly shop owner and guide in the Northwest for 18 years, and is now a full-time guide. He's worked as a whitewater guide in Idaho, just returned from Patagonia, and frequents the Yucatan. Come here him speak on "Salt and Steelhead".

### Chopaka! *by Robert Tovar, Outdoor Committee Chair*

I just wanted to remind you as the Memorial Day weekend approaches: the traditional **Lake Chopaka Outing** will be from **May 23rd to May 26th**. As in past years, there will be a "bring your own steak" (club provides the grill and charcoal) and potluck for Saturday. There will also be a pancake breakfast Sunday, then tempura and potluck again on Sunday night. As of this email, there are 22 people signed up for this outing. Yeah!!! Remember, you can sign up on the WFFC Website in the *Member Login* area. **If you do plan on attending, please sign up by May 21st** as we need to get a head count in advance of that weekend to those bringing goodies. Jim McRoberts has offered to take the charcoal, grill, and cod for the tempura. Dick Brening and Chuck Ballard have offered to take the lead on the Sunday pancake breakfast. Thank you Jim, Dick, and Chuck for your efforts to make this a successful outing.

### New Member Outing *by Pat Peterman, Membership Chair*

Hello new members and your sponsors! If you joined the club in 2007 or 2008 (or earlier and have not attended a new member outing), you and your sponsors are invited to attend a new member outing to be held at Rattlesnake Lake on Saturday, June 21, starting at 10:00 am and lasting until the fish quit biting or the fishermen quit fishing.

As you are probably observing as a new member, there is a lot going on in this club. We want to get to know you better and want to make sure you know how to sign up for an outing or take part in any of the activities the club undertakes. This outing presents an opportunity to talk to your officers and sponsors about your interests and how we can better serve each other.

There will be hamburgers served around noon cooked by none other than your membership chair. Accompaniments and soft drinks will be provided, but you should bring your own special diet needs and adult beverage, if desired. The agenda will be chew the fat, fish, chew the fat, eat, fish, chew the fat, drink...pretty sophisticated, huh? The lake is selective gear, single barbless hook, and if you want to keep one, I'll let you look up those rules. Many will fish from the bank, but most will use a pram, pontoon boat, or float tube to get around. All members of the club are welcome and as with all outings, members' spouses, family, and friends are welcome. New members and their sponsors are strongly recommended to attend.

There will be an outing signup on our Web site. Please take a minute to sign up so we know how many burgers to buy. See you there.

## Creel Notes

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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.

## On the Fly by David Ehrich

At last month's meeting, those members who were smart enough to have their taxes done enjoyed the lovely hospitality of the Seattle Tennis Club and longer light of early spring on Lake Washington. If you haven't been to a meeting here since we moved, I recommend the meetings for the food alone.

Our president, Bill Kuper, shook the gavel and got us off to a quick start with a combined guest introductions and fishing reports. All the guests looked too happy with the grilled salmon to have much to say. Fishing reports revealed the usual big fish at Rocky Ford; weak steelhead fishing on the Olympic Peninsula; solid opening at Dry Falls; rare success with water boatmen on Lone Lake; good beach fishing (on Leland's "secret beach") for salmon; slow fishing on the Yakima with only a few big ones to hand in very cold water; slow skwala fishing on the Bitterroot in low water; sea-runs at Agate passage; decent times on Pass Lake (although more time was spent in Hawkinson's RV than on the river); and yours truly found solid fishing in Patagonia, Argentina, on the Rivers Malleo and Chimiheun.

Bill thanked John Schuitemaker for his fine work on the roster. Our Outings chair, Robert Tovar, reminded us of future opportunities. Check out the on-line signup protocol. He is also anxious to have volunteers get on board for various opportunities. We're back at Chopaka on Memorial Day weekend, so get your name on board. June 7 & 8 will hopefully be a work party on the new site on the Yakima.

Pete Baird asked members to sign a couple of



Members gathered around Boyd Aigner Competition Flies

cards, one to the Dewitt family for the loss of Fred's wife and another for Dick Thompson who continues to make good progress after having a stroke. The toughest news was the discovery of acute leukemia in long-time member, Ted Pearson. [Ed. Note: Sad to say, Ted has passed away. See pg. 7 for a tribute.]

Jim McRoberts reported on Project Healing Waters. Several members along with anglers from other clubs have tied flies with a few patients. Jim would like anyone interesting in PHW to get in touch.

Keith Roberts spoke of small successes in limiting Puget Sound salmon to selective rules (release wild fish) during the North of Falcon Cove, California, policy meetings. Selective rules fishing has run into trouble with tribal groups who can't fish selectively with gill nets. He could use more support at next year's meeting because numbers count in terms of swaying committee policy.

Our final order of business was review and voting of potential members and the induction of Ollie Cobb. Gil Nyerges welcomed Ollie to the club with the usual call to service.

The President had a hard time calling back the faithful from break, but eventually Keith Robbins got a chance to introduce our speaker, Travis Rummel, called the premier fly-fishing film maker and co-owner of the production company, Felt Soul. His credits include *The Hatch*, *Running Down the Man*, and his current release, *Red Gold*.

Felt Soul films meld the excitement of fly fishing with environmental concerns. Starting with a miniscule budget, Travis and his colleague Ben Knight recently produced a film in Alaska contrasting the romance of subsistence fishing with the proposed Pebble Mine that threatens two crucial sockeye salmon runs. This enormous open-pit mine would extract minerals in an area of close to a million acres. The water table that is very near the surface serves epic sockeye runs.

Travis shared a couple of his features, including *Running Down the Man*, about casting for Rooster Fish from shore in Baja. Rummel's quickly paced, jumpy depiction of running down the beach trying to get in front of trolling Roosters is done with a sense of humor and celebrates an eclectic search by an eclectic soul, Frank Smethurst.

Rummel showed a trailer for *Red Gold*, the film he hopes will add to the debate on the Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay.



# REPORTS

**Dry Falls/Sun Lakes State Park 4/30 – 5/4/08** *by Rocco Maccarrone*

**Dry Falls Outing – 4-19-08** *by Chuck Ballard*

Well, the weather was good and the fishing was great, except the catching was tough for me and most everyone else. I believe the cold weather was a contributor; however, the fish populations seemed down compared to prior years.

The best patterns were Chronomidges fished deep. Jim Young had some success on a damselfly nymph. I also had a few hookups on the damselfly nymph. There were nine people there, including two guests who enjoyed the steaks brought by Hugh Clark and the dinner was great until the cold took over and most retired to their tents/cars/vans.

Those attending enjoyed the campfire and exchanges of fishing stories with some club membership recruiting dialog that Pat Peterman and Craig Koepler initiated.



*At Sun Lakes State Park*

The purpose of the outings is to provide a forum for new members to integrate and get to really know the members and the club. **SO FOR THOSE WHO DON'T GO, IT'S YOUR LOSS.**

It's sometimes amazing to look back and actually comprehend how quickly the years tick by. I cut my fly fishing teeth on this lake way back in 1975 ... 33 years ago. I have gone there every year since then, often more than once or twice a year. That first trip in 1975 was a couple days after I turned 16 and I had just received my driver's license. My buddy and I drove over in my parents' station wagon with a canoe strapped to the top. Yes, my parents were very trusting (and perhaps a bit naïve). I used a spinning rod with monofilament, and attached to the end with no leader was a March Brown, size 12 (maybe even 10!) dry fly. We trolled around the lake leaving a "V" wake behind our flies. There was nobody but us on the water ... and we caught fish.

Since my early college days at CWU, there has been a group of us going to Dry Falls every year. Individuals come and go and new recruits join in. This year's group consisted of WFFC club members Robert Tovar, Jim van de Erve, and Greg Bush. Rounding out the party were old friends Steve Wolford from the Columbia Gorge; Rob (the Slob) Eichenlaub, getting back into fly fishing after a long hiatus; Fred Kohout, first time ever fly fishing for trout; Robert's brother, Rueben; and a couple of Greg Bush's buddies from his work with King County, Steve and Mike.

An interesting travel note indicative of this year's seasons was that Lake Keechelus was still frozen over! When Tovar, Kohout, and I arrived at the State Park campground on Wednesday evening, we found a typical full-blown Sun Lakes gale ... whitecaps on Park Lake, and it was cold. We were fortunate to find campsites 14-16 vacant, the ones in the loop to the right that are somewhat protected from the wind. We quickly set up camp and ran in to Coulee City for burgers. The wind abated enough to build a nice fire later, and most of the remaining party finally arrived. Much beer, scotch, and whiskey was consumed around the fire. Seeing as it was my birthday, the consumption level increased a few notches.

Next day, the water level at Dry Falls was about "average" height. The "Flats" had about 2 feet of water in most places. The weather was terrific all day ... 60 degrees, slight breeze, sunny. Water temperature was a perfect 56 degrees. Chironomids hatched sparsely all day, but fishing was very tough.



*Robert Tovar playing a fish in The Lips*

We tried all methods and places around the lake. Tovar caught four or five fish, including a dandy 22" brown. Fred, the neophyte, got his first fly-caught lake fish, a nice 18" rainbow on an olive Woolly Bugger going deep. Rob the Slob caught a couple doing the same. Yours truly got two. That evening, we feasted on garlic sautéed prawns, broiled salmon, and other delicacies. We worked off the huge meal by sitting around the fire telling lies. Much beer, scotch, and whiskey was consumed.

Friday morning, it was a little tougher rolling out of the sleeping bags. Not sure why... Gorgeous morning. Same conditions except the breeze picked up after noon. Again fishing was slow. A few fish caught here and there, mostly on chironomids. Joining us on the water was van de Erve. The peacefulness of the lake that we had enjoyed up to that point was abruptly ended. Around 3:00 pm, as I was headed into shore to end the day, a modest Callibaetis mayfly hatch came off. This was in the bay to the right of the boat launch. Good-sized mayflies and the fish were rising to them. I managed to pick off four fish during this short-lived opportunity despite the fact that van de Erve and Neophyte Fred insisted on using my boat as an anchoring buoy as they changed lines, tied on flies, drank my beer, and ate my lunch. I finally asked them as politely as possible to "get the &%\*\$ away from my boat!" so I could cast. [Ed. Note: This is scurrilous innuendo! OK, the part about the beer is true. But that's what Rocco gets for packing cold beer in his boat.]

For dinner that evening, it was steaks. I believe close to a side of beef was BBQ'd that evening. Being the conscientious fitness types we are, we worked off the meal by sitting around the fire smok-

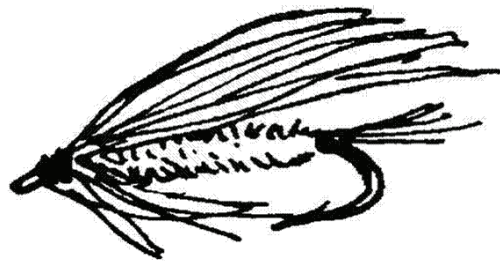
ing cigars, telling lies, and eating peanuts and chips. Bush and his two buddies had fished Vic Myers that day. They claimed to have caught many fish, including ... get this ... a 6 pounder by Bush! After a good belly laugh, much beer, scotch, and whiskey was consumed.

On Saturday half the group went to Vic Meyers Lake behind the campground. The other half went to Dry Falls. Saturday was a spectacular weather day. I fished in shorts, T-shirt, and bare feet. Many gear fishermen on this day. The entire feel of the lake changed ... much more crowded and a circus atmosphere. Electric motors are now legal on Dry Falls. That just makes it even more appealing to the gear fishermen. I think I caught one fish that day. The other guys first went to Vic Myers where they caught many fish, including several in the 16" category, and then went to Perch Lake with equal success.

On the menu for that evening was van de Erve's awesome chili, brats, beans, more steak, a delectable Mexican steak dish prepared by Rueben, and much more. Again, much beer, scotch, and whiskey was consumed.

Sunday morning ... NOT so early rise. Several in our group packed and left for home. Based upon the extremely positive (and maybe "inflated") reports from the other guys, Rob the Slob, Neophyte Fred, and I fished Vic Myers Lake. Fred got one fish. The Slob and I caught nada.

Overall, a fine, fun trip. The food, the drink, and especially the company were first cabin. Greg and his buddies from King County are terrific people to fish and camp with. My overall impression of Dry Falls this year is the fish are few, but very fat and healthy. I caught no small ones, the smallest being about 15". Hatches were very sparse. Lake level about average (it should have been higher). Moderate mid-week pressure, heavy on the weekend.





## Lone Lake April 25th Investigatory Report & Surveillance Photos *by Don Gulliford*

“Ye fysherman goeth forth in ye mornyng, returneth in ye twilight, full of strong ale and drink and ye truth be-eth not in hym.” Izaak Walton, August 9th, 1593 - December 15th, Christmas Tide, 1693.



With the cooperation of local concerned citizens of Island County, and stalwart WFFC members (Steve Raymond will attest to this), authorization of Basic Accuracy Relevant Fishing (BARF), accurate and precise photos were taken of member Clough at Lone Lake. The top photo, showing alleged large fish so large that it could not be lifted from the net, is to be compared with the accompanying photo, taken with the scalding truthhook of truth.



## WSCFFF Conclave Results *by Ed Sozinho*

The WFFC was ever present again this year with a volunteer effort for the 2008 WSCFFF conclave in Ellensburg. WFFC had a crew of 10 that ran the casting competition this year. Don Simonson again was our fearless leader. The group of judges included Chuck Ballard, Bob Birkner, Hugh Clark, Ron Dion, Richard Embry, Craig Koeppler, Jim Macdonald, Don Schroder, and Ed Sozinho. Don Barton practiced at Green Lake for judging, then at the last minute was not able to attend.

Two members took awards this year. Richard Embry received 2nd place in the Men's Division and Ed Sozinho received 1st place in the Men's Professional Division. Thanks to all who took the time to practice at Green Lake, then drove to Ellensburg to judge and run the event.



*Chuck Ballard Judging at the WSCFFF Conclave*

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## Washington State Council FFF Ellensburg Conclave May 3<sup>rd</sup>

*by Don Simonson, WSCFFF Director at Large*

On behalf of the WSCFFF, I want to thank the WFFC for volunteering to administer and score the 5wt fly casting competition at our conclave May 3<sup>rd</sup> in Ellensburg. Because of the effort put forth by Ed Sozinho and crew, the scoring went perfect. One takes a big chance on mentioning names with the probability of missing one or two, but I hope I am close. To the following members, thank you: Ron Dion, Don Schroder, Craig Koeppler, Walt Swanson, Bob Birkner, Richard Embry, Hugh Clark, Jim Macdonald, Chuck Ballard, Pat Peterman, Bob

(Continued from page 6)

Young, and of course Ed Sozinho.

The following members helped in casting instruction: John Olson, Jim Higgins.

Other members who were tying included Preston Singletary, Jim Higgins, and Nathan Keen.

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## **WFFC Foundation: Carl Elling Estate Donation** *by Don Simonson, President*

The WFFC Foundation was founded in the mid 1970's to provide a 501 (C3) arm of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Our only source of income is by donations. The estate of long-time member Carl Elling, 59 years, has made a generous donation of \$40,000 to the WFFC Foundation.

The Foundation Board, governed by our bylaws, grant money to support projects and activities where the WFFC members provide the labor or are deeply involved, i.e., Osprey. Money has been provided to the following club projects and activities over the past few years: Griffin Creek signage, portable heritage display assembly, Project Healing Waters, Reel Recovery, Casting for Recovery, Osprey, and the Yakima Home Waters picnic shelter construction, to name a few.

If anyone would like more information about the WFFC Foundation, please contact one of our board members: Pete Baird, Hugh Jennings, Dick Brening, Ed Sozinho, Greg Crumbaker, John Schuitemaker, and Don Simonson.

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## **Yakima Project Volunteers Needed**

The Yakima Home Waters Project is getting closer to reality. That means that the work associated with the project is ramping up. President Bill Kuper has proposed that a permanent Yakima Project Committee be formed to see that the work gets done right. This committee would have the following duties:

- Finalize the agreement between the Four-Seasons Ranch and the Club.
- Oversee construction activities, including permits, materials, construction, signage, etc.

- Be responsible for the ongoing management of the site.
- Coordinate continuing site activities that are proposed and executed by other committees, such as Youth, Conservation, and Education.
- Maintain the ongoing relationship with the ranch.

This committee needs volunteers for the committee chairman and committee members. If you are interested, please contact Bill Kuper.

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## **Ted Pearson** *by Don Gulliford*

Memories of a great guy. Ted Pearson was one of my favorite club members, and it is hard and tough to believe he has gone around the bend in the river. He was unfailingly gracious, and always asked how things were going for fellow club members. My firm leased things through Safeco Credit, and having represented some out-of-state leasing companies that used "waivers of defenses" (if the leased thing was defective, you had to pay anyway), I asked Ted if he, as Vice President of Safeco Credit, used such clauses. Ted said he wouldn't allow it, didn't think it was ethical, and didn't want to lease poor equipment anyway. My Safeco-retired late father, also a Vice President, felt the same way. Not very related to fly fishing, but said a lot about Ted. I think Ted would have enjoyed an old fishing friend's self-written epitaph:

*I pray that I may live to fish until my dying day,  
And when it comes to my last cast,  
I then most humbly pray,  
When in the Lord's Great Landing Net,  
And peacefully asleep,  
That in His Mercy, I be judged  
**BIG ENOUGH TO KEEP!!***



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Stamp  
here

May, 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 is served at 6:30 PM.

This month: Troy Dettman on "Salt and Steelhead"

Come hear this long-time Northwest guide and fly shop owner.