

# Creel Notes from the



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



June, 2007



## President's Riffle

June marks the mid-point of the year. It prods one to take note of the accomplishments of those first six months. Our club may have calm waters on the surface, but take a look underneath and you'll find it teaming with activity. If you don't believe me,

attend a Board meeting sometime.

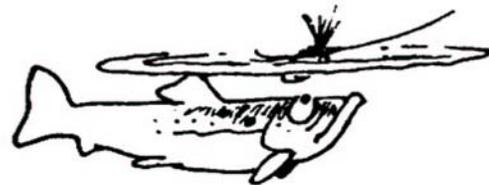
In the first half of the year our Membership Committee launched an aggressive program to attract new members and we've been reaping the rewards with more prospects finding us via the web, through word-of-mouth, at education classes, and at fly fishing events. Our Education Committee has been hard at work with what I think you'll agree are the best deals anywhere in fly fishing education: a fly tying class that is second to none, and, not one, but two casting classes with the one of the best casting staffs of certified casters in the Northwest. Our Programs Chairman has taken it up a notch by bringing us memorable dinner meeting speakers. Our Outdoors Committee has already hosted 4 outings with many more in the works.

Other activities are more behind-the-scenes, the benefits of which we'll see in the near or further future. These activities include the work done by our Conservation Committee, for example. Their work has contributed to one of the best legislative sessions in years for our conservation efforts. They've also worked on our behalf toward fishing rule changes to help bring sane management to a resource we all use and enjoy. Other behind-the-scenes work includes that of the Relocation Committee. They have been involved in the diligent vetting of numerous venues that has resulted in a short list from which the board will select the best choice for the club. We will begin negotiating in earnest with our first choice after this month's Board meeting to ensure that our members get the best facility for our needs, with the least incremental cost. The Heritage Committee has

been hard at work inventorying, cataloging and formulating a proposal that outlines an appropriate plan for the disposition of our heritage inventory. And if you include all of the other work done by members such as Creel Notes publication, raffles, dinner registration, treasurer, secretary, library, roster, fruit & flowers, photographer, awards, and others I'm probably forgetting - WHEW! One wonders how we do it all. YOU, that's how. Thank you one and all.

June is also a highlight because we're trying something a little new. As you know we're having our dinner meeting at Tom Douglas's Palace Ballroom at 2100 5th Avenue. If you haven't already, **PLEASE RSVP WITH KIETH ROBBINS**. Call him or email (preferred) him with your attendance and include any guests (female gender permitted for this meeting) you'll be inviting. This is important because Tom will be configuring the room, staffing, and planning food based on our headcount. This should be a very enjoyable evening with Tom doing a cooking class on cooking fish. See you there.

**John Schuitemaker**

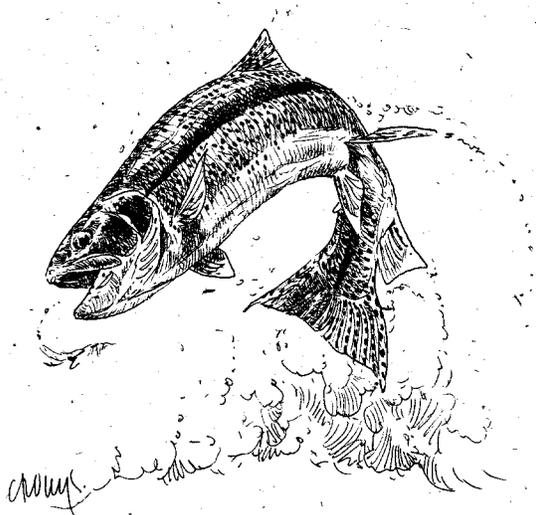


## Inside.....

Aigner Competition Results	2
Reports	3, 4, 5
New Members	6

# Tom Douglas

Tom Douglas, a Delaware native, grew up on blue crabs steamed with loads of Old Bay spice, but he later moved to Seattle, where Dungeness is king. For the last twenty years, along with his wife and business partner, Jackie Cross, Tom owns four of Seattle's most exciting restaurants: Dahlia Lounge, Etta's, Palace Kitchen, and Lola, Serious Pie as well as Dahlia Bakery and a catering business, Tom Douglas Catering and Events. Tom is the author of *Tom Douglas' Seattle Kitchen*, which won a James Beard Award, and *Tom's Big Dinners*. Tom Douglas has appeared on the Emeril and Martha Stewart shows and was a winner of the Iron Chef on the Food Network



## SWANSON TAKES 2007 AIGNER COMPETITION

*By Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman*

Congratulations to **Walt Swanson** for winning the 2007 Boyd Aigner Flytying Competition. The award was presented to him at the May members meeting. **Richard Embry** and **Jim MacDonald** placed second and third, respectively, this year.

The patterns for the Competition were (1) royal coachman, size 16, (2) caddis (dry), size 12, and (3) Skykomish Sunrise, size 8. Participants were permitted submit their own versions of these flies, which were judged by Club members at the April meeting.

Thanks to all who participated. Special thanks to **Dick Scales** for his help in running the Competition.

## *Creel Notes*

...is the official publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscription is free with membership.

Bob Young...Editor and Publisher  
206-323-2189 fishbum@seanet.com

### President

John Schuitemaker [jschuite@comcast.net](mailto:jschuite@comcast.net)

### Co-1st Vice President

Pat Peterman [patpeterman@verizon.net](mailto:patpeterman@verizon.net)

### Co-1st Vice President

Craig Koeppler [ckoeppler@qwest.net](mailto:ckoeppler@qwest.net)

### 2nd Vice President

Keith Robbins [flymooch@aol.com](mailto:flymooch@aol.com)

### Secretary

David Ehrich [rimroq57@yahoo.com](mailto:rimroq57@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

John Huey [john3@vikingbank.com](mailto:john3@vikingbank.com)

### Ghillie(s)

Peter Crumbaker [wolf\\_fenris2nd@hotmail.com](mailto:wolf_fenris2nd@hotmail.com)

Jim Macdonald [macdonaldco@msn.com](mailto:macdonaldco@msn.com)

### Trustees

Kris Kristoferson '05 Don Schroder '05

Richard Embry '06 Gene Gudger '06

Mike Wearne '07 Ed Sozinho '07

### **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.

# REPORTS

## A Knotty Situation *By Leland Miyawaki*

It was Craig's turn on the casting deck. He stripped off 70 feet of fly line and carefully coiled it on the deck next to his feet and swung the 2/0 Black Death into his left hand then turned to gaze out into the flats. It was our last day in Belize and it was very close to desperation time for

Craig. He had jumped and lost four tarpon in the last four days and needed one to the boat badly. "Permit! Ten o'clock," our guide Nesto Gomez called out excitedly. "Where is your permit rod? . . . which one is it? . . . is this it? . . . here, put on another fly. . . this one is too heavy."

I grabbed the rod from Nesto, reached into Craig's kit bag, searched for his permit box and quickly tied on a #2 blind Gotcha. Craig began winding in his 12-weight tarpon line. "Don't wind . . . cast quick." Craig dropped his rod as I handed him his 10-weight permit rod. He furiously stripped line off the reel and began casting in the direction Nesto was pointing but the permit had turned and swum away. As Craig began winding in the 10-weight line, Nesto pointed straight ahead and yelled, "Tarpon, twelve o'clock, fifty feet! . . . don't wind . . . cast quick!" Craig quickly handed the permit rod down to me and I began winding in the line. The tarpon ate the fly at the boat and jumped instantly. It was a big fish and not very happy at being hooked. Craig looked down at his feet to make sure the flyline was clearing the deck. It was not a pretty sight. The tarpon line was coming off from beneath the permit line and both lines were jumping around like spaghetti being sucked up by a ten year-old boy. I don't know when I did it, but I must have had the presence of mind to cut the permit fly off sometime during the chaos. It was a good thing because within seconds, a knot with a large loop rose up off the deck and headed for Craig's rod. On it's way to the stripping guide it grabbed a loop of the permit line. "Oh sh\*t," Craig said. "Let it go through!", Nesto yelled. Actually, there was nothing Craig could do. The tarpon was halfway through a 100-yard dash and headed for a distant finish line. The knotted 12-weight tarpon line was rattling through the guides carrying the

10-weight permit

line with it and both reels were singing. When the fish stopped running, Craig began working it in while I began stripping in the permit line. Craig looked back to see what I was doing.

'Sure looks bad.'

"Just concentrate on your fish, I think I've got it."

"What a cluster . . ."

The permit line came in easily and I soon had it wound onto the reel. In the meantime, Craig worked his fish in close enough for the knot to be out of the water. The big loop was windmilling under the tension from both ends and it looked like a giant bimini twist with a propeller. As Craig stepped back into the middle of the boat, Nesto got onto the bow and began working on the knot. The tarpon made a couple short runs jerking the knot out of Nesto's hands but Nesto soon had the knot undone. As Nesto released the fish, he guessed its weight to be about 70 pounds.



It was Craig's only tarpon to hand on the trip and he caught it on his last time up to the bow. 15 minutes later, I hooked and landed my last tarpon of the trip - also a 70 pounder.

It was a great way to end the week - two big tarpon and one big knot - all safely released.



## Lake Keechelus 5/24/07

by Don Gulliford

Beautiful sunshine and 60F made a Thursday morning trip to Keechelus which is chock full to the edge of its dam enjoyable. Meadow Cr. is backed up to allow easy pram access in the tiny campground at the southeast corner of the dam off the Stampede Pass/Lost Lake Forest Road. All of which made a total skunk surprising-- no pattern or technique could even hook a squawfish which have been numerous with high water in Mays past, plus large cutts. Not a soul was around, even on Thursday of a Memorial Day weekend, but two Greater Canada honkers, present for as many years as I can recall, and a lot of water ousels, made for a tranquil, too tranquil, 3 hours. Maybe warmer water needed; it felt extremely cold.

## On The Road Again

By Bob Burdick

Needing to make the long drive to NE Washington for a preseason check of my favorite whitetail deer bowhunting spot I determined to fish on the way over as well as the day back to make the trip interesting. Remembering all the tales of giant fish from Dryfalls during the April 21<sup>st</sup> outing I was jacked as I began fishing the afternoon of May 28<sup>th</sup>. Five hours later, having tried all the wet and dry fly methods and patterns I could think of I had no strikes and no fish to show for my efforts. Nor had I seen any rises, any swallow activity, or underwater sightings. A lot of surface debris in the south arm suggested the lake was or was about to bloom which may have accounted for my poor showing. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, I moved on to Coffee Pot lake, 20 miles West of Davenport, and fished another

5 hours, this time landing nice 17 and 19 inch fish, but receiving no other strikes. Again the water was clouded with bloom which likely accounted for my less than stellar results.

## Big Twin Lake Outing - May 5-6

by Ron Dion

There were 4 fly fishing clubs having an outing at Big Twin Lake this same weekend; The 4th. Corner Flyfishers, The Evergreen Club, The Olympic Club and the WFFC. According to Bob Jateff, regional biologist, the lake had a winter kill and was recently stocked with 3,000 11" rainbows and 400 1 1/2# triploids . Fishing was quite difficult with the majority of the fish schooled-up at about 27' - 35' depth. My son and I had the best fishing on Thursday, May 3, fishing in the stiff wind. No one pattern was outstanding, but a size 12 bead-headed hare's ear, a size 10 black or olive woolly bugger, a six-pack and Mark Pratt's subsurface chironomid all caught fish. The rainbows were 10" - 12" and the few triploids caught were 16" . It was an interesting and enjoyable challenge, with the wind providing most of the challenge.

Saturday evening 18 folks enjoyed the pot-luck dinner under clear skies. The highlight of the pot-luck was Lynn Baird's hot rhubarb crisp topped with ice cream!

There were several Osprey's successfully working the lake. On Monday, Pete Baird and I watched a successful Osprey being pursued and harassed by an eagle trying to take his catch. Suddenly the Osprey gave up, released the fish, and the eagle snatched it in mid-air! It all happened so fast.

## Chopaka 2007, Friendships, Fishing and Food.

By Jim MacDonald

The fish this year as you have probably heard were few and far between at Chopaka. On Sunday, Mark Pratt and I went to Blue Lake as he had the few fish blues and needed a fix. This is the Blue Lake located southeast of Oroville a few miles. Blue Lake is an alkaline lake. The lake has been stocked with Lahontan Cutthroat Trout which do better than other fish in this environment. Mark caught twelve fish on Sunday, the first being over 24 inches. He invited me to go back over with him on Monday and he had another twelve fish day and I caught two fish, a major improvement for me. It was a great trip with good weather and although the fish were few at Chopaka that little valley at 3000 Ft. with a lake in it still works its magic bringing the same club members back year after year. Some of you who have never gone on the Chopaka outing should give it a try next year. It is truly an enchanting place.

(All photos by Jim MacDonald)

Sharing a 'story'





*'Wow, what a spread'*



*'The young folks are enjoying this outing'*



*'Warming up a little'*

*The 'Shelter'*



*'Let's eat!'*



*A little after Dinner music*



*A Blue Lake 'Red' Lahontan Trout*



## Introducing New Members

By Pat Peterman  
1<sup>st</sup> VP Membership

Aren't new members great? We have a few and I hope you will get the opportunity soon to get to know them.

It is a requirement that your Membership V.P. publish the names of new members in the Creel notes and a custom that a little background about our new members be included. We noticed that we had not been doing that so will get that caught up over the next couple of months.

### Don Barton

In January we inducted Don Barton. Don is an Attorney by training but spends his non-fishing time renovating houses. He is ever interested in expanding his fishing horizons and recently joined a guided trip to the Bahamas. He and his wife live in Seattle and are traveling. I will try and corner him to give us a little more information later.

At the February meeting, We inducted Jim Higgins and Jim Van De Erve. They were kind enough to include the following information about themselves:

### Jim Higgins

I was born in Wenatchee and raised in Chelan, graduating from high school in 1960. I was about 15 when I started fly tying which was soon trying to catch a fish on one of my feathered creations. I attended the University of Washington and graduated in 1965 with a bachelor degree in Forest Management.

I had taken army ROTC and upon

graduation was commissioned a 2Lt in the US Army. After officer basic training I was sent for flight training and in October 1967 went to Vietnam with the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry where I served as a scout helicopter pilot. After I was released from the army in January 1970, I went to work for Weyerhaeuser Company in Springfield OR as a forester. I was promoted to a timber sale position at the corporate office in Federal Way in January 1973. This allowed me more time to devote to fly fishing.

In April 1973 I was involved in starting the Alpine Fly Fishers which serves North Pierce / South King Co area. For many years fishing Washington lakes and eastern Oregon streams was the extent of my fishing. Dry Falls was my favorite lake for many years and the Oregon Deschutes with its many back eddies kept drawing me. I became involved with the FFF and became a Director of the Northwest Council.

I left Weyerhaeuser in 1991 and spent the next 7 years in real estate. When I retired in 1998 I made a life long dream trip to Alaska to fish and take photos. The trip covered 12,000 miles in 120 days. The fishing was great and the photo opportunities were beyond belief.

My life then took an unexpected turn. A friend called one night and asked me to go to Kamchatka Russia to fish the Zhupanova River for large trout. This opened a new chapter in my life. I found that I like to travel to exotic destinations to fish. I soon was trying for sailfish in Costa Rica, Lake Trout in the Yukon and bonefish, Dorado and more sails in Mexico. Two trips to Cape York in Australia in search for Permit, Queen Fish, Tuna and Tre-

vally was followed by a trip to the Bahamas for bones. Next on the horizon I would like to try for Golden Dorado in Argentina, Peacock Bass in the Amazon Basin and anything that swims over the Great Barrier Reef. Anybody interested in going?

### Jim Van De Erve

"Pat asked me for a short bio about myself, my family, and fishing. He made it easy: so many of my friends are fisherman that by now they are my family. The vibes between two fisherman are those of brothers. And while my wife doesn't fish, she defines me first as a fisherman. I am most me, she contends, when I am fishing.

I grew up in Northern California and did my first fishing on backpacking trips in the High Sierra. Met Rocco down there over twenty years ago, and have been fishing, carousing, and Husky-howling with him ever since. (Don't let that calm demeanor fool you.) The men in my mother's family were men of the sea, so it wasn't much of a stretch to move back up here and go gonzo over Great Basin still waters, Cascade streams, west-side steelhead rivers, and a city that still has seawater in its arteries. Home waters. It's great to be part of a club whose members know, and honor, those waters."

### Roger Rohrbeck

New WFFC member, Roger Rohrbeck, was inducted at the April meeting. Roger tells us he grew up in Olympia, and has worked in the Seattle area since 1965, where he retired from Boeing as a Systems

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*  
Manager in 2000. He and his wife have lived in the same home on Mercer Island for the past 35 years.

Roger was first introduced to fly fishing by a work-friend in 1981. He was soon tying his own flies, and developing a curiosity about aquatic insects, which became a full-time hobby after retirement allowed the time to develop his website, [www.FlyfishingEntomology.com](http://www.FlyfishingEntomology.com). Please take the next opportunity to introduce yourself to Roger.

At the May Meeting, we will induct Bob Aid (happily for the second time) and Dave McCoy. Bob is former club member and we welcome him back.

### **Bob Aid**

In 1961 I taught myself to fly fish in Lake. Desire. I was looking for something more than what I was getting from fishing terminal gear. In 1962 or 63 I took the fly tying class from Roy Patrick at the YMCA. That's where I learned about the club. I don't remember exactly when I joined but the WFFC is where I got my fly fishing legs under me. I took the casting classes at Green Lake from Dawn Holbrook and Andy Hall and later rod building classes from them as well, and I managed to construct a couple of fine Holbrook rods. I became the Bartender for the club and I did that for several years. I started Steelheading in the late sixties and it became my passion. I was a charter member of the Washington Steelhead Flyfishers and later was president. In 1980 John Farrar and I became fly fishing steelhead guides. John went

onto become quite well known while I had to make a living selling men's shoes at the Bellevue Nordstrom's. I retired from Nordy's in 1988 and went work for Kaufmanns in 89. 1989 was when I turned my fly fishing interests back to trout and I started guiding the Yakima. At that time there were just 4 other guides besides me, Tim Irish, Jack Mitchell, Chuck Cooper and John Farrar. I have become a Yakima fanatic and it's just about the only place I fish now. I have hung up the guiding this year and I hope to have time to fish some of my old lake fishing haunts. Since I have been at Kaufmann's I have had the opportunity to discover Bonefish and I just love flats fishing. I have been to Christmas Is., Ascension Bay, several times each, the Florida Keys and the Bahamas. I am proud to say I have a Grand Slam from Ascension Bay.

### **Dave McCoy**

Born and raised in Eugene, Oregon, I can't exactly recall when I was first exposed to fly fishing...too young to remember. My father, both grandfathers and family friends are to be jointly accused. Perusing old photo albums, there are images of me with a fly rod in hand while wearing a diaper, if that tells you anything!

My father introduced me to fishing as well as experiencing and enjoying life in the outdoors. Growing up in the Eugene area, my stomping grounds were Crane Prairie, Davis, Hosmer and Gold Lakes, the Deschutes, Nestucca, McKenzie and Umpqua Rivers. My dad and I spent a lot of time on other coastal rivers of Oregon as well as many of the other lakes and

creeks of the central region. I quickly discovered the thrill of having a fish on, but was always in awe of my surroundings.

I have acknowledged my need for the outdoors and have grown to share this love and admiration with people as a ski race coach by winter, soccer coach and fly angler by summer. Now guiding, educating and inspiring other fly anglers is 100% my dedicated profession.

This passion has catapulted me from the best steelhead fishing in the PNW to the best trout fishing in Colorado and Montana and driven me to pursue other species the world around. For the past 18 years, I have enjoyed guiding beginners to experts throughout the western US.

My experiences both fly fishing and with others in the industry during this time have concentrated my focus in life. My vision is to bring Seattle and the Pacific NW a fly fishing outfitter that will set a new standard for other guide services in the industry and help shape the beliefs of others in their outdoor experiences.

Currently I work closely with Winston, Airflo, Cloudveil and Frog Hair on their pro staffs to help drive change for the better in the products we use everyday.

I am aided in my quest by my wife Natalie and daughter Nessa who both remind me why I am so inspired by the outdoors.





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

Stamp  
here

June, 2007

## **DINNER ANNOUNCEMENT NOT YOUR USUAL MEETING!**

The June 19th 'gathering' will be at the Palace Ballroom @ 2100 5th avenue, one block east of the Cinerama Theater with chef Tom Douglas. Dinner will cost the usual \$22 and the bar will be a cash bar (no host). Tom Douglas, a master chef will teach us the art of cooking fish and serve us a very nice dinner. Pay Parking lots are available behind the Cinerama and a better bet is at 6th and Lenora next to Piranha studios. When last checked it was \$6. There is also on street parking and the Westin parking lot one block south on 5th Avenue. The dinner will be sit down and the schedule will be the same as the College club. You must RSVP to Keith Robbins at [flymooch@aol.com](mailto:flymooch@aol.com) by June 12th.