

Creel Notes from the



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



July, 2007



President's Riffle

By all accounts and member comments, June's dinner "event" at the Palace Ballroom with Tom Douglas as host and culinary guide was a genuine success. We had 141 people attend. Many brought their wives, girlfriends or significant others (and sometimes all three-OK, maybe not). We

had members in attendance that haven't been seen at the WFFC in a great while - it was great to have you there. The event was such a success that at this month's Board meeting it was voted on and approved to allow the 2nd Vice President and Program Chairman the option of having one such event per year, so that Board approval will not be required each time such an event is considered in the future.

Christmas in July? Well not exactly, but planning for our December Christmas party has begun. 1st Vice Presidents **Craig Koeppler** and **Pat Peterman** have begun procuring items and will be looking for volunteers to help with planning and setup. Your help is especially needed now if you have contacts with any fishing destinations that could be persuaded to offer us complimentary or greatly reduced trips to their locations as auction items. You may wish to remind them that this event attracts some 200 very avid fly fishers and hence is a great opportunity to get their resort some targeted exposure. Also, start thinking about that great bottle of wine, or selection of cigars, or other great gift that you would like to contribute to this year's raffle. Please contact Craig or Pat to offer your assistance.

At this month's Board meeting we also discussed how to improve the process of assimilating new members into the club-- specifically, how to get them involved in committees. Good ideas were put forth, some of which will be implemented immediately. For those members looking to participate more fully in club activities I have a suggestion: begin by attending a few monthly Board meetings. These meetings are open to all our members, but new members especially will find that they will more quickly understand the dynamics of this club by listening in and participating

at Board meetings. Many of our Committee Chairmen regularly attend these meetings and deliver reports on the status and activities that they are planning. What a great way to find out where you might be inspired to participate and help grow the club! Board meetings occur on the first Monday of the month (there is no Board meeting in August) unless it's on a holiday. Contact me if you want more information.

Finally, a reminder on attire. I've both had comments passed to me and personally observed that attire at our dinner meetings has been eroding from the standards that are required of WFFC members. As many of you remember it was not so many years ago that all but the August dinner meetings required jacket and tie. When we loosened those requirements it was agreed that casual business attire was to be considered appropriate for all dinners except the Christmas Party and Awards Night in January (where jacket and tie are still required). Recently, I've seen more and more jeans and even a tee-shirt or two appear at dinner meetings. It really comes down to honoring your fellow members with the respect that they afford you. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

"Fishing is not just a matter of life and death, it's far more important than that." --Anonymous

Tight lines,
John Schuitemaker

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WFFC Scottish Lakes Outing, Aug. 16 - 20

So far we have six guys who have paid the reservation fee for lodging at Scottish Lakes. We are planning a group meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17th at the College Club just prior to the WFFC dinner meeting. The areas to be planned are: 1) Group dinners (one dinner will be provided by the WFFC, the others need to be assigned); 2) Pick-up times at the parking lot; and 3) Plans for overnighing at Larch Lake, and whatever else comes to mind.

If anyone would like to join in, it is not too late! Contact **Ron Dion**.

The Fly-Fishing WASL by Steve Raymond

This is the second in an occasional series of fly-fishing quizzes designed to test your knowledge of various aspects of the sport. This one focuses on fly-fishing books and other media, especially those created by WFFC members. Ready? Here goes:

1. WFFC founding president Enos Bradner wrote three books. Can you name the titles?
2. This WFFC member wrote a fishing book entitled "You Should Have Been Here Yesterday." Who was he?
3. This WFFC charter member was named in the title of a chapter in Roderick Haig-Brown's classic book, "A River Never Sleeps." Who was he?
4. WFFC member Ralph Wahl blended many of his photos with Haig-Brown's prose in this 1971 book that is now a collector's item. Name the book.
5. This WFFC member made several successful outdoor films, including the now long-lost classic "Nymph of the Stilly." Can you name him?
6. This WFFC member started his own fly-fishing magazine. Who was he?
7. Two WFFC members have owned bookstores in Seattle. Who were they?
8. This WFFC member was author of "Pacific Northwest Fly Patterns." Can you name him?
9. This WFFC member's book manuscript was finished in the early 1940s, but not published until after his death more than 30 years later. What is his name?
10. Researchers have discovered that when Izaak Walton wrote "The Compleat Angler", he borrowed liberally from the work of an earlier writer. Who was the earlier writer? (Clue: He wasn't a WFFC member.)

(Answers on pg. 7)

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*

June 19, 2007

Let me first set the tone: well-dressed ladies, polite and deferential gentlemen, wine glasses carefully held by the stem, a dark and sultry decor, the smell of savory brisket in preparation. Where the heck are we, you ask? Well, thank **Keith Robbins** for widening the vocabulary of WFFC monthly meetings by hosting the club at the Palace Ballroom. The evening's entertainment featured Chef Tom Douglas, who wowed the crowd with a 15-minute preparation of poached salmon. Now, grillers, don't despair, you have something to learn.



Just to give you some idea at how popular the meeting was, I saw members I haven't seen in years, including **Larry Karlovich** and **Steve Schorsch** (my sponsors and two guys who are notoriously busy on Tuesdays), and many others I have no license to mention. Evidently the prospect of bringing female guests got some of the members out of the woodwork.

John Schuitemaker opened the meeting to applause with a special thanks to all the ladies who make fishing possible. He moved next to dump the normal agenda, except for the introductions of prospective members and fishing reports. Fortunately, the food started to compete with the fishing reports; unfortunately the fishing reports lost out as several members and their guests decided listening was optional. It reminded me of taking students on a field trip and them not knowing how to act outside of familiar surroundings.

Some of us heard stories ranging from sexy waters in Canada, Chile, Montana, Belize, and the San Juan River, mixed in with more humble reports from the Cedar River and local lakes like Chopaka. The latter will be closed for a fish kill in September

so hurry and take some of the last big ones. Yours truly caught a Cedar River rainbow with a muddler minnow nearly as big as the fish. I recommend hitting these local waters with big heavy things like stonefly nymphs. All and all, the fishing reports were lost in the festive mood and saloon manners until **Frank Webster** wrestled our attention with tales of fine food, strike indicators, and Shakespearean rainbows.

We even had our first lady angler report heard with these ears. She assured us that the "size does not matter", and although I don't believe her--plus it's a horrible cliché--it was nice to be comforted. **Jimmy LeMert** demurred her feeble attempt at ego boosting with tales of shad on the Columbia River. Instead of the intended quarry, he caught a rock that turned into a sturgeon and carried away part of his fly line. Subsequent hook-ups reduced his fly line even further. Thank God he owns the store. And thank God the reports came to a close.

The Main Event

Keith Robbins took over for the main event. He had about the same luck getting some people's attention as the fishing reports, but he muscled through with an introduction of Tom Douglas, who makes the rounds on any number of high-visibility foodie shows, owns most of the restaurants around town, and has a small franchise on rubs and cookbooks. Drink in hand, Tom took control and started to massage the audience. The rod tester in the table behind even shut up for a minute.



Chef Tom Douglas

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According to Tom, here are the rules: buy great fish, don't go to Asian stores that cater to Caucasian customers, and keep it simple. With the bamboo steamer and a ten-dollar wok, Tom put garlic slivers, lemon grass, white wine, star anise, and ginger in the wok to create a fragrant steam. In the bamboo steamer, he layered the salmon with Chinese broccoli and cooked both the fillet and veggies for about 10 minutes. On another burner, he reduced wine, garlic with butter. He brought in cooked rice, put some sizzling garlic oil on the broccoli, piled on rice under the salmon fillet and ladled on the reduction. Total time, minus the prep work, was 15 minutes, including witty banter.

Cooking Secrets

After the applause settled down, Tom answered questions. I'm here to tell you, this guy knows what he's doing. A few highlights:

- Grill fish over medium heat.
- Take your fillet off the heat knowing that it will keep cooking.
- Avoid searing fish to a crust on high heat.
- A wok is only worth using as a fryer with high heat.
- Keep the lid off on the BBQ grill when searing steaks or fish, keep the lid on for long-term projects like chicken or turkey.
- Leave halibut for people without taste buds.
- Sorbet is for wimps.
- Go for the three T's (taste, temperature, and texture).
- Thaw fish slowly in the fridge for 24 hours and cook such fish half the time because the moisture leaves the fish at a different rate than fresh fish, and lastly:
- Keep your whiskey on ice while you cook.

John took over the ceremonies and got busy with the raffle, which included Tom's books and rubs. Suddenly it got real quiet, so I am guessing that the guests and members with bad manners needed a cookbook.

Just in case you wondered, our dinner menu included an arugula redleaf salad with tarragon vinaigrette, slow-roasted beef brisket (24-hour slow) over horseradish potatoes and sweet peas, plus

honey ice cream and a cornmeal shortbread cookie. That shut 'em up for a while. I could have heard a pin drop once the dessert got served.



Everyone enjoys dinner

In case you missed it, here are some things that took place at the May meeting.



Dick Pierson displays his "award"



Andy Hall welcomes new members Dave McCoy and Bob Aide

Eliguk Lake BC by Bob Young

The annual June venture to Eliguk Lake in north-central British Columbia was, as usual, an outstanding event. Our group of 15, almost all club members, made for a memorable time. Those in attendance were **Dick Levinthal**, **Fred Casserd**, **Chuck Ballard** and his partner John Stachurski, **Gene Gudger** and his lovely wife Marcia, **Hugh Jennings**, **Gil Nyerges**, **Dave Rounds** and his brother, **Bob Young**, **Ron Pera**, **Pete Baird**, **Dick Brening**, and **Perry Barth**.

From the Fishermen

To quote **Perry Barth**: “My biggest fun was having twenty people in camp having fun and fantastic fishing. Jonathan Pim is doing a wonderful job as the new owner. Looks like Eliguk Lake Lodge is in good hands, and we look forward to many more years of wonderful fishing and terrific camaraderie.”

Here is **Dick Levinthal's** take on the trip: “Before going to Eliguk this year, there was a little concern whether the young new owner, Jonathan Pim, would be able to keep up with the job of maintaining the lodge and especially the good food. All concerns were soon put aside, as he and his associate did an excellent job of looking after us, and their cooking was top-notch. The fishing? The best I've enjoyed in my six trips to Eliguk.

“In my first half-hour on the lake this year, I caught seven scrappy rainbows, motor-mooching a Doc Spratley with a sink-tip line. The pace for the rest of the trip was almost as good, never going for more than an hour without a fish caught, bringing to hand 157 fish in about 29 total hours of fishing, and losing probably at least that many, too. Fishing partner **Fred Casserd** seemed to be doing about the same, as well. Several days we had at least 10 doubles.



Walt Swanson receives the Boyd Agner fly tying award from Dick Scales



Fred needed a nap after all those fish

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Most were caught motor-mooching, or slowly retrieving size 8-10 black flies: a Doc Spratley, a Leech, or a more simply-tied wet emerging chironomid pattern, which was more durable.

“The weather was usually cool, and occasionally a little rainy, with just a few brief squalls that chased us off the lake. When the sun came out the last two days, the fishing slowed a bit, but still good, by usual standards. One afternoon we did anchor and cast a size 14 dry emerging chironomid pattern to rising fish, catching 16 in an hour or two, and losing about that many, too. The fish caught were a little smaller than usual: most about 13" or 14", but still very strong, with enough 15" & 16" to keep for the smoker, and ranged from 6" to 19". Can't wait until next year, and hope that Jonathan can keep it going.”

For some, just getting to the take-off point was an adventure. **Bob Young** and Perry were car-pooling with **Ron Pera** in his nice big diesel-powered crew-cab pickup. Things went well until we were preparing to leave Williams Lake for Nimpo Lake, our flight take off location. Everyone arrived in Williams Lake without incident. We all checked into the motel, or at least tried to. Turns out they had overbooked and didn't have the rooms Perry had reserved available. For one thing they assumed two people named 'Rounds' would be sharing a bed. Oops, it was Dave and his brother. Mr. Barth took care of getting things straightened out. The motel fired one of their clerks right on the spot.

We then all met up at the Laughing Loon for a nice dinner. The next morning there was a staggered schedule for departure as the flights were staged on about two-hour intervals. The first folks had to depart Williams Lake about 5 AM. Those of us on the last flight had a leisurely morning. Then the excitement began. Perry, Bob, and Ron packed everything nicely in the back of Ron's truck and mounted the cab. The engine started and almost immediately died. What to do?

First, get the truck to a dealer for repairs. Fortunately for **Bob Young**, **Gene Gudger** had room in his vehicle, and they got under way pretty much on schedule. Perry stayed with Ron for support. It was tentatively agreed to meet at a wide spot in the road called Kleena Kleene for lunch. After getting his truck to a dealer, Ron and Perry rented a van and continued on the way, catching up to Gene and the others

as planned. All made it to the departure point on time. Later we found out the problem was related to a shortage of fuel. This late group arrived at Eliguk in time for some afternoon fishing.

There was even more excitement to come. One, one of the lodge staff sliced his hand quite severely and stitches were called for. Fortunately, there was a doctor in our group who obliged using items from the camp first-aid kit. Oh yeah, there were some other folks in camp: a family consisting of a father with his two charming young children about 8 and 10. There were also the paternal grandparents. The grandfather was a little unstable, claiming a vertigo problem. Well, he fell twice hitting his head on a boat motor once. After further complaints of rapid heart rate, it was decided, on advice from the 'camp' physicians, that he would fly out and go to a local hospital. **Gil Nyerges** decided to depart on this 'medical' flight also, because his back was giving him severe discomfort.

Back to the fishing. According to **Chuck Ballard**: “The weather was not the best, but fishing was still great. Although the fish were not big, they were very cooperative (49 fish on derby day). The food was up to past standards and much better as the spice jar was rationed. Jonathan and Pete did a great job of keeping the place the same as we expected. Good food and great company.”

Seemingly, the fish were a little smaller this year, averaging around 14 to 15 inches due to late 'ice-out'. In a recent year the average was closer to 18 inches.



Mr. and Mrs. Gudger

Derby Results

Perry annually conducts what he calls a fishing derby and actually awards trophies (which he forgot

this year). It is held on one day during the week and the rules change every year. Here are the results of this year's fantastic "derby":

- Biggest Fish: John Stachurski, 17 1/2". Rumor has it that **Gil Nyerges** caught a 19"er, but "no witness" available!!!! John was unbeatable with his "Cheer Leader" fly. Ask **Chuck Ballard** for the recipe.
- Biggest Fish on a Dry Fly: **Dick Brening** won with 15 3/4". The "hot fly" was a Stimulator.
- Most Fish: **Gene Gudger** had a fantastic day, 46 fish. However, **Chuck Ballard** overtook him after lunch and caught a total of 49 for first place. The "Two Buck Chuck" was the fly that caught the most.
- Most Fish B.B.: A new award this year. It went to **Hugh Jennings**. B.B. is "Before Breakfast". Hugh caught seven before the rest of us were up!
- Most Double Headers: A new award this year. It went to **Dick Levinthal** and his partner, **Fred Casserd**. They had 14 double headers.

One afternoon, several boats were anchored up in a cove fishing. All were under the watchful eye of a bald eagle. When Perry landed a fish that was seriously bleeding, it was decided to kill it and feed the eagle. Perry bonked the fish and hove it out amid the boats. The eagle soon took off, circling and eyeing the fish. After a couple of futile passes, he finally grabbed the fish and flew home to feed the family.

Fred Casserd needed a nap after all those fish

Due to scheduling conflicts with the local 'Beaver' airlines, some folks had to stay an extra day. Rats! **Chuck Ballard** and his partner, **Bob Young, Perry Barth**, and **Ron Pera** comprised this group. Upon arrival in Williams Lake, Ron's truck, all fueled and running fine, was parked at the motel and ready to go for an uneventful trip home. **Dick Levinthal** had picked up the truck and fueled it up and parked it as prearranged at the motel.



Steve Worley

is the owner and operator of "Worley-Bugger Fly Co." Steve and his staff of local, highly qualified fly fishing guides are well prepared to show you the beautiful Yakima river along with a host of other excellent Eastern Washington trout, salmon and steel-head fisheries as well as (2) private still water fisheries.

Pursuing fish on the fly is our passion.

Steve's interest in fly-fishing began at an early age, while growing up under the big skies of Butte, Montana.

His father owned and operated "Treasure State's Sporting Goods", a fishing, hunting and sporting goods store in uptown Butte.

His Grandfathers, Wayne Worley and Lloyd Schroeder, spent countless days of their youth fly-fishing many of the well know Montana rivers, like the Big Hole, Jefferson, Boulder & Beaverhead.



(Continued from page 2)

Answers for the Fly-Fishing WASL:

1. "Northwest Angling", "Fish on!", and "The Inside on the Outdoors"
2. Lee Richardson
3. Firmin Flohr
4. "Come Wade the River"
5. Howard Gray
6. Pete Van Gytenbeek
7. Enos Bradner and David Ishii
8. Roy Patrick
9. Letcher Lambuth
10. William Samuel
- 11.

Score:

0-4: Maybe you should try reading something besides the *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue.

5-8: Stop moving your lips when you read.

9-10: Maybe you should write a book of your own.



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Stamp
here

July, 2007

Meeting Announcement
July 17th, 2007



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.

Speaker for the July 17th meeting: Steve Worley on the Yakima River. For more on Steve Worley and the program see page 7.