

# Creel Notes from the



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

www.wffc.com

Founding Club of the FFF & members active in the FFF



Monthly Meeting Notice

September 17, 2002

LII No. 9

The College Club, 505 Madison St.

Seattle, Washington

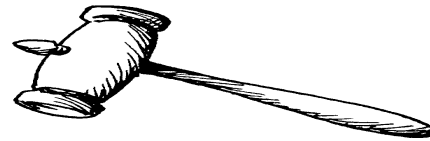
Phone: 206-622-0624

Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:45 PM

## President's Riffle

by Kris Kristoferson, President 2002



September around our house is pretty chaotic: getting the kids organized for school, wrapping up home projects, harvesting finally ripe tomatoes and getting the gravensteins picked before they fall to the ground. In the midst of all the chaos there is also a lot of energy. I probably get more done this month than I do most others. This heightened energy is all around us and particularly so in Puget Sound. Ocean strong coho salmon are just starting to appear and a few powerful chinook still prowl the waters. It is a great time to head for the beach.

If you have not yet tried saltwater fly fishing, this is a good time to get started. It is a different experience. The beach pebbles crunch and grind with each step and a nose full of the sea air breathes freshness and new perspective into the old to-do list. Good for the soul even when the fishing is slow. I suppose you could get some of

that from a massage but that costs money and you miss out on the chance to hear your leader sing the tune of a hot coho on a lateral run. Taking flies presented close to the surface and staying there during the fight make the silvers an exciting target for the fly fisher. Searun cutthroat also come readily to the fly and have turned many would-be skunks into great days of fishing. Look at the map and you'll see Puget Sound offers tremendous opportunity for beach fishing and, in many cases, your trout gear will work just fine.

Many WFFC members spend a lot of time fishing the salt. Some may even sport the barnacles to prove it. Talk to them. Under the crusty exterior, you'll find nice guys happy to share their insights. So get out there and give the saltwater a try.

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## Club News

### Own a Piece of History . . . and Go Fishing Too

by *Steve Raymond*

Most WFFC members are too young to remember when seven club members owned adjoining lots on the North Fork of the Stillaguamish, just downstream from Deer Creek. The owners were pretty well-known members, too: Ralph Wahl, Enos Bradner, Sandy Bacon, Frank Headrick, Walt Johnson and Wes Drain. But that was 30 or 40 years ago, and now only one of those seven properties remains in the hands of a WFFC member—my cabin (originally owned by Bradner and Bacon).

However, just within the past month, two of the seven lots have come on the market. One is Ralph Wahl's old lot, the only one of the seven that never had a cabin built on it (Ralph kept a trailer parked on it). It's a fine, level piece of ground with good river access (after some brush cutting). The other property is Wes Drain's old cabin, still habitable but in need of some fixing up. It also has good, steep-bank river access. Both properties are accessible by driveways off Highway 530.

It would be nice to see one or both of these properties back in the hands of WFFC members—and if you've been thinking about riverfront property, maybe this is the opportunity you've been awaiting. I have no interest in the sale of either lot, other than a desire for compatible (fly-fishing) neighbors. If you're interested, or even if you just think you might be interested, I can provide more details. Message me at [sraymond@whidbey.com](mailto:sraymond@whidbey.com) or call 360 341-6670.

### Thank You WFFC Members

*Kirk Anderson, Snoqualmie Steward, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks*

Thank you to the ten WFFC members who joined us on August 24th to continue maintaining our restoration planting at the Griffin Creek Park Natural Area. Ted Pearson, Charles Ballard, Don Schroder, Mark Pratt, Bob Birkner, Kris Kristoferson, Hugh Clark, Perry Barth, Ron Dion, and Doug Schaad cleared acres of blackberries in the lower meadow. The plantings are looking great, thanks in large part to WFFC's stewardship of the site. Thank you for making the restoration successful.



Unidentifiable WFFC member working hard at the Griffin Creek work party outing.

### September Program – “Birds of a Feather”

by *Richard Embry, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Programs Chair*

As you all know, we have many members with substantial experience and knowledge in a myriad of fly fishing subjects. This month we tap into that experience, and have certain members conduct round table discussions on various outdoor or fly fishing topics. Below are a few examples of the round table discussions.

**Gil Nyerges** – “How to tie and properly fish the Nyerges family of flies”

**Preston Singletary** – “Taking the mystery out of searun cutthroat fishing”

**Earl Harper and Ed Sozinho** – “Photography question and answer workshop”

Gil and Preston will be tying flies; other round table discussions may, as well. You are more than welcome to bring your vise and fly tying gear and join in, if you so desire.

The above are just a few of the programs; we will have few more round tables with other exciting and informative discussions. Don't forget to bring pen and paper to write down those hot tips!

### Dry Falls Outing, October 5-6

by Dave Schorsch

The Annual Dry Falls outing will be held at Sun Lakes State Park on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting. Please let me know if you plan to attend, and how many guests you will be bringing. I will be bringing the club barbeque and we will discuss whether the club will be providing the steaks and salad at the monthly meeting. As always the club will provide the beverages. Wine and beer suggestions are always happily accepted from laboring volunteers. We will be gathering at the back area of the campground as usual. The great cocktail hour and potluck dinner will be Saturday evening. Please bring your "signature" dish to share with your friends. We've had everything from chips and salsa to rattlesnake on a toothpick.

Music has become something of a tradition at our Sun Lakes outings, and I'd like to continue in that direction. Several of our members are musically inclined (with various degrees of talent and lubrication). Let's do something fun around a great big fire. Let me know if you're interested in participating or have friends that might be.

The fishing at Dry Falls can be really great in the fall. I prefer to sight fish the shoreline in the shallow parts of the lake. A dry line and long leader with weighted nymph work well all day. A dry fly can work very well this time of year because the fish are eating a lot for the winter. The browns are at their biggest, and in full spawning colors. In fact, the largest fish of the year are caught in the fall.

One note to responsible anglers; do not take a float tube into very shallow portions of the lake. You will tear up the bottom, murk up the water, and spook the fish as you thrash around. I, and others firmly believe that platoons of float tubers plowing through have done great damage to the "aquarium" area of Dry Falls. Use a small boat and glide harmlessly above, enjoying the added advantage of increased vision. I also waded the shore with great success and less hassle than hauling a boat.

Other bodies of water to check out on this trip include the walk-in Homestead lake, the interesting and over fished Rocky Ford, Lake Lenore for it's cutthroat, and the walk/climb-in Castle Lake. All are good fly water and all harbor lunkers that make for entertaining stories around the campfire.

So load up the gear, toss in some firewood, throw your favorite chow in a box with your fiddle/ guitar/ banjo/ tuba / zither/ kazoo and come on over. It'll be fun. See you there!

P.S. For those of you who don't like to "camp out," there are cabins available at Sun Lakes Park Resort within walking distance of the camp area. Lakeside or poolside cabins are \$59.00 per night. Call 509.632.5291 for reservations.

### Announcement - Proposed Bylaws Change

by Kris Kristoferson, WFFC President 2002

The WFFC Board of Directors proposes to revise the Club's Bylaws so that the Nominating Committee is elected at the September general membership meeting rather than at the October meeting. This change would allow the Committee more time to prepare a slate of candidates (typically a rushed procedure) for presentation and vote at the November general membership meeting. The proposed new language (below) is identical to the existing language except that "September" replaces "October" in the first sentence. This proposed Bylaws revision will be presented to the members for vote at the October 2002 general membership meeting.

Proposed Revision:

Amend WASHINGTON FLY FISHING CLUB BYLAWS, ARTICLE VII. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS, Section 1. Nominations., para. A. to read:

"A Nominating Committee shall be elected by written ballot of members present at the September meeting each year. The Committee shall consist of the five (5) nominees receiving the largest number of votes."

### Advanced Casting Workshop

Dates: Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>; Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

Times: Wednesday- 5pm- dusk, Saturday- Noon- 2pm

Place: Greenlake Casting Pier

Cost: Club Members- No charge, Non-Club Members \$20.00

To enroll call Don Simonson, 206.932.4925. Workshop is limited to 10 Students.

Student should have adequate line control techniques and able to shoot line. The workshop will cover in the air mends, slack line casts, curve casts, casting in the wind, distance enhancements, i.e.: Hauling- both single and double haul.

### Fly Tier's Round Table

by Dick Brening

This fall we plan to restart the WFFC Fly Tier's Round Table during the month of October. We have coordinated the following schedule with the Covenant Church on Mercer Island for a meeting place. October 23<sup>rd</sup> the fourth Wednesday night of the month November 26<sup>th</sup> the fourth Tuesday night (Tuesday instead of Wednesday to allow for the Thanksgiving holiday) December no meeting because of Christmas January through May the fourth Wednesday night of the months

Place these dates in your calendar and watch the Creel Notes for the theme of each specific Round Table meeting. Place: Mercer Island Covenant Church, 3200 78th S.E. (S.E. corner of 78th S.E. and SE 32nd). Just south of the Mercer Island business district. Off street parking is available off 78th S.E.

## Club News

### It's That Time Again

We're not talking about steelhead season either. It's time for all of us to begin thinking about our Annual Holiday Party. This year's event should be the highlight of the year! We usually have our largest turnout with members and their guests swapping stories (some even true), enjoying the food and jockeying for position at their favorite raffle item.

The highlight of our evening's entertainment will be our annual raffle and auction which is also our Club's primary fundraising event. It generates funds vital to the continuation and improvement of WFFC conservation efforts, education programs and restoration projects.

Every year, more organizations than ever are competing for corporate and commercial donations and the Club has been forced to purchase more and more of the items. It is your donations, however, that will insure the success of our fundraising.

We hope that you will donate to the raffle and/or auction and share in the fun and success of a great Club tradition. Things to consider donating include: any flyfishing related items (not necessarily equipment); works of art or books – always highly prized; your time in the form of casting instruction, one-on-one fly tying, or flyfishing; fine wines, cigars, etc.; a dinner at your favorite restaurant; or some personal or business expertise that would be appreciated and valued by a fellow flyfisher. Whatever you give, your donation becomes an important part of the Club's efforts to promote healthy fisheries both now and for the future generations of flyfishers. It also adds to the fun and excitement of this great Club event.

Please phone Leland Miyawaki at (206) 264-0609 to confirm what goods or services you will be donating. Please send or drop items off by November 30, 2002 to: Earl Harper Studios, 312 So. Lucile St., Seattle, WA 98108; (206) 764-1775. If you need to have someone pick up your item, please don't hesitate to call me.

### Roster Changes:

#### Dick Ballinger

300 North 130th Street #8201  
Seattle, WA 98122

#### Lawrence Karlovich

12518 50<sup>th</sup> Drive SE  
Everett, WA 98208  
Phone: 425.337.0971

#### Nathan Keen

7432 230<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Edmonds, WA 98026

### WFFC Foundation Book Sale

by Dick Brening, WFFC Foundation Member

The estate of Don Sachs has donated his flyfishing library collection to the WFFC Foundation. Books in the collection date from 1904 to 1996 editions. It is the Foundations intent to make these books available for sale to members of the club. We will have a few books on silent auction each month at dinner meetings until we have disposed of all the items. The proceeds will go to the Foundation.

A complete listing of the books will be available from Dick Brening on request.

At the September WFFC dinner meeting the following books will be for sale:

Anthology of fishing adventures	Outdoor life 1945
To Hell with Hunting	Ed Zern 1946
Trout Madness	Traver 1960
Guide Book to Fly Fishing	Mastery
	Scientific Anglers 1990
FFF Fly Fishing Always	Wolverton
Nymph Fishing Lakes	Don Roberts 1978 (SB)
The Game Fishes of N.E. & S.E. Canada	Peter Thompson 1980
Fear of Fly Fishing	Jack Ohman 1988 (SB)
N.A. Game Fisher	Francesca La Monte 1958
Guide to Best Fishing	Robert Page Lincoln 1948



## Fishing Reports

*Dave Schorsch, Allyn, September 8*

Attended the "new members" outing at Allyn on Saturday. The weather was variable, between sunny and thunderheads, with a little too much wind at times. We were up against a minus tide at midday, but expected a very good incoming through the evening.

My friend Sandi and I ran across North Bay to fish Rocky Point for the cutthroats that hang out there regularly. Our ulterior motive was to intercept the coho that have to pass the point on their way home. We were joined by Mark Pratt, with Leland Miyawaki in second boat, and Kris Kristoferson with Dick Stearns in a third.

The fish were doing what they always do during a very low tide, being a little flighty and not taking flies with their normal aggression. Long follows and short strikes at the side of the boat were the rule, with only small fish brought to hand. The bigger fish were there, among what seems to be a pretty good population, but they weren't having any of it. The only coho I caught was six inches long. The only adult coho we saw were two that jumped at Rocky Point, and one in Coultier Creek holding in a pool with hundreds of Chinook.

Chuck Ballard reported a large school of coho at the mouth of Vaughn Bay that were in full feeding mode, so it looks like the run is just arriving. I figure we were just about a week early, which is pretty close when it comes to fish run timing, and much better than a week late.

The outing lunch was lightly attended and over fed under sunny skies and spectacular cloud formations. You guys that didn't attend missed out on a good time and DeVonne Well's steak casserole! Another club outing where the fishing was good, the catching was poor, and the companionship was excellent.

*Leland Miyawaki, Puget Sound/Snoqualmie River, September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>*

Fished the Sound on Thursday the 5th with fellow member and private flyfishing charter boat guide, Capt. Keith Robbins.

A bit on the slow side. The only highlight was as we were preparing to move spots and I was winding in. When the popper got up to the boat, I saw a flash underneath. I stopped winding and let the fly sit. A nanosecond later, it was engulfed by a fat four pound silver. It certainly reinforces the reason why I use a two-handed strip more often now. The fish never ran. It stayed at the boat and did the "dance of death," as Keith calls it. My line became hopelessly wound around its gills, eyes and mouth and I reluctantly had to bonk it for my wife's barby (now she knows I really do go fishing).

Cut to the next morning on the Snoqualmie. AHH, the Northwest is the greatest place to live! Where else can you catch salmon in the saltwater one morning and steelhead in a river the next. I caught and released a 10lb. hatchery buck on a #6 low water Purple Spey at 6:30am while casting an 11'9", 6wt two-hander.

At 10am, I presented a finished :30 tv spot to my client, Tap House Grill, and it was approved with no changes.

A good karma morning, I would say. I should buy a lotto ticket.

The *Creel Notes* is a publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscriptions are free with membership. Articles and other materials appropriate for publication in *Creel Notes* may be sent to: *Creel Notes* Editor, 4244 1st Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107, e-mail to [kylelooney@attbi.com](mailto:kylelooney@attbi.com) (e-mail is preferred). This issue of *Creel Notes* was produced by Kyle Looney. ***Creel Notes is printed by the second Tuesday of the month; article submissions must be received by the previous Wednesday.*** Mail roster updates directly to Kyle Looney at [kylelooney@attbi.com](mailto:kylelooney@attbi.com) or the above address. The WFFC may be visited on the internet at <http://www.wffc.com>.

# Fishing Reports

*Pete Baird, High Lakes Trip, Sawtooth Wilderness, Okanogan County*

Our numbers for this year's trip dwindled to 5 by the time of departure from greater Seattle. But it was once again a memorable trip for those able to make it. Following are a few of the stats for this year's trip: Participants were Ron Dion (7/25 to 8/1), Paul Lingbloom (7/25 to 7/29), Don Simonson (7/25 to 7/29), Mike Wearne (7/25 to 7/28), and Pete Baird (7/25 to 8/1). Rendezvous location was Simonson's cabin in Winthrop for dinner on the 25th. Thanks again Don for your hospitality!! We gulped down a quick breakfast the next morning and drove to the trailhead, arriving at about 7:15 AM.

For the following 6 days we enjoyed sunshine and some clouds with no rain, but oh how the wind did blow at night, gusting to an estimated 35 to 50 MPH for 4 of the 6 nights. When the wind was not blowing mosquitoes were bad and bug juice was necessary, except for Don who gobbled lots of vitamin B complex for the preceding 2 weeks.

It works; ask Don about it!

Our first destination was Martin Lakes with base camp set up at lower

Martin. There was no one else there. Four of us fished that lake with our Curtis rafts. Middle and upper Martin we fished from shore, but Upper Martin appeared to be barren of fish. The West Slope Cutthroat came readily to a variety of patterns both wet & dry but were quite small in size, with the largest fish to 12" in Middle Martin. No fish dinners there the first 2 nights; however Don & Paul had a fish dinner on their last night. All other fish were gently released. On Sunday morning the 28th, Mike, Ron & I packed up and departed. We bid Mike goodbye at the trail junction for his return trip and Ron & I continued on to Cooney Lk.

This was where with a little further elevation gain we came upon predominantly Larch tree population and beautiful flowering high meadows.

Arriving at Cooney about noon we set up camp and turned to the business of fishing, I in my raft, and Ron from shore. once again the fish were small and not fat but willing, and the lake was in a beautiful setting, the sun was shining and the wind was only moderately gusty. After dinner

I set a 5# rock on my overturned raft, we took a walk, and then bedded down. Shortly thereafter as the wind gusts rose ominously higher Ron enquired, "What was that noise?" "Might have been my wash basin getting blown over" I responded. Then I had an ugly thought about the safety of my raft. I arose; it was dark now, but I could tell where my raft had been there was nothing to be seen. Knowing nothing could be done then, I waited till morning and began the search. The good news - I found it with paddles tangled in a fallen tree about 3 to 400 yards from our camp; the bad news it was deflated with a 4" gash in the bow end fabric, but a trip to the "Curtis hospital" should restore it to good health.

After packing the next day with low hanging clouds threatening, Ron & I debated - return to trail head or press on? Onward was the decision, and this turned out to be the prettier portion of the trip as the clouds yielded to sunshine once again. Rising to ~8000 ft thru scenic country we met two gals descending, the first other people we had seen since trailhead! (Except there was a report by others in our group that Gene Guder stopped by Martin Lake with a group on horseback and spent a little time casting a fly.) — At the summit we stopped for some pictures and gazed down on Sunrise Lk, but not one of our destinations. We socialized briefly with a fuzzy marmot at the neighboring summit then entering Chelan County, we started down to the valley below. In this stretch we met a horse group and a young man, his dog & dad traveling opposite to our direction. As we started the climb up to Boiling Lake we met a second horse group coming down.

Boiling Lake was shallow and after working our way around the shore found a camp site close to where we first saw the lake. Two men, a dad & his son from one of the horse groups we had earlier met on the trail

hiked over a nearby saddle, and fly fished the lake, but we did not fish. The lake appeared to contain a limited population of more WSCT to ~ 10". That night was the 1st of two calm nights we experienced! Packing up the following morning, we headed for the last group of lakes on our loop trip.

Rising from 7100' to ~7600' once again we were treated to a beautiful view of the country we had passed thru the previous day and at the top, one of our next three destination lakes. A brief stop for photos, then we pressed on to our last base camp at Upper Eagle Lake. It was sunny upon arrival and the most beautiful setting of all the lakes we visited, nestled in a cirque with a steep ridgeline wrapping from SW to north. We set up our last camp within 20 ft of the shore and once again no other company. As we ate lunch we saw a few rises that encouraged our thinking of larger fish. We also observed caddis crawling among the rocks near shore. Shortly thereafter within 20' of the tent the evenings dinner was acquired - 2 fat WSCT of 11". Ron inflated his raft and set out upon the surface of the gin clear water; I worked a portion of shoreline on foot.

We each took about 6 fish in 3 hours of fishing that afternoon, dries & wets. — That night the wind gods spewed forth their wrath once again.

This time Ron's boat safely stored in a depression and weighted down became air born after we had gone to bed. Fortunately it lodged against the tent and he retrieved it before the next volley of wind. One 10# & one 5# rock secured it for the remainder of the night. — The next morning, July 31st, we were greeted by 1/16th of ice in the wash basin.

After breakfast we prepared day packs and side tripped to Middle Eagle where we enjoyed more WSCT 3 to 8" on the dry for about 1 & 1/2 hours, then pressed on to forested Lower Eagle Lake at 6500' elevation, - more 4 to 8" WSCT there, and fairly thin. After arriving back at base camp on Upper Eagle we were joined by a couple of hikers from B.C. They attributed our strange weather to the jet stream having moved south bringing with it marine air from the gulf of Alaska. That afternoon fishing from shore produced several cutts on dries in the 10 to 12" range. — Thursday morning we packed up and headed out for our last stretch of 6.4 trail miles. Although the fish were not large, they were quite willing; the company was great; and the beauty of

God's world was revealed once again!!



## September

September 17th- WFFC Meeting, College Club 5:30 pm

## October

October 5th and 6th- Dry Falls Outing

October 7th- Board Meeting, College Club 7:00 pm

October 9th- Last Day for Creel Notes Submissions



To:

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