

# Creel Notes from the



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



October, 2005

## The President's Raffle

The Northwest Women Flyfishers have invited us to their special meeting at REI downtown, Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> to hear **Jack Berryman's** presentation on four "Legends of Northwest Fly Fishing", namely Tommy Brayshaw, Enos Bradner, Letcher Lambuth, and Roderick Haig-Brown. They will also hold the raffle drawing for the Connie Stelter Commemorative Fly Plate for which many of you purchased tickets at our August meeting.

Who has built a Holland boat? Several of our members have and if constructing your own pram interests you, you may contact **Curt Jacobs** to see if he's found the plans in all of the WFFC's historical documents that he shepherds.

The rules and entry form for the "Gold Button" award have been published in the Creel Notes. I've never called for a discussion on the subject at a general membership meeting so we don't know how much interest there is in a competition for the largest fish but we're going to find out. **Bill Neal** has outlined the minimum qualifying length for various categories. If you've caught a fish during 2005 that meets the requirements you may complete an entry form and give it to **Bill**. Remember it's not necessary to kill the fish, in fact catch and release is strongly encouraged. We should always get the fish in as quickly as possible and handle them as little as possible.

**Don Schroder** is working on a procedure for accounting for equipment owned by the WFFC that should be used to benefit the club. For example, we have a digital camcorder, different types of projectors, and a sound system that can be checked out and used where appropriate. We need to make sure we know where the equipment is and who is responsible for it.

**Chuck Ballard** has made several videos of members as he interviewed them for our Heritage files. **Dick Brening** spent many hours editing videos for the fly tying class and **Bill Kuper** converted those to DVDs that we sell to students and members.

Wouldn't it be great to have some videos of outing activities etc. We could have someone catching a big fish, scenery of the high lakes trip, or maybe someone qualifying for the Dunkers award by falling in. Just check out the video camera from Don and get some footage of the upcoming Wet Buns outing. You will be capturing history!

According to a WDFW news release, the Upper Columbia, Okanogan, and Methow rivers opened Saturday October 8, 2005 for hatchery steelhead. Have at 'em!

## Reminder of Vote on Amendment to Articles of Incorporation *By Bill Neal*

This is a reminder that the Club will be voting at the October Members' Meeting on an Amendment to the Club's Articles of Incorporation. This vote was announced in last month's *Creel Notes*. The purpose of the Amendment is to make the Articles of Incorporation consistent with the amendment to the Club's Bylaws, adopted at the September Members' Meeting, with respect to gender neutral terms of "young persons" instead of "boys" and so forth.

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## WSCFFF Casting Competition Results

This year the WFFC sent two teams to participate in the WSCFFF Northwest Fly Casting Exposition. This year's event was well attended by individual participating in the competitions and by persons attending casting clinics. WFFC Team A took top honors again this year. This is the fourth year in a row the A team from the club has won the team competition. Ed Sozinho took first in the men's division just out scoring Richard Embry who took second place. Richard also took second place in the Danish games. Ed's score also gave him the Grand Champion title which included a hand built spey rod from FethaStyx.

Thanks to all that participated in this year's event on behalf of the WFFC.

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## Sad News from Eliguk Lake

For those of you who have traveled up to Eliguk Lake Lodge over the last ten to twelve years.

You have gotten well acquainted with Moe and Jeanette Schiller, the gracious owners and operators of the Lodge. You may not have gotten to actually meet his family of four offspring - Pierre, Denise, Michelle, and Danielle, but you were certainly aware of their parent pride in them. Yesterday I received a call from Moe informing me of Pierre's very tragic death in a woodland accident involving timber and machinery. It was a very devastating call, and there was little that could be done to console Moe in his grief. He did agree to have me submit this note to the Creel Notes to notify all WFFC attendees about this tragedy. It was too painful to go into any further details. If any of you wish to send condolences, their mailing address is:

Moe and Jeanette Schiller  
P.O.Box 79  
Nimpo Lake, B.C., V0L 1R0



## 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 work to the outlawing the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season.
3. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
4. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
5. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
6. To encourage and assist boys — particularly of high school age—to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen.



**Adventures in Beach Fishing for Coho (Part 2), Sept. 2005. By Dick Stearns**

Besides fishing for Coho, a lot of related things were happening around Campbell River that might interest club members: The annual Haig-Brown Festival was held on Sunday, September 25th on the grounds of Roddy's home, now a national heritage site. I had the pleasure of joining the Haig-Brown Fly Fishers in tying flies and demonstrating fly casting. With live music, art and good food, this is an upscale festival worthy of our honorary member.

The Third Canadian National Fly Fishing championships were held during the week of September 18th. It was held at three venues: Lake, Stream and Salt-water Beach. Fifty expert Canadian fly fishers participated in teams of five each. The winning team was captained by former WFFC member Gordon Bacon. He will head up Team Canada at the world championships next year in Portugal.

I've been assisting members of the Comox Valley Fly Fishers in capturing and spawning salmon in the Oyster River hatchery. Incidental in the capture of hundreds of Pinks and Coho, were several cutthroat in excess of twenty inches. That's good news, as they've had a rough time coping with less than ideal habitat.

The beach fishing? As of 10/2, and compared to last year: only so-so, as the Coho seem to have a case of lockjaw. Lots of jumping fish, but only one brought to net: a big hooknose of about 12

pounds. I broke a couple off that were bigger...aren't they always? As soon as the rain and wind stops it should get better...always the optimist, I am.

**Dry Falls Outing Report By Dick Brening**

First of all I would like to thank Mark DeWitt for his work and dedication as our outing chairman. The Dry Falls Outing was an enjoyable event for those of us that attended. Mark made a special trip to Sunlakes State Park just to make sure we were well supplied with wine and beer and had a hot grill to cook our steaks on. Thanks Mark! (Luckily we did not need to set up the club tarp after a rainey late afternoon on Saturday.)

Imagine an eastern Washington spring feed lake with a population of large Bows, Browns and a few Tiger Trout and with only six anglers on the water over the course of an entire day. Well that was Dry Falls Lake on Friday September 30th. The number of fish caught and released were not high but for my 3 consecutive days of fishing I had 23 fish to hand, including two Browns, one of which was over 20" in length. Saturday and Sunday brought a few more anglers to the water but not the usual hoards of past fall weekends.

My most successful fly was a size 10 Beadhead Prince Nymph based on the pattern tied by Walt Swanson on the WFFC Fly Tying Video. Most of my hook-ups came on a jerky retrieve from the weed beds outward to the deeper water. The hits usually happened quickly when I first moved the fly. A slow retrieve or a very slow troll on a sinktie line also worked, but not as

often, with this fly in the deep water far from shore.

Two large fat 'bows were taken on a dry Subshank Parachute Upright Moosemane Mayfly during the fly slurping activity at noon on Friday in the deep water north of the big rock.

The larger of the two browns came from the weed bed at the head of the slot between the two big rock outcroppings on my unsuccessful attempt to check out the Aquarium. (Note: Access to the aquarium and the south arm was blocked to all anglers due to extremely low water levels.)

The water maybe low and access difficult but Dry Falls Lake and its population of lunkers can still provide a satisfying outing experience.

**Moccasin Lake, Sept. 9 By Gil Nyerges**

I had the pleasure of being asked by Jordy Isaiou of our WFFC, to join five members of the Oregon Fly Fishers based in Portland, (Jordy is past-president of the Oregon club), to accompany them to Moccasin Lake just south of Winthrop at the invitation of Mac Beatty, former WFFC member, and owner of the Moccasin Lake Ranch.

I joined them at the Lake on Thursday, September 29, about 12:30 PM in time for lunch. After all the introductions and greetings, and all my preparations to get ready to fish, I was able to hit the lake about 3:30 PM (after tying a half dozen fresh Gil's Monsters and Nyerges Nymphs). My last visit to this lake was in the late '60s, and

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## On the Fly *By David Ehrlich*

July 19, 2005

Bob Birkner opened the meeting with the call of "good evening lady and gentlemen," acknowledging our guest, Heather Bartlett. General news included news of foundation donations and the speedy arrival of CreelNotes on line.

Guests, among tonight's sparse crowd numbered a linguistically unintelligible Irish angler and a potential member. Fishing reports featured news of fine spotted cutthroat on the Grey's River in Wyoming, a wonderful 61 mile wild river between Idaho Falls and Jackson Hole, combat fishing on the Yakutat, big Chinook on the same river, Idaho's Silver Creek with a bamboo rod, Cutthroat on Hood Canal ("looking up"), coastal rivers in western Oregon, spotty salmon days off Whidbey Island, "rocking" the north Platt, "ripping," carp in waters best left unnamed, "awesome" 2# bait-fish

on the Skykomish, dry flies on the Elk river, changeable weather conditions on Hi Hume which yielded large fish from 17 to 28#s low yields on Hammersley Inlet near Squaxin Island, as well as other reports lost missed between bites of chicken smothered with unidentifiable foodstuffs

Fruit and Flower reports asked for good wishes to Ron Dion whose sore back has gotten in the way of Alaskan fishing. Having seen Ron scamper up peaks in Wyoming, I trust he will recover quickly and fully.

Birkner asked Don Simonson to speak concisely on several topics including slightly hiked fees for classes, hopes for a trophy at the upcoming casting Olympics Saturday, 24 September. Look on the club website for results of this all-star cast of casters. Don was finished before some folks even looked up from their Huckleberry pie.

A request goes out for members to help the Home Waters committee. Also, our soldiers in Iraq would like magazines, including fishing periodicals. Please bring them to the next meeting.

Our fly tying round table begins again on September 28 and October 26 on Mercer Island at the Covenant Church. If you show up at 5:30, dinner can be

purchased for a small price. Kris Kristopherson reported attempts to swell numbers in the youth fishing corps. Look for an outing in late October. Volunteers, anyone?

Next month's program features entomologist, Rick Hafele, who will talk specifically about matching the hatch on lakes. Business included a motion to buy new envelopes as well as the nominating committee entrusted with electing next year's officers. Greg Crumbaker, Hugh Jennings, Don Simonson, Ron Dion, Bill Neil, Preston Singleterry and Dick Brening shared the honor of nomination. Greg, Dick, Don, Preston and Hugh were voted to the committee

Bartlett's talk on the implications to steelhead management of hatchery reform began with an overview of Washington's hatchery system. A massive network of

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), USFWD and tribal hatcheries cover all corners of the state. She acknowledged that hatcheries "have been

unable to offset habitat degradation and meet harvest objectives" and hatchery contributions must be melded with habitat restoration, oceans management and other

common sense aspects of the complex web of our trout and salmon waters. Scientific studies have, since 2000, produced various principles and made recommendations.

The goal of hatcheries has shifted from harvest to the larger goals of watershed protection and population restoration. As a tool, hatcheries must be part of the ecosystem, do more good than harm, enhance natural spawning and follow good science.

Bartlett outlined the basic plan to restore steelhead runs through the "Steelhead Science Paper." The complicated and diverse life history of Steelhead poses challenges to taking good inventory and predicting good management. One small change can affect an entire stream system. The science paper recommends, whenever possible, to

integrate natural with hatchery brood stock. Artificial populations have depressed natural breeding and led to loss of genetic diversity. A brief debate ensued as to the scientific basis for quantifying the success of natural spawners, integrated spawners and hatchery spawners. By studying the array of populations, WDFW inventory of historical environmentally significant units, suggests some areas are in dire need of popula-

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tion restoration.

Rather technical in parts, Bartlett made it clear that WFW is motivated. Not surprising to club members, anglers spend around \$134 a day hunting steelhead and

contribute to a 10:1 return on hatchery expenses. So governmental effort is insured. Most in need of help is the Lower and Upper Columbia, heavily impacted by "substantial loss of spatial structure" which is a fancy way of saying dams. Their recommendation: careful mapping of redds and habitats, monitoring ocean conditions and other ways to measure as accurately as possible the ways of the wily steelhead. Bottom line, without habitat, WDFW can put as many salmon smelt in the stream as you can imagine and the population won't recover. Bartlett fielded imaginative questions ranging from budget problems, to larger state politics, and on to tribal politics. Should we obliterate hatcheries and use the money to remove dams? Should hatcheries work themselves out of business over time? When do we see dams removed? Will dams disperse quickly enough to phase hatcheries out? Has WDFW considered a wild steelhead sanctuary?

More business ensued with changes to the WFFC Bylaws (see proposed wording changes in the August Creel Notes). Discussion ranged from a motion to amend "fly fishers" to "fly anglers" that was ruled out of order as such amendments require 30 days notice. Regarding the Mission Statement, some member protested the description the club as a "social organization" before other missions (e.g. "improve fisheries" and "develop a public conservation ethic"). Motion one to remove gender bias when describing high school students passed with more than the need two thirds vote. The motion to delete wording related to outlawing the use of fish roe passed. And the new WFFC mission statement passed as written.



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when I looked at the lake, it was hard for me to remember it because the entry was from a different direction. The weather was slightly overcast with a small intermittent breeze. Water temperature was about 61 degrees, and a few fish were poking their noses at the surface close to the shorelines. I was able to reach just a few of the rises, but of those, about 25 percent of them were interested. I hooked 6 fish and boated three in two hours of casting - one was about 16", one about 22", and one just over 25" - all triploid Rainbows. On Friday, I fished for a total of six hours and managed to bring to net 11 fish - one 14., to 15" Brown, two 16" to 18" Rainbows, three 18" to 20" Bows, four 20" to 25" Rainbows, and one monster that hit 28" and was estimated to go between 10 and 11 pounds. All were caught using my 5-weight outfit using a sink-tip line and using, of course, the fly patterns that I had the most confidence in. I'm certain that all of the other members of the party caught equally as many fish using the fly's that they had the most confidence in - which tells us nothing about which pattern was the best, or what they were feeding on, but who cares? - the trip was a huge success!!

Mac, his wife, family, and caretaker's family put out a barbecue dinner spread for us on Friday night that was hard to beat - excellent food and drink. I heartily recommend this for a quality fishing experience - not furiously fast, but certainly productive. I think Mac is doing one heck of a good job in maintaining the fishery. You're not fishing in a hatchery pond, but you're catching hatchery-sized fish.

**Winfield's Dictum of Direction Giving:**

**The possibility of getting lost is directly proportional to the number of times the direction-giver says "You can't miss it."**



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Stamp  
here

Oct. 2005

## Meeting Announcement



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

**October Meeting Program: Western Hatches by Rick Hafele**

RICK HAFELE is co-author of *The Complete Book of Western Hatches* and *An Angler's Guide to Aquatic Insects and Their Imitations*. His videos, *Anatomy of a Trout Stream* and *Fly Fishing Large Western Rivers* are considered some of the best on the subject of trout fishing. Rick has a Masters degree in aquatic entomology and a minor in fisheries biology. He has worked as a professional aquatic biologist for over 25 years. Few fly fishermen have Rick's knowledge about the world in which trout live. For many years he has been sharing that knowledge with fly fishermen through books, articles, slide shows and seminars.