

Creel Notes from the



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



October, 2006

President's Riffle

The October General Membership meeting is at the downtown REI for the slideshow of Winslow Homer's fishing artwork. Parking in the REI garage is convenient and inexpensive. No meals are provided by the club this month. REI does have a World Wraps concession near the auditorium on the second floor where we will be meeting. Following is the notice published in local newspapers, posted at local fly shops, and sent to local fly clubs:

Winslow Homer, Artist and Angler

Slide Presentation on October 17th

Join Northwest Women Flyfishers and the Washington Fly Fishing Club for a slide presentation of Winslow Homer watercolors narrated by Patricia Junker. Junker is the Curator of American Art at the Seattle Art Museum and co-organized an exhibition of Homer's fly-fishing paintings in 2002 while working at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. Many of these paintings are in private collections, so this is an amazing look at Winslow Homer's "avid pursuit of fly-fishing and at the inspiration that the sport provided for his art."

This is a special evening open to everyone and is a "must see" for the fly fishing community.

Date: October 17th

Auditorium opens at 6:15 pm – Come and meet people and swap fishing stories

Presentation time: 7:00 pm

Location: REI – Seattle (see www.rei.com – stores and events - for directions)

Who is Invited? Everyone

Many thanks to **John Schuitemaker!** He has donated a guided Yakima River trip to be raffled at the October

meeting at REI. Lucky **John Townsell** won't be there so you have a chance to win a trip on Washington's premier trout stream.

NOVEMBER is Election Month

1. The WFFC Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for your review just prior to your election of officers for 2007. Be there to make sure you get a good president for next year!

2. Please vote **NO** on **I-933**. The WFFC Conservation Committee reviewed the initiative wording and concluded it does not warrant our support as presently written. The WFFC Board of Trustees voted to support the conclusion of the Conservation Committee.

Bob Birkner



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WFFC Fly Tier's Round Table *By Dick Brenning*

The next round table will be on the 2nd Wednesday, November 8th, 7 to 9 PM.

During the winter months many flyfishers seek the warmer environments and often find some good fly fishing on either salt or fresh water. In November let's tie the flies we would use in sub tropical or tropical fishing locations.

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.

If you have any questions on directions contact **Pete Baird** or me at the club meeting or give me a call.

Roster Corrections and Update *By John Schuitemaker*

Last month you should have received an update to your WFFC Roster. Unfortunately, I made a couple of mistakes. Here are the corrections:

For **Jerry Sugamele** please change his email address to jsugamele@comcast.net

For **Frank Vulliet** please change his email address to frank.vulliet@chamberscable.com

For **Dick Thompson** please add the following email address: tomband@elltel.net

Fred Casserd's new E-mail address: Fredshelli@comcast.net

If you know of any other roster updates please let me know. My preference is via email at jschuite@comcast.net.

Fellow WFFC members - Thank you for your cards, flowers, and phone calls during Betsy's recent illness and death on October 3rd. I also send a special thank you to those who attended the Celebration of her life on October 7th at Seabeck, WA. It was very special for me to have you there.

Tight Lines,

Jay Deeds.

My new email address is: DoGoodDeeds@wavecable.com.

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*

September 19, 2006

Our President opened the meeting with the call of “good evening gentlemen, I’m **Bob Birkner**, your president for 2006...”adding, “...and no longer” in an attempt to hold off the Nomination Committee. Polite disagreement ensued.

The smallish crowd enjoyed the guest introductions.

Fishing reports followed the President’s new criteria: fly pattern, hook size, time of year and time of day, weather and results. Yours truly broke ranks immediately with tales of single malt whiskeys mixed in with more appropriate information about small fish in the Wallawas. Lot of reports, too many to mention, followed true to the criteria. Useful information outweighed the typical distractions for a change. A few highlights: big salmon on the Dean, smoky delights on Montana’s Clearwater, rare owls in Wells Gray, BC, sea run cutthroat on the Stilly, fair Steelheading on the Umpqua, and fire closures at Chopaka (Tripod fire).

Chuck Ballard discussed the results of the inventory survey, accompanied by photos. Many of these items require relocation. Several pieces, because of their quality and the reputation of their makers, are slated for the fly-fishing museum in Bellingham. Other items will be offered at auction. Chuck reviewed his specific recommendations and asked for approval from the membership. **Rocco (Maccarrone)** brought up again the dream that we might someday have a clubhouse. Older members remembered ancient and recent struggles toward the same goal and supported Chuck’s ideas. Bottom line, the Bellingham museum provides accessibility, secure storage, and a way to ensure the club’s place in history. Bob (President Birkner) closed the discussion with an invitation for members with issues regarding the above should see him or Chuck, “preferably Chuck.”

Bob urged members to vote against Initiative 933. Google “No on I-933” for more information. Hopefully, we are still tax-exempt.

Bob then honored the publication and gift to the club of *Fly-Fishing Pioneers and Legends of the Northwest*, by **Jack W. Berryman**. His lovely book includes longer versions of his articles by the same name in NW Fly Fishing. For example, he included chapters on Tommy Bradshaw, Enos Bradner, Ralph Wahl, just to name a few giants of angling

from several Northwest States and British Columbia

Mike Wearne reported on the passing of George Grant, and his visit to a fly-fishing exhibition in Idaho Falls that is still open (www.museumofidaho.org).

Bob took nominations from the floor to fill out the Nomination Committee who will be charged with filling the slate for 2007. Drum roll please. Chaired by **Chuck Ballard**, the lucky men are: **Greg Crumbaker, Don Simonson, Rocco Macarone**, and **Don Schroeder**.

Les Johnson introduced bamboo co-producer and executive film director, Andy Royer who showed his film “Trout Grass” documenting the bamboo’s journey from inception to rod building. The film, available for \$25, gracefully took us from the banks of Chinese bamboo fields, to Twin Bridges, Montana and from there into beautiful, but most importantly, useful bamboo rods. The building is mixed with wistful casts on remote rivers and many scenes of trout to hand. Questions were few, but praise heavy after the showing. Contact Andy at www.troutgrass.com for your copy.

Committee reports were blissfully brief. Of special note, our last four outings are still taking members. If interested, take note to email or call **Ron Dion** ASAP.

Don’t forget gentlemen, we join the NW Women’s Fly Fishers for their October meeting at REI in downtown Seattle at 7 PM. We will revel in the paintings of Winslow Homer reflecting his love for fly-fishing. Bring family for this meeting. Come fed or leave hungry. REI is dry as well, so plan accordingly.



Steve Sunich tying at the Sept. meeting



Here is a fishing report on the High Lakes trip for this year.

Scottish Lakes High Camp, Aug.19-23

By Dick Brening with help from Ron Dion

Our outing to Scottish Lakes High Camp began by meeting up with the owner/hosts, Chris and Don, at a parking lot located about 17 miles east of Steven's Pass. Here we loaded our huge amount of provisions and supplies into the camp's 4 wheel drive vehicles and were driven via a locked gated-logging road some 8 miles into the camp. High Camp is located on private land at 5000' altitude just east of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Chris and Don were most accommodating and we were all assigned simple yet well equipped comfortable cabins for our stay.

The hardy campers for this trip consisted of **Pete Baird, Dick Brening, John & Ann Callahan, Paul & Evie Lingbloom, Mark Pratt, Don Simonson, Mike Wearne, Fran & Bunny Wood, Frank Vulliet, Dick Stearns & De-Vonne Wells, Don Barton, Ron, Dan & Tim Dion.** Bar-b-que and oven baked dinners, fresh vegetables, wine, beer and apple pies for dessert made for a gourmet WFFC High Lakes outing. No 50# backpacks or freeze dried food for this group.

The 8 lakes were:

Distance R/T fish

Lake Julius- 6 miles (5190') cutts 4 -12 "

Loch Eileen - 7 miles (5508') cutts 4 -14"

Chiwaikum Lake - 7 miles (5210') brook trout 3 -12"

Lake Donald - 8 miles (5870') cutts 4 -14 "

Honour lake - 8 miles (5200') ?

Jason Lakes - 8+ miles (5836') no one fished

Lake Ethel - 9 miles (5500') rainbow & cutts 8 -12"

Larch Lake - 11 miles (6078') cutts 8 -14"

Fish in all the lakes were eager to rise to a floating dry fly, mainly an elk hair caddis or stimulator. A floating device such as a pack-raft or float tube although used by some were not necessary.

Bank fishing or wading the shallow shoals/shelves made fly fishing very accessible on most

lakes. After several days of hiking the trails and crossing the ridges, a persons legs became accustomed to the rigors of hiking the high country. Too bad this usually only happens once a year!

Today, Mark and I were up early and ready to depart for Larch Lake. This was our last full day at High Camp and we wanted to make a full day of it. Most of the other residents at High Camp were just beginning to stir as we headed up Mac's Express toward Cliff Hanger. These two trails and others like them are back country ski trails, marked and maintained by Chris and Don, our hosts at High Camp. The trails used mainly for winter skiing, made good hiking trails during the camp's late summer season for access to the eight high-lakes within easy hiking distance of the camp. As we proceeded upward along Cliff Hanger, views of the surrounding mountains were crisp in the early morning sun, disturbed only by the plumes of smoke on the northern horizon from the difficult Tripod forest fire in the north-central part of the state. Near the top of the ridge the trail had turned steeply upward but since we had decided not to pack in our float tubes today and only carry light day packs the climb was relatively easy going. We soon topped the nearly 6000' ridge and headed down the 2 mile slope to Chiwaikum Lake where we had fished quite successfully on the first day of the outing using our float tubes while others fished from the shore and pack-rafts. As we approached, I noticed a single tent pitched near the lake was well located to take advantage of the beautiful view of the quiet lake. Either the residents of the tent had not yet risen or were long gone to explore other areas. The lake lay quiet and undisturbed except for the many feeding rises on the surface of its deep green waters.



Chiwaikum Lake

(Continued from page 4)

But, this was not our destination today, so we quickly pushed on up the trail into Ewing Basin. The wild flowers were in full bloom with large spreads of red Indian Paint Brush and blue Lupin backed by the dark green of the pines and firs and contrasted nicely with the grays and silvers of the exposed granite of the basin's walls. After about a mile of this scenic pleasure the trail turned upward again and climbed smoothly through the shade of a pine forest up the ridge to Larch Lake some 5.7 miles from our starting point at High Camp. We were pleased with our progress and had plenty of time to fish the shores of the lake before we had to depart in order to arrive back at camp in time for a warm shower or a sit in the camp's wood fired hot tub and some time for happy hour refreshments and fishing tales.

But, we had come to fly fish and fly fish we did. We worked the small outlet ponds for a few minutes and were rewarded with many small Western Cutts. Mark followed the outlet stream down the gully a bit and was able to hook a couple of much larger Cutts in the 12" to 14" range. I went on to a spot along the shore of the main lake where within an hour and a half I brought 14 Cutts to my hand using a single dark Elk Hair Caddis fly. The largest of which was just over 10". Mark found even better luck as he fished the shore of the main lake through out the morning and into the afternoon. He said something about 40 plus fish landed that day.

John and Ann Callahan joined us that day at Larch Lake.



Larch Lake

John found the fishing equally rewarding but just had to make the steep climb up to Cup Lake that sits in a notch directly above Larch. He found it to be devoid of fish and a probable freeze out during the winter months. He reported that the views from the lake were spectacular.

Similar fishing and hiking experiences were reported at the happy hour and the campfire ring as darkness fell. Some days fishing was not as good but on a whole I think everyone came away satisfied with this WFFC High Lake Outing.



Dick Stearns at Loch Eileen

Yakima River, September 11, 2006 *By Maury Skeith*

Fellow member **John Narver** and I arose early and arrived in Ellensburg where we met guide Joe Rotter from Red's Fly Shop. After a quick latte while lunch was being prepared we left for Ringers. The day was perfect, with little wind, and a little sun. John is a dry fly fisherman, and we had a busy day, using several foam body stone fly patterns, and several other crane fly patterns. All the flies were supplied by the guide, who did a great job of positioning us for optimal casts, including wading the boat down through several beautiful drifts.

The flies raised many fish, about half of which were hooked. The largest were in the 16 to 18 inch range. These larger fish distinguished themselves admirably on 4wt rods. Our ½ day trip ended at 2:30, in time for us to return to Seattle in time for dinner.

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Moccasin Lake, Sum Mountain Ranch, Twisp, WA
By Bob Young

Wow, what a trip! As guests of Perry Barth, myself, Don Simonson, Gil Nyerges, Chuck Ballard and his friend John Stachurski spent a day on fabled Moccasin Lake. Perry bought the trip for six at last years Christmas gala.

The trip started Perry and I on Tuesday morning. We rolled out in time to meet up with the others at Big Twin Lake near Twisp at noon. Don, Gil, Chuck and his friend John were already on the water when we arrive at just after noon. It was a pleasant enough day with some overcast and light winds. Big Twin is one of a pair of lakes that have selective gear rules in effect. More on these lakes later. We had a nice afternoon but were really looking forward to the next day. After wrapping it up for the day we followed Don to his place about twenty minutes away back in the secluded forest.

Perry had prepared a big pot of spaghetti sauce so we got the water boiling and cooked up a bunch of pasta and had a nice dinner. Gil provided us with his favorite ginger cookies for desert. In the morning we had coffee, cereal and muffins that were provided by Gil.

We headed for the ranch a little after 8 and met up with our guide for the day, Kevin. On arrival at the lake, only about a 10 minute ride on ranch roads we parked and got the lowdown on what to expect and a description of the lake features—where the shallows were or the drop offs, etc.— and set our schedule for the day. Gil, who also was providing lunch was firm about when we would eat.



Getting the lowdown

If you thought about getting in late you just might go back out hungry.

As soon as we could get away we all headed out on the water. They provide boats if you needed one but we all used our own floatation except Perry who was having problems with his elbow. He got rowed around all day by Kevin, who also came around to see how each of us was doing.

I started in the very shallow area right near the dock as I saw a few rises. I raised about 5 fish, hooking and landing one on a calibaetis cripple. Don was nearby and stuck a few fish also. Soon many fish were rising right in the shallows near the reeds (sort of like Copake) but neither Don nor I could connect so we sort of drifted off to other areas.

I spotted Chuck and John both into fish so I headed in their direction.



They were throwing right tight to a deep bank and as Chuck could stand up in his boat he could see the fish come after his fly. We were now mostly fishing Carey nymphs on a floating line. I was sitting lower in my pontoon and couldn't see the fish but it didn't matter. The three of us were hooking up regularly on very nice fish. This is where I got the only brown of the day, a pretty fish of about 18"s. We fished along this bank for about 45 minutes until we hooked or spooked all the fish or they just decided to leave. Catching continued until the appointed lunch hour when we all reported in for lunch during which several fish in the five to six pound range were bragged about.

After sandwiches and cold drinks we headed out on the water again. Fishing continued to be good for the remainder of the day and we all returned reluctantly to the dock for bar-b-qued steaks, fresh corn and salad for dinner all of which was provided by Don who had this to say about the trip: "My thoughts on the two days of fishing focus on the diversity of the patterns used and the depths the fish were hooked on both lakes. To me it was two days of good trophy fishing, one free, one pay. We caught fish on dries, and nymphs at depths of 20+ feet. To quote Chuck "This was the best fishing I have

ever experienced. (8 or 9 fish? all in the 25+") Not only were the fish big they were also caught on dry lines including dry flies. I caught two on the Chopaka Mayfly and broke off several on 8 lb tippet. I checked the formula for length and width and several of these were 10 LB fish according to the chart."

(Chuck also tied on a Reverse Spider as an 'experiment'. Next thing I heard was '#@*&% that was a big fish'.) "I am not someone that would pay for fishing however I plan to book a return trip next fall in spite of the \$175 per day fee. It was worth every penny! My best fly was a black Carry Special fished dry (damp) followed by the "Two Buck Chuck" (a purple Woollybugger with a hot bead head , tied by me but named by Jim McRoberts at dry falls.)"

Perry thought that it was a ton of fun, claiming he "had never caught rainbow that big before, and that the smaller trout (like Eliguk fish) that run and jump and raise hell, on a light rod, are more fun ! Enjoyed the beautiful lake, the camaraderie, the food, the whole trip..." but thought the tab was a little high.



Waiting for the steaks to cook



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Fishing By the Book

Book Reviews by *Michael Wearne*

Chris Santella has edited two books that you might consider for your Christmas list if someone asked what you want. The titles of the books are Fifty Places to Fly Fish Before You Die and Fifty Favorite Fishing Tales. Both of the books are a delight.

The Fifty Favorite Fishing Tales book just recently was published. The stories are provided by the famous and the not so famous in the world of fly fishing. Some of the contributors include Jack Dennis, Mel Kreiger, Jack Gartside, Mike Lawson, Jim Teeny, and Leigh Perkins. The tales range to trips to strange locations to a tale of fly fishing in a cave 2,000 feet down in Indonesia. Under-ground fly fishing, think about it! What a concept!

One aspect of this book is that Santella provides a short biographical sketch of the contributor. In addition there is a short technical paragraph which adds a fly fishing factoid or a geographical factoid to the story you have just read. Each of these stories is accompanied by photography. In one very poignant story the photograph is central to the story. I will guarantee you, you will stare at that photo for ten minutes after you finish the story, and you will have tears in your eyes.

The other book Fifty Places to Fly Fish Before You Die, has been out for a couple of years. In this book Santella has selected a particular location and a resident expert in that location writes about the fishing. The fishing site in British Columbia were the Skeena and the Dean. There are no sites in Washington. The Umpqua and the Deschutes are discussed.

In each site there is again additional information provided; including the prime time to visit, access, accommodations and what gear is necessary. If this doesn't get your travel juices flowing I don't know what will.



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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Stamp
here

October 2006

Meeting Announcement



Special Meeting Announcement

Please note that this months meeting will be a combined gettogether with the members of the Northwest Women Flyfishers and will be held at R.E.I. in Seattle in the 2nd floor meeting room. It will be a slide presentation of watercolors related to fly-fishing by noted artist Winslow Homer. The program will be narrated by Patricia Junker who is the Curator of American Art at the Seattle Art Museum. The meeting will start at 7 PM. Parking available in the R.E.I. building.