

Creel Notes from the



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



October, 2007



President's Riffle

At this month's Board Meeting we voted on and approved the price for our dinner meetings at the Seattle Tennis Club. The price for dinner at our new location starting in January will be \$27. This reflects the cost to the WFFC of the

dinner and associated expenses (credit card transactions and other small room fees, such as a wireless microphone rental fee, etc.). I know this increase will be a burden to some members. Please be assured that our Relocation Committee along with your WFFC Board did a very thorough analysis and investigation into available sites and their respective pricing. I'm thrilled that we were able to find a place such as the Seattle Tennis Club for under \$30. Our initial investigations suggested much higher pricing was in store for us. I feel very confident that we got the most for our money and am grateful to the Relocation Committee for their hard work.

Our nominating committee voted on at the September meeting is already at work on selecting our slate of officers for 2008. The nominating committee consists of **Chuck Ballard, John Callahan, Greg Crumbaker, Don Simonson, and Steve Sunich**. Interested in serving, or know of someone who would make a terrific WFFC Officer or Trustee? Then please contact these folks and let them know. If you get a call from the nominating committee asking you to serve, congratulations! This means you've been selected by your peers to help lead and carry forward this great organization. I guarantee you'll find it rewarding and interesting, and that it will make your membership in the club more deeply enjoyable.

Thought you'd seen just about every gadget designed for fly fishing? Jesse Scott, Past President of the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club, will be demonstrating his "one-handed fly tying device" during the Wet Fly Hour at our **November** dinner meeting. He has developed this set of tools for teaching fly tying to wounded veterans at Madigan Hospital at Ft. Lewis. Several of our WFFC members have participated in helping veterans in this program at Madigan. Knowledge of this device may be beneficial to WFFC members and instructors

who participate in teaching fly tying to disabled persons elsewhere.

Kudos to **John Townsell, Ron Dion, Greg Minkner, and Doug Schaad**. These folks attended and participated in the Stillaguamish River clean-up organized by **Doug Schaad** on September 22nd. **John Townsell** was there at 5:30am as he had a family obligation later in the day. The dismal turnout by the rest of our club is disappointing. I'm not sure if the timing was bad or this is an indication of apathy among our members. I was not there either, and for me it was a matter of timing. I'd like to think it was coincidentally the same for a lot of our members. The Stilly can be considered our club waters, for it was on its shores that the founders conceived of this great club. When you get an opportunity, please thank **Doug Schaad** for his efforts and assure him that if the Conservation Committee plans this again - you will endeavor to be there.

This month's dinner meeting is another great opportunity to invite guests and prospective members to sample what our club has to offer. This month's program is Brian O'Keefe on "Kick-Ass Fishing in the Salt". Brian never disappoints as an entertaining, informative, and picturesque (his photography is terrific) presenter. Here's your opportunity to share our club at its best - make the most of it and invite a guest.

As you may have heard, the Methow River and the

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Wenatchee River have been opened to fishing for hatchery steelhead. **Chuck Ballard** is planning an outing in October to the Methow, providing an opportunity for members to fish with fellow members that know a thing or two about this terrific river. The Methow offers smaller, more approachable water within an enchanting Eastern Washington setting. There are plenty of lodging opportunities if you don't want to pack your camping gear. Call or email **Chuck Ballard** for details.

Tight lines,
John Schuitemaker

Upcoming WFFC Outings

The following outings are scheduled for October and November. Signup sheets will be available at the October WFFC meeting. If you do not sign up, but still want to attend and participate, please contact Ron Dion.

- Oct. 5-14. **Grande Ronde**. Contact **Jim McRoberts** or **Bill Redman** for details.
- Oct. TBD. **Methow River**, since the WDFW has opened fishing. Contact **Chuck Ballard** for details.
- Nov. 3-4. **WETBUNS**. Contact Chuck Ballard or Hugh Clark for details (and read Dick Stearns' article on pg. 3).

The Fly-Fishing WASL

Back by popular demand, here's the third in the Creel Notes' occasional series of fly-fishing quizzes. This one is designed to test your knowledge of Northwest waters.

Got your waders on? Here we go:

1. This lake was Washington State's first catch-and-release water. Can you name it?
2. If you were fishing the Hell Hole, what river would you be on?
3. At 4,412 feet, this is the highest elevation fly-fishing-only lake in Washington State. What's its name?
4. If you were fishing Grimes Lake in Douglas County, what species of fish would you be likely to catch?
5. This small lake in British Columbia's Thuya chain was named after a WFFC member. Who was he?
6. This Washington river has a fly-fishing-only, catch-and-release season for winter steelhead. What's the river's name?
7. It's Washington State's only wild trout catch-and-release lake. Can you name it?
8. The "Rock Pool," made famous by WFFC members Enos Bradner and Frank Headrick, is located on which river?
9. When Ed Foss passed away, fellow WFFC members held a floating wake on one of his favorite lakes. What's its name?
10. Which Washington lake offers catch-and-release fishing for grayling?

(Answers on page 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.

WETBUNS: Then and Now by Dick Stearns

As the venue for our November outing returns to Penrose State Park, it's fitting perhaps that its history be reviewed.

When this outing first was originated back in the late 70's, it was a convenient adjunct to work parties the club organized on Hood Canal to capture and/or tag Sea-Run Cutthroat for the WDFW. Since these efforts usually were on weekends, it was convenient to bivouac at Belfair State Park rather than drive back from Seattle the next day. Naturally, this required some organization: bring wood, an awning to fend off the usual winter rains, and food. I volunteered to do the food, a **Boyd Aigner's** famous stew or **Ken Jarvis'** tempura; and while never priding myself as a chef, I decided to try a recipe I dug up in an old copy of *Grey's Sporting Journal*. I tried it first at home and got reviews that it was "pretty good", so thus buoyed, I announced to the October meeting that the fare for our first Cutthroat outing would be bouillabaisse. Almost in unison came several shouts of: "what the hell is bouillabaisse?"

Now I had to perform. I saved backs, heads, and tails from the remnants of salmon I had caught earlier. These I boiled in chicken broth rendering several quarts of thick strained liquid. The rest of the main ingredients—halibut, cod, shrimp, Dungeness crab, clams, and mussels—were purchased fresh at the Pike Place Market. Fresh vegetables—celery, onions, potatoes, and garlic—lots of garlic—came from Safeway, along with extra virgin olive oil, assorted spices, and six loaves of French bread. Finally, I went to the garage and selected a case of homemade vintage '77 St Earns Barbera. I figured if the stew was a bust, there would be at least the wine and bread.

But apparently it was acceptable, because while I had purchased ingredients for 30 and only 20 showed up, the pot was completely emptied the next morning for members to take home. **Bob Graham** ladled several pints into a bowl he covered with foil and placed in the refrigerator of his camp trailer. Unfortunately, in hitting a rather severe bump on the way back to Seattle, the refrigerator door popped open and his dinner-to-be fell out, spilling on the carpeted floor along with a dozen eggs. The tragedy wasn't discovered until several days later. Bob's trailer was never the same and he finally abandoned it on a lot he owned on the Skykomish River.

So acceptable was the bouillabaisse, however,

that I continued to be the chef; perhaps more by default than popular demand, as some years tested our resolve. The November weather was often miserable, and many outings we stood around a sputtering fire with rain drenching any who strayed from under the club awning. It wasn't too many of these outings before someone (probably **Al Pratt**) decided to give it a name, or rather an acronym: WETBUNS. Appropriately enough, it stood for: Winter Event to Taste Bouillabaisse Under Nocturnal Skies.

In the early 80's, Penrose Point State Park was found to be a better place to fish because its shoreline was better protected from the southerly winds that plagued Belfair. The group site was and still is ideal, and conveniently located for launching car-top boats, for wading; and boat launches are nearby at Lakebay Marina and at Home. Unfortunately, we were shut out for several years because of winter closures, but now we're back and there's even a new covered pavilion to save us from pitching the club awning. There are many stories and fishing reports that originated at Penrose, many of which can be found in archived *Creel Notes*, and one in *Backcasts*, pp. 120; speaking of which, I wonder what ever happened to **Graham Reed**?

2007 WFFC Roster Changes – Please Note

by John Schuitemaker

Here are the roster changes that I've received so far this year. Write them into your copy of the Roster.

Dick Brening – New email address:
rbrening@clearwire.net

Les Johnson – New email address:
cutthroatles@comcast.net

Bill Kuper – New street address:
1914 N. 42nd. St., Seattle 98103

Leland Miyawaki – New email address:
lelandmiyawaki@comcast.net

Ted Pearson – New email address:
tedpear@comcast.net

Roger Rohrbeck – Correct phone no.:
206-232-0948

Don Simonson – New email address:
donjoans@msn.com

Richard Thompson – New email address:
tomband@fairpoint.net

If you have changes to report, please get them to the Roster Chairman, **John Schuitemaker**, by email (preferred) at jschuite@comcast.net.



REPORTS

On the Fly by David Ehrich

Sept. 18, 2007

John Schuitemaker opened last month's meeting promptly as befit the crowded nature of the agenda. Guests were introduced and fishing reports finished before the arrival of the food. Reports included ugly landscape and ample fishing at High Hume; silvers at Golden Gardens; tough hiking and 55 fish days on B.C. Lakes; hot, burned-over conditions in Idaho and Montana in the heart of the summer amidst late afternoon shutdowns on the Madison and Jefferson; and monster trout (10 – 12") caught by yours truly on the SF of the Snoqualmie.

Ron Dion gave us the lowdown on several outings (see page 2). Signups are low and may evolve from an official outing to a fishing trip among friends (read here: no steak or free beer). We moved next to the conservation report and **Doug Schaad** outlined the cleanup on the Stilly.

For a change of pace, **Jay Hutchinson** described some fly patterns put on display by Ken Iwamasa. Ken, an art professor at the University of Colorado, pioneered several flies. Jay showed members the flies before they head up to WWU to join their collection. He also asked about the origin of a pattern called Raccoon. If you know anything about this fly,

which he believes originated in B.C., please contact Jay.

Kris Kristofferson described the Reel Recovery Retreat this October at Suncadia (October 16-18th). WFFC helps run the event and many things are needed, for example, your favorite flies and hands-on help with the event. Many members have enjoyed being "fishing buddies" with our guests. Call Kris for information.

Fran Wood filled in for **Peter Baird** for the report on members suffering with health problems. **Gil Nyerges** is uncomfortable, but looking for good days ahead in fast currents. **Walt Walkinshaw** had a tumble and is recovering nicely at home. We look forward to his attendance at the October meeting.

John reminded members that we will move meetings to the Seattle Tennis club in January. He called to our attention that a conflict with the March meeting requires us to either move the meeting to Wednesday or try out a different location. Both ideas won favor.

John also took care of business and nominated the nomination committee, focusing in many cases on many people who had the bad judgment not to attend the meeting. Voting followed. **Pat Peterman** helped introduce two new members who were both praised for their various qualities.

Diana Rudolph Presentation

Keith Robbins introduced our speaker, Diana Rudolph. Born in Chicago, she started fishing in her teens and her first hookup was a tarpon. After college, she guided trips off the Florida coast and retreated to Montana to work for Dan Bailey during the summer months. She holds seven world records for women anglers.

In this, her first visit to Seattle and first talk before the Club, entitled "Fly Fishing Florida Style," Diana covered on- and off-shore fishing in the Florida Keys. She shared techniques and flies that are worth emulating the world around.

I loved Diana's style and delivery. I got the feeling that if she was your guide, you'd get on big fish and learn a lot about some practiced technique, with highballs to follow.



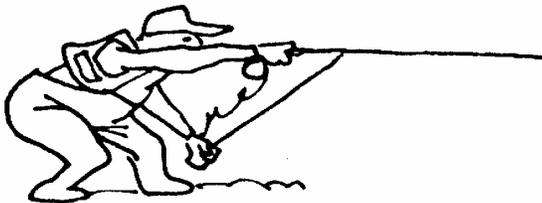
Frank Webster at the Sept. meeting



Diana Rudolph addressing the WFFC

Just some highlights: 7-9 wt. rods, number 2 flies in big, weighted patterns, intelligent approaches, casting into heavy winds, working with tides and currents (look for new and full moons), precise line control (tip in water to create immediate pressure), and rod position for the big fight.

Diana showed us beautiful pictures of some exotic locations, as well as some big fish in mid fight with some of her favorite guides and clients. If you love fighting fish in full color, but weren't at the meeting, you missed an amazing slide show.



WFFC Fly Tiers Round Table *by Dick Brening*

Again this year the WFFC is donating a large wooden fly box chuck-full of member-tied flies (200 in all) to the men's cancer recovery program Reel Recovery. The box was filled by some of our best fly tiers. Please be sure to thank the following members for donating their tying efforts to this worthy cause:

John Rohrer, Jim McRoberts, Mark Pratt, Ron Dion, Pete Baird, Dick Scales, Roger Rohrbeck, Pat Peterman, Don Simonson, Scott Hagen, Dick Brening.

The next round table will be on the 2nd Wednesday, November 14th, 7 to 9 pm. Winter steelhead fishing comes to mind at this time of the year, so let's tie flies that are useful in that pursuit. 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.



WFFC Fly Box Donated to Reel Recovery

North Umpqua River *By Rocco Maccarrone*

Departed Bothell on September 16th (Sunday) for my annual one-week pilgrimage to the North Umpqua River. I would have left Saturday, but I could not miss watching my Huskies get throttled in the 2nd half by Ohio State. I made the 7+ hour drive by my lonesome, daydreaming the whole way of swinging flies through delectable runs.

Joining me at Bogus Creek Campground would be Jim Bolin (12-hour drive from Morgan Hill, south of San Jose), then later in the week Greg Larson (Bend, OR), Steve Wolford (Underwood, WA), and Fred Kohout (flying into Portland from Boston).

Two fellow WFFC members were supposed to join me, but could not make it. **Robert Tovar's** dad passed away just prior to the trip. We were all very sad that he could not be with us. **Jim van de Erve** had no excuse, except to say his wife booked a trip to Hawaii during that week. Lame. (*Editor's note: guilty as charged.*) These were college friends and some of us even worked together at Westinghouse in the mid 80's.

In differing combinations, this trip would mark the first time they had seen each other in 18 to 20 years. When we all arrived in camp, it was like time had stood still. What a remarkable homecoming! The BS was so thick around the fire, one had to wear their chest waders.

Mr. Kohout had never fly-fished before in his life. However, he purchased waders and boots prior to the trip, while Tovar and I furnished him with the remainder of the needed equipment and flies. After learning a bit about the North Umpqua, he remarked, "So you

guys are taking me to climb Mt. Everest, without ever having gone backpacking?"

By the end of the week, he worked the river like a pro. Two out of the group were fairly proficient fly fishermen. The other two fair at best.



The Boyz at Susan Creek

The weather was perfect all week. Slightly cool mornings, warm afternoons, overcast and partly cloudy skies. As for the fishing, here are the raw numbers: Larson hooked two fish (both unbuttoned) swinging a fly on a sink-tip; I rose one fish to a skated dry. It came up and pulled my fly down, released it, then came back again on it. I never was able to hook it. Sure got my heart pumping! I had to take a cigar break after that one.

We never landed a fish all week. But here is the caveat: talking to other fishermen, there were fish being caught. Not many, but pretty average. Another sign the fish were present ... EVERY hole or run I fished, a fish either jumped or rolled. True! No exaggeration! It was the strangest thing.

I checked the Internet before leaving on the trip. By September 1st, 4100 fish had gone above Winchester Dam. In a normal year for summer-runs on the North Umpqua, they get anywhere from 7,000 to 10,000 fish in the river by mid-September. So, like all the other rivers on the West Coast this summer, their run was down by about half. Regardless, 4,100 fish is still a good number.

This was my 7th year in a row going to the North Umpqua in September. My conviction is that by September, in every likely piece of good holding water there is a fish or several fish. That is what makes fish-



Rocco Maccarrone fishing the Archie Pool

(Continued from page 6)

ing that river so appealing. In the five days we fished, we hit the famed Camp Water a couple of times, Archie, Williams Creek, Susan Creek, and many other famous holes.

The camping at Bogus Creek was stellar. We pretty much had the campground to ourselves, with only a couple of other campers coming and going. The menu was like a bacchanalian feast ... BBQ chicken one night, sautéed prawns the next, steaks, fresh salmon, fresh tomato and basil salad every night (tomatoes fresh from Jim's garden), etc. I gained 10 pounds in a week. Each night after dinner, we enjoyed a large, warm campfire, along with good whiskey, port, wine, beer, top-shelf cigars, and cribbage.

We also had some creepy company that caused five grown men to act like little girls. Apparently, there was a migration of extremely large daddy-long-leg spiders happening and we were on their migration route ... AND they seemed to like the light or heat of our campfire. I wore shorts the first night. That was also the last night I wore shorts. They literally were crawling all over us ... on our legs, arms, and head. When you shined your flashlight on the ground, you could see several within the arc of the beam.

I never landed a fish on this year's trip to the North Umpqua, but it was an exceptional trip and one I'll never forget. Imagine that!

Fly Casting Competition

The Washington Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers will be holding its Spring Fly Fishing Conclave next May 3rd in Ellensburg. This conclave includes a fly casting competition that gives you a chance to pit your skills against other Washington anglers. The competition will test both length and accuracy skills. But the conclave will be about much more than the competition. There will also be casting clinics, private lessons, and vendors. Contact **Ed Sozinho** if you would like to compete. **Don Simonson** can also give you more information.

Time for Christmas Party Images!

The organizers of the WFFC Christmas party need images for the annual slide presentation. So if you have pictures of yourself and/or other club members catching fish, releasing fish, losing fish, dunking, swimming, reveling, whatever—please get them to **Ed Sozinho** as soon as possible. They should be in jpeg format, and you can either hand a CD with them to Ed or e-mail them to him.

The Fly-Fishing WASL

(From Pg. 2)

Answers:

1. Lake Terrell in Whatcom County
2. The North Fork of the Stillaguamish.
3. Leech Lake
4. Lahontan cutthroat
5. Gordy Young
6. The Hoko, on the Olympic Peninsula
7. Prices Lake in Mason County
8. The Wind River
9. Tanwax Lake, Pierce County
10. Big Granite Lake, Skagit County (also known as Granite Lake No. 4).

Score:

0-4: C'mon! This is supposed to be a FISHING club.

5-8: Can't you wade any deeper than that?

9-10: Next thing you know, you'll find yourself being initiated into the Dunkers' Club.





Washington Fly Fishing Club
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Stamp
here

October, 2007

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

This month: Brian O'Keefe - Kick-Ass Salmon Fly Fishing in the Salt

Brian O'Keefe is a life-long fly fisherman who has fished some of the wildest and most remote angling destinations in the world. He is also an accomplished competitive fly caster, a fly fishing tackle rep, and a widely published angling and outdoor photographer. He will take us on a journey of fly fishing for salmon from Tofino to the Queen Charlottes to beyond.