

Creel Notes from the



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



October, 2011



President's Riffle

Greetings fellow members!

Happy autumn! My favorite time of the year. Besides fly-fishing, college football, specifically Washington Huskies football, is one of my favorite things in life. At 4-1, the Huskies are finally relevant again

and making things exciting. Going or watching the games cuts into my fishing time (or yard work time). Interestingly enough, it was the Huskies that made my most recent fishing outings even more pleasurable, as I was able to combine the two.

(Let me digress for a moment ... my favorite things in life can be summarized by my "5-F's" ... family, friends, football, fly-fishing, and food. Any chance to combine any of those "5-F's" together increases the pleasure factor by an order of magnitude.)

Our club had our annual Fall Dry Falls outing last weekend (Oct. 1st & 2nd). I will let **Dave Schorsch** give the trip report details in a separate article within this issue of Creel Notes. The weather was the best I can ever remember. I fished Dry Falls for 3 days without any wind! Remarkable! It made the catching a bit more difficult, but the fishing was awesome. Temps were perfect and ranged from 75 – 80 degrees. Saturday evening was the club's potluck and BBQ steak night. The wine and beer were flowing, the coals just perfect, and the steaks juicy and tender. Get this ... NO MOSQUITOS! While most members were seated around a warm fire listening to **Chuck and Hugh** strumming classics on their guitars, some of us were gathered around my truck listening to the Huskies put an unexpected "ass-whoopin" on Utah. All was good in the world that evening. I had four of my "5-F's" working in unison – great food, good friends, fly fishing on a beautiful lake in fantastic weather, and the Huskies were pulling an upset on the road. The next day, I would go home and see my family. I felt truly

blessed on that evening.

The year is quickly coming to a close. Yet, we have much business remaining on the "to-do" list for our club. A nomination committee needs to be nominated at our next general meeting on Oct. 18th. If you would like to serve on the committee, please be sure to nominate yourself or have another member nominate you. That meeting is also the absolute drop-dead date to get your favorite fly to **Gil Nyerges** for the fly plate he will be making for the Christmas party. This auction item will be truly a collector's item and should fetch a fair sum of money for the club. We should really thank Gil for offering his art and craftsmanship for this project. BUT!!!! It will only be successful if we get enough flies from the members. So bring them to the meeting. We will have a potential new member to vote on, too – Abe Lillard. Gerry O'Keefe, Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership, will be our guest speaker on that evening. Puget Sound Partnership is the coordinating agency responsible for creating and monitoring the cleanup efforts of Puget Sound. Should be some very interesting information presented.

Our annual fund-raising Christmas Party is com-

(Continued on page 2)

Inside.....

October Meeting	2
September Meeting	3
Awards Reminder	3
Dry Falls Outing	4
Hi Hium Report	4
WETBUNS	5
Elwha Conservation	5
Holiday Fundraiser	6
Introducing Abe Lillard	6
Hu Riley	7

(Continued from page 1)

ing up before you know it. It happens on December 13th (*note – this is the 2nd Tuesday of the month – not the traditional 3rd Tuesday.*). This is our club's main event to raise money that pays for programs like Reel Recovery, Project Healing Waters, Casting Forward, and conservation project as well. Invite guests to the party – the more the merrier and more money! Think about what you can donate to the party. Let **Mike Santangelo** know if you can donate new fishing gear, non-fishing services, time shares, wine, anything of value, including cash. Let's rally together and make this a successful party.

Oh! ... and don't forget *WETBUNS ... Winter Event to Taste Bouillabaisse Under Nocturnal Skies*. This annual salt-water fly fishing outing will be held November 5th and 6th at Penrose Point State Park.

This is a wonderful time of the year! Get out and go fishing before the snows come.

Rocco Maccarrone, President

October Meeting: Gerry O'Keefe, Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership *by Mike Wearne*

Gerry O'Keefe will speak on the work of the Puget Sound Partnership, which is the coordinating agency responsible for creating and monitoring the cleanup of Puget Sound.

Fly tier: **Chuck Ballard**.

Nominating Committee

It's that time of year yet again: time to select the Nominating Committee that will nominate members for officer and trustee positions. We will nominate and elect members of the Nominating Committee at the October meeting. If you want to nominate someone for this committee, please ask them first.

Creel Notes

...is the official publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscription is free with membership.

Jim van de Erve ... Editor
425-489-0971 jimvde@comcast.net
Ron Tschetter ... Publisher
425-746-6652 batribble@juno.com

President

Rocco Maccarrone maccarrone@frontier.com

1st Vice President (Membership)

David Ehrich demuslindley@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President (Programs)

Mike Wearne michael_wearne@msn.com

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Mike Santangelo Mikeonthefly@gmail.com

Treasurer

Don Barton dbarton44@comcast.net

Secretary

Ron Tschetter batribble@juno.com

Ghillie 1

Jim Macdonald macdonaldco@msn.com

Ghillie 2

Conrad Gowell CGowell@pugetsound.edu

Trustees

Scott Hagen '09 Jim Young '09
Andrew Bennett '10 Craig Koeppler '10
Bob Young '11 Chapin Henry III '11

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, steelhead, and salmon 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.

September Meeting at the Home Waters by Jim Macdonald

The WFFC 2011 September club meeting was held off site at the Yakima Home Waters Site.

When it became apparent that the bus was not going to be a viable form of transportation to the WFFC Yakima site and points south, I abandoned ship and started looking for an alternative to the bus. My wife needed her car and mine was in the shop so I started looking for likely candidates to get me to Yakima. Just about then my phone rang and wouldn't you know it, **Mike Moscynski** was on the other end wanting to know why we were holding the club meeting on the Yakima River South of Ellensburg. Well, to make a long story short, I rode over with Mike and we were one of the first ones to get there. Mike soon took off for Red's to get a boat and that is another story and four or so of us hung around the shelter site for a while and did a little rock raking and wheeling over to the berm. I think **Jack Crowley**, **Mike Wearne**, **Rocco Maccarrone**, and I think **Ron Tschetter**, and **Robert Tovar**. Rocco brought at least one wheel barrow and rakes and shovels. We did a pretty fast job getting most of the big rocks moved and then went fishing for the duration until the taco truck arrived.

You could not have asked for a nicer day to be fishing. The weather was great and the river was low enough that those of us who did not use boats had no trouble wading. Quite a few did go to Red's and rented guides and boats. They did rather well so I heard. Mike Moscynski was singled out for special treatment by his guide. When the guide asked Mike if he wanted to go to shore for lunch, Mike was quoted as saying that he would rather keep fishing and eat on the fly so to speak. The guide then fired



up a Hibachi and cooked Mike a steak as they were floating down the river.

David Ehrich was not able to attend, but his guest John (Abe) Lillard did attend. Since David did not attend and I ran into Abe on the River, I am taking him as my guest for the Guest Promotion fly rod raffle. Gee, let's see: this was both a dinner meeting and an outing. Two raffle tickets maybe?

Later, we all filtered back to the Home Waters site, tanked up on Ellensburg's best Taco Truck, and then tried to stay awake on the way home.

The shelters are looking fantastic. Great Meeting on the Yakima.

2011 Awards Reminder

by Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

The club's Awards ceremonies will be coming up in January. If you have any suggested nominees, please contact me or another member of the Awards Committee by the end of October. The other committee members are **Pete Baird**, **Chuck Ballard**, **Dick Brening**, **Ron Dion**, **Kris Kristoferson**, and **Don Simonson**. Here is a short summary of the main Awards:

Letcher Lambeth Angling Craftsmanship Award for a flyfisher within Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia who has made original, significant, and lasting contributions to the art of fly fishing. Please contact me for more information and nomination procedures.

Empty Creel Award, for exceptional dedication and contribution by a member to the welfare of the club.

Tommy Brayshaw Award, for distinctive and meritorious contribution by a member to the general community through furtherance of the aims and purposes of the club.

Andy Award, for a member who has suffered cruelly and repeatedly from the dictates of Murphy's Law.

(Continued on page 4)

We frequently do special awards, so if you know of someone who is deserving of recognition, perhaps whether he wants it or not, please let us know.

Thank you.



Dry Falls Outing *by Dave Schorsch*

We had another great outing Oct. 1st and 2nd at Dry Falls! For those who didn't attend, you missed out! The weather was classic "Columbia Basin Fall", with cool morning mist on the warm water, followed by sunshine and 78 degrees all day. Fishing was great, with several bug types hatching all day, ending with fish going for adult damsels in the air! Everyone did well on fish to 20 inches, almost all rainbows. The Happy Hour was well attended by 33 members and guests, and the wind did not blow dirt on the steaks! Many wives and girlfriends were in attendance, as evidenced by the overloaded appetizer/side dish tables.

Music around the fire accented the beautiful,



warm, starry night. A fine weekend indeed. Thanks to all who hauled, set up, and cleaned up as usual! See you at WETBUNS!



Dry Falls at a lower level

Hi Hium Report – 11-15 September 2011

by Doug Schaad

Five college friends and I returned to HiHium for the 13th consecutive year in the 2nd week of September. After 13 years you might think we would have figured it out. Well, not exactly.

We've never experienced either the heat or the continuous days of sunshine (sunburns around). Whether the high surface temperatures, full moon, or bright sunshine were factors remains indeterminate; however, the fish weren't in their normative feeding zones.

That said, the fishing was very good. Two of us keep very extensive notes. Based on two fly fishers, here is the statistical summary for 2011 (and a few comparative figures):

2011 – Total Fish Played to Hand – 188
Range: 7 inches to 24+ inches (just under 6 pounds) – 16 fish 20 inches or above
Average – 15.4 inches. Median – 16 inches
2010 Average – 15.2 inches
2009 Average – 15.6 inches
2008 Average – 13.8 inches
2007 Average – 14.2 inches
2006 Average – 14.5 inches

2011 – Water depth where fish hooked: **Average – 19.2 feet, Median – 19 feet**

2010 Average – 14.6 feet
2009 Average – 14.1 feet
2008 Average – 15.2 feet
2007 Average – 13.9 feet

2006 Average – 15.4 feet

This was the major change for 2011, the fish just were not in the shallows or depths below 15 feet!

2011 – Fly Lines – Total Number Recorded – 87
Type 5 Uniform Sink – 60
Wet Tip – 10 Foot – 27

Roughly 60% of our fish were taken while casting on wind drifts, 20% while at anchor, and 20% motoring about looking for fish. For this year, except before 10:00, it was all about fishing deep water with big flies.

WETBUNS *by Dave Schorsch*

The annual WETBUNS outing is happening at Penrose Point State Park November 5th and 6th. This is the time to chase cutthroat and chums and maybe some silvers in the salt. After a day on the water, we retire to the park to prepare one of the best meals of the year!

Those who fish and those who don't gather at the park around 4:00 to start preparing the ingredients for our Bouillabaisse! A seafood stew of epic proportions cooked outdoors with lots of group effort and advice! Chopping, cracking, and dicing can work up a thirst, so the club provides beverages through the Happy Hour. The stew is cooked in a giant pot while we enjoy Happy Hour snacks and share stories of the day/week/year. Garlic bread warms on the bonfire while we "breathe" the wine. Everyone should bring an appetizer and a sturdy bowl and spoon because what happens is more than soup! After a great meal, we sit around and visit, watch the stars if it's not raining, watch the rain if it is, clean up a little, and go home or head for camp. (Don't forget to bring a covered container for leftovers!)

We have reserved the group area, which includes a covered picnic space and multiple camp sites. Those hardy souls who will spend the night can camp free, as the sites are paid for in the group area fee. If you plan on spending more than Saturday night, you may have to camp in one of the other campgrounds for those nights. This is another of the classic WFFC outings, and I wouldn't miss it for the world, no matter the weather! A lot of folks just go down for the dinner, which is great, just sign up on

the web site so we can get a head count for the dinner ingredients.

The fishing: sea-run cutts and resident silvers are available from the beaches at Penrose and Joemma parks. Boat launches are everywhere around Vaughn, Allyn, Gig Harbor, Home Bay, and more. Hand launch at the park can work too. I will try to post current fishing opportunities on the Web site just before the outing. Sign up for more info.

Hope to see you all there! Tight lines! Dave Schorsch, 206-227-6134

Elwha Conservation *by Doug Schaad, Conservation Committee Chairman*

On the 16th of September, a coalition of like-minded conservation organizations (Wild Fish Conservancy, Conservation Angler, FFF-Steelhead Committee, and Wild Steelhead Coalition) filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue NOAA Marine Fisheries and WDFW for introduction of Chambers Creek steelhead stocks into the Elwha restoration plan. By way of reference, fishery scientists from the Olympic National Park, National Marine Fisheries, the Lower Elwha Klallam tribe, and WDFW have gone on record in opposition to introducing non-native fish (Chambers Creek steelhead in particular) into the Elwha.

And yet, the plan goes forward!

The Conservation Committee of the WFFC believes the restoration of the Elwha IS the defining challenge of the next two decades. We further believe, and science supports the contention, that the Elwha does not need steelhead supplementation (especially Chambers Creek stock).

In that regard, the Conservation Committee has endorsed the potential lawsuit and requested membership approval for expenditures of \$5,000 to support this litigation. While the WFFC Board has approved this request, a membership vote is required.

Funding for this litigation (should the membership approve) would come from monies raised in a conservation fundraiser some 30 years ago. These funds are held separate from the operations and annual budget of the WFFC, and total somewhere in the neighborhood of \$25,000, and are specifically targeted at "large" conservation projects.

At the October general membership meeting, the Conservation Committee will be seeking member-

ship endorsement to join in this litigation. By directive from the WFFC Board, no funds will be expended until the lawsuit has been filed and the Conservation Committee takes a second vote to expend the funds.

For further information, type “Elwha restoration” or “Elwha legal” into your favorite Web browser.

Holiday Fundraiser *by Mike Santangelo*

The WFFC Holiday Fundraiser is just about 2 months away. Please note on your calendars that the fundraiser is on December 13th at the Herban Feast in SODO. This is the second Tuesday of the month, not the traditional third.

Reviewing the past year’s Creel Notes, I know that this has been said before, but you need to consider the current financial situation. Charitable donations are slow to come by, and in many cases companies and shops that donated in the past will not be donating anything at all this year. Gary Bergquist and I will continue to solicit donations as long as possible, but the reality is if we want to make money for the club, it is up to the membership itself to contribute.

How can you help the WFFC raise money? Donations of new items or services are wonderful. You can go on the WFFC Website (click “online dinner payment” under 2011 X-Mas Party) to contribute cash to help subsidize the purchases that we will need to make to round out our auction items and raffle prizes. And finally, you can do your part by bringing guests to the Holiday Fundraiser. We can seat 300 people. That many people will generate a lot of interest for our auction and raffle items. If you haven’t already been contacted, a fellow club member will be contacting you asking these questions. Please give what you can.

By the way, if you haven’t gotten your fly to **Gil Nyerges** for the WFFC fly plate, please do. Go to your fly box and pick out your favorite fly or stop by your favorite fly shop and pick one up. Don’t forget to label the fly with what it is and your name and get it to Gil as soon as possible. Having everybody’s \$2 fly can raise a lot of money for the club.

A final note, if you have some pictures of your 2011 fly fishing adventures that you would like to

share with the club, please forward them to me so that they can be incorporated into the WFFC slide show.

If we want to break even on this year’s budget, it is up to you.

2011 WFFC Christmas Party - Special Feature *by Dick Brening*

This year the handcrafted fly box raffle will return as part of the fundraising activities of the WFFC Christmas Party.

A large number of wooden fly boxes filled with beautifully tied fly patterns will be offered in a special raffle where each raffle ticket will have multiple chances to win a fly box of your choice.

The fly boxes and the flies have been crafted and tied by fellow WFFC members.

Don’t miss out on a chance to win one or more of these boxes. Plan to attend this year’s party and remember to bring guests to add to the fun.

Special Note: Not only can these boxes be a beautiful addition to your fly box collection, but women love them as jewelry boxes (just in case you need a gift for a special someone) and you get to keep the flies!

Fly Plate *by Rocco Maccarrone*

Last call for flies for the fly plate **Gil Nyerges** is putting together. The Oct. 18th meeting will be the absolute last chance to get a fly to Gil.

New Member Intro *by Abe Lillard*

Note: Abe Lillard is up for membership in the WFFC. Here in his own words is his story.

I was born in east Tennessee but did not do much fishing until I moved to Rochester, NY, in 1970 and came under the influence of the Catskill fishing and tying tradition. I also was fortunate to fish the northern Rockies, mainly in Montana, for twenty years. Most of my experience is stream fishing - the Gallatin, Boulder, and Yellowstone areas in Mon-

tana, many of the rivers in southern Oregon around Medford and Bend, the San Juan in New Mexico and many streams in southern Colorado. I am looking forward to becoming familiar with the NW area steelhead and salmon traditions. As for a favorite place, it would have to be on the Gallatin, probably around Swan Creek or the House Rock hole. My real favorite place would be wherever I am lucky to be fishing!

My wife is Julia Kalmus, a retired New York City attorney, whom I met and married when I was working for the New Mexico Symphony in Albuquerque. I was a professional trumpet player for 25 years and then moved into a career of orchestra management. My wife and I have six children and six grandchildren (two more on the way) in Seattle, Texas, and Washington, D.C.

of Normandy to liberate Europe from occupation by Nazi Germany. Riley, an avid sportsman and conservationist, worked for years as a sporting goods manufacturer's rep."

In club perspective, Hu, who was in his 90's, was sponsored into the club by Dawn Holbrook in 1951 and has been a senior member for many years. His attendance at club meetings has been limited of late due to infirmities associated with the aging, but he did attend the 100th birthday celebration for **Frank Headrick** in March of 2008. He was one of the panel participants there sharing in remembrances of club history. Hu was probably our 2nd oldest member behind our still surviving world traveler, **Earl George**.

Hu Riley *by Pete Baird*

At last night's WFFC board meeting, I was not able to give an update to the status "In the Critical Care Unit at Virginia Mason" for our long-time WFFC member **Huston "Hu" Riley**. A call to his wife Charlotte this morning revealed the sad news that Hu had passed away on Oct 2nd.

Last week **Don Gulliford** sent me an article from the Ducks Unlimited magazine extolling Hu for his significant contributions of hunting gear contributed to that organization. Following are a few excerpts from that publication:

"Hu was the 'Soldier in the turf' depicted in the late Robert Capa's immortal photo of the D-Day invasion. Riley was among thousands of American soldiers who on June 6, 1944, stormed the beaches



Anyone recognize this youngster?





Washington Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 639
Mercer Island, WA 98040
www.wffc.com

Stamp
here

October, 2011

Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Seattle Tennis Club, 922 McGilvra Blvd. E.

The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.

This month:

Gerry O'Keefe, Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership, on cleaning up Puget Sound.