

Creel Notes from the



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



November, 2003

President's Riffle *By Richard Embry*

WFFC Organizational Structure 101

Many of our members, particularly new members, are likely not familiar with the WFFC organizational structure, and the responsibilities of the various positions. If you recall, in September we elected a Nominating Committee, who will be presenting to this month's general meeting its suggestions for the 2004 WFFC officers.

So, if you suffer from insomnia, read on. Or, if you've ever wondered who does what or who is responsible for what, continue! The following are the general duties of the certain club positions.

The officers, trustees, and various committee chairmen meet once a month to review, conduct, and discuss WFFC activities and business. The officers and trustees are the voting members of the Board.

President: The President, with the direction of the Board of Directors, is the head of the club. He presides at both the monthly Board and membership meetings, preparing agendas for both meetings. He also appoints heads of the various club committees. He is to monitor the other Board members and ensure they are fulfilling their obligations. If there is a proposal to amend the Bylaws, he shall ensure it is done in accordance with the Bylaws. He is a voting member of the Board.

1st Vice President. The 1st Vice President is the membership chairman, both new and existing. That includes obtaining the annual club dues from existing members, as well as promoting the club to prospective members and coordinating the application and induction of new members. To that extent, the 1st VP maintains and controls the membership list/roster. The 1st VP also coordinates the annual Christmas party, appointing the various Christmas party chairs and overseeing the party.

The 1st VP acts in the President's behalf in the event of the President's absence. He is a voting member of the Board.

2nd Vice President. The 2nd VP is the Program chairman. He will arrange for the monthly program, with the exception of the December program (the Christmas party). He will act in the President's behalf in the event of the President's or 1st VP's absence. The 2nd Vice President should notify the Ghillie, in advance of the monthly meeting, of the speaker so the Ghillie can ensure adequate seating and dinners are available. The 2nd VP shall coordinate with the meeting facility representatives to ensure the Speaker's (as applicable) needs are satisfied. The 2nd VP is a voting member of the Board.

Secretary: The Secretary maintains records of the monthly Board of Directors meetings, and keeps and maintains the current copy of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Operating Procedures. He is to provide in the Creel Notes a summary of the Board meeting discussions. He is a voting member of the Board.

Treasurer: The Treasurer maintains the financial records of the WFFC. This includes ensuring taxes are filed, certain annual permits and fees are paid, the annual incorporation fees are paid, etc. He also serves as the cashier at the Christmas party. He is a voting member of the Board. To assure financial continuity, the prior year Treasurer will function as an "assistant" Treasurer to the successor Treasurer. The acting Treasurer is a voting member of the Board.

Ghillie: At each monthly meeting the Ghillie mans the front desk, welcoming guests and members, collecting the dinner fee, maintaining the

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“Good of the Order” bucket, and providing WFFC memorabilia for sale. With respect to the latter, the Ghillie monitors the memorabilia inventory. The Ghillie is the club enforcer of rules and procedure, levying and collecting fines during the general meeting for those WFFC members not following WFFC procedure or protocol. The Ghillie, with input from the 2nd VP, estimates the expected general meeting attendance, and notifies the facility coordinator (in this instance, the College Club contact) to ensure the appropriate seating and dinners will be available (the Ghillie may appoint a Coordinator to do this). With input from the 1st VP, he prepares new membership packages. He is a voting member of the Board.

Trustees: The Trustees generally function as advisors, and are voting members of the Board. A Trustee typically has more than 10 years experience in the Club, and preferably has held a Club officer position. A Trustees term shall be 3 years. There are 6 Trustees, 2 for each year of term. The Trustees participate in the Board meetings, performing an annual review of Club operation and procedures, applying the intent of the Bylaws, recommending changes, revisions, etc. The review is chaired by the Past President, who then submits a report to the Board.

This should give you an idea of who comprises the Board, and who is supposed to do what. The WFFC also has many different Committee Chairmen, including the Raffle, Outdoors, Education, Fruit and Flowers, Creel Notes, Historian, WFFC Foundation, FFF Coordinator, Library, Youth, and the list goes on.

The WFFC has a number of men working to make sure this great club continues to move forward, but we are a volunteer group, and we need your help, too! For you new or newer members, this is a wonderful way to contribute, learn about the club, and interact with other members who might be prospective fishing partners. Get involved; as you can see from the above, we have lots of opportunities!



Call for fly patterns!

Les Johnson is in the process of updating the “Fly Fishing for Pacific Salmon” book. If you have a new or unique pattern that you think is hot, contact Les at les.johnson5@verizon.net for a submittal form.

Creel Notes

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Chuck Ballard '01	Perry Barth '01
Dick Brening '02	Jerry Sammons '02
Jim Hanson '03	Dave Schorsch '03

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.

IT'S PARTY TIME!

Yep, the time is upon us again for the annual Holiday Auction and Raffle, our biggest party of the year!

This party, which "replaces" our December meeting, takes place on Tuesday, December 16th. It is by far our most highly-attended event, and our largest fundraiser of the year. Many members whom we rarely see the rest of the year always manage to show up, and many members also bring a handful of guests. So don't miss out on seeing old friends, meeting new ones, and taking part in a great Club tradition!

The evening will consist of a large raffle, a silent auction, and a live auction of some fabulous items--fishing trips, fly rods, reels, clothing, wine, cigars, waders, boats... all the stuff a fly fisherman could ever need (and many things he doesn't, but still wants anyway!). Also on the agenda is a fabulous dinner of either Prime Rib or Salmon, a very well-stocked (no-host) bar, and various bits of entertainment to keep things lively.

Not only is this the most exciting night of the year, it also is the most important because it provides a very large portion of the Club's income. One of the areas where the money raised on this night goes is toward our Youth Committee, which has been involved in creating a fly fishing club at Garfield High, and had great successes with the kids there. We also have been able to donate funds to the Casting for Recovery Foundation, a group that helps women battling breast cancer by teaching them to fly fish. Our on-going efforts at Griffin Creek have helped keep that important Snoqualmie River tributary healthy and productive.

The work our club does is important, and we need all of our membership to contribute to make it a true success. With that in mind, I ask you to put three items on your To-Do List:

1) Make Your Reservations, and Make Them Early!

It's important to get your space reserved because **THE EVENT WILL SELLOUT!** As an incentive, there will be a special Early-Bird drawing for a nice prize, just for getting your reservation in by November 18th (the November general meeting). As another incentive, the price goes up by \$5 per person after November 30th. Be sure to sign up lots of buddies too, and remind them to bring lots of cash for the raffle and auction!

2) Make A Donation

The better the prize pool, the more raffle tickets get sold, and the higher the auctions go. Every year it gets harder and harder to get donations from the fishing industry, so the Club counts on the donations from individual members to make the prize pool shine. Some things that members have donated in the past include: trips, fine wine or cigars, books, equipment that was never used, fishing art, casting or tying instruction, dinner at a favorite restaurant, or anything that might be valued by a fellow flyfisher. Cash is a great donation too because it allows us to purchase some great items. Whatever you give, your donation becomes an important part of the Club's efforts to promote healthy fisheries both now and for the future. Of course it also adds to the fun and excitement of the whole evening!

3) Help With The Event

There is still a need for volunteers to help in several areas on the day of the big event. We need help setting up, selling raffle tickets, checking people in at the front desk, and cleaning up afterward. The success of the whole evening depends on the volunteer effort. So please "step up to the plate" and give some time back to the club--you'll feel good, and we WILL have a good time!

Please let me know how you can help and what you can donate:

email: billk@digitalfarm.com

phone: 206-941-8056 (leave message)

mail:

Bill Kuper

3800 Aurora Ave. N. #280

Seattle, WA 98103

It is important that donation items be received by November 30th to ensure they get packaged and prepared nicely for the big event. **Earl Harper** has offered his studio space again for storage, so please send items directly there if possible, but let me know what is being sent!

Earl Harper Studios, 312 So. Lucile St.
Seattle, WA 98108 (206-764-1775)

Thank you for your time, efforts, and donations. Your contributions will help to make this a fun and memorable evening!

Bill Kuper, 1st Vice-President



Grande Ronde River *By Hugh Clark*

John Narver and I and a party of six floated the Grande Ronde the first week of October, guided by Troy Dettman of Norwest Anglers. The weather was hot, the water low, the scenery spectacular, and the waters not crowded. Altogether about sixteen steelies were touched and we had four to hand, two each to John and me. All fisherman were keen and experienced and spent long days on the water. As an extra, our young guide Ned took me through the paces with his Spey rod. By the end of the trip, 75% of my casts were useful, 15% were pretty, and just 10% dangerous. Bill Redmond has fished this river for years, closer to the mouth on the Snake. I know why he loves it.

Margaree River, Nova Scotia, Sept. 14-19 *By Dick Stearns*

Lee Wulff wrote: "The Margaree was my first love among salmon rivers. The Margaree River is a river to love, a river to remember and dream of..."

If you come to Cape Breton Island, you must visit the Margaree and see what Lee was writing about. And while to my knowledge, he never fished our Stillaguamish, the Margaree is almost spooky in its similarity. Its two forks, the Northeast and Southwest, branch several miles above tidewater and meander up their respective valleys, each through small farms villages, and rugged hills covered by fir and maple. The Northeast fork is favored for its runs and pools, and like our summer-run steelhead, its Atlantic salmon come readily to the fly...when they're in the mood.

We checked into our fishing lodge on the Northwest fork with mixed hopes, having just gone fishless on the Miramichi in New Brunswick. But there's a big difference in the two rivers: The Miramichi, not unlike the Lower Skagit is big, straight, and moves with deliberation to the Gulf of St Lawrence. It's a historic river, seeped in tradition that can be intimidating. Non-residents must have a guide who is also overseer of regulations and river protocol. But on the few public beats shared by the locals, my observance of protocol may have been too apparent. My casts were straight, quartered down and across without mending; and I observed the proper sidestep

shift downstream after each retrieve. But the presence of my guide identified me as an outsider, indeed a foreigner. Why wasn't he on a private beat where he belonged, they seemed to ask.

So after two days of skunks which I ungrudgingly shared with the locals, I left the Miramichi, grateful for the experience of fishing across from Ted William's lodge; knowing that I slipped on the same rocks as did earls, dukes and presidents, but disappointed I couldn't at least touch one of the many grilse that rolled tantalizingly within my casts.

The Margaree, while also exuding tradition, is more the river for the proletariat. No guides required, fly fishing only of course, but more with Medalists than Orvises; and best of all: in very little private water.

My hopes were elevated the next day as I stood on the bridge overlooking my first chosen pool and looked down on five large salmon and at least twice as many grilse. Carefully I edged into the riffle above the bridge and unexpectedly found I had the entire drift to myself. I wondered if I misread the regulations, until another angler appeared, took a seat on one of the stream-side benches installed by the Atlantic Salmon Foundation, and waited as I fished to a respectable distance downstream.

We exchanged greetings after I finished my drift. I took a seat on the bench and watched in admiration as he methodically worked downstream, finally covering the area where I was sure I should have made a connection. His casts were long and true, the fly barely disturbing the surface as it swam down, across and through. With this expertise, I was sure there would be an explosion of action. Anytime soon. But there was none.

Finally he reeled in and came back to the bench where I was contemplating what fly to try next. As he sat in apparent resignation, I fished a small flask from my stream bag and offered a consolatory sip, suggesting that a congratulatory one should have been more appropriate, given his apparent skill. His face brightened, perhaps not so much from the compliment as from the offer; and as we talked of fishing and other things, a brogue revealed his roots to the salmon: From the highlands of Scotland, he retired to the Margaree Valley after a career in the RAF. Now active in the Atlantic Salmon Foundation, he was thoroughly involved in the enhancement of these great and noble fish. Perhaps to ameliorate my disappointment of going fishless, he owed that he also hadn't connected in his last several outings. But the fish were there, and to not pursue them

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would be, in his words, true negligence. As we finished off the flask, and spoke of other rivers and of our respective Air Force careers, I had to agree.

So I came away from the Miramiche and the Margaree without touching a salmon, much less a grilse. But somehow I didn't feel slighted. As most would agree: oftentimes, the experience can be almost as rewarding as the catching.

Rock Creek *By Hugh Clark*

Fran Wood and I and our spouses camped on the Dalles section of the river at the end of September. Beautiful water, hot weather and very spooky fish added to our sense of humility in the eyes of the Great Fisherman in the sky. Fran specialized in white fish and had several beauties! I managed to avoid the whitefish, landed two, four and then seven handsome cutts on successive days. My most rewarded terminal gear was a hare's ear or prince nymph fished behind a black or purple wooly bugger, swung through the white water riffles. The very hot weather seemed to keep the fish in the most aerated water. I always have challenging fishing on Rock Creek. Any one have any suggestions? Ornithologically we were charmed by osprey, eagle, stellar jay, and almost continuous sitings of water ousels, often singing their full melodious song.

Babine River, BC, Oct. 21 - 30

By Dave Wands

The day before leaving for the Babine, Olympia & Seattle experienced record setting torrential rainfalls, which flooded all of our local rivers, with the storm moving northward to British Columbia. When we arrived at the Silver Hilton, the river was a couple of feet above normal and visibility less than two feet which was rapidly disappearing. Our group managed to hook a few small fish despite the river conditions; however, aggressive commercial netting reduced the normal run by 75%, leaving mostly small steelhead. The following day we were greeted by cold temperatures and 5-6" of snow as the river continued to go "out". The next day's temperature warmed up to 34 degrees with some rain melting the heavy snow fall throughout the watershed, dropping the river temperature in four hours from 42 degrees to 37 which also raised the level 6 feet or more

with 0 visibility. Chris Travis (*by coincidence, a friend of mine from California—ed.*) landed a nice 22 1/2 pound double stripe buck that morning. Several of our group flew out early while the rest of us hung around the lodge reading, napping, playing poker and enjoying Trish's home cooked gourmet meals. A very disappointing trip, to say the least, with the worst catching record for the 9 week season.

Next year ?

Lakes Nunnally & Lenice, Oct.23-25 *By Dick Levinthal*

Dick Brening & I travelled east at the end of October for a perfectly timed trip. We had great weather, 65 degree air temp., 58 degree water temp., brilliant fall color, a new moon; what more could we ask for? Well, more fish!

Thurs., Oct. 23, arrived, and we started fishing Nunnally at about 3 pm. Wind and whitecaps were instantly evident. After 20-30 min. of vigorous leg exercise, we returned the 30' to our launching spot, and called it a day. Dick claimed to have caught a fish (before I arrived to see it), however.

Fri., Oct. 24 - Returned to Nunnally, and fished from 10am-5pm. Catching was very slow, for us and also for the 8 or 9 other flyfishers seen on the lake. I didn't even see any of the 5 apparent bait-fishers on the far shore land a fish, although, from a distance, one appeared to be carrying 4 large fish when he left. Eventually, in the afternoon, I caught a lethargic 18" RB on a black leech. The next 18" RB, however, fought like a steelhead, running halfway into the backing; and two subsequent RB's, 17" and 15", taken on a burgundy leech, also fought well, saving the day. Also lost two other fish, and caught a pumpkin-seed sunfish on the way to the take-out.

Sat., Oct. 25 - We tried Lenice, also for a 7 hour day, but again, fishing was slow for us and most of the other 9 or 10 anglers we saw on the lake, and again didn't see any of the 4 apparent bait fishers on shore land a fish. Used a chartreuse halfback, and other flies, in the shallows in the morning, usually a productive tactic for me, but didn't get a touch. In the pm, using a black leech with about 50' of sinking line out,

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finally caught a strong 18" RB, which ran into the backing, and then a feisty 12" RB which performed well and acrobatically. Played and lost two more, close to hand - about 18" and 16", and broke another off on the strike (hadn't checked the tippet after losing the previous fish), again making the trip worthwhile.

Editor's notes

WE NEED FLIES!

Here's a great way to contribute to the Holiday Auction--just tie up some of your favorite patterns, put them in a nice box, and voila! Instant raffle item!

Please bring them to the November meeting, or contact **Bill Kuper** so he can save a spot for them (billk@digitalfarm.com or 206-941-8056). Thanks!

Wanted: Photos for Christmas Party Slide Show!

If you have pictures of Club members involved in piscatorial pursuit, club activities, or embarrassing situations (with entertainment value), taken in the past year, please consider lending them for the annual slide show.

Prints, slides or digital photos may be sent to **Bill Kuper** (billk@digitalfarm.com), or given to Bill or myself at the November meeting.

Dick Levinthal

Fly Tier's Round Table *By Dick Brenning*

November Meeting: Wednesday, November 25, 2003, 7 to 9 PM.

The November meeting will be held on the 3rd Tuesday in order to avoid Thanksgiving eve. So come on Tuesday not Wednesday this month.

The project for the November meeting will be to tie flies for our club's Holiday Raffle. (Bill Kuper should like that!!!)

Walt Swanson has donated a large walnut wood fly box for us to fill. So please come and tie up a dozen or so of your favorite pattern(s).

You and your guests are welcome. Come to tie, watch or just share ideas.

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.

College Club Christmas Luncheon:

By Pete Baird

Here's your chance to make amends for all those fishing trips, or WFFC meetings you've been to, and invite your wife or special friend to our "Wednesday lunch bunch" gathering on Wednesday, December 3rd at the College Club. A buffet including salad, soup, roll, warm sliced meat (roast beef & pork), and your beverage choice of coffee, tea, or milk will be provided in our downstairs wet fly social area (or upstairs in the main dining area if our numbers exceed 50). Plan on arriving about 11:30 for social time with the buffet starting at noon. The cost will be \$16.00 per person and the room will be available to us until 1:30 PM.

We must provide our headcount to the College Club not later than Friday, November 21st. Please sign up at the meeting, phone me (206-232-7682), or email me at pedro_lynn@msn.com **no later than November 19**, the day following our regular meeting. The parking cost is \$2.00 per vehicle and plan to maximize ride pooling since available parking in the garage below is limited. Should you need help with transportation either make ride pool arrangements yourself or call me.

This is always a fun social event and an opportunity for the wives to interact and make new acquaintances. Hope to see you and your much better half at this festive gathering!!

Beginning Fly Tying Class

When: Thursday evening January 8th
Duration: 8 weeks
Location: Mercer Island Covenant Church
Time: 7PM to 9PM
Cost: \$30.00 for class and \$20.00 for DVD.

Students must provide tools and materials.
Kits are available to purchase.
Registration is required.
To register or to ask further questions call,
Don Simonson 206-932-4925

UNDERSTANDING THE CAST

By Don Simonson

ARTICLE #1

Fly casting like golf or tennis requires certain hand, wrist, arm, and shoulder motions to produce a good final product. In fly casting that final product is a nice narrow controlled loop of the fly line. When I attempt to learn a new physical motion I want to know **what** I must do, **why** I need to do it, and **how** I am going to do it.

The following next few editions of the Creel Notes will include this article entitled Understanding The Cast. So first lets discover the "what" in producing a nice narrow controlled loop. When I teach a beginning student to basics of fly casting I want that student to leave that first class with the following three points that I feel are absolutely essential in producing a narrow controlled loop.

- Remove the slack from the fly line before beginning the cast.
- Begin the cast with the rod tip pointed at the fly line, (either on the water, or on the grass), and move the rod tip in a straight line path.
- When moving the rod progressively accelerate the hand, arm, motion to an abrupt stop.

When I discuss substance and style issues

with fellow FFF Master Certified Instructors, and Casting Board of Governors we will not totally agree on the individual tasks that need to be accomplished to produce a nice narrow loop. The above three points are almost always agreed upon.

Next Month we will discuss "why" we need to execute these three tasks.

Don Simonson
FFF Master Certified Casting Instructor

Inland Fishes of Washington

Second Edition, Revised and Expanded

By Richard S. Wydoski and Richard R. Whitney

This new, updated, and greatly expanded edition of Inland Fishes of Washington (first published in 1979) describes all the known native and introduced fishes found in freshwater habitats of Washington Steate, including most of the fishes of Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia, giving balanced coverage to nearly everything that is known about the appearance, distribution, growth, reproduction, consumption, and survival of these fish. The book provides instruction on the basic methods of fish identification with keys, illustrations and photographs that bring together the traits and forms most useful in distinguishing species and subspecies. The authors have created a valuable reference for the general public, biologists, teachers, students, and environmentalists.

Boat with Trailer for Sale

By Jim McRoberts

16' aluminum drift boat made by Wooldridge. The boat is in excellent condition. Bottom protected by "Rhino Liner". Trailer is in good shape. \$2500.00
Call (425) 643-2743 or email:
jim4fish@comcast.net



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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Stamp
here

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's Speaker - Gil Nyerges

November is Heritage month, where we revisit and review some of the rich heritage and history of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. This year we are presenting a taped interview, produced by the WFFC, with Gil Nyerges. Come see Gil up close and personal.

