

Creel Notes from the



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



November, 2004

President's Riffle *By Jim McRoberts*

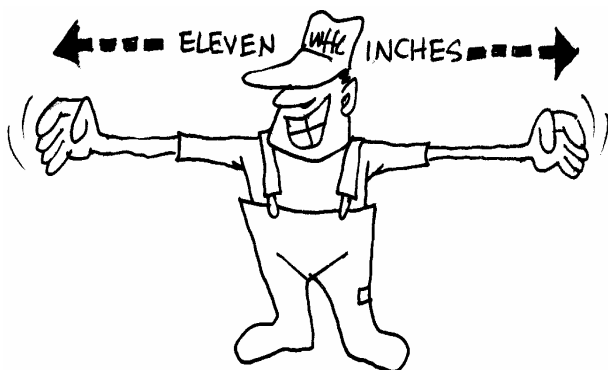
November is our heritage month and the program will reflect that theme. This is also the last program arranged for us by **"Captain" Keith Robbins**. He has provided us with a wide variety of excellent programs this year. I wish to acknowledge and compliment him on his outstanding job as our Second VP. We look forward to his fine ability to coax people out of their money at our live auction next month! Thank you **"Captain" Keith!**

We will vote for the candidates chosen to lead us for the next year. We extend a "well done" to the nominating committee for their efforts. Theirs is not an easy task. We welcome the new officers and trustees and we pledge our support to them for the new year.

The dark days of winter are approaching. There will be ice in the guides for those hardy souls who brave the elements for the next few months! There are searun cutthroat trout preparing to go up-

stream and still chums in the rivers and steelhead, the ultimate challenge, awaiting our attempts to entice them!

In another part of these *Creel Notes*, you will read about the trip **Scott Hagen** and I took earlier this month. Two memorable fish for me were: 1, a 25-inch bull trout that looked to have wounds from an eagle, two holes on one side of its back and one on the other (they were almost healed). 2, a 28-inch steelhead that took a big Chernobyl ant tied on a 4x long hook. I was walking down the edge of Snake River to pass around a big rock that was going to interfere with my next spey casts. The rock, about the size of an armchair, was one-rod length from shore half in and half out of three feet of clear water. I had my 12 feet of leader and 6-8 feet of line out of my rod. I just let the fly float in front of me as I walked the shoreline. As the fly approached the "pillow" of soft water upstream of the rock, out of the deep came a fine steelhead inhaled the fly and "the fight was on". It was the third fish I hooked that morning but the first "to hand"!



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CALL FOR FLIES

If you're stuck for auction donation ideas, here's an easy one-- tie up some flies! A dozen of your favorite patterns makes a great prize for some lucky winner. You don't even have to supply the box, as other members will be creating beautiful hand-made wooden boxes again this year. Send the flies to **Bill Kuper** at address above or to **Earl Harper** at his studios at the address on the donation form. Thanks, some lucky fisherman will appreciate it!

CALL FOR PHOTOS

Please submit your favorite fishing pics from the past year to include in the annual holiday slide show.

Photos from outings are great, but you are also welcome to submit your favorite fishing photo of you and/or your fish from any outing, even if it wasn't a WFFC one. We just want to see our members doing what they do best!

Digital form (JPEG, etc.) is highly preferred, but prints are ok too. Email the digitals to: billk@digitalfrm.com.

Please send prints to:

Bill Kuper

3931 Wallingford Ave. N.

Seattle, WA 98103

(or bring to the November meeting)



Beginning Fly Tying Class

Thursday January 6, 2005

Duration: 8 Weeks, every Thursday evening

Time: 7PM to 9PM

Place: Mercer Island Covenant Church, 3200 78th SE Mercer Island

Cost: \$30.00 base cost. \$20.00 for DVD

Registration: Required. To register or further questions call: **Don Simonson** 206-932-4925 or **Bob Birkner** 206-542-4623

Don Simonson, Education Chair

Creel Notes

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Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

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

Grande Ronde/Snake River, Oct. 28 - Nov. 3

By Scott Hagen

Jim (el presidente) McRoberts and I departed his house about noon on 10/27 to begin our adventure on the Grande Ronde and Snake rivers. We had an uneventful drive to La Grande, Oregon and checked into our motel. While wandering around town looking for the local Wal-Mart (the only place in town to buy a fishing license), I ran into Jennifer, my secretary from work back in 1990!! She had quit Boeing several years ago and moved to Imbler, a tiny town ten miles from La Grande. She and her husband fly fish regularly and she still has that great smile... it indeed is a small world. The evening ended with an excellent dinner in one of the local restaurants and then watching the eclipse of the moon and the Red Sox wrap up the World Series.

In the morning we drove to Minam, where we met the rest of our party and began a four day float and camp trip about forty river miles down the Grande Ronde. It was cold and rainy most of the time, the water temperature was 44 degrees and the catching was a little slow. Jim was the trip bull trout champ, landing several large fish. Every one of the six in our group landed steelhead on the last day of the float, and there were one or two were in the ten pound range, but I think everyone had a blank day during the trip, too. The food was excellent, but if I do that trip again, I'll bring more warm clothes and a warmer sleeping bag. We completed the float of the Grande Ronde on the 31st, about noon, getting out at a bridge near Troy. We had about an hour to spare to get to Heller Bar, Washington, located about two miles down stream from the confluence of the Snake and the Grande Ronde. We were picked up at 4:00 by Mike Smith in his gigantic jet boat and taken about nine miles upstream to the lodge. Jim and I have fished with Mike and his wife Gail for the last few years on the Deschutes, and our expectations were high. We were not disappointed, the fishing was good, with steelhead hooked every day, the food was outstanding and the scenery in Hell's Canyon was spectacular.



The water was much warmer, 58 degrees, and we rose a lot of fish with wading dry flies. I need a new superlative to describe the wildlife viewing. We saw three species of deer, lots of Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep, bald eagles, a golden eagle, wild turkeys, and many other critters. The adventure was finally over about noon on the 3rd of November, when we landed back at Heller Bar.

John Day River, Oct. 31 - Nov. 2

By Hugh Clark

Three days fishing on the John Day in early November were frustrating but finally produced a thirty inch steelhead on a swinging fly. The water level and clarity were about right but not many fish in the river yet. My son Tim also picked up a fish on an egg sucking leach. A week earlier four buddies fished two days in the same area and did not touch a fish. If I can tolerate the winter cold in north central Oregon, I will spend two more days on the river at the end of December.

Snake River, October 30-31

By Leland Miyawaki

I just walked through the door from my trip. The flight home from Spokane was cancelled last night at 9pm. It was the last flight out, so they had to put me up at a hotel for the night. I caught the 10:30 flight to Seatac this morning. I think Horizon cancelled the flight because they didn't have enough people on the Seattle-Spokane leg and it's cheaper to put 12 people up at a hotel.

I arrived Friday morning at ten in Spokane and my friend, Michael Mathis, picked me up at the airport. We dropped his boat (18 1/2', Alumaweld/inboard jet) off at the motel and fished the Clearwater across from the Casino as well as a new spot well above Orofino but didn't touch any fish. We stopped by to see Mike Cummins at Redshed Flyshop in Peck, Idaho, and made plans for he and Linda to join us for dinner Saturday night at El Sombrero. I found out that Mike and I were both from Garden Grove, California. Linda, by the way, was born and has lived most her life in Orofino.

Saturday, Bob McCurdy, a friend of Mathis' and a guy who used to work at the now defunct Blue Dun flyshop in Spokane, joined us for breakfast at Rusty's Ranch Cafe and fished the Snake with us. Mathis and I each hooked up and lost a fish in a run they call the "classroom" because Bill Marts used to give casting/fishing lesson there. Later in the afternoon, I landed a 34" wild buck in the water across from a run I usually fish when driving that took me

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well into my backing a couple times.

Sunday, Mathis and I each hooked a fish in another non-descript run that is identical to the "barking dog" run except it is on the other side of the river. Mathis landed his and mine came unbuttoned. We were minutes from having a double. Later in the afternoon just before we had to leave to get me to the airport, I found a "nest" of rolling fish in the same place I had taken the big buck Saturday. We each pulled a fish out before I put them down with my waker.

All in all, the Snake came through big-time. We fished floating lines, long leaders and low water patterns. I went three for five and two of us totaled five for eight. We fished mostly on the "other" side of the river. The water temp was 55 degrees and the weather was sunny, windy and pissy - typical.

Seabeck, October 22-23

By Joe Decuir

Editor's Note: Joe is an applicant and not a member. He went fishing a week ago with Jay Deeds and Dave Round and this is his report.

I got lucky a year ago. **Dave Round** took me to the 2003 WFFC Christmas party. He bought a lot of raffle tickets, and split them with me. One of mine won prizes: a club jacket, a club shirt, some gear and a fishing trip to Hood Canal with **Jay Deeds**.

Dave & I met Jay at Barbie's Cafe in Seabeck WA on Hood Canal on a Friday in late October. Great Lunch! Try the seafood crepes.

More luck: a storm front had just passed through, leaving calm water at high tide. Jay took us to the southern tip of the Toandas Peninsula. We cruised and cast flies. After a while, we got some action: 7 cutthroats caught and released. There were many more that we didn't land. We also tried Stavis Bay.

More luck: we stayed overnight at Jay's. We were well fed by Betsy & Jay. At the crack of dawn Saturday, we started at Big Beef creek. Soon we returned to the Toandas, cruising up to Zelatched Point. In a busy morning, we landed 17 more cutts, and lost nearly as many. The largest measured 16". We ignored the Coho jumping nearby. Most of the fish were caught on Jay Deeds' flies, modeled after a "Puget Sound Sand Lance".

Final luck: Saturday morning the weather stayed nice with sun breaks. The rain didn't return until we left the second lunch at Barbie's.

New Books by Club Members

By Bob Young

Washington Fly Fishing Club members **Steve Raymond** and **Les Johnson** have authored new books that have been recently published.

Steve's book was recently reviewed in the Seattle Times by Craig Welch who reports on environmental issues for the paper. The reviewer notes that the book, titled "Blue Upright: The Flies of a Lifetime", is a how-to guide for tying 11 of Steve's favorite patterns, but also "serves as a mini-memoir" by relating uses for those flies and taking the reader "through portions of the history of his sport and of his own predominantly Northwest angling life".

Mr. Welch, the reviewer, emphasizes that Steve's book really is about fishing and feels that readers should be thankful that such books "are still being written by fishermen like Raymond".

* * * * *

Les' new book, "Fly-Fishing Coastal Cutthroat Trout - Flies, Techniques, Conservation" was recently published by Frank Amato Publications, Inc. This is Les' second cutthroat book and includes a much broader approach than his first book published in 1971. This new publication covers the entire coastal cutthroat range from Alaska to Northern California. Most every body of water where coastal cutts roam is discussed, whether they contain anadromous or resident populations. Some readers will gain new knowledge regarding some cutthroat's fluvial and ad-fluvial life histories.

I know Les intentionally set out to write a book that would not be just another "how to" instruction manual. He has succeeded. This book is mainly about the fish - where they live, how they live, their history, their present, and what steps are and should be taken to help ensure their future.

To flesh out the 'fly-fishing' aspect of the book, there are chapters titled "Fly-Fishing in Fresh Water" and "Fly-Fishing in Salt Water." The "Coastal Cutthroat Flies" chapter has pictures, histories, recipes, and anecdotal comments by the tiers of over 100 productive patterns (there are no tying instructions, so you are on your own).

Several WFFC club members submitted fly patterns, photos or comments which are included in the book.

We have received a membership application and conducted interviews for David Ehrich. We will vote on David during the upcoming meeting on Nov. 16th.

David Ehrich

Sponsors - **Dave Schorsch** and **Larry Karlovich**
Wants to serve on Creel Notes Committee.

David grew up in Indianapolis and caught his first catfish in the canal around 1964. After college (BA - Lawrence University, 1979), he moved to Discovery Bay and found some old cane fly rods in the garage. He asked a friend to take him out "fly fishing" and they walked up Snow creek and caught a fingerling. David's friend also mentioned there was something to be learned about casting. Later, David took a long trip through the Sierras and caught dinner off a stick with line tied on it. Later that trip he saw a fly-fisher making beautiful casts and thought that it might be good to learn how to do it right and that fly fishing might be a good diversion while hiking. That next spring, David took our WFFC casting class at Greenlake, and the rest is history.

David's first and consistent love is back country fly fishing. He loves the small streams and mountain lakes. Most of his initial equipment purchases were designed to take on a backpack. His gear on this past summers hike in the Pasayten was condensed to 2.3 lbs. of gear which netted over 200 fish, fed he and his friends a few nights and led to hours of wonderful meditative time on beautiful water. David has added big rivers, float tubing, drifting and the like to his repertoire since then with equipment to match. He's worked big water for steelhead and other salmon. But in the end, David still likes a short rod on little water. It doesn't hurt that the mountain trout haven't seen a million casts.

David has two children, Faye in college and Anastasia, a senior at Roosevelt. He's been married for 22+ years and lives on Phinney Ridge. David says that, "I've taught nearly as many years as I have been married and I suspect I am a career teacher. One can't scoff at three weeks of fishing in Montana every summer, a long hike or two and local rivers in the middle of the week."

November Program: Steve Raymond, The WFFC Heritage

Steve Raymond was born in Bellingham, Washington, graduated from the University of Washington in 1962 with a degree in journalism, worked at the Seattle World's Fair, then served as a Navy officer before starting a 30-year career as a reporter, editor, and manager at The Seattle Times. He edited a Times series that won the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for feature writing. He retired from the newspaper in 1993.

A lifelong fly fisherman, Raymond has fished all over the Pacific Northwest and abroad. He is author of eight books about fly fishing, including Kamloops, an Angler's Study of the Kamloops Trout; The Year of the Angler; The Year of the Trout; Backcasts, a History of the Washington Fly Fishing Club, 1939-1989; Steelhead Country; The Estuary Fly-fisher, Rivers of the Heart and Blue Upright.

Raymond's second book, The Year of the Angler, was chosen by the American Booksellers Association for special presentation to the White House Library. Raymond also has received the Federation of Fly Fishers' Roderick Haig-Brown Award for Literary Excellence and his books were twice honored with the Governor's Award at the Washington State Festival of the Arts.

Raymond has served as president of the Washington Fly Fishing Club, Seattle; vice president of the Museum of American Fly Fishing, Manchester, Vt., and secretary of the Federation of Fly Fishers. He is a former editor of the Federation's magazine, The Flyfisher, and founding editor of Fly Fishing in Salt Waters magazine. His writing also has been published in several fly-fishing anthologies and numerous periodicals, including Sports Illustrated, and his reviews of fishing books have appeared in several different publications over a period of more than 30 years.

Raymond and his wife, Joan, make their home on Whidbey Island.

IT'S PARTY TIME AGAIN!

Yep, the time is upon us again for the Washington Fly Fishing Club's annual Holiday Dinner, our biggest party of the year!

This party, which "replaces" our December meeting, takes place on Tuesday, December 21st. 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 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, 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 Prime Rib or Salmon, a very well-stocked (no-host) bar, and various bits of entertainment to keep things lively.

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 these 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 SELL-OUT! As an incentive to get your reservations in early, *the price goes up by \$5 per person if received 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. If

you tie, just tying up a dozen of your best flies would make a great contribution. 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!

It is important that donation items be received by December 7th to ensure they get packaged and prepared nicely for the big event. Earl Harper has offered his studio space again for storage, so if it is a large item, please send directly there if possible, *but let me know what is being sent by sending a copy of the donation form to my address (not Earl's). Please see the enclosed flyer and donation form for instructions.*

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'll all have a good time!

Please let me know how you can help by contacting me at the email, phone number, or address below:

3931 Wallingford Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
email: billk@digitalfarm.com
phone: 206-545-9350 (leave message)

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

Bill Kuper

1st Vice-President/Holiday Party Chair
Washington Fly Fishing Club



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

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here

Meeting Announcement
Nov. 16th, 2004



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 months presentation will be by long time WFFC member and noted author Steve Raymond. His topic will be Washington Fly Fishing Club Heritage. For more on Steve, see page 5.