

# Creel Notes from the



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



November, 2007



## President's Riffle

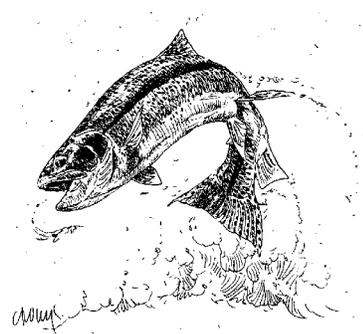
I hope you can attend our dinner meeting this month - several reasons make this an important meeting not to miss. First, our Nominating Committee will be presenting their list of nominees to hold office in 2008. Your participation in this process ensures that the incoming leadership of your club has your support and is enthusiastic about moving the club forward. Second, fellow member **Cam Sigler** will deliver a program that will engage us on the pursuit of some of the biggest game fish to be taken on a fly - billfish. Don't miss it. Finally, this will be our last "regular" meeting at The College Club of Seattle. Yes, the Christmas Party will be held there as well, but this is the month we say goodbye to The College Club of Seattle as our hosts for many years of dinner meetings, board meetings, and Christmas parties.

A reminder to get your reservation into **Craig Koeppler** for the Christmas Party. Remember that there is a limit to the number of seats the College Club can accommodate, so get your registration in early and be assured of a seat. Craig has assembled an outstanding collection of items for auction and raffle - maybe this is my year to win....Also, I want to express my apology to those members who were disappointed with the invitation that was handed out at the last dinner meeting because it did not refer to the December dinner meeting as the Christmas Party. As a club last year we voted to have the official name of the December meeting be the Christmas Party. We have discussed this as a Board and are confident that this will not happen again.

Finally, kudos to our website committee headed by **Kris Kristoferson** with able assistance from **Roger Rohrbeck**. They have recently added a "members-only"

area that is filled with useful club information. Missed your roster? Now you can go to the members area and get up-to-date contact information on every member. There's even an update form you can use to update/change your roster information. Additionally, you'll find information on club officers, club bylaws, operating procedures, and, soon, an inventory of the library that will allow you to request books, periodicals, and videos from our librarian, **Michael Wearne**. If you're having trouble getting access, contact **Roger Rohrbeck** at [rrohrbeck@comcast.net](mailto:rrohrbeck@comcast.net). Roger, specifically, has been instrumental in making this happen, so next time you see him, please say "thanks".

Tight lines,  
**John Schuitemaker**



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## Upcoming Events

The biggest event of the year is just around the corner: the WFFC Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 18th. Please find enclosed the reservation form, and mail it in!

Check out the auction items that you will be able to bid on at the party—in the sneak preview on page 6. And please read the notice to all WFFC fly tiers below.

## WFFC Fly Tier's Round Table *by Dick Brening*

December is a busy time with holidays and lots of family activities. However, we are still planning to have a fly tier's round table. A fly pattern has not yet been selected. So, I will announce that selection at the November dinner meeting and also in my December reminder e-mail. If you are not on the distribution list, please call or e-mail me, and I will be glad to add your name.

The round table will be on the 2nd Wednesday, December 12th, 7 to 9 pm. 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.

## WFFC Fly Tiers:

Again this year we are planning to have handcrafted wooden fly boxes and club member-tied flies as a featured part of the raffle at the WFFC Christmas Party. The boxes are completed and we now need to fill them with flies. I have 19 boxes to fill and have received flies from only five tiers so far. So, we need your help to complete the job.

Many of you contributed flies in past years. Please consider doing so again this year. If you can bring yours to the November dinner meeting, both **Craig Koeppler** and I will sleep a lot better this next month.

## Mike's Contact Information

As John Schuitemaker mentioned in the President's Riffle, the new members-only section of the WFFC Web site will soon provide you with an inventory that you will be able to use to request books, periodicals, and videos from our librarian, **Michael Wearne**. When that happens, you may need Mike's new contact information: his work phone is now 425-265-2240 and his work e-mail is now [MWearne@frontierbank.com](mailto:MWearne@frontierbank.com).

## Creel Notes

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### Trustees

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Mike Wearne '07 Ed Sozinho '07

### 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.

# REPORTS

**On the Fly** by David Ehrich

Oct. 16, 2007

**John Schuitemaker** opened the October meeting after a half hour non-stop assault on the salad bar by a full crowd there to hear the night's program by Brian O'Keefe. (I won't list all the rarely seen faces, to protect the innocent.) Introductions of valued guests ranged from young fellows 'smoked out' at the Smoker to long-time members of other clubs. One guest reputedly still dates the former girlfriend of his sponsor, **Keith Robbins**, proving that fishing is more important than women, anytime, anywhere.

At the meeting, **Les Johnson** introduced **Chris Bentson**, who'd been a member for a year and a half. Chris reminded Les that he had served as one of his sponsors. No one knows the penalty for that infraction. **Perry Barth** introduced a man who needs no introduction, who fished with all the charter members of the WFFC, who turns 100 this winter: **Frank Headrick**. Frank received a richly deserved standing ovation. Several potential new members were introduced as well, voting to follow.

## Fishing Reports

Fishing reports started with a penalized Ghillie who failed to identify himself, and no one heard his report about Humpies on the Stilly amid the guffaws. We also heard about men's rooms in West Yellowstone (no foot tapping allowed) and big steelhead in Canadian waters. Several club members fished the Grande Ronde and Clearwater to some effect in low water. Fish deep is the advice.

A couple of us hit Rock Creek in Montana to good effect, along with other Montana waters. A couple regulars fished over "tens of thousands" of pinks, but no hook ups were mentioned. Western waters featured good luck on secret lakes, sea-run Cutthroat, and loads of Coho waiting to get up river. **Dyche Kinder** got a 40 lb. King to jump, but not into a net. Big fish were had in Rocky Ford, some measuring in the high 20's. Les tried to redeem himself with a fishing report that involved some name-dropping, a six-year timeline, a cast of characters,

and wild Coho in the surf. Perry took 47 fish in a lake that **Chuck Ballard** will reveal only under duress.

## Committee Reports

Committee reports started with **Pete Baird** who kept us up to date on the trials and tribulations of various members. **Walt Walkinshaw** is recovering from a broken neck that will make club visits hard to make for some time. **John Williams'** wife is recovering nicely from some health complications. **Gil Nyerges**, who joined us tonight with a smile on his face, is back up to speed from his back surgery.

**Pat Peterman** led the vote on two members, and inducted **Robert Tovar** and **Paul Lesh** into the club. They got the usual warning along with some lovely flies.



*Robert Tovar and Paul Lesh with their sponsors*

**Dick Brening** gave us the first look at a beautiful box of flies to be presented to Reel Recovery. The next roundtable will work on Steelhead flies.

**Ron Dion** reminded members of outings, including a rare opening on the Methow. WETBUNS, at Penrose SP, came off on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Hope you brought plenty to wear and some firewood.

**Doug Schaad** gave us the highlights of a busy Conservation Committee. Members should look out for information regarding the potential to dam Crab Creek into a 26-mile warm water fishery. This spells very bad news for the chain of lakes near Crab Creek's outlet. Other news included bad news for returning Coho in the South Sound. In case you hadn't noticed it, Doug has forwarded us many solicita-

tions for comment. He reminds us to avoid cutting and pasting his comments into ‘your’ letter, but instead he recommends you write original comments based on your experience. Finally, John Townsell received special commendation for his efforts on the Stilly clean up where he turned his Benz into a trash hauler.

### The Speaker

**Keith Robbins** introduced Brian O’Keefe, whose first visit to our club coincided with a Seattle Pilots win streak. O’Keefe currently faces under-employment and rises to this challenge with new water every day this week. He took a moment off his fishing tour to tell us about fishing Pacific salmon. He nodded to the expertise of the audience and admitted the program was less instructional than inspirational. For those of you unfamiliar with O’Keefe’s work, know that he starts with beautiful photographs, mixes in some local fire water, and spices the cocktail with a great sense of humor.



*Brian O’Keefe in his element*

Starting in Tofino and moving north, O’Keefe gave us hints on good flies and casting techniques for the waters off Vancouver Island. He told us about lodges with great accommodations, helicopter rides, brand new boats, and fish galore. Next we got some beautiful photos from SE Alaska. We also got to salivate over some lovely crab served with Chardonnay. He shared wolf tracks and evidence of grizzlies near Kodiak Island, and ended with more lovely shots of big, bright silvers.

### Dry Falls Outing *by Ron Dion*

The fishing, participation, and weather were all very good at this autumn’s WFFC outing. There were 25-30 folks enjoying the potluck dinner held for the first time at the new Bretz campground at Sun Lakes State Park. This campground was a new addition a couple years ago. It is located beyond where we previously had WFFC gatherings—just follow the road to your left, go up the hill, and then go beyond the main maintenance buildings. There is a covered shelter with three tables together for group gatherings. One of the reasons for selecting this option was the fact that the state park has all-new tables that are staked to the ground and not movable, so we could only have a single table at a site where we previously gathered.

Everyone caught fish at Dry Falls. Most of the trout were in the 12" to 15" range, with a few in the 19" to 21" range. Each of the three days I fished, my catch included at least one of the large fish, one being a 20" brown. In three days I observed no hatch activity. Fish were mostly caught subsurface or on the bottom. My most consistent fly was the black mini-leech pattern I learned from **Jim McRoberts** last year.

The water level was the lowest I’ve seen. Jack Crowley was unable to row his canoe down the shallow west arm. Shortly after taking the following photo of Jack in his canoe, he hooked a large rainbow but was not successful in hanging onto it for a photo. If you were not there, you missed probably the best fishing at Dry Falls in many years.



*Jack Crowley on Dry Falls Lake*

## **Yakutat AK 2007** by *Bob Young*

In mid-September a number of WFFC members made their annual trip to southeast Alaska to fish for silver salmon. This year the group consisted of the usual suspects: **Jerry Sugamele, Dave Wands, Perry Barth, Don Simonson, Chuck Bolander, and John Thompson**. Some of the newer guys or folks who have not been regulars of late included **Jim Higgins, Jim Weaver, Doug Donaldson**, and me.

Again this year, as was the case last year, the fishing was only so-so. Only a few coolers came home laden with fillets. Even though the commercial nets were out for some of the days we were there, this did not increase the catch rate by a large degree.

Let me set the stage. The primary destination is the Situk River. This is a relative short river; I'm estimating its length at about 15 miles. The more specific spot is the "Geezer" hole, so called because one has to have achieved the age of 60 to fish this stretch of river. This spot is located about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the surf, but more like  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the actual mouth due to the circuitous path of the estuary. Most of this length is netted by commercials. The "Geezer" hole in past years was a terrific spot with a nice bar (gravel) and easy access, with room for both gear and fly fishers. The past couple of years though have found the "hole" filling in with gravel and not providing "holding" water for the fish. The fish just seem to pass on by with only a hook-up or two.

One can hike upriver for several miles, but if there are a lot of fish, there are also a lot of fishermen as this is "open" water. **Don Simonson** made this trek one day, but it was in vain as there were very few fish.

Another option is the Lost River, which runs parallel to the Situk about two miles away. The Lost is crossed on the way to the Situk and can be heavily fished. This year it was VERY heavily fished due to the shortage of fish in the Situk. The Lost and the Situk join right at a spot where they break through the sand beach to open salt water. The fish entering the Lost do not encounter many nets before entering the river and I think this allowed for more fish there. The shortage of fish in the Situk and availability of fish on the Lost made it a popular destination. Even after hiking a mile or more down river one needed his own rock to fish from.

Several in the group took the opportunity to fly out to some other waters. For some this was productive and for others not so good. On one occasion there were too many people and on others the fish didn't

cooperate. **Jim Higgins** hooked perhaps 12 to 15 fish and didn't get even one to hand. Others came back with limits of four fish and others came back skunked.

**John Thompson** related an interesting story. He was hooked to a nice fish that ran downstream and soon the line was not moving. As he was trying to figure how to free the fish, another fisherman gave him just the advice he needed as the same thing had happened to him earlier. He said, "Just wade out there and poke your rod around that branch, then work over this way and clear that snag there". John followed his directions and soon had his fish running free and eventually to hand.

On two occasions several guys went out on a charter in search of halibut. One group came back with a nice fish and I seem to recall a couple of silvers were also landed. The other group came up with only one silver, credited to Perry because he was closest to the rod and picked it up and landed the fish. They also encountered a whole lot of dogfish.

One day at the "Geezer" hole, after everybody else had left and only some of our group remained, Perry pointed out to me as we sat on a nearby log, that the only four guys fishing were all members of the Washington Fly Fishing Club and that ALL were using gear. If you query me at the next meeting, I will reveal their names unless....

## **At Reel Recovery** by *Pete Baird*

"Buddies", fishing buddies, is what we were called, those of us from the WFFC who gathered at Suncadia on October 17 & 18 for men in the recovery cycle from cancer (Reel Recovery). I'm sure others will want to elaborate on that experience and the good work put in by **Kris Kristoferson** to help make that event possible. From my standpoint it was, as they say, an "Over the Top" experience! I missed it last year, but heard nothing but great comments from those who attended. I'm sure glad I got to attend this year.

What I want to contribute is a little of the background associated with our fly tying round tables prior to the event taking place. At the October general meeting, attendees got to see the beautiful fly box constructed by **Dick Brening**, and its contents collected primarily from round table events held earlier in the year. Our last round table held on October 10 was well-attended, and the church pastor stopped by to observe the tying activity and shoot the breeze. We told him about our upcoming Reel Recovery event and showed the gift fly box to him. At that point he disap-

peared, and then reappeared shortly thereafter with a poem in hand (typical of what he creates at the drop of a hat). That poem appears below and was read by one of the Real Recovery staff guys following our closing lunch at Suncadia.

Please consider joining us for future round table events, typically on the 2nd Wednesday of the month!

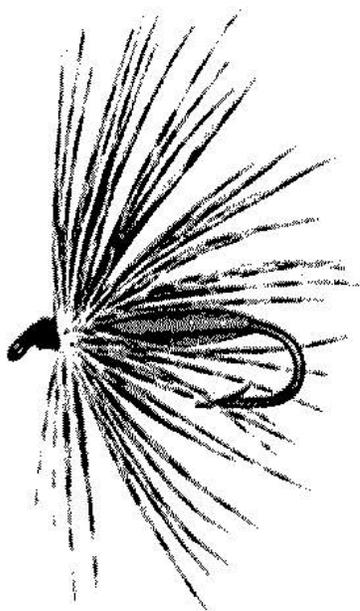
### **A Fellowship of Fly Tiers** by Greg Asimakoupoulos

You meet to tie what look like flies.  
Good golly guys, you're great.  
I almost hear your insects buzz.  
You're skilled at stitching bait.

The twelve of you and what you do  
remind me of some guys  
who loved to fish and learn the ways  
of One who was quite wise.

They were a team. They had a dream.  
To fish, have fun and serve.  
They helped the sick and those with needs.  
They had a lot of nerve.

And so my wish for you who fish  
and tie your flies for bait,  
is that you live like Jesus' guys  
and make our good world great.



## **Christmas Party 2007 - Sneak Preview of Auction Items**

Get a load of some of the items we will auction off at the Christmas party. See you there!

### **Live Auction Short List**

- Custom, hand-built, sleek wooden pram by Steve Sunich. Beautiful!
- Andros Island Bonefishing by Andrew Bennett. Fabulous!
- Paella dinner for 5 – 6 couples during three-hour cruise aboard 72' luxury yacht. Ed and Earl included. Build a syndicate of couples now!
- Chase SRC's on the salt with Les Johnson and Steve Rohrbach aboard the 18' Parker (HMS Clarki Clarki). Pre-function - tie SRC patterns with Les and Steve in the Les Johnson tying domain. Exquisite!
- Member paintings, flies by a famous tier in shadow box built by a famous WFFC member. Amazing!
- Relax in the Oregon coastal residence of the Schaad family during the heart of the March steelhead migration. Sweet!
- More!

### **Silent Auction and Raffle Short List**

- Martini party for six – Keith Robbins and Tini Bigs
- Guided float trip in Montana
- Schuitemaker float trip on the Yak
- Worley Bugger float trip – Yak or Click
- British Columbia stillwater excursions (2)
- Great gear by local fly shops and manufacturers
- Golf weekend in Suncadia by Bill Kuper
- Dinner for four at Steelhead Diner
- Custom, hand-built fly boxes by Dick Brenning, filled with flies (the boxes, not Dick)
- Much, much more!

## D-Day Remembered:

### Hu Riley on Omaha Beach *by Bob Young*

In the Sunday, June 6, 2004, edition of the Seattle Times, reporter Ray Rivera wrote: "For decades, Huston Riley has quietly held the belief that he was the soldier shown struggling through the surf in a famous D-Day photograph. The grainy black and white image, taken by Life magazine photographer Robert Capa, conveyed at once terror and courage, and came to represent the collective will of the nameless GIs who stormed Normandy that day 60 years ago.

Life didn't identify the soldier, but Riley's mother instantly recognized the sharp nose, the angled chin. It was her son."

For the full text of this fascinating story and photo, go to: [http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2001949047\\_dday06m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2001949047_dday06m.html).

This year, on November 7<sup>th</sup>, the Mercer Island Reporter revisited and updated the story. It read: "Huston Riley is a D-Day hero. More than 60 years ago, this quiet, unassuming grandfather risked his life with thousands of others on Normandy's shores in France during the largest amphibious assault of World War II." The famous photo was captured by photo-journalist Robert Capa and titled "American soldier landing on Omaha Beach, D-Day, June 1944."

Huston "Hu" Riley, 86, has been a WFFC member since 1951, having been sponsored by some fellow named Holbrook. He resides on Mercer Island.

According to the Reporter article, a 30-by-30 foot replica of the picture is now on display in New York City at the International Center of Photography's museum exhibit titled "This is War! Robert Capa at Work". Hu and his wife Charlotte recently visited the exhibit where he was acknowledged as the soldier in the photo.

The article goes on to relate how Hu's landing craft was stranded many yards from the beach. He had to enter the water that was quite deep and struggle toward shore with German bullets striking all about. Hit several times but not seriously injured until he reached shore where he was struck seriously in the shoulder. He remembers being pulled out of the water by a sergeant and a photographer who turned out to be Capa.

The article notes that Hu participated in the North African campaign and the invasion of Sicily prior to D-Day. After recuperating from his D-Day wounds,

he was later wounded during the Battle of the Bulge.

Hu's story reminds us of the sacrifices our servicemen and women have made and are making today.

We owe them all a great debt of gratitude.

## In Memoriam

### John Charette

WFFC member **John Charette** passed away on August 20<sup>th</sup>. John's sister-in-law Karen Langham, who informed us of John's passing, mentioned that John held the club and its members in high esteem. She mentioned that John considered the time that he spent with us at the meetings and on outings as "high points in his life", and that he often spoke of club members with "great affection and respect". She thanked those of us "who knew John and who went that extra mile to take him under your wing to teach and inspire him in the ways of fish, and of men."

### Annette Klosterman

On a sad and tragic note, it has been learned that club member Jim Klosterman's daughter Annette was killed recently in a plane crash in central Minnesota. Annette, 22, who was a flying instructor, and her student both perished in the crash. The club has responded with a sympathy note and flowers.





Washington Fly Fishing Club  
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www.wffc.com

Stamp  
here

November, 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: Cam Sigler – Billfish on the Fly**

Cam Sigler is a skilled billfish fisherman, a silhouette, a man in a broadbrimmed hat, and a WFFC member. Come hear him speak on billfish fishing.