

Creel Notes from the



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



November, 2008



President's Riffle

Fellow Fly Fishermen,

The rivers are blowin' out, the seemingly-endless winter gray has set in... it must be November in Seattle. Any day now we'll see video on the evening news of the

chum flopping their way across some field flooded by the Skokomish. We're in that transition zone between fall and winter -- a time for change.

Change is heavy in the air everywhere these days. No matter your political leanings, it is hard not to be amazed at what transpired earlier this month in our presidential election. I'm hopeful that the change will be positive for the country, for my children, for the environment, for the fish. What else can I be? I'm a fisherman, and therefore an optimist by nature.

November also brings us change in the club leadership. At this month's meeting the nominating committee that you selected back in September will be providing their recommendations for the 2009 slate of officers and trustees. Come be a part of the process, and also come hear about the latest innovations being wrought by the fine rodmakers at Sage, as their leading guru, Jerry Siem, will be making a rare public speaking appearance for us.

Many of you may have already received notice that *Red Gold* will be screened at the Seattle Art Museum the Wednesday after our meeting, the 19th, at 6:00 pm. The showing is free and open to the public. *Red Gold* is of course the film that we had a peek at earlier this spring when Travis Rummel spoke to the club, and provides a look at the issues surrounding the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska. I'm guessing the turnout will be good, so get there early. If you haven't learned about this issue yet, you haven't been paying attention, so here

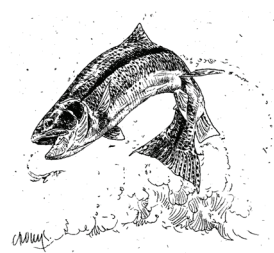
are some links to help you:

www.savebristolbay.org
www.redgoldfilm.com

Finally, this is (yet another) reminder to get your reservations for the Christmas Party in as soon as possible, if you haven't already. We anticipate a sellout again this year, even with the higher ticket prices. Craig Koeppler and his team are planning another stellar evening that you won't want to miss, with music, tremendous food, and wonderful goods for auction and raffle.

Until then, tight lines (and wet buns) to all,

Bill Kuper



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November WFFC Meeting

Jerry Siem: A Firsthand Look at Modern Fly Rod Design

by Keith Robbins, 2nd Vice President

Jerry began fly fishing in his preteen years in eastern Minnesota and migrated west to guide on the rivers of Idaho, Montana, and Alaska. He began working at Will Godfrey's original fly shop on the Henry's Fork and developed a talent for building rods that outperformed others. His first salt-water experience came in the mid '70's while tarpon fishing with a hefty fiberglass rod aboard Captain Ralph Delph's Vitamin Sea. The lure of salt water soon led Jerry to Belize, Baja, the Bahamas, Christmas Island, and up and down the east and west coasts of the U.S. In the Keys he once caught a permit and bonefish on modern graphite rods and completed the grand slam with a 90-pound tarpon caught on a cane rod that he had designed specifically for the task! He was the on-site casting consultant for Tom Skerritt, Brad Pitt, and Craig Scheffer in the movie "A River Runs Through It." Jerry Siem is known as one of the finest fly casters on the planet and lives in Washington State, where he is the resident rod designer for Sage.

2008 Club Awards Reminder

by Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

Our awards ceremonies will be coming up in January. If you have any suggested nominees, please contact me or any other member of the Awards Committee by this month's general members meeting. The other Awards 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 (last presented for the year 2006), 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.

Also, if you want to be considered for a Gold Button Certificate for a fish caught between December 15, 2007, and December 14, 2008, you need to submit an application to me by December 31, 2008. Thank you.

Creel Notes

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Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
5. To encourage and assist others — particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.

Washington Fly Fishing Club 69th Annual Christmas Party & Fundraiser

Please join us for some great food and drink, raffles, silent and live auction, and good cheer! It all takes place on December 16, 2008, at the Seattle Tennis Club. Note the following:

- Guests are welcome.
- Dinner cost is \$65 per person.
- Includes your choice of prime rib or salmon entree.
- Also includes two tickets for the drinks of your choice.
- Full bottles of wine are available for purchase.
- Lots of great raffle items, silent and live auction.
- Festivities begin at 5:30 pm, dinner at 7:00pm.
- Hurry! Seating is limited!
- Sign up online -- no checks to write or stamps to lick!
- You can also download the mail-in form:
www.wffc.com/members.php.

2008 Christmas Party Sneak Preview

by Craig Koeppler

Our annual fundraiser is arriving quickly, members.

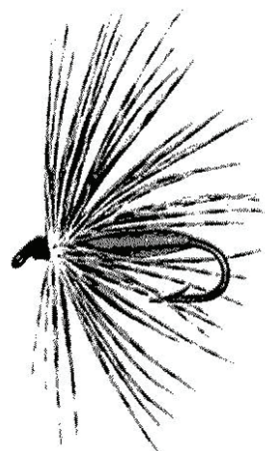
For each of you graciously donating your dozen flies to the artful fly boxes handcrafted by Dick Brening, please bring those flies to the next meeting and hand them off to me or to Chuck Ballard. To those of you who wish to donate a personal article of good quality equipment, gear, art work, an overnight condominium stay, or restaurant visit, please let me know as early as possible.

We have a very nice array of raffle, silent auction, and live auction items this year. Here's a sneak preview:

- The Sozinho and Harper paella dinner returns aboard a luxury 72' yacht
- Deneki Outdoors and Andrew Bennett, offering outstanding world-class fishing, will be your host on arrival at the Alaska West Lodge on the Kanektok River.

- A day's guided saltwater fishing for two is offered by Keith Robbins. A celebrity guest will be in attendance.
- Your steelhead thirst will be slaked on the Oregon coastal streams. Afterward, relax in the comfort of the Schaad beachfront home near Lincoln City, Oregon.
- Fine watercolor artwork will be offered by our own Kris Kristoferson.
- A selection of flies tied by Enos Bradner and framed by Gil Nyerges will be a true collector's treasure for the lucky purchaser.
- A framed selection of Pacific Salmon flies tied by Bill Nelson, Preston Singletary, and Art Limber will be offered. All of the flies were tied and photographed for Les Johnson's most recent authoritative work on Pacific Salmon. Included, a signed hard-bound copy of Les' "Fly Fishing for Pacific Salmon II."

Many other fine donations of lodging, gear from Sage and Simms, and guided trips will be offered in raffle and silent auction packages, as well. Come celebrate with us on December 16th. Reservations are going quickly, members. Mail in your checks or create your reservation on the WFFC web-site. To all of you who have provided or arranged donations, thank you!





Fishing Report: Snake, Grande Ronde, and Clearwater Rivers *by Scott Hagen*

Yakima River, November 2nd, 2008

by Craig Koeppler

The Home Waters Committee has been working diligently to reach an agreement with owners of the Yakima River RV Park. An agreement will provide WFFC members access to a significant stretch of the Yakima River. Access to this stretch of river is an opportunity not to be missed. Work upriver.

Fall colors had peaked about a week earlier, judging by my last hunting trip to eastern Washington. Still, the cottonwoods and poplars contrasted nicely with a patchy blue sky. The air temperature was a comfortable 47°, and the river was a pleasant, short walk from the parking area.

This time of year can be special for wading anglers. River flows are low enough to allow safe crossings in many spots. I was able to fish river right and river left for at least the mile and ½ that I waded upriver. Several log jams deposited by stronger flows discourage boat traffic through this stretch. The only souls walking the river that day were me, my friend, and two dogs who bounced through the brush with incredible ease.

The air and water temperatures combined that day to stifle any hatches. While I am not an accomplished nymph fisher, I've set a goal to become a more accomplished sub-surface river fisher. Guys who can river-fish nymphs successfully catch lots of fish, I've noticed. A large hair-wing October Caddis became my indicator and a bead head emerging October Caddis, my dropper. Grease up that indicator. **Simonson** tells me the technical term for indicator fishing is now FSD – "fly suspension device". Sure, I'll go with that.

The technique works well, many of you know, I'm sure. Six nice rainbows touched my hands. The only problem I found was foul hooking. Two of the six temporary detainees were foul hooked, one on the indicator and one on the dropper. Hmmm.

Everyone should go fish the potential Home Waters location. The upstream stretch is lovely, without a house or a road in sight for miles. The water is friendly, bank-to-bank wadable in fall (maybe in spring), and holds good fish.

Jon Williams, Jay Deeds, Jim McRoberts, and I left Jim's house Friday, October 24th, had an easy six and a half hour drive to Lewiston, and checked into a borderline dumpy motel. We were met by **Pat Peterman**, who had arrived a day earlier. We enjoyed a great pulled pork sandwich and some good music at a local dive.

The next morning we were up at a relaxed hour, and after a couple of false starts, finally arrived on the Grande Ronde. I think somebody got a steelhead that morning, but it wasn't me. In the afternoon, we all fished the Snake below Heller Bar, with Jay landing a 27 ½" fish and me getting a 24" to hand.

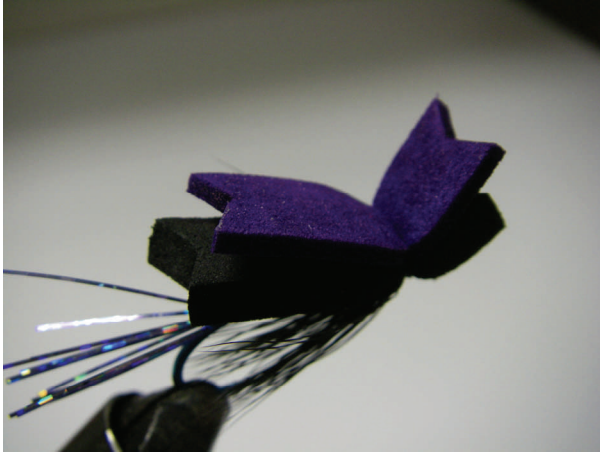
Sunday morning found us on the Grande Ronde, where Jim landed a nice wild steelhead and had another one on. All five of us were picked up at 4:00 pm at Heller Bar and transported to Mike and Gail Smith's lodge, about nine miles upriver.

We spent the next two and a half days zooming around on Mike's huge jet boat, fishing about thirty miles of the Snake above Heller Bar. We were returned to Heller Bar about noon on Wednesday. Pat left directly for home; Jim, Jon, Jay, and I checked into a nicer motel and then spent several hours fishing the "Hog Island" run on the Clearwater. Nobody touched a thing. All of us caught fish on this trip, but nobody landed as many as they would have liked to. Pretty typical of steelhead fishing, I think.

The lowlight of the trip for me was getting a speeding ticket from the WSP while on my way to



Jay Deeds on the Snake



Scott Hagens' Caped Crusader Skater

Troy to get my Oregon fishing license. Turned out to be a really expensive license!!

The highlight was hooking a seven-pound steel-head while skating a "Caped Crusader Skater", using a Phillipson Pacemaker cane rod and a Hardy Perfect reel that **Chuck Ballard** found for me. The fish was on through several runs and jumps before I executed a LDR (long-distance release). I named the fly that because it is black and purple, and has ears and a cape just like Batman.

Douglas Lake Ranch, near Merritt, B.C., Oct. 18-19, 2008 *by Hugh Clark*

My son, Hugh, and I had the winning bid for Douglas Lake at the Xmas auction, but could not get there until October. We fished Minnie Lake for two days, and each of us released 10 fish/day. What fish! Big and fat, no small fish were caught and several were in the 5-7 lbs category. Some were even jumpers. There was no action on the surface and fish were taken with leech patterns of five different colors. We had two other fishers on the lake first day, and the place to ourselves on the second. A Vancouver fisher was making his twelfth trip of the year, and reported good fishing even in June and July with the place largely to himself. Stoney Lake Lodge is comfortable, and the food delicious. Rebecca is the manager now and will be there next year. I have already made reservations for next July. If the ranch gives us a gift certificate for this year's party, get ready for some competitive bidding!

Membership Renewal on line for 2009!

by Pat Peterman, 1st VP Membership

Hello all! Hope the season finds you jolly, healthy, and fishing. I have had a few great days on the water this fall and have to smile as I recall them.

As the year comes to a close, it will be time for our dues renewal again. I still can't get used to what a bargain this club is. Where else these days can you get a ticket to a great show monthly with the occasional invitation to join fellows in the great outdoors for \$70.00 a year...? Yup, that's just \$5.83 a month. I know, it's too cheap, but what can I say?

This year, you can renew your dues on line if you choose to. You can also download a PDF renewal form available on the Web site, print it, and mail it in. The option of just mailing in the form included in this month's Creel Notes will still work, as well.

With the help of Roger Rohrbeck, the process for renewing your membership is simple...it should be available when you receive this message. The site accepts PayPal, which I have used without incident for years or you can use your credit card or checking account to make the payment electronically.

Just follow these easy steps:

1. Access the WFFC website, <http://www.wffc.com>.
2. Click the "Member Login" button in the upper left corner of screen.
3. Enter the Member ID and Password (only the first time you log into member area).
4. Click on the link for the 2009 membership renewal/payment in the upper left corner of screen.
5. Enter any requested information concerning your membership, and click "Next screen".
6. Click the "Buy Now" button, which will take you to the secure PayPal payment screens.
7. Use the secure PayPal screens to make payment via your credit card (or PayPal acct.).
8. After making payment, you will be returned to the member area for confirmation of your renewal.

Please also take time while you are on the site to make sure your roster information is current. If you have not filled out an interest survey, take a few minutes to do that as well. I keep waiting for a member to declare that they have a drift boat, would rather row than fish, and have a side streamside catering

GOT WATER?

*by Rachael Paschal Osborn, Executive Director,
Center for Environmental Law & Policy (CELP)*

As anglers, you understand stream flow. As much as anyone who cares about rivers, you who climb down banks and over rocks in order to cast a fly into a cold river – you know the river needs water to be a healthy, productive, living stream. Like anglers, the Center for Environmental Law & Policy also knows stream flow – and the many reasons why streams lack water to support healthy fish populations. Because of that, Washington Fly Fishing Club and its members have been generous benefactors to CELP. First and foremost, I would like to thank WFFC for its support of our work to restore water to the rivers and streams of Washington.

Threats to water resources are greater, and graver, than ever. Climate change is altering the hydrology of water bodies throughout the Pacific Northwest, perhaps irrevocably. Population growth brings ever-increasing demands for water supply. Historic irrigation diversions continue to dry up streams, and hundreds of diversion dams block fish passage to high-quality habitat. Despite current conditions, yet more dams and water withdrawals are proposed.

CELP works to protect freshwater instream flows using a unique synthesis of water law expertise and grassroots outreach. We engage state and federal agencies regarding processes that govern water right allocation, water supply management, and instream flow protection. One of our important new programs aims to protect eastern Washington streams from major new dams – including the outrageous Lower Crab Creek Dam proposal to inundate Nunnally, Merry, and Lenice Lakes, and 19,000 acres of federal and state wildlife habitat.

As part of our strategy, CELP founded the Columbia Water Conservation Alliance, a consortium of anglers, hunters, conservation groups, and land-owners who provide eastern Washington perspectives on the environment. You can imagine the surprise of elected officials, editorial boards, and agency staff when folks who live, work, and recreate in eastern Washington show up in force to advocate for sustainable water policies and practices.

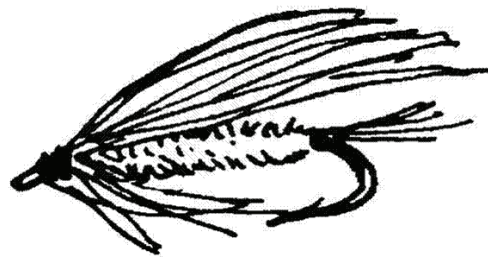
CELP also takes legal action, when necessary, to protect public interests. Most recently, we challenged new water rights issued to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. CELP is concerned about declining instream

flows in the Columbia River and its tributaries, particularly as the effects of melting Canadian glaciers become more pronounced. The key to surmounting these changes is based on sustainable, conservation-oriented policies and programs, not new, irretrievable commitments of water from a river already in trouble.

Taking steps to protect our waterways is no longer optional – we must achieve restoration to ensure a viable future for coming generations (also known as our kids and our grandkids). Fortunately, with change comes opportunity. Now is the time to achieve real reforms in water allocation and management, to preserve both our rivers and Pacific Northwest economies.

In closing, CELP is proud to note that WFFC member Dr. Fran Wood served as CELP board member for more than a decade, now serves on our Honorary Board, and remains an avid CELP supporter. Fran knows well the value of our unique and critical work to restore instream flows for fish, and indeed his wit and wisdom have guided our mission for many years.

We thank WFFC members for your support – and encourage you to help meet the WFFC 2008 matching grant to CELP. The next time you drop your fly in pool or riffle and reflect on river flows, think about us. Your generous contributions make possible our work as advocate for the public interest in public waters. For more information about CELP, please visit our website, www.celp.org. We'd be glad to send you a copy of our 2008 Annual Report, and to hear from you at our Seattle office at (206) 547-5407 or our Spokane office at (509) 209-2899.



Attention Snoqualmie River Anglers: WDFW Is Seeking Your Help

by Chad Jackson, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

In 2004, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission renewed the operating license for the Snoqualmie Falls Hydroelectric Project owned by Puget Sound Energy. Terms of the renewal require Puget Sound Energy to fund resident trout research, conducted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), in the upper Snoqualmie Watershed above Snoqualmie Falls. One of the research objectives WDFW wants to investigate is angler effort, catch, and demographics in the upper Snoqualmie Watershed. Since the upper Snoqualmie Watershed covers such a large geographic area and has several angler access points, conducting a traditional access-point creel survey would be very difficult and expensive to complete. Instead, WDFW is seeking the help of anglers who fish the upper Snoqualmie Watershed. WDFW has installed several angler creel boxes throughout the North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork, and mainstem (above the falls) areas of the upper Snoqualmie Watershed. Attached to these creel boxes are catch cards that request information from anglers about their fishing trip. WDFW respectfully requests anglers who fish the upper Snoqualmie Watershed to please fill out and submit every completed fishing trip. Even if your fishing trip was unsuccessful, WDFW requests that anglers still fill out and deposit a catch card. Submitting catch cards for unsuccessful fishing



trips is just as important as submitting catch cards for successful fishing trips.

For those anglers who fish the upper Snoqualmie Watershed routinely, WDFW has developed an angler diary program. Angler diaries contain several catch cards and request some additional information about your completed fishing trip. Anglers interested in maintaining a diary please contact Nathanael Overman (Lead Research Biologist) at 425-379-2308 or Chad Jackson (Project Manager) at 425-775-1311, ext. 113. Thanks to all anglers for supplying WDFW with vitally important angler creel information.





Washington Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 639
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www.wffc.com

Stamp
here

November, 2008

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: Jerry Siem. A Firsthand Look at Modern Fly Rod Design

Come hear the resident rod designer for Sage and renowned fly caster speak on rod design.