

Creel Notes from the



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



November, 2010



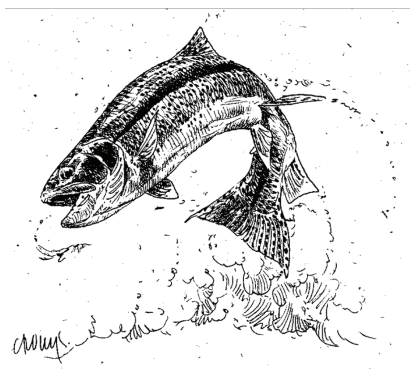
President's Riffle

The year is quickly coming to a close. The Christmas Party is right around the corner. For those of you who have items that you have gotten donated, please make sure you get those to **Earl Harper**. I'm also sure he could use a few hands this year to help with the event. If you feel this is something you would like to do, give him a call. This month we will be having the nomination of officers for next year.

I hope you have enjoyed the great fishing that we have been having these last couple of months.

Grab your rod and go fishing.

Ed.



Bill Redman honored at FFF Conclave

*by Don Simonson, FFF Coordinator,
FFF Casting BOG*

Bill Redman was presented with the FFF Conservation award for 2010 at the FFF Conclave President's dinner in West Yellowstone. This award is made to individuals, groups, or organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to the conservation of our fisheries resources. The award denotes the Conservation Person of the Year.

As was reported in last month's Creel Notes, **Les Johnson** was presented with the Arnold Gingrich Memorial Life award.

It was an honor to be present and witness these awards being presented to two members of our WFFC. Well deserved and CONGRATULATIONS.

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November Heritage Meeting: Steve Raymond is “The American Sportsman”

Remember the old “American Sportsman” ABC-TV series back in the 1960s and ‘70s? If you don’t, this program should refresh your memory. WFFC member **Steve Raymond** was a guest on a 1974 “American Sportsman” show about dry-fly fishing for Kamloops trout. Steve will tell about rubbing shoulders with the stars and trying to catch trout on demand in front of network TV cameras, then show the heavily edited episode that finally aired on ABC.

Meeting tier: **Joe Kristof** tying Sunrise.

Christmas Party! *by Earl Harper*

Hey you guys—

Just wanted to throw out another reminder about our upcoming Christmas Party. If you haven’t signed up yet, now would be a great time to go to the WFFC website and pay for your dinners. Donations were a little slow at coming in at first, but things have started to roll in, so start saving your money. Some of the items that you stand a chance of winning so far are such things as staying at **Doug Schaad**’s place on the Oregon coast, a pontoon boat from Classic Accessories, a very special bamboo rod with details to come, an awesome fly plate put together by **Gil Nyerges**, and much, much more.....

One last note: please contact me if you have something you would like to donate, or you have any leads or ideas for the party. My email address is earl@harperstudios.com, or you can call me at 206.763.9101. Thanks again, looking forward to a great party...



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.

On the Fly *by David Ehrich*

Our President, **Ed Sozinho**, started the October meeting off by calling the meeting to order and thanking **Bob Burdick** for tying some wonderful flies before the meeting. As per usual, **Keith** welcomed tonight's speaker by giving the membership a little quiz: how many members have fished deep, blue salt water? How many people have fished deep, blue salt, for sharks on the fly? Believe it or not, a few members raised their hands, including Conway Bowman, star of TV, screen and the shark infested waters off San Diego.

Conway parted with his five-month-old son to travel north to give us a sense of the impossible. Born in the land of carp, catfish, and crappies, Conway traveled yearly to Idaho to fish blue-ribbon waters. But as luck would have it, a friend traded fly-casting lessons for a lesson in Pacific predator fishing two miles off the California coast. The Mako Shark is called the world's most exciting fish on the fly and according to the record books, an 11' Mako on the fly amounts to the largest fish ever caught on the fly. "That's extreme" to quote Conway.

I missed a few things while I enjoyed savory pork loin, but that just means what I can remember is worth remembering. You need 350 yards of backing, 14 weight rods, 25' casts, big, really big tube flies, stainless steel tippet with a 30 lb. leader, typical salt-water gear, a high quality reel, and you need to have the tools on hand for a very tricky release. I can tell you from watching a little video, releasing a Mako shark is why you might hire a guide. Conway never kills fish, none of his guides kill fish, and he refuses to kill any shark even to get a record. In his words, "these fish are precious, great predators, and important to the environment." When it comes to releasing these fish, well, don't cast for 400 lb. fish unless you want to risk your arm releasing it. Why not start with something light, say around 100 lbs?

Conway takes his clients offshore of San Diego, much closer than you would expect in search of canyons close to home. As he reels in Makos, surfers within sight find their line on the next wave. He likes the summer months the best, especially July. He steers his clients to rolling fish hunting chum, sets up a chum slick, then "baits and switches" with a teaser hookless fly stripped about as fast as a man can strip a fly to get the fish moving, while just at the right moment, the other angler puts the big fly

right in front of the beast and it's time to party. Otherwise, see him, size 'em up, let 'em get away from the boat, cast to 'em and "game on!" Start with the "smaller" guys (40 lbs.) and work your way up the ladder of size. When you get him on, keep on the pressure and expect your rod to bend. Expect a workout.

Dyche Kinder asked if anyone had died fishing from kayaks. Conway didn't know, but he doesn't cast to 11' foot Makos in a kayak because they can crush the kayak and feast on the innards. When the Great Whites start to share the water with the Makos, he packs in his rod and heads back to port. One of the side benefits of fishing for Mako is that Conway's crew tries to tag the fish they release, contributing to research. They know that the fish migrate with the fish pods, with bigger Makos looking for swordfish, while more typical-sized examples follow the tuna and other delectable marine delights.



(Continued on page 4)

Final words, “these can be dangerous fish.” Make sure you have somebody on the boat who knows how to release a big fish, move the boat around big fish, and keep your appendages safe when you’re handling big Makos. “Respect your fish.” Need someone to guide? www.bowmanbluewater.com. Conwayxbowman@gmail.com. 619-822-MAKO. Conway finished the presentation with questions and a five-minute short soon to be released at a DVD store near you called, “Speed, Muscle & Teeth.”

From there we moved on to regular business. Guest introductions commenced, many of them for the third and fourth time. Please gentlemen, get your applications, it’s about time to commit.

Greg Crumbaker has put together a new education program for the WFFC called Casting Forward, teaching tying, casting, and fishing in the field for transitional communities. Why? Downtrodden though they may be, these folks can use a lot of expensive services if they are ignored. Good men of the WFFC provide a community of sorts who can help these folks and the hope is that we can pass on some of the magic club members enjoy. Members will meet with future anglers in the Lake Union area on Thursday nights from 7 – 9 pm. Call Greg if you are interested.



Mike Wearne reminded us of an excellent book talk at Elliott Bay Books at their new location on First Hill on Tuesday, November 9th. Check out last month’s Creel Notes for details.

Outings chair, **David Schorsch**, encouraged members to get to Penrose SP for the annual WET-BUNS trip. The group area is reserved on Saturday, Nov 6th.

The Home Waters committee is sending over an advance crew to dig some holes and pour some concrete. If the weather holds, another bigger group might head over and bang some nails.

Fishing reports started with the President who found the Mako of rainbow trout. **Mike Santangelo** led a big group of club members to Chopaka for some “you should have been here yesterday” type of fishing. **Bill Redman** took his annual trip to the Grande Ronde and found the same conditions – “you should have been there last week.” Evidently, timing is everything and cool water is a must for the bigger fish. **Bob Burdick**, aka “World class Fly Tyer” fished Johnson Creek in Idaho, among other canyon rivers between bouts of bow hunting, taking an average of four average 15” fish per hour. **Peter Crumbaker** quit his job to fish more and has hit lots of small creeks in remote parts of Washington with a three weight. Then he armed himself with a stiffer rod for bigger fish in the Western Montana area. The Hawk, aka **Dave Hawkinson**, fished Douglas Ranch, a trip won via Christmas meeting raffle.

I took off early to book a flight to So Cal and pull some shark teeth for my next necklace.

REPORTS

WETBUNS *by Dave Schorsch*

WETBUNS lived up to its reputation this weekend, soaking all 26 participants from afternoon to midnight Saturday. Dinner assembly went smoothly, with choppers, dicers, and crackers working under cover.

Wine and appetizers were consumed while the pot simmered through happy hour. Discussions ran the gamut of how bad the fishing was, where to go next day, and how bad the Seahawks sucked last game.

Fishing was very slow for the shorebound in the Penrose area, with only an occasional fish showing. Better success was had at Vaughn Bay and Joemma. Mostly cutthroat in the reported catch, only a few juvenile silvers, and no adult salmon. Record rains in September, October, and early November may be to blame for the absence of holding salmon. Might get better for chums in a week or so, might not.

The seafood stew was great! Many thanks to all who helped, brought firewood and garlic bread, and put up with the wet! Special thanks for **Crum-baker**'s harmonica music and scotch around the fire. It was either Arlo Guthrie or Metallica, I'm not sure. Was good though!



Dinner at WETBUNS



Mark Pratt on the water at WETBUNS

John Day River 10/10—12 *by Hugh Clark*

Three fisherman caught and released 11 steelhead, all but one were natives. Largest around 12 lbs. I hooked five but only landed two, with two breakoffs and one early release, using a spey rod. Interestingly the one-handed rods had a higher percentage of hooked fish to hand. Perhaps having such a long line out allowed better coverage of the river while increasing the chance for a breakoff or early release.

One fish was hooked on a skated fly, the rest on woolly buggers and egg-sucking leeches. The weather was fabulous. Imagine steelheading in warm weather! Best catching was 7-10 am and four to six pm. While we were there the water flow rate increased from 250 to 600 and increased in color due to rain in the mountains in central Oregon. Looks like a good year on the John Day.

McManamon Lake *by Don Gulliford*

This small lake is about 1/4 mile up the Morgan Lake Road that goes north from the Othello-Royal City back road, sometimes called 12th NE or McManamon Road—only about a 100 yd trail from the well maintained parking lot—a jon boat can be dragged or an easy walk with a float tube; I have done both. One summer day I was surprised to see how cold it was—water must come from deep underground. Bio Chad Jackson advised me that last Lahontan cutt stocking was in 2007, now stopped in entire chain (Morgan, Halfmoom, Para, etc.) due to trash fish and need of re-hab. I caught ‘em on every cast with a #10 chartreuse woolly. McMannaman (other spelling used in some documents and records) has several shore locations for good fly casting. Pre-2007 I had released several nice Lahontans.



McManamon Lake



Lake Keechelus (60F!!!!) *by Don Gulliford*

Autumn midday at Lake Keechelus at incredible warm temperatures. Lake is being filled, and the primordial shoreline that **Don Clough, Frank Webster**, and I got a couple of good cutts off some years ago now under water. The picture above shows the great weather with apparently a baiter's temper tantrum. Below is a silent sentinel stump of 1914-18 dam const. era with springboard notches—no chain saws then. Many fresh elk tracks and golden yellow and red leaves falling on F.S. Road 5480. Cutts were in early hibernation and disdained my carrot-bodied Carey, black woolly buggers, etc. Still an awesomely beautiful November day; white blanket surely on the way.



Lake Keechelus

Lone Lake, Whidbey Island

by Don Gulliford

Beautiful sunny afternoon, but no bites. Couple of guys from Evergreen Club there, one helped me get my jon boat on to my truck tonneau. Anybody know why an aluminum jonboat gets heavier with age?????? They had been there since morning, and had one or two on chironomids. What was most interesting was that Evergreen has a project with WDFW to catch and kill grass carp in Lone. They think the grass carp, supposedly sterilized, ARE reproducing because of the varying sizes they have caught. These carp don't eat insects, so they use "Lettuce Nymphs" (iceberg or butter lettuce) *pieces*. They are getting them from 4-10 lbs. And one final note, fitting for the Ghillie: Carlos of their club said they taste EXCELLENT. Note the pram in the photo background: Fantastic layup of cedar and cherry hand-built on a jig and then fibreglassed.



Lone Lake

Fishing Report: Alexander Ross on the Columbia

This report is just a little dated: 199 years and three months, to be exact. But it's a curiosity that **Don Gulliford** thought would make good reading.

Alexander Ross was a fur trader and explorer who traveled up the Columbia in the summer of 1811. On August 15th, he received permission from a tribal council of chiefs to make his journey up the river. The next day, he arrived at the mouth of the Eyakema (Yakima) River, and was so impressed by it that he said it "surpassed in picturesque beauty anything we had yet seen."

The Indians in the area not only fished for "monster salmon", but also for tiny three- to four-inch fish. They would cut a small bit of leather off of their shirts, tie the bean-sized piece of leather to horsehairs for a line, and toss it into the water.

"When the fish had hold of the bit of wet leather, or bait," Ross wrote in his journal, "their teeth got entangled in it, so as to give time to jerk them on shore. Which was, to us, a new mode of angling."

Meanwhile, another Indian would pick up the little fish that the angler tossed on shore, impale them on small sticks, and plant the sticks in a circle around the fire to roast.

"The fellows then sitting down, swallowed them—heads, tails, bones, guts, fins, and all, in no time," Ross wrote, "just as one would swallow the yolk of an egg."

OK, it didn't exactly catch on, but next time you forget your fly box, and are a little hungry, try it.

Ross was impressed by the local Indians. At one point on their trip, three Walla Walla Indians came galloping up on horseback, alarming them until Ross realized that they were delivered a bag of shot that Ross's party had left by mistake at their previous night's encampment. Ross called that act "convincing proof that there is honesty among Indians."



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here

November, 2010

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:

The Heritage Meeting: Steve Raymond is "The American Sportsman".