

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXIII No. 11

November, 2013

President's Riffle

By 2013 President Mike Wearne

Upcoming 75th Birthday



This next year is our 75th Birthday, and I think we should celebrate all throughout the year. Initially I thought that one person should be responsible for managing the events of the year relating to the 75th. I spoke with **Jim Young** concerning this idea and he suggested putting the Trustees in charge of the events. Again his advice was thoughtful and much better than my initial idea.

Here are some of the ideas I have by which we can celebrate the 75 years of the Washington Fly Fishing Club

1. Organize a One Fly competition on either the Yakima or the Skagit with a barbeque in the evening.
2. Plan on outing to go on throughout the year. I would like to see an outing to Lake Hannon and the Ross Lake Resort.
3. We can produce a calendar with both current and historic photos
4. We should have a massive party to actually celebrate the 75th birthday. We can have a "special guest". We should make an effort to invite former members, members from other clubs, employees of local fly shops and employees of state agencies such as the WDFW.
5. We could suggest that the Seattle Times does a special article for the Pacific Magazine.
6. I know Craig Koeppler is working on an update of the Washington fishing publication the club produced many years ago. I am composing a supplement with a suggestion of recommended books.

Hopefully you have an idea, please let me know.

Thanks

Mike



November Program

Dick Stearns

Cutthroat Conservation

By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for Programs

This month we have the pleasure of listening to one of our own sages, **Dick Sterns**, discuss the history of the saltwater cutthroat catch and release regulations that have been instrumental in causing an upsurge in the saltwater cutthroat populations in recent years. In addition to describing one of the WFFC's most important lobbying efforts with the WDFW Dick will tie his favorite cutthroat flies. A brief autobiography on Dick is included in this issue.



Biography of Dick Sterns

Before Dick became involved with the Club's Sea-run Cutthroat conservation activities, his love for

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them (his trout) started when he hand-fed them bits of periwinkles as he lay on a cut-bank stream below his grandfather's ranch. As a teen, he caught them, much larger, in the Willapa and Toutle Rivers, called them 'Bluebacks' and 'Harvest Trout'. Not until he joined the WFFC; and through the tutelage of **Ed Foss, Dick Thompson, and Al Pratt;** learned of their importance to flyfishers throughout the Northwest.

Dick joined the club shortly before he retired from the Air Force in 1974 and was elected president in 1978. During his tenure, the WFFC Foundation was established to allocate funds to start collecting data on the status of sea-run cutthroat populations.

Dick will show slides featuring the Club's early activities with the WDFW in their efforts to conserve this important fishery.

Dick has a master's degree in electrical engineering. His book "My River – A Memoir" describes in its latter chapters some of the experiences he will cover tonight.

Important Message—November's Regular Meeting

 If you have something to contribute for
December's WFFC General Auction
Bring it to the November Meeting 

If your item(s) are not oversize you are encouraged to bring them to the November meeting. **Greg Crumbaker** will be bringing his van and will accept your delivery at the meeting - from **Pete Baird**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Fly Tiers Roundtable is On!

Popular Fly Tier's Roundtable Resumes

By Dick Brening

We are resuming the WFFC Fly Tier's Round Table on the evening of November 13th at the Mercer Island Covenant Church from 6:30 to 9 PM.



The Church has asked the WFFC to make a \$25 contribution for each time we use their facility. Last week the WFFC board of Officers voted to honor that request. The funds will come from the Education committee budget.

The round table is a session where members and friends get together in an informal gathering to share fly tying technique and patterns. There is no fixed agenda and we try learn more about fly tying. Please attend to tie and share your favorite patterns or just come and join in on the lively discussion regarding fly tying, fishing, and anything else that may come up.

Creel Notes

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Ron Tschetter **Editor**
batribble@juno.com

President
Mike Wearne *michael_wearne@msn.com*

Mike Wearne michael_wearne@msn.com

1st Vice President (Membership)
Charles Davis cwdxavis1923@hotmail.com

Charles Davis cwdavis1923@hotmail.com

2nd Vice President (Programs)
Bob Burdick *reburdick@comcast.net*

Bob Burdick *reburdick@comcast.net*

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Dick Robbins rjr@robbinsusa.com

Treasurer
Don Barton dbarton44@comcast.net

Don Barton dbarton44@comcast.net

Secretary
Gary Berququist garyberququist@msn.com

Secretary
Gary Bergquist garybergquist@msn.com

Ghillie 1
Jim Macdonald macdonaldco@msn.com

Jim Macdonald macdonaldco@msn.com

Ghillie 2
Abe Lillard abelillard@gmail.com

Abe Lillard abelillard@gmail.com

Trustees
Bob Young '11 Chapin Henry III '11

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 Bob Young '11 Chapin Henry III '11
 Don Schroder '12 Gene Gudger '12
 Roger Rohrbeck '13 Dave Hawkinson '13

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, steelhead, and salmon 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.

Fishers and trade conservationists.

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As a side-lite, we collect flies at these sessions and donate them to Reel Recovery, a men's cancer recovery program .

Save the second Wednesday evenings and attend the Round Table.

Conservation

Conservation News

By Doug Schaad, Conservation Chairman

Periodically the Conservation Committee will be providing short descriptions and links to topics that may be of interest to Club membership.



Climate Change in the Northwest: Implications for Our Landscapes, Waters, and Communities

This is a rather massive document (271 pages) that provides the best available evidence of future climate change in the Northwest. It is freely available as a pdf. If you have limited time, the 20 page executive summary is all you need to read. Suffice it to say that we should be concerned and very vigilant in protection of our hydro and riparian resources.

Download at: <http://cses.washington.edu/db/pdf/daltonetal678.pdf>

Yakima Coho Hatchery

Your Conservation Committee is ambivalent (at best) with regards to a new coho hatchery being considered between Ellensburg and Cle Elum. Seems far better to expend similar funds on steelhead and sockeye recovery. Regardless, here is the thumbnail and link.

"The Northwest Power and Conservation Council has approved nearly \$700,000 for planning, design work and environmental compliance for a coho hatchery on the Yakima River, to be operated by the Yakama Tribe. It's just the second step in a long-term proposal to bring back coho, along with summer and fall Chinook, to the Yakima in large enough numbers to support tribal fisheries and self-sustaining fish populations."

Download at: <http://www.newsdata.com/fishletter/324/6story.html>

Juvenile Salmonid Behavior Entering the Ocean from the Columbia River

Though somewhat limited in scope, this article provides a bit of insight into the behavior of Chinooks and Steelhead as they leave the Columbia and enter the Pacific Ocean. Locally, we need the same sort of studies for watersheds in the Salish Sea, though I suspect each system behaves differently across time.

Download at: <http://www.cbbulletin.com/428989.aspx>

Final Note

If you come across short articles/links that would benefit Club Membership please send them to me at dcschaad@comcast.net

2014 Club Officers

Selection Committee Commences

WFFC Selection Committee is currently working to select leadership positions for 2014.

Those committee members :

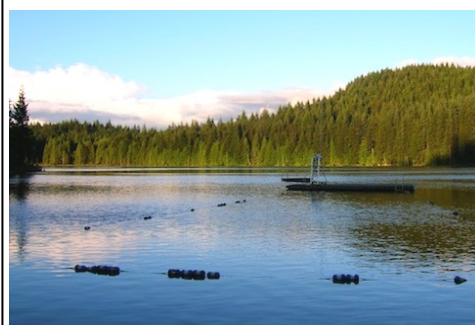
John Callahan
Bob Birkner
Greg Crumbaker
Dave Schorsch
Jim McRoberts

Lake Hannan Access

Making Progress

By Mike Wearne

This is meant to be an update report of the status for members of the WFFC being provided the privilege to use Lake Hannan.



Lake Hannan, Snohomish County

On October 31 I met with Shaune Randles of the Seattle Archdiocese. Shaune is responsible for the recreation properties operated by the Catholic Church. Earlier in the year I had provided Shaune with a copy of Backcasts. Each of the pages that mentioned Lake Hannan were tabbed in the book. There were several tabs!

The good news is that Shaune has tentatively scheduled two week-ends for WFFC use of the facilities, one in the spring and one in the fall. I will keep you informed and we flesh out the details.

This will be a great spot for outings.



Grand Ronde, Salmon & Snake Rivers

WFFC Anglers Gang Up on Steelhead

By Scott Hagen

Jim McRoberts and I left for the "No-Key" RV park, overlooking the Grande Ronde River about a mile from it's mouth, about 8:00 AM on October 17th. After an uneventful drive, stopping for breakfast, groceries, and an Idaho fishing license for me, we arrived in time to set up in the daylight, but too late to wet a line. The next morning dawned cold and clear, as did every morning of the trip. We spent the next two and a half days fishing the lower Ronde. We were met for lunch every day by **Jay Deeds** and his brother Craig, who were staying in Clarkston and fishing the Snake or the Ronde. The river was very busy, probably because the very low fish count on the Clearwater River was causing a lot more people to fish the Snake and the Ronde. Fishing was a little slow, but a couple of us did manage to land fish.

On Sunday the 20th, we were joined by **Hugh Clark**, packed up our stuff and drove to Heller Bar. Mike Smith, our host for the next few days, met us there, loaded up our stuff, and jetted us up to his lodge. We spent the next two and a half days fishing up and down the Snake and Salmon rivers. Everybody landed steelhead, the vast majority were wild, even though we were told that there were many more hatchery fish in the river. Almost all of them were hens, I guess the males tend to come in later. I had a banner day on Monday, landing three of five fish hooked on a skated dry fly. In addition, I had two hard yanks that spun the reel, but didn't get hooked. By far my best day ever on the Snake!



Scott Hagen

On Wednesday, after an awesome brunch prepared by Gail, Mike's wife, we were taken back to Heller Bar. Hugh headed directly home, the rest of us spent the remainder of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday on the Snake and the Grande Ronde. Jim had his

special day on Thursday, going two for three on the "Turkeyshoot" run on the Ronde in the morning and one for two on the Snake in the afternoon. Jim and I spent all of Friday on the Snake, trying to land a hatchery fish to take home to Stephanie's boss, but we got blanked. Jim and I had an easy drive home on Saturday, counting redtail hawks along the way. If I remember correctly, we spotted eleven. We are gonna do this again next year!!



Jim McRoberts



(L to R)

Hugh Clark, Jim McRoberts, Scott Hagen and Jay Deeds

Penrose Point State Park

Wetbuns

By Dave Schorsch

Attended the umpteenth annual Wetbuns outing this Saturday at Penrose Point State Park.

The weather was the usual gray/damp/salty/coldish/warmish we always have in November. We gathered in the "group" area of the park, which has a nice covered picnic shelter with fire pit. When Lynn and I arrived at 3:30, **Dick Brening** already had a fire going, so breaking out the wine and snacks were the right thing to do.

By about 4:00, several strange guys in rain gear started hanging out around the beer cooler. I fig-

ured the only thing to do was give them jobs. For the next hour or so, several club members and their guests cracked crabs, chopped onions and potatoes, chopped fish, and celery, and drank beer and wine.

Fishing reports ran the gamut from "tons of chum everywhere, to pretty slow, to a few cuts here and there. **Mark Pratt** and **Ben Davidson** picked up several cuts on the beach at Joemma, to the west, and a couple in the bay at Penrose. Dick Stearns and co. chased chums around the Chico creek area without much success, but did quite well at happy hour.

The pot boiled, the fire warmed the garlic bread, and dinner was served to 16 happy souls. As usual, way too much dinner was followed by way too much dessert, but sometimes you just gotta do what you just gotta do. Peach pie AND blueberry pie sounded good to me.

Lots of help cleaning up and loading up made for a really nice evening with friends.

This is a great outing and a nice end to the season for lots of folks. I wouldn't miss it!

Upper Columbia, Stevens County

Black Bear Lodge Northport WA From David Hawkinson

At last years WFFC Christmas party fundraiser auction Jack Mitchell of the Evening Hatch donated a fishing excursion on the upper Columbia River through Black Bear Lodge located in Northport Washington.

David Hawkinson



Northport is seven miles from the Canadian boarder in the northeastern part of the state.

Paul Wyckoff, my guest at the fundraiser, purchased this trip and then surprised me with an invitation to go with him.

The Upper Columbia experienced noticeable spring runoff this year resulting in plenty of raging water. Twenty foot aluminum sleds were the ticket in navigating the vast whirlpools. The fishing consists of

big rainbows, cutthroat, and brook trout. The rainbows averaged 3 to 4 pounds and we caught a lot of them every day on small bead heads.

I would like to go back next year for the green drake hatch which occurs in June/July. Ten pound rainbows get real stupid during this occurrence which results in plenty of surface action.

The Great Bear Lodge is beautiful with plenty of amenities. Great cook, great guides, good whiskey and cigars.



Again, thanks to Jack Mitchell for the generous donation to the club's yearly fundraiser auction and thanks to Paul Wyckoff for inviting me. We all had a great time.

Kayak Point, Snohomish County

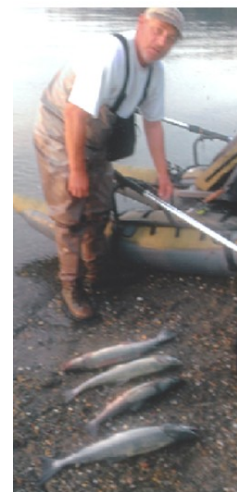
August / September From David Hawkinson

We had a successful outing on the saltwater at Kayak Point Northwest of Marysville WA.

Both **Mark Pratt** and myself limited out on Pinks with Coho and a steelhead in the mix.



Dave Hawkinson w/ Pink



Mark Pratt's Catch

"Spare nails and bailing wire hold far more of the world together than coaxial cable or microchip circuitry"

- Dick Louw

WFFC Members Weekly Lunch

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Nearly every Wednesday the **Bellevue Red Robin*** gets an assembly of WFFC members that have been informally meeting for a number of years.

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The group starts drifting in about 11:30 AM and anyone is invited to join in. Everyone pays their own bill.



We discuss everything. Fishing, sports, girl-friends, wives, politics, environment and **sometimes other members! Come to defend your honor!**

*408 Bellevue Sq Bellevue, WA 98004 · Downtown

'Reeling' in the Years

I've been pursuing through old Creel Notes and found a lot of interesting techniques, formula's, 'how to do it' and tutelage for new and old fly fisherman



Here is one tip (since were approaching the cool months of the year) that I never thought much about —Editor

Cold Weather Angling Tips From December 1969 edition

Trout—Slow Retrieves are the secret! Make several retrieves through each likely area. Winter trout react slowly. Dragon-fly nymphs, various hackle flies and shrimp flies produce best in winter. Also try small nymphs tied to resemble midge larvae. Fish them right in the mud at the lake bottom. Keep an eye out for surface feeding on hatching midges.

Steelhead— If water is below 45 degrees, try slower, deeper stretches first but don't pass up areas below riffles entirely. Summer run fish will move even in water testing 34 degrees. Fish usually take very gently in cold waters. Try to keep excessive slack out of the line so you can feel the delicate takes. Try wrapping lead-core wire from trolling lines around the first two leader knots above the tippet to achieve additional depth in deepest areas of the river; casts quartering upstream and mended once or twice will help sink your fly deeper.

Growing up in Seattle I knew Enos Bradner was a lifelong bachelor and the outdoors was his life. Living quarters to Enos were probably very secondary. This change of address in October 1961 proves it.—Ed.

Change of Address From October 1964 Edition

And **Enos Bradner** made a move, also.....but just down the hall in the same apartment building....AGAIN. Enos treats apartments like the fella who traded his Cadillac's whenever the ashtrays were full.

His new home boasts a it more room and a change

of appliances. The timer on the range is one of those ingenious devices engineered to fight you ever step of the way, ringing willy nilly, and periodically shutting everything off or turning them on. Brad will conquer the thing, though, just as he mastered the four speed stick shift.



The early 1970's Gas shortage affected many members. One member, **Harry Ludwig** took it seriously and offered to haul several club members and their gear to outings.....boats and all!

Full Circle

Lena's Puddles, Grant County WA

Do you ever wonder how a lake or a river gets its name? Especially if the name appears to be a first name or surname?

I recently noted the passing in the Seattle Times of Lena Boitano (89 years old) – (A *Ballard High graduate - Perry*). Boitano is a well known Seattle family (her brother John was long time football coach at Garfield High).

In the early 60's Lena was the hostess at Marie's (salad dressing fame) Restaurant in Seattle's Greenwood area where my dad and I would frequent when dad didn't feel like cooking. We got to know her pretty well. Over the course of our visits she picked up that I was nuts about fishing and mentioned that she had once worked for the Washington State Department of Game which impressed the heck out me as a kid. Furthermore, she told me she had series of lakes named after her in eastern Washington.

The lakes of mention were formed by seepage during the development of the Bacon Siphon/Bureau of Reclamation project. Many lakes were immediately being named as they were forming by the Department of Resources / Game Department just to keep track of them all. Names selected were frequently people working in the offices of both departments! A series of those forming lakes were christened 'Lena's Puddles' just below the Banks Lake diversion dam and one of those 'puddles' is named Lena Lake.

Fast Forward mid 1970's. During my college years I worked on a wheat farm near Banks Lake. Howard Long (*the farmer I worked for*) mentioned he caught a 5 ½ lb rainbow trout (*on a flatfish – sorry guys*) from a lake called Lena Lake just below Banks Lake. I told him I knew who that lake was named after and told him the story.

The lakes are still there today. If you pass over the Banks Lake diversion dam on the way to Coulee City look to your right and you'll see a sign labeled 'Lena's Puddles'. (I think the sign is still there) Those 'puddles' and lake are named after Lena Boitano (1924 – 2013) and now you know how a lake got its name.

Project Healing Waters



Club Involvement Since 2008

October 12, 2013, our last trip this year to Bill's Fishing Hole in Orting to fish with the veterans for this year (*we will be doing it again next year*)

Starting off the fishing went fairly well. But it didn't take long after a few fish were caught for the rest to 'clam up' like they did last trip.

Afternoon fishing was real slow but everyone enjoyed the day and enough fish were caught for the smoker

Some of the fish in the pond looked to have made it through the whole year with-



out getting caught. If so, Bill's ought honor them and transfer them to some large lake to live out their years. They deserved it.

Our club has been involved with this program since April 2008 and currently ably lead by **Jim McRoberts**.

Some of these veterans have had a awfully tough life. Veterans, their caregivers and club members appreciate this chance to get out and develop friendships.



Worthwhile Afternoon

Want Ads / Buy and Sell

For Sale

Howard Holland 8' Wood Skiff

Including: Oars, Anchor, Roof loader and Wheels

\$175.00



Contact: John Callahan (509) 548-2065

An Extra Tip

Re-Sealing an AQUASEAL Tube

by Elaine Cook

I love Aqua Seal for mending neoprene but when going to use the tube the second time the cap sticks to the tip and requires two pliers to grab and twist off, then, by golly, the opening is sealed shut.

Don't throw it away; try this.

Squeeze the glue up to the cap end, cut straight across the bottom, squeeze and it will apply a thin strip instead of

a glob which is a much easier way to apply.

Then to seal the tube, squeeze the glue up toward the cap again, pinch the bottom with pliers and fingers, squeezing out any glue at that end, wipe well with rubbing alcohol.

Next time, cut straight across the bottom again.



Great Blue Heron

Big Twin Lake, Okanogan County
Photo Credit: Hugh Jennings



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

Stamp
here

November, 2013

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:

Dick Stearns
Cutthroat Conservation

THE 2013 WFFC CHRISTMAS PARTY RESERVATION FORM



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 2013



AT THE SEATTLE TENNIS CLUB
922 McGivra Blvd. E., Seattle, WA 98112

DINNER RESERVATIONS - \$70 EACH

Price increases to \$80 if payment is received after December 1, 2013

Full payment must accompany your reservations to be accepted

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5:30 PM: Wet Fly Practice, Raffle Tickets Sales, Review of Auction Items

7:00 PM: Dinner

Dinner until closing: Merriment, Raffle, Silent Auction, Live Auction, and More Merriment

**IF YOU BRING TWO OR MORE GUESTS, WE WILL RESERVE YOUR TABLE SPACE IF YOU RESERVE BY
Dec. 1, 2013.**

If you have not yet contributed to the auction or raffle and want to, please get in touch with Dick Robbins at 206-550-9245 or rjr@robbinsusa.com. If you would like to make a cash contribution, fill in the appropriate space on the form below and include that amount with your reservation fee.

(For online payment via our secure PayPal interface, please access member area of the website)

(For payment by check, please cut along dotted line above. and and mail in below form with your check)

Member name: _____

Other reservation names: _____

of Chicken Piccata _____ # of Alaska Halibut _____ # of Eggplant Parmesan _____

Total # _____ of dinners x \$70 each = \$ _____

My check also includes a cash contribution toward the WFFC Fund Raiser of \$ _____

Send this reservation form along with check to:

**Dick Robbins
2821 Fairview Ave. East #8
Seattle, WA 98102**