

# *Creel Notes from the*



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



**December, 2007**

## President's Riffle



Here we are, at the end of another year. As I look back on 2007, I'm amazed at how quickly it passed, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to have served the club as your President. It was a great privilege to work with so many dedicated and passionate fellow members. Some highlights of member contributions: we found a new location for the club that fulfills nearly all of our requirements and at a relatively low price; we added significantly to our membership roster; we resolved some difficult heritage inventory storage and recovery issues; we had, at least since I've been a member, a record number of outings opportunities for members; and we created a very helpful new members area on the club website. That's just the tip of the iceberg. If you include all the other work by officers, committee members, and members at large, it's staggering what gets done, and more importantly, the impact it makes on the fly fishing community.

At the December Board meeting, we discussed at length the state of our dues pricing. As the discussion progressed, it became clear that we needed to raise dues. Not because we simply had not done so in many years, but because the club has seen an increase in expenses (we actually approved a deficit budget in 2007, instead of raising dues, because we were not sure of the impact that a new meeting location and the resulting new dinner prices would have on members). Increased expenses, however, have a flip side in additional services available to members as well as to the overall community of fly fishers. Just a couple of examples: we continue to sort through and preserve the club's valuable heritage artifacts—these require proper storage, care in restoration, display where appropriate, and media storage—all of

which have associated costs. Another example: we will likely be a contributing club to Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. This project of national scope uses fly fishing and fly tying to aid returning veterans who are recuperating from war injuries. Although the cost to the club for this worthwhile emerging project is unclear, we need to be prepared to do our very best for our veterans.

We have much to be proud of as a club. The Christmas Party is a great time to celebrate our sport, our club, and the camaraderie that comes with them. You'll have an opportunity to contribute generously by bidding on live auction items and silent auction items, as well as trying your luck at the numerous raffle packages. I look forward to celebrating with you.

Tight lines,  
**John Schuitemaker**



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## Christmas Party 2007!

It's party time! And there will be great items for you to go after. Vacations, occasions, and art in the live auction. Trips, parties, gear, and flies in the silent auction and raffle. Throw in the Wet Fly Hour, a great dinner, Santa's Helpers, and our last gathering at the College Club, and it's just a great time. See you there!

## The Fly-Fishing WASL

In our continuing effort to improve the minds of Creel Notes readers, we herewith present the latest installment of the Fly-Fishing WASL. This time the subject is flies and fly patterns.

Gentlemen, thread your bobbins! Here we go:

1. WFFC charter member **Len Hunton** originated this colorful pattern for sea-run cutthroat and steelhead. What's its name?
2. This universally popular Northwest fly pattern was first tied and fished on British Columbia's Arthur Lake. What's its name?
3. The dressing: Hook No. 8-16. Thread: Black. Body: Black wool or floss. Thorax: Same as body, only larger. Rib: Thin flat tinsel over body (not thorax). Hackle: White ostrich herl. What's the name of the fly?
4. If you were fishing the fly pattern known as the Gotcha, what species of fish would you probably be trying to catch?
5. WFFC members **Enos Bradner** and **Frank Headrick** developed this fly pattern at Prices Lake on the Olympic Peninsula. What's its name?
6. A one-armed fly tier created this cutthroat fly pattern. What's its name?
7. The dressing: Hook No. 10, 4X long. Body: Dark olive chenille. Hackle: Brown palmered, trimmed off on top and sides. What's the name of the fly?
8. This favorite British Columbia fly pattern was named after a Mount Vernon, Washington, dentist. Can you identify the fly?
9. The famous Salmon Candy series of flies was created for Atlantic salmon in Oregon's Hosmer Lake. Can you name the WFFC associate member who created these flies?
10. This WFFC member was in the habit of plucking hairs from his eyebrows to use for tails on his mayfly patterns. Who was he?

(Answers on pg. 7)

## Creel Notes

...is the official publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscription is free with membership.

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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.

## WFFC 2008 Officers and Trustees

At the November WFFC meeting, we elected officers and trustees for 2008. Listed below are the new officers and trustees, returning officers and trustees, and those who are stepping down.

### New Officers and Trustees

Welcome, guys, to your new positions!

#### President: Bill Kuper (2000)

Bill is a Gonzaga man. He founded and served as President of Digital Farm, and was Chief Technology Officer after selling the company. He has a place on the Yakima and is a member of Tumble Creek Club at Suncadia. Previously served as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of WFFC.



#### Co-2nd Vice President: Steve Sunich (2003)

Steve owns a construction consulting business. He is a competitive caster, a woodworker, expert fly tier, and trumpet player. Previously served as treasurer of WFFC for three years.



#### Secretary: Jim Morrison (2002)

A 30-year veteran of software sales, Jim started his own software sales company four years ago. He is an avid skier, biker, and hiker. Served as bartender for two years. Also a member of the Northwest Fly Anglers.



#### Treasurer: Scott Hagen (2000)

An employee of Boeing for 48 years. Scott is an aficionado of vintage automobiles. He is active in a variety of fly fishing activities, including Reel Recovery, fly tying instructor, and secretary of the Federation of Fly Fishers Steelhead Committee.



#### Ghillie: Marty Leith (2005)

Marty is a commercial real estate broker. He is also a twelve-year PGA professional, a salt- and fresh-water fly fishing fanatic, and a new father.



#### Trustee: Rocco Maccarrone (1997)

Rocco is a Boeing Commercial Aircraft project manager. Before Boeing, he had a twenty-year career in corporate video production and sports television, including production of Husky football, Mariners, and Fly Fishing Northwest. He is a Husky football and steelhead fanatic. Previously served as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.



#### Trustee: Ed Pettigrew (1974)

Ed is a long-term member of the Graham and Dunn law firm. He is a prior officer and chairman of the WFFC Conservation Fundraiser and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.



#### Returning Officers and Trustees

A number of officers and trustees will continue in their present positions for the new year. We are very grateful that you have chosen to continue to serve the club so ably.

- Co-1st Vice President: **Pat Peterman**
- Co-1st Vice President: **Craig Koepller**
- Co-2nd Vice President: **Keith Robbins**
- Ghillie: **Jim MacDonald**.

#### Stepping Down

At the end of December, the following officers and trustees will hand off their duties to the incoming officers. Thank you for an excellent year!

- President: **John Schuitemaker**
- Secretary: **David Ehrich**
- Treasurer: **John Huey**
- Ghillie: **Peter Crumbaker**
- Trustee: **Kris Kristoferson**
- Trustee: **Don Schroder**

#### Thanks to All

The officers and trustees spend a significant amount of time leading the Washington Fly Fishing Club. They are responsible for carrying on the traditions of the club and guiding the club into the future; for ensuring the role of the club as a service organization and making sure that we all have a lot of fun.

Gentlemen, thank you all for your service!

# REPORTS

## WFFC November Meeting

### Here's to the College Club!

The November meeting was WFFC's last regular meeting at the College Club. President **John Schuite-maker** started the proceedings with a tribute to Manager Peter Sparling and the staff of the College Club of Seattle. He awarded them the Top Host Award, in recognition of all that the College Club has done for us as our hosts for over ten years. In turn, Peter thanked us for being excellent tenants, and alluded to the impressive fishing expertise in the room.

On a lighter note, John awarded Luke (the Radar O'Reilly of the staff, according to John) and the other staff the Golden Microphone Award. This was in recognition of all the batteries that they have provided for dying microphones over the years, as well as their gracious service. WFFC members gave the staff a well-deserved standing ovation.

The College Club has been a great home! On to the Seattle Tennis Club. May it be as worthy.

### Club Business

Club members told of trips to Dry Falls (**Kris Kristoferson**), the Wenatchee, Rocky Ford, and many other waters. There were tales of a big sucker (not the fisherman) and big steelhead in the Wenatchee (**Rocco Maccarrone**), and 27-inch trout and bigger (28-inch) at Rocky Ford (**Bob Birkner**).

A refreshing part of the meeting was that of the guests that attended, three were college-age guys who at last sighting had club applications in hand. They are Schuyler Dunphy, Will Atlas, and Thomas Buehrens. They are energetic guys who have been active in steelhead projects.

New members inducted at the meeting included **Curt Molfinger** (sponsor: **Steve Sunich**) and **Paul Johnson** (sponsors: **Ed Sozinho** and **Keith Robbins**). As usual, and as appropriate, **Gil Nyerges** stressed the emphasis of the club on service, and that we can also be full of guff. He bestowed new-member packets on them, and also a packet of "the right flies". Gentlemen, welcome to the fold!

The business transacted at the November

meeting traditionally includes nomination and election of officers. The nominating committee of **Greg Crumbaker**, **Don Simonson**, **Chuck Ballard**, **John Callahan**, and **Steve Sunich** did a great job of coming up with a new slate of officers and trustees. The club membership gave them a rousing round of applause. Check the article on page 3 about officers and trustees.

### Cam Sigler: Fishing for Billfish

**Cam Sigler**'s specialty is saltwater fly fishing for billfish. At the November meeting, this WFFC member (who first became a member in 1969) treated us to an eye-popping presentation about big-game fishing.

Billfish are man-sized fish that include sailfish, marlin, and swordfish. Cam focused his presentation on Pacific sailfish. The average Pacific sail is 90 to 100 pounds, with a big one being 140 to 150 pounds. They can swim from 65 to 70 miles per hour, which makes them the fastest fish in the ocean. They use their bill to wound their prey, swatting at it, and raise their sail when excited or threatened.

This is open-ocean fishing and as nature would have it, these monster fish live in great places: the Caribbean, Central and South America, Hawaii, and Australia. However, enjoyment is only part of the story. Billfish fishermen are serious competitors. This is a sport of tournaments, a pursuit with regulations set by an international organization. Check out the "International Angling Rules" published by the International Game Fish Association at <http://www.igfa.org/BookRule2004.pdf>. The organization is dedicated to sound and ethical game-fishing practices.

It's easy to see why Hemingway was into the sport and where "The Old Man and the Sea" came from.

Sailfish and marlin are not prized for their meat. This is purely for the sport. Cam has never been on a



Cam Sigler and a Pacific Sailfish

boat where they killed a fish. The only time you should take fish out of the water is for a photo. But it's one hell of a sport. Hours of pure boredom are interspersed with minutes of sheer pandemonium.

This is not a fly-casting game, but a fighting game. It's surface fishing in which you tease the fish to come in very close, and then want them to turn around and take the fly going away. That yields the best hookups. And then all hell breaks loose. After the fish hits, you have to let them go, because with 20-pound test leader you can't stop him on the initial run. Sailfish then make the incredible jumps that they are known for. Not surprisingly, the critical point is close to the boat. The average angler can tip a fish in 15 to 20 minutes. Tipping is when the butt section of the leader (where it is attached to the fly line) enters the rod tip or the mate grabs the leader. At that point, it's a legal catch.

Cam described the following tackle:

- Thirty-foot shooting heads, fluorescent monofilament line so you can see it
- 400 yards of pink backing so the captain can see it
- The leader is normally 9 to 12 feet, including the class tippet that must be over 15 inches from knot to knot. The leader is not over twenty pounds (for the twenty-pound line class).
- The knot used to attach the class tippet to the leader and the shock tippet is usually a Bimini twist. You lose most fish by the abrasion of the bill when you tip the fish. Use a Bimini twist to try to avoid that.
- One-foot shock tippet
- Popping cork: use it to attract the fish. When it pops, the fish get upset and strike. Teasers and baits (such as pink squid, dorado, or mackerel) have no hooks on them. You attract with them and catch with a fly.
- Typical flies are a big pink-and-white fly that Cam showed us, or the Phyllis Diller created by Cam's son
- A tandem hook significantly increases the chance of hooking a fish. The two hooks are offset by 90 degrees, and separated from the fly by 16 inches. By IGFA rules, tandem hook rigs cannot be any longer than 6 inches from the eye of the front hook to the eye of the rear hook. Some fish hook on the first hook, some on the second.

## First Steelhead *by John Arechavala*

This year was the first time I have been lucky enough to fish Pere Marquette [Michigan] twice. Once with my long-time fishing partner Dave Schorsch and then once more with my son Beldin for his 12th birthday. For those of you who knew me while I was in the Emerald City, you can breathe again. I'll be brief about the trip with Dave, which was in the first week of March: it was cold—it was beyond cold—it was below zero. The temperature on the first day started at about 7 degrees and ended at about -6. The next day was even colder starting at about -11 and that was the high. It was way beyond ice in the guides on the second day. It was ICE CUBE fishing.

The river temperature dropped below 32, so it would not even melt the ice off your fly. Dave and I had to put the fly between our teeth and gnaw the ice off. The first day we each caught a few steelhead; the second day it was lean and tough. Brown trout bit once or twice, that was about it. I had to leave early on that trip, leaving Dave to suffer for a couple more days on his own. Sorry, Dave. I went home and came down with pneumonia complicated by asthma, or the other way around.

My second trip in the third week of March was a different story. I had asked my son Beldin what he wanted for his birthday and he said to go on a fishing trip with me. So, I talked to our long-time guide John Kluesing, asking if he could find a date. Fate smiled, he had a one-day cancellation thanks to a wedding. We stayed at the Orvis-endorsed Pere Marquette River Lodge ([www.pmlodge.com](http://www.pmlodge.com)) in Baldwin, Michigan. The cost of the room included dinner.



*John Arechavala and his son Beldin*

I told my son I would buy him a fly rod if he managed to land a steelhead. The weather was great, the water a bit high but fishable, and the steelhead were fierce. My son hooked up with twice his number of years with hot steelhead. Most took off with his fly or released after a few minutes of heart-pounding excitement. Beldin did manage to land two steelhead for his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday fishing trip, and he earned his fly rod. I managed to hook up with so many fish, landing five. By 3:00 in the afternoon both arms were cramping up so badly I had to stop fishing. One big buck busted my 8-wt. rod just 6" above the cork with a sound like a gun shot.

Needless to say it was a great day and one father and son will never forget.

[Ed. Note: **John Arechavala** is a Past President of WFFC.]

## WFFC Library

The WFFC physical library has been moved from the College Club to an offsite storage facility. The WFFC Website Committee has been working with the WFFC Library Committee to provide you as a club member with visibility of the books and videos contained in our library. Toward that end, a library menu choice has been added to the Member Area of the WFFC website. Exercising that menu choice now provides you the ability to view either the entire library inventory, or groups of books broken down by category.

Once the physical library has been organized in its new location (so a specific book can be easily located by our librarian), club members will be provided with a convenient means of requesting a specific book online. It will be delivered to you at the next membership meeting.

This Website/library service should be available in time for the February 2008 membership meeting. In the meantime, feel free to browse the library and become familiar with the great selection of books and videos that our club has to offer.

## Dues are Due *by Pat Peterman, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Membership*

The year ends...Christmas Party, lots of rain, New Years Eve, and WFFC dues are due. What a great time of year.

You will notice on the dues notice that the amount of the dues has increased a little from \$50 to \$70 for a regular membership and from \$35 to \$45 for an associate membership. Your Board felt it necessary to adjust the amounts after several years from a very good deal to a very good deal adjusted for inflation.

Just wanted to include a reminder of the Dues section of our bylaws. Our rules state that dues are due the first of the year and that if they are not paid before March 1<sup>st</sup>, we are required to drop the membership. The member may be reinstated if the dues plus a reinstatement fee of \$10.00 are paid within the year. If the dues are not paid within one year, the member must go through the new member process to become a member again.

Also, there are four categories of membership: Active, Senior, Associate, and Honorary. I've never, to the best of my knowledge, met an honorary member. Should we make one? There was a little confusion last year about what kind of member you were, so I am including that portion of the bylaws:

- A. Active members shall be those members who live within a thirty-five (35) mile radius of Seattle, measured from the Main Seattle Post Office (3d & Union) and those living outside that area who elect to be active members. Active members shall have the right to vote.
- B. Senior members shall be those individuals who have been elected to active membership in the Club and who have paid dues as such for 50 years or longer, or for 40 years or longer if such individual is age 75 years or older. A member shall attain such status effective for the calendar year immediately following the one in which he first satisfies the foregoing requirements. Senior members shall have the right to vote and in all other respects shall have the same rights as active members, but shall pay no dues. An individual who is eligible for senior membership status shall so advise the First Vice President and shall provide evidence of eligibility, but shall not be required to comply with Section 3 below. Senior members shall be included among active

(Continued from page 6)

- members for purposes of Section 5 below.
- C. Associate members shall be those members who live beyond the thirty-five (35) mile radius of Seattle, measured from the Main Seattle Post Office, and do not wish to be active members. Such members shall receive all Club notices and other communications, and be eligible to attend all meetings and participate in all Club activities. They shall have no rights to vote.
  - D. Honorary members shall be those individuals recommended by the Board and elected by the members, by reason of their exceptional and meritorious contributions toward achievement of the aim and purposes of the Club.

## Christmas Party Live Auction Item Preview

At the Christmas Party you will be able to bid on this hand-built mahogany pram by Steve Sunich. It is fully rigged for two anchors. Includes wood oars. Good width with nice freeboard. Dark green outside with varnished interior and trim. Beautiful! (Its sister ship is pictured, see the real thing at the party).



## Fruit and Flowers Report by Pete Baird

### Chris Rundall

Early this month Chris moved from the hospital to the Columbia Lutheran Home out near Woodland Park Zoo. She is breathing better now and needs only unpressurized oxygen at about 2 liters per minute. She is eating better, all orally, and has started physical therapy. Bill is making two trips per day on average. The downside is that she will not be back to Exeter

House for Christmas.

### Walt Walkinshaw

Jean reports some recovery progress, but slow. Recent x-rays on the two cracked neck vertebrae show some healing progress. Walt was interviewed last week by representatives for the fly fishing portion of the Bellingham Museum and was able to contribute some helpful info. There is a slight possibility that he will be able to attend the Christmas gathering.

### Lorraine Hall

As confirmed by both Andy and Lorraine, the latest round of shingles has passed. She sounded in good spirits now, but Andy still feels the need to stay close by. He is hopeful about making it to **Frank Headrick's** 100th celebration in February.

### Earl George

Our lost sheep has been found after Creel Notes had been returned. His new address is 6520 196th St. SW, Apt #348 (Brighton Ct. Retirement Home, I think), Lynnwood, WA 98036. George is probably our second oldest member at 94 and still able to drive himself around. He is sending in his check to attend the Christmas gathering.

## The Fly-Fishing WASL

(from pg. 2)

Answers:

1. The Omnibus
2. The Carey Special
3. Dick Thompson's TDC
4. Bonefish
5. The Dandy Green Nymph
6. The Conway Special, first tied by Dan Conway. He was not only a one-armed fly tier, but also a drummer in a jazz band!
7. Nyerges Nymph
8. Dr. Spratley
9. Lloyd Frese
10. Letcher Lambuth

Score:

0-4: And you thought flies had to have zippers.

5-8: Hey! That thing caught in the tree behind you is a fly.

9-10: You should be tying patterns for the WFFC Swap Box.



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Stamp  
here

December, 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 (this month) is served at 7:00 PM

This month: The 2007 WFFC Christmas Party!

The party features the 2007 Christmas Banquet and Raffle. Come join us for merriment, a raffle, a silent auction, a live auction, and more merriment!