

# Creel Notes from the



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



December, 2010



## President's Riffle

This has been a very important year for the WFFC. It had been 15 years since the pulse of the club had been taken in regards to continuing to exclude women from its membership. Many felt and still do that these kinds of questions should not be asked of the membership. I believe that this voice was the voice of fear talking. Progress and/or evolution of an organization are very uncertain and scary for some. This group believes that they were the voice of the club and felt they should fight hard for what they believed.

I'm proud of what this board was able to do for our club. We did not back down against the personal attacks and rhetoric, and we were able to have a transparent and honest vote. Because of this vote, we now know that this small group is no longer the voice of the club; they are the minority. I take pride in the fact that when the vote happens again in the very near future, the club will make the transition into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I would like to thank all of the board members for their hard work this year in the face of adversity.

We could all use a night of lighthearted fun and entertainment. This year's Christmas party will be a great time for all. I'm looking forward to celebrating our annual party in the beautiful Herban Feast building again this year. I look forward to seeing you all.

Cheers.

Ed.



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## Christmas Party!

The Christmas Party is upon us. To make things easier for all concerned, go out to the WFFC website and pay for your dinners. And stuff your wallets before you come because you could very well go home with a trip at **Doug Schaad**'s place on the Oregon coast; a pontoon boat from Classic Accessories; a very special bamboo rod; an awesome fly plate put together by **Gil Nyerges**; a gift certificate for two at the Corson Building, one of the most acclaimed restaurants in the Seattle; two winter jackets from Outdoor Research; or more.

The party is at Herban Feast, 3200 1st Ave. S., Seattle. The Wet Fly hour started at 5:30.

Contact **Earl Harper** at [earl@harperstudios.com](mailto:earl@harperstudios.com), or at 206.763.9101, if you have something you would like to donate, or you

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## Membership Notice *by Ed Sozinho*

The board did its annual review of the membership dues. Everything will stay the same, except for the late fee, which will increase from \$10 to \$30. The 2011 dues schedule will be:

Active: \$70  
Associate: \$45

The late fee (after March 31st) will be an additional \$30.

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## Fly Tying Classes Starting *by Jim Higgins*

Our fly tying class would make a great gift for that special someone. The class starts on Thursday, January 6, 2011, and goes for eight Thursdays. It will be held at 6:30 pm at Mercer Island Covenant Church, located at 3200 78<sup>th</sup> Ave SE on Mercer Island. Our gifted instructors start with the basics and lead you through some of the more advanced tying steps by teaching you to tie 15 different patterns—"the ones that catch fish". I am sure you know someone who would benefit from this class: kids, grandkids, or your fishing partner? Only \$35 to take the class. A DVD of the instructors tying the flies is available for only \$10 more.

To register or for more information, call **Bob Birkner** at 206-542-4623.

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Andrew Bennett '10 Craig Koeppler '10

## 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.

Our President, **Ed Sozinho**, called the meeting to order noting that tonight was our last regular business meeting of the year. Guest introductions included two future members, Art and John, as well as Pete who moved here from the Northeast and immediately got good advice to look into the WFFC. From there, **Captain Keith** introduced a man well known to all, **Steve Raymond**, who graced Heritage Night with a show he filmed in 1974 about dry fly trout fishing in the Kamloops.

Steve reminded members of an old TV show, *The American Sportsman*, hosted by Curt Goudy, that arranged and filmed a meeting of a local sports enthusiast with a celebrity. *The American Sportsman* ran on Sunday afternoon in a time before 200+ channels and year-round sports. Well, sometime in the 70's Steve, who watched a few shows now and again when he wasn't fishing, got called in to guide in the Kamloops. They searched high and low to find a celebrity, finding eventually an avid angler named Peter Duchin, who some might know as a big-band pianist of small fame and a husband who married better than he played.

Expecting a stuffed shirt, Steve met Peter and his wife, who turned out to be nice folks who bonded with their country cousins. They headed up to Murray Lake hoping to imitate the traveling sedges active at the moment. Wired up and ready to go, the crew took a couple boats, one with the anglers, another with sound and camera, and the final with a scuba crew for underwater "hook up" shots.



*Steve Raymond on The American Sportsman*

A typical day included an early start, long fruitless days on the water, retreat to the hacienda, and a long night of fly tying, fly chat, Cognac, and Cubans. Some days were better than others, some scripts sounded better in the studio than others, and some nights had more cognac than others. They relaxed into the task and started to haul in more fish each day. By this time, the guys knew each other pretty well. The crew left with miles of 16 mm film that got chopped into 13 minutes, and Steve has been waiting for his other two minutes the rest of his life.

Remembered as one of the most intense weeks of his life, Steve felt real pressure to catch fish while the scuba guy ran out of air waiting for live action. With no further adieu, after promising that we couldn't laugh, Steve cued up a rather faded video of some great fishing.

Peter turned out to be a fair angler and handy with the rod and glib. Steve broke it down and explained the difference between a periwinkle, nymph, mating dun, and spinner. The local boy gave out a few choice pointers to a sound track of tacky jazz that would have made the Rat Pack wiggle their hips. After the key tickler broke off a good one, Raymond showed him how it was done. Following suit, the guest developed a subtle touch and started hauling them in.

Members questioned Steve on matters from music to lost pipes. Asked how he got chosen, Steve noted that he had written a book on the Kamloops trout that caught the attention of the show's producers. He found Peter a great guy and they stayed in touch over the years.

Capt. Keith introduced Andy Marks from Coastal Conservation Association, who had approached the Board to speak to the membership. Andy and **Dave Schorsch** fished steelies on the Green River in early days, lost a few rods, found a few summer runs, tied a few flies, and got the hang of it. Dave inspired in Andy a lifetime of conservation activism and determination to restore salmon and steelhead runs so that his grandchildren have the same opportunities some day.

Andy has found the issues in the NW too complex to just apply common sense – get the gillnets off the rivers, stop gillnetting in the Sound. Working on a number of fronts, the volunteers of CCA work with the whole gamut of stakeholders between the

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Bonneville Power Administration, tribes, commercial interests, and sports fishermen. In the evangelical mode, Andy described a large tent of volunteers and activists backed by paid staff and a national organization. In order to dispel rumors to the contrary, Andy asked questions to make sure that members got the straight dope about the group. Armed with plenty of propaganda, he left members with plenty of info and a website – <http://www.ccapnw.org>.

CCA focuses on commercial harvest management and hatcheries. They believe that flooding the water with hatchery fingerlings is more harmful than dams and sea catch. The group tries to come on strong on a few issues and make their presence felt. Working on crab, CCA succeeded in getting 55% for recreational use. Arguing that a recreationally caught salmon is worth 17 times more than its commercially caught brother, CCA tries to convince legislators to put their money where their mouth is and recognize the overall economic benefits of a dude with a bent rod with a guide on the river and a local motel booked for the night.

Some members took Andy on about some of his details, but he maintains the hatcheries are working at cross-purposes with efforts to restore habitat. They only wade into the fray when they have their facts in order, a simple, clear message, and a good chance to have an impact.

A long-awaited break finally got the members out of REM and ready for the exciting announcements of the Nomination committee. Are you ready for this? **Bill Redman** kept to the script in regard to this year's nomination. Following a contentious year of debate, the committee found members a little stunned. But following the advice of **Gil Nyerges**, Bill believes every member should be valued and recognize there is good work to be done. The committee set up a list of men who they believed could fulfill the jobs and was gratified to find men at the top of the slate ready to step up.

Those men include **Rocco Maccarrone** for President, **David Ehrich** for First Vice, **Mike Wearne** for Second Vice, **Mike Santangelo** for Third Vice, **Ron Tschetter** for Secretary, **Don Barton** for Treasurer, **James Macdonald** returning with his big smile for Ghillie assisted by nominee **Conrad Gowell**, and Trustee nominees **Bob Young & Chapin Henry III**, who rounded out the slate.

Steve Raymond put the kibosh on further nominations and the specter of hanging chads, and requested a vote by acclamation. After that celebrity contest, prospective members had praise lavished upon them and members quickly circled "yes" on their ballots.

Ed remarked that the Home Waters committee is redrawing the plans, having become more familiar with the site off Ringer Road. Yours truly stopped in the other day with **Maury Skeith** and walked to the river from the WFFC area, finding some nice water even in high-water conditions.



## Fishing Report/Odyssey: Snake, Grande Ronde, and Salmon Rivers

by Scott Hagen

**Jim McRoberts** and I departed Bellevue about 8:15 am on October 21<sup>st</sup>, arriving at No-Key RV parking on the lower Grande Ronde, just above Heller Bar about 6:00 pm. We saw **Jay Deeds** and **Mike Santangelo** heading down to the Snake to fish about 10 miles below Heller Bar and met **Hugh and Suzie Clark** already parked at No-Key. Jim, Hugh, and I spent Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning



Jim McRoberts



## Cutthroat Alley *by Ron Tschetter*

fishing the 'Ronde. Jay and Mike, who were staying in Clarkston, split their time between The Snake and the 'Ronde. Everybody caught fish—I had a four-fish day on Saturday—all taken on a Great Pumpkin fished wet. We also ran into **Pat Peterman** on the 'Ronde. He, Mike, and Jay had dinner in Clarkston one evening.

The five of us met Mike Smith and his huge jet boat at Heller Bar about 4:00 pm Sunday. We spent the next two and a half days ranging up the Snake, well into Hell's Canyon. The fishing was pretty good. Hugh landed a 34" fish, biggest of the trip. Everybody landed several steelhead. My highlight was raising and landing a 24" hen on a skated dry... using my new cane rod and an antique Hardy Perfect that **Chuck Ballard** found for me a few years ago. Mike Smith dropped us off at Heller Bar about noon Wednesday. Jim and I fished the "Elbow Hole", and each landed a fish, Jim's being a 30" wild hen. Later we went through the "Shadow Pool" and I landed another fish and got "moonied" by a heron.

Jim and I left No-Key about 8:00 Thursday, and met Jay and Mike in Clarkston. Jim then rode home with them and I met my new bride Stephanie at the Clarkston airport. Stef and I then drove to Salmon, ID, where we spent the next three days fishing the Salmon with her old boss Bill Bernt. Our luck with the weather held, perfect conditions with light cloud cover and mild temperatures. I managed to land three of four hooked steelhead. Bill and Stef, mostly back trolling plugs, got blanked. Yahoo for fly fishing!!

There isn't a more delightful experience than fly fishing on one's birthday. As I've gotten older, routine parties and celebrations have gotten somewhat stale, plus the fact that my birth date, September 11<sup>th</sup>, now casts somewhat of a dark shroud in American history.

Our club outing at **Jay Deed's** place on Hood Canal just happened to coincide with my birthday. I originally signed up on our website with the comment that I had never fly fished in saltwater and furthermore, never targeted sea-run cutthroat or silvers. I had no clue what was in store.

To my good fortune, **Jim Young** picked up on my website comment and invited me to come along with him. I couldn't have asked for a better guided excursion into the realm of the sea-run cutthroat.

After we arrived at the Misery Point boat launch, the heavy morning overcast had burned off, revealing anything but misery. Clear, calm, the Olympics thrusting up through the clouds: an absolutely gorgeous setting.

The first thing I learned about these sea-run cutthroats is that you have to know where to look for them. This saltwater fishing has a lot more variables to contend with than my usual freshwater lake endeavors. Tide runs, bait fish, bait balls, rocky shore, sandy shore, structure, depth limits, and (in the case of sea-run cutthroat) location, location, location.



*Jim Young's 'Cutthroat Stalker' Launched and Ready for Business*

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*A nice fat sea-run Cutthroat (the green spots are sea lice)*

You see, these sea-run cutthroats move around a lot. Sort of free spirits. They can be one place one minute only to move somewhere else the next. So it is a challenge to find them. But this makes it all the more exciting when you do find them.

You need a powerboat to cover a large expanse of water in this area of Hood Canal. It's big water and you need to move around quickly. We spent the first few hours moving around, searching some of Jim's favorite cutthroat places. One particular beach area looked especially fishy. We spent an hour or so casting our baitfish patterns to well-contoured, shallow shoreline, but we could only manage one cutthroat and a couple of small sculpins.

We then decided to move back to a long beach a few miles away where we had originally started fishing earlier that morning, thinking the tide change might give us better results.

Upon arrival, things looked a lot more promising. The tide was now running in a different direction and Jim noticed small baitfish dimpling along the shore, something we hadn't seen earlier. Then we started getting into fish, lots of them. I was astonished to see how shallow these fish were, the depth finder steadily tracking at 5 feet or less. We were tracking so close to shoreline, I swear I could have leapt from the boat to the beach without getting the least bit wet.

These fish would hurl themselves from these shallow depths at our baitfish patterns, sometimes with more than one cutthroat following it. Most of the fish ran on average 10", with a few 12" and 13"

into the mix. But don't let their size fool you. They fought as hard as any trout I've ever caught, making my old Hardy reel just sing. I think the count was 15 sea-runs for the day with quite a few more hooked and lost. I'm convinced we would have done even better if we didn't have to contend with the enormous amount of 'surface salad', small pieces of kelp grass that kept contaminating our flies.

Jim tells me that this was a very good sea-run cutthroat day, and I am not to expect this sort of fishing as the norm. Sometimes sea-runs are as elusive as Bigfoot.

And that long beach shore we fished? It is now affectionately named 'Cutthroat Alley', founded September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Can't think of a better place to spend a birthday.

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### **Wives Luncheon** by Don Gulliford

Laurels & cudos to **Pete Baird** and **Perry Barth** for honcho'ing and hosting a wonderful WFFC Wives luncheon at Maggiano's in Bellevue, AND, how often do members get to lunch with their best Bellevue High School teacher 57 years later, Jean Walkinshaw?



*Jean Walkinshaw and Don Gulliford*

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### **Trustee Positions on the WFFC Foundation** by Greg Crumbaker

The WFFC Foundation is a Washington Non-profit Corporation organized and to be operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes, and to promote the public welfare through

the development, promotion, and support of programs and projects for the wise use, management, and conservation of fish, wildlife, forests, waters, and other natural resources. Recent foundation grants have been the ongoing support for Project Healing Waters (veterans fly fishing through the VA), web development for *The Osprey* publication, and financial support for Reel Recovery (fly fishing for male cancer patients). The Foundation is managed by a board of seven trustees, one of which is the prior year's WFFC past president and one other board member of the WFFC. There can be no more than two trustees who are currently on the board of the WFFC. In 2011, the Foundation will have two openings for trustees and the Foundation is requesting interested WFFC members who have an interest in becoming a foundation trustee to let the incoming president of the WFFC know of your interest. The board at their February meeting will vote on the two new foundation trustees. One of the two new trustees must be a 2011 WFFC Board member. If you have any questions regarding foundation activities, please contact **Greg Crumbaker**.

### **Foundation Fund Raiser at the WFFC Christmas Party**

Foundation activities are solely financed through WFFC member contributions. There will be an opportunity to make a tax-deductible contribution at the Christmas Party. It will be a raise-the-paddle for the various amounts. The foundation supports conservation and fly fishing, and your donation is a great way to support your sport and take an end-of-year deduction. And if you're working on your end-of-year financial estate planning, it's also a time to think of a bequest to the foundation.

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### **Fishing by the Book** by Mike Wearne

*The Way of the Trout* and *Many Rivers to Cross*  
by M. R. Montgomery

I have been rereading William Least Heat-Moon's *Roads to Quoz, an American Mosey*. No one better captures the magic of traveling and leaving the direction of that travel to serendipity. He has honed the practice of observation to a fine art.

In contrast, the author M. R. Montgomery leaves almost nothing to chance. His observations are fo-

cused, thoughtful, and instructive. The reader of these two fly fishing books is the fortunate recipients of the author's efforts.

*The Way of the Trout* carries the reader all over the West in search of a fly fishing experience. There is an immense amount of Bug Science 101 in this book. Montgomery explains with ease the natural beauty of both the fish and the basis of the flies we use to catch them. In explaining a fly, he referred to The Caddis Fly, a shop in Eugene that I visit at least once a year. It confirmed to me the credibility of his discussion.

Several of the essays involve returning to streams and locations in Montana as an adult that the author fished as a child. The passion resulting from the degradation of the resource simmers at a boiling point throughout this book.

In his youth Montgomery spent his summers with his uncle and aunt in Anaconda, Montana. His parents annually put him on the Greyhound Bus with meal money for the trip from San Diego to Butte! His uncle taught him to fly fish and in the process encouraged him to be observant of the wilderness.

*Many Rivers to Cross* is a series of focused trips in search of a specific fish species. These trips extend from Idaho, Montana, Utah, Oregon, and New Mexico. The reader would be advised to have a Delorme Atlas and Gazetteer handy when reading this book. Montgomery leads you to some rewarding fishing locations. This book would be a good reference if you planned a fly fishing trip in the West. There are a sufficient number of suggested sites to fill out any itinerary.

As a side note, the author is interested in collecting arrowheads. In the *Many Rivers to Cross* book, there are four arrowhead illustrations and one fish illustration. In *The Way of the Trout* book, there is one arrowhead illustration and 35 fly illustrations. There is an interesting arrowhead tutorial in both books.

If you simply want to read a couple of enjoyable, well-written books about fly fishing, these two books will satisfy your desire. If you want to be inspired, learn more about fish species, locate some great out-of-the-way fishing spots, and expand your fly fishing universe, these two books are just the ticket to that trip.

The serendipity of trips suggested by both of these books is a treasure.



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Stamp  
here

December, 2010

### Meeting Announcement



The WFFC Christmas Party will be at the Herban Feast on Tues. 12-21. The address is 3200 1st Ave. South, Seattle.

The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 7:00 PM.