

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXVIII NO.2

FEBRUARY, 2018

President's Riffle

At the February Board Meeting our Treasurer, Jim Goedhart, presented us with the proposed 2018 Club Budget. Officers and Committee Chairs work with Jim in January and early February each year to settle on their goals and attendant budgetary requirements. Our intrepid Treasurer, Jim this year and for as long as I can remember, spends many hours balancing these financial requests against our projected income streams and available balances to come up with a proposed budget. I'm happy to report that all looks good budget wise for 2018. The Board has agreed on the proposed budget which will be presented to the general membership for approval at the next Dinner Meeting on February 20th. Please plan to attend so you will better understand our financials and how the club operates.



Our featured speaker at the February Dinner Meeting is renowned still water fisherman Phil Rowley (word has it that Phil will also be our featured "fly tyer" for the evening). Phil's presentation is entitled "Ten Stillwater Mistakes and How to Avoid Them". I suspect that based on my personal stillwater abilities I make all ten of these mistakes. I plan to listen carefully and hopefully learn how to correct at least some of them.

So ends the riffle portion, now on to the rapids!

The arrangement we have with the Seattle Tennis Club is that use of the facility for the evening (including free parking as available) is baked into the cost of dinner. The STC has graciously agreed that we may invite all our members to these meetings whether or not they choose to purchase dinner. Typically separate chairs and occasionally tables without tableware are set up to accommodate our non-dining members. This ensures that the wait staff whose numbers are determined by our dinner paying headcount is sized appropriately and are not confused when it comes to serving dinner. If you are not having dinner but decide to sit with fellow diners please make it clear to the servers that you are not having dinner. The salad bar, rolls, coffee and desert are all included in the price of dinner. There is no "a la carte" option.

Please, out of respect for other club members and our relationship with the Tennis Club decide if you are having dinner or not before you pass the check in desk.

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For the Good of the Order

By Michael J. Moscyki, Membership VP

2018 Dues Payments

If you have paid your WFFC 2018 dues at \$80 for Active members (most of us are in this category) or paid \$50 as an Associate member (live more than 35 miles away from Seattle, have no voting rights and requested this status) Thank you! Senior and Honorary members do not pay dues.

If you have not paid your 2018 dues, this note is for you. Please pay by the preferred method through the www.WFFC.com Member-side of the website. There is a button "Member Dues" three rows down and in the center to pay your dues. Please select the correct category of Active or Associate as noted on the Roster and follow the instructions.

If you are unable to pay by the electronic website method, please send your check made out to the Washington Fly Fishing Club and mail it to the Treasurer, James Goedhart. Jim's address is in the Roster

Per the By Laws:

"Section 5. Delinquent Dues. A. Any member delinquent in dues payment on March 1 of each year shall automatically be dropped from membership and the Club mailing list, without notice."

Call or email me if you have any questions or difficulties.

Your dues help to support the club in its mission and activities. Thank you for your membership and support!!

Book Review

Let me suggest a book to those of you interested in fish conservation. I read it recently and it changed my perspective on the hatchery-fish-farm-wild fish-conservancy arguments. This book's author is not overtly political nor has he a noticeable axe to grind. In short, the issue of farmed fish, escaped Atlantic Salmon, fish farms of all types, protection of wild species and hatchery fish is ... 'rather complicated' and not new at all. A real driver of the problem is food, per the author. More people are alive today than ever before and everyone is eating more fish. Many areas depend on fish for a prime source of protein and economic resource. I recommend this book not to change your mind, but to expand understanding of the

truly Global picture. As you may have noticed, conservation-minded sportsmen are not the most influential group in this fight. So, if we care about these issues, you have to know and understand all the issues. I recommend for your consideration *Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food*, 2011, by Paul Greenberg.

Pay Back

Do you remember the person who first introduced you to fly fishing? I bet you remember. I do. Do you sometimes think of that person and remember back to another time? I do. So, who is going to remember you in that way, some day? Now is the time to make sure that there are some people who will have those thoughts about you.

What can you do? It will require you to put in a little effort. First think of relatives, friends or acquaintances who might have that spark to become a fly angler. Then talk to them about it. Use the club resources like inviting them to a dinner meeting with an interesting speaker or invite them to an outing with the club or on your own, take them to a park with a rod and old fly line and show them how to cast on the grass. When someone says, "Do you fly fish?" don't just say "Yeah" and walk on. Check out their interest a little bit further and encourage the interest. Tell them about the WFFC website (wffc.com).

It's your Pay Back time! Be that somebody that somebody will remember someday.

Mentors Needed

You will recall that last year we streamlined the process to induct new members into the club. A part of the streamlining process was that having two sponsors for a new member was no longer necessary. But as a result, we lost our built in "mentor assignments". We replaced that with volunteer mentors from the membership assigned to newly inducted members. The mentors are assigned to new members by the membership committee and it is voluntary.

Our list of volunteers needs to grow. If you are interested in being a mentor, please let Mike Mosczynski, Membership know that you are interested. Being a mentor is not a terribly involved com-

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1st Vice President (Membership)

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2nd Vice President (Programs)

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Gary Bergquist, Past President; Peter Crumbaker '16; Ron Little '16; Hugh Clark '17; Robert Birkner '17, James Young '18; John Narver '18

Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website in the roster area.

mitment. What is recommended is that during the new member's first year you.

Contact the new member by email or phone once or twice a month.

Sit with them at the first few dinners if you are both attending. Introduce them to people you know at the club

Tell them about the upcoming outings

Answer their questions about the club or fly fishing. (if you don't know the answer sometimes, just refer them to someone you think might know)

In short, just think about what you would like someone to tell you if you joined an organization that was new to you.

On the Fly

The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich

January 16, 2018

Members, with about 50% es-chewing either coat or tie, gathered for Awards Night. With this shabby crew in tact, Bill Neal, with notes prepared, decided to give up all the awards in one fell swoop, and to serve up a program as well. To get this aggressive evening off to a start, President Gravendyk, handled the gavel with the sort of authority that makes him famous.

Getting serious for a minute, John remembered historic member Dick Sterns (see page 4) with a minute of silence. Following a few words about the long time member, Bill Neal took the mic to spread recognition where recognition is due. To start with, Bill asked the key members of the Christmas Party - Carrie Hodges, Stephanie Hagen, Jim and Caroline Goedhart, Kris Kristoferson, Keith Robbins, Chuck Ballard... Resounding applause..

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.



Next he called Chuck Ballard up to the front and honored the long time active member with a certificate denoting 40 years of service to the WFFC. Any of you out there who have worked on committees, gone to meetings, and attended outings know



just how valuable chuck is to the club

The **Tommy Brayshaw Award**, to a member of the greater fly-fishing community for his or her contribution to the sport, “honors one among us who we hold in highest honor for.....”. After a few words to remember Tommy, Bill handed the mic off to Chuck Ballard who recited the contributions of our award winner to fly casting and fly tying classes, in what Chuck called a “soft sell” teaching technique, many time Boyd Aigner award winner, and contributions to the community - Walt Swanson

Next Bill asked Ron Dion to the dias to come forth and give the **Empty Creel Award**, a formerly humorous award to that angler with the emptiest creel evolved to one of our most prestigious awards given to a member in utmost standing. But first, all the former recipients took applause. This year’s winner, a newish member got a fast start to membership through fly tying class and quickly elevated her efforts to save Christmas, in other words, help raise money for our club and give members a good time. A record setting year, Chair Carrie Hodges took the stage and toasted her colleagues with humble comments and raised glasses.

The **Letcher Lambuth Award** is given out only when a recipient comes

along who has earned the award. His good friend Danny, a fellow Fidalgan, introduced Tom Fulk, from the Fidalgo Fly Fishers. Tom is retired Forest Service agent. Twenty-five years ago he added bamboo rod building to his impressive wood-working skills and since then has made hundreds of rods for sale and donation to his club. His expertise grew until he needed to write a few books about the subject, while making boats all the while. Fitting the criteria to a key, Tom Fulk took home his award to Whidbey Island. Tom thanked his nomina-



tors and the WFFC for the award.

Next Bill honored long time members of forty years or more before descending to the dishonor of the **Half Assed Award** with a poem. He started off by breaking the thing, proving his past qualifications to jeers. By tradition, the passing of this low jest must be done in verse. A self inflicted wound, the recipient reported arriving



at Chopaka looking forward to setting up his water craft, to no effect, since the connecting seat and oars

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Remembering Dick Sterns

by Chuck Ballard

Dick was my sponsor when I joined the club 40 years ago. At that time he was Club president and was active in getting us involved in issues he cared about. He had us join with the State Autobahn Society in a lawsuit to control clear cutting in sensitive stream areas.

During and after his tenure as president, he organized Vibert box planting activities on the Yakima and Teanaway Rivers, and helped The WDFW in their Searun Cut-throat tagging and broodstocking programs. His slideshow about these programs has been shown at various clubs and symposiums.

A strong advocate of education, he created lesson plans and media for fly tying classes that he taught for years. I, and several members were introduced into the Club through these classes.

He was one of the first club members to be certified as an FFF casting instructor and set up Spring classes at Green Lake and Renton. With Andy Hall and past member Steve Rajeff, he helped establish the now defunct Seattle Casting Club.

He worked with Steve Raymond and others to establish the WFFC Foundation and was its first president.

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He established and was chef for the WETBUNS outings for over 30 years. His homemade wine: Saint Earns, graced the tables of many club outings. His memoir, *My River*, chronicles many of the Club's activities.

A consummate organizer, he established and wrote many of the Clubs operating procedures that are in use to ease the transition between Club officers and committee chairs.

Dick is recipient of The Empty Creel, The Tommy Brayshaw, The Andy, The Half-assed, and several of Al Pratt's coveted Goofus Awards. He was a life member of the FFF.

Lastly, it should be remembered that Dick made himself useful as a Club Member.

Inslee Denies Tesoro Oil Terminal

You did it! Governor Inslee made a landmark decision today when he rejected the largest proposed oil train terminal in the United States. This is a major victory for our climate and communities. Governor Inslee determined that the project poses unacceptable risks to the health, safety, and sustainability of communities throughout Washington.

Join us in thanking Governor

Inslee for protecting the Pacific Northwest from one of the most reckless proposals in its history.

You made Tesoro-Savage the most opposed project in the history of Washington's Energy Council, with over 300,000 comments urging denial of the proposal. Along the way, you became part of the Stand Up To Oil campaign. And, together, we have defeated every major oil train proposal in the Northwest.

President's Riffle continued

Whew that was exciting! Now on to the tailout.

Dues are due on January 1st of each year. The club provides a grace period of 60 days before dues are considered past due on March 1st at which time non payers are dropped from the roster. In past years the membership committee has spent countless hours during the months of January and February contacting individual late payers by email and phone to remind and encourage them to pay their dues. We have decided this year that personally contacting late payers is a poor use of our membership committee time. If you are having difficulties paying via the website for any reason please contact First Vice President for Membership, Mike Mosczynski, directly. With that in mind, for those of you who have not yet paid your dues please note March 1st is fast approaching. Fair Warning!

Man I'd love the sun to start shining. I really need a day on the water. How about you?

Tight lines, John



Fishing Reports

Tierra del Fuego and the Rio River Grande

by Bob Burdick

Jan 28th---Feb 2nd, 2018

I again accompanied Scott Hagen and Jay Deeds this year, as I have for the last 2 years, on this mind blowing Argentinian adventure into a treeless land of wind, sheep, guanacos (a camel like animal) and huge sea-run German browns. I found fewer fish than in previous years, prompting me to focus my time on improving my spey casting abilities which have evolved so painfully slowly over the last 3 years. The Estancia Maria Behety Lodge, on the banks of the Rio Grande, uses 6 guides, each of which is assigned to two new anglers per day, to help their clients maximize their fishing experience which includes their spey casting abilities. Although one could easily become frustrated with the downriver wind which averaged 25 miles an hour throughout the week with frequent gusts to 35 mph, these excellent casters and teachers showed me how to use the wind to my advantage to make the mantra "the wind is your friend" a reality. Intimidating as the wind might be, the guides almost always were

able to position us with our backs or sides to the wind.

Using a Guide-line 13.5 foot rod built for Skandi casting, and an Air-flow 40 foot Scandi Long line with a 15 foot poly tip plus a 6 foot mono leader I was soon able to complete a 80 foot roll cast delivered downriver at 45 degrees and drop the fly within 6 inches of the opposite bank of the river fairly consistently. Because it's nearly impossible to place a cast at 90 degrees across the wind with a roll cast, single spey, or double spey perfecting an energy efficient snake roll was a priority when the situation called for a cast to land directly opposite of the caster and took most of the week to learn.

When heavier flies or deeper drifts were required my Sage 1, 13.5 foot spey rod with a 20 foot Airflow FIST line (a composite line with approximately 7 feet of floater, 7 feet of intermediate, and 7 feet of sinking line (to which I attached another 10 feet of various weighted sink tips which kept my anchor from blowing on such a short line) cut through the wind well and handled casts of 60 to 80 feet

Scott Hagen, on the Rio River Grande, needs three hands



opportunities, we were instructed to start swinging small dry flies working from the head of the pool to the tail and then gradually adding weight to line and fly to reach every possible vertical level. Flies recommended by the guides ranged from small stout #14s to 6 inch long leaches near dark. I did not detect any one technique that seemed optimum, other than more fish seemed to be caught near dark when the pools often became alive with rolling and splashing fish.

Although 9 fish to hand may not sound like much over a 6 day period, all of the fish were chrome bright heavyweights to 18# and threatened escape any minute with their frequent aerial antics, which will hook this author into a return again next year.

using primarily a double spey.

Each day we were assigned one or two of the 32 or so beats on the length of river controlled by the lodge each of which contained one to two 100 yard long pools which the guides then divided between the two anglers. To fully maximize hooking

I think Bob covered things well, but perhaps he was a little generous in describing the wind.... 20MPH was mostly the minimum, with gusts to as much as 50MPH. One item of note for me was landing a nice fish using an old Hardy Viscount reel that was used by Gordy Young, a long time member of the WFFC and the father of Jim Young, a current long time member of the club. It was a hoot to hear that old reel sing its song.

Scott Hagen



Bob Burdick, the Greatest Fly Tyer Ever holds the goods.

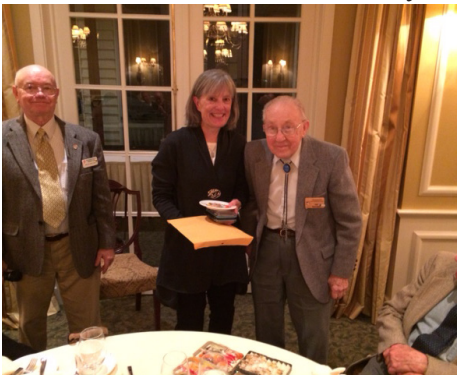
On the Fly Cont.

digressions, Bob Burdick recalled in verse the many relapses of memory that lead the way toward disaster. The tag line, "I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in" described the slow descent toward full memory loss. By this time, I knew I was the subject of ridicule, an "honor" well earned.

Guest introductions included Mike Mozinski's wife Mary Grady. Then fishing reports started with The Hawk reporting a skunk under the ice. And then members were reminded by VP for membership, to pay their dues toute suite. I got a chance to encourage members to send in articles with photos and help entertain the membership with our monthly newsletter.

More to the point of the matter, Jim Goedhart gave the financial report with, to give an example, a record setting year at the Christmas Party netting \$17,564 for the club and nearly \$8000 for the WFFC Foundation. He went into the particulars from there, but I will spare you the small stuff and tell you, we had a good year. To report, we brought in 21 new members! Brought in by personal contact, our website, MeetUp, and classes, we gained membership despite tragic losses of members and non-renewals.

Toward that end, Mike re-took the mic and introduced Alison Evert to Gil Nyerges who gave the customary speech spiced with anecdotes, warnings, cajoling, flirting, and recognition, to say nothing of giving away the flies that really matter. He mixed up the usual game by offering a dozen flies of her choice to fill the box. consensus showed her the way



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toward some well loved culprits

John regained the attention of the membership with ease and asked Scott Hagen to recount the bare facts of Steelhead on the Skagit/Sauk with a sliding algorithm that works like this: X thousand Steelhead arrivals mean 25% take shared by tribal fishery and catch and release mortality. In other words, two weeks of fishing and perhaps a few thousand encounters with a Steelhead. In addition, the WDFW wants to monitor the whole shebang with too few crew.

With that a few more earnest announcement, Bob Burdick finally introduced our speaker, Tim Essington, who told us about the School of Fisheries at the UW (it has a longer name) which will celebrate being the oldest school of fisheries in the USA with 100 years of training future experts. With many fellow travelers in the room, Tim told us about the basics and nuances of the school which trains graduate students and offer classes to thousands of undergrads each year while also housing the Geological society local chapter.

Starting a century ago, early students worked on the complexities of salmon, but also studied whaling and other commercial fisheries like halibut. Trending more toward aquatic health in more recent times, the School of Fisheries, studies fisheries as far a field as Cambodia, as well as more local subjects as hydrology, invasive species, parasites, climate change on the genetic level, ocean saltification, fishing economy, and most importantly, recreational fishing. The latter is part of a conspiracy to get students out on the water to see how the whole network of ecosystems, people, and marine life interact.

Tim ended with a couple anecdotes about two graduate students. Martini has as his goal to catch as many unique species as possible, totaling at this point up from 3000. Megsie, a Bellingham native, studied at Hawaii for grad school and completed her dissertation on Puget Sound herring, the

basis of many diets in our local waters. Both illustrate the UW motto; Science with a Difference. Tim invited members to participate in the anniversary a year hence. Keep track of upcoming events, including symposiums, open labs, and meet & greet the fine personnel in aquatic studies. You might even have an opportunity to give a few bucks. Then he was seduced into talking about Steelhead hatchery fingerlings and the politics, cum ecology of the intervention. Too complicated to convey, I'd say WDFW meant well and did what they thought was a good idea with thin data to support the effort. The hope remains in hatchery reform, including operating principles based on science. I'll save you the trouble; more study is necessary.

Questions, if you want to call them that, were fast, furious, and political. Tim handled the askers with ease and a smile, and if you listened to his answer, challenges lie ahead. Knowledge on the shelf seems to have little effect so scientists must learn to sell the information. As often happens, some thought the Q & A period might be a good time to make an impromptu speech.

For Sale by Owner: Clark Fork

Robert Asbury has a nice 2-bedroom home with separate aluminum garage and carport located on the Clark Fork River in western Montana. The home is just 10 minutes off I-90 at St Regis Montana exit on a stretch of river designated "wild and Scenic" and it truly is. House includes 1.2 acres and 125 ft of river frontage. For detailed info:

https://www.zillow.com/homes/for_sale/Saint-Regis-MT/2092893800_zpid/47527_rid/clark-fork-river-_att/47.335107,-114.934298,47.327705,-114.94891_rect/15_zm/?view=public

More importantly, here are some fishing video clips from Trout TV that goes right by the property:

<https://youtu.be/ecmVwjHuz5E>



Washington Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 639
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had been left behind. Perhaps suggesting future bouts of thoughtless

February, 2018

Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Seattle Tennis Club, 922 McGilvra Blvd. E.

This month's program is on February 20. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.

This month: Phil Rowley will be in the Seattle area for the Fly Fishing show and will be speak to the WFFC on "Ten Stillwater Mistakes and How to Avoid Them".

At the age of 6 Phil Rowley was introduced to coarse fishing in England and has been hooked ever since. For the past 20 years Phil Rowley has been fly-fishing stillwaters almost exclusively. His love of stillwater fly fishing has taken him all over British Columbia and Washington in the pursuit of trout and char. A former commercial fly tyer Phil has written for almost every major fly fishing publication in North America. His contributions also include books and numerous feature articles on fly-fishing stillwaters and stillwater fly patterns. Phil's book Fly Patterns For Stillwaters has become a best seller. Recently Phil in conjunction with True North Entertainment released a DVD, Tying Fly Patterns for Stillwaters.