

# Creel Notes from the



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

www.wffc.com

Founding Club of the FFF & members active in the FFF



Monthly Meeting Notice

February 19, 2002

LII No. 2

The College Club, 505 Madison St.

Seattle, Washington

Phone: 206-622-0624

Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:45 PM

## February Program: Tim Pask on Christmas Island Bonefish and Trevally



by Richard Embry, Program Chairman

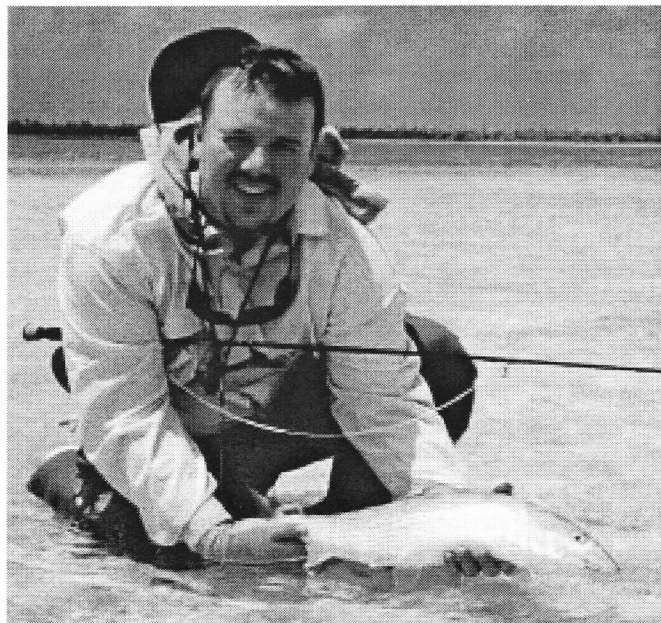
Many of you have listened to or read fishing reports, with substantial and deserved envy, respective to Christmas Island. Located only 119 miles north of the equator (3 hours South of Hawaii by plane), Christmas Island has some of the most consistent flats fishing in the world. Known for its world-class bonefishing, Christmas Island also has a reputation for having some of the best giant trevally, blue-fin trevally, golden trevally, and offshore fishing (yellowfin tuna, wahoo, etc.) in the world.

At this February's meeting, we are fortunate to have Tim Pask speak to us about Christmas Island. A saltwater fly fishing veteran, Pask has spent numerous months on Christmas Island, and has published several articles in magazines about the fishing there. Pask has become an authority on fishing this island paradise and specializes in trophy trevally and the larger bonefish in the lagoon. Come enjoy Tim Pask's many beautiful photographs, and pick up some pearls of wisdom about flats fishing and Christmas Island!

*Pask will also be our featured fly tyer during the wet fly hour. He will be sharing with us some of his most deadly patterns.*

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*Editor with Christmas Island bonefish, February 2000*

# Club News

## Thanks Bill!

Thank you Bill Boardman for all of your hard work over the last six years as Editor of the Creel Notes.

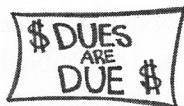
You did a wonderful job.

The membership applauds you.

## Thank You

I would like to thank the WFFC for the beautiful flowers that were sent to Frances. She really enjoyed them a lot during her last days. And the love and support I received from so many members and spouses meant a great deal to me during that very difficult time. I am truly blessed to have so many wonderful friends.

Thank you all so very much.  
Perry Barth



## Annual Dues Due!

If you have not yet paid your 2002 dues, you may give your check and the dues form (Please use if you have had any address or phone changes in the last year, whether you sent them to the Creel Notes or not) to Leland Miyawaki at the February meeting. He promises that it will not go into his Eyman account or towards the purchase of Enron stock.

## Roster Pictures

by Perry Barth

Bob Birkner will be set up during the February meeting with his camera, down by the grand piano and wanting to take your picture. He will be "snapping" before dinner and during the break. **All new members and members that are now represented by a jumping steelhead should check in with Bob.** Pictures in the roster are a valuable tool in helping all members get to know each other better.

Thanks for your cooperation.

## WFFC Jackets

by Jim Sokol, Ghillie

The Club is still in possession of several WFFC jackets which were ordered specifically for some members. If you ordered a jacket, and have not picked it up, please do so at the February meeting or contact the Ghillie, Jim Sokol, to make special arrangements. Any jackets not spoken for will be offered to the membership.

If you are interested in owning a jacket but missed the opportunity to order one, a limited number, in varying sizes will be available. Again, see the Ghillie. It is first come, first serve on remaining jackets. The price is \$45. A great price for a jacket of this type and you support the club!

## Fly Tying Round Table

by Dick Brening

February Meeting: Tuesday,  
February 26th, 7 to 9 PM

Place: Mercer Island Covenant Church, 3200 78th S.E. (S.E. corner of 78th S.E. and S.E. 32nd). Just south of the Mercer Island business district. Off street parking is available off 78th S.E.

The patterns tied at the January meeting covered the life cycle stages of the Chironomid, including Pupa, Nymph and Emerger imitations. A few samples of our work will be on display at the February Club meeting.

Dick Scales will be a featured tier at the next Round Table meeting. He will be demonstrating a new tying material and will have samples for others to try. Dick used this mystery material on at least one of his winning flies in the last Boyd Aigner competition.

You and your guests are welcome. Come to tie, watch, or just share ideas. Visitors are welcome.

If you have any questions on directions contact Pete Baird or me at the club meeting or give me a call.  
425.455.4514

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### WFFC Youth Committee

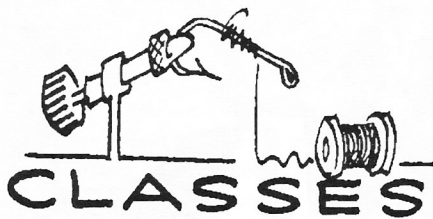
by Richard Embry

The WFFC needs you!

The WFFC Youth Committee is scheduled to begin a program at the Loyal Heights Community Center in Ballard, 2101 NW 77<sup>th</sup> St., Room 2, 206-684-4052. Beginning on Monday, March 11, the classes will be held once a week (Monday) in the evenings, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Our last class is scheduled for April 22. The curriculum includes general fly fishing information, entomology, fly casting, and fly tying (of course, the Nyerger Nymph will be one of those flies taught to the young 'uns!).

The pupils of this year's class are from Cub Scout Pack #123 in the Ballard area. Traditionally, the Committee has offered this program to youth only. It's always exciting to see the youth leave the program with new information and skills. But, unless the parents actively participate in fishing with the youth, the interest will wane. This year, however, each cub scout will have a parent along as a student. Right now, we have approximately 12 students (6 scouts and 6 parents), and we may have 8 pairs of students at the beginning of class. The Cub Scout pack is paying for the room rental and the WFFC is providing the instruction, materials, and enthusiasm!

We are actively soliciting volunteers to help! Don't be shy, remember, most of these students may not have ever fly fished, and you will be an expert relative to them. If you have questions and/or wish to volunteer, please call Richard Embry at 425-712-0140 work, or 206-362-1342 home.



### Beginning Fly Casting Class

Date: Thursday April 11, 2002

Duration: 8 weeks

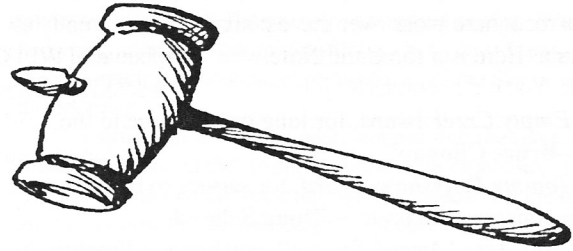
Time: 7:00PM till dusk

Place: Green Lake Casting Pier

Cost: \$25.00

Pre-register required

For more information or to enroll please call Don Simonson at 206-542-4623.



### President's Riffle

Kris Kristoferson, WFFC President 2002

February is a time for giving the fly boxes a good going over. As is typical for me, my fly boxes look just as they did when I last came off the water in the fall. Well, . . . I guess that's not entirely true.

Some of the flies are now rusty.

While I may not be the role model for fly box fastidiousness, now is the time that I do sit down and go through them. I snip and pry off those remaining bits of tippet. I clip down the scruffy bodies to better resemble their intended shapes. Occasionally, I'll run across a fly that really slayed 'em, taking fish after fish until only a few pathetic strands of material remained on the hook. Amazing, how the fish will continue to turn for a fly in that condition. My last casts with it were confident and my retrieves, full of anticipation, had often been interrupted by the pull of good fish. But that was then. Would I tie on that almost bare hook to start a day of fishing now? Nope. I think those flies leave their mojo on the water. Knowing I won't turn to such a bedraggled looking thing, it comes out of the fly box along with the others in similar shape. I'll remove some of the rusty ones, too. Take out a fly here, a couple there and pretty soon my fly boxes, never jammed with flies in the first place, are looking pretty empty.

It's time to get tying. I have to do something about these large areas of exposed ripple foam. If you need to get your boxes filled out, too, come join the gang at the Fly Tying Roundtable, February 26, 7-9pm, at the Mercer Island Covenant Church. The guys in attendance run the gamut from basic skill level all the way through expert tiers. Regardless of their ability, these tiers are happy to share their knowledge and help the rest of us as we try to get a little better at it. They have even been known to share a few scraps of material with tiers in need. Not everybody ties. Some just watch and see what others are doing. You can bring your stuff or just come to check it out. Either way, put it on your calendar. It is a lot of fun and, if you are like me, you probably need to do some tying anyway.



## 2001 Awards Recap

by Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

Congratulations to the 2001 award winners, and thanks to all members who attended our January ceremonies to recognize those who have contributed so greatly to the Club. Here is a recap for those who were not able to attend:

**Empty Creel Award**, for long time service to the Club—**Bruce Clingan**.

**Tommy Brayshaw Award**, for service to the community on conservation issues—**Doug Schaad**.

**Half-Assed Award**, for, well, you know—**Preston Singletary**.

We did not present the Andy Award, for a member who has "suffered most cruelly from the vagaries of Murphy's Law," since all potential candidates seemed to have brought on their own misfortunes, but we are actively seeking candidates for 2002 so any information would be appreciated. Also, we did not present the Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsman Award, but thanks to the craftsmanship of Dick Brening, we were able to present to past recipients Andy Hall and Gil Nyerges reduced scale versions of this Award for their permanent retention.

The participation in the **2001 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition** was the largest since its inception five years ago. We seriously hope that the enthusiasm for this event will continue. The winners for 2001 were: **Dick Scales**, first place; **Kyle Looney**, second; and **Dick Brening**, third. The winning flies will be on display at the February members meeting.

The Awards Committee also presented two special awards. The first of these, perhaps best described as an **Educator Award**, went to **Don Simonson**, for his sustained dedication and contributions to the Club and the community in the teaching of fly fishing skills. On the humorous side, Chuck Ballard, on behalf of the Committee, presented to **Perry Barth** and **Lyle Manson** the **Grumpier Old Men Award**, for those "who have endured the hardships of dealing with people who have reached the age where 'everything is a big deal'."

Special thanks to the other members of the 2001 Awards Committee: Pete Baird, Chuck Ballard, Tim Bohlin, Dick Brening, Don Simonson, and Gordy Young.



*Doug Schaad gives a heartfelt acceptance speech after receiving the Tommy Brayshaw Award.*



*Chuck Ballard delivers a hilarious speech to Lyle Manson and Perry Barth as they receive the Grumpier Old Men Award.*



*Preston Singletary gives his best "I'm going to Disneyland" impression as he accepts the Half-Assed Award.*

## Fishing Reports

**Scott Hagen, Skykomish River- January 20, 2002**

Spent an enjoyable three hours getting acquainted with my new spey rod at the Ben Howard run on the Skykomish. Water and weather conditions were ideal, but no cooperation from the steelhead. As they say, "The fishing was great, but the catching was slow."



# Fishing Reports

## *Scott Rosenkranz, South Sound- January 12, 2002*

Went fishing with Earl Harper, Preston Singletary, and Leland Miyawaki on January 12. We met at Poodle Dog's in Fife for the morning feed, then headed off for Kopachuck. The tide was working down to low with the water glassy and not a lick of wind. Preston was first to wade in. Within a few casts, a swirl appeared at the end of his line large enough to get our attention from the beach where we fumbled with knots and insults. That swirl was the last sign of aquatic life we observed off Kopachuck. After less than an hour, we reeled in to search for more fertile waters. At Joemma, the tide was resting at low. Preston again waded in and brought a fish up to his fly, though again it failed to grab. We ended up walking down past the pipes and out around the corner seeing an occasional jumper. We took a few small silvers that afternoon as the tide rose. They weren't shy, and held well after misses, letting you bring them back up with second casts. Leland, in fact, brought one up four maybe five times while not troubling to hook the poor thing. Very entertaining. The advancing tide eventually chased us up off the beach. Earl probably caught the most fish, though they were all on film rather than line.

Pretty slow fishing, but couldn't have asked for better conditions. It was high overcast with the threat of a sprinkle that never materialized and not a hint of wind all day.

A fine time.

## *Leland Miyawaki, Skykomish River- February 6, 2002*

I was walking carefully because I know this particular path to the river is slipperier than deer guts on a doorknob. Sure enough, I went down flat on my back, spread eagled. If anyone had come upon me, they might still be telling their friends about the guy making a snow-angel on the banks of the Sky at seven this morning.

I strung up my two-hander, stepped into the river, where I found I had missed the stripping guide. "No problemo," I'll simply back the #4 GP back through the guides. By the time I got the fly down to the missed guide, it bore no resemblance to it's former self.

After doing several squats in the water to wash the mud off my butt, I made my first cast at 7:30. I fished through the run once then changed to a big black mystery fly someone had given me last year. At 9am I hooked up. I got a good wallow and waited. The hot, reel-screeching run of a double-digit wild native steelhead was a no-show. Instead, I reeled in the wimpiest, most docile steelhead I've ever encountered. It was a hatchery hen of about eight pounds that looked to be in good condition but, by her lack of action, was spawned out. I shook her off the hook and watched as she turned slowly into the current and disappeared. I've had a small dog at the end of a leash fight harder.

Soon, a couple gear guys showed up and low-holed me, ending my morning. As I walked by, one of them asked how I did. "Nothing to brag about," I said.

## *Richard Embry, Puerto Vallarta- November 15-22, 2001*

November 15 thru November 22, 2001, my wife and my father-in-law, mother-in-law, uncle-in-law, and cousin-in-law (got that?) visited Puerto Vallarta. Of course, because PV is an oceanfront town, I assumed I could go on the Internet and find substantial information about fly fishing there. I was quite surprised that there is virtually NO information on fly fishing there. Suffice to say, that didn't deter me.

Fly fishing from shore, I caught jacks, a ladyfish, a needlefish, and several mullet (baitfish). Baitfish streamers that imitated anchovies, or had a similar look, proved to be the most productive patterns. I shared a super panga (a 24' open fiberglass boat popular with Mexican fishermen) with another fly fisherman I met at the hotel. The super panga was \$180 from 7 am to 2 pm. PV is at the end of Banderas Bay, a huge bay about 25 miles in diameter, with some depths exceeding 1000 (not a typo) feet. I understand a few dorado (usually wee ones) can be caught out in the Bay, and even an occasional sailfish (though not likely). The pelagic fish were in the Pacific some 25-30+ miles from where we were.

In our boat trip we encountered huge school upon huge school of bonita feeding on the surface. Most of the surface fish were bonita, with the occasional skipjack here and there. Our boat driver would coast us into a school (which sometimes would be 200 yards by 200 yards!), and we would cast our streamers into the melee hoping for a hookup from these ornery little eating machines. After some experimentation and fishless casts, I discovered that a #6 olive/white Clouser was the ticket. I caught about 15-20 bonita, between 2 to 4 pounds, and my fishing partner caught a dandy 8-10 pound skipjack that gave him a serious tussle on his 10 weight. All of our fish were caught on a cast-fly, none by trolling. Although I used my 10 weight (which was helpful when the wind was blowing), a 9 weight would have worked just fine.

Vacationing with my in-laws proved to be an incredibly wise, albeit unwittingly so, decision. For the 4 days I was there, I would beach fish with my fly rod from 7 am to 10 am. Because my in-laws were along, my wife and the rest of the gang would go to breakfast during the time I was fishing. I would time the end of my fishing to coincide approximately with their return. Newly married, and even some of you experienced, guys take note! Everyone had a great time in PV, and we didn't feel like we were visitors.

We stayed at the Krystal Vallarta, a beautiful Mexican resort. Downtown was very busy and active. It cost us \$4 taxi fare each way to go downtown, or we could ride the local bus (sometime a fun adventure in itself) for about 35 cents each way. PV is an oceanfront city at the base of mountains, in a tropical setting (lots of palm trees on the beach and in the hills). PV has a HUGE variety of restaurant options, and everywhere we ate, the food was very good to excellent. The temperature was about 85 degrees, and the weather was generally clear. We intend to return in the next couple of years."

Fish on!

The *Creel Notes* is a publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscriptions are free with membership. Articles and other materials appropriate for publication in *Creel Notes* may be sent to: *Creel Notes* Editor, 4244 1st Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107, e-mail to [kylelooney@attbi.com](mailto:kylelooney@attbi.com) (e-mail is preferred). This issue of *Creel Notes* was produced by Kyle Looney. ***Creel Notes is printed by the second Tuesday of the month; article submissions must be received by the previous Thursday.*** Mail roster updates directly to Kyle Looney at [kylelooney@attbi.com](mailto:kylelooney@attbi.com) or the above address. The WFFC may be visited on the internet at <http://www.wffc.com>.

# CONSERVATION CORNER

*Doug Schaad, Conservation Co-Chair*

The Conservation Committee has recommended, and the Board of Trustees has endorsed, the following proposal for support of graduate studies in the Center for Streamside Studies at the University of Washington:

**Jennifer McLean** - \$1000 for her continuing investigation of wild-hatchery steelhead interactions in Forks Creek, WA. Jennifer is in her third year of funding and nearing the completion of her doctoral study. Within the professional world, Jennifer's work is seen as 'seminal and breakthrough.' And, Jennifer continues to highlight the WFFC as one of her primary sponsors. Quite frankly, it's very flattering to see the WFFC listed right next to the National Science Foundation.

**Carol Volk** - Carol has been awarded \$800 for another seminal piece of research. In terms we can all understand, Carol has hypothesized that our current riparian restoration efforts are misdirected to the planting of coniferous trees, over the native and fast-growing red alder that dominates the natural Northwest ecosystem stabilization. Carol's work is extremely well conceived and very worthy of funding.

**Dan Peplow** - Dan has been awarded \$700 for an investigation of the residual effects of heavy metal mining on the fish of the Similkameen River in NE Washington. While these effects have been demonstrated in Colorado (on resident fish) and mitigation efforts are now showing success; little has been documented on the impacts upon anadromous species. Of particular note in Dan's case, is that he will also be collaborating with Heather Bartlett, a fisheries biologist that provided a stunning presentation to the WFFC about 18 months ago (including work on the planting of sterile fish in Chopaka). The Conservation Committee was favorably impressed with a coalition that included the WFFC, a WDFW fishery biologist and faculty from the Center for StreamSide Studies.

**Jeff Shellburg** - Jeff was awarded \$500 for continuing investigations of bed-load scouring on the spawning success of bull trout. In this year of higher flows, it is expected that his data gathering will likely bring success to his studies more rapidly than in the semi-drought winter and spring of 2001.

*Jon Honea* did not re-apply for funding this year. I specifically contacted Jon to gain understanding of his decision. His response was most gratifying and speaks to the quality of folks that we are supporting. Though Jon could still use our support, he was quick to point-out that the funds we supplied had been leveraged into additional resources that would allow him to finish his studies. And, he felt that he should forego additional funding such that the WFFC could jump-start other students with promising ideas; and had no money upon which to get started. He also asked for the opportunity to come speak to the Club one more time: to share his continuing results and say thanks for making it happen.

On Tuesday, February 19th, the membership in attendance will be asked to vote upon the expenditure of \$2000 in support of these students for the calendar year 2002. The \$1000 awarded to Jennifer McLean was previously approved and does not need another vote. The Conservation Committee has recommended these awards and the Board of Trustees has endorsed the expenditure. I encourage the membership to follow their lead.

The Conservation Committee also wishes to thank the following reviewers for their efforts: *Greg Crumbaker, Jim McRoberts, Bill Redman, Preston Singletary and Pete VanGytenbeek*. The awards listed above are a compromise agreement negotiated through a consensus process that best reflects the endeavors of each reviewer.





## February 2002

- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>-                   WFCC DINNER- 5:30 PM College Club
- Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup>-           Luncheon 11:45 AM Camlin Cloud Room
- Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup>-               Fly Tyer's Roundtable 7:00 PM- 9:PM, Mercer Island  
Covenant Church
- Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup>-           Luncheon 11:45 AM Camlin Cloud Room
- Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup>-             Conservation Committee Meeting 7:00 PM, The Ram Pub

## March 2002

- Monday, 4<sup>th</sup>-                 WFCC Board Meeting, 7:00 PM College Club
- Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup>-            Luncheon 11:45 AM Camlin Cloud Room
- Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup>-          Luncheon 11:45 AM Camlin Cloud Room
- Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup>-              Creel Notes Frozen

