

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 15, 2000

L No. 2

The College Club, 505 Madison St.

Seattle, Washington

Phone: 206-622-0624

Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

South Sound Fishing

by Gene Gudger, Program Chairman

The February program, by Mike Croft, will be on South Sound fishing. Mike was born in Eugene Oregon taking up fly tying as he couldn't recognize patterns in the blister packs at Payless Drug. He has a flair for tying and ties for local fly shops. After college, he fished commercially on his father's boats off the Oregon coast. After surviving a storm in 1972, Mike figured there were better ways to die. Commercial trolling did allow him to learn a lot about salmon and color and what they hit at various depths in various lighting conditions. He didn't know it then but this experience was to be very influential.

Mike moved to Tacoma in 1979 and got his masters degree at the University of Puget Sound in fine art. As fishing was available only a mile away from the University, he could go every Saturday, and has since 1979.

Mike makes his living at commercial art and paintings, often incorporating flies into his paintings. His art and its exposure led to a job teaching fly tying at a factory in Africa. As a result, there are few flies that he does not tie. Mike has designed patterns for sheefish in the Kobuck River in Alaska, and for the peacock bass in the Amazon River.

Recently Mike finished an illustrated book as a sequel to the Curtis Creek Manifesto - A Fishbum's Guide to Catching Larger Trout. He also hosts trips and teaches classes in blue water fishing. Mike writes for Fly Fishers Online Magazine covering local waters and Baja Fishing.

Croft will address how all the little critters interrelate in Puget Sound. He will show how everything from anchovies to euphasids interrelates with sterling regularity to the salmon and cutthroat. He will also discuss fishing opportunities, timing and locations for chum, cutthroat, and silvers.

Come early as Mike will demonstrate some of his tying techniques and display his flies during the wet fly session. Come and enjoy that opportunity. February's program should be lively and relevant.

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1999 AWARDS RECAP

By Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

Congratulations to all 1999 award winners. For those Club members who were not able to attend the December and January meetings at which awards were presented, here is a quick summary:

Empty Creel Award—Doug Schaad.

Tommy Brayshaw Award—Les Johnson.

Half-Assed Award—Maury Skeith.

Wet Socks Award—Pete Baird

Boyd Aigner Flytying Competition—(1st)Don

Simonson; (2nd) Donn Mills; (3rd) (tie) Greg Crumbaker and John Schuitemaker.

Special thanks to the other members of the 1999 Awards Committee: Pete Baird, Chuck Ballard, Tim Bohlin, Dick Brening, Don Simonson, and Gordy Young.

Fly Patterns from Fly Tier's Round Table

by Dick Brening

Since there was such a great turnout at the January Round Table session, I thought you might be interested in some of the Chironomid patterns tied at that session.

1. Don Simonson: Chironomid Emerger

Hook: standard dry fly #12 -#14

Tail: Grizzly hackle fibers

Gill: White Ostrich Herl

Wing case: Rocky Mt. Sheep hair

Body: Gray dubbing

2. Chuck Ballard: Pre-emerger

Hook: 2X long

Body: Dark Swannundaze

Shuck: Closed cell foam disc (cut with paper punch, shaped like a mushroom)

Gill: Fine white hackle (treat with flotant for added buoyancy)

3. Chuck Ballard: Chuck's size 28

peacock herl body, white hackle gill

4. Maury Skeith: Black Chironomid

Hook: TMC 2457 #10

Rib: Silver wire

Body: Black or red Frostbite

Collar: White ostrich

5. Ron Dion: Bead Head Chironomid

Hook: TMC 2457 #10

Head: White bead

Body: 5 iridescent black beads

Tail (Air bubbles): Single strand of Crystal Flash

Collar: Peacock Herl

Note: Tie in Crystal Flash and secure body beads with thread dam just above hook bend. Push body beads back against dam and fill gap behind bead head with Peacock Herl.

6. Bruce Clingan:

Hook: Mustad 3906 #10

Rib: Silver wire

Body: Colored floss, over wrapped with clear Superfloss

Wingcase: Plastic sheeting

Thorax: Peacock Herl

Collar (bubble cluster): White Antron

7. Dick Scales:

Hook: 2X #14

Tail (bubble stream): Single strand Flashabou

Body: Amber Swannundaze

Wingcase: Dark Brown Antron (add a few red fibers to both sides of case for gills)

Collar: White ostrich

Bubble cluster: White Dacron

8. Greg Crumbaker: Maroon Bead Head Pupa

Hook: Tiemco 2457

Gills: White Antron fibers

Head: Extra small copper bead

Ribbing: fine bright copper wire

Body: Burgundy Superfloss

Thorax: Peacock Herl

9. Kris Kristoferson: Emerger

Hook: TMC 3769 #18

Tail & Body: Black/Gray woven wool

Wingcase: Elk hair (short but full case clipped short at head)

10. Pete Baird: Chan's P.T. Chironomid

Hook: Mustad 38941 #12

Tail: White calf hair with strand of Flashabou

Rib: Gold wire

Body & Wing case: Pheasant tail

Thorax: Peacock Herl

Collar (bubble cluster): Ostrich

Note: The numbers correspond to the flies being displayed at the February dinner meeting.)

REVISED BOYD AIGNER FLY-TYING COMPETITION

By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

Three years ago the Board of Trustees adopted the Boyd Aigner Fly-Tying Competition. The primary purpose of this was to remember Boyd and his contributions to fly fishing through a friendly competition among the members. While the Competition has been successful in attracting participants, the number participating in comparison to the number of WFFC members who regularly tie flies suggests that some changes are needed. At its February meeting the Board adopted a revised Competition to make the Competition less rigid, more focused on the patterns that members more frequently tie, and more oriented to the time of the year when members are building up their supplies of flies for the coming season. The guidelines for the revised Competition are set forth at the end of this article.

The patterns for the Year 2000 competition, as specified by the Judge, are a callibaetis dun, size 12; a dragonfly nymph, size 8, and a leech, size 8. Participants may chose or develop their own patterns with judging to be as set forth in the guidelines. Patterns are due by the June general membership meeting, with winners announced at the July general meeting.

Boyd Aigner Fly-Tying Competition
Year 2000 Revised Guidelines

The purpose of the competition is to honor the memory of Boyd Aigner and his contributions to fly

See COMPETITION On page 5.

WFFC Funds Students For Conservation-Oriented Research

by Doug Schaad, Conservation Committee Co-Chairman

Gentlemen – On behalf of the Conservation Committee, I would like to introduce the two students and the projects that you have agreed to fund for this year.

Jon Honea's successful proposal is entitled "Effect of Marine-Derived Nutrients on MacroInvertebrate Production in Salmon Spawning Streams." Without going into technical detail, Jon will be studying the benefits of marine-derived nutrients from chum salmon carcasses on Kennedy Creek in South Puget Sound. More specifically, he will be looking at the production of aquatic bugs above and below the impassable falls approximately 2.5 miles upstream from the mouth of Kennedy Creek. The lower section of the creek is heavily fertilized with the carcasses of up to 85,000 chum salmon. The upper section of the creek receives none of these benefits. He will be sampling both sections of the creek to quantitatively determine the benefits resulting from the return of the spawning chum.

Many of you probably read a recent Seattle Times report on the invasion of the bears near Rivers Inlet, BC following the crash of the runs of sockeye salmon. In essence, when the salmon disappeared there was no longer a source of food for the black and grizzly bears that were resident to the area. That report provides a nice analogy for Jon's study. In his case, however, he's looking at bugs, not bears – the macroinvertebrates that provide the major food source for the fry and pre-smolt populations of anadromous fishes upon which we build our flyfishing heritage. Jon is also receiving funding from The Olympic Natural Resources Center.

Jennifer McLean's successful proposal will attempt to answer the question: 'What is the reproductive success of hatchery fish, wild fish and possible hybrids between the two?' She will be studying steelhead returns to Forks Creek, a small tributary to the Willapa River. This relatively minor creek has had a return of 100-200 wild winter steelhead for many years. However, in 1994 a small release of planted steelhead occurred. Using advanced PCR techniques (polymerase chain reaction – the newest high tech genetic finger-printing), Jennifer will be able to study individual fish, their genetic heritage and their reproductive fitness and success.

Her study design, coupled with a unique biological situation, should allow Jennifer to provide insight into the 'true effects of a hatchery on wild steelhead population.' Though her results may not generalize to all wild populations, it may well provide a benchmark for studies of this nature.

Certainly her methodology and laboratory techniques will be transferable to other investigations. As an optimist, I can even see her work informing investigators tracking the last remnants of sockeye returning to Redfish Lake in Idaho. Jennifer's work is one significant element of a larger study on steelhead conservation genetics funded by the National Science Foundation.

My thanks to the internal WFFC reviewers: Greg Crumbaker, Kris Kristoferson, Steve Raymond, Dave Schorsch and Dick Thompson. I think the membership of the WFFC can be very proud that it is taking substantial leadership in developing the next generation of professionals in the human dimensions of riparian resources.

New Members

Blair Alexander and Michael Bennett have been accepted as new members and will be initiated at the February general meeting. Blair's sponsors are Steve Raymond and Pete Van Gytenbeek. Michael is sponsored by Dean Ingram and Pete Sparling. Let's make Blair and Michael welcome! Biographies will be published in the next issue of *Creel Notes*.

New Hotel Option at Christmas Island

by Richard Embry

Christmas Island has a reputation as one of the best destinations in the world to catch bonefish and trevally. The fishery is awesome, but the accommodations are very spartan and plain. The Captain Cook Hotel, a converted WWII-vintage barracks that houses about 50 people, is the facility used by the main travel agency that books the Christmas Island trips. Good news! A new mini-hotel, which will accommodate up to 12 people, is currently under construction and booking trips starting January, 2000. The new hotel owner, Pacific Fly Fishing Destinations, is providing week-long package trips similar in format to those provided by Frontiers, the current primary booking agent for Christmas Island.

The guides used will be recognized by and are familiar to those of you who have fished Christmas Island. The new hotel will also offer jon boats with poling platforms, an option currently not available on the island, to access areas not available to wading fishermen. However, probably the biggest difference between the two packages is the new facility and the personal service the smaller organization can provide.

If you wish more information, feel free to call me at 206-362-1342, or via e-mail at rdembry@msn.com. Tight lines!

Fishing Reports

Fall Trout Excursion

by Richard Embry

I loaded up the Jeep on September 30 and returned home on October 9, fishing central Washington, southwest Montana, and north Idaho during my trip. I fished the Colville reservation my first few days, catching numerous rainbows on hopper patterns, the largest an 18-inch rainbow. I then traveled to Dry Falls to partake in the WFFC outing.

On Saturday the lake yielded about 20 plump and feisty rainbows, most in the 14- to 16-inch range, and on Sunday I caught approximately 12 rainbows and the odd brown trout. The largest fish was 18 inches, and although most fish were caught subsurface, probably 25 per cent were caught on dries.

I then traveled to Hamilton, MT, and fished the Bitterroot for three days. My first time fishing the Bitterroot, I found it a very interesting river. The valley is beautiful, and the river offers many different classic conditions. Over the three days I caught cutthroat, cutbows, rainbows, browns, whitefish, and a small bull trout, on nymphs and dries. I didn't encounter another fisherman! The largest fish caught on the 'Root was an 18-inch rainbow. A tip: Unit #9 at the City Centre Motel, in Hamilton, has two queen beds and a kitchenette and is a great place to stay.

One afternoon I fished the Clark Fork, about 25 miles west of Missoula, and caught numerous smallish rainbows (12 inches +/-) and a chrome-bright 18-inch hen rainbow on dries, and a hefty 18-inch buck rainbow on a woolhead sculpin.

My last two days were spent on the upper reaches of the Coeur d'Alene, where I had wonderful dry fly fishing for Westslope cutthroat. I caught about 20 fish on dries on the first day, averaging about 14 inches, and caught about eight fish on the second day averaging about the same size as the day previous, with one beautiful specimen just under 20 inches. A wonderful trip, and one I will remember for some time.

Cohos, Grizzlies & the Red Dog Saloon

by Bill (The Truth) Hamilton

Pete Baird and Ron Dion had been begging me for years to go with them to Yakutat, Alaska to teach them how to catch silver salmon. Against my better judgement, I agreed to try and teach this collection of fishing-challenged nimrods the fine art of snagging (I mean catching) cohos on the fly. Had I known that Jim Hanson, Jerry Sugamele, and Dick Levinthal would also be along, I surely would have backed out.

We arrived in Yakutat in mid-September last year in the middle of a dry spell but reports of lots of fish. Pete



and I set out to the van rental place to try to find one that ran. I firmly believe that after these poor vehicles are run ragged in Mexico, they are shipped to Yakutat for burial but unfortunately they are rented out to unsuspecting cheechakos like myself. Sometimes they run, occasionally they stop, and about once during the week they get you back to the lodge. Leonard's Landing Lodge provided good meals, adequate accommodations and was a good place to stay, especially if you consider the Lodge only charges about \$1000 for everything including a jet sled trip, flying out twice, the use of a boat in the salt or in the river, halibut fishing etc. The total cost of the trip (6 days) with airfare was only about \$1400. The lads offered to chip in to pay for my trip in lieu of my guiding fee— so far I haven't seen much of that, much less a tip.

To give you an idea of how remote this place is, the garbage dump (5 minutes out of town) is known as the Yakutat zoo because there are about six grizzlies that forage for food there; the tourists come in their vehicles, roll down the windows and take pictures of the bears in this natural setting. The first fly-out trip (about 20 minutes from town) set us down at the Italio river where we caught lots of coho to 11 pounds and I got to see my first grizz in the wild about 40 feet away on the other side of a 3-foot deep river. I'm yelling "bear on the bank" at the top of my adrenaline-pumped lungs which causes six guys from another party to clear out of the hole below me. I filed this tactic, for clearing the river, away for later use. We saw about three different bears a total of six times that day, including a large one that came over to the sandbar where some of the guys were and deposited a large pile of droppings, then ambled off. This caused some of the guys to duplicate the bear's action, though probably not outside of their waders.

Ron (dirty tricks) Dion was up to his usual hi-jinks i.e. he tried to trip me in the water – it was only my impressive athletic skills that kept me upright; Ron did offer to have me throw him my new rod and reel if things got too hairy. Pete Baird was very skillful in keeping a large gob of eggs on his fly while casting; he still couldn't catch any fish though. And did I see Jim Hanson using a spinning rod? Those kinds of folks are known as cross-dressers in my neck of the woods. The jet sled trip was a lot of fun— we got into some really remote country and

See COHOS on page 5.

Fishing Reports

COMPETITION continued from page 2.

fishing, particularly fly-tying, through a friendly, annual competition that will encourage tyers to improve their skills, develop innovations in patterns, materials, and techniques, and share ideas and information.

1. All participants will compete on an anonymous basis and in one category.
2. Participants will submit three different patterns (one specimen each) imitating a "natural" designated by the judge(s). For example, callibaetis dun, dragonfly nymph, and leech. The judge(s) may also specify hook size or style or other particulars. The general intent is that the patterns imitate naturals found in Western waters.
3. The specimens will be judged on "fishability", action, creativity, degree of difficulty, proportions, and overall tying quality.
4. The judge(s) will select the winner and may, but are not required to, identify second or third-place finishers.
5. The Competition and the three naturals to be imitated will be announced in February *Creel Notes*. All patterns (one specimen each) are to be delivered to the Competition Coordinator not later than the June general membership meeting, with the award presented at the July general membership meeting.
6. All specimens will be the property of the Club and may be used for fly-plates or other purposes as the Club believes appropriate.
7. The Competition Coordinator will be a member of the Awards Committee.
8. The Competition will initially be limited to Club members, but may be expanded.
9. The award itself will be a permanent, rotating trophy with name plates for the annual recipients. The award will feature a Chopaka May pattern developed by Boyd.

COHOS continued from page 4.

caught lots of fish. Pete and Ron went halibut fishing and caught some really nice 5-pounders—Pete tried to chum the halibut by upchucking and even that didn't work. We also walked the rivers and fished from the bank, including one at the mouth of the Situk river known as the Alzhiemers (old timers, over 60) Hole. What I really enjoyed about this trip is the wide variety of experiences that you can choose from—if you get bored with coho you can do something else.

Oh yeah, the Red Dog saloon; This is a world-famous watering hole in Juneau where the plane lays over for 45 minutes which wasn't enough time for Pete and Ron to make a quick run. I'm going back this year, the lads have promised that they will pay my way and I believe them.

Spring Fly Casting Tuneup

by Don Simonson

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 15th, 8AM till Noon. We have reserved the Green Lake casting pier for YOU. Come on down and join the club's FFF Certified Casting Instructors who will be willing to help you solve any casting difficulty you might want to work on: ie: casting stroke, aerial mends, curve casts, casting in wind, double haul, distance, accuracy, roll cast, etc. We will also welcome one guest of your choice.

This can be a great experience for everyone. I learn so much with every clinic or class I teach. If you have questions, please give Andy Hall or me a call.

Fly Tier's Round Table

by Dick Brening

At the January session the room was filled with fly tiers and the variety of Chironomid patterns was outstanding. Examples of the various patterns will be on display at the February club meeting. Look for the size 28 pattern tied by Chuck Ballard (just to show us that it is still possible to tie flies this small, even with gray hair).

The February Round Table's subject will be Damsel fly patterns. Since Damsel flies are often fished in both the nymph and adult life cycle phases, there should be many interesting patterns to learn about. Please come and share your favorite. (Does anyone happen to have an adult pattern that can be made to hover about six inches above the surface?)

February Meeting: Wednesday, February 23rd, 7 to 9PM
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.
Subject: Damsel fly Patterns

You and your guests are welcome. Come to tie, watch or just share ideas. If you have any questions on directions contact Pete Baird or me at the club meeting or give me a call.

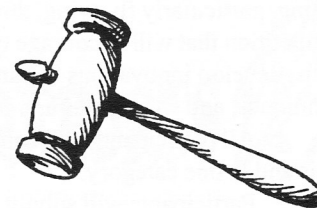
The *Creel Notes* is a publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscriptions are free with membership. Articles and other materials appropriate for publication in *Creel Notes* may be sent to: *Creel Notes* Editor, 810 Crown Drive, Everett, WA 98203-1801, E-mail to bboard@gte.net (E-mail is preferred). This issue of *Creel Notes* was produced by Bill Boardman and Roman Millett. *Creel Notes* is printed by the second Tuesday of the month; article submissions must be received by the previous Friday. Mail roster updates directly to Roman Millett, 2725 161st Pl. S.E., Mill Creek, WA 98012-7877. The WFFC may be visited on the internet at <http://www.wffc.com>.

President's Riffle

President's Riffle

by Greg Crumbaker, WFFC President for 2000

Congratulations to Doug Schaad and Les Johnson for receiving the Empty Creel Award and the Tommy Brayshaw Award respectively. The Empty Creel is awarded for exceptional dedication and contribution to the welfare of the Club. The Tommy Brayshaw for distinctive and meritorious contribution to the general community through furtherance of the aims and purposes of the Club. Hats off also to Bill Neal and the awards committee for their excellent choices for the awards.



While thanking folks, on behalf of the Conservation Committee, I would like to thank the general membership for their strong support of the University of Washington Streamside Studies program. At the general meeting in January, the members present overwhelmingly voted to fund two student projects rather than the proposed single project. The feeling was that both projects were of such importance and professionally presented, that the Club should fund both. The Club's commitment to the University is that we will fund \$1000 of expenses for a graduate student's research in each of the next five years. The University is very thankful of the Club's support. (Dave Hawkinson, thanks for asking some good questions at the meeting, which helped lead to both projects being supported.)

Starting with the February general meeting, we will begin using a sign-up sheet for our guests. Information will include name, address, phone number and guest of _____. The intent is to allow the Membership Committee better follow-up on those new folks that come invited to a meeting via the web site. We hope it will help us find out if our guests felt this was a worthwhile evening and a group they would like to be a part of, or why not. This should give us some meaningful feedback that we may or may not like, but I think it will be important information. This ties in with a year 2000 objective of making our club more appealing to younger members. To accomplish this goal we will really need help from all members. We are asking that in your consideration of a guest, you start thinking of the younger fly fishermen. Most of us have a role as an uncle, know friends of our own children or know young fishermen within the church or neighborhood community. We need to broaden the vision a little bit here.

The Conservation Committee has been greatly boosted by the addition of Preston Singletary as Co-Chair. However, the tremendous number of State Senate and House bills that the Committee has to monitor is getting out of hand. Currently there are 67 bills relating to fish and water. This is pretty amazing. To help track these bills, the Committee is trying to divide the bills up among a half-dozen members. This makes the task quite manageable and will not require a lot of time. It will require a computer and the internet, and occasionally a phone call to verify. If you can help out with this, please give Doug Schaad or Preston a call. Thanks.

Lastly do something special for your current sweetheart on Monday the 14th, so we can all meet and have a good time on Tuesday the 15th.

Anniversary Of The Brown Trout

Written by Greg Crumbaker with referral to "The Compleat Brown Trout" by Cecil E. Heacox and "Micro Patterns" by Darrel Martin.

It was 117 years ago that a German ship carrying 80,000 brown trout eggs steamed into New York harbor. Today these aggressive game fish are sought by fly fishermen in 42 of our states. Fishermen also travel to the far reaches of the world for these widely distributed fish. Kenya, Madagascar, Puerto Rico, Kashmir, Japan and Argentina are among the more popular spots. How did they get to all these places? Many of the earliest transplants were done by lonely British colonialists who missed their European trout. Thus, wherever the British had colonies, they felt a need to import their trout. In 1866 an unsuccessful attempt was made to transplant the brown into Madras. Two years later it succeeded. Back in 1875 they shipped eggs to Africa's Cape Province, none of which survived. The next boat had a special ice compartment in the hold and the Brits found that the eggs would survive up to 150 days if kept at a temperature between 33 and 35 degrees. The trout survived most areas of introduction.

Initially some anglers looked down at these immigrants, referring to them as cannibals or speckled carp. These slurs could come from those anglers who found them much harder to fool than the brookies that often filled the creels of our turn-of-the-century fly fishermen.

Today the brown trout is widely accepted as a great fish to catch. A number of patterns have been developed (as if fishermen need any reasons to create new flies). The fact is that the brown trout is a great game fish and is here to stay. Darrel Martin, in the opening dedication of his Micro Patterns book may have summed it up best: "And once again, to the master of us all, *Salmo Trutta*, whose shy shadow is the ring giver."

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Go Fishing!	31	1 FEBRUARY	2 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN HOTEL, 9TH & PINE	3	4	5 Go Fishing!
6 Go Fishing!	7 WFRC Board Meeting 7:00 PM College Club	8	9 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN Cloud Room	10	11	12 Go Fishing!
13 Go Fishing!	14	15 WFRC DINNER Meeting 6:00 PM College Club	16 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN Cloud Room	17 Fly Tyng CLASS BEGINS 7:30 PM ECKSTEIN MIDDLE SCHOOL	18	19 Go Fishing!
20 Go Fishing!	21	22	23 Fly Tyer's Roundtable 7:00 PM Mercer Is. COVENANT CHURCH	24 CONSERVATION COM. MEETING 7:00 PM AT THE RAM PUB	25	26 Go Fishing!
27 Go Fishing!	28	29	1 MARCH LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN Cloud Room	2	3	4 Go Fishing!
5 Go Fishing!	6 WFRC Board Meeting 7:00 PM College Club	7	8 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN Cloud Room	9	10 MARCH CREEL NOTES Frozen	11 Go Fishing!