

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

January 18, 2000

L No. 1

The College Club, 505 Madison St.

Seattle, Washington

Phone: 206-622-0624

Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

HAPPY NEW YEAR & CENTURY!

AWARD PRESENTATIONS HIGHLIGHT JANUARY PROGRAM

By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

January is awards month at WFFC, when we take time to recognize those members or other flyfishers who have distinguished themselves or brought recognition to the Club. Please join with us for presentation of these Awards, which include:

Empty Creel Award, for exceptional dedication and contribution to the welfare of the Club.

Tommy Brayshaw Award, for distinctive and meritorious contribution to the general community through furtherance of the aims and purposes of the Club.

At our December meeting the *Half-Assed Award*, for demonstrated and significant acts of "half-assedness," was presented to Maury Skeith, and the *Wet Socks Award* was presented to Pete Baird. Also, we announced the winners of the *Boyd Aigner Flytying Competition*: First Place Don Simonson, Second Donn Mills, Third (tie) Greg Crumbaker and John Schuitemaker.

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Officers and Trustees for 2000

Greg Crumbaker	President
Kris Kristoferson	1st Vice President
Gene Gudger	2nd Vice President
Allen Peterson	Secretary
Bob Birkner	Treasurer
Dean Ingram	Ghillie

Trustees:

James Schmidt	Bruce Greene
John Schuitemaker	Bruce Clingan
Doug Schaad	Curt Jacobs

Club News

FFF Basic Casting Instructor Certification

by Don Simonson

Members who want to try for the FFF basic casting instructor certification can do so at the Sportsman's Expo held in the new Exhibition Center, located by the King Dome, on February 10th. You must pre-register by February 2. To pre-register call 406-585-7592. If you would like more information you can call me at 206-932-4925.

Fly Tier's Round Table

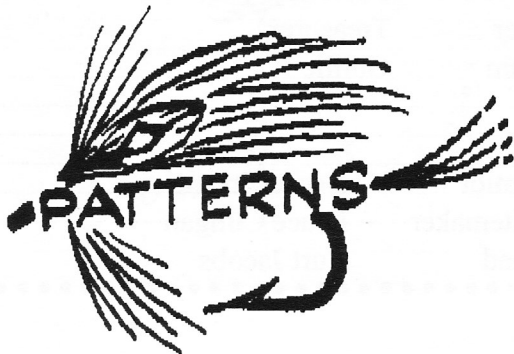
by Dick Brening

Four die-hard tiers attended the December Round Table. It was a 'Tie What You Like' session. The flies they tied included a Chopaka Mayfly (Boyd Aigner style), a brown Caddis emerger, a modified Dave's Usual (Dave Schorsch style), a Moose Mane Upright Sub-shank Parachute Mayfly (Dick Thompson style), a Mayfly emerger and a Stimulator. From that, I think you can guess what was on the minds of these tiers.

The January Round Table's subject will be chironomid patterns. I know that the club has many members with their own special version of these popular flies. Please come and share your favorite. It will be a great chance to begin tying for your spring lake fishing needs.

January Meeting: Wednesday, January 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.
Subject: Chironomid 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.



Fly Tying Classes

by Don Simonson

This year's Beginning Fly Tying class will start on Thursday, February 17, 2000 and will continue for the following seven weeks. Call Don Simonson for more details.

Place: Eckstein Middle School Cafeteria, 75th St. NE
Time: 7:30 PM
Cost: \$25.00



President's Riffle January, 2000

by Greg Crumbaker, WFFC President, Year 2000

Happy New Year, New Decade and New Millennium!! Thanks to Greg Hicks and many, many, many Club supporters, we finished the old year off in a wonderful way at the Annual Christmas party. I thought it was one of our best and I hope all had as good a time as I had. These are the types of events that remind me what an enjoyable group this is that has randomly come together. Not only do we fish well, but we also party well. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Unlike our political friends in City Hall and Olympia, now that the Presidential campaign is over, and I've been re-elected, let me tell you of my platform; i.e. the objectives for this year. The following are what I would like to see us accomplish:

- * Emphasis on how to make our Club more appealing to younger members.
- * More Conservation projects requiring man-power and financial commitments.
- * Additional emphasis on fly tying, starting with the Club's fly box.
- * An inner city fly tying and casting clinic.
- * Making our general meetings fun, stimulating and ending at 9:30PM.

Your comments and support to realize the above is always appreciated.

A special "thank you" to last year's officers and trustees and to those who have accepted their positions for 2000. On behalf of the new officers and Board, we look forward to serving our Club and keeping it at the high level of respectability it has achieved over the last 60 years.

Greg Crumbaker
President, Year 2000

WFFC AWARD RECIPIENTS

YEAR	EMPTY CREEL	HALF-ASSED	TOMMY BRAYSHAW	LECHER LAMBUTH	ANDY	BOYD AIGNER
1941	Jack Litsey	-	-	-	-	-
1942	Alton McConkey	-	-	-	-	-
1943	Bob Perkins	-	-	-	-	-
1944	Dawn Holbrook	-	-	-	-	-
1945	R.E. Dunagan	-	-	-	-	-
1946	Sanford Bacon	-	-	-	-	-
1947	Frank Headrick	-	-	-	-	-
1948	Walt Johnson	-	-	-	-	-
1949	Bill Hosie	-	-	-	-	-
1950	W. St. Germain	-	-	-	-	-
1951	Bob Bollong	-	-	-	-	-
1952	Don Sachs	-	-	-	-	-
1953	Walt Ribble	-	-	-	-	-
1954	Vince Sellen	Enos Bradner	-	-	-	-
1955	Boyd Aigner	Gordy Freer	-	-	-	-
1956	Early Orndorff	Vince Sellen	-	-	-	-
1957	Jim Headrick	Grant Putnam	-	-	-	-
1958	Russ Light	Boyd Aigner	-	-	-	-
1959	Don Ives	Dawn Holbrook	-	-	-	-
1960	Bob Eisenhart	Chas Schroeter	-	-	-	-
1961	Chas Schroeter	Al Pratt	-	-	-	-
1962	Dave Dillan	Don Sachs	-	-	-	-
1963	Fran Wood	E. Klosterman	-	-	-	-
1964	Bert Robinson	Don Ives	-	-	-	-
1965	Lecher Lambuth	W. Walkinshaw	-	-	-	-
1966	Al Pratt	Ralph Wahl	-	-	-	-
1967	Bill Redman	Howard Grey	-	-	-	-
1968	Ed Foss	-	Bill Redman	-	-	-
1969	Gordy Young	-	Ed Foss	-	-	-
1970	Steve Raymond	-	Carl Coggins	-	-	-
1971	Dick Thompson	Dick Thompson	Dawn Holbrook	-	-	-
1972	Gil Nyerges	Fran Wood	-	-	-	-
1973	Enos Bradner	Ed Foss	Gordy Young	-	-	-
1974	W. Walkinshaw	Errol champion	-	-	-	-
1975	Errol Champion	Bill Rundall	-	R. Haig-Brown	-	-
1976	Wayne Diley	Harry Ludwig	Gil Nyerges	Enos Bradner	-	-
1977	Howard Grey	Fred DeWitt	Ralph Wahl	Al Knudson	-	-
1978	Fred Kay	Dick Stearns	-	Ralph Wahl	-	-
1979	Jerry Sugamele	Andy Gumpertz	Errol Champion	-	-	-
1980	Bill Rundall	Graham Read	Dick Thompson	Syd Glasso	-	-
1981	John Callahan	Ed Pettigrew	Al Pratt	-	-	-
1982	Andy Hall	Bruce Clingan	Dick Stearns	Walt Johnson	-	-
1983	Pete Baird	Don Clough	Fred DeWitt	-	-	-
1984	Ken Scheide	Jim Poore	Dave Round Jr.	Polly Rosborough	-	-
1985	Lyn Gross	John Callahan	Steve Raymond	Dawn Holbrook	-	-
1986	Bob Graham	Denny Westover	Ted Rogowski	Ken McLeod	Bill Rundall	-
1987	Jack Hutchinson	Ed Bates	John Sager	Wes Drain	-	-
1988	Don Simonson	-	Boyd Aigner	Steve Raymond	Al Green	-
1989	Chuck Steward	Chuck Steward	Andy Hall	-	-	-
1990	Ken Jarvis	Steve Smith	John Callahan	Al Pratt	-	-
1991	Dave Schorsch	Frank Webster	Don Simonson	John Bokstrom	-	-
1992	Fred DeWitt	-	Dave Schorsch	-	Steve Smith	-
1993	Dick Brening	-	Pete Baird	-	-	-
1994	Dave Round	Paul Wiltberger	Paul Lingbloom	-	-	-
1995	Chuck Ballard	-	W. Walkinshaw	Andy Hall	-	-
1996	John Arechevala	Bill Hamilton	Donn Mills	-	Dick Stearns	-
1997	Frank Webster	Tim Bohlin	Pete Van Gytenebeck	Del Coppock	Fred DeWitt	Dick Scales
1998	Curt Jacobs	Greg Crumbaker	Fran Wood	Gil Nyerges	Ken Jarvis	Ed Sozinho

Fishing Reports

New Member Outing

October 11, 1999, Camano Island, WA

by Kris Kristoferson

We met before sunup under the parking lot lights of the Camano Plaza Market. From there we headed down to the State Park on Camano's southwest shore. We fanned out along this beautiful beach as low clouds headed north on a medium breeze. Fishing the tail end of the incoming tide, the action was slow and except for a pair of loons working the deeper water, beyond the tide rip, the breeze-roughened water betrayed no sign of fish. John Schuitemaker managed single-handedly to save our group from a fishless morning. We all headed up to the lake for lunch and some stillwater fishing.

As we ate the wind subsided, leaving the lake calm under overcast skies – great fishing conditions for our afternoon. Seeing a few fish working as we polished off the last of our lunch spurred rod stringing and boat launching, and soon Chuck Ballard was casting over working fish. A few minutes more and Ron Hofmeister and John Schuitemaker pushed off followed closely by Jim McRoberts and Ed Sozinho in their kickboats. Mike Wearne and Bob Young eased their boats onto the lake just ahead of Don Simonson and me in Don's "Wretched Mess".

Our fleet was now fully afloat and Don was undoubtedly grateful for the letup in the wind as my weight in the stern of his boat left only minimal freeboard. Looking around the lake, these guys appeared to know what they were doing as several were quickly into fish. As the afternoon progressed, Don and I would chase after risers and, as we came upon other anglers, they'd let us in on how they were doing. By now, Chuck was doing some serious catching and shared his secret: a black Carey's fished s-l-o-w-l-y. It seemed to be working. Ed Sozinho, also in the deeper portion of the lake was throwing out a small olive leach and letting it sit in the film or barely subsurface. He assured us that letting the fly sit, dead still, was getting results. Don and I plied the shallows to find a few fish ready to push up big bow waves as they overtook quick-stripped subsurface flies.

The guys in our Club, both the long-standing members and the newly-initiated, quickly figured out the harsh reality of the afternoon's fishing. If you weren't fishing something resembling a black Carey's, olive Stillwater Nymph, green Caddis Pupa, Mickey Finn, Deer Hair Caddis, Runje's Turd, black Leech, or olive Bugger; you were in for a tough go of it. Presentation could not be overlooked either. Hookups required the careful execution of a slow twitch, fast strip, dead still or similar presentation. I am please to report that, to the last man, our group found ways to solve the puzzle and experience a successful day on the water. I look forward to doing it again next year.

Fly Fishing History – Float Tubes: Where and when did it start?

by Bob Wiltshire, International Fly Fishing Center Director (reprinted courtesy of Angler's Journal)

We will never know who the first person was to use a float tube. I would like to think it was a teenage boy from the Midwest playing on a farm pond that got us started. What's most likely is that in many places at about the same time, people discovered that a simple inner tube with some sort of seat gave them a new way to get to the fish.

Regardless of who got us started we know that the modern float tube is a fairly recent invention. At the International Fly Fishing Center we have on display several float tubes that help to tell the story of the development of the modern "belly boat." The oldest tube in our collection is a handmade sheet metal affair that was originally constructed for duck hunting. This float was made in Farmington Utah soon after World War II and is nothing more than a hollow metal donut with a burlap seat. It does have a unique feature in a small built-in compartment in the front of the tube that provides a small amount of storage.

Home made tubes were the rule until the later 1940's when the Tucker Duck & Rubber Company of Fort Smith, Arkansas produced the "Float-n-Tote" tubes. These first commercial efforts were made from truck inner tubes covered with canvas. These first tubes were very primitive by today's standards. The seat was fixed, the canvas needed regular maintenance, the tubes were very heavy (especially when wet), there were no pockets, and the single stitched seams were subject to sudden ripping. The sudden release of the seams provided many an interesting experience when an angler found his boat disappearing around him. Despite these drawbacks the Float-n-Tote became very popular, especially with southern bass anglers. The only feature the Float-n-Tote boasted was the attached suspenders which allowed the angler to walk with the tube suspended around him. These suspenders were important to the hometown buyers of Float-n-Totes. The nearby White River was a popular wading area and the tubes would be used to float through deep stretches on the river.

The no-frills Float-n-Tote quickly spawned competition. In 1947 the Fishmaster Mfg. Co. of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma introduced the Fishmaster Float tube. This canvas-covered tube looked much like the Float-n-Tote, however, it featured a patented quick-release buckle on the seat. This feature, which allowed for easier angler access is found on most tubes still. The Fishmaster Mfg. Co. was a major supplier of float tubes for many years, eventually offering a variety of models and various other accessories.

In the mid-to-late 1950's Western anglers using these early models discovered that they worked even better if

See TUBES on page 5.

From the Federation of Fly Fishers

TUBES continued from page 4.

they made "workshop improvements" to them. These included adding pockets and pouches for storage, rod holders, tie down rings, a front apron, and a large back pocket that could be stuffed or inflated to provide back support and comfort. These anglers, mostly in Idaho and Colorado, are largely responsible for the float tube as we know it today.

The canvas covers of the first commercial models had two major drawbacks. They were quite heavy and the canvas needed regular treatment to preserve its life. Fishmaster introduced the first alternative to canvas with a vinyl laminate tube. This silver-colored material was much lighter, but the rigid material had a problem. When heated by the sun the air in the tube could expand to a point where the tube would burst from the pressure.

By 1972 float tubes began to appear in fly fishing magazines. The January 1972 issue of *Fly Fisherman* contained an article by Ron Cordes describing the use of float tubes on Montana's Hebgen Lake. This article focused mainly on fishing for the famed Hebgen "gulpers," but it contained useful information on float tubes and promoted their use. By this time float tubes were becoming a more common sight on Hebgen and nearby Henry's Lake in Idaho.

The Water Walker float tube, manufactured by American Safety Products, Encino, California, was first advertised in the Oct/Nov issue of *Fly Fisherman*. The Water Walker was a very light weight tube. It weighed in at only 3.3 pounds and was rated for anglers up to 300 pounds. It was made of neoprene-coated nylon and had two separate air chambers. It featured two storage compartments and could be inflated by mouth as well as by pump. The Water Walker was promoted as a packable float tube owing to its light weight and compact size when deflated.

By the mid 1970's float tubing began to appear more frequently in fly fishing magazines, both in editorial coverage and in advertising. The first ad for a guide service featuring float tubes was a photo in an early 1973 ad run by Jay Buchner (Jackson Wyoming). The first "how to" article appeared in the early season 1975 issue of *Fly Fisherman* and the first buyers guide was in the May/June 1980 issue of *Rod & Reel*. This 1980 directory listed six manufacturers with a variety of models and styles. Incremental refinements in tube design have led to the current state-of-the-art float tubes and kick boats. Today we see so

many of these craft on the water that we rarely realize they have such a short history.

Just 50 years ago the sight of an angler on an inner tube drew a great deal of attention and was a rare sight indeed. The International Fly Fishing Center in Livingston Montana displays several float tubes as part of the permanent collection. The Center is always interested in receiving donations of interesting fly fishing items. For more information call 406-222-9369

TAKE A LEAD(ER) FROM THE PROFESSOR OF FLY FISHING

FFF ClubWire; From Jim Abbs

In 1934 George Harvey taught the first college level fly fishing and fly tying classes in the U.S. (at Penn State). Over the next 38 years he instructed over 35,000 youngsters and adults in fly tying and fly casting. He has fished with and tied flies for both President Eisenhower and President Carter. With these qualifications, he is the unquestionable "Professor of Fly Fishing."

One of Professor Harvey's contributions to fly fishing is a technique for constructing leaders that simply catch more trout. George Harvey recognized that there was a dilemma between having a stiff nylon leader that was easy to cast and a soft leader that would reduce drag. So in response he designed and constructed a leader with 3-4 stiff butt sections and 2-3 soft terminal sections. The stiff butt sections allow you to control the cast, while the soft terminal sections lay down with some "S" curves, allowing the fly to drift freely. Here are two of George Harvey's leader formulae:

LEADER FORMULA FOR 9 ½ foot, 4X: Three stiff butt sections -10 inches-.017, 20 inches-.013, 20 inches-.011, followed by three soft terminal sections- 12 inches of .009, 18 inches of .008, and 22-28 inches of .007.

LEADER FORMULA FOR 10 ½, 5X: Five stiff butt sections - 10 inches of .017, 20 inches of .015, 20 inches of .013, 20 inches of .011, 12 inches of .009, followed by three soft terminal sections - 12 inches of .008, 18 inches of .007 and 22-30 inches of .006.

These leader formulae have been heralded all over the U.S. and George Harvey writes that "Every fly fisherman I have demonstrated this leader design to has become an instant convert."

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>.

In Retrospect

1974 GOOFUS AWARDS ARE THE BEST YET — ASK THE RECIPIENTS

from WFFC Creel Notes vol. XXIII #1, January, 1975

The 1974 Goofus Awards for contributions to the health and welfare of the WFFC over and beyond the call of duty, or anything, once again were lovingly and gleefully perpetrated by Al Pratt upon the following members:

AL SEVEREID — The Indecent Exposure Award, for all those miles of film used in recording activities at the FFF Conclave in West Yellowstone, some prints of which may be taken out of public circulation at nominal cost.

STEVE RAYMOND — The Come-Along Come Along Award, for his negligence in leaving behind that vital mechanical helper which had so dutifully un-stuck his rig from the grippingly muddy marge of Dry Falls Lake.

BOB SINCOCK — The Li'l Ol' Winemakers Award, for his providential arrival, fully jugged with his sparkling Chateau Sincock '74, just as the Hosmer Lake Outing's supply of Rhinegarten petered out.

HU RILEY — The Water in The Wader Award, for (among other things) his consistent contribution of new and untried mfg products for the membership to find the flaws in prior to inflicting 'em on an innocent and unsuspecting public.

RALPH FUNKHOUSER — The Uniroyal Tired Tire of the Year Award, as an answer to his transportation problems in getting to the Green Lake casting classes.

BRUCE CLINGAN — Poltroon's Patented Non-Polluting Peamaster, serving as The Involuntary Bladder Award, noting his heart(?) - warming experience at Dry Falls, an overpowering need for relief during the noon rise.

ED FOSS — The traditional Annual Recurring Semi-Permanent Inevitable Fishless Foss Award, pointedly, but not necessarily, for his conservation efforts in releasing all 3 fish hooked during the 1974 season.

ERROL CHAMPION — The Safety Afloat Award, a sophisticated battery-and-rubber-band-operated device, with gauges, lights, rockets and flotation aids, designed to control his penchant for tipping over boats, jeopardizing life, limb and tackle, and preserve him for better things.

Additional special tokens were presented to VIP's outside the membership, in order to show our appreciation and other splendid emotions toward:

CLIFF MILLENBACH - A bottle of 'Old Cliff' 90-proof genuine Bribin' Whiskey, approved by Better Homes and Fishponds, passed by the Commission for Clean, Open and Aboveboard Govt. Bribery, and ruled against by Judge Boldt, to our Game Department's lovable, ordinarily unbuyable Director of Fisheries Management.

PAUL COLLIER - A collection of legendary local indigenous rocks, known as Stillaguamish Sex Stones, to show just how cheaply a WFFC award can be made, yet convey a certain deep sentiment, for the visiting President of the FFF.

Things were Really Tough Then!

from WFFC Creel Notes vol. XXIII #1, January, 1975

MEAL PRICES TO GO UP

The board of directors have been advised by the manager of the business who caters our dinners at the monthly meetings, that he can no longer prepare an adequate meal without a small price increase. Therefore, the board has approved a 50-cent increase effective with the January meeting, which brings our meals to \$5.00.



JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 JANUARY Go Fishing!	3 WFEC BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM COLLEGE CLUB	4	5 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN HOTEL, 9TH & PINE	6	7	8 Go Fishing!
9 Go Fishing!	10	11	12 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	13	14	15 Go Fishing!
16 Go Fishing!	17	18 WFEC DINNER MEETING 5:30 PM COLLEGE CLUB	19 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	20	21	22 Go Fishing!
23 Go Fishing!	24	25	26 FLY TYER'S ROUNDTABLE 7:00 PM MERCER IS. COVENANT CHURCH	27 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00 PM AT THE RAM PUB	28	29 Go Fishing!
30 Go Fishing!	31	1 FEBRUARY	2 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	3	4	5 Go Fishing!
6 Go Fishing!	7 WFEC BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM COLLEGE CLUB	8 February Creel Notes Frozen	9 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	10 FFF CASTING INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION	11	12 Go Fishing!