

Creel Notes from the



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



October, 2003

President's Riffle

Our Common Thread

Fly fishing is much more important "just fishing". It is the common thread that has brought us all together, to form the WFFC. While a part of this club, we will forge and foster friendships and relationships that will, at a minimum, last during the time we are in the club. Often, some of these friendships will last forever.

In forming these relationships and spending time fly fishing with each other, we are building additional pages in the chapters in our memories. This really hit home with me last week when our venerable **Gordy Young**, when initiating two new members, emphasized involvement with club members and (above all) family, to create those memories. Tipping a couple of scotches with your favorite fishing pal while watching trout rise to a spinner fall on a glistening Montana River, dragging a woolly bugger and telling bad jokes while kicking around in our float tubes on a lake, getting muddy and digging up blackberries at Griffin Creek, or attending one of **Don Simonson's** casting classes and hear his mantra about "tight loops", interacting with each other creates memories that will endure and last us a lifetime.

When we get to that point in our age where we maybe can't visit that Montana river any more, can't kick around the lake, dig blackberries at Griffin Creek, or Don decides to hang up casting instruction (heaven forbid!), we will always have those

thoughts and memories to cherish. Whether it's driving down the road or while simply lying in bed reading book, those memories are available to us, and will energize and nourish our soul as long as we live.

I can't recall who said "These are the best times of our lives", but it is true. At the next monthly membership meeting, take a look around you and appreciate the camaraderie and friendship of the other members who are there because of one thing; the love of fly fishing, and the friendship of one another.

So, while you can, attend our outings, attend our work parties, attend membership meetings, get involved in committees and even the club Board. Make the most of your time with the WFFC. You will be creating cherished memories, not only for yourself, but for your other fellow club members with whom you will interact.

Respectfully;

Richard Embry, President, 2003

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Nominating Committee Selected *By Richard Embry*

During the September, 2003 monthly membership meeting, the membership selected a Nominating Committee of five club members, in accordance with the criteria of our club By-Laws. The Nominating Committee will compile a list of suggested officers and trustees (the latter if applicable) for year 2004. The Committee will present that list at the November, 2003 general membership meeting.

The members comprising this year's Nominating Committee are:

Don Simonson
Greg Crumbaker
Fran Wood

Chuck Ballard
Dave Hawkinson

Two alternates were selected, to serve in the event one or more of the Committee members cannot fulfill their role. The alternates are **Pete Baird** and **John Callahan**.

Proposed Bylaws Change

In order for the WFFC to renew its Washington State Gambling Permit, the State is requiring certain minor modifications to the WFFC's Bylaws.

Essentially, the State requires the WFFC to modify the Bylaws to include a certain minimum membership attendance in order to elect officers and trustees. Therefore, in accordance with the posting requirements currently set forth in our Bylaws, this Creel Notes posting will serve as formal notice of said proposed modification.

The related Bylaws section, Article VII, Section 2, is recited below, with the modifications underlined.

“Election of officers and trustees shall be made by written ballot of members present at the November meeting each year. The membership electing the officers shall consist of 25% or more of the general membership, but in no event less than 15 members. The nominee receiving the largest number of votes for each office shall be elected.”

We will be voting on this modification at the November, 2003 general membership meeting.

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| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Chuck Ballard '01 | Perry Barth '01 |
| Dick Brening '02 | Jerry Sammons '02 |
| Jim Hanson '03 | Dave Schorsch '03 |

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 work to the outlawing the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season.
3. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
4. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
5. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
6. To encourage and assist boys — particularly of high school age—to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen.

Fly Tier's Round Table *By Dick Brening*

October Meeting: Wednesday, October 22, 2003, 7 to 9 PM

It is time to get our Fly Tier's Round Table going again and we will be meeting on the fourth Wednesday of October. Since Wet Buns comes early in November let's tie flies you plan to use on that outing. Of course you can tie anything you like and if you recently have run onto a new material or technique come and share it.

The schedule for the rest of this season's round tables will continue to be the fourth Wednesday of each month except for November (fourth Tuesday to avoid Thanksgiving) and there will not be a meeting in December. January through May will be on the fourth Wednesday.

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

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.

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

Don Simonson Phone Number Correction

Please note that Don's phone number is incorrect in the current roster. It should read 206-932-4925. Not 4952.

FOR SALE - 8 ft. PRAM

Light weight fiberglass/ carbon fiber
Weight : 64lbs.
New, never used, \$650
Dick Scales 425-746-1723

Border Warning *By Don Gulliford*

In June a lady fly fisherperson was returning across the border at Sumas from Corbett Lake and had her fly tying box with her. She was selected for a random "full 9 Yards" vehicle inspection (your contributing editor having endured the same several years ago) and a number of her feathers were seized, allegedly in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act 16 USC 703. These included mallard, pintail, swan, and other bird feathers. The Fish & Wildlife Service's Redmond WA enforcement division is processing a seizure and forfeiture action in which I am representing Grandmother Smuggler -who needless to say along with this contributor, was astonished. Preliminary research indicates that with the exception of shooting ducks in Canada under a Canadian license, any bringing of feather across the border is subject to seizure and actually civil penalties. The feathers were about 40 years old, in small zip-lock bags and were bought by her son in the 70's as part of a tying kit.

I am following administrative procedures in an attempt to obtain a "remission" of the action, which under most circumstances would be economically prohibitive; even the USFWS agrees that they have "no value."

WFFC members and readers may find this hard to believe, or alternatively, they may definitely believe it on the theory that any insane waste of government funds is the credo of federal government, as well as the early 1800's judge who wrote in an opinion that "when the legislature is in session, no one's liberty is safe....."

I will advise the members and readers of the dramatic conclusion to this election year bro-hah-hah. Members might want to write their congresspersons - if they believe in the Tooth Fairy.

Northwest Casting Exposition

The Washington State Council of the FFF Northwest Casting Exposition was held on Saturday, September 20. Nine teams competed, with numerous non-team individuals competing.

It was generally a BEAUTIFUL day, with some funky winds showing up intermittently throughout the day, coming from various directions, just enough to allow the competitor to have an excuse for an errant cast. :-)

THE WFFC TEAMS

The WFFC fielded two teams this year; a Team A and Team B. Here are the folks comprising the two Teams.

Team A

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Kris Kristoferson | Ed Sozinho |
| Don Simonson | Richard Embry |

Team B

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Chuck Ballard | Tom White |
| Steve Sunich | Nathan Keen |

HOW THE WFFC FARED

There were two different casting competitions: Distance and Accuracy. Within each of these competitions are two categories: Advanced/Professional and Skilled. So, because there are 2 different competitions with 2 categories in each, there are 4 first place winners available.

The WFFC was represented well, with 3 of those 4 first place finishes going to WFFC members!!! WFFC member **Ed Sozinho** won the Distance - Skilled category with a monster 103.3 foot cast, just a mere 0.4 feet behind the Advanced winner, the well-known Brian O'Keefe. WFFC members **Don Simonson** and **Richard Embry** took first place in the Accuracy competition in the Advanced and Skilled categories, respectively. In fact, the final standings for the combined casting scores, to determine the overall individual winner, have **Ed Sozinho** as first place overall individual winner, and **Don Simonson** close behind him in second place! The WFFC had 4 members place in the top 10 overall individual standings.

The WFFC Team A took top spot in the Team accuracy and Team distance. Team B did well, placing fifth overall, considering it was comprised entirely of

first time participants.

NOW, THE REST OF THE STORY

The remaining portion of the competition involves fund raising. *If the WFFC wins the fund-raising component, it will win all three Team categories!*

Two years ago the WFFC won every team category; accuracy, distance, fund-raising, and including overall team winner. Last year, the WFFC won only one team category, the team Distance casting category, and was beaten out by a Tacoma team in fund-raising, which win ultimately placed the Tacoma team as the top overall.

Our mission this year is to bring all of the team championships back to the WFFC! But, we need donations.

HERE'S THE PITCH

We can only win with donations, and I hope some of you can contribute to the help the WFFC team win. Last year I received donations ranging from as little as \$5 to as much as \$250. I know times are tough for everyone, but these funds all go to worthwhile causes; these moneys go towards the youth education and environmental programs of the Washington State chapter of the FFF.

To date, **Pete Baird, Jim McRoberts, Fran Wood, Ted Pearson, Dick Robbins, Hugh Clark, John Williams, and Gordy Young** have pledged donations. That's a good start, but we have a long way to go.

Anyway, if you can help, that would be incredible! If you wish to donate, let me know, and I'll send you the paperwork (I believe the donation is tax-deductible). Or, you can send me the donation, and I'll photocopy the check, and mail it and a copy of the completed formal event donation form to you.

Thanks for taking the time to read this, and I hope you can make a donation. The check is to be to the WSCFFF (the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers). You can contact me to obtain the formal donation forms.

Richard Embry

WFFC President 2003



Editor's notes

Here is an email sent to me by Kevin Ryan followed by the news story in the Bremerton Sun

South Puget Sound Salmon Recovery: WDFW and the Squaxin Tribe have both put funding toward the development of a Salmon Recovery Plan for South Sound (area south of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge). This plan will focus on the near shore health and needs for a number of species with an emphasis on Chinook. It will be used as a chapter in the Puget Sound Shared Strategy plan. Chinook information will be available by June 2004. Other species information will be ongoing. John Kliem, Creative Community Solutions, has been hired to coordinate planning efforts and is working with technical staff to identify existing and needed data for a baseline effort.

Massive Nearshore Project Being Planned

Christopher Dunagan, Bremerton Sun October 2, 2003

One of the largest habitat-restoration projects ever undertaken in the United States is being planned for the Puget Sound region, including Hood Canal. Called the Puget Sound Nearshore Project, the program is led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with help from federal, state, local and tribal agencies. The cost could easily rival the \$8 billion Everglades restoration in Florida or the \$5 billion Chesapeake Bay restoration in Maryland, according to officials. Work could continue for 50 years.

Among ideas being promoted:

- › Restoring sand and gravel to degraded marshes, mud flats and beaches.
- › Removing, replacing or modifying man-made structures, such as bulkheads and dikes.
- › Using other means to protect against erosion and flooding.
- › Restoring nearshore habitat, such as eelgrass beds and kelp.

Because so much is unknown about the function of nearshore habitat, careful monitoring is proposed to find out what kind of projects work the best.

A feasibility study is to be completed by 2005, which could lead to construction by 2008.

Membership Notes

Our Newest Member: Being initiated at this month's meeting is Jim MacDonald, voter approved at the September meeting. Jim attended the New Member Outing, and we hope to see him at more outings and meetings! Congratulations Jim, and welcome to the club!

October Member Vote: At this month's meeting we will be voting on the latest recommendation of the membership committee, Mr. John Huey. John is a commercial banker

who has lived in Seattle since 1988. He likes to steelhead fish (but hasn't had a lot of success yet), as well as hit the usual haunts such as Dry Falls and the Yakima for trout. He also ties flies, and is interested in helping on the conservation and youth committees. John's sponsors are **Jim Creim** and **Jon Williams**.

Roster Updates and News

The following are changes to the roster that was printed this year. Under "Changes" you will find only the information that has been reported changed. Assume the other information already in the roster for that person has remained the same.

Changes:

Dave Wands - Email: davewands@comcast.net (the roster incorrectly has it with a .com suffix)

Bill Rundall - Address: 720 Seneca St., Apt #707, Seattle, WA 98101-2765; Home phone: 206-215-1334

Andy Hall - Address: 11301 3rd Ave. NE, Apt #456, Seattle, WA 98125-8501

Dick Levinthal - Email: dicklevmd@yahoo.com

Additions:

Charles Swoope - Address: 7319 NE 18th Street, Medina, WA 98039; Home phone: (425) 455-1286; Email: charlescswoope@msn.com

Dyche Kinder - Address: 2201 3rd Avenue #1503, Seattle, WA 98121; Home phone: (206) 443-1199, Work phone: (206) 443-1199;

Email: dyche@alumni.princeton.edu

Greg Bush - Address: 14830 Glenacres Rd. SW, Vashon Island, WA 98070; Home Phone: (206) 567-4170, Work phone: (206) 684-1164; Email:greg.bush@metrokc.gov

Doug Donaldson - Address: 715 W 179th St, Shoreline, WA 98133; Home phone: (206) 546-3501, Email:rddonaldson@mindspring.com

Sean Overman - Address: 5504 Tennesen Rd, Sedro-Wooley, WA 98284; Home phone: 360-856-2766, Work phone: 360-941-4628;

Email:sean@sounddatacom.com

Craig Koeppler - Address: 4205 186th Pl. SE, Issaquah, WA 98027; Home phone: 425-641-4995, Work phone: 206-682-6868x14; Email: ckoeppler@qwest.net

If you have further changes to report please email (preferred) or call **John Schuitemaker** at <mailto:johnschuitemaker@covad.net>johnschuitemaker@covad.net or 206-322-0655. Thanks in advance for helping to keep the roster an up-to-date resource for the club.



October 3-4, Dry Falls/Rocky Ford

By Gil Nyerges

Tom Campbell and I attended the Fall outing at Dry Falls. On the way over, we stopped at one of the Royal Seeps ponds. We found it to be chuck full of growing PERCH which we had no difficulty in catching, but I DID manage to bring to hand an 18" smallmouth bass estimated conservatively at 5 lbs., that took my No. 10 Nyerges Nymph fished on a sink-tip line!

Our next stop was Rocky Ford Creek which we fished from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM. My box score was 14 on and 11 released, from 18 to 22 inches.

Saturday morning we started out to fish the south arm of Dry Falls, but this is the first time I've attended the outing and not been able to reach my fishing spot because of weeds, shallow water, and too many cattails to reach the water where I like to fish. So Tom and I decided to return to Rocky Ford Creek. We fished it from noon until 2:30 PM. My score that day was 9 on and 9 released - same size.

We were in camp to enjoy a very well orchestrated barbecue that evening - compliments to Dave and his staff.

We left Sunday morning to return to Rocky Ford which we fished for another couple of hours before we quit to return home at a reasonable hour. My score Sunday morning was 10 on and 8 released. There had been a very large fish ten feet from my toes all the time I was fishing there - just ignoring me, so shortly before I left, since he was too close for me to cast to, I simply dropped the fly in front of it, and he promptly grabbed it! That one was 24"

Just for the record, I started out with a sink-tip line using a No. 8 Gil's Monster. About halfway through the trip, I switched to a No. 10 Nyerges Nymph (just to exhibit impartiality!). On Sunday morning (for more impartiality), I switched to a dry line and a No. 14 Nyerges Nymph - on this combination I brought to hand three fish on three successive casts.

What more can I say - other than that I really enjoyed the trip, and Tom is a GREAT fishing companion - I'll go with him anywhere, anytime.

September 30, Snoqualmie River

By Leland Miyawaki

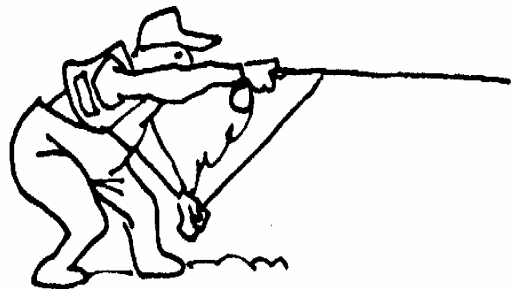
After being drubbed by two popperheads on my left and right while fishing for coho on the beach this

morning at Golden Gardens, I looked for some redemption in the Snoqualmie. I stepped into the Powerline Hole at 4pm. Fifteen minutes later, in the bucket, I hooked a typical snaky Snoqualmie hatchery buck that had to weigh only five pounds. If only he had the girth proportional to his length, I thought. A fish is a fish but why was his nose all scraped up? Was he sticking it into places he shouldn't be? There are a lot of salmon in the river, mmmm. I rested the water by taking a nap on the sunny rocks.

I stepped back up to the head of the riffle and began lengthening out my casts as I worked the far side seam again. At just about the same place in the middle of the riffle, the swing stopped and came tight. This time, I was only able to elicit a couple head shakes and a short downstream run before getting disconnected. Oh well, two fish on a sunny afternoon ain't half bad. The smell of coho skunk had long since disappeared.

While I was fishing Powerline, I kept glancing up-river to Plum's and saw that it was being ignored, so I drove up to fish it. Plum's fishes exactly like Powerline except that it's only half as wide. I began at the top swinging my low water Freight Spey from the farside slack into the seam then down and out into the main riffle and on down into a hangdown. I hadn't stepped down very far when I got a good, solid pluck. It was in the hangdown - oh gawd, the dreaded hangdown, my nemesis. I stepped back out of the current a couple steps and made the exact same cast to the other side. This time as my fly swung into my nearside seam, I forced the swing by guiding the rod towards my bank. She was waiting for me. Ahh, sing Hardy sing! Bend and buck CND rod! Whoa, there goes the backing knot! Geez, there's a lotta line out there. Better get out and do a little walk downriver.

She was a handsome 8-9 pound hen in fine shape. Coho? What coho?



2003 CLUB AWARDS

By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

We will soon be presenting Awards to recognize members for their outstanding contributions and service to the Club and the community or for other deeds deserving of appropriate recognition. The Awards Committee welcomes suggestions from members. If any of you have someone that you feel should be considered, please contact me or any other Committee members -- Pete Baird, Chuck Ballard, Dick Brenning, Tim Bohlin, Don Simonson, and Gordy Young. Here is a quick summary of the Awards:

Letcher Lambeth Angling Craftsmanship Award, for a flyfisher within Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia who has made original, significant, and lasting contributions to the art of fly fishing—*please contact me for more information.*

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

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

Andy Award, for a member who has suffered cruelly and repeatedly from the dictates of Murphy's Law.

King Skunk Award, for a member who has demonstrated a general inability to catch "anything piscatorial."

Half-Assed Award, for a member who has demonstrated significant acts of "half-assedness"—*the recipient of this Award is selected by the prior recipient, Preston Singletary—Please note: Preston is just too nice a guy to single out another Club member for this "honor" so if anyone less scrupulous has any suggestions for a recipient, please let Preston know.*

Notes from the Board

Bill Neal will be completing the new articles of incorporation for the WFFC, which will put us in compliance with the State, especially in regard to our gambling license.

The Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition, will be delayed until March of 2004, with a new format, which Bill is in the process of reformulating...stay tuned.

The Casting competition results were announced by **Don Simonson**. All members of the casting teams and volunteers who helped out should be commended. The board also approved a donation to the Washington Council of the FFF for \$330, approximately fifty cents per foot (in the distance competition).

More Club Info

The theme for the November general meeting is "Heritage", and several suggestions were made for the program. If anyone knows where a copy of the long lost *Nymph of the Stilli* movie is, we'd love to show it. Let **Jimmy Lemert** know if you have any suggestions or ideas for the meeting.

Trailer for Sale or Rent...actually, we are looking for a trailer for the Outdoor Committee, in order to store and haul all of the equipment to the various outings. If any of you know of a trailer or know of a place to store it, please get in touch with **Perry Barth**...speaking of Perry, he also mentioned that **Mark Pratt's** wife's restaurant, has an **Al Pratt** memorabilia room, which would be well worth stopping in to see, not to mention the good eat's....

An Easy Donation to the Holiday Bash!

Those of you who tie flies can make an easy donation to our annual Holiday Party. Just tie up some of your favorites, put them in a nice box and send them to **Bill Kuper** to be part of the auction and raffle.

You can call Bill at 206.634.2677 or email at billk@digitalfarm.com and he'll save a spot for them with all the other goodies. Or you can send them directly to:

Bill Kuper
Digital Farm
3800 Aurora Ave. N. #280
Seattle, WA 98103



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P.O. Box 639
Mercer Island, WA 98040
www.wffc.com

Stamp
here

Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at The College Club, 505 Madison St. This month it's Oct 21st. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM

Capt. Keith Robbins, Salmon and Tarpon Guide

Fellow member Keith Robbins will be our speaker at this month's meeting. Keith has been fishing all his life and guiding in Puget Sound since 1990. He specializes in light tackle and saltwater fly fishing with no trolling allowed and all fish caught are released.

Keith's company, A Spot Tail Salmon Guide, is the only guide service offering light tackle and saltwater fly fishing in the central Puget Sound area. You may have seen him zipping around in his 20' Grady White. Keith's 26 years of experience gives him all the inner sound hot spots and provides his clients with every opportunity to catch fish and learn about the art of fishing.

Join Keith as he spills his guts and rats out his secret hot spots around Point-no-Point, Jefferson Head, Shilshole Bay, Bainbridge, Vashon and Whidbey Islands, Possession Bar, Kingston and soon, the Florida Keys. You won't want to miss this meeting!