



# Covering The Drift

Volume 7, Number 2

December, 2002

## Leader's Message

By Bob Shirley,  
President, WSCFFF

November 12, 2002, 6 PM at the  
Ellensburg Inn.

fight for fish are why we linger and why we become more and more involved. Together or separately she and I belong to four different fly clubs and hope to join the Ellensburg club. Each club has it's own personality, special interests, and things to offer.

Early this month several of the officers and members of the Board of Directors of the WSCFFF attended a meeting in Ellensburg after the Yakima River Clean - up sponsored by Steve Worley of The Worley Bugger Fly Shop. The purpose of the meeting was to see if there was interest in forming an FFF club in Ellensburg. To say there is interest is to totally understate the response. The first club formation meeting was on

The fly fishing club in Port Angeles has also asked us to talk to them about joining the FFF, and two of our Board members went to their meeting and spoke to the club about the benefits of organizing and joining the FFF. Another group on the Olympic Peninsula is interested in forming a club, and we will help them do that.

I can't tell you how many selfless acts are done each year by FFF members in the name of fly fishing in Washington, but I think you can. You know about the work, the classes, the events. How many times have fly clubs or FFF members enriched your life? Do you fish somewhere that was made better or kept open by the money or hard work of a club or organization?

## Inside This Issue

Larry Gibbs Wins Big	2
Thank You	2
NW Fly Casting Expo. President's Thanks	3
NWFCE 2002 Summary	3
Donald Spratley & The Doc Spratley	4
Hole 6 Winner	5
2003 NW Fly Casting Expo is Coming	5
The Shock of Separation	6
Bamboo And An Overview of the 2002 Fly Casting Expo	6
New Fly Club	7
Yakima River Fly Fishers	7
Puyallup Show	8

While in Ellensburg, at the club's organizing meeting, someone asked, "why is it a good idea to belong to a club or to be an FFF member." Thankfully, several people from the audience spoke up and gave testimonials about the benefits as did the attending members of the WSCFFF Board and it's Officers. What an interesting and complex question though. Why are you a member of a club? Why did you join the Federation?

I joined to help preserve fishing and in particular fly fishing in Washington. I wanted to learn, to teach, and to enjoy fellowship with other people of like interest and dedication and to give back to the resource for all of the enjoyment and entertainment fly fishing has given my wife and me. Now she and I can enjoy the same interest together. The people of the FFF who give so much, who teach, who

Why join? Why help? Each of us has their own answer. The question isn't even important - the fact that fly fishers DO join IS important. That we work together for the good of fly fishing and the resource is important. That you help and that you joined is important. Thank you for your participation and the encouragement you give others to join your club, to join the FFF, and to become active in the important issues facing fly fishing in Washington.

Yeah, what a great question. What do you think? Why belong? Do you really get anything out of it?



**Washington State Council**

Federation of Fly Fishers  
 P.O. Box 921  
 Gig Harbor, WA 98335  
 (253) 265-6162  
 fax (253) 265-2263  
 e-mail: vjyoung@attglobal.net

2002-2003 WSCFFF Officers

*President and National Director*  
 Bob Shirley (253) 581-1271  
 e-mail: b.shirley@juno.com

*Secretary*  
 Len Zickler, (253) 942-4484  
 e-mail: len\_zickler@msn.com

*Treasurer*  
 Larry Gibbs, (253) 863-2203  
 e-mail: flytier01@foxiinternet.com

*Vice President, Westside*  
 Dick Raisler (360) 466-5797  
 e-mail: raisler@cnw.com



**Larry Gibbs Wins Big**

By Larry Gibbs

Thank you FFF and the Five Rivers Lodge

I attended the International Fly Fishing Show in Livingston, and I am very glad I did. The lectures were interesting and informative. The two casting workshops I attended really helped to improve my casting, thanks Berris and Rhea. The ongoing silent auctions were fun to participate in and helped raise funds for worthwhile causes, as did the outreach luncheon (good food and a good cause).

My most memorable moment will always be etched in my mind. I was at the BBQ trying to find out when they were going to have the drawing for the Five Rivers Lodge raffle. I finally asked the right person and as she was turning around she was saying, "Oh, we already had the drawing and Larry Gibbs won it." Then she saw my name tag and shook my hand saying congratulations.

The Five Rivers Lodge in Dillon, Montana. A trip for 5 nights and 4 guided days of fishing for two, and I won it. Thank you Five Rivers Lodge for offering such a wonderful prize.

I hope the members of the Southwest Council appreciate what they won, because they also have a trip and can

use it as a fund raiser.

You can access the Five Rivers Lodge on the web at [www.fiveriverslodge.com](http://www.fiveriverslodge.com). Check it out.

Larry Gibbs, is the Washington State Council treasurer and board member of the Puget Sound Flyfishers Club in Tacoma, WA.

*Editor's Note: Larry has already declined a thousand or more offers to help him fish, carry his bags, etc., so don't ask.*

**Thank You**

By Donn Mills,  
 Director at Large

The Washington State Council Federation of Fly Fishers, WSCFFF, would like to thank the following businesses, individuals and fly clubs for their contributions and support of the North West Fly Casting Exposition held September 21, 2002 at Trophy Lake Golf & Casting Club.

It is this support that enables the WSCFFF to achieve its goals; conservation, education, and restoration to enhance fly fishing within Washington State.

**Business:**

- Able Guide Service - Roy Morris owner.
- The Avid Angler Fly Shop - Lake Forest Park
- Blue Dun Fly Shop - Wenatchee
- Creekside Angling Company Fly Shop - Issaquah

- Kaufmann's Streamborn - Bellevue
- Kaufmann's Streamborn - Seattle
- Orvis Fly Shop - Bellevue
- Scientific Angler
- Chuck's Fly Shop, Seaview, WA - Chuck Cameron owner
- Trophy Lake Golf & Casting - Port Orchard

**Individuals:**

- John Calhoun - WSCFFF Brd Member
- Irv Connor - WSCFFF Board Member
- Donn Mills - WSCFFF Board Member
- Dick Risler - WSCFFF Board Member
- Larry Gibbs - WSCFFF Board Member
- And many others

**Fly Clubs:**

- Clearwater Fly Casters - Pullman
- Columbia Basin Fly Casters - Tri-cities
- Evergreen Fly Fishing Club - Everett
- Gray Wolf Fly Fishing Club - Sequim
- Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club - Spokane
- Fidalgo Fly Fishers - Anacortes
- Fourth Corner Fly Fishers - Bellingham
- Methow Valley Fly Fishers - Winthrop
- Northwest Fly Fishermen - North King County
- Olympic Fly-Fishers - Edmonds
- Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishers - Port Angeles
- Overlake Fly Fishing Club - Bellevue
- Seattle Police Department Fly Fishing Club - Seattle
- Washington Fly Fishing Club - Seattle
- Wenatchee Valley Flyfishers - Wenatchee

Thank you,  
 WSCFFF Board of Directors

*Vice President, Eastside  
Nat. Dir. & Co-Director of Conservation*  
Jerry McBride, (509) 233-2108  
e-mail: jernnita@aol.com

*Co-Director of Conservation*  
John Calhoun (425) 836-5529  
e-mail: johnscalhoun@msn.com

*Director of Education,*  
Russ Brown, (509) 627-1218  
e-mail: anglerserv@aol.com

*Director at Large, Membership Chair*  
Irv Conner (509) 663-7054  
e-mail: kconner@televar.com

*Director of Communication,  
National Director and newsletter editor*  
Bob Bates (509) 328-7327  
e-mail: bob-bates@worldnet.att.net

*Salmon & Searun Cutthroat Chair*  
Vernon Young (253) 265-6162  
e-mail: vjyoung@attglobal.net

*Director At Large*  
Jim Maus (253) 582-9580  
e-mail: jimmaus@aol.com

*Director at Large*  
Donn Mills (425) 481-4316  
e-mail: donnmills@msn.com

*Director at Large*  
Ben Dennis, (509) 996-2784  
e-mail: flydranch@mymethow.com

*Director at Large*  
Aaron Culley (206) 575-4114  
e-mail: aaronc@printingcontrol.com

*Director at Large*  
Michael Maruyama, (253) 939-2938  
e-mail: amayuram@msn.com

*Director at Large*  
Mike Clancy (253) 759-3456  
e-mail: mandd.clancy@one800.net:

---

## ***NW Fly Casting Expo President's Thanks***

By Bob Shirley

This year's Northwest Casting Expo accomplished everything we hoped it would. Everyone had fun, learned some things, and got a feeling for what a Casting Expo really is. The wind played tricks just like in a real fishing situation, targets seemed to shrink the longer you aimed at them, and the fish gods did not smile for all.

The Casting Expo is also the way the

Washington State Council Federation of Fly Fishers (WSCFFF) raises funds to serve the FFF members and affiliated Fly Clubs in Washington. Presently, we have over 640 members and 22 clubs to represent. Because of you volunteering to help at the event, or your competing as a team member or individual, you have helped us serve you better. Without the volunteers and competitors, there would not have been a bright breezy day in September when fly fishers got together to compete and

share a day of fun and learning.

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors of the WSCFFF I wish to thank every volunteer and competitor for making the day so special. Thank you too for all of the inspiration, perspiration, and dedication which went into planning and implementing the 2002 Casting Expo. See you at next year's event; I guarantee it will be even better.

---

## ***NWFCE 2002 Summary***

By Mike Clancy,  
Director at Large

Congratulations to all the contestants that participated in the Northwest Fly Casting Exposition at Trophy Lake Golf and Casting on September 21st.

The weather conditions were dry but very windy; however, it didn't seem to hinder too many participants. There were 9 teams representing various fly fishing clubs in the competition with 48 individual contestants.

The Puget Sound Flyfishers team was the winner of the Cast to Benefit Conservation competition and the number one team overall. The team's name and the date of the event will be engraved on a plaque permanently displayed in the Trophy Lake Golf and Casting clubhouse.

Other winning teams were:

Washington Fly Fishing Club for Distance Casting; Fidalgo Fly Fishers for Accuracy Casting and Evergreen Fly Fishing Club team members caught the most pounds of fish. Each team member receives a plaque commending the event with the team's picture, name, and members and event they won.

Casting games Grand Prize, a trip to Weigh-West at Tofino, B.C. went to Tony May. From all reports he will have a great time up there.

Winners for the individual competitions were: Fishing at hole 6 was won by Joe Pederson; Cast to Benefit Conservation was won by Len Zickler; Trout Fly-Accuracy was won by Tony Vitale in Class A and Class B winner was Dave Anderson. Distance Casting was won by Jimmy LeMert, 98.8 feet, and second place went to Robert Triggs, 94.6 feet, in Class A and Kyle Kragseth first with 94.0 feet and Terry Rogers

second with 87.3 feet in Class B; Average Class B Caster was Nick Wisser.

And based on combined scores for; Distance, Accuracy, Fishing and Cast to Benefit Conservation the Overall Individual winner was Mike Deckert. He was a member of the Puget Sound Flyfishers team.

There were not enough women competitors to have a contest. We'll have to work on that next year.

Vern Young did another great job with the expo this year, but the event cannot work without all the volunteers that give their generous time. Each year we learn from the event and next year's expo promises to be even better.

For more detailed information on the results go to WSCFFF website:  
[www.washingtoncouncilfff.org](http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org).

---

## Donald Spratley & The Doc Spratley

By Richard Raisler,  
Vice President, Westside

Late in life, Don A Spratley lamented to his two daughters, "I have spent my life perfecting my dental skills, but I will be known for a fishing fly." The Doc Spratley, one of the most popular, productive, and written about flies in the Pacific Northwest, was named after him. There may have been some regret in his voice, as his dental skill and knowledge was to a dentist, what Atlantic Salmon fly tying is to a fly tier.

The history of the fly's origin is found in *Flies of the Northwest*, by the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, 1998, Frank Amato Publications, Inc.. "This pattern, named after the late Dr. Donald A. Spratley of Mount Vernon, Washington, is one of the most effective wet fly patterns in British Columbia, particularly in waters with good caddisfly hatches. Mrs. Dorothy Prankard Schracht of Mount Vernon said her husband, the late Dick Prankard, originated the pattern about 1949. She said he called the fly Doc Spratley because the doctor came into the store at the time he was tying it and asked Dick what the name was. Dick replied, "I think I'll call it the Doc Spratley." Prankard's wife tied the fly commercially for several years. Dr

Spratley used the pattern in British Columbia. It is still a highly popular pattern wherever large caddisflies hatch."

Fred Schacht, the stepson of Mrs. Dorothy Prankard Schacht, has a different and more interesting version of how the fly was named. Dorothy told him that Dick and Don were good friends and Dick was tying the fly in his shop. Don Spratley came in to visit but did so quietly and walked up behind Dick. Don startled Dick and the tying thread broke. Dick said good-naturedly, "Damn you Doc Spratley, just for that I am going to name this fly after you."

The original recipe calls for a tail of Grizzly, body of black wool, rib of silver tinsel, hackle (throat) of Grizzly, wing of pheasant tail, head of peacock herl, and tied on Mustad 9671, sizes 8 to 10.



Doc Spratley, from *Flies of the Northwest*



Don Spratley going fishing

The earliest recorded history is found in Roy Patrick's *Pacific Northwest Fly Patterns*, 1953 edition. Interestingly the "Dr. Spratley" pattern is listed in the Steelhead section of the book, not the British Columbia or General Fly section. It is not until later editions that we find

it included in both the British Columbia and Steelhead sections. The recipe calls for tail of barred hackle fibers (8-10), body of black wool, rib of medium embossed silver tinsel, hackle (throat) barred, tied wet, wing of Chinese Ringneck Cock Pheasant tail fibers, long reddish brown, Bunch wing over body, tied on hook sizes #1/0 to #6. The statement included with the recipe reads. "This particular fly has been a producer of Steelhead, both Winter and Summer. Consistently good on the Stillaquamish, taken to other streams and proven as effective." The 1970 edition states the "Dr. Spratley" is said to be, "A pattern very famous for steelhead fishing, both summer and winter, excellent for lake fishing, best in the afternoon 'till dusk."

Right from its 1949 beginning the popularity of the Doc Spratley grew rapidly. Don Spratley and groups of Mount Vernon fly fishing couples frequently traveled to the British Columbia lakes, Hi Hume and Janice. They most likely used this successful pattern and shared it with others. Somehow Roy Patrick became familiar with the pattern and no doubt shared it with his fishing acquaintances, Enos Bradner, Tom Brayshaw, and Alan Pratt. This may explain why it is initially listed as a steelhead fly. Its popularity can also be explained by its ability to "catch fish." This "attractor pattern" tied in a typical wet fly style does not represent a specific organism but when tied on number 8 or 10 size hooks will attract trout in lakes with large caddis fly hatches. Tied smaller it is fished as a chironomid. Tied larger, size 6, it substitutes for a damsel, dragonfly, or leech. Dave Winters popularized the fly on the Thompson River as an effective steelhead pattern. Steelhead fishers tie the pattern on hook sizes 4 to 5/0. Although not fished much outside of the Northwest the Doc Spratley riffle hitched and presented to Atlantic Salmon on a floating line will generate takes.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

If a fly's popularity is measured by other fly tiers desire to imitate it, the "Doc" excels in this category too. It is tied with a variety of body colors: black, red, green, olive, brown, and orange. Red and orange are successful colors for sea run cutthroat. One change in the original pattern that is popular with British Columbia fly tiers and was recorded in Roy Patrick's book is substituting guinea hen fibers for the tail and throat. Trey Combs does not mention the Doc Spratley in his two books, but in "Steelhead Fly Fishing and Flies" there is a fly plate of steelhead flies dressed by Harry Lamire and one of the flies is the "Doc Spratley."

The one unique aspect of this typical wet fly pattern is the wing. We can call it a feather wing, but the Chinese Pheasant tail fibers are "bunched" on top of the fly to produce a wing that looks more like a hair wing. If you have every tied a Doc Spratley and tried to place the pheasant tail fibers on the fly in the typical feather wing fashion, you have most likely found that the fibers immediately splay into an irregular "hair wing" like position. This "bugginess" may be one of the reasons why the fly is so effective. There are reports of Don Spratley and his fishing friends chewing on a new fly before fishing with it, but I am sure that story is not true.

Researching the history of Don Spratley and the "Doc Spratley" fly has been a rewarding experience as I am the successor of Don's dental practice. I have met the patients he so carefully and generously cared for and witnessed the quality of his dental art. I have fished Hi Hume and Janis Lakes with his fishing partners and always make it a point to fish the Doc Spratley late in the evening. I have experienced the physical connection to Kamloops and Montana trout, Skagit River steelhead, Labrador, Canada Atlantic Salmon through the "Spratley" fly. Tim Marker DDS, fly fisher and dentist, currently owns the dental office shared by Doctor Spratley and myself. The legacy of the fly is sure to be carried on by fly fishers and dentists alike.

## Hole 6 Winner

By Mike Clancy,  
Puget Sound Flyfishers  
WSCFFF Director at Large

One of the nice things that happens when we volunteer our time at various events for our fly fishing programs, we get to witness different fly fishers and their skills. I was scoring for the fishing competition at Station 5 on Hole 6 at Trophy Lake for the N.W. Fly Casting Expo, Sept. 21, 2002.

There were a lot of experienced fishers there, but the one I watched displayed a confidence which was fun to watch. His name was Joe Pedersen from the Lower Columbia Flyfishers. He prepared himself with two rods, a clear intermediate line and a floating line.

Larry Gibbs started the competition, I went and sat down on my chair waiting for Joe to do his thing, on his second cast he scored with his first fish. He played it with experience, brought it to shore, got down low to the water, landed it, we weighted it, released it and he went on to his next cast. Even with a good stiff wind, Joe cast his line far out into the middle of the pond, he worked the fly and in a couple minutes he had another fish on. Joe won the competition with 4 fish weighing a total of 17.9 lbs.

The beauty about his success was that Joe created the fly he was using. It was gold beaded, white with reflecting material. Joe also stated his whole family are fly fishers with his young daughter catching her 1<sup>st</sup> steelhead on a fly rod this past year.

Congratulations Joe, you're a credit to our sport.

## 2003 NW Fly Casting Expo is Coming

Jimmy LeMert  
Chairman 2003 Fly Casting Expo

The 2003 Fly Casting Expo is scheduled for September 20th 2003 at the Trophy Lakes Golf and Casting Club. We have one of the "greats" to be 2003's headliner, none other than Mel Kreiger!

To all the presidents of the different FFF fly-clubs we ask that you mention to your groups that the event will be September 20th 2003 and that we have this great headliner.

We will be expanding the competition event to include a youth category (ages 12-16). We will also be having some free beginning casting classes throughout the day where the equipment will be provided.

I would like to personally thank all the fantastic volunteers from last year and plead that they will help again this coming year.

If anyone has any comments about the event or suggestions I welcome them all. Please call me and leave a message at (206) 329-0927 or email me at [jimmylemert@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmylemert@hotmail.com) If anyone would like to mail me something my mailing address is:

Jimmy LeMert  
2337 10th Ave E  
Seattle WA 98102

Thanks and I look forward to seeing all you casters.



## The Shock of Separation!

By Aaron Culley  
Director at Large

Ever have something happen to you and you suddenly have that sinking feeling? Did you ever put your rod on top of the car and drive off, forgetting it was on the roof? As soon as you hear the noise, you yell (even though no one can hear you) out, Oh S----!!!! It's a bad thing we all agree, but it's gonna happen sometime.

I get that kind of feeling when I see the backing knot follow my fly line out the guides of my rod. Why, you ask, well let me tell you a little story (a true story, but the names of the innocent have been altered).

It was a late summer morning, a few years back, down on a nice little riffle on a west side stream. Throw in a little light fog lifting from the dark water. The haze of step and cast and the morning's warming rays were beginning to set in. Suddenly, my fly stopped and the line began screaming off the reel. If I was more awake, I might have avoided the "line burn" I incurred on my finger. Amazed and frozen in sheer fright, I watched my 8 weight fly line leave the rod followed by the backing. Now, I'm pretty sure I had not experienced this part of the tackle experience before.

The backing was about 10 feet beyond the tip of my rod, when my new 8 weight floating SA Steelhead Taper fly line separated from the backing at my quality "nail-less" knot.

NO, NO, NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO, that can't happen!!!! OH Shoot! (or something similar to that). It's a weird feeling, watching a steelhead take your line downstream. Frozen in place, I did not move an inch, at least horizontally. There may have been some other

(Separation, page 7)

## Bamboo And An Overview of the 2002 Fly Casting Expo.

By Jim Unger,  
Clark Skamania Flyfishers

Trophy Lakes country club is more than a public golf course; it is a public casting/fishing club as well, a well adapted venue for the FFF Casting Expo and Games. Casting competitions to grass targets for prizes were *Trout Fly* an accuracy event, and a *Distance Casting* event. A 30 minute fishing event at one of the trophy lakes, for most pounds caught, rounded out the rest of the competitions for prizes. The lakes are stocked with Kamloops rainbows and steelhead, catch and release only. Wooly Buggers, sunk, produced nearly all of the hookups. (I caught none, but saw a nice steelhead caught). I'm sure it won the lucky fly fisher a prize.

The rest of the expo. was full of different venues for fun games, for accumulating as many raffle tickets as one can, thru participating and thru casting skill. Just entering the game got you a ticket. Success at the game won your an additional ticket. A few of the games are described below.

**Tight Loop:** Cast a loop tight enough to pass thru a vertical target hoop at 40 feet, 3 tries to win a raffle ticket.

**Salt Water Accuracy:** With 10 feet of line out the guides and the rest at your feet, a quick pickup, one false cast and place the cast inside a floating target at about 40 feet, again, 3 tries to win a raffle ticket.

**Roll Cast Accuracy:** 3 tries to a floating target at about 35 feet same idea.

*Cast to the Rise:* More on this in a moment.

*Tic-Tac-Cutthroat:* A game against an opponent casting to the squares of a tic-tac-toe layout on grass. Same idea to win a raffle ticket, for later use at the evening raffle. These were just a few of the games for fun and to win raffle tickets. I performed well enough to accumulate 12 tickets, and at the raffle, later that evening, I won a nice signed print of a rising trout.

There were on hand experts who also presented casting demos, casting instruction. I picked up some valuable tips from the spey casting demo. There were the usual complement of big-name vendors with rod/reel/line combos to demo, a perfect chance to try several lines on your favorite stick to see which suits your casting style

And last, but not least, I gave my best at being the casting coordinator for the all-bamboo games, for prizes. That drew some interest and opened some

(Continued on page 7)



Richard Embry and Jim Unger at Bamboo Rod Casting

(Continued from page 6)

eyes as to the casting feel and performance of bamboo rods with silk lines.

One of the two games for the bamboo casters was *Cast to the Rise*: with five target rings on the ground, at different distances and angles, from 25 feet to 50 feet. Start with the nearest ring, measure your distance, then pick up, one false cast and cast to that ring, then pick up, make one false cast, only, and then cast to the next ring of your choice, until all five have been tried, three rounds for each competitor. (It was a tough challenge. I tried it later and only got four rings in three rounds.) The whole thing was my idea, too. (Something to ponder! May just keep it that way, cause these guys were all expert casters.)

The other bamboo game was a duplicate of the *Trout Fly* game. We were allowed as many false casts as desired to the same five targets, three rounds per competitor. Robin LaRue, with a total of eight rings was in first place followed by Dick Raisler, and Chuck Cameron (of Chuck's Fly Shop, Seaview, WA.) tied for second with seven rings. In the shootout that followed, Dick finally edged Chuck 3 to 2. A special accolade should go to Chuck for donating some of the prizes from his shop to the bamboo competitors. Thank you, Chuck, very much!!, for being a gracious donor, and gracious competitor.

What all this amounts to is a missed opportunity, for those who didn't attend, for some wonderful experiences and personal contacts. I hope to see you there next year.

## ***New Fly Club***

By Bob Shirley  
President WSCFFF

Congratulations to the Twin Harbors Fly Fishers of Hoquiam. They have applied to the Federation of Fly Fishers as the only Charter Club in Washington state. Being a Charter Club means every member of the club must be a

member of the Federation. Charter Clubs get special consideration from the Federation such as free legal assistance in obtaining or maintaining 501-c-3 status. Mark Waldo is their current President and the club meets on the second or third Wednesday each month at a different area restaurant.

One of their intended projects will be to return Failor Lake to the use it was intended - fishing. Failor Lake is currently being used for beer parties, aggressive jet ski riding, and fishing. In a recent phone conversation with a member of the Twin Harbors club, I was told of an incident in which several drunken jet ski riders harassed and endangered a lone fly fisher on this lake while he was trying to enjoy some quiet time trout fishing. I think all of us can relate to this situation and I am sure their efforts to restore order at Failor Lake will be supported by fly fishers across the state.

Twin Harbors Fly Fishers is the twenty second FFF club in Washington. Hopefully, the Ellensburg Club will be formed by year's end, and there is another Olympic Peninsula club interested in obtaining FFF affiliate status. Congratulations again to all of the members of each of these fine organizations. Their commitment to fly fishing and the fishery resources of Washington is appreciated and recognized by all those who enjoy our sport.

(Separation from page 6)

movements within, but for the purpose of this story, I did not move, just staring in horror. The floating fly line went across the stream to the far side then I watched in amazement as the line began coming closer to shore! (It's like being at the horse races and your horse makes a move to the front, or it's like Sally in "When Harry Met Sally" the movie, when she starts moaning yes, yes, yes!!!!) I started wading downstream watching the position of the line.

Dang, if that line didn't get within about 12 feet of the river on my side. Thinking quickly now, I turned my rod

around so the reel was at the far end and lunged trying to hook the floating line around the reel. When I was able to wipe the river water from my face, I was elated. I had hooked the line on the reel. Carefully I was able to slide the line back to where I was standing and reached the line with my free hand. Woohoo!!!, (with apologies to Homer Simpson). Dropping the rod and reel into the water behind me, I pulled in the line hand over hand.

When I reached the leader the line started racing out into the river. I wasn't going to let that line get away this time! I applied the "hand" drag and checked the surge of the fish. Finally I was able to subdue a nice little (24") wild steelhead. After releasing the bright fish, I started shaking my head from side to side. Just then another angler stepped out from the brush on the bank of the river and looked at me with a puzzled look. Standing there with my rod laying in the shallow water, the line in tangles around my legs, I just said "don't ask, just don't ask!" And he didn't, and he gave me plenty of space.

So, to this day, whenever that joint of the fly line and backing come into view, my knees knock in remembrance. Have you checked your backing knot recently?

## ***Yakima River Fly Fishers***

By Len Zickler,  
WSCFFF Secretary

A new FFF Charter Club is forming in Ellensburg, Washington named the Yakima River Fly Fishers. The Club is forming as the result of the committed efforts of many people in the Kittitas Valley, including Steve Worley of Worley Bugger Fly Company, Steve Joyce of Reds, and Jack Mitchell of the Evening Hatch. Washington State Council FFF Members, including Donn Mills, John Calhoun, Bob Shirley, Larry Gibbs, and Len Zickler were all

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

helpful in assisting the club with organizational efforts.

It was clear at the Worley Bugger Yakima River Clean-up Day, that there would be strong support for a local Club. What was not clear on clean-up day was the commitment to an FFF Charter Membership. It was a unanimous decision of the Yakima River Club's organizing committee to seek FFF Charter membership! This will be the second club in our state to seek such status. The newly formed Twin Harbors Club of Grays Harbor was the first in our state to apply.

An important focus of Club activities will be conservation efforts throughout the Yakima River Basin. Several future projects were discussed including signage, boat launch improvements, and streamside plantings on important tributary streams feeding the Yakima. Planning for the club has resulted in the formation of the following initial committees: Membership,

Conservation, Education, Programs, and Publicity.

An Executive Committee and Board of Directors has also been elected, including the following individuals, Tyler Laurenti – President (Bellevue), Scott Butner – Vice President (Yakima), Greg Moore – Secretary (Tri-Cities), Donna Lease - Treasurer; Directors at Large: Len Zickler (Cle Elum), Steve Joyce (Ellensburg), Jeff Comella (Ellensburg), Dick Thompson (Cle Elum), Steve Reisenhuaer (Ellensburg). As you can see by the names and cities, the club has drawn members from across the state.

The next scheduled organizational meeting is December 12, 2002 at 6:00 PM at the Ellensburg Inn. If you would like a membership application please contact Len Zickler at (253) 383-2422. Dues for single memberships will be \$60 initially, which includes an initiation fee (\$10) and FFF membership (\$29). A family membership is available at \$70 for the first year.

It is anticipated the Clubs initial full membership meeting will be in February or March 2003. The meeting will include a program, fund raising to support club activities, and a brief business meeting. Please stay tuned for more information.

---

## ***Puyallup Show***

By Robert Shirley,  
WSCFFF President

Be sure to attend the Puyallup Sportsman's Show January 22-26, 2003. Not only will there be fly casting and tying demonstrations, but three South Sound Clubs will have a booth there. The Alpine Fly Fishers, Puget Sound Fly Fishers and South Sound Fly Fishers have teamed up to promote their clubs and attract new members at the Show. Stop by and let us tell you about the interesting, educational, and fun activities these three great Clubs offer their members. The best and most knowledgeable fly fishers in the area are already members and they are willing to share their know how to help make you a better and more informed fly fisher.



**Federation of Fly Fishers™  
Washington State Council**

PO Box 921  
Gig Harbor WA 98335-0921

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage <b>PAID</b> Spokane, WA Permit No. 91
--