

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



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SEPTEMBER, 2017

President's Riffle

The end of summer beginning of fall always presents some hard choices for me. Do I work like mad in these final days of good weather to finish up all the outside projects started around the house or do I hang up the hammer in favor of a five weight rod? Fortunately this last weekend I made the right decision and joined in the club outing to Hood Canal in search of sea run cutts. What a blast! In sun, wind, rain (not necessarily in that order) and some 15 plus members and guests chased these fish using every method imaginable. Some methods worked better than others—talk to Jim Young about how he stopped counting after 30 fish. Casting from the beach not so good—talk to me! No matter, the fish were there and the days were glorious. As always Jay Deeds hosted a stellar apres' fishing party at his place on the canal. Thanks to Outdoor Chairman Dave Schorsch and of course Jay Deeds and his helpers from the club who put on a wonderful outing.

A lot of water has passed under the old bridge since the last Creel Notes so I need to thank a few more people. Many of us enjoyed the June and July Dinner meetings and the August roundtable and gear swap. The speakers at all three meetings were knowledgeable and entertaining. Thanks go to Mike Wearne and Bob Burdick for working to bring these great speakers and programs to our members. I'd also like to thank First VP Rich Gaspar for taking over my duties at the August meeting.

This is also the time of year we start putting the Christmas Party planning into high gear and I suspect you will be hearing more about this from Kerry Hodges in the near future. In the meantime please start thinking about items you might consider donating to our one and only fund raiser.



We still have a number of outings planned for 2018 before the Wet Buns finale in November. The Lake Hannen fall day trip as well as a possible return to Big Twin Lakes is in the works as well. Be sure to check the outing schedule on the club website for more detailed information.

Finally, I have been reflecting on the views of two fly fishers we met while fishing at the Hood Canal outing. Florian and Andi [pictured below with President John] are two young Swiss nationals who are fly fishing there way across the USA. They were about half way through a three month odyssey when we met on Saturday. Member Suni Pak had the good sense to invite these fellows to the club party at Jay's where we all got to know each other a little better. I received the following email from Florian this morning and I think he has summed up the essence of the WFFC in three sentences. What do you think?

Dear Fly Fishing Friends,

Thank you so much to you and to the WFFC. It was an awesome evening with excellent people like you. We really appreciate that you invited us to your evening with pizza and beer. We are really happy



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President's Riffle

that we could meet all of you guys and see how you believe in the sport of fishing, how you fight to achieve good conditions for the fish, the wildlife, the nature with his beauty and of course the further generations so we do it too.

Here you will find our blog. I Hope you will enjoy to read it. Next update will be at the end of this week or at least in the middle of the next week.

[Http://zfaa.blogspot.ch](http://zfaa.blogspot.ch)

*Best regards and we hope to see you soon again. Stay safe
-Florian and Andi*

The blog mentioned above is written in German but it is worth using google translate to see Florian and Andi's reaction to the Memphis Bass Pro Shop. Hysterical!

Tight lines,
John

WFFC Member Volunteers Needed!

We have recently been approached by several groups who are looking for "Introduction to Fly Fishing" instruction for their Youth Organizations. The WFFC has a long history of providing this type of community support although we currently lack a Youth Committee Chair and Youth Committee Members. We need your help!

Please consider volunteering to fill this important Committee Chair Position or simply volunteer as a committee member. This would be an excellent opportunity for new WFFC members to support the Club and help fulfill our mission. Please get involved!

For more information please contact Rich Gaspar, Bob Birkner or John Gravendyk (contact information available in the club roster)

Members, I would like to suggest that conservation minded anglers check out this edition of Washington Wild. This outstanding Spring Newsletter focuses on the bills, resolutions and historic budget cuts that threaten our clean air and water, forests, rivers and recreational opportunities. Already, at least three provisions have made it to President Trump's desk with more in their wake (See pg. 6-7) Here is the link: https://wawild.org/wp-content/uploads/WW_Spring2017_Newsletter_small.pdf



Above, Jen prepares Augies for the solar eclipse, David Ehrich enjoys the silence at Marsh Creek near Stanley, Idaho, the approaching darkness and suddenly, totality.

Creel Notes

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Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website in the roster area.



Holidays Ahead



By Kerry Hodges

SAVE THE DATE and DONATE! DECEMBER 19th, 2017 will be the WFFC Christmas Holiday Party! We need your donations now to make this evening even more memorable!

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Bring your sweetheart, family (adults), prospective members and friends to our WFFC fun, entertaining, and delicious Annual Holiday Dinner and Auction. Support our club's annual fund raiser and our meaningful community service programs such as Healing Waters and Reel Recovery all while reeling in fabulous auction items and having a good time! Mark the Date and Donate! Save December 19th for the WFFC 2017 Annual Holiday Party at the Seattle Tennis Club. Then make a call this month to donate an auction

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 promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout, steelhead, and salmon in state waters.
4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
5. To encourage and assist others — particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.

item in support of this great event.

Happy hour starts around 5:30 with plenty of time to peruse a wide selection of auction items and visit with fellow WFFC members and close friends! Dinner will be served at 7:00 with wine on the tables and your special entrée choice made when you register. A gourmet meal followed by a delicious dessert and the auction fun begins.

Come join your fellow club members Kris Kristoferson, our Honorary Master of Ceremonies along with our Auctioneers, as they outdo each other to win your hearts, your dollars and entertain you throughout the evening.

As our annual and primary fundraiser, we count on your support of our club activities through attending and participating in the silent and live auctions and raffle selections. We also count on the generous support of members and businesses that donate to help us fund our conservation projects, veterans programs, youth programs, homeless outreach and outings.

We need YOUR HELP compiling a great selection of auction items. If you have items, ideas, outings or services you'd like to donate to a great cause, now is the time! We can also provide ideas for you to consider.

Please contact Kerry Hodges (206) 226 8828 or email: kerry.o.hodges@gmail.com and like Santa, she will pick up your items or arrange printed auction gift certificate for items such as trips, dinners, weekend stays, or guided fishing outings.

Weekend getaway at a cabin or condo? Guided fishing day on local waters? Spare rod or reel that you've rarely use? Artwork you are ready to part with? Recommendations for guides, lodges, local activities or restaurant contacts? Now's the time to make a call for a good cause!

Registration will be available on the WFFC web site in November for dinner selections and to register guests. So **SAVE THE DATE** on your calendar and remember to Sign up in November to reserve your spot! You can also print a form from the web site to mail in registration with a check, to Kerry Hodges, 9120 S.E. 50th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040. The cost for this gala event is \$85.00 per person. This will include dinner, salad, your choice of entrée, scrumptious dessert, and wine. The camaraderie and fun are free! See you in December and make a call now to support your club with a donation!



Gil Nyerges enjoying his birthday with a cake made into his namesake fly, the Nyerges Nymph

Fishing Reports

Lochsa River, Idaho

By David Ehrich

July 22: Working back north from Stanley, Idaho, we drove to Lolo, then right through the Bitterroot fires that have clouded western skies all summer, back west on SR 12 to a campsite I had scouted on my return from motorcycling the Idaho Backcountry discovery Ride.

On the way we shopped in Hamilton, got some new flies, enjoyed some coffee, and fled the haze. The pattern repeated, smoke in Montana, clear in Idaho. My fourth time across Lolo pass this summer, this time the fires burned within sight of the road. Men in battle gear, either soldier or firefighter, guarded the roads.

Our campsite, not far from where I had met the boys for a ride south on the BDR was empty, flat, private, and right off beautiful cutthroat water. Without delay I threw on my wading boots, vest, opened a beer, and rosined up the bow. Some smaller ones hooked up, but the big horse rolled over my stimulator, so I switched to a little cad-dis and she came right along to the net.

I fished from one spot for two hours, fishing to each riffle channel in turn and then back again. Lots of



Above, a torta prepared al fiesca on the Lochsa river in Northern Idaho. such cuisine powered a few days of fine Cutthroat fishing. Right, the next riffle awaits.

action, about 10 cutthroat to hand with one of good size. Then I fried up some potatoes, seared an Idaho ranch deluxe steak with mushrooms, opened an Italian red, and we ate in the early twilight of a narrow canyon. That, my friends, is Van camping at its best.

July 23: After a delicious torta with yesterday's leftover potatoes, remains of some peppers and onions, we set out to....do nothing. I finished Tim Egan's The Big Burn, looked up on the map all the ridges and towns threatened by the blaze of 1910, and realized I had traipsed over most of the area, some of it burning today. Jen planned her weekly schedule. Augie the doggie got in the spirit of nothingness and rolled in the dust.

Lunch was somehow called for, but undeserved, yet still enjoyed. I strung up a rod for Jen, reminded her how to tie a double clinch knot, and headed to the riffle I'd been eyeing all the time of nothingness. Wrong time, wrong fly, wrong approach? Nada.

I switched to a #12 green body caddis, headed down stream, found some deep water after a riffle, and commenced to catch fish; one after the other; some twice I suspect. In clear deep water, the cutts approached, I saw them, I lifted to rod tip, I caught and released about 30 cutts; A couple even filled the net. This is fine cutthroat river: eager to rise to a well presented fly, strong, native, and packed with trout. No wonder others who have wandered down to our corner of the river have seemed so disappointed that we "owned the water."

To be truthful, a half dozen cars could park here and anglers could find plenty of water. But this is Idaho, my own private Idaho. People camp solo and expect things to stay that way. If you get there early, Otherwise, big groups of people related to each other in some way, conclaves, crowd around a bend in a river to make a small neighborhood. Driving through a crowd of this sort is a little like seeing if there's room to

sit at the mean girls' table. it's your spot. Friday, we will vacate the state, leaving little behind. I like Idaho.

Jen fished to little effect, but enjoyed the water. I got tired and dehydrated, leaving good money on the table so to speak. A beer did not solve that problem so I had to nap. Jen roused me at 19:00, commenced a basil pesto with shrimp and zucchini, we unwrapped the last bottle of rose, and darkness came quickly to the narrow canyon in the waning days of summer.



Wapato Lake

By Chuck Ballard

I decided to flex a rod on July 14 and didn't wish to harm any warm trout so I went over for a morning row around Wapato Lake in the Chelan area.

Nice day, no wind and early enough to avoid the water ski crowd. I rowed around the whole lake and caught several small bass about 8 ".

Near the end of the day I finally got a decent strike and the fish really put a bend in the rod. After a short fight I pulled in the biggest yellow perch I have ever seen: 15" long and probably weighing 1.5lb.



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September 2017

Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Seattle Tennis Club, 922 McGilvra Blvd. E.

This month's program is on September 19. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.

This month: The speaker for the September meeting is Brian OKeefe. Brian will be talking about Fly Fishing in the Three Seasons of Alaska. Brian has been going to Alaska since 1975. His fly fishing knowledge of Alaska encompasses a variety of locations in the state. His presentations are always informative and entertaining. See you there!

Bob Burdick, assistant to the second VP for programs