

# Creel Notes from the



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

Website: [www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)



MMXIV No. 4

April, 2014

## President's Riffle

By President Michael Moscynski



The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary date has been set for the October 21<sup>st</sup> regular membership meeting day at the STC. The Christmas party date has been set for December 9<sup>th</sup>. Detailed planning continues by the committees for these exciting future events.

By the time you read this, we will have had our first outing this year at **Dry Falls Lake**. You can look forward to the fishing reports at the meeting if you were not able to attend.

The new printed Roster is done and will be distributed at the April membership meeting. Thanks to all who updated their pictures and to Jim Goedhart who has made a real keepsake issue for the 75<sup>th</sup>.

Have you been thinking about **who you might invite to a meeting or outing this year**? It is easy to become complacent and settle into our routines and talk, fish and socialize with our regular friends. If everyone sticks only to their comfortable routine however, the future of the WFFC will be bleak. Organizations are either growing or declining. There is no position of knife-edge stability or safety for us. Stop waiting for the other guy or gal to take the initiative. Just do one thing to pass on your heritage. This year

*"Steelhead are lying in the silken flow, elusive shadows as brightly polished as a wedding spoon. It's summer run fish are like rare jewels in its velvet pools, drifting like ghosts in its currents, hovering in shafts of sunlight and spume. We are precious and we are few. Their restless liturgies are a half remembered whisper on the wind. We are coming home, seeking the swift riffles of our birth -- Catch us if you can!"*

-Ernest Schwiebert, "Where Flows the Umpqua"

Be well.

## April Program

### Bob Margulis, Wild Steelhead Coalition

Bob Burdick, 2nd VP (Programs)

We have all been frustrated with the decline of steelhead throughout their native range in the U.S. and for at least 40 years have seen WDFW blindly cling to policies that promote the sale of licenses rather than catch and release, which is so clearly in the steelheads' best interest.

From our inception in 1939 this club has been advocating a change in this policy and bit by bit, as fly fishermen, we've carved out more and more changes that favor native steelhead. Fly fishing only regulations on the North Fork of the Stilly and **Ralph Wahl's** work on the Skagit/Sauk are two examples of our successes. **John Sager** and **Jack de Yonge** laid additional foundations upon which our contemporaries could build.

In 2008, strongly influenced by the likes of **Bill Redman**, **Doug Schaad**, **Jim McRoberts**, and **Scott Hagen** of our club as well as other organizations in the state, WDFW finalized a Statewide Steelhead Management Plan, which promised that a wild steelhead gene bank river, also known as "wild steelhead management zones" would be established in each of the state's seven steelhead distinct population segments. We also had our setbacks as the

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WDFW acceded to the catch and kill mentality of the Olympic Peninsula baitcasters and allowed a one fish per season limit for that area. It was over five years before the Olympic Coast's Sol Duc River was named the first of these gene banks. WDFW declared that they would no longer plant hatchery steelhead smolts in the Sol Duc and declared that the river would be a test kitchen or "Gene Bank" to test the proposition that numbers of native steelhead would rise as a consequence of stopping the planting. Last July we were treated to Bill McMillan's presentation about the how's and whys planting hatchery steelhead smolts doesn't work, and how destructive that planting is to native steelhead survival. On March 1<sup>st</sup> of this year the WDFW made the announcement that they would add Southwest Washington's Wind, East Fork of the Lewis, and the North Fork of the Toutle to this program. At our March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting there was much further discussion regarding the meaning of these declarations and changes.



Steelhead Sculpture

On April 15<sup>th</sup> we will have the pleasure of listening to Bob Margulis, Executive Director of the Wild Steelhead Coalition talk on "The Road to Steelhead Recovery in the state of Washington". During his presentation I have asked Bob to address head-on some of the obvious questions regarding this change in WDFW policy such as: "What does the WDFW mean by the term gene bank?"; "Why has the department changed its stance on stocking in these streams?"; "Have we fly fishermen been having an impact on the department's policy or is this just some sort of window dressing?"; "Are these changes permanent in the sense of a 10 to 15 year trial period?"; "Do they plan to add more rivers to gene banking in the future?"; "Can we fly fishermen influence further river designations as gene banking rivers?"; "Can we be sure that the WDFW will honestly report changes in run size and composition and not cook the books?"; "Is there any truth to the rumor that the WDFW is considering a newer process of gene analysis that tends to minimize the toxic effect of hatchery smolts on native stocks?"

The following month, on May 20<sup>th</sup> Joe Bogaard from Save our Wild Salmon and Chris Caudill from the U. of Idaho will cover some of the same material as it relates to the Columbia River Basin. I.e., "Are dams really the issue?"; "What effect do Sea Lions really have on the runs?"; "What per cent of smolts are killed in the turbines and are we making any progress in diminishing that kill?"; "Are the stocking programs from the Columbia River hatcheries affecting native salmon smolts like they affect steelhead smolts?"

These are 2 exciting presentations and should be outstanding. Hope to see you all there. Come prepared to hear an important discussion and bring your own questions to keep the pot boiling and the pressure on the game department.

## March 18, 2014



### 'On the Fly'

A Synopsis of Last Month's General Meeting  
By David Ehrich



President **Michael Mosecynski** called the faithful to the trough, although this group of feeders needed no invitation. While the feed line thinned out, I networked around for members interested in a High Lakes trip this August. I will keep you posted, but don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have always wanted to hike in the Montana Rockies (Crazy Mountains) to high lakes for Golden Trout ([davehrich@rocketmail.com](mailto:davehrich@rocketmail.com)).

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## Creel Notes

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Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website then selecting **email** (upper right corner). Button selection and message box will appear on scroll down

## 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.

(Continued from page 2) 'On the Fly'

Guest introductions were brisk and energetic, ranging from totally new folks to those who have been given the "join or else!" ultimatum. I even saw some hair color besides gray. The awards ceremony carried over from last month with a Long Time Member Award to **Dick Sterns** for 40 years of membership. He took home a handsome framed award.

Next Mike gave over the mic for our version of truth or consequences, aka, the fishing report. Our first exaggerator described the hazards of catching barracuda when searching for bonefish and subsequent wear and tear on hooks. Craig described a good day for Casting for Recovery at Bill's Pond. **Jack Crowley** promoted a nice book about legendary steelhead fishing on the Smith River. We heard reports, as well, from Florida salt and Oregon coastal rivers for bucks and hens.

After a great Irish dinner, worthy of ole saint Pat himself (although he was Roman and probably didn't eat corn beef very often), we were introduced to our substitute speaker, Jason Smith, who introduced us to the Native Fish Society and their River Steward program. Every member who could answer "yes!" to the question: "Do you like fishing for Sea Run Cutthroat?" is a potential river steward. Jason described the science aspects of their involvement in keeping track of wild fish and healthy river and Puget Sound ecosystems.

Jason turned the question back on members to ask us where our interests lie. Our spokesperson, **Jim McRoberts** described our deep interest in Steelhead and Coastal Cutthroat in the Puget Sound. Jim tossed the baton to **Preston Singletary** who went into deep meditation on the issue.

Take for example, The Gene Bank Project, where testimony, research based science, and broad based advocacy, got WDFW to acknowledge that hatchery fish are inferior to their wild brethren. The Gene Bank Project looks for viable rivers to return to wild fish by whole scale assassination of evil hatchery genes. At this point, Jason left me a little worried describing the zealous advocacy of kill and keep anglers, guides and commercial fisherman. The facts need to be spread and River Stewards are dedicated to make the truth heard, according to Jason.

Jason took questions. Members asked about the "River in Recovery" status of the Wind River, made famous by **Enos Bradner**. Jason allowed member **Doug Schaad** to give a more detailed response to the question. After acknowledging the accomplishments of **Jim McRoberts** (11 years in the making) in terms of getting new rivers designated as Gene Banks, such as the Wind, Doug went on to give props to the River Steward program, warning members to be aware of the commitment.

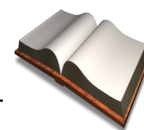
The idea of the Gene Bank Program might require a four-hour presentation, according to Doug. But in short, as in "in short" according to Doug, hatcheries are a study in diminishing return. Once the hatcheries are shut down and replaced with wild steelhead, we start to see viable, cost free returns. When we designate a river a Gene Bank river, it means the river gets wild and we see what happens. With each successful river, the WDFW starts to get the message. For example, the WDFW has begun to see the value of wild Steelhead over "hatcher mentality." In short, it's a slow, painful, long term project.

Jason's talk got turned into a committee report with several members joining him at the podium. We need, to be clear, people to counter balance the commercial/guide livelihood for the long term. Hatchery fish are a "product," not a long term legacy. Impassioned, Jason gave members hints on how to get involved at a lower level:

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## WFFC Roster

The 2014 printed membership roster will be available at our April general membership meeting for pickup.



Members who don't plan on attending the April meeting should send an e-mail to our Roster Chairmen, **Jim Goedhart**, [JLGoedhart@gmail.com](mailto:JLGoedhart@gmail.com). The roster will be sent to you via U.S. Mail.

Make sure your mailing address is up to date.

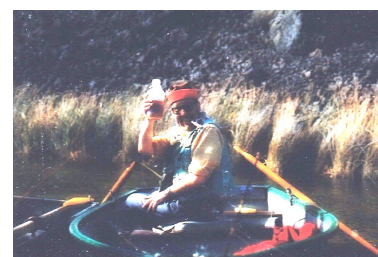
## In Memoriam

### Club Loses Two Long Time Members

**William (Bill) Randall**  
Saturday, March 15, 2014

Age 87, of Seattle WA

The WFFC was well represented at the memorial service for departed member **Bill Randall** held on March 26 at the Exeter House. It was a joyful remembrance for 14 Club members and 5 of their wives



The Late **Bill Randall**—Photo by John Callahan

**Dr. Curtis (Curt) E. Carlson**  
Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Age 71, of Seattle went home to be with his Lord and Savior on March 19, 2014. He was born March 30, 1942, in Rockford, Ill



Curt was a graduate of both the University of Illinois and the University of Washington. He went on to a very distinguished career in the field of periodontal and orthodontic surgery.



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clean up, research, fish and redd counts, and the ultimate role of a citizen - stay informed and speak up. At the very least, the Native Fish Society is a 503C and your money goes right to work.

After an impressive "call to action," Mike gave us a wee break before committee reports started minus the Conservation Committee report that got rolled into Jason's talk.

After a call back to order, Mike gave us some highlights of upcoming events. Dry Falls is upon us in mid April. Other reports were quick and painless until **Pete Baird** took a moment to acknowledge the passing of **Bill Rundall**, remembering a well loved member, details of his memorial to come by email. We took a moment to remember our friend and fellow angler. **Charley Davis**, VP of membership noted a good turnout of guests and soon-to-be members. He asked us to keep inviting guests. **Jim MacDonald** found a left over rod from the Christmas party that got returned to the fold.

Announcements: Mike is trying to work up something with the Burien Boy Scouts to lead a fishing trip. I spoke to the rebirth of the High Lakes trip with a gathering at my house on Seattle's beautiful south side. Stay tuned for the high road to Golden Trout.



## Our Club's 'El Gaucho' Anglers

**'The Saga Continues'**  
**Tierra del Fuego, Argentina**  
*By Hugh Clark*

**Maury Skeith, Jim McRoberts, Scott Hagen** and I spent February 1-7 at the Maria Behety Ranch near Rio Grande in Tierra del Fuego. The fine lodge served gourmet meals and provided excellent guides for fishing for sea run brown trout.

The 500,000 acre ranch has 32 miles on the Rio Grande with controlled access except Sundays when locals are encouraged to fish. In addition to 50,000 sheep, and 1,000 head of cattle, the ranch is shared with many foxes and guanacos, with many views daily. The Chilean Andes are visible in the distance.



Maria Behety Ranch—Patagonia

Everyone caught fish, with the returnees, **Hagen** and **McRoberts** far out fishing the newbie's. Many fish were over 15 lbs, and occasional fish over 20 lbs. One 21 pounder took me about 30 minutes to land and got as far down stream as 150 yards before coming home. Fortunately there are few snags in the river and I followed the guides instruction to be patient. Wading is easy thanks to the gravel bottom, but we did have to cross the river several days, including in the dark, as the second session of every day goes from 6:00 pm to 10:15 p.m.!

I will have to go back next year.



Sea Run Brownie caught by Hugh Clark

## Rock Creek, Montana

**Cold Camp on Rock Creek**  
*By David Ehrich*

Most years, Spring Break means fishing pre-runoff in Western Montana. The first year we hit the Clark Fork, shacked up in Missoula, fished the Bitterroot, and then made the long haul to lower Rock Creek and the even longer haul to the upper river via Phillipsburg. We've stayed various places over the years and fished different combinations of those waters, but two things happened: I grew to love the upper river and I preferred camping to the snore-fest of shared motel rooms with noisy heaters and the smell of damp musty anglers.

I got invited to join my friends Ian and Adam Malcolm the

(Continued from page 4) *Rock Creek*

first time in 2000. Usually we meet his father, Mike, who works at WSU (*mark of intelligence!—Ed*) somewhere near St. Regis and sometimes their little brother, Adam comes along. Different folks have rounded out the groups, mostly teachers. Over the years, as these younger men had families, the group got smaller and it has boiled down to just the Malcolms and me. The last few years, in order to save time and keep wives happy, the Seattle group flew over to meet their dad in Missoula I drove my VW camper. We would meet on the river, stay somewhere together for a few nights and then, since their trips got shorter and shorter, I started taking a couple nights on the river by myself braving cold, snow and the threat of being snow bound for a few days.



I've poured a lot of money in my Van, more than I can put in print, but the best \$50 was a Mr. Heater Portable Buddy propane heater. It effectively extended Van camping well below freezing. As long as the snow doesn't pile up, I can last out most weather. I don't sleep with the heater on, but it knocks off the chill in the morning and makes evenings, before I settle around a campfire, comfortable.

This year, Spring Break is devoted to a trip south to see my daughter's new live in LA, and I got so sad over the prospect of missing a Rock Creek trip, that I got what a rare illness, un-described in medical journals, but familiar to many anglers. And why not, last year's trip was warm, featured 50+ days on dry flies and otherwise proved why people regularly beat a path to Rock Creek. My wife cautioned me; be prepared to be a tad bit disappointed.

I drove as far as I could get in Idaho after work Friday, and the next day got my license, flies, and the usual bad advice after breakfast in Missoula. I hit the river above the now Bohrsen Bridge, renamed to honor a young veteran of the Gulf War, just about two o'clock. I was joined on the river by a cabin crazy couple who had escaped from Missoula to the call of a break in the weather and fishing their favorite stream. So like any "nice guy" I beat it right up to some promising holes before they could stake out the best water.

I rosined up the bow and got right on familiar water looking for nymph action on a combo stone fly and San Juan worm - what I think of as fishing ugly. But about 4 o'clock I started to hear slurping and even some fully throated rises, so I switched to a March Brown and gray emerger and got some action in soft water. I hooked 8, landed 6, a mix of Browns, Cutts and a Bow. I probably played that hand too long, but who can resist swinging dries on a snowy river in mid March.

One big guy took a lot of line, but wiggled off pretty quickly. Probably a Mighty Whitey. We shared our light success as the three of us packed up around six, them to home and me to a cold camp down river. I wistfully considered the Inn at Phillipsburg, cowboy bars and a good steak. Still I turned away from the comforts of town.



I always look for a site along the river in what we call Mile Post 33, a NFS, "rule light" environment. Some years, I've had competition and shared the best sites with fellow anglers and occasionally, someone down on the luck who seems to have moved in for the spring. This year, the place was empty and I chose the most snow free site. I hacked the ice out of the fire pit, built up a nice fire for later, and considered years past. Besides Spring Break, I've met Ian and the boys at the Flats in several summers. Month long fishing trips in Montana have begun and ended here. My daughters got their first fish on the fly just off the camp site. That same trip they had their most serious fight after a summer cross country trip that, evidently, was one day too long. I've headed here in abject turmoil over failures in marriage and work. One year, while the powers that be considered the fate of my job, I let the fall colors, warm days, and big Browns sooth my angst.

This year heavy news had reached me when I stopped in Missoula; a good friend, husband and father of two teenage girls had died from a skiing accident just that early morning. Fishing had quieted my nerves for a while in the afternoon, but as I settled into camp, a deep depression came over me like the cloudy cold that was settling over the valley for the night. I walked around camp trying to grasp something to help me put things in perspective. I remembered romantic nights with gentle summer breezes cooling off the van, pot luck dinners mixed with tall tales from the river, roaring drunken fires, days fishing with good friends, but none more important than the sunny summer afternoon I asked Jennifer to marry me in 2011. We were talking about what we needed to buy next times we got to a store, and I think my words went something like, "not to change the subject, but Jennifer, would you marry me?" I may not remember the exact words, but I remember the spot between two towering Ponderosa Pines, looking across the river at the setting late summer sun. I think I even heard a fish rise, but I knew better than to look away from her eyes at that moment.

So I toasted to that happy moment, turned around and toasted to my friend and asked greater powers to watch over his family and help then move on over time. A river which has excited me and soothed me over the years added a chorus to my thoughts.



## High Lakes Trips 2014

### Crazy Mountains, Montana

By David Ehrich



To be truthful, I joined the club because of the high lakes trip and have sorely missed the adventure in later years. So, its time to put up or shut up. I've got an idea, a date and a place to talk about. Let the planning begin.

*NW Fly Fishing* (Nov/Dec 2013) published a wonderful fishing report from the Crazy Mountains, near Big Timber, Montana. Anglers who have taken the trip west along I-90 from the Big Hole, will remember a range on the right hand side (north) that comes out of nowhere just West of Big Timber, rising to peaks well above 10,000 feet and then descends back into prairie again just as the tributaries of the Mighty Missouri start to collect.

The basic outline of the trip is to enter from a campground at the end of the road up Big Timber Creek. The first lake, Blue Lake, is about 4 miles up the trail with an elevation gain of 1900' which might serve as our first base camp. The group can explore other options while fishing various lakes, feeder streams and pools. Perhaps we can move base camp, perhaps we won't want to.

I'll be at the rendezvous campsite in the late afternoon on August 19. We can head right up or start in the morning. From there trip lengths can vary, but I have to be back on August 25. That gives us at least 5 nights. Of course, all details are subject to debate. Who's in?

Planning meeting at my house in South Seattle on Sunday, May 4th for dessert and planning. Anglers are also welcome to bring photos from recent trips to enjoy. Email me at [davidehrich@rocketmail.com](mailto:davidehrich@rocketmail.com) if you are interested and I will get a list going.

## WDFD Enforcement Advisory Update

### Advisory Group Meets

From Don Gulliford



We had our quarterly Group meeting in Ellensburg that fateful 3/22/14 Saturday about 11am or before. All the WDFW police cells or radios went off with the tragic Oso slide news. New Chief Steve Crown and staff were introduced; main important item was urging Gov. Inslee to veto HB2789 (*Concerning technology-enhanced government surveillance—Ed.*) which although passed House & Senate, was still vetoed by Inslee.

WDFW felt poorly drafted; passed in haste---e.g. DFW police are in remote locations without backup and the current drones & cameras are well suited to assist in protection efforts for WDFW officers.

## After Slide—North Fork Stilly

### WDFW Biologist, Brett Barkdull Gives An Appraisal of the Situation

*(Some words didn't transfer well in the e-mail thread. I think I got the jest of it. I filled in a few words and partial lines that didn't come completely through—Ed.)*

The poor Stillaguamish River can't catch a break!

Early this month I was out on the NF Stilly trying to collect adult steelhead and take DNA samples. At one run, I hung up on a rock and broke off. I walked back to my colleague waving my arms, talking loudly, very excited. He is in his 30's, not from the area, and didn't understand the significance of getting hung up on a rock. I tried to explain, and told him I hadn't lost gear on a rock in the Stilly in at least 25 years, he didn't understand.



First the Deforest Creek slide occurred and piled huge amounts of fine sediment in the Stilly from Deer Creek down.

Then logging practices in the 80's denuded the headwaters of the NF, and multiple slides occurred dumping in sediment, some of those slide we thought were big, but none compared to this last one. Regardless, the NF Stilly was nothing but a sandbox from the top of the anadromous reach all the way to Stanwood for the last 25 years. It was finally, finally healing up a little, the sand had moved out of the NF to a great extent, at least above Cicero. Rocks were starting to reappear. There were pools and riffles. There was finally a little bit of steelhead parr rearing habitat. There was finally hope that the NF mainstem could produce a few steelhead smolts again. I think for the most part the tributaries had been keeping the population alive.

Then this. Basically from Hazel down we are back to square one. The slide didn't cover the river all the way to Hazel, but the river is backed up beyond that point upstream. I can't imagine steelhead will use the river from Hazel downstream this year. The river is so turbid that its killing fry right now, the trap the Stilly tribe runs is seeing about a 33% mortality on Pink, Chum and Chinook fry. So basically the lower 22 miles of the NF Stilly, and the mainstem Stilly (there is some spawning between Arlington and I-5) are lost at least for this year to spawners. The long term consequences are my bigger concern though.

Pretty positive this A.M. aren't I? I'll leave with a positive note.

I spent a couple days this fall on Deer Creek collecting DNA samples. I hadn't been in to the Deforest Creek Slide, or seen any of the upper basin where the Summer runs live for quite a while. Maybe 15 years. There were lots of adults around. More importantly, the habitat looked far better. The slide had revegetated, and I had to show my college where the slide was because it was no longer obvious. The creek itself had

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pools and riffles, big boulders were showing, and there were log jams! This population is doing just fine, and will continue to do so as long as something else doesn't break loose on Deer Creek.

### Some Wrap-Up Comments from WDFW Biologist, Jennifer Whitney

Brett and Curt Kraemer are the most knowledgeable people I know regarding Stillaguamish history. Just two weeks ago I was standing on C-Post bridge, just above the slide area, with Curt and he was pointing out how improved the North Fork habitat looked.

I will add to Brett's summary that we haven't yet documented any redds or adult steelhead above the slide but we will continue to attempt weekly surveys wherever we can above the slide, in tributaries below the slide, and in South Fork tributaries. From the aerial photos there does not appear to be a barrier to adult steelhead getting above the slide except for the high sediment load they have to swim through to get there.

WDFW habitat biologists are involved in talks concerning trying to make the channel through the slide deeper to drain the lake backed up behind the slide more quickly. I assume this will make the sediment load worse at least in the short term.

### 'Reeling' in the Years



#### A Scouting Trip to Vancouver Island

By Boyd Aigner  
From Creel Notes April 1976

Bea, Kilo and I took off for four days to Vancouver Island. The wind and rain was very discouraging, plus the fact that no one can fish for Searun Cutthroat on Vancouver Island before March 21, which we did not know until we arrived there.

From Nanaimo to Parkeville to Port Alberni past a lake on the right which has Brown Trout to seven and eight pounds (fished for in total darkness)\*. We were snowed out of a camp near a lake that has six pound cutthroat in it. (This was verified by a fisheries biologist who swam with them in scuba gear).

Although we wanted to see the upper end of a lake which has rainbow to five pounds on the dry sedge, we were again defeated by snow. Before leaving Port Alberni we were given some superb maps of select salt water cutthroat spots and these are, as you can imagine, most highly prized. I will never forget the friendliness of the young man who sold me thirty four dollars worth of the finest capes that I have seen in years.

So on to Campbell River. More wonderful people, ore won-

derful maps and another thirty dollars worth of superb dry capes at most inexpensive prices. Also managed to find three pieces of that morning white polar bear that is used on cutthroat flies that have any class.

It was a long drive back to the outstanding Ivy Green Government Campground south of Nanaimo. There is a nice little town four miles away. Here is where you can buy your Labatt's beer. The camp ranger happened to be a fly fisherman and so we acquired more good solid information and maps of the Nanaimo area searuns and lake rainbow.

I am certain by now that you realize the information given in this report is in keeping with the traditional informational generosity of all WFFC fishing or trip reports.

- *The big browns still inhabit Cameron Lake—fished for only in the black of night —Ed.*

### Morgan Lake Outing From April 1976 Creel Notes

A very successful outing was held on March 13 and 14 at Morgan Lake in the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. Morgan Lake is a winter season lake that was rehabilitated three years ago.

The lake was a little colored due to agricultural runoff from irrigation but the big fish could still see the fly. The fish averaged a stout 14 inches and weighed almost 2 pounds. Most of the fish were so fat they had hump backs and stomachs just bulging with insect life.

The beef stew and campfire was warm and inviting to tired fisherman telling tall tales of their fishing accomplishments. **Bill Rundall** even baked a cake for his daughter who came to the outing from Pullman, Washington (one smart daughter, *Go Cougars*) to celebrate her twentieth birthday with her H.A. father. **John Callahan** and **Errol Champion** were only able to participate in the outing for a short time due to their travels to the Quality lakes in the area where they changed the signs erected by the FFF to conform to the new barbless hook regulations. Those people attending the outing will agree that it should be repeated next year. Popular patterns were: Doc Spratley, Black Chenille Carey, Black Leech and Peacock Carey.

Those people attending were: **Bill Boardman, Steve Bretland, John Callahan, Jack Callender, Errol Champion, Fred DeWitt, Oral Dudder, Fred Kay, Gil Nyerges, Bill Rundall, Jerry Sammons, Dick Stearns, Jerry Sugamele, Dick Thompson** and **Bob Bendzak**.

### Oso Slide

#### WFFC Member Is Fine

First, amid the tragic news of the Oso mud slide on the N. Fork of the Stilly our club member **Greg Minaker** is okay.

His house is a mere 1/4 mile downstream from the edge of the slide.

## An Extra Tip

### GSP Thread For The Selective Fly Tier



Not all thread types are good for all applications. GSP (Gel Spun Polyethylene) is a unique thread which has come of age with some virtues and drawbacks.

If you are looking for a thread that has virtually no bulk (even with many wraps), is virtually unbreakable, and is unobtrusive to the point of being translucent, GSP is for you.

It is great for small flies, for applications where great strength is needed (like tying dumbbell eyes on Clousers) and for spinning hair. It is also good for dubbing loops because the loop is unbreakable and the thread is unobtrusive. The translucent quality is a plus when dubbing with very fine, soft furs where the material color or texture is to be highlighted.

GSP also has drawbacks: It is slippery and takes a little practice to use efficiently. The fibers are so strong that they will groove a non-ceramic bobbin (and cut your finger if you pull too hard!). It is also a bit more expensive than nylon thread.

GSP is becoming common. Even Cabela's has it! There are also two more brands popular, UTC and Power Silk. The Power Silk is more expensive, \$4.99 a spool at Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone, but in smaller diameters its much better quality than the UTC.

For most applications using the smallest diameter available is fine because it is so strong. Tier, Roman Moser, uses 5/0, 8/0 and 10/0 designations, 10/0 is great. UTC comes in 75, 100 and 200 denier. Use 75 or 100 denier for general use. For tying big streamers, tying on dumbbell eyes, and spinning deer hair use the thicker stuff, 200 denier or 6/0.

A tip on colors: All you need is white or gray; (they are the same color in different brands.) GSP does not accept dye, so they color it with colored wax. If you use the white, and want a colored head, just hit the head with a colored permanent marker when the fly is done before gluing. (Gluing is actually unnecessary).

A fly tier in Pennsylvania uses 10/0 white Power Silk for all his fly tying. Consider that to be a powerful testimony as Pennsylvania is famous for difficult, technical fly fishing.

**Mountain Goat**  
Olympic National Park, Near Mt Christy

## Fly of the Month

### Callibaetis Nymph (emergent)

The Callibaetis Mayfly is very prevalent in the lakes of the west. *C. ferrugineus hageni* is the most common species. It may be fished in various ways depending on which stage of its life cycle the fish are feeding on. Probable the most productive time is during its emergence.

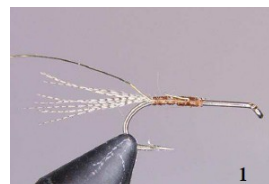
This pattern was developed by Rick Hafele who is a Aquatic Entomologist.

#### Materials

<b>Hook:</b>	Daiichi 1710 sizes 12-16
<b>Thread:</b>	Brown or Gray
<b>Tail:</b>	Duck side feather fibers
<b>Body:</b>	Light Tan or pale Olive dubbing
<b>Rib:</b>	Small Gold wire
<b>Thorax:</b>	Pine squirrel body hair dubbing with guard hairs
<b>Wing Case:</b>	Black closed cell foam

#### Tying Sequence

1. Starting near the midpoint of the hook, attach the tail and wrap thread back to the bend. Attach the ribbing wire with a few wraps and fold back the tag end to secure.
2. Prepare a fine dubbing rope and create a small tapered abdomen to the midpoint of the shank. Spiral the ribbing wire forward, secure, and trim.
3. Attach a section of closed cell foam in front of the abdomen and then dub a thorax of Pine Squirrel fur. Fold the foam strip tightly over the thorax and secure with 3 or 4 thread wraps. (Note: The foam helps the nymph float near the surface)
3. Form a small tapered thread head, whip finish, and cement.







**Washington Fly Fishing Club**  
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**Mercer Island, WA 98040**  
**www.wffc.com**

Stamp  
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**April, 2014**

### **Meeting Announcement**



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

**The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at  
6:45 PM.**

**This month:**

**Bob Margulis (Wild Steelhead Coalition)**

**The State of Wild Steelhead in the State of Washington and the Pacific  
Northwest**