

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXIII No. 7

July, 2013



President's Riffle

By 2013 President Mike Wearne

I took my grandson, Anders, to the Mariners game. My daughter gave me the tickets; which were on the third level. She mentioned "nosebleed section" on the drive to Safeco. When we go to the seats, Anders declared

that he now understood the notion of "nosebleed" seats! I love to take him to the games; however last year I didn't have the strength. It was a delight to observe the differences in Anders over time and observe a differences in Safeco Field. There was so much more marketing via the web, tweets, etc., since the last time I was there.

That got me thinking about fly fishing.

I think, no, I know, the marketing of fly fishing has shifted from a couple of monthly magazines to a variety of internet sources. While books continue to be produced, thank goodness; the wave of development of fly fishing web sites continues unabated.

I have been teaching myself to tie flies over the last several years since I took the club sponsored class. I have noticed there are very few tying videos available for sale. The reason, I think, is the availability of free videos on websites like Youtube.

For example, the web site Washington Fly Fishing has a variety of topics. The fly tying information is on the Forums tab. You can get lost in there! But it can be a great help if you have questions.

A couple of years ago I took a high school student fly fishing at Rattlesnake Lake. At the time I was on the board of a domestic violence non-profit, and this trip was an auction prize. Vinnie, the student, lived in Connecticut. His father lives in Seattle. I showed him how to cast, the difference between dry lines and sinking lines, and he went in my float tube while I talked with the parents. Afterwards while at a lunch in Issa-

quah, I gave Vinnie a list of websites. I told him my personal favorite fly fishing website concerning is Moldy Chum.

Our club website is likely to be a primary source of new club members in the future. Fortunately we have a fantastic person in charge of the WFFC website in Roger Rohrbeck.

In preparing this piece I noticed that the last posts to our Facebook page are several years old.

Maybe we need a committee person in charge of our Facebook or responsible for the internet presence of the club?

Thanks,
Mike



Introducing a New Member

Jesse Fowl

New member **Jesse Fowl** being inducted by Senior Advisor Gil Nyerges

Please see Jesse Fowl's biography on page 3



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July Program

How Hatcheries Impact Wild Steelhead Population

By Bob Burdick, Programs Chairman

On July 16th, **Bill McMillan** will present a program on steelhead research, his new book, "May The Rivers Never Sleep", and the science behind a growing evolution in stream management that says hatchery steelhead interfere with the survival of native wild steelhead.

Unfortunately Bill's son John, who co-wrote the book with him, will be unable to attend because of his close association with NOAA and it's involvement in the Elwha lawsuit against the tribes. Bill is well respected in the steelhead community, and will elaborate on a variety of topics including the contribution of river snorkeling data to the evaluation of wild steelhead decline, and why the Skagit river fishery is in such decline.

This is a "don't miss it" presentation for those who have a love for steelhead.

2013 Boyd W. Aigner Award

Dion Takes 2013 Boyd Aigner Competition

By Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

Congratulations to Ron Dion for winning the 2013 Boyd Aigner Flytying Competition. This is his second win, having done so previously in 2005. There were seven participants in the Competition, and as usual voting was close. Walt Swanson took second place overall, and Dick Brening, third. The overall winners are determined based on the total votes received by each tier for the three patterns that he submitted.

The patterns for this year's Competition and the placements for each of them are as follows:

Dragonfly: 1st-Ron Dion; 2nd-Walt Swanson; 3rd-Dick Brening

Midge trio: 1st-Ron Dion; 2nd-Walt Swanson; 3rd-Hugh Clark

Spun hair (any pattern): 1st-Walt Swanson; 2nd-tied Ron Dion and Dick Brening

This year, the Competition was open to those outside the Club who were involved in Club-supported programs. They submitted the same patterns and were separately judged. There were three participants. The overall winner was David Hart from Healing Waters, with Ray Ostman, also from Healing Waters, second, and Gary Prater, from Casting Forward, third. Gary submitted very respectable patterns, which is quite an accomplishment for someone who is blind.

Thanks to all who participated. Special thanks to Bob Burdick for his help in selecting the patterns and to Pete Baird for handling the voting at the May meeting.



Ron Dion accepts 1st Place from Awards Chairman Bill Neal

Creel Notes

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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.

Conservation

Jim McRoberts Appointed to Advisory Group

By Doug Schaad

The Washington Fly Fishing Club is pleased to announce that **Jim McRoberts** has recently been appointed to the Cutthroat Standing Committee for the Steelhead Cutthroat Policy Advisory Group of the WDFW. Jim needs your help in formulating guidance to the Director. If you have expertise (anecdotal/factual/historical) in any of the streams or areas inhabited by cutthroats, he would appreciate hearing from you.



The current WDFW guidance is located at the URL provided below*. This is a massive document (270 pages) but should not constrain your commentary. Jim is especially interested in commentary regarding Coastal as well as Westslope cutthroat populations in Chopaka, Big Twin, the Methow, Stehekin and Wenatchee drainages. Any knowledge of cutt/rainbow hybrids is also welcome.

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/00192/wdfw00192.pdf>

New Member Bio — Jesse Fowl

I was born in Arizona, but as an Air Force kid, moved around just about every 4 years. I spent a lot of time in Las Vegas, Nevada trying to stay sober and escaped for a couple years of college in Maryland (go Terps!) Fly fishing has long been a glorified hobby I never had the time for. But, I avidly fished my entire life. I got my start in Virginia, harassing sunfish with a stolen hot dog or two. Boy, do I miss the un-selective adrenaline rush of a fat sunfish on a cheap rod! Between evading the golf course security patrols, I began exploring the east coast streams behind our house as was hooked on the delicacy and solitude available when fly fishing.

I moved to Seattle seven years ago and jumped head first into the confusing Northwest fisheries. Wait, are we fishing for trout, salmon, sea run cutts, dollys, bulls, or steelhead today? The first couple of years of fishing I spent in futility, doing things like taking a 3wt on a backpacking trip up the Hoh river. Thankfully, I didn't manage to hook into a native steelhead on the san juan worm I was dapping behind tree stumps. Thankful in the sense that I would have certainly met an untimely death of sheer shock if I would have unsuspectingly hooked into a leaping steelhead on a 3wt.

I finally got my bearings and began dedicating all my free fishing time to the Yakima canyon. I found spending a couple years in one stretch finally re-

moved the variables that were throwing me into a loop. If anyone wants to fish the canyon, I'll trade trips for cigars as I have that place dialed in pretty good now! Unfortunately for my wife, budget, and sanity I got into Steelheading in a bad way. Now, I spend about 80% of my fishing time swinging the spey rod in search for that chrome bright native beauty. There is nothing more exhilarating or beautiful to me than standing knee deep in an Olympic Peninsula river with a miracle of a wild steelhead on the end of the line.

To pay for all of this foolishness and provide for my growing family I started a Management Consulting firm 5 years ago. We help companies strategize on cloud, analytics, and salesforce.com implementations. I love the work and the freedom and responsibility of managing a business. In terms of setting, there's nowhere I'd rather be than Seattle. I feel truly blessed to raise my family and explore these waters for the rest of my days.

WFFC at Youth Fitness Expo

Kids, Kids, Kids Everywhere

By Youth Chairman Dick Brening

Kids at the tying tables, kids on the casting range, kids walking by, curious about what was going on at the WFFC booth at the Youth Fitness Expo.

This was the second year that the WFFC had a booth at this popular event in Everett WA and this time we were outside on a wonderful June day.



Morning Assembly of the 'Can't Cast for Crap Bunch'

It happened on June 15th and 15 of our club members turned out to help give kids a taste of fly fishing as a life long sport.

We tied gaudy brightly colored Woolly Bugger Flies. Many of which probably turned out to be Father's day gifts the next day. We set up a casting range and gave the kids the opportunity to feel what it is like to cast a fly line. The kids ranged for toddlers to

(Continued from page 3)

teens. I even had the opportunity of helping a two year old tie a fly for dad.

We talked to many parents about the goals and aims of the WFFC and promoted our community activities like Project Healing Waters, Casting Forward and Reel Recovery. We also talked about the WFFC Foundation and how it contributes funds to programs and projects related to fly fishing and improving the environment.

And of course we talked about fly fishing and the experiences you can expect if you take up the sport.

What did we get out of it? Well, I for one thoroughly enjoyed myself, the kids were great and many of my co-volunteers said that they felt the same.



Jim McRoberts pointing out the parts of a hook



Dick Brening Fly Tying With Possible Future Member?



Gary Bergquist Instructing Fly Casting.



Ron Dion passing on some of those "2013 Boyd Aigner Winning Skills"

And.....Meanwhile President Mike Wearne What's he doing???

Looks to be doing very well!!!



REPORTS

Glimpse Lake, British Columbia

Last Week of May

By Hugh Clark

Several of us had our best day ever on this lake near Merritt, BC. There was essentially no surface activity but chironomid fishing though spotty was fantastic once you located a hatch and fish.

One day I caught over 20 fish and on another day **Maury Skeith** released over 30! Anchored just a few yards away from him on that day he out fished me 10-1! A small grey or black chironomid size 16-18 was our best fly but a red chiro with silver rib was also productive.

We were guests in the cabin of Ray Gould, a former Lambuth Award winner.

Pass Lake (Fidalego Island)

Sunday, June 23, 2013

By Ron Dion

My son Tim took me to Pass Lake on Sunday, June 23. We arrived at the Lake about 1:30, calm, no wind, and only 2 other fisherman on the lake.

Tim did the rowing and I caught most of the trout, casting and stripping the fly shown below using a type 6 fast sink line. I Hooked 15-20 fish, with the 8 I landed to hand all being rainbows in the 14" - 18" range.

It rained a little during the day, but to our surprise, NO WIND, which made fishing a real pleasure. We

witnessed the local eagle catching a fish for a snack. We quit fishing about 7:00.



Dressing: Grizzly rabbit strip/ dark hare's ear thorax/ guinea hackle colored brown w. pantone marker

Lost Lake Kittitas County

June 30, 2013.

By David Schorsch

Wanted to follow up on rumors I'd heard for years about a lake near Snoqualmie pass, above and behind Hyak ski area. I heard that it held good numbers of brook trout, and the state stocked it with triploid rainbows each spring. Thinking it's always good to have a fishing hole close to home, I invited **Mark Pratt** to join me in this adventure.

We found the lake pretty easily, just off the Lake Kachess exit and four miles down (up actually) a potholed gravel road. There's actually a sign to the lake. It's 144 acres, sitting in a mountain bowl near 3000 feet. The water is very clear, and most of the lake is quite deep with a rocky bottom. We found quite a few campers on the east end of the lake, near the rough boat launch. We also saw a few trout rising as we geared up.

Hot was the name of the weather game Sunday, so we opted for sinking lines to start. Brookies could be seen cruising the rocks on the edges, with big black shadows cruising by every now and then. They turned out to be the rainbows. Black flies with gold bead heads seemed to work the best for both types of fish, with the brooks running from four inches to twelve, and the bows 16 to 20. Some were a couple pounds!

By the time we ran out of beer, we had both landed 7 or 8 big rainbows each, and a dozen or so brooks. Not bad at all!

Packed up and got home in time for a nice dinner. Gotta like that. I would highly recommend a visit to Lost lake in the next two weeks, before the crowds get there, and the fish go deep.

Rock Island Lake British Columbia

June 16th through June 23rd

Chuck Ballard, John Stachurski, Hugh Jennings and Ron Tschetter spent a week at Rock Island Fishing Camp for fishing and relaxation.

Rock Island Fishing Camp Lake lies on the Nehalliston Plateau at the 4,200' level just northwest from Little Fort B.C. The camp serves, along with Rock Island Lake, 24 other lakes with 14 having boats available to



Morning on Rock Island Lake

guests with a variety of fishing challenges. If you can't find a fishing lake to your liking it's entirely your fault. It's wilderness setting providing guests the ultimate in peace, quiet with plenty of good food.

On Monday we ventured out into the realm of Rock Island Lake and surrounding areas. The one piece of advice we received from Don Simonson (who had been there the week before) that was very useful: 'Stay dry if you can'. Every type of weather was thrown at us during our week stay. But that's B.C. weather in June.

Chuck Ballard and **John Stachurski** had decent luck last year at the far end of Rock Island lake so all of us headed up lake hoping to capture some of last year's success. After a slow morning of fishing the sound of thunder and some ominous black clouds were forming from the southwest. There was some discussion among us concerning how safe we were on the lake in case of lighting. Then a bolt flash convinced us to move to the shoreline. Huddled in a driving hailstorm we fished a bit more after it let up but the weather was doing us in.



Oh, the Humanity!—Pelted by Hail

The second day **Hugh Jennings** and **Ron Tschetter** decided to try a lake I'd had considerable success at 13 years ago. I was pleasantly surprised that the camp had two boats on the lake. Just 13 years before I had to cross another lake by boat then hike 1/2 mile to reach this lake. I had my best fishing of the week catching 11 nice strong trout. The average

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size were much bigger than I remember 13 years ago and there is a legitimate chance for a trophy trout in this lake.

Member **Hugh**

Jennings is a birder.

As a member of the Audubon Society he leads bird observation trips, knows many birds on sight and sound, so it was a real delight for me to receive a firsthand education on birding. Hugh found a mother loon on her nest on Hardcastle Lake. We both had a very good day of fishing on Hardcastle Lake. Both of us caught a lot of fish constantly. The pumpkinhead pattern seem to be the ticket. I also had some success with a dry (Ez-foam pattern) but intermediate and High-D lines prevailed.

Hugh identified 25 birds during our stay. In the mornings he'd walk the camp road 1.2 miles before breakfast lead by the camp dogs Burt and Tucker to do his area bird inventory. Hugh would hear a lot of birds singing in the woods but did not see very many of them.

We didn't cover 10% of the fishing available. The weather did hamper us a couple of days. I measured the water temperature our final two days. Friday the temperature was 69 degrees F only to plunge to 62 F degrees on Saturday.

We all caught plenty of fish (a few for the smoker), found a great place to explore with many lakes still on our list to visit.

We settled up with the camp, the camp counted their spoons and we were on our way home.



Hugh Jennings—Fish on!



Gorging on delicious food served by the camp

L to R (Chuck Ballard, Ron Tschetter, John Stachurski)

East Side Fishing Report

Spokane and Northern Idaho Region

By Allen Peterson

Most of the lakes around the region here have been doing quite well, especially for those with full sinking lines and putting some time in on some of the deeper lakes like Rock Lake, south of Cheney. It is about 400 feet deep and over 7 miles long but hosts some

of the largest brown trout around the area. We have been using an olive leech with red hackle and red krystal flash out the length of the fly line. average sizes are from 18" to 26". It has a primitive boat launch.

West Medical Lake has been really good for rainbows, some are catching 2-3 year olds that are 21" to 24" down deep with the sinking lines using a pattern called the olive willy or an electric bugger. Has boat launch.

Some of the shallower lakes have already started to roll with visible algae and turbidity present making a "clean" lake appear a bit like pea soup. Lenore lake is famous for its algae bloom in the summer.

Just over the border into Idaho we have been fishing the North Fork of the Coeur D'Alene river from Enaville up through Prichard north to Teepee and Independence creeks with tremendous success. It is virtually a dry fly heaven on March Browns, Green Drakes, Caddis Emerger's and even some hopper and ant patterns. The west slope cutthroat is called the "jewel" of the panhandle and is probably one of the more aggressive of the trout species around. They range from 12" up to the occasional 24" and will not disappoint.

I have maps of the area I am willing to share.

Hope these reports help.

Allen Peterson

Swede's Fly Shop

1611 N Ash St

Spokane, WA 99205

Pass Lake (Fidalego Island)

June 28, 2013

By Don Gulliford

Only about 2 vehicles in the parking lot. Not one big brown caught, nor any observed. Maybe return to Lone Lake?? Or maybe feed eggs???? N.B.

Big sign up requiring Discover Pass, that I had.

Bonaventure River, Quebec

Last Week In June

By Ollie Cobb

I had the opportunity to fish for Atlantic salmon on the Bonaventure River on the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec for three days the last week in June with friends from upstate New York. Classy setup with lodge limit of six guests with amenities including fine food, unlimited alcohol, daily laundry, a French speaking guide and his 26 foot flat bottomed canoe

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with a five horse engine as well as a half day spent on each of the six pools owned by the club. Many many casts needed with each of us averaging just about one salmon a day in the 12 to 15 pound class all of which were released. Curiously you can keep up to two grilse a day (first year returnees) but you have to pay an extra \$110 for this supplement to your sixty five dollar license and the two fellows in our group who did have this permit failed to provide us with a promised grilse lunch while three of us that did catch a grilse had to release them. Most of the salmon caught took wet flies (Blue Charm. Black Bear, etc) although two fourteen pounders fell to dry flies with no hatches in evidence. Lovely clear water, salmon seen in every pool but generally disinterested in feeding

I am recovering now from repeat left rotator cuff surgery four months ago with another shoulder procedure on the right side scheduled soon but this actually did not present the problem I had feared as I serendipitously had had a five inch butt added to my 9 1/2 foot Loomis GLX 8 weight two months ago making it a short switch rod allowing me plenty of distance with little more than forearm thrusts and extension necessary and no false casts required. Perhaps I'll consider a similar butt addition to a 5 weight 9 foot while still unable to get much use from my shoulders...I hope this thought may prove helpful to those of you with painful shoulders and aging rotator cuffs.

Horse Lake/100 Mile Area B.C.

By Bob Burdick

Maury Skeith, Hugh Clark, I and several others spent 5 days exploring around Horse Lake and 100 mile house, and area none of us had fished before.

The locals warned us not to expect much because fishing had been very slow all spring in the Cariboo area. We sampled Sheridan, Horse, Valentine, and Faulkner with very little to show for our efforts.

Hard rain and high winds didn't help. I actually went 3 days without a strike at one point.

On a positive note, the company was excellent, it was interesting to try new lakes, and fascinating to watch the traveling sedge and Callibaetis hatches even though most of the time there were few fish taking them. I did learn that a slim small pheasant tail nymph was an excellent match for a callibaetis nymph, corroborated by observing callibaetis nymphs in stomach contents and catching a few fish on pheasant tails.

The highlight of the trip was the 4 wheel drive trip a mile into Faulkner Lake on a near impossible muddy and rutted road tunneled through the brush.

Hihium Hog



Huge Kamloops Rainbow from Hihium Lake B.C.
Contributed by Doug Schaad

Buy and Sell (Ads)



For Sale

8' Mayfly

Fiberglass Fishing Pram
Including Anchor System
\$600.00

Contact: Perry Barth

Phone: (425)774-6902

e-mail: perrybarth79@yahoo.com



The Burden of Being President



Chopaka Lake Weekend

And... how is President Mike Wearne doing???

Doing Very Well!!!

(also see page 4)



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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Stamp
here

July, 2013

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:

How Hatcheries Impact Wild Steelhead Populations

Presenter: Bill McMillan