

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXIII No. 6

June, 2013



President's Riffle

By 2013 President Mike Wearne

Observations

I found a golf ball at Chopaka during the outing. I found it within ten minutes of my arrival. That allowed me to concentrate on fishing. I have

found a golf ball in the campground area every time I have been to Chopaka!

I have made an application to the U S Weather Service for a grant. I hope my observations will revolutionize storm weather measurement on a worldwide basis. I have developed a stormy weather measurement which is easy to measure, and more importantly, is easy to understand.

The measurement is to be known as the HLWMPSTATW factor. The measurement is pretty easy to calculate. The factor can go from .10 to say 6.56. It is really a time measurement. The whole number is the time in hours and the decimal portion measures minutes. For example ".10" is ten minutes and "6.56" is six hours and 56 minutes. The factor stands for "How Long Will Mark Pratt Stay on Shore to Avoid the Wind". For example we could refer to Sunday's weather as a 1.34, and everyone would automatically understand the weather conditions.

While at Chopaka, during a rough period of weather, I observed Mark on shore having a beer (or two) and not fishing! I think if one were to measure how long Mark stayed ashore, there would be an illustration of how nasty the weather we experienced.



During the outing to Chopaka I calculated there was a storm with a 2.35 factor. See how easy that was!

On another note, Carl Hiaasen will be reading at the Central Library in Seattle on June 25th at 7:00. His new novel is **Bad Monkey**. Hiaasen was selected as the 2012 Angler of the Year by Fly Rod & Reel magazine. He is a regular columnist, with Dave Barry, at the Miami Herald. His books range from children's books, to non-fiction, to slightly crazy crime novels that are simply a hoot. One of the novels, **Double Whammy**, was about the professional bass fishing circuit. Hiaasen is a supporter of many causes, including Earth Justice and Partners in Health, founded by Dr. Paul Farmer. It should be an interesting evening.

I know I am repeating myself, but here goes. To truly get the most out of the club I suggest you attend one of the outings. Initially I joined the WFFC with the intent of becoming a better fly fisherman, practicing skills and techniques I learned from other members. I have found that the best venue to accomplish this goal is on an outing. If you don't finding

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an outing that meets your needs or requirements, develop one that works for you and invite the club!

June Program

Erik Skaaning

British Columbia Guide

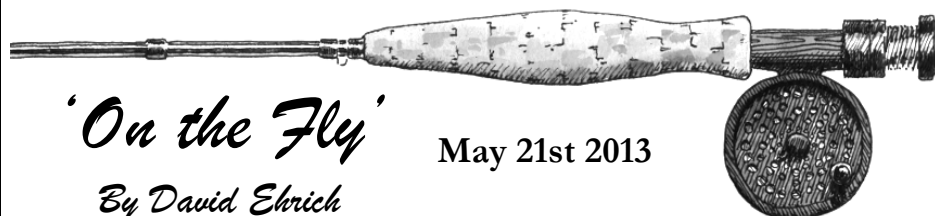
By Bob Burdick

Eric Skaaning, from Hope BC, is going to be our speaker for next weeks June meeting. He is an energetic young man who guides on the Frazer, Pitt, Lillouet, Squamish, Thompson, and upper Columbia, areas that are close to us but ones we hear little about. Erik was born and raised in the Fraser Valley, and been chasing everything that swims for as long as he can remember!

Dyche Kinder, and Dave Schorsch have fished with him and rave about hooking and landing salmon to 40 pounds.

His presentation will include pictures of cutthroat, chums, silvers, kings, trout, sockeye, and some stunning tailwalking pictures of sturgeon on the Fraser River (caught on something other than flies). This will be a presentation you won't want to miss.

Erik will also be our fly tier for the June's general meeting.



Busy opening. Competing with my salty, but good Veal, were a wonderful number of guests, introduction of the Fly Tying Contest by Pete Baird, an impassioned appeal by the Executive Director of the FFF, now known as the IFF, for us to rejoin the fold, even offering to wave the fee for the first year. Then, a recounting by Don Simonson of the history of the WFFC in regard to the FFF going back to 1939, as to why we might want to consider this offer.

Fishing reports shared similar enthusiasm. Obviously, the boys and girls of the club are sharpening their rods and heading out. Reports varied from 50+ fish days on Rock Creek in Montana, to Newhalem River Steelhead fishing, to windy conditions on Dry Falls Lake.

Interrupting the tone of self-satisfaction, President Mike Wearne then brought up Gil Nyerges for a rousing version of the old fa-

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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.

vorite and a few Hoorays for lasting 92 years on this here old planet.

Jim Cox, of Western Rivers Conservancy, took the podium to describe "Great Rivers of the West", but took first the privilege of his own fishing report. Then succinctly describing and promote the mission of WRC as that of protecting outstanding river systems of the West. Their motto; "sometimes to save a river you have to buy a river." After they identify crucial river systems, they acquire land to conserve critical habitat, provide public access, and then work with all available parties to arrange for stewardship of the river in the long run.

Working in 7 of 11 western states, Jim gave us examples of some of the rivers they have chosen to conserve due to their intact ecosystems like Goose Creek in the Smith River system, the last dam free river in California. Nason Creek got protection in 2012, mostly for the benefit of Bull Trout. They bought 648 acres, helped close some logging roads and with help of the WDWF, returned the stream to its original bank. Reserved from fishing for Bull Trout sanctuary, Nason Creek is now under the stewardship of the National Forest System.

The next slide featured a local favorite, the mighty Hoh. It fit another criteria, "Meaningful scale and assemblages" which means significant lands available for sale or significant public land to round up. Fitting the latter, they went after critical adjoining acres from 2001 to 2009, competing with some big fish in the land ownership world. Working with the Hoh River Trust, WRC has started a long process to restore the river to its pristine state. If you don't believe him, look at the Skagit, one of their first rivers preserved from 1992-1995.

Jim then took us to his home water, the Sandy River near Portland, where they bought 3,317 acres, removed two dams and linked public lands in the upper and lower sections. In so doing, they wrote the book on dam removal, with more than a mile of silt behind the Marmot Dam, that was removed during a high water event, blowing out the sand in 48 hours! What you got here is a wild river, with coho smelt in places that had not seen them in 80 years.

Their other signature project, besides the Hoh, is the Klamath River system, in particularly

Blue Creek, in Northern California. Avoiding politics, they look for "willing sellers" and hope to piece together a 47,000 acre purchase, looking at an expected \$17 million. The Klamath system fills the third criteria, preserving cold water. Blue Creek, 16.1 miles up the river, is the first cold water salmon reach. Salmon heading farther up the river, hold there an average of 12 hours and reduce their body temperature by an average of 8 degrees. In other words, without Blue Creek, salmon might not reach the upper river.

The final criteria is a no-brainer: great fishing. If salmon exist or can exist, then let's keep it and then let's preserve it, and then, dang it, let's fish it! For example, they acquired critical land around Three Dollar Bridge on the Madison River in Montana. Working with Trout Unlimited, they bought 4,400 acres with the help of Orvis and anglers world wide.

John ended with their signature project, the John Day River, the longest free-flowing river in the USA outside the Yellowstone. The goal is to purchase 16,114 acres to provide habitat for steelhead, rafters and anglers world wide. Fitting all criteria, as the property came available, WRC came in hard and fast using the generosity of low interest loans and the Oregon State Park system.

John ended with WRC's favorite saying, "When we buy a river, it belongs to everyone." And as a side note, if you but a six-pack of Sierra Nevada's Wild river Series of beer in June, you can help WRC earn \$60,000. Give now, give often.

After the break and the birthday cake, we got to the business of induction of two new members. On to committee reports. The best news of the meeting was the Pete Baird had no report for Hearts and Flowers. That got some applause. Anticipation for Chopaka got whipped up by David Schorsch. Over fifty signed up for great dry fly fishing. Dick Brening promoted the June effort to teach young people cast and tie at the Booth for Youth at the Youth Fitness Expo on June 15

New members were promoted and voted on with the usual ceremony deserving of such outstanding candidates. Voting was swift. Outcome

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certain. From there, Jim Schuitemaker reminded us to send in corrections for the roster.

Mike brought down the gavel and anglers of all genders moved to the exit.

Upcoming July Outing

Leech Lake July 20-21

By David Schorsch

It's time to head for the mountains! We'll spend the weekend at White Pass fishing for brookies and big triploid rainbows in a crystal clear, shallow mountain lake. It's only 80 miles from my house in West Seattle, around Mt. Rainier, to Leech Lake. The drive is beautiful, no matter the weather. This is a close to home fishing trip that just about anybody can do.



Leech Lake

Photo Credit: Rene Fabre

Last year we had great *Callibaetis* hatches both days, with more big fish than most of us had seen before. The fishing is mostly dry lines, and dry flies, with some searching with nymphs between the hatch events. This is protected water, so most any floating craft is appropriate. Even though the lake isn't really big, it's just one big weed bed, so fish can be anywhere, especially the brookies. Expect changeable mountain weather, so bring appropriate gear.

There are some nice campsites around the lake, but they fill up fast. Most of us will stay at the White Pass Village Inn condos that look down on the lake from across the road. They have great "ski bum" type units that sleep four to six people for about 110.00/nite. I try to have three or four people in my unit, with a shared cost of about 25 bucks a nite,

fully furnished, and a kitchen! The folks that run the place are great to us, and have several units available for Friday and Saturday nites, but not Sunday nite. (an annual trail runner group rolls in Sunday) Give them a call for reservation info. at 509-672-3131.

We will be having a happy hour Saturday on the lawn at the Village Inn, with a steak barbeque to follow. Sign up on the website for steak and beverage headcount. Jim Macdonald will be cranking out his signature blueberry pancakes Sunday morning there as well, with coffee and juice, so you'll be all fueled up for a few more hours on the lake, and an easy drive home.

This is a great trip to bring your kids and grand-kids on! Lets get the younger folk involved in what we love. See you there.

For Sale (For a Good Cause)

Pontoon Boat Donation Becomes Available for Purchase

By Greg Crumbaker

The Foundation is in the possession of a Scadden Expedition pontoon boat that is now available for sale with **all proceeds to benefit Project Healing Waters.**

This pontoon boat in good condition and the price is very reasonable **\$450** (good deal!).



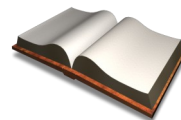
Anyone interested in purchasing this fine pontoon boat should contact **Greg Crumbaker.**

WFC Roster Availability

From Roger Rohrbeck

The 2013 printed membership roster will be available at our June general membership meeting.

Those members who don't pick one up at the June meeting will be sent a copy via US Mail.



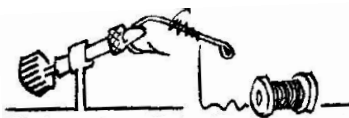
The Roster Production Committee Chair is in process of transition from John Schuitemaker to Mike Mosczynski. Mike will be the future 'go-to guy' for club rosters.



Fly of the Month



Convict Damselfly



Convict Damselfly

Credit: Moose Peterson

Dressing:

Hook: TMC 200R 10-18

Thread: Olive 6/0

Tail: Grizzly Marabou Olive

Rib: Gold Tinsel

Wing Case: Peacock Herl

Eyes: 3/32 Dazl-eyes Black or similar

Detail Tying Instructions: www.flyanglersonline.com



Ah, Chopaka Lake!

By Dick Brening

I am writing this fishing report as I sit next to my campfire in the old campground at Lake Chopaka.

It is Thursday evening and it is hard to believe that just three days ago, over the Memorial Day holiday, 50+ people from the WFFC enjoyed a club outing here. I am lucky to be able to be able to extend my trip and spend these extra days enjoying this beautiful location.

Right now there is no wind, although the weather has been very unsettled with rain, wind and cold temperatures ever since I came here last Thursday.

As I look to the north along the lake shore, the

blue whiffs of smoke from the campsites are slowly drifting out over the lake and there are a few fluffy clouds in the sky catching the last golden rays of the sunset.

With the wind quiet, the lake surface is very flat except for the few rippling rings marking the rises of the fish taking the last of the evening's Chironomid hatch. Of course there are the ever-present ducks, predominately Goldeneye, Ruddy, Coot and Redheads, diving for whatever it is that they find to eat at the bottom the lake.

I love this place. It is very peaceful and although the scenery is simple, in my eyes, it is an elegantly gorgeous place.

OH! I almost forgot this is supposed to be a fishing report. Well the fishing has been okay with some fish caught every day. Mine have not been large, in the range of 14 inches to 17 inches but all are brightly colored and when hooked, good fighters.

The other day I caught a beautiful, reasonable size, Cut/bow but all the rest of the fish were rainbows. I've been able to catch most of them on a Chironomid emerger pattern, size 16, but my biggest problem has been that the hits have been so hard that I have lost a good portion of those fish because the fish straightened out the light wire hooks that my pattern is tied on.

I call using Chironomid patterns in their emerger/adult state as "the other half of the Chironomid fishing" the one you pursue with dry flies, on the water's surface, in the light of the sky.

Just now a single, small pram with the silhou-




Brening Caught Chopaka Cut/bow~17"

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ette of a fisherman at the oars and two dogs sitting, one, at either end is heading out for some late evening fishing. The boat is leaving a colorful wake visible in the quiet water that reflects the last of the sunset.


You can hear some faint birdcalls in the background, the slapping of the oars on the water and in the distance voices around campfires. Soon everyone will be sleeping, as will I, getting ready for another memorable day at Lake Chopaka.

The light is fading fast, the lake is dark now. From the splashing sounds the fish and ducks are remaining active. As soon as my campfire dies down I will turn in, happy to have been here to enjoy this experience yet another year. As usual the fly fishing was good, but the catching is difficult. 

North Fork of the Sauk River

By Jesse Fowl

I fished the north fork of the Sauk river last weekend during a family camping trip. There is plenty of walk in access along the mountain loop highway. I love this river for the bouldered water which offers a number of micro casting strategy opportunities. There's always somewhere to cast!


Unfortunately, the fish weren't super cooperative. Any trout had not moved into the typical pocket holding water due to the water dropping off a big rise. I concentrated my effort on some of the larger pools. Three fish took a size 14 caddis dry, one on the skate. None of those fish were brought to hand as I worked off the winter jitters. A monster whitefish was taken in one of the deeper pools with a micro size lightning bug nymph under a double bead head pheasant tail. I was experimenting with a new indicator called lightning strikes, which unfortunately proved to be worthless. I guess I'll stick to the thingabobbers. 

Chopaka / Chelan Area Lakes

By Chuck Ballard

The Chopaka outing was once again well attended with 50 plus people counted at the dinner, breakfast and tempura feeds. The weather was not great with rain and hail and WIND! The fish were good sized and fat. I

had some good days and some slow days on Chopaka dry and emergers. the best fishing however for me was on YES a BOBBER and a green chromomidge number 14 . You barely could complete the cast and got a strike. Ben Davidson and his Dad joined me at the north end and once they switched to my newly discovered success also had a very good day as well.


Abe Lillard and I fished three lakes in the Chelan area, Rat lake which was a Very Slow day .this is the second time it has not fished well so we moved on to Big Twin the next day and it fished really well on dries. Abe used a parachute Adams and I used a tiny tan foam pattern that looked like a emerging Chronomidge. Later on that day we tried Davis lake but it was too late for any really good action. Davis has a lot of smaller fish but should be good for most of the year. 

Corbett Lake British Columbia

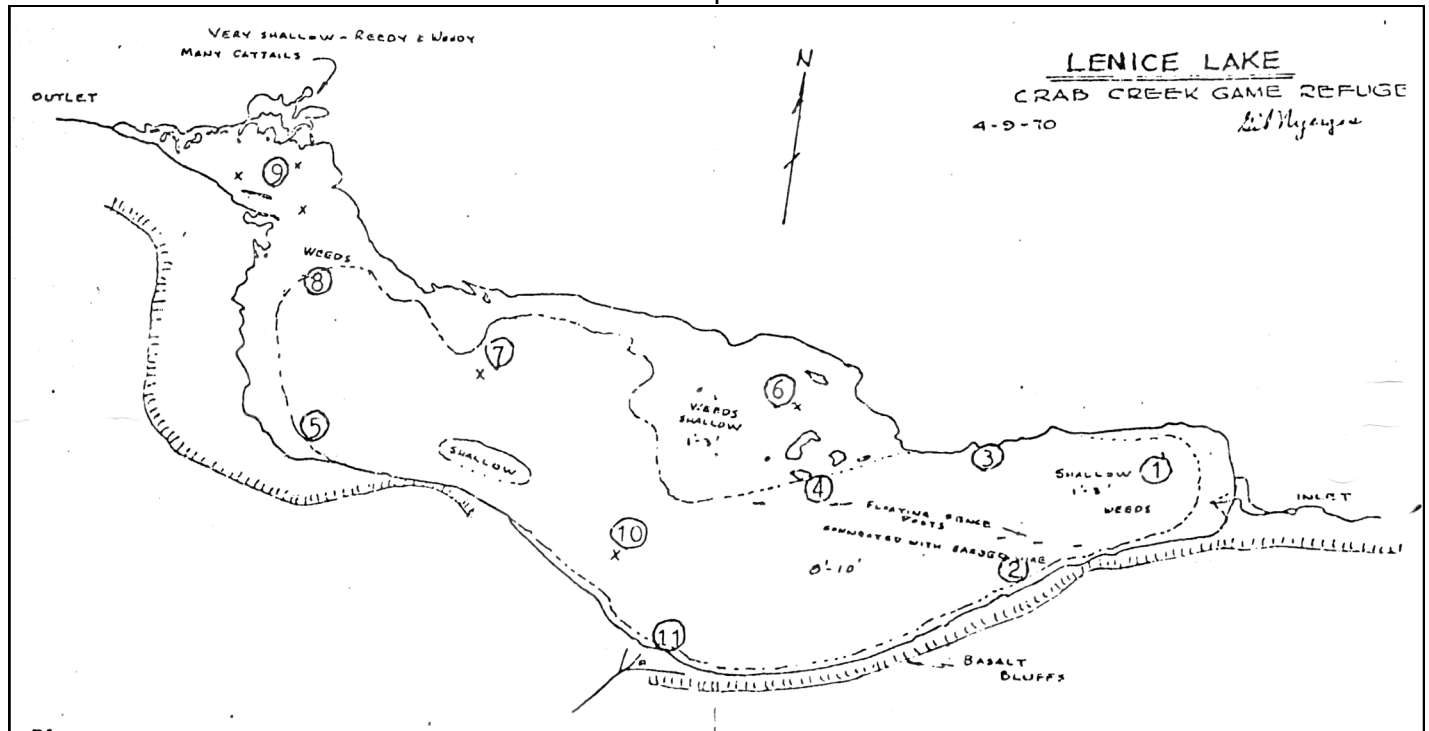
By Bob Burdick

On May 19th through May 24th **Gary Bergquist, Walt Swanson, Doug Larson**, myself, and 8 others descended on Corbett Lake in our boats, where we've fished annually for the last 6 years. Chironomids, midges fished dry, Stillwater nymphs, buggers, white leaches, both Callibaetis dries and nymphs, occasional damsels were all productive at times. Chironomids were the most productive fished both under a bobber or vertically over the transom.

Catch rates varied from a few fish to 15-20 a day and most were in the 17 to 19 inch range. Biggest fish was about 8 #. Rain, hail, and sleet were present for the first few days, but fortunately the wind stayed down all week. All in all the fishing was easily as productive as in past years, and there were no mishaps that would qualify for the half-assed award.

It was announced to us that Peter McVeigh, the owner and the fish stocker had sold the resort to 3 local men for 1.3 or 1.8 million. No one seems to know what sort of plans these 3 have up their sleeve for the future of the resort and lake, but I think it is predictable that we have seen the last of the bargain prices we've been charged in the past. Time will tell. 

Creel Notes Archive (Year 1970) — Lenice Lake Map



I found this old Lenice Lake map and numbered key locations done by Gil Nyerges back in 1970.

What struck me is how detailed the map is and how it would help a beginner (or a seasoned fishermen) tackle a lake with confidence right from the start.

Gear, retrieve methods, locations, direction, fish migration (I never thought much about fish constantly moving in Lenice). Tie your rod down when mooching—good advice!

This is true “gilly” information. Although conditions have changed at Lenice since 1970, I’d bet much of this information would give you a ‘head start’ when fishing this lake.

I re-created Gil’s original notes (below) because the scan copy is just too faded.— Editor

Gear

Fly patterns – Dealer’s choice of nymphs – dark usually

Leader – minimum of 4 lb. Tippet (remember the weeds!)

Line – fast sinker, sinking tip. Limited Hi-D use

Rods – tie them to the boat when mooching

Location and Methods

1. Early Season – good in early morning just as sun gets on the water. Use sink tip line – watch for rolling and cruising fish – very shallow. Cast among the weeds and close to shore.

2. Fish from shore toward dropoff – fish seem to concentrate near the fence posts close to shore – what for them down deep swimming by

3. Fish close to shore – east toward deep weeds

4. Mooch deep parallel to shore toward (3) just out of reach of shore fisherman. Many hefty fish here at 12 to 15 ft depth.

5. Fish at edge of weeds – look for deeper water and mooch – not heavily fished but surprising number of big fish taken here just off shore

6. One hole 6’ to 8’ deep just north of islands = either mooch from east to west staying close to island or anchor at the X and cast deep

7. Deep hole off end of weed bed – anchor at X and cast with Hi-D line and wait before stripping

8. Many holes in large weed bed in this area – investigate each one – especially those close to shore – cast and strip with sinking line.

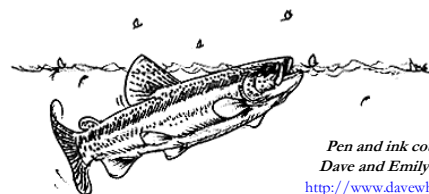
9. Many spawner taken here from holes in and among weeds – casting and stripping is the only way here because of the crowds.

10. mooch the middle of the lake with sinking line – vary your retrieve

11. Boat launch and toilet facility

Remember Dick Thompson’s data of fish movement taken from our tagging operation of Spring 1970. They cover the whole lake in a matter of hours – they’re always moving – Use polarized sunglasses and watch for them!

Gil Nyerges



Pen and ink courtesy of
Dave and Emily Whitlock
<http://www.davewhitlock.com/>



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Stamp
here

June, 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:

Erik Skaaning
British Columbia Guide

Erik will share with us his experiences on local rivers just outside the Vancouver B.C. area