

Creel Notes from the



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



July, 2003

President's Riffle *By Richard Embry*

A few years ago I left a company where I had worked for 10 years. I loaded up the Jeep, and took off on a 10-day fishing sojourn across Washington, North Idaho, and a bit of Western Montana. I joined the WFFC guys at Dry Falls for two days, and then fished on my own in the wilds of Idaho and Montana. Just as if it were yesterday, I clearly recall walking along the Bitterroot River, just outside of Hamilton, one beautiful, crisp fall evening. Healthy rainbows, cutthroat, and browns were all rising to my #18 blue wing olive dry, I could hear geese flying south overhead, I could hear children laughing and playing in the distance, the weather was clear, cool, and crisp. I stretched out my arms, closed my eyes and put back my head, and soaked up that magic moment. For me, at that time, it was a wonderful moment, and about as good as it could get.

Why do we fly fish? Beginning fly fishers

often ask, and it's sometimes difficult, and yet easy, to explain. I enjoy the solitude of fishing by myself, and yet I enjoy the company and camaraderie of others. I enjoy the complexity of fly fishing, and I enjoy its simplicity. A simple hare's ear or a complex Atlantic salmon fly, both have their place in our sport. I love the delicacy of laying out a 3-weight line, and the aggressive casting motion of shooting a 12-weight line. The calm, subtle sip of a mountain cutthroat sucking in my #20 Sparkle Dun, or the explosion of a dorado crunching a #3/0 surface popper, they are both exhilarating in their own way. Fly fishing can be delicate, muscular, simple, and yet complex. And, the way the fish takes the fly makes the release easier for someone else to catch them another way. "Trout live in beautiful places"; I don't recall who provided this response to the question "why do you fly fish?", but it's very accurate. These fish all live in beautiful places, and I feel privileged to be there, at that time, to catch them.



Club members at the last (Camlin) luncheon

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Editor's notes

New A/V Package ready for use

The Club now has a great portable audio/video package for use at classes, seminars, and our meetings. The projector is an NEC VT460, and can display both computer and video images. The audio is a portable speaker system which can connect to any typical audio source and comes complete with a built-in subwoofer in its own case. We're still in the process of deciding where to keep the gear and how to manage its access, so if you have any ideas be sure to let one of your officers know. The Club has never looked and sounded better!

WorldCom Sells Ex-chief's Canada Ranch

WorldCom said yesterday that it has agreed to sell a Canadian ranch once owned by its former chief executive, Bernard J. Ebbers, for \$68.5 million. E. Stanley Kroenke, owner of the Colorado Avalanche hockey team, the Denver Nuggets basketball team and the St. Louis Rams football team, will buy the British Columbia property, Canada's biggest working cattle ranch. WorldCom has been selling assets it seized from Mr. Ebbers, who resigned as chief executive in April 2002 after borrowing \$400 million from the company. When Mr. Ebbers resigned, he put the ranch up as collateral for some of the company loans. In 1998, he paid 100 million Canadian dollars (\$73 million) for the 500,000-acre Douglas Lake Ranch. The 120-year-old property, covering an area almost three times the size of New York City, is about 200 miles northeast of Vancouver and includes fly-fishing lakes and lodges for tourists. It also has a farm, as well as logging and agriculture-equipment businesses.

Last Call for Roster Updates

We are about to go to print with the 2003-2004 WFFC Roster (finally!). So, if you have recent changes that you would like to make sure to get into the roster please get them to **John Schuitemaker** ASAP (Roster Chairman). We'd like to distribute the roster at this month's dinner meeting so please don't delay. You can contact John in several ways: Cell: 206-910-1111 (leave a clear and detailed voice mail); Home: 206-322-0655 (leave a clear and detailed voice mail); email: johnschuitemaker@covad.net

If you recently sent updates to Bill Kuper I most likely already have those changes in the database so no need to repeat that process.

Also, if you would like to receive the Creel Notes via email in the future please indicate that in your message and I will make a note of it for future delivery. This will save the club some money.

Creel Notes

...is the official publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscription is free with membership.

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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 work to the outlawing the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season.
3. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
4. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
5. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
6. To encourage and assist boys — particularly of high school age—to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen.



A couple of old friends meet at the June meeting.



Mark Your Calendar Now!

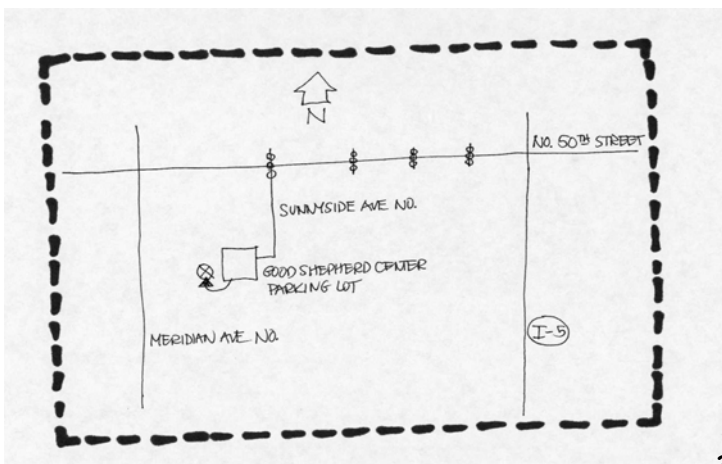
Bring Your Family to the WFFC Annual Summer Picnic!

Date: Aug. 17, 2003

Time: 12:30pm – 10:30pm

Place: Good Shepherd Center, Picnic Center

Directions: Exit I-5 at NE 50th. Drive west to light at Sunnyside. Turn left. Turn right into Good Shepherd Center. Park in lot and walk around building to Picnic Shelter on west side.



Fishing by the Book

Book Review by Michael Wearne

Dr. Robert Behnke was named the 2003 Angler of the Year by Fly Rod & Reel Magazine. The magazine recognized Dr. Behnke for his research in fish biology and to recognize him for the publication of Trout and Salmon of North America.

In the January/February 2003 issue of the magazine the reader is able to grasp the depth and breadth of Dr. Behnke who is on the faculty of Colorado State University in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Biology.

The author thoroughly discusses the life cycle and distribution of salmonid fish. I was, at first, intimidated by the amount of detail. However, it quickly became apparent how wonderful this book discusses each subject.

The illustrations in this marvelous book were done by Joseph Tomelleri. The artistic aspects of the book exhibit the finest attention to detail. The upper corner of each page is highlighted with the coloring of the fish being discussed in that chapter of the book. I was at lunch at McCormick and Schmidt's in downtown Seattle recently. Among the many illustrations which adorn the wall of this establishment are several prints by Tomelleri.

This is a book which you will refer to again and again; sometimes for information, sometimes for the simple pleasure of looking through a wonderful book. This book is in the category of "if you want to buy one book this year"; this is the one.



Capt. Perry Barth off to find the big ones.



Lake Keechelus, June 13 *By Don Gulliford*

I took my john boat up to the mouth of Meadow Creek, now reached via "Stump Road" because the lake is so far down for dam rebuild by Kiewit, but this is easy via the little Meadow Cr. campground by the John Wayne Trail bridge at the south end of the dam. Just follow the ruts out to the fairly rocky shore of the lake. Got there about 11 AM and used my usual Carey with black body. Beautiful cutts are still there; I released 3 from 10" up to 14"+ and kept a beauty about 16" to eat. (2 fish slot limit -over 12"in Keechelus.

I fished in 66 degree sunshine in the stump surrounded "Delta" of Meadow Cr. accompanied only by an osprey. Saw 2 dead squawfish in Meadow Cr. All of this was within a few yards of my parked F-150 on the rocky shore and the wind was blowing about 20-25 from the west which I think makes for good cutt fishing. Best of all, I had my camera with me to show not only my beautiful keeper but the wonderful neo-avant-Bureau of Rec. scenery.

Domke Lake, June 5-8 *By Don Gulliford*

To Domke Lake up Lake Chelan above Lucerne for 4 90's+ unexpectedly hot days of great fly fishing for cutts now up to 18" on Careys and Chaddocks at virtually any time of day even though little wind and very hot. Domke was very high with snow melt and Emerald Park Cr., its major tributary filled with large rainbow spawners (large hatchery there into the early 40's -only one known to me to have been managed on site via horseback), and although the snowmelt produced instant hypothermia, it sure felt good under 16+ hours of mostly hot sun. Sitting in the shade on shoreline, I observed large cutts in very shallow water feeding on what I think was small black leeches on rocks. June is always great fishing and virtually no pressure. Furnished cabins make it a real hike/fly in getaway & mind ventilator.

Contact is Sid Burns, Prop., Emerald Camp, Lucerne Landing, Chelan, WA 98816

Dry Falls Lake, June 7-8

By James Boldman

Went to Dry Falls at 8:00 on Sat morning. There was no wind, the good old road was bumpy as ever, and about there were 8-10 others on the lake. Started off with a damsel fly nymph on a type 2 sink tip and brought in 2 to the hand and within 3 hrs 2 fair LDRs and one monster LDR that took my line out to the backing. Sure wish I could have seen that fish! After that, I decided to call it a morning and go back to camp to spend some time with my boys and wife. Didn't get to go out in the evening so I went back out at 7:00 this morning. It was a very different day. Only three others on the lake, and lots of wind and only one hit. Tried just about everything from floating line, intermediate, sink tip, nymphs, bobber flies, emergers, etc, and nothing. Everyone else on the lake had the same experience. In 2.5 hrs, only saw one gentlemen bring in one small bow. At 9:30 decided to call it a morning and come back home.

Hosmer Lake, June 17-22 *By Steve Raymond*

Having experienced flawless weather the past two or three years at Hosmer, this year we received our come-uppance: A whole week of cold weather, high winds, rain, high winds, sleet, high winds, snow, and high winds. The bad weather also held down the hatches: I saw only a single caddisfly emerge and it immediately froze to death. There were a few brief *Callibaetis* dun emergences but they were usually over by the time you could tie on an imitation.

Rough water constantly stirred by high winds also made it nearly impossible to see fish, and if you can't see fish on the upper lake at Hosmer you're pretty much out of business as far as fishing is concerned. Nevertheless, I managed to catch fish every day, although it was sometimes very hard work. My largest salmon was 18 inches and fat, largest brook trout 14 inches and fat. Son **Randy** did better

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than I did during the two days he fished.

Mark Dewitt and **Steve Sutton** also were present as were **Wade** and **Marc Foss**, sons of late WFFC member Ed Foss. Didn't get a chance to check with Mark and Steve on their fishing experience, but the Foss boys reported good weather and good fishing for several days before we arrived (naturally).

The poor visibility occasioned by the bad weather made it difficult to form accurate judgments, but I would estimate the brook trout population in Hosmer is now at least equal to the salmon population and probably larger. Most of the brookies are still fat and in good shape, though their average size has declined considerably. If this trend should continue, it probably won't be very many more years before the fishing in Hosmer Lake will be a lot like that in our own Leech Lake--lots of very small brook trout. If that happens, you can blame Oregon Fish & Wildlife for stupidly planting more brook trout on top of an already healthy, self-sustaining population.

The Farce Service also has continued to gnaw away at the Hosmer campgrounds. By some strange coincidence, all the so-called "hazardous" trees cut this year seemed to be of merchantable size, including some large, healthy firs and spruce (not merely the diseased lodgepoles that might actually pose a threat). Some also were left lying where they fell, jackstraw fashion, creating a fire hazard where none existed before. The Farce Service also has not done any of the work it promised to do at Hosmer more than two years ago. This misguided and hopelessly corrupt agency continues to blunder around in haphazard fashion, doing far more harm than good. Your tax dollars at work.

Lake Chopaka Outing *By Dave Schorsch*

To those of you who didn't go to Chopaka Lake on Memorial Day weekend, you missed out! The weather was grand by Chopaka standards. We had sunshine and mild winds for the most part, with a little chop mid-day. No snow, torrential rain, or heat waves to report.

Just over 40 members and friends attended Happy Hour Saturday night, with great food and libation. The club grill was a thing of beauty covered with T-bones, Filets, New Yorks, Flanks, Shish-K-Bobs, even a burger or two. Parties arrived from the other end of the lake to join us, including a bagpipe procession from the Ingrams camp. We set up the club canopy in the best spot on the lake, and had a great evening watching the fish rise to the tones of banjo and guitar.

Sunday morning was the now traditional pancake breakfast, with lots of volunteer help cooking cakes and sausage on four stoves. Camp coffee was gritty and well received. Pancakes varied from the perfect, round and brown "Dion" cake, to the irregular black and beige "Schorsch" cake with lumps in them described as "blueberries, I think."

Fishing was good, with an impressive black ant "gobble" going on for a few days on the biggest ants you ever saw. Size 8 foam ants were chomped to shreds. The Mayfly hatches came off each day, if only briefly. This reporter had a fine morning on Parachute Adams Sunday with fish to 23 inches. Most of the fish were strong and in good condition. They were quite large this year as well, most in the 17 to 20 range.

Sunday evening was "Ken Jarvis Memorial Tempura Nite" with a new crew of volunteers figuring out the intricacies of goo and flame. A variety of creatures and objects were battered and cooked, to be consumed by the happy campers of Chopaka Mountain. We held a toast to our lost friends and thought about outings past as the Bagpipes played over the lake. A nice fire burned late that night.

I cannot give enough thanks to all the people that helped with this years outing at Chopaka. The volume of equipment and food has grown every year, but volunteers make these things easy. Special thanks to Mark Pratt for hauling the canopy and throwing himself and his son (literally) into the tempura; to Scott Hagen for schlepping, stocking, and shopping the equipment for same; Pete Baird for the breakfast, both food and logistics; and

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to the bunch of people that were there to help cook, clean, make firewood, and generally make things great.

See you at another outing soon. This is what this club is about. Tight lines.

Karluk River Kings By Jim McRoberts

On June 6th, Dave Wands, Scott Hagen, Doug Donaldson (prospective member), Jim McRoberts, Tim Peterson (friend of Wands) and Didier Van der Veecken (friend of Wands and organizer of the trip) set out for Karluk, AK. We left SEATAC at noon, flew to Anchorage, and then to Kodiak. We spent the night in Kodiak, bought licenses, king salmon stamps and "Fat Freddys" (big egg patterns). The next day we boarded a Briton Norman Islander for the 75-mile flight to Karluk. We landed on the 3000-foot gravel strip and were met by Ronnie and his "staff", Grandson Ronnie, 15 years old, and three bear dogs. Karluk is a native village of about 27 on the Shelikof Straight at the mouth of the Karluk River. The original village was destroyed in a storm in 1978 so this one is relatively new. We stayed in a double wide trailer house. It was a bit crowded but very clean. The meals were very good and were cooked and served by Ronnie's wife and daughter.

Karluk River flows north and west through a 20-mile lake, then 25 miles to the Shelikof Straight. The last mile is a lagoon about a mile wide. At the upper end of the lagoon the river is about 100 yards wide and shallow. The deepest parts are only up to your thigh. The Alaska F&G have a weir for counting both up and down stream migrants. The weir is about one half mile up from the end of the lagoon. Steelhead, Dolly Varden, Chinook, Sockeye, Pinks and Coho use the river.

We fished the lagoon both from the shore and while casting from our 18-foot Lund skiffs. We hooked fish using both methods but the most active fishing was in the river below the weir (100 yards was as close as you could get). You could see the fish, especially the Kings, coming over the shallow water. Some times they were almost out of water. Both the Sockeye and the

Kings would duck in behind rocks to rest and that is where we stalked them. Even though the water was relatively shallow, we used sink tip lines (Scott & Jim used a Teeny 300 with an 18" to 24" leader and a 12# or 15# tippet while the others used sinktip lines in the type 3 or 6 range). The most productive flies for both Kings and Sockeye were either pink or green.

There were about 2,000 Kings (6,000 were expected) and 340,000 Sockeye past the weir the week we were there. There were so few Kings because the Alaska F & G opened the netting for Sockeye at the mouth of the river two days before we arrived! Once we figured out techniques that enabled us to hook them in the mouth, instead of in the back, we had a great time with the Sockeye. They ran mostly five to seven pounds, were chrome bright, and very strong and acrobatic. The Kings were tough. Everybody had a hook-up, a few were landed, but nobody did well. There just weren't enough of them.

As an added bonus, we saw lots of eagles, a few of the famous Kodiak bears, and a red fox sneaking down to the lagoon to snag a fresh salmon carcass.

On fly-out day, June 14th, we had the privilege of viewing the exterior and interior of the original village's Russian Orthodox Church, established around 1882. On the return trip we chartered a flight back to Kodiak in order to choose our departure time. It worked out well and the price was the same.

Lake Chopaka, July 3-5 By Scott Hagen

I drove to Chopaka Thursday, July 3rd, fished the evening, and got an 8" bass! Fished for about six hours on Friday and caught an 8" trout. There were lots of small fish (couldn't tell if they were trout or bass) taking migrating damsels, but I couldn't fool them with anything I tried. I never saw a large trout, maybe all the fresh planters put them off or something. In years past, I've had pretty good luck on adult damsels and there were quite a few around, but no takers. No Callibaetis hatch either! There were about

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ten other folks fishing, I never saw anybody catch a fish.

It was pretty windy Saturday morning, so I gave it up as a bad job and headed home. Came back over highway 20, and along the Sauk and Stilly. The Sauk was low, fairly clear, and had quite a few folks fishing it. The Stilly was gin clear, as low as I've ever seen it, and infested with fishermen!

Daryl & Me—A Fishing Report

By Michael Wearne

On the recommendation of a coworker I stopped at the Ringer Road Loop access to the Yakima on June 25th. I was on a one day business trip to participate in a golf tournament in Yakima. The Washington DNR has developed a parking lot and trail access to the river. From the map in the parking lot it appears they have quite a bit of access to the Yakima River.

In the evening return trip I left the dinner festivities early and drove the Canyon back to Ellensburg. I stopped at the Ringer Road site to check out the fishing activity. Two young guys were fishing and “horsing around” on the river. I went up stream of them and quickly tagged two trout in a backwater eddy. What a site; bird activity everywhere, cows mooing across the Yakima, and a peaceful afternoon surrendering to evening time.

The two young men came by to check out my fishing luck. They were students at Central Washington. I asked one of them how he was doing. “Well, Daryl and me have been out here for a short time and we got some nice ones. We actually both had fish on at the same time.”

I asked him about the trail system. His response was wonderful. “Well, Daryl and me have just been fishing in this one spot. Daryl and me were room mates in the dorm last year. Daryl fishes all the time. This spring he bought me a rod and reel for my birthday. I have only been fishing a couple of months. I just caught my first trout last weekend, up near Easton. I'm not sure who was more hooked, me or the trout! I thought I was going to have a heart at-

tack, I was so excited! Daryl and me try to go fishing as much as possible this summer while we are in summer quarter.”

The afternoon golf tournament had been fun. I sank a long putt for a birdie on the last hole. Earlier in the day, I almost won the “closest to the pin competition”. As I walked back to the car I felt great. The calming nature of the river prepared me for the drive back to Seattle. But most of all, I had met two young guys who were quickly becoming avid fly fishermen.

One question kept bothering me; when do students at the university attend grammar classes?



Swede's Gerrard Kamloops

(Looks like Allen is doing more than going to school in Spokane.)

Gone Fishin' From Fran Wood

Four married guys go flyfishing. After an hour, the following conversations take place:

First guy: "You have no idea what I had to do to be able to come out fishing this weekend. I had to promise my wife that I'd paint every room in the house next weekend."

Second guy: "That's nothing. I had to promise my wife I'd build her a new deck for the pool."

Third guy: "Man! You both have it easy! I had to promise my wife I'd remodel the kitchen for her."

They continued to fish when they realized that the fourth guy hasn't said a word. So they ask him. "You haven't said anything about what you had to do to be able to come fishing this weekend. What's the deal?"

Fourth guy: "I just set the alarm for 5:30 am. When it went off, I gave the wife a nudge and said, "Fishing or sex," and she said, "Wear a sweater."



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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Stamp
here

Meeting Announcement

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at The College Club, 505 Madison St. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM



This months program is "Fun on the Beach" by Leland Miyawaki

A WFFC member, Leland has been flyfishing for over 30 years for trout, salmon and steelhead in most of the usual places in the West. Nine years ago, he began fishing on the surface for salmon and sea run cutthroat off our local beaches. Since then, he has been redesigning his poppers to their current sizes and colors and perfected his technique. He catches silvers, dollies and searun cutthroat consistently, whether they are showing or not – all on a dryline and all on the surface. He says it is “the most fun you can have on the beach with your waders on.”

Leland will show us how much fun he has had fishing for salmon and sea-run cutthroat – with his innovative poppers – all on the surface with a dryline and on foot off our south Sound beaches. He will show us his flies, show how to tie them, hand out tying instructions and talk techniques. It's a slide show, so questions are encouraged at any time during the presentation.