

Creel Notes from the



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



July, 2004

President's Riffle *By Jim McRoberts*

Three of us, **Chuck Ballard**, **Steve Sunich** and me *zipped* down the Yakima on June 30th. I had intended to repeat a float I made last month from Bighorn to Red's. However, at the advice of the man at Red's we started at Ringer about 11am. The flow was about 3300 cfs but the clarity was excellent. We tried big bugs against the bank and under brush. A ten-foot drag-free drift was only something we could hope for considering the flow rates. We did pluck a few from their shelters behind rocks or brush but it was tough. After lunch we tried emergers behind the "big bugs" and had some success. Also we tried big weighted bugs under the big dry flies. Again we had only a little success. The weather was great, overcast and not hot or windy. There is always tomorrow!

I spent an afternoon on Rattlesnake Lake this week. A full sinking line with a Gil's Monster drew strikes but not many hook-ups. I am always amazed that a fish can hit a fly so hard and not become hooked!

Pete Van Gytenbeek, the new Director of FFF, came to our board meeting and told us about other clubs, similar to ours, that are recognized by the FFF. We had a short discussion and agreed to have it as an agenda item for the next board meeting on September 7th. Please feel free to come and express your views. There is no board meeting in August.

The board agreed to donate \$200.00 to WSCFFF for the support of the casting competition on September 25th.

Bill Neal brought a proposal for a resolution honoring "Senior Members" which the board accepted. It will be found elsewhere in this issue of the Creel Notes. It will require a change to the bylaws. It will appear in the Creel Notes this month and next so we may vote on it in September.

We have only about 70-75 people signed up for our joint meeting on the 20th out of a possible 300 or more members in the six clubs. So if you were holding off thinking it would be too crowded, "come on down"! Any excuse for not signing up early will be accepted! Call **Rocco Maccarrone**, **Bill Kuper** or myself any time this week. Remember the bar will be taking money for drinks.

WFC DRESS CODE NOTICE

The Board passed a resolution asking the members to abide by a dress code known as *business casual*. This would exclude attire such as jeans, shorts or tee shirts. This dress code will be in effect for the meetings held in February through November.

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WFFC RESOLUTION

Senior Members

WHEREAS, the Club recognizes that it has a number of senior active members who have been paying dues for many years; and

WHEREAS, the Club believes that it is just and appropriate to recognize and reward such long-term financial support by providing a separate membership category for such individuals that will provide relief from the payment of dues, but preserve their voting and other active membership rights and encourage their continued involvement in the Club;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that ARTICLE II, Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Club shall be amended to read in full as follows:

Section 2. Categories of Members. The membership of the Club shall consist of four (4) categories: active, senior, associate and honorary:

A. Active members

B. Senior members shall be those individuals who have been elected to active membership in the Club and who have paid dues as such for 50 years or longer, or for 40 years or longer if such individual is age 75 years or older. A member shall attain such status effective for the calendar year immediately following the one in which he first satisfies the foregoing requirements. Senior members shall have the right to vote and in all other respects shall have the same rights as active members, but shall pay no dues. An individual who is eligible for senior membership status shall so advise the First Vice President and shall provide evidence of eligibility, but shall not be required to comply with Section 3 below. Senior members shall be included among active members for purposes of Section 5 below.

C. Associate members

D. Honorary members.....

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 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.

Club News:

Sunich takes 2004 Aigner Competition

By Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

Steve Sunich has again demonstrated his fly-tying skills by winning the 2004 Boyd Aigner Competition. The award was presented to him at the June members meeting. Steve also won in 2002, the last year that the Competition was held. **Ron Dion** and **Richard Embry** placed second and third this year.

The patterns for the Competition were a caddisfly, a damselfly nymph, and a pale morning dun adult. Participants were permitted submit their own versions of these flies, and judging was conducted by Club members at the May meeting.

Congratulations and thanks to all who participated. Special thanks to **Dick Scales** for his help in running the Competition.

WFFC Casting Team *By Ed Sozinho*

There will be a third tryout session for this years casting team held at Green Lake Tuesday, July 27th. We had a poor response to the second session and hope that offering this third event we can get more people to tryout. The top eight people will form this years team. The team practices once a week at Green Lake until the competition on September 25th. This is a great way to better your casting skills and enjoy the scenery that Green Lake offers. If you have more questions give me a call 206.706.7235 or email me at esozinho@earthlink.net.

WFFC High Lake Trips - Summer 2004

By Pete Baird

Wannabees & Lovers of the back country! -- Here's your chance to smell the flowers, see the wildlife, get some exercise, and oh yes, maybe even catch a few high country piscatorial residents. Here's the plan for this summer:

#1 Saturday, July 24: This hike is offered to try and entice a few of you fellows that haven't gotten into the back country for a while to join some us old seniors and get reintroduced to the pleasures of an easy hike.

Meeting Place & Time: Bellevue Way Park & Ride, just north of I-90, 6:00 AM, SE corner

Driving Directions: East on I-90 to Exit 45 (Bandera Airstrip). Follow Forest Rd 2218 on North side to gated road end. Approximate elevation 2400'. Trail Head Pass required

Destination: **Mason Lake**, Elevation ~ 4300'. Contains RB to ~ 10". Little Mason reported to have larger fish. Also nearby - Little Mason Lake, Kulla Kulla, Rainbow & Island Lakes. Accessible by either an old trail following Mason Creek, ~ 2 miles, or by a new more gradual slope trail, ~ 3.5 miles.

Sign-Up List so far (Some tentative): **Don Simonson, Ron Dion, Jon Williams, Fran Wood, Frank Vulliet, Paul Lingbloom, Pete Baird.**

#2 Thursday, July 29 - Aug 1 or later:

Meeting Place & Time: Subject to later coordination

Driving Directions: East on Hwy #2, to Stevens Pass at 4100', and take the Pacific Crest Trail South or drive to Mill Creek Forest Rd #2617 on South side. Drive to road end at gate, elev ~ 3500'. Trail Pass required.

Destination: Chain & Duelle Lakes, elevation ~5650' and ~9 miles; low point at elevation 3700' with ups and downs. For those wanting to stay in for 6 days or so, we can back track about 2.5 miles then go another 8 miles to Square Lake @ elevation 4989'. Low point is about 3200' on this route; distance out is a retrace of ~16 miles. Don't know too much about the fishing, but the Trailblazers have stocked Doelle lakes, and Square Lake is reported to be very scenic and good fishing.

Sign-Up List So Far: **Don Simonson, Ron Dion, Dick Brening, John Callahan, Paul Lingbloom Pete Baird.**

If you are interested in either of these hikes or to confirm or change your participation plans please give me a call (206) 232-7682, or e-mail me at: pedro_lynn@msn.com

Don Hill Driftboat and Baker Hi-Speed Trailer for Sale

Very good condition...includes oars, anchor, lines etc. \$ 4,000.00

Pete Van Gytenbeek 206-443-3273

(This letter was distributed by the WFWC)

Dear Interested Citizen:

June 23, 2004

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission will hold a hearing to receive public comment regarding possible amendments to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) rules related to the two-year wild steelhead retention moratorium. The hearing will take place on August 28, 2004, at the Kitsap Conference Center in Bremerton, Washington, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The agenda will be posted soon on the Commission's webpage at the following URL: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/com/meetings.htm>

At the Commission's meeting on February 6, 2004, steelhead sportfishing rules were amended and a two-year wild steelhead retention moratorium was adopted. The Commission received many comments and a petition to initiate rulemaking in response to its action adopting the moratorium. On April 29, 2004, the Commission directed Department staff to commence rulemaking regarding the wild steelhead retention moratorium, and rule change proposals were filed on June 18, 2004.

The August 28, 2004, public hearing provides interested persons the ability to make oral comments to the Commission on the rule changes proposed by staff. The Commission is seeking public input on whether these proposed changes should:

- Be adopted as proposed, which would revoke the moratorium on wild steelhead retention, reopen 12 rivers to retaining wild steelhead, and allow anglers to retain 1 wild steelhead per day and up to 5 wild steelhead per licensing year (see "Proposed Rule Changes" on the enclosure);
- Be amended in some fashion that you describe (for example; a change in the annual limit for wild steelhead; reopening some, but not all, of the rivers; or other measures to restrict wild steelhead harvest); or
- Not be adopted (retain the current rules; see "Current Rules column" on the enclosure).

If you do support some amount of wild steelhead retention, the Commission would be particularly interested in hearing your views on what the annual limit should be. Although the staff proposal is to reinstate the previous annual limit of 5 fish, we want to consider a range of possible annual limits if the decision is made to allow wild steelhead retention.

The enclosed table details the current rules resulting from passage of the wild steelhead moratorium (middle column), and the staff proposals to reinstate the wild steelhead retention

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fisheries that were in place before the moratorium was adopted (right-hand column). The Commission is seeking input as to the best course of action in regard to the staff proposals. If you recommend amending the proposed changes, please include details of the amendments you would support and the reasons for your recommendation.

Oral testimony may be presented only at the August 28 meeting (three minutes maximum). You may also pre-submit those comments via email to: Commission@dfw.wa.gov.

If you are interested in providing comments on the proposed changes but are unable to attend the hearing, you should send your written testimony to the Commission at the above email or the following address:

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501

After the August 28 public hearing, the Commission will consider adoption of the proposed rule changes during the next regularly scheduled Commission public meeting, scheduled for September 2, 2004, via telephone conference call. No public testimony will be taken during the conference call or at any time after the August 28 meeting. For information on how to attend the September 2 meeting, please contact the Fish and Wildlife Commission office at (360) 902-2267.

This letter is available in alternate formats upon request. Please contact (360) 902-2200 or TDD (360) 902-2207, and allow seven working days to process your request.

If you are a person of disability and require accommodation for attendance at the August 28 meeting, please contact Susan Yeager at (360) 902-2267.

We value citizen input and want to thank you for your interest in Washington's resources.

Sincerely,

Lew Atkins
Assistant Director
Fish Program



Eliguk Lake 6/12 to 6/19 by Bob Young

In an attempt to spend my kids inheritance, I decided to go on the annual trip up to Eliguk with some of the usual group of club members, some of whom have made the trip many times.. I drove up with **Dick Levinthal** and his neighbor. After the fairly long haul, we spent the night in Williams Lake with the rest of our group. The next morning we all drove to Nimpo Lake and boarded the plane for the 25 minute flight in the lake. The plane we got on was the same one that brought out some of the folks who had been at the lake the previous week. That group included **Gil Nyerges, Pete Baird** and others. After listening to the very latest info on what was happening on the water, we boarded and took off. Traveling by float plane requires good planning and utilization of space. I shared the rear seat with a large frozen turkey. While waiting for the plane, we all got introduced to the notorious mosquitoes of northern B.C. After we unloaded at the lodge dock, the plane was loaded with the rest of the previous weeks group who were delivered to Nimpo Lake and the rest of our group brought in to Eliguk. Airplanes are kept pretty busy up there.

After settling into our cabins and having a good home cooked lunch in the lodge, it was time to go fishing. It was raining that first day so we donned rain pants or waders and headed for the dock. Dick notes that he was blown off the lake Sunday morning and all day Monday. From Tuesday on the weather was generally nice with 58 degree water but Dick reports that "the fishing was slower than in the previous 2 years." While averaging about 5 or 6 fish per day, "and losing a bunch and breaking off a few, fishing did not compare to 20/day in 2003." On the other hand **Gil Nyerges** tell me that this years trip was "very definitely and improvement over last year." Maybe we should have gone into Geese Lake and the beaver ponds where he reports fish were "back en masse."

For **Chuck Ballard** and his guest, John, things also started off rather slowly, barely avoiding a skunk the first afternoon. According to Chuck "One strange thing was the lack of fish in the West bay and almost no dry fly activity. The fish were fatter than usual, possibly due to early ice out." Chuck and John hiked into Pettry Lake and got 15 the first afternoon and 5 the next morning before hiking out. "The biggest was

17" and this is smaller than usual."

Fishing was done from very nice clean aluminum boats with quite new Johnson 6 horse motors. Most guys fished with their fishing buddies but I was an odd man so I had a boat all to myself. As this was my first trip to Eliguk, I relied on advice from the others to get me started. The general consensus was to use a black beadhead wooly bugger on a sinking line. It must have been good advice as Chuck's partner got 22 one day. According to Chuck "the unique thing was that even when the fish were up on top in the evening this fly worked better than any dry (or damp) pattern."

I discovered right off that the fish were "jumpers". The first fish I hooked was very active (they get real worked up when they see the boat) and made a run right under the boat. Then I heard a thump and some banging behind me. I turned and saw the fish flopping around in the fish pan. It had gone under the boat, jumped and landed right in the boat. It was quite an introduction to these exceptionally strong and wild Kamloops trout which ran from 14" to 16". You could usually tell when one of the larger fish was hooked.

There is a young man working at the lodge who serves as maintenance man and ghillie. His name is Jonathan Pim and he was always Jonney-on-the-spot. Whenever you left or returned to the dock, he was right there to tie you off and help you get in and out of the boat. He took care of your fish; cleaning them, getting them on ice and eventually smoking and vacuum packing them.

After a couple of days, I settled into routine of getting up early, about 5 AM and getting on the water when it was flat and very quiet, except for jumping fish and loons. Dick noted that "jumping fish were much less frequently seen than in my previous 3 visits." I would fish till about 7 and come in for a great breakfast that provided a menu of oatmeal, fresh cinnamon rolls, eggs, bacon and pancakes. The coffee was always on. After breakfast and a second cup of coffee, there was more fishing until returning for lunch. This meal always included some nice hot soup with home made breads for sandwiches. For both lunch and dinner there was always fresh pie.

After lunch it was usually nap time as it was often quite windy but only once did we actually get blown off the water. This could mean sitting around the fireplace in the lodge reading, telling stories or playing a few hand of cribbage. Fish were taken all after noon by some, either by trolling or wind drifting.

Dinners were outstanding. Entrees included roast

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turkey, choice cut roasts of beef or pork and there was steak night. After letting this settle and waiting for the wind to lessen, it was back on the water for the evening fishing. There was not any big hatch, but there were various bugs on the water. Most prevalent were large midges. For these, the fly of choice was the Tom Thumb. I didn't do too well on top in the evening until the last night. Well, it wasn't actually "on top". Relying on what **Perry Barth** had mentioned over the prior couple of days, that they were taking fish on green Gils Monsters, I tied on a small lime green Doc Spratley and did REALLY well. The water got totally flat and fish were working all around my boat. With a floating line and casting to rises or just blind casting, I hooked up on almost every cast, some fish coming clear out of the water on the take. This went on from about 9 until 10:25 when I lost my last fly. It had been so good that I decided I would pass up fishing the next morning. We flew out after breakfast and got home about 10 that evening.

For me, this was a memorable trip and I know I enjoyed what I got for my money more than what my kids would waste it on. I now understand why club members have been going to Eliguk Lake for 15 years. "The food and friends were up to Eliguk high standards and with the exception of a grizzly bear's visit, all was good" says Chuck. It will cost a little more next year because a collection will be taken to provide pajamas for Perry and his guest as they were scaring the animals after showering. **Dick Levinthal** and I agree the scenery and sights are magnificent but it was depressing to see so many large swaths of dead trees throughout the area, including in and around the Lodge grounds.

Lake Keechelus, June 10-17 *By Don Gulliford*

About the 10th, the water was rising and by the 17th it was headed back down, doubtless due to the lack of snow melt. I fished as always at the mouth of Meadow Creek by the dam. No cutts, no squawfish or anything else other than beautiful weather and scenery.

But, I was ill-equipped: As I went to leave, a HUGE splash took place about 30 yds out in the lake past the stumps, and an osprey gave battle to a large fish, throwing water and spray in all directions—and eventually giving up -it was too big for the osprey, whose talons addled the fish no end, but I was unable to see from shore what specie it was as it swam in circles.

Domke Lake, June 13-17 *By Don Gulliford*

Beautiful weather and a few cutts but not as many as

last year. Many spawners in Emerald Park Cr. since Domke is one of the few lakes that has a natural spawning stream. Got one 16" rainbow with really red meat that ate superbly. Milfoil really increasing in Domke.

THE OSPREY *By Bill Redman*

The Osprey is the three times per year, 20 page conservation journal of the Federation of Fly Fishers' Steelhead Committee. Several WFFC members are active participants in the Steelhead Committee.

Science based and hard hitting, *The Osprey* is dedicated to the protection and recovery of wild steelhead and Pacific salmon. Both editorial contributors and readers come from the ranks of scientists, academics, agency commissioners and managers, political leaders, and angler conservationists, in short the people who make and influence fish related policies.

The five scientific essentials for recovery are:

1. Protection of the genetic and life history diversity that only wild fish can provide.
2. Elimination of the harmful effects of hatchery operations and hatchery fish on wild fish populations.
3. Habitat protection and recovery.
4. Removal of dams or great improvement in their fish passage capabilities.
5. Prioritization of wild fish escapement for spawning over harvest.

If you have any interest in the present and future health of steelhead and salmon stocks, we urge you to subscribe and give your financial support to *The Osprey*. The WFFC Conservation Committee "will match WFFC member donations up to \$100 per individual member with a cap of \$1,000 in matching funds in the aggregate." This match will apply to donations made through the end of 2004, so this is your opportunity to double the effective amount of your support. Subscriptions/contributions (minimum \$15) should be sent to:

The Osprey – FFF
P.O. Box 1595
Bozeman, MT 59771-1595

The fish will thank you.



Washington Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 639
Mercer Island, WA 98040
www.wffc.com

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 Month's Speaker – Tim Borski

Tim paints unique wildlife art in watercolor, oils and acrylics, and he can be found daily in his studio or fishing in the backcountry -- allegedly gathering inspiration and photographs for his art. Tim has a style all his own. His paintings primarily focus on bird and fish species and he waxes eloquent about their attributes and habitats. An occasional landscape or T-shirt design also graces his easel. Tim's art can be seen at www.sobaloart.com.

Tim likes to write as well and has been published in several magazines. He writes a quarterly how-to column on flies, and has about a dozen trademarked fly patterns to his name through the Umpqua Feather Merchants. He recently produced a fly-tying DVD which shows how to tie specific flies and shows their efficacy on the water.

Borski, who resides in Islamorada in the Florida Keys, illustrated Flip Pallot's coffee table book *Memories, Mangroves and Magic*, and twice appeared on Pallot's ESPN fishing show, *Walker's Cay Chronicles*. He also recently appeared on Rick Murphy's *Sportsman's Adventures* in an episode featuring shark fishing.