

Creel Notes from the



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



July, 2006

Note: The following review by Craig Welch recently appeared in the Seattle Times.

Even the most religious of anglers is unlikely to see himself or herself in "Nervous Water," Steve Raymond's new collection of old stories, spanning several decades, about fly fishing.

Who among us has really hooked 10,000 fish in a lifetime?

But the Northwest writer and editor, who has authored eight previous books about fishing, reminds us with his elegant, inviting voice that a life spent almost entirely on water can be its own reward.

Covering almost 40 years, these stories—first published in *Sports Illustrated*, *Flyfishing* and other journals—chronicle a depth of obsession that seems, at times, to confound even the author.

Raymond tells of his failed attempt to become a sort-of junior entomologist: catching, studying and keeping flies in glass jars—until that is, the alcohol-based solution that held his collection evaporated, along with pieces of his bugs.

He offers up years of spreadsheets, documenting, season-by-season which fish he's caught on which fly, and stumbles on an irrefutable argument for catch-and-release fishing.

In one beautiful passage, he describes his own efforts, during a lonely day on the North Fork of the Stillaguamish, to free several dozen salmon fry trapped in a puddle by building a minidam and ushering them to safety with the aid of a margarine container.

Raymond's voice is that of a kindly uncle sitting on a back porch sipping lemonade, one who can't quite muster outrage at the foolishness he's witnessed.

Without judgement and with a reporter's detachment, he describes anglers nearly drowning in inner tubes that lose their air; rivers junked up with garbage, including a mostly complete collection pool balls and a merry-go-round rocking horse; fishermen who hang their day's catch from a tree in bear country.

He's warm, funny and always amused, never more so than when describing the ridiculous array of "advancements" in fishing technology, which inspired him to pen a brief poem: "Enough, already! So I say, give me back the good old days. Of silk and gut and rods of cane; no Teflon and no urethane. It's all so different, now I fear, you have to be an engineer, to understand the high-tech terms; either that, or fish with worms"

In fact, from his first fishing outing, when he managed to cast a fly into his own nostril, to his thought-provoking call for a definition of fly fishing that acknowledges that how fish are caught is as important as how many, readers get to follow along as Raymond becomes—uncomfortably, unwittingly and with not a bit of righteousness—a voice of reason for his chosen avocation.

In a genre whose longing for the old days and calls for a better management are too often scolding and furious, Raymond offers a simpler and more graceful message: Get out there and pay attention to the wonder of the water.



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UNSCHEDULED WFFC OUTING

Jay Deeds has suggested that we have an outing on Hood Canal near his home. The arrangements would be:

Camping available at nearby Scenic Beach State park.

Boat Launch at Misery Point.

Fish for Searuns and Coho.

Jay's beach for nightly get together (and shellfish if no red tide).

The date will be either Sept. 16 or 23, depending on which date is most preferred. If you want to participate, please let **Ron Dion** (r.mdion@verizon.net) know of your preferred date. An announcement will be made at the July WFFC meeting and there will be a sign-up sheet where you can make known your preferred date.



Note to my fishing buddies et al:

Today I went to my old friend George Paffle's funeral at a Catholic church in Sumner. Although his wife of over 60+ years was not well enough to attend, several of tons of relatives told me the attached was his idea for the fly leaf of flier they hand out at services. Way to go, George!

Don Gulliford.

*"I pray that I may live to fish
until my dying day.
And when it comes to my last cast,
I then most humbly pray,
When in the Lord's great landing net
and peacefully asleep,
That in his mercy I be judged
BIG ENOUGH TO KEEP!"*

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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 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.



Two prospective members put their heads together To decide if buying some raffle tickets will end in Their incarceration or worse yet, an IRS Audit.



2nd Vice President Les Johnson and last months speaker Phil Davis of the Hoh River Trust.

2006 WFFC Outdoors: The following outings are currently being planned:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Information</u>
Wenaha River,	July 16-22	David Ehrich to coordinate a N.E. Oregon hiking/fishing trip. Ref. Spring 2006 issue of Northwest Fly Fishing.
High Lakes	Aug.19 - 23	Scottish Lake High Camp. Ref. www.scottishlakes.com . Contact Ron Dion if you want to participate. Ref. www.scottishlakes.com .
• <i>See article on page 2 regarding a proposed outing.</i>		
Dry Falls	Sep.30-Oct.1	The usual.
Methow River	Oct. tbd	Chuck Ballard to head up this steelhead outing. Date depends on WDFW opening.
Grande Rhonde	Oct. 7-14	Steelhead outing with Bill Redman, Jim McRoberts, Scott Hagen et al.
Wet Buns	Nov.4-5	The usual at Joemma State Park.

The Outdoor committee includes;

- Tarp and Grill **Jim McRoberts**
- Ice Chest/Beer & Pop **David Ehrich**
- Wet Buns **Hugh Clark, Chuck Ballard**
- Chairman **Ron Dion**



Lake Keechelus Report, 6-9-06, 4pm-7:30pm *By Don Gulliford*

Last week when coming back from Basin with Don Clough we noticed Keechelus almost full, the fullest in many years--right up to the dam. So I went up this afternoon, launched my jon boat in Meadow Cr. estuary right by the John Wayne Trail into an even fuller Keechelus. *First Cast*--boom, a beautiful breakfast cutt 14"---nobody around except cold wind, an all too interested loon (like at Corbett--sees rods and heads for boat!) and many Canada goose families with goslings in mature plumage already.

Same formula as the past 20+ years--anything big and black like most terrestrials, ants, beetles, etc. and squawfish ratio of about 5:1 to cutts. I lost count of how many I released of both and took just the first big cutt home to eat. Hard to believe the staying power of this odd place after all these years--but good season stays fairly short--no apparent orchard/irrigation drawdown yet.

Andros Island Report *By J W Crowley*

Back from Andros! Not as good a bonefisher as I thought I was! Dozen fish, one 4 pound! Fantastic flats, great guides, plenty of shots- lots of walking, 1000 fish school, active sharks, beautiful ladies, some ganja, Jamaica reggae, many Klicks, Chilean wine, grouper, conch, snapper to eat- amenable guests, attentive and active manager, hard working help, and super cooks! Terrific stars, slice of moon, some wind and rain (one day)! Melissa stuck 8 pound, laid around a bit, then bolted and ripped out

hook! Trip 9 1/2 outta 10! Private rooms, plenty hot water, great swim beach, lots of space- some poetry!! "Jack , Jack- 12 o'clock, see 'um? 60 feet now, 11 o'clock 50 feet- cast, cast! Ah, sheet, mon- more left! Strip, strip- ah, buddae- pulled it from face! Cast again! 9 o'clock- ah, buddae-spooked! ah, sheet- long cast! Goin' away! Ah, mon- next tam!!". See you there next year???? all best, Jack

The Battle of Eliguk: Man vs. LOON

By Jim McRoberts

The WFFC (*Wild Feisty Fish Chasers*) Bunch set off for Eliguk Lake in the central highlands of BC. Besides the "Bunch", there were friends and a spouse to help in the forthcoming battles! We drove to Williams Lake on June 9th and had dinner at "The Laughing Loon" Restaurant & Pub. We did not suspect how much the Loons would laugh before our trip was over! The "Bunch" consisted of Gil Nyerges (a scout already at the lake), Perry Barth (our leader), Ron Pera, Dick Sterns & wife Devonne Wells, Bob Young, Dave Round & his brother, Bill, Ron Hofmeister, Dick Levinthal, Chuck Ballard and friends John Stachurski, Don Deans, Bob Bune and yours truly, Jim McRoberts.

We all were on the lake fishing by mid day Saturday. The weather was blustery so "mooching" was in order. Some of us motor mooched others wind drifted and cast. Sink tip or full sink lines did the trick. It seems that flies with color and flash produced well.





It turned out that almost anything would work to some extent. The very bottom fly started life as a Muddler Minnow. But after a couple days fishing it had lost its entire body. So Jim went to the tying table to make some repairs. A bright red body was added with a PINK tail. After redesignating it the Muddler Maiden it continued to catch fish.

Of course the Gil's Monster and Nyerges nymph produced many fish. This year the fish were thinner since ice-out was three weeks later than last year. However, they were very scrappy, giving a good account with every hook-up. That was a problem! The fish would smash the fly, make a run or jump and be gone!

During the evenings the wind would subside and allow for some dry fly activity. However, without wind the mosquitoes became very active and would attack unmercifully. Floating chironomids, callibaetis cripples, humpies and stimulators were some that worked.

Again as happened two years ago, Bob young had a big finish for the week. Heading out after dinner on the last evening he started trolling up the lake. It was

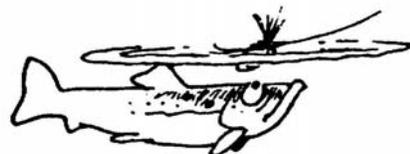
a little choppy as it had been most days. But just after sundown it calmed down quite a bit especially in the cove near the inlet creek. Spotting some rising fish he rowed over that way and put on a Stimulator. Working right up close to the creek mouth where the fish seemed to be very active he missed several fish before realizing these particular fish were Northern Pike Minnows.(PC) So he drifted about 100 feet away from the inlet and started hitting some nice trout and ended up boating 10 before it got too dark.

There were five or six pairs of LOONS on the lake. They were strategically placed so as to always be ready to attack (that means take the fish directly from the line or wait under the boat until the fish was released). They did this when a motor was cut or a fish started splashing! Chuck Ballard and his friend John Stachurski along with Dick Stearns developed a LOON-HAND-OFF technique! The Idea was to have the LOON that was bothering you, move over to another boat that had a fish hooked. So, passing near the boat with the hooked fish usually left the LOON in position to transfer its allegiance to a new provider! Many unsuspecting members of the "Bunch" were introduced to this devious behavior by their "friends"! Eagles and ospreys also provided entertainment at various times.

Gil and Perry stayed on for another week to fish with the Olympic Fly Fishers. Hugh Clark and Maury Skeith were also with this group along with Ray Gould (Letcher Lambuth award winner for 2005).

Our hosts, Jeannette & Moe Schiller provided for all our needs and ran a great camp. Their ghillie/boatman, Jonathan Pim made certain all our boats and motors were in tiptop condition. He also smoked the fish for us.

A great time was had by all!



More flies that produced at Eliguk:





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Stamp
here

July, 2006

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

July Speaker: WFFC member, Ron Dion will present a hiking trip through the Wind River Range in Wyoming with other club members.