

Creel Notes from the



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



July, 2008



President's Riffle

Fellow Flyfishermen,

Summer is here at last.

I know it because my son's Little League season is wrapping up...the rivers are coming into

shape and soon it will be 'hopper time... and that favorite mountain stream is finally reachable.

Last month's dinner meeting and outing proved to be great kickoffs to the summer season. For those of you who couldn't make it to the dinner meeting at the Palace Ballroom, you missed superb food, a fun demonstration of crab cake making, and some lively conversation, sparked by the open mic comments made by some of our significant others. It was a terrific evening. I'm still thinking about that coconut cream pie...

Even more inspiring than great pie was the New Member Outing turnout at Rattlesnake Lake. Over thirty new members, old timers, and guests showed up to enjoy a nice picnic spread, some decent fishing, and even better camaraderie. Pat Peterman initiated some conversation between new members and old by asking them each to spend a few minutes with each other then recite back what they had learned. It was all good fun, and I hope our new members feel even more an important part of the organization than ever.

We're getting close to starting construction on the Yakima River Home Waters site, so stay tuned for more information on that. But in the weeks and months ahead you'll also be hearing about another Home Waters effort a bit closer to home. The board approved initial funding of \$500 to retain a consultant on the viability of sustaining a healthy trout population in a small lake on the site of the former Carnation Farm. This in itself is a neat opportunity for our own use and enjoyment as fishermen.

But even more compelling about this opportunity is having the chance to work with some great kids who are very sick.

The farm is now Camp Korey, part of Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall camps. The use of the lake could be ours in return for stewardship of the lake and spending a few days a year working with the kids at the camp. I believe the mission of the camp fits nicely with our own mission:

To honor the courage, strength, and determination of children and their families who battle life-threatening and critical illnesses; and to provide them with a safe, friendly, medically sound environment in which to simply have fun and be kids.

We could help those kids have a lot of fun fishing! If you'd like to learn some more about the camp, just go to <http://www.campkorey.org/>.

Like our members who are working with the Project Healing Waters or Reel Recovery or a number of other programs, I'm guessing that many of you would be interested in giving your time to those in need, especially if it involved fly fishing.

The more time I spend with many of you, the more

(Continued on page 2)

Inside.....

July Meeting Speaker	2
WFFC Website Forum	2
Dress Code	2
On the Fly	3
Eliguk Lake 2008	4
Hosmer Lake	5
Community Lake	5
Christmas Party	6
Photo Essay: Tarpon on a Fly	6

I realize what a special club and great group of guys we have here. Be sure to make an effort at the next gathering you attend to get to know some of your fellow members a little better, you'll be glad you did.

Happy Summer and tight lines to all!

Bill Kuper

July Meeting Speaker: Heather Bartlett – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Ms. Bartlett has worked for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for 17 years. Much of her early work in the Department was focused on the Columbia River basin, with an emphasis on monitoring and evaluation of hatchery programs, conservation and recovery of wild populations, and resident and anadromous fishery management. She is currently the Salmon and Steelhead Division Manager for WDFW. Some priorities in her current work include aligning hatchery production to meet harvest objectives, working with the regions in the development of a Regional Steelhead Management plan, and ensuring that current and future fishery regimes provide for the rebuilding of wild stocks statewide.

WFFC Website Forum *by Roger Rohrbeck*

Have you visited the member area of our website lately? If so, perhaps you've already discovered the new forum. This is really just an online version of the traditional cork bulletin board, a place where you can conveniently share information. Once logged in, if you want to start a new topic, click the **NEWTOPIC** button. If you just want to respond to what someone else written, click the **POSTREPLY** button. Is it really that simple? Well, almost.

However, if you should encounter a problem getting started, just email RRrohrbeck@comcast.net, or call me at my phone number listed in the 2008 WFFC Roster, and I'll be happy to assist you.

Dress Code

The board of directors has voted to ease the dress code just a bit by allowing clean, non-ripped denim pants at our monthly gatherings. Although everyone is always encouraged to "dress it up a bit" for our dinner meetings, the official policy is business casual, which now includes denim, since most area businesses allow the same (except for our December and January meetings, which are coat-and-tie affairs). This means that if you do decide to wear denim, or get stuck at work without a change of clothes, you can no longer be chastised by the ghillie or any other members for doing so, and you can keep that \$1 in your pocket!

Creel Notes

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

Jim van de Erve ... Editor and Publisher
425-489-0971 jimvde@comcast.net

President

Bill Kuper billk@digitalfarm.com

Co-1st Vice President

Pat Peterman patpeterman@verizon.net

Co-1st Vice President

Craig Koeppler ckoeppler@qwest.net

2nd Vice President

Keith Robbins flymooch@aol.com

Co-2nd Vice President

Steve Sunich sgsassociatesllc@cs.com

Secretary

Jim Morrison jamescmorrison@mailhome.com

Treasurer

Scott Hagen scott4fish@comcast.net

Ghillie(s)

Jim Macdonald macdonaldco@msn.com

Marty Leith mleith@gvakm.com

Trustees

Richard Embry '06 Gene Gudger '06
Mike Wearne '07 Ed Sozinho '07
Rocco Maccarrone '08 Ed Pettigrew '08

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.

On the Fly by David Ehrich

Keith Robbins took up the gavel at the June meeting, and started off a most unusual meal with the introduction of our chef and main feature, Eric Tanaka. Eric “randomly” chose Ed Sozinho to be his able assistant, and the cooking began. Chef Eric threw some freshly cooked and shredded crab into a bowl, added some zest,...but then the crab cakes arrived at the table and I lost all focus. Yummmm! These were light, flakey, and tender cakes, with a crispy outside and moist, savory inside, topped with a Tomato-Avocado Salsa. The taste was nothing too strong, but they shut up most of my rather talkative table. Eric kept cooking and we kept smacking our lips. Somewhere in there Eric gave away several rubs to people who were smart enough to duck. Also, somewhere in there Eric gave a cooking lesson, but it was so short, I missed a surefire way how to cook crab cakes. I did hear one hint: have other people crack the crab for you. In my house, we call those people the “little people” who seem to leave the premises whenever money gets short.

Before you know it, the program came to a halt and our President took back the initiative and we started off with the usual agenda. Dry stones took “30” fish at Rocky Ford; Dick Young slayed ‘em deep at Lake No. 12. Good fishing at Horseshoe Lake.... And then the smoked Pork Belly arrived and again, I lost focus. The second course was served on a bed of greens and white beans. Sadly, the pork was half bacon in disguise and the greens would not have merited a single compliment at a Southern Baptist potluck, so I left the plate barely touched....back to the fishing reports. Lots of fish were caught in the typical places in Montana. Another member enjoyed an exclusive invitation to exclusive waters to catch exclusive fish. Crumbaker’s other son did waderless, in fact pantless fishing from a pontoon and then fished naked while his clothes dried off across the bow of a borrowed boat. Pat Peterman tried to follow that story up with a report from Chopaka. I couldn’t hear a thing, but I was there, so I can tell you that the fishing was brisk, the food wonderful, and the traditions well honored. Mike Wearne competed unsuccessfully with the knives and forks to report on Campbell River. I think I heard something about a great library and pleasant place to put up one’s feet.

More business ensued amid raffles of savory rubs and signed copies of chef Eric’s cookbook. Keith took one lucky winner, Nelly, and started a new tradition by asking the winner to describe her favorite meal. I think she said something about a Rib-Eye, salad with blue cheese, Belgian French Flies, I mean pomme frites, avec ice cream with bacon overtones. My neighbor, Lisa, ignored the proceedings and told me her favorite meal: breaded and seared sea scallops, fresh green curry cilantro sauce circled over the scallops, and jasmine rice. In fact, I don’t think anyone at any table was listening to anything. I did hear one grunt from across the table about something being “bloody well what you’d expect for letting in the bloody women.” In case you wondered, he was English rather than literal. Or at least, I hope so.

We then enjoyed a nice pause and the anglers took advantage of their lovely dates and spouses for real conversation. President Kuper traded more rubs for stories and dug up a few, although none of them worth recording. Past President Frank Webster, who admits to reservations about women attending meetings at all, took special umbrage at the ladies taking the microphone and telling long-winded stories. I don’t remember how I felt about that in particular, but I did follow the sage advice of “don’t get mad, get even,” and just up and left. The sun still hadn’t gone down and I enjoyed the drive home.

[Editor’s Note: The members at the July board meeting were full of praise for the June meeting, calling it “a really nice time,” and saying “Spouses and guests light up at this thing.”]



Ed Sozinho helping out Chef Tanaka

REPORTS

Eliguk Lake 2008 *by Bob Young*

Spring was mighty cold in Seattle, so how would things be in British Columbia? The WFFC members who were going into Eliguk Lake had some concerns about ice on the lake. Well, it turned out that the lake actually opened up on a normal schedule. It seems the thing that delays 'ice-out' is the depth of snow on the ice. This year the snow was light and therefore the lake thawed on schedule.

The first group in suffered through some foul weather, including a hail storm. The group of Gil Nyerges, Chuck Ballard and his partner, Scott Hagen, and Jim McRoberts caught a lot of fish. See Scott's results below. Their advice to the newcomers was "don't bother fishing the east end of the lake".

Those arriving in the second group were Perry Barth, Ron Pera, Bob Young, Don Deans, Dick Levinthal, and Hugh 'The Birder' Jennings. Gil stayed over a week and came out with this group. He was meeting up with Tom Campbell and some others to continue on to 888 Lake. The weather was not all that bad during this week: some sun, some wind, some nice periods.

It seemed to some in the group that the quality of the fish improved during the week we were there. Their color improved and they appeared to put on weight.



A trout snapped by Bob Young

The skies were so clear on our flight in that the pilot gave us a great sightseeing tour. The flight into Eliguk takes you over the Ilgachuz Range, which many believe is an old caldera. The mountains certainly appear that way. Dropping down into the heart of a large valley, we were treated to the sight of caribou in the more open grassy areas and maybe 30 to 40 mountain goats scampering over the rocky hill-sides. WOW! We did about three 360-degree turns while the pilot banked so we could look down. After one such turn, I looked up and saw a sheer cliff dead ahead and thought to myself, "This Beaver can't climb that fast and a U-turn seems awfully tight". The pilot of course had everything under control. As we banked sharply to the right there was a wide opening leading to open airspace. Below was a nice stream, and we just followed it down toward the lake. We were treated again on the way out.

Perry conducted the annual fishing derby, adding a MFBB (Most Fish Before Breakfast) category. The way he runs it is like this: A day is selected and everyone keeps a tab of his conquests. The results of the derby: Most fish, Scott Hagen - 55. Biggest fish, Don Deans - 16". Biggest on Dry Fly, Perry Barth - 14" (after 4 years, he finally won a trophy!). Most Double headers, Hugh Jennings and Dick Levinthal - 9. Most Fish Before Breakfast, Bob Young - 14.

There was some dry fly activity. Gil mentioned that he saw a good variety of flies, including sedges, crane flies, an occasional mayfly, and lots of good-sized midges. When the water got flat, there would be quite a few rises. I learned what might prove to be a valuable lesson, at least for me. During the late afternoon when the water got smooth, one could cast to rising fish, but when the wind came up and created a chop, the fish disappeared. Not so, you just couldn't see them. Instead of switching to a wet fly, I continued with a larger dry pattern, a stimulator. The fish continued to take on the surface, even in the choppy water. You had to keep your eye on your fly or you would completely miss the take. I had several hours of good fishing using this technique.

As our group was waiting on the dock for the plane to take us out, it was a nice sunny morning. The winds were very light. The area around the dock is shallow and there were a lot of midges hatching right before our eyes. Right before the trout's eyes, too. As we stood on the dock, about 2 feet from our feet several nice fish were feeding regularly on the hatched flies. We stood there and watched as the fish

cruised back and forth, their red stripes clearly visible, and regularly rose to suck in a bug. Sometimes they would duck into the shade under the dock and then shoot out to pick off a fly. It was quite a sight.

Fishing was good during the third week also. Dave and Bill Round, and Joe Decuir arrived as our group was leaving. Perry stayed in with this group to be sure they didn't get too rowdy. A couple of 17", two or three 16", and several 15" fish were taken. Perry reported, "We caught the usual 12 to 14 inchers, but as you can see, the fish were getting bigger. Weather about the same except it did get warmer. Most days required 'long johns'."

Hosmer Lake, Oregon, June 23-28

by Steve Raymond

This was my 39th consecutive year fishing Hosmer Lake and I've never seen it more beautiful. The bog laurel was in full bloom and the marshes surrounding the upper lake were aflame for as far as you could see. Sandhill cranes were nesting in the marsh, deer were browsing on the shores, eagles and ospreys soared overhead, and all manner of waterfowl inhabited the shallows. Over it all loomed South Sister and Mount Bachelor, with more snow on their summits than I'll probably see again in my lifetime. It was truly spectacular.

The only thing missing was fish. But we'd expected that; after years of management neglect, the Atlantic salmon population in Hosmer has reached a low ebb. There are still plenty of brook trout—maybe too many—but most spend their lives sulking on the bottom like so many garden slugs, so they contribute nothing to what used to be one of the best dry-fly fisheries in the Western Hemisphere. Only a few salmon were available to rise to the daily caddis hatches, which were decent if not overwhelming, and although I caught fish every day, it was a struggle to land more than one or two. My best day was four. Son **Randy** had a hot hand, though; he got ten fish one day and also landed the largest salmon I've seen caught at Hosmer in some years. His comment: "It was almost as good as a bad day on Hosmer used to be."

Most of our action came on caddis emergers or adults, though we also got some fish on ant patterns after a number of ants thoughtfully fell out of the at-

mosphere. Randy also seduced a few fish on Callibaetis imitations.

We heard **Pete Baird** had been there earlier, but missed seeing him. However, we did have a nice visit with **Wade Foss**, son of late WFFC member **Ed Foss**, who was camped with members of his extended family at the lake. It's good to see Ed's kids carrying on the Hosmer tradition.

Community Lake, B.C., June 15-16

by Steve Raymond

This lake, about 40 miles north of Kamloops, has been a favorite of mine the past few years. I'd planned originally to fish it in late June, after my annual trip to Hosmer Lake in Oregon, but Hosmer was still snowed in so I had to reverse the order of things. As a consequence, I missed the traveling sedge hatch at Community Lake, which usually begins about mid-month, but was late this year. And when the sedges aren't hatching, Community Lake can be tough. Two days of fishing yielded only three fish, all taken on bright red chironomid pupa imitations.

Another unhappy note was the destruction of the B.C. Forest Service campground by loggers cutting beetle-ravaged timber around the lake. It wasn't much of a campground to begin with, but there's hardly anything left of it now. Nearly all the larger trees have been cut, the campground itself was churned into mud with 16-inch-deep ruts left by heavy equipment, and a big slash pile was burned right in the middle of the campground. Even the B.C. Forest Service signs were pulled up and left leaning against some of the few remaining trees.

Very sad to see. I doubt if I'll be going back to this lake anytime soon, or maybe ever.



2008 Christmas Party and Fundraiser

It isn't too early to begin thinking about our annual gala. Many of you participate in other fundraisers during the year and may have seen a different live or silent auction technique to raise funds. The 2008 Christmas Party Committee would like to hear any ideas you have that will add to the success of our already great event.

Volunteers are needed. A good part of the success of this event is due to the contribution of WFFC Members. The 2008 Christmas Party Committee needs your help in many areas: at the check-in desk, coordinating the completion of auction transactions, and setup/tear down at the beginning/end of the night, to name just a few. Please contact me if you can help this year. I'd like to have all our volunteers committed by the end of August. New members are particularly encouraged to participate—this is a great way to become acquainted with other WFFC members.

Pictures, gentlemen, pictures. Rather than wait until the last minute, start sending your pictures as you take them to Ed Sozinho at his e-mail of esozinho@earthlink.net. Early preparation will go a long way to making 2008 a successful event.

Call, e-mail, or talk to me. Let's get the line off the spool, through the guides, in the air, and on the water. I'm looking forward to the best event yet, with your help. Thanks.

Craig Koeppler
2008 Christmas Party Chairman

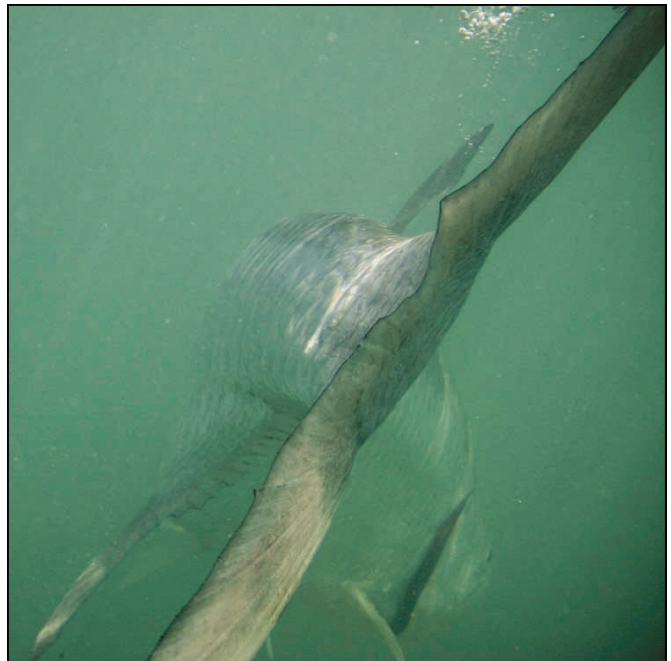
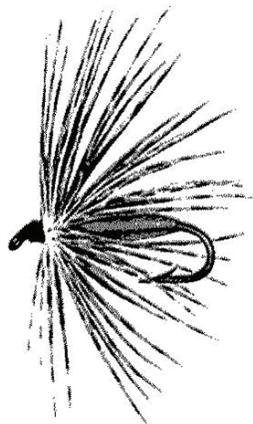


Photo Essay:
Tarpon on a Fly, Keys 2008
by Ed Sozinho





Tarpon on a Fly, Keys 2008
by Ed Sozinho





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

Stamp
here

July, 2008

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: Heather Bartlett - Overview of the State Steelhead Management Plan

Heather Bartlett is the Salmon and Steelhead Division Manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.