

Creel Notes from the



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



July, 2012



President's Riffle

Greetings!

Well, the fishing season is going full blast and I am trying to get caught up. I hope all of you are getting as much time as possible outside in this great weather.

The Seafair event is coming together. We still need volunteers to either participate or provide float tubes and waders for the Navy personnel. The Navy personnel are all locally based and have the potential of becoming club members. Those who I have spoken to are wildly enthusiastic about this event.

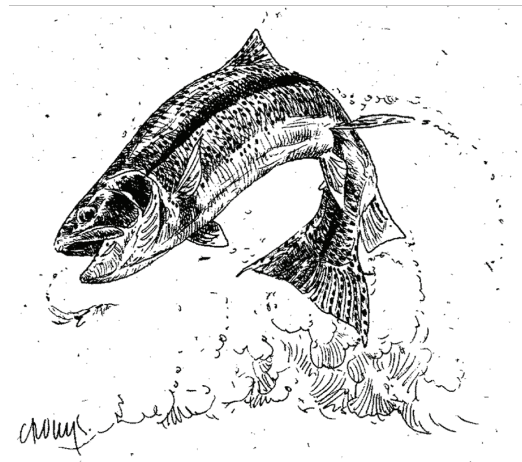
I have asked the trustees of the club to examine the issue of the Yakima Home Waters project and provide the board with a plan going forward. We will discuss this issue in August at the board meeting and at the general membership meeting. If you have an opinion, please contact me or one of the trustees.

I am constantly amazed by the quality and thoughtfulness of the members of this club. Personally the most enjoyable time is spent at outings. If you are not participating in these functions, you are missing a real opportunity to get to know members of this club. There are plans afoot to add another outing at Lake Hannon. This facility is convenient and requires no hiking; you can park your auto at the launch area.

Next month I will report on my review of the long-range plan analysis prepared for the club several years ago. I think we need to focus on the long-term potential of this club.

See you on the lakes.

Mike



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July Meeting Speaker: Chad Jackson in his own words

“I began my career with WDFW in 1997, immediately after completing my Bachelor’s degree in fisheries management from the University of Idaho. I have worked both in fisheries research and management. My first job was in Region 2 working for the Warmwater Fish Program performing applied research fisheries work. I was part of a research team that performed stock assessment surveys, analyzed warm-water data, and authored agency reports. After two years in Region 2, I transferred to the same position in Region 6 out of Olympia, where I performed the same work. In 2001, I promoted to Region 4 where I was the inland fish manager for waters in King, Snohomish, and Island counties. This move proved to be a tremendous professional opportunity and benefit where I was mentored by some of WDFW’s strongest managers. I truly learned a lot about a variety of inland fish resources while in this position. During my tenure at Region 4, I was suddenly moved into the District 13 fish biologist position as a result of WDFW staff cuts. In this position, I was responsible for salmon and steelhead management in the Snohomish and Stillaguamish watersheds. While salmon and steelhead management was not my professional preference (inland fish was) nor expertise, I decided to make “lemonade” out of these “lemons”, and ultimately learned a lot from this unexpected move, ended up enjoying salmon and steelhead management, and in the end the move proved to be beneficial towards my professional development. In 2010, I decided to move back to eastern Washington, accepting my current position as district fish biologist for Grant and Adams counties, a position once held by my father from 1979 to 1989. The reason for the move was to return to my preference for inland fish management. Since this move, I have been performing lake rehabilitations to restore trout fisheries, working on local and statewide inland fish projects, and learning about a new inland fish resource, white sturgeon, that I have never worked on before.”



Ron Dion will be tying for the July meeting.

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 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.

On the Fly by David Ehrich

Mike started off by announcing that he is still the President of the WFFC, in case there were any doubts. Honorable, as always, he set up a lost and found for three raffle tickets found on the floor. No takers, so he kept them for future gains. From there a few guests were introduced to great applause, great praise, and good stories. One fellow admitted to “learning the float tube”, whatever that means; joining a running club with **President Mike**; squid-ing with the Hawk and other connections large and small.

Fishing reports included surprising fishing at Hosmer Lake with fishing quotas in double figures each day. I announced my impending nuptials this June 30th, and Mike was nice enough to bestow on me a little praise and a couple cards. Lake Cannon, owned by the Archdiocese and available for daily rental at \$10 a head, yielded some wonderful trout. Be warned and sign up. **John Schuitemaker** introduced Michael Garrity, who reported on the Yakima basin and current hopes to reintroduce steelhead and salmon to the stream and lakes upstream with increased storage. They hope to expand Bumping lake with a higher dam and to draw down current lakes further during drought seasons to take advantage of new salmon ladders on the five dams. Questions and debate, worthy of the contrary people we can sometimes be, ensued. Suffice it to say, like anything that happens under the auspices of the BOR, there is much debate, many steps, and much time to comment. He believes this provides better protection of habitat, increases stream flow, and may radically increase the steelhead population.

Chopaka reports were glowing, including night vision casting in boats without oars that would have challenged even Navy Seal Team 6. Captain **David Schorsch** received in honor of his dubious accomplishment, a small emergency paddle.

Bob Burdick, champion angler and semi reformed braggart, introduced a summer’s worth of great programs and our keynote speaker, Stann Grater, an Orvis instructor, guide, and professor of fly fishing at Gonzaga. Stann, with help from John Schuitemaker on the Mac, started with an exhaustive list of things we’re gonna learn.

We started with the numbers: 7864 lakes, 12,000 miles of moving water, 20 million planted trout, and 75 fishable lakes within a hour of Spokane. Dang it,

on your way to trophy waters in Montana and Wyoming, take a day in the Washington and Idaho border area!

Stann prefers 6 weights, given the wind and complex flies that he likes to toss. Winds can keep paddlers from ever reaching shore. Stann prefers a jet boat and keeps good tabs of WDFW planting schedules. For example, Sprague Lake, which most of us pass by without ceremony, has been killed and restocked with a variety of trout, crappies, and triploids feeding in 12' of water just primed for trolling. Hayden Lake is full of big largemouth bass and double-digit crappies that feed on bead head leeches and wear out your arm. Newman Lake has the same mix. Try mid week to avoid pressure. He’s talking “crazy, crazy fishing.”

Knowing no shame, Stann showed us some example of Western Bone fishing, otherwise known as carp. Take a 7-8 weight, cast without splash to a target the size of a dinner plate and practice for the real thing.

The Spokane River, which comes out of Lake Coeur d’Alene, is a combination of tailwater fishing and spring creek. In 111 miles, seven dams get in the way. Native red sides remain from what was once the largest salmon and steelhead runs on the planet. Other parts are stocked and, if bait is your deal, lots of opportunities exist. From the Idaho border, if you can handle Class 2 rapids, the pontoon is your weapon of choice. Put in at State Line and take out at Liberty road. That’s it. Otherwise, it’s over the falls. Stan looks for all sorts of fish on the Spokane. All varieties of trout are present, but don’t give up on white fish, pike, and smallmouth bass.

Next we moved to two-handed casting on the Grande Ronde, which “shrinks” the big river. Fish closer to shore than you think you should, fish above the riffles where they rest and look for easy water near the bank.

Crab Creek is worth checking out downstream from Asotin. The largest spring creek in the world, 312 miles of intermittent water gives up lots of great water below Davenport, where Stann sets up Fall Trout Camp on private access. He targets native browns, red bands, and some plants very carefully with expert casts on small flies. But hoppers get ‘em, too, in late summer. Look for cooler weather to make sure you aren’t killing fish in the heat. Spring is a good time to visit before the ranchers start to

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draw the water down and the rattlers heat up. My experience says, don't forget to check for ticks when you get back to the car.

The NF of the Coeur d'Alene is a tailwater fishery. Try a Copper John and anything red. Watch out for deeper water than it appears and try to not fall in. Above Yellow Dog Creek you can avoid the beer and bikini floaters, but be wary of moose. If you see a cow and a calf, stand down. The St. Joe, three hours from Spokane no matter how or what you drive, gives lots of chances to the adventurous. Try a pontoon float below Avery and look for deep dark holes and watch the big ones rise up to mayflies.

At the end of the day, Stann's advice is simple: hire a guide. Business cards were available.

Business: After the break, **JC Hungerford** was voted on for induction. His sponsor noted that JC would be the youngest member and future pall bearer. **Doug Schaad** warned us about new regulations forthcoming. The **Hawk** raffled off some cool stuff, including some strike indicators our speaker has developed called "90-Degree Drop."

David Schorsch led off committee reports with notice of a July outing to Leech Lake. There's still three feet of snow around the lake, but it's fishing well. Check the website for accommodations and sharing opportunities. August features a trip to Scottish Lakes. Bring your own food and register for cabins on your own. The Scottish Lakes trip is perfect for family, especially younger anglers.

WWU Fly Fishing Collection Event

Steve Raymond is doing a presentation on Roderick Haig-Brown at Western Washington University on Aug. 3rd from 1 to 3 pm. The presentation will be on the 6th floor of WWU's Wilson Library. Steve's talk is entitled "Return to the River", and will explore the literary legacy of Haig-Brown. In addition, WWU will be serving light refreshments and providing tours of the collection that include books recently donated by David Ishii and original Tommy Brayshaw art work on display. In general, WWU is providing what they hope is a nice chance for members of the area fly fishing community to gather and share stories.

Parking information is available at http://admissions.wwu.edu/visit/v_directions.html.



Corbett Lake Report *by Bob Burdick*

Walt Swanson, Gene Gudger, Joe Kristof, Denny Westover, I, and seven other newbies fished Corbett Lake from 5/19 to 5/24. The weather was generally blustery, which brought out the midday Callibaetis hatch, which we fished intensely after a morning stint of Chironomids, Callibaetis nymphs, buggers, and stillwater nymphs. By 2:30 pm, we were back to Callibaetis nymphs and Chironomids, which lasted until about 5 pm. We generally caught 6 to 10 fish a day, most in the 18-inch class, with an occasional 6, 7, or 8 pounder.

Peter McVey continues to manage this world-class fishery very well, although he has not been stocking as many 10 to 15 pound fish as in the past. He's no longer cooking, but the staff prepares three reasonably priced meals a day if you choose to eat in the lodge rather than cooking in your cabin. Seven of us bunked in one of the cabins, cooked our own meals, and were charged only \$500 for six days of fishing and five nights of lodging, an incredibly low price for the quality of this experience.



Salt Report *by Dave Schorsch*

Spent the day with the world's greatest fly tier Sunday. I drug **Bob Burdick** up and down beaches out of Gig harbor, into the Narrows, and up to Olalla Bay. We spent a beautiful July day watching eagles, ducking huge yacht wakes, and practicing our casting. The water was great, although weedy, and the beaches pristine. The only things missing were the cutthroat. An occasional tiddler here and there among hundreds of casts. Summer doldrums slow. Bob was a great sport, and kept leaning into the wind in spite of the slim returns.

Finally, I decided to risk the crazy rock lady (throws rocks off her deck at anybody that fishes on "her" beach), and fish the confluence south of Olalla. SCORE! Promptly got into a bunch of cutties, catching several up to 14 inches or so, and missing some really nice ones. Found another batch on the bluff beach 1/2 mile north, making the long, bumpy run worth it. Several fish later, the wind came up hard, and we made the run south. By then the sunshine crowd had appeared at the boat launch, and we got to experience the dysfunction of occasional boaters.

Fishing the sound in the summer is always like that. Beautiful, and filled with life, being run over by ignorant nut jobs in big boats. Just gotta fish early in the day.....

About the coho... We never saw a one. I've fished the last three weekends in a row, all in good productive water, and have managed one 11-inch coho among the cutthroat trout. These are fish that were literally pests just a few years ago, outnumbering the cutts two to one on most beaches most days. It's a damn shame, and I think big battles are coming.....

But I digress.... had a great time with Bob, just hope that ointment works on his casting arm.

Goodwill Is Still Alive and Well!

by Bob Burdick

On Friday afternoon, the day before I was to leave on a six-day fishing trip to Corbett Lake, B.C., I discovered my electric motor was toast. Racing the clock to Outdoor Emporium before they closed, I was able to buy a new Minkota 30, the last of their stock. Once home again, I continued my hurried packing, pulled the cardboard off the electric motor, and threw it in the back of my Suburban along with a ton of other gear. Early Sunday morning at the launch area of Corbett Lake, I carefully placed the motor on the stern of my pram, connected it to the battery, placed five rods in the rod rack extending out over the bow and inched out stern first into the lake between two reed beds using an oar. All looked well as I cleared the reeds, shipped the oar, sat down, and turned the gear shift on the motor to reverse. Lurching forward, not reverse, the tips of my five rods slammed into the reeds as the pram impaled itself on the reed bed. To the screams of nearby fishermen trying to alert me to my impending disaster, I flew around the boat frantically shutting off the motor, and leaping for oars to pull the pram away from the reeds all the while watching in horror as my rod tips bent 180 degrees. Fortunately, when the smoke cleared, I found I had broken only one rod, the others having survived the ordeal, and proceeded to fish for the day without the motor, using one fewer rod. That evening with the help of **Walt Swanson**, we tested the motor, and confirmed that the prop was running in reverse when the gear shift was in the forward position. By taking the cover off the motor we were able to switch the polarity, which corrected the prob-



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lem, making the motor usable for the rest of the week.

After returning to Seattle, I decided to vent my frustrations by writing a letter of complaint to Johnson Outdoors, the current name for the venerable Johnson Outboard brand that owns Minkota and that has been around for at least 60 years. Carefully explaining the circumstances, I asked them to buy me a new \$325 Albright rod for what I believe was a manufacturing error during the motor's assembly in China, fully expecting them to put my letter in the circular file, but feeling somewhat less frustrated having pointed a finger at their error.

But no, five days after mailing the letter, I was rendered speechless when I received a phone call from a very polite Johnson customer representative offering to either buy a new identical rod for me, or send me a check to cover the cost of a new rod. No interrogation about producing a sales slip, or how do we know you didn't make this up?—or show us the broken rod. Just how can we make this right? In this age of bottom line focus, such unexpected and rare customer care from a large corporation gives me a warm and fuzzy feeling—just as they intended.

Leech Lake Outing *by Dave Schorsch*

The Leech Lake outing is slated for 7-14 and 7-15. 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. This is a close-to-home fishing trip that just about anybody can do.

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. The "ski bum" type

units sleep four to six people for about 110.00/night. If you have three or four people in a unit, the shared cost is about 25 bucks a night, fully furnished, and a kitchen! The folks who run the place are great to us, and have several units available for Friday and Saturday nights, but not Sunday night. (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 grandkids on! Let's get the younger folk involved in what we love. See you there.

Upcoming August Outing: High Camp at Scottish Lakes *by Ron Tschetter*

Scottish Lakes High Camp is our club outing for August (18th and 19th). Nestled high up in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, High Camp is a cluster of buildings consisting of a lodge and a shower/sauna/hot tub complex surrounded by an assortment of cabins. At over 5,000' elevation, it offers spectacular scenery, cozy comfort cabins, and a multitude of high lakes, some of which require only a short hike. The trails are well established with maps available. Most lakes contain a good population of trout.

This is a great place to introduce youngsters to the outdoors, as well as wives and family members in a relaxing atmosphere away from the bustle of the city. Hike, read, fish, or just relax is the "call of the day".

Getting there requires a pickup (supplied by the lodge) via a private road. You will have to schedule your pickup time with the lodge and make arrangements for a cabin.

There are plenty of group accommodations, such as picnic table, outdoor gas grills. The cabins are well equipped with everything needed for conventional housekeeping, utensils, pots, plates. Gas burners are provided for cooking, basin for washing and cleaning and padded bunk beds for sleeping.

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The lodge has a pleasant rustic touch with a couch, plenty of tables, and good reading material. Coffee is ready in the lodge at 8:00 in the morning.

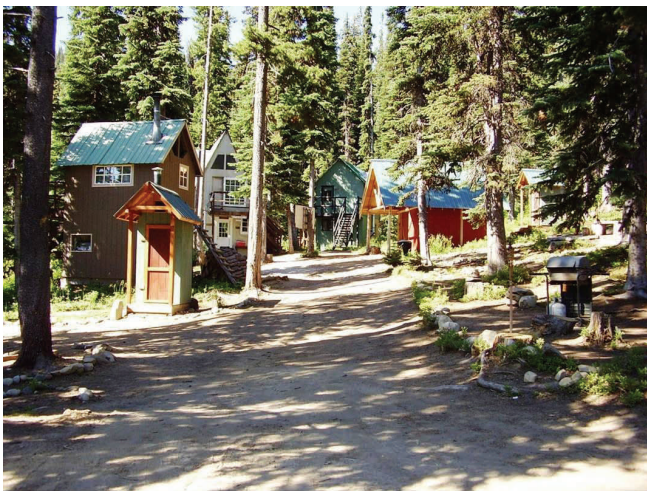
If you plan to go:

- Reserve a cabin at Scottish Lakes High Camp
- Schedule a pickup time

Link: <http://www.scottishlakes.com>

Do bring:

- Food (potluck dinner if enough sign up?)
- Sleeping bag
- Ice Chest—keeping food cold
- Sunscreen, lip balm (5,000' elevation)
- Bug Dope (not bad this time of year, but they are around)
- Backpack for hiking
- Hiking boots/liner socks (and poles for those weak of knee)
- Trail snacks and water bottle
- Fly rod and flies
- Raingear/fleece (it is at 5,000'+ feet)
- Change of clothes
- Headlamp or flashlight
- Towel and wash cloth
- Camera
- Swim suit and flip flops for hot tub/sauna



Pete Baird at Scottish Lakes

Conservation Committee Actions

by Doug Schaad

The Conservation Committee has taken two actions since the last meeting. In the first action, we have provided a letter of support to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for improved access to the Cedar River at the junction of Cedar Grove Road SE and the Renton-Maple Valley Road. If successful, this action will provide for a new access area (with off-road parking) and trail access for launching of portable boats to access the Cedar River. Given the current horrific state of access to the Cedar, the Conservation Committee was unanimous in their endorsement of this project. And, there are no direct WFFC financial costs associated with this endorsement.

In the second action, I reviewed a number of proposals from the Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest for continuance of Special Use Authorizations. In total there were seven requests (most in the area of Glacier, WA), none of which seemed consequential and all of which extended existing water withdrawals for domestic or farming purposes. A typical request was to continue authorization for a 500-foot long by 15-foot wide strip of land beneath which was a 2- to 6-inch pipe delivering water. Given that none of these requests impacted access to major waterways or fell within the limits of minimum stream flows, I've written a letter of support for the continuance of these authorizations.



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Stamp
here

July, 2012

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:

Chad Jackson of WDFW will present.