

Creel Notes from the



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



Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXVI No. 1

July, 2016



Creel Notes, July 2016



This may be about you.

On the agenda for our July Membership Meeting will be nominations and election of members to the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is charged with the task of securing members to stand for election for the offices of President, Vice Presidents for Membership, Programs and December Christmas Fund Raiser, Secretary, Treasurer, Ghillie Number One and Ghillie Number Two as well as for two of the Trustee positions. A number of you will be contacted by members of (the Nominating Committee asking if you would consider serving as an officer or trustee for 2017. (Committee Chairs are appointed by the President. Committee chairs and the chairs recruit their respective committee members.)

When you are approached to and asked to serve the Club the wrong answer is "No". The right answer is "Yes". An acceptable response is "let me think about it" and then following up by contacting the incumbent in that position to learn not only what the commitment may be but whether you may actually enjoy serving. The actual "work" does take time.

As you may suspect, some positions take more time than others and depending on what needs attention, the time necessary will vary. More often than not, I find myself appreciating the real commitments which are undertaken by those who have volunteered to be engaged in the club and its affairs. They are keeping the gears greased and wheels turning.

I have said it before and I will say it again. This club cannot function without its members coming forward to take positions of leadership. That the WFFC has remained in existence for over 75 years is only due to its members stepping up to the various tasks necessary for this club to function. I will be the first to admit that serving the WFFC does take time. Unfortunately a considerable portion is due to the abysmal traffic in the Puget Sound encountered in travelling to membership and board meetings. Neither you nor I are going to solve that problem so we just need to suck-it-up and live with it.

So, what is in it for me you may ask? One obvious response is well, if no one volunteers there goes the Club. Pretty simple. Not so obvious are a couple of other considerations. club. Sound a little too syrupy? Continued on next page.

Inside this Issue

- Page 1-2,5...Presidents Notes
- Page 3-4.....Boyd Aginer & July Speaker
- Page 5.....Presidents Notes Continued & Hi Hum in June
- Page 6-9.....Fishing Camp
- Page 10-11...WFFC Seminar Info
- Page 12.....Hi Hum in June Continued
- Page 13.....Member Reports

Continued from page 1

Too bad. It is the truth. Less considered, I think, is the satisfaction in getting to work with and to know some of your club members who you would not necessarily come to know just as a member of the club. Knowing fellow members through working with them on club business is much deeper than getting to know them through sitting around a camp fire trying to stay out of the smoke and recalling where you set down that can of beer or sharing a table at a membership meeting. We have some awesome members in the WFFC and the opportunity to work with them is one of the true benefits of membership. Look around. See some familiar faces serving as officers, trustees, committee chairs and members? I can name names but I think you all know what I mean. Why do you think these guys and gals stay in these positions? Stock options? Social standing? Think about it. There is one hell of a lot more to the WFFC than attending an occasional meeting, outing and our annual fund raiser. Sure our individual circumstances certainly come into play, work, family, health, all those considerations pull and tug at us, our time. When that call comes do more than say "No".

December Christmas

Fund Raiser Kerry Oldenburg, Third VP is now in the process of looking for help in preparing for the December Christmas Fund Raiser. Do not make Kerry's task more difficult or time consuming that it already is....give her your time and effort. Organizing and pulling this event off is more work than you may think but the results are pretty neat....enjoy the event

last year? One of the best in my time with the Club.

Web Site

At the July Board meeting the Board approved the awarding of a contract for the development of a new web site. The current website originally designed by Kris Kristoferson (how many years ago was that) and modified and enhanced by Roger Rohrbeck for as many years as I can recall. Jim Goedhart shepherded a lengthy and detailed process which culminated in the selection of a company to develop a new web site. In reality what we have been calling the "web site" is much, much more than what it appears as the club has come to rely on a number of segments of it to help with the administration of the club's affairs. The final details of an agreement were soon hammered out and we are off on this journey. I expect we may have to adjust so some changes but that is something to be expected. In this process we will need some help and input from some of our members, primarily those who are now serving as committee chairs and other positions.

Presidents Message continued on page 5

Creel Notes

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

President

Gary Bergquist

1st Vice President (Membership)

Chapin Henry

2nd Vice President (Programs)

Bob Burdick

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Kerry Oldenburg

Treasurer

Jim Goedhart

Secretary

Tom Neu

Ghillie 1

Pat Becker

Ghillie 2

Abe Lillard

Creel Notes Editor

Deanne Ederer Emmons

Trustees

Mark Pratt '14 Ron Dion '14

Walt Swanson '15 Robert Tovar '15

Pete Crumbaker '16 Ron Little '16

Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website then selecting email (upper right corner). Button selec-

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.

Boyd Aigner

Boyd Aigner Fly-Tying Competition -- What's it all about?

By: Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

For several years now, individuals from outside the Club have participated in our Boyd Aigner Fly-Tying Competition. In fact, Ray Ostman (see accompanying article), from Project Healing Waters, won this year's Competition. With these outside participants, as well as new members in the Club, I thought it would be appropriate to provide some background on the Competition. My doing this was also motivated by Perry Barth sending me the photograph that appears below—thank you, Perry, for sharing it.

Boyd was a much loved member of the Club. He was particularly known for his fly-tying skill and creativity. After Boyd died in 1995, the Club estab-



lished this Competition and named it in his honor.

This photograph was taken at the Haller Lake Club House in 1972. Boyd is the tier; John Callahan is the intent student in the foreground; and Perry and his son David are watching in back.

The Competition is intended to be a friendly event that would demonstrate not only the participant's technical tying skill, but also creativity. It was first held in 1997 and has been held every year since then, except in 2003.

Initially, the Competition was rather formulaic. A judge from outside the Club specified three patterns to be tied for the Competition. For consistency, all were from the Fly Patterns of the Umpqua Feather Merchants, identified with reference to fly name and

page. Participants also were to submit a fourth fly—any pattern that the participant created or refined from an existing pattern. The outside judge selected the winners in each category and overall.

This approach worked well for the first few years, but participation began to dwindle. We suspended the Competition in 2003 and developed our current approach.

Now, we have three flies specified by the Competition Committee—essentially me and someone who is a good tier and willing to help. Dick Scales, who won the Competition in 1997, 2000, and 2001, was the first to help me, and he did so through 2010. For 2011 and thereafter, Bob Burdick, also a three time winner of the Competition (2008 through 2010), has served on the Committee.

For the Competitions starting in and after 2004, the flies are specified in a more “generic” manner. This allows each participant to submit a fly of his or her choosing within each of the three specified categories, whether taken from a pattern book or otherwise. The judging also changed—members of the Club now do it, selecting the fly in each of the three categories that is “the best fly”. With 30 or more members judging the flies, we get a good cross-section of opinions and perspectives.

The participation and judging have always been on an anonymous basis. Each participant is assigned a number that is used only for that year's Competition and is the only identifier displayed with his or her flies.

The winner of the Competition is the participant who receives the most total votes in all three categories. The winner's name is placed on a rotating Award that the winner gets to keep and display for one year. The Award prominently displays a “chopaka may” fly developed and tied by Boyd. Starting in 2013, we also presenting each year's winner with a silver pin, similar to the gold pin presented to Past Presidents of the Club, bearing the last two digits for the respective year of the Competition, that is, for 2016, the pin says “16”.

In addition to Dick and Bob, we have one other 3-time overall winner of the Competition—Walt Swanson (2007, 2011, and 2014). We have several 2-time winners. All winners are listed on the Club's website.

I continue to be impressed by the quality of the tying that is shown in the Competition and thank all participants, as well as the members for taking the time to be judges. I encourage all members to participate.

Boyd Aigner Results

2016 Boyd Aigner Results

By Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

Congratulations to Ray Ostman from the Project Healing Waters program for winning the 2016 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition. Ray was present at our June meeting to receive the Award. Dave Hart, also from PHW, took second overall, and Walt Swanson, from our Club, took third.

The top three finishers overall and by pattern are:

Overall: 1st- Ray Ostman; 2nd-Dave Hart; 3rd-Walt Swanson

Lady McConnell: 1st-Walt Swanson; 2nd-Dave Hart and Dick Brening (2-way tie)

Johnson's Beach Fly: 1st-Dave Hart, Chuck Ballard, Ray Ostman, and Walt Swanson (4-way tie)

Atlantic Salmon Fly: 1st-Ray Ostman; 2nd-Chuck Ballard; 3rd-Dave Hart

The flies submitted for this year's Competition and the results of the voting are very interesting! We never before had a 4-way tie or even a 3-way tie. The inclusion in the Competition of the Atlantic Salmon fly likely discouraged some from participating, but all of the flies that submitted in that category were very interesting, and creative. The latter quality is one of the qualities the Competition is intended to encourage—please see accompanying article.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who participated. Special thanks to Bob Burdick for his help in selecting the patterns.

July's Monthly Speaker

Chester Allen was a smash hit last month with his program on how, when, and where to fish for searun cutthroat. I'm not sure we can top that performance, but Lynda Mapes, a Seattle Times reporter, book author and a chronicler of the Elwha saga over the last 10 years may well do that when she speaks to us on July 19th. She's gotten rave reviews everywhere she's presented *The Elwha, a River Reborn*. She will review the history of the Elwha dams, the relationship of the river to the Elwha tribe, the battle to tear down the dams, and the remarkable resurgence of especially steelhead, but also salmon, native plants, bird life and the Elwha estuary. This is a must see presentation and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Thanks,

Robert Burdick

2nd VP for Programs



Presidents Message Continued from page 2

Conservation

An important, and under reported, recent decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is sending a ripple through some quarters. The appellate court upheld a Federal District Judge's ruling ordering the State of Washington to markedly step up and expand the process of replacing culverts on public streets and highways which impede the passage of fish. The appellate court made short work of arguments advanced by the State of Washington that the trial court judge's rulings were in error. Removal or remediation of fish impeding culverts will open a lot of streams and tributaries for salmon and steelhead. Sort of makes one think of the blinders worn by those who designed and approved road ways which effectively removed so much habitat from spawning fish. This litigation was brought by "The Tribes" in an enforcement of the holdings of the Boldt decision and its progeny. Read the opinion. Whatever your view is on Boldt, this case is a very large win for fish. This is perhaps the first in what I believe will be more litigation testing the effects of land use decisions and practices which have a deleterious impact on salmon in the areas in Washington effected by Boldt.

The WFFC is a signatory with some other conservation-minded organizations requesting the regulators slow down and take a much harder examination of permitting the establishment and operation of fish net pens proposed for the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Our friends from Duval, Wild Fish Conservancy have a lot of good research available on this issue on its web site:

<http://wildfishconservancy.org/what-we-do/advocacy/net-pen-aquaculture>

Check it out it is well worth your time. There are far too many questions about the real risks of fish pens, more appropriately described as fish feedlots, to allow them in our waters.

Hi Hum in June

Hi Hium in June by Bob Young

On June 12th a group of WFFC folks all started to head for Canada. Their destination was the Circle W cabins on Lake Hi Hium, a ways north west of Kamloops Lake in B.C. The group consisted of Pete Baird, Don Barton, Rich Gaspar, Hugh Jennings and his son Alan, Ron Mazurek, Tom Neu, Walt Swanson, Ron Tschetter, Mike Wearne and me. We all originated from different locales and had arranged for some various rendezvous points along the way. Some met on this side of the border and some on the north side. After a couple of unorganized meetings at various cafes and Costco's, we all managed to get together for a final road meal in Kamloops. From there we caravanned to the west to the turn-off on Deadman Road leading into the back country and our last cell phone contact point where we made arrangements to meet up with one of our hosts Missy Bendzak who would lead us up the mountainside into the lake.

Upon arrival at the lake, specifically the 'home cabin' and being met by the mosquito welcoming committee, we unload our gear and food for the week which was then loaded into our assigned boats. Boat motors are optional, Walt Swanson brought his own and Pete decided he would just row around. Our group had been divided into two groups and assigned to two cabins, Eagle Bay 1 and 2 which are about 100 feet apart.

The cabins are about 3/4 mile down the lake from 'home cabin' and have docks for mooring the boats. It was starting to grow dark but everyone arrived safe and sound and got their gear stowed in their cabin. The cabins: Rustic to say the least, furnished with tables and chairs, metal framed beds with mattresses, a large old timey cast iron kitchen stove and ice box. There is a sink but the water comes from jerry cans. The water is potable and supplied by your hosts as needed. Each cabin has a couple of kerosene lamps but most brought some helpful portable led type lighting. Kindling and wood is supplied but eventually you have to split more.

Hi Hum Continued on Page 12

Andy Hall Memorial Circle W Hi Hium Fishing Camp

British Columbia
June 12th-19th



Andy Hall



Exiting the Duty Free
Must be Purchase of "Fishing Vitamins"



Missy Prepares Us for the Climb to the Lake



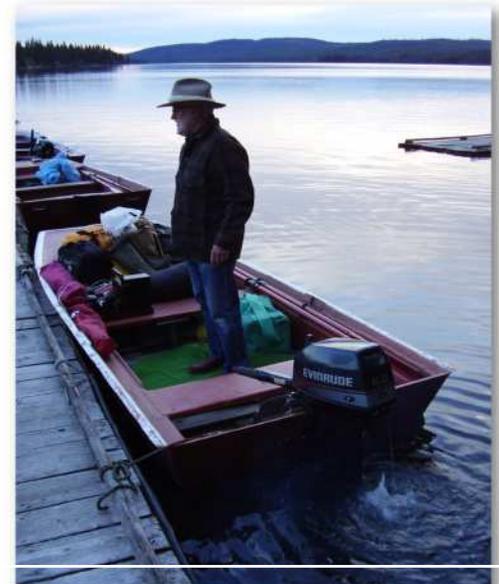
Missy Bendzak Leads the Way



Circle-W Arrival!



Walt Swanson is ready for some serious Fish bonkin'- Armed with Two Priests



Tom Neu prepares for our journey to the



Motor Instruction

Don Barton and Ron Bendzak (Circle W Owner)



Eagle Bay 1—Hi Hium Lake

Our home for a 7 days



Typical Hi Hium Kamloops w/ Weeds ~ 15"

Fish would typically run for the weeds once hooked!



Card Sharks

Pete Baird, Bob Young and Walt Swanson



Andy Hall Memorial Get Together Tuesday Evening—At Home Cabin

The Bendzak's put on a nice feed for all us WFFC guests





Bob Young Catches a Nice Hi-Hium Kam-



Looking out Cabin Eagle Bay 1—Hi Hium



Ron and Missy Bendzak
Circle W Proprietors and Great Hosts to WFFC!



Ron Mazurek
Towing Camp Gear



Look at the Heads on this Bunch!

(L to R—Back Row)
Hugh Jennings, Bob Young, Walt Swanson, , Mike
Wearne, Ron Tschetter, Pete Baird
(L to R—Sitting)
Tom Neu, Ron Mazurek, Alan Jennings



The Andy Hall Memorial Group—Hi Hium Lake June 2016

(L to R Standing) Hugh Jennings, Tom Neu, Ron Mazurek, Walt Swanson, Don Barton, Bob Young, Rich Gaspar **(L to R kneeling)** Ron Tschetter, Alan Jennings, Mike Wearne, Pete Baird

LIVE MUSIC



OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC

Casual Attire

**Washington Fly Fishing Club Fly Fishing Destination Seminar
And Fly Fishing Gear and Swap Sale
August 16th, 2016**

Join us for a barbecue dinner at the beautiful Seattle Tennis Club and Participate in 2 of the 9 one hour seminars. The seminars will cover multiple fresh and salt water fly fishing destinations in the Northwest and will be led by some of the local areas best fly fishing rockstars (see reverse). Bring your surplus fishing gear to sell or trade and buy other's surplus at tremendous bargains.

- 5:30 pm---Happy hour and barbecue dinner
- 7:00 pm---Seminars begin
- 9:00 pm---Seminars close
- Goal-----Everyone is more knowledgeable

**SAVE THE
DATE**

**Bring Your
Friends**

Each seminar session will run for 50 minutes, and at the sound of a bell participants will have the opportunity to move to a different seminar or stay

<p>Gear, Fly and Boat Swap Sale</p>	<p><u>Buffet Dinner Option</u> Pulled pork sandwiches, 3 salads, baked beans, corn on the cob, apple crisp & ice cream \$33.00</p>	<p>Entry Ticket entitles you to enter Door Prize Raffle</p>
--	--	--

FLY FISHING SEMINAR TOPICS

Topic 1: Yakima River: Kris Kristopherson and John Schuitemaker of the WFFC will discuss location, access, season and tactics for successfully fishing the Yakima. They will provide a handout

Topic 2: Cutthroat: Brita Fordice, lead salesperson and guide of the Avid Angler will discuss best location, access, tidal influence and tactics for successfully fishing North, South, and Central Puget Sound beaches for cutthroat.

Topic 3: Stillaguamish River: Greg Minaker, WFFC member and avid photographer will discuss when, where, and how to fish the Stillaguamish River for steelhead. Handout provided.

Topic 4: Aquatic Entomology: Preston Singletary, WFFC member, and outstanding fly tier will review what we need to look for at streamside or lakeside. Preston will provide a handout.

Topic 5: Dave Schorsch: “When and how to fish the Owyhee” This storied small river in NE Oregon holds large numbers of big browns. Come listen to Dave unlock it’s secrets. Map and handout provided.

Topic 6: Missouri River: Mark Shimazu from the Avid Angler will expound on the secrets of this fabled Montana River and will whet your appetite for an encounter on one of our nations blue ribbon steams.

Topic 7. The pay to play lakes of the Pacific Northwest: Bob Burdick. There are many lakes in the NW that meet this definition, each with it’s own fish size and density, cost structure, amenities, and distance obstacles. Think Isaac Lakes, Corbett Lake, Walker Lake, Moccasin Lake, Lund Lake, etc.

Topic 8. Carp and Bass: Matt Palch from the Desert Angler in Ephrata will discuss “How, When and Where to fish for carp and bass in the Pacific Northwest”

Topic 9. Knot Tying: Richard Embry, WFFC member, will discuss “Which knots are useful to fishermen and how to tie them”

Each of these talks will run for 45-50 minutes

Hi Hum in June Continued from page 5

The cabins are furnished with most everything needed for house keeping including pots, pans, dishes, glasses and cups, flat ware and most other utensils. There are some great big and heavy cast iron fry pans. There is also an outdoor gas barby and fire pit. The privy is about 100' out back. Between the cabins is a shower. This consists of a tank over head which must filled and is heated by a fire. Those who took advantage of this homey amenity claimed it was 'great'.

The weather was generally what one might call 'unsettled'. When the wind came up and the air was cold it was very 'chily'. At other times one could just sit in the sun and savor the warmth. A few hailstones fell once. One morning the sky was blue and the surface was like glass and then later it clouded over and there were white caps. So.....

For most the fishing had its ups and downs. For me the best pattern was an Olive Willie. One calm afternoon I had good results with a Sheep Creek Special (see the Inland Empires 'Flies of the Northwest') fished just under the surface. Fish generally ranged from 9 to 18 inches. Walt Swanson picked up fish on a Stillwater Nymph and got the largest fish at 20 inches. Walt brought his own motor and was seen racing all over the place. He had customized his boat with two anchors and his rod rack with seven rods all set up. Pete Baird on the other hand just rowed but seemed to be everywhere.

One afternoon Rich Gaspar and I were gunnel-to-gunnel talking. He then moved about 100' away and anchored up. Right away I lost a fish but that was it for me while he managed to land 7 or 8 nice fish one of which was grabbed up by a loon as soon as it was released. The loon took the fish over by the shore where its mate was lingering. While munching on the trout an eagle came and snatched it away.

The highlight of the trip: On Tuesday afternoon we were all invited to the Home cabin for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Bob and Dorene (Bendzak), our hosts parents and the people responsible for establishment and construction of the camp, were to be there then. What a great spread it was: Baked potatoes, BBQ'ed ribs, finger food and of course wine, beer and at least one bottle of scotch. There was also a special cake for the "WFFC". There was a lot of story telling with some interesting history brought to light, much of which centered on the memories of and contributions made by Andy Hall. We all raised a glass in tribute to Andy.

Fine dining: In my cabin, Eagle Bay 1, each person was responsible for an evenings meal. Wow, we ate good. We had roasted chicken thighs, beef (hamburger) stroganoff, pasta, etc. Everyone shared in clean up but it seemed to me that Ron Tschetter did most of the dish washing in our cabin (Thanks Ron). Breakfast and lunch was on each individual but some days someone prepared pancakes for all. Usually we all stayed on the water through lunch.

The group in Eagle Bay 2 had other commitments and pulled out on Saturday morning. Those of us more committed to the task checked out on Sunday morning. Arriving at 'home cabin', after navigating through some dense fog, we were served coffee and homemade muffins to get us off to a good start on the trip home. What gracious hosts the Bendzaks are.

Ready to sign up for next year?

Member Reports

Campbell Lake

July 5 2016

I fished Campbell Lake near Winthrop wa . The lake is a catch and release lake just north of Davis lk . The weather was cool and partly cloudy so it was a perfect day with a slight breeze. I caught and released 13 fish mostly in the 15 " size with a few bigger to 19" . All we're caught on a skinny olive green pine squirrel leech size 10 using a full sink line.

This is a very good lake to add to Davis and the Twin lakes in that area if your over there.

Chuck Ballard

Leech Lake outing. Mystery of the orange bead.

On the weekend of June 25 and 26 the WFFC had our annual outing to Leech Lake at White Pass. The weather was mixed, but mostly very nice, and the beer was mostly cold. 15 club members and guests had two nice days of angling, separated by a barbecue happy hour and a pancake breakfast. Good food and good fun.

The fishing, however, was very irregular. As usual, the fishing reports ran the gamut from "had one on" to "got a dozen or so". The weather Saturday was on the heels of a cold snap, so no real hatches. Everybody tried everything in the box, picking up one here, one there. I was doing the same for the first four hours of the day, until I had one of those educational experiences we all need.

The back story is that I saw an ad on ebay for a dozen damsel nymphs for 5.00, free shipping. I thought hey, how bad could they be, and hit the send button. What arrived a week later was a box of the stupidest looking flies, called a hot head damsel. These were not damsels, they were poorly tied olive wooley bugger things, 2 inches long, with a painted plastic bead at the front. At first I threw them in the waste bucket, then thought maybe I'll give them to some kid somewhere... Two weeks later, while packing at the last minute for Leech Lake, I accidentally tossed a couple in the bag. Forward to the outing.

Slow fishing, fish cruising every where, how could hatchery triploids be so picky? Twenty flies later, I spy the hot head bugger/damsel crap flies. In desperation, I tie one on and cast it out on a clear intermediate. I am untangling the infernal line when the fish takes the fly on the sink. Hard. I land the fish, an 18 inch rainbow, and

cast again. Another fish, hard hit, snap off! Wow! I'm amazed! Must be a fluke! I tie on another orange monstrosity, and fish on! 6 grabs in 7 casts! A dozen fish later, Mark Pratt is next to my boat laughing at my fly, and shaking his head as one after another grabs the fly. Eventually the orange paint wears off the plastic bead, and the bite is off! No dice! I put on the last one I have, and instantly start hooking fish again. The fish continued to attack this fly until the orange wore off it, then off! Nothing else in my multiple fly boxes was remotely as effective. All but one fish were big hatchery triploids.

That evening at the happy hour, the search was on in everyones fly boxes for anything with a bright orange bead. Not much success. The Hotel manager did have some sparkly orange/gold fingernail polish that got applied to some brass beadheads. The next day, after breakfast, there was considerable success with those flies, until the orange wore off. After some fireside discussion, it was decided that the hatchery managers in Yakima must have been rearing the big rainbows on orange purina trout chow, and they retained some "muscle memory" of that. Who knows, but I'll be taking some with me next spring for sure!

Dave Schorsch

Photos by Marty Behnke





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

Stamp
here

July, 2016

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: The presenter at our July 19th meeting will be Seattle Times Reporter and book author Linda Mapes. Mapes will make a presentation on the Elwah Reborn.