

Creel Notes from the



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



August, 2010



President's Riffle

The July general membership meeting held at the Yakima Home Waters was an absolute blast. We started early at 7:00 am at the Tini Bigs parking lot, and then we headed over to pick up the rest of the crew in Issaquah. Many Bloody

Marys and Screwdrivers were prepared by the lovely and talented Danielle, and consumed by members en route to the river. Of course, coffee and Top Pot donuts helped gear up the gang for a day on the water.

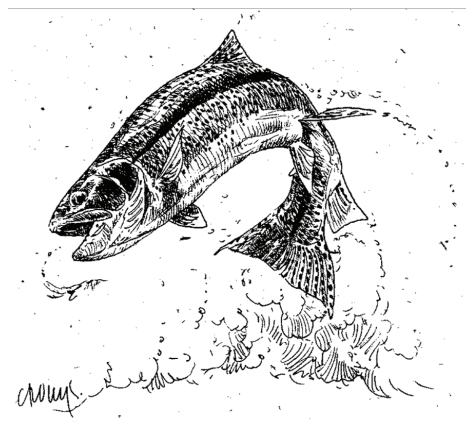
Fishing was better than anticipated and most caught good fish. I was lucky enough to have landed a fish that was 18" plus—I think that calculates into a Yakima 24-incher. We then had a great time at Red's where we had a spread of food and drinks.

We then piled into the bus and headed back the Home Waters. Darlene, the property owner, was having a great time photographing the group and enjoying the dinner. The Best Taco Truck in Ellensburg provided the all-you-can-eat dinner. It was the best meal at a WFFC meeting in a long time. We then rolled ourselves back into the bus and slept all the way back to Seattle. This was truly a great event. If you missed this year, maybe next year's group will try and make it happen again.

This month's speaker, Tom Pero, will be very entertaining. Don't forget to bring your used gear to sell at this year's garage sale. I hope most of you are getting out and catching some fish.

Grab your rod and go fishing.

Ed.



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Award-Winning National Editor to Speak *by Keith Robbins*

Nationally known fly-fishing writer, editor, and publisher Tom Pero will speak at the Tuesday, August 17th, meeting of the Washington Fly Fishing Club.

Pero will read from stories he has written on exotic fishing destinations—from Russia to Cuba to Guatemala to the Amazon—and discuss his many adventures and the colorful characters he has met along the way. He will also read uncensored excerpts from his book, *Till Death or Fly Fishing Do Us Part*, a collection of humorous essays about what happens when one person's obsession for the sport collides with his or her romantic relationship.

Pero was born and raised in New England. At 18, he became the youngest chapter president in the history of Trout Unlimited, the fishery conservation organization, when he started the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of TU. During the 1970s, his early writing helped focus attention on the neglected salter brook trout fishery and the developing sea-run brown trout fishery on Cape Cod.

In 1977, at age 23, Pero was named the first full-time editor of *Trout* magazine, the national publication of Trout Unlimited. He used his 16 years at *Trout* to make the magazine exciting and influential. Twice it was named Conservation Magazine of the Year, beating out magazines with substantially larger circulations and reputations such as *Audubon* and *Sierra*. He introduced the legendary trout biologist, Robert Behnke, to readers of *Trout* in a popular column. In recent years he founded the magazines *Wild Steelhead & Salmon* and *Fish & Fly*, both of which also won critical acclaim for excellence in journalism and graphics.

Pero is now busy creating books. His Wild River Press company published *A Passion for Steelhead* by Dec Hogan, widely acknowledged as the new bible on fly fishing for the iconic Pacific Northwest game fish. And this summer, after four years in development, Wild River has released the much-anticipated *A Passion for Tarpon* by Andy Mill, featuring a special foreword by the first President Bush.

During the last three decades, nearly all the famous fly-fishing writers have written for Tom Pero's publications, including Thomas McGuane, Nick Lyons, Lefty Kreh, Dave Whitlock, Lee Wulff, Joan Wulff, Datus Proper, **Steve Raymond**, Ernest Schwiebert, Art Lee, Paul Schullery, John Gierach, and others.

At the meeting, **Leland Miyawaki** will be tying his world-famous Miyawaki Beach Popper

Annual August WFFC Garage Sale *by Dave Schorsch*

Bring your old and rarely used gear to the August WFFC meeting and sell it to your fellow 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 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.

REPORTS

Yakima Home Waters Introduction

by Jim Macdonald

Greetings to all of you who attended or did not attend the Home Waters official/unofficial ribbon cutting trip, Happy Hour at Red's, Canyon River Ranch, and Ellensburg's Best Taco Truck Food Orgy Dinner at the Home Waters site and July Club Meeting.

It all started about 7 am on July 20th in Seattle where about half the group loaded all their fishing gear, etc., on the bus at Hula-Hula's parking lot.



Another, please.

While heading for Issaquah to pick up the rest of the gang, we were instructed in the safety features of the bus by our flight attendant, who just happened to be one of **Captain Keith's** nicer bartenders. We then were plied with Top Pot donuts, coffee, Bloody Marys, and beer. The Bloody Marys definitely won out over all other libations.

After turning off I-90 and heading south just a few miles on the Canyon River Road, then onto Ringer Road, we turned right onto a gravel entry road and in just a couple of minutes arrived at the farm house, barn, and covered party room, which also served as a place to leave our excess gear. I have to say that it was not at all what I envisioned it would be. The RV tie-ups are clear out nearly to



At Red's

Ringer Road and a fair distance from our site. Bathroom facilities are available at our site and a rather well-defined path leads you to the river, which is about ¼ mile away.

It was 90 degrees and it was very nice to be eating our dinner under almost total shade at our site. **Ron Dion, Kris Kristoferson, Roger Rohrbeck,** and I did not float the river, but hiked over to the river and got a feel for it there. When the river is down in the spring and fall, it looks like it would be a great place to wade, if you do not want to float it.

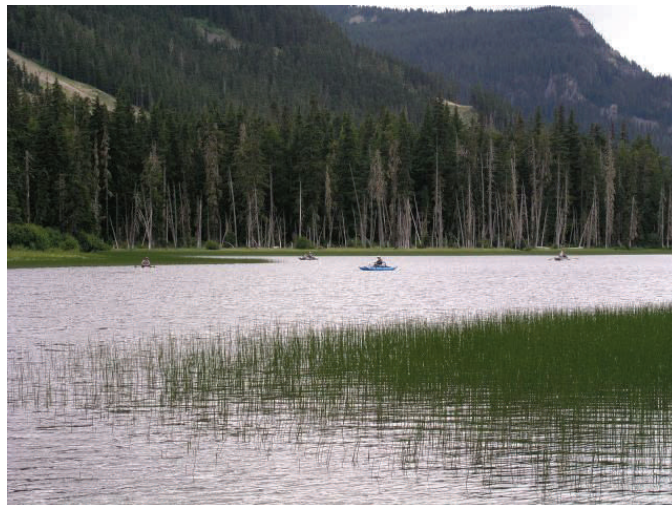
The bus driver drove back from Red's just to pick us up and take us to Happy Hour at the Canyon River Ranch. After happy hour, everyone came back up to the Home Waters site, and we had Mexican food from Ellensburg's Best Taco Truck and had a somewhat foreshortened monthly meeting.

I am very impressed with the Home Waters site and will definitely use it to fish the Yakima.

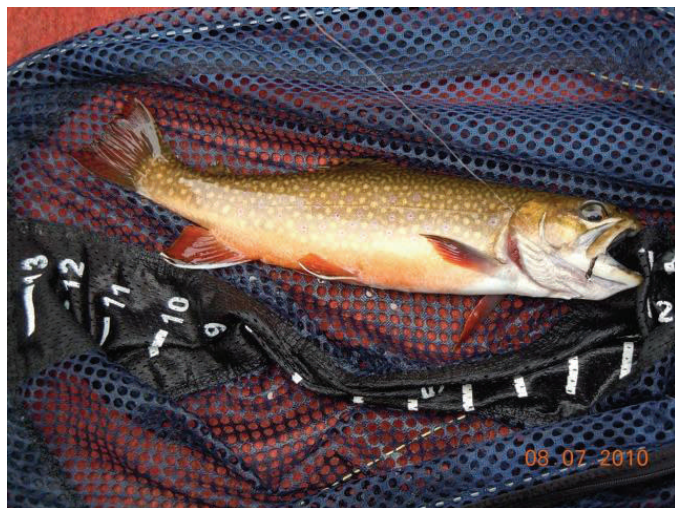


Leech Lake Outing *by Jim Macdonald*

Saturday morning saw about twenty WFFC club members and prospective club members arriving at Leech Lake at White Pass. Many of them went straight to the lake and started fishing. As you can see from the fish photos that **Ron Dion** took, many of the members caught fish. The lake is in a very scenic setting between two high ridges. There were rain showers mixed in with sunshine on Saturday and mostly clear and warm on Sunday. Unfortunately, we had a steady rain during dinner Saturday night, but with two of the shelters, it was not such a bad thing. **Dave Schorsch** brought some steaks that melted in your mouth. As usual, dinner was a low-calorie affair. If that was not enough, on Sunday morning we had buttermilk pancakes, sausage, orange juice, and coffee for breakfast.



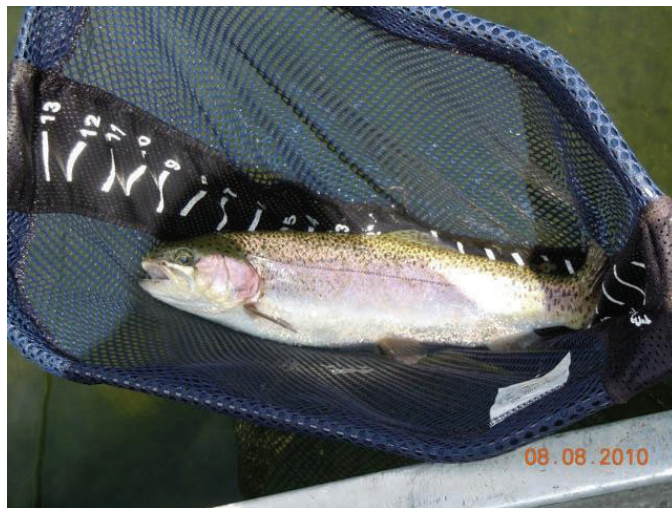
Leech Lake



Everyone that stayed at the White Pass Village Inn checked out after breakfast and went back to the lake to fish. Most members started leaving for home around 3 to 4 pm.

There were discussions regarding making this a yearly outing with a floating date based on the ice coming off the lake.

I personally would like to go back next year.



Beaverhead Report *by Hugh Clark*

In late July, **Maury Skeith** and I fished the Beaverhead, guided by Joe Aanas of Frontier Anglers. Fishing the first five miles below the dam, we hooked about twelve fish, all in the 18-21 inch category. A few rainbows at the top of the run, and browns below, we were most successful in the section know as "The slick"! Essentially no surface action the day we fished, most fish were taken on tiny nymphs below an indicator, size 18-20 sparkle-back pheasant tails and similar flies.

On Clark Canyon reservoir, we had modest success for large bows, but heard from fellow fishermen that a year earlier, catches of twenty or thirty a day were common. This year the water level was much higher, and the fish were spread out. We did not find them, but apparently some fishers did way out in the middle of the lake.

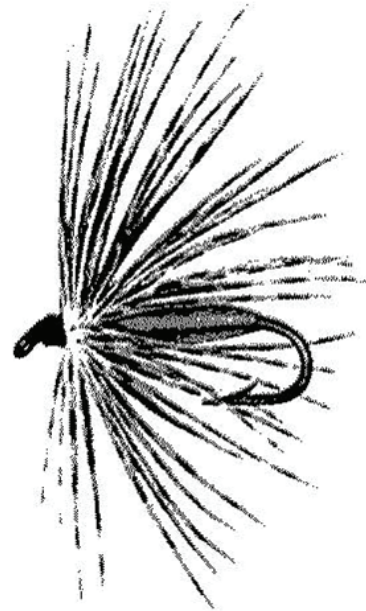
Ruby Rock Creek, almost two hours from Dillon is a charming, wadeable stream that was stingy when fished in the middle of a hot day with stones and PMDs. On the Ruby, if you like, you can pay Ted Turner \$3,000, and shoot a buffalo from your car. They will hold it still for you. Poindexter Creek in town requires a PhD in entomology and fooled all in our party, although we provided fine nourishment to the local mosquitos, or Hell's Angels if properly identified.

A day on the Big Hole was modestly productive, and we were warned not to bother fishing between 10 am and 6 pm due to high sun and exposure. Our party included **Burdick, Young, Crumbaker the Elder**, and Dan Ballard of NW Fly Anglers.

Clark Canyon Reservoir Fishing Report

by Bob Burdick

During the week of July 26th to July 30th, I, **Maury Skeith, Hugh Clark**, and one other member of our Dillon, Montana, party fished several times in nearby Clark Canyon Reservoir, which dams the Beaverhead River. A 5-10 square mile lake, we had heard of very large fish being caught in shallow water at the lake inlet on chironomid gear and were not disappointed. Although the catching was erratic, varying from a fish on every cast to one or two fish per day, they were strong and in beautiful shape, ranging from 2 to 7 pounds. About 2/3 were rainbows, 1/3 were browns, and occasionally we hooked a carp. Interestingly, although there were chironomid and Callibaetis hatches, none of our fish were taken on the surface. Most of the fish were caught on a flashback pheasant tail, size 16, representing a Callibaetis nymph, still fished under a bobber 6 to 12 inches off the bottom in 6 to 8 feet of water. The reservoir is renowned for its sudden weather changes, and several afternoons we were literally blown off the water by thunderstorms and rains after starting out with sun and clear skies.



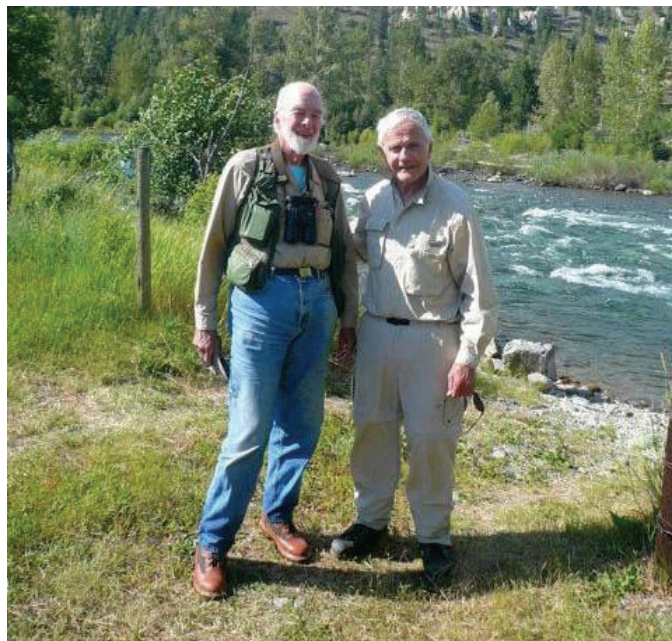
St. Mary Fishing Report *by John Narver*

What does one do when he longs for a trout river with really beautiful scenery, dry-fly fishing only, abundant bird life, lots of good-size cutthroat and some rainbows, 8- to 18-inch stocky active fish, and very little fishing pressure? He heads to the St. Mary River in the Kootenay and Purcell Mountains in southeastern British Columbia. Club members **Fran Wood**, **Chapin Henry**, and **John Narver**, accompanied by friend Dave Karges, did just that, fishing for two days, July 21st and 22nd.



Fran Wood in the Catbird's Seat

One day, two of us with guide floated the middle section of the river in which the river is bounded on both sides by tall, dramatic, wind-etched sandstone cliffs. Our guide carried only dry flies for us. We saw only a couple of boats and one other fisherman during our two-day fishing float. On the other day, we exchanged sites with our partners and floated the lower section of the river, a more flat section, in which the river has many braids down to its junction with the Kootenay River.



Fran Wood and John Narver on the river

In both sections we were always in the company of bald eagles and osprey, and numerous song and shore birds—sufficient numbers of all species to keep Fran holding his binoculars in one hand and his fly rod in the other. His multi-tasking was impressive. Though it's a long drive from Seattle to the St. Mary River (near Cranbrook north of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho), the total experience was well worth the effort. We stayed in the St. Mary River Guest House, owned and run by our senior guide and his wife. The food and rooms were excellent. If you would like further information, get in touch with one of your fellow WFFC members listed above.



At the St. Mary River Guest House

6-8-2010 Lake Keechelus "Stumps Where The Lunkers Lurk" *by Don Gulliford*

Got to my favorite lake about 7:30; last report several weeks ago was zip-no squawfish or cutts. Well, lake about 10 ft up more by now, and the big cutts were amidst the stumps gorging themselves—same as prior years—any black terrestrial would work, but actually I never took off my large green Carey fished with a sink tip in about 8-14 ft of Meadow Creek entry. Found room alongside the dam (not flooded up on the dam yet) to launch my jon boat. Off by about 10:30, having released more big cutts than I could count; kept two because I like to eat ‘em. As I pulled jon boat out, having put my Nikon digital on front seat, heard gravel rustle and big doe was standing there staring at me in the great sunshine. She trotted to top of dam by time I got camera, so shot was somewhat far away. This lake is still the best cutt lake in Washington.



6-25-2010 Lake Keechelus 6:45-9:30 Fishing Report *by Don Gulliford*

Good as always, nobody around at mouth of Meadow Cr., water level up, but as far as past years. Any black terrestrial (ant, cockroach, beetle, termite, etc.) on sink tip. Quite tasty if prepared properly.

6-20-2010 Report on Lone Lake F's Day Weekend *by Don Gulliford*

The parking lot has official black and yellow “Warning” signs still conspicuously posted—advising not to drink, swim, catch fish, let pets et al near the water, all still due to some toxic algae. Fearing a life-long quarantine of my fly lines, etc., I headed for the Bayview Farmers Market to meet & chat with Steve Raymond about the correlative social fabric of society.

The Secret Weapon

Andy's Gray/Black Chironomid Pupa

Tier: Andy Hall

Originator: Andy Hall

Hook: #10-14 IXL (Mustad 3906B)

Tail: Guinea Hen

Body: Dark gray extra-fine poly dubbing (Fly-Rite #7). Thin body, slightly larger at thorax.

Optional Body: Black poly and rabbit dubbing #30 (extra-fine poly)

Rib: Fine silver rope

Hackle: 1½ turns of partridge hackle. The hackle should be small and light gray in color, and the fibers less than ½ inch long.

Tier's Notes:

This is a pattern I developed at Eliguk Lake, B.C., in 1988 during an excellent chironomid hatch (the rising pupa stage).

Anchor and cast using a slow sink (Ashaway) or sink-tip fly line.

Note: The Secret Weapon highlights new patterns originated by, or standard patterns uniquely modified by, club members. If you have a secret weapon that you would like to share, please let your Creel Notes editor know.



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here

August, 2010

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:

Nationally known fly-fishing writer, editor, and publisher Tom Pero will speak.