

# Creel Notes from the



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



September, 2003

## President's Riffle

Ah! Fall, my favorite time of year; September and October, my favorite fishing months. So much water to fish, so little time.

Fall is also a busy time of year. If you recall, during your interview to join the club the interviewer(s) emphasized that the success and health of the club is a direct function of the membership involvement. In August only 11 people, including spouses and children, attended the WFFC club picnic. The WFFC is the largest and oldest club in the state; I feel pretty safe in characterizing this turnout as a pretty paltry showing for a club of our size and esteem. In contrast, just 2-3 weeks prior I attended the picnic of a different fly fishing club, and 60+ people attended that picnic. Other WFFC activities also seem to generate a ho-hum response from the general membership. It appears that some of our members are afflicted with more than a slight dose of apathy.

There is a lot going on involving the WFFC right now and over the next few months, and the continued success of the WFFC lies with you. Here is a partial list of things involving WFFC membership, and how you can help.

**Nominating Committee.** This month at our general membership meeting we will elect a nominating committee. The function of the nominating committee is to put together a list of the suggested officers and trustees for 2004; more detail is provided elsewhere in the Creel Notes.. The committee will present the suggested list to the membership at the November, 2003 general membership meeting. Obviously selection of officers and trustees can influence the WFFC, so your participation is important!

**Northwest Casting Exposition.** The Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (WSCFF) this month sponsors, on Saturday, September 20, 2003, the Northwest Casting Exposition, to be held at Trophy Lake Golf Course, Port Orchard. The primary function of this event is as a fundraiser, which funds primarily apply towards the State of Washington FFF-sponsored youth education and environmental activities. For the last two years the Puget Sound Fly Fishers in Tacoma has been the primary club organizing this event. They did an absolutely outstanding job in organizing the contest, a tribute to the Puget Sound Fly Fisher folks heading the event and the extensive volunteering and participation of its club members. In addition, the Puget Sound Fly Fishers won the title as the top overall club in last year's casting contest.

This year the WFFC's own **Jimmy Lemert**, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, is in charge of the Northwest Casting Exposition. Having participated in the last two casting expos, I can tell you this is a super fun event. However, it requires the participation of a lot of people to help all the events run smoothly. I'm sure Jimmy could use as many volunteers as the WFFC can generate to help him coordinate and run this worthwhile and fun event. The Puget Sound Fly Fishers did a great job the last two years; the WFFC can't let these guys show us up! Jimmy, WSCFF, and the Casting Expo need your help!! You can contact him at 206-329-0927 or [jimmlemert@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmlemert@hotmail.com) for more info on how you can participate AND help!. Volunteer your time and do the WFFC proud and help a fellow WFFC member.

## Creel Notes

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Dick Brening '02	Jerry Sammons '02
Jim Hanson '03	Dave Schorsch '03

**Christmas Party.** The WFFC Christmas Party is always a highly anticipated and attended event. Last year approximately 215 people, including members and guests, participated in our holiday extravaganza.

**Bill Kuper**, our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, heads this overall event. He's looking for more than a few good men to help him organize certain components of the Christmas party. For example, he needs people to help him solicit contributions for the party. The contributions could be fly fishing products, restaurant certificates, cigars, books, art, trips on your favorite fishing water, anything that might be of value and interest to the Christmas party attendees. He needs men to help him organize the reservations, men to organize the function the day of the event, men to help him, raffle ticket sellers the day of the event, etc. The event is a super key fundraiser for the WFFC, and its success is a huge deal to the WFFC. Bill needs you! Contact him at 206-545-9350, or [billk@digitalfarm.com](mailto:billk@digitalfarm.com).

**Club Outings.** The WFFC has two remaining outings for the year; the Dry Falls outing the weekend of October 4, and the Wet Buns outing the weekend of November 8. **Dave Schorsch**, our Outdoors Chairman for 2003, has done a stellar job organizing our various outings for 2003, and ensuring the club goodies arrive for the party. This can only be accomplished with club member assistance. The Dry Falls outing is one of our most popular outings, and is typically well attended. The weather is usually conducive to camping, the Dry Falls trout biting and hard fighting, and the campfire camaraderie and revelry, well, exemplary. It would be awesome if we could make these last two outings some of the best-attended outings in recent WFFC memory. If you plan to attend, contact **Dave Schorsch** at 206-227-6134 to lend him some much-needed assistance.

The WFFC is looking for a few good men! It's looking for you to contribute your time and efforts in ensuring the success of upcoming WFFC events.

## Edmonds school kids looking for bugs!

Maplewood's K-8 6th grade classroom raises and releases salmon each year as a class project. We are looking for a variety of insect specimen that salmon eat. If someone has a dusty collection in the basement that could use a new home or members that are willing to collect while fishing it would be much appreciated. We are looking for at least 27 specimen so each student had one to study. They will be used in a science rotation and an art rotation every year. If you're interested in helping kids get bugs please contact Mona Fairbanks at 425-771-5370. (Feel free to volunteer a friend!)

### 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 work to the outlawing the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season.
3. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
4. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
5. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
6. To encourage and assist boys — particularly of high school age—to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen.

## Election's Coming Up!

In just a very few months new WFFC officers and, occasionally trustees, will be selected. For you folks new or not familiar with the process, the WFFC uses a nominating committee format. The charge of the nominating committee is to select the new officers and trustees, and take the suggested officers and trustees to the November membership meeting for approval. To provide more detail from the WFFC By Laws, for those portions pertaining to the nominating committee:

### "Article VII. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS"

#### Section 1. Nominations.

A. A Nominating Committee shall be elected by written ballot of members present at the September meeting each year. The Committee shall consist of the five (5) nominees receiving the largest number of votes.

B. Incumbent officers are ineligible to serve on this Committee.

C. One (1) or more members shall be nominated for each office for the succeeding year and their names shall be presented for election at the November meeting.

D. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, provided the nominee has consented to being nominated."

For many of you who have been through this before, in year's past, October has been the month to form the nominating committee. However, remember that last year the By Laws were amended to change this action to September. So, between now and the upcoming general membership meeting on Tuesday, September 16, I ask that you carefully consider who you might wish to consider as part of that nominating committee. Please take care in considering your possible nomination, as the nominating committee provides an extremely important function to the WFFC.

Richard Embry, President

## Editor's notes

### SEPTEMBER MEMBER VOTE

The Membership Committee is recommending **Jim Macdonald** for membership into the club. Jim's sponsors are **Brian Hata** and **Bob Birchner**.

Jim was born in Seattle, and owns a manufacturing equipment repair business. One of his clients was **Brian Hata**, and that's how he was introduced to the Club. At that time he was almost exclusively fishing for winter steelhead using a level wind reel. Brian brought him to a few meetings and he has since attended the fly tying class and the fly casting class, "the best thing I've ever done for my casting," he says. He remembers fly fishing back in his college days with a rod built by **Gil Nyerges**, given to him by his father who worked with Gil at Boeing. Jim is interested in helping with conservation projects, and we think he'll be a fine addition to the club.

### OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Two new members were voted in at our August meeting, **Sean Overman** and **Craig Koeppler**. Sean lives in Sedro-Woolley, but we still expect him to be a regular at our meetings! We look forward to both of their contributions to the club. Congratulations Sean and Craig!

### PROGRAM NOTES *by Richard Embry*

We're looking for a few good men!

This month is our "Birds of a Feather" month, where the WFFC taps in on the knowledge and experience of our members. I just talked to **Jimmy LeMert**, this year's Programs Chair, and he is looking for ideas for this month's program. So, if any of you know of another member that has a fly fishing or outdoor knowledge or skill that they would be willing to share with other WFFC members in a round table format. Please pass your ideas at your earliest convenience to either **Jimmy LeMert** or me.

Thanks so much for your help!

**Richard Embry**



WFFC High Lakes Trip: Enchantments, Alpine Lakes Wilderness, July 31 – August .5.

Seven WFFC members and one guest from the High Lakers took on the challenge of a backpacking trip into the Enchantments area of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness: **Pete Baird**, David Berger (guest), **Dick Brening**, **Ron Dion**, **Paul Lingbloom**, **Mark Pratt**, **Frank Vulliet**, and **Mike Wearne**. The day prior we decided that it wasn't necessary to hit the trail early in the morning since we were only hiking 6.5 miles the first day. We assembled at McDonald's in Leavenworth for a leisurely 9 AM departure from the Snow Creek trail head. **WHAT A MISTAKE!** We had neglected to consider (sufficiently) the physical requirements of an elevation gain of 4100 feet the first day (1300' to 5400')!

There were two unusual sights on the Snow Lake trail: the Icicle Creek burn area from two years ago which was immense, but showing lots of revegetation, and a huge flume which sprayed water about 300 feet from the drainage of Nada Lake.

After 8–9 hours of grueling uphill switchbacks we all arrived at Upper Snow Lake, some more tuckered than others. Only the youngsters in our group (names intentionally omitted) had sufficient reserves to molest the Snow Lake trout (6" – 12" Brookies); the rest had but sufficient energy to drag our tired carcasses into Upper Snow Lake to remove the grime and dust plastered to our weary bodies with dried perspiration. The water was surprisingly warm for an Alpine Lake, particularly at that altitude. So we spent the first night at Snow Lake.

In the morning we were visited by a nanny goat with two kids. They were accustomed to people and were easy to approach with cameras (or they approached us). After breakfast we hit the trail; first traversing around Snow Lake on a pleasant, shaded, level and maintained trail followed by an arduous climb up a steep, rocky trail interspersed with large granite slabs to Lake Viviane (el. 6785'). Thanks to the Forest Service (or perhaps public spirited hikers) for building rock cairns marking the way up through the granite boulders and brush, without which surely some of us surely would have gotten lost trying to find the way. In one place the Forest Rangers had installed steel rebar steps into the rock to facilitate climbing. Some took a break and ate lunch at Lake Viviane before proceeding upward to Leprechaun Lake. The rest ate along the trail

as rest and regeneration required.

The granite cairns had their drawbacks, however. Frank, carefully observing directions to "follow the cairns" did so, only to find later that there was more than one set, and the one he followed took him towards the wrong side of Leprechaun Lake. Being a former Boy Scout he realized when he got to a muddy meadow and then snowfield bearing no boot prints whatsoever that the rest of the group had not passed that way. It took about an hour or so before he backtracked far enough to find Pete and Paul, who in the meantime were wondering where in the world Frank had gone, and had started out to search.

Mark, Paul, and David found a great camp site amongst all the granite, above Leprechaun Lake (el. 6880') that had flat sandy ground that neatly accommodated our 6 tents for the next 3 nights. The camp sight was ideal; near a stream for water, a waterfall for showering, nearby snowfields and great mountain scenery and views, including lady skinny-dippers. One afternoon 2 ladies came up the creek from their camp on the lake with the intention of taking their usual afternoon shower under the waterfall. They were greatly disappointed that we were camped near their "private shower".

Each morning several mountain goats, 4 – 6, came by for a visit, mostly looking for the nightly urine deposits. It seems the salts attracted them; otherwise, they didn't have much interest in us, our belongings, or even our food. Just like the goats at Snow Lake, they were easily photographed. One goat especially liked the sandy/dusty spot outside Mark's tent where each morning he would lie down, dust off and chew cud! Because the goats were shedding last winter's coat they were leaving large tufts of hair attached to rocks, trees and bushes. Paul put a few large tufts in his pocket for use as fly dubbing.

The next day was spent day hiking to the upper Enchantments, photographing scenery, and fishing various lakes in both the lower and upper Enchantments, including the creeks connecting the lakes, which for the most part proved productive. Lakes fished included Leprechaun, Sprite, Perfection, Inspiration and Isolation. The fish were Brookies and Cutthroat, small, 4" – 12" with the average probably 10" (according to Mark, who probably caught as many as the other 7 of us combined, since he spent most daylight hours with his fly rod). There were many fish in the streams, mostly in spawning colors.

A few of us went as far as Aasgard Pass (el.7800') overlooking Colchuck Lake. From here we could see Mt. Baker to the Northwest. Near Aasgard Pass we met a hiker who was making a one-day hike up from Colchuck Lake, over Aas-

gard Pass and planned to go all the way out down Snow Creek to the Icicle River, a distance of 17.8 miles with vertical climb of 4400' and a descent of 6500'. Oh, to be young again!!!!

The next day we day hiked over Prusik Pass (el.7400'), across a snowfield and down to Shield and Earle lakes (el.6695'). People we met on the trail had told us there were large fish in Shield Lake. That was not our experience. The fish caught were 6" - 10" with a few larger to 12" Cutthroat. Their quantity and eagerness made up somewhat for their lack of size with fish hurling themselves at our assorted dry flies (they didn't seem to have any preferences) with extended periods of getting a strike on near every cast. Mark estimates he had about 150 fish to hand and it is fair to say that everyone probably caught 40 or more. The number and enthusiasm of the mosquitoes matched the fish.

While the rest of us fished Shield and Earle lakes, Pete and David attempted to reach Coney Lake (el. 7401'). Since there was no trail, and after encountering impassable cliffs on every attempted route, they decided to return. A 7 ½ minute map would have helped considerably to find a negotiable route.

On the return hike to our base camp we encountered a group of young hikers who were from New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa. They were students at the U of W. Every day we met other hikers, but thanks to Forest Service hiking permit restrictions it never seemed crowded, although the Forest Service sanitation facilities were definitely "maxed out."

There were mountain goats everywhere; so much so they appeared to be decimating the wild flowers and low growing vegetation, of which there wasn't very much. To the extent there were wild flowers most had passed their prime. Apparently there are no predators in the Enchantments and hunting is not allowed. We also saw a fair number of marmots who also seemed to have lost some of their natural fear of humans as we were able to get much closer than typical, a few times as close as 10-15 feet. If a cougar should happen into the area, he would have no problem satisfying an appetite.

Since the hike out required a descent of 5580', Mark's feet were in pretty bad shape, and others were interested in a less strenuous hike out than coming in, on Monday morning we packed our tents and gear and departed Leprechaun Lake and headed downhill to Snow Lake. This time we set up camp on Lower Snow Lake about 200 yards from our first camp site.

Arriving in early afternoon gave us plenty of time for a good swim, some fishing and relaxation. Lower Snow Lake was even warmer and an

extended swim was comfortable. After packing their Curtis rafts up and down the mountain without ever using them, Frank and Ron launched their rafts and fished without success, even though they used between them about 12 different fly patterns, both dry and wet. Fortunately, Dick did a little better from shore, so we had a fish appetizer thanks to two co-operative cutthroat. The fishing seemed to be far better in the upper lake apparently due to temperature difference even though there is a less than 10' elevation difference.

The last day's hike down hill was tough on feet and knees, but all made it successfully. Some were "refreshed" by a cool dip in Icicle Creek. After great weather throughout our trip; only as we were driving down from the trailhead did we experience our first sprinkle. We stopped for beer and burgers at Gustav's in Leavenworth. After five days of freeze dried food, Gustav's burgers, fries, and onion rings washed down with draft beer tasted more than just "delicious."

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### **Sekiu Trip** by *Richard Embry*

Two buddies (Steve and John) and I visited Sekiu for the first time for our group. We stayed at Van Riper's Resort and rented our boat from there, as well.

#### **Thursday 8/14/03**

Due to some operator errors in setting the alarm clock, and the subsequent "ah, we already missed the daylight bite, let's just go eat breakfast first", we got out on the water a little later than anticipated (7:30 am) on Thursday morning. The reports were of few coho, but lots of humpies at the 40-70' level in the 200 to 300 foot water depth. There were quite a few boats around, mostly downrigger guys, trolling around for humpies. Convinced there had to be coho around, we bucktailed around out in the open water, to no avail.

After a few hours of these shenanigans, we decided to head to shore/shallower water and prospect along the kelp. Long story short, using fast sinking heads and weighted flies, we hooked up with some bottomfish, boating a 28" ling cod on a pink/white clouser. We noticed some coho, about 50-75 yards off shore, harassing bait. A quick troll through the area brought us three 22" coho to hand, with a larger one lost. All three coho caught hand had adipose fins, and therefore released. We headed in and called it a day.

*(Continued on page 6)*

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### FRIDAY 8/15/03

With a different operator working the clocks, and with two different alarms set, the clocks went off at the time desired, and we crawled out of bed at 4:30 am. Once our gear was stashed in the boat, we initially headed over to the scene of our last success, along the kelp, hoping the fish had moved in to shore during the night.

Once we arrived at the kelp, John, the elder (and much, much wiser) fisherman of our threesome, after gazing wistfully at the gear guys/boats out in deep water, opined that the little clusters of boats out in the open water likely meant they were over fish, and maybe that we should go out and give it a shot. So, off to the 200-300 feet of water to fish the open water/salt! Almost like finding a needle in a hay stack. To the extent we heard the fish were holding deep (relatively for fly fishermen, anyway), we let our shooting heads sink straight down, and pulled our flies up vertically. This proved to be a successful technique, with us boating 14 salmon (13 coho and 1 humpy) over the next 2 hours. Most of our fish were caught in the 25-30' depth. When hooked, the fish would head straight down, and start rolling and thrashing. These fish were a little bigger than the fish caught the day before, and were in the 5+ pound range.

Equipment wise, to get down to the coho fast we used ultra fast sinking sink tips and shooting heads. My new Temple Fork Outfitters Saltwater 7 weight gave a great account of itself, being able to cast and turn over the shooting head (LC-13, which sinks at 10" per second!) and put a whupping on the fish, but not being too heavy for the fish. Because they were down deep, when hooked, the coho had a tendency to submerge, twisting, turning, and tugging hard, so the rod needed some good butt section to get the little fellas to the boat. John used my Loomis GLX 8 weight, which is an incredible rod and wasn't taxed by the coho at all, and Steve used his super nice 8 weight Wimpston, er Winston, BL5 he won as being the 2002 WFFC fly tying champ. The 8 weights were probably just a little big for the smaller coho, but come later in August and in to September, should be the perfect set up for Sekiu or Neah Bay. The fish are not leader shy, and I used Maxima 15# so I wouldn't lose any at the boat when trying to release them.

All of the coho had their adipose, so they were returned. Oh, in our boat, one person caught 9 coho, one person caught 4 coho and one humpy, and the third person didn't even get a (salmon) bite! Using similiar shooting heads, flies tied by the same person, etc. Poor chap, it just was a bad karma day for him, I guess. I won't name names to protect the innocent . . . Like the day before, all of the coho had adipose fins intact, so no coho kept.

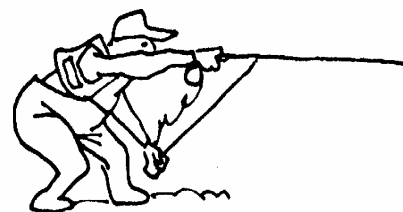
The salmon bite slowed, and we headed back over to a point/rock/kelp bed to see what we could bring up. We missed a few fish, with the first one to the boat a small black rockbass. John subsequently caught a nice ling of about 24", and Steve hooked another nice ling (upper 28" +/-), but lost it near the boat.

About noonish the wind kicked up and it looked like weather conditions could get pretty nasty. We tossed in the towel, headed to the dock to clean fish and rinse off gear. We decided to stop at the fly shops in Port Angeles, maybe fish a beach or two if wind allowed, and get back home. Fly shops were visited and items purchased, but no beaches were fished on account of (substantial) wind.

Overall, a very educational and interesting fishing trip. I learned that blind fishing in the open ocean, without electronics, can still be successful.

#### The Awful Truth *By Gene Cates*

I once thought of being a guide  
'Til a friend of mine took me aside  
And said, "Guide if you wish  
But you seldom catch fish,  
So I won't be along for the ride."



## BC Report, August 23-30

By Jim McRoberts and Scott Hagen

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Jim McRoberts and Scott Hagen left for their annual week on a Northern British Columbia river that by tradition is not named in print. If you want to know the name of the river, just ask us. Friday afternoon found us in Jim's Explorer, on a ferry from Tsawwassen to Nanaimo, and then up Vancouver Island to Campbell River. While checking in, we met Karl Buehler, another long time guest of Nakia Lodge, and the three of us enjoyed a great dinner. In the morning, the eight of us (3 U.S., 2 French, 1 German, and 2 Canadian) were taken to the seaport where we boarded two WWII vintage Beech 18 float planes for the hour and 45minute flight to the river mouth... near to the now nonexistent town of Kimsquit. The plane Jim and I chose had an uneventful but scenic flight, the other one blew a "jug" shortly after takeoff and they had to return and get a different airplane. Upon arrival, the word was that the river was low, but with only three feet of visibility. The fishing had been O.K., but not spectacular. According to owner Adam Tavender, the upper river had been exceptionally low and warm in 1998, the first rearing year for this year's returning fish. The unusual turbidity was the result of a record low snow pack. By August this year, the snow cover for the glaciers was gone. Bright sunshine or rain falling on the glaciers causes melting resulting in murky water in the lower river.

After lunch and the license drill we scattered to our beats, via Honda ATVs. Riding the Hondas is almost worth the price of admission in itself. A few fish were taken, but not a lot. Over the course of the week, it rained every day, the water visibility ranged from three feet to a complete blowout, and the wood stove fires in the cabins to warm up and dry out your clothes and gear were much appreciated.

We all landed several or more fish, Jim and I each got a couple "chromers" in the fifteen pound range. Unfortunately, the poor visibility precluded using dry flies. The river suffered a huge flood last October and one of our favorite runs, Victoria, was completely gone and many of the other runs were significantly changed. We got to learn a new river.

All that being said, the trip was again a wonderful experience, with gourmet food, comfortable accommodations, lots of grizzly sightings (but not too close), good guys to fish with, and most importantly, those awesome fish. We are already signed up for next year. (See photos below)

## Exploring for trout at Canyon Creek

By Walt Walkinshaw and Fran Wood

On Sunday, July 27 we spent the delightful full day between Mt. Baker and the Canadian border fishing and exploring Canyon Creek, a tributary of the North Fk. of the Nooksack River. To get there, take the Mt. Baker Highway (542) (off of I-5 just north of Bellingham) east to the Canyon Creek Road (forest road 31). This road is a left 2 miles beyond the town of Glacier- and just beyond the Douglas Fir Campground. Canyon Creek Road is a mostly narrow one-way road with turnouts, climbing steeply, the upper portion alternatively paved and gravelled with potholes.

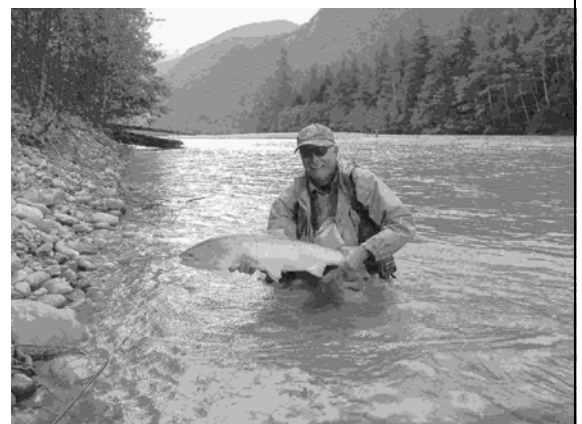
We took the CCR about 10 miles to forest service gravel secondary road 3160 (right) which leads down to a bridge over the creek (with reasonable access for us septos and octos). We waded (no waders) and caught and released numbers of Bull/Dolly Varden trout found in the relatively quiet waters behind rocks and in the quieter water alongside riffles, all on dry flies (elk hair caddis, parachute adams with chartreuse wing, royal Wulff sizes 14-16). Whether these were Bull Trout or Dolly Varden would depend upon their salt water access via the Nooksack. The fish were small (averaging 6-7 in.) but scrappy.

We then dropped back down the CCR about 2 1/2 mi. to where it crosses Canyon Cr. and fished that area for a couple of hrs. A few of the fish there were similar sized cutts, in addition to the Bull/D.V. We had a few rises from fish that looked like 10" but no takers at that size. We have reliable reports of larger 14-16 in. fish, primarily in the deeper holes, but we saw no signs of anything over 10 in.

This is a lovely spot to explore, and could be considered for introducing new fly fishers of any age, but particularly very young, to barbless hook catch & release dry fly fishing (the Bull/D.V.s are protected status). A 9' rod was a help in reaching over currents to provide a more enticing float for the fly. It's good for a long day summer outing, or an overnight. There is a Campground (Douglas Fir) on the highway just short of the CCR turnoff, and several camping spots around the areas where road 31 and where road 3160 cross Canyon Creek, about 8-10 miles in.



(at left)  
Jim's Chromer



(at right)  
Scott's Chromer



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Stamp  
here

**Meeting Announcement**  
**Tuesday, Sept. 16th**



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

This month is our "Birds of a Feather" month, where the WFFC taps in on the knowledge and experience of it's members. The "Birds of a Feather" program consists of roundtable discussions hosted by our club members. For example, last year's roundtables discussions included Preston Singletary on fishing for searun cutthroat, Gil Nyerges on the tying and fishing of the Nyerges family of flies, Steve Raymond on Dry Falls fishing tips, Ed Sozinho on outdoor photography questions and answers, etc. Jimmy promises that this year's "Birds of a Feather" will be just as, if not more, informative. So plan on being at our September meeting. It should be a real "hoot!"