

Creel Notes from the



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Member of



MMXVIII NO.8

NOVEMBER, 2018

President's Riffle

One of the hot topics at the November Board Meeting was education. Our club is known for its educational programs and for many years we have provided fly tying and fly casting classes for members and the general public. Last year we took a break from offering fly casting instruction in order to re-tool the program a bit. We also tested a new fly fishing class that got high praise from the member students who participated in the test class. This year the fly tying class will go off as usual followed in spring by a beginning fly casting class and the aforementioned fly fishing class. The Board has approved one important change that will be incorporated in all our classes going forward. WFFC members may take any of these classes free of charge (there will still be a charge for fly tying materials, tools, and videos). Non members will be charged a fee (\$80 per class plus materials) however, this fee may also be applied to WFFC membership if acted upon within 6 months of taking the class. This seems like a real win win for the club—an important benefit of membership and a real inducement to joining our ranks for non members who participate. Kudos to the Board for passing this proposal unanimously!

I don't know about you but for me once we set our clocks back to standard time everything seems to speed up right through to the end of the year. This



year seems like no exception as we hurtle towards the holidays. At WFFC the holiday gift giving begins in November at the Dinner Meeting where we will all learn the names of the members who have agreed to give us the gift of their time and energy as they step up and take on leadership roles within the club. Please plan to attend and cast your vote in support of these generous member candidates. Craig Crumbaker our speaker for the November Meeting will be profiling the key founding members of the club who did much to chart our course some 79 years ago. Seems very appropriate. Thanks Craig.

Our club Christmas Party and fund raiser is right around the corner and I can tell you that this year is shaping up to be another record breaker. I won't go into detail as this upcoming event will be covered elsewhere in this issue of the Creel Notes but if you haven't yet made reservations please do so soon as this event always sells out. Fair warning!

Best of the season to all of you,
John

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Upcoming

December 18th, 2018 Christmas Fundraiser Dinner

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Bring your sweet-heart, family (adults), prospective members and friends to our annual Christmas dinner and fundraiser.

Happy hour starts at 5:30 pm, allowing plenty of time to visit with fellow WFFC members and friends and to view the wide selection of live and silent auction items, and raffle offerings. Bidding for silent auction items and raffle items ends at 7 pm.

Dinner will be served at 7:00 pm and will consist of one of the following entrees, wine and dessert.

ANGUS TENDERLOIN FILET
- Crispy shallots, truffle demiglace

HERB SEARED WILD
KING SALMON -Smoked to-
mato sauce, petite greens

HERB GRILLED BREAST
OF CHICKEN - Crispy pota-
to angel hair, natural jus

GRILLED WHIDBEY IS-
LAND TOFU - Seared mush-
rooms, heirloom tomato coulis

As we start dessert, Kris Kristofer-son, our Master of Ceremonies and our auctioneer, Keith Robins will start the live auction. They will entertain you through the remainder of the evening to win your hearts, and dollars, to fund our social, outings, youth and conser-vations activities for the upcoming New Year.

Below are some of the great auction items we have this year:

- Black Bear Lodge Upper Colum-bia Fishing for Two
- Multiple Guided Fishing Trips on the Yakama River and Puget Sound
- Multiple offered weekend home stays with fishing opportunities
- Exceptional Fly Fishing Rods,

Pontoons and Kayak flotation selec-tions

- Outstanding dining and wine offer-ings

Seating is limited, so go to WFFC.com to sign-up for the event (credit cards only) quickly!

Can't attend the Christmas Dinner but want to help fund next year's activi-ties? Go to the WFFC.com website, click on the Christmas Dinner Meeting and select the \$50 donation sign-up op-tion. All donations are greatly appreci-ated.

Gentlemen are requested to wear a coat and tie at the Christmas Dinner.

Thanks for your support!

On the Fly

The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich

A small, but precocious group assembled tonight. I had the honor of sitting next to Greg Crumbaker, Pete Baird, Hugh Jen-nings, just to name a few of the great anglers with equally great stories. Tales of travel were pleasantly inter-rupted by the gavel of John Graven-dyk who immediately thanked Chuck Ballard for demonstration fly tying.

No guests reported for duty, but believe me, fishing reports we're numerous. Hugh fished the Big Wood River, making the 20-20 club. He paused from fishing report to bring the crowd to full voice in the cele-bration of Fran Wood's 90 birthday. Scott reported the Rio Marie, down in Ole' Brazil, in waters that head to the Amazon. In search of exotic bass, the Hagens and the Deeds, went deep into the interior. Fishing from a skiff, the Hagen twin attack netted record fish, again with Stephanie named "Top Rod". Other reports described good giant killing on the Missouri, high lakes near Chelan (which will remain unnamed in this organ) that



Creel Notes

is the official publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Sub-scription is free with membership.

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Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website in the roster area.

Chuck hopes to lead club members back for a visit, the upper Steheiken River, and big unwatchable salmon on Michigan's Pierre Marquette River.

Fishing reports subsided, but we got a review from John Tibbs of the planned timber harvest at the south end of Chopaka. Fortunately, the DNR rep had the opportunity to hear from members who love the lake, and to witness 75 camp groups enjoying the lake on a September weekend. If you want photos of the planned cut and other information, give John an email.

Jim Goedhart introduced Clint Skullerud, who came to the club with recent member, Chris Jensen. Clint moved from lake bait casting In California to lake fishing in Canada, to remote parts of the Salmon river in Idaho, and now he's in search of local wisdom. What better place to come than the WFFC? Pete Baird filled in for Gil by giving out the welcome basket of reading materials, fishing materials, and other sundries.

We moved on to business, with Deborah Katz, our Christmas boss. She thanked members for recent donations and asked for a few new reels, other big opportunities to bid on, and other desirable gear. No books. She has plenty. Mark your calendar for December 18th!

Our outings chair, David Schorsch, had Mike tell us the skinny on Hannah Lake outing on the October 20, taking grief from all corners about the canned chili, the dry rules of the reformed Catholics, and a 25' walk from the car. Get over it boys and girls and play by the rules. Wet Buns comes soon for the first week of November. I found out that WET BUNS is an acronym for Winter Event to (sample) Boullibase Under Nocturnal Skies. If fishing salt is not your thing, show up

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.

at 1600 hours and help crack crab.

On to the program. Mike Wearne introduced tonight's speaker, Chris Wilke, from our "Puget Soundkeepers." He got into sea fishing in the southern waters. He moved on to Puget Sound salmon where he noted, not surprisingly, that the fly anglers were hooking up while his buzz-bomb remained chaste. That led to various other sins, including trout from lakes and river. Next came the usual road to perdition - Steelhead. He had heard enough stories about the good ole days which led to a career change in order to protect our local waters. He signed on as a volunteer at Puget Soundkeepers, where now he serves as executive director.

A local boy, Chris serves to protect waters, from snow caps to the white caps, of the 28 river systems that flow into the Salish Sea. Since the 1990's, PS is part of an international organization of river keepers from the Hudson to the Mekong. PS has worked to mitigate sewage treatment, water pollution, EPA rules enforcement, federal funding, and the nuts and bolts of keeping our seas safe for the resident marine mammals, five species of salmon, and scores of other marine life. That led Chris to tell us the sad story of the resident Orcas, down to 74 living Killer whales. These kings eat up to 300 pounds of salmon a day, taking in all the toxins and storing them in their blubber. Marine noise and radio signals also drive them crazy. They lose their natural ability to track prey.

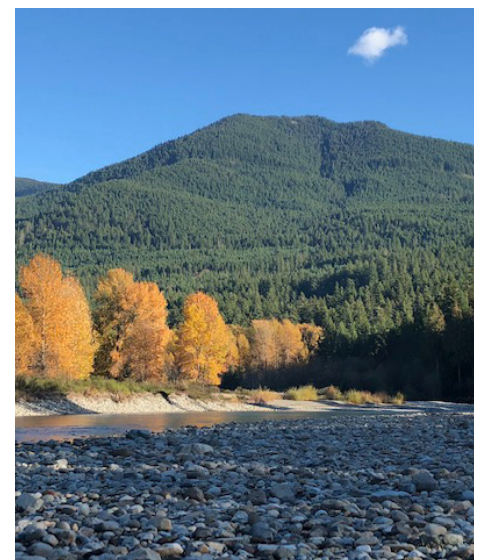
Orcas eat chinook. When the king of salmon dwindle, so do the whales. The Chinook we catch and eat in Puget Sound have lots of pollution contaminates. We should, according to the FDA, eat two 8 oz meals of local caught chinook a month. An orca needs 300 pounds a day. Do the math. The pollution comes from nearly every fresh water source going into the Puget Sound. Aside from industrial and farm waste, our normal waste from tires and trash add toxins. Trimming trees down to the water's edge heats up the streams, another lethal drug to fish.

Bad news, sewage treatment does not treat toxins. Nor does it filter out nutrients. More nutrients mean more algae growth. In addition to toxins, Puget Soundkeepers clean up trash on shore. Fibers from clothes and cigarette butts, to name two, are showing up everywhere. There's more, but you know this story. The question might be better phrased as; why do we have any fish at all? We have work to do.

First we need to filter street run-off. Engineered roadside habit, or "rain gardens" can cut down run-off toxins to near zero. Full enforcement, and local diligence regarding the Clean Water Act, can make enormous changes in local sources. We may not get China from burning coal, but we can get the Ports to filter their polluted run-off. PS also works to end renewal of lease for Atlantic Salmon pens. Volunteers help with clean up, lawyers finish off the deal in court. If you see pollution flowing into the Salish Sea basin, salt or fresh, call 1-800-42PUGET and they will look into the problem.

Opportunities to help abound: clean ups, boat patrols, and fund raising. Chris took questions.

On a last note, we are back to chicken as the regular dish, although the presentation of both main course and desert ranked a couple stars.



The Cowlitz in Fall glory

Fishing Reports

Trip report, Gibb Lake October 18, 2018

The other day, I felt kind of sickly, my eyes were bothering me, I just couldn't see going to work. (old joke, but useful..) So in my continuing effort to find good places for our club members to fish, I continued my "close to home quality water research project". Our Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has, in some areas, heeded our calls for more quality waters on the west side of the state. And in some cases has succeeded nicely.

I loaded my dinky boat up, and headed to the ferry at Edmonds, on the way to Jefferson county. The state bios in that region have done a pretty good job of creating some fisheries that are a little different than the usual "put and take" lowland lake stuff. Gibb lake is my current favorite example.

Gibb lake is a beautiful, undeveloped lake on public land, surrounded by a park full of hiking and biking trails. Managed by Jefferson county, they have intentionally limited access to people who might appreciate a nice, natural experi-

ence. It is about a 20 minute drive from the end of the Hood Canal floating bridge to Center road, then north about 15 minutes to the park, on Gibb lake road. There are three small gravel parking areas across the road from the lake. There is no boat launch. You must carry your vessel (pontoon, tube, pram) the grueling 75 yards to the water. Launch at the pretty little park with the lawn and picnic table.

On the day of this report, the total number of anglers on the lake was me, and a bald eagle. There were a few trout rising to mini chironomids on the surface, I mean really tiny, but they were on 'em. The lake is managed as a fall fishery, with rainbow, and cutthroat swimming above a pretty healthy spiny ray population. The catch and release regs have, as in other such waters, resulted in a mixed fishery where all the fish seem to be doing well. The usual slow sinking or intermediate line with a good searching pattern (bead head buggers, mohair leeches, etc) fished slowly found the trout near the surface, and the spiny guys down in the weeds. Trolling along the shore until you get a fish, then anchoring up and casting worked for me. Most spots produced two or three

fish, then I moved a couple hundred yards to the next hookup. Covering a rise often resulted in an instant grab, usually a smallish trout.

The average fish this trip were about a pound each, with some quite a bit larger. The longest fish was a hook jawed cutthroat of 19 inches, and the heaviest were the rainbows, who hadn't missed many meals. I had two different fish that did the "electric" hookup, where you get the super solid head shakes, followed by a ridiculously fast run and jump, and the long line release. Those fish were BIG. At the end of 4 hours fishing, my count was 17 trout to net, some nice big yellow perch, a pretty fair largemouth bass, and passing acquaintance with a couple of serious trout. This place is great! Check it out, and if you have the time, let the regional biologists know how much you like it, and how more lakes like this should happen.

Dave Schorsch

Notes on the Yakima

11/08/2018

Jay Deeds and Jim McRoberts won a trip on the Yakima that was offered at the club Christmas Party by Brian McGee and Greg Smith in December 2016. Thanks guys! We finally managed to book the trip this fall!

We were going to meet the at Umtanum and float to the Slab. However, the river came up about 4" the day before, so the guide elected to go from Ringer to Umtanum.

The fishing from 9:45 until around 1:30 was constant strikes and landed rainbows, of which the largest was 17 inches. Most fish were caught nymphing with a few caught while swinging streamers. The nymph rig was a large, #8



Reports Continued

3XL, rubber legs stone with a #16 lighting bug about 18" below. No hatches were apparent. It was cold when we started with ice forming in the guides while we were in the shade. We got a nice respite when we fished in the sun, in fact at one point it was quite warm, but needed all our warm gear when we moved back into the shade. The afternoon fishing was much slower than the morning. Drat! It was 31 degrees when we took out at 4:15. Our float was from Ringer down to Umtanum. Too long for this time of year because sunset was 4:30. The guide had to do a lot of downstream rowing to get us off the water by dark! Water temperature was around 49 degrees. Glad no one fell in.

Our guide was Al Parke, who lives in Wenatchee, was a good guide, knew the river well after 30 years of guiding, and a very good boatman. His vision was uncanny, he knew when we had strikes and saw tangles before either of us. Al kept saying that he was through guiding but would take friends when they ask. Hope that we are now his friends.



A monster almost tips over the boat on the mighty Yakima

Wet buns outing:

This years wet buns was another one with a terrible forecast but turned out to be a good day.

Jim Young and I fished off Vaughn Bay and points south. There was significant wind, rain and incoming +15' tide that made navigating the early commute tough however this soon subsided and we had no rain and minimal wind the rest of the day.



We had 10 or so fish to hand some to 15". I caught one silver that size. The fly of choice were bait fish patterns.

The "kettle of fish" was superbly prepared by Dave Schorsch and crew as well as some fine wine provided by Jim Goedhart. Some of the lucky even got a bottle of his best home grown to take home.

Brazil Jungle Adventure

By Jay Deeds

On September 18th, Scott and Stephanie Hagen, my brother Craig and I departed SEATAC for Manaus, Brazil. After two nights there we took a 3 ½ hour float plane ride deep into the Amazon basin to fish for Peacock bass. We were fishing the Rio Marie River which is a tributary of the Upper

Negro River which eventually flows into the Amazon River at Manaus. After transferring onto our home boat for the next week, a large houseboat, we got settled and prepared to fish the following day. Each two anglers shared a comfortable cabin and a skiff with an English speaking guide as well as a native guide who knew the river very well. The common area consisted of lounge, dining room and bar.

Most of the fishing was done with 8 weight rods, an intermediate sink tip line, and large bright colored streamers. Some surface poppers also were used. Lots of butterfly bass were caught but the real prize was the large Peacock Bass. The largest of our trip (pictured below) weighed 23 pounds.

Three of our group caught Peacock Bass of 20 pounds or more and became members of the 20 Pounder Club and received caps emblazoned with a logo signifying that.

The weather was HOT (sometimes over 100 degrees) and very humid. Staying hydrated was paramount throughout the day of fishing. The fishing skiffs always carried lots of water.

Food on the mother ship was good. Lots of freshly caught Butterfly Bass served with rice. We had delicious steaks one night. Lunches were eaten on the river. We went ashore a couple of times and grilled fish that we had caught in the morning. Adult beverages were included and were enjoyed each evening.





SAVE THE DATE and DONATE! DECEMBER

Greetings! I am this year's wrangler for the December Dinner and Auction. I need your help with your generous donations. Bring your sweetheart, family (adults), prospective members and friends to our WFFC fun, entertaining, and delicious Annual Holiday Dinner and Auction. Support our club's annual fund raiser and our meaningful community service programs such as Healing Waters and Reel Recovery all while reeling in fabulous auction items and having a good time! Mark the Date and Donate! Save December 18th for the WFFC 2018 Annual Holiday Party at the Seattle Tennis Club. Then make a call this month to donate an auction item in support of this great event.

Happy hour starts around 5:30 with plenty of time to peruse a wide selection of auction items and visit with fellow WFFC members and close friends! Dinner will be served at 7:00 with wine on the tables and your special entrée choice made when you register. A gourmet meal followed by a delicious dessert.

Then the auction fun begins. Come join your fellow club members along with our Auctioneers, as they outdo each other to win your hearts, your dollars and entertain you throughout



the evening. As our annual and primary fundraiser, we count on your support of our club activities through attending and participating in the silent and live auctions and raffle selections. We also count on the generous support of members and businesses that donate to help us fund our conservation projects, veterans' programs, youth programs, homeless outreach and outings.

We need YOUR HELP compiling a great selection of auction items. If you have items, ideas, outings or services you'd like to donate to a great cause, now is the time! We can also provide ideas for you to consider. Please contact Deborah Katz (206) 769-5178 or email: dnaomikatz@gmail.com and like Santa, she will pick up your items or arrange printed auction gift certificate for items such as trips, dinners, weekend stays, or guided fishing outings. Weekend getaway at a cabin or condo? Guided fishing day on local waters? Spare rod or reel that you've rarely use? Artwork you are ready to part with?

Recommendations for guides, lodges, local activities or restaurant contacts? Now's the time to make a call for a good cause! Registration will be available on the WFFC web site in November for dinner selections and to register guests. SO SAVE THE DATE on your calendar and remember to Sign up in November to reserve your spot! Reservations will include dinner, salad, your choice of entrée, scrumptious dessert, and wine. The camaraderie and fun are free! See you in December and make a call now to support your club with a donation!

November 2018

Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Seattle Tennis Club, 922 McGilvra Blvd. E.

This month's program is on November 20th. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.

This month:

Greg Crumbaker will be profiling the members of the WFFC who were instrumental in the establishment of the club 79 years ago! Rich Gaspar will be demonstrating how to tie his favorite fly for all to learn its tying techniques. Please note that prepaid dinner credit card payments sign-ups are preferred.