

# Creel Notes from the



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

Website: [www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)

Member of



MMXIX NO.3

MARCH, 2019

## President's Riffle

First off some sad news, Gil Nyergers, a member since 1956, passed away on March 4th. Gil



was an inspiration and role model to all us through his devoted service to the club, and as our senior adviser, master fly tier, outings enthusiast and continuous conservation advocate. We are going to miss his memorable new member introductions ("We are a fly fishing social club that needs your participation, if you don't sign up for a committee we will appoint you to one") along with the "flies that catch fish" that he handed out to the new members (I have mine displayed on my fly tying table). We will send out an Email Blast to the membership when we know the date, time and location of his memorial service.

At the March Board Meeting it was voted to only accept Credit Card payments at the January through November Meetings for "walk-in" dinners and for merchandise payments to simplify Ghillie check-ins. This will eliminate cash and checks funds accounting and depositing of cash and funds at the bank. Cash, checks and credit cards will still all be accepted for payments at the Christmas Fundraiser.

It was also discussed how to facilitate the ability of members who do not have a water craft to participate in our Lake Fly Fishing Outings. So here is how it will work:

- If you have room on your boat or a "water craft" that someone could borrow:

- o When you sign-up for the outing, record in the "I will assist with" sign-up information that you have space available in your boat for someone to fish with you or that you have an extra water craft (i.e. float tube or pontoon boat) that you can bring to the outing for a member to borrow

- If you do not have a boat or water craft and would like to fish with someone or borrow a water-craft:

- o Go to the website and look at the "Who's Attending" list for the outing to see if there are any offers, call the offering member to make arrangements

Our next Dinner Meeting is on March 19th and the speaker, Biologist Ryan Fortier from WDFW District 6. He will be highlighting current information about lakes and fishing possibilities in North Central Washington for this year. Have any fly fishing gear you want to trade or sell? If you do, bring them to the April Dinner Meeting. I am looking forward to seeing you all this coming Dinner Meeting and for us to "wet a fly" together.

Tight Lines – Jim Goedhart

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# Outing Chair Looks for Feedback on Future Fun

I am looking for some direction from the club members, as well as additional ideas and volunteers to enable said ideas. The proposed dates are suggestions only based on past stocking and fishing success. First outing of the year! Building a snow angler in front of the tennis club for the next meeting. Probably as productive as fishing most anywhere in these conditions.

That said, It's time we talk about the schedule for this seasons fun and piscatorial frivolity. I have assembled a PROPOSED, SUGGESTED, and POSSIBLE list of outings for the first half of the season. (Please re-read the last line) I would like to hear any and all ideas for outings, lake, stream, or salt. I would really appreciate it if those outing ideas were accompanied by an offer to host or help manage same.

Some of the realities of group outings are things like: can a whole lot of people fish / camp / access the destination suggested? Is the fishing there appreciably better or different than another place? And this one is big with a lot of us, can the suggested outing spot take the pressure / impact of a large group event?

Think about those requirements, then give me a shout with great spots to go. Along those lines, I offer this list, with a flexible calendar at this time. This schedule comes from a combination of WDFW stocking schedules, typical weather, historical success, and participation.

Nahwatzel Lake      March 23 or 24      Day outing.  
Some really nice rainbows, near Shelton

Dry Falls      April 6,7      Overnight at Sun Lakes  
Leech dredging and chironomid soaking. Some awesome fish

Desert Lakes      Late March to early April      Day trip or overnight  
Can be super great fishing, hike in some, drove in most      Day TBD

Hannan Lake      May 4      Day outing  
Rainbow, cutthroat, brookies. A nice, close in private lake fish 8 to 4 only

Chopaka Lake      May 25,26,27      Memorial Day weekend  
Dry flies for rainbows! A few cutts. Great coming and fishing. Beautiful place

Leech Lake      June 22,23      Overnight  
Big rainbows, brook trout      Dry lines

Cooper Lake      Late June      Day trip / overnight  
Rainbows (some big), browns      A classic mountain lake      Date TBD

So there you have outings for the first six months of the year. Lets fill in the blanks with some day trips or small group outings. This is a fishing club! Lets do it!

Dave Schorsch

## Creel Notes

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

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Greg Crumbaker '19

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

### Errata:

Bob Boeing was mis-identified as Bill Boeing in the December issue of Creel Notes and Pat Becker is not really Pat Decker. Thank you Chuck Ballard!



## On the Fly

### The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich  
Feb 19, 2019

Tonight's meeting featured a smaller group of hardy regulars, evidently the rest of the club was either fishing or still snowed in at their cabin. Nonetheless, I was surrounded by good company: the Hagens, Jim McRoberts and his guest Dr. Scott, Pat Decker, Ben Porter, and Bill Redman. This august group shared stories until the lamb (NOT CHICKEN!!) came and Jim Goedhart wielded the gavel. While we dined, he went over the budget, which included many aspects of the new agenda including website additions, posts on Facebook, upgraded outings report, and youth funding. All this, in addition to rising costs at the Seattle Tennis Club for meetings and meals, requires revenue. So, the money comes from revamping payment for dinner so that people commit on line, upping dinner \$2.00, getting rid of our storage unit, and continuing to rake in the dough at the Christ-



mas meeting. Enough about bottom lines, let's talking about fishing.

A few guest introductions graced our group along with the induction of Howard Morris. Howard came to us through the website and fly-tying class. From New Jersey, he's building a repertoire of coastal fly-fishing locations. In addition, Matt Reid, also came to the club through the fly-tying class. He's exploring coastal cutthroat, steelhead, and other aspirational waters. Instead of skiing, he's plying the waters for new experiences.



Fishing reports. Matt started off with a report on coastal cutthroat with good success. Mike Wearne got down to New Orleans and ran into lots of football fans which he avoided by heading out to the rod and gun club. Still, he didn't fish. Neil gave some attention to Rocky Ford and found success with a size 16 dry and hooked up twice leaving the nymphers behind. Schorsch reported on three waters: Macalister Creek, Mann Lake (see Feb Creel Notes), and Gibb Lake which has more than a few 5 lb. rainbows. Check it out this spring. Hugh Clark



Becky Bennett delivers the vice nice.

recounted good times on the Rio Grande river, near Tierra Del Fuego (see Feb. Creel Notes). These sea-run brown trout feed at sea and return to the river, creating some serious 20 pound excitement. Bob, the Greatest Fly Tyler in the World, Burdick, spoke to the greatness of the guides who tricked him into catching a 21 pounder.

Committee reports started with David Schorsch who was disappointed with outings response on the website. March 23 at Newatzel Lake is the next. Tentatively, April 6 at Dry Falls. Keep an eye on the website for changes and additions. Dave also needs different people to head up different outings. Sign up and let him know.

Committee reports continued. Deborah got us started thinking on the Christmas Party. She wants those people who bid on and won trips, to take photos and send them to Deb for future promotional materials. Jim moved the annual gear sale to April.

Becky Bennett, from WDFW Police, gave us the low down on enforcement. She noted right off: the second W stands for Wildlife. Not Game. She started with the mission, then the revenue, and major responsibilities, guide books, and the nuts and bolts of enforcement. With a great deal of humor, Ms. Bennet described how and where the WDFW puts their emphasis. But first, the toys. They have their own navy. They have jet skis, horses, helicopters, and ATVs. That's just what she can tell us about. For all we know, they may get around in ways we'll never know. The agents live all over the state and they run into lots of "special people". They run emphasis patrols, they train relentlessly, they move around where the need is greatest. A lot of contraband fish move in and out of Washington. People combine guns, alcohol, and poaching to negative effect. People bring in exotic creatures. Elk get tangled in fishing nets. Shrimpers take 13 times their limit and shut down an entire fishery. Losers lose their crab pots. (They

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### Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout, steelhead, and salmon in state waters.
4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
5. To encourage and assist others — particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.



## On the fly Continued

pulled up 2000 ghost pots, fishing into eternity at the bottom of the Sound last year.) Folks cut wood for personal use, re-route streams, trash areas, and disappear into the night. Pot growers use public land, protecting their crop with automatic weapons in foxholes. She could have gone on and on.

The long story short, WDFW officials don't have time to check barbed hooks. They have bigger fish to fry. Washington is notorious for backdoor distribution of poached delectables. For example, lots of poached crab gets moved through nail salons. Dentists poach salmon and get their boats seized. What one guy might call "a couple elk, a couple fish" can end up a state-wide catastrophe. Some of this stuff goes unnoticed by officials, but observed by people like us. Let WDFW know.

Another area of enforcement is drunk and stoned boaters. Jail happens for some of these folks. One guy got drunk and drove on a train track. He got stuck and need a tow from a railroad engine. They charge \$20,000 an hour. Jail. Even legal, prepared people mess up. Dude falls and breaks both femurs. That's an emergency. Addicts poach animals to buy drugs. They die. Orcas get bothered by sigh seers. WDFW helps them keep their distance and violators get fined. Paddle boarders fall into cold water. They get rescued. People snuggle up to bears. They get mauled. Bears get used to human food and trash. They get caught, released, shot at by sand pellets, and snarled at by dogs. People "rescue" deer fawns and baby seals. In other words, people do stupid things and animals die.

As if this isn't enough, WDFW was given the unfounded mandate of enforcing Initiative 401, the policing of animal trafficking. So even though the ivory was poached in Kenya, the WDFW has to police this contraband as it enters Washington, along with shark fins, rhino horns, and all the strange things people kill

to avoid spending a couple bucks for Viagra. People also poach eagles, sturgeon roe, and geoducks.

You get the picture. More people, more demand, more pressure, more enforcement, more arrests. This should mean more funding for more agents. But no, the State Legislature wants to reduce funding. Call your local legislator. WDFW can never be every where they need to be. That's where we come in. Take pictures and call 877-933-9847 or text #TIP411. After 19:00, call 9•1•1.

Questions ensued. One interesting

question had to do with training. As you might not know, the training is extensive and situational, and sometimes dangerous. WDFW carry guns because they get shot at. Another member broached the subject of tribal transgressions. In short, it's tricky, but call when you see something. And when you see an officer approach, keep your gun holstered, breeched, or in a state suitable to surrender.

I was going to go home after the meeting and watch an action show, but Officer Bennett was enough crime for one night.

## Club Legacy for Sale

**9'6" HOLBROOK, DAWN.**

**Bamboo. 6.5 oz. #8/9**

**line. 2/2. Cloth bag & Alum. Tube.**

**By: HOLBROOK**

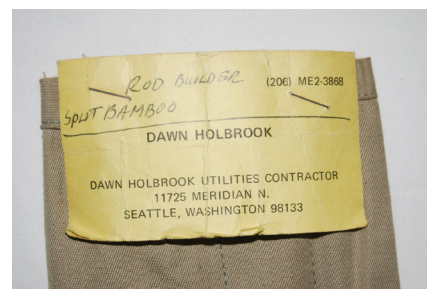
**Price: \$900.00**

**Quantity: 1 available**

9'6" HOLBROOK, DAWN.  
#8/9 line. 2/2. 5.5/64" tip; 17/64" mid; U/L black alum. Screw lock into hooded cap; Wells grip. Marked: Holbrook Special / Bill Lohrer's Sport Shop/ 125."

Wraps antique gold silk on bronze snakes over medium flamed varnished bamboo; bright stripper & tip tops; N/S blued Super-Z ferrule. Cloth bag & Alum. Tube. [Cat. 2017] 06-0324 fo. -

Dawn Holbrook was a founding member of the Washington Fly Fishing Club in Seattle [1939]. He was a local icon in bamboo rod making, and also taught classes in bamboo rod building. Many of his rods were made for steelhead fishing in the Northwest, and were made as 8wt. or 9wt. rods. He was an admirer of E.C. Powell, and his rods reflect that view.



This rod has 2-up node spacing, and uses Resorcinol glue. The guide wraps are double wrapped at the base in the manner of R.L. Winston. Rod is straight and full length. One tip has a 1.5 in. repair wrap near the tip top; the other tip has the bottom snake guide redone with the same thread.

The rod bag has Dawn Holbrook's Business Card stapled to it: "Dawn Holbrook / Utilities Contractor / 11725 Meridian N./ Seattle Washington 98133/ (206) ME-2 3868." The rod is a real powerhouse, and can be fished with a WF-8 or ST-9 or ST-10 shooting head. Cork is very clean; varnish excellent with little sign of use or wear. An excellent example of Holbrook's workmanship. Aside from the crude repair wraps, the rod is Near Fine. \$900



## South America

### ***Gran Rancho, Muy Gran Pez en el Río Grande***

by Hugh Clark

Deeds, Burdick, Hagen and Clark fished the Rio Grande River during the last week of January. We stayed at The Maria Behety Lodge on the estancia of the same name, sharing the 50,000 acre ranch with forty thousand sheep, hundreds of guanacos, many foxes, and a wide variety of birds.

The river level was low and the fishing had been slow. It continued to be slow. We each released 10-20 ocean going brown trout during the week, many over fifteen pounds.

Deeds and Burdick had the largest fish at 23 pounds. The

wind blew, perhaps a bit stronger than usual, but with many miles and elbows available, the guides could place us with winds at our backs or shoulders. We rarely had to



Hugh Clark and his guide up hold up a couple big ones on a windy day on the plains of Pantagonia. Below, one of the boys sights and casts.

cast directly into 25-35 mph winds. Most, perhaps all, casting was done with 11-13 ft spey rods, including a fine bamboo rod made to order for Hagen. The guides found my 15 year old 14 foot Sage IV not sturdy enough for the conditions and lent me two Look rods that were stouter. Most fish were caught on swinging subsurface flies. My best fly was an EMB special,



about 1/2 inch long, black body and six short legs. I lost two fish when the hooks broke, perhaps a witness to the age of the hooks which were witness to the age of the angler. Fish were also taken on or near the surface with sunshine shadow flies.

The week following ours, the fishing picked up and every one released over 20 fish. Should have been here “next week”, and we will try for that next year.





**Washington Fly Fishing Club**

**P.O. Box 639**

**Mercer Island, WA 98040**

**[www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)**

**March, 2019**

## **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 March 19. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.**

**This month:**

**Ryan Fortier WDFW District 6 Fisheries Biologist  
Ryan will be highlighting current information about  
lakes and fishing possibilities in North Central Wash-  
ington for this year.**