

# Creel Notes from the



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

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

Member of



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## President's Riffle

Spring is finally here and I hope you are planning on participating in some of the outings that have been organized over the next few months to quench our winter induced fishing fevers!



More sad news, Jim McDonald, a member since 2003, peacefully passed on March 19 2019 after a lengthy illness. Jim was the 1st Ghillie when I joined the club in 2012 and we worked together for 4 years while I was Treasurer taking care of the dinner meeting revenues, where he taught me the ins and outs of how the club was run. I can still see his welcoming face as he checked members and guests into the dinner meetings and the great enjoyment he had when he passed out the Skunk Hat to members who were honest enough to admit that they caught "no" fish during their fishing report. He will be missed by us all. A celebration of Jim's life will be held at the Huntington Park club house in Des Moines WA, at 2:00 pm April 14th.

If you attend the March 19th Dinner Meeting you received a Survey Monkey Dinner Meeting evaluation questionnaire. The results provided Board Members feedback on how you rated the event and what we could do to improve it. The ratings received for the Dinner Meeting, the STC dinner, Fly tier and the Speaker were all 4+ out of a 5 max rating. We also received several excellent recommendations on the types of dinner meeting speakers and topics

that the respondents would like to have presented to them in the future. Thanks to the survey results, the Board is working on improvements to the Dinner Meetings.

At our next Dinner Meeting on April 16th Lou Verdugo will be speaking to us about fly fishing in the Willamette Valley which will be of interest to us all. We will also be holding the Members Fly Fishing Gear Sale and Swap. The meeting will start at 5:30 pm.

I am looking forward to seeing you all this coming Dinner Meeting and for us to "wet a fly" together.

Tight Lines – Jim Goedhart

## Boyd Aiger Competition Deadline

If you are tying flies to compete in the WFFC Boyd Aiger fly tying completion, you need to bring your flies to the upcoming April 16th Dinner Meeting to turn them in to Bill Neal for judging.

The winners will be announced at the May 21st Dinner Meeting.

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# NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy 2019

The deadline for the 2019 Academy is closing in – April 15, 2019 is the deadline for the Academy. Those that apply and are accepted, will be notified by the middle of May. The Academy this year is again the last full week of June 23-29, 2019. The Academy is held on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. Applicants need to write an essay explaining why “they” would like to attend. They also will need a letter of recommendation from their school counselor, science teacher or responsible person. The applicant, boy or girl, 12-16, should not be 17 at the start of the Academy. Cost is \$300 and there are sponsorships available. No one will be turned away because of lack of money.

***“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can always build our youth for the future.” FDR***

The support from the fly fishing community again this year is nothing short of spectacular. Applications are coming from all over the State. In the past years, we have been supported by over 50 volunteers each year. We will need volunteers again this year are guides to take the kids fishing in the morning and evenings. We will be fishing a local pond and the Deschutes Rivers in Thurston County. The Academy has a Facebook page loaded with pictures from past years and our website [www.nwycffa.com](http://www.nwycffa.com) You may download the application off the website or contact Mike Clancy @253-278-0061, [mtclancy39@comcast.net](mailto:mtclancy39@comcast.net) or Jim Brosio @ 360-943-9947, [brosioj@q.com](mailto:brosioj@q.com)

The Academy will be a life experience for these youth, they are the future of our sport of fly fishing.

## Pram Needs a New Home

A 10' Hopper II Spring Creek Pram, a pram that has been developed for fly fishing in stillwaters. (See Spring Creek Prams website.) The particulars: The pram is 9 ft. 8in. long with a beam of 54in. It weighs 120 lbs. It is extremely stable. The pram comes with a single seat (fold-down) with sufficient room, should one wish, for a removable chair/seat; included also are a pair of cataract oars (Mini Magnum) and oar locks; 2 anchor pulleys fore and aft; 2 fly-rod holders (one each side) for wet-fly mooching or chironomid fishing; the pram is wired for an electric motor and 12 v. battery; the pram car-tops easily; the light-camouflage exterior blends in with shoreline vegetation should one wish to mix in some birding with his/her fly



fishing. Included in the price are two strap-on large wheels (\$200 value) that facilitate moving the boat from ones parking location to the boat ramp. The pram has been used only a couple of times — it's truly like-new. I will donate \$100 from the proceeds of the sale to the WFFC Foundation. Asking price: \$1,500. Seller: John Narver,

## Creel Notes

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



Heck if I know, ask Bob Birkner!



## On the Fly

### The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich  
March 19, 2019

Before the meeting even started, the question of chicken or no chicken found its answer: cluck, cluck. My company this evening included guests Greg and Joyce, new members Mel and Howard, and my darling wife, and guest, Jennifer. When, finally, the gavel went down, President Goedhart turned over the gavel to Bill Neal who finished handing out the Andy Award to John Tibbs to commemorate his illegal and



### 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.

evict-able visit to Lake Chopaka during last spring's washout.

The mood sobered from there to remember the passing of Gil Nyerges and commemorate his contribution to the WFFC. Chuck Ballard took care of the the honors with a short bio. Gil worked at Boeing during the building of the B-17, went back to school, then traveled to Panama to teach engineers. Back at Boeing, he settled into the area and joined the club in 1956, serving as President 1969. He pioneered a couple flies, the Nyerges Nymph and Gil's Monster, which he tied for nearly every fishing occasion. His talents included drawings, with many of his artistic plates cherished by members. Gil won many awards and served the club as the one who introduced many of us to the joys and duties of the WFFC.

Guest member introductions included more than half of my table. Other guests have come from many directions, Tony from Cali, Richard from Alaska, Greg from New Jersey, and Colin and Scott, both new inductees. We moved quickly to induction as



Hugh Clarl narrated the welcome tonight. Sporting a long resume and family history in angling. He noted first the mission of the club



and various interest groups which make up our august society. The SWAG bag, a new item, included a mug, Backcast, and some flies, although sadly, none tied by Gil.

Greg Crumbaker started off the fishing tales with a long story about snow, cold, frozen guides, shore ice, and fish on midges. Greg cried "Uncle" first and convinced his partner to leave the river and head back to the hot tub. When the flies turned to ice cubes and the wind started howling, they took off in howling snow. John Tibbs skunked on the Vetter River in BC, bringing out the hat. Then we got a weather report from the Yellowstone, the moral of which was check the conditions because many rivers are snowed in and frozen over. Don

Barton fished for steelhead with guides and a nice group. They caught more fish (one) without the guide. Dr. Clark asked for clarification, and it was determined that "we"

did not mean Don, so the skunk hat moved to the South.

Continued on next page

## On the fly Continued

Jim invented a new trend - “going to fish” reports. I’m not sure this is worth reporting, but I can say the fishing is aspirational: Spain, Ireland, BC, and god knows where. I’m not sure I want to encourage this trend so I kept my plans secret.

Committee reports included a plea by the editor of Creel Notes to send in articles and photos and, more importantly, to help me out with Creel Notes as I head into summer and fall travels. I threatened to close the doors so no one left could leave until I had a volunteer, but the bull rush knocked me over.

After the break, Mike Wearne introduced Ryan Fortier, WDFW District Biologist who discussed Okanogan Country Stream Fishing, focusing on the famous Methow Valley. Ryan talked about lakes in the county last year and wanted to round out the news with a discussion about the streams. Reminding us about the “Fish Washington” app for up to the minute regs and reports, Ryan gave a low down on the big picture before drilling down into streams.

Note: March 15 is the stocking date of fry and catchables. The best opportunity for rivaling Brad Pitt comes in mid-summer on the Methow - Winthrop to the “city” of Methow for Redband and Westslope cutthroat with limited Brook and Bull trout. The number of anglers has dropped over the years because of fires and other barriers. But the fishing remains good (about half the rate of the Yakima) with one fish per hour.

After early dam building, the Methow resident fish grew until irrigation de-watered the stream



until the early 21st c. Easy rules: Memorial Day until mid-September, selective rules, catch and release. He gave us some typical days floating the river. The small pontoon and even the inner-tube are wonderful tools - no big rapids. Much of the river is walkable, and by late season, water gets too low for water craft. Since much of the water is on private property, floating to the holes is the way to go. Stand in the river and spend some good time on the hole. Much of the summer you will be competing with rubber float tubes.

The Twisp area gets hit hard, so the section a mile below Twisp at Hauldermann’s Hole to Carlton which makes a good full day float. I could tell you about the next section, but Ryan made those of us who attended the meeting, promise to keep this choice section to ourselves. In August, the most popular float is P3 to McFarland, the longest float. Look for a bed above Upper Gold Creek. This part of the system is dry and mildly agricultural. The McFarland pull-out is a big WDFW parking lot. From there we finish the river to

Ryan Fortier, above, gives a fly selections lesson for rivers and lakes in the Winthrop Area.

Lower Burma Bridge. This is a hot, dry area, so look for deep holes for fish to hang out in cooler water.

Before he took questions, Ryan gave us his personal cell and invited to call him within reason with specific questions: 509-720-6424.

From there, Ryan took questions about lakes including news of invasive species and strategies to diversify the population. News: Davis lake might be the best place for opening day. Buck lake up the Chewach is a great place to float away from the launch. Other lakes are lightly pressed but hampered by fires and drought. Lots of particular lake info was requested by the lake fans, too many to keep track of for this article. Particulars matter: fires, floods, stocking, pressure, social crowding, and other micro/macro factors determine the success on one lake or another.

Jim wrapped up the meeting with news of an upcoming survey about the health of a club.



## ***Fishing Reports***

### ***The Clackamas***

Bob Burdick, Gary Bergquist, and I drove to the Riverview Lodge on the Clackamas River in Bob's Suburban, arriving about 5:00 PM on Sunday, March 17th. The river was a bit low, but expected to rise during the week due to snow melt. Mark, the chef provided another great dinner, a glass of wine, and we were in bed early.

Bob and I fished together with guide Calee. We put in the jet boat at a launch about 15 minutes downstream from the lodge. We started using fairly light tips, but kept going heavier during the course of the day. In the late afternoon, fishing a run called "Lunchbox" I hooked, and after a pretty good fight, landed a 10 pound hatchery hen. As usual, she had a gash from a sea lion on her left side. In keeping with my firm belief that hatchery fish are to be kept out of the gene pool, she got bonked. The guide filleted her and Mark will smoke her. We had Mexican for dinner and then some of Gary's fine scotch to cap the night.

I was hopeful that with a good start on day one things would carry over for the rest of the week, but it was not to be. I fished with Gary on day two and had a fish on for about five seconds, the only action anybody had. Day three, Gary and Bob fished together and I fished with Andy, the Fly Water Travel host. Nobody had so much as a nibble, the highlight of the day was my smoked steelhead for an appetizer. Day four, Bob, Gary, and I fished together, hooking nothing but a couple of big suckers. We quit about 2:00PM to avoid the traffic



Scott Hagen, above, gives the WFFC a little exposure as he holds a trophy a hatchery hen just before making her dinner. Right, Mark Pratt makes a brief acquaintance on Drift Creek, Oregon.

in Portland, but then got caught up in a mess in north Tacoma. Another average steelhead trip!  
Scott Hagen

### ***Ice Off, East of the Cascades***

As you probably know by now we had a late spring and some pretty cold weather.

I just returned from Chelan and saw first hand the ice was still on most lakes .

Rat lake was starting to thaw in places and should be ice free by the end of next week. Big and Little Twin are really hard iced in except for a very small patch on the northeast corner.

Davis is solid and so is Antillon but the good news is that Dry lake and Roses lake are ice free.

Chuck Ballard



### ***Nahwatzel Lake***

Five of us fished the lake on Saturday, March 23rd. Send out a request for four more skunk skins as they will be needed. Pleasant weather. A few sprinkles. A local who fished the lake the day before had been skunked. He returned on the 23rd because the lake was to be stocked at any day, usually several weeks before our date. Stocking includes large fish and it is the man's favorite local lake. "Should have been here next week."

Hugh Clark



## ***Late March on the Upper Squamish river, British Columbia***

By Matt Reat

With no new snow mixed with hot sunny days, it's hard to justify \$170 Canada bucks for a day pass at Whistler. Yet on the 26th of March I found myself with friends at the Beacon Pub in Whistler village debating what to do with myself the following Saturday. Faced with a sweaty day with friends on the slopes, and much to the displeasure of my girlfriend, I found it easy to justify \$20 for a one-day fishing license and a chance to explore the Squamish River system. I left out some details, and my decision wasn't quite that spontaneous, because along with my ski gear I did pack a spey rod and a single-hand 8 weight.

So, come Saturday off I went. I found one spot on satellite maps past Fergies Café the night prior, and the plan was to swing a few holes on the lower river in the hopes of a few Squamish bull trout or maybe the off chance of a steelhead. But when I got to my pin, the road was gated and marked with no-trespassing signs, so up the river and Squamish valley road I went. The further I drove, the more beautiful the valley became; and the shittier the road became. Along the way I picked up a stranded timber cruiser and brought him to his site up near the confluence of the Elaho and the Squamish, which is where I decided to spend the day.

So how was the fishing? The lower Elaho and the upper Squamish look a lot like our 'S' rivers with a more tannic coloration, and higher surrounding mountains. And although the water levels were low



there is good swing water at the confluence and the run above, intermixed with good sets of rapids.

I expected a might encounter a bull trout or two, and in fact photographed one for a friendly Canadian angler, but was pleasantly surprised by the 4 healthy and hungry rainbows hooked, landed, and released, on my overpowered 7-weight, Skagit headed, sink tip clad spey rod more suited to the lower river... Next time I'll pack a 5-weight. All fish

were caught on the same fly in moving but relatively slow boulder filled holding water with a size 4 olive and flash bead-head Woolly Bugger - the closest thing I had to a sculpin or fry pattern.

A beautiful day and some adventure on a river make for a great day. It's a rare treat to stumble up a river that you don't know and connect with some hungry fish. My girlfriend was happy I skied the next day.





**Washington Fly Fishing Club**

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**April, 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 April 16. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.**

**This month: Lou Verdugo Speaker on Willamette Valley Fly Fishing Since arriving in Oregon in 1977, Lou has not stopped fly fishing. He has traveled to Cuba three times, Abaco Island, Christmas Island, Alaska, and Montana. However, his passion for the Deschutes, Sea Run Cutthroats, and the Willamette Valley, especially the Mckenzie and main stem of the Willamette are his comfort zone.**