

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXIX NO.6

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Club Outings

Chopaka Lake

Well the Chopaka outing was again a great outing although the weather could have been dryer. Rain most of Saturday and Sunday but it stopped just in time for the steak fry on Saturday and the tempura on Sunday evening. . There were about 25 or so people at each dinner and because of rain on Sunday morning only half made it to the breakfast.



Cudos to new members Eric Lee and his girlfriend plus Kurt Peterson for making it to their first Chopaka trip. Also to John Tibbs for sharing his camp site for the gatherings.

The fish were healthy and cooperated well ,especially during the mayfly hatch.

I caught many 16" and three that were measured at 18" and one trophy fish of 20".

The big one made "8" Air Jordan" jumps before releasing it .

The flies used were a emerger tied with zote foam and a # 10 Zebra midge on a dry line.

Many thanks to Scott Hagen and Jim McRoberts for the tempura fish and to Dick Brening and Pete Baird(and me) for the Breakfast.

The solo guitar act Sunday evening was my final act for a great weekend ! ~Chuck Ballard



Left: Chuck Ballard performs around the campfire.



Right: A 3rd generation Chopaka attendee, Audre Noel of the Wyman family

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WDFW News Release

OLYMPIA – As anglers plan their summer fishing trips, they should be aware of some changes to Puget Sound salmon seasons as compared to recent years.

Projected low returns of several stocks of wild chinook salmon this year prompted fishery managers to restrict salmon seasons in several Puget Sound marine areas, said Kyle Adicks, salmon policy lead for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

“Anglers should expect shorter chinook salmon fishing seasons in several Puget Sound marine areas,” Adicks said. “We want to make sure anglers have plenty of notice about changes to some of the popular chinook salmon fisheries in Puget Sound.”

The department outlined many of the changes in mid-April in an announcement about the 2019-20 salmon seasons. That news release can be found online at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/news/washingtons-salmon-fisheries-set-2019-20>.

Significant changes planned for 2019-20 include:

- **Marine Area 7 (San Juan Islands): Closed to salmon fishing in August.**
- **Marine Area 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner): Scheduled to open to fishing for hatchery coho Aug. 16-Sept. 15 only in the area south and west of the Clinton/Mukilteo line. The rest of the marine area will remain closed to salmon fishing.**
- **Tulalip Bay Special Area Will be closed to salmon fishing Saturday, June 15 for a tribal salmon ceremony.**
- **Marine Area 9 (Admiralty Inlet): Opens Thursday, July 25, to fishing for hatchery chinook salmon. WDFW intends to close the area to chinook salmon fishing beginning Monday, July 29, to determine how much quota remains. Any subsequent openings will be announced on WDFW’s website.**
- **Marine Area 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) Opens Saturday, June 1 to fishing for coho salmon. Hatchery chinook salmon fishing starts on Thursday, July 25 and is scheduled to be open through August 31 or until the quota is achieved.**
- **Marine Area 11 (Tacoma-Vashon Island): Will not open to salmon fishing on June 1, as listed in the 2018-19 pamphlet. The area is scheduled to open to salmon fishing July 1. In order to maximize opportunity for chinook, boat fishing will be open five days per week (Saturday through Wednesday) while shoreline fishing will be open daily.**

While some chinook seasons may be shorter, coho fishing in Puget Sound should be better given the higher number of coho forecasted to return compared to recent years, Adicks said.

Additional details on salmon fisheries will be available in the 2019-20 Sport Fishing Rules Pamphlet, which will be available online (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations>) in a few weeks and at license dealers mid-June.

Before heading out, anglers should check WDFW’s website (<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efish-rules/>) for emergency fishing regulations or to download the agency’s mobile fishing app. More information about the Fish Washington app is available online at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/app>.

Creel Notes

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

fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efish-rules/) for emergency fishing regulations or to download the agency’s mobile fishing app. More information about the Fish Washington app is available online at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/app>.

Jim Hanson Memorial

We have received information that the memorial service for Jim Hanson was held at the Evergreen Covenant Church (3200 - 78th Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040, phone 206-232-1015) on Saturday, June 15 at 2:00 p.m. Jim was a member of the WFFC since 1977.

The Obituary from the Mercer Island Reporter, May 31, 2010 reads as follows:

"Dr. James M. Hanson of Mercer Island, WA died May 10 after a brave battle with cancer.

Originally from Williams Bay, WI, Jim became a gifted general surgeon and a lifelong resident of the Pacific Northwest. He was an avid fly fisherman, mushroom picker, backpacker, skier and locksmith. He loved playing trumpet in community bands as well as his own quintet. Jim was a devoted husband and father and was known for his mischievous sense of humor.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to the Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County."

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

The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich

May 21, 2019

Every dinner with Mark Pratt is a dinner of learning how to fish. Tonight was no exception. Even though he's an old man now (60), Mark still has forgotten more than I'll ever know. Besides the tutorial, most of my table made reverent conversation about Gil and remembered elements of the memorial. The other hot topic was Chopaka. Boy, o' Boy eas I upset. Some nimrod hit my van from behind and we're waiting for a part. Like refugees in Casablanca; "waiting, waiting, I'll die in Casablanca." Or at least, I'll die waiting for Fix It auto to repair my bumper. Have fun.

Tonight we celebrated the 80th anniversary of the WFFC. With SWAG (a sticker and a coffee mug) at the table and wine ready to pour, the celebration began. President, Jim Goedhart took the gavel in hand and welcomed us to the start of 20 more years. From there, Mike Mozcinsky took over and introduced guests. We were wonderfully interrupted by, wait for it, wait for it, steak! Yes, beef. While I got busy with fork and knife, other guests got mentioned, but I was too busy to capture many details.

Our inductees, three, were called to stand to the members. Tasha came us through the fly casting class. Daughter, Rachel Peterson, joined up to spend time with her dad. All in the family. Also from the fly casting class, Greg. Peter Baird took over the induction honors with a bit of perspective, a few



flies, and other words of wisdom. Some of my table mates listened, other kept up their own monologue.

Reports followed, but I got too busy with a NY Steak. Delicious. Fishing reports were numerous, but none so memorable than a rare Schorsch skunk. He told another story after that, but who could listen as we lined up to take pictures of "The Man" as Pepi la Peu.

Moving on, we took a look back at the last 40 years of the club courtesy of Chuck Ballard. He harkened back to 1939 and a small club, with a few men, who enjoyed a rare skill; fly fishing. Mission number one was to get some fly-only waters and eliminate the use of salmon eggs. In 1940, the Stilly enjoyed ten years of fly only designation. Reversed by land owners, it took some serious lobbying to return the Stillaguamish to fly only. While I wrote this 30 years passed by. I mean, this club lives history on steroids. Can I summarize? We used to send out Creel Notes on postcards. Hannan used to be a home waters, we used to have a dry fly grab box, activism was the order of the day, and people at Fish and game and the WFFC knew each other's first names.

Time goes on. The Foundation was founded in 1974 and still helps fund activist groups like Casting for Recovery. Members still publish. Things have been lost, others found. In other words, the club has suffered the fate of a volunteer organization; things get lost. For example, skimpy outfits at the Christmas party are, as we say, strictly out of style. Guilty of all sorts of micro aggressions, we might celebrate the end of things, and nothing more worth ending than the gender

Continued on next page

On the fly Continued

rule. Viva la future. Thanks Chuck!

Jim took over and looked back on successes and asked us to look forward. What's up for the next twenty. From the social perspective, members offered up some ideas: get more members to enjoy the meetings and the outings. Jim will solicit your input. From the activist standpoint, what does the club need to do going forward? Jim shared a few good ideas.

In terms of promoting fish health and conservation, the challenge is massive. Take for example culverts, there are over 2000 obstructive culverts. Can we take something like on, or at least advocate for their removal and restoration. In summation, what specific project can we Marshall out efforts behind? Funding? Hands on? Clean up? Legal action?

The call to action is to start committees and get members on the war path.

After the break, we started into our program to call of "Auchtung" proving the bilingual nature of our club. Bill Redman introduced Jeff Thiel, to speak about "Resolving the Global Climate Crisis". His admonition: "Pay Attention!"

Jeff started off with a fishing story as a boy. Creekside, he fell in love with nature. The salmon the got off the hook, but he was hooked. Years later, a few ducks in line, he outlined the reality of climate change. I won't bore you, but the facts point to human caused (we burn carbon) climate change. The changes happen faster than we thought. We knew in 1960, things have gotten worse exponentially since then.

But good news. We have the tools to fix things:

- 1) Decarbonize the US economy.
cut waste - reduce waste,
move energy in safer ways.
get electricity in other ways
than carbon generation
invest in carbon sinks
- 2) Put a price on carbon pollution.

House Resolution 763: fees on fossil fuels, return fees to households, adjust fees at the border.

- 3) Low cost renewable energy over coal (and eventually natural gas) and low cost storage.

4) Measure and manage; if we don't know where the energy is going, we can't manage it. Imagine a mpg score for your home. Imagine selling your home if it's a gas guzzler.

- 5) Carbon efficient construction like mass timber construction: Leggo for home building.

- 6) Low carbon transportation.

- 7) Agricultural carbon sinks: low/no till farming, cover crop, and complex crop rotation.

Who's to blame? You are. You burn more carbon than most of the world per capita. Don't blame this on China. It's you and me pal. We enjoy lots of high carbon convenience, we live in a big house, we travel, and we buy consumer

goods from a world market, and we live in, eat, and move in a very inefficient life styles. Sweden uses less than a third of our per capita output. How? Collective action, laws, and other "Big Government" initiatives: carbon tax, clean energy incentives, information, and far less choice. Do we have to resign ourselves to poverty? Sweden has outpaced us on all major indicators. Hell, they are happier than we are, make more money, and use half the energy. Get with the plan Yanks!

Lastly, Jeff put our money where our mouth is. You want fish, trees, blue ski, snow pack? Get on the bus Gus. When you change, go carbon neutral. Skip blueberries in January. They came from Chile. Waste less. Buy less, recycle more, reuse things. Invest in carbon offset. It's a market. Invest. Measure, reduce, offset. He ended with a simple, but hard message: "I want to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is."

Questions ensued,
but I ducked out.

47.6271° N, 122.281° W

David

Fishing Reports



Cedar River is open and the fish are looking up! This beauty eating a CDC V Wing Dun #18. ~Neal Hoffberg

Lake Washington

I've been listening to a variety of guys talk about the outstanding smallmouth bass fishery we have here in Lake Washington and finally got around to sampling it on June 3rd.

Out at 6:30 am with guide Chris Senyo John Gravendyk and I motored from the boat launch on the NE tip of Mercer Island across the East Channel toward Newport shores and the Seahawk complex.

Casting 6 weight rods with mostly Clouser type flies on short leaders and a very fast sink line we prowled the shoreline casting under docks, and between boats and pilings in 2 to 15 feet of water over underwater grass beds. Occasionally we used a popper, or a popper and dropper combination although Clousers were more productive.

Our yield was 7 medium sized bass, each about 2 ½ pounds and 16-17 inches in length as in the picture as well as 15 to 20 rock bass about 6-8 inches in length and an occasional perch. The bass were very strong fish with a lot of fight. It was Chris's opinion that this bass fishery runs from

May until the weather cools in September, exists all around the edge of the lake and in Lake Sammamish and in Lake Tapps. Apparently the bass spawn throughout the summer and it appeared to me inhabited areas where the grass growing from the bottom of the lake was longest.

~Bob Burdick

The Beaverhead River

Although the country around the Beaverhead is pastoral and scenic the Beaverhead itself is certainly



Bob Burdick, above, shows off a bass from Lake Washington..

not calendar cover material. The river flows out of the Clark Canyon reservoir and snakes its way through the Beaverhead Valley – the same wide open country that welcomed Lewis and Clark to southwest Montana. The river can best be described as meandering irrigation ditch, the lifeblood of the valleys cattle ranchers. What it lacks in beauty however, it more than makes up for as a world class brown and rainbow trout incubator. A classic tailwater stream, fed by clear cold water surging from the bottom of Clark Canyon dam. The river is a magnet for fly addicts frustrated by runoff conditions affecting the most of Montana's streams during May and June. The first ten miles of river below the dam is home to 3000 brown and rainbow trout per mile – this section of the river is like “muscle beach” for trout – fish stacked up shoulder to shoulder and averaging 18 to 22 inches with a fair number ranging up to 26+. Every time you hook up you can expect the have your butt kicked by an angry brown or a rocket propelled

rainbow. Don't expect to land every fish you hook – experienced anglers may net 50% of their hookups and rookies may never bring a fish to hand but you will pump a year's supply of adrenalin in the process. June water flows mean knee to thigh deep wading in surprisingly fast water but the bottom structure of golf ball and smaller size gravel makes getting around eminently doable even for a 76 yr old with a bum knee.

Beaverhead fish are fussy eaters and they prefer finger food rather than Big Mac's. The early June menu is exclusively size 20 blue wing olive nymphs and scuds. Split back BWO's and Ray Charles scuds are the preferred fare fished on the bottom off a heavily weighted double fly rig with an indicator. If your indicator isn't ticking bottom you aren't in the zone and you are in for a day of casting practice. One or two 3/0 split shot usually do the trick depending on depth and current flows. Leader tippets should be 3X fluorocarbon and leaders at least 2-3 times the depth you are fishing. Nothing unusual about the presentation – up and across and mend the float to at

least 40 feet below you. Takes are violent and half the time you won't have to set the hook. By the time you realize you are hooked up Mr Brown is airborne and a foot from the opposite bank. Your job now is the keep that rocket on the end of your line from cleaning your clock! Yes, brown trout do jump and so do rainbows and they are expert at removing size 20 hooks with violent head shake or two. An occasional super hot rainbow will make a bonefish run look mild by comparison. If you manage to hang on to one of these hogs you are going to need a BIG net.

A five weight nine foot rod will do nicely on the Beaverhead but a longer rod will allow you to mend more line and cover more territory. I fish a 3 weight eleven foot three inch rod with a double taper line and find it ideal for covering the water. Because of the high fish-per-mile density you don't need to cover a lot of water in a day's fishing to put up big numbers. A recent trip to the Beaverhead brought more than 25 fish to hand in two days of fishing the same 100 foot stretch of water. The Beaverhead is drift able but I prefer to wade especially when I fish the river near the dam. I advise being on the water early (7am) as many of the best runs are occupied by 9am. If you decide to float check the regs as there are restrictions similar to those now in effect on other Montana rivers.

~Dennis Westover, June 5, 2019

The Upper Columbia

Former member Bill Booth and I fished the Upper Columbia River June 10-12 through The Evening Hatch Black Bear Lodge owned by Jack Mitchell. Jack pioneered fishing on this huge river about thirty years ago, accepting a major chal-



Dennis Westover on the Beaverhead

lenge of finding fish and the reward of trout up to 30 lbs. if successful. Fishing the Columbia is like fishing in the ocean...the fish are moving, and there are not holding pools or drifts as seen on normal rivers. We fished 11:00 to 3:00 pm, and then 5:00 to 9:30 pm, into the dark. Our guide, Rial, was very familiar with the river, and sought out the constantly changing eddy lines where foam and some times fish concentrate. I am talking eddies that are hundreds of yards wide! Half our fish were taken on dry flies and half on nymphs under an indicator. I hooked ten and brought six to the boat, and Bill did better with about 14 and nine

to the boat. Of those fish four were under 12 inches and the rest were 19-21 inches and fiercely strong. Bill had one take that took him down to his



arbor knot before breaking off. It could have been tail hooked or one of the 30 inchers. Dry fly imitations were caddis and large mayes. Nymphs were a variety of # 14 and #16 caddis and mayes

Built for fisherman the lodge is comfortable, not fancy, with natural edge pine boards finishing the doors and windows. The food was tasty home style and included excellent salads.



The best feature of the lodge was a deck with views two miles down and across the river and a half mile up to the only bridge on the upper Columbia. The birding was rich with four warblers species, two kinds of vireos and common bugling Swainson's thrushes. Spotted sandpipers called all day from early morning til dark.

~Hugh Clark



Washington Fly Fishing Club

P.O. Box 639

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www.wffc.com

June, 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 June 18. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.

This month: Our guest speaker, Justin waters has been a guide in the Pacific Northwest since he was 16 years old. Justin will be speaking on fishing for Sea Run Cutthroat Trout on the Hood Canal. He will be covering both fishing from a boat and fishing from beaches. Justin has a reputation for attracting younger fly fishers among PNW guides. If you are an old hand or just getting started fishing for cuts, this talk is for you.