

Creel Notes from the



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

www.wffc.com

Founding Club of the FFF & members active in the FFF

Monthly Meeting Notice

July 16, 2002

LII No. 7

The College Club, 505 Madison St.

Seattle, Washington

Phone: 206-622-0624

Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:45 PM

President's Riffle

by Kris Kristoferson, President 2002

Why would a fly fisherman want to join the WFFC?

Well, that's any easy one. For starters, the Washington Fly Fishing Club is the state's oldest fly fishing club. Its members, past and present, have made real contributions to the art and science of the sport. They are leaders in promoting the health of Washington's fisheries and, across the board, they are a great bunch of people. Why wouldn't somebody want to join?

Sure, that was a rhetorical question, but it is one we should go ahead and try to answer. We all know our meetings and the Wet Fly hour are great times to reconnect with other members while setting aside life's day-to-day challenges. We compare notes on our fishing, learn about spots that are hot and about others that are not. We all look forward to the meetings. But for our guests, the meetings can be a whole different ball of wax. The guest who arrives ahead of his host transacts his business with the ghillie and then descends the stairs to face a crowd that can be tough to break into. Guys standing in groups chat and occasionally cast a sideways glance at the guest. Seeing an unfamiliar face they return their attention to their group and continue their conversation. While it may be a normal reaction to a strange face, the guest feels he's gotten the cold shoulder. This is not mere speculation. Multiple guests have recounted this experience.

Let's do what we can so our guests can have the same good WFFC experience that we do. Only then will they understand what it is all about. If we look over and see someone we don't recognize, let's stick out our

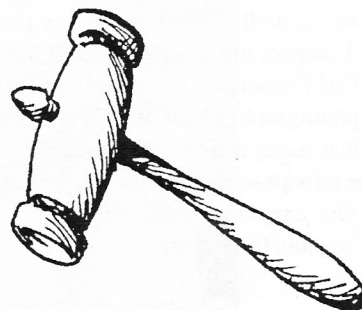
hand and say hi. It will make a huge difference for our guests and will improve the outside world's perception of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. We owe it to our guests and to our Club.

Look It Up - The WFFC Library

The essays and stories of great authors, presentation and casting techniques, even videos are in the shelves of the WFFC Library. Some newer members might not know our library sits right behind the bar at the College Club. It's filled with great books - check 'em out!

In This Issue

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Club News | 2 |
| Fishing Reports | 4,5, 6 |
| President's Riffle | 1 |
| WFFC Calendar | 7 |

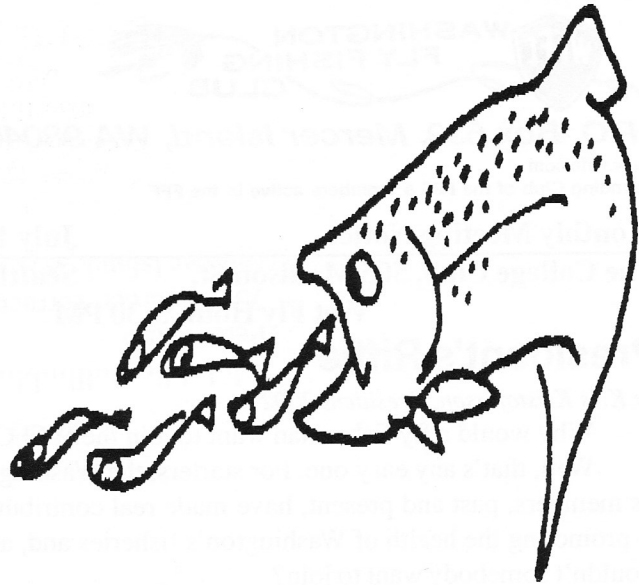


Club News

Youth Program Thanks!

by Richard Embry, part-time/tag-team Youth Committee Chair

During the months of March, April, and May, the WFFC Youth Committee conducted a fly fishing education program with Cub Scout Pack #123 members and their parents. A little belated, but I wish to give a hearty thanks to those WFFC members who assisted and participated in the program. A listing of those who helped: Brian Hata, Don Simonson, Greg Crumbaker, Steve Sutton, Mike Wearne, Chuck Ballard, and John Olson. A special thanks goes to Mark Pratt, John Thompson, and Bob Young, fellow WFFC members who were there nearly every class. You guys were a tremendous help!



WFFC Foundation Book Sale

by Dick Brening, WFFC Foundation Member

The estate of Don Sachs has donated his flyfishing library collection to the WFFC Foundation. Books in the collection date from 1904 to 1996 editions. It is the Foundations intent to make these books available for sale to members of the club. We will have a few books on silent auction each month at dinner meetings until we have disposed of all the items. The proceeds will go to the Foundation.

A complete listing of the books will be available from Dick Brening on request.

At the July meeting the following books will be for sale:

The Book of Fishes
To Hell With Fishing
Trout Strategies
There's No Fishing Like Fly Rod Fishing
How to Tie Flies
Western Trout
Handbook of Freshwater Fishing
Fishing Flies
Complete Book on Flyfishing
Trout

-National Geographic 1961
-Ed Zern 1945
-Schwiebert 1983 (PB)
-Cortland series 1972 1st edition.
-E.C. Gregg 1940
-Sly Mac Dowell 1948
-Lee Wulff 1939
-Robert Atkinson 1991
-Joe Brooks 1958
-Ray Bergman 1952

Improving Your Outdoor/Fishing Photography

by Richard Embry, 2nd VP and Programs Chair

Countless times I've excitedly gone through my photos of a recent trip to disappointingly find only a few pictures actually worth keeping. I suspect this isn't a problem that happens to just me. Well, this month we're going to fix that: fellow WFFC members Earl Harper and Ed Sozinho, both professional photographers, will educate us on how to improve our outdoor and fishing photography. Earl and Ed will start with the basics of photography and will continue to more advance techniques, such as using different filters, etc. Earl and Ed have arranged for a local shop to display some of the equipment needed for the new photography techniques to which we will be "exposed" (pun intended!).

August Program: Our annual garage/yard/attic sale; you now have plenty of notice to start collecting those items you want to sell or trade for this fun event!

Loose Ends

Roster Update:

Perry Barth
4029-191st St. S.W.
Lynnwood, WA 98036-5656
Phone- 425.774.0762

Editorial (reflecting the views of the writer and not necessarily the WFFC)

by Don Gulliford

Mariner TV viewers and Time Magazine readers have recently been blitzed with glossy, professionally produced TV spots and magazine ads touting good things about "Forests and Fish Law." The Time ad says it is sponsored by the Washington Forest Protection Association. But the TV spots, at least on NWCN, proudly proclaim also that they are brought to the viewer by NWCN AND Channel 5.

I think TV stations should be VERY cautious before they "bring" a private message to viewers that involves legislation and is controversial.

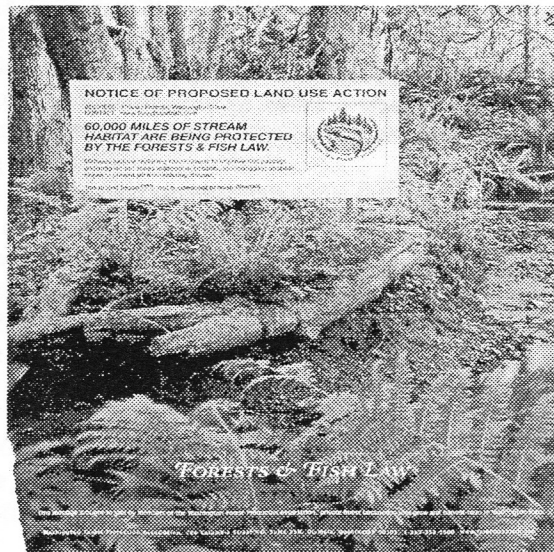
I find this troubling, because it is common knowledge that some experts and organizations strongly disagree with the content of this law, and the manner in which it went through the legislature. The TV spots [up to now showing engineers or construction workers proudly inspecting an (apparently) improved culvert (with nary a clear-cut in sight), and also an attractive female "biologist" proclaiming pleasant astonishment at how unexpectedly COLD the stream temperature actually measured out to be...] are expensive and VERY competently put together.

But something else, pernicious and cancerous it would appear, now surfaces. In the June 27, 2002 P-I appears an article by one Jeff Barnhard of the AP, titled "Coastal cutthroat trout rejected for new protections." Notwithstanding the wisdom or lack of it in that U.S Fish & Wildlife decision, the article's last paragraph concludes:

Fish habitat in Washington is being better protected by new state logging regulations and habitat conservation plans with timber owners Brown (USFW biologist) said, so biologists concluded that the fish were not in danger of declining to the brink of extinction.

So here we see in an AP article asserted as FACT what is probably a very, very debatable conclusion(s). I think it ill serves the public interest to have high-powered TV and news periodical PR campaigns influence, or infect, as one may view the result, newspaper journalism.

What has become of "attack journalism," investigative reporting and the like? Like most citizens' grasp of complex legislation, I honestly don't know beans about whether or not the Forest and Fish Law is a good idea, long-term beneficial to fish resources or not. But experience has taught me to wonder why a logging organization would spend lots of money on TV and magazine advertising, and when I see a long time Seattle TV station like channel 5 joining in the "sponsorship" on NWCN (Northwest Cable News), I get a mixed smell of ground axes and carp. NOVA, where are you when we need you???



Fishing Reports

Perry Barth, Eliguk Lake, June 8 - 15, 2002

With 18 of us enjoying a fabulous week, it was like a club outing. Not only was the weather perfect and the food delicious, the catching was also great. Really, obscene numbers were rung up every day and great fishing held up the whole week. Mooching, casting, wind drifting and dry fly fishing, we had it all. Doc Spratley, Gil's Monster, TDC's, Parachute Adams and Stimulators were the most popular patterns, but most everything worked well. The fish were in the 12" to 16" range with a few during the week 18" to 20". Up at Petrie Lake, they are always bigger and lots of 2# to 3# fish were released.

Bruce Clingen's pattern will be known henceforth as the Eliguk White Marabou. Our obscene suggestion has been rejected! Be sure and put a dash of red on the bow. Bill Round, Dave's brother, as usual, got the award for the longest commute. He comes out from Mass. every year to join us at Eliguk. An additional bonus this year was having Jack DeYounge serving as Ghillie. It was wonderful for all of his old WFFC friends to be able to visit with him.

We have reserved June 14 to 21 next year for 18 people. I know there will be a few spots open, so let me know if you are interested. Moe and Jeannette Schiller make this most generous 1/2 price offer to club members and their friends for June bookings. So, if you are interested in putting together a group on a different week, that will be cool and you should contact Gil Nyerges to work out the details. And, as Jackie Gleason use to say, "How sweet it is ..."

Ron F. Dion, Sr., Spada lake, 2 Trips, June 11 and June 26

June 11: Fished from 3:00 till 6:30p.m.. Caught/released 6 fish (cuts and cutbows) 13" - 16" casting/stripping a size #10 3xl fly (tail - short olive marabou, body - small insect green chenille, hackle - olive palmered, trimmed off on top, wing - olive marabou, head - red bead)

June 26: Fished from 3:45 till 8:00p.m.. Caught 17 fish/released 15 (1-9 1/2", 3 - 11", 4 - 12", 9 - 13" to 16"). Caught 1 on a #14 dry coachman; 3 on a # 10 3xl fly (tail - short black marabou, body - peacock herl, wing - black marabou), the rest were caught on the olive fly described above.

Since this is a very large lake, I used a fish finder to locate the fish. They tended to be approximately 100 to 200 yards off any of the entering tributaries. Rarely were the fish rising to the surface, so I mostly fished by casting and slooowly stripping a sink-tip line.

Richard Embry, Lake Lenice, June 14

Lake Lenice, Sunscreen, and Basin Trout

A buddy and I fished Lenice on Friday, June 14. As for fishermen activity, there were probably about 20 different watercraft spread out across the lake at any one time.

We actually started fishing about 11 am, and the first fish of the day, a beautifully colored chunky 17" brown, fell to my chironomid pattern about 11:10 am. The fishing switched off at 12:30 pm, at which time my fishing partner and I had each picked up about 3 nice fish each, including a 20+" rainbow he caught.

During the middle of the day the fishing, er catching, was virtually non-existent unless you were dredging the bottom with a type 3 full sink line. I'm sure a large influence was the glaring sun, clear skies, and windless conditions, which contributed to 97 degree temperatures mid-afternoon, and the 74-76 degree (not a typo) surface water temperatures. Even though the mid-day fishing was generally slow, we managed to find pockets of activity here and there. At evening the bite picked up noticeably.

All told, we each caught (to hand) 7 chunky trout (I'm excluding a tubby 9" rainbow I caught on a damsel nymph). My buddy caught all of his on damsel nymphs, and he brought to hand 2 fish that were just over 20", and myself one 20+" and a 19+" rainbows. With the exception of the 9" wee guy, all of our fish were in the 15" to 20" range. My buddy had decent action throughout the day, losing a few more fish and missing several more. I caught fish on chironomids, damsel nymphs, and mohair leeches, and had almost as many misses, but not as many losses, as my fishing partner.

There was a large variety of feed for the fish; when we first put in, there were callibaetis spinners, dragon fly nymphs, damsel adults flying around, damsel nymphs swimming, chironomid husks floating on the surface, etc., so there are no lack of options for the fish. We tried dry damsels a little while, but the fish weren't really keying in on the damsels and there were that many adults flying around.

Caution: if you decide to fish these lakes, I highly encourage you to use a heavier rod than the 3 weights and 4 weights some of you typically tend to fish. These fish need to get to be landed right away and released, or else they will die, and a longer fight with the lighter weight rods will stress these fish given the current climate conditions and likely contribute to their death. In fact, because the water temperature is so high now, I won't fish these lakes any more until the fall, because of this concern.

Oh, yeah, don't forget your sunscreen, chap stick, and lots of drinking water!

Fishing Reports

Leland Miyawaki, The Railroad Ranch on the Henry's Fork, June 15-21

I was sitting on a rock at the edge of the water below Osborne Bridge, enjoying the morning sun and a good cigar, when the rainbow sidled in from the deep water and began to feed. I had just succeeded in putting a very good fish down a few minutes earlier and thought I needed a timeout to cure my buck fever and regain the patience one needs to fish the Henry's Fork. This fish settled in a tad more than a rods length away and I could see it clearly underwater as it moved from side to side tipping up to the surface now and again to snarf down a fly. There was a veritable smorgasbord of knocked down flavs, some caddis and at least two sizes of PMDs drifting down the water. The trout would take only the smaller PMDs, sometimes moving a couple feet away to take them. I was having fun picking out each next "victim" I thought the trout would rise to. I had been watching my friend eat for about 15 minutes when Bob Young approached from downstream where he had been fishing. "Hey Leland, there's a fish rising just off your rod tip," he said. I motioned for him to get into a stealth mode, "I know, he's been here for a few minutes." Bob found a seat and we both watched the trout as if it were a pet in our own private aquarium.

"Bob, it's time to catch this little puppy," I said. I tied on a #18 Parachute PMD and waited until the trout had risen before tossing it out. I say "toss" because I was sitting down with a 8'4" rod and a 15' leader. I had no other choice than to kinda flip the fly upriver and try to keep the rod movement to a minimum. On the sixth toss, the trout moved forward and out a good foot or two, took my fly like it was the last PMD on earth and immediately bolted into the middle of the stream. The rainbow's acrobatics surprised a couple nearby flyfishers, who probably didn't know I was "fishing." I stood up and stepped into the river to play the fish and while Bob was laughing, my Hardy Lightweight sang it's sweet little song.

After releasing the fish, which measured 17", I said, "You know, Bob, I've caught my last three trout while sitting down, two at Chopaka on the club outing and now this one in the Henry's Fork. I should fish sitting down more often."

Steve Raymond, Hosmer Lake, June 18-23

OK, where were you guys? Randy and I, Pete Baird and Mike Nolan were the only WFFC members who showed up for the Hosmer Lake outing June 22-23.

Actually, it's just as well the rest of you didn't come. The Farce Service had one of the two campgrounds closed, ostensibly so it could clean up the mess it left when it cut hundreds more "hazardous trees." That didn't stop us from camping there anyway, but many of the sites were literally butchered and the Farce Service did nothing to clean them up during the week we stayed. Greeted with mounting public protests, the Farce Service finally opened the campground the weekend of June 22-23 and it filled up instantly, despite the trashed sites. Considering that, plus the fact that the Santiam Fly Casters (or "fly trollers," as another angler suggested they should be called) were also having an outing at Hosmer that weekend, there was precious little room left for any more WFFC members.

The fish weren't very cooperative, either. I averaged only about nine fish a day during six days of fishing, largest about 19 inches (Randy got one 22 inches). On two days, I caught more brook trout than Atlantic salmon—the first time that's ever happened in the 33 consecutive years I've fished Hosmer. That's a pretty good indication that the brook trout population in the lake is way up and the salmon population way down—not a good sign for the future, especially considering most of the brook trout are small—10 inches or less.

The highlight of the trip for me was taking my granddaughter fishing for the first time, five weeks short of her third birthday. She landed two Atlantic salmon, with a little help from her grampa, while Randy recorded the event on film. I hope there will still be Atlantic salmon in Hosmer, and that it will still be a beautiful place to visit, when she's old enough to catch them by herself

The *Creel Notes* is a publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscriptions are free with membership. Articles and other materials appropriate for publication in *Creel Notes* may be sent to: *Creel Notes* Editor, 4244 1st Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107, e-mail to kylelooney@attbi.com (e-mail is preferred). This issue of *Creel Notes* was produced by Kyle Looney. ***Creel Notes is printed by the second Tuesday of the month; article submissions must be received by the previous Thursday.*** Mail roster updates directly to Kyle Looney at kylelooney@attbi.com or the above address. The WFFC may be visited on the internet at <http://www.wffc.com>.

Fishing Reports

Pete Baird, Hosmer Lake, June 21 to 24

We departed Mercer Island in our motor home on Thur June 20 at 8:15 AM and headed south, had lunch with daughter Susan and family in Portland, then visited our other daughter, Judy, also in Portland. By 4:15 PM we were on our way once again toward Mt Hood and on to Hosmer Lake, arriving in the campground about 9:15PM. Driving thru the south campground by the main launch ramp on the lower lake we found only one site open and grabbed it for the night.

The following morning the folks opposite us on the lake side departed and we shifted over. Since I prefer to concentrate my time in the upper lake I decided to carry my deflated raft to the canoe rental site about mid channel connecting the upper & lower lakes. Twas then I discovered that the Mallard Marsh campground had a sign placed in mid road announcing that it was closed. Proceeding on I found that the Steve Raymond family were indeed camped there in spite of the sign, and had been since Monday the 17th. Later on Mike Nolan and Shamus showed up. These were the only WFFC members that made the trip. Steve and family and Mike departed on Monday June 24th. Lynn & I departed the following day.

Now, the particulars: The weather was great the whole time; no snow in the campground and none on the side of the road at Dutchman Flats immediately past the Mt Bachelor entrance on the way in, but still quite a bit back in the woods at the higher elevations (5500 to 6400'). Hosmer is still a very popular destination with license plates from Colorado, California, Montana and Washington as well as many Oregonians. The campgrounds show the signs of the pine beetle infestation and tree removal, many quite ruffed up and generally less scenic than in years past, — but the beauty of the lake and the abundant wildlife still make it a unique destination!!

Oh, and of course you'd like to know a little bit about the fishing.

Well, even Steve said they were a bit harder to come by than in past times. On my best day I managed about a fish per 1/2 hour, but I had stretches of two hours when I couldn't touch a fish. Probably the biggest surprise was to find that I took about 4 to 5 brook trout to each Atlantic salmon and both ran smaller than in the past. I took brookies from about 9 to 14" and my largest salmon to the boat was not more than 16". I fished dries, emergers and nymphs on a floating line, and I also spent some time with an intermediate sinking and a sink tip line. All took some fish, but few flies took more than two fish for me. Most successful was the salmon candy pattern, but deer hair emergers. A chromie chironomid and damsel nymph also took some fish. The caddis hatches during the day and in the evening were not up to past standards, but both the large size #8 and a smaller all black caddis were in evidence at times. On the last day when I rowed back to the main launch on the lower lake I was amazed at the "bloom transition about mid channel and when I got to the lower lake it resembled pea soup, but there were still quite a number of fishermen here too.

And with all these degradations over time would I still continue to go back?? You bet I would! The call of the American Bittern, the aerial warfare between eagle & osprey, the magnificent view of Mt Bachelor, the South Sister, and Broken Top, and always the chance of a 3#+ brooky are incentive enough!!

Richard Embry, Yakima River, June 26

Fished the Yakima, in the Thorp Bridge area, on June 26, from 5 pm to 9 pm, with Larry Milton, frequent WFFC fly tying and fly casting classes attendee.

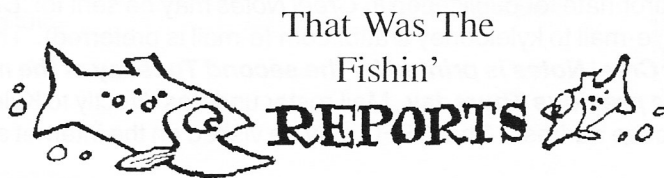
The water was high, but the clarity was decent. I didn't check the water temp, but someone told me it was 53; the water 'felt' like it was in that temperature range.

Of course, although the weather was clear, it was the blustery, windy Yakima. No bugs were popping off, maybe the occasional caddis here and there, and I'm talking the occasional caddis.

I used nymphs primarily, with the focus on various caddis patterns. A few little spankers came up to dries, but with the wind and no conclusive hatch happening, I decided to stay 'down and dirty'.

I caught a few smallish fish (10-12" range), missed a few more grabs, and lost a hog that did the Yakima vertical "missile launch" jumps twice for me before he came unbuttoned on the second jump. Two witnesses claimed it was a 20"+ fish; I, of course, concurred with their estimate.

If you go, take some bug dope; in the shade the mosquitoes are out in full force, and they are hungry little suckers (pun intended).





July

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| July 16th | WFFC Meeting, College Club |
| July 17th | Luncheon 11:45 Camlin Room |
| July 24th | Luncheon 11:45 Camlin Room |
| July 31st | Luncheon 11:45 Camlin Room |
| Late July | Leave on High Lakes Trip- Contact Pete Baird 206.232.7682 |

August

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|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Early August | Return from High Lakes Trip |
| August 7th | Luncheon 11:45 Camlin Room |
| August 14th | Luncheon 11:45 Camlin Room |
| August 20th | WFFC Meeting, College Club |

