

WASHINGTON FLY FISHING CLUB  
July Meeting Notice

Time 6:15 P.M. Tuesday, July 19, 1955

Place Edmond Meany Hotel

Program Dr. William A. Smoker, State Dept. of Fisheries. His most interesting talk will be "Stream Flow and it's effect on migratory and other fish production."

Dr. Smoker is a leading authority on this subject, which was the basis of his doctorate thesis, and is now in charge of fresh water studies of salmon and steel-head conducted by State Department of Fisheries. In addition to the main subject, Dr. Smoker will be able to give the Club some of the thinking of Department research staff on such problems as the experimental planting of silvers in fresh water lakes, the opening of additional fresh water streams to migratory fish.

Photographs

Merlin Martin has received quite a collection for his graphic history of the WFFC, but more are needed, particularly from the earlier days of the Club.

Club History

By action of the Board, a Historical Committee has been appointed. This committee is made up of all past presidents, with the immediate past president as chairman. There is no point in discussing the need of this history here, this is simply a plea for all past presidents to get on the ball, do a little thinking, a little digging in files, a little remembering-- then to forward the results to Vince Sellen, 2716 Harvard, North, Seattle-2.

WFFC Family Picnic

Made timid by consistently miserable week-ends, the Outdoor Activities Committee has been reluctant to set a date for the annual family picnic. It is now scheduled for the second week in August. Further announcements and details at the meeting.

New Members

James R. Osborn  
4621- 41st, N.E.  
Seattle-5 Pl. 8768

Eugene C. Holce  
501 W. Roy  
Seattle-9 Ga. 6971

F. C. Witting (AM)  
Mansfield, Wash.  
Mansfield 2743

Donald Zietelhack  
4321 Linden Ave  
Me. 6309

See you at the meeting

Walt Johnson, Pres.  
Floyd Baldwin, Secy.

## WASHINGTON FLY FISHING CLUB

### CREEL

### NOTES

Vol III, No 6, July 1955

### Fishing Reports

First, a mild gripe. Introducing this year's Creel Notes, it was stated that it should not be necessary for your committee to resort to the telephone and the roster in order to assemble material for Fishing Reports. Remember, Creel Notes was started by Pat Bingham, to record, mainly, interesting and or productive trips which could be both enjoyed and kept and used as reference material in future.... weather and water conditions, hatches, size and condition of trout, most productive time of day, variations in technique, fly patterns used successfully or without success, camping or resort facilities etc... the ingredients of a pleasant trip to lake or stream.

Your committee was optimistic. Fly fishers are modest, secretive or else (like Dr. Bob Maycumber) more and more of them must be taking up the game of golf.

IN SHORT, WE DO NOT LIKE TO SPEND A COUPLE OF EVENINGS AND A SUNDAY EACH MONTH DIALING NUMBERS IN AN EFFORT TO FIND THE MATERIAL FOR "FISHING REPORTS". During the balance of July and early August, when you go fishing, why not jot down a few notes and either mail same, or telephone, one of the members of the Creel Notes Committee.

#### Consensus on Lake Hannan:

Trout making good growth, small nymphs best patterns, with small dries sometimes effective in evening. Early morning or late evening best time to fish. Trout very spooky, and easy to put down. Quite a few predators in evidence.

#### Steelhead and the Stilly

Opinion of the experts is that the June run, as was true last year, moved up the river and into Deer Creek practically untouched. Water conditions are still not very good for successful fly fishing; water way above normal of summer, heavy, and somewhat off color. Probably plenty of fish in the river but definitely on the move. When the discouraging water conditions is considered, the success of the experts is the more noteworthy.

Pres. Walt is, to date, well ahead of last year with three bright summer runs to his credit. Not big, 5 to 6 pounds, but bright beautiful fish.

On July 10th, Russ Willis and Warren Erholm of Anacortes are reported to have hooked and beached a steelhead each-- size and weight not known.

Also on July 10th, Frank Headrick had his day. Due to the fact that duty (work on his cabin) has been permitted to interfere with his fishing, Frank has not put so much time as usual in on the river. But there have been quite a few hours of futile casting. When success came, it was with a rush. Within a very short space of time, two really good fish--- one 9 pounder and one of 11½ pounds. The dog! Most of us would cast our arms sore all summer for just one of that size.

Saturday morning, July 9th, Don Ives was very happy with the 5 plus pounder beached Friday evening. His first of the summer season. Then, shortly after noon on Saturday Don hooked and successfully beached THE Steelhead. Weight 14 pounds exactly. Length 33½ inches. A Steelhead to be proud of and to remember! A button fish! Those of you who are acquainted with the Stilly will remember that piece of water above the mouth of Deer Creek called the Mustache Hole. Due to the high water at the mouth of Deer Creek, Don could not follow his fish but had to hold and wear it down within the confines of the hole. It took some doing.

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More fishing reports

In late June we received the following letter for the record from Robert Larsen of White Swan, Wash. You will remember Bob's interesting discussion of fly fishing for sea runs in Winter months.

"Have just returned from that country lying North of Kamloops, B.C. Again, as I stated last year, this area is representative of most of the higher country lying west of the Rocky Mountain watershed in type of water, hatches and species. More data than fish returned with me this time for rain, snow and sleet put the fish down and put most of our party on the shore under branches and inverted boats.

"I spent most of my time tying patterns for the party (seven) to try, also made several specimens dredging from the middle of Hi Hiume. These were very revealing and truly made my trip worthwhile. The available feed in these lakes is astounding and it is little wonder that there lies the origin of the Kamloops breed.

"The sedges (several species) were beginning to hatch but the heavier fish never gave them a second look for they were so gorged on shrimp that one had to tease them to hit with fluorescent patterns (I frown on this). The ice has been off from this lake no longer than three weeks but activity of aquatic life would indicate August in our climate.

"After realizing the tremendous feed potential here, I began dredging the lake and found powder blue shrimp towards the center, olive, watery blue and translucent shrimp towards and along the shore. The more mature ones were being taken by the bigger fish. I dressed #10 hooks with blue muskrat (fat bodies) brassy blue dun hackle, and a wood duck (down wing) wing. Two of the party began picking up some fair fish by trolling these deep. The fourth day the sun came out for an hour or two and the fish began rising to a tiny midge that was about the size of a #22 hook. At this time the muskrat bodied flies began taking a good toll of fish by all members.

"One can order either scotch or bourbon or beer if he brings his vise and material along on a party like this -- If he can keep the boys away from the flatfish and hardware.

The hot time to fish this area is from now on. There are big rainbow here and we were exactly a week too early. Every stream and lake was flooded or too high."

Signed, R. E. Larsen

July 2:

A letter from Jim Pautzke of Cascade re: Wash. State Sports Council, together with a note:

"Hicks Lake looks pretty good -- a good rise in South end on quiet evenings (whatever they are) some pretty fair fish and seemingly quite a few. I picked six a week ago to-night (June 25) and donated a couple of flies."

Merlin Martin:

With his family, Merlin fished Jamieson June 27th and 28th. Merlin reports that fishing was excellent with a mooched fly, but no success casting. The first run across the lake netted four fish for his boat. During the two days they fished, many rainbows were hooked and released-- average 16 inches. Lots of feed, and prospects of excellent fly fishing in the fall.

Joe Kristof:

Joe took his vacation in Montana and Wyoming, and experienced a plentitude of bad weather and high water. Among waters fished, the Big Hole, Beaverhead and Georgetown Lake, Mont., a high lake which opened July 1st. Joe had some success with Dolly Varden and Whitefish in the Beaverhead. At the lake, they ran into a snow storm and freezing temperatures, coming in from the lake with three inches of snow in the boat

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and seven Montana Blackspots from 14" to 3½ pounds.

Joe also fished Lake Jamieson June 27th and 28th, and reports excellent fly fishing. Largest trout, 18 inches. Contrary to rumor, no evidence of dead fish. Mrs. Kristof caught her first trout on flies, and will never again be impressed when Joe comes home and describes the difficulties of bringing a trout to net. One she hooked got tired waiting for Joe to rescue it, and jumped into the boat. Best fly, shrimp tied big: #6- 3X long shank. Black and silver body Carey also good. Summary: fly fishing good, lots of feed, good growth, but trout rather sluggish.

Don Sachs:

June 2nd, Bonney Lake. A good rise to a midge hatch just before dark. Dry fly good, pattern not important. Fish 7 to 11 inches.

July 6th, Pass Lake. High water level in the lake, no evidence of insect life and only a few small fish showing. Don fished a couple of hours in the evening, without success. Don also reports that he had a long talk with Mr. Hileman at the farm, from whom he gathered the following info. Only a few big cuts have been caught in Pass this year, the largest 3½ pounds, and all on flies. Two weeks previously, the game dept had planted in Pass 57,000 rainbows (fry-- 600 to the pound). The game dept biologist in the area has promised to make Pass "a good lake".

Lots of weeds showing, but bloom not bad. Cuts that were six inches on opening day, now 11 to 12 inches, but not in evidence. Hileman has new boats, and would like to see members of the WFFC. There were five in addition to Don on the lake, three of whom were fishing with flies.

## Creel Notes Committee

Vince Sellen

Don Sachs

Stu Oles

Bob Phillips

Merlin Martin

FISHERMAN'S SPRING

Roderick L. Haig-Brown

Wm. Morrow & Co., N.Y., 1951

Roderick L. Haig-Brown is a distinguished classical scholar. He is a lover of nature, a naturalist, and a sportsman. Also, he is a writer of international reputation, with a clear lucid style, astute perception, and a human warmth that seems to mellow and ripen with the passing years. It is our good fortune that he is a personal friend and a member of the Fly Club. Here is a list of his fishing books:

Western Angler	1939	(limited Ed.)
Republished	1947	(Popular Ed.)
Return to the River	1941	
A River Never Sleeps	1946	
Measure of the Year	1950	
Fisherman's Spring	1951	
Fisherman's Winter	1954	

I think that these rate among the best angling books that have been written, and they are the more interesting to us because with one exception, they deal with conditions in our own Pacific Northwest in our own time. Any angler who does not own and know these books is missing much useful information and pleasure.

I think that Roddy has been working up to "Fisherman's Spring" during the past fifteen years. Here he tells the experienced angler some of the things that have not been told before, and that we have somehow been waiting for.

Of course, I am pleased that in Chapter 14, "The New Rod", Roddy refers to a nine foot spiral that I made for him some years ago to speed his convalescence after an operation.