

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

August 15, 2000

L No. 8

The College Club, 505 Madison St.

Seattle, Washington

Phone: 206-622-0624

Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:45 PM

August Program

by Gene Gudger, Program Chairman

In keeping with WFFC tradition, our August meeting will be an informal affair. Low key dress, and an informal program. Tables will be set up in the bar area for members to sell or buy gear. Bring anything you may want to part with from surplus stock. We will have sheets available for you to mark asking prices if you want to sell on a "first come - first serve" basis and other sheets for silent auction items. Bring your checkbook, as we have no credit card capability.

At dinner, we will also have Donn Mills tying and demonstrating his video camera set up. The club is currently investigating the purchase of a camera and either a monitor or projector outfit. This demonstration is primarily geared to evaluation of the equipment for use in larger groups. A generous by-product will be a killer leech pattern (the Carlton General) tied by Donn.

Come relax, be ready to visit and enjoy.

WFFC PICNIC

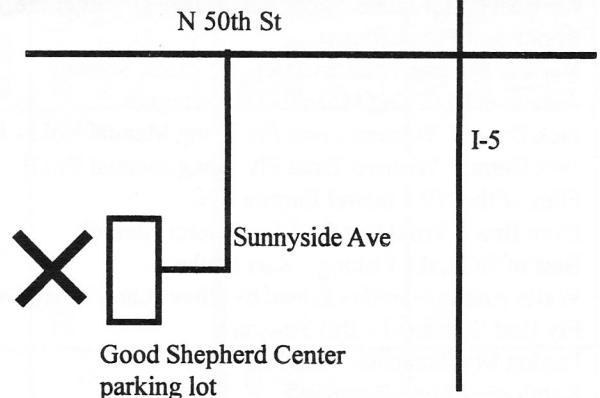
Date: Friday, August 18

Time: 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Place: Good Shepherd Center picnic shelter

Driving directions:

Exit I-5 at N 50th St. Drive west to light at Sunnyside Ave. N. Turn left then right into Good Shepherd Center. Park in lot and walk around building to picnic shelter on west side.



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North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, Idaho August 18-21, 2000

by Allen Peterson

This is a 4-day outing to one of the more pristine rivers in the Idaho panhandle to fish for westslope cutthroats. The river upstream from where we will be camping is about the size of the North Fork of the Stilliguamish River and in the lower portion, it is comparable to the Skykomish River. We intend on drifting this class 1-2 river in pontoon boats from about six miles above the campground where we will be staying both Saturday and Sunday for the resident cutts that average 16-19 inches with the occasional 22-24 inches not uncommon, all taken on dry flies. This is definitely caddis country. Elk hair caddis olive #14 and small stimulators #12 work very well.

See OUTING on page 3.

Club News

David Hyde Memorial Auction

The following list of fly fishing products, from the estate of our beloved brother and friend David Hyde, will be auctioned off at the August WFFC general club meeting in order to provide financial support and assistance to his widow, Jean. Please be generous in your bidding. Thank you for your time and consideration. Al Peterson.

Shakespeare 25, 5 Speed Electric Trolling Motor -Good Condition

Hodgman Women's Neoprene Waders 3.5mm Size Medium

Red Ball Flyweight Super Tough Hipper Wader Size Medium

Wooden Fishing Net

Fly Rod, Sage Graphite III GFL 390 RPLB with Aluminum Case and Rod Sock

Fly Rod, Orvis Graphite, 4 5/8 Oz, 9 Foot, 9 Weight with Aluminum Case and Rod Sock

Fly Rod Blank, Sage 90-4RPL 4 Piece Pack Rod, No Case

Fly Rod Blank, Sage Graphite III, 9 Foot, 6 Weight, 4 Piece Pack Rod, Case no Cap, Rod Sock

Fly Rod Fenwick Feralite, FF75-4, 7½ Foot, 3½ Oz. 6 Weight, 4 Piece Pack Rod, Case, Rod Sock

Fly Reel Pflueger Medalist, 1498DA, with Sinking Fly Line, No Case

Fly Reel Pflueger Medalist, 1495DA, with Floating Bass Bug Fly Line WF-9-F, No Case

Fly Reel Stutz Estuary, with Sink Tip Fly Line WF-9-F/S, Leather Case

Fly Reel Scientific Angler System 6, with Floating Fly Line, Vinyl Case

Fly Reel Orvis Featherweight, with Floating Fly Line, Heavy Flannel Bag

Fly Reel Spool Pflueger Medalist, 1495DA, with Floating Fly Line, No Case

Fly Reel Spool Marryat Gold, with Sink Tip Fly Line, Suede Case

Fly Reel Spool Hardy, with Sink Tip Fly Line, WF-6-F/S IV, Hardy Case

Fly Reel Spool Hardy, with Intermediate Sinking Fly Line, Shared Suede Case

Fly Reel Spool Hardy, with Sinking Fly Line, WF-7-S III, Heavy Corduroy Bag

Fly Reel Spool Scientific Angler System I, with Floating Air Cel Supreme DT-6-F Fly Line, Shared Suede Case

Fly Reel Spool James-Scott, with Hardy Dry Fly Line, DT-4-F, Neoprene Bag

Books and Publications

NW Fly Fishing Trout and Beyond - John Shewey

American Fly Tying Manual - Dave Hughes

Jack Dennis' Western Trout Fly Tying Manual Vol I - Jack Dennis

Jack Dennis' Western Trout Fly Tying Manual Vol II - Jack Dennis

Flies of the NW- Inland Empire FFC

Even Brook Trout Get the Blues - John Gierach

Best of BC Lake Fishing - Karl Bruhn

Wales Angling Guide - Edited by Clive (Larry Fine) Gammon

Fly Rod Steelhead - Bill Stinson

Pardon My Backcast- Alan Pratt

Kamloops - Steve Raymond

Aquatic Insects and Their Imitations - Rick Hafele and Scott Roederer (signed by Author)

Backcasts - A History of the WFFC 1939-1989

Fly Fisherman's Odyssey - Robert M. Mengel

Fishing, an Angler's Dictionary - Henry Beard & Roy McKie

Dry Fly Handbook - Dick Talleur

FFF Fly Fishing Always - Edited by Mike and Barbara Wolverton

A River Runs Through It - Norman Maclean (pre-movie)

One Man's Steelhead Shangri-La - Ralph Wahl (signed by Author)

Art Flick's Master Fly-Tying Guide - Edited and with Introduction by Art Flick

The Fisherman's World - Charles F. Waterman

Fishing Reports

Fishing with Bill Redman

Dear WFFC,

I was Greg Crumbaker's guest at the 1999 Christmas Party where I won a Steelhead fishing trip with Bill Redman. I had a delightful July 25th with Bill; I have never been so coddled by a guide. But what made it particularly special was Bill's sharing with me his pursuit of his favorite fish in his favorite section of the Stilly, a love of the past 38 years. He taught well, even though he caught a Steelhead following behind me (in the same moment that I caught a Jack Salmon.) But what I found most striking was that to him, and now to me, the stretch of the Stilly from Deer Creek to the Wall is not simply gravel bars interspersed with places that might contain fish. It is a linked set of very special places to fish, each with a name. The "Elbow" for example is that point where the Stilly turns sharply into the bank, trying to get to Steve Raymond's cabin. I became a believer in the importance of naming or having names for special spots; it helps savor the particular experience at the time, and in fond recall back home, pool by pool.

Gerry Conley

High Lakes Fishing Report - Pasayten Wilderness, Hidden Lakes - July 20 - 25

by Ron Dion

This trip actually started on Tuesday, July 19, with **Frank Vulliet** driving **Pete Baird** and **Ron Dion** over the North Cascades highway to **Don Simonson's** cabin near Winthrop. (Frank is a prospective WFFC new member. He easily meets the criteria for membership regarding snoring volume and intensity limits set by Bill "the truth" Hamilton, or should it be "Raisin".) Don graciously hosted dinner for four of us. Later that evening we were joined by **Paul Lingbloom** and the elder member of the group, **Dick Robbins**.

After a warm shower and a good night's sleep we all enjoyed a hot breakfast of eggs, bacon, et al provided by Frank followed by fresh strawberries provided by Dick. We then headed north out of Winthrop and up Eight Mile creek to Billy Goat trail head at 4700ft. elevation. By 8:30 a.m. we were all on the trail heading over Eight Mile pass at 5400 ft. and then down to Drake creek at 4600 ft. Then came the arduous climb over Lucky Pass at 5800 ft. then down to Diamond Creek at 4400ft. where we decided that 10 miles the first day was enough, so we spent the night there.

The next day we hiked past Cougar Lake and made the final six miles to the north end of the first Hidden Lake (4300' elevation) where we set up camp temporarily for

one night waiting for three young hikers to leave so we could have access to the shelter. They left the next afternoon, so we moved our camp over near the shelter for the next three days. This shelter made the next 24 hours bearable since we had thunder, lightning and torrential rain. The shelter provided cover for our gear and gave us a dry place to cook, and gave us the opportunity to become intimately familiar with the local residents (mice and chipmunks). The next few days were sunny and warm.

Fishing was super, however it was necessary to have a raft in order to really get to the good fishing, and fortunately all six of us had rafts! There were both rainbows and a few cutthroat in the three Hidden Lakes. The rainbows were much larger than the cuts. We found the largest fish in the first lake where we camped. We caught many rainbows over 18 inches with several being over 20 inches. They were in extremely good shape, heavy and provided us with exciting energetic aerial acrobatics, and as Don Simonson kept saying, "I think I've hooked into a salmon!" Successful fly patterns included Carlton General, Nyerges Nymph, large black bodied flies, Ginger Faced-Caddis, deer hair Caddis, Peacock Carey, Ginger Quill, and Adams Emerger. Since we caught fish of sizes varying from about 4 inches to over 20 inches, it appears the fish are reproducing naturally in these lakes.

Dick and Paul packed-up and left camp a day earlier than the rest of us (Monday) since they had more important things to do in the big city!! Their plan was to take two days to hike the 16 miles back to trail head. On the way, Dick, in his enthusiasm to get back, lost control of his feet and took a header! After receiving first aid from Ranger Bill Sullivan, who just happened to be on the trail, Dick and Paul made it back to their vehicle in one day, quite exhausted, and with many blisters to remind them of the fun they had! They then consumed a steak dinner in Winthrop, spent the night camped at Lonesome Fir campground, and made it back to Puget Sound country the next day.

The last four of us broke camp on Tuesday and headed down the trail with the plan to go 12 miles that day and stay the night at Drake Creek. Arriving at Drake Creek at about 4:30 p.m. and still with energy left, since the day was cool and pleasant, we decided to tough it out, go for the car, head for Winthrop and Don's cabin where a hot shower awaited! It turned out to be the right thing to do! We really enjoyed the cold beer and burgers in Winthrop and are especially grateful to Don for his hospitality. He again put us up for the night and provided us breakfast. What a great host!! Thanks Don!

Fishing Reports

Fishing the Lake at Sacred Circle Ranch

by James Schmidt

I've been making an annual fishing trip with my son, Peter, when he gets out of school in mid-June, usually to British Columbia. This year, however, I decided to stay closer to home and include my wife, Karen. I can only do so much male bonding with my 10-year-old son. I figured Karen would enjoy entertaining our son, and I could pursue fly fishing a little more peacefully. (Wife-editor's note: I can't believe he admitted this in print!)

Our destination was a private ranch one-and-a-half hours' driving time north of Wenatchee, about four hours from Seattle. The "Sacred Circle Ranch" is about 350 acres situated in the Chliwist Valley. Phil Reese, the Seattle owner, stocked the private 8-acre lake two years ago with German browns and Kamloops rainbows, and has allowed only catch-and-release fishing.

Before arriving at the lake we stopped at Brewster for lunch. My wife spotted a Mexican restaurant, "Los Camperos" (the campers, or more literally, "the field workers") and we had one of the best Mexican meals this side of the border. Check it out. The thirty minute drive north of Brewster took us up into the Chliwist Valley and that chapparal country. My son enjoyed the 4 mile drive in to the lake, down a dusty road where the grass cleans the bottom of your oil pan. Of course holding open the cattle gate is something a city kid thinks is fun, too.

The cabin (A-frame house) sits nestled among the trees with a splendid view of the lake from the front porch. The foot path from the house to the lake is about 200 feet and leads you past a mock orange that was in full bloom, the fragrance so sweet and pungent it made me stop and inhale the air deeply. No perfume or incense can match nature's own sweet smell. The lake is surrounded by low hills and is protected from the storms that can quickly descend upon you. Large rocks and logs are scattered around the edge of the lake and are covered with sun-basking western painted turtles. My son managed to catch them as they snoozed quite soundly in the sun. I took several pictures of these beautiful turtles and their bright red undersides. No, we don't have any pet turtles now; they're endangered, don'tcha know?

The many red-winged blackbirds added to the

atmosphere of the lake, with their frequent and distinctive calls. There were dozens of their nests camouflaged in the cattails all around the edge of the lake, visible if you looked carefully from your float tube or canoe. We even saw a nest that still contained 3 almost-fledglings. Other birds to be seen were the red-naped sapsucker, kildeer, and osprey.

The fish were willing to cooperate with a small Nyerger nymph (#14 standard hook) with a short forked tail of pearl crystal flash. The bottom is covered in vegetation, so the small nymph worked well in that it did not hang up as much as one might expect. I used a Type IV sinking line but would have preferred a Type II or III. I tried an intermediate but did not achieve the proper depth or retrieve that proved effective. Late evening, 9:00 PM til 10:30 PM, I had very good sport using a black Gil's monster, #6 long shank. I averaged 12 fish for a 7 hour day, mostly German browns the first day, and mostly rainbows the second day. The browns ran 16 to 18 inches and the rainbows 18 to 21 inches. All put up a terrific fight. I lost four fish to a new leader that kept breaking the tippet off at the fly; so much for bargain price leaders — you get what you pay for. I switched back to my own hand-tied leaders and promptly landed my largest fish, a 21-inch rainbow.

My wife liked the idea of having electricity and hot water, not to mention the indoor bathroom, and agreed she'd be willing to do this one again. (The cabin also contains dishes, pots and pans and utensils, bedding, and bathroom linens.)

My son mastered the float tube (thank you, Don Simonson) and perfected his stealth in turtle catching. He caught several brown trout and Karen even gave it a try one evening and landed a beautiful rainbow. This was my first experience with this lake, and it was a wonderful relaxing time enjoying the fishing, the varied wildlife and my family.

(For information on renting the cabin and fishing the lake [weekends only] call Phil Reese at 206 783-0090, or call me at 206 523-5262.)

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AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2000

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 Go Fishing!	7 NO BOARD MEETING THIS MONTH	8	9 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN HOTEL, 9TH & PINE	10	11	12 Go Fishing!
13 Go Fishing!	14	15 WFFC DINNER MEETING 5:30 PM COLLEGE CLUB	16 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	17	18 WFFC PICNIC 5:00 PM GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER 50TH & SUNNYSIDE	19 WFFC OUTING AT CO'A RIVER AUGUST 18-21
20 Go Fishing!	21	22	23 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	24 CONSERVATION COM. MEETING 7:00 PM AT THE RAM PUB	25	26 Go Fishing!
27 Go Fishing!	28	29	30 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	31	1 SEPTEMBER	2 Go Fishing!
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