

# 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

May 15, 2001

LI No. 5

The College Club, 505 Madison St.

Seattle, Washington

Phone: 206-622-0624

Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:45 PM



## May Program: Fly Fishing For Steelhead

Well known local presenter and writer Steve Probasco is the WFFC's featured speaker for the May meeting. This two-projector program takes a look at methods and gear for summer and winter steelheading in the Pacific Northwest. The objective is to demonstrate that steelhead can be taken on flies under most conditions, but, like steelheading with conventional tackle, finding willing fish and presenting your offering properly is paramount.

## President's Riffle

by Kris Kristoferson, WFFC President, 2001

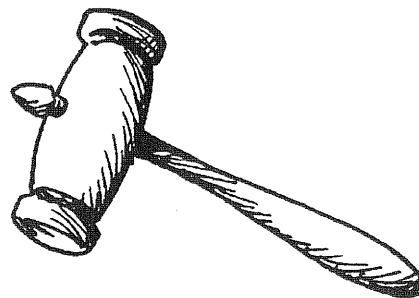
It's May already and I'm still getting used to writing "2001" on my checks. Virtually all our favorite waters are now open to fishing and, ideally, we have worked in some tying to replenish the contents of our fly boxes. I have done a little more tying this year and feel well prepared to hit the stream. I tried this time around to be more systematic so I would wind up with a collection of artificials in my boxes that better represents the most likely trout food in the places where I like to fish.

There is value in being prepared, . . . in having the right stuff for the job. The WFFC has the right stuff to undertake some bigger things. A Major Projects Committee is coming together to identify larger-scale, longer-timeline projects for our Club. The WFFC is well prepared for this exciting work: our Long-Range Plan will allow the Committee to move forward with purpose and direction. As projects are identified, we can proceed with confidence knowing the Club will have the right stuff for the job. Right stuff like the broad, professional knowledge base within our membership and the WFFC's financial resources that have been growing quietly but steadily. Last but not least, our Club's ready enthusiasm for pitching in and making things happen (in evidence again at Griffin Creek) will be a key ingredient for success on these projects.

We will all learn more at the meetings and in the Creel Notes as things progress. It's going to be engaging, fun work.

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## Club News

### Advanced Casting Techniques Class

by Don Simonson

I am thinking about holding a class teaching advanced casting techniques. This would be a three session class for students at the intermediate casting level. IE: the student displays good line control, able to cast tight loops and wide loops on command, utilizes the double haul, and is able to shoot line. The class will cover the following:

- Aerial mends
- Slack line casts
- Casting in wind conditions
- Curve casts
- Change of direction casts
- Forward backcast
- Refining the double haul
- Distance techniques

I am planning on holding the class in October, probably on Thursday evenings if I have interested students. The class will be limited to 10 students. If you are interested please contact me at 206-932-4925, or e-mail me at [donjoans@seanet.com](mailto:donjoans@seanet.com)

### Order New WFFC Jackets Here

by Leland Miyawaki, WFFC Ghillie

As many of you saw at our April meeting, I am taking orders for these beautiful new WFFC jackets. They feature a water repellent and wind resistant navy blue microfiber outer shell with a crimson club logo embroidered over the left chest. The micro fleece lining is a matching navy and has a velcro closure interior pocket.

The price at \$45 is a real deal, as the jacket is sold at retail without any embroidery for \$60. If you would like to order a jacket, don't send any money yet. Simply call me at (206) 264-0609 or email your name and size (M, L, XL, XXL) to: [lmiyawak@halcyon.com](mailto:lmiyawak@halcyon.com)



### LENICE continued from page 4.

Bill, what patterns did you use prior to and during the callibaetis hatch? Richard. P.S. Any credible witnesses on those 4-5 pound fish? <grin>

Sorry for the slow reply- I used a standard gray body with a cdc schuck out the end and a cdc loop wing. My problem was that I had a hard time getting the wings to stay upright, i.e. they would tend to flop on their side. Don Johnson told me to tie the pattern on a light scud hook tmc 2487 (this keeps the butt down) and to tie some dun hackle in the thorax. Then clip the hackle top and bottom which leaves some nice "outriggers" to keep the fly properly positioned. When my version would ride upright it was very effective. re size you should know by now that I don't exaggerate size- the fish were weighed on a chatillion scale which are as accurate as me. My friend Bill Castleman was at Lenice on Saturday the 21st and said the fish weren't keying on the mays.



### Chopaka Emerger

by Preston Singletary

Over the last few years I have changed the way I tie the Chopaka Emerger (after all, how can you not fix something even if it ain't broke). I borrowed some ideas from Norm Norlander and made some observations of emerging Callibaetis and the current version is as follows:

Hook: Standard 1x fine dry fly, #14 in the spring down to #18 by fall

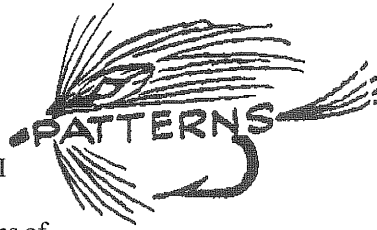
Tail: small clump of deer hair

Body: Nature's Spirit Callibaetis dubbing

Wing: deer hair

I dub the body 1/2 to 2/3 of the way up the shank, tie in the wing at that point (tips of the hair should extend to about half the length of the tail). Dub over the butts of of the deer hair then bring the wing forward over the back and tie it down just behind the eye of the hook, leaving the tips flaring up over the eye. Take three or four turns under the deer hair tips to prop them up a little and whip finish.

What led me to start using the deer hair tail was the observation that Callibaetis lie horizontally in the surface film as they emerge. I have also tied it with a well greased Z-lon tail (after all, how can you.....) to represent a trailing shuck and it seems to work just as well. One thing that I like about this fly is that it gets better looking as more fish chew on it and the dangling broken strands of deer hair begin to look like legs and other appendages. I fish this pattern right through the hatch and the fish generally seem to prefer it to imitations of the dun.



### Dean's Chimera - What You've All Been Waiting For

by Dean Ingram, WFFC Christmas Party Chairman

Dear Sports Fans,

As noted in April's Creel Notes by your Old Editor, "Watch For Dean's Chimera"; very clever, Bill. However, Webster's notes this as either 1. a fabulous monster, 2. an impossible or foolish fancy, or 3. a living structure of which the cells are zygotes. I don't think I qualify here. *My understanding of "chimera" is more like "nightmare". I'm confident that with your help, it won't be so.* Ed.

BUT, I do need help on making our annual Christmas party the very best it can be and I assure you it will be fun too. Please call me at (206) 623-1920 or at home at (206) 362-4862 to assist in the arrangements or procurement or auction or raffle items. My heartfelt thanks.

Respectfully,  
Dean Ingram



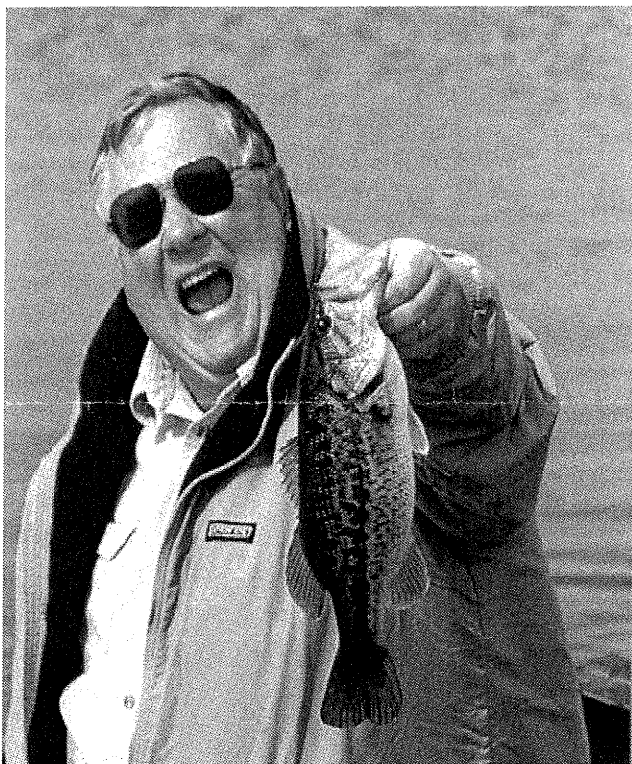
Greg Hicks, who was unable to accept his Tommy Brayshaw Award at the January meeting, received it a bit late, presented to him by Fran Wood.

## Fishing Reports

### Thompson-Gulliford Pond Grant Co.

by Don Gulliford

Dick Thompson and I have a small pond on our property near Royal City that we put triploids in three years ago and after boasting to a friend last week of their survival through winter, summer, cormorants and orchard workers, and glorious growth to about 5+ pounds, at least my friend got one on a pretty but chilly Friday morn. But what I got, with sandhill cranes sneering overhead, is best shown on the attached photo, since I understand that editor Boardman can include even a color picture.



### Upper Yakima, April 22

by Richard Embry

Floated the Teanaway down to the diversion dam. The weather early in the day seemed awesome, and we were eager to fish what looked like it would be an awesome fishing day. A ferocious wind appeared about mid-afternoon. Well, I guess the water level was down almost a foot from the day prior, and the water temperature was below 45 degrees. The catching was exceptionally slow; I only caught one fish, a chunky 17" bow that put on a serious aerial exhibition, and only one other fish was caught by the other two guys in the boat. We had no strikes at our dries, except for a 'flash' of a small fish refusing my dry at the last second. A few March Browns tried to pop off about 1 pm or so, but the wind blew them

off the water very quickly. We saw NO evidence of stoneflies. Good fishing, poor catching - still had a very good time!

### Fishing Report, April 22

by Leland Miyawaki

Earl Harper and I fished one run on the Yakima all day long and it felt that we could catch all the fish we wanted. The weather was cloudy and blustery with a downstream wind that gained in intensity through the day. At 10:30am, when we stepped into the river, baetis were already being taken down the gut of the run from the middle to the tailout and were easily matched with a #14 olive Quigley Cripple. Even as caddis and the smattering of March Browns came out during the day, the trout continued to key on the baetis. When the fishing would slow down, we switched to soft hackles. Partridge and Green, which works during caddis hatches as well as my favorite black, picked up an occasional fish. But neither worked as well as a #14 pheasant tail soft hackle. But then, when the pheasant tail began to pick up fish, I would switch back to my baetis cripple and it would begin all over again. During this time, there were a lot of caddis in the air but the rise forms never indicated that they were what was being taken. A classic masking hatch if there ever was one. Interestingly, there were three guys, at various times, nymphing across the run from us and none of them ever saw the rising trout in the middle of the river nor noticed we were fishing dries. In fact, a couple boaters even came down later in the day and pounded the banks across from us as they rowed over our risers.

### Lenice Lake - Monday, April 23

by Bill Hamilton and Rich Embry. Submitted by Bob Birkner

Lenice lake - was there the 13th-15th. Friday the wind never got below 15 mph but from 2-4 the callabetis came off in droves and the fishing (and catching) was non-stop. Best fish weighed in at 5 pounds about 24". (on 6x-that was fun). Only had 4 takes on chironomids all three days while waiting for the "hatch". My friends had good results with hares ears prior to the hatch, but I didn't. Saturday and Sunday were pretty much repeats re the hatch although there was little wind those two days and Sunday the hatch was not quite as large as Friday and Saturday. Caught two more fish 4-5 lbs-awfully nice looking fish for being raised in a trout farm but they were very poor fighters. I've never seen a callabaetis hatch like this at Lenice in my 22 years of fishing there. Some friends fished Nunnally Saturday and Sunday and did well on chrons, but said there wasn't any mayfly hatch to speak of. Bill

See LENICE on page 2.

## Fishing Reports

### Estuary Fishing April 15, 2001:

by Preston Singletary. This was put together from several e-mails and may not flow exactly as Preston intended. Ed. JeffO, You're probably a little late for the cutt and dolly fishing in the mouths of the Skagit. They move up (or down) into the lower river in March to intercept the chum and (in even years) humpy fry that are outmigrating. Almost anyplace in Port Susan and along the east shore of Camano Island can provide good cutthroat and dolly fishing, year round at times. It should be improving as more and more post-spawning cutthroat return to saltwater and begin feeding up for next fall's spawning run.

This early in the season there are probably still some fry around as well as newly hatched candlefish so small baitfish patterns (Les Johnson's and Dan Lemaich's Thorne River Emerger is a good one). For attractor patterns the Reversed Spider in orange and wood duck has been a favorite of mine for several years now. Humpies will be coming back this year and almost any simple pink pattern should work. They are a blast in saltwater and in the lower reaches of the Stilly or Skagit (if they have a humpy season this year). Ala Spit on the east side of Whidbey just south of Deception Pass is a good place to intercept them. Hopefully we'll be getting a good return of coho and it's been my experience that pink works just as well for them, at least in the saltwater.

I tie a pattern that I call the Hubert Humpy that works well for humpies as well as coho in the fall:

Hook: size 8 Mustad 3760

Thread: x-fine monofilament

Body: pearl diamond braid

Wing and tail: pink rabbit strip

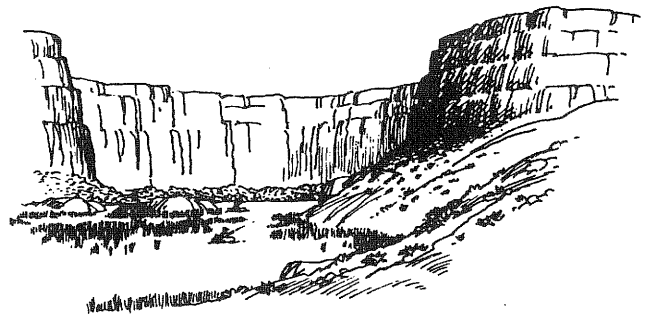
Eyes: silver bead chain

(Diamond braid is a small diameter braided plastic material and I guess that's about the only description I can give you, most flyshops carry it in a variety of colors.)

Tie in the rabbit strip at the bend of the hook leaving at least a quarter inch of hide trailing behind the tie-in point. Tie in the diamond braid and wind it to the front. Bring the rabbit strip forward over the back and tie it down. Tie the bead chain eyes in with a series of figure eights. Trim the rabbit strip so that the hair trails back the equivalent of 3/4 of the length of the body. Fish it on a floating or intermediate line with a fast, erratic strip.

Unlike most other salmon species, the fry of the chum salmon (as well as humpies) begin dropping down to the salt almost as soon as they hatch. They usually arrive, pretty much en masse over a period of only a few weeks. I'm sure that some arrive a little earlier and some later, but the big peak usually occurs in mid or late March. This, of course, may change by as much as a week or two depending on temperature and other variables. It takes this kind of abundance to bring the cutts and dollies up into the river; after all, they're living off the fat of the land (water?) along the beaches, grazing on on shrimp and baitfish.

The peak time for cutthroat spawning is in March but cutthroat may enter the rivers anytime from July through February. Some fish may be returning to saltwater as early as March or April. Since the cutthroat, unlike steelhead, continue to eat while on their spawning runs, many of them remain in pretty good condition and recover very quickly once they return to the Sound. It has been suggested that some cutthroat overwinter in saltwater but there is no hard evidence to indicate that this is so. What I'm trying to get around to is that cutthroat can be caught in saltwater any month of the year. Late winter and very early spring will probably be the times of lowest concentration. Most of the people that I know who fish cutts in the north Sound wait until June to start seriously looking for them along the beaches. I have taken cutthroat as early as the middle of April that were fat and healthy-looking (I haven't fished for cutts much at that time, in a normal year I'd still be chasing steelhead then). The absolute best time of year is probably from mid-summer to fall when they seem to be staging along the beaches adjacent to the mouths of rivers and (sometimes surprisingly small) streams. Not a very good answer, I realize, but cutthroat are the least studied of our anadromous fishes and have the most variable run timing.



*Oh, Dry Falls, you were sooo good to us last weekend!!*

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, 810 Crown Drive, Everett, WA 98203-1801, E-mail to [bboard@gte.net](mailto:bboard@gte.net) (E-mail is preferred). This issue of *Creel Notes* was produced by Bill Boardman. *Creel Notes* is printed by the second Tuesday of the month; article submissions must be received by the previous Friday. Mail roster updates directly to Roman Millett, 2725 161st Pl. S.E., Mill Creek, WA 98012-7877. The WFFC may be visited on the internet at <http://www.wffc.com>.



## In Retrospect

### In Retrospect

from WFFC Creel Notes vol. XXIV No. 5, May 1976

#### ENOS BRADNER BECOMES LIFE HONORARY MEMBER OF THE INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB

Enos Bradner and Gil Nyerges were guests of the INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB on April 13, 1976 in SPOKANE at their 20th Anniversary Meeting.

Brad was one of the members of the WFFC who helped organize the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club in 1956. In commemoration of the occasion Brad was made a LIFE HONORARY MEMBER.

The I.E.F.F.C. is an active member club of the Federation of Fly Fishermen and is working on many conservation projects. They have constructed a "pond mill" on McDowell Lake, a "fly only" lake near Spokane, to counteract winter kill and are working with the Game Department biologist on possible other lakes where the "pond mill" idea can be used. We understand that a "Vibert Box" was suspended from the "pond mill" and trout were hatched.

I.E.F.F.C. is also working on a project to reestablish "toxiphene" as an acceptable lake rehabilitation agent and they are working on the replacement of insect life in the Spokane River where pollution has been eliminated, and we are all aware, of course, of their excellent publications, "Flies of the Northwest."

Enos Bradner can be proud to be a member of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club just as we are proud of our own "Brad" for the honor they have given him.

#### OPENING DAY OUTING AT PASS LAKE

The Opening Day outing at Pass Lake was a great success again this year. The weather cooperated this year and the fishing was good. The crowds were there as usual but it was nice to be able to recognize some of your fishing buddies on the lake releasing fish. The steak dinner was really a treat and the new idea of Dick Thompson's for the pancake breakfast was a real success. The left over beer provided a good pick me up in the pancake batter. The work of Jerry Sugamele, Wayne Daley, Fred DeWitt and Fred Kay was greatly appreciated by all who attended. A special thanks also goes to those two members who we see a lot of but somehow we never seem to notice how hard they are working. Harry Ludwig and Bill Karban keep us well fixed for HBR's and many other spirits so the next time you step up to the bar, which should be any minute now, give a special thank you to Harry and Bill for the excellent job they do.

### Lake Lenice, Rocky Ford, Lenore

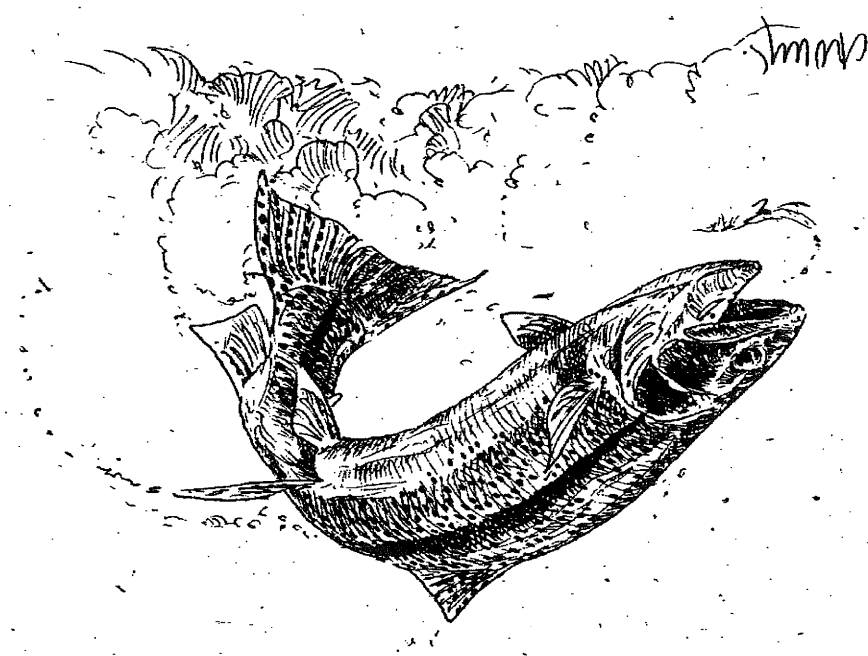
by Wes Neuenschwander and Jeff Hale, submitted by Bob Birkner. This is the last of the "Guest Appearance" fishing reports. From now on **YOU** guys will have to submit your own! Ed.

From Wes Neuenschwander. A friend of mine fished Lenice Thursday and Friday and also did well -very well - fishing Calibaetis emergers. I believe he had something like 8 large (20" range) fish Thursday and "uncountable" numbers of large fish Friday. The pattern he was using was the venerable (but not widely known) Chopaka Emerger. I suspect this may very well be the pattern that Preston gave you, since it was Preston who (to the best of my knowledge) first published an account of this pattern. For those of you who keep your old fly fishing magazines, the article is in in Western Fly Tying, Volume 1, Number 2 -Summer 1996). It's an unusual pattern - somewhat similar to a Tom Thumb - but fairly easy to tie. It incorporates a pheasant tail (or I prefer dubbed) body with a hank of deer or elk hair tied in at the front, with the tips pointed back (like an elk-hair caddis, only longer). The tips are pulled forward over the eye and tied down to form a wing-case, with the hair tips pointed ahead of and above the eye at a 45 degree angle. Either hackle fibers or hair can be used for the tail (3 splayed fibers or bunches of fibers). The trick is in getting the right combination of materials and proportions so that the fly hangs in the film at a 45 degree angle, with only the 'wing' (the hair tips), and perhaps wing-case, floating and the abdomen and tail hanging below the surface. I sometimes dress the wing in floatant (lightly) to get the proper float. This can be an incredibly effective pattern during Calibaetis emergences, and when the trout are keyed on emergers, may be the only thing they'll take. -Wes.

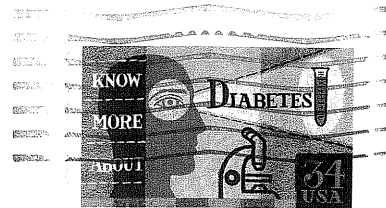
From: Jeff Hale. Fished lake Lenice with my brother on Wednesday. I only landed two and he landed four. Two of the fish were nice browns. Got em' on buggers, bunny leeches, and 'mids. However, Preston Singletary was there, and he was hooking fish on a callabaetis emerger pattern during a pretty steady mayfly hatch. The speckled winged duns were coming off from about 11 am until we left at 3:30 pm. I tried a parachute Adams and a Gulper Special, but no dice. The emerger is what they wanted and Preston's fly was the ticket. He gave me two of the flies during the peak of the hatch (and my frustration); that's the sign of a true sportsman. It was my first time to fish the lake and I was impressed by the strong, sturdy, hard fighting rainbows that live there. They ran, jumped, and raised hell just like rainbows are supposed to do. I haven't seen that for a while. I'll be going back, but this time I'll be armed with a dozen of the emerger patterns Preston showed me. I also fished the Ford, and 5 of the rainbows went better than 20 inches. They all ate a #14 dirty olive scud. Also messed around a little at Lenore and took 3 bright Lahottans on #12 black mids' fished about 6 feet under an indicator. That's all fellows! Jeff Hale.

# MAY - JUNE 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 MAY DRY FALLS LAKE OUTING	7	8	9 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN HOTEL, 9TH & PINE	10 FLY CASTING CLASSES 7:PM GREEN LAKE CASTING PIER	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 FLY CASTING CLASSES 7:PM GREEN LAKE CASTING PIER	18	19 Go FISHING!
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 WFFC OUTING AT CHOPAKA LAKE
27 WFFC OUTING AT CHOPAKA LAKE	28 WFFC OUTING AT CHOPAKA LAKE	29	30 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	31 FLY CASTING CLASSES 7:PM GREEN LAKE CASTING PIER	1 JUNE	2 Go FISHING!
3 Go FISHING!	4 WFFC BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM COLLEGE CLUB	5	6 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	7	8 JUNE CREEL NOTES FROZEN	9 Go FISHING!
10 Go FISHING!	11	12	13 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	14	15	16 Go FISHING!



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