

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

September 18, 2001

LI No. 09

The College Club, 505 Madison St.

Seattle, Washington

Phone: 206-622-0624

Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:45 PM

September Program: Alpine Lakes and Reservoirs in Idaho

by Roman L. Millett, as directed by Program Chairman Jim McRoberts

Clayne Baker's slide show is the highlight of our September program. His presentation on fly-fishing in alpine lakes and reservoirs in Southwest Idaho should be of particular interest to our members because of Idaho's relatively close geographical location. A slide show of Clayne's favorite rivers including Silver Creek, Wood River, and the Boise River will be a part of the program.

Fly-fishing experiences for Brown Trout in the Owyhee River in eastern Oregon and smallmouth fishing on the John Day River in central Oregon will also be shared during the presentation.

The Boise Valley Wooly Buggers, a children's fly-fishing club is composed of about 170 members, boys and girls from seven to sixteen years of age. Clayne will describe how the Wooly Buggers became the largest kid's club in America and the secrets of club success.

Clayne Baker was born in Boise Idaho in 1930 and was introduced to fly-fishing, by his grandparents, at an early age. He was married in 1950, served in the Korean War that same year and was subsequently sent to Mare Island Naval Base Hospital in Vallejo California to recover from war wounds. While convalescing at the hospital in California he gave fly-tying lessons to some of the patients. From there it was back to Idaho followed by many years of fly-fishing and active participation in a number of fly-fishing organizations. In 1982 he was the chairman of the FFF Youth Conclave in West Yellowstone, Montana. In 1994 Clayne organized the Boise Valley Wooly Buggers a successful fly-fishing club for children. Additionally, he has published articles on fly-fishing in magazines and books in the United States and Europe.

As you can tell, Clayne Baker has a lifetime of fly-fishing to share with us. Please extend a warm welcome to Clayne Baker at our next general membership meeting.

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WFFC Team Selected for Casting Games

by Don Simonson, past president, expert fly-fisherman, and all-around good guy

The following members of our casting team for the upcoming FFF Northwest Casting Competition, 29 September 2001, are as follows:

Richard Embry
Jimmy Lemert
Don Simonson
Dick Stearns

Chapin Henry also qualified, but had to withdraw because of personal reasons.

Competition for a place on the WFFC casting team was fierce. Four members were chosen based on knowledge, demonstrated skill while under intense pressure and scrutiny, and endurance. Chapin Henry is one of our best; however, as Don has described it, Chapin withdrew of his own volition. His skill as a competitor will be missed

WFFC Members Beat Back Blackberry at Griffin Creek

by Kirk Anderson, King County Department of Natural Resources

A big thank you to the 16 club members who contributed their time and effort to maintaining the riparian planting on the King County Parks land along Griffin Creek. On a warm August 25th morning, Pete Baird, Jim McRoberts, John Thompson, Dick Brening, Grant Hendrickson, Preston Singletary, Don Schroder, Mark Pratt, Bill Boardman, Ron Hofmeister, Dick Levinthal, Kris Kristoferson, Keith Pickrell, C. F. Vulliet, Charles Ballard, and Ken Jarvis cleared mounds of blackberry from around the native trees planted in 2000. As usual, Doug Schaad rewarded the hard workers with a substantial lunch. The survival rate of the plants is looking good, thanks to the Washington Fly Fishing Club's efforts in May and August. We hope to have another event this fall to replace the trees we have lost. King County is grateful for the work you all have done to help us restore this site. We couldn't do it without you.

Kirk Anderson

Snoqualmie Steward

King County Department of Natural Resources

201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

(206)296-1948

Fly Tying Round Table

By Dick Brening

The Fly Tying Round Table will resume meetings in October. We will continue to meet at the Mercer Island Covenant Church on Mercer Island. The meeting night has been changed to the 4th Tuesday of the month since the church is unavailable to us on Wednesdays this year. (That means no pre-meeting dinner at the church.)

October Meeting: Tuesday, October 23rd, 7 to 9 PM

Place: Mercer Island Covenant Church, 3200 78th S.E. (S.E. corner of 78th S.E. and S.E. 32nd). Just south of the Mercer Island business district. Off street parking is available off 78th S.E.

You and your guests are welcome. Come to tie, watch or just share ideas. Visitors are welcome.

If you have any questions on directions contact Pete Baird or me at the club meeting or give me a call at 425-455-4514.



2001 Boyd Aigner Fly-Tying Competition

by Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

Last year, in a move to encourage greater participation, the Board of trustees approved changes to the Boyd Aigner Fly-Tying Competition. These relaxed the need for strict adherence to a specific "formula" and placed greater emphasis upon tying skills. These changes were well received by the Members and will be continued for the 2001 Competition. In addition, to reflect better the status of the Competition and the accomplishment of its winners, the Award will be presented as part of the ceremonies at the January Awards Meeting.

As an additional incentive for participation in the 2001 Competition, our friends at Kaufmann's Streamborn Flies have offered to present to the winner a Winston BL-5, 10 foot, 8 weight, 5-piece fly rod, with a Bauer M-4 reel. Many thanks to them for their generosity.

Like last year, there will be three flies for the 2001 Competition, to be specified by the judge. Participants are free to use existing patterns or develop their own to represent these flies. All specimens will be judged based upon "fishability", action, creativity, degree of difficulty, proportions, and overall tying quality and must be submitted by the December Members Meeting.

Unfortunately, our judge has "gone fishin'" and the flies for the 2001 Competition are not available at the time these Creel Notes go to press. However, the flies will be listed on the Club's website-www.wffc.com-and can also be obtained from me, your reporter. The flies WILL be published in next month's Creel notes.

Please contact me for further information, as well as copy of the Competition Guidelines and a confidential identifier number to be used in the Competition.

(w) 206-667-8211; (h) 206-232-0603;

wneal@staffordfrey.com

ADVANCED CASTING TECHNIQUES CLASS

by Don Simonson

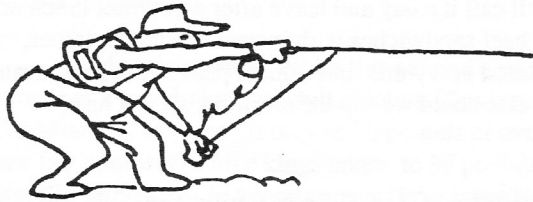
Dates: Tuesday October 2nd, Thursday October 4th,
and Tuesday October 9th

Time: 6 PM

Place: Green Lake Casting Pier

Cost: \$10.00

Equipment required: 5, 6, or 7 weight rod, floating
line, 7-8 ft. leader



Dick Robbins Update

by Dick Robbins

Dick Robbins has a new office phone number. The
remainder of information in the roster for 2001 is correct.

New office phone number is:

425-673-1400

The Robbins Group LLC

316 Main Street, Suite A

Edmonds, WA 98020

*Please make a note of it. Additionally, if you have a roster
change, please send the new information to Roman
Millett, using the "tear-out" in the WFFC Roster for
2001. Thanks. Ed.*

FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS



Weighted Flies Banned on North Fork Stillaguamish River to Protect Wild Spawning Chinook

by Doug Schaad, Conservation Committee Co-Chairman

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is prohibiting the use of weighted fishing flies on a 30-mile stretch of the North Fork Stillaguamish River to protect natural spawning chinook salmon.

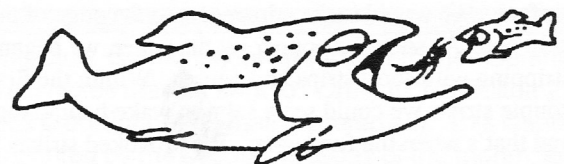
The prohibition will take effect on Monday, Aug. 20, and run through Oct. 15 of this year on the North Fork Stillaguamish River from the confluence in the Arlington area upstream to the Swede Heaven Bridge, said Curt Kraemer, WDFW fisheries biologist.

"The drought has created extremely low water conditions in stretches of the river, and the chinook are concentrating in just a few pools," Kraemer said. "Anglers using weighted flies are intentionally targeting wild spawning chinook salmon in this stretch of the river. The fish are being foul-hooked, and they are getting stressed out with the unusually warm water temperatures."

Kraemer said the rule change is intended to protect the spawning chinook while at the same time providing fishing opportunity for sea-run cutthroat and steelhead. However, Kraemer said the entire North Fork could be closed to all fishing if the chinook harassment doesn't stop.

Puget Sound chinook were listed as a "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act in 1999.

Contact: Curt Kraemer, (425) 775-1311, ext. 101, for additional information. Ed.



Fishing Reports

Sekiu - August 25, 2001

by Leland Miyawaki, a frequent contributor of fishing reports

Prospective new member, Brian Lencho, and I fished the outgoing tide yesterday at Sekiu from 7 a.m. to 12 noon in a rented boat from Van Riper's (\$86). Occasionally, the morning sun would peek out from behind the high clouds, but for the most part, it was overcast and the water was dead calm. We began our search for coho by trolling. Brian fished a traditional bucktail and I switched back and forth between various streamer concoctions and poppers. We motored back and forth over most of the water in Clallam Bay, concentrating our search along the kelp beds.

We trolled for an hour and a half without a strike. Next to the bell buoy at the rocks near Slip Point, Brian hooked his first fish, a five pound wild coho. We narrowed our search and began circling the area looking for feeding schools. On our third pass off Slip Point, we made a tight turn and Brian hooked up again on his bucktail. The change in speed and direction also brought a huge boil to my popper. The game was on.

Schools of three to four inch herring were swimming under our boat. Gulls were diving into the water inside the kelp beds and just enough salmon were crashing into the herring to let us know they were around. And we were the only boat there.

For the next three hours, we drifted along the outside edge of the kelp beds just off the beach. We cast poppers into the holes in the kelp and stripped them back to the boat. I don't think we made more than a dozen casts that didn't elicit a strike or follow. We lost count, but figure we each had at least 30 fish up to the boat. We weren't netting them. We simply reached down over the boat and slipped out the barbless hooks. We took photographs of the first few salmon but soon became too busy to shoot. We were in a zone, you might say. There were a few shakers but most were wild coho between four and five pounds with a few that were over. Toss in a couple good-sized blackmouth, and we had the makings of a good day.

What made the fishing so fun was the popper on the surface. We would make a long cast to the edge of the kelp bed. As soon the popper hit the water, we began stripping with short strips and pauses. Within the first couple strips, we could see a salmon wake behind the fly and that's when the fun began. We provoked strikes by manipulating our poppers. Brian said it was like teasing a cat with a string. We sped up like a frightened baitfish and

the salmon would slam the fly from behind. We stopped dead and the salmon would turn away, then we twitched the popper, the salmon would turn back and take the fly from the side with a huge boil. We changed directions with quick mends and the salmon crashed the fly. When we stripped our poppers up to the boat, we could see the salmon behind the fly. If we raised the rod and pulled the fly alongside the boat and stopped, the salmon would take it at our feet. All our moves brought violent strikes. These coho had a bad attitude and wanted to annihilate our flies!

Around noon, the action slowed, so we headed back to the docks to get something to eat. On the way, we decided that since Brian needed to get home that night, we might as well call it a day and leave after a gourmet lunch of hot roast beef sandwiches with instant mashed potatoes, powdered gravy mix and canned peas at the Breakwater. How else could we top the morning we just had?

Seattle Fly Fishermen

by Roman L. Millett, Creel Notes Editor

A couple of Fly Fishermen from Seattle (not WFFC members) are fishing for trout, on the Skykomish River, when one of them falls to the ground, on the gravel bar, and lands on his back. He doesn't seem to be breathing, and his eyes are rolled back in his head.

The other guy whips out his cell phone and calls the government on their public phone line, 911. He gasps to the operator, "My friend is dead! What can I do?"

The operator, in a calm soothing voice says, "Just take it easy. I work for the government and I am trained to provide assistance. I can help. First lets make sure he's dead."

.....There is a silence, then a shot is heard.....

The Fly Fisherman says, "OK, now what?"

British Columbia Salmon continued from page 5.

ups, showers, laundry, store. On the upscale side, Farewell Harbour Resort is quiet, isolated, and charismatic, with excellent fishing guides and great food. Four-day, three-night package for about \$1,450 U.S., plus airfare from Kenmore Air Harbor in north Seattle, if you don't drive or trailer your own boat. Glen Lyon Inn in Port Hardy is a modern motel-type accommodation with a good attached restaurant and fine waterfront view.

Fishing Reports

British Columbia Salmon

by Wayne Kruse, famous outdoor writer and local resident. Portions of this article are printed here for your reading enjoyment. Published on HeraldNet on Sunday, August 26, 2001

Oh, Canada: Tourism and Fishing blend on Vancouver Island

The area I explored with host Graham Nielsen for six days was "inside" the top end of Vancouver Island, including Blackfish Sound and the group of islands between the south end of Queen Charlotte Strait and the north end of Johnstone Strait. Hot fishing spots included the east end of Malcolm Island; Swanson Island; Double Bay on Hanson Island; Parson Island; and Cracroft Point on Cracroft Island.

And hot they were. While this general area is not known as a top choice for adult chinook ("springs" in Canadianese, or "tyee" if they're 30 pounds or over), we saw fair numbers of nice kings taken, to 39 pounds. It was literally impossible to keep from catching beautiful, fat coho of 10 or 12 pounds; pink after pink in the same water, and, although not as many, plump sockeye.

We bounced around, relaxed and low-key, from area to area, trying this and that, in a setting even more beautiful than the San Juans, if that's possible.

The interesting point about this area is that it can be characterized as a blue-collar, do-it-yourself fishery, offering visiting American anglers great scenery, varied action all summer, and something a little different, at prices generally much more reasonable than the luxury lodges up the coast or in the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Open boats fish the relatively protected waters regularly, with the usual regard for weather conditions and a modicum of navigation skill. Boats can be trailered up the Island highway from Nanaimo, about a five-hour drive on good pavement, or you can charter a reasonably priced guide, on a day-by-day basis, at any of the coastal communities. Campgrounds and launch ramps are available in the area, and there are also higher-end, very comfortable lodges for those whose tastes run in that direction.

A five-day non-resident fishing license with salmon stamp costs \$40 Canadian, and good guides to fishing the area

are for sale at most tackle shops and marinas.

Here's an approximate time chart for various species in the area: May: chinook fair, coho fair, pinks none, halibut excellent, lings closed. June: chinook good, coho fair, pinks fair, halibut good, lings excellent. July: chinook excellent, coho good, pinks excellent, halibut good, lings good. August: chinook excellent, coho excellent, pinks excellent, halibut good, lings good. September, chinook good, coho excellent, pinks good, halibut excellent, lings good.

While your chance of landing a 50-pound king here isn't probably as good as some other spots on the British Columbia coast, fishing is more varied and, in my opinion, more interesting. There are small towns to visit, history to see, and time to enjoy all the wildlife the area has to offer.

We saw whales, we saw dozens of bald eagles, we saw black bear on the beach, and a pod of Dall porpoise frolicked around our boat for at least 15 minutes one morning — incredibly fast and incredibly beautiful. We talked to lodge guests and drive-up visitors who had thoroughly enjoyed whale-watching expeditions to the Robson Bight Orca Study Area, and 30 miles up Knight Inlet on trips to see grizzlies feeding along tributary streams.

The three towns on the Island servicing this general area are Port Hardy, the largest; Port McNeill, the favorite with visiting boaters because most amenities are within walking distance of the docks; and Telegraph Cove. The latter is a very historic small settlement which has been modernized to appeal to visitors, with gift shops, a marina, a boat launch, charter services and a lot more.

It was home to a turn-of-the-century commercial fishing venture, which salted and packed salmon for shipment to Japan, and all the old buildings have been signed for a walking tour. Well worth a visit.

Recommendations for accommodation? We had good luck with Alder Bay Campsite (see accompanying list for contact information), between Port McNeill and Telegraph Cove. Right on the water, good launch ramp, full hook-up. See *British Columbia Salmon* on page 4.

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, 2725 - 161st Pl. S.E., Mill Creek, WA 98012-7877, E-mail to wffcedit@outdrs.net (E-mail is preferred). This issue of *Creel Notes* was produced by Roman Millett. *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>.

President's Riffle

President's Riffle

by Kris Kristoferson, WFFC President, 2001

I just returned from fishing at British Columbia's Hi Hium Lake. It was my first trip to the lake and also my first visit to the Circle W Ranch. Having been busy with work, this trip provided me a much needed break. Fishing was at times challenging but we finished strong, bringing several good-sized fish to hand on the last evening. What struck me about the trip were the people at the Circle W: truly nice folks who know how to make a person feel welcome. The Bendzaks have donated a trip like this to the Club's Christmas Party every year for a long time now and it is a big driver of raffle ticket sales. The lucky winner gets a memorable trip hosted by great people whose generous contributions really help the WFFC.

I am sure Dean Ingram, now underway on organizing this year's Christmas Party, appreciates the value of their contribution. Dean needs it along with many other donations to pull together an event which is both entertaining and financially successful. As Club members, we should think now of ways we can contribute to the success of the annual Christmas Party. When Dean or someone on his team calls to ask about a donation, we can be ready. Like the Bendzaks, we can do our part to help out the Club. Fishing tackle, flies, trips, clothing, instruction, guiding, . . . the possibilities go on and on. It doesn't have to revolve around fishing, either. Many a non-fishing spouse has been pleasantly surprised when her husband comes home the winner of wine, restaurant certificates or some other party loot in which she can share.

Dean and the guys working with him are doing the heavy lifting required to pull together an event which, year after year, strengthens our Club. Let's do what we can to help them succeed.

Loose Ends

Thank You WFFC

by Donn Mills, frequent volunteer, past committee chairman, and member in good standing

Joyce and I would like to thank the WFFC for the lovely bouquet of flowers. Phone calls from Pete Baird and Chuck Ballard, along with the thoughtfulness of the flowers has meant a lot to Joyce in her recovery.

Thank you WFFC.

Donn Mills

All best wishes to the Mills family, from the WFFC. Ed.

Gypsy Lake, Alberta, Canada May 25 -June 2, 2001

by Perry Barth, expert fly-fisherman and WFFC member since 1972

This is a very easy and economical trip with a ton of fun catching Northern Pike. Nine of us (3 from WFFC - Jim McRoberts, Lyle Manson and myself) flew Horizon Air to Edmonton and then Canadian Air to Ft. McMurray. Next morning, a short 1/2-hour flight to the lodge and we were fishing right after lunch. Accommodations were comfortable and the food was terrific. Most popular fly was the rabbit hair "bunny". We also used popper flies with good success and catching fish on top is always lots of fun. While they don't fight like salmon or steelhead of the same size, they do give a good tug and are easy to catch. They look like something out of Jurassic Park with a mouth full of teeth that necessitate a wire shock tippet of about 10 or 12 inches. Most fish are in the 20 inch range and the three of us caught a few in the 30's with Lyle's 38" being the tops. My long time friend Bob Bune and his two sons were out every night after dinner and were rewarded with quite a few fish in the 40's. A few years ago, Alan Pratt and Gil Nyerges were invited by some lodge back east to prove these "fresh water alligators" could be taken on the fly; which they of course did. Since they come so readily to the fly, it's a bit of a surprise to me that this fish was not a target for fly fishermen much earlier!

The wild life of course always adds to the experience and there is lots to see at Gypsy Lake; Osprey, eagles, black bear, moose to name some, and the summer resident White Pelicans. Watching them dive is a real hoot. We'll be going back in 2 years and I'll put the invitation out for anyone interested in joining us.

The editorial staff was able to determine the reported length of these fish was not empirically verifiable. Ed.

September-October 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9 Go Fishing!	10	11	12 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN HOTEL, 9TH & PINE	13	14	15 Go Fishing!
16 Go Fishing!	17	18 WFFC DINNER MEETING COLLEGE CLUB 5:30 PM	19 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	20	21	22 Go Fishing!
23 Go Fishing!	24	25	26 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	27 CONSERVATION COM. MEETING 7:00 PM AT THE RAM PUB	28	29 Go Fishing!
30 Go Fishing!	1 OCTOBER WFFC BOARD MEETING COLLEGE CLUB 7:00 P.M.	2 ADVANCED FLY CASTING TECHNIQUES 9:00 P.M. GREEN LAKE PIER	3 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	4 ADVANCED FLY CASTING TECHNIQUES 9:00 P.M. GREEN LAKE PIER	5 OCTOBER CREEL NOTES FROZEN	6 Go Fishing!
7 Go Fishing!	8	9 ADVANCED FLY CASTING TECHNIQUES 9:00 P.M. GREEN LAKE PIER	10 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	11	12	13 Go Fishing!
14 Go Fishing!	15	16 WFFC DINNER MEETING COLLEGE CLUB 5:30 PM	17 LUNCHEON EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM CAMLIN CLOUD ROOM	18	19	20 Go Fishing!