

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXX NO. 5

MAY, 2020

President's Riffle

Do you know what the distance is for Fly Fishing social distancing? Its 9 feet, the length of your fly rod. I hope that some of you have had the chance to go out on your own to go fishing, I have not, but will be going soon. Guided fishing has not opened up but hopefully will within the next few weeks although when it does, I think that it will only allow one angler with the guide per boat, wearing masks. This may be the “new normal” for the rest of this year and perhaps in 2021 as well, but at least we can go fishing.

You may have heard and/or read about the Governor's Four Phased COVID-19 plan for opening up Washington:

I. Current Stay-In-Place Order through May 31, with the lifting of construction, non-guided fishing and outdoors camping, with social distancing restrictions.

II. The opening of hair salons, barbershops and restaurants to 50% capacity with tables up to five people. In addition - new construction, some in-store retail purchases, outdoor camping and with social gatherings of five or fewer people. (date TBD)

III. Resumption of gatherings of 50 people or fewer, indoor sports activities and non-essential travel. (date TBD)

IV. The resumption of public gatherings of 50+ people, with social distancing.

The question is when will the WFFC be able to “open up” our physical gatherings, enabling us to hold



Outings and Dinner Meetings? This was discussed at length at the May 5 “Virtual” Board Meeting and the general thinking is the following for planning purposes:

- Phase I & II through at least July and maybe into August: No Outings, Dinner Meetings or Fly Tying Forums with monthly webinar Program Speakers, Fly Tying Forums and Board Meetings.

- Phase III through November to December: One day Outings and Dinner Meetings of 50 or less and a “virtual” Fundraiser subject to the Seattle Tennis Club's group dining restrictions, which are yet to be determined.

- Phase IV in early 2021: Multiple Day Outings, Education Classes and Dinner Meetings with members attendance, subject to the COVID-19 Vaccine availability.

All of these phased openings for the WFFC are just guess right now, as timing of phased openings will depend on: COVID-19 hospital admissions, fatalities and percentage of people testing positive and data driven decisions made by the Governor. Phases III and IV could open up earlier, but time will tell.

No matter what, during all these phases the “new normal” will result in more involvement of the WFFC membership through remote communications, phone calls, fly fishing and tying webinars and emails. I look forward to the day when we can stand together fishing and hoisting a beverage at a campfire or at the dinner meetings to “Wet Fly”.

Once again, if you have any ideas on how to engage the “staying home” WFFC membership remotely, I would greatly appreciate your emailing them to me at JLGoedhart@gmail.com.

Tight lines and stay Healthy – Jim Goedhart

Fishing Report

Green Lake, Omak

Well finally the governor came to his senses and allowed fishing!

Ron Tschder, John Callahan and I went to Green lk near Omak on Tuesday May 5, It was a perfect day and the planters up to 13" were cooperative! We caught fish all day on many patterns. Callahan stuck to a Ruby Rat and Ron and I used a variety of flies from mayfly nymphs to Carey specials and I even used a Chopaka May and caught 6 on the dry. The Ruby rat still was a good producer.



Callahan ponders the water, above, while Ballard hauls a RB in, below



Fishing pressure was minimal, only two other fishers until we left at 4PM

Thursday Ron and I tried Rat lk near Brewster Wa. I had a tough day while Ron did well on a self bodied Carey.

I finally put on a blood worm trailed to my ruby rat and broke off the first fish of the day. Later I managed my

first of two for the day!!! It was ok though as the second fish was 18" .

Hope others managed to get out to enjoy the best sport ever!
Chuck Ballard

Issac Lake, Ephrata

I had an opportunity to fish low-er Isaac lake, which is a private lake near Ephrata, April 25 and 26 with the attached results. Although I landed just 4 fish each day, all the fish were enormous running 23-25 inches and 5 to 12 pounds. They must have been on steroids!

The bite varied from hour to



Burdick brings a nice fish to the net below



hour first on Callibaetis nymphs, then chironomids, back to damselfly nymphs, sometimes egg sucking leaches, sometimes squirmy wormies, sometimes translucent brown chironomids, & occasionally blood worms.

Wind was pretty strong both days so under a bobber only worked when the wind was down. Nothing on dries. The fish were so energetic that sometimes it took 20 minutes to land them and they were into your backing often.

Bob Burdick

Creel Notes

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Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website in the roster area.

Gibbs Lake, Olympic Peninsula

Finally, at long last, the governor decided that fishing was something you could do by yourself! The phone began to ring at my house long before the midnight,

On the Fly

The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich

Postponed by a month, I did finally get to Rock Creek (West) for a few days of fishing quarantine. As per Montana rules, I secluded myself for the first of 14 days, or less if I left the state, at a remote campsite of nebulous jurisdiction.

For day one, after pedaling up the road for a few miles, I wandered into favorite water, getting rewarded with a few nice cutthroat, one 16". I worked pretty hard for these trout in waters where I have caught upward from 50 fish. I sensed most of them were looking for slack water and studying the bottom instead of looking up for my beautifully presented dry flies and emergers.

If day one was disappointing, the next two days were disastrous, with water levels rising and the river getting muddy, a clear sign that the run-off was beginning. A chance conversation with a local, as much about who I was and where I was from as about fishing, confirmed that the game was over.

Rain (and snow) the next day sent me back to Seattle with little to show for my devotion to Rock Creek. But I will return!



Creekside camping is always a good reason to head to Montana

THE PEBBLE MINE – A Current Report

Mike Clancy, WSCFFI, Government Affairs

Steve Jones, WSCFFI, Newsletter Editor

The Washington State Council of FFI is very interested in the Pebble Mine in Alaska. For many years our members and council directors have been concerned with the mine proposal and our concern is growing. It appears that a decision could happen either this year 2020 or in early 2021. Trout Unlimited is leading opposition to the mine and is providing a wealth of information on the risks it poses to the Bristol Bay fishery and the environment of Southwest Alaska. Highlights of the mine plan and key reasons for concern include:

1. This will be the largest mine in the USA.

2. Mine developers propose building a road over 100 miles long to haul minerals and mine waste. The road to a new deep-water port on Cook Inlet would cross Lake Illamna and cross more than 200 salmon streams including the famed Upper Talark Creek and Gibraltar River. This is a proposed heavy haul road for large industrial vehicles, not ordinary ½-ton pickup trucks. Building the road alone will have a wide ranging environmental impact on hundreds of salmon streams.

3. The proposed mine also would require construction of a 188-mile pipeline from new natural gas facility on the Kenai Peninsula.

4. The mine would be located at the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak Rivers which empty into Bristol Bay.

5. The risk of building this mine is not worth the possible loss of an important fishery habitat and broad damage to the environment?

I could go on and on with information about the impact of this proposed mine. I suggest everyone go to www.savebristolbay.org to learn more. Click the link to “Get the Facts” and you’ll be busy for hours learning more about the mine and the threat it poses to Bristol Bay. There is also a letter with a link to President Trump for you to review and send to the President expressing your opposition to the mine.

The link for the letter: <https://forms.gle/8ypiwB47j8KDa9Q67>
If you have any questions after you review the website, please don’t hesitate to contact Meghan Barker, Alaska Organizer for TU’s Pebble Mine campaign at www.savebristolbay.org.

Thanks for your support.

Mike Clancy

WSCFFI, Government Affairs

Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout, steelhead, and salmon in state waters.
4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
5. To encourage and assist others — particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.

May 4 end of our punishment.

At 5:00 AM on the 5th, four club members were waiting, socially distanced, for the Edmonds ferry. A combination of Cinco de Mayo, Mark Pratt's birthday, and opening of fishing season all at once! Once on board, a quick equipment check. Breakfast, check, coffee, check, beer, check, check. Boats, and other stuff, all good. On our way to Gibbs lake in Jefferson county. A beautiful, catch and release lake, usually sparsely fished. Myself, Ben Davidson, Larry Karlovich, and Mark Pratt all chomping at the bit to wet a line.

Less than an hour later we were launching our vessels on the lake, with rising fish right at the launch. The day was very nice with only the occasional breeze requiring a jacket. The trout were cooperative, with rainbows from 12 to 18 inches all morning with most averaging around a pound. A couple bigger fish were handled, with birthday boy landing a kind of beat up 5 pounder for the biggest. A couple pretty nice cutthroat made a showing as well. It slowed down to about a fish per hour by early afternoon.

We were joined at the lake by two more members, Dave Hawkinson and Gill Levy. Everybody caught fish and drank beer. A few of us packed up and headed out while the die hards fished on. Home for dinner by 6:00!

Get out there! Tight lines!
Dave Schorsch

Nahwatzel Lake

Date: May 11 2020

Time of day: 10am-2pm

Conditions: Windy, overcast, rough waters, light rain

Catches: None

Notes: I arrived excited to try my float tube for the first time and quickly realized how difficult it is to maneu-

ver with fins alone in choppy water. I have been warned about this. A strong westerly wind made casting where I wanted to all but impossible. I tied on a dry fly first, but from what I'm told this is not a lake for dries. One veteran angler (whose rod was dressed with sinking line, by the way) said he's never even attempted to fish a dry fly on this lake and suggested Leech Lake instead. The only action I witness was a single fish caught by a boat of bait fishermen, which appeared to be a silvery trout in the 12-14 inch range. All told, conditions were bad, but a day spent fishing is never wasted.

Washington Lifts Fishing Restrictions.

Now that do it yourself fishing has opened up for Washington, you may be interested in reading over the Websites Tips & Tricks "Where to go Fly Fishing in Washington for Trout and Salmon" published by the Washington Fly Fishing Club in 1973, with additions in 2016" guide by clicking on the following link:

<https://wffc.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Where-to-Go-Fly-Fishing-In-Washin->



When Chuck Ballard isn't chasing trout, he's moving gopher snakes off the landing

Editor's Note: Below are links to some interesting sites around the subject of fishing, the WFFC, and the good of the order. Since you're locked in, there's something to watch besides old TV. CN does not support live links, so type in the following to your browser to watch.

For Your Viewing Pleasure

Good evening, everyone,

Trust this email finds all well and coping with 'staying in place'. If you are like me, you have tied more flies than you will ever use, and fished for more lawn trout (casting practice)...you get the point.

The attached link is for a film released today by Wild Steelheaders United about the return of Summer Steelhead to the Elwha River since the dam removals.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9t_m1myVBBQ

Tight lines and good health to all,
Neal Hoffberg

Chuck Ballard visits longtime member **Perry Barth**, and learns about how he joined the club in 1972, becoming a high school music teacher, and his life as a fly fisherman in this "most perfect sport." To view his interview video, please click on the following link:

<https://wffc.com/member-interview-perry-barth/>

Ballard catches up with member **Steve Raymond** riverside, learns about his history, his love of fly fishing, and his dedication to preserving the habitat. Click on the following link to watch the interview:

<https://wffc.com/member-interview-steve-raymond/>

Blast from the Past:

Creel Notes 1955

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

P.O. Box 639

Mercer Island, WA 98040

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May, 2020

Meeting Cancelled



At the discretion of the WFFC Board Members, the decision has been made to cancel the May 19th Dinner Meeting based on the King County Health Services recommendation urging all individuals to avoid all large group meetings due to the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

The current COVID-19 virus situation is still evolving, but the Board feels that it is in the best health interests for our membership and guests to prudently cancel this dinner meeting. Keep in touch with the website for updates on outings.