

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXXI No.6

June, 2021

President's Riffle

Have you organized your Do-It-Yourself fly fishing trips for this summer?

In case that you are still working on them for where to go here in Washington, give a look at the following documents posted in the member's only side of our website within Tips & Tricks page:

- "Do It Yourself" Fishing Tips in the Northwest by Dave Schorsch
- Where to go Fly Fishing in Washington for Trout and Salmon
- Yakima River with Wading
- Where to go fishing for Cutthroat Trout, Coho, Chum and Pink Salmon in the Puget Sound

If you need more advice on where to go fly fishing locally, reach out to the Creekside Anglers, the Avid Angler or the Emerald Wader Anglers Fly Shops for their recommendations.

Turns out that the Lake Hannan Catholic Youth Camp will be closed through August due to construction and we hope to be able to hold our outing there in September, stay tuned in for an announcement.

We are still waiting word from the Seattle Tennis club as to when they will once again open up to hold Banquet Dinners and if so what their covid restrictions will be and what it will cost us to hold our dinner meetings there as well. We have booked December 14th to hold our Holiday Dinner and Fundraiser with them provisionally.



We are exploring to find an alternative site for us to hold Dinner Meetings starting in September to November, just in case the Seattle Tennis Club is a "no-go" for us this year.

The primary condition for us to hold dinner meetings together once again will be the elimination of the indoor masking requirements state wide (although you may wear one if you choose to do so).

Here is the lineup of this summer's monthly Zoom Speakers:

- June 15th – Heather Hobson on Do-it-Yourself Northern Idaho Fly Fishing
- July 20th - Greg Shimek on the Coastal Cut Throat Commission's work
- August 17th - Jeff Currier on the best places in the world to Fly Fish for Trout

Stay Safe, get your vaccine shot and Tight Lines -
Jim Goedhart WFFC President

Inside this Issue

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Page 3 | Ehrich Attempts to Out Fish WFFC Legend |
| Page 4-5 | Boyd Aigner Competition Announces Winners |
| Page 6 | Get Ready Tyers Time to go Mutant |

Fishing Report

Chopaka Road “Upgrades”

June 4, 2021

Attention fly anglers, and outdoor types that love Chopaka lake:

I just returned from a few days there, had some tough fishing, and some great fishing, as usual. The news I have to share, other than there are just way too many people there, is as follows:

The powers that be are almost done with the new road that comes up through the Double R ranch that owns a lot of the land and access to the lake. This new road is to access an enormous timber sale on the back side of the hillside you look at from the campground, across the lake. In conversation with some folks in Loomis, and a local DNR employee, I was told that the trucks should start rolling in mid June. “The Chopaka grade” road was built for forest extraction, and is to be used primarily for that purpose for the next couple years.

Signs have been posted at the bottom of the hill pointing in the opposite direction to Chopaka, around the back of the mountain, south and west of the lake. I took that route in, and can tell you it is a few miles longer, and is steep, rough, and narrow in spots. You have to keep an eye on your odometer, and watch for the hard left at the old fork in the road down to the lake.

The timber folks were laughing at how the “shits gonna hit the fan” in a couple weeks, and predicted boats, campers and Subarus getting winched up off the banks of the grade once the trucks start rolling. There is also official word

Page 2

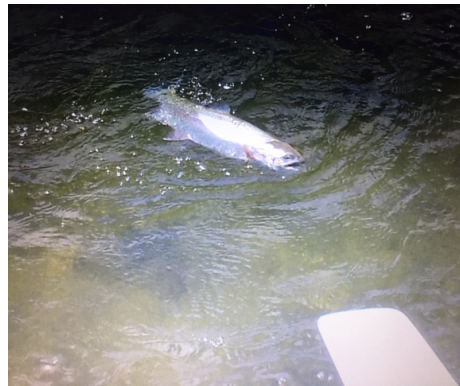
of tickets being written to folks that ignore the directional sign to Chopaka and the log truck warning sign. The trucks will have the right of way.

So, word to the wise, as they say. Be smart, and maybe don’t take that big wide rig to Chopaka this year or next.

Tight lines!
Dave Schorsch

Big Twin and Aeneas Lake Over Memorial Day.

I reluctantly headed out on Sunday over Memorial Day weekend to Big Twin near Winthrop. I initially tried Big Buck Lake I but it didn’t have any fish as it most likely winter killed and hadn’t been restocked so I took the back road to Big Twin.



To my surprise the lake only had 8 or 10 people fishing. I went over to the marl bottom bay near the boat launch and anchored for the afternoon. Lots of big cruisers but spooky. After many trial flies I finally found that a black soft hackle worked.

Five fish to the hand all 19-20” and in great shape!

The next day Ron Tchetter and I went to Aeneas lake near Tonasket. We were the only people there. It was very warm 86F and flat calm so fishing was very tough. Ron and

Creel Notes

IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WASHINGTON FLY FISHING CLUB.
SUBSCRIPTION IS FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP.

PRESIDENT
JIM GOEDHART

1ST VICE PRESIDENT (MEMBERSHIP)
DEXTER BROWN

2ND VICE PRESIDENT (PROGRAMS)
NEAL HOFFBERG

3RD VICE PRESIDENT (CHRISTMAS
PARTY)
LILY CUTLER

TREASURER
DAVID SPRATT

SECRETARY
DEBORAH KATZ

GILLIE 1
MARSHA KINDINGER

GILLIE 2
BEN PORTER

CREEL NOTES EDITORS
DAVID EHRLICH
DAVIDEHLRICH@ROCKETMAIL.COM

TRUSTEES
JOHN GRAVENDYK, PAST PRESIDENT;
JOHN NARVER ‘21; JAMES YOUNG ‘21;
GREG CRUMBAKER ‘22; DICK BRENING
‘22; TOM NEU ‘23; GARY BERGQUIST ‘23

I managed two fish each, again big ones at 20”. Ron also got lucky and caught a misguided turtle on a Carey fly.

Both lakes should fish better by early fall so get these on your places to try then.

Chuck Ballard

Continued on Page 4

On the Fly

The Day I Out Fished Dick Brenning

by David Ehrich

Chopaka. Ahh, just the name brings back a host of club memories.

Like meeting up with good friends, steaks on the grill, tall tales, fish tempura, and the time I tried to out fish Dick Brenning. Scoff you might, but the last time I remembered all parts to my gear and met my match on a level playing field, Jen and I were camped next to Dick and we fell into conversation. As it turned out, I had a couple more fish to the net to my credit so far that day. With that advantage, I judged my chances good to take on the Great One. Naturally, predictably, my ambition fell from flames to ashes.

This year, this tumultuous year, I set out to right the record; I would out fish Dick Brenning. Why not other top rods? Ballard? Pratt? Or even the Rod of Rods, Schorsch? Well, I know better for one, but more importantly Dick has a good poker face; he's a hustler. I'm a



sucker for a hustler. On that fateful day many years ago, he gave me that patented smile, a bit of encouragement, a feeling like I think I can get this; you know, just the sort of smile that gets the big fish to lay down his money on the table. I have to have my revenge.

So Jen and I packed up the new van, all of the parts of my raft (except for those I could get last minute at the Omak Walmart) and went to Chopaka the week before Memorial Day. In the ensuing years, I studied at all of the midge YouTube videos, I reread all of Dr. Roger's insect articles, tuned up my gear, got some physical training to strengthen my right shoulder, and started listening to motivational tapes.

With a few extra days to work with, I trolled the lake, tried chironomids, cast to rising trout, got blown around from side to side on the lake, and studied water temps, depth, and lake positioning. I even hit up my old favorite, shore casting to enormous fish right in the weeds, learning again how to reel in a fish, a mound of reeds, and keep from sinking into the muck all at the same time. With success in all areas, I was ready for the derby.

Almost full, the best campsites



bloomed with equipment of all sorts. Jen got her kayak ready and I readied the pontoon. Other anglers attacked the ready fish in all sorts of craft, bristling with rods, fish finders, grenade launchers, and even an electric motor. You'd think the fish would surrender in mass, but they do what they do: rising to mayflies, chasing damsel flies, eating midges, and even that lowest form of fishing (next to using a San Juan worm on a river), trolling the dark depths.

We also walked up the ridge, visited with newly Covid restriction-free folks, and blissed on the rolling skies. Jen packs up the van

Continued on Page 5

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.



Boyd Aigner Competition Winners Announced

By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

The COVID19 pandemic did not impair our proceeding with the annual Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition for 2021. Everything was the same as for prior years except that a panel of three Club members, each a skilled fly tier, served as the judges rather than the Club members as a group.

There were ten participants in this year's competition. Each submitted three flies, one in each of three specified categories. The participants were assigned numbers for purposes of submitting their respective flies. The judges did not know the identities of the participants, and none of the judges was a participant in the competition.

The task of the judges was to pick the fly that was, in their judgment, the "best" in each of the three categories and then select the overall winner. The judges reported that they were extremely impressed with the quality of the tying. On the other hand, they also reported that this made their job that much more difficult.

So, the three categories for 2021 and the top three tiers in each:

Flying carpenter ant, size 12:

1st David Hart (Project Healing Waters) #2405



2nd Jim Beck #2404



3rd Jim Beck #2404



3rd Walt Swanson #2419



UV resin gammarus shrimp, size 8

1st Tom Neu #2411



Royal humpy, size 12

1st (tie) Marcie Kindinger #2401
& John Tibbs #2406



2nd Walt Swanson #2419



3rd Dan Henke #2409



Continued on Next Page

The overall winner----a tie between David Hart and Ton Neu. Congratulations! We will have more recognition when regular Club meetings resume.

Thanks to all participants for an excellent job and special thanks to our judges—Bob Burdick, Dick Brenning, and Denny Westover and particularly to Dick for the outstanding photographs that accompany this article.

Fishing Reports Continued

Hyde Lake, Oregon

May 5-10, 2021

Having been squeezed out of British Columbia by the Covid epidemic, Hugh Clark and my group of Corbett Lake BC anglers took the suggestion of still-water guru Denny Richards and booked four days of lake fishing at this high elevation (5,800 feet) impoundment on the Yamsi ranch in SE Oregon. What a gem this turned out to be.

The Yamsi is a 100-year-old working cattle ranch comprising

30,000 acres at the headwaters of the Williamson River with fishing generating about 25 % of the farm's income. \$350 per day paid for two hot meals, overnight lodging in the 100 year old ranch house and the right to fish Hyde lake which is about 2-300 acres.

The lake is stocked annually and held a healthy population of 3-4 pound rainbow and some bass. With very little surface activity we focused on using an indicator averaging 5-6 fish a day on a variety of wooley buggers, balanced leeches, blood worms and chironomids.

Eager to come back again next year we were saddened to learn that that would be unlikely. The lake's only source of water is from snow-melt, and with the low snowpack and drought conditions in the area the lake is expected to be totally dry by fall with a total die-off of their magnificent fish, an event that they experience approximately once every 10-12 years.

Bob Burdick

On the Fly Continued

with meals for 10, so when I wasn't doing calisthenics and practicing Judo, we were eating and drinking like kings along the lake shore. Might be the only lake property I ever "own".

I missed the rest of the WFFC crowd, especially the routine of humble bragging that happens under the awning. Pity the sucker who answers first the dreaded question; "How'd you do?". That's why we need new club members every year, just to give the veterans a chance to sneer, shake their heads, and bemuse how such a loser day could be made public.

But not Dick Brenning. He's too good a poker player to engage in such low-life theatrics play. He smiles and says something encouraging, you know, just enough to set up the big haul.

All in, I readied myself for the battle royale. Troll rod rigged, midging rod set, and even a mayfly ready for action. My boat was trim, my gear handy, food and beverages in supply, and I even considered a diaper to not waste time coming back to shore. I took a last look at Jen for encouragement. Then I carefully walked the whole campground to make sure Dick wasn't there. Game on!

Editor's Note: Creel Notes goes on vacation for the next couple months. Keep in touch on the WFFC web site.



Featured Fly

Jne 16

Featured Fly: Quigley's Mutuan May-fly Dun

Dear Fly Tyers

Our next Forum will be Wednesday, June 16th. We will tie Quigley's Mutant Mayfly Dun. This pattern is the Hackle Stacker with wings.

Here is the material list and link to the video of the Quigley Mutant Mayfly.

Hook: Curved #16. Daiichi 1150 or equivalent

Thread: Gray. 70 denier

Hackle: Grizzle

Wing: Poly wing material. Gray or Dun color. (If you only have white, that is fine)

Thorax: Dry fly dubbing. Gray

Sharpie: Black

Neal Hoffberg is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Jun 16, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada). Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92125101610?pwd=RUxlcTJUZmdmR-Fo2UkJPtMU4reDRKdz09>

Meeting ID: 921 2510 1610

Passcode: 134149



Washington Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 639
Mercer Island, WA 98040
www.wffc.com



April, 2021

Meetings have been temporarily cancelled in person at the Seattle Tennis Club, but club life goes on with new members joining, zoom meetings, fly-tying webinars, board meetings, and regular updates to the club web pages.

Our Next Virtual Meeting

June 15 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm PDT

June 15th, 2021 Zoom Meeting Speaker Heather Hodson

Zoom Meeting Speaker

Heather Hodson will be the June 15th zoom meeting's Speaker and will talk to us about DYI (Do It Yourself) fly fishing in Northern Idaho Rivers. Heather is the founder of United Women on the Fly. She is an expert at making anglers (especially women) feel comfortable and becoming a part of the fly-fishing community.