

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXXI No.7

September, 2021

President's Riffle

In my August Riffle, I reported the results of the "Willingness to attend Outings and Dinner Meetings" survey. Since then, additional responses have been received and below are the final results (53 vs. 58 responses):

- Willingness to Attend Outings: Yes 86%, Maybe 10%, No 4%
- Willingness to Attend Dinner Meetings: Yes 66%, Maybe 12%, No 22%

The majority of the surveyed members said that they were willing to attend an outing because they were held outdoors but preferred that all were vaccinated.

Below are the primary concerns of members who were not willing to attend a Dinner Meeting:

- Too long exposure to people who may be infected
- The requirement to wear face masks at social gatherings

- Need for proof of vaccination, plus implementation of (prevention) measures prescribed by the State

Currently the Seattle Tennis Club's covid protocols requires all members and guests to be masked indoors and out of doors, with masks off when eating or drinking and staff to be masked at all times. STC Staff may request to be tested for covid if they feel ill when working. If they test positive, contact tracing and deep sanitation steps are undertaken by the club.

At the September 7th Board Meeting, the results of the "Willingness to Attend Outings and Dinner Meet-



ings Survey" and the Seattle Tennis Club's current covid protection protocols were discussed. Given the current King County increasing Covid-D infections, the Board voted to approve outdoor outings scheduled for the remainder of the year and to suspend holding any dinner meetings this year until proof of vaccinations and or a negative covid test are in place at the Seattle Tennis Club.

Therefore, the Dinner Meeting scheduled for September 21st is cancelled. We are taking a "wait and see" approach as to whether or not the October 19th, November 16th and the December 14th Holiday Dinner will be held based on whether or not the proof of vaccination mandate has been established by the Seattle Tennis Club for those months. The WFFC Board's primary concern is for the health and safety of its membership which is the driving concern for its voting to suspend Dinner Meetings until mandatory proof of vaccinations and covid testing are in place.

All of the major Sports Teams require proof of vaccinations for fans to attend their games shortly and there are discussions by King County Supervisors going on that might require restaurants to do the same.

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Time to Klinkhammer

WFFC Conservation Committee Report for

Many of these activities included coordination with others organizations---including Trout Unlimited FFI, MVFFC (Chair is member) and 40+ environmental groups who were part of Washington State Gold Dredging prohibitions, Methow Valley Copper Mine, Alaska Pebble Mine et al. Efforts included letters; contacts with US, State and local elected officials, and paid staff.

1) Alaska Pebble Mine-ongoing.

2) Helping stop Methow Copper mine, Committee Chair sending letters to newspapers and elected officials on how it would violate State laws and Okanogan County and State regulations—from consulting experts creating Okanogan County land use and environmental regulations during Early Winters litigation.

3) Gold dredging law changes: we worked with coalition of 50 environmental organizations led by incredibly capable TU staff, lobbying with key Senators and Representatives to finally get prohibitions enacted. (Note TU has several paid staff and \$70 Million budget for public engagement and acquisition/enhancement—A very powerful lead ally)

We sent, with WFFC President, Jim Goedhart, a letter opposing two new Lewis County dams. Chair and members provided expert witness affidavit to TU attorneys on why dams are not necessary, under Washington State Growth Management Act, to save floodplain areas for future development as adequate buildable areas available for 20 years. We are Working with TU Issaquah on stream restoration and MVFFC on Twin Lakes aerators. Chair has advised them of 2021 WFFC donations and will deliver those to them. We are also reaching out to Mem-

bers involved in Healing Waters Vets programs to connect college youth to fishing/reclamation and support of a variety of rehabilitation programs. Students come from 300+ campuses in US/Canada.

REQUEST TO MEMBERS: Chair has sought advice of past Chairs. I do feel that since many elected positions, at all levels, are women, a female WFFC member who is willing to make calls to staff and elected officials, would greatly enhance our presence and effectiveness. They could serve as vice Chair of Committee, pursuant to approval by the Board.

Please contact me at rwt6869@gmail.com or 206 484 5213. In addition Anne and I have become members/donors to over 12 environmental organizations---noting our connection to WFFC/TU/FFI/ MVFFC and working 30+ years to restore and enhance natural vegetation of 600 feet of shoreline along the Chewuch River, in Winthrop, WA across from Lake Paragon outfall.

Finally a note “For the Good of the Order”: Even though WFFC has one of smallest memberships, we are well known and respected for our many tying and casting masters and commitment to education as well as financial support of worthy causes. Your input to the Conservation Committee would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted

Robert W Thorpe AICP-TLs



Creel Notes

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CREEL NOTES EDITORS
DAVID EHRLICH
DAVIDEHLICH@ROCKETMAIL.COM

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Neal Hoffberg hooks an eastern Sierra wild Rainbow

On the Fly

Uncle Dave Guides on Rock Creek

by David Ehrich

I've taught both my daughters how to cast and fish in moving water, but I can't say that the sport stuck with them. One is more likely to be seen surfing off Long Island, NY and the other gets spare chance to wade rivers near her home in LA. But life has a way of coming around and both of the last two summers have enjoyed family conclaves on Rock Creek, my favorite water, in Western Montana.



In 2020, in lieu of a Covid-cancelled wedding, the young couple flew in from LA and we set up shop on the river after getting my future son-in-law rigged with a new outfit (not all wedding gifts should be for the bride, eh?). Mike, who had some experience needed about 10 minutes of instruction and introduction. First rising trout against the rock wall had him hooked all week. My daughter and I took a more leisurely route, even taking a day off for a good hike. I can't say I'm much of a guide, but her experience was a joy to watch.

For this summer, my oldest nephew, Jay, of Santa Barbara suggested we repeat the trip and get him out of town for a spell. As luck would have it Mike, now my son-in-law, was available. When they arrived in camp, I knew I had to step up my guiding game. Jay had no experience. Fortunately, I had the expert help of the Malcolm's who joined us on the river and who pitched in on the lessons. Before the sun had set, Mike was casting to the rock wall outside of camp and Jay had hooked his first trout with his guide and my mentor, Mike Malcolm.

And so the fun began. Jen



The author fishes the quiet waters of Flint Creek, just off Montana Highway One. Top, Mike grills the bounty. Top right, nephew Jay catches his first trout.



anchored camp with Augie the Doogie, we ventured to and fro on the river, finding conditions a bit strained with low water and high temps. Rock Creek was one of Montana's few streams that didn't have day-time restrictions, but we knew the trout were stressed. I kept the rod tip up and encouraged trout to hop off as soon as I saw what I had on the line; the less touching the better. I called it a humane release. Others called it losing the fish.

Jay didn't touch too many either, but for different reasons. He enjoyed the sport entirely, but also enjoyed quiet mornings (two young boys at home), long dinners, fine

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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.

Fishing Report

Cooper Lake, July 2021

by Danferd Henke

It's a beautiful lake, especially looking north at the glaciers that feed it. Whenever a fishing report begins that way, you know the fishing was rated "El Stinko."

Such was the case. Two of us got on the water around 8:30. There were no other fishermen at the lake and the Owhi campground, always packed in July, was practically empty. There was almost no one in the remote campsites scattered around on the approach to the lake. Perhaps the fire risk kept nearly all the campers away.

Water temperature was right around 60 degrees at the surface and a degree or two cooler ten feet down. We fished nearly everywhere on the lake at all depths but could not find fish. We couldn't find even those 8-10" rainbows that in the past have seemed omnipresent. (Cooper has not been stocked this year.)

I was top rod of the two of us, and all I had was one fish on long enough to see that it was a brown of 14" or so! My partner didn't get a hit. The one place we didn't fish was the extreme south end, thanks to a moderate north wind throughout the day. That wind had prevailed for several days, so maybe it blew all the food down to that end? Heck if I know. Or maybe all those missing fishermen knew something that I didn't.

Of Trout and Mocking Wives

by Danferd Henke

It seemed like a good idea at the

time. Not in the "Here, hold my beer" sort of way, but a legitimate strategy that if successful would vastly increase my fishing time. One of the usual suspects, my friend Stephan, agreed, and so we introduced our wives to fly fishing. The strategy succeeded – too well.

On the last day of our trip at the end of June, Stephan and I were floating the 14-mile stretch of the Clark Fork out of St. Regis. I had just observed to Stephan that I was kicking his butt because I had caught two six-inch rainbow and he nothing, when raucous screaming and laughter erupted down river. Our wives were floating about a quarter mile downstream.

We couldn't hear much, but we did hear the word, "Double!" repeatedly. Stephan and I looked at each other. We knew we were done for. Sure enough, a few moments later our phones began pinging with new text messages. We studiously avoided looking at what we knew would be big fish photos. When we caught up to the ladies at lunch time, they had big grins on their faces and I succumbed to looking at the photos. "Yeah, those are nice fish," I said as nonchalantly as I could. In fact, they had landed one of the biggest doubles I've seen in more than fifteen years of fishing the Clark Fork. (See photo below.) The larger fish in



that net is over twenty. "How have you done today," they asked, still grinning. We mumbled something about having caught plenty of fish. They both snorted and kept grinning at us.

During the June heatwave that hit Seattle, four of us fled to Montana, where it was cooler, believe it or not. We fished the St. Regis, wading, on Sunday, June 27. Water was very low and very clear. It was still running at a good temperature, though, nicely cool. We caught several small fish on green drake emergers and got some hits on meadow hoppers. Big fish of the day was 12," nothing to write home about compared to past experiences on the St. Regis. I had to drop down to 6X to get hits.

We fished the Clark Fork the next three days with guides Brooks Sanford and Brian Duncan, now booked out of Clark Fork Trout, but we've fished with those two guys for 15 years. (Brooks' son, Andrew, is now guiding as well and has been fishing that river since he was a toddler, he'd be a good bet, too.)

Water flow was very low, about 50-60% of average, roughly 7500 cfs, and way below the levels I have fished during that week before (12,000 – 17,000). Water temperature by 2:30 was hitting 70 degrees. We got on the water at 5:30 – 6:00 and got off at 2:00. Fishing was fair, averaged 20 fish to each boat each day, all with dry flies (usually the meadow hopper).

We had a ton of refusals, though. (At the higher flow levels in previous years, fishing had been uniformly excellent, but all of it was

Fishing Report

nymphing.) We went wading every night near Sloway, starting around 8 PM and did quite well, earlier with hoppers, and then even better later with rusty spinners as the sun set. We fished the 14-mile stretch twice and Dry Creek to the Confluence once.

It was a really fun trip, despite the mocking wives.

Pinks on the Beach; Or Not by Danferd Henke

As I'm sure do many of us, I look forward to odd years with great anticipation at the prospect of taking pinks off the beach. When I saw the run projections for this year, low by historical measures, but still much better than the actual runs of 2017 and 2019, I got quite excited. I went into a flurry of tying comets, squid patterns, and gussied-up Clousers and resolved to hit the beach hard this season. I watched the creel reports and kept in touch with the local fly shops, rallied the troops, and started when I thought the timing was right in the South Sound.

Thursday, August 19. Got up at 3:30 to hit a South Sound beach as

close to first light as reasonable. (3:30 is beginning to seem early, to these old bones.) When I arrived there were a several gear fishermen and as many seals, which I took as a good sign. A couple of other fly fishermen arrived. The guys on each side of me promptly hooked fish, then lost them to the seals. I managed to hook a good-sized hen and land it. The seals were only a rod-length or two off the beach and were periodically driving fish. I fished down to the low and saw a couple of dozen fish taken. The bite stopped almost on the moment of the turn. I fished another couple of hours but saw no fish taken. The fish I took was the only bite I got.

Friday, August 20. Left home about the same time, picked up my buddy, Al. When we hit the beach there was one lonely seal, which I took as a bad sign. The day was much less productive, saw maybe a dozen fish taken by twenty or so anglers over six hours. Neither Al nor I touched a fish. But I did see one swim by me in knee-deep water. So much for distance casting. My old fishing partner, Bob, and his son, my Godson, Michael, met us at the beach. They were fishing quite a way down the beach from us. Bob got one and Michael two. One other fly fisherman who beat

me to the beach took his second as I arrived, but that's as much good as I can say about the day.

Tuesday, August 25. Picked up Al and another buddy, Dirk, and hit the beach early again. No seals. Took up position next to a gear fisherman, who told me he and his buddy had caught and released twenty fish in three hours the day before. I guess I believe him, he seemed honest (for a gear fisherman). But none of that gear fisherman, Al, Dirk, Bob, Michael, the two other fly fishermen next to us, or I touched a fish. The gear fisherman was very disappointed. You should see it from my side, Fella.

Friday, August 27. Changed timing. Fished up from an afternoon low to past sunset and the high. Beautiful afternoon and evening. See photo. But same result. No hits for Bob or Michael or me. I saw the gear guys take a few, but not many.

Saturday, August 28. I had intended to go but got involved Friday night watching the Mariners destroy what meager post-season hopes they had in a 12-inning loss. That turned out to be a more productive use of my time. Bob and Michael went, got nothing, saw almost no fish taken.

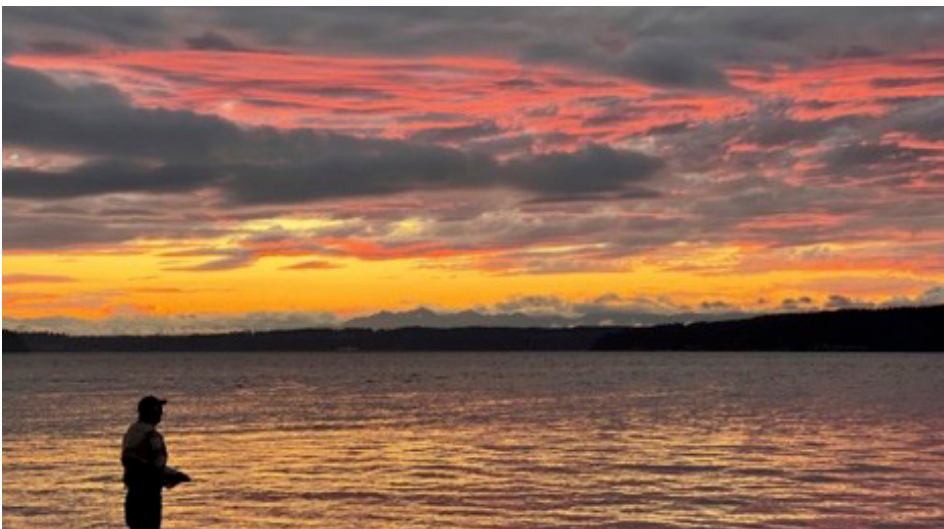
All told, five of us put in over 100 hours of fishing time and landed four fish. Not a great year. I hope others did better.

Methow Valley Lakes

by Mike Nolan

On Labor Day weekend my wife and I drove to Winthrop WA and we stayed at Big Twin Campground. Over the next few days, I fished five lakes near Winthrop and Twisp in the Methow Valley.

On Saturday, 9/4/21, I fished



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Black Pine Lake and caught three westslope cutthroat trout from 12" up to 17". I was fishing from my float tube using a full sinking line. The 13-acre lake is located at 4015' elevation and is accessed by an eight mile drive on an improved dirt road.

The next day, I fished Davis Lake and caught 12 rainbows from 8" to 12". I was fishing from my float tube using a full sinking line and various wet flies.

On Monday, 9/6/21, I drove to the Methow Wildlife Area to fish Campbell Lake. The water clarity was poor and had the color of pea soup. I struggled to get past the weedy shoreline and out into the lake in my float tube. After about one hour of fishing, I caught a 12" rainbow and a 16" rainbow using my RIO Fathom 3ips sinking line.

Later Monday afternoon, I stopped to fish at Pearrygin Lake after exiting the Methow Wildlife Area. I fished for a couple of hours from my float tube using a full sink line. I caught and released 4 rainbows ranging from 8" to 12". The fishing was hindered by the waves caused by powered water craft and when the catching slowed down I got off the lake.

Late Monday evening I set out from my campsite to fish Big Twin Lake. I only fished about one hour at dusk from my float tube using a full sinking line. I caught and released one 16" rainbow on a bead head olive wooley bugger with a black tail.

It was good to see the selective fishery and the two fish over 14" regulations on Davis Lake and Campbell Lakes. However, I was disappointed to learn that these lakes changed to a year-round fish-

ery in 2018. Campbell Lake will be worth a try when the water visibility improves.

Fishing 'Over the Hump'

by Allen Peterson, Swede's Fly Shop

Fishing on the east side of the state, for the most part, has been determined by the heat, smoke and in a few instances, uncontrollable fires. The fish are present, but one needs to check with the WDF for any closures or "Hoot Owl" rules.

While dry fly activity on most rivers should be the norm this time of year, it is the wise angler who brings along their sink tip fly line to fish nymphs and streamers in the deeper cooler sections of both rivers and lakes.

We have been guiding on the Spokane River almost non-stop and the best fishing for larger rainbows has been the deeper pools and seams that make up part of the river system. We have had some success with dry fly patterns such as the Chernobyl and Gypsy King fished at the transitional light, first daylight or late afternoon light. Lakes like Roosevelt, Amber, Fish trap, Medical and Clear, fished with patterns like Swede's Electric Bugger and Olive Willy fished with a fast full sinking line would be my first choice for effective fly patterns.

As always, I am available to all the WFFC members if and when they decide to take a trip over the "hump" to help and/or suggest some of the best fly fishing the eastern part of our state can offer.

On the Fly Continued

whiskeys by the stream side, and talking to adults. I enjoyed being an Uncle for a change. Watching my son-in-law tackle the river gives me great joy. Isn't that a pre-requisite for a guide?

No matter the method, fish were caught on all days, some of good size (12-14"), although only a couple fat and sassy. We caught them on stimulators, terrestrials, and PMDs both dry and emerging. I didn't taint my rod with a nymph, although all the Malcolms did and, as usual, caught twice as many fish. I like a trophy now and then, but I find the casting and contemplation more fun than the poundage.

Nearby Flint Creek had colder water and better flow off the Georgetown Lake dam, and we surprised ourselves with beautiful big fish in small water, catching a few of the rare Brown Trout for this trip. I love their fight, and in a couple cases, how they taste on the grill.

Rock Creek seems to have returned to a native Cutt, Bull, and Whitefish stream with a few Rainbows who survived whirling disease. The area, like all of the west, was beset this summer by smoke and heat, albeit at lower levels than nearby (as the eagle flies) Missoula. Mornings were the most productive and the afternoon river filled up with anglers, many sporting Washington plates.

Having a river ten yards from the tent makes for any excuse to toss a couple flies, and as you would expect, some of the hoops and hollers meant good fishing. It is also a good way to avoid washing the dishes. But like a good uncle, I gave the good water to my boys and cleaned up the kitchen.

Featured Fly

September 15th

Featured Fly: Klinkhammer March Brown

Hello, Fly Tyers

Our next meeting will be Sept 15th, 7:00p.m. We will be tying the Comparadun Klinkhammer March Brown. This fly was submitted by Chuck Ballard. Feel free to substitute colors and size as necessary or to match a hatch that you will be fishing.

Here is the link to our fly tying session next Wednesday, Sept. 15th. I look forward to seeing everyone! Neal Hoffberg is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Sep 15, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84709702341?pwd=MXNKHUHL3Y4bWltdG82UUdtcWhlUT09>

Meeting ID: 847 0970 2341 Passcode: 798937



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



September 21, 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 is Sept. 21st. Join us for a great evening with Gary Bulla. Follow the link below for an evening with the premier guide for fly fishing the Baja Peninsula.

Neal Hoffberg is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Sep 21, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87112254352?pwd=a1NqZ1hDVnlldW1oYi9JQ05CYjhzQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 1225 4352

Passcode: 937511