

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXXI No.8

October, 2021

President's Riffle

Great News! Due to the King County health vaccine verification admittance policy at clubs and



restaurants that goes into effect on October 25th, the WFFC Board voted to hold the November 16th Dinner Meeting and the December 14th Holiday Dinner at the Seattle Tennis Club. It also voted that the November Dinner Meeting will be FREE for all WFFC Members, that the Holiday Fundraiser will be held virtually, December 9th to 13th, as it was last year and that the December 14th Holiday Dinner will be a festive social event with the raffle drawings for Fly Boxes and the "enticing items" Tables.

The next WFFC Outings will be held at Lake Hannon on October 16th followed by the South Puget Sound "Wet Buns" on November 6th. Go to the Club's wffc.com website for detail information about these events and to sign up.

At the October Board Meeting, Treasure Dave Spratt present the WFFC Q3-2021 Budget vs. Actuals and the Cash-On Hand status, reporting that we are within budget and in great shape financially. To review the details of his report, log in to the "Members Only" side of the wffc.com website, then click on the "BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS" Tile, then scroll down the webpage to the WFFC FINANCIALS ARCHIVE section and click on 2021 October to re-

view the Q3-2021 WFFC Financials Report.

We have received several thank you notes from the various Conservation Organizations we have donated to in the past month, namely from the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group for its Coastal Cutthroat Project and also from Conservation Angler and the Western Rivers Conservancy.

This year has been a trying year for the club to "Open Up" once again due to the covid health and safety issues, but there is indeed "a light at the end of the tunnel" and we are holding Outings and Dinner Meetings once again. I encourage you to sign up for the upcoming Outings and Dinner Meetings so we can once again enjoy each other's fellowship and share our passion for fly fishing.

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Club Business

WFFC October Board Meeting Minutes

[Editor's note: normally we do not print the minutes since they are readily available at the member side of the web site, but given the momentous nature of this decision, we reprint the minutes with corrections.]

Here is a summary of the key decisions made at last night's Board Meeting:

The Board voted to have the Lake Hannon Outing on October 16th and to hold the November 16th Dinner Meeting and the Holiday Dinner Meeting on December 14th at the Seattle Tennis Club for vaccinated members and guests only.

The November dinners were agreed to be "Free" to all Members and priced at \$40 for all Guests signing up to attend and that the Dinner Meeting Speaker will be Zoomed into the meeting which will also be made available to all members not in attendance as well.

Try the Gate Again: Hannon Lake Redux

A retry of the "Locked Gate" August Lake Hannon is scheduled for Saturday October 16th with assurances that the Gate will be opened up for us this time.

Please click on the following link for more information about the Lake Hannon Outing and to sign up for it:

<https://wffc.com/event/october-16th-lake-hannon-opening-up-outing/>

Please note that if you attend, you will need to bring your lunch and beverages (no alcohol allowed).

Hope to see you there!

Creel Notes Deadlines for November & December

Since the third Tuesday comes early in November, our deadline for articles and photos is November 12th.

For December, the 10th.

Creel Notes

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SUBSCRIPTION IS FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP.

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Hugh Clark holds a trophy on the Missouri. See a description of the action on Page 3.

Fishing Report

Missouri River 9/20 - 23

by Hugh Clark

John Narver and I fished two days on the Missouri below the dam at Craig to five miles south of Craig. There was no action on the surface altho a few BWOs were seen when clouds came over. Nymphing below bobbbers or indicators brought 15-20 fish a day to the net for release.

Each day three or four fish over nineteen to 21 inches were exercised. A zebra nymph pattern worked best. There were perhaps 60 other boats on the river but no competition for fishing space.

We highly recommend The Missouri River Ranch three miles south of Craig on a dirt road called "Main St." Recently updated accommodations were immaculate and the food outstanding. Our guide was sent to us from Yellow Dog Fly Fishing Adventures in Bozeman. He has guided this section for years and was particularly careful with his two geriatric fisher persons, especially with boarding and leaving his low sided craft.

Car rentals in Helena are now reasonable again at \$35/day. In May rentals were over \$230/day!

Fall Provides Great Fishing

by Chuck Ballard

Yes October is a great time to get out! I had 4 really good days in eastern Washington beginning on October 1st. I fished Big Twin for two days joined by Mark Pratt on day two. Although there was a recent plant of 8" fish, there were enough bigger fish to 18" to make up for the inconvenience.



Then I headed up to Aeneas. Fished all alone the whole day! Caught 6 all 18 -20". Half were caught on chromomidges and a strike indicator, the rest were on a Black Carey Special and a type 6 line.

Day four was back to Rat lake, a regular in my frequented lakes near Chelan. Caught 10 or more 13+" on the Carey and type 6 line.

Unless the weather gets really bad there is still some great fall fishing out there.

Still Tri-fecta

by Ben Davidson

I Hit the usual spots on the north fork stilly to avoid the gear plunkers. The river was dropping from the last rains and getting into shape. Still a fair amount of water but in shape enough to give it a go. So many pink salmon swimming up stream and spawning in the shallow gravel areas. I even saw some chinook spawning on redds! Too bad there aren't too many left.

Anyways anything pink and the humpies would take easily so had to switch to something else and got a few steelhead! Landed two

Ballard hauls on on Lake Aeneas, below bright fish on the Stilly.



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.

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Fishing Report

big dark fish that I released and the next cast was a bright hen. All hatchery fish so I took the bright one home to bbq! I also got a couple cutts to take big flies.

Lots of deep wading and hiking to get to the good spots! Heck of a day though! Tight lines.



The big ones pool on the Stilly.

Cutties on the Selway

by David Spratt

From September 29th - October 3rd I had the opportunity to head east to Idaho for a bit of fall cutthroat fishing on the Selway River. The Selway River is located about 100 miles east of Lewiston on Highway 12 within the Nes Perce Clearwater National Forest. The Selway and Lochsa Rivers join together near Kooskia, ID, to form the Middlefork of the Clearwater River.

The Selway River offers many campgrounds/campsites along Selway Rd, following the river with easy access to many great fishing

spots. I should also note that Three Rivers Resort, at the confluence of the Selway and Lochsa Rivers, offers cabin rentals for those not interested in camping on the river.

This trip, we decided to park the trailer and camp at the CCC Campground near mile marker 7 on Selway Rd. The CCC campground was small, with only three or four primitive sites (fire pits, no hookups, one pit toilet). The campground was quiet, clean, and offered an incredible view and fishing access to the river. This spot proved to be one of the best fishing runs we found during our trip, showing excellent water for dry fly, nymph, and streamer fishing ... all within walking distance from our campsite.

The fishing pressure was surprisingly low, and huge October Caddis were showing themselves all along the river getting me excited to land some beautiful colored up cutthroats on the dry. The first morning we strung up our rods and hit the river with great success. The best dry fly technique I found was fishing an October Caddis or Orange Stimulator (size 6) with a small dry dropper like a purple



Spratt holds up Idaho's finest.

haze or blue wing olive (size 16 - 18). The purple haze took first prize for the most fish on the dry, even with all the giant October Caddis fluttering about the river. On this trip,

During this trip, I made the decision to really work on my Euro Nymphing skills. This method proved deadly effective for picking up fish after fish in buckets and tailouts, including many large whitefish easy for the picking. The nymphs flies I used were olive BWO Perdignons, Copper Johns, or a Red Pheasant Tail, with a TJ Hooker as the point fly. I have a newfound appreciation for Euro Nymphing! You can vacuum a river once you dial in the depth and angle of your presentation of the nymph rig as you fish a small section of the river.

The streamer fishing proved to be top-notch! As an avid steelheader depressed with historically low counts over the Snake River dams this fall, I found the need to streamer fish in an attempt to satisfy my withdrawals for a hard-hitting fish on the swing. Olive/brown sculpzillas were just the ticket, and I landed many beautiful cutties swinging and stripping streamers in the late mornings and early afternoons.

Overall this was an incredible fishing trip, all within easy driving and highway access from Lewiston. If you like fishing for beautifully colored up cutties on dries, nymphs, and streamers without making the trip all the way into Kelly Creek, give the Selway a shot!

Goodnew River, Alaska

by Bob Burdick

September 1 through 8, 2021.

Fishing Reports

Beautiful fall weather with crisp nights and sunny days greeted Hugh Clark, Gene Gudger and I throughout our first stay at this remote camp at tide water on the Bering Sea where mint bright silver salmon were our quarry. Accommodating as many as 18 anglers the camp, on stilts, was well appointed with above average meals and excellent guides.

Each day we were whisked around the river and its three forks in jet sleds and fished from the beach or on less accessible runs from platforms at the front or back of the sled to hordes of migrating silver salmon. About ½ of the anglers turned out to be gear fishermen who averaged 15 to 40 landed fish per day; the other ½ of the camp, fishing wet flies, averaged about 6 landed fish a day.

We had hoped to fish on the surface with dry flies

and poppers, but found that we were fishing the tail end of the run, the peak being two weeks earlier when the aerial action was said to be real crazy, and experienced no surface takes. None the less, almost every silver we hooked was mint bright, weighed 7 to 15 pounds and thought that being aerial was a means of escaping.

Prior to leaving for Alaska on this trip we were advised by several experts that spey gear wasn't necessary, our standard casting rods were very sufficient as gear and overhead casting was easy with lots of room to backcast. Mr. Gudger, wise as he is, ignored that advice, brought his spey gear, saving his shoulders, and had a much more enjoyable time.

We had hoped to also catch rainbows and char but found no abundance of either and were disappointed that our top of the water mousing patterns had to remain in our fly boxes.



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October 19, 2021

The October 19th in-person Dinner Meeting is cancelled due to the fact that the Covid proof of vaccination protocols mandate established by the King County Health Board will not be in effect until October 25th. The good news is that the November 16th Dinner Meeting and the December 14th Holiday Dinner will be held at the Seattle Tennis Club. Hope you all will sign up to the dinner events to join in once again together in person.