

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXXII No. 2

February 15, 2022

President's Riffle

I hope everyone is doing well and looking forward to our upcoming February WFFC meeting. I am excited to announce Karlie Roland, with TroutHunter, will be our featured speaker. Karlie is a passionate conservationist, experienced angler, and veteran guide on The Henry's Fork. Anyone that has ever wanted to fish The Henry's Fork, Madison, and Yellowstone Rivers, please join us for this Zoom meeting online on February 15th at 7:00 pm.



Last month, at our January annual awards meeting, we had the opportunity to honor club members that made outstanding contributions to the club in 2021. Congratulations and Thank You to our honorees; Jim Goedhart, Neal Hoffberg, David Ehrich, Dexter Brown, Lily Cutler, and Marcie Kindinger. This month we have our annual financial housekeeping items to cover. In early February, I presented the 2022 proposed budget at our WFFC Board Meeting. The board voted and approved the proposed budget, and I will be submitting this information to the membership for your final vote of approval. Later this month, all club members will receive an email ballot requesting your vote to approve the 2022 Budget. In this communication, I will be discussing the details of the 2022 budget, planned expenditures, and a summary of the club's current financials. If you have any questions or wish to discuss the bud-

get in more detail, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or one of our WFFC Board members or trustees. Thank you in advance for your review and voting on this vital club financial information. The last item for February is the deadline for membership renewals. The deadline is rapidly approaching. The annual membership renewal for 2022 is \$50 and has a deadline for payment on the last day of the month, 02/28/22. Membership renewals after this date will be subject to a \$10 reinstatement fee. So, please do not delay. We want you all renewed for 2022! If you have any questions about the renewal process, please reach out to me or the 1st Vice President of Membership, Danferd Henke.

I am happy to announce that the membership overwhelming approved the \$5,000 donation to Western Rivers Conservancy in acquiring the 812-acre Yakima Canyon Ranch property along the

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Boyd Aigner

The 2022 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Contest Announced

By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

The 2022 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition is underway. We are still dealing with the impacts of covid, so there are some changes.

The goal is to have members involved in the Competition, as participants and, in all events, as judges. So, for one change, the usual timing of the Competition has been pushed out one month, which may permit activities to occur at regular monthly meetings at which members may feel more comfortable attending.

The Competition is intended to be a competitive, but friendly event that allows tiers to demonstrate their skills and encourages them to tie patterns that they may never have considered before. The judges will not know the identity of the respective tiers. The plan is for the members of the Club to judge the flies at a live, monthly meeting.

Another change in the Competition is a more specific identification of the patterns to be tied. This is done by referencing U-Tube, where the patterns are tied and the recipes for them are provided.

The 2022 patterns are:

Antonios Quill Midge tied on a #14 hook. Instructions on U-Tube.

Amy's Ant tied on a #8, 2X long hook. Instructions on U-Tube.

Dirty Hippy tied on a #4 hook (TMC 5263). Instructions on U-Tube.

Display boxes for submitting the flies will be distributed at the April 19 members meeting. Flies will be due by the May 17 meeting. Judging will occur at the June 21 meeting. Winners will be announced at the July 19 meeting.

The Competition is open to all members of the Club and to those individuals participating in Club sponsored activities, such as Project Healing Waters. I encourage all to participate.

Please contact me, and I will assign a participation number to you.

Thank you.

Bill Neal

(c) 206.245.3614; bill.neal.0517@gmail.com

Letters

Mr. Ehrich,

My name is Mike Schmuck and I am the WDFW District Fish biologist for Grant and Adams Counties. In 1993, the WFFC put up an informational kiosk at our fish spawning facility on Lake Lenore.

The kiosk contained information on the history of the introductions of Lahontan Cutthroat as well as guidelines for handling and releasing fish. There was also a dedication to Enos Bradner 1892-1984.

I am having the signs replaced but I will be including nearly all of the original verbiage where it is appropriate, e.g. some changes with regard to regulations. The WFFC listed four recommended flies for Lake Lenore and included pictures of each.

Purple Leech

Lahontan Orange

Nyerger's Nymph

Red-Butt Chironomid Pupa

Creel Notes

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WASHINGTON FLY FISHING CLUB.
SUBSCRIPTION IS FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP.

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I'm wondering if your club has any high-resolution pictures of these flies that they might want to share. I could likely find pictures online, but the resolution will likely be low and once enlarged, the pictures will be grainy.

[Editor's Note: The above was forwarded to appropriate channels. We look forward to the new sign.]

On the Fly

Drifting

by David Ehrich

January 18,
2022



As the world turns, the live meeting scheduled for January gave way to Zoom in light of Covid/Omicron. Outgoing president Jim Goedhart passed the virtual gavel off to President Spratt who absorbed some well deserved praise. Gifts are in the mail.

David reiterated our reasons for going virtual. He passed the mic over to Bill Neal who illuminated the members as to recent award ceremonies and the deterioration of the event, tonight being no exception. Winding up from there, the wiley Mr. Neal discussed how many people helped keep the club alive - especially the outgoing president, membership chair, Creel Notes editor, and the Christmas Party Chair. These individuals were awarded a gift certificate. Thank you all.

Steve Jones, from FFI gave two awards to the WFFC, as a way of saying thank you to our years of service. Jim McRoberts received the Educational Award reflecting decades of service in organizations such as Project Healing Waters to promote the sport and help others. Secondly, Steve on behalf of FFI recognized the club for delivering valuable service to veterans, up and coming anglers, and others. John Gravendyk was singled out along with Jim for putting programs together and coordinating their success.

President Spratt echoed his

remarks and added that WFFC had voted to support the FFI in their Yakima River project to the tune of \$5000 with some hope of the Foundation adding to that sum.

Fishing reports ensued with reports of unidentifiable fish that turned out to be unique Cutts. D Schorsch fished Munn Lake finding fish rising to black chironomids which he fooled to take a little midge. Ben Davidson caught a Dolly on a river which I didn't quite catch, soon to close.

Budget will get reviewed in detail later, but of note, the Christmas Party raked in \$30K, a record to be sure. Dues are due by the end of this month with only 40% complete, so get on it boys and girls. Go to the membership page and follow the directions. If you're reading this in February, you are late as hell.

Now for main attraction: Tony Reinhardt and the ins and outs of drift boating. From Missoula, Tony is an outfitter and guide with specialties in the classic rivers near the capitol city of the big sky state.

Given our relatively deep experiences, Tony addressed the audience as if we knew a few things. To start, we aren't wading; we're moving and thus, timing is important. Even though people are in a small space, anglers can cover a great deal of water using many techniques, including the most common scenario: the dead drift.

Minimize the false cast, drop the side arm. The dead drift requires smooth, short overhead cast. The fish are in the water, your partner is on the other side of the boat. Don't get that fly floating around in the air hooking up with humans. Next, mend, mend, mend. The money zone for fish is 45 degrees in front of the boat. Both anglers can do

this in harmony, but when the rods get off script and fish in different directions, then we are wasting time and making a mess. Mending in the zone keeps the hope alive.

Next, the hook set. With your forearm, lift up and get the tip high and control the fish. Keep your line under control for the hook set with a couple fingers holding the line to the cork. This allows quick control or fast retrieve to get out of the way.

Mental focus is the key for Tony. He'd rather see a beginner with mental focus than a veteran who isn't paying attention. Be active and thoughtful over the course of the day. If the line is tied up in your feet, wrapped around the anchor, hooked in your boot, you are not going to catch fish and you lose focus and your fly spends less productive time on the water. In other words, he was describing me.

Advance skills start with casting. Golfers don't just golf - they break down the skills and practice. Well,

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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.

‘On the Fly’ Continued

my friends, you might want to practice those 20-30’ casts before you spend a bunch of dough on a guide. Practice where in lands and how it lands. Vertical, rod straight up and down, line ready to mend. Just a little bit of side arm cant puts the back cast close to the other angler. The reach cast can take you to the next level, especially at anchor to rising trout. Using drone shots over working rods, Tony showed us models of this technique. You had to be there, I’m afraid; words cannot do his talk justice. But if you hire Tony, you can learn all this in real time.

Feeding line to a good drift gets fish in the danger zone for a bit longer, yet keeps us in control of the line for setting the hook. I also have to note that you should, when in Montana, pay attention to your hat. Cool anglers wear straw or felt with a wide brim with a little swag to it. Novices wear baseball caps or some sort of all weather hat. This is Montana; hats matter.

All of us who have drifted have faced the great nemesis; the wind. The solution to getting you fly blown all over hell and back is to shorten the cast and stop at 12

o’clock. Tighten the stroke, mend, and hope for the best.

Losing fish makes an expensive day with a guide a lot less fun. When we wade, we have certain inherent advantages - in other words, fish hook themselves (my speciality). On a boat, we pull the fly away from the fish to set the hook, thus insuring our day will not deserve the term “epic”. The type of motion that hooks fish is to keep control of the line, your finger on the line to cork, and you make a good lift up straight up. If you miss, then you’re not throwing the line hither and yon.

Landing your trophy. Remember, your guide lives off good pictures of happy clients holding enormous fish, or at least somewhat enormous fish held close to the camera. So keep that rod up and fight on the tip, staying tight but letting the rod do the work. Be prepared to strip line below you grip hand and keep your point of contact. Forget the reel and make like you’re in Vegas and strip, strip, strip. If the fish takes your line, then use the reel. Here again, Tony showed us some good fights on video.

Landing the fish is a whole other story. Read the fish body language and make sure it’s ready for the

net. Keep the fight in front of you and raise up at the penultimate moment. Then, hope your guide knows how to handle a net.

Lastly, drifting is a team

sport. Before the boat leaves the trailer, the guide should be taking your pulse as an angler. Let the guide know what you’re about and what you want to do today. For example, do you want to cast dry flies, hopper and a dropper, streamers? They can work with most choices if they know what you are all about. If you’re new to the river and if your guide is the strong silent type, you need to ask the right questions: am I doing this right? Can I count on a good fishing report when I get back to Seattle? Do you want a big tip or a small tip? Lastly, two of you have hired this guide and you need to make each other’s day. Who gets the front, who gets the rear and who has to watch out for everyone? The rear angler is like the line backer: they can see everything and they have to react. Put the novice in the front and take responsibility to quarterback the casting, then watch the goofus in front of you screw up fish the water they missed.

Montana Outfitters.

Contact Tony 406-544-3516.

From the Zoom chat room: Where do you put the left handers? No worries; works either way.

When do you switch? Every hour, lunch, or never if the goal of the trip is to get your child or special friend on fish. When does the front angler drift stop? The oar or before or prepare to get thrown overboard.

The next set of discussion had to do with tips. Well, for the record, drifts cost \$600 and the tip should be no less than \$50 a rod, \$75 if you’re solo. Prepare for this number to rise if the guiding is great or if you arrived to the river in an \$80K SUV.



A good drift on the Yakima River

Fly Tyer's Corner: Why I Fish Tiny Dry Flies

by Neal Hoffberg, Chair of Education and Programs

I recently received a call from Chuck Ballard suggesting that we add fly tying articles or a 'fly of the month' to Creel Notes. Chuck's suggestion for the first article (you can file this under no good deed



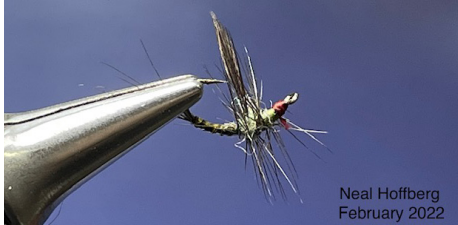
goes unpunished) is that I write a column on why I fish small flies. Fair enough. The only concern I had in doing this is that the column would probably have spiritual over-

tones of fly fishing and be deeper and longer than the bible.

If you read between the lines, you now know why I tie and fish small flies. As Thoreau said, 'many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that is not the fish they are after.'

Allow me to elaborate. I started fishing in my early twenties. I had the best Shakespeare rod and Garcia reel that money could buy. The drawers in my VW Camper were filled with Mepps spinners, gold blades and Rapala lures. The refrigerator had mayonnaise, ketchup, cold cuts and jar of Pautzkes Balls Of Fire. The cheese on my sandwich was, you guessed it, Velveeta.

BWO Male Spinner #18



Neal Hoffberg
February 2022

I would drive north out of Los Angeles up U.S.395 to Bishop, California. I would spend a week chasing planted trout up and down Bishop Creek or probe the depths of Lake Sabrina and Lake Mary.

Fast forward several years and a friend suggested that I toss the Pautzkes. Simply put on a short leader with a clear, torpedo shaped bobber, followed by a short section of tippet with a dry fly tied on the



Johnny Strong
February 2022

end. Bam! Game on! I was fly fishing without a fly rod. No perfection loops, surgeon's knots, Orvis knots. This was easy, fast and much simpler than true fly fishing. Tight loops? My Shakespeare rod didn't require a tight loop to get that tiny fly twenty feet from the boat. You now know where my inherent wrist problem comes from.

One day I invited my brother, David along. He flips out. Fishing with a fly on the end of a spinning rod is the best! No more night crawlers! David races home and finds Ned Grey's Fly Shop in La Canada. It's around the block from JPL. Ned Grey's is the place where the moon-shot guys go to shop. Scientists and fiberglass. Computer geeks and bamboo. It's also where the great fly tyer, Steven Fernandez began tying and selling his flies at age twelve! My brother invites me on his journey and I Pasadena. (Slang for "Pass").



Neal Hoffberg
February 2022

Several decades later David invites me to go fly fishing with him. We drive less than an hour from Los Angeles to Piru Creek; now dry due to drought, fires and beer parties. Out comes the fiberglass rod with an Elk Hair something or other on the end of the tippet. I fall in love with it. Slide rules have been replaced with pocket calculators and you simply divide by three to know the size tippet you need for the fly you are fishing. What could be easier?

Local fishing turns into return trips to the Eastern Sierra. Specifically, Hot Creek Ranch. About two miles of private spring creek, barbless dry fly fishing only. No wading. Four weight rods. Six x leader and tippet. Size eighteen and smaller flies (the PMD hatch and hoppers are the exception). Fourteen, fifteen inch and bigger wild rainbow and brown trout feeding on the surface. Man, is this technical or what? I love it! Why? Damned if I know. Yes, I know. It's the stealth, the tracking that's required.

The silence; that's a BIG part of it. Remember Thoreau? I would think the same is true for those that Steelhead. Just the opposite; longer, heavier rods and bigger flies. And the SILENCE. The inner QUIET. Tying and fishing small flies are in my blood. It's how I got started on

‘Rifle’ Continued

banks of the Yakima River. I am also excited to announce that the Washington Fly Fishing Club Foundation has matched our planned \$5,000 donation. Our combined \$10,000 donation will help Western Rivers and the FFI secure and support this valuable property for anglers and future generations.

During our last two WFFC Board meetings, we have been actively discussing the timing of our return to a regular cadence of in-person monthly dinner meetings. The good news is that meeting in person is starting to look much better today. We are by no means completely out of the “pandemic woods.” Still, today many businesses and organizations are planning on returning to regular in-person routines again sometime in the second quarter of the year. So, I am currently working with the board, and the Seattle Tennis Club, to determine when we can resume our monthly dinner meetings. I will be presenting these options to the board in early March. Next month’s newsletter will have more information and details on this subject. Stay tuned!

February is one of my favorite months of the year. Not only has the holiday season ended, but winter is also relaxing its cold and icy grip on the weather. More importantly, spring fishing is knocking on the door, and I eagerly anticipate the upcoming trout season. I hope everyone is dusting off their gear, organizing fly boxes, and making plans to get



Rainbow on the Big Hole during a rare moment of smokeless skies

out and fish. It’s a new year and a new outlook. Not only do we plan on gathering once again for in-person meetings, but we also are planning to hold more club outings. The last two “pandemic plagued” years have kept many of us off the water and missing the companionship of fishing with our WFFC membership. This year we want that to change. We may have to be more flexible and creative in executing these events, but I know we all want to get out fishing together again. If you have ideas for club outings, rivers/lakes you would like to fish, especially

if you would like to help host an outing or even an informal fishing meet-up with a few WFFC members, let me know. Please do not hesitate to contact me. Let’s make it happen!

I look forward to hearing your ideas and thoughts, including your fishing reports! Have a great month, and I look forward to seeing you all online for the February monthly meeting.

Be Well, Stay Healthy, and
Tight Lines,
Dave Spratt – WFFC President

‘Tiny Dry Flies’ Continued

this spiritual journey. I love the artistry and simplicity of tying small flies. It’s the journey from the tying vice to the water. It doesn’t matter if the water is still or moving. My journey has me walking along a body of moving water, hoping that a trout will rise to my small fly (paraphrased from ‘A River Runs Through It). I am always aware of the spiri-

tuality that fly fishing gives me. Truthfully, I also know that I’m just a guy with a fly tying vice and drawer full of hooks, sizes sixteen down to twenty six.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Join us at The Fly Tying Forum, twice monthly via ZOOM. See what you can create for yourself with a hook and spool of thread.

This Month in History

As a new feature, we will take a look back at this month in recent WFFC history.

In 1999, **February Creel Notes** Preston Singletary reported on upcoming legislation with the headline stating that “No One is Safe” from SB 5104. Many Steelheaders looked forward to sport ending limitations and restrictions.

President Crumbaker reported on club goings on and bemoaned the same issue as Preston.

The bill was printed in full by Doug Shaad.

The Conservation Committee carried on in the same vein, inviting members to a Sierra Club series of meetings to discuss on-the-ground ways to help salmon recover such as

mitigating urban sprawl, traffic, culvert construction, and other killers of salmon.

Griffin Creek restoration was planned for later that month echoing just such efforts. Doug Shaad led the way.

The conservation Committee continued with an article about the many roles of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the legislative slow motion asphyxiation through the garrote of budget shortfalls. The value to taxpayers of hikers, anglers, and others interacting with wildlife settings was under-appreciated by the Legislature.

Dan Nelson, then Editor, wrote; “Keep the pressure on the lawmakers. Don’t let the politicians off the hook. Remind them that wildlife recreation contributes more than \$1.6 billion to the state economy every year - and countless thousands of jobs.”



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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February 15, 2022

Virtual Meetings Continue

January 18@ 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm PST

Zoom Sign In Information WFFC Meeting – February 15th, 2022, 2 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82655055732?pwd=bWR2ajlaY3EvSVUvSnZsRVZZcFlKQTog>

Meeting ID: 826 5505 5732 Passcode: 506123

The February 15th Dinner Meeting that was scheduled to be held at the Seattle Tennis Club has been cancelled due to significantly increased Omnicron infections health concerns and now will be a Zoom Meeting with speaker Karlie Roland, a fly fishing guide, on the Henry’s Fork River, the Madison River and on the Yellowstone.