

Creel Notes from the



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



Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXXII No. 3

March 13, 2022

President's Riffle

I am excited to announce that we will be returning to monthly in-person meetings starting in April! That's right; we are back, baby! Well, with a tiny change. After considerable debate and negotiations with the Seattle Tennis Club, the WFFC board has decided to move our monthly meetings to a new location. The new location for our monthly meetings will be at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall on Mercer Island. More detailed information on the new meeting location can be found on the WFFC website under the Monthly Dinner Meeting section of our Upcoming Events and Outings.



I am very excited to make this move to a new location. The VFW Hall is a wonderful location for our club. The hall is conveniently located within easy access of I-90 and offers the club considerable cost savings from the Seattle Tennis Club. I will discuss this change at our upcoming March 15th monthly meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all once again in person beginning on April 19th. Please be sure to register for the April meeting and see all your old friends and fishing companions again face to face.

April also is the start of our outings calendar.

On April 30th, we will be holding our annual Lake Hannan New Members Outing. I hope to see you all on the water and help welcome our new members to the club.

I trust you all are dusting off your gear and hitting the water. March and April mark the start of our trout season. The skwala hatch is beginning to show, and the trout lakes will be producing fish on leeches, callibaetis nymphs, and chironomids patterns. I hope to hear many great fishing reports soon. Tight lines and happy fishing!

Dave Spratt

WFFC President

Inside this Issue

Page 2	Fishing Reports
Page 3	Henry's Fork
Page 4	Spring Fishing
Page 5	This Month in History

Fishing Reports

by Allen Peterson, Swede's Fly Shop

Below you will find a recent photo of one of our Spokane River Red Band Rainbows. These beautiful trout are specific to the Spokane and Deschutes Rivers. As you can see they are an exquisite trout, caught nymphing with sparkle caddis pupae, short leashed on a sink-tip line in the river. I moved over here 20+ years ago and find it amazing that the Spokane River gets very little fishing pressure, as everyone seems to run to Montana to experience classic fly water. Even now, experiencing run-off, the water volumes are a bit up, but if you know the river, fly fishing can be quite exciting. Most of the red bands average between 16" to 20" in length and are beautifully proportioned, as you can see in the photo.

Also, we have two desert streams that have stunning rainbows and brown trout, one being Crab Creek with numerous access points along its length and Rocky Ford Creek,



just north of Moses Lake that I'm sure most WFFC members are familiar with. This time of year there is a small midge that emerges and many here in Spokane will actually use chironomids as a preferred pattern under the point fly. Usually, those patterns are reserved for our local lakes around the area. I would be remiss in not mentioning one of my favorite patterns, the Black Hot Head Mini-Bugger. Using a #14 nymph hook, I use a small hot orange bead followed by black ostrich herl, some black marabou for the tail mixed with a few strands of Black Krystal Flash and ribbed with copper wire. Deadly.

I could go on, but right now I'm in the middle of writing a book, an anthology of 70 years fly fishing in the pacific northwest. The title is "Between the Campfires and the Pickled Herring". Ya sur ya'betcha.

I would encourage and hope that members in our club would take advantage of the resources, destinations, and advice I can offer to the members. After all, it's only a four hour drive from Seattle to Spokane. It takes you that long just to drive across the Ballard Bridge.

Creel Notes

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

PRESIDENT
DAVID SPRATT

1ST VICE PRESIDENT (MEMBERSHIP)
DANFERD HANKE

2ND VICE PRESIDENT (PROGRAMS)
NEAL HOFFBERG

3RD VICE PRESIDENT (CHRISTMAS
PARTY)
TBD

TREASURER
KIRK PETERSON

SECRETARY
DEBORAH KATZ

GHILLIE 1
SHELLY SCHEFF

GHILLIE 2
JAMES EMSWILER

CREEL NOTES EDITORS
DAVID EHRRICH
DAVIDEHRRICH@ROCKETMAIL.COM

TRUSTEES
JAMES GOEDHART, PAST PRESIDENT;
GREG CRUMBAKER '22; DICK BRENING
'22; TOM NEU '23; GARY BERQUIST '23
PAT BECKER '24; JAY DEEDS '24

Cheers!

Swede's Fly Shop

825 W. Garland Ave.

Spokane, WA 99205

(509) 323-0500 shop

(509) 599-6104 cell

On the Fly

Drifting

by David Ehrich

February 15, 2022

Henry's Fork



I'll admit, I came late. Must feed my wife; she's the working girl.

When I arrived, Karlie Roland was going over the geography of the river and speaking at length about the accommodations and the guides. It wasn't the Super Bowl in terms of advertisements, but Island Park, Idaho has a lot to offer and Karlie is not shy in speaking of the river's attributes: flights into nearby Bozeman, Grateful Dead cover bands, enthusiastic guides, a good bar, a well stocked fly shop, and cozy atmosphere. They book months, if not year's ahead and the guides are booked months ahead of time, sometimes years. What are you sitting around for?

Come prepared for cold weather, it snows in June and July. With some nice arial shots, she showed parts of the river that you might walk into and wade, float over, and salivate over. Next, Karlie, went through month-by-month hatches and prospects. April and May get lots of salmon fly fans and legions of drift boats from three states. The salmon flies hit hard from late May into early July. Crowded, but worth it.

Next come the drakes mid-June, into Flavs and Caddis are on all waters. While the rivers blow out north in Montana, on Henry's Fork, the river stays in good shape with caddis thick as a carpet. August features ants and hoppers. It can be tough that time of year with the

heat. Karlie heads north to cooler water. September and October, although cold, fish well with intense, but short hatch windows and vibrant water.

Featuring prominently on Henry's Fork, the Harriman Ranch, was started by railroad barons with an eye toward wild beauty. Bought in shares sight unseen, Harriman never saw the area, but his survivors gave it to the state in 1977. It takes good casts and you'll be lucky to get one good fish. This is a dry fly mecca. Leave the boats, streamers, San Juan worms at home. You can catch lots of normal fish, but if you want two foot fish, be prepared to wait and hunt slow.

The Henry's Fork Foundation has helped revive the river since the early 1980's. Respect the tradition by starting your trip with respect for those who brought you these waters. Be prepared to walk to get away from the crowds. Karlie teaches her clients to wait patiently and sight fish.

Just down stream, but past two significant falls, Box Canyon, has 4000 fish per mile. Lots of fish, not too big, not too small. It might take a minute to get there, but the fishing is thick and heavy. If you live to throw nymphs, you'll enjoy a guided drift. Wading is a big fly sport. Bring your bear spray to Box Canyon. Guides have to drag their boats down "the slide" which looks like skid row for drift boats. Not so many guides want to do the work, so you might get the river without the crowds.

The Lower Henry's Fork is a bit like the Yakima, easy to access and big water. Brown trout get back in the lower waters after the heat of the summer. It's brown time, with some big trophy browns waiting for your Golden Stone.

If you get bored on Henry's Fork, you've got the Yellowstone in the National Park, or head up to Madison and other favorite parts of Montana. Bring your bear spray, tourist spray, and iPad spray.

Karlie promoted lady's trips. Come in pairs, come alone. She will work it out. They also do tours in Louisiana, Pantagonia, and Mexico,

- fortheangler.com
- Karlie Roland
- Contact her, she'll make it happen.

Next came the questions. And as usual, I started to drift off to the self agrandizing "questions" so fondly held among members of the WFFC. I'm still waiting for the question is my problem. But if I can summarize the statements, some have found public wading water and good camping so there is hope for the hoi poloi among us.

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.

Spring Fly Fishing

Outlook

by Chuck Ballard

The many issues affecting ones decision to go fly fishing this year have made me think of ways to keep costs down.

The first is to plan your trips for a longer duration if possible to reduce travel (gas) costs. What I recommend is to pick a central location of several good lakes.

Some of these locations are better in early spring before the water warms too much.

Ones that come to mind are the seep lakes below Sullivan dam near the potholes reservoir.

There is some camping here but with limited facilities so one would need to research the options.

Another area is Winthrop . There are several very good lakes here a few are WDFW quality waters . Big and Little Twin lks and Campbell are managed as quality lakes. Davis, Patterson, and Perrigan lakes also offer a good variety of fly fishing opportunities all in this one area.

A third area is Tonasket . This area hosts three quality lakes, Chopaka, Blue Lake, and Aeneas. There is camping at all of these lakes except Aeneas. To the east is another set of lakes with Bonnapart being a popular site for Tiger Trout.

There are a few motels at Winthrop and Tonasket for those who don't have camping gear.

The water levels are really depressed at this time so they will warm early at many locations .I have usually had to stop fishing by early July as to not harm the fish. So try to plan your trips soon .

One other suggestion is to post your plans on the WFFC web to let others know when your going. This gives others a chance to join up and share fishing experiences together.



For Sale: Hardy Reels and Extra Spools

Reels - \$500 (Creel Notes Discount) • Extra Spools - \$75
Contact Stephen Clements at pictureman0@comcast.net
or 206-501-7538

Fly Tyer's Forum Meets Twice Monthly

Good morning, Fly Tyers

Here is the link to our March 23rd meeting. As previously noted, we will be tying Davie McPhail's Cinnamon and Brown Emerger.

Neal Hoffberg is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Neal Hoffberg's Zoom Meeting

Time: Mar 23, 2022 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83183073855?pwd=SE5nMG5PRmJGQ-kV6K1d4QIE2bVFzdz09>

Meeting ID: 831 8307 3855

Passcode: 152807

A recent effort by
Marcia Kindinger.



This Month in History

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

In 1999, **March Creel Notes** made a call for Roster Photos, advertised the Monthly Raffle, and discussed a large workparty (nearly 40 members and friends) to restore Griffin Creek, all habits of the past that have faded in history.

The Scheduled April work party asked folks to come dressed for action, bring tools, and get themselves ready to plant native plants to help stabilize the banks. Pictures followed.

Pete Baird led the way to celebrate the 60th anniversary with a fancy dinner at the College Club planned for May, including prime rib or salmon. The entertainment included an auction, raffle, remembrances, and slide show.

I enjoyed reading about Governer Gary Locke's appointments to the Fish and Wildlife Commission and high hopes from Pete Van Gytenbeek to restore coldwater fisheries. On the other hand, the News Tribune was quoted as reporting on Marcy Golde's objections to proposed legislation that didn't go far enough in repairing riparian habitat. I wonder how she would feel now?

And finally, President Peter Crumbaker, among other things already mentioned, announced a members-only photo contest and celebrated the august birthday of Gordy Young (88) and appointment of Fred DeWitt to chair the Youth Committee; "between the two of them they have 68 years of WFFC experience."

The March-April calendar suggested we go fishing every weekend.



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



March 15, 2022

Virtual Meetings Continue

March 15@ 5:30 pm - 7 pm

We will have Peter Sticher, owner, Ascent Fly Fishing as our guest speaker. The program is title "Fly Box Organization". Trust me when I say, this is not your father's fly box. Peter's presentation is an excellent approach to carrying and fishing flies based on the hatches in the water you are fishing.

Topic: Neal Hoffberg's Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81469660546?pwd=cmFHQ2JtZU9uN-2haZldoM3ovOWYrZz09>

Meeting ID: 814 6966 0546

Passcode: 054650