

# Creel Notes from the



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Website: [www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)

Member of



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## President's Riffle

Hello everyone! Summer is finally here, and I hope you all are out enjoying this wonderful sunshine and getting the opportunity to do a little (or a lot) of fishing too! I have been fortunate to be on the water fishing quite a lot this past month, including a quick trip to Alaska for some Halibut and Salmon fishing out of Seward. A lot is changing for me these last few weeks. I am now the Fly Fishing Manager for the Crow Creek Fly Shop in Roslyn. I am excited to take over the shop and plan to relocate to the area as soon as I can sell my place in North Bend. The fishing here, as you all know, is outstanding. I am excited to dig in and explore the area learning all I can about the rivers, countless creeks, and lakes here in the Roslyn/Cle Elum area. In early July, I focused on the Teanaway and having a blast fishing my 7' 6" 3wt.



fish readily taking green drake dries and emergers throughout the day. This hatch is short but very special to see up close. Stoneflies, hoppers, and terrestrials are quickly becoming the meal of choice for our trout now. If you have questions about fishing in the area, please don't hesitate to call me or check out our shop in Roslyn.

This month, Washington FFI is holding a one-day Casting Fair on August 13th at Lake Ballinger Park. The WFFC is helping the FFI



Washington's Chapter to organize volunteers to help set up, administer, and takedown the Fly Casting Fair facilities and Casting Fields events. You can help make the event a success by volunteering to help set up/take down, helping organize the casting venues, and helping attendees access all the features

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The Teanaway is great little river, and the higher you go up into the forest, becomes a very productive mountain creek. The scenery is beautiful, and the plentiful cutties are super fun on small creek rods. As the weather and water begin to warm, the fish push back higher up the river (or downstream into the Yakima) as the lower section of the river starts to dry out. The Green Drake hatch on the upper Yakima/Cle Elum and Teanaway was excellent, with

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# Fishing Reports

## Tsylos Lodge and The Chilko River 7/16-22/2022

by Hugh Clark

The Chilko river flows north out of the glacier fed Chilko Lake and eventually into the Fraser River. A major sockeye and chinook return leaves huge quantities of protein in the river, supporting a large grizzly bear population and of course much food for the resident rainbow and bull-trout inhabitants. After a two year hiatus in fishing due to Covid we were able to use our 2020 deposit for a one week stay this July. There is good news and bad news.

The good news finds the Tsylos Lodge and staff in good order with a fabulous cook and comfortable accommodations. The physical beauty of black and gray stone mountains striped with brilliant glaciers and jade colored water in the lake rival or exceed Lake Louise. The silt all drops in the lake so the river is crystal clear with refrig-

erator sized boulders offering cover for trout. Since the salmon arrive in late July and August, the fish will take the fly in May, June and July. The lodge holds six fisher persons and six horseback riders for one week stays.

The bad news is that the fishing is not what it was. In seven long days of fishing I landed about thirty fish, including 4-5 longer than twenty inches. In the 80s and 90s I would have had three times that catch. Almost all were taken on dry flies, hook size 6-8, and variations of chubby chernobyls for the heavy water. The slower fishing now goes back about 6 years and the explanation not clear. This year the water level was over a foot higher than normal. The hatch was markedly reduced, especially of the large brown stone flies that we used to imitate with size six sofa pillows and other large hair patterns. The bird population was dramatically reduced as well, both for shore birds like killdeer and spotty sandpipers and woodland warblers and fly catchers. Crows now dominate with many bald eagles still. These changes in insect life and bird life have been reported across North

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# Creel Notes

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## CORRECTIONS

In the May Creel Notes, the fly tier on page six Jim Ferguson was mis-identified.



# On the Fly

## The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich

May 17, 2022

Here we are again at the Mercer Island VFW for the second time. Also for the second time, we had pizza and salad, and for the second time, I sat with a table full of esteemed anglers with a world of experience. One question that made the rounds was the proverbial “if you had only a few flies, what would they be?” The Royal Coachman received some nods, Purple Haze for sure, and then the lowly Caddis. Other dinner topics included the war in Ukraine, Paul Allen and his love for cool stuff (my favorite was the Tank museum, may it Rest In Peace), and the evils of gambling. All in all, the VFW seems to fit the true nature of the members of the WFFC, or as one member noted, “It brings out the rowdiness in us.” Here, here!

The other meeting, you know, the formal one, began with a toast to ..... oh, hold the phone. We had a series of technical difficulties that seemed to cluster around the laptop. But finally, Pete Baird took the mic to honor that special member with the Empty Creel Award and, finally, that aforementioned toast. After giving some background of the award dating back to 1941, with nary a gap except for last year.

Formerly, a humorous award to the member who conserved natural resources by failing to catch any fish that year. Somewhere along the line, the award came to represent a member who has



given great service to the club and our sport. Starting with the oldest serving member, dating back to 1963 - Fran Wood, and moving forward through the decades, to those members walking among us, Pete named all the living recipients while those present stood in recognition.

Pete went on to laud one member, in the crux of the pandemic, for keeping the club alive and thriving during these trying times. We honor one member for expanding the membership, keeping the Christmas party alive, running meetings throughout, among other efforts too numerous to name. By now, we all knew who among us fit this bill....Jim Goedhart! I think we all know what he has done through good times and bad: the club has grown, made money, and provided a place whether live or on line, for people to enjoy their sport and each other's company.

New members were introduced; and from what I can tell, the club is in good hands. Pete Baird delivered the usual benediction urging them toward service. After the holy orders were bestowed, gifts were given, and new members were sent forth to prosper with a new member packet.

And now, for my favorite part of the meeting; fishing reports! Chuck slayed them with tiny flies on Big Twin. John Tibbs reported on Chopaka: cold and icy, low water, high winds, few flies, and campers hunkered down in their RVs. The Chopaka grade is open at the moment. Kurt Peterson fished the Missouri catching scores of fish. Gary Bergquist traveled to Alaska for steelhead on Prince of

Wales Island. Jim Goedhart traveled to Andros Island, Bahamas, for bonefish. He and his wife were thwarted by heavy winds, rain, and bumpy surf. Eventually, fish were caught, but the highlight seems to be good people and interesting food. David Schorsch stayed local and sought 30" trout on Katy Lake, and of course, found them. Chain Lake, Wagner Lake, and Ballinger Lake in the great wilderness of Mountlake Terrace all gave up fish of note to the “Great one”. Chapin Henry caught a sucker or two on Montana's Bitterroot. The Hawk had to re-wire his line to hold on to some big rainbows over near Shelton. I skipped all the reports which didn't mention fish for your reading pleasure.

After establishing contact, the meat of the meeting began. Devon Olsen was introduced, from Provo, Utah and his talk about “tactical fishing”. From what I could hear, and I couldn't hear much, Devin is

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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

inspired by competitive fishing the world around; winning medals on many continents with Fly Fishing Team USA. Initially he found that Americans were uninformed about efficient nymphing techniques.

After study, he found that the long leader French style nymphing caught more fish.

So what is the European Nymphing Technique? First he explained how water moves in various levels in the water column: lower, slower water on the bottom causes the indicator to “kite” and drag your rig. Without an indicator, and with instead a long leader with a “sighted” - or multi-colored leader above the surface, anglers can see the tippet's position in the water column. The long thin leader doesn't drag as much and catches more trout. Hold your leader off the water and let that long tippet flow through your water. Euro nymphing keeps the tippet moving through the water column without surface interference. You use the colored leader to tell you where your hook is and how low it sits. Don't mend, but keep the short line above the water, giving you instantaneous contact. Your equipment should include 10 to 11' foot rods from 2-4 weight. Make sure it's balanced to reduce fatigue. Load with light flies and fine tippet. Mono thin tippets help resist sag in between the guides and beyond the rod tip.

Getting that tricky leader starts with getting about five different line materials. Check out his web site for specifics: [www.tacticalflyfisher.com](http://www.tacticalflyfisher.com). In short, you tie five different materials to end up with

19' of leader & tippet. He ties on one, two, and three flies depending on conditions. Three flies gets a bit heavy and can tangle for less experienced rod handlers. Two seems to be the magic number, or at least, the recipe for a professional nymph.

Now to the proper cast: the oval cast. Draw the shape of an oval with your rod tip, dropping the rod low and loop it over your shoulder. With your light rod, stiff wrist, line held on the cork, you look at your target and loop your oval into your delivery position. Hold up the tip through the water column sighted according to water depth, maintaining tension, and raise the tip when you feel that fish nudge. Easy. Well, not really. But from what I could see and hear, the key is to place your line above the target area, let the flies drift just behind your rod tip, and keep enough tension on the line to keep the tippet as vertical as possible. No fish? Loop in back over your shoulder adjusting an angle, and voila! Fish on. Keep your rod tip low and parallel to the stream. Look for any difference in the line and chances are a fish is knocking on your door. Raise the tip and get your net ready.

Want to know more? He's got lots of films, books, and other resources available at the web site.

Devin wrapped things up with just a few minutes for questions. Flies? Well, they are not the secret, or at least a secret he cares to reveal. His answer was a bit more nuanced, but feedback from the sound system blocked much of the answer and I headed for the door.

## ‘Riffle’ Continued

of this outstanding event. Set up for the event will begin at 7:30 am on August 13th. The event opens at 9 am and will include fly tying and many booths inside the Mountlake Terrace Senior Center. Outside the Senior Center are large lawns to set up for a Walk-In Casting Clinic and three Skills Development casting classes. WFFC needs at least eight volunteers from the club to help with all the work. Please email me ([dave@flyfx.com](mailto:dave@flyfx.com)) or Jim Goedhart ([jlgoedhart@gmail.com](mailto:jlgoedhart@gmail.com)) if you would be willing to volunteer to help make this event a success. Additional information about the FFI Fly Fishing Fair and the classes can be found at Fly CASTING FAIR 2022 – [wscffi](http://wscffi.com).

Be Well,  
Dave Spratt  
WFFC President

## ‘Fising Rep’ Continued

America and Northern Europe. Climate change must be playing a role with earlier spring hatches preceding now the arrival of breeding birds that depend on the insects during breeding season when nutritional Neds are high.

The horseback riders remain ecstatic over their real wilderness tours. On the final day, they swam their horses across the hundred yard wide river.

# David Hart Ties Winning Fly



David Hart, Boyd Aigner winner, holds his champion fly next to Bill Neal. Hart received his award at the McRobert's residence in a private ceremony.

## DAVID HART WINS BOYD AIGNER COMPETITION FOR 2022

By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

David Hart was the overall winner of the Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition for 2022. David is a veteran participating in Project Healing Waters, a program supported by the WFFC.

Previously, David had tied with Tom Neu as overall winners of the Competition for 2021. He had also tied with Chuck Ballard as overall winners for 2017.

The Competition is intended as a friendly event that gives participants an opportunity to demonstrate their skill and creativity. The Competition also honors the memory of Boyd Aigner, a Club member highly regarded for his talent. This was the 25th year for the Competition, which has been held annually since 1997, except for 2003.

Each participant in the Competition must submit one fly for each of three specified patterns, which change from year to year. Members of the Club serve as the judges.

For 2022, judging occurred at the June members' meeting. Winners by pattern and overall were announced at the July meeting.

The 2022 fly patterns and the first three place finishers in each were:

Antonio's Quill Midge, tied on a #14 hook: 1st – Hugh Clark; 2nd – Dick Brening; 3rd – Dan Henke and Cameron McNeil (tie).

Amy's Ant, tied on a #8, 2xl hook: 1st – David Hart; 2nd – Marcia Kindinger; 3rd – Dick Brening and Dan Henke (tie).

Dirty Hippy, tied on a #4 hook (TMC 5263): 1st – David Hart; 2nd – Dick Brening; 3rd – Chuck Ballard and Cameron McNeil (tie).

The overall winners were David Hart, first place; Dick Brening, second place; and Hugh Clark, third place.

Congratulations to all winners, and thank you to all participants.

## June 2022 WFFC Foundation Legacy Donations

In 1975, the Club formed the Washington Fly Fishing Club Foundation as a Washington non-profit corporation, with the mission to provide funding for fisheries research, conservation, education, and other related outreach activities.

The Foundation is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(C) 3 charitable organization. Because of this status, the members of the Club may be able to make legacy donations to the Foundation that are deductible for Federal income tax and State estate taxes.

Through an estate legacy planned gift, you can play a direct role to ensure that the WFFC Foundation's work will be continued well into the future.

For information on how you can make a legacy gift to the WFFC Foundation, go to the WFFC.com website, click on the "About WFFC" pictured tile and then click on "Foundation Donations" pictured tile on the bottom of the "About Us" page.

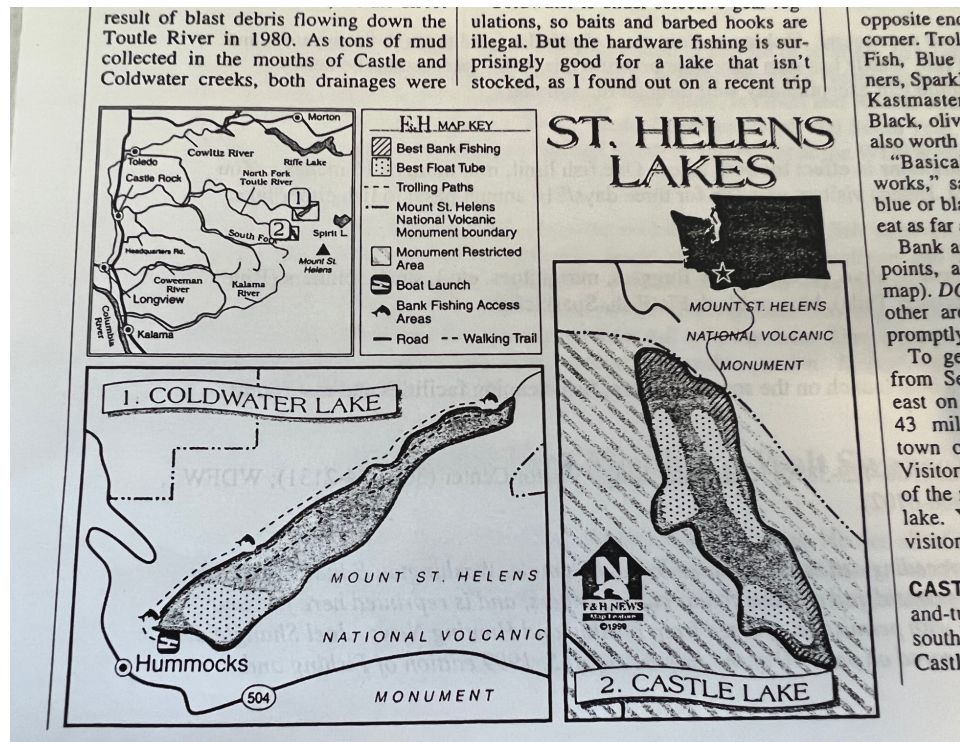


# This Month in History

In August 1999, Creel Notes Editor Bill Boardman recovered from an injury to his hand requiring medical evacuation by helicopter, trauma surgery, and loving care from family. For some reason, Co-Editor Roman Millett completed Creel Notes. Wow, co-editor, what a great idea!!

A more ambitious club in those days, pondered the question of walking up or driving to lakes near the recovering Mt. Saint Helens in an article by Joel Shangle. Coldwater Lake and Crater Lake [see to the right] got the evaluation. The Hi-Lake trip headed to Hidden Lakes in the Pasayten Wilderness Area in 1984 and again in 1999, precisely the same area Pete Baird, Mike Wearne, Bill Deters, and myself visited a dozen years later.

Walt Swanson was reviewed for membership. by David Ehrich



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## August 16 , 2022

**May Meeting in the Flesh on August 16@ 5:30 pm - 7 pm**

**The August 16th WFFC Dinner Meeting will be at the Mercer Island VFW Hall with Devin Olsen speaking to us via zoom about how to become a Tactical Fly Fisher.**

**A President's Dinner Choice, for \$25, will be served with a Bartender serving beer and wine drinks for a \$5 donation.**

**Location: The Mercer Island Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5760 is at 1836 72nd Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040.**

**Parking: Options include use of 15 regular and one handicapped-designated parking space in front of the clubhouse; additional parking for events allowed on agreement with Roanoke Inn management, and; up to 40 additional public access parking spaces available at nearby Lid Park. "Reserved for Special Event Parking" signs will be placed in front of the clubhouse prior to an event to reserve parking spaces.**