

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXXII No. 7

October, 2022

President's Riffle

This last month has flown by, and we are already here in mid-October!

The fishing up here in Roslyn/Cle Elum continues to be productive. The fish are still taking large dries, but the fish are switching over to smaller dries, nymphs, and soft hackles/streamers.

Recently, I had the opportunity to fish steelhead on the Babine River in Northern BC. The weather was warm, too warm for this time of year. This year is the first time I have ever fished BC in October with just one layer, without a jacket! The low river flows made fishing a little more challenging, but there were fish in the system. I did hook and played a good number of fish but only landed a handful. The largest fish I landed measured around 10 to 12 pounds. Despite the warm weather, low water, a stupid injury to my ribs (yes - I fell off a ladder), and lost luggage, I had a wonderful time fishing with old and new friends in the beautiful fall colors of BC.

This month we are fortunate to have Jerry Buron join us as a guest speaker for our October WFFC Monthly Meeting. Jerry will be speaking on chironomids as a food source, how to fish them, when & where to use them, and how to set up your gear & watercraft to be successful! I look forward to seeing you all on October 18th at the FVW Hall on Mercer Island. Remember, the Wet Fly starts at 5:30



pm, Dinner is at 6:00 -6:30, and the meeting begins promptly at 7:00 pm.

On October 22nd, we are planning our next club outing at Lake Hannan. This outing is an excellent opportunity to test your stillwater tactics and catch some great fish with our club members and guests. Please register for this event on our WFFC website!

The annual Holiday Fundraiser is rapidly approaching. The event will be held at the VFH Hall on Mercer Island on December 13th. If you have any items to donate that will help the cause, don't hesitate to reach out to Jim Goedhart or me. Please mark your calendars and help us raise money to help fund our club and our education and conservation efforts in 2023.

I look forward to seeing you this month!

Tight Lines,
Dave Spratt
WFFC President

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Fishing Reports

Eastern Washington Lakes

by Chuck Ballard

I fished three lakes in three days this week (10/4 to 10/6) I fished Buzzard on Tuesday and had a good day. Several bigger fish that were recently planted for fall. All on a dry line using a water boatman.

The next day I went to Rat Lake and was very disappointed because there were no fish over 10". It was just planted and no holdovers were caught.

Thursday I took the long drive (from Chelan) to Anneas near Tonasket.

Once again it had just been planted with 12" Brown trout. I did manage five bigger fish four browns 17" and one Rainbow 15". All were on a type 6 sinking line and a black Carey Special.

Beautiful weather, great days to be out.

Going back over next week for other opportunities.

Sea Run Cutthroats

by Jim Young

Saturday, October 1, I took my newly acquired son in law searun cutthroat fishing. Given he had never handled a fly rod before but had caught a few salmon on gear, I decided that a lesson in casting was not in order that morning. So, we ended up trolling large green and white Clousers.

We launched at Vaughn Bay with a slow incoming tide and beautiful

weather. After checking out a couple of beaches, we found one that was productive.

The two of us brought eight fish to the boat, ranging in size from 12 to 16 inches. They were in beautiful shape. Lost or broke off another half dozen including one that could have been a silver, given the way it jumped.

Eric's birthday present next week will be a flyfishing starter kit from Cabela's.

October 19th outing, Yakima River

by Jim McRoberts

Special thanks to Jim Cox for extending the invitation to WFFC members. This property will become public in about two years. Both anglers brought 16" fish to hand at this run.



Searching the Yakima River from the Western Rivers Conservancy access point at Umtanum Campground. Anglers: Jim McRoberts, foreground, Richard Plunkett, background

Photo: Neal Hoffberg

Chopaka Lake - Fall 2022

by Dick Brening

A trip to Chopaka Lake in late September is always a rewarding trip. This year I spent 11 days camped at the lake in beautiful sunny weather. I had several windy

Creel Notes

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days to start with when I only ventured out on the lake for a few hours at a time. The wind finally tamed down and I was able to fish at anytime during the day. The fishing was difficult at times when the fish did not cooperate but when they did, the fish were very active and all were hard fighters. For me

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On the Fly

The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich

Last week I was a guest of the Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) on their new property, formerly known as the Yakima Canyon Ranch, one of handful of private properties along the blue-ribbon waters of the Yakima as it heads south from Ellensburg through the canyon. Twelve of us joined Jim Cox, Director of Donor Relations and Jake Campbell, Donor Relations Officer, for a few days of camping, floating, and shore fishing as a small thank you for the generous donation WFFC and The Foundation made toward WRC.

Over the years, many of us have stopped at the Umtanum (BLM) area for parking, river access, and access to cross river trails; many of us remember when that area and a section down river were hosts for all sorts of dispersed camping and river access. Little did we know that the southern stretch was private until a fence went up and Red's Fly Shop started limiting access to paying customers. WRC stepped in and purchased the 812-acre ranch which they will convey to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for future use by anglers, campers, and hunters and protection through the BLM Yakima Area of Critical Environmental concern (ACEC). Campfire talk suggests the BLM will incorporate the area into a larger camping area and insure river access to water that fishes well in low water.



The folks at Red's had scraped out several camps cleverly named after various fish species. Parking for boat trailers is available off river near a pretty flimsy take-out and launch. I'll explain the flimsiness later. I took the high ground and wandered over to the David "Hawk" Hawkinson's camp for tall tales, hot grills, and strange concoctions. He was camped near some other heavy-hitters in the angling sense: Ben Davidson, Mark Pratt, Tom Neu, and Greg Minaker.

After a day of decent shore fishing with lots of smolts and a few 8-12" rainbows, I was lucky enough to get invited for a float along with Mark and Ben. Sharing the rowing we covered a lot of water from camp to the Rosa dam. No surprise to anyone, I saw the fewest fish, but got some nice ones along the same lines as yesterday. Ben pulled something out of his magic hat near the end and brought in several handsome fish along a good stretch as the three of us waded for a short spell. Mark and I were referring to our catches in inches in order to stop honor the smolts. He was somewhere around 40" when he caught some nicer fish and doubled his "by the inch" total for the day.

Pulling into camp at dark, chili dogs were quickly assembled and consumed along with an ever-growing number of cocktails courtesy of the Hawk who had his rolling palace outfitted with all essentials. Plans for a shorter float tomorrow were made and I called it a night, falling asleep to the pleasant noise of the river and river of conversation around the lantern (NO CAMPFIRES!!).

Our final day did not go off as smoothly as we (speaking the third person to avoid incrimination)

backed in Hawk's rather epic drift boat in a little too far and got the vehicle stuck in soft gravel. We tried to pull it out, but gave that up after a broken strap or two. I headed back to shore fishing while the others waited for a tow truck. Eventually they sorted things out and took off, but I didn't have enough time. Fishing from shore was not as productive this time and I can safely say that I caught more inches of smolts than trout. I can also safely say that they landed the drift boat at The Rosa dam by headlamp, but I haven't heard that story yet.

This property is exceptional and together with Umtanum four more miles of the Yakima River Canyon will be "guaranteed for good." In low water, much of this section can be waded well out from shore which gives good access to a sharp drop off with good fish habitat. I remembered my lessons from last month and "fished the V", "fed the foam", and looked for transitions.

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 Reports’ Continued

they ranged from 14” to 19”. They were fat and healthy. The flies that worked best for me were Gill’s Monsters, Pumpkin Heads, Stimulators and Grasshopper imitations.

When I arrived the campground was fairly empty and I was able to pick where I wanted to set up camp. Then mid next week, on a Wednesday, both campgrounds filled up to capacity. By the time I left on Monday the crowd had dissipated.

The front slope road was open both coming and going and was in fair shape. We had a little entertainment on two days when a small fire on the slope above Palmer Lake brought fire fighting helicopters into Chopaka to pickup bucket after bucket of water from mid lake.

Greyling Fishing in Alaska

By Robert Thorpe

Anne and I took a Viking Cruise through the inland passage to Alaska this past spring. There were many great stops. I had many chances to check with fishing guides and meet with Conservation groups and Aquarium staff, as well as Tribal members to discuss the Pebble Mine and other matters. Following the Cruise, we took the Alaska Railroad to Fairbanks to visit with my cousin Ann. She is a retired nurse and a great angler. She learned in Wyoming competing with 11 male family members.

During our stay, we all drove south to Delta to fish the Clearwater River, a branch of the Tanana River. We stayed at the Clearwater Lodge in the main house situated

along the Clearwater River (For information: Kevin Ewing c:907-347-4901).

The lodge has a fully furnished kitchen, very comfortable living room and large glass window looking out to the river. \$150/night -The site also has 6 cabins that sleep 2-4. There are fishing guides that will pick you up at the lodge to fish between 3:00 pm through 8:00 pm +/- \$150 per person.

Day 1: I caught 19, Ann 19, Anne 7; Day 2: Robert 14, Ann 17. Fishing catch and release, and size up to 19.5 inches The setting at the lodge is beautiful! A firepit along the river with comfortable chairs and picnic table. You can fish the shore or with waders. There is a late Red Salmon run in late fall.

Note: Airfare is reasonable with Alaska Airlines, and also can rent Motor Home/4 wheel at airport.

For more information call Robert Thorpe: c 206-484-5213.

Jerry Buron Reveals the Secrets of the Chironomid

The October 18th WFFC Dinner Meeting will be at the Mercer Island VFW Hall with Jerry Buron, Author & Member of the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club, will speaking to us on how to fish with chironomids, an insect seldom used, but which comprises approximately 40% of a trout’s diet in stillwaters year round.

Presentation will introduce you to chironomids as a food source, how to fish them, and when & where to use them and how to set up your gear & watercraft to be successful!

December 13 Holiday Fundraiser Donations Request

This year we will be holding the Holiday Dinner and Fundraiser on December 13th at the Mercer Island VFW Hall. Here Yee, come one and all for a great time!

The festivities will include a top notch served dinner, a hosted bar with auction items to bid on, a chance at winning raffle items and the opportunity to “rase your paddle” to support the Foundation’s Conservation work.

We need your help to make this year’s fundraiser a success by donating any one of the following items:

- Artwork
- Guided Fishing Trips
- Fishing Vacation Getaway Stays
- Fly Plates
- Fly Tying Gear
- Fly Fishing Gear
- Fly Rods and Reels

Each year the funds raised at the Holiday Fundraiser supports the WFFC’s Conservation, Education, Outings and Dinner Meetings Speakers events.

If you are able to donate an item to this year’s fundraiser, please contact Jim Goedhart by phone (425-985-2316) or by email (JL-Goedhart@gmail.com) to make acquisition arrangements.

Thank you in advance for your help in making this year’s fundraiser a success – Dave Spratt, WFFC President



Washington Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 639
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Classifieds

For Sale: Flt tying tray complete with Regal clamp on vise/ 7 bobbins, tools, etc.

Seller; Bob Young 206-291-2444



A rod building jig and a rod turning jig can be had for a \$35 donation to the WFFC Foundation courtesy of Hugh Clark.



This Month in History,

Creel Notes, October 1999

Member Leland Miyawaki gave a presentation in October, 1999, on beach fishing for sea-run cutts and salmon with poppers. He presented information from tying his famous flies to his beach casting technique.

The rules for the Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition were laid out by Bill Neal including a size 14 Adams Irresistible, size 10 Schroeder's Parachute Hopper and Drains 20, size 2 for Steelhead. Remember those fish?

Doug Shaad reported on Conservation and the Griffin Creek Project later in the month to plant shrubs and trees to repair the important coho run.

President, Greg Crumbaker, tweaked the meeting to keep things moving (evidently fishing reports were too long as well) and make sure the speaker is heard before people fall asleep. Later in this month's riffle, he asked members to, "before the year is out, you try to fish with a Club member you have not fished with....There's too many of you who fish with the same folks every time..."

Trips to Hummel Lake, Chopaka, Blue, Dry Falls, and Big Twins featured in the fishing reports. Hummel sounds like a kid-friendly put & take on Lopez Island. I quote; "we could have been chucking paperclips and the fish still would have hit." Later Dan Vaughn reported the bats came out and, "the kids decided to catch bats and so did the dog. In less than five minutes we went from the idyllic family outing to a scene of small kids firing spoons at bats coming at us from all different directions like fighter jets, dad yelling at kids, trout hitting bass poppers and dogs leaping from the boat."

Dick Sterns started at Chopaka and got run out by cold and wind. Next up Blue Lake for some nice fish including an 18" brown. Then to Dry Falls to meet up with other club members for a weekend of feeding hungry fish, then on to Big Twin. Dick went on to report, "We enjoyed two days of great fishing culminating in a delightful lakeside fire with the Don Andersons and the All Greens where we discussed the merits of the double haul, merlot and fine compnay."

Rosemay Weise of the NW Flyfishers reported on efforts to restore habitat on the Stilly with engineered log jams, in the hope of providing shelter, deeper pools for hold-ing salmon, and gravel bars for redds. Ms. Weise turned an fishing outing into a learning expereince interviewing some of the workers and looking over their progress. "This project was the result of an even more remarkable cooper-ative effort between agencies that are sometime at odds: Snohomish County Public Wroks, U.W. Departments of Ecology and Civil Engineering, the Stillaguamish and Tulalip Trips, and Washington Trout."