

# Creel Notes from the



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Member of



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## President's Riffle

And now, for something on the lighter side.

Fly fishing and buffoonery go hand in hand, as we all know too well. And, as the essence of buffoonery is a self-inflicted wound, my body is scarred, and so are those of the Usual Suspects. Here are a few of my and others' egregious acts of stupidity while fishing. The names have been changed to protect the buffoons.

### Three in One

I'd been through that gate a hundred times before, each time with my pre-rigged rods in front of me. Why did I pause that morning on the landing just outside the gate, and why did I have my rods behind me? It was 5 AM and I'd been up 'til midnight tying flies. Was I just tired? I heard a slight squeak and realized too late that the spring-loaded gate was closing behind me. The gate snapped three of my beloved Z-Axis trout rods. I went back to the basement and got three more rods – and left them in their tubes.

### The Wind Is Not Your Friend

My Skookum Osprey and I were not faring well at Lone Lake. The increasing wind was blowing the boat around at will. I decided I needed to change to a much faster sinking line. I'd gone out with only one rod, so I had to change spools. I



anchored, popped the spool off the reel, leaving it in my stripping basket for reasons that have yet to be determined except for lack of intellectual capacity. Then the wind decided to scoff at my anchors. As the boat moved, I grabbed for the oars and my thigh came up and knocked the spool into the drink. I managed to grab the leader, but the spool went straight to the bottom. I had nothing to wrap that line around, so I just started pulling. A mare's nest of line and backing developed in my stripping basket. The spool and I went home.

### Pride Goeth Before the Fall

"Hey, Paul, look at my big fish!" My buddies Joe and Paul were fishing Cady Lake. Joe had pulled out a monster and was holding it up for the world to see. Out of the corner of his eye he saw movement and turned just in time to see his rod and reel disappear beneath the surface. Joe put up a notice at the B & B there, but thought that was the last he'd seen of them. Six weeks later he got a call from an angler who had snagged up a rod and reel. He returned them to Joe. It's good to be lucky and it's good to

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## Club Business

### Proposed Bylaw Amendment

– Second Notice As noted in the May edition of Creel Notes, at the June 20 meeting we will be voting on proposed amendments to the Club's bylaws to reduce the quorum requirement for action from 25% of voting members to 10%.

The proposed amendment is set out below:

• Article IV, Section 4 of the Club's bylaws is hereby deleted and restated in its entirety as follows

*- Section 4. Quorum. A quorum shall be ten percent (10%) of the voting members.*

Article VII, Section 2 of the Club's bylaws is hereby deleted and restated in its entirety as follows:

*- Section 2. Elections. Election of officers and Trustees shall be made by written ballot of members present at the November meeting each year. The membership electing the officers shall consist of 10% or more of the voting membership, but in no event less than 15 members.*

*The nominee receiving the largest number of votes for each office shall be elected. Absent any floor nominating candidate(s) or multiple nominations from the Nominating Committee, a voice vote is to be taken regarding the committee nominated slate.*

We will need a quorum of members at the meeting to vote on these amendments. Please plan on attending

## Fly Tyer's Corner

Cripples and spinners are the poor step-children of my fly box. I never seem to have a spinner when I need one, although I always tell myself, after each trip, to go tie some. At Chopaka last week, I had great fun with a Kelly Galloup cripple pattern. I fished it all afternoon (in a continuous downpour), but got a bunch of hits on it. Here's the pattern (for a Callibaetis).

Hook: Daiichi 1110 or equivalent

Thread: 10/0

Tail: Micro fibbets

Abdomen: Superfine Callibaetis, gray, or chocolate brown, or a blend

Hackle: Grizzly hackle, one size larger than normal



Wing: Sparkle emerger yarn or zelon

Thorax: Superfine, slightly darker than abdomen

1. Put the hook loosely in the vise and bend it horizontally at the 2/3 mark and at the 1/3 mark to achieve a horizontal radius similar to the vertical radius on a standard scud hook.

2. Attach a tail of several micro fibbets.

3. Dub a tapered body up to the 1/3 mark.

4. Tie in the hackle feather for later wrapping

5. Tie in the wing by doubling the fibers around the tying thread, then placing them on the near side of the bent hook, so they are perpendicular to the hook in the horizontal plane, on one side of the hook only. (It's a cripple.)

6. Wrap the hackle on full wrap behind the wing, two full wraps in front of the wing.

## Creel Notes

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7. Dub a thorax tapered back from the front, also with a couple of wraps behind the wing.

8. Whip finish behind the eye.

9. Trim the hackle off the bottom of the fly.

10. Trim the wing to round it off, with the shortest fibers on the tail side. This fly looks a hot mess, but it catches fish.

# Fishing Reports

## The Mighty Mo

by Hugh Clark

Former WFFC member Bill Booth and I fished the Missouri River in mid May, using the services of Headhunters Fly shop for a cabin and guides.

Craig, Montana is full of anglers in May but it is a big river and we had no trouble with crowds. Sadly, no significant hatch came off so all of our fishing was with very small nymphs.

On the upper river we caught mostly rainbows and as we got further from the dam, mostly browns, the largest of which was about 27 inches.



We had a spectacular dinner at The Missouri River Ranch, a lodge that I would highly recommend.

## Corbett Lake , May 2023

by Gary Bergquist

I enjoyed 6 days fishing on Corbett Lake located on the Thompson Plateau, British Columbia with fellow WFFC member Dr. Burdick and three other anglers.

We stayed at Corbett Lake Lodge allowing for daily fishing with no

time lost going to and from the lake. We each brought our personal water craft obviating the need to use the aluminum boats the lodge offers its guests.

The weather during our stay at Corbett ranged from really hot to just plain hot with one day impacted by forest fire smoke which drifted in late the prior evening. I believe the smoke was from fires in Alberta; however, the smoke dissipated after about a day. Although I opted to stay off the water that day the others fished on.

Corbett's waters are crystal clear with aquarium like views of the vegetation and cruising trout with the exception of the lake's much darker deeper waters. The transition from the shallows to deeper waters is a dramatic abrupt drop off to an impenetrable deep blue/black void. Pretty cool. Some areas of the lake reach a depth of approximately 65 feet. Aside from the lodge buildings, there is no development surrounding the lake. But for the nearness of Highway 97C, which passes near one end of the lake, the setting is very nice.

The fishing? Well, it was not as we have experienced in past years with the Callibaetis coming off the water in irregular patterns...sometimes heavy and sometimes not so much. Was this due to unseasonably hot weather and sunny skies? Perhaps so. Well, as former Seattle SeaHawk coach Chuck Knox (remember him?) was fond of saying "You play the hand you are dealt."

All of us caught fish. The fish at Corbett are all rainbows and, without exception, are hard fighting; stripping line and jumping. One of the anglers in our group reports over the 6 days on the water he had 106 fish on with 72 of those to the boat. While the rest of us may

have not landed quite so many fish, we all did well. Patterns which worked well were chironomids (especially so for the pattern Dr. Burdick tied for us at one of our meetings), Adams, ants, pumpkin heads, as well as some streamer patterns. Personally, my favorite hookups were those on the surface while fishing a split cane bamboo rod and size 20 flies. I landed a couple of 20 inch rainbows and a hand full more at 19 inches with that combination. Still brings a smile to my face.

Corbett Lake is located a little east of Merritt, BC. Not very far. Traffic and border crossings permitting, the lake can be reached in a four hour drive from Seattle. If you have not fished this lake you should.

## Lake Hannon Outing Report

by Mike Nolan

Driving down the gravel road into Lake Hannon at about 7:45am

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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

May 16, 2023

by David Ehrich

We started the meeting with introductions of guests and dignitaries including some new to the sport and new to the area. The gavel was handed to Pete Baird for a special award which visual intel would suggest had something to do with the Empty Creel. Taking us back, Pete recounted the history dating to 1941 of the Empty Creel, reminding members of its shifting meaning, from the guy with the emptiest creel to an opportunity to recognize a member who contributes to the club in some great way. Pete then went on to remember all those present who are past recipients of the Empty Creel. Given that this award was to be awarded in January, sadly many former recipients have passed in the ensuing months: David Schorsch, Curt Jacobs, and Bob Birkner. The list of living recipients is always a who's who of club membership.

"This year's recipient," Pete read, remembered as joining the club in 2005 ..... and then I began to intuit that I might be the recipient so I put down the quill and listened with all heart.

I will, however, quote from his speech in part: "Our candidate, sponsored by Larry Karlovich & David Schorsch, serve[ed] as Club Secretary in 2006-07, - again serving in 2011 as First VP, responsible for membership, and most recently as Creel Notes Editor... Month after month, year upon year, throughout trying times of Covid, our candidate has doggedly solicited fishing



reports and other news about our members...faithfully kept our Club monthly line of communication active; except when overpowered by the irresistible urge to GO FISHING!" And with a lovely and generous toast, I joined the list.



Giving Pete no rest, he was called upon to welcome two new members, Anna Tender and Tyson Harper [see photos] Giving the usual context and call to service, Pete welcomed both new members to warm applause.

Fishing reports including tar-



getting "put and catch sluggards", Chapin Henry on Lake Howard going deep for plants in the 11-14" range. Chuck Ballard hit the water at Green Lake (read about it in May Creel Notes) with some other members, getting fish on damselfish. Mark Pratt was rumored to have caught 50+ fish. Kurt Peterson, fished in Pratt's wake, which many of us know,

is like following the front runner at the INDY 500 without enough power to pass. Jim Goedhart got some time on the Yakima River with his wife and David Spratt, our former president, finding low water, clear windless conditions, and stone flies lighting up the water.

Representing the WFFC Foundation, Jim Goedhart proposed their budget for next year, explaining what programs we support, many with a long legacy of receiving support from the club. Covering the gamut from youth programs, to academia, to legacy programs like Western Rivers Conservancy. Taking in north of \$20K last Christmas, the budget tries to spend down the yearly funds.

Following up on the President's Riffle, Dan reminded us that our new goal is to reduce the size of a voting legal quorum from 25% to 10% in order to pass initiatives at lightly attended meetings. Of note, we will need 25% of the membership in order to change the by-laws.

After a brief respite, Neal introduced our guest tonight, Brian Footen, who leads a corporation, Earthviews Conservation Society, that maps the world's great and small rivers to protect waterways using imagery and data. Governor Inslee just recently signed a bill that requires the EPA to map the Puget Sound and its waterways using ground level imagery collection. Mapping with GoPros from kayaks, using street level cameras similar to the way Google maps the world. Brian found the people's eyes were open to this comprehensive information and the ability to visual these important waterways of the world, from the Puget Sound to the Great Lake Salt Lake.

Brian took the big view for a

second: we need water and education should include our understanding of water. Studying waterways is a matter of protecting water. Repeated surveys help us see how things change. Using big data, machine learning, and tantalizing images, Earthviews give us a detailed sense of what is out there. Showing us some examples, these legacy views will give scientists and policy makers of clear sense of what was, what is, and then try and set policy to determine what *will be*. He showed us a view near the Narrows Bridge with clear photos of the shore line. Imbedded in the photos is metadata about things like water quality, temperature, etc. Data will chart upon request to get a sense of data over time (assuming its available) and start to chart for the future. For example, they took images of the first Chinook heading up the Elwha just after the dams were removed at stream level, snorkel level, and big picture views of this historic moment.

Check out their website [[earthviewsociety.org](http://earthviewsociety.org)] and you can interact with their collected data. Brian took questions from interested members and left us wanting to know, what can WFFC do with your data? The answer: when they are funded, they collect data that we get to use. More funding will mean more close examinations of select waterways.

Flush with wine, metadata, and the joy that comes from being with fellow anglers, the meeting adjourned to the wanning late spring light.

## Fishing Reports

I noticed a truck parked behind the locked gate. I parked behind the truck and in a short time there was a long line of vehicles parked on the side of the road. It was 8:12am, the gate was still not unlocked, and I was thinking that my Outings Chairperson position would be a short term.

Then a large dump truck arrived, and I was thinking our vehicles were blocking the passage to the road left of the gate. Fortunately, the guy driving the dump truck held the keys to unlocking the gate and the start of our fishing outing.

I did see a few fish caught, but it seemed as if the catching was slow for most fly fishers. However, Sean Pratt was the top rod catching fish in the double digits using a full sink line and some unknown fly pattern.

We had about 24 attendees, including the regular and a few new members, that showed up. The weather was sunny and there were just light winds on the lake.



During chili service, the quiet waters of Lake Hannah return to normal

At about 12:30pm lunch was called with the chili being cooked by myself and President Dan provided the cornbread and chili fixings. A few members also contributed some side dishes and desserts.

In summary I believe that a good time was had by all and the outing was a success.

## Outings

### Upcoming Outing Updates

Leech Lake Outing, 6/24-25/23: You should reserve a Condo at the White Pass Village Inn very soon because the Olympic Fly Club out of Edmunds will also have their outing on the same weekend.

Ben Davidson has booked unit #23 and he may be looking for roommates to fill up the condo. Call the White Pass Village Inn at (509) 672-3131 and mention that you are with the WFFC to receive the one-night stay rate.

Happy hour will be around 5:00pm on Saturday, and we'll get the steaks going around 6:00. The club will provide steaks for those that sign up in advance, along with beverages. Please bring appetizers, side dishes and desserts to share. We hope to have a campfire and please bring firewood if possible. A pancake and sausage breakfast will be on Sunday morning at the Inn, room #23, starting around 8:00 am.

Please sign up on the WFFC website or call me to attend the Outing as I need a count for the Club provided food and beverages. For more information about the Leech Lake Outing, please click on the following link to do so:

<https://wffc.com/event/june-24-25-2023-wffc-leech-lake-outing/>

## 'Riffle' Continued from Page One

belong to an angling community.

### Hundred Dollar Trout

Some friends and I were fishing the Clark Fork in a heat wave that limited us to very early and very late angling. I went down to the river one evening to try my luck. It was getting dark, so I stuck my glasses in my shirt pocket. The fishing was good. I picked up seven nice trout on spinners. As darkness fully engulfed me, I reached for my glasses to wear on the hike back to the cabin. They weren't there. Only cost me \$700 to replace them, with all the coatings, frame, etc.

### Famous Last Words

One fall day I was walking downstream, with my iPhone on video, recording my friend Mary as she played a large King that had marched her 40 yards down river. Behind me, my friend Sam had hooked into his own fish, a double for our group. "You're about to get some awesome video, Dan!" Those words were punctuated by a loud splash. I pivoted to my right, just in time to see Sam go by me in the main current, swimming downstream, head first, still playing the fish. We all yelled at him to get his feet out in front of him, but with his head mostly submerged and his focus on the fish, he couldn't hear. We could only see his Seattle Sombrero and his Patagonia boots above the surface. Our guide was downstream helping Mary land her fish and when Sam washed into an eddy, he grabbed him and pulled him in, now sans rod and a very expensive customized Abel reel. I got it all on tape. Awesome video, indeed.

### One Last Step

"Must be river noise." I could swear I was hearing voices. My friend Eric and I were wading the Yakima and I had wandered around the next bend. I kept hearing the voices. "Maybe I'm going nuts." There was a crashing in the thicket behind me, and out came Eric, arms out in front of him shuffling like a blind man, "Dan, Dan?" He was sopping wet, missing his glasses (and he's blind as a bat without them), limping. He'd forgotten his staff, so he had been working through a run feeling his way with this feet, until the rock and the hole. In he went, all the way, glasses came off, waders filled up, gear went flying (which we managed to recover). When



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you hear those voices, listen to them. And don't get too far away from your buddy.

### The Tippy Tippy Top

I'd packed my rods and was about to check out of a bone-fishing lodge on Grand Bahama. As I made one last look around the room, I spotted a rod tip just under the bed. "Some fool got his rod caught in the ceiling fan," I thought. When I got home, I pulled my rods out to give them another scrubbing to get the salt off. One of them was missing a tip.

These are just a few of many incidents of buffoonery on the water. Don't be afraid to share your own.

[Editor's Note: I make the following nomination for this year's Half Assed Award.....]

## In Passing

Member Alan Peterson passed recently. He was a long time member joining the WFFC in 1991 and was sponsored by Gil Nyerges. Alan and I worked together at Boeing in the 1070s and soon after started Sweeds Fly Shop in Woodinville Wa. Alan and family moved to Spokane later on and reopened Sweeds fly fishing shop there.

Alan occasionally provided input on fishing in the Spokane area to the Creel Notes .

Respectfully, Chuck Ballard