

Creel Notes from the



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



Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



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President's Riffle

We all know what a great job Neal Hoffberg does, booking the speakers for our monthly meetings. Well, after George Daniel spoke to us in July (a great talk, by the way) about tight-line nymphing, I decided to test Neal's booking prowess by attempting to put George Daniel's tips into practice. I broke out my inexpensive Redington 11-foot 3-weight, found myself a full-frame reel, dug up a few Euro-nymphs, and headed over to the best nymphing water (and dry-fly water) I know, Montana's Rock Creek.



I came prepared for hot weather, as many of Montana's streams are on hoot-owl protections already, but that Saturday dawned cool and wet (my favorite fishing weather – no, really). The area where I was staying had an otherwise nondescript straight-away with a bit of structure and several riffles. It was water that I knew would hold fish, but would have by-passed under other circumstances in favor of the better runs and pools, back eddies, and other more favorable looking water. But that was where I decided to put George (and Neal, indirectly) to the test.

Typically, although I aspire to carry only one box of flies, I go out fishing with several boxes and a few thousand flies, because, you know, I might need one of them (if I can figure out which one that is) and wouldn't wish to feel like a dope for leaving

just the right fly behind. (Yes, that is how fly tyers think, not fly fishermen.) This time, I actually did limit myself to that one box, taking Daniel's advice about needing just a few patterns for this undertaking. With great anticipation, I tied on a Spanish Bullet, and attempted to cast as Daniel instructed. Can't say I have that mastered, but you don't need to and shouldn't cast far with this technique anyway. I worked my way out with successive casts, dividing the area into grids, and after about an hour, had succeeded in catching nothing other than Montana.

"Time to change flies," I guessed, regretting the decision to bring only one box (after fishing only one fly). I changed to an Egan's Dart, a riff on a pheasant tail, tied on a jig, with a hot spot. Cast again. Bang! And again, and again, and again. The technique proved to be quite successful, on water that I would normally bypass. Rainbows and brookies came to the fly, or rather, the fly came to them, some small, some bigger, up to 12 inches.

So congratulations, Neal, on another great booking. George Daniel's suggestions worked well, despite my inexperience. But I don't think I can go out with only one fly box again. It just made me too nervous.

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Club Business



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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Holiday Party Donations Requested

Hello, All -- it's the time of the year when we have to get serious about accumulating donations for our Holiday fundraiser. As you all know, that event is our primary means of raising money to support our good works, meetings, and outings. We are hopeful that this year, with Covid on the wane and an in-person rather than online silent auction, we will do much better than we did last year, which was quite a down year.

To that end, we need more items for the Raffle Tables and could use more rods and reels. Artwork, fly panels would be great, as well as miscellaneous fly fishing gear.

I'll be contributing a rod, reel, and line, an entry level Regal vice in great condition, a net, and some fly boxes. I'm sure I can find more if I make the effort to paw through my gear. Let Jim G. (jlgoedhart@gmail.com) know what you can contribute. Jim has been doing yeoman's work, as always, to support this event.

I always like to see boats (float tubes, pontoon boats, oared craft) up for auction, especially since we have members new to fly fishing who don't yet have a means of joining us on lakes. If anyone has one to contribute, that would be wonderful.

Thank you all for your help and generosity!

Tight Lines,

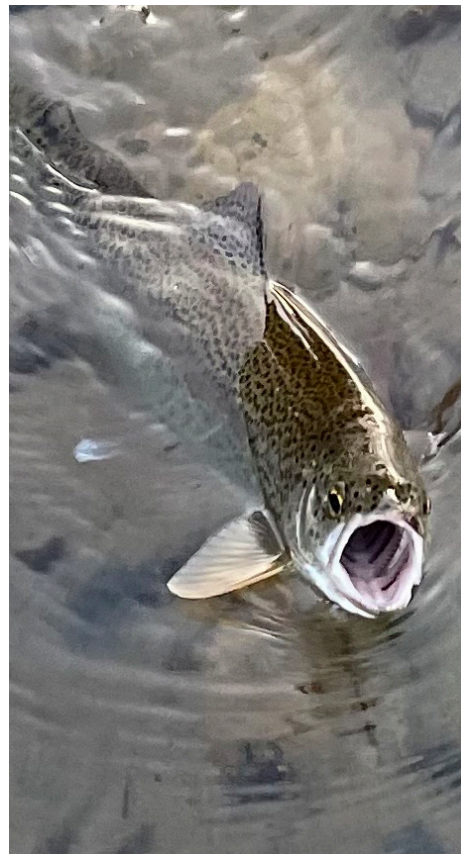
Dan

Letters to the Editor

Dave,

I just wanted to touch bases and let you know how much I appreciate your creation of the Creel Notes for all these years. I know how much of a pain in the ass all the work you do much seem, but I recognize how month after month you are willing to beg for stories from the members, and spend hours weaving it all together and always meeting the timeline. I am especially appreciative because I've lost my internet connection between the club and myself over these last 2 years.

Best, Bob Burdick



Neal Hoffberg named this lovely photo "Come to Papa" which tells a nice story about Rainbow Trout on the Cedar River, our local blue ribbon waters

Creel Notes

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Fishing Reports

Chasing the Hatch to State College, Pennsylvania

by Neal Hoffberg

Many of us have done it; fly long distances chasing a hatch that may or may not materialize, to which the trout may or may not rise. But, occasionally some of those trips take an unexpected turn and become the experience of a lifetime. That was my latest trip with my brother, David.

I flew from Seattle to Newark and David flew from Los Angeles to Philadelphia, but our true destination was State College, PA. What? Sorry to say, but you must fly to New Jersey or Philly to get to the trout streams of State College. That wasn't the only odd thing. By tradition, most restaurants in State College are closed on Monday! Fortunately, every college town has an abundance of pizzerias. And State College is no exception.

We are scheduled to meet our guide at 11:30 the following morning. Yes! Guided fly fishing that doesn't begin at 7:30 a.m. My circadian rhythm can catch up to my watch that is running three hours fast. How sweet it is to be able to sleep in! Our guide for the week is Paul Rebarchak. Paul is one of those guides that knows the local waters and hatches better than he knows Penn State football. And that's saying a lot!

Over a country breakfast, we discuss our fishing options. Penns Creek, Spring Creek, Bald Eagle Creek? Bald Eagle it is. I have two more cups of coffee. No need to rush. We will fish from mid-afternoon until dark, dry fly only. Gotta



love it.

At this point I could go into detail about the fishing, but why bother? That's like watching another fly-fishing video; park the car, walk to the water, observe, cast, miss the hook set, cast again and again and again. You get the idea. Suffice it to say that if you're a numbers angler, this isn't the place for you.

Lots of green drakes and sulphurs doesn't mean that the fish are rising to those bugs. Even the sub-surface guys found the going tough. Paul's favorite expression is "welcome to PA spring creek fly fishing." I respond with, "Paul. Have you seen my wallet? Your tip is in it." A guide with a good sense of humor makes a week of tough fishing easier to accept. Paul is that and more.

Since our fishing didn't begin until early afternoon, most mornings were spent checking out the local fly shops, browsing the aisles like our mother used to do at Hermes and Gucci.

Ultimately, this trip became much more than admiring beautiful country and casting size ten green drakes to finicky trout. Years ago, David took a series of classes from

the great Joe Humphreys, "who was a frequent competitor in the World Fly Fishing Championships and respected instructor who spent more than 30 years teaching fishing skills along with his good friend Ed Shenk." The classes were held during The Fly Fishing Show in Ontario, California. David didn't think that Joe would remember him, but it would be great if David could say 'hello' and spend a few

Continued on next page

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

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. 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.

Hi Hium.

by Ben Davidson

Spent a week at Circle W fishing camp at Hi Hium Lake July 9-15. Stayed in the eagle bay 1 cabin



with my dad Brian, my son AJ, and my nephew Austin (pictured above).

Weather was warm and winds were mild. There was a lot of smoke rolling on and out with occasional thunderstorms. Heard thunder a couple days with a major lightning storm hitting directly at the lake one day. Saw a strike hit the other side of the shore where moose point cabin used to be. Very loud and exciting, lots of big rain but no hail this year. Ron told us that 88 new fires had started in 4 days from the storms and 4 new fires near Kamloops from the one that hit us directly.

Fishing was pretty good most of the time with trolling during the days and dry fly fishing traveling sedge in the morning and evening. My dad was having good success using a dragonfly nymph as we saw lots of casings and even a few live nymphs hanging around our dock. Even tied a few flies to match the hatch and they worked!

The mosquitoes were in full force all week but they couldn't stop our fun. Turns out our neighbors in eagle bay 2 cabin were a

few club members that know who they are. We weren't told until our departure. Would have been fun to catch up in such a remote and special place. I also left a small amount of Dave Schorch ashes there in the lake. I've heard that Ron and Missy will pass the torch after this season but not sure the details yet.

If you haven't been to Hi Hium I highly recommend it! It's been 20 or so years since I've been and it was great to get back.

Leech Lake Outing - June 24-25/23

by Mike Nolan – Outings
Chairperson

At the Leech Lake Outing we had 24 members and their guests in attendance. The majority of our group stayed at the White Pass Village Inn and a few members were camping by Leech Lake.

I arrived on Saturday morning and there was a flotilla of various



Left, Leech Lakes shines bright and clear. Below, members fire up the BBQ and ready their knives and forks for a steak dinner.

watercraft on the crowded lake. Apparently, the Puget Sound Fly Fishers, out of Tacoma, were also having their outing at the lake.

The weather was sunny with warm temperatures and a mild wind was making a slight ripple on the lake surface. The catching varied among the anglers with some doing great and some only doing average. A mix of brook trout and jumbo rainbow trout were caught by anglers using mostly wet fly patterns. The blood-thirsty mosquitos were almost nonexistent as compared to previous years in fishing the lake. However, in addition to not seeing the mosquitos, there weren't any mayfly hatches happening either.

The group gathered for Happy hour around 5:00pm on Saturday, and we fired up the barbecue around 6:00pm. The club provided steaks, along with beverages and members brought many delicious appetizers, side dishes and desserts to share. We made a huge bonfire in the large pit with the large piles of wood provided by the Inn.

Many thanks to Ben Davidson and Mark Pratt for making the pancake and sausage breakfast a success on Sunday morning. Mark and Ben served the food and

beverages to all in a fast-food style which allowed some of us to fish early Sunday morning on the lake. The catching on Sunday was about the same as it was on Saturday with more open lake water to fish.

Upcoming: Hood Canal Outing – September 16, 2023

Our annual trip to Hood Canal, hosted by Jay Deeds. Sea-run cutthroat, the occasional coho, hot pizza, and cold beer. What could

be better! The sunsets from Jays yard are amazing, and the fishing can be pretty good too! Saturday happy hour/ dinner around 5:00 at Jays. The boat launch is just north at Misery point, and camping is available at Scenic Beach State Park, right next door.

Jays contact info is: 15350 NW Maple Ln., Seabeck. 360-830-4885 dogooddeeds@wavecable.com.

Members, if you can take another member in your boat to fish at the Hood Canal outing, please acknowledge this in the "I will Assist With" sign-up, so that Jay can organize members to fish with you.

Please sign up on the WFFC website or call Jay to attend the Outing as he will need a count for the Club provided food and beverages. For more information about the Hood Canal Outing, please

