

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXXIV No. 7

July, 2024



President's Riffle

We fish a lot of lakes and beaches in Western Washington, for good reason. We have plenty of rivers here, but they are scoured annually, have steep gradients, and are best suited to the anadromous steelhead and salmon and coastal cutthroat. (Alas, we haven't treated those species well.) That doesn't mean you can't find stream trout in Western Washington, or that you can't have a lot of fun with a light rod, it just means that it's harder to do that here than in Eastern Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana and the numbers and size of the fish are diminished compared to those in other areas. Ergo, most of our Club outings are to lakes and beaches.

But there is something about walking and wading a small river or stream that to me is the best of fly fishing. I can't tell you how much pure joy I find in moving slowly up a stream, reading water on my own, selecting a fly I tied myself, and planning and executing a cast that places the fly on the water and not in the brush behind me. Sometimes I screw up and a trout hits anyway. Sometimes I have the perfect fly and the best drag-free drift and . . . nothing. Doesn't matter. (Okay, so it matters a little.) As much as anything else, it's the whole process that counts, there are times when hooking a fish becomes secondary. (Almost.)

Don't get me wrong, I like fishing from a boat with a guide and I love the social element that brings to fishing and the higher body count and size one is likely to

Stream Dreams

Danferd Henke, President, Washington Fly Fishing Club



experience. But I believe that one truly learns to fly fish and comes to the deepest understanding of it only by going out alone on smaller, moving waters, making one's own decisions, often failing, sometimes succeeding, thinking always. There are days when that intensity of thought and experience have made me unconscious of the passage of time, until it has become so dark that I can no longer see. That level of focus drives every other care and stress away. Sure, there are plenty

(Continued on page 2)

July Program

Speaker: Dave McCoy On Local Fisheries

Our Dinner Meeting will be held on July 23rd Dave McCoy will be our Speaker at the Seattle Tennis Club and will talk to us about local fisheries fly fishing opportunities.

At a young age, Dave's father introduced him to fishing and sparked a lifelong passion to experience and enjoy life in the great outdoors. Growing up in Eugene, Oregon, his stomping grounds were

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this Issue

- ✓ Page 1.....Pres Riffle, July Program
- ✓ Page 2.....Riffle, Program, Meeting
- ✓ Page 3.....New Members
- ✓ Page 4.....Outing Schedule, Reports
- ✓ Page 5-8 ...Reports (cont)
- ✓ Page 9.....Academy, Fly of Month
- ✓ Page 10.....Loose Ends
- ✓ Page 11.....Summer Fishing Lake

(Continued from page 1) - July Program

and remain legendary namesakes such as Crane Prairie and Hosmer Lakes as well as the Deschutes, McKenzie and Umpqua Rivers to name a few. While Dave quickly discovered the thrill of having a fish on, it was the awe of his surroundings that instilled his deep passion for fishing and conservation.

Dave is well known as a premiere fly fishing photographer. Dave has fished in over 40 countries. He is an Ambassador for several fly fishing companies. His fly shop, Emerald Water Anglers, is located in West Seattle. EWA offers locally guided trips, international fishing, beginner and advanced casting classes and women's casting classes.



Dave McCoy

(Continued from page 1) - Riffle

of days, early in one's career, full of mistakes, lost flies, blown casts, and four-letter words. But then comes that day when it all comes together. The flies are on the water instead of in the trees, the drifts are good, over water that really does hold trout. It's only fun from that day on.

So, what is a trout-stream junkie to do, living in Western Washington, and how can a Club full of them feed that addiction? "Go East, young angler, go East." (Apologies to Horace Greeley.) Would Club members be favorably inclined to a longer outing next year to Idaho or Montana? There are areas of Southwest Montana and Eastern Idaho with multiple accessible waters within striking distance of a "home base" camp, from which members could embark each day, but return to a campfire or cabin at night. Those solitary days and social evenings sound pretty good to me.

If you are interested in an outing like that and have suggestions of where to go, let me know.

Monthly Meeting Location

The Club's monthly meetings will be held at the Seattle Tennis Club, 922 McGilvra Blvd. East, Seattle, WA 98112.

Wet Fly and fly tying commence at 5:30, dinner 6:15, with a program commencing at 7:00.

July's meeting will be the 4th Tuesday of this month (July 23rd)



Creel Notes

...is the official publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscription is free with membership.

President

Danfred Henke

1st Vice President (Membership)

Jim Beck

2nd Vice President (Programs)

Neal Hoffberg

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Gary Corra

Treasurer

Kurk Peterson

Secretary

Shelly Scheff

Ghillie 1

Peter Schutimaker

Ghillie 2

Open

Trustees

Chapin Henry, Jay Deeds, Pat Becker, Deborah Katz, Mike Moscynski, John Gravendyk, Dave Spratt (Past President)

Creel Notes Editor R. Teshler
batribble@juno.com

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.

New Members for 2024



Pete Baird inducts new member **Suzanne Johnston**



New members **Chris Wilder, Ben Chadwick, Coreen Wilson, Dan Ito** are introduced
Jim Beck (1st VP membership far left)

August Creel Notes

No Creel Notes in August.
Will resume in September




Creel Notes

Creel Notes

2024 Outings Calendar

WFFC 2024 Outings Schedule

From Mike Nolan – Outings Chair

- September 21 Hood Canal 
- October 12-13 Big Twin Lake
- November 2 Penrose Point Wet Buns

"It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming."

– John Steinbeck



Chopaka Lake

June 29 – July 5

From Mark Pratt

Spent a wonderful week on Chopaka Lake with minimal campers and restful nights away from the fireworks.

Fishing was good using full sink in 10' to 18' of water. Dragon and Damsel fly nymphs were the ticket. Later in the week a dry callibaetis (Adams) or damsel nymph along the shore worked very well.

Lots of adult damsels along the weeds and shore but the fish were not interested.

The fish condition and size, excellent. Smallest fish was 17" and majority in the 18"-19" range with a few in to 21". Others at the lake had taken some in the 23" category.

For the most part calm waters and quiet and pristine evenings.



Splendor of Chopaka Lake

Leech Lake Outing Report

June 22 –23

By Mike Nolan

I arrived on Saturday morning, and I had to immediately fight off the blood-thirsty mosquitos while putting my fishing gear together. The weather was sunny with warm temperatures and a mild wind cooled me from the hot sun. The catching varied among the anglers with some doing great and some only doing average. The brook trout were eager to take my carrot nymph wet fly and I caught a couple of the jumbo rainbow trout on other wet flies. I saw a few fish rising on the surface but there wasn't any noticeable callibaetis or any other hatches happening throughout the day.

The group of 6 members and 3 guests gathered for Happy hour outside of the White Pass Village Inn around 5:30pm on Saturday. There was an assortment of appetizers, side dishes and desserts that supplemented the grilled steaks. The fire pit was stacked high with the remnants of a slash burn pile and we were hesitant to set it on fire. However, after a few beers and some sips of Jack Crowley's whiskey we unanimously made the decision to set the burn pile ablaze. At first, we had lots of smoke and then after a while we had a sky-high fire. I believe that that fire burned the entire night and I saw it still smoldering with smoke the next morning.

On Sunday we had most of the group congregated in the condo of Ben Davidson, Mark Pratt, Sean Pratt and Ron Little for the pancake and sausage breakfast. Sunday weather had sunny skies and a small craft advisory wind that created white caps on the lake surface. I did manage to catch a few brook trout, but I decided to quit fishing early because casting a 5W line in windy conditions became too challenging for me for the effort.

The Club has some great Outings coming up and I hope to see you soon on the next one.



Roaring Fire at Leech Lake



Leech Lake Bunch

Chilko River, British Columbia

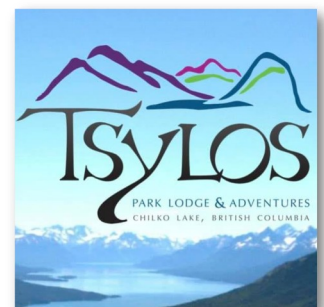
June 30 –July 6

By Hugh Clark

Bill Booth and I fished June 30- July 6 at Tsylos Lodge on the Chilko River in central BC. My total for the week was 52 fish to the boat, with at least 15 other early releases due to clever fish or fumbling on my part. Two thirds were hooked on dry flies, and one third by trolling a sparkle wooly bugger pattern. Two fish were less than 14 inches, most were 14-18 inches and three over 20 inches. Two huge bull trout were hooked but could not be landed. Most effective were foam flies of several colors: black, tan or orange.

Accommodations were very comfortable and the meals outstanding, including lots of fruits and vegetables in spite of the remote location. Manager Karen Mclean and business partner Josh have been in charge for over 20 years and are supported by a fine team of guides and cabin staff.

Attached photos document spectacular scenery and a double hookup such as occurred most days. A few slots remain open for July and August.





**Hugh and Bill with Double Hookup on the
Chilko River**



Chilko River 22 inch rainbow

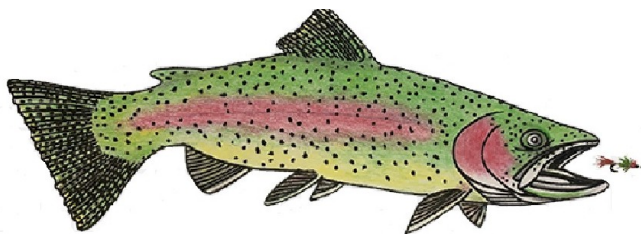


Chilko River B.C.



A Happy Camper!

Another great year at the Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy



"Fishing provides time to think, and reason not to."
– Carl Safina



Brian Chan's Micro Leech

Tied by Brian Chan

Hook: #12 Scud C49S.

Thread: Uni 8/0 -Red or Black.

Body: Red Marabou

Tail: Red Marabou and Red Crystal Flash

Ribbing: Small Red Copper Wire

Bead: Gold Tungsten size 7/64'

The tail and body are one unit so make sure your Red Marabou feathers are long enough.

The gold or red tungsten bead seems to be the most effective with the red marabou.

He fishes these under and indicator, casts up wind and (with the marabou) you get a lot of "buggy" movement.

One of Brian's "go to" flies and a favorite.

Oh, baby, witnessed how well they work up on Knouff Lake in B.C. a few years ago!



'For Sale' Fly Fishing Items

- Sage Salt HD 9ft, 4 piece, 7wt. *An ideal light bonefish or Coho salmon rod* - \$699.00
- Scott Centric 9ft, 4 piece, 5 wt. *Superb dry fly action* - \$599.00
- Galvan Torque T-5 reel. *Includes Rio Elite Gold fly line and backing* - \$325.00
- Fanatic 7+ wide arbor saltwater reel. *Includes High D saltwater sinking line (Coho* - \$599.00
- Sage Cordura single rod case - \$50.00

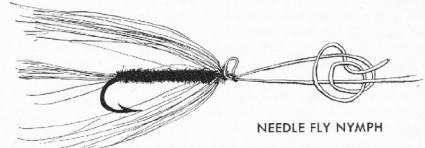


Contact **Dennis Westover** at 206-605-0404 or dwestover@comcast.net

Reeling in the Years

Found this old ad in a 1960's fishing magazine

FLIES for SALMON, STEELHEAD and TROUT MADE TO ORDER



NEEDLE FLY NYMPH

FLY KNOT— Pass leader through eye, around hook and back out through eye. Pass the end around main leader twice, then through the loops thus formed. Draw knot tight and slide up to eye. Leave about a quarter inch stub. This knot holds both nylon and gut, and is the strongest knot for attaching your fly.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Powell Custom Rods ● Reel Seats and Ferrules ● Rod and Reel Repairs ● Fly Making Equipment 	<p><i>Information about fly making and fly fishing is available for the beginner or expert. Letters of inquiry are invited.</i></p>
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DAWN HOLBROOK'S SPORT STORE
TELEPHONE PRospect 4444

325 BROADWAY NO. SEATTLE 2, WASH.

Inexpensive Fly Fishing Hacks

Fishing Life Hacks from Home Depot

From <https://www.ginkandgasoline.com>

Easy Dry Zip Pocket Organizers: These handy zippered pouches from Husky can be used to keep up with anything. They are particularly useful for Spey heads.

The mesh panels allow the contents to dry quickly and you can see what's inside without opening the zipper. A tab with a grommet allows them to be stacked on a carabiner.



Fishing Lake of the Month

Bonaparte Lake Okanogan County

If fishing picturesque mountain lakes teeming with large rainbows, brook trout and record sized tiger trout isn't your thing, then you should skip this lake.

Bonaparte Lake produces some huge trout indeed. In 2015, this small 151 acre lake produced the Washington State record tiger trout that weighed in at 18.49 pounds. But this wasn't the last big trout to get pulled from the clear, pristine water. Each year both boat and shore anglers yard in 20 plus inch trout on a regular basis.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10) Bonaparte

It's a long journey from the Seattle suburbs to Bonaparte Lake. As a result, only a handful of anglers dot the lake on any given day. However, the fresh mountain air and stunning scenery makes the long drive to north central Washington worth while.

A private resort on the west shore offers quaint cabins and partial hookups for campers. A nice restaurant and bathroom with showers rounds out the amenities for anglers looking to spend a long weekend on the lake. A gravel boat ramp provides access to the main body of the lake as well.

Other primitive USFS camping is available on the south end. Drinking water, flush toilets and a boat ramp are within easy walking distance of the campsites. Keep in mind that the boating speed limit is 10 mph. This is a lake best fished with smaller boats and electric trolling motors in order to fool these wary trout.

Bonaparte Lake is excellent year round. Several feet of ice covers the lake from January through March but that doesn't keep anglers from hauling giants through the ice. 5 pound trout are not uncommon. Spring and early fall yield the best catches as trout cruise the shallows for small minnows and insects. Troll along shallow edges that skirt deep water with minnow imitations flies.

The resort makes some of the best hamburgers in the state and is almost worth the drive in itself.

