

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



Member of International Federation of FLY FISHERS
Conserving, Restoring, Educating Through Fly Fishing



MMXXIV No. 11

November, 2024



President's Riffle

We're Just Lookin' for a Home . . . Again

Danferd Henke, President, Washington Fly Fishing Club

For those of you who haven't yet heard, the vexatious issue of where to hold our meetings has once again raised its ugly head. The Seattle Tennis Club has informed us that on account of a major facility renovation, it will be unavailable to us after July 2025 for at least a year if not longer. So, once again, we're looking for a home.



The Tennis Club also has advised us that the current dinner menu will no longer be available to us. Instead, they will move us to a one-entrée buffet, including a Chef's choice hot entrée (not a pasta dish), vegetables, starch, salad, roll, and dessert. They're willing to substantially discount the price of that menu from their normal \$65 per person, to \$30 per person, plus service charge and taxes. The total cost will be \$41.50 per person for dinner. The bar would continue to be no-host. Despite the increase in cost, the Seattle Tennis Club remains the best deal we have been able to find in Seattle for events of this nature.

In light of these changes, your Board has voted to continue at the Seattle Tennis Club through July 2025 and to raise the charge to members for dinner to \$40, starting January 2025. At that price, the Club would be subsidizing a better meal somewhat and bearing the entirety of the cost of the room rental. In the meantime,

we will use the time between now and July to find a new venue. We will appoint a search committee to study the available venues and the form of our meetings and make recommendations to the Board

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November Program

Jim Cox

Western Rivers Conservancy

At our November 19th Dinner Meeting, Jim Cox from the Western Rivers Conservancy, will be our featured speaker on: *"Sometimes to save a river, You have to buy it"*



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by May of next year. The hope is that we can find a venue convenient to most or at least equally inconvenient to all, and reasonably priced. Several of you have suggested alternate venues and different methods of conducting our meetings. Those range from our current drinks and dinner format to no-host dinner (that is, a venue where individuals could order dinner off a menu, or not, and the Club would not provide dinner), to meetings with only drinks or only coffee and dessert items, to meetings only, no food or beverage service.

If you have suggestions for venue, meeting format or anything else that bears on the issue of how and where we conduct our meetings, or if you wish to serve on the search committee, please contact me at danferd.henke@gmail.com, 206-949-8187.

Tight Lines

Monthly Meeting Location

In 2024, 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.

Please sign up early on the website.



Upcoming Fly Tying Event

2025 Boyd Aigner Competition

From Bill Neal, Awards Chair

As mentioned earlier this year, we are starting the 2025 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition sooner. This will allow the fly tying to occur when the fishing is slower and the judging and award presentation to occur before members are off fishing.

Accordingly, the 2025 Competition is officially underway. The Competition is open to all Club members and to other individuals participating in programs sponsored or supported by the Club, such as Project Healing Waters.

These are the 2025 patterns for the Competition:

- Damsfly, adult, size 14
- Royal Humpy, size 14
- Herring streamer, flatwing style, size 4—Gamakatsu B10s hook suggested



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Creel Notes

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

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Danferd Henke

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2nd Vice President (Programs)

Neal Hoffberg

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

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Ghillie 1

Peter Schutimaker

Ghillie 2

Open

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

Creel Notes Editor

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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.

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Flies will be due by January 31. Judging will occur at the February members' meeting and the award presented at the March meeting. I will be at the November meeting to distribute information and display boxes and will work with participants to do so at other times and places.

Bob Burdick and I will be the Coordinators for the Competition.

Thank you for participating and good luck!

Reel Recovery Program Report

Reel Recovery Program Event Sun Mountain Lodge August 18-20

From Robert Thorpe



For a second year the Reel Recovery Program organized by Chris (WFFC) was held Aug 18 -20 at Sun Mountain Lodge (A gracious program sponsor).

This year had 6 recovering cancer participants (8 in 2023). It was supported by representatives of WFFC, John Townsend (WFFC), John Boice, as a guide (WFFC) and Robert Thorpe Conservation Chair, (WFFC), 3 Rivers Trout Unlimited group as well as a few Methow Valley Fly Fishers (MVFFC) local members. John stayed with Robert/Anne at their West Chewuch/Methow River Home. Also attending was professional guide/ staff from British Columbia including Graham Martole.

Tuesday AM was orientation and afternoon donning all their gear and practicing casting at lawn area at Sun Mountain. Then the six guides paired with one

of guests to go to Methow for 'practice and bonding' --hearing their stories and recovery journeys. John had one who was only recently stating recovery with some mobility challenges others had those with none to some casting experience. I fortunately drew a former environmental/land use attorney who worked for environmental groups and served as King County and Appellate Court Judge -including Early Winters Resort proposals in Methow Valley. I had worked for State and County Governments updating land use/environmental regulations for 4 years. He remembered me and times I testified (a random matchup that was that was very fruitful). He could only cast 10-15 feet at first but soon was hitting River targets 30-40 ft away and mending. Great student despite challenged. Coach John's partner was slower to learn but more successful Wednesday and Thursday as were others with Chris and guides great coaching.

Robert and John attended MVFFC Tuesday BBQ meeting . Invited them to Twin Lakes outing in October --So Blending of several clubs/Conservation Chairs with the mission to Conserve and enhance the lives of recovering fly fishers . Time and resources well spent.

Please thank Chris and John when able to do so .



Reel Recovery Participants
Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop WA

"Fly fishing may not be the cure for all that ails you, but it's a good place to start."

- Tom Brokaw

Fishing Reports



Pere Marquette Fishing Report

From Danferd Henke

In the first week of October, two old friends and I fished Michigan's Pere Marquette River for king salmon. I've made this trip annually for the last 18 years and, yes, I appreciate the irony of an angler from Seattle traveling to Michigan to catch a king salmon that is descended from a Washington salmon transplanted there in the late 1950s. (Couldn't get away with that today!)

The run on the PM was good this year, with larger fish than normal, many running to over 30 pounds. Unfortunately, for unexplained reasons the runs on the surrounding rivers were not as good, so on the PM we were faced with a surplus of boats and other anglers this year. We fished lower in the river this year, halfway between Baldwin and Luddington, and found fresh fish in the dark water of deep holes and slots. The PM is a wild and scenic river. You aren't allowed to remove woody debris except to the extent necessary to allow a drift boat to pass. The river is full of sweepers, logjams, midstream logs, sharp rocks and ledges. You really haven't lived until you've seen a large king explode out of the depths, run upstream and down, while all the while you're wondering how the fish is going to beat you this time. I hooked around 20 salmon in three days and landed five. That's about par. Can't say enough good things about the experience.



Pere Marquette River, Michigan

Lone Lake Report

From Danferd Henke



Lone Lake Launch

In the fall, I follow the toxic algae reports for Lone Lake on Whidbey Island and, once the reports turn negative, I try to fish at least once each autumn. A buddy and I headed up there in the first week of this month. I got on the water late, about 10:30, but my buddy, who got out an hour before I did, had six to hand by the time I hit the water. We each caught a few fish after that, but by 1 PM the bite was just off. Once again, Lone Lake fished well early, then petered out. Getting to the lake early, from Seattle, is a bit of an issue, as it requires a ferry ride. But in the future I'll make a point out of being on the first morning ferry. No bugs came off all day, we saw no rising fish. We took fish trolling and casting, counting down, and retrieving slowly. The fish seemed to be at depth and fast-sinking lines and prospecting patterns were the order of the day (pumpkin heads). All of the fish we caught were over 16", fat, healthy, and aggressive. One of mine jumped seven times during the play

Lone Lake is one of my favorite local fisheries, spring and fall. One can troll, cast, play the shoreline, and chironomid fish. I've found myself in the midst of rising fish taking emergers and duns several times. Unfortunately, the lake isn't especially deep. With rising summer and winter temperatures, by mid-June the lake is usually too warm (over 67 degrees) to catch and release fish without increased fish mortality. And by mid-July, the toxic algae that is unsafe for humans seems to make its appearance every year now. The algae contains a neurotoxin that is no joke, it can cause symptoms on contact, including rashes

and, according to the powers that be, even death (although I suspect you'd have to guzzle lake water for that outcome). In any event, check the toxicology reports online before you go. (Pass Lake has developed a similar problem.)

Rock Creek Report Montana

From Danferd Henke

In the second week of October, four club members spent a day fishing Rock Creek near Missoula. The water was very low and as clear as any water I've ever seen. Wasn't too cold yet, although nighttime temperatures were starting to drop toward freezing. It was also a bright sunny day, so fishing was poor.

There were a few bugs coming off sporadically, none of the hoped-for October Caddis, and I didn't catch a thing on dries. I switched up to euro nymphing and managed to land a fish before we had to leave, so as to avoid a skunking. We've had a couple of club presentations about that form of fishing and it is worth giving it a try (unless you're a dry fly purist). Despite the poor results, the Rock Creek Valley is a wonderfully beautiful place that I can't get enough of.



Rock Creek Montana

Hood Canal Chum Report

From Danferd Henke

The chum are running now on Hood Canal. A whole lot of chum are running. It's a banner year, after several very disappointing ones. This fall run follows a record summer run. I fished the Hoodsport Hatchery Area last week and until you've fished a good run there, you have no understanding of the absurdity of life in general and fly fishing in particu-

lar. The fish literally have been stacked up cheek by jowl. At high tide, you could turn 360 degrees and see a whole lot of fins in every direction. Nuts. I spoke with some of the tribal members who were there and they told me stories their grandfathers had told them about seeing only fish backs across the breadth of the nearby Skokomish River. That really makes one wonder how glorious those runs must have been.

In those circumstances, the real challenge becomes distinguishing between a take and a snag. With a little trial and error, you can tell the difference almost 100 percent of the time between an aggressive tug and a passive encounter between fish and fly. I was able to take large aggressive males on white and pink shrimp patterns and purple and chartreuse chenille flies. I hooked ten or so of those with good plays. I only took one hen all day. I fish an eight weight in this fishery, but every time I go I ask why I didn't bring a nine? If you bring a net (I don't) or have a buddy to help you land the fish, you can go lighter, with an eight or even a seven. But I've broken two eight weights on chum over the years, fishing alone without a net. Pound for pound, they give the best fight of the salmon.

The oddest part of the day is that for most of the time, I and three other fly fisherman were alone out there. What a pleasure, to have room to fight an aggressive fish. A decade ago there would have been a massive scrum of lure fisherman – they're easy to hook, by the way, as they often don't seem to understand that there is a hook at the end of a fly line.

Aeneas Lake (Okanogan)

October 29

By the Editor

I'd been eyeballing the weather and noted that it was getting colder and now freezing at night in Tonasket (Okanogan) area.

My experiences in British Columbia noted that Corixidae type insects seem start appearing right after a freeze on a number of lakes in Canada so I thought why not here in eastern Washington.

I tied up some #14, #16 somewhat similar to a water boatman but my own design and color. I have found these tiny devils seem to work about this time of the year in a number of places.

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I got to Aeneas around 10:00 and there wasn't a soul on the lake which troubled me a bit, 'where are the fisherman'? But fish were dimpling here and there on the surface so my reluctance to get in a float tube in 40 degree weather was quickly forgotten.



Aeneas : Cold Morning in a Float Tube
Higher IQ people would have stayed in bed

Kicking off the launching area armed with a floating line, 15 foot leader and a size #16 corixa didn't take much time at all. Cast the line out, let it float for a few seconds then slowly pull, stop, let it float then pull slowly again. This method worked. I few times the action was immediate. Release a fish, toss it out 'bang' another fish. It continued till a slight breeze slowed things down in the afternoon.

The fish came in 2 sizes, I suspect the 11-12 inchers were this years plant and 15 -16" inchers were last years plant.

I never did actually see any Corixidae type insects on the water but the trout apparently liked my offering nonetheless. The fly body color is especially important in this lake. I switched to a few different color bodies.....they didn't work. I'm convinced there is one color that fish seem to take in Aeneas

The biggest issue that puzzled me is the growth of fungus/lesions on fish (all rainbows) . I suspect the fish and game folks know about this because it is so pervasive. It sad to see trout like this and have no clue what has causes this. I've caught fish here be

fore and never remember seeing this problem. The one brownie I caught had no lesions/fungus at all.

I was shivering and stiff when I stepped out of my float tube from a cold day on the lake and drove home with truck's heater full blast .

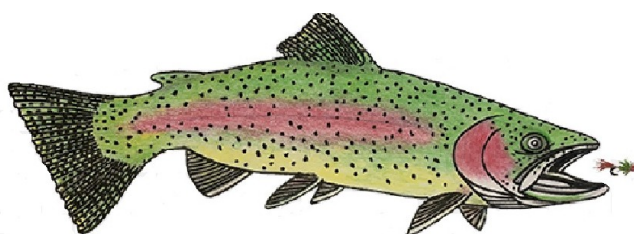


11-12' size
note the white blotches (growths)



15-16' size
also had the white blotches (growths)

"Everyone should believe in something; I believe I'll go fishing. " *– Henry David Thoreau*





Entrance sign Aeneas Lake
Keep your eyes open or you'll drive by it

WFFC Wet Buns Outing November 2

Some Fish Caught and a Great Cioppino Dinner
From Jim Goedhart

Eight Club Members turned out for this year's Wet Buns Outing at the Lakebay, WA fishing area. We had cool overcast weather with light winds in the morning and stronger winds in the afternoon.

I fished with Jim Young in his boat for searun trout along the Vaughn Bay area beaches. Jim caught three fish, and I finally caught one when he gave me one of his "Schorsch" green and white files to use. We saw a lot of Cohos jumping in the bay but did not catch any. On our way back into the launch we ran into Chuck Ballard fishing out of his pram.



Ahoy, Chuck Ballard

After loading up the boat we headed to the Penrose

State Park camp area to meet up for dinner.

Most of my fellow WFFC Wet Buns Anglers had a successful day fishing! Upon arriving at the camp Mike Noland put the anglers to work building a campfire and cutting up all the Cioppino fish stew crabs, fish, shrimp and scallops that he mixed in a rich tomato-white wine broth. Everyone enjoyed his Cioppino with glasses of my home brewed Chardonay wine.

A great time was held by all of us



Wet Buns Wine and Cioppino Aficionados

Big Twin Lake October 11-13, 2024

From Mike Nolan, Outings Chair

At the Big Twin Lake Outing we had 14 people in attendance including past president Ron Mazurek and two members from the Methow Valley Fly Fishers Club, (MVFF). The weather conditions for the week-end were partly cloudy during the day with temps in the mid-60's with very cool mornings and evenings.

On Friday, Chuck Ballard and Ron Mazurek fished Davis Lake having good action in catching lots of rainbow trout. Mark Pratt and Kurt Peterson fished Little Twin Lake with fish caught for Kurt and none for Mark.

Kurt Peterson and I fished Little Twin Lake on Saturday catching rainbows, brook and tiger trout. Kurt caught a large brook trout, and I caught my first ever 16" Tiger trout. The remainder of the people fished

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Big Twin Lake with limited success.

On Saturday evening we gathered together for happy hour and steak barbecue. Pete Speers and Adam Sodel from the MVFF shared information on the local fishing opportunities near Winthrop. Pete is the President of the MVFF and Adam is responsible for maintaining the aerators in Big Twin and Little Twin Lakes. There was supposed to be a comet visible in the western skyline after sunset on Saturday, but the elevation of Patterson Mountain obscured the view. The embers from the roaring fire made their own small streaks of light in the evening sky and that was good enough for me.

Ben Davidson fished Campbell Lake on Sunday where he caught lots of trout and he reported that he had the lake mostly to himself except for one other boat. I fished Big Twin Lake on Tuesday morning and caught lots of fish within a two-hour timeframe.

Big (and) Little Twin Outing



The Interesting



Fish Ladder Design –Switzerland
Supposed to be much easier on the fish

Tesla valve-inspired fish ladders incorporate fluid dynamics principles to create a more fish-friendly passage. By adapting the valve's looping pathways and strategic flow redirection, these innovative structures offer several advantages over traditional designs:

1. **Reduced Energy Expenditure:** The carefully engineered flow patterns allow fish to conserve energy while navigating upstream, increasing their chances of successful migration.
2. **Improved Water Oxygenation:** The turbulent flow created by the Tesla-inspired design enhances oxygen mixing, benefiting both migrating fish and the overall river ecosystem.
3. **Adaptability to Various Species:** The flexible design can accommodate different fish species with varying swimming capabilities, making it a more versatile solution for diverse aquatic environments.
4. **Enhanced Attraction Flow:** These ladders' unique hydraulic properties create a more enticing flow pattern, helping to guide fish towards the entrance more effectively than traditional designs.



Fly of the Month



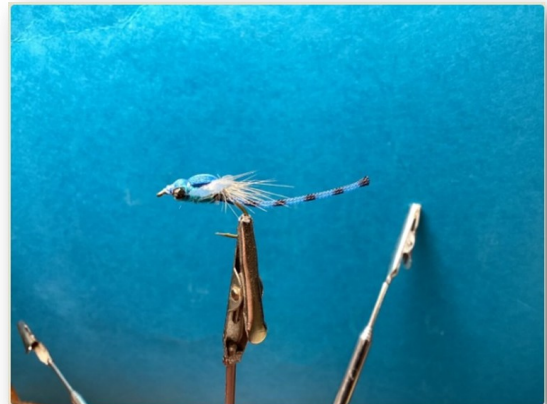
ADULT DAMSEL

In late spring and early, damselfly migrate from the depths of ponds and lakes becoming very vulnerable to trout and bass. As adults they flutter around vegetation that sticks out of the water they end up in the water from mating rituals and the wind. Fish will sometimes come out of the water to take them from the air or off vegetation.

Do check out <http://Vimeo.com/85147880>

HOOK: TMC 100 size 10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crimp barb 	
THREAD: Ulo Royal Blue OR tan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NOTE: the male is blue. The female either blue or a light tan/olive. ● ATTACH behind eye. Touching wraps to rear of shank. 	
Abdomine: "Adult Damselfly Body" or "Braided Butt Damselfly" blue or tan black Sharpie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cut piece 1 1/8" long. ● Melt tip of one end slightly with flame. ● Mark with Sharpie 6 times starting at melted end. ● Lay on top of shank, melted end to rear, other end at mid shank. ● Tie in place and up to 2 eye lengths behind eye. 	
Eyes: premade black monofilament eyes - size medium (barbell eyes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attach to top of shank with figure 8 wraps so that they are at right angle to shank. ● Apply drop of Super Glue or the like to thread wraps and back to rear of shank. ● Allow to dry. 	
Thorax: blue 2mm closed cell foam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cut strip 3/16" wide ● Place one end on top of shank butted up to eyes ● Attach snugly back to mid shank then a touch more 	
Hackle: dun saddle or neck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Select feather with barbs 2 times hook gap. ● Cut off any fuzzy end. ● Cut 5-6 barbs short on each side of butt end "crew cut" ● Tie crew cut to top of tied down thorax 	

Wing: Clear "Z-Wing" OR "Betts Zing Clear"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cut strip 2" x 3/8" wide, round ends ● Twist center and tie in with a couple criss cross wraps in front of thorax so that wings stand out at sides 	
Thorax Dubbing: blue supper fine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dub thorax up to and a little around barbell eyes ending in front of extended foam thorax. 	
Hackle cont.: same as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Holding hackle, foam and wings upright, wrap thread all the way around base of all 3 over shank leaving thread hanging on your side. ● Using hackle pliers, make 3-5 hackle wraps around base of foam + wings, each below the last. Leave hanging on your side. ● Bring thread up to shank level in front of hanging hackle. ● Make 3-4 wraps around base of foam, under barbs. Cut excess hackle. ● Cut hackle bars short in front of foam. ● Holding and hackle barbs to rear, apply sm. amt. dubbing to thread and wrap forward to behind eyes. Then pull wings out to sides. 	
Foam Thorax and Head same as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pull foam forward. ● Tie snugly in place with several wraps. ● Advance thread forward to in front of eyes. ● Pull foam forward. ● Tie in place with several wraps. ● Pull firmly on foam, cut it short. ● Snugly wrap down foam stub. ● Whip finish, cut thread. ● Apply glue to thread. ● Cut short any hackle barbs hanging below shank. 	



Our office may be local, but we work all over the world

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December 10th, 2024

Holiday Fundraiser Dinner



We hope to see you all at the **December 10th Holiday Fundraiser Dinner** at the **Seattle Tennis Club** to enjoy the festive time with all of us with the in person Silent and Live Auctions, the intriguing Fly Boxes and Tables Raffles and the Raise-the-Paddle Foundation donations to help fund our 2025 Club's Outreach, Conservation, Outings, Education and Youth activities.

The dress code for men is a coat with an optional tie – *please* – its a special party!

Sign-up early so that you won't miss out as the dinner seating is limited to 105 attendees.
Bring your Family and Friends to join in too.

The deadline for sign-ups is Saturday December 9 at 10:30 PM.

Special Note: When you signup to attend, please uncheck the blue "Hide my Attendee from Public View" box so that a list of "Who's Attending" will be shown for the Dinner Meeting. Also, don't forget to make your "Meal Selection" choices

