

# Creel Notes from the



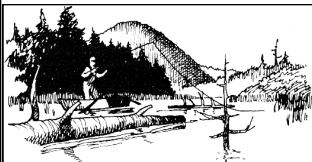
P.O. Box 639, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Website: [www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)



MMXXV No. 6

June, 2025



## President's Riffle

### *The Our Club Needs Your Help – and you want the Club's help*

Danferd Henke, President,  
Washington Fly Fishing Club

Hello, all WFFC members, young and old. I hope you all are out fishing in this fine late spring weather. I for one am writing this stream side. May all of you enjoy the water as well.

The subject of this Riffle, as you might imagine from the title, is the many opportunities for each of you to jump in and help this Club to thrive. Our meetings, outings, and good works don't happen by themselves. More importantly, this Club, like any Club, is all about the relationships that form from shared experience and effort. By showing up and pitching in, you will have the opportunity to form those relationships, which will lead both to more fishing trips with new friends and to all of the benefits of shared experience, knowledge and information. Our members are the most generous you will ever find with their willingness to share their experience.

But, fundamentally, to get maximum benefit out of our club, you need to step up and pitch. Here are some ways you can help out:

#### The Gala Committee

Our primary funding source is our annual Holiday Party and auctions. We hope to expand our donor base this year to include not only Members, but former members, potential members, and folks from the larger fly fishing community. Expanding our reach will require more organizational work and more quality auction items.



We really need the help here and could use at least two more volunteers to join Suzanne in pulling together a great and successful Gala!

*(Continued on page 3)*

## June Program

### Joe Rotter

#### Fly Fishing Guide & Partner at Red's Fly Shop

Joe Rotter's fly fishing journey began with his Uncle Sid Burns, who first taught him to cast a fly rod at Domke Lake in the upper Lake Chelan area. Born in Eatonville, Washington, Joe moved to Ellensburg to attend Central Washington University and never left, finding his home in the heart of the state's premier trout waters.

For Joe, fly fishing is more than a profession—it's now a family tradition. His fondest memories are of



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fishing with his kids in local creeks and mountain lakes, watching their skills evolve as they grew into proficient casters. They are nearly grown now and his sons will occasionally work in the shop during the busy season.

### A Veteran Guide with a Passion for Wild Trout

With 24+ years of guiding experience, Joe has become a cornerstone of the fly fishing community, teaching seminars at national events and online. He has guided on some of the region's most iconic waters, including the Yakima, Naches, Klickitat, Methow, Grande Ronde, Snake, and numerous lakes and creeks. Joe's favorite fish to chase are wild trout, and his go-to technique is dry fly fishing. Joe's favorite fish to chase are wild trout, and his go-to technique is dry fly fishing. "I won't fall on my sword to do it," he jokes, "but that's always Plan A!"

## Monthly Meeting Location

In 2025, 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.



## Hugh Jennings Memorial Event



### Celebration of Life

for

### Hugh Jennings

Please join family and friends  
for a celebration of Hugh's life

*reception following*

**Friday, June 27**

**1:00 PM**

Bellevue Presbyterian Church  
Main Sanctuary  
1717 Bellevue Way NE

family contact:  
landline: 425-746-6351  
alanhjennings@gmail.com

## Creel Notes

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

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Jim Beck

### 2nd Vice President (Programs)

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Dave Spratt (Past President)

### Creel Notes Editor

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.



### **The Nominating Committee**

Every July, we elect a nominating committee. The committee's task is to find and propose to the Membership, at the November meeting, a slate of officers for the following year. (Current officers cannot serve on this committee.) By serving on the committee, you are not volunteering to serve as an officer, just to find the next round of officers. In my opinion, this committee is the best one for new, even freshly minted, Members to join. It is a great way to get to know a bunch of Members, to hear about the experiences of many, and to come to understand how the Club functions. We need five Members to serve on this committee; I would love to see a mix of two longer-term Members and three newer Members.

### **Auditors**

In our Club context, our two volunteer "auditors" are common sense checkers on the work of the officers and certain aspects of our Club administration. For example, the auditors are charged with confirming that the Club has filed its tax returns and has appropriate insurance in place; they review the Club's financial procedures, and spot check the Club's records for expenditures and receipts. Yes, this may seem like a hum-drum task, but it is one of those gigs that just has to be done in any organization. By signing up to do this you will receive a hearty handshake from me and my undying gratitude — especially if you find something I've screwed up.

So there are three great ways you can help this Club and reap the benefits of your participation. Send me an email at [Danferd.henke@gmail.com](mailto:Danferd.henke@gmail.com) or call or text me at 206-949-8187. Thanks to all!

Show up, pitch in, reap the rewards!

## **Washington Fly Fishing Club Welcomes New Members**



*Left to Right—New Members: Bruce McNae, Sean Begley, Ben Hendrix, Tim Haser and Membership VP Jim Beck*

## Holiday Gala Making Good Strides!

*From Suzanne Johnston—3rd VP (Christmas Party)*

Keep up the good work to identify donors who want to contribute items to our live and silent auctions for our December 16 gala fundraiser. Getting an early start this year allows us to more easily approach suppliers as we go about our lives. Please continue to ask your fly fish guides and other friends, hotel/inn owners, camping suppliers, restaurateurs, landscape services, wineries, distilleries – you get it! If you like it, so will we!

**We are trying something new!** You can see in this newsletter issue that thanks to continued member generosity, you are offered the opportunity to bid on items NOW so you can use this equipment THIS SEASON – not have to wait until our December gala! **Please bid now and bid high!**

Your response has been wonderful. KEEP IT UP!

Thank you so much,

The Gala Committee

Chuck Ballard, Don Barton, Jim Beck, Ben Chadwick, Chelsea Cullen, Katherine Gravendyk, Suzanne Johnston,, Cal Knight, Steve Whittaker, Raymond Yu, and Jim Goedhart (Ex Officio)

## WFFC Holiday Gala: Early Auction Items

**Belly Boats Wood River Breezerider and Fish Cat 4 Deluxe-LCS**

**Two used belly boats in great condition for sale to benefit WFFC.**

The **Breezrider** is very light and easily packable. Minimum Bid \$100. Call Steve with your bid.



*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4) Early Auction Items



*Top View: Breezerider*

**The Fish Cat 4 is more heavy duty but can be carried in with shoulder straps. Minimum Bid \$200. Call Steve with your bid.**



**High bidders selected at the monthly dinner meeting, June 17, either in person or based on previous commitment.**

**Contact: Steve Whittaker – [swhittaker1@msn.com](mailto:swhittaker1@msn.com) – 206-371-1089**



## 2025 Outings

*From Mike Nolan – Outings Chair*  
**WFFC 2025 Outings Schedule**



- June 21-22 Leech Lake
- July 19 Cooper Lake
- September TBD Hood Canal - Jay Deeds
- October 4-5 Big Twin Lake
- November 1 Penrose Point Wet Buns

## At the Bighorn Show Fly —Spokane



This display has every fly from the popular Flies of the Northwest book that has been in print for ages from the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club. Some really good fly tiers put this together!

## Upcoming Leech Lake Outing



*Leech Lake*  
*Photo by Bruce Strand*

## Leech Lake Outing on June 21-22, 2025

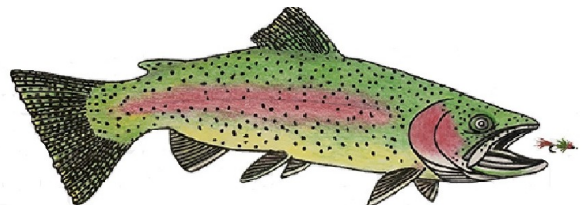
*From Mike Nolan – Outings Chair*

The Leech Lake Outing, near White Pass, will be on June 21-22, 2025. Leech Lake has a few first-come first-served Forest Service sites if you are choosing to camp. I'll be staying in one of the condos at The White Pass Village Inn which is close to the lake. You can call The White Pass Village Inn at [\(509\) 672-3131](tel:5096723131) or go online at <https://www.staywhitepass.com/> to reserve a condo.

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 and side dishes to share! We hope to have a campfire and please bring firewood if possible.

The Club will be providing a hearty breakfast consisting of pancakes, sausages, pastries, coffee, and juice on Sunday morning starting at about 7:30am in one of the Condos.

Please sign up on the WFFC website or contact Mike Nolan at (425) 754-1234 if you plan to attend the Outing as I need a count for the Club provided food.



### Tutorial on Leech Lake

By Steve Raymond—From the Creel Notes July 1971

Leech Lake, at the summit of White Pass, is one of the finest fly lakes in the state. It's small, shallow and easy to cover. The water is usually clear, weed growth heavy and hatches plentiful. The trout, eastern brook, are not large but there are lots of them and they make wonderful eating. *(I might add that there are now triploid rainbows that add to the fishing bonus, some in the 18+'' range—Ed)*

Leech is at an elevation of 4,700 feet. Usually the snow is gone and the lake is accessible by Memorial Day. The best fishing is usually the last 2 weeks of July and all of August no matter when the snow goes off.

In most areas the lake is 3 to 5 feet deep. Because of the clarity of the water, it's often possible to see the fish rise or strike at the end of a long cast. The trout average is about 10 inches, but you can count on picking up several 12'' to 13'' fish in a day's fishing. I like to use a 6 foot, 2 ounce midge rod with a sinking line. Even a 10 inch will put a good bend in such a small rod. *(but the triploids are good size and more than make up for smaller average brookies—Ed)*

There are campsites all around the lake, maintained

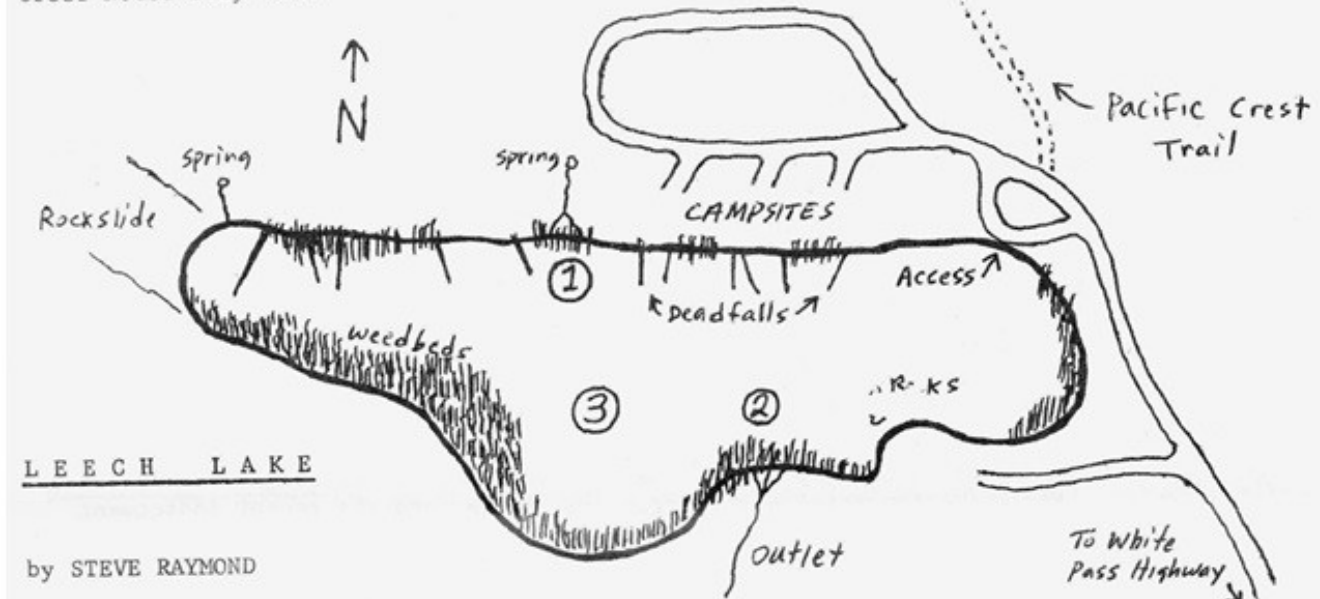
by the forest service. Get there early on the weekends. There are outdoor toilets and good fresh water from the springs. However, check around before taking the water from the spring nearest the campground; last year some people were using it instead of the outdoor toilets.

Gas, food and booze are available at the White Pass Summit, about 1/2 mile from the campground. The best spots are numbered:

1. The hottest place on the lake. Brookies congregate off the mouth of the spring where the cool water comes in. Anchor close to shore and put your fly near weed bed or along the windfalls. I once caught and released 106 trout in this spot during a five hour period.
2. Best spot for bigger trout. The brookies spawn in the outlet and the bigger fish tend to lie off the weedbed during the summer months before they move into the creek to spawn in the fall.
3. Good when others fail

Best all around pattern is a damsel fly nymph, light green, tied on size 8 4X long hook. A self Carey works sometimes. On bright days, a size 12 TDC on a thin leader sunk deep works well. Of course, the most elective pattern of all is Raymond's Reliable, but most of you guys are too clumsy to tie it.

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## Fishing Reports



### Missouri River, Montana May 25-27, 2025

*From Hugh Clark*

Former WFFC member Bill Booth and I fished the Missouri River May 25-27 while staying at The Eagle Rock Lodge north of Craig. The lodge is spectacular and looks at Eagle Rock, named by Lewis and Clark in 1804!.

Birds included Eastern and Western King birds, yellow warblers, common yellow throats, orchard oriole, western tanager, dippers, spotty sandpipers, and as advertised, eagles and ospreys. I hooked 32 fish and had about 24 to boat. Missed fish due to early release secondary to small hooks, large fish and fisherman clumsiness. All fish were taken on sow bugs

under indicators and there was only a sparse PMD hatch with no risers. The guide said, "If you want to have fun, we might try fishing the shallows. They REALLY don't like to be hooked in the shallows."

On our last day we tried it for an hour and a half in the morning with nothing to show for our efforts. At noon we tried again with shortened leaders and lighter weight. Oh my! We hooked about eight fish. One did the Indy 500 circling the boat while the guide spun it to keep lines clear. One fish jumped four feet in the air and tossed the hook. Bill had four fish all 19-21 inches. I had several fish of 6-19 inches.

As a student fly fisherman for 60 years, it is a rare trip that I don't learn a new lesson. When you have full weight on the rod and the fish drops the fly, the line races back at you. If you snap a forward cast immediately, you are highly likely to get a tangle especially if you have two flies and weights. Instead, let the line and flies land in the water behind you before recasting. Saves much trouble working tangles.



*Lodge at Eagle Rock, Missouri River, Montana*



## Missouri River (Continued)



*Evening Glow on Eagle Rock, Missouri River*



*In the last half hour four of the beauties hook, three land 21"+each after nothing all morning.*





## Chopaka Outing May 24th, 25th, 26th 2025 *From Chuck Ballard*

Well after 7 years I finally got back to Chopaka. The club outing was well attended by the usual folks plus some brand new members too.

The Saturday big dinner was even a bigger event as a few folks came up just for the dinner gathering. Danferd said musical instruments were welcomed so I obliged and played a few tunes Friday and Satur-

day as well. The Steaks were cooked to perfection and more deserts than you could devour in one setting.

Fishing was the same for me as in passed years . On Thursday there was a good mayfly hatch and I caught 7 , all but one was an 18"+. Friday the typical issue was the hatch didn't stimulate the fish and I only managed a single fish . Saturday the wind came up early and fishing was very very difficult for sure . Early I caught a single fish and my day was over as well as for most people too.

The one downer was the lake level was very low . I have never seen it this bad At least 3 Ft below past water lines . This affected the weed growth and forced fishing in deeper water. Still the most beautiful lake in the State . More of you should go next year .

One other personal event was when I started to come back the 14 year old battery finally died a sudden death so Dick Brening gave me a jump. Lesson learned is better know you have a good battery !



### *WFFC Chopaka Outing "Usual Suspects"*

**From left to right:** Chuck Ballard, Mark Pratt, Elsie Pratt (the dog), Jim Beck, Dick Brening, Tom Neu, Danferd Henke, Robert Guest (seated), Tim Haser, Tim Haser's son, Dirk Bartram (guest), Ben Davidson (seated), Linda Leum, Mike Nolan





## **A Perfect Ending Chopaka Spring 2025**

*From Dick Brening*

This year I spent 10 days fishing at Lake Chopaka over the Memorial Day holiday. A big thank-you to Danferd Henke, our club president, for organizing and hosting the WFFC Chopaka Outing again this year.

As I always report, catching fish here is a challenge for me. This year was no different but the fish were bigger than in past years. Every fish I landed, except for one, was in the range of 20 inches □ long, heavy and strong fighters. This resulted in a higher percentage of lost fish due to break-offs or just becoming unhooked during my attempt to get them in my landing net. The fish were taking leech imitations and some nymphs but little surface activity was seen.

We had four days strong winds from the South that made getting around the lake difficult. My last day was one of those days but I was determined to get in a day of fishing before leaving for home.

I decided in the morning to row into the wind toward the south end of the lake and if possible let the wind carry me back to my campsite later in the afternoon.

On previous days I had noticed that a callibaetis hatch usually occurred around 2 pm so I stayed near a weed bed south off the camp ground around that time. 2 pm came and went with very few duns appearing on the surface and I didn't see any surface takes by the fish. The south wind was still howling so I set sail for the weed beds on the east shore across from the camp-ground.

Immediately, I saw fish rising there, next to the weeds and when I was in casting range I cast my callibaetis dun dry fly in the direction of the rises. The fish continued rising but two refusals left me disappointed. Then my first fish for the day struck with a splashy rise and I successfully landed it. It was the smallest fish of my 10 day trip, around 12 inches.

I checked my fly and cast again. Another splashy rise and but this was big fish. I worked hard trying to land the fish but it refused to come to the surface and finally broke off and was gone. I replaced my tippet and fly and two more fish were hooked and landed. Each exceeding the 20 inch scale printed on my casting apron. Then all went quiet.

I was delighted to have had some active dry fly fishing with very large fish . It was **A Perfect Ending.**

## **Okanogan Region Fishing Report May 20-24, 2025**

*From Mike Nolan*



*Spectacle Lake Resort*

I booked an RV site for 5 nights at Spectacle Lake Resort which is located along the shores of Spectacle Lake in Tonasket, Washington. The Resort offers a variety of accommodations including cabins, RV sites, and tent camping spots. There is a well-stocked store for provisions and for boat rentals.

Beyond Spectacle Lake, the Tonasket area boasts several other fly fishing lakes including Blue (Sinlahekin), Wannacut, and Blue (near Wannacut Lake) that are worth exploring. Lake Chopaka is a 45

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-minute drive going up the front grade from Spectacle Lake Resort.

I fished Spectacle Lake for 2-days on Wednesday and Thursday catching about twelve fish each day in the 12" to 14" size with a mix of rainbow and tiger trout. I also caught a few pesky bass when fishing close to the shore.

On Friday, I fished Blue Lake in the Sinlahekin area outside of Loomis, WA. I caught three rainbows in the 12" to 16" size before the wind blew me off the water in the afternoon. I met another fly fisher who told me that he had caught an 18" and a 22" brown trout at Blue Lake on the day before.

On Saturday, I drove to Lake Chopaka for the WFFC Outing. I caught one fish and missed two others using chironomids patterns under an indicator. The relentless wind made fishing challenging using my float tube with no anchor, and I decided to quit early. The group gathered together at around 4pm for happy hour featuring beverages and hors d'oeuvres. The dinner consisted of a barbecued steak, an assortment of side dishes and fresh pies. I departed at approximately 8pm to give myself ample time to make it down the grade before dark and back to my campsite at Spectacle Lake Resort.

## **Eating off the "Fat of the Land" O'Sullivan Reservoir**

**June 8, 2025**

*From Editor*

O'Sullivan Reservoir was the spot for a gathering of some old Hanford co-workers that I hadn't seen for nearly 40 years.

The intent was to do some reminiscing and have a fish fry in the evening provided we all caught some fish. I heard the comment that our dinner was going to be off the "fat of the land" which worried me if we were counting on catching enough fish of the evening meal. My experience this usually falls short.

At any rate most of the group were out on boats targeting walleyes but I didn't have a boat so I paid a fee to fish off the MarDon dock.

The crappie fishing was actually pretty good. I put on old streamer fly that I'd had for years and proceeded to catch a nice bunch of crappie.

That evening we counted fish and the fish fry was ultimately a fairly good success. Damn, those wall-eyes are good eating and so are the crappie!

Nevertheless, someone was wise enough to bring 3 lbs of hamburger and a couple packs of hot dogs that helped supplement the "fat of the land" comment.



My "Fat of the Land" Contribution



*Richard Plunkett gets it done in the Mangroves  
of the Gulf Of Mexico.*



## Healthy Fishing

### Lightning Safety 101



With the approach of summer, we will be spending more time outdoors.

NOAA's National Weather Service has discovered that 64 percent of lightning deaths since 2006 occurred while people were participating in leisure activities, with fishing topping the list at 26 deaths. Here are a few tips from NOAA.

There is no safe place outside when thunderstorms are in the area. If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm. Just remember, "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!" Too many people wait far too long to get to a safe place when thunderstorms approach. Unfortunately, these delayed actions lead to many of the lightning deaths and injuries in the U.S. The best way for you to protect yourself from lightning is to avoid the threat. You simply don't want to be caught outside in a storm. Have a lightning safety plan and cancel or postpone activities early if thunderstorms are expected.

Monitor weather conditions and get to a safe place before the weather becomes threatening. Substantial buildings and hard-topped vehicles are safe options. Rain shelters, small sheds, and open vehicles are not safe.

However, many times fishermen are out away from safe shelter and other forms of safety measures should be employed. If wading or fishing from the bank, moving away from the water is the first step. The fishing rod should be placed flat on the ground. If there are nearby trees, moving into the area of the shortest trees or brush may give some shelter. If no shelter is felt to be safe, the idea is to make yourself the small-

est structure in the vicinity. Often, a ditch or depression can be found to get into. No matter where you decide to ride out the storm, the "Lightning Crouch" should be used to minimize the risk. This position consists of crouching down on the balls of the feet, placing the hands on the forehead and the elbows on the knees. This creates the smallest amount of contact with the ground and is felt to create a safer path for an electrical charge through the body should you be struck

## The Interesting/Unusual

### Fish Eye Guy Photography

<https://www.fisheyeguyphotography.com/>

There are lots of "fish" photographers but this guy is unique and special...check it out!





## Fly of the Month

### The Patriot

**Hook:** 1X-long nymph hook, here a Dai-Riki 60, sizes 12-18.

**Thread:** Red UTC, 70 denier.

**Wings:** White calf body hair.

**Tail:** Brown hackle.

**Body:** Pearl Flashabou and red thread.

**Hackle:** Brown dry-fly hackle.

**Head:** Thread and head cement.



## Editor's Lament

Per WFFC Operating procedure #405

### Subject: Creel Notes Inputs *Per Procedure*

**Microsoft Word** attachments or **e-mail text** is the preferred medium.

**Hardcopy inputs** are requested typed with one-inch margins on the left. The Editor is responsible for the content and format.

**All photos** shall be electronic in **.jpeg format**.

Please do not send links to cloud portals or odd format extensions that are out of the above norm. I have trouble reading them or I have to go online and convert the extension to something my computer can read and, even then, that doesn't always work!

Thanks, RJT ....Creel Notes Editor

## Recipe of the Month

### Puff Pastry Wrapped Salmon

This is so easy, and so delicious!

#### Ingredients:

- 10 1/2 ounce salmon fillet, remove even the little thread-like bones
- one sheet of puff pastry (available in the frozen food section of the grocery store)
- 6 ounces fresh mozzarella cheese
- thyme
- salt

#### Directions:

Salmon baked in puff pastry, although quick and easy to prepare, is a surprising dish. All

you have to do is place a cleaned, boneless salmon fillet onto the middle of some puff pastry.

Cut some strips in the pastry along both sides of the fillet, and sprinkle the fillet with

a small amount of salt. Put thick slices of mozzarella on top of the fillet. Tuck the ends of the pastry in around the ends of the fillet, then criss-cross the strips over the fillet until it's all covered up. Brush the pastry with egg wash, and sprinkle it with thyme leaves. Put the pastry-wrapped fillet onto a baking sheet and bake in a 375 F degree oven for 20 minutes. Slice and serve while hot and gooey.

