

VOLUME 51

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MARCH MEETING

Thursday, March 17, 2016 @ Farm House Rest

Wet Fly / Social Gathering: 6:00PM

Dinner / General Meeting: 7:00PM

President's Message:

By: Jim Paget

Your Board has decided to create a committee to evaluate conditions at Pass Lake and to make recommendations regarding how, if at all we as a club can act to improve conditions at the Lake. The board selected a total of 20 people whom we thought not only represented a cross section of the club but whom we also felt brought a variety of skills to the committee. Also we felt that it was important that the members of the committee be people who fish Pass Lake. Roughly half of those people responded that if selected they would be willing to serve on the committee. From that number the Board selected 7 members to serve on that committee. I am in the process of confirming that those selected are still willing to serve. The committee will be introduced at this month's meeting.

The committee will select its own chair and will provide updates to the Board on their progress at every other meeting of the board.

This Months Presentation:

By: Ryan Johnson

ROD GRIFFIN

Please allow me to tell you a little about myself. I was born and raised in the foothills of the Blue Mountains in Southeastern Washington. A stone's throw from the Snake, Clearwater, and Grande Ronde Rivers, the little farming and ranching community of Pomeroy is home.

I spent my youth tagging along with my dad and grandpa hunting, fishing and learning the ways of the outdoors. My childhood dream was to be a cowboy. As a teenager and young adult, I got to play cowboy on my uncle's ranch in Enterprise, Oregon and for the Forest Service in the Umatilla District of the Blue Mountains.

This dream carried over into my adult years and there have been very few times when I haven't owned horses or a mule or two.

My best friend, a horse trainer and farrier by trade, and I have spent many a day sorting cows or wrangling a pack string on a trail somewhere in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, or Montana. I have also spent many hours exploring and fishing rivers throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho over the past 50 years. I guided fly fishers in Washington part time for a couple of years before becoming a full time guide on the Yakima River in the early part of 2000's. I now live outside of Twisp in a cabin overlooking the Methow River Valley and fish 250+ days a year. I enjoy tying flies and creating new and different patterns. Many of the bugs I use with guests are of my own creation. I enjoy hunting big game with a traditional bow and spending time with two of my best friends, Pete and Pepper, English Setters that love chasing upland birds and floating rivers.

My true passion in guiding is instructing, especially young anglers and beginning fly fishers. I spent two tours in Viet Nam in 1968 through 1970 and enjoy sharing my love for the outdoors with veterans through organizations like Project Healing Waters. I have a son and daughter, Clint and Marcie, who live in the lower Yakima valley. They have blessed me with four beautiful grandchildren: Coby, Brooke, Emma, and Jacie.

Fly of the Month:

By: Ryan Johnson

This fly and different color versions is a proven fly for cutthroat, rainbows, and even steelhead on the Methow. Even a couple of bull trout and whitefish.

Recipe:

Sz. 6, 8, or 10 Daiichi 1280 hook

UNI 8/0 black thread

Krystal Flash tail

UV Ice dub body - purple

2 or 3mm purple foam on top

Poly wings - Apricot or light orange



Fly Rod Raffle:

By: Bruce Freet

Raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 apiece at our club store during our club meetings in March, April, and May for the last fly rod of the 15 fly rods donated to the Fidalgo Fly Fishers by Paul and Mary Ford. This fly rod is a R.L. Winston BL5 990-5, which is a 9 wt. 9ft. 5-piece fly rod with a fast action, full wells grip, and up-locking reel seat with rod sock and case. It was used often, but shows almost no wear. It originally sold for \$600 in 1998. The drawing will occur at our May meeting. You can buy as many tickets as you wish. Write your name on the ticket before you drop it into the bag. You do not have to be at the meeting to win. Good Luck!!!



Up Coming Events:

- **March 19th** - Chironomid Capers, Pass Lake Carl Hendricks and Bruce Freet will be hosting as substitutes for Robin LaRue this year. They will be serving coffee and muffins from 8am to Noon. Chironomid season is upon us, so come prepared to go fishing.
- **March 19th** --- The Pass Lake Fish Census begins and goes for three weeks. Anyone with a measuring board, record sheet, and scale can participate whenever they can during this period. Bruce will supply measuring boards and scales on loan while they last. He plans to fish often during this period and will always have extra equipment for those that wish to help.
- **Last half of March** --- Beach Watchers will be netting out-migrating pink salmon smolts in Cornet Bay and some days will be open to public viewing. They have already had days with 4,000 smolts and it could peak at 30,000. Check their website for particulars.
- **April 2nd** - APRIL FOOLS OUTING! – Frank and Carl will be host for this event.
- **April 6th thru May 4th** --- Fly Tying course at Skagit Valley College with Russ Osenbach as the lead instructor.
- **April 29th** – IFFF Annual Washington Fly Fishing Fair, Ellensburg WA

Note: Please check the Outings and Event page on the web site, things get added from time to time.

Chironomid Capers Outing:

By: Carl Hendricks

March 19th at Pass Lake. Coffee, goodies will be available about **7:30 am** for the early risers in the club. Don't forget you will need to pay a fee for using the launch and parking area if you have not

purchased your Discovery Pass yet. Talk with Carl or Bruce at the meeting if you need further details or have questions.

P.S. I miss spoke at the last meeting, no prizes will be given for anything. So come and fish or talk whichever is your pleasure.



Pass Lake Angler Fish Census, March 19th through April 2nd, 2016:

By: Bruce Freet

As in the past couple of years, we need your help as well as that from other fly fishers to catch, measure, and release Pass Lake fish from our Chironomid Capers outing on Saturday, March 19th, through our April Fools outing on Saturday, April 2nd. I will provide the measuring boards, fish census sheets, and as many scales as we can, and I need a couple of members to help me with being at the lake when I can't and supplying the measuring tools. Last year, we caught almost 300 fish.

For several years, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) was stocking Pass Lake with 10,000 to 12,000 rainbow fry (200 per lb.) and brown trout (4,000 to 5,000; 50 per lb.) as well as 162 triploid rainbows (1.5 lb. each). The goal has been to have a fishery of catchable fish that is 75% rainbow and 25% brown trout. The brown trout are planted for the fly fishing challenge of larger fish and to keep the unwanted green sunfish population low.

The information that we have collected has caused the WDFW to change their fish stocking. They want to keep the same ratio of rainbow to brown trout, but are reducing the number of rainbows because of concerns about too many fish. The new objectives are to produce larger, healthier rainbow trout, restore chironomid populations, and to maintain a larger minnow population for trout forage. Last year, WDFW stocked half as many rainbow trout (5,000 fry) and this spring they will only stock 2,600 fry. See the table below:

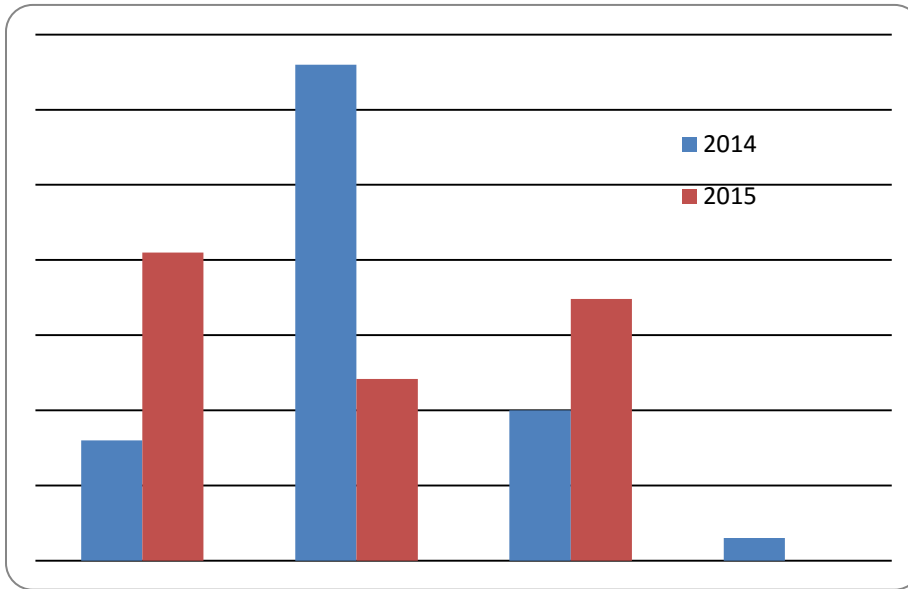
Year	Rotation	Fish / Acre	Rainbow 67% Spring Fry	Browns 33% Fall Fingerlings
2015	Mod	75	5,000	2,500
2016	Low	39	2,600	1,300
2017	Low	39	2,600	1,300
2018	High	150	10,000	5,000
2019	Mod	75	5,000	2,500
2020	Low	39	2,600	1,300
2021	Low	39	2,600	1,300

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2022	High	150	10,000	5,000
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By sampling the lake annually in the spring for several years we can compare the results from angler fish census with WDFW gill netting and provide valuable feedback about changes in fish density (catch rate), the ratio of rainbows to browns, and fish condition (plumpness, disease, etc.). This monitoring will enable WDFW to determine if we are achieving our desired objectives and “fine tune” its fish stocking strategies as needed in the future.

Rainbow Trout Size Class Comparison



For further information, please read the May 2015 Wahoo article entitled, “Pass Lake Angler Fish Census and WDFW Gill Netting”.

Again, our fish census data is most helpful if we can catch more than 250 fish during this three week period. I will provide the measuring boards, fish census sheets, and as many scales as possible. You can help by printing the fish census form from our website bulletin board under Pass Lake Outings. Also, we are always short of scales, so it will be helpful if you purchased one that measured in ounces (about \$15). And finally, I need a couple of members to be at Pass Lake to distribute (loan & recover) the necessary measuring board, fish census form, and scale.

April Fools @ Pass Lake 2016:

By: Frank Barcott

In his book, Fisherman's Spring, Roderick L. Haig-Brown wrote, "it is the promise of a new season ahead and the pleasures that one knows will come, all unexpected, from that familiar sport of going out beside water with a rod." For Haig-Brown, this experience would have found him most likely beside a high, roily British Columbia steelhead river. But it's in that same spirit I hope we find ourselves beside a familiar water. So, after this long, wet winter we've arrived at our season and the April Fools @ Pass Lake outing.

This year's event, co-hosted by Carl Hendricks and Frank Barcott will be held on Saturday, April 2nd. A lunch of home-made chili, hot dogs, and all the fixings will be provided at the parking lot to warm and replenish after a morning of fishing. Or just come for the lunch and mingle with other club members and their guests. Lunch will be served at noon.

I usually show up a little after 7:00 a.m. to reserve the coveted area near the picnic table. The canopy will be on standby in case it decides to rain, though based on weather statistics from the last few months, the chance on any precipitation being left must be near zero. Coffee will be provided in the morning for those early arrivals. Remember to renew those Fishing Licenses for 2016, and that the Discover Pass is required for vehicles at the Pass Lake parking lot. Carl and I hope to see you at this annual event.

10th Annual Washington Fly Fishing Fair:

Washington State Council International Federation of Fly Fishers

10th Annual Washington Fly Fishing Fair Ellensburg, WA

April 29th & 30th, 2016 - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Friday and 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday

Admission is free to IFFF members!

Registration is now OPEN! Please join us at the 10th Annual Washington Fly Fishing Fair, on April 29th and 30th (Friday and Saturday), at the Kittitas Valley Event Center and Fairgrounds in Ellensburg, WA. It's going to be a great event! The Fly Fishing Fair runs from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Friday and from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday. IFFF members and kids under the age of 16 get in free, for everyone else the entry fee is \$5.00.

This year's 2016 Fly Fishing Fair will feature:

FLY TYING DEMONSTRATIONS - On Friday and Saturday, there will be over 75 fly tiers demonstrating their favorite patterns. You'll not only see some beautiful tying, but you may also get a lesson on the habits of the critters they represent. All of our talented fly tiers are excited to share their love of fly fishing and fly tying with you. There isn't a bad seat in the house!

CASTING DEMONSTRATIONS AND GAMES - On Friday and Saturday, there will be casting games, casting competitions, casting demonstrations, and instructional seminars on casting one and two-handed rods.

CASTING WORKSHOPS - On Saturday, there will be special casting workshops, taught by some of the best casting instructors in the Northwest. These workshops are designed to be informative, fun, and to enhance advancement along the path to becoming a better fly caster and fly fisherman. The workshops cost \$30 each.

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PRIVATE CASTING LESSONS - Private 30-minute casting lessons, taught by some of the best casting instructors in the Northwest, will be available on Saturday. These private lessons can be reserved online, or by signing up at the event; the cost is \$15.00. All instructors are certified by the IFFF Casting Instructor Certification Program (CICP). Biographies of the individual instructors are available on the Fly Fishing Fair registration site and on the WSCIFFF website. To register for the casting workshops and the private lessons please go to the 2016 Fly Fishing Fair electronic registration site (listed below). You can also get to the registration site by going to the WSCIFFF website (also listed below).

FREE FLY FISHING SEMINARS- Free seminars will be offered on both Friday and Saturday. Spend some time listening to the experts talk about how to succeed fishing familiar and exotic fly fishing waters.

WET FLY AND WET FLY TYING WORKSHOP WITH DAVE HUGHES - Dave Hughes will be putting on two workshops on "Wet Flies and Wet Fly Tying". One workshop will be held on Friday, April 29th from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, and the other will be held on Saturday, April 30th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The workshop fee is \$25.00.

IFFF INTRODUCTION TO FLY FISHING WORKSHOP - Dayle Mazzarella and Len Zickler will be teaching the newly developed IFFF Fly Fishing Academy class aimed at introducing people to fly fishing. This class is designed for the person who knows virtually nothing about fly fishing, but is interested in receiving an overview of all things fly fishing. The class is very interactive and includes lots of participation by the class members! Subjects discussed will include equipment, history, fish and their environments, fish prey and their imitations, casting, ethics, and safety. This is a must class for anyone thinking about taking up fly fishing, but relative novices will also find it informative and fun!. The workshop will be held on Saturday, April 30th, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The workshop fee is \$25.00.

YOUTH FLY FISHING WORKSHOP - For kids ages 12 through 16, there will be an Introduction to Fly Fishing Workshop on Saturday, April 30th, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The workshop will cover the basics of fly fishing and will include tying and casting instruction. The Workshop fee is \$40.00 and includes a fly rod and reel outfit. Lunch will also be provided. Class size is limited to 20 participants.

AUCTIONS & RAFFLES - There will be some great auctions (both silent and live) and raffles on Friday and Saturday. Items include: fly selections; bamboo rods; custom built rods; rod and reel outfits; reels, lines and leaders; fly tying materials; fly tying tools; specialty baskets; fly fishing books; fishing trips; rare fly plates; plus our Legends Fly Plate.

DINNER BANQUET & LIVE AUCTION - Friday evening, April 30th. Tickets can be reserved online until April 26th. The cost is \$35.00.

CAMPING - There is limited camping (wet and dry) available on site. To reserve a spot go

to the 2016 Fly Fishing Fair electronic registration site (listed below).

MOTELS & HOTELS - Many of the motels and hotels in the Ellensburg area are offering special Fly Fishing Fair rate packages. For a list of the motels and hotels providing discounts, and their contact information, please go to the WSCIFFF website (listed below)

To register, click on the link below to go to the 2016 Fly Fishing Fair electronic registration site:

<https://www.regonline.com/2016washingtonflyfishingfair>

For additional information go to the WSCIFFF website at:

<http://www.wsciff.org/>

Fly Fishing Course Nears End:

By: Bruce Freet

The last class for “Introduction to Fly Fishing” course at Skagit Valley College will be March 16th and Scott Willison from The Confluence Fly Shop will be teaching about fly fishing Puget Sound beaches. Other classes this month include an evening about how to fly fish streams and another class about stillwater fly fishing. Also, I am negotiating with landowners for the class to fish a private lake, which may be on Saturday, April 9th, well past when the course ends. I will need at least 6 club members, who have assisted with the course, to assist two students each for this fishing and catch and release learning experience. Once again, I wish to thank club members for their tremendous support. We had 16 members assist during the 11 weeks of the course.



Up Date: I know it doesn't have anything to do with fishing:

By: Carl Hendricks

I want to thank the members of the club for supporting my efforts in this year's Scott Firefighter Stair climb on Sunday, **March 6th** in support of the **Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS)**.

My climb started at 2:40pm and I went 69 floors in 37minutes. This was the most physical event I have ever participated in.

Plans for next year are under way to do this climb again.

Again a great big thank you!

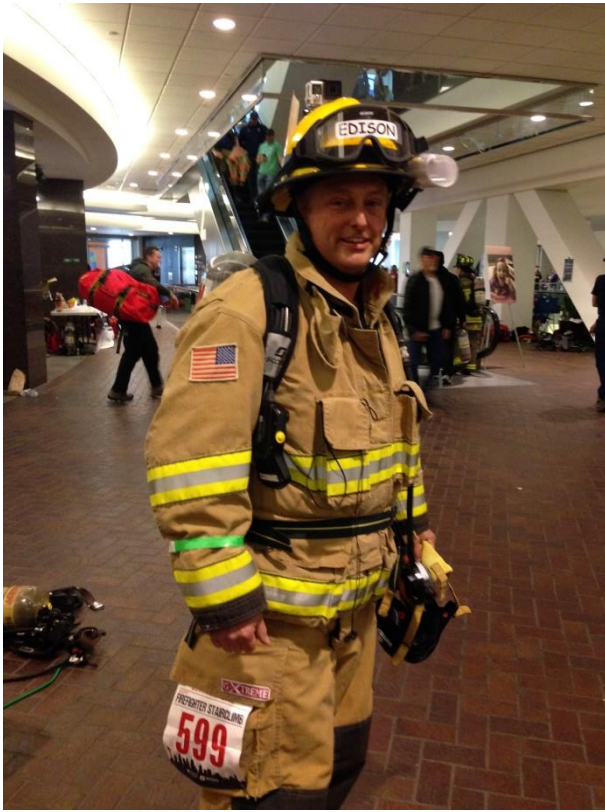


Photo of the Month:

By: Phil



Fly Shops:

The Confluence Fly Shop
2620 N. Harbor Loop Drive #9
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 312-7978

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