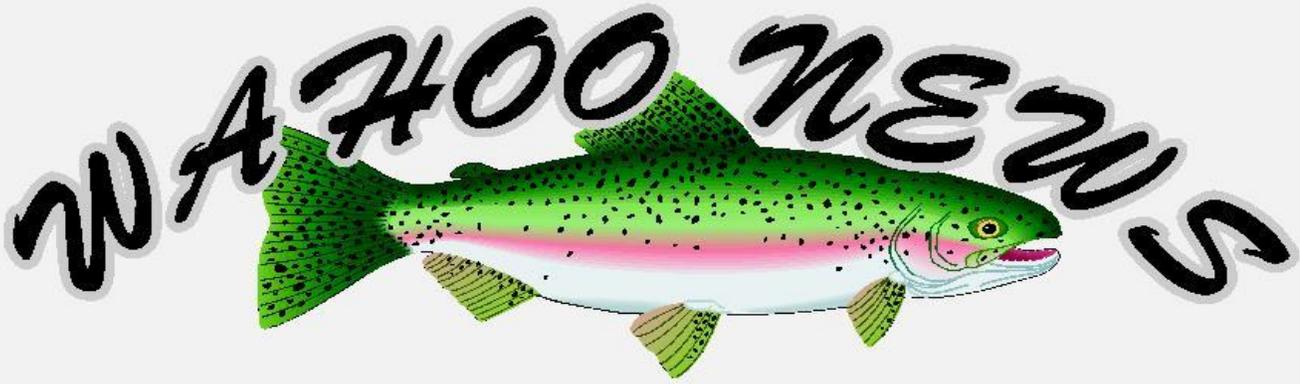


W A H O O NEWS



VOLUME 50

SEPTEMBER 2015

NUMBER 7

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Thursday, September 17, 2015 @ Farm House

Wet Fly: 6:00PM

Dinner/General Meeting: 7:00PM

Greetings from the President:

By: Bruce Freet, President

This is a picture of Mt. Baker from Hoyups Point at sunrise. Whose idea it was to get up at 'Zero dark Thirty', I don't remember, but five of us got together to throw some flies at the incoming tide from the beach and to witness this incredible sunrise. September is such a great fishing month in the Pacific Northwest that I hope you can take advantage of it this year. We also reconvene our regular meetings in September and I look forward to seeing you at the Farmhouse on Thursday night the 17th beginning at 6 pm.



The pink salmon are returning to the Skagit River followed by sea-run cutthroat trout and the occasional bull trout ... and Coho are in the mix of salmonids too. Ebey Landing with a bait fish fly is good for Coho now. The river is running low, warm, and full of glacial silt, so we can only hope for lower temperatures and rains in order to clear it enough for our flies. In the meantime, the beaches offer a good alternative.

Our western rivers and streams have suffered as well from the drought and some of our Outings have had to be cancelled. Fishing tail waters such as the Missouri River remains a viable option. Our lake fishing improves this month through mid-October, especially in British Columbia, and as our speaker, Jerry Buron, will attest chironomid fishing comes alive. Pass and Lone Lakes provide some good local catching opportunities.

Thinking ahead, we will have our regular meeting in October, then in November please consider sharing your photographs and information from your favorite fly fishing trip this year (contact Jim Paget), and we will be collecting your gift donations and organizing for our Christmas Party on December 17th (contact Cathy Schaeffer).

I look forward to seeing you on the beach, river, or lake. Remember, the more the fly is in the water, the better you chance of catching a fish. Keep tight lines,

May Presentation:

By: Jim Paget

The speaker is Jerry Buron who spoke at the March meeting. This will be part two of his presentation focusing on preparation of gear and boat for chironomid fishing.



Skagit River Salmon Festival 2015



These photos are from our Fidalgo Fly Fishers booth at the Skagit River Salmon Festival in 2013 when the event was held at Edgewater Park in Mount Vernon. As in 2014, this year it will be at the Swinomish Casino and Lodge grounds on Saturday, September 12th from 10 am to 5 pm with music only from 5 to 7 pm. As in the past, it is free admission and we can expect a crowd of interested kids and adults, especially from 11 am to 3 pm. There will be food, music, special demonstrations, and booths from companies and non-profit organizations involved in Skagit River salmon restoration.

We will have four fly tying stations and four casting stations. Kids and adults alike will be enthralled by a chance to learn and try their hand at these skills. Everyone will be focused on having a great time!

Education Committee chairperson, Patrick Smedile along with Russ Asbury, Casting Sub-committee chair, and Bill Fairey, Fly Tying Sub-committee chair have done the advance work of contacting club members to volunteer and assembling packets of fly tying materials. There will be over 24 members assisting with casting and fly tying. Dick Raisler has the fly rods ready to go and will be in charge of the casting. Bruce Freet and Bill Brodie will manage the fly tying. Danny Beatty, Robin LaRue, and Raymond Ford were our front people, attracting attention

An Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishes

by continually tying flies and answering questions from the viewing public. To add interest for the children, the Festival will offer prizes for those kids that have answered all the questions in their Passport booklet. Bill Fairey has donated a box of flies, and we will assemble another fly box with the flies from our fly tying demonstrators.

Thanks to everyone for their support. Let's share our enthusiasm for our sport and enjoy ourselves teaching others.

Comments on WDFW Sportfishing Rule Changees, 2016-2017

By: Bruce Freet

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is accepting public comments until November 4th, 2015 on its proposed freshwater gamefish sportfishing rule changes for the 2016-2017 season. The Region 4 Selective Gear Rules Coalition (Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds, Whidbey Island Fly Fishers, Evergreen Fly Fishing Club, and the Fidalgo Fly Fishers developed selection criteria and analyzed all of the Region 4 lakes for best prospective selective gear lakes. The Coalition's first choice by a large margin was Lake Sixteen in Skagit County. WDFW did not accept this recommendation because it was too valuable as an "Open Season" lake, meaning that it would continue to be managed for opening the last Saturday in April and closing after October 31st.

The Evergreen Fly Fishing Club of Everett is asking that we do an "email blast" to WDFW. You can do this by going to our website Bulletin Board and clicking on "Time to ACT".

If you are in favor of changing Lake Sixteen from an open season to a selective gear lake, you can contact WDFW. The qualities that Lake Sixteen has that the Coalition believed would be good for selective gear are:

- A highly biologically productive lake that will support good rainbow trout growth;
- Easy access from the I-5 corridor;
- Little shoreline development, which provides better fish habitat and improved scenic value for anglers;
- Will reduce the fishing pressure on Pass Lake from southern Region 4 anglers;
- Will easily support a year-round fishing season.

These are also points that you can make in your comments to WDFW. The Coalition also recommended that Lake Sixteen be "Catch and Release", except for a 4 to 6 week period from "Opening Season", when any fish kept would need to be 14 inches or greater in size. (Some are recommending 18 inches like Big Twin Lake.) If they stocked the lake after the catch and keep season, these fish would have a year to grow before then next catch and keep season and be catchable size. They would be feeding and growing in the lake rather than WDFW feeding and rearing them in a hatchery, thus more cost effective. It will be beneficial to trout if WDFW would eliminate the limit on "Other Game Fish" in Lake Sixteen, most importantly the illegally stocked largemouth bass.

WDFW did support the Coalition's other two recommendations for changing to selective gear rule lakes, Chain Lake and Martha Lake (Warm Beach), both in Snohomish County. In fact, WDFW proposes three other lakes for selective gear rule change that the Coalition did not recommend: Ballinger, Flowing, Lost (Devil's), and Panther Lakes ... all in Snohomish County.

Other topics to consider in your comments to WDFW are:

- Eliminate size restrictions and daily limits for 'Other Game Fish' in selective gear lakes;
- Lakes utilized by anadromous fish such as sea-run cutthroat trout should not be stocked with fish that could breed with them and reduce their genetic integrity or prey upon their outgoing smolts; and
- Both Whistle and Cranberry Lakes in Skagit County should be considered for stocking with native cutthroat trout and selective gear only.

Some are requesting that Pass Lake be designated for two rods, so if you have an opinion on this subject, I suggest that you weigh-in. There is a lot to consider; please review and comment,

Up Coming Events:

- September 12th, 2015 several Fidalgo Fly Fishers will be at Swinomish Casino and Lodge grounds.

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

Dinner Survey:

By: Bruce Freet

Your Help is Needed for the Dinner Survey

Your help in completing our website dinner survey in April and May enabled our estimate to be very close to the actual attendance. Thank you! Now, we need to continue our good work. A reminder email will be sent to you for our September 17th meeting with a hot link to our website survey form:

<http://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/SURVEY/SEPT.php> . All you need to do is click on the email link, enter your information on the survey form, click Review to make sure it is correct, and then click Submit and you are done.

The survey will ask if you are coming, what you wish for dinner (or no dinner), and if you are bringing a guest and what they wish for dinner. It will only take you a couple of minutes to complete. If you are not planning to attend, we need you to tell us on the survey. The survey will end by 4:00 pm on Monday September 14th, so we can give the Farmhouse plenty of notice. For our Thursday night, September 17th meeting, the Farmhouse will be serving a buffet dinner of Chicken Parmesan (\$15) or a separate Caesar salad with bay shrimp (\$13).

2016 Outings Suvey:

By: Bruce Freet

Return Your Outings Survey Please!

Please return your completed Outings Survey form on or before our meeting on October 15th to Carl Hendricks. There are 23 suggested outings to select from over 11 months in 2015. If you don't like these choices, you can offer your suggestion(s) on the form, and see who might like to join you. Begin planning a fly fishing trip or trips with club members now. The more popular places and dates will require reservations soon. Carl will collate our survey information and produce lists of members interested in particular trips. Then, they can meet as a group; determine a coordinator, and set specific dates, places, etc. Go fly fishing to beautiful places with people you enjoy and catch fish!

Bargain Prices for Remaing Fly Rods:

By: Bruce Freet

Of the 15 fly rods donated to the Fidalgo Fly Fishers by Paul and Mary Ford for a children's education fund, we have sold all but three fly rods. So, the remaining fly rods are being offered to Club members and their friends at bargain prices:

1) R.L. Winston BL5 990-5: This is 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. We will sell it for \$200.

2) R.L. Winston BL5 790-5: This is a 7 wt. 9ft. 5-piece fly rod with a very fast action, full wells grip, and up-locking reel seat with rod sock and case. It was used only a couple of times and shows no wear. It originally sold for \$600 in 2003. We will sell it for \$225.

3) Sage TCR 7100-4: This is a 7 wt. 10 ft. 4-piece fly rod with a very fast action and includes the rod sock and case. It was used only a couple of times and shows no wear. It originally sold for \$750 in 2005. The warrantee will be honored by Sage. We will sell it for \$250.

Contact Bruce Freet to purchase on a first come, first served basis.

New Member:

Photo By: Ann Nash



New Fidalgo Fly Fishers' member, John Doyle, introduced at the May 21, 2015 meeting. Left to right, sponsor, Ollie Iversen; John Doyle; sponsor, Don McKeehen.

John Doyle has been in La Conner about 35 years and 15 of those years heading the town's Planning Commission and about 10 of those years as the Town Administrator. Today he still has both jobs and does an admirable job on both. He started fly fishing with his father in the California Sierras for Golden Trout in the 1960s. His favorite spot to fish today is in Montana on Kelly Creek which he says he just can't get enough of. Of course he is very careful to not talk

about where his favorite stretches are located. With this he appears to be a true fisherman. He is excited to be in the Fidalgo Fly Fishing Club and is leaning towards becoming another salt water wader for Cutts in and around our area. He learned about Sage's new "Salt" rod at our May meeting and I'm sure he will be on the beach with it in hand very soon. As one of his sponsors it seems I will have to take him out to try his new rod in the near future.

Ollie Iversen

Photo of the Month – Sheila Tomas:

Photo By: Russ Asbury



Fly Shops:

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