



January, 2002

1st Edition

The Evening Hatch Post

Welcome to The Evening Hatch Newsletter. Your reliable monthly e-mail update on Washington fishing.

The Evening Hatch is your personalized fly fishing guide service to the fantastic outdoors of Washington State and Patagonia, Chile. We are the largest guide service on the Yakima River & in Central/Eastern Washington and provide our clients with what they want most exciting, fun, fly fishing adventures plus unequalled personal attention. The Evening Hatch is proud to offer world class catch and release fly fishing for Rainbow, Brown and Cutthroat Trout, Steelhead and Salmon from **Our Home Waters** of Central Washington's spectacular **Yakima River** to the lush jungles and high pampas of Patagonia, **Chile**.

Top Stories ...

New Guide Pro Shop coming in May

The Evening Hatch is excited to announce the opening of our own Pro Guide Shop. Conveniently located on Canyon road, 200 yards from the I-90 #109 exit on the south side. The shop will feature Flies, Rods, Reels, Lines, Tippet, Wading Equipment, Art and other items for the Fly Fisher. We will serve **Classic Casters** Coffee/Espresso. The Shop will be the first of its kind, **A drive-thru and walk in espresso as well as a full service Pro shop**. The shop will open May 1, 2002 and we look forward to serving you.

Looking ahead, all of us at the Hatch are very excited about the New Year and most importantly we wish you all the best for the "Ano Nuevo" and trust we will see you waterside!

Winter Fishing on the Yakima produces Big Bows

As usual the fishing on the Yakima was nothing less than stellar for the month of November and into the second week of December. January 2002 is starting out good as well. Just take a look at this monster bow caught by Jack on January 5th. Wow!

The dry fly midging is starting to materialize and we expect good action into spring. This winter has produced some of the best nymphing I have personally ever experienced on the Yakima. Using mostly small nymphs on the bottom seemed to be the ticket. The winter fishing season on the Yakima is one of our favorites. Herds of Bighorn sheep roam the canyon ridges, bald eagles soar overhead, and the river puts on its winter coat of quiet solitude.

It's absolutely spectacular and the fishing can be excellent. Treat yourself, family and friends to a unique winter adventure. Book a trip with the Hatch today and take advantage of this special time of year on the Yakima River. We'll keep you toasty warm with propane heaters in our drift boats while you fish for winter rainbows and enjoy spectacular scenery.



The Best of the Early Spring is just around the corner...Feb 10-April 10

Skwala, Skwala Skwala---This refers to a type of Stone fly that hatches in late Feb, March and April. Also...Midges, Blue Wing Olives, Amelytus and March Browns!

Fish-on

New Year Special...

Yakima River Early Season Special—Mention the Early Bird Special and receive 5% off any of our 2002 Yakima River Day Trips. Offer expires the 15th of Feb. Offer is not valid with any other special

2002 Yakima Day trip prices.....

January and February prices \$225.00 plus tax

March Full day \$295 plus tax Half Day \$225 plus tax

April-Oct Full day \$325 plus tax, Half day \$275 plus tax

Check our Rates and Dates page out @ www.theeveninghatch.com

Happy Clients from this winter



Recent Testimonial...

“Jack,

My son and I braved the cold on Dec. 27th and had a great time once again! Joe was an excellent guide...Not only found the fish but taught us both a thing or two about the sport. I must say that I didn't think a winter float would be that productive nor fun, but it was all of both. Again, my thanks to a truly professional organization and staff.”

Jay Virnoche

The Fringe Months

For years I have promoted the **Fringe Months on the Yakima; November – March**. Surely the temperatures are a bit colder than the base months, but the fishing can be exceptional. Many days are down right pleasant weather. Usually during this time of year we also see minimal if any wind. The wildlife is abundant; the pressure is little or none at all. For some reason or another this time frame is the most difficult to promote. Most likely due to the fact that school is in full session and the hunting and holiday season is happening. The mountain pass is a negative in most travelers' eyes, yet the freeways are quickly cleared off and only in the strongest of storms are they not maintained. Generally when it is raining and ugly in the Seattle area it just isn't in Ellensburg. Come join us during the fringe months, you will like it!

Other Fishing Reports

Rocky Ford

As usual the general angler population of the creek was heavy through the fall and continues to be in the Winter. The weed growth was late in diminishing due to the low water season and the unusually mild weather. However, current reports have been satisfactory to great utilizing the general Rocky Ford fare. Remember to dress warm cause' its cold out on the sagebrush tundra!

Other Desert Creeks

Some of the desert creeks are open year round and can provide some good to great trout fishing. The overall dry fly fishing tends to be fairly slow on these creeks at this time of year and therefore utilizing subsurface techniques is a must. From now until June, a few of these creeks can be phenomenal; great numbers and some trophies. Some of the toughest fishing on these creeks is when they are low and clear. The fish tend to be more spooky and wary. Add a bit of color and volume and the fishing can change 180 degrees.

Steelhead

This year is a history maker for the steelhead angler. Good to great numbers continue to enter the systems and provide the metalhead angler with sport. One of the Evening Hatch guides landed 70 plus fish in the month of December. Fresh steelhead in a river system are incredibly aggressive. If you find'em, generally you're going to catch'em. The steelhead angler is looking for the optimum time to fish. This is usually after the water has been high and the rivers are dropping into shape due to less rains and colder temperatures. Lately and currently the rivers have been experiencing major fluctuations Watch for the rivers to subside and then go get-um!

The Fly Fishing School Schedule

Taught by one of our guide staff this school is a great way to learn more about the Yakima and its intricacies...

June 21, 22 Yakima River School @ and in cooperation with The Avid Angler Fly Shop

June 19, 20 Yakima River School @ The Evening Hatch Pro Shop

Aug 23, 24 Yakima River School @ and in cooperation with The Avid Angler Fly Shop

Sept 27, 28 Yakima River School @ The Evening Hatch Pro Shop

Oct 18, 19 Yakima River School @ The Evening Hatch Pro Shop

Nov 8, 9 Yakima River School @ The Evening Hatch Pro Shop
Dec 6, 7 Yakima River School @ The Evening Hatch Pro Shop

Private Lake Schedule with the Hatch

Book now, these dates go fast!

Isaaks Ranch Dates April 16 & 18 May 8,9,21,23 & 30

New Access Point On the Yakima?

Word is out that the state has purchased the land on the Southeast side of the river at the Thorp Bridge. We certainly hope that they will develop an improved access there for all to use! We will keep you updated.

Photo of the Month

Evening Hatch Guide
Joe Rotter, on the cover of
Fly Fisherman!



Wild Steelhead Release Gains Widespread Support-

Notes from the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Meeting

December 13, 2001 By Mike Mathis .

"I believe we accomplished our goal yesterday (12/7/2001) of showing support for the statewide release of wild steelhead with no exceptions.

In a packed room at the Cascade Park Inn, the commission began taking public testimony at 1:30pm. It was scheduled to go until 3:30, but due to the number of speakers, it lasted to 4:30. The people for wild steelhead release far outnumbered those for killing. I don't think there were more than a dozen of them.

One by one, fishing clubs from Bellingham to Vancouver, fishing guides from Puget Sound and Forks, Trout Unlimited, and the Wild Steelhead Coalition stepped up to voice their support - gear fishers and flyfishers, people wearing flannel, people wearing fleece, elitist-liberal-flyfishers and gearchuckers, radical-right-flyfishers and gearchuckers, Orvis types, Loomis types, St. Croix types, Cabela types, Sage types, along with cityfolk, countryfolk, suburbanfolk.

The parking lot was filled with new SUV's, pickups, small cars, and big cars in various colors and shades. And sitting behind the speakers, I believe I saw just as many red necks as white necks. We were all united behind this single issue. It was great to see and hear.

Additionally, the commission received hundreds, if not thousands, of letters, email and written testimony from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, British Columbia, and the east coast as well as numerous position papers, including the 100-page paper from the Wild Steelhead Coalition. This should provide a lot of late-night reading for the commission members.

The commission will vote on the 2002-2003 sportfish rule proposals February 8-9. Keep your fingers crossed. We're gonna win a biggie."

This is an Evening Hatch publication.....All rights reserved. W ritten and edited by professional fly fishing guides and bums, for all of you who enjoy being waterside.

Definition of professional guides and bums:

Dedicated Evening Hatch professionals that are hard working, windstopper-tm wearing, sunglass bearing, weather tattered, sun lined, oar pulling, "There" shouting, fish netting, fly tying, genuine fly fishing enthusiasts. At first glance they may appear to be aloof, out there, glaze eyed, robotic and/or just guide like. A closer look reveals a group of guys that will do whatever it takes to make your day the best it can be, period!

Respectfully and fish-on!

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