

Englishman River March 9: Fish, Cast and Bug Out

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At Pub lunch last Wednesday, you could tell that people were really fed with this bloody winter and were ready to roll to the Englishman River to Fish, Cast or Bug Out. Ton (background) came to seriously fish, Dennis (mid photo) came to cast and brought his fancy new lines from OPST (Spey lines for single handed rods (6wt and 8wt), while Bob, Bernie, Gordy and I set out collecting bugs with the new nets supplied by Erica Blake.



Obviously, Bernie and Bob came to work,



while I came to “supervised the pouring of the alcohol”. That’s me in the middle holding the “booze”. Looks like I spilled half of it on myself.

Gord is diligently doing the camera work.



While Bob is collecting kick samples in the riffle tail out with the D net, Bernie is collecting quantitative bug samples with the modified Hess Sampler which is ratcheted into the substrate to a depth of 5 to 10 cm. Then the larger cobbles are disturbed by hand and removed. The disturbed bugs drift into the trailing collection net. Once the larger substrate is removed the hyporheic community is sampled (those critters living under the cobbles between the flowing surface water and

the ground water) by further disturbing the substrate.



Bernie disturbing bugs from cobbles and deeper substrate.



That's cold on the hands, eh Bernie...good job !v!. Then we all split for lunch and while we were eating, it started to snow again...



The good news is we collected a number of organisms for the first time to add to our reference collection. They include 2 taxa of stoneflies nymphs, a crane fly larvae *Tipula sp.*, several dozen Simulium or black flies, an aquatic worm Oligochaeta, as well as previously collected Mayflies (Rhithrogena morrisoni or Western March Brown) and *Ephemera sp or Pale Morning Dun*).