

Busy Week Fishing Cowichan River and Lake, Taylor River and Green Lake

From: Bruce Murray [drbm@shaw.ca]

Well it is once again Sunday morning and time for the IWFF newsletter. Typing is a bit awkward with the delightful pain in the right shoulder cuff from all the rowing/casting and fish-on action of the previous week....it is a refreshing "discomfort" however, not complaining...great to be alive...

Monday, hmm at this point it may have been Tuesday, was Cowichan River day with Richard Best. We headed downstream on a sunny and warm, perfect floating day, (not so good for fish biting though) from Road Pool going 12+ km to Skutz Falls pull out.



Richard casting or losing an oar

The Cowy was on the shallow and fast side as we made it 5+ km downstream to 70.2 mile trestle in 1 hour and 20 minutes only stopping once to fish as Stony Pool had walk in fishers

and Cabin Pool was occupied by a guide boat and we had better “secret spots” further downstream to fish.



70.2 mile Trestle

It had been 4 years since I did the Cowy between 70.2 mi and Skutz Falls and was surprised how much wood and log jams had disappeared from the river making passage a breeze. I think there is more riffle to pool ratio today than before which is not so good. The take out above the falls was very easy and as safe as I can ever recall. Now that the maiden trip for 2018 is behind us, next trips will definitely be better planned for more fishy action.

A couple of days of pain and it was on to the Taylor River/ Sproat Lake Fish-out on Thursday (March 15th). Jack, Don G, Tony and Cal fished Sproat Lake mainly, while Bill and Randy fished the lake and ventured up the Taylor to an area where logs come to jam up and die; while, I proceeded up hw 4 to below the rest area to check out the local rumour that the Taylor was too shallow to drift. I put in downstream of the rest area on hw 4 after spending

too long looking for the “ideal site” to put in. As it turned out, it was the site I always put in at in previous years.



Put in site...Not too shallow, Looking Very Good Leo

The Taylor was awesome at the put in site with deep, clear pools with lots of boulder structure to hid steelhead, bows and cutties...



Pool with good boulder/cobble structure

and long, deep glides with structure (where's the shallow water Leo)



then closer to Sproat Lake the river widens with the occasional hazard as below showing up...



Three Old Logging Stumps mid river



OOPS

...and closer to Sproat Lake the Taylor widens and shallows even more with greater deposition of sediments and woody debris



Buried up-side down

Around the next corner the river braids into several minor channels and.... time to assess and pick which channel to navigate or line... I think this is where Bill and Randy coming up from the lake turned back.



Hmm....where's all the water gone????

After a portage or two the water in all the minor sub channels joined and it was clear sailing to Sproat Lake



Looking upstream in the Taylor River from near Sproat Lake

Then Friday morning comes and I'm home reading the Times Communist and enjoying my coffee when Steelhead Dan calls "out of the blue" to say the cutties are gathering to spawn, so off we go, funny how all the shoulder pain crap subsides at that very moment. On the way we stopped and counted 79 fish holding (all cutties 3 lb+ as well as 2 monster steelhead but we left them alone for later after we fish the honey spot....which included 2 km of slogging downstream through....under and over log jams to reach the site and yes there were a bunch

of large fish holding the size of this one...



So we fished to near dark and guess what? When we got back to the gang of 79.....it was too dark to see your hand in front of your face, let alone fish.

Then comes Saturday (yesterday) and now totally crippled up, Jason calls to go fishing. .. and the pain disappears, funny how that works....We flipped a coin and Green Lake lost and we enjoyed the fruits of a large chironomid hatch and had a total afternoon of dry fly fishing swarming catchables.....Got to luv the BC Sport Fishing Stocking Program here on VI.

So today no one called to go fishing and this report is the fruits of no calls....I hope y'all enjoy!!!

Cheers,

me