

Fish Lake Outing

Dear Friends,

Here is the Head's Up for the **Fish Lake Outing**. As I have mentioned before, there will be changes, and here is the latest and I think final version. **Revisions are in red.**

Outline and Overview: (subject to members' whims)

This is a new outing for SBTC members, their families and their friends for early summer this year. For my wife and I, camping will be the primary focus, but we cheat by using a camper. There are other accommodations within easy rendezvous distance of the start point. There will be a group bike ride of approximately 39 miles, thus leaving plenty of time for free association at camp in the evening after the ride. Perhaps a Liar's Council around the campfire. However, if anyone breaks out into a rendition of Koombaya – I'll slit my wrists.

The ride level will be mostly intermediate, and a light bike is recommended, as there is one huge climb – which can be walked with no shame. In fact, to take in the view, I recommend it. After the climb, it's a 1-mile fast descent and then a super easy lope down to Leavenworth for lunch. I'll describe the whole route in detail later.

Where: Lake Wenatchee/Fish Lake Recreation Area

Located approximately 25 miles east of Stevens Pass, or 20 miles west of Leavenworth, this area is ideal for family outings and cycling, whether on a mountain bike or a roadie, but for this route, I again recommend a lighter bike.

The map and q-sheet is in the Other Washington State Routes section, entitled Lake Wenatchee – Leavenworth

When: Weekend of Friday, June 20th.

I wanted to schedule this ride early in the summer because it can get very hot over there, and water is somewhat limited once we depart the town of Plain and begin the climb. Also, the spring mosquito hatch should be largely over near the lakes. They can be quite nasty earlier in the year in the area. That's why the fish can get so big there.

And, most of the schools will be out by then and kids can come, too – but probably not on the ride unless they are teenagers with some grit. That's a personal call for each parent.

Friday, June 20th – arrive, setup camp or check-in to your accommodations, **check in with me at 425-422-2370 and hope for phone reception.**

Saturday, June 21st – rendezvous at Parkside Grocery at 9:45- depart at 10:00

Lunch at Leavenworth. I like Gustav's for burgers and beer or whatever. It's the place with the onion dome on top. Afternoon and evening to goof off, fish a little, or meet around a campfire at someone's teepee for maybe a group feed. But, again, none of this koombaya stuff. I'm serious; I'll walk off into woods and just keep going. You hearin' me, Jim? **I'm bringing enough camp rope to garrote you, Jim – then I'll walk off into the woods.**

Sunday, June 22nd – wrap it up and get over the pass before the early afternoon rush thru Sultan and the other choke points. Those wanting to, can stop at the Squirrel Tree Inn or the 59er Diner at Coles Corner for breakfast on the way out.

Accommodations: The following is now finalized:

Camping is available on a *first come-first served* basis at The Cove at Fish Lake. I will be there probably by noon Friday. I am not allowed to pre-pay for sites, so there is no guarantee that we can circle the wagons. Contact me as you arrive. I will place guide signs in **neon green** with SBTC written on them with arrows as you pass the Parkside Grocery near the final turn-off.

Lake Wenatchee State Park and Nason Creek campground is within half a mile of the start point as well, but I believe reservations are required, and they fill early. Also, there are several B&B's in the neighborhood as well. I've listed a couple here. **Each member will be responsible for his or her own accommodations.**

Route Description:

If staying at The Cove, there will be a 1-mile gravel road out to the paved hi-way, and another $\frac{3}{4}$ mile paved ride to the start point, which is at the Parkside Grocery. No worries, I've done it on my 3-speed and a roadie. It's similar to the Iron Horse Trail. The biggest annoyance might be the other campers and boats on trailers that may dust you up a bit as they pass along the gravel road. I picked the Parkside as the start point because not all members may choose to camp, but may prefer a B&B close-by. There is no reason for anyone to not be able to lodge within two flat miles of the Parkside Grocery.

From the Parkside we will ride about 5 miles to Plain and re-water at the grocery there. From the parking lot, you will see the climb and your knees will begin to quiver. Buck up! You can walk it and enjoy the view. It's about 1-1/2 miles to the top and there is no hurry and no pressure. Just make sure you have water.

Once you have topped the hill, you will be rewarded with a swift 1 mile descent down the other side, then a relaxing slight down trend for 13 miles into Leavenworth. This section has no stores or public facilities, so make sure you got water back at Plain. I will remind you before you go up the hill.

Leavenworth –home of all things Faux Bavaria. Kitschy Leavenworth, where imports from all over Asia can be had for your hard earned, depreciated US dollar. But, they have local beer there, too. And brats. Brats made right there. Our spouses or friends/family can join us for lunch in town. Anyone wanting to bail out after “re-hydrating” can pile into someone’s car and head back to the start for a nap...

After lunch at Leavenworth, we will leave town going west on the shoulder of US 2. The shoulder varies in width from about three feet to very wide. I did not feel particularly endangered. At least, not any more so than a typical city ride. This is a *Saturday* ride, and most cars will be going west bound on *Sunday*.

Until I scouted this route by bike, I never realized how scenic the Tumwater Canyon really is. You miss so much by car. There are sandy beaches and plenty of spots to get to the river for a snapshot or just to sit and stare at an emerald green pool. We will take our time.

There are two pinch points where the road narrows at bridges. Common sense will prevail there. For those concerned about the uphill direction, I can say that I thought it would be a bit tough, but it's not bad at all. Anyone that we normally bike with can do it. It's quite gradual. The biggest problem will be fighting off the beer-n-brats.

There will be water at Tumwater Campground about halfway to our final turn-off. There are stores and a couple of restaurants at Coles Corner, which is the turn-off back to the start. That's it. Input and questions are expected and I'll do my best to clarify any ambiguities. I hope we're clear on the beer question.

Regards,

John

Cell# 425-422-2370

<http://www.coveresortatfishlake.com/> We can rent a barge and go fishing!

<http://pranch.com/> This one is two flat miles from the start

http://www.bluegrouse.com/html/lunn_s_on_fish_lake.html Cabin on Fish Lake

http://www.bluegrouse.com/html/blue_grouse_lodge.html Two flat miles from start

Note: There are B&B's in Plain, too. You stay there and we'll meet you at the Just Plain Grocery at the bottom of the hill. This option drops about 5 miles off the ride, but you still get the hill.