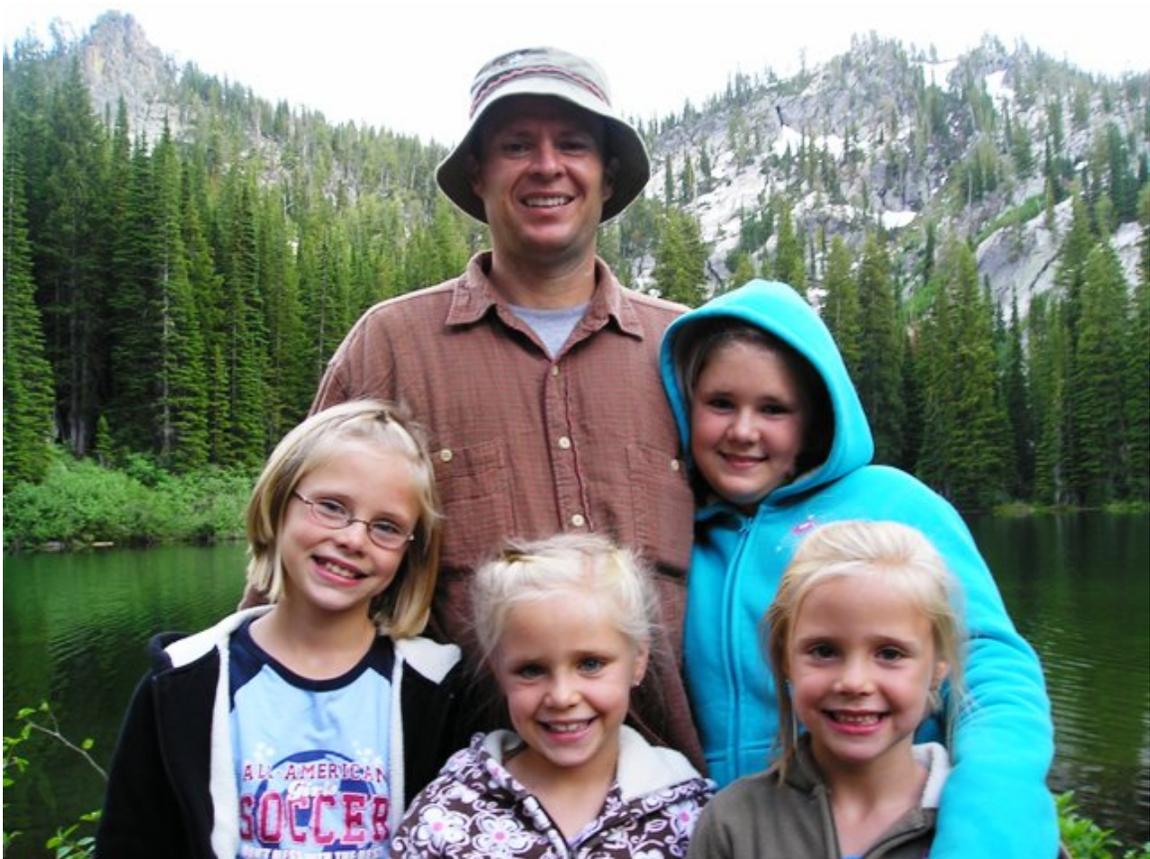




Date	July 4 th weekend, 2009	Time	Evening
Location	Shirts Lake	Weather	overcast
Fish Species	Brook Trout, Tiger Muskie	Size Range	
Fish Caught	None		
Flies Used	Royal Wulff		
Techniques	Dry Fly		
Comments	The Tiger Muskie have grown fast!		

It's that time again for the annual overnighter with my daughters. This year also included some cousins and brother-in-laws. We spent half a week at our cabin and decided to spend one evening at Shirts Lake on West Mountain near Cascade. It's almost a two mile hike and about an 800' drop down to the lake from the trailhead on Snowbank Mountain.

I took my four oldest daughters with me this year. I packed in five sleeping bags, two tents and a tarp for me. My girls divided everything else amongst themselves to carry in their school backpacks.





Blue Lake as seen on the drive in

The crew



I thought we would get rained on during this trip but the weather held making it a much nicer outing. The highlight of the hike was hiking down the snow fields to get down to the lake.



The night was warm and the mosquitoes were minimal so everyone had a good time. It was the first overnight backpacking trip for two of my daughters. It helped ease the home sickness having their cousins to play with.

I can't say the fishing was good but it was a neat fishing experience. Two summers ago I fished this lake and caught dozens of Brook Trout that dimpled the entire lake with their rises. I also noticed a few Tiger Muskie at the time that were 14 -15”.

As I approached the lake this year, the first thing I did was yell to have everyone come and see. As everyone gathered around I pointed out a Tiger Muskie just a few feet off shore. Everyone got a good look at the fish that easily cleared 20”

As I walked the banks to look for Brook Trout all I saw were Tiger Muskie. I saw no rises and no sign of Trout. The Tiger Muskie have really effected the Trout's behavior. Maybe this could be the lake to produce some big Brook Trout. Needless to say, I got skunked but had a really good time enjoying the outdoors and cooking over the fire with my family.



Hiking in

My nephew trying his luck at fishing

