
The Snoose Junction Journal

Ballard Trout & Salmon Club Newsletter

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Next Meeting...

Thursday -- June 14, 2001

Doors open at 7:00 pm

Meeting starts at 7:30 pm

Northwest Senior Center
5429 - 32nd Ave NW in Ballard
"1 Block North of The Locks"

Our speaker at this month's meeting will be Frank Urabeck, the spokesperson for National Marine Trade Association, a South King County TU member, and North of Falcon Process Participant. Frank will talk on: a variety of issues affecting our area rules; the Green River Steelhead project status and expected run size; and the North of Falcon process. He will also answer your questions on these topics. This will be an information packed meeting!

Last Meeting:

Tom Matthews (WDFW fish checker, Forks, WA.) was our May guest speaker. He assisted us with the steelhead capture at the Locks and brought pictures and stories of the steelhead from the coast. Tom was also featured in a Seattle Times article on Peninsula Steelhead. Also, Joe Yee explained his Aqua View underwater camera, more than just a toy! Thank You, Gentlemen!

BTSC Membership

We have **gained** 6 new members: Loy Chapman, Cary Cronin, Ken Hunter, John Stimac, Peter Stuart, and Ken Vannice. There are also 4 transferred-ins: Mark Cartner, Scott Igl, James Morrison, and Sean Pickton. Two members, Elizabeth Henry and Harry Thornberg deceased. That brings our roles to 375 current.

Stream Cleanup

Anyone wanting to help with stream cleanup on the Olympic peninsula contact Larry O'Neil for info. We will be helping the newly formed NW Olympic Chapter in Port Angeles. A great way to show support and cohesiveness in the council. Van pool to site, & fishing afterwards?

Lund Boat & Motor!

Ballard's Seafood Fest is July 28th and 29th. Once again we will have the LUND boat and motor package on display to help us sell WA State TU Council raffle tickets. To help out, call Mike Kelly at 706-8807 to reserve your favorite time slot and day.

Selling raffle tickets is our main way of raising funds. We have only received a handful of envelopes from members asking for their tickets. The request and explanation for this was in your April 2001 BTSC newsletter (see "Operations Crunch," pg 2), and do your part!

The Tacoma chapter has issued a 15% increase challenge in Council Raffle Ticket Sales. Are we up to this challenge?

Letter to Editor

We got this response from our request for input on Steelhead Regs:

"Here's my 2 cents worth. I support mandatory release of all wild steelhead to rebuild stocks. In my view it should be coupled with a comprehensive and well designed monitoring program. This program would realistically measure results with the goal of allowing limited harvest once clearly established benchmarks for returning spawners and surviving fry are reached. It would also be watershed specific.

Above all, any eventual harvest must be based on realistic science that takes into account ocean conditions, commercial harvest of all types, and habitat degradation or improvement. Finally, the issues of tribal harvest should be considered within the framework of comanagement and existing court rulings, with a goal of negotiating a cooperative agreement.

I understand the reluctance of the council taking a position on such a complicated and potentially divisive issue and appreciate the opportunity to provide input." -- *Joel VanEtta*

Golfers Needed

August 3, 2001 is the date of our Third Annual TU Day of Golf. Sponsored by the Fish Brewing Co. of Olympia. The event will be held at Olympia Golf and Country Club. Get your foursome prepared for this fun event and practice up for the Hole-in-One prize which is a boat, motor, and trailer package!

If you would rather be a spectator, your help on the greens will be appreciated and opportunities abound. If you would like to donate an item or service as a prize, please contact: Bill Robinson, NW Office, 360-754-2131. <http://www.halcyon.com/nwssctu>.

BTSC Coho Release and Net Pen Report

Via e-mail: "TONITE, at 7:30 pm we are scheduled to weigh and release our 30,000 coho from our rearing pen at Ray's Boathouse..."

We sent that e-mail message to about 90 members in advance of this release, and it also contained an invitation to the work party set for the following evening May 17th to pull the net. Not many members showed up. The salmon raising and the wild steelhead capture are our chapter's two premier physical activities and work projects. They are unique and we are proud of them! Please make plans to get more involved with these two big undertakings.

Read on to see what you missed, as told by Larry O'Neil! Also, see the related photo.

May 16: After a day's delay due to weather, a hand full of our members got together at 7pm and weighed, measured, and released the 30,000 coho we have been raising since Jan. 11th. The fish left in excellent condition with an average length of 7 inches and at an average weight of 9 per pound.

A BIG Thanks go to Don Miller, Larry O'Neil, Bud Johanson, Bob Pace, Charles Cottone and John Olson for their work.

May 17: We struggled with a mussel laden net and barnacle encrusted weights and had them piled on the pen's cross frame by 8:30pm. There it lay in a smelly wet heap until Wed.

A HUGE thank you goes to the members who showed up for pulling the net on the 17th, and helping clean it: Larry O'Neil, Fred Zingleman, a tired Doug McGar, and two of his workers, Henry Rodrigues, and Steve Elmendorf.

May 23: We had counted on the days of warm weather to dry the net so it would be light enough to carry off and up to the dock where it could be spread out and cleaned. Boy did we get a surprise! It was the stinkiest clam bake anyone had ever encountered. The mussels had steamed open in the balled up netting and when we grabbed a hold and pulled the first wad back, it emitted a cloud of stench that sent us reeling back almost into the bay.

I really have to hand it to the dedicated crew who stuck it out and hauled that wad onto the float, over the rails, and up the ramp to the dock

where they spread it out and gave it an initial hosing. The bravest of the brave crew were: Mike Kelly, John Olson, Mark Cartner, myself, and my life long best friend, Oly Helgevold who is down from Alaska.

There were about 4 wheelbarrow loads of mussels that were shoveled back for the crabs, the rest were left for the pigeons and crows. This was accomplished by 9pm and there was no fanfare or applause. We couldn't get rid of the smell for 2 days or more, and the fly's still avoid my truck!

May 30: At 8am, Tom Detert and his pressure washer were assisted by Mark Cartner, and myself with the last of the cleanup. By 11:20am we had gotten the net pressure washed and the pen cleaned off and hosed and scrubbed of the remaining crud and residue. The only thing remaining is to put cover boards back in place and fold up the net in a week or so.

I have an idea for a project that would save us much time and effort removing the net. We will need to talk to a structural engineer: Is there one out there amongst us? If you are qualified and willing please contact any board member. Also, we will need to work up a cost estimate and submit it for a funding grant.

Hopefully this story will prompt you to thank those who made this effort to the real mission of being a Trout Unlimited member! We don't know when the net pen will see action again, it may not be until January 2002. Hope to see you there next year!



Mike Kelley, John Olson, and Larry O'Neil look over our net rearing pen at Ray's Boathouse in Ballard. This is the site of the BTSC project which has raised 20,000 Chinook and 30,000 coho in the last ten months. See related article on page 2. --Photo by Doug McGar

Upcoming Events...

- Jun 16-17.** Father's Day weekend Halibut Derby at Sekiu. Any experts willing to go with chapter members as an outing call Larry at 784-4303 to get organized and offer him a ride.
- Jul 28-29.** Ballard's Seafood Fest and BTSC raffle ticket sales. Call Mike Kelly at 706-8807. *See article.*
- Jul 12.** BTSC meeting will feature Montana State Univ. Fisheries biologist Charlotte Resbison to speak about whirling disease.
- Aug 3.** Third Annual TU Day of Golf. *See article.*
- Aug 14-19.** "Roll on Columbia," TU National Convention, Portland, OR. Some hi-lites:
14th-Fishing trips.
15th-River, dam, city tours.
16th-Conservation Day.
17th-Business Meeting.
18th-Buss. Leadership Sems.
 There are exhibitor booths every day. Check it out: www.tu.org

A Shad Story - - or - - Shad the "Food Fish of the Masses"

Memorial day weekend found me trying my luck at catching shad near Bonneville dam on the Columbia River, something I have not done for about 25 years. Wow! That just brought back memories of my 140 HP 65 Corvair sporting along Hi-Way 14 to meet up with my folks and fish for the weekend. There are even more rocks to hook up on now that the second powerhouse is complete.

Anyhow, it was a great time. Fish were coming in spurts every 20 or so minutes and anglers of all ages and abilities were hooking up, enjoying each other's good natured ribbing, and seeing some awesome Sturgeon close up. They were jumping just a few yards off shore and one got brave and tried to steal one guy's string of shad right out from under him! He was thwarted by a quick grab of the stringer's line and several swats with a landing net.

We also got a bit of aerial entertainment from an Osprey trying to heft a 2 to 3 # shad

from the river in a 25 mph crosswind. He did make it and enjoyed Sunday brunch in a nearby fir tree.

The biggest thrill for me was hooking into a 15+ lb Blackmouth just 2 minutes after another angler walked down stream to try and unhook a different Blackmouth. I was using 6# test and my battle was short lived, but I did get it close enough for a good look at bright chrome sides and spotted back.

Although I made a fair donation of jigs to the rocky river, I plan on returning mid June for the big 5# hens that are due in at the peak of the run.

If you want some real hot fun action, grab a good long casting rod and spinning or baitcasting reel loaded with 6 to 10# test, a big supply of white w/ red head shad jigs, a bucket or 2, your good bud, and a medium handle net, and head out early before the wind comes up and just enjoy your casting practice.

There are miles of access spots near the dam and lots of parking. Don't forget about the islands accessible via the dam if its crowded.

WDFW has a pamphlet all about shad fishing. Only thing I disagree with was their cleaning method. Do filleting as you would a sea bass (after scaling) to save lots of time, or just remove head and tail, gut (save the roe) and pressure cook them. Afterwards the skin slips right off and the bones are soft enough to eat.

They make great table fare as casserole, breaded fillets, or as sandwich spread. They are even better smoked! Try them in your favorite recipe.

--Larry O'Neil