

# The West Seattle Sportsman

**Don't Miss the Big Game Dinner. Poster on page 5 for all to post. Monthly meeting will take place on same night.**

**Hunters who file reports early can win special tags**

OLYMPIA – The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is offering hunters a chance to win one of nine extra hunting tags, as a special incentive to hunters who file early hunting activity reports for the past season. All deer, elk, black bear, and turkey tag holders, whether successful or not, must report their 2002 hunting season activity by Jan. 31. To be eligible for the special tag drawing, successful hunters must report their harvest of deer, elk, black bear or turkey within 10 days of a kill, and unsuccessful tag holders must file their reports by Jan. 10.

The special incentive tags include two eastern Washington elk tags, two western Washington elk tags, and five statewide deer tags for the 2003 hunting season.

(Continued on page 6)

## West Seattle Totems Battle Wind and Rain In Paul Bunyan Icicle Match.

by: Kurt Oberloh

Kicking off the 2003 rifle season, the West Seattle Totems, (your junior team), participated in the Paul Bunyan Icicle Match. Always held on the first weekend in January, this outdoor, 60 shot, 3-position match is usually pretty grueling to the young athlete. Sometime producing sub zero temperatures for shooting conditions, this year it was a mild 50 degrees with gusty winds and torrential downpours. The Totems put 5 shooters to the firing line and walked out of the mud with 3 medals.

Logan McBride must have been a pretty good boy this year because Santa Claus brought him an Anschutz for Christmas. The first time out with his new rifle he posted a 515 out of 600. This score was good enough for a 1<sup>st</sup> place in his class. Topping a field of 10 prone shooters, Tim Mar took away a 1<sup>st</sup> place medal with a score of 333 on the A-36 target. Closely following and winning his first medal, in only his second match was third place Kyle Copernoll with a 322.

On the very next weekend of the year, 3 of our top juniors went on the road again to Capitol City Rifle Range to compete in the Washington State USAS Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship. Ronni Oberloh, Kristin Olszewski, and Logan McBride all took a shot at an invitation to Colorado Springs to shoot in the Junior Nationals. Final results will not be known for a couple of weeks because all scores from across the state are not in yet. A 356 was our best score in offhand air rifle, shot by Ronni. We will keep you posted on the match results.

Mark your calendars for upcoming open and junior matches.

Feb 1<sup>st</sup> Open State Air Rifle Championship Capitol City

Feb 8<sup>th</sup> NRA Open Air Rifle and Pistol Sectional West Seattle

Feb 15<sup>th</sup> NRA Junior Smallbore 4P Sectional Cascade

Feb 16<sup>th</sup> NRA Junior Air Rifle Sectional West Seattle

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> NRA Junior Smallbore 3P Match Puyallup

**MEETINGS FIRST  
WEDNESDAY 7:15  
Roger Dahl Rifle Range  
West Seattle Stadium**

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**RANGE REPORT**  
**January 22, 2003**

Next years dates for the Hunter Education classes have been submitted. They are February 20, 22, & 23, August 21, 23, & 24, September 4, 6, & 7. Gary, Richard, Steve and any others interested in being an instructor mark your calendar.

We have now received two grants for use on the range. The first one is for \$5000.00. We have to match this with cash. The work must be completed by June 2003. We can start now on this one.

The second one is the IAC for \$70000.00+. We received a statement from the Parks Department agreeing to the ten years. We should have a signed copy in March 1 sent their letter to the IAC but have not received the signed contract. They put up half the 70K and we put the other half in cash, donated labor and equipment. Looks like it might be time to go to work. Work has started, hole in the wall, location for the concrete pads are being prepared.

The Fourth air pistol match is over. Rob had ten shooters show up. The next match is on February 8-9, 2003. This is a NRA sectional match combined with a air rifle match.



Sponsors of the  
 Roger Dahl  
 Rifle Training Range

**OFFICERS**

President - Steve Patnode 206 937-5233  
 Vice Pres. - Cam Robison 206 431-8337  
 Secretary - Tony Olszewski  
 Treasurer - Fred Burr  
 Rec.Scty - Richard George

**TRUSTEES**

Jerry Mascio  
 Frank Novito  
 Rolf Erickson

The West Seattle Sportsmen's Club was founded in 1934 by a group of fourteen men who had the foresight to see that sportsmen, in a united group, would present views, be better heard and achieve goals that were not possible when action as unorganized individuals. The ambitions of these charger members, who strove for the propagation of wildlife and habitat as well as the conservation of all our natural resources, has proven prophetic, for today multitudes of individuals and sporting groups are carrying on the job of conserving the remaining outdoor assets of natural America. The West Seattle Sportsmen's Club helps lead in this fight in the state of Washington. A member has the opportunity to join others in formulating club action in achieving and maintaining these goals.

However, "all work and no play" is not the format of the club. Many events are spaced throughout the year to insure a member many chances to participate in sportsmen's activities. For \$25, what more could a man ask than the opportunity to go salmon fishing with a group of his friends on a charter boat, fresh water fishing with other members and their families, have a salmon bake, a clam feed, or attend a banquet especially for the ladies. But there's more - he can shoot on the club range, go rabbit hunting, and if nothing else, should get \$15 worth just by watching the kids of the community have a real ball at the Kid's Fishing Derby. To sum it all up, a guy gets at least a hundred dollars worth of fun out of a year's membership.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
 WEST SEATTLE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, Washington, being interested in the propagation and conservation of game birds, game animals, and fish in the State of Washington, do hereby apply for membership in the WEST SEATTLE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB and tender herewith the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of one year's dues.

"I solemnly swear that I will abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the West Seattle Sportsmen's Club and help in its up-building and I will not willfully disobey the Game Laws wherever I fish or hunt. I will always be a true sportsman both in the field and to my brother members at all times.

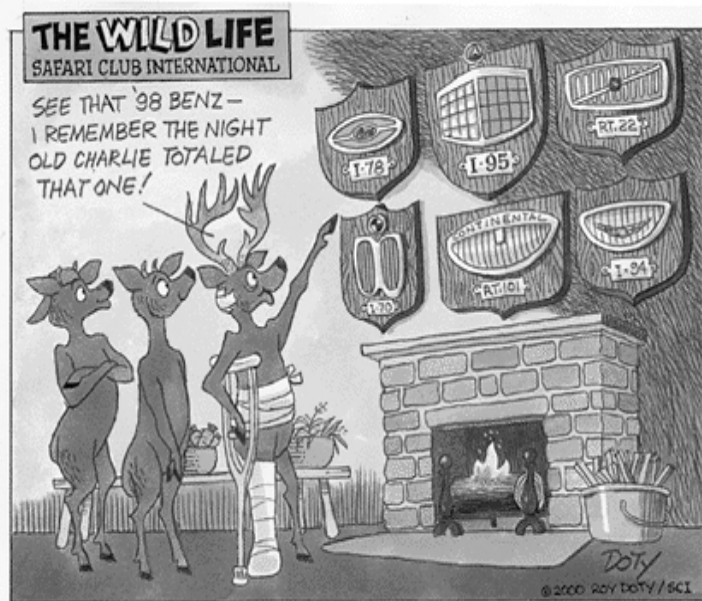
Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recommended by \_\_\_\_\_

## Report from Washington Sportsmen's Show

by Darrell Kirk

Larry Gonczy has fished Lake Washington for over 20 years and is an expert on its Smallmouth Bass and Perch populations. At the Sportsmen's Show, Larry presented a great deal of underwater video footage that showed just how important a fishery this 22,000 acre lake is and how big these fish can get.

Crawdads as big as small lobsters, 2 - 2.5 pound monster Perch, and large schools of Smallmouth Bass were all shown courtesy of Larry's years of mapping and videotaping Lake Washington's bottom. For reference, a very large Rapalla lure was trailed along behind the underwater camera to record fish response. Watching the monster Perch follow after this lure for hundreds of yards was amazing. Some of the schools the camera traveled through had over 500 Perch. The Smallmouth bass footage also yielded very valuable information on their feeding habits and habitat. Larry also had footage that showed small Perch moving about below large schools of Smallmouth bass without incident. He noted after viewing the footage closely that the Perch knew when the Smallmouth were feeding and when it was safe to travel among them.



DOH Shellfish Red Tide Hotline

1-800-562-5632

## Show Calendar

### Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show®

February 5 - 9, 2003

Portland Expo Center

Portland, Oregon

### Tacoma Dome Boat Show;

Feb 26-Mar 2, 2003;

Tacoma Dome, Tacoma

Contact: (253) 756-2121

Website: [www.tacomadomeboatshow.com](http://www.tacomadomeboatshow.com)

## Club Officers Meeting Minutes for 1-22-03

Officers in attendance:

President - Steve Patnode

Secretary. - Tony Olszewski

Treasurer - Fred Burr

Rec. Secretary - Richard George

Trustees Present

Frank Novito

Rolf Erickson

Meeting was called to order. Update on Big Game dinner was given and all is going on track. A flyer is to be provided with newsletter for individuals to post if they can to help advertise dinner.

New Club Web site was discussed. The name most liked seemed to be "[www.westseattlesportsmen.org](http://www.westseattlesportsmen.org)".

Further discussion was put as to whether we should put newsletter on web or not. Most seemed in favor but thought we would drop the financial statement for the newsletter and have it available at the club meetings.

We are close to being able to get the web site going look for it in about a month.

Fred mentioned the next Hunter education class is full.

The Craw fishing trip for February is postponed until May due to Craw Fishing season restrictions.

## Short-Sleeve Fishing in January?

by Larry Gonczy

One of the advantages in working a booth at the annual Sportsmen's Shows is getting to meet other vendors and their representatives. As a pro staffer for the G. Loomis line of bass and walleye rods, I happened to meet a colleague who was an expert in salmon and steelhead fishing. "Bass, eh? I haven't had much time for short sleeve fishing!" Well, I broke out laughing immediately. Bass fishing has been referred to with various forms of slang, from "lip ripping" to "hog hunting", but "short sleeve fishing" was a new one on me!

Obviously, my fellow fisherman's impression of bass fishing consisted of hot summer days on lily pad filled lakes. Noticing a raised eyebrow when I mentioned that I fished for bass year round, I felt obliged to illustrate this startling revelation with a fishing story.

Several winters back I had been telling Troy Apple, then manager of Auburn Sports and Marine, how good the winter smallmouth fishing was on Lake Sawyer. We decided to take a day off and give it a try. As luck would have it, we awoke to find snow on the ground. To make matters more challenging, it was the third straight day of below freezing temperatures. Troy's phone call was brief; "Are we still going?" I said; "Absolutely!"

Arriving at the launch ramp, we stepped from the truck to gaze upon a lake that was as smooth as glass. Correction; smooth as ice. The entire shore line was frozen. Unable to launch the boat, we decided to go to Lake Sammamish. Being a larger body of water we figured it might not be frozen. We were right.

After launching our boat we started motoring up the ice cold lake. Where to start? Faced with colder water temperatures and a different body of water, I was not sure the same patterns and tactics I had been using on Lake Sawyer would work here on Lake Sammamish. But we had to begin somewhere, so we pulled up to a small point on the east side of the lake.

With chilled fingers we rigged 1/4 oz. jigs with Kalin's 4 inch finesse worms and began a slow controlled drift across the tip of the point. Reflecting on the previous week's experience, I suggested we start at depths of 25-30 feet. On our first pass both our rods arched as identical 2-1/2 lb. smallmouths came to the surface. Within an hour and a half we put 6 fish in the boat, the largest just over 3 1/2 pounds. Tempted to stay, we opted instead to see if this pattern would hold true on other parts of the lake.

After a short ride, we found ourselves over a sunken

ridge. It appeared to run for a hundred yards or so, topping out at 25 feet. Within minutes another smallmouth surrendered to our pattern. During a pause in the action, I found myself reminiscing about a bass fishing clinic I had attended several years ago. "If you find yourself in a 'successful pattern' situation," suggested the speaker, "take advantage of it. Purposely deviate from the pattern, trying different lures, sizes, or presentations." The challenge was to see if an angler can isolate the specific factors contributing to their success.

I suspected the slow methodical retrieve we were using might be one of those keys, and this seemed like the perfect time to put it to the test. I told my partner to continue fishing the same pattern. I decided to try the more traditional style of hopping or swimming the bait back. The test resulted in the next three fish finding their way to the boat via my partner. My patient experimentation screeched to a halt. After all, there is only so much experimenting a guy can do when his partner is announcing, "I've got another one!"

Since then, I have spent many chilly but fruitful days fishing the same patterns and techniques on Lake Washington. There is, however, one major difference: the fish run a lot larger! New Year's Day 1996 found my partner and I launching the boat at Gene Coulon Park while most of Western Washington's fishing population were still in bed recovering from the previous night's celebrations. Having positioned ourselves over one of the many small points in deeper water, we let our jigs settle to the bottom. Halfway through the telling of a tall fish tale, I am interrupted from down below. It's only 7:30 a.m., but I'm hooked up with a big one!

"Do you need a net?" my partner asks. Our first glance at the fish sends him scrambling for the net. Several rod bending surges later, a 5 lb. 4 oz. smallmouth finally surrenders to get his picture taken, and is then quickly released. It was to prove to be another great day of winter fishing. (Of the seven fish landed, only one of them went under 3 pounds!)

As I look back over the last ten years of winter fishing, several factors have consistently led to successful days on the water. Location, being number one. Look for points, large or small, as long as they are surrounded by deep water. If these points happen to have rock piles, old debris from past dumping, or just changes from hard to soft bottoms, these are key spots.

# Big Game Dinner

February 7, 2003

West Seattle American  
Legion Hall

Join us for the dinner of a lifetime at the annual West Seattle Sportsmen's Club "Big Game Dinner" Social hour and appetizers start at 6:00PM, and main courses served at 7:00PM.

Here's a sampling of dishes to be served:

Deer Roast	Rolls, Salad
Ribs	Fried Squid
Venison Meatloaf	Frog Legs
Deer Stew over Polenta	Smoked Salmon
Pheasant Sausage with Potatoes	Venison
Halibut	Summer Sausage
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy	Smelt
Rattlesnake	Alligator

Cost of the event is \$15 for adults, and children under 14 are free. Door prize and raffle prizes will be awarded during the dinner. Space is limited for this annual sellout event so reserve your seats today!

For more information please contact:  
Jerry Mascio (206)954-1250

(Continued from page 1.)

The drawing is set for March, and winners will be notified by WDFW.

The season for tag winners runs Sept. 1 to Dec. 31 in any unit open for general season or permit hunts, except Private Lands Wildlife Management Areas and Game Management Units 485 and 157, and those GMUs not open to branch-antlered bull elk hunting.

Tag winners must purchase their incentive tag for \$21.90, and can also purchase regular big-game hunting licenses.

Dave Ware, WDFW game division manager, said the special tags are intended to provide an incentive for early reporting to avoid a last-minute rush before the Jan. 31 hunter report deadline.

This is the second year of the reporting requirement for all deer, elk, black bear, and turkey hunters, a move intended to improve the state's harvest statistics.

Ware said hunters have been strong supporters of mandatory reporting, according to opinion surveys and public comments collected over the past few years. "The agency's new license system makes reporting relatively easy for big-game hunters," Ware said.

Hunters can file harvest reports by calling a toll-free automated message line, 1-877-945-3492, or via the Internet at <http://www.fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov>.

Hunters should have their Washington Interactive Licensing Database (WILD) number available before attempting to file a report either by phone or Internet. WILD numbers are printed on all hunting license documents. Hunters will need to know which GMUs they hunted. Details of the reporting requirements are on page seven of the 2002 "Big Game Hunting Seasons and Rules" pamphlet, and a GMU map is on pages 54-55.



West Seattle Sportsman's Club  
P.O. Box 16258  
Seattle, WA 98116



First Class Mail

## Six Simple Tips for Rifle Sight-In

Ray Sasser

For most hunters, getting a shot at a deer or other big-game animal is a difficult chore that requires a lot of time, expense and hard work. While you cannot control the movements of a wild game animal, you must make certain that your rifle shoots where it is aimed. Here are six simple rifle sight-in tips from Jim Ridings. Ridings owns a shooting range and custom ammo and rifle business near Dallas, Texas. He has literally sighted in thousands of rifles in every popular caliber.

1) Don't rely on bore-sighting for rifle accuracy.

Many gunsmiths use a mechanical device called a collimator to approximately align the crosshairs with the rifle bore. This is usually done when a scope is mounted on the rifle. The key word is "approximately."

Bore-sighting can be very precise. More likely, it will be precise enough to place the bullet somewhere on the paper target at 25 yards. One memorable Saturday morning prior to the opening of deer season, Ridings had eight hunters fire new bore-sighted rifles on his range. The most accurate of the eight rifles placed the bullet within a foot of the bull's-eye at 25 yards. To be certain where your rifle shoots, you must fire at paper targets from a solid rest.

2) Fire your first shots at 25 yards. After sighting-in virtually every caliber and bullet weight commonly used in big-game hunting, Ridings has found that most modern calibers sighted-in to shoot 3/10 of an inch low at 25 yards are about 2.5 inches high at 100 yards.

Since most deer hunters sight-in a little high at 100 yards, the 25-yard rule of thumb is a good one to remember. Because of image size and ease of precision aiming at short distances, bullet placement is much easier at 25 yards than at 100 yards.

3) Ridings uses sandbags to hold the rifle absolutely steady when sighting-in. He then fires his first shot. He leaves the rifle sandbagged in position. To save ammunition, Ridings does not sight-in in typical fashion by adjusting the crosshairs to move the point of aim toward the bull's-eye. Instead, with the rifle still solidly on the sandbags, he adjusts the scope so the crosshairs are centered on the bullet hole he just punched in the target. That means the scope is now lined up with the bore.

*Shooting from 25 yards is much easier than sighting-in at longer distances.*

The second shot should be pretty near the bull's-eye. A third shot may be required to fine-tune where the bullet strikes at 25 yards. You should then fire the rifle at 100 yards. For that matter, you should also fire the rifle at the farthest distance you expect to shoot at game, just to see where it hits at longer ranges. From a practical standpoint, long-distance shooting at paper targets emphasizes human error in precision shooting. Those 1-inch, 100-yard groups you're so proud of open up considerably at 300 yards.

4) If your rifle gets out of whack while in the field, you can bore-sight it yourself. That's assuming you shoot a bolt-action rifle. Set up a target at 25 yards. Remove the rifle bolt and set the rifle up on sandbags in such a position that you can look through the bore and have it centered on the target. Then, without moving the rifle, adjust the crosshairs until they're likewise centered on the target. Again, fire the rifle to make certain of the alignment.

5) When you fire repeated shots at the same target, it's difficult to remember the sequence in which the shots were fired. Keep an identical target beside you on the shooting bench. As you fire each shot, locate the bullet strike on the downrange target. With a pen or pencil, locate and number each corresponding bullet strike on your shooting bench target.

Logging each shot in sequence makes it easier to determine the effectiveness of scope adjustments. If you flinch and shoot a "flyer", it's easier to identify its downrange location if previous shots were logged in sequence.

6) Use the same ammunition for hunting that you use when sighting-in. Not only does the brand of ammo make a difference in rifle performance, bullet weights and bullet designs within the same brand make a difference.

Ridings has found that premium factory ammunition outperforms standard ammo in most rifles. Premium ammo costs about three times as much as standard loads, but it approaches hand-loaded ammo in performance. Fine-tuning loads to suit your particular rifle is the best method of improving accuracy. If you lack the time or patience for reloading, gunsmiths such as Ridings will work up loads for you and custom load your ammunition. Custom ammunition costs slightly more than premium factory ammo. Compared to other hunting expenses, however, the price of ammunition is insignificant.