



The West Seattle Sportsman

Issue 9, Sept 2005

Club Meeting Sept. 7th, 7 PM

We will be having our annual fish fry at the next club meeting. This year we will be having Yellow Eye Rock Cod furnished by Greg, Fred and Tony. Sorry guys and gals, no Smelt this year.

We also will be having a guest speaker at our meeting by the name of Dave Rueger. Dave works with me and is an avid river fisherman. Lately he has been fishing the Puyallup river for Salmon and bringing home fish nearly every outing. Dave has agreed to share some of his fishing secrets, tips and techniques with us and maybe even a few of his secret fishing holes. Dave will be bringing some of his salmon for us to cook up at the fish fry. †

Smelting Trip Recap

We had our annual Smelting Outing over the weekend of Aug 5th - 7th. We had 4 families there and all had a great time. Weather was wonderful, company was

great but the smelt just did not bother to come. After smelting for several hours on Saturday we had 14 smelt. Easy to clean but not nearly enough for our club fish fry.



Rachel & Taylor Smelting

We went a week earlier than last year and maybe we should push this back a week next year. Some locals thought we may have been too early this year. †

Range Cleanup & Painting

We need some help cleaning up and painting the shooting area at the range. We are planning a

weekday cleaning and painting party on an upcoming Tuesday from 10 AM to 2 PM. We have not set a firm date and are flexible as to which Tuesday it is; we just need a couple volunteers to help Rolf. If you are interested in helping call Rolf Erickson at 206-937-4583. †

Club Salmon Derby

Saturday, September 17th we will be having our first annual Club Salmon Derby. First prize will be a G-Loomis SAR1284C Mooching Rod valued at \$200. We are still working on exact derby rules and will have them at the Club Meeting. You will be able to purchase tickets at the meeting as well. The cost will be \$10 per ticket and each person fishing from your boat will require a ticket. Contact Greg Boyd at 206-818-449 for more up to date information.

Load up for Upland Game

From an article in Fishing & Hunting News by Dave Workman

Autumn hunting seasons for upland birds and small game are just around the corner. Whether your game is mourning doves, forest grouse, blue grouse, ptarmigan, quail, chukar or pheasants a bit later on, you really ought to be stocking up on shotgun shells right now.

What shotshells should you use for which game? Federal, Winchester and Remington do hunters a great service by offering "guides" that match shot sizes to game.

Doves and quail: For doves and quail, I suggest the No. 7 ½, although a lot of guys like the No. 8 and even a No. 9. Mourning doves are hard to hit; they're fast, and you want a good pattern with lots of pellets out there. This is necessary when using

a 20- or 28-gauge gun, or one in .410 bore, which are good for these small birds.

Same goes for quail. This is another small upland bird that flies fast, and can be easily ripped by larger pellets, and missed if your shot pattern isn't dense enough.

Grouse: Ah, my favorite upland game-bird. The ruffed grouse is not really that large a bird, while the blue grouse can be the size of a small chicken. For ruffed grouse, the 7 ½ or 6 will do in all gauges, and when I know for sure I'll be hunting blues, I jam my vest full of 6s because they can be tough to bring down.

This formula also applies to ptarmigan. The 7 or 6 will get the job done, and you may want to use high base, long-range shells later in the season. The 12-, 16- or 20-gauge guns are best, *Continued on page 2*

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Load up for Upland Game from page 1 but some guys like the 28-gauge.

Chukar and Hungarian Partridges: Same story as for grouse. I've shot Chukar exclusively with No. 6's, but there are advocates for the slightly smaller 7. You don't need a big, wide pattern of tiny shot to nail them. What you need is a pattern of heavier shot that has good downrange velocity and energy. A 20- or 25-yard shot on Chukar is hardly rare, so I prefer high-base loads in 2 1/4-inch with a bit of horsepower. Again, a 12-, 16- or 20-gauge game.

Pheasants: Pheasants will tumble to any No. 5 or 6 on the planet. I know guys who insist on hunting with smaller shot, but you're talking about a larger bird, and their feathers are nowhere near as easy to penetrate as those of a dove, quail or small grouse. I've shot ringnecks with Remington, Winchester and Federal shot shells, primarily high base stuff. The longest shot I ever made was going away at about 40 yards, and I nailed that bird with a No. 5 Remington. My choices: 12-, 16-, or 20-gauge.

Earlier this year, Federal upped the velocity in the four existing 12-gauge 2 1/4-inch loads-and the 3-inch 20-gauge offering already in that series.

Rabbits: Many readers clobber cottontails, snowshoe hares and even jackrabbits with shotguns, as I did last fall when hunting with F&H News Brian Lull. Rabbits are thin-skinned, and don't require heavy lead. I'd go with nothing larger than a No. 6, and the popular sentiment is either with that, or the No. 7-1/2. Any shotgun will do these critters in.

Bismuth: Bismuth shot is ballistically similar to lead; some say nearly identical. Bismuth hammers birds same as lead when hit squarely. Bismuth is available in upland shot sizes, though the shot was originally developed as a non-toxic alternative to lead for waterfowl.

Selections: From Winchester, there are so many selections either under the Supreme or Super-X labels that it's not possible to list them all. You'll find offerings in 12- to 28-gauge and .410 bore for upland applications. My advice is to log onto their Web site (www.winchester.com) or get hold of a catalog and do some comparison.

Remington's offerings include Nitro Pheasant, Premier Hevi-Shot, ExtraLong Range Field Loads, Pheasant Loads, Express Extra Long Range, ShurShotHigh Base Pheasant Loads, ShurShot Heavy Field and Heavy Dove Loads, and Lead Game Loads.

From Federal, you can select from the Premium Wing Shok or Game Shok loads and come home a winner.

Choking up: For the heavy grouse woods, I like a modified or improved cylinder choke on a single barrel gun, though my two side-by-side smooth-bores are fixed-choke models with full/modified setups. I keep my 12-gauge pump choked with the modified tube, while in the pocket of my vest is an 0/C tube and choke wrench.

Grouse explode from cover and try to put something between them and you fast, like small trees or large bushes. I've nailed them by literally shooting through heavy leaves. You want a tighter pattern for that with the heavier No. 6 shot.

Doves and quail: For doves, I'd go with a modified or I/C choke to get that shot pattern to open up a bit sooner. I prefer

the modified/full choke setup for pheasants, because you do get going-away shots beyond 20 to 30 yards.

What about quail? The prevailing wisdom leans toward the I/C choke, and if shooting a double, go in tandem with a modified, though some people fit their guns with an I/C choke for the first barrel and a full choke for the second shot because by the time you hit that second trigger, those birds will be out there.

Chukar are typically hunted over deep canyons. Go with either a modified or full choke, and in a double gun, use the modified/full setup. Chukars will immediately head downhill to pick up air speed. You've got to catch up to them. †

Ahtanum, Oak Creeks Shelter Tasty Ruffed Grouse

From Fishing & Hunting News by Rob Phillips

While some hunters stick to the lowlands for the September dove opener, if you're seeking grouse, head to the east slope of the Cascades. Find food, and especially during this drought year, water, and you will likely find grouse nearby, especially in western Yakima County.

While many hunters will drive the Forest Service roads hoping to find blue grouse, you're better off, with or without a dog, if you're willing to get out and work the ridges away from the roads. Popular blue grouse spots include Bethel Ridge, Bald Mountain, Jump-off Joe and other high points off of Highways 12 and 410.

If you are looking for ruffed grouse, stick to the lower elevations and hunt along the drainages that flow through and out of the mountains. Streams, like upper Ahtanum Creek (both the North and South forks), Oak Creek, Rattlesnake Creek and upper Wenas Creek, all hold populations

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Up coming Small bore & Air Matches

Sep 10	Puyallup	State 4-H Championship
Sep 10-11	Tacoma	State Conventional Prone Championship
Sep 24-25	Tacoma	State Outdoor International Championship
Oct 8	West Seattle	Air Pistol Open
Nov 5-6	Olympia	State Indoor Int'l 3-P Championship (West)
Nov 12	West Seattle	Air Pistol Open
Dec 10	West Seattle	Air Pistol Open

Range Hours and Activity

Monday - Small Bore - 6 PM
Tuesday - Air Rifle / Pistol - 6:30 PM
Wednesday - Juniors - Call Fred Burr at 206-935-4883 for information.
Cost: Adult members \$2.00, non-members \$4.00, Juniors \$1.00.

The West Seattle Sportsmen's Club

Sponsors of the Roger Dahl Rifle Training Range

OFFICERS

President – Cam Robison 206-431-8337
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 Rec. Sec. – Richard George

TRUSTEES

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 Frank Novito
 Rolf Erickson



Contact us at info@westseattlesportsmen.org

WDFW NEWS RELEASE

Hunters urged to help test for deer, elk disease

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking hunters' cooperation this fall as it continues to check deer and elk for chronic wasting disease (CWD) during the fall hunting season. This year's effort will focus on the far eastern side of the state where there is a high density of deer and elk, said Kristin Mansfield, WDFW wildlife veterinarian.

"No cases of CWD have been found in Washington since we began testing for it in 1995 – and we want to keep it that way," Mansfield said. "Hunters can help by stopping at voluntary check stations so their game can be sampled."

The disease can be spread among deer and elk, but there are no cases of people, domestic animals or livestock becoming infected, Mansfield said. She noted that WDFW has tested 3,868 samples since monitoring began, including 1,615 taken last year. All have tested negative.

Most of those samples were collected at hunter check stations and tested in a laboratory using brain stem or lymph node tissue taken from dead animals. This year, WDFW will set up drop-off stations the week after the season opens and offer hunters a chance to win prizes for turning in deer and elk heads.

Hunters can also help by reporting deer and elk that are acting sick or behaving
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Events Calendar

- Sept 7th - Fish Fry/Club Meeting
- Sept 8th - Hunter Ed. Class
- Sept 17th - WSSC Salmon Derby
- Sept 24th - Craw Fishing Lake Washington
- Oct 15th - Deer Hunting Trip
- Nov - Bird Hunting, Squidding
- Dec - Squidding

If you have any ideas for programs to have at the club meeting or any good outing ideas let one of the Officers or Trustees know. You may contact us at: info@westseattlesportsmen.org

 New

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WEST SEATTLE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

 Renewal

Date _____

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 _____, Email _____

Recommended by _____
 (New Only)

If you would like to receive the Club newsletter by email check here.



Tasty Ruffed Grouse from page 2

of ruffed grouse. But because the birds prefer thick, brushy cover, it will take some boot leather and a good dog or two to rouse the fast-flying grouse.

Flushing dogs will work fine, but as is true with most grouse hunting, a quick shot through a tangle of trees is normally all the opportunity you'll have. A pointing dog works even better, because you can somewhat prepare yourself for the shot when the bird is located and then flushed.

Blue grouse: The same is true for the bigger blue grouse. Dogs actually work great on blues. They inhabit different terrain. You'll find blues in the higher mountain elevations, and during the early days of the season, they seem to stick to the ridges.

The shooting may not be as fast as dove hunting, but when you bag a big blue or a brace of ruffeds, you will definitely have some good eating for your efforts.

For shells, gear and information in the Yakima area, try Yakima Bi-Marts (509-457-1650; 5175); or the Naches Ranger District (509-653-1400) for info. †

WDFW NEWS RELEASE Continued from page 3

strangely, Mansfield said. Infected animals lose weight and coordination, become lethargic, hang their heads, droop their ears, and salivate more than normal.

CWD causes animals' brain tissue to deteriorate similar to mad cow disease and is always fatal. Since CWD was first identified in Colorado in 1967, it has been found in 12 other states and two Canadian provinces.

Although no CWD-infected deer or elk have been found in Washington and the disease hasn't been shown to spread to humans, hunters can take extra precautions by not eating the brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, pancreas or lymph nodes of deer and elk.

Mansfield also recommended that, as a general rule, hunters not harvest animals that appear ill, and practice good hygiene by wearing rubber gloves while field dressing game and thoroughly washing their hands and equipment after processing carcasses. †

Stuff For Sale



For Sale - Mossberg 12 gage, model 500, slide action, with (2) barrels, (1) 30" Full choke, (1) 28" with Accu-Choke (Full, Modified, and Improved), both accept 3" shells. Like new, one scratch, used very little. Asking \$300. Contact Fred Burr 206-935-4883.

For Sale - Assorted Fly and Spin Cast Fishing Poles \$10.00 each, Float Tube (used only once) \$50 and Flippers \$15. Contact Fred Burr 206-935-4883.

For Sale - Lowrance LMS350A GPS/Fishfinder. Transom mount transducer and 5 channel external GPS head. \$400.00. Contact Cam Robison at 206-431-8337.

If you have something you would like to list in this section please send an email to "info@westseattlesportsmen.org" listing the item or items you would like to sell, the price, and your contact information. Put "Stuff For Sale" in the Subject line of your email. Keep in mind that this comes out only once a month. In order to be listed in the coming month's newsletter you will need to have your ad emailed to us no later than the 20th of the prior month. †



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First Class Mail