



The West Seattle Sportsman

February 2015

General Meeting February 4th



Range Re-Opens Successfully

The range was successfully re-opened on January 12th in time for winter league and important junior team practices. As reported in last month's newsletter, the City's Environmental Steward visited in November after we had spent thousands of dollars on cleaning supplies and range cleaning efforts and still found trace lead readings above prescribed limits on the range floor.

In order to avoid action from the city, the WSSC's officers decided to proceed with an emergency shutdown and remediation project which began with prep work on December 15th. A diamond grinder and HEPA filtration

unit were employed to take the surface down to virgin concrete and thoroughly remove all dust. We then put two coats of two-part epoxy floor paint down, followed by a high durability polyurethane. We also resurfaced the floors in the remainder of facility with a similar epoxy and polyurethane combo. In addition, we cleaned and painted inside the plenum that directs airflow down range, and installed new ceiling panels to improve airflow and reduce dust accumulation. Perhaps the most noticeable change in the whole project is the white floor and improved lighting. Cam Robinson reported a personal best his first night back. Thanks to those who helped in this effort, including the many parents of our junior shooters.

The City's Environmental Steward came back to review the changes that had been made, and was pleased with our progress and satisfied that we are taking the issue seriously. We can expect more frequent compliance checks down the road, however, so our focus now shifts to implementation of many new procedures and cleaning methods.

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Level 1 Pistol Coach Course

On January 17th and 18th, the USA Shooting (USAS) and the Totems hosted a NRA/USAS/CMP Pistol Coach Class. Steve Faught was flow in by USAS to teach the class.

1 Steve is one of the assistant national team

coaches and is a level 4 pistol coach, one of five in the country.

Nine students from all over Western Washington attended the class, including WSSC members Rob Cozens, Ariel Ekblaw and Duane Hatch.

This class was one of the programs USAS is making available to Certified Training Centers (CTC). The next CTC class will be a Level 1 Rifle Coach Course on May 2nd and 3rd.

Contact Joe for more information.
joe@vashonjuniors.com

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Member Approval of New Vacuum System Needed

Now that we have this new floor surface, we need to keep it clean so we stay in compliance and avoid cross-contaminating other areas. We quickly discovered that the shop vac is woefully inadequate in its ability to pick up enough of the lead particulate to keep us clean between wet moppings. We have done extensive research on industrial HEPA vacuum systems for this type of use and discovered that anti-static hoses and filters are recommended to reduce the risk of sparking unspent gunpowder remaining in the residue.

Based on this research, the range board has narrowed the options to two choices: the NIL-FISK S2 and the GOODWAY DV-RV2, which meet the performance criteria. Each of these models is similarly priced with a delivered cost after tax and shipping of approximately \$5,600. Any members with input on industrial HEPA vacuums or who are interested in seeing more detailed information about these machines, please contact John Yeasting at jyeasting@live.com.

The WSSC endeavors to operate the range in a self-sustaining manor with fees charged for range use. The ordinary operating costs for the range are in the neighborhood of a couple thousand dollars per year. However, this year's extraordinary cleaning costs and remediation project costs added nearly \$8,000 dollars in one-time costs, which were paid from range account proceeds.

In order to offset these costs, and in anticipation of increased annual costs moving forward such as vacuum filter replacements, the officers have approved range fee increases across the board.

As the regulatory environment for shooting ranges continues to toughen, the WSSC officers have also recommitted the organization to following stricter safety and cleaning rules which have now been posted in the range.

The officers have agreed that a vacuum system is a critical and urgent piece of keeping our newly improved facility viable. The membership will be asked to vote on the procurement of the vacuum system from general club funds at the membership meeting this Wednesday, February 4th.

WSSC Classified

FOR SALE: Seecamp .32 ACP Pistol. **\$425.00** This Seecamp pistol is New-In-Box condition. It has all the original paperwork with it along with two stainless steel magazines. The Seecamp pistols are recognized as being very high quality and are praised by many shooting experts. The LWS32 has been in manufacturer since 1985. This gun was produced in the 1990's. Contact Gary Moseley (206) 935-9240

President's Minute

Fishing the Green (Duwamish to the city dwellers) was a huge surprise. By every account and description this is an urban river. Going through Seattle, Tukwila, Kent and Auburn the river is entrenched. Get into the upper reaches, above Auburn, and the river turns a clear green.

I'd always seen people fishing at the Harbor Island Bridge and there are the annual news stories featuring anglers catching salmon. I've had friends and club members catch salmon off the Duwamish Head as they start their migration runs. At the time I didn't have a boat and I don't much care for crowds, so I passed.

I use to love fishing the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River near Gold Basin. One of the largest steelhead I ever caught was just off the campground there. I just never considered the Green until I read an article. So it goes..... As a mountain guide I'd scout new fishing and hunting areas by starting low and working high. On the Green, I packed my truck and stopped at every turnout to drown bait...

The sweet spot for me was near the Soos Creek above Auburn. I landed my first Green River steelhead at this spot. The best memory was made just below the Flaming Geyser State Park:

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Contact us at: info@wssportsmen.org

President's Minute Continued

It was a perfect, cold November day. I'd been fishing all day, trying new spots. There was a turnout along the SE Green Valley Rd. It was getting late in the day but I wanted to try a couple of more holes. I parked the truck, donned my hip boots and fishing vest, grabbed my pole and a light coat. It would turn out to be a perfect, cold November evening...

I found a great spot down from the turnout; the type of spot that should hold a big steelhead. I fished around this hole for about a half hour. As predicted, my line went tight, I set the hook and the fish took off..... In one big hurry.

Now, I like creating and tying my own lures. I have a kit that allows me to quickly design my lure for the conditions I'm fishing. I like a long leader on 10 pound line for fishing the local rivers. Most people don't know that steelhead don't eat when they enter the river; they attack. I use a size 3/0 red colored hook. I use undersized swivels so they're not attacked; I have a wide variety of spinning baits that do prompt attacks. In all I'm packing to land up to a 12 pound fish.

As the steelhead started its run I slowly tightened the drag. I tightened the drag.... I tightened the drag..... I began to run down river..... Geeze, the stupid thing is stripping all the line off my reel. The fish dove into the deep hole I passed; so the battle began....

This all started at about 5:00 in the evening. Once the fish dove into the hole I knew working it back to the top of the water and over the gravel bar would be

tough; I had no idea how tough. At least I was able to get a lot of my line back. As darkness overtook me I started wishing I'd grabbed the heavier coat. I got the fish to the surface a couple of times but as soon as I moved on the gravel bar it took off in a quick hurry...

By 9:00 I was thoroughly chilled; one of the farmers had been keeping an eye on me from across the river. Shortly after the 9:00 hour he drove around and came up behind me. "You're hooked onto a log" he stated... "Nope, it's a fish" I responded. "It's a log" he insisted. I grabbed some of the gravel and tossed it into the river so it'd be carried into the fish. Ziiiiip.... Off came 40 feet of line... "Yep, it's a fish." After chatting for a half an hour he offered: "You gotta muscle it over the bar." I responded: "I've been fighting this fish for over 4 hours; it doesn't like being muscled...." The one thing we did agree on was that I was becoming hypothermic. I'd been standing in the water, calf deep, for over 4 and a half hours. Time to put an end to this....

I got him to take off again, down river where he'd been heading each time he took off. As I worked him back upstream to his favorite deep hole I paced out exactly where the end of the gravel bar was. As he dove back into his hole I quickly ran down stream ahead of him and hard-jerked his head around. It worked! He took off but this time I was ahead of him and got him into the shallow, quick water of the gravel bar. The farmer had loaned me a net (I've never used a net before). I flopped the net on top of the fish and in my foggy, hypothermic brain I chose to sit down on the net which was over the Steelhead in the

shallow quick moving water. Now what.... I'd never sat on a fish before. A really angry fish with a sharp hook through its mouth, through the net and through my woools into my tender derriere. Geeze, now what? The farmer is bustin'-a-gut laughing. In addition to trying to figure how to get off a fish without losing it I'm also becoming more concerned about the barbed hook stuck in my butt! Geeze!

O.K., allow me to frame this picture out for you, at least from my perspective.... I'm walking through a river, big angry writhing fish wrapped in a net jammed under my arm, hook firmly set in my left buttock, pole in my other hand. Oh, let's not forget the hilarious farmer rolling in laughter from the bank of the river. Geeze... I'm, to this date, uncertain just how a critter with the brain the size of a raisin and no opposable thumb managed to hook my buttock. Geeze. Oh, it's just a little before 11:00pm. I took the fish into a market with a meat scale. I landed a buck steelhead weighing 18½ pounds in a rain swollen river using 10 pound line and light tackle. True story!

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Range Hours and Activity

Monday - Small Bore - 6:30 PM,
Tuesday - Rifle League, - 6:00 PM
Wednesday - Juniors - Contact Joe Matter joe@vashonjrc.com for Junior information and shooting times.
Cost: Adult members \$4.00, non-members \$6.00.

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.



The West Seattle Sportsman

www.wssportsmen.org



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