

The West Seattle Sportsman

www.westseattlesportsmen.org

Bird Hunting Trip to Yakima Valley Weekend of December 20 With Party On Monday December 22. For more infor- mation Contact Jerry Mascio.

The next Club meeting will be the Christmas Party at Son-Ya Restaurant on Wednesday December 3rd RSVP by Nov 23rd Social hour at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM.

Razor clam digs tentatively set for December, January

OLYMPIA - Several coastal beaches will be open for razor clam digging during holiday breaks in December and January if marine toxin tests show the clams are safe to eat, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) announced today.

Pending the results of those tests, WDFW and the Olympic National Park tentatively plan to open beaches for clam digging on evening tides according to the following schedule:

- **December:** Three beaches - Twin Harbors, Long Beach and Kalaloch - would be open for digging on evening tides Dec. 21, 22 and 23. Mocrocks Beach would also be open for digging Dec. 21 and

Dec. 22, but would be closed Dec. 23 to save a portion of its annual harvest allocation for future openings. Copalis Beach, where diggers harvested most of the beach's allocation in September, would remain closed. Copalis Beach extends from the Grays Harbor North Jetty to the Copalis River, and includes beaches near Copalis, Ocean Shores, Oyhut and Ocean City.

- **January:** Twin Harbors, Long Beach and Kalaloch would again be open for a three-day dig, scheduled Jan. 18, 19 and 20. Mocrocks would again open for two days - Jan. 18 and Jan. 19 - while Copalis Beach would remain closed.

No digging will be allowed at any beach before noon, and diggers must have a valid 2003-04 license to participate, said Dan Ayres, WDFW coastal shellfish manager. Ayres said the dates for the proposed digs were chosen to take advantage of favorable tides and the fact that they coincide with school holidays - first Christmas, then Martin Luther King's birthday.

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Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendar!

December

3rd - Christmas Party at Sun-Ya Restaurant. Must have RSVP'ed by Nov 23rd.

January 7th 1st Club Meeting of the new year.

February 6th - Big Game Dinner.

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.

OLYMPIA - The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission will take public input on proposed [sportfishing rule proposals](#) when it meets Dec. 5-6 in Port Townsend.

The commission, which establishes policy for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), will also consider creating a watchable wildlife decal program to benefit wildlife-viewing opportunities in the state, establishing a special drawing for permanent annual hunting and fishing licenses, and changing rules governing nuisance wildlife control operators.

The commission will meet in the USO Hall at Fort Worden in Port Townsend. Meeting hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5, and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Hunters, trappers advised to take precautions in handling small mammals

OLYMPIA - The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and state Department of Health (DOH) warn hunters and trappers to take extra precautions in handling small, wild mammals, after a snowshoe hare recently found dead in Eastern Washington's Stevens County was confirmed to have tularemia. A potentially fatal infection caused by the bacteria *Francisella tularensis*, tularemia is a naturally occurring disease among rabbits, rodents, beavers, muskrats and other wild mammals. While tularemia is not a widespread problem in Washington, outbreaks of the disease among small, wild mammals are not uncommon. Tularemia is usually fatal to the infected wild animal, although some survive long enough to harbor and transmit the infection. Insects are vectors of transmission, as well as reservoirs of the bacteria.

No human cases of tularemia have been reported in association with the hare, which was diagnosed at a Washington State University laboratory last week. However, in the past, some Eastern Washington residents have become infected with tularemia after skinning rabbits. Humans can also contract the disease by being-

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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 charter 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 \$25 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

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 _____
 Recommended by _____

Reminder.
Must have RSVP'ed
by November 23rd. to
attend.



West Seattle Sportsmen's Club Christmas Party

Dec. 3, 2003
Sun-Ya Restaurant
605-7th South
Seattle

Same place as last year. Cost will be the same. \$20 **per** person. This includes 1 (one) drink!

Please pre-pay in envelope provided or mail to: P O Box 16258 Sea WA 98116. We are charged for no-shows. This year we are trying something different. A \$5 gift exchange. (Only those who bring a gift will be able to participate in the exchange.)

Please call Roz Mascio at (206) 937-3614 if you have any questions.

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bitten by insects that have fed on infected animals, inhaling dust from contaminated soil, entering or drinking from contaminated waterways, or eating infected, undercooked wild meat. Some human cases of tularemia have been attributed to handling rodents or other animals that pet cats or dogs caught and brought home. Tularemia is not spread from person to person.

Symptoms of the disease, which usually appear two to 10 days after exposure, may include skin ulcers, fever, swollen lymph nodes, headaches, muscle weakness and sometimes pneumonia. Prompt medical attention should be sought by anyone who has handled the carcass of a potentially infected animal and has developed any of these symptoms. Tularemia can be successfully treated with antibiotics, but early treatment is important.

To avoid contracting the bacterial disease, anyone skinning or handling wild mammals-especially rabbits, muskrats and beavers-should wear rubber gloves. Wild animals that appear lethargic or unafraid

of humans should not be touched or approached, and pets should be kept from doing the same. Protective clothing and insect repellents should be used to avoid insect bites. Wild rabbit meat should be cooked thoroughly before eating.

Dogs and cats can be infected with tularemia after eating infected hares or rodents or being bitten by infected insects. The disease symptoms in dogs and cats include lethargy, fever, swollen lymph nodes and loss of appetite. Pets that have had contact with wildlife and appear sick should be examined by a veterinarian.

Washington's statewide rabbit hunting season (including cottontails and snowshoe hares) runs until March 15. Eastern Washington beaver and muskrat trapping season is Nov. 8 - Feb. 28. Western Washington muskrat season is Nov. 15 - Jan. 31 and beaver is Dec. 13 - Feb. 15.

For more information on tularemia, see the Center for Disease Control's website at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/tularemia/faq.asp>.



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First Class Mail