

# The West Seattle Sportsman

## Lake Washington Fishing Trip scheduled for sometime in mid-March. Small-mouth Bass will be in attendance.

### West Seattle Totems Win Big In State Olympic Air Rifle Championship

by: Kurt Oberloh

The West Seattle Totems sent 3 of their best shooters to Olympia to compete in the 2003 Washington State Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship. Ronni Oberloh took the women's silver medal with a score of 356 and Kristin Olszewski took the bronze with 329. Down and out by 13 points with two targets left, Logan McBride started a great come back posting a 93 and an 89 to end up tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place in his class. With a scramble for the rule book on tie breakers, Logan walked away with the 1<sup>st</sup> place medal.

Two weekends later and a little farther south five of our junior members competed in the state's Junior Olympic Rifle Championship in Centralia. Besting all of the young prone shooters in the state with a score of 508 out of 600 was Tim Mar. Tim will be receiving a handsome plaque for his efforts at the state Outdoor Championship in Wenatchee this May. Shooting in the master class, Ronni won her second silver medal of the year from USA Shooting, and Logan took a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in "A" class.

### Giant Crawfish Invade Washington

By Tom Dempsey

Some Louisiana folks call it a crawdad, or "mudbug," but most people know it as a crawfish or crayfish. People can't seem to agree on just one name for this freshwater crustacean. The Louisiana crawfish began humbly in the mud, then was thrust into the limelight by the Cajun and Creole cultural revivals of the late 1950's. Crawfish popularity easily exceeds Louisiana's supply; last year's New Orleans Jazz Festival imported much of its crawfish from China.

Although crawfish may be big in the South, they are even bigger in Washington state, reaching up to 8 or 10 inches long! Pinch me, am I still in Seattle? Yes, lay down your baited pot in a local stream or lake, and you may catch a big daddy. But if it's a momma with eggs or young attached, be sure to return her unharmed.

For recreational crawfishing, you don't need a license and you can catch up to 10 pounds per day, as long as each crawfish exceeds three and one fourth inches long.

(Continued on page 4.)

### Upcoming Events

- Club meeting Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup>. Program not yet known, but we will have some leftovers from the Big Game dinner to finish off.
- Lake Washington Fishing trip in mid-March, probably Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Possible Razor Claming trip in April.
- Bowman Bay Fresh water fishing trip scheduled for Friday June 6<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Last years trip was fantastic the weather was good and the fishing at near by Hart Lake was fantastic. I got the pleasure of helping my 5-year-old daughter catch her first fish and we are talking 15-inch rainbows. (Continued page 3.)

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

### CONTENTS

Membership Application.....	2
Range Report.....	2
Salmon Fisheries Forcast Meeting.....	3
Smelt Possision Limits.....	3

**RANGE REPORT**  
**February 19, 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. When you read this the first class will be over.

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 have started on this one. The concrete slab has been poured, gravel path installed and the electrical equipment installed. Next is the Plenum wall.

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 12. Sent their letter to the IAC but have not received the signed contract. They will put up half the 70K and we put the other half in cash, donated labor and equipment.

On February 8-9th we ran an open air rifle and pistol match. There were 20 adult and junior shooters attending. Then on the 15th and 16th we ran the junior 4-position rifle match and the junior air rifle match. Had 29 shooters for the 4-P and 8 for the 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 \$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

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, Washington, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Upcoming Events

(Continued from front page)

The campground is near Deception Pass on the water and has a large sheltered cook area if needed. If you want to reserve a spot let Jerry Mascio know at the next club meeting.

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.



### **Salmon anglers get first glimpse of possible fisheries at March 3 preseason forecast meeting in Olympia.**

OLYMPIA - Washington salmon-fishing enthusiasts will get an early look at preseason forecasts of expected salmon returns to the state's waters during the year ahead at a March 3 meeting in Olympia, according to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The meeting is set for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the auditorium of the General Administration Building at 11th and Columbia Street on the capitol campus in Olympia. WDFW staff will provide an overview of expected 2003 abundances for various salmon species throughout the state. (Continued next column.)

**DOH Shellfish Red Tide Hotline**

**1-800-562-5632**

The meeting will also feature fishery work sessions focusing on key issues for specific regions and to gather public input on fishing opportunities in Puget Sound, the Columbia River and Washington coastal areas. WDFW staff will discuss fishing regulations that are necessary to meet conservation objectives and tribal co-manager allocation requirements.

This year's most productive fisheries are expected to take place on marked hatchery coho and chinook salmon. These fish, as well as some wild stocks, have benefited in recent years from improved ocean survival conditions, said WDFW Director Jeff Koenings.

"These ocean conditions appear to have given us the opportunity to have good sustainable fisheries," Koenings said. "But we should also view this as a critical opportunity to move forward with our work to rebuild weak wild stocks. Good ocean conditions can jump-start our efforts to put more wild fish on the spawning grounds and eventually meet our recovery goals." WDFW Salmon Policy Coordinator Pat Pattillo said salmon numbers in general look good and indicate 2003 will be another good year of salmon-fishing opportunities in both ocean and inside fisheries, within the harvest constraints for chinook and chum salmon from the Columbia River and Puget sound regions as required by the Endangered Species Act.

Pattillo said the forecast for 2003 Columbia River hatchery coho salmon returns appear to be much greater than the 2002 forecast, which could result in an increase in ocean fishing quotas. Forecasts of Columbia River fall chinook continue to be strong, Pattillo said, including upriver bright and lower river hatchery stocks, which are the backbone of Washington's coastal chinook fisheries.

One fishery available this year that wasn't available in 2002 is pink salmon, which return only in odd-numbered years. The 2001 run of pink salmon to Puget Sound streams was one of the largest on record and provided significant fishing opportunities in both saltwater and freshwater areas. In fact, an all-tackle world-record pink salmon was caught in September 2001 on the Skykomish River.

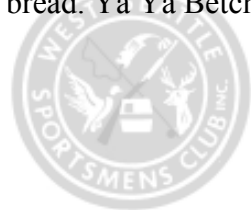
"The pink salmon returning this year are the offspring of an exceptionally strong run in 2001, and we are anticipating another great year of fishing opportunity for these fish," Pattillo said.

**Giant Crawfish** (Continued from front page)

Washington allows you to catch them from the first Monday in May through October 31st. For more details, see the "Fishing in Washington" booklet from Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WSDFW), (360) 902-2200.

Many of the crawfish sold in local grocery stores come from Lake Washington or the lower Columbia River. According to WSDFW, crawfish caught from Lake Washington have been safe from pollution.

If you are squeamish, you may not like cooking crawfish, because they taste best when boiled alive, like shrimp, crab, and lobster. Wear rubber gloves to protect your hands since even the little snappers defend themselves! Crawfish meat tastes rather mild, which is why Cajuns and Creoles boil the critters in spicy water and dip the meat into hot sauces. Ballard Swedes can tell you that eating local "crayfish" in late summer is an old tradition back in the home country. Due to disease and decline in local Swedish crayfish populations in the past decade, Sweden switched to imports from Turkey, then from Louisiana, for their annual crayfish celebrations. In Seattle, annual crayfish festivals were celebrated by the Swedish Club on August 22nd and by the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce on September 19th this year. Swedes like to boil crayfish with lots of salt and fresh dill, cool it in the broth, then serve cold with mayonnaise and French bread. Ya Ya Betcha.



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

**Smelt possession limits increased**

**Actions:** The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has expanded the maximum daily possession limit of smelt caught in the Columbia River and tributaries to 20 pounds.

**Effective Date:** February 12 through March 31, 2003. Fishing hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, seven days per week.

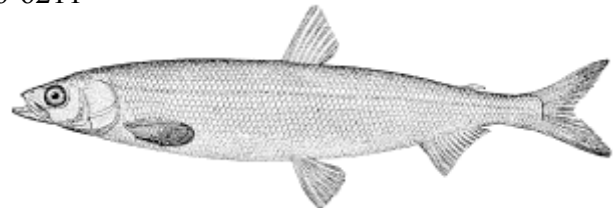
**Species affected:** Columbia River smelt (eulachon)

**Location:** Columbia River and tributaries downstream from Bonneville Dam

**Reason for action:** Significant numbers and distribution of smelt have been observed in the mainstem and several tributaries of the Columbia River. Expansion of fisheries is now warranted under the Level 3 provisions of the Washington and Oregon Eulachon Management Plan.

**Other information:** A Washington State fishing license is not required to participate in this fishery. Only dip nets are allowed. Only the daily bag limit has changed; fishing hours, number of fishing days per week and gear restrictions remain unchanged.

**Information contact:** WDFW, Region 5 Office (360) 696-6211




First Class Mail