



The West Seattle Sportsman

Volume 74, Dec 2008

Happy Holidays

Club Christmas Party

It's not too late to order tickets! This year's Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 13th, at The Mark Restaurant, 914 SW 152nd Ave, Olde Burien, WA.

Social hour and appetizers will begin at 6 PM with Dinner at 7 PM.

Appetizers will be Cheese, Crackers, and Sausage. Our meal will include your choice of the following: *Top Sirloin Steak* - 8 oz Top Sirloin Steak grilled to order, served with a Ragout of Green Beans and Baked Potato.

Classic Pork Chops - Two Grilled Pork Chops served with seasonal vegetables and Mashed Potatoes.

Chicken & Kielbasa Pasta - Penne Pasta served with Chicken, Kielbasa, Mushrooms & spices in a creamy Tomato Sauce, served with Garlic Cheese Bread.

Classic Caesar Salad with Chicken - Hearts of Romaine, Croutons and Parmesan tossed with Classic Dressing Garnished with Parmesan Crisp, Artisan Olives and Lemon Wedge and topped with Grilled Chicken, served with Rolls.

All dinners come with Soup of the Day or House Salad (Hearts of Romaine, Croutons, Tomatoes with Provel Cheese and finished with a Sweet Italian Vinaigrette). Complimentary Soda, Coffee & Tea - No Host Bar. Holiday dessert provided by West Seattle Sportsmen's Club.

The price will be \$30.00 per person; this includes meal, taxes and gratuity. Please reply with payment no later than Friday, December 5th as we must give the Restaurant a firm num-

ber of people coming then. Make checks payable to WSSC and mail to West Seattle Sportsmen's Club, P.O. Box 16258, Seattle, WA 98116, or you may pay in person at the club meeting, or at the range on one of the open shooting nights by giving your check or money to Fred Burr.

We will be having a gift exchange similar to last years. If you wish to participate bring a gift worth \$10.00 or so to contribute to Santa's bag. You will be given a random number, which will be the order you get to pick your prize in. Only those that bring a gift will receive one. All who came last year will remember what fun we had with this! I hope to see you all there.

2009 Officer Elections

We had our 2009 officer elections at our last club meeting. Here are the results: for President Cam Robison, Vice President Steve Loo, Secretary Tony Olszewski, Treasurer Tom Kocir, Trustees Fred Burr & Greg Boyd. Richard George was elected Recording Secretary but has since informed us that he would really rather not do the job any longer. We will be accepting nominations and voting for the position at the Christmas party. †

No December General Meeting

No December club meeting. See you at the Christmas Party. †

Wapato Hunting Trip

A very few of us went quail and pheasant hunting in the Wapato area on the weekend of November 14th thru 16th. I did not see many birds myself but Steve Patnode sure seemed to find them and did very well getting quail.

We had a good time around the campfire and the weather and gas prices were

great! We are thinking of heading back over after they get their first snow on the ground. †

Firearm Instructor Training

Interested in becoming a certified rifle or pistol instructor? Fred Burr is looking for people who would be interested in becoming instructors. He will put the class together and provide training for those interested.

If you would like to promote the safe use of firearms, help support our gun rights and enjoy working with others give Fred a call at 206-935-4883. †

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WDFW WEEKENDER REPORT (Western WA.)

Anglers are starting to catch winter steelhead in rivers along the coast and in tributaries of lower Columbia River, while out in Puget Sound the winter blackmouth catch continues to pick up. East of the Cascades, anglers are gearing up for the Dec. 1 opener of catch-and-keep angling at several popular winter-fishing lakes.

Meanwhile, crab fishing remains open in some areas of Puget Sound, and a razor-clam dig is tentatively scheduled to start Dec. 11 on the coast. Final word on that dig will be announced by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) about one week before the scheduled opening, once the results of marine toxin tests are known.

In the field, archers and muzzleloaders are still stalking deer and elk, but many hunters are shifting their attention to the winter flights of ducks and geese arriving from the north.

For more information about fishing and hunting opportunities now available throughout the state, see the regional reports below:

North Puget Sound

Fishing: Anglers are still finding a few chum salmon in some of the region's rivers, but the run is winding down and steelhead are starting to take center stage. On Puget Sound, crabbing is open in several marine areas and blackmouth fishing is beginning to pick up.

"Up until recently, it had been a pretty slow November for blackmouth fishing in the region," said John Long, WDFW's state-wide salmon manager. "But it has improved in the last several days, and anglers seem to be doing pretty well as we move into December." Creel checks in the region show decent fishing for blackmouth - resident chinook - in Marine Area 10 (Seattle/Bremerton). At Shilshole Ramp, 15 anglers were checked with six chinook Nov. 22, while 75 anglers took home 26 chinook the following day.

Those fishing Marine Area 10 are currently allowed to keep one chinook as part of a two-salmon daily limit. Daily bag limits for that area change beginning Dec. 1, when anglers will be allowed to keep two hatchery chinook as part of their two-salmon daily

limit. They must, however, release wild chinook, which have an intact adipose fin.

But time is running out for anglers to hook blackmouth in Marine Area 9 (Admiralty Inlet). The salmon fishery in that area runs through Nov. 30. Until then, anglers can keep up to two hatchery chinook per day.

Sport crabbing also is an option for anglers out on the Sound. Marine areas 6 (eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca), 9 (Admiralty Inlet), 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) and 12 (Hood Canal) are open for sport crabbing seven days a week through Jan. 2. Crab fishing also is open seven days a week through Jan. 2 in marine areas 4 (Neah Bay), 5 (Sekiu), and 13 (S. Puget Sound).

Sport crabbing is closed in marine areas 7 (San Juan Islands), 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay), 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner) and 11 (Tacoma/Vashon Island).

The daily catch limit in Puget Sound is five Dungeness crab, males only, in hard-shell condition with a minimum carapace width of 6¼ inches. In addition, fishers may catch six red rock crab of either sex per day, provided those crab measure at least 5 inches across. Additional information is available on the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crab/index.htm>.

In the rivers, anglers are still finding some chum salmon. But many anglers are turning their attention to hatchery steelhead, which are starting to show up in some of the region's rivers. "Even though it's a bit early, there are some steelhead in the Skagit River," said Brett Barkdull, WDFW fish biologist. "And fishing has been pretty good so far." Barkdull reminds anglers that chum retention is prohibited on the Skagit River.

Farther south, there also have been reports of fair steelheading in the Reiter Ponds area of the Skykomish River.

Rainbow trout also are an option for anglers. About 1,800 hatchery rainbows - averaging approximately 3 to 5 pounds each - were released in Beaver Lake near Issaquah in early November. Beaver Lake, one of several westside lowland lakes open to fishing year-round, is best fished by small boat,

although anglers can also be successful fishing from shore. The daily bag limit is five fish, and bait anglers must keep the first five trout they catch.

Before heading out to the lakes, rivers, or Puget Sound, anglers should check the rules and regulations for fisheries in WDFW's Fishing in Washington pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>).

Hunting: There have been some reports of waterfowl hunters doing well recently, particularly in Whatcom County. But, overall, mild fall weather has made for slow hunting in the region, said Don Kraege, WDFW waterfowl manager.

"This is usually primetime for waterfowl hunting but this calm weather has kept the birds out in the bays," Kraege said. "Once we get a stretch of rainy and windy weather, those birds will likely move inland and that should create some better hunting opportunities." Until then, Kraege recommends hunters stick to the bays in the region, where waterfowlers have through Jan. 25 to hunt ducks and geese.

Archer and muzzleloader hunts are also under way for black-tail deer in select game management units (GMU). Archers have through Dec. 8 to harvest a deer in GMU 437, through Dec. 15 in GMUs 466 and 460, and through Dec. 31 in 407, 410 and 454. The region's musket hunts for deer wrap up Dec. 15. Most muzzleloader and archery hunts for elk also continue in the region through Dec. 15. An exception is the musket hunt in Elk Area 4941, where hunters have through Jan. 20 to bag an elk.

Meanwhile, only a few days remain for hunters to bag pheasant, California quail and bobwhite. Those general seasons run through Nov. 30. Before going afield, hunters should check the Big Game Hunting pamphlet

(<http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/game/hunter/hunter.htm>) and the Waterfowl and Upland Game pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/game/water/water.htm>) for details.

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Up coming Small bore & Air Matches

Dec 6	Olympia	JOARC (West)
Dec 13	West Seattle	Air Pistol & Standard Pistol Match
Jan 10	West Seattle	Air Pistol & Standard Pistol Match
Feb 14	West Seattle	Air Pistol & Standard Pistol Match
Mar 14	West Seattle	Air Pistol & Standard Pistol Match

Range Hours and Activity

Monday - Small Bore - 6 PM Tuesday - Fall Pistol League 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

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>TRUSTEES</u>	<u>LIFE TIME MEMBERS</u>
President – Greg Boyd 206-965-9629	Steve Loo	Fred Burr
Vice Pres. – Roz Mascio 206-937-3614	Jerry Mascio 206-937-3614	Ernie Frey
Secretary – Tony Olszewski 425-226-5643	Cam Robison 206-431-8337	Frank Novito
Treasurer – Fred Burr 206-935-4883		
Rec. Sec. – Richard George	Contact us at: info@wssportsmen.org	



Leslie York's Venison Fajitas

- 1 lb Venison, sliced in thin two-inch strips.
- 1 Large Red or Yellow Onion, sliced
- 1 Green Pepper, sliced
- 1 Tomato, cut in wedges
- ¾ Cup Italian Dressing
- 2 Tablespoons Worcestershire Sauce
- 2-3 Tablespoons Liquid Smoke
- Tortillas
- Salsa

Rolf's Cooking Corner

Mix all ingredients, except tortillas, in a shallow bowl. Marinate for 30 minutes. Drain off marinade. In hot skillet (cast iron works best), quickly fry one third of meat and vegetable mixture just until meat is cooked through. Cook remaining mixture in two separate batches, reheating skillet in between. To serve, wrap meat and vegetables in tortillas, add salsa if desired. †



Events Calendar

- Dec 13th - Club Christmas Party
 - Dec 17th - Board Meeting
 - Jan 7th - Club Meeting
 - Jan 21st - Board Meeting
 - Feb 7th - Big Game Dinner
- If you have any ideas for programs to have at the club meetings or any good outing ideas let one of the Officers or Trustees know. You may contact us at: info@wssportsmen.org

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South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

Fishing: Weather permitting, anglers have some opportunities to catch winter steelhead and coho and chum salmon in the days ahead. Meanwhile, a razor clam dig is scheduled for mid-December.

Winter steelhead are making their return to Olympic Peninsula rivers where anglers are catching early-run hatchery fish along with coho salmon in the Satsop, Wynoochee and Humptulip rivers in western Grays Harbor. "With the recent nice days, anglers have been out in force," said Scott Barbour, WDFW fish biologist. "Coming up, it could be promising as long as the weather holds."

Farther north, there's been a decent showing of steelhead on the Bogachiel River, which typically gets early returning hatchery fish the first few weeks in December, followed by the Sol Duc and the Hoh rivers. "Then the wild steelhead start showing up in January," Barbour said. The daily limit for hatchery steelhead is two fish.

Starting Dec. 1, wild steelhead-retention rules go into effect on the Bogachiel, Calawah, Clearwater, Dickey, Hoh, Hoko, Pysht, Quillayute, Quinault and Sol Duc rivers. Anglers fishing those rivers may retain one wild steelhead per license year (Dec. 1 through April 30). Barbour strongly recommends that anglers check the 2008-09 Fishing in Washington pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>) for rules on area rivers before heading out.

That's good advice for salmon anglers too, because fishing rules change for a number of rivers Nov. 30. Rivers in the Quillayute system, along with the Clearwater and Hoh, close that day to salmon fishing along with the Elk, Hoquiam and Johns rivers and Joe Creek in Grays Harbor, the Bear and Niawiakum rivers in Pacific County, and the Carbon River in Pierce County.

Several popular chum fishing sites such as Kennedy and McLane creeks close Nov. 30, but anglers can still try their luck on the Nisqually River, which is open through January. Minter Creek in Pierce/Kitsap counties is open through December, while the Dosewallips and Duckabush rivers in Jefferson County close Dec. 15.

Anglers still have time to catch hatchery coho on several Grays Harbor streams where the Chehalis, Satsop, Wynoochee and Humptulips rivers are open through January and the Wishkah River is open through December.

The Skokomish River in Mason County closes to all salmon fishing Dec. 15.

Four evening razor clam digs are tentatively scheduled at Copalis and Mocrocks Dec. 11-14, while Long Beach and Twin Harbors are scheduled for three evening digs Dec. 12-14. Kalaloch Beach is closed for the fall season. Evening low tides during the dig are 5:23 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 11 (-1.1 ft.), 6:13 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12 (-1.5 ft.), 7:02 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13 (-1.6 ft.), 7:50 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14 (-1.4 ft.).

Recreational crab fishing continues in four marine areas of Puget Sound and is open seven days a week through Jan. 2. Crab fishing is open in marine areas 6 (eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca), 9 (Admiralty Inlet), 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) and 12 (Hood Canal).

Crab fishing will also remain open seven days a week through Jan. 2 in marine areas 4 (Neah Bay), 5 (Sekiu), and 13 (S. Puget Sound), where the fishery has continued uninterrupted since June 18.

The daily catch limit in Puget Sound is five Dungeness crab, males only, in hard-shell condition with a minimum carapace width of 6¼ inches. In addition, fishers may catch six red rock crab of either sex per day, provided those crab measure at least 5 inches across. Additional information is available on the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crab/index.htm>.

Hunting: The general modern-firearm season is now over for the year, but hunters stalking deer and elk with muzzleloaders and bows can remain in the field through mid-to late December, according to area rules outlined in WDFW's Big Game Hunting Rules (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/game/hunter/hunter.htm>).

For waterfowl hunters, the potholes and lakes in the Chehalis Valley should offer some good opportunities as ducks begin to move inland, said Smith. "This time of year they're moving away from the saltwater, although there's still quite a few ducks in Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay." Hunters should head out on windy, blustery days when animals tend to move around more, said Smith.

Hunting seasons for ducks and geese run seven days a week through Jan. 25 in all parts of the region except Pacific County (Goose Management Area 2B), which is open Wednesdays and Saturdays only through Jan. 10. Hunters must pass a goose-identification test and receive written authorization from WDFW to hunt in Area 2B. For more information, see WDFW's Upland Game and Waterfowl pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/game/water/water.htm>).

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(<http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/game/water/water.htm>).

While pheasant hunting season has ended in most of western Washington, an extended season will be open from Dec. 1-15 at the Skookumchuck, Fort Lewis, Kosmos, Scatter Creek, Belfair, Whidbey Island (except Bay-view) and Lincoln Creek release sites. Hunting for blue, ruffed and spruce grouse continues through Dec. 31.

Southwest Washington

Fishing: As Thanksgiving drew near, winter steelhead continued to move into tributaries to the lower Columbia, setting the stage for the unofficial start of the season. Meanwhile, anglers are still catching legal-size sturgeon below Bonneville Dam, although strong winds have made boat fishing in the gorge an on-again, off-again proposition.

Although the lower Cowlitz River has been running muddy, early birds were catching some bright hatchery steelhead and sea-run cutthroat below the trout hatchery. They also picked up a few hatchery coho, although that run is fading fast, said Joe Hymer, a WDFW fish biologist.

"The Cowlitz seems to be getting the most attention right now, but fishing for hatchery steelhead should start picking up soon in a number of tributaries to the lower Columbia," Hymer said. Good bets include the Kalama, Lewis, Washougal, Elochoman and Grays rivers, along with Salmon Creek in Clark County, he said.

Blue and Mill creeks, both tributaries to the Cowlitz, are scheduled to open for hatchery steelhead Dec. 1. Blue Creek also opens for hatchery sea-run cutthroat that day. Nov. 30 is the last day of the extended night closure/non buoyant lure restriction on the Cowlitz from Mill Creek upstream to the barrier dam.

Meanwhile, the Toutle River - including the mainstream, North Fork and Green River - will close to fishing for salmon and hatchery steelhead at the end of the day Nov. 30. It is also the last day of the extended trout season at Swift Reservoir.

Specific regulations for all those waters are described in the Fishing in Washington rule pamphlet at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>. As always, anglers are required to release any steelhead without a clipped adipose fin.

During the third week of November, 186 winter steelhead found their way to the salmon hatchery on the Cowlitz River. During that week, Tacoma Power employees transported 1,122 coho adults, 106 jacks and two winter-run steelhead to Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam on the upper Cowlitz River. They also hauled 374 coho adults 47 jacks, 30 fall chinook adults and 18 cutthroat to the Tilton River at Gust Backstom Park in Morton plus more than 500 coho to the upper Cowlitz at Skate Creek and to the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.

Like last year, WDFW plans to start planting surplus early run steelhead in Swofford Pond and Kress Lake in the weeks ahead, Hymer said.

The sturgeon fishery on the mainstream Columbia River is beginning to wind down, although bank anglers fishing below Bonneville Dam kept one legal-size fish for every 13 rods during the third week of November. Bank anglers also caught a few legal-size sturgeon in the Longview area, and in the lower Cowlitz River. "Sturgeon seem to actually like muddy water," Hymer said.

Hunting: General modern-firearms seasons are over for the year, but hunters stalking deer and elk with muzzleloaders and bows can remain in the field through mid-to-late December as outlined in WDFW's Big Game Hunting Rules pamphlet <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/game/hunter/hunter.htm>. Some snow would likely improve hunter success in the last days of the season, said Eric Holman, WDFW wildlife biologist.

"Warm weather is nice, but cold and snow helps concentrate the herd and improve tracking," Holman said. "A lot of hunters would gladly trade these balmy days for some winter weather."

Goose hunting, particularly in the Vancouver Lowlands, is already very productive, Holman said. "We have a lot of birds and the nice weather is bringing out a lot of hunters," he said. Holman also noted that there will not be an early closure in Goose Management Area 2A (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz and part of Clark County), because the harvest of dusky Canada geese has remained well below area quotas.

Goose hunting in most sections of Area 2A is limited to Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays only. The exception is the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, where goose hunting opens Nov. 13 and is restricted to Thursdays, Saturdays and Tuesdays. †



The West Seattle Sportsmen's Club
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First Class Mail