



Western Bass Club

Since 1938

WBC News February 2012

President's Report



Rodney Heupel, President

Hello Western Bass Club members and guests,

The Western Bass Club had a very successful month of January. The banquet was a great time enjoyed by those in attendance. I send a special thanks to all the members who contributed to the raffle, to Jim Owens for the additional tables and chairs, Terry for securing the use of the facilities and Angie for a job well done conducting the raffle. The club members went out of their way preparing a great pot luck buffet. Not only do we have members who can fish but who can cook just as well! The following products were feature at the banquet raffle this year:

Tito ~ Berkley; Denali crankbait rod ~ Henry Dover ; St croix big crank rod ~ Auburn Sports; Lamiglass excel crankbait rod ~ Daryl Snodgrass; Stink Finger /Wild Energy Hunters ~ Capt. Kirk; Jim Owens donated CAST for Kids caps and more.

I am looking forward to an increased membership based on the number of people who expressed interest in becoming involved with the Western Bass Club from the Sportsman's Show. It was another fine show that featured our Mark Maderos conducting seminars at the warm water tank. I also thank Density Tackle for the donation of the packages of Panic Minnow drop shot baits to the club's monthly raffle.

January's weather forced a cancellation of the monthly meeting, safety first! Speaking of safety, this is the year all boaters 40 years and younger will need to have their Boater Education Card. Boaters born before Jan. 1, 1955, are exempt from this law. For more information, visit online at www.parks.wa.gov/boating.

See you all the next meeting or monthly fish-in!

Rodney Heupel
President, Western Bass Club

Meeting Minutes

Dan Mowry, Secretary

Meeting Minutes January 2012

Sitting here with 10" of snow on the ground, and no General Meeting tonight; got me thinking about what to put into the Newsletter for this Month. There is not much going on, and there are no Minutes to record, so what else should I be doing on a night like tonight? Well, many members have been fairly in-active for the last few months, so it is time to start getting ready for the upcoming season. So let's look at a few things that should be on your "To-Do" list.

- 1) **Reel Maintenance:** It's time to clean and tune up your fishing reels. First get out your schematics (that's the diagram that came in the box when you opened it last Christmas). It will show where to clean and lube your particular style reel. At least take off the spool and handle and look for and clean any dirt, grit, dust, and excess grease you may find. Then put a drop or two of quality reel oil on each bearing and friction point. Check for any tiny errant pieces of mono or other line that might have gotten into spots it doesn't belong. Be sure to only do one reel at a time, (spinning and casting reel parts are NOT interchangeable.) Keep track of what you take off, and where it came from, you don't want any left over parts after you have put it all back together. If you spend a little time every year doing each reel you own, you will have a piece of gear that will last you a lifetime. I have reels that I bought in the "60's and 70's" that work just like they were brand new. (And no I am not a cheapskate, I have new gear too!)
- 2) **Rod Checkup:** Check your reel seats and cork grips for cracks and dirt. Make sure you tighten up each reel, they can work loose. It's very hard to land a seven pounder when your reel is lying on the deck of the boat, or in the lake. Take a cotton ball or swab and run it through every single guide. Any snags will indicate a crack or burr that will break your line. Replace any problem guides you have.
- 3) **Sharpen every hook:** A lot of new lures come with premium hooks now, but some don't. If you are like me (and I know you are) you have hundreds of baits, and I can't afford to replace average hooks with expensive ones. So you need to sharpen all the hooks on the baits, that don't have super hooks on them. I have an electric sharpener that puts a surgical point on the hook in just a few seconds. It may take me an hour or two every year to get them all ready, but I won't lose a good fish because of my hooks. Remember, when on the lake, every time you bounce off the rocks and the bottom, or snag your hook on something, it makes it dull. So keep a file or stone in your bag to touch up your favorite bait if it is needed. Catching a few fish will dull them up and fray your line too!!!
- 4) **Clean up your Tackle:** I always end up with a bunch of left-over, used, broken, dirty stuff all throughout my tackle bag. If it is still usable, put it where it belongs. If not toss it or re-cycle it. Old lead and plastics can be melted down and re-pored. At the Sportsman show this year I heard a tip that I will use this year. Get a coin purse or pocket size organizer, and put an assortment of your gear for the technique you are using. If I'm drop-shotting, I'll put some hooks, weights, leaders, and plastic of choice in the small box, and put it in my pocket. When I break off (and I do, a lot, right John) I can pull it out and re-tie in seconds instead of going through my

main box and finding what I need to re-tie in the three different boxes I keep my weights, hooks, and baits in. Time saved is more fishing time. My Grandfather always told me as I was changing my lure for the fourteenth time, "you can't catch fish if your bait isn't in the water." So have a mini box for each technique you use in your pocket. I think it is a great idea.

5) Trim down your tackle: Like I mentioned last month, I use less than 10% of what I carry around in my tackle bag. AND YES I know we all like to be prepared for any and every situation we may encounter. However if you know the lake, the time of year, the conditions, and the techniques you are most likely to be focusing on, then leave some of the "FRINGE" stuff at home. If you are a boater, it is not that critical, you have storage space. If you are a non-boater, then space is limited and you need to keep your gear under control. If you don't have something, I can't think of any of our members that won't share a bait with other members.

6) Find and check all your accessories: Is your rain gear still rainproof? Where are your sunglasses, life vest, sunscreen, pliers, scales, culling tags, gloves, hats, goggles, etc., etc., etc. Get organized!

7) PRACTICE: Practice, practice, practice!!!! I consider myself to be pretty good at casting, spinning, and in most techniques. But when I go out with someone who fishes 4 to 8 times a month, I feel very inferior to them. They can pitch and flip without a splash and put their lure precisely where they want to every time. They can go down a bank and hit every twig, dock post, and bush without slowing down or missing a single target. So go outside and practice. Every week spend time hitting exact targets around your backyard. Flip, pitch, and cast with all your favorite rods, at specific targets, at different distances, and with both hands. Cast from right to left, left to right, underhand, overhand, you don't know which way the boat will be going so you need to be able to present your lures under any situation. It will catch you more fish this year.

8) I hope this list will get you all started on being prepared for the upcoming fishing year. There are many things I probably missed, but this should give you a good start on having a more successful year on the water. If you have a boat, there is a whole other list of must do items, maybe another member with a boat can put something together in the next few months. Hope to see you all on the water this year. Maybe I'll do the new year resolution list next month, that way you won't break them till march Ha! Ha!

Fish-In Report

Dan Caffrey, Ambassador Director



Four boats showed up on time at the launch. Three of the four boats had three occupants, and the other one had two. Patrick showed up in his boat around 10:30. In boat one there was Rodney and his friend Andy. In boat two there was Henry, Angie, and Karl. Henry managed to catch a nice 1.5lb small mouth. In boat three, there was Larry, Daryl, and Jose. They caught 8 perch, two big cut throat trout, a sculpin, and Daryl caught a smallmouth. In my boat, there was Alex,

Christy and me. Christy caught a 1.2 lb smallmouth, and a big ol' trout; and I caught two small mouths, weighing 3lb 3oz, and 1lb 12 oz. I also caught a 4 lb northern pikeminnow. I hope it can find peace in the afterlife. Finally, there was Patrick who went out solo, and landed two smallies. One weighing 3lb 6 oz, for big fish, and the other weighing in at 2lb 4 oz. All in all it was a good fish in, most anglers caught fish, and everyone seemed to enjoy their Fat Burgers.

On another note, I had to turn away the guests this time to make room for the club members. It's something I didn't want to do, but had to in order to make this event possible. If we want the club to gain more members from the fish ins, we will need more participation from boaters. Remember the fish ins are a good place for new prospective members to "test the waters" of the club. If they can't do that, they might not join.

Thank to all who attended! Especially the boaters this time.

Dan Caffrey



Entertainment



Angie Dover, Entertainment Director

This month we are going to learn some Winter Fishing Techniques with Thayne Hatch!
The Skills Challenge will be late on in the year ~

I'm working hard to find entertainment for our meetings but if you have any requests please let me know!

Angie Dover
skeeterdover@hotmail.com
206-669-5983

Green Slip/Greeter



Larry Sullivan

Happy February Western!!

Only two months til our first Tournament and everyone is getting the jitters thinking of all the fish waiting for them! As you all know we cancelled the meeting in January and all green slips will carry over to the February Meeting. For those not familiar with the Green Slip program it is a form used to document your catches of tracked fish throughout the year. Those species and weights are as follows....

Largemouth Bass-5 lbs, Smallmouth Bass -4 lbs, Walleye-6 lbs, Crappie-2 lbs, Perch-1-1/2 lbs and Bluegill-1 lb.

This comprises the club's Grand Slam which to this date has only been accomplished by one angler, the late Larry Gonczy. Certificates will be issued at the end of the year or for grand slam entries will be recognized at the meeting of entry and at the end of the year Awards Banquet. The Green Slip form can be submitted at the general membership meeting or, if you cannot get to the meeting, you can get a hold of another club member or any board member via phone or e-mail so they can submit it for you. The date of the catch, species, the weight, the rig and, if available, a witness will need to be provided. Feel free to submit any pictures for placement on the website or bring to the meeting for someone to post for you.

Also in our recognition and awards program is the Big Stringer Award which is a cumulative award through the year from January to November. Scales are certified at any of the General Membership Meetings at the Green Slip desk or at the occasional Fish-in or Tournament. I look forward to seeing a lot of Green Slips and pictures as we enter this new, exciting year.

Larry Sullivan
Greeter/Green slips

Western Bass Club Membership Form

Spouse, children under 18, and grandchildren are also members with your paid annual dues.

NEW MEMBER AND MEMBER RENEWAL FORM

Name (please print) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthday _____ NEW MEMBER / RENEWAL
(please circle appropriate choice)

Website User Name _____

Home Phone () _____ E-Mail Address _____

Spouse's Name _____ Birthday _____

List Children:

Name _____ Birthday _____

Name _____ Birthday _____

Name _____ Birthday _____

PLEASE NOTE:

Dues are \$45 for new members and renewals.

Your signature on this application releases Western Bass Club from all claims for any injury and/or damage, personal or property that you, members of your family, or guests may cause or sustain.

Make checks payable to: Western Bass Club

Member Signature _____

Date _____ Check Number _____

Mail to: Western Bass Club
Attn: Secretary
PO Box 59027
Renton WA 98058