

**NOVEMBER
2017**



President's Report



Volunteers

In recent weeks we have been visited by the President and Vice President of the Burnaby Fish & Game Club. The reason for the visits, and a subsequent meeting, was the unfortunate news they were shutting down their club as a result of lack of volunteers. This is a sad end to a club that has a long successful history. Like our club, if we were to disband, they must dispose of their assets to a like minded organization, thus the purpose of our meeting.

Again, this demonstrates the importance of volunteers. No club, no matter how large or small, can survive without a strong base of volunteers. We are no exception. **So please step up** and help assure the ongoing operation of your club.

Annual General Meeting



We are now within a few weeks of our Annual General Meeting. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12th starting at 7:30pm. At this meeting we wrap up the Club year and will be electing the Directors for 2018. We are in need of a few new Directors. The Director positions include:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Hatchery
- Membership
- Newsletter & Website
- Buildings
- Grounds
- Hall Bookings
- Publicity
- Archery
- Range
- Juniors
- Fishing
- Hunting

If you are not interested, or feel you cannot spare the time to become a Director, we are also interested in finding other Club members who could assist the Directors in their duties. As one example, we are in need of someone who could respond to phone messages left on the Club phone or view emails left on the Club website. These can be accessed and viewed from your computer at home and the messages forwarded to the appropriate Director. This is just one sample of how you could help the Club without committing a lot of time. There are many others.

Please plan to attend the Annual General Meeting and participate in the election of the 2018 Directors. In addition, get an insight into the Club's finances and plans for the future. Refreshments will be served.



**Annual General Meeting
Club Hall
Tuesday, December 12
7:30 pm**

Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter

Busy Time at the Hatchery

The past few months have been a very busy, challenging and somewhat stressful time around the hatchery. The Club hatchery volunteers, assisted by our Department of Fisheries and Oceans Community Advisor, have been racing to install two eight foot fiberglass circular tanks in the hatchery building. These tanks will initially be used to hold Chinook and Coho brood stock taken from the river. Later, after the Chinook and Coho salmon eggs hatch and evolve to the "fry" stage, the fry will also be placed in the new tanks.

The introduction of the circular tanks into the hatchery (as a replacement to some of the original long tanks) is intended to provide the hatchery volunteers with an understanding of the benefits and the operation of these containers. These tanks are now standard at government and community hatcheries across the Province. The long term plans to upgrade the hatchery infrastructure would include the exclusive use of these and larger circular tanks. It is likely all the old long tanks in the hatchery building and the outside trout rearing channels will be retired over the next few years.

The long aluminum tanks originally installed in the hatchery in 1984 were in fact designed for Steelhead trout. As a consequence, they are not best suited for raising salmon.

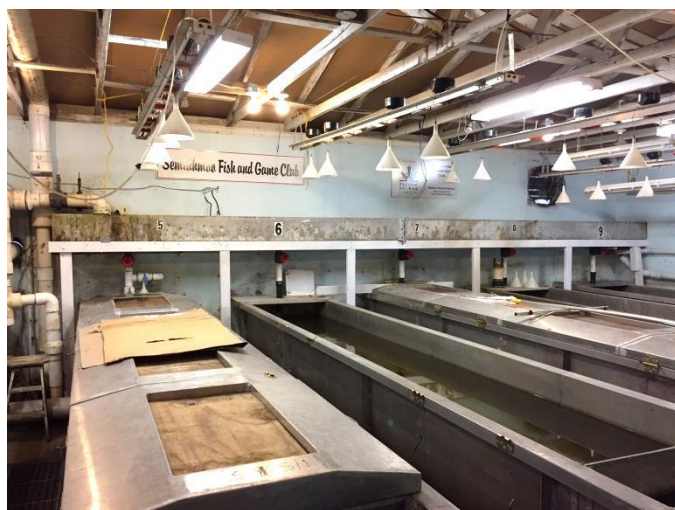
In an effort to control costs associated with the introduction of these tanks the Club acquired the tanks, at no cost, from a school hatchery in Richmond that was terminating its operations. Unfortunately, having them sitting on Club grounds for a few years has resulted in damage to the fiberglass tanks. Exposure to the elements led to leaks in the bottom of the tanks which were not apparent until the extensive plumbing installation had been completed and tested. This unexpected complication led to the need to identify a resource that could seal the leaks. It was also necessary to elevate the tanks in order to get access to the underside of the tanks.

Having the new operation up and running in time for the return of the spawning salmon only added to the stress and workload of the hatchery volunteers at this time of year. The deadline was reached and the tanks have been a success. Thanks to the dedication of the hatchery volunteers and our DFO advisor.



Club hatchery volunteers Lloyd McKay, Ron Meadley, Peter Reid and Sue MacRae with DFO Community Advisor Bob Schaefer (on ground) installing the plumbing on the tanks. Other volunteers were also involved.

If the stress of installing the circular fiberglass containers was not enough, a significant failure in our 33 year old hatchery infrastructure further challenged the hatchery volunteers at a critical time. The "head trough" that distributes water from our bio-filter building throughout the hatchery were seen to have a significant number of leaks.



The head troughs are seen in the background (identified by numbers)

Temporary patches were applied to permit water flow to the new circular tanks and the existing fish rearing containers shown in the photo above. However, it was obvious this substantial component of the hatchery needed to be replaced. The head trough runs the full length of the hatchery and there would be significant cost associated with having a new unit custom built. Fortunately, our Department of Fisheries and Oceans Community Advisor was able to locate a set of used aluminum head troughs at another hatchery in the Lower Mainland that could be modified to meet our needs.



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The first challenge was how to move the two 24 foot long troughs back to the hatchery. Hatchery volunteer, Bill Ridge, ably supported by Lloyd McKay, modified Bill's boat trailer to transport the troughs.



Lloyd McKay and Bill Ridge loading troughs

The troughs required significant modification in order to fit our hatchery configuration. This includes reducing the length of each unit and cutting new access ports to accommodate the pipes that permit the water to flow into each rearing container in the hatchery. The job of measuring and cutting the new troughs was carried out by Lloyd McKay assisted by Peter Reid.



Hatchery volunteers Lloyd McKay and Peter Reid measuring the new head troughs with Wayne Wright and Barrie Richardson in the background.

In the final preparation phase, Club volunteer and professional welders Bruce Hickey and his daughter Susan, performed the necessary welding to rebuild the new aluminum head troughs to meet the hatchery dimensions.



Susan Hickey welding of the new 23 foot aluminum troughs

Within a week or so of this newsletter being published the hatchery volunteers will be dismantling the old units and installing the new head troughs.

Thank you to our Department of Fisheries and Oceans Community Advisor for locating the spare head troughs and to the hatchery volunteers, under the direction of Club Vice President Ron Meadley, who pulled together to resolve this untimely and unexpected problem.

The Spawning Salmon Return

In late October the return of the Chinook salmon augured the start of a new spawning season. Since then we have seen the return of the Coho and Chum salmon. The hatchery volunteers have been very busy over the past few weeks taking the eggs of the Chinook and Coho salmon. To date over 70,000 eggs from both species have been taken with more Coho eggs to be taken before the season ends.



Hatchery volunteers Sue MacRae and Lloyd McKay with Chum salmon

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Work on the Club Grounds Continues



Club volunteers Jim Wilkins and Norm Taylor working on the widening of the approaches to the back river bridge

Throughout the end of October and into November work has continued on the maintenance and improvement of the Club grounds. Included in the projects were the widening of the approaches to the river bridge on the east side of the property. This involved the removal and repositioning of the metal railings and the widening of the deck. This will permit the free movement of our Kubota utility vehicle across the bridge. Thanks to Jim Wilkins and Norm Taylor for their work on the deck and Lloyd McKay for the removal and welding of the new rails.

In the past couple of weeks Jim and Norm have also installed a split cedar fence on the west side of the hall parking lot. This is an attractive addition to the grounds made possible when it was no longer required to maintain cattle on the grounds to retain farm status.



Volunteers from Earl Marriott Secondary School ,and ShaRP planted native trees, shrubs and plants,provided by A Rocha, along the trails



Club Directors Norm Taylor and Jim Wilkins assembling the split Cedar fence



Thank you to new range club member Don Pitcairn, owner of Green Team Gardening Ltd., for volunteering a crew to clean up the garden area at the hall entrance.

Bob Donnelly, President

Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter



ARCHERY

2017 October Novelty Shoot

Many thanks to Gary Kellins for organizing and setting up the October Novelty Shoot (see photos below). For more pictures, click on <https://vimeo.com/240336392> It was very well received and hopefully will be held again next year.



November 2017

Junior Olympic Program

Interest and attendance in the junior archery classes continued to be very high through October and we were also able to welcome more students into our Saturday classes. On October 28th we held our annual Halloween Fun Shoot and the students and instructors had a great time shooting the novelty targets and balloons.

Congratulations to all of our students who achieved new levels this month:

Owls Team:

Aahan Agarwal: 12m
Daniel Kim: 6m,
Ehthan Kennedy: 10m
Logan Rix: 10m
Kiara Bedard: 8m
Koi Granade: 8m
Paige Bedard: 8m, 12m
Scarlet Hayes: 10m
Reedho Shahazad: 10m

Eagles Team:

Andrew Cook: BCAA JOP Olympian 260 and 265

Class Notice: For the parents with students in the program or for those who have contacted us about joining the program, please keep an eye on your email over the next few weeks. We will be making some changes to the class schedule in order to accommodate the instructors' busy tournament schedule starting in January. As a part of these changes we also hope to improve our ability to instruct more students one-on-one in class.



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Third Annual Ice Fishing Trip to Tunkwa Lake

January or February 2018

Plan now for a winter adventure in a luxury resort cabin.



Ice fishing is usually lots of fun trying to catch those firm bodied winter trout. Like all fishing adventures some people do really well, while others are still learning and having little success. We have found the best fishing to be in shallow water just off the weed-lines, which means surface noise should be kept to a minimum, as these lake fish are spooky!!!

The usual ice fishing presentations and baits usually work best with a minimum of gear. Nets are not needed for winter fishing as six-inch holes are drilled into the ice anywhere from fourteen to twenty inches deep. After drilling your hole, you can set up your line with your bait or lure. Let it descend all the way to the bottom, and then reel it up a foot or so. This will place you in prime fish habitat and give you an excellent chance at a catch.

After setting our lines we either sit in a chair or stand around carefully watching the rod tips for action. Sometimes when a fish is interested in the bait, the line and rod tip moves slowly and at other times it is such jerk that an untended rod has the line breaking or the rod disappears down the hole. Some of us have had fish too big to pull through the hole, so the line breaks or the hook pulls free. Usually there is plenty of time to enjoy the beauty of the winter landscape on the ice, watching the eagles circling around, drilling new holes to get to the right spot and, as the day stretches on, dreaming of the warm sofa and fireplace in the cabin with a warm drink in hand.

The most important thing to remember about ice fishing is it's not all about catching fish. It's about getting out and enjoying the great outdoors with your friends, sharing laughs and good times on the ice, and experiencing moments you'll never experience watching TV.

Food and accommodation costs are shared equally and car-pooling is encouraged.

If you are interested call Phillip at 604-538-4677 or email phillipmilligan@telus.net

Phillip Milligan, Fishing Director



HATCHERY NEWS

I am slowly learning to be the coordinator for the school tours, sometimes by trial and error. Funny if you screw up you sure hear about it but other than that you ask someone, they are more than happy to help you. I am still looking for two or more tour guides for the spring tours. Our first tour is scheduled for the beginning of March. It's a lot less work for our other tour guides if there are more people. This year we did 100 tours, so next year will be very busy! If there are any members interested in helping out with school tours, please contact me. I would also like to thank our two new volunteers, Chris Johnson and Bob McBlain for stepping up and helping out, it's very much appreciated.

Darryl Day, Hatchery Tour Coordinator
dalyday@telus.net | 604 866 5111



EDITOR'S DESK

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Once again, thanks to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter. If you think you have a story or photos to share with club members, I'd love to hear from you. The deadline for submissions is the **first Tuesday** of the month.

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HUNTING

The hunting season has been a little challenging this year with all the fires and evacuation of people throughout the province. Many hunters didn't go to their usual hunting camps as the fires have devastated them. Total hunting zones were wiped out. The fires burned great areas of the habitat for the animals. Congratulations to Rob Reynolds (see photos) on his first deer and bear!



RANGE REPORT

Greetings members! I'd like to talk about eyeballs. Yes, those little gems we hold so dear, but then curse as we age when we can't see very well. Haha! I need a new prescription, very soon. I have a hard time seeing the front sight post clearly, and it's hurting my accuracy and making the competition I do, much more difficult.

I've seen some people at the range with progressive lenses, but I'm not a fan of that idea. I don't really want to tilt my head back to look through the bottom of the glasses, to keep that front sight post in focus. Progressive lenses may work great at home and work, but on the range, especially in a competition setting, I'm looking for something else.

I'm thinking of getting a prescription for safety glasses with my dominant eye set to focus on the front sight post, and the other eye set for distance. I'm not sure how my brain would like that though. It has a hard enough time changing regular prescriptions. Hence my delay in getting this done. ☺

If any of you have done something like this, please let me know. I'd like to gather information to pass along to other members. Local eye doctors who understand shooting sports, pros/cons, etc. Please drop me a line, or come visit me on Wednesday nights at the range. I can post information on the bulletin board for other range users. Thank you.

Lastly, a heads up to let you know regular gun range activities will be **closed between Christmas and New Year's Day**. Our volunteer range officers need a short break. I've already updated the website. ☺

Allan Johanson, Range Director

Important Member Notice

Though the club maintains volunteer liability insurance club members are reminded that volunteer activities are undertaken at their own risk. Members are also reminded to:

- Not to undertake tasks for which they are not physically fit or are not qualified to do.
- To observe all safety codes and procedures
- Not to operate machinery or equipment without proper training