



Presidents' Report



Final Steelhead Trout Returns

The unusually heavy rains during the beginning of April resulted in the last of the Steelhead trout returning to the river to spawn. The final count at the hatchery fish counting fence for the year was 71. Of these, close to fifty were river born trout with the balance having been raised and released by the hatchery in recent years. Though this number is down slightly from recent years (84 in 2016/17 and 87 in 2015/16) it is still a creditable number when considering what is happening elsewhere in the Province.



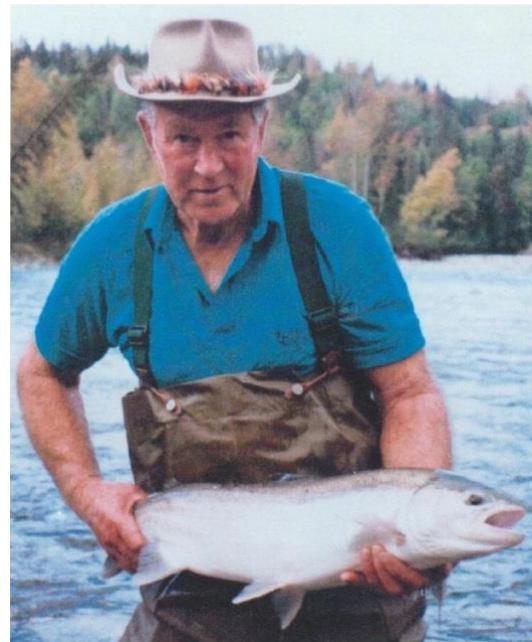
Hatchery volunteer Roy Thomson with Steelhead trout

There has been a number of stories in the media highlighting the fact that Steelhead stocks have dipped to precarious levels in key British Columbia rivers. The 100,000 member Outdoor Recreation Council has singled out Steelhead spawning streams in its report on the most endangered rivers in B.C. The Council's bi-annual report indicates in the last year only 57 Steelhead have returned to the Chilcotin River to spawn and 177 to the Thompson River.

April 2018

In February, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada recommended the emergency listing of the Chilcotin and Thompson Steelhead under the Federal Species at Risk Act.

Since its inception, the Club has had a strong focus on the Steelhead trout. As a point of interest, the hatchery was initially designed for the rearing of Steelhead. In 1976 / 1977 the Club members, in conjunction with the Provincial Fish & Wildlife Branch, implemented and monitored the "catch and release" Steelhead program on the Coquihalla River. For over 10 years the most coveted Club trophy was the "Twin Fish – Thompson River Steelhead".



Founding Club Member, the late Ed Kendall, with a Thompson River Steelhead

Though this year's numbers are far from our record, we are encouraged with the number of Steelhead returning to spawn when they are compared to the larger interior rivers. This has happened despite the downstream fishing pressure and the fact additional Steelhead are known to be spawning downstream. The sustained Steelhead returns are a testament to the Club's decades of restoration and preservation of the Little Campbell River and the rearing of Steelhead in the hatchery.

Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter

Trail Planting



Volunteers plant 250 native plants along the Club trails on March 24.

Young nature enthusiasts got their hands dirty for the cause on the March 24th weekend. They participated in a planting project targeting the Club's trails along the Little Campbell River. The kids, members of NatureKids Nicomekl, were led by Anthea Farr and Lynn Pollard, and joined by representatives from A Rocha; the Little Campbell Watershed Society and Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society. Despite the cold and very wet conditions over 250 native plants and shrubs were planted during the day.

According to NatureKids BC, NatureKids Nicomekl is a club for families in communities in and around Surrey and Langley. Outdoor 'Explorer Days' are organized monthly as part of efforts to encourage children to "get outdoors to explore, play, learn about and take action for nature."

For many years the Club has endeavored to ensure the trees, shrubs and plants found along the trails are native to British Columbia. Invasive species are removed and replaced with native plants. Today the grounds are recognized as one of the finest examples of native flora in the lower Mainland.



Other volunteers working on the trails



Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter

The Use of the Trails

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, there has been a growing concern within the Club that the increased use of the trails is having a negative impact on the wildlife.

The issue was discussed at length at the March Club Director's Meeting and a number of decisions were reached on the future management of the trails. Going forward, all future Club activities on the trails will be limited to the two main trails – the upper trail and the circular river trail. Efforts will be made to limit use of the other trails in the forested area which have been opened over the years. This will include the planting of trees and shrubs to restrict access. Any application of gravel on the trails will be restricted to the existing river trails and tree cutting will be limited to fallen trees impeding the trails.

The excellent job of maintaining the main river trail carried out by Jim Wilkins and Norm Taylor was recognized - especially the extensive fencing work on the south river trail.



Main river trails will remain wheelchair accessible



Use of side trails will be restricted to protect wildlife habitat

School Tours Continue



Students releasing salmon fry raised in their classroom

Despite the recent inclement weather the school tours continue through April towards their conclusion in late May. An average of 13 tours a week are scheduled during April with a total of 90 tours scheduled since they started in the fall. This places a high level of stress on the limited number of volunteers who act as tour guides or who oversee the release of the salmon fry. So thank you to our volunteers engaged in this very worthwhile activity.

Ongoing Grounds Improvements



Construction and Specialized Workers Union trainees

Under the Club's agreement with the Construction and Specialized Workers (CSW) Union Training Society concrete work continues around the Club grounds. This is the second "hands on" training component held so far this year. As has been mentioned before, the CSW instructor is Robert MacRae, a long time Club member and volunteer.

Work in April is focused on a number of small projects around the hatchery and at the back of the main hall.

Bob Donnelly, President

Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter



Club Range Based Air Cadets

Win Provincials

Congratulation to the 907 Black Knight Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron air rifle team, and their long time instructor Verne Brown, for winning the provincial cadet championship. The cadets, who hold all their training in the Club range on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings, have a history of strong showings in marksmanship competitions.

The marksmanship team won the Provincial Cadet Challenge held on March 10th at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt. Sixty-five air, army and sea cadets from 12 B.C. communities competed, taking aim at paper targets with a Daisy 853C air rifle. Each team had to have at least two junior cadets under the age of 15.



The team members left to right, Range Safety Officer / Instructor Verne Brown, Sgt. Diana Dai, Cpl. Ruby Liu, Leading Air Cadet Vivian Ma, Sgt. Catherine Cui, and Flight Sgt. Teresa Liao.

An all-female team of five cadets will now be aiming for a national cadet marksmanship title in Victoria next month. Several individual medals were also won by the cadets. Liu won gold in junior standing individual of the 66 shooters competing and open standing individual, and silver in junior cumulative. Liao won silver in open prone individual and bronze in open cumulative; and Dai won gold in open prone individual.

The cadet marksmanship program is patterned on Olympic-style competitive shooting, and several Canadian Olympians got their start through the cadet program.

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



ARCHERY

April was another busy month. Stan Jones and his volunteers replaced the outdoor target butts with new 30, 40, 50 round foam butts. A reminder to please shoot the center of the targets, as the center is replaceable. No broadheads allowed, and use arrow lube when shooting. Instructions and warnings are posted at the range. These targets are expensive and a lot of work to replace.



Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter

2018 BC Indoor Championship



Larry Moyer, Tammy Moyer, Paul Van Tassel, Steve Flaming, Emma Chylinski, Angela Foley, Elissa Foley, Johnny Zawada, Cecilia Flaming

The annual provincial Indoor Championship was held in Victoria this year.

Barebow Master

Men 60: Johnny Zawada, 1st Place. 940 points.
Women 50: Angela Foley, 1st Place. 514 points.

Compound Junior Women

Emma Chylinski, 1st Place. 1114 points.

Compound Men

Paul Van Tassel: 2nd Place. 1137 points.
Steve Flaming: 3rd Place. 1137 points.

Compound Women

Cecilia Flaming, 2nd Place. 1102 points.

Compound Master

Men 60: Phil Sinclair. 4th Place. 1069 points.
Men 50: Larry Moyer. 2nd Place. 1139 points.
Women 50: Tammy Moyer. 2nd Place. 1024 points.

Recurve Junior Women

Elissa Foley, 2nd Place. 1026 points

JUNIOR OLYMPIC PROGRAM

April will mark the end of the indoor season for our classes. Our last class for this school year will take place on April 28th. Registration information for the next school year will be available in June or July for those students who are interested in joining.

Congratulations to Ethan Lemire who graduated from the Hawk team to the Eagle team, as well as all of our other award winners from class this month:

April 2018

Owl Awards

Paige Bedard: 15m
Isabelle Bergen: 15m
Scarlet Hayes: 15m
Emma Bergen: 12m

Hawk Awards

Ethan Lemire: 18m (*Graduated Hawk Team*)
Amilya Mason: 12m

Eagle Awards

Ethan Lemire: Eagle 250

BCAA Awards

Ethan Lemire: Olympian & Olympian 250
James Morrow: Expert Bowman & Expert Archer
Logan Rix: Archer
Ryan Gao: Bowman

JOP Indoor Championships

The BC Archery Association held its annual Junior Indoor Championship on April 8th in Maple Ridge. This event unofficially marks the end of the indoor season and is a great chance for youth to attend their first tournament. Attendance is always very strong for this event. This year registration for the event filled up in three days and it was very hard to get on the list for the event.

Many of our students in class have set this event as a goal and over the past few months we have been working with them to prepare for it. This year six students from our classes attended and all of them did a great job. The instructors are proud of everyone who attended and think everyone did a great job preparing for and competing in this event, good job! We hope to see even more students attend next year.



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JOP Indoor Championship Results

Logan Rix: 1st Place, Bowman: Barebow
Ryan Gao: 6th Place, Bowman: Barebow
James Morrow: 3rd Place, Master Archer: Compound
Ethan Lemire: 1st Place. Expert Archer: Compound
Andrew Cook: 4th Place, Olympian 260-280
Emma Chylinski: 2nd Place, Olympian 285-300

Paul Van Tassel



RANGE REPORT

Greetings, members! I was asked to say something about the new firearms legislation that's coming down the line, Bill C-71. As of now, it has passed second reading, and is off to "Committee". This is a perfect time to educate yourself about C-71, and what it may mean for you. Then, ASAP, contact your MP with your questions, and get feedback. I don't have enough space to get into everything here, but for those of you unaware of Bill C-71's changes to firearms law, I will be posting a copy on the range's bulletin board.

I encourage you to read the legislation, and to go online to check out some thoughts on Bill C-71, that you can find on the BCWF website, (and others). If you, like I, have concerns, then please write letters to your MP about the concerns you have, and sign the online petition, e-1608. For those of you who don't have internet access, I have some information for you to check out, and again, these will be posted on the bulletin board in the gun range.

Lastly, we have a range closure on Wednesday, May 9th. Originally the closure was on May 2nd, but now it will be May 9th. As always, please be sure to check the website, under the 'Range' section, to see if we'll be open. ☺

Allan Johanson, Range Director



HUNTING

Greetings Hunters!

Just reading updates from the province and apparently spark arresters are mandatory on all ATV/off-road vehicles this year in the BC outdoors/bush. This can be as simple as a stainless steel screen wrapped over/around your muffler exhaust or an after marked cone type device placed inside the exhaust pipe. and options. Google spark arresters as there are ways to tell if you have one already built in or not.

This year's LEH is about to take place, study your hunting areas as some new options are available. Good Luck.

Jim Wilkins