



The Buzz

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Member Night 2012

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January 30, 2013

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This month marks the return of Member Night. This is PRSC's annual get together for food and fun to say thanks to the membership for making this such a great organization. Because there is so much to do, we will be starting the meeting at 6:30pm. Be sure to get there on time because this is a hungry group of fishermen and women, so the food will go fast. The food will once again be provided by Big Time BBQ.

The main event, as always, will be the raffling off of contributions made to the club from guides, tackle dealers, rod companies and PRSC members themselves. Each member of the club who attends the meeting and their membership is up-to-date for 2012 and will get one raffle ticket. Members can then renew at member night to get a second raffle ticket. New members can join PRSC by paying the dues for 2013 and receive a raffle ticket. Former members whose membership has lapsed can renew to get one ticket. Dues for next year will remain at \$35 for the year.

As if that is not enough, we have two other excited events for the evening. One will be the awarding of the Sandford Cup for 2012, for efforts in helping to clean up our local waterways. Who will be the next holder? We will give out awards for the PRSC fishing contest in a variety of categories, including the coveted Biggest Fish of the Year.

See you for Member Night.



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Upcoming Items

Potomac River Smallmouth Club - Kick off for 2013

Join Us Wednesday, January 30 for PRSC's Kick Off Meeting for 2013. Join us as PRSC will be back at the Vienna Firehouse to start off 2013. Our speaker is TBD.

PRSC Picture Sale

From now until Member Night, PRSC is offering for sale another Mark Susino print. This is a beautifully framed print, still in shrink wrap. The club bought a few of these a few years ago for fund raising purposes. So we are selling this. The starting price is \$200. This will be a silent auction, with a sheet to record bids. Bids will go up in increments of \$5. At member night the high bid will win the picture.



Potomac Riverkeeper

Drilling Down: A Conference on Fracking Risks and Action in Maryland. Saturday, December 8 - 10am-4pm. Join Potomac Riverkeeper in Baltimore for Maryland's first-ever statewide conference on fracking. Hundreds of Marylanders - activists, legislators, and fracking experts - will come together for an inspiring, informative, and action-oriented day. For more information go to <http://www.potomacriverkeeper.org>.

Potomac Conservancy

Troubled Waters: State of the Nation's River Report—2012. Potomac Conservancy has released its sixth annual report on the Potomac, outlining the consequences of four main pollutants of the Potomac River. Last year, the Conservancy scored the river's health at a barely passing "D" grade, a downgrade from the group's previous "D+". The Conservancy believes that to address the pollution of our waters and the inevitable development of our land, widespread changes must occur.

Canal Stewards at Fletcher's Cove. Sunday, December 16 - 10am-12pm. Help the Conservancy clean up and beautify the land and water at Fletcher's Cove in the C&O Canal National Historical Park. This monthly cleanup day is open to all ages, and is part of the Canal Stewards program, engaging volunteers in a long-term relationship in which they become the caretakers of a designated site within the park. Cleanup activities include picking up trash, pruning vegetation along trails, and repairing the towpath and trails. Wear clothes that can get dirty- we'll provide all the necessary tools and equipment. Please meet in the lower parking lot. For more information, contact wadhams@potomac.org.

For more information go to their website at www.potomac.org.

PRSC Updates

By Steve Moore

Club Leadership Positions

You are not on your own! While the impression is that being the VP or President of the club is a huge time suck, it's not! Actually, the other board members do much more!

The club must replace our VP this year. Randy has served above and beyond the call of duty as President for two years and Vice President for the last year. The duties are pretty simple – stand in for the President from time to time and be willing to provide advice with an independent perspective.

We need volunteers to step forward and help out with keeping our successful club going. If you are interested in serving as the VP or in any of the other board positions, please let Steve know by sending an email to president@prsc.org. Some of the other board members have served for years and may welcome the opportunity to hand over the reins to fresh blood.

PRSC Gear Choices Expanded!

We have a wide choice of PRSC gear. New hats in different colors, T-Shirts and moisture wicking long sleeves will all be available for purchase on member night – all emblazoned with the embroidered PRSC logo! Regular T-shirts and hats are only \$15 with the long sleeve T's at \$25. 2XL and up sizes slightly more.

Next Meeting is January

Just a reminder. In keeping with our tradition, we will not have a meeting at the end of December. Our next session will be on January 30.

Another Filmmaker Seeks Input

Joe Frye is starting his next documentary project, The Potomac Voice. The project stems from his experiences and the people he met along the Potomac River throughout his life. It seeks to show how the

Potomac really is the Nation's River by telling its story through people who call the Potomac region home.

Joe is looking for people to tell him their stories on camera. He is not looking for a lot of facts, but really want to hear personal stories about the first time you went fishing on the Potomac, why you love the river or how you use the river. With The Potomac Voice, he will compile these stories and, in doing so, hopes to tell the story of the Potomac River. The interviews will not take very long and can be done where ever you are most comfortable. If you are interested in helping out with Joe's project or would like some more information please don't hesitate to let him know. Joe's phone number is [301-268-4764](tel:301-268-4764) and email is: jo-sephfrye@gmail.com.

Steve Chaconas and Member Night

Steve Chaconas, who graciously supported the club with multiple presentations, extends his support for us by attending member night! Please welcome him and save up your questions!



Dory Run on the Potomac: A Floa

Article by Robert Bittner, Jr.

Wow, the river is really low today. Checked the USGS before leaving, 200+cfs, going to be bumpy. Fishing should be good, easy to read the lies and short casts as the channel will be narrow.

The launch is easy, nice new ramp into a backwater. Get the gear in and stowed, rods at the ready. We will enter the river below a shallow depositional bar extending diagonally downstream. Spin the boat, get the transom as close to the rocks as possible and pull gently on the sticks. We slide across stream backwards so the angler can cast to the sweet spot below the rocks where the current smooths out. Always a chance for a good smallie or a large fallfish. Two more runs just like this one downstream. Then we come to the first fun part of the float.

Here the river narrows and pushes hard river left whilst bending river right. River left and right are always facing downstream, i.e. the rower's view, and on the North Branch left is Md and right is WV. All the river's current is compressed and pushing into a rock wall that forms the Md shore. Add to the mix some overhanging tree limbs just for fun. So, kick the stern to the right and pull as we enter. A drift boat is not propelled downstream by the oars, rather the oarsman rows upstream, slowing the boat and "lowering" the dory downstream around obstructions. Hence the common wisdom "point the bow at what you want to avoid and pull away". Here we pull towards the WV shore and ride around the bend.



Side view of the Boulder Boat used on this trip. Photo by Robert Bittner, Jr.

Be sure to tell the angler to shoot some casts into the eddy on the inside bend. Can't linger a small one-two boulder is coming, back ferry and slide through to the first wade stop. A long waist deep run –great for wading and a chance for me to get some fishing time. Good job ! got the stink off ! two stocker rainbows and a little smallie.

One more drop / run combination and we are into a long rock garden. Back ferry, turn, pivot and repeat at least twenty times. Can't avoid every rock at these flows so the dory's polymer hull does its job, man, another 100cfs would be nice! This rock garden is the precursor to the most technical stretch on the float. The old and new Rt 220 bridges and an abandoned set of concrete abutments just below. Make sure the angler is seated and wearing a PFD. There are two small eddies formed by the boulders and abutments, a place to grab one's breath and get oriented for the next plunging rapids. A perfect line – nothing but speed thrills – WEEEEEE!! Drop into the gentle current below and slide over to the WV shore. Anchor up and time for breakfast.

Now the serious fishing begins. Over two miles of riffles, runs and two pretty cliff side pools. My job is to slow the boat by rowing upstream and position the angler for easy casting. Dorries have the wonderful ability to hold in current giving the angler multiple shots at structure. When the rod arcs down I yell "Fish or Rock " if its fish back row hard and look for gentle current to help fight the fish. Done well both the oarsman and the angler form a fish catching team.

Where did the time go? The river pushes left and bends right again, just upstream from the train bridge. Slide over to the island formed by a small side channel and anchor up for lunch. First, though, I am going to fish the junction run downstream. Dad prepares the sandwiches and smiles when I get a nice bass. After lunch we push on. The next one plus mile is a combination of rock gardens and slow runs. Great bass and fallfish habitat. The rowing is fairly boring other than playing hide and seek with barely submerged rocks. Ahead the river divides into several braided channels. Experience says river right but it is so shallow

at from McCool to Black Oak, MD.

today I jump out and thread the boat through by hand. At the bottom of the island we anchor up again. Dad knows I have been rowing all day for the chance to wade fish the junction pool here. The two main channels come together and deepen before sliding over a ledge that cuts almost all the way across stream. Maximum depth today is about 4 feet, perfect for a 15' sink tip on the 7wt. I work my way down so that I can cast upstream into the rock garden formed by the incoming channel. The rod is rigged with two flies, a "buggered" 6th man in black estaz and a gold/ silver flash fly Clouser for a dropper. First cast only drifts down for one strip and stops, feels like a snag at first but then the snag runs downstream. A nice 15" small-mouth. About three dozen casts later, each covering a different arc of the fan, and I have landed over a dozen smallies and large fallfish. I love this spot!

For Dad it has also been worth the wait. Downstream from the junction is the best producing mile of river. A sweet run along a "camp", lots of bank structure and multiple channel tongues. Then a truck sized boulder strewn series of riffles holding big aggressive bass. Then finally a really exciting plunge into two connected cliff pools. As we come into the pools I pull hard to slow the boat just long enough to give the angler some quick shots at eddies formed by sections of the cliff that have slid into the river. Often the fly gets quickly crushed by a hungry bass. These are the spots shore bound anglers dream of, separated from them by 100' of raging white water. We fish out this last pool and prepare for the final short rapid before the take out.

The tail of the pool funnels the current over a small lip dropping over 10' in about 20 yards. Normally this would just be a quick chute except there is a pair of Volkswagen sized boulders dead center in the narrow channel. If you set up properly and ship the right oar at the last second, then you drift easily by. Ahead is the ramp, avoid the upstream rocks and swing in below. Somehow we have taken up the entire day, caught fish and run some fun white water.

I hope that like me you can't wait to get back on the North Branch. During this float there was only my Dad and I. At the low flow of 200cfs the dory can only float two, but give us a release of 300cfs or more we can take a second angler in the oft empty rear seat. If you hear that seat calling please contact me, all we ask is that you bring a love of fish and rivers.

Clackacraft side view. Photo by Robert Bittner,



Transom view of the Boulder Boat. Photo by Robert Bittner, Jr.



Clackacraft side view. Photo by Robert Bittner,

PRSC On the Water

By: Jamie Gold

Members of PRSC have been busy this past month catching and photographing some awesome fish. Enjoy, and feel free to submit pictures of fish that you've caught for next month's Buzz.

Great Lake Erie 5+ lbs Smallmouth.



Marty Haden. Photo by Frank DiMarcantonio.

Nice S. Fork Shenandoah Bronzeback.



Joey Potts. Photo by Craig Bishop.

An excited fisherman.



Craig Bishop. Photo by Joey Potts

Another Lake Erie Monster Smallmouth.



Jay Eiche. Photo by Frank DiMarcantonio.

Nice Fall Smallmouth.



Dave Lockard. Photo by father Randy Chandler.

Spiny Dog Fish.



Rachel Lipetz. Photo by John Lipetz.

Long Toothy Critter from the Housatonic in CT.



Herman Yam. Photo by Tim Anderson.

7+ lbs Largemouth. Where did he catch that fish?



John Lipetz. Photo by unknown.

17" Lake Anne Largemouth Bass.



Phil Maisel. Photo by Jamie Gold.

One more of this incredible 22" smallmouth



Dave Lockard. Photo by Randy Chandler.

River Access in Virginia

By Jay Eiche

The club recently heard Beau Beasley speak about the Jackson River case where two fishermen were sued for civil trespass by a landowner. The landowner owns a significant amount of river frontage along the Jackson River and is developing it. The judge in the case recently issued a final order. The issues in the case are some of the many that confront boaters and fishermen. I thought perhaps it might be time to try and discuss/answer some of those, but wanted some feedback from the club members on which issues are of most importance to them so that I could focus the article. I came up with a series of questions that came to my mind which I might suggest as a starting point, but wanted to solicit the club for other suggestions. I don't intend to try and intervene in the dispute between you and your neighbor or other specific problems, but rather try and address issues more generally. Please forward your questions to buzz_editor@prsc.org.

1. Assuming a body of water allows public use, may a fisherman or boater cross private property to access that river/lake?
2. Does it matter whether the property is posted No Trespassing, or not?
3. Is trespassing enforceable both as a crime and a civil action?
4. May a fisherman or boater make use of public utility land or other easements to gain access to rivers/lakes?
5. May a fisherman or boater make use of a private bridge to gain access to a river/lake?
6. May a fisherman or boater make use of a public bridge to gain access to a river/lake?
7. May a fisherman or boater make use of non-navigable rivers and streams?
8. May a boater float any navigable river in VA?
9. Who defines navigable and non-navigable?
10. In Virginia, does the landowner own to the high water mark, or the low water mark?
11. May a fisherman make use of other "public property" to access a river such as a school for example?
12. Where can you find information on river access – books, websites, ect?

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

Well, here we are again at the end of the year...and what a good one it's been. Although I do have to say, as always, you've wasted a perfectly good year with a bunch of nere-do-well smelly fishing folk. But fishing on the Shenandoah has been better than anytime I can remember since before the fish kills. Several members of this club have 20 inchers off the South Fork. For a while there in August and September, we were fishing together so often I was beginning to wonder if Jamie Gold and Steve Kimm had forgotten where the Potomac even was. But I enjoyed every minute of it and I'm looking forward to getting out a couple of times before the fat man comes to town.

But the holidays are bearing down on us, and I thought I'd lay a couple of items on you that might help you have a 'greener' holiday. A lot of this stuff is common knowledge but some of our newer, younger folks may not know all of this stuff.

When you start shopping, buy your stuff in bulk at a Costco, Sam's Club or BJ's outlet and buy for all three big meals at one trip. This will save you a substantial amount of money and reduce the amount of packaging that will find its way into a landfill. And while you're saving all that money, how about buying an extra turkey or maybe some goodies at the bakery for the local food bank, church or agency that's feeding folks less fortunate than we are this holiday.

Lots of folks have those big turkey fryers these days. I'm an old school, in the oven kinda guy myself. Turkey Day just ain't Turkey Day unless the night before, I scrubbed up the bathtub so I could brine a Pterodactyl-sized bird before I got to bed. Then roast that puppy starting about 5 in the morning and feed a house full of people about 3 in the afternoon. For me, the drippings in the bottom of the roasting pan go to moisten the 2 pans of dressing and super-charge the giblet gravy. But what do you do with a big fryer pot full of peanut oil after you're done? I'd be willing to bet there's an outfit in the metro area making Bio-Diesel fuel. They'd be more than happy to take that extra peanut oil left in the can, and used stuff you fried your turkey in and put it to good use. You really weren't thinking about pouring it down the drain were you? Shame on you.

When Christmas rolls around, everyone enjoys getting a mountainous pile of presents. I know I do (hint hint) But after the gifts are opened and you have a pile of torn wrapping paper and boxes left...now what? I remember as a kid, if Christmas Day was cold (never a given in eastern North Carolina) we burned the paper in the fireplace. But all those colored inks and stains, not to mention the paper, and the glue that hold boxes together gives off toxic gases as it burns. These gases can be pretty devastating to any birds or small animals that may end up in the plume of smoke coming out of your chimney. And where do those chemicals end up in the final reckoning? That's right, in our rivers. Recycling is a much better answer. And if you're kinda weird like we were, and still are to some degree, you can start a "recycle" gift.

Every Christmas we would give one gift to some friends of ours wrapped in a recycled piece of Christmas gift wrapping, saved from the previous Christmas. Every year that piece of paper would get smaller and smaller of course. And its size would dictate the size of the gift. If I remember correctly, the last time the recycle gift was passed between my parents and the long time family friends, the gift was a pre-paid gas credit card, and that piece of wrapping paper had lasted to see its 30th Christmas Day.

The worst job of Christmas is taking down the decorations of course. Nobody likes the end to the holidays. If you're using a real tree, and wreaths, they usually come down pretty quick too. Don't just put them out for the trash; make sure they get to the county transfer station or mulch yard. I don't know many places where you can just throw out a real tree anymore anyway. Think about getting a live tree next year and planting it in the yard, or donate it to your parks and recreation folks. Lots of municipalities do landscaping on common areas of a community. See if they'll take a donated Fir or White Pine. But what you may want to consider is getting one of the artificial that are pre-wired with lights. That was the worst fight me and Charlene use to have all year...stringing lights and then again taking them off the tree again about 2 weeks later. A pre-wired and lit artificial tree not only saves a tree out in the forest...it just might save your marriage. I ain't kidding!

As we sign off until our January meeting, I want thank everyone for reading the CC and the kind comments I get every month. It still amazes me that people actually read my stuff.

I hope everyone has a bountiful, fulfilling, and very merry and safe holiday season. We'll see you back here in January.

PRSC
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PRSC would like to thank the following for contributing to Member Night and being friends of PRSC.



Big Time BBQ (Scott Cocherell)



PRSC Wishes to Thank our Recent Speakers

April 2012 - Capt. Steve Chaconas.

May 2012 - Richard Martin, Potomac Paddlesports.

July 2012 - Capt. Charles Wright, Chokoloskee Charters.

August 2012 - Jeff Turner, 50 Trophy Waters in 50 Days in 50 States.

September 2012 - Beau Beasley, www.beaubeasley.com

October 2012 - John Millican, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

2012 Contest Results

November 2012 Report By Wallace Harvey

Well, here we go again at the end of the year and . . . What am I doing? Each year I end with almost the same statements. Not this year! Let me put on my thinking cap and see what new ideas erupt to make this a different year. I search my fallible memory and I don't remember anyone going swimming unexpectedly this year. Normally we have one or two that decide the fishing isn't so great, so they decide to try swimming down a rapid or two. If you did, I understand, but let's try not to do it next year.

As I remember we use to have lots of fish over 20 inches. This year we have more of fish over 20 inches. Thanks to no more fish kills, it seems as if the fishing is better in size and quantity. Let's hope this trend continues. We still did not have enough rain to keep the rivers from getting a bit shallow this year, but at least everyone got a chance to fish through the year. There always seems to be a spot or two on the rivers that we need to walk a bit, but for the most part, I'm told the rivers did better this year. With luck, we will have good waters this next year. I did not hear of the algae we had last year again this year. Perhaps that is due to my ducking out at the end of the year, but as we did not have the excessive heat, I doubt we had the same problem on the Shenandoah River.

As for next year, I really look forward to getting out on the river. I did not get out but twice last year and I am looking forward to that first float of 2013. I might even have to put on new line for the occasion. We all some how struggle through the winter to get ready for the spring float. A few brave the cold air and water to winter fish, but they have the gear and experience to do that. If you are considering doing it, I'd check with someone who has done it to know what you are in for. You won't last long in the cold water, and I don't do funerals.

Let's look forward to our wonderful Member Night coming up. It is the social event of the season. I know that I always enjoy talking to new and old members about our exploits on the river this past year. I always wonder who will tell the biggest whopper. Drive safe, stay safe, see you there.

2012 Results

Section 1, Biggest Fish: ?????

Section 1, Best 5 Fish: ?????

Section 2, Biggest Fish: ?????

Section 2, Best 5 Fish: ?????

Section 3, Biggest Fish: ?????

Section 3, Best 5 Fish: ?????

Largest on Fly: ?????

New Member: ?????

William Shriver Award: ?????

Grover Cleveland Award: ?????

The Potomac River Smallmouth Club was founded in 1988 as a non-profit recreational club in accordance with IRS section 501(c)(7). Dues are \$35/year. Monthly meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the last Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Vienna Volunteer Firehouse. Club by-laws and member rosters are published once a year and available during meetings or upon request. The Club newsletter, "The Buzz", is emailed to all members prior to each month's meeting and is available at local fishing/tackle shops. Articles, photographs and general information relating to smallmouth bass fishing are solicited. The Buzz reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. Observations, conclusions and opinions expressed in The Buzz are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the club, its officers, or the editor. All materials submitted become the property of the club. Every effort will be made to return photographs at the monthly meetings, however the printing process occasionally results in the destruction of a photograph. Send copies and make sure YOU have the negative.