



The Buzz

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Volume 26, Issue 11

November 20, 2013

Member Night Plus Live Music

Upcoming Items

PRSC Meeting
See You Next Year
January 2014

**NCC-TU Angling
Show**
March 9, 2014

**Potomac Conser-
vancy**
December 2013

In This Issue
UPCOMING P. 2

FISHING DAY WITH
WOUNDED WARRI-
ORS P. 3

CANADIAN BLAST
P. 4

GOING TO MAINE
FOR RIVER SMALL-
MOUTH BASS P. 6

CONS. CORNER P. 9

FISHING CONTEST
P. 10

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 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 2013 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 2014 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.

We have a few other activities going on as well. Jack Cook will be handing out awards for the PRSC fishing contest in a variety of categories, including the coveted Biggest Fish of the Year. We will also be holding elections for officer positions, including: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

As an added bonus, we will be having live music at this year's event thanks to Ernie Rojas. We are very lucky have [Shawn Kimbro](#) as our guest speaker/performer. Shawn's book [Chesapeake Light Tackle](#) is an introduction to light tackle fishing on the Chesapeake Bay. He is very involved in Conservation initiatives as well. Shawn will chat for a bit and play some original East Tennessee mountain music during the BBQ dinner portion of the event.

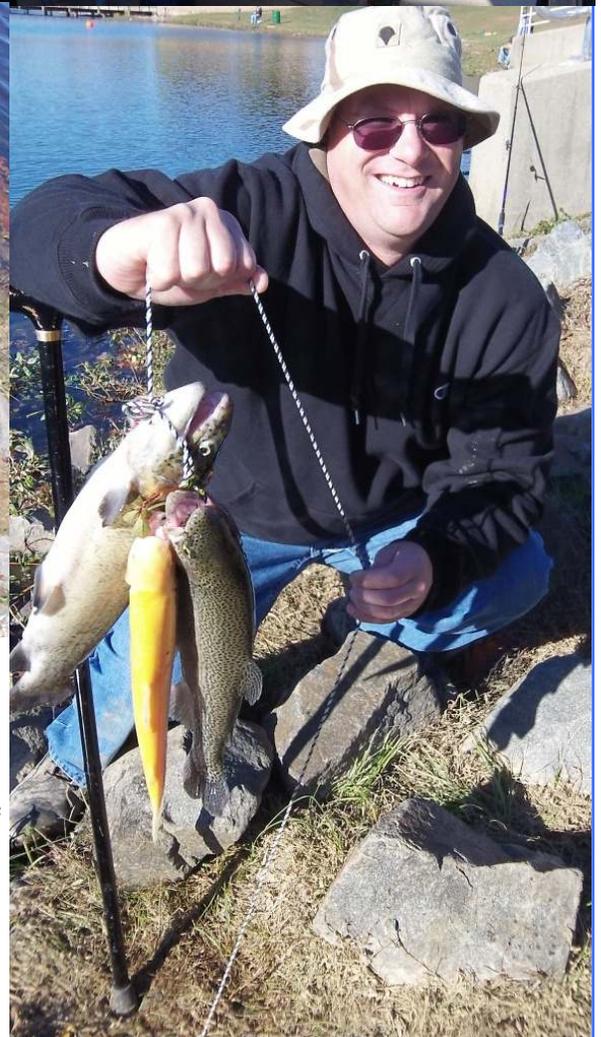


Club Executive Board	<h1>Upcoming Items</h1>
<p>President John Lipetz (h) (703) 609-8083 president@prsc.org</p> <p>Vice-President Kristen Sorensen vp@prsc.org</p> <p>Secretary Dave Lockard (h) (301) 656-1964 secretary@prsc.org</p> <p>Treasurer Jamie Gold C (571) 213-4699 treasure@prsc.org</p> <p>Trip Coordinator Steve Kimm trip_coordinator@prsc.org</p> <p>Program Chair Bill Amshey Programs@prsc.org</p> <p>Conservation Chair Herschel Finch (H) (540) 635-7636 Conservation@prsc.org</p> <p>Librarian Chip Comstock Librarian@prsc.org</p> <p>Additional Programs</p> <p>Fishing Contest Jack Cook H (703) 573-4403</p> <p>The Buzz Jamie Gold (C) (571) 213-4699 Buzz_Editor@prsc.org</p> <p>Merchandise Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128 Publicity@prsc.org</p> <p>Past President Steve Moore</p> <p>Publicity Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128</p>	<p>Potomac River Smallmouth Club - Next Meeting - See You Next Year</p> <p>January 2014. Member Night is the final meeting of the year, so we will not see you in December. But we will be back at the Vienna Firehouse in January for another great year of fishing. Happy Holidays, be safe, and keep on fishing.</p> <p>National Capital Chapter of Trout Unlimited</p> <p>2014 NCC-TU Angling Show</p> <p>Sunday, March 9, 2014 - 10:00am - 5:30pm. The 39th Annual National Capital Angling Show is set! Mark your calendar and plan to attend their show on Sunday, March 9, 2014, at the Hanley Field House of the Georgetown Preparatory School in North Bethesda, Maryland. They have an all-star slate of speakers and instructors, featuring trophy trout hunter, celebrity fly tier, author, outdoor writer, and TV host KELLY GALLOUP, who will give two presentations--STREAMER FISHING and CRIPPLES AND SPINNERS. Plus activities to attract anglers and conservationists of all ages and levels of experience. Check their website for more show details as they become available.</p> <p>The 2014 Show will be the 39th consecutive National Capital Angling and Conservation Show conducted by the National Capital Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The Show is a non-profit event staffed by volunteers, and Show proceeds support Trout Unlimited's habitat restoration, stream conservation, youth education and outreach, and public awareness projects. Each year they strive to contain costs and expand advertising while offering quality facilities and programs to attract appealing exhibitors.</p> <p>Potomac Conservancy</p> <p>Canal Stewards at Fletcher's Cove</p> <p>Saturday, December 7 - 10:00am-12:00pm. Join them at Fletcher's Cove! They will be meeting at 10 am at Fletcher's Cove to clean up the picnic area and surrounding trails. This cleanup is open to all ages, and they will provide all the necessary supplies - just wear clothes that can get dirty! This event is part of the National Park Service's Canal Stewards program, engaging volunteers to become long-term caretakers of a site within the C & O Canal National Historical park. Typical activities include picking up trash, pruning vegetation, or repairing the towpath and trails. Contact Rebecca Long at long@potomac.org with any questions. You can find more information at http://www.potomac.org.</p> <p>Canal Stewards: River Center at Lock 8</p> <p>Sunday, December 15 - 10:00am-12:00pm. Join them at the River Center! They will be meeting at 10 am at the River Center to clean up the lockhouse area and the nearby towpath. This event is part of the National Park Service's Canal Stewards program, engaging volunteers to become long-term caretakers of a site within the C & O Canal National Historical Park. Typical activities include picking up trash, pruning vegetation, and removing invasive plants. Contact Rebecca Long at long@potomac.org with any questions. You can find more information at http://www.potomac.org.</p>

Fishing Day with Wounded Warriors

By John Lipetz

On cool and breezy Saturday morning, October 26, PRSC was privileged to lead an event in conjunction with Dan Grulke of Lake Fairfax Park to introduce a group of Wounded Warriors to Trout fishing. The Lake had been stocked the day before with Rainbow and Golden trout, and the local Wounded Warrior group had arranged for 10 to 15 Veterans to come out and try their luck. The weather was not as favorable as we had all hoped, but we still had between 9 and 11 attendees and an equal number of volunteers from PRSC. The fishing started a little slow,



but by lunch 2 nice trout were landed. We ate a great lunch of burgers and hotdogs, and sides. A few of the guys were so happy to fish that they didn't leave the lakeside. Fortunately, Dan solved this by delivering lunch to all points on the lake! By the end of the day 6 to 8 fish were caught. James, one of the Vets that arrived early, also stayed late, and ended up with 4 of those fish including a nice Rainbow that topped 3lbs!!! Thank you to Mrs. Lipetz for showing up in the afternoon with homemade chocolate chip cookies for everyone. This was a rewarding experience for everyone involved. Thank you to all of the PRSC volunteers, Dan Grulke, and Wounded Warrior Project for making this event possible. Our greatest thanks go to our Vets, whom we respect and appreciate more than we can express.

Canada

Article and Photos by Bob Forbes

George Lenard (CCA and Specialized Baits) and I took a trip to Deep River, Ontario in early September. He has done this annual trip to the Ottawa River area for many years and is very familiar with the fishing. His center console StarCraft aluminum boat with an outboard on the stern and trolling motor on the bow is perfect for the broad river.

The weather was cool and bugs were not a problem this late in the season. However the Chug Bug



an Blast

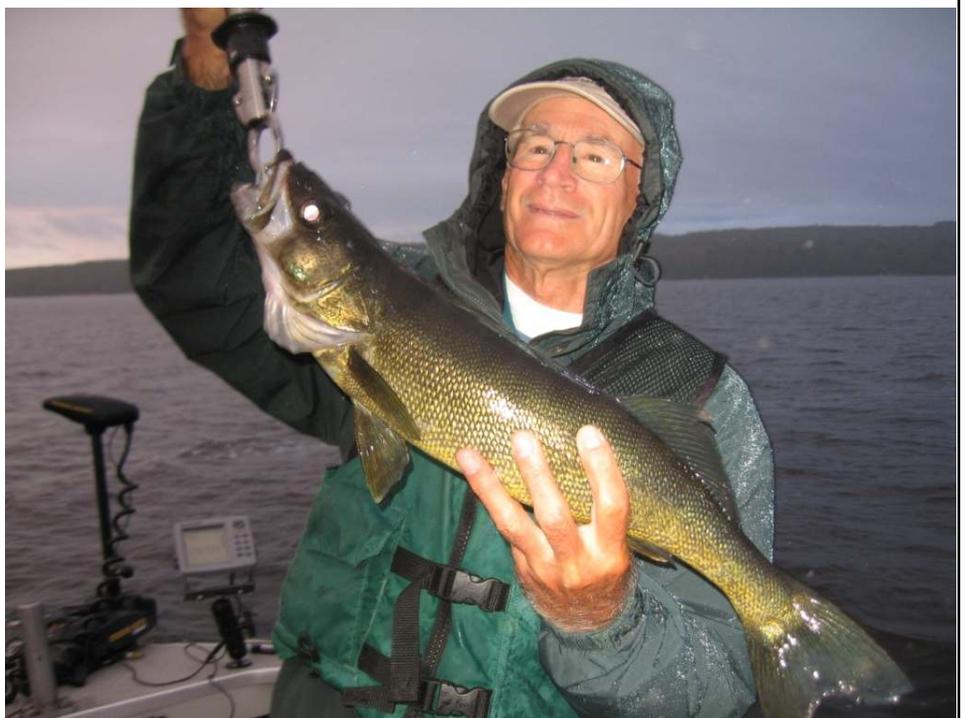


popper proved irresistible to SMB up to 20 inches and Northern Pike. It's quite exciting to have a 36-inch pike jump clear out of the water close to your boat with a Chug Bug in its mouth.

In my opinion, walleye is the best eating freshwater white meat fish. We caught some almost daily and enjoyed some delicious eating using the special Ca-

nadian beer batter. The highlight of the culinary delights was a feast with a group of Canadians whom George knows very well. I lived in Georgia and Alabama, which are well known for Southern hospitality. However, I will state unequivocally that the Canadian people matched every aspect of our southern region.

This was an outstanding trip and if you have an opportunity to partake in a similar adventure—do so!



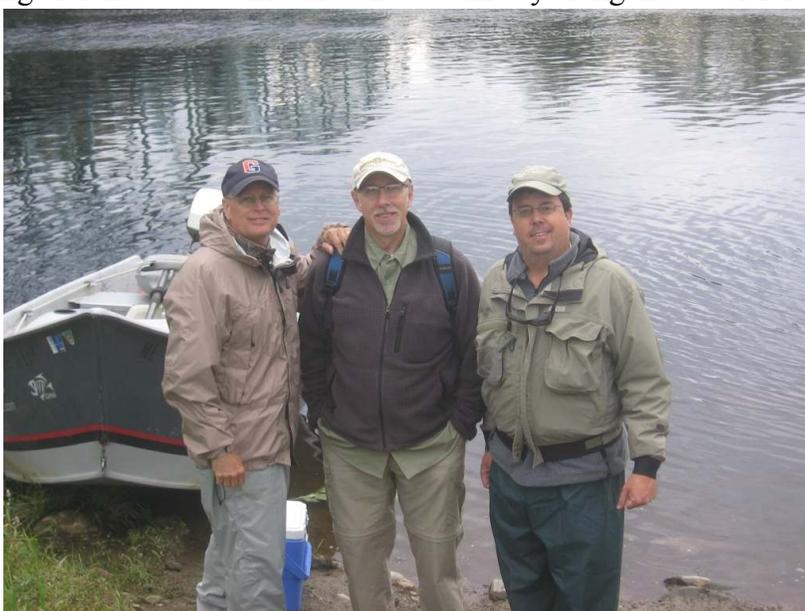
Going to Maine: For River S

By Jamie Gold

In early September, fellow PRSC members David Lockard, Randy Chandler and I drove up to Maine to do a week long fishing vacation. Our main target was river smallmouth bass on the famous Penobscot River, but we were open to catching other fish as well. The fishing trip ran from September 8-14 and this is a very good time to visit Maine as the tourists have left, so its not so crowded, while the weather is warm but cooling, which tends to put the fish on a good feed.

We stayed at a terrific rental house in Belfast, ME, which lies on the coast in Penobscot Bay, with Bar Harbor to the north and Camden to the south. A friend of mine owns the place so that, combined with it being after Labor Day, meant we got it for a great rate. Belfast is a picturesque harbor town that is undergoing a revival as outside investors have built up the shipyard to do repair and renovation work on big sailboats and yachts. The waterfront has been transformed with new buildings for the boat works and a new walkway along the water for the residents. The changes in just two years have been remarkable. The only down side to all of this is that we had to drive over an hour each way to get to the fishing, which got old by the end of the week.

I arrived on Saturday and Dave and Randy got there on Sunday. It is a haul to get up there, so Monday morning we rested/recovered, but by the afternoon we were ready to go fishing. After some exploring and a few wrong turns down dirt roads we found a pond we were looking for. Unfortunately the wind was blowing hard which made paddling, boat control and finding the fish a real challenge. Randy did find a protected cove and managed to catch a few, but I got skunked.



On Tuesday we rose early and drove up to the Penobscot above Old Town to meet and fish with a guide we hired through Tracewski Fishing Adventures. After introductions and some small talk, we climbed into his drift boat and started off down the river. It was designed to hold two passengers along with the guide, but the three of us are friends and didn't mind squeezing in together. We got off to a hot start, landing several really nice smallmouth in the first few minutes. Then the fishing slowed down a lot and the catching became sporadic. Randy and Dave did ok, but I struggled and ended up very frustrated because I know what that river can produce. Dave did catch a great 19.5" smallie that was the biggest I saw during the trip.

Smallmouth and Other Fish



Wednesday we drove up to the Penobscot again to fish the area where the Passadumkeag River enters. On that day she produced for us! Randy and Dave did very well, while I had a fantastic day. This water is different from what we are used to. While the water is clear, its very dark in color from the tannins. On our rivers we have lots of ledges and mid-river boulders and other structure. This part of the Penobscot does not have that kind of structure, but has lots of islands and grass beds and good shoreline tree cover and cut banks. Also, while the river holds a ton of smallmouth, we also caught a lot of chain pickerel.

To start, I paddled to the far side of the river, across from the boat launch, and began to work up the bank casting towards shore and above me with an un-weighted white Case Salty Sinking Shad rigged weedless. Bam....Bam....Bam – I caught a fish on basically every cast for several hundred yards up the bank. Then moving to mid-river between some islands, I switched to a tiny torpedo and caught fish on top-water; my favorite way to catch fish. The action slowed in the middle of the day and I was happy to take a break for lunch and to rest my tired arms. In the afternoon I kept switching between working the shore line and hitting the middle of the river, with good success.

Late in the afternoon Randy and Dave paddled up the Passadumkeag to see what they could find. There was a small ledge/dam that I could not get around in my canoe, so I stayed in the main river. Just out from the boat ramp I noticed dimples appearing on the water as if trout were feeding on emerging insects. So I positioned my canoe upriver from the heaviest feeding action and pulled out my fly rod. I tied on a white CK Baitfish and cast it to each spot where I saw a dimple. As long as the fly landed reasonably close to the dimple, I caught a smallmouth. What a blast, and it lasted for well over an hour. For the day I ended up with over 100 fish (I just stopped counting), sore arms, a chewed up thumb and a lot of well used baits. My biggest was 18.5”.

Thursday found us driving back up to the river to hit yet another section of water. I again struggled and managed only a few fish before bad weather moved in and drove us off the water. Dave and Randy pushed farther up river and found the pattern the fish wanted. So they did much better than I. We did meet a few fishermen out with a guide and had a good chat with them about fishing and the river. They confirmed that the better fishing on that stretch was upriver around the grass beds and islands.



Main Fishing Trip cont'd

The rain that started on Thursday had turned into a steady downpour by Friday morning. Tired of the long drive back and forth to the river combined with no desire to fish in a heavy rain, we hung out at the house for the morning. At this time of year in Maine the weather can change dramatically in a short amount of time. Fortunately the rain stopped, leaving us with a cloud covered sky...perfect for fishing. We decided to drive to a nearby pond that our guide from Tuesday had suggested we try. So we set out, and after a few more wrong turns we finally found it. This was a shallow pond (at most six to eight feet deep) with plenty of grass and shoreline structure. We proceeded to light it up with the fishing, catching mostly largemouth bass and chain pickerel. Since the sky was overcast, top water baits fished out several feet from the grass and shoreline were the go-to baits. Tiny torpedoes worked for me, but I think Randy did extremely well with buzz baits. However, my biggest fish came on a 5" green Senko. I cast it to the edge of some lilly pads and let it sink. After starting to move the bait it came to a dead stop....then the line started



to

move. After cranking down to remove the slack in my line, I reared back with a mighty hook set and the fish didn't move. Then the fight was on! At one point the beast leapt out of the water in an explosion of piscatorial fury. When finally brought to the boat, this largemouth measure 22" long and over 5 lbs. Dave and Randy did even better than I did on Friday.

On Saturday we packed up and drove home. Overall it was a very enjoyable trip. The Penobscot is an incredible smallmouth fishery; for my money the best on the East Coast. It is loaded with fish, and the fish fight hard, much harder than the smallies in this area, including even the New River. I can not tell you how many times we hooked a fish and were convinced it was 18" because of how hard it fought, only to find upon landing it that it was only 14" or 15". Incredible! Even the largemouth fought really hard. I certainly want to go back next year, but perhaps will look for accommodations closer to the river.

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

The Year End Roundup:

Well, once again, you've wasted a perfectly good year hanging out with a bunch of ne'er-do-well, generally somewhat smelly and mostly damp individuals who think they can fish. Frankly I'm thinking of looking for a better class of fishing club...but then when you do a search on "top notch fishing clubs in the DC Metro area"....Potomac River Smallmouth Club comes up at the top of the list. So I gave up that notion pretty quickly....

Anyway, we've had quite an active and successful year on the conservation front.

A day playing hooky to ride shotgun in front of Jeff Kelble's boat saw me helping to collect samples to take to the USGS Fisheries Health Lab in West VA. This was a real eye opener for me into the caliber of people and their dedication to keeping our fisheries healthy and productive. No word on any test results yet (lack of funding) but when they do get to test the various parts, the information will make it back to us at some point.

May saw a trip to EPA headquarters with Jay Eiche and Jeff K. among others, to explain to one of the deputy Secretaries about our algae issues we're seeing on the Shenandoah and the Potomac River. I think our presentations definitely had an impact. Recently, Jeff sent another letter, along with photographs to the EPA documenting further evidence of the impairment of our rivers by the presence of algae. Fingers crossed everyone.

We got involved in a nationwide letter writing campaign to keep fracking out of the George Washington National Forest. Originally, the U.S. National Forest Service was slated to make their decision known in their 15 year plan for the GWNF to be released at the end of July. But given the level of opposition shown by this club and others, they have continued to delay the release of their plan. Even here at the end of November...it is STILL in limbo. Obviously, our input has had an impact, along with hundreds of thousands of other Americans. Keep it up. All the websites and petitions voicing opposition to this ill considered notion are still open. It certainly couldn't hurt to sign them again. And while you're in a writing mood, think about the suggestion in last month's column of writing to your local newspaper letting your neighbors know about your opposition, and don't forget to mention your representative by name.

After an emergency relocation of the Shenandoah River Rodeo fundraiser, we still managed to have a great event at the Outdoor Adventure Center in Harper's Ferry. I'm kinda hoping for a rainout next year so we can go back! And the Shenandoah Riverfest at Andy Guest State Park turned out to be a great event as well. Lots of exhibits, vendors, artisans, auctions, and boat races! What a hoot! I suspect the boat races are going to even more popular next year.

And Jay Eiche has been hard at work over on the North Fork helping the Friends of the North Fork raise funds, making them aware of Jeff Kelble's efforts in dealing with the algae issues, and also helping to advise the board appointed to oversee a multi-million dollar settlement that will be allocated and used to improve access and negate the effects of decades of pollution caused by the chemical industry in the headwaters area of north and south fork of the Shenandoah. Jay...we salute you brother. Well done sir, well done indeed.

So I'm looking forward to next year already. I've got a couple of ideas to run by Jeff and Matt at the Potomac/Shenandoah Riverkeeper and a couple of ideas to run by the board of THIS stellar group. So stick around...next year we're going bigger and better!! I hope everyone has a wonderful and peaceful and SAFE holiday season, and we'll see everyone right back here at the end of January.

PRSC
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2013 Contest Results

Normally I place the picture of the month in this section. However, I did not receive any pictures from any club members. Also, I received an extended report from Wallace Harvey for the Fishing Contest this month. Therefore, I've expanded the section for his essay to make it easier to read. Otherwise I would have used a font that requires a magnifying glass to read.

November 2013 Report By Wallace Harvey

Another year passes. The fish have been caught. Now is the time to say who caught the "big ones." Nope, I'm not going to tell. You will have to join the group at Member Night to see who won. I, unfortunately, won't make Member Night for the first time since I joined the club many years ago. Unfortunately, I have to get a new hip on the left side. I got one on the right last year, and it allowed me to fish again this year. Next year, I am looking forward to even more fishing. With two new hips, I should not be a danger to anyone on the river.

This year's entrants were not as numerous as I had hoped. The year started out good, but dropped off after a while. I don't think it was the rivers that kept us from fishing, but the lives of us all got busy this year. We just got our priorities all mixed up. All work, and no play, makes us dull people. We need more time get out on the water and fish our little hearts out. I for one, feel a day on the water is almost like a week's vacation. I get off the water tired, but renewed and refreshed. As most know, I'm not the most avid fisherman, but I am one who relishes in the friendships, Mother Nature, the fun of catching a few fish and just plain enjoyment of peace and quiet on the river. No computers, phones, screaming people or interruptions that ruin the day. I am sure I am not the only one who spends time during the winter dreaming of being on the river next summer. (The article is continued below).

Contest Results cont'd

I have thoroughly enjoyed writing articles for the Fishing Contest over the years. I hope a few of you have enjoyed reading them. However, I would like to pass along to someone else in the club the opportunity to show your talent in writing. Working with Jack Cook and Jamie Gold has been nothing but pure pleasure. I feel I have grown in my friendship with both. However, I feel it may be time for someone more talented than I to enjoy what I have enjoyed. Therefore, I am requesting to step down from this position. I would hope someone in the club is willing to step up to the task of a short article for the BUZZ monthly. Not wanting to force someone to do this, I will not depart until another person steps up. My new job position has made it difficult for me to attend the meetings this last half of the year. I am hopeful I will be able to attend more next year, but who knows. But, for now, I feel the need to retire. If you wish to step up to the fun of writing, please let me, Jamie, or Jack know you are ready to step forward. I thank all of you for your kind words and assistance in writing the articles. I look forward to seeing you the first of the year. I still plan to lead trips next year and look forward to seeing you on the river. I wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

2013 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:** ???
- Grover Cleveland Contest:** ???
- William Shriver 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.