



# The Buzz

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May 20, 2015

## Jeff Little on Kayak Fishing

### Upcoming Items

**PRSC Meeting**  
June 17, 2015

**Picture Raffle**  
2015

**Rock the River**  
June 6, 2015

**Potomac River-keeper**  
May 2015

**Potomac Conservancy**  
June 2015

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Jeff Little, past President of the Potomac River Smallmouth Club and owner of Blue Ridge Kayak Fishing LLC, will be speaking to the Club at our May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. He has taught river smallmouth patterns many ways over the last 15 years, including kayak fishing classes, authoring a book, writing for publications such as Kayak Angler and Kayak Fish Magazines, and producing a DVD series that includes season by season tactics for river smallmouth.

Jeff's recent videography has been feeding a subscription-based channel, called Tight Line Junkie Journal. The site includes pattern information on much more than river smallmouth. His recent foray into the striped bass fishery of the Chesapeake Bay is also showcased on the channel.

To speed up his own learning curve, and pass on valuable knowledge to viewers, Jeff has recruited guest experts, including Shawn Kimbro, Alan Battista, Joe Raymond, and Juan Veruete, among other fishery experts.

Many other species are featured on the Tight Line Junkie Journal, including tidal blue catfish, yellow perch, reservoir and tidal largemouth, and northern snakehead.

But Jeff plans on focusing on his all-time favorite -- river smallmouth -- when he speaks to the Club. Pulling from a recent feature article he wrote and photographed for Kayak Fish Magazine, he will present his favorite patterns for each season, showing the right baits, rods and reels, and presentations for each seasonal top pattern.

Jeff can be contacted at: Blue Ridge Kayak Fishing, C/O Jeff Little, 2703 Rowe Rd, New Windsor, MD 21776. His phone number is: 443-244-2592. His information-rich Website is: <http://www.blueridgekayakfishing.com>.

Hope you can make this information-packed presentation. The first time the writer fished with Jeff was on the Juniata River many years ago. Of all the guys on the trip, Jeff was the only one in a kayak; the rest of us being in aluminum canoes. (Hard to believe, but true!) I think Jeff that day started the Club membership in the direction of kayak fishing. You do not want to miss Jeff's talk!



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# Upcoming Items

## Potomac River Smallmouth Club - May and June Meetings

Join Us Wednesday, June 17 for PRSC's next monthly meeting. Please note that our next meeting will be held a week earlier than normal, due to scheduling conflicts. On Wednesday June 17th we'll be at Riverbend Park for our Annual Boat Night. Please join us for a fun evening of checking out boats and eating good food.

## Picture Raffle - Smallmouth Bass Print

As a fund raiser, PRSC is raffling off a small-mouth bass print. Tickets are \$2 per ticket, 3 tickets for \$5 and 7 tickets for \$10. We will be selling tickets until we have the drawing at a PRSC meeting later this year. We will have the print at the upcoming meetings.



## Rock the River FXBG

**Saturday June 6, 2015. Fredericksburg, VA.** Rock the River FXBG is the first event of its kind for Fredericksburg, Virginia. The event combines activities from various communities who benefit from, are inspired by, and enjoy their time on the Rappahannock River. There is adventure with a multi-sport river and foot race, outdoor activities for grown-ups, kids, and their furry friends, a display of unique art and crafts, as well as the enjoyment of great craft beer, tasty food, and live music throughout the day. For more information visit their website at <http://rocktheriverfxbg.com/>.

## Potomac Riverkeeper

### 15th Anniversary Gala

**Saturday, May 30 - 4:00pm-9:00pm..** Potomac Boat Club of Washington, DC. Join them as they celebrate their 15th year of success. For more information, please see their website at [www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/potomac-riverkeeper-network-events/](http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/potomac-riverkeeper-network-events/).

## Potomac Conservancy

### Partner Event: Celebrating the Potomac

**Saturday, June 13 - 11:00am-4:00pm.** Join [the Accokeek Foundation](http://theAccokeekFoundation.org) for Celebrating the Potomac, a family-friendly day of music, food, and activities highlighting the cultural and environmental importance of our nation's river. In honor of [National Boating and Fishing Week](http://NationalBoatingandFishingWeek.org), this year's festival will feature: Fishing with a National Park Service Ranger, "Trash-free Potomac" games from the [Alice Ferguson Foundation](http://AliceFergusonFoundation.org), Casting accuracy contest for advanced and beginner fisher folks. For more information, visit their website at [www.potomac.org/events](http://www.potomac.org/events).

## Main Stem Shenandoah Trip - Unexpected Adventure

Article by Jamie Gold. Photos by Terry Cooney

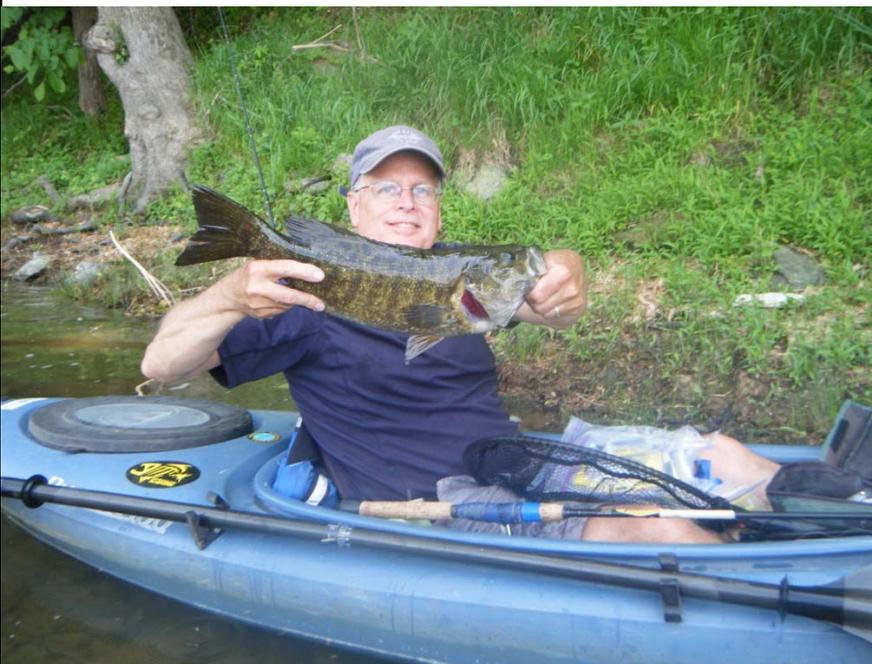
On Saturday, May 16, several of us PRSC members and a guest decided to fish a stretch of the Shenandoah River. After some discussion, we settled on doing the Route 50 Bridge to Locke's Landing float trip on the Main Stem of the 'Doah. I've done this float trip many times, and it continues to be one of my favorite parts of the river to float fish. The reason for this is that the lower section of this float includes a series of riffles that have always offered excellent smallmouth fishing during the warmer months of the year. Randy Chandler, Terry Cooney, Steve Kimm and Steve's friend Guy and I met at the Rte 50 bridge at 7:30am. After a shuttle back and forth to drop off vehicles at the take-out, we set off.

The weather was warm and humid in the morning, with partial cloud cover. It felt more like a mid-summer day than a mid-May Saturday. There was a call for potential rain and thunder in the afternoon....but more on that later.

Terry ran into some immediate success catching two very nice largemouth bass on his nearly patented half-half senko rig in black. The other guys also caught a few fish on a variety of patterns, including a baby torpedo, salty sinking minnows, and Terry's senko rig. Things started slowly for me and I did not have any fish in the morning. The one constant was that there was no constant pattern, either on what they hit or where the fish were located.

Around noon we pulled off to the river's edge to get something to eat, talk about the morning fishing, and discuss ideas for the afternoon. I made a switch in my fishing approach, with the warm weather, I decided to try more of a summer pattern for the fish. So I did several things...1) I put a tube on one of my spinning rods, 2) I tied a small chartreuse and white clouser minnow on to my fly rod, and 3) I put on a small silver and black crank bait on my other spinning rod. Also, with the dropping water levels and intermittent sunshine, I decide to concentrate on mid-river structure instead of the shore. These changes immediately started to payoff. I started catching fish on the crankbait. And at the ledges in the second half of this float I caught more fish and bigger fish on the tube. Finally, at a few of the ledges I got out of my canoe and worked the ledge hard with my clouser minnow on the fly rod, with good success.

However, late in the day is where the real adventure started....at least for Steve and Guy and me. Around 3pm or so, the



sky began to darken and we could hear thunder in the distance. Randy and Terry were well ahead of us and paddled quickly to the take out. Although Randy did manage to catch a great 20" smallmouth that is pictured here. The rest of us did not anticipate how strong the storms were, so we did not feel a sense of urgency, which was a mistake. Because when the storm hit, we got pounded. The skies opened and we got soaked, the wind howled and made it hard to control our boats, and the thunder and lightening crashed overhead. This actually ended up being a dangerous situation for us. The lesson from this is to be more careful about checking on the weather in the middle of the day for the possibility of severe storms.

# Florida Everglades Fishing

By Jamie Gold

Long time readers of the Buzz might remember an article from two years ago (the June 2014 issue) detailing a trip a few PRSC members took to Florida for a week long fishing trip. Fortunately, several of us from that trip were able to go back to Florida at the end of this past April for another saltwater fishing adventure, and we got one new participant to join us. Making the trip this time were John Lipetz, Doug Marshall, Joey Potts, Craig Bishop, and Jamie Gold.

We were going down to fish with Captain Charles Wright of Everglades Area Tours ([www.EvergladesAreaTours.com](http://www.EvergladesAreaTours.com)). Captain Wright spoke to the club a few years ago, the result of which was our first trip to the Everglades. Our destination was Chokoloskee Island, just below Everglades City on the Gulf Coast side. Chokoloskee Island is tucked into the northwest corner of Everglades National Park, where the nutrient-rich water of the Everglades completes its long, slow journey across the state from Lake Okeechobee and empties into the Gulf of Mexico. This mixing bowl makes an ideal breeding habitat for snook, redfish, sea trout, tarpon, and a host of other species.

Along with Captain Wright, we had the opportunity to fish with some other guides: Josh Fussell and Bruce Hitchcock. Josh specializes in bait fishing and Bruce is the guru of back country fishing up in the mangroves.

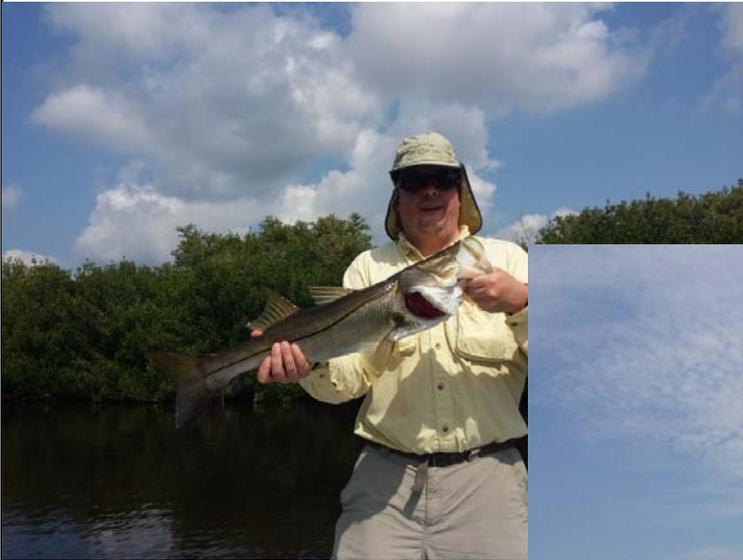
There are a few things that make this trip very special for me. One is the group of guys that went on the trip with me. The company makes all the difference on a trip (I know from one or two less than great experiences), and this is a terrific group to travel and fish with. From John telling jokes and stories, to Doug mixing killer vodka cocktails to Joey's few but very funny words, to Craig's great laid back nature, I had a blast. Another factor is the great job that Captain Wright and the other guides do on our trips. They know the water really well, and worked hard to put us on fish the entire time. Each day we had the chance to do a different kind of fishing. And with the three guides, we could split into groups of two or one so that we could spread out to hit different areas. Third is the variety of fish; each day we weren't quite sure what we were going to catch. For the trip we ended up catching 13 different species of fish including snook, tarpon, redfish, and speckled trout to 3 different kinds of sharks and some other fish. Last, I could easily fall in love with saltwater fishing, especially flats and mangrove fishing. It involves a lot of sight fishing, and the strike and fight of a snook, the aerial display of a tarpon, and the raw power of a redfish are exhilarating. I just wish my budget could support it more.



# Trip - Saltwater Paradise

On day one I went back country fishing in the mangroves with Capt. Bruce and Craig Bishop. While getting to the fishing spots, we literally go through mangrove tunnels as shown in the accompanying picture. Yes, we really went

through that, and at a speed that would have been alarming if we didn't have complete confidence



in Capt. Bruce. We started in one area known for plenty of fish...and started catching fish. I managed to hook and land a 30" snook, while Craig showed an uncanny knack to get tarpon to hit his lure. However,



Craig also hooked up with a nice snook. After catching plenty of other fish, we moved to a spot known to produce big fish, and it did not disappoint. First, I was able to hook and land one of my dream fish on the fly rod....a tarpon. While small as tarpon go, only 8 lbs., it put on a heck of a fight and aerial jumping show. I caught it on a remarkably small green and white streamer pattern. This is a very challenging fish to catch and land on a fly rod. One reason is that they can be very

# Florida Everglades Fishing

picky in what they eat. Also, they have very bony mouths, so setting the hook hard enough so that it sticks can be a real challenge. Finally, since they jump so much, they can easily throw the hook. Very shortly after catching the tarpon, I managed to catch a 35" snook. It is included in the accompanying picture. You might notice that it looks like I'm struggling to hold up the fish. That's because the fight on the fly rod with the tarpon made my arm go numb. Then this snook fought so hard that my left arm was so weak that I couldn't hold it up. Finally, Craig managed to hook into some much bigger tarpon than what I caught, 50 lbs., plus, but they kept jumping and throwing the hook.



While Craig and I were having a blast, Joey and Doug maybe had the wildest single experience on the trip, and they have the video to prove it. While fishing off shore in the Gulf over some structure, one of them managed

to hook a 3 1/2 foot bonnethead shark. While trying to land the fish, at least two goliath grouper came up from the depths and began to snap at the shark. Finally, a really big one showed up and gulped down the shark in one bite! Incredible. Overall, they managed to have a very good day of fishing as well.

On Tuesday I again fished with Craig Bishop, and we went fishing with Capt. Charles himself. This time we fished more of the open water around Chokoloskee Island. Craig had great success with a topwater plug called The Kunckle. Something in the cadence he set up drove the big tarpon crazy. Craig hooked at least two in the 100lbs. range, but they kept jumping and throwing his lures. What was really funny was watching Capt. Wright's amazement at Craig's success with that lure, because the captain admitted that lure doesn't work for him. I also had some fun on topwater using a walk-the-dog type bait that the fish enjoyed smacking. The highlight of the day for me was when I managed to land a nice snook on my fly rod. This one I caught on a clouser that I cast towards a point of an island. He was smaller than my other snook, but a real thrill to fight and land on a fly rod.

For day 3 I fished on my own with Captain Josh. This was a different experience for me as we went bait fishing. Unfortunately, late Tuesday night into early Wednesday morning, we got one heck of a storm. The rain pounded down and the light show was impressive. Twice during the storm the transformer outside our double-wide hummed and sent off a shower of sparks, but we never did lose power. But as a result, the rain moved the fish around and made the fishing more challenging. But I still

# Trip - Saltwater Paradise

had a great time fishing. Using shrimp, I managed to catch catfish, speckled trout, and some bonnethead shark. We also used some catfish tails to try to catch some bigger fish, and I did catch a black-tipped shark.

On the final day, I fished again with Capt. Charles, along with Joey and Craig. Unfortunately, all the pounding over the prior two days finally did in my back, so I did very little fishing. I did manage to get a redfish to blowup on a topwater bait, but failed to land it. Craig and Joey did quite well, with Joey really tearing up the speckled trout.

Overall I had a great trip and can't wait to get back down there for more fishing. As you can see in the pictures below, the other guys did quite well. Joey managed to get a tarpon and a 32" snook. John and Doug also got in on the snook action. For the trip I just missed getting a Florida slam, which consists of a tarpon, snook, redfish, and speckled trout within 24 hours. I missed on the redfish. But Craig did manage to get the slam. I'd like to give a big thank you to Capt. Wright and his guides for doing a great job of putting us on fish. I'd also like to thank John Lipetz for organizing such a great trip. Can't wait to go back.



# PRSC On the Water

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.

Florida Gulf Coast King Mackerel.



18.5" Potomac River Smallmouth.



Marty Burkard.

Caught and photographed by Chun Rhee.

Everglades Snook.



Florida Tarpon.



Doug Marshall. Photo by John Lipetz.

Photo by John Lipetz.

Speckled Trout



Craig Bishop. Photo by John Lipetz.

Florida Snook.



John Lipetz.

Nice Florida Redfish.



Capt. Charles Wright. Photo by John Lipetz.

Jack Crevalle.



Craig Bishop. Photo by John Lipetz.

Another Nice Florida Snook.



Doug Marshall. Photo by John Lipetz.

Another Nice Florida Fish.



Joey Potts. Photo by John Lipetz.

# Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

A Good News / Bad News kind of column this month. No nothing horrendous, relax. We're going to revisit recycling here in America.

I read an interesting article the other day in, of all publications: The Costco Connection on recycling efforts in America and how we're doing on that front. The answer?...quite well actually.

It would seem that more than 65% of all paper is recycled, not just here but globally and 65% of the aluminum used in this country is from reclaimed material. 80% of all our glass bottles are from recycled material as well. I vouch for the fact that after 10 years of helping the Izaak Walton League pick up trash along 11 miles of Browntown Rd, we're collecting fewer and fewer bottles these days.

100 million tires a year are being recycled to make new tires, playground, walking trail and High School track surfaces. Every couple of years we used to hear about a massive used tire pile catching fire and burning for months before it either went out or burned every tire in the pile back into inky black oily goo. But EPA changed the regulations and stockpiling used tires in such vast numbers is no longer permitted. There was, at one time near Winchester VA, a tire pile that took my wife's trucking firm (no she doesn't drive, she manages the terminal smarty pants) FIVE years to clear out at the tune of 4 or 5 truckloads a DAY. Better recycling methods made it economically viable to get rid of them finally.

4.6 billion pounds of plastic in this country is remanufactured into other products, and this has become a tidy little business here because plastic scrap exporting is a 930 million dollar business! Surprised? I sure was. Although I suspect a large percentage of that is going into making Kuerig K-cups. Just as an aside, if anyone was duped into buying a Kuerig 2.0 machine and only found later that the 5 boxes of K-cups of Folgers you bought will not work in the new machine...I have a device that fixes that. I ended up with 2 of them (don't ask...I was stupid...twice) and will give it to whomever on a first ask, first give basis.

Speaking of K-cups...they are apparently becoming a substantial part of our landfills and transfer stations and beginning to become a problem in that regard. If you're interested in a recyclable substitute, there is a company in California called the San Francisco Bay Gourmet Coffee Co.. Their K-cup style coffee containers are 97% biodegradable. All that's left is the label on top and a thin plastic ring. Their coffee is also designated as a 'fair-trade' product if that sort of thing is of interest to you. This also means you'll pay a premium for this coffee but included in your first order is one of the aforementioned devices that once again gives you the ability to use ANY K-cup you care to instead of just Green Mountain Coffee's own 2.0 K-cups. San Francisco Bay Gourmet Coffee sell, both off their website and on Amazon. May I recommend the "Fog Chaser"? You can thank me at next meeting. BTW, if you go to their website and sign up, you can get a free clip and 3 samples of their coffee.

# Conservation Corner

Lots of stuff besides paper, plastic and glass are recyclable. Old electronic devices, as well as their cords and chargers are recyclable at Best Buy and printer ink cartridges at Staples. Costco will refill you ink cartridges at their photo centers as well.

Old clothes of course can go to the Salvation Army collection centers and Goodwill Centers uses their thrift stores to resell those items that still have some usability in them to fund their other good works. Be wary of the solid blue recycle bins being seen in strip malls and other businesses the last few years. This is a commercial operation and they ship these items overseas and generally sell them in developing nations for commercial profit. Goodwill, The Salvation Army and other organizations such as these give what they collect away for free in refugee camps and in disaster areas in those nations.

Animal shelters will take old towels and linens. And some grocery stores of course will take back their plastic bags, but some of them will also take back foam egg cartons, yogurt cups, butter tubs, deli containers, and the plastic wrapping from paper towels, bath tissue and some dry cleaner bags.

Over-bought on that last remodeling project...have 2 or 3 boxes of tile left, the old kitchen cabinets you pulled out, couple of gallons of paint? Call your local Habitat for Humanity. They'll take it from you, keep it out of the landfill, and put it to good use.

So there you have it...a few more good recycling ideas that not only help keep our environment a little cleaner, but may also help out your fellow man as well. All this effort to recycle is saving more than 1 quadrillion BTUs of energy that would have gone into manufacturing new items from raw material. That's enough energy to power up 10 million homes for a year.

But on the bad news front...we're only recycling 35% of everything that \*could\* be recycled. That's up from only 10% thirty years ago, so we've got a ways to go until we reach 'sustainability' in a lot of areas. Personally speaking, I try to stay away from bottled water and I have long ago dumped my daily newspaper (sorry WaPo) And one other thing I did, I took the effort starting about 15 years ago to get rid of all the 'trade rags' I used to get at work. And working in the Aerospace engineering field...there are a LOT of people who want to send me magazines and catalogs. All that information is available online these days, the vast majority of free. I've been pretty successful in that regard. I get, on average, about one piece of outside mail a month at work. See if there's anything YOU can live without at work in that regard. I bet there is.

**PRSC**  
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**Vienna, VA 22183**

This is my favorite picture for May. This is a beautiful 18" Potomac River smallmouth caught by PRSC Member Chun Rhee. He caught this and an 18.5" beauty (in the PRSC On The Water section) at Riverbend Park in Northern Virginia. He caught both fish on a Yamamoto Hula Grub. If you see Chun, be sure to congratulate him on catching these great fish.



# 2015 Contest Results

**April 2015 Report By Jack Cook**

Finally, I have something to report. Bill Pearl has a 17" smallie in Section III. Bill and I were out on April 15 and it was a beautiful day. The trees are starting to bud. Ducks and geese are paired up. We even had an eagle fly by. I'll bet you have guessed that if I'm talking about nature, how the fishing was. Actually, if Bill had boated every fish he hooked, he would have a five fish total. And I am no longer 0 for 2015. We were at River Bend Park and the water level had just gotten low enough for the park officials to allow us to launch a boat.

Remember, if you want to fish the Susquehanna you have only a few days to do so before they close it to bass fishing until June 15<sup>th</sup>.

On my way home the other day I was stopped by a cop. I said, "Officer, I was only running with traffic." He said, "I see you're a fisherman. When you went out today, did you expect to catch every fish in the river?"

Prespawn is always a tough time to fish. However, we are only days away from them going on the beds and then the fishing will improve. Get out there.

## 2015 Results

**Section 1, Biggest Fish:**

**Section 1, Best 5 Fish:**

**Section 2, Biggest Fish:**

**Section 2, Best 5 Fish:**

**Section 3, Biggest Fish:** Bill Pearl, 17"

**Section 3, Best 5 Fish:**

**Largest on Fly:**

**Best 5 Fish on Fly:**

**New Member:**

**Grover Cleveland Contest:**

**William Shriver Award:**

For contest rules and information, visit  
<http://www.prsc.org/fishing-contest/>

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 \$40/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.