



The Buzz

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PRSC Annual Member Night

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You don't want to miss 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 6:30 pm. Be sure to get there on time because this is a hungry group of fishermen, and the food may go fast.

The main event, as always, will be raffling off 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 2016 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 2017 and receive a raffle ticket. Former members whose membership has lapsed can renew to get one ticket. Dues for 2017 will remain at \$40 for the year.

We have a few other activities going on as well. Jack Cook will be recognizing the PRSC fishing contest winners in numerous categories. We will also be welcoming new folks to leadership positions in the Club.



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Upcoming Items

Join us Wednesday, January 25th, for our monthly meeting. Pete Robbins will be speaking about the outstanding Largemouth Bass fishing on Lake El Salto in Mexico, 7:30-9:00 PM at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA.

Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Expo, December 2-3, 2016. If you're a fan of the "long rod" maybe you need to take a trip to Asheville, North Carolina. Check it out here for more information: <http://wncflyfishingexpo.com/>

Richmond Fishing Expo, January 20-22, 2017. Not planning to attend inauguration? Freezing your tail off and wishing you were fishing? The Expo promises "The largest array of tackle, combined with some of the finest professional talent around, offering a weekend of fishing "OVERLOAD." Check it out here: <http://richmondfishingexpo.com/>

The Great American Outdoor Show, February 4-12, 2017. If winter can't end soon enough or you want to book a hunting or fishing adventure, head to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for the best outdoors sports show on the East Coast. For more information or to buy tickets online go to: <https://www.greatamericanoutdoorshow.org/>

Rapidan Trout Unlimited Fishing Show, Saturday, February 11, 2017. The show is held at the Fauquier Fairgrounds, 6209 Old Auburn Rd, Warrenton, VA. Hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. More info is available here: <http://www.rapidantu.org/>

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Our October speaker, **Steve Chaconas**, provided this web address for you to sign up for special email offers from **Mann's Bait Company**: <http://mannsbait.com/specials-offers-deals/>

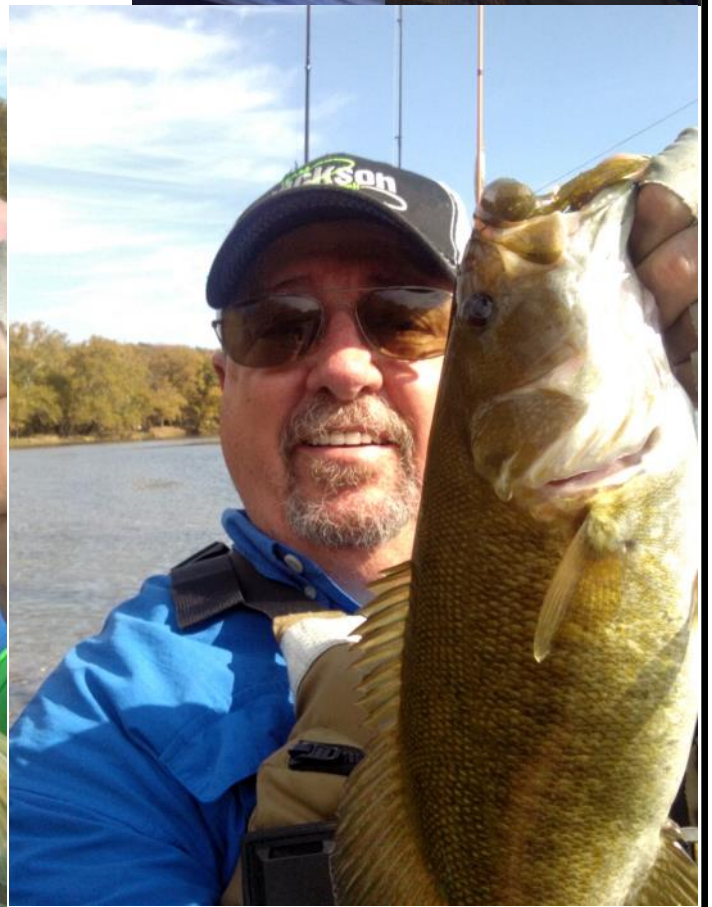
Too-Little Water

By Rick Mrstik

On Saturday, October 29th I met up with PRSC members Herschel Finch and Edgar Diaz and Herschel's friend Greg for what we anticipated would be a low-water float on the Shenandoah between the State Park launch and Karo landing. With the Front Royal gauge fluctuating between 1.25 and 1.3 during the day, it proved to be too-little water for a good float—we dragged bottom in many places during the course of the day.

Despite the low water, the fish proved willing to cooperate as long as we adjusted our tactics to the crystal-clear water conditions, which called for stealth and extra-long casts to the side of our boats. My average fish size was pretty good, ranging between 10 and 14.5 inches in the dozen smallies I landed.

Fish variety was pretty good too. I caught four largemouths in one pool where it was so clear it was possible to sight cast to the fish. My companions also found some LMBs, and Herschel dialed in on a white crappie—I had no idea they lived in the 'Doah too! All things considered, it was a nice day to be out on the water, even if there wasn't quite enough of it.

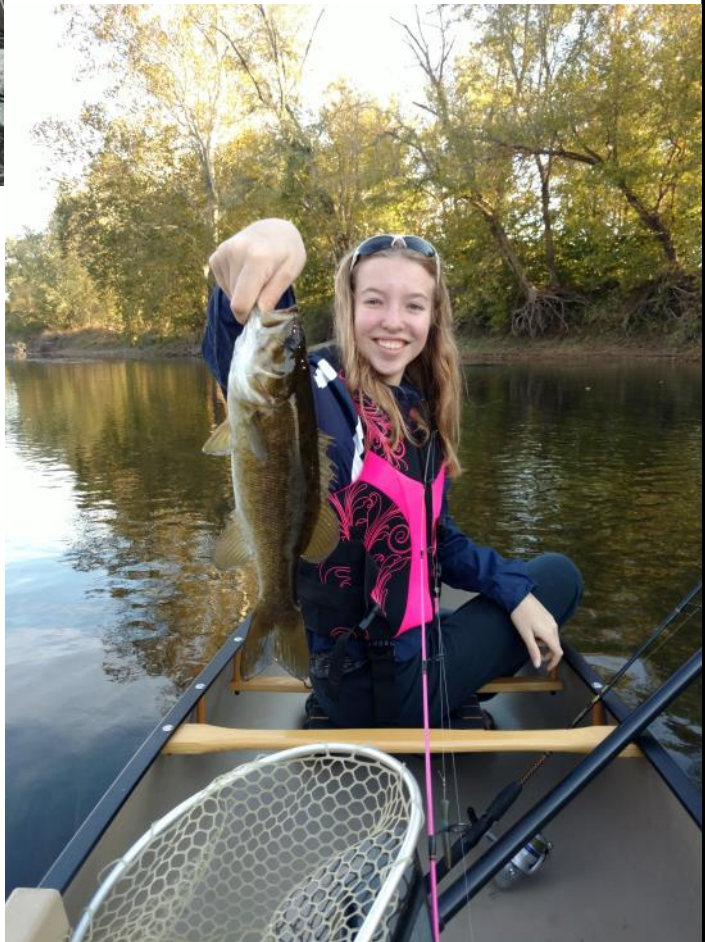


PRSC on the Water



Estan Rodriguez is all smiles after landing this smallmouth in late October. The fish measured 16.5 inches and was his largest smallie to date. He caught the fish on his first cast of the day wading with his dad, Chris Rodriguez, at Turkey Run Park.

Sarah Schaup displays a nice smallmouth she caught on a recent float with her dad Chris Schaup. Chris opined that with the wind and colder weather setting in this may have been their last trip of the season.



Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

I suspect more than one of you is feeling the same as I am after the recent elections, wrung out and disgusted with what passes for politics in this country. We have got to get back to a point where we can talk to each other about difficult issues without thinking the other side of the conversation is being supported by an evil sub-human bent on destroying our way of life. Unless we can do that . . . we're headed straight down the tubes as a country.

The other thing I am worrying about is the direction environmental stewardship is going to go for the next four years. The various cabinet picks that have been put forth so far do not give me any kind of reassurance in that regard either. I read reports that no less an "environmentalist" than Sarah Palin is being considered for Secretary of the Interior. Roll that around in your head for a while. All I know is that I'm going to be pretty busy doing everything I can to help wherever I can for the next four years. And I'll be calling on all of you to help.

I suspect the election is going to be one of the main subjects of discussion at the Bi-annual Shenandoah Summit that's coming up on the 15th of December at Shenandoah University. As we did in 2014, Friends of the Shenandoah River and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Region 4 Aquatics manager Paul Bugas, are hosting a gathering of concerned environmental activists, fishing guides, retailers and outfitters, VDGIF biologists from Region 4 as well as Dr. Bob Orr from Virginia Tech, Friends of the North Fork and Shenandoah River, Dr. Vicki Blazer from the USGS Fisheries Health Laboratory and others who were in attendance and participated in the Shenandoah River Fish Kill Task Force back in 2006. We're trying to meet every two years to present papers and research findings. We'll also be comparing notes on personal observations and just in general, getting each other fired back up about protecting the health of our watershed. If you have anything you'd like this group to hear about, know, or something you saw the last two years on the river, please let me know at the member night meeting, or hit me up by email or Facebook. Any and all information, including photos if you have them, will be appreciated.

In closing, I've gotten to know a couple of club members much better this year on several different trips (non-club trips) and I feel myself enriched for having these folks in my life now. Just having people I can call or email for a spur of the moment fishing trip is a true blessing for me. I wish each and every member a very happy holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.

Don't forget to send me whatever information you have that's relevant for the Shenandoah Summit.

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On November 19th Jed Woodill and I hit the tidal Potomac in search of striped bass. With the stripers not on board with our plan, we decided to move into ever-faithful Neabsco Creek. While Jed quickly hooked up with a 12-inch largemouth, I began to notice "torpedo wakes," which soon proved to be the commotion of this snakehead feeding among the lily pads. He latched onto a soft plastic creature bait and eventually came into the boat, my first catch of this species.



2016 Fishing Contest

Fishing Contest

Be sure to come to member night, where Jack Cook will finalize our 2016 contest winners and present awards.

Entries Thus Far

Section 1, Biggest Fish:	No Report	
Section 1, Best 5 Fish:	No Report	
Section 2, Biggest Fish:	Randy Chandler	20"
Section 2, Best 5 Fish:	Randy Chandler	76"
Section 3, Biggest Fish:	Randy Chandler	21"
Section 3, Best 5 Fish:	Bill Pearl	85.5"
Largest on Fly:	Chip Comstock	12"
Best 5 Fish on Fly:	Chip Comstock	54"
New Member Big Fish:	Randy Hall	18.5"
New Member Best 5:	Randy Hall	75"
Grover Cleveland Leader:	Randy Chandler	21"
William Shriver Leader:	Bill Pearl	160"

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 McLean Community Center. 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. 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.