



**Western Bass Club**  
Since 1938

## WBC News January 2012

### President's Report



Rodney Heupel, President

Hello Western Bass Club members and guests,

Happy New Year to all! This month is a busy month for the members of Western Bass Club with our annual awards banquet coming up on the 14th of January and the Sportsman Show. Let's not forget our Freeze-In for all those that fish the monthly fish-ins that will have happened on Lake Sammamish this month and also next month.

I would like to take the time to thank the outgoing board members, Mark Brown and Chris Blandi for a job well done. Mark has been the Greeter/Greens Slip Chairmen for the past 2 years. Chris has served 5 years straight as a board member as Treasurer and most recently as Special Events Coordinator.

I extend a welcome to new board members Larry Sullivan and Daryl Snodgrass. Larry will serve as the new Greeter/Greens Slip Chairmen. Daryl is the new Special Events Coordinator, as a part of the job will Daryl will also conduct the monthly club raffle. Special thanks goes out to Thomas Maciel who had been running the monthly raffles, a job well done always having a good selection of lures, baits and rods as prizes.

This year we are looking forward to a tournament at Box Canyon Reservoir. A body of water that will be new to the club as a part of our tournament line up. There will be pizza for all who attend this year's Jack-N-Jill tournament. Other tournament lakes selected this year include

Pot Holes Reservoir, the Columbia River and Lake Washington. To keep the fishing exciting we will also fish local lakes every month. Watch our web site for listings of the many special speakers that will be entertaining us at our monthly meetings.

It's going to be a good new year at Western Bass Club, looking forward to a year of fun fishing, learning more about bass fishing, meeting new people and developing long lasting friendships.

Rodney Heupel  
President, Western Bass Club

## Meeting Minutes

Dan Mowry, Secretary

### Meeting Minutes December 2011

As you all are well aware, there was no General Meeting in December, so I will just give a few reminders of upcoming events and WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Remember the Club Annual Awards Banquet is being held on January 14th, 2012. An invitation, with directions is being sent out to all. It is a potluck dinner. Plates, forks, and pop will be provided. Bring your favorite dish to share, new crank baits for the crank bait tree, new (current) bags of plastics for the plastic bucket, and money for the GIANT Raffle.

The annual Club Booth will be set up at the Sportsman Show from January 25th through January 29th. A sign-up sheet is on the web-site, so please sign up when you can to help promote the club. The sign-up sheet will be available at the banquet.

The January meeting will feature the World Famous "Skills Challenge". Don't miss this one as it gives you bragging rights as the clubs "best" for the next year.

The Club needs some boaters to step up and become AMBASSADORS for the upcoming year. We have many new members who are non-boaters, and they need to see some water and fish. Share your fishing time with a new member; you will be glad you did. We also need more boaters for our monthly fish-ins. Again we are getting many new non-boaters who want to fish. We would also like to acknowledge the following people who will be serving on the Club Board of Directors for the year 2012. President--Rodney Huepel, V.P./Tournament Director--Terry Steffensen, Secretary—Dan Mowry, Treasurer—John Greer, Ambassador—Dan Chaffey, Greeter—Larry Sullivan, Entertainment-- Angie Dover, Special events—Daryl Snodgrass. Thank you to all. We would like to also Thank outgoing Board members Chris Blandi, and Mark Brown.

### BACK SEATERS GUIDE TO BEING A GOOD BACK SEATER

Everyone who owns a boat has had people that they love to fish with. They have also had those that they don't ever want to see again, let alone fish with again. Well if you would prefer to be the former and not the latter, read on. Here are a few "Back Seater" guidelines that may help you get back on a boat this year.

1) Be Prepared: Bring Raingear, Sunglasses, Sunscreen, Lifejacket, Lunch, Drinks, and some Ski Goggles are a nice addition for those long runs in the rain. Dress in layers, so you can adjust down if you get warm. Remember space is limited so only wear what you can store in your space. You don't want to be cold and wet for the whole day. Many boaters will have one empty compartment for a non-boater, but don't count on it, many don't.

2) Tackle Control: Absolutely do not take more than FIVE (5) Rods, FOUR would be more manageably. And ONLY ONE (1) tackle bag. IT IS NOT YOUR BOAT, Don't abuse your welcome or your LIMITED Space!!! If you know who you are going to fish with, talk ahead of time so you have an idea of the type of fishing you will most likely be doing. If he is running the banks with a crank bait or a spinner bait, or is fishing finesse at 40 feet, you won't need that flipping stick. Pre-rig your rods and be ready to go. If you don't know what the boater's plan is just rig up your favorite "GO TO" baits and adjust as you go. TRIM DOWN YOUR STUFF. FOOD FOR THOUGHT I probably use 10% of what I bring on any given day.

- 3) **Etiquette:** About 10% of the people I fish with will invite me to the front of the boat to fish alongside them and work together to hit every twig, laydown, and good looking spot as we move down the bank. Another 25% will have me on the back of the boat, but will leave me a good share of the upcoming spots to fish first. They will hit every other spot and some will even say "hit that dock corner, or throw to that stump". The other 65% will have their game plan and agenda plotted out and will stick to it no matter what. They expect you to stay in the back of the boat and not to mess with their fishing. As a back seater, you need to figure out which angler you are with that day. You need to respect his wishes and follow his fishing plan. If you start throwing across his line, or try to cast ahead of him, you are out of line and need to go buy your own boat. Remember he is the Captain of the ship and you are an invited guest. Don't ROCK the BOAT. Word will get out to others if you are a rude, inconsiderate fisherperson. This is the fastest way to get left on shore in the future. You also need to discuss other fishing situations before you hit the water. Does he want you to net his fish? HOW does he want you to net his fish? Does he want you to run the front of the boat while he eats his lunch, changes his lure, or culls a fish? Does he want to talk and chatter? Or does he want to focus on his fishing?
- 4) **Be Observant:** If he is running down the bank on high, cranking or chunking a spinner bait, you probably will not have much success trying to "deadstick" a senko. So you need to adjust what you can to insure you have a chance for success. Try a different size, color, shape, profile, or technique, but remember to fish something that will be the same speed as your boat-er. He shouldn't be able to catch them all, and something you do a little different may trigger the bite. Be sure to communicate any knowledge you may have about the Lake. If you have a few spots, let the boater know right up front. That way you may get to fish your water and your techniques which means, a better chance for success for you as a back-seater. He is sharing his spots and boat, be sure to share what you can also.
- 5) **Be Respectful:** Respect the way he wants to fish and operate his boat. Keep the center aisle clear of your "stuff" you both need to get from the front of the boat to the back for netting, landing, culling and moving to other spots. Respect his property. Don't spill or dribble drinks or scent on the carpet, don't leave trash and used plastics lying all over the floor. Don't walk on his seats, they are expensive to repair or replace. When you are running from one spot to the next, make sure all your stuff is tied down. No one wants to circle back to look for a lost hat, sunglasses, or your favorite rod.
- 6) **Be Helpful:** Offer to help launch and pull out his boat, but only if you know how to back down a trailer. If you can't, then offer to hold on to it while he parks. Every little bit helps and offering to help goes a long way. Always offer to help wipe down the hull when you're done. And ALWAYS offer to help with the expense for gas. Most people are fishing anyway and won't accept your money, but you need to step up and help cover the cost. A twenty dollar bill doesn't go very far in the gas tank these days. It's the RIGHT thing to do. And last but not least..... Leave your GPS at home. Most boaters are happy to take you out to fish with them, but they all work long and hard to find those special "Honey Holes" so don't abuse their generosity. Community holes are one thing, but don't turn their special spot into a community hole.
- 7) This is just a short list of the basics. Follow them and you will not have any problems getting someone to take you fishing for the second, third, or many more times.

## Special Events



Chris Blandi, Special Events Director

Mark your calendars:

Coming up is the Puyallup Sportsman Show. The dates are Wednesday, January 25th-29th. I will be posting a volunteer list for the Show in the Members only Forum. Sign up early so you can get your preferred time slot. I will also bring a updated volunteer list to the Banquet if you want to sign up there. If you have never seen or worked our club booth, it is time you do. You get to meet new people, and help spread the word about our great bass club. Anyone that volunteer's will get a free pass to the show for that day. For more info, see my sign up post on the Forum.

## Fish-In Report

Dan Caffrey, Ambassador Director



It's been a fun year at the Fish-Ins. I really enjoyed being the Ambassador Director this year, and am now looking forward to 2012. I would like to start out by saying thank you to all of the club members who participated in any of the events. We caught a lot of nice bass from as far South as Black Lake, and as far North as Lake Goodwin. We've fished in near freezing temperatures, we've fished in sweltering heat, we've fished in the day, and we've fished at night, but Western Bass Club always seems to pull a few chunky bass out of some of our favorite lakes; no matter what the conditions are. I've learned a lot from my lake selections in 2011, and I think 2012 should be a phenomenal year to be on the water at the Fish-Ins.

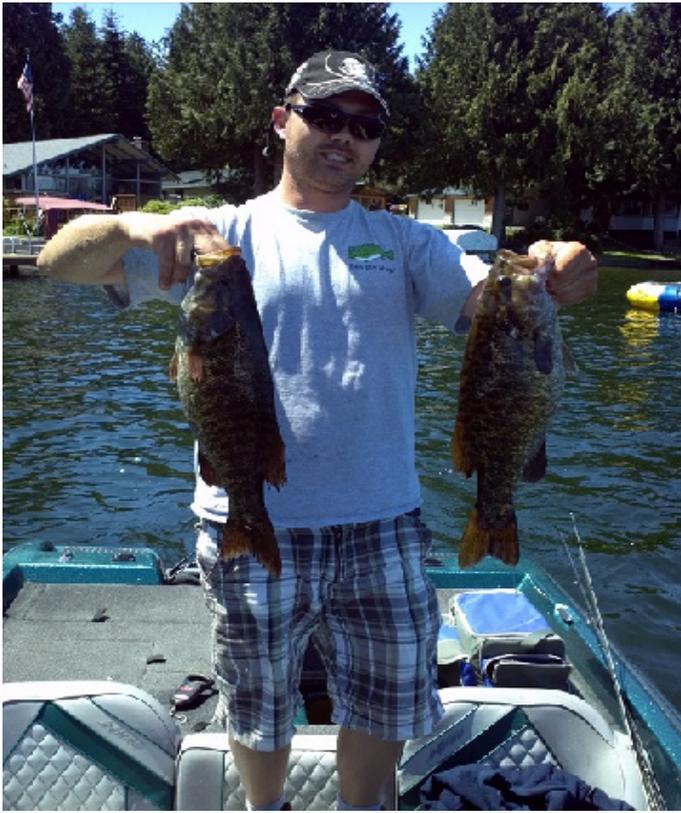
One thing I would like to see in 2012 is more participation from boaters. We have had a recent increase in non-boating members, as well as interest from non-members. The Fish-In is designed to attract new members and keep the non-boaters on the water all year long. If there isn't enough boats I will have to turn away the potential new members, to reserve the seats for the current members. Some of which have been members for years and deserve that respect.

We'll be starting the year off at Lake Sammamish on Jan. 7th. There will be no chili dogs because they don't let you cook at the Sammamish ramp. We'll be eating at Fat Burgers instead. Dress warm and dry, and bring your dropshots and football heads.

It's been an awesome experience for me this year, to fish with lots of different club members and to share their knowledge. If you want to learn more about bass fishing this is the place to be.

Dan Caffrey  
Ambassador Director

Here are some memorable catches from last years Fish-Ins:



## Green Slip/Greeter



Larry Sullivan

Hey Western....IM BACK!!!

Yes....I'm back on the board in a fairly neutral spot this time as your Greeter and Greenslip person!! Thanks go out to Mark Brown for his service as the former person in this position and for his setting up and running the shirts and hat sales!! Bravo my friend!! For those who might not know me very well I've been with the club since 1997 and have held the Vice President/Tournament Director position for 4 years and the Ambassador Director also for 4 years and you will find me as active in the club functions as finances and work time will allow. I have worked for American Medical Response as an EMT since 1992 and still enjoy working for this great county. As we move forward I always have stressed that this is YOUR club and YOUR club will only go as far as you want it to go so at times we all need to take our turn at the helm or as one of the many oarsmen that keep this great ship afloat and running true.

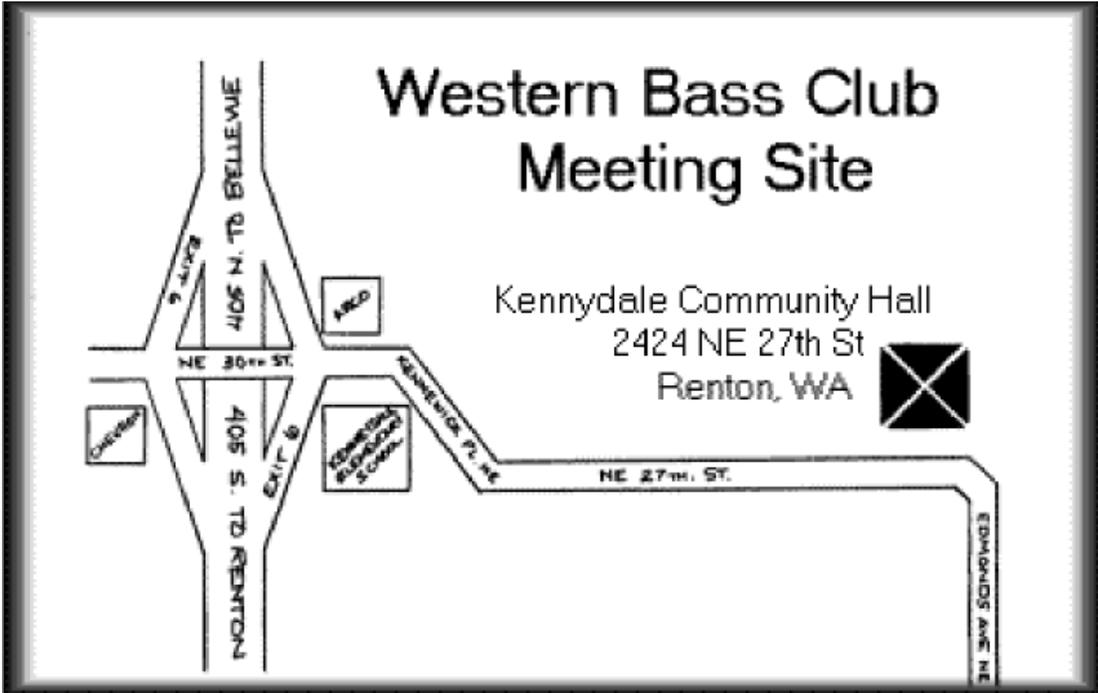
With that basic premise in mind, I would like to announce the newest addition to our Lifetime Member Family...and yes it is a Family!!! John, Gillian and Adam Harris have been members of Western going all the way back to the 1970s and were very active at functions, fundraisers and manning the booth at our many sportsmens shows. They are now residing in Moses Lake and still come out to the tournaments on the East Side representing our growing Eastern Club Contingent. They can always be found wearing club coats, hats and various attire and I cannot count the times when folks from clubs on the East Side have talked to me about the times they have run into The Harris's at their weigh-ins on Moses or Potholes Reservoir. So I am honored to be the the first to welcome The Harris Family to our honored class and look forward to seeing them at our next East Side event!!!

If anyone has any questions or cannot make the meeting and needs to turn in a Green Slip by phone give me a ring at (253) 335-2036 or E-Mail me at [scudman93@aol.com](mailto:scudman93@aol.com) look me up on Facebook also.

Larry Sullivan.

Meeting Information

**Date:** Third Wednesday of each month  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Kennydale Community Center  
2424 NE 27th  
Renton, WA



## Western Bass Club Membership Form

Spouse, children under 18, and grandchildren are also members with your paid annual dues.

### NEW MEMBER AND MEMBER RENEWAL FORM

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER / RENEWAL  
(please circle appropriate choice)

Website User Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

List Children:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

#### PLEASE NOTE:

**Dues are \$45 for new members and renewals.**

Your signature on this application releases Western Bass Club from all claims for any injury and/or damage, personal or property that you, members of your family, or guests may cause or sustain.

Make checks payable to: Western Bass Club

Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Western Bass Club  
Attn: Secretary  
PO Box 59027  
Renton WA 98058