

## Spokane Walleye Club

- General Meeting:** September 25, 2019 7:00 PM at INWC
- Officers Present:** Doug Schroeder (President), Ken Shatzer (Vice President), Allan Walker (Treasurer), Mark McFall (Secretary)
- Board Members Present:** George Allen, Larry Quaintance, Travis Scholten, John Calkins
- Absent:** None
- Members Signed-in:** 17

### Treasurer's Report

Checking	Project	Club	Total
\$2,911.89	\$13,100.22	\$9,016.61	\$25,028.72

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### New Members & Guests

None

### Fishing Reports

Sanford Foster recently had good results fishing near Buoy 5 on the Spokane Arm.

Diane Fischer caught a 4 lb. Walleye, and another nice one, on the Snake River the week after our Fall Campout there. None of our club members showed up for the campout, evidently due to the heat. Tri-Cities club members were there.

### Sunshine Report

Doug Schroeder is recovering nicely from his recent shoulder surgery. Ditto for George Allen on his recent heart surgery. Ditto for Shirley Calkins on her recent difficulties. *All three are here tonight and looking well!*

Lynn Logman continues to recover nicely from her recent knee replacement surgery.

Doug reported that Sharon Blume is now able to get around on a walker, however she has developed other problems.

George Allen reported that Linda is pending another surgery and her prognosis is good.

Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers.

### By-Law Reading and Vote

Copies of the proposed By-Law revisions were circulated among the membership for the required second reading prior to their vote. The subsequent vote to adopt these revisions was unanimous. A copy of the revised By-Laws is attached and will be posted on the club website.

### 2019 Christmas / Awards Banquet Luncheon

The luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 PM Players & Spectators in Spokane Valley. The menu choices are Salmon or Prime Rib at \$26.99 each (a \$2 increase from the last quote, but desert will now be included). **A head count is needed and members and guests should contact Greg Koch with their RSVP at their earliest opportunity. The deadline for RSVPs is October 31<sup>st</sup>. Members attending who have not submitted an RSVP will have to order from the menu.**

We will again have a lure tree and Stan Judd will be in-charge of that.

### Ball & Chain Tournament

This annual very fun and charitable event will be held at Kettle Falls this coming weekend, September 28-29, and members are encouraged to attend.

### 2020 Spring Picnic

Our annual Spring Picnic will again be at the Kettle Falls Locust Grove group campground on June 11-15<sup>th</sup>. Greg Koch has made the reservations. The problem we wish to avoid this time is being there after Sturgeon season has opened. Doug advised that he would check with the WDFW to ascertain when that will be. If necessary, there is a nominal fee to change our reservations; we would make them a week earlier if that happens.

### 2020 Tournament

Our Banks Lake Tournament will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, the weekend before memorial day. George will again be the tournament director.

Doug advised that it is time to get started on preparations for the tournament.

Travis is working on an appeal letter to prospective sponsors and will have it ready at our October meeting.

### 2020 Raffle & Big Horn Show

Doug advised that our raffle tickets will soon be printed; there will again be 5,000 \$1 tickets. We fell far short of selling all of the tickets last year. We need a raffle chairperson and to start ticket sales early and will need members' participation to make this a success. Please plan on helping out.

First prize will be \$600 (retail cost) worth of fishing gear. Second prize will be a Yeti cooler, worth \$300. Third prize will be a rod & reel combo, worth \$100. The prize drawings will be held on the last day of the show, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Club Projects

We haven't done any club projects in a long time, and we have plenty of money in our Project Account for funding.

George discussed Mardon's fish habitat artificial reef project as being a good candidate for a project effort. Perhaps we could make this into an overnight trip with one work day and one fishing day. Doug or George will contact Mardon's Mike Meseberg on this and will invite him to speak at a forthcoming general membership meeting.

The artificial reefs are four square foot PVC boxes constructed by volunteers.

### December Board Elections

Doug advised that we need to get going with the Nominating Committee and need a chairperson. He encouraged members to consider stepping up for a board position. It is time for some new blood and increased member participation.

Doug is finishing his second term as President and is term-limited. Mark is finishing five years as Secretary and would like a break. Allan agreed to serve another term as Treasurer.

Two board positions will be open. (Under our recently revised structure, there will be two each year.)

### Club Future and Member Participation

We had a good wide-ranging discussion on these topics. It was noted that our membership overwhelmingly consists of "senior citizens," several of whom have experienced health issues. And, it is the same small number of members who are volunteering for board positions and for club activities, e.g., cooking, raffle ticket sales, staffing our Big Horn booth, tournament help, and committee chairing or membership.

Shirley Calkins proposed advertising in local publications and distributing flyers. Two other members agreed. Mark and Linda McFall discovered the club by just such a flyer.

John Calkins advised that we need to transform the club for it to remain viable. Travis Scholten agreed, advising that this is our biggest issue as our club is aging and our membership numbers are dwindling. Greg Koch had previously noted this. We need to recruit and retain younger members and stimulate their interest in actively participating.

We've fallen away from inviting new members to go fishing, e.g., individually or on club fish days. Larry Quaintance described how, as a new member, an invitation by Greg Koch to go fishing closed the deal for him. Not that long ago, it was primarily Greg Koch who invited new members out fishing and that became overwhelming.

Better participation by other tenured members would have alleviated that.

Other members advised that the lack of such an initial outreach and mentoring had the opposite effect for them. More interaction between members and improved communication, especially when fishing, would also help. A member observed that oftentimes club members break up into small “cliques,” and this is not a welcoming thing. Extending a welcome and better communications and reaching outside of those small groups would make a big difference, especially when fishing.

Suggestions were made to advertise Walleye fishing, keeping it short and sweet, and including fishing reports in the advertisements to stimulate interest in prospective members.

Basically, we are not getting the word out about the club and have room to improve on inviting and mentoring new members.

Past president Mike Cook advised that Walleye fishers are most interested in that topic and not much else, such as club functions and responsibilities. Informal / social get-togethers for fishing information exchanges and fishing outings would satisfy most Walleye fishers. He floated the idea that the club could be dissolved, its treasury donated, and the less formal arrangement he described could replace what we have now.

Mike advised that Spokesman-Review fishing sports reporter Allen Liere ([SpokesmanLiere@Yahoo.com](mailto:SpokesmanLiere@Yahoo.com)) is a good contact.

#### WDFW Meeting

George Allen advised that on October 2nd, the WDFW will be having a meeting at Mirabou Park regarding fishing limits on the west side.

#### Speaker Presentation

Travis Scholten gave an excellent demonstration on air brush painting of lures. He has tried various color combinations and has zeroed in on some patterns that have produced some great results for him at the Snake River. *His presentation was very well received. Thanks, Travis!*

For those who are interested, but do not wish to paint their own lures, Travis will do them for \$6 each.

#### Next Month's Speaker Presentation

Member Greg Koch will speak on Walleye fishing techniques on the Spokane Arm. *Don't miss this one!*

#### Adjournment

8:30 PM.

Next Meetings

Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the INWC.

The board will meet at **6:00 PM**. Members are welcome to attend.