



The Buzz

www.prsc.org



Volume 26, Issue I

January 30, 2013

Herschel on the 'Doah

Upcoming Items

PRSC Meeting
February 27, 2013

Case Plastics Sale
January 2013

Potomac Riverkeeper
Winter 2013

Potomac Cons.
Winter 2013

In This Issue

UPCOMING P. 2

PRSC UPDATES P. 3

MEET PRSC'S NEW VP P. 4

IN MEMORIAM: AL PUGH P. 5

PRSC ON THE WATER P. 6

2012 PRSC MEMBER NIGHT P. 7

CCA OF NOVA ANNUAL DINNER P. 8

CONSERVATION CORNER P. 9

FISHING CONTEST P. 10

In case you haven't heard, the Shenandoah has been fishing extremely well the last couple of years! Just look back at some of the trip reports and photos in the 2012 issues of *The Buzz*. Rebounding from fish kills and other issues that seemed out of control back in 2004, the 'Doah has reclaimed its position as one of the area's premier smallmouth bass fisheries. Our own Herschel Finch, longtime club member and Conservation Chair, is a Front Royal VA resident and fishes the Shenandoah regularly.

Herschel has been fishing the Shenandoah River since 1977. In those 35 years, he has gone from wade and bank fishing to borrowing canoes and jonboats, to building his own boat (long story) to kayak fishing and becoming a pro-staffer for Jackson Kayak.

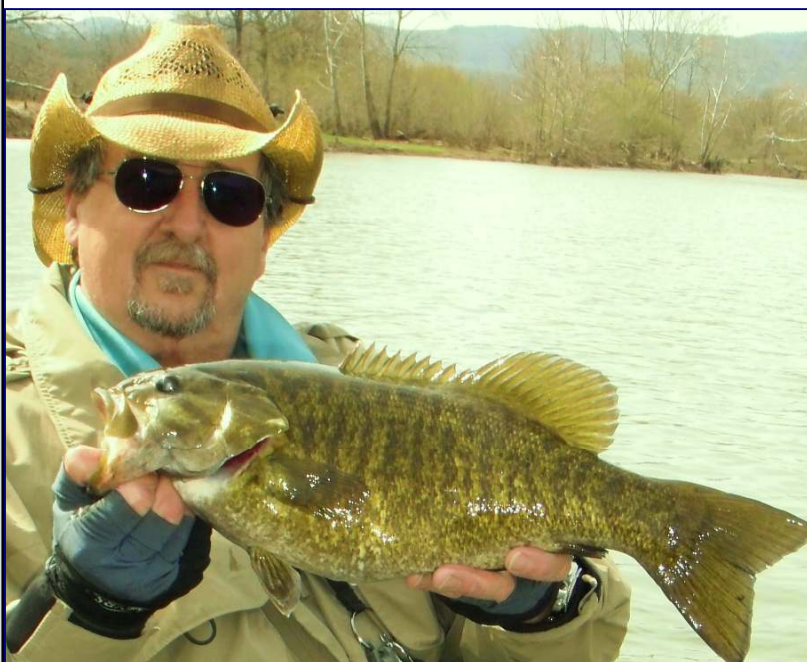
Herschel is a member of Trout Unlimited, the Izaak Walton League of America, the Shenandoah Riverkeeper, and started a small blog for Jackson Kayak about kayak fishing and conservation issues. His first paid article will be published sometime this spring in Kayak Angler Magazine. Truth be told, Herschel is amazed that anyone would pay him for his opinions.

But along the way, he's learned a few things about fishing the Shenandoah, its storied history, and the lessons it holds for anyone who cares to take the time and make the drive out to the Valley. He's gonna try and share some of that with the club as January's featured speaker. Come prepared to ask Herschel the best stretches to float, his

favorite holes, and his most productive lures.

If you have been wondering just where, when and how to get re-acquainted with the 'Doah, you won't want to miss Herschel's talk! We're sure that Herschel's deep knowledge and avuncular style will be both informative and entertaining.

Herschel with a very nice 19" smallmouth.



Club Executive Board	
President	Steve Moore (h) (703) 494-8208 president@prsc.org
Vice-President	Kristen Sorensen vp@prsc.org
Secretary	Dave Lockard (h) (301) 656-1964 secretary@prsc.org
Treasurer	Jamie Gold C (571) 213-4699 treasure@prsc.org
Trip Coordinator	Steve Adams (703) 409-3846 trip_coordinator@prsc.org
Program Chair	Bill Amshey Programs@prsc.org
Conservation Chair	Herschel Finch (H) (540) 635-7636 Conservation@prsc.org
Librarian	Chip Comstock Librarian@prsc.org
Additional Programs	
Fishing Contest	Jack Cook H (703) 573-4403
The Buzz	Jamie Gold (C) (571) 213-4699 Buzz_Editor@prsc.org
Merchandise	Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128 Publicity@prsc.org
Past President	Randy Chandler
Publicity	Ernie Rojas H (703) 729-0128

Upcoming Items

Potomac River Smallmouth Club - Next Meeting

Join Us Wednesday, February 27 for PRSC's next meeting. Join us as John Hayes, noted Upper Potomac River Guide, will be speaking to the club in what should be a fascinating presentation and discussion.

Case Plastics Sale

For the January 2013 meeting, Ernie Rojas has announced a sale on all pink bags of Case Plastics. Normally \$4.00 per bag, at the January meeting ALL pink bags will be \$2.25 each! So come to the January meeting to hear Herschel Finch talk about the Shenandoah River, and get some Case Plastics to stock up for the upcoming smallmouth fishing season.

Potomac Riverkeeper

New Potomac Riverkeeper

Long serving Potomac Riverkeeper Ed Merrifield retired in 2012. The new Potomac Riverkeeper is Matt Logan, former President of the C&O Canal Trust, and before that he served as President of the Potomac Conservancy.

Potomac Groundswell: A Hurricane Sandy Relief Fundraiser. Saturday, February 2 - 7pm - Sunday, February 3 - 12am. Come out and have fun with Potomac Riverkeeper, DC Surfrider and other organizations and raise money for the victims of Hurricane Sandy at the same time! There will be a silent auction as well as art, live music, food and alcohol tastings, and other attractions. All proceeds will go directly to hurricane relief through RebuildRecover. For more information go to <http://www.potomacriverkeeper.org>.

Potomac Conservancy

Troubled Waters: State of the Nation's River Report—2012. Potomac Conservancy has released its sixth annual report on the Potomac, outlining the consequences of four main pollutants of the Potomac River. Last year, the Conservancy scored the river's health at a barely passing "D" grade, a downgrade from the group's previous "D+". The Conservancy believes that to address the pollution of our waters and the inevitable development of our land, widespread changes must occur. Download the report at http://www.potomac.org/site/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/sonr12_finalreport.pdf

Canal Stewards at Fletcher's Cove. Sunday, February 10 - 10am-12pm. Join us at the River Center! We'll be meeting at 10 am at the River Center to clean up the lockhouse area and the nearby towpath. This cleanup is open to all ages, and we'll 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 Lien Vu at (301) 608-1188 x215 with any questions. For directions to the River Center visit: <http://www.potomac.org/site/directions/index.php>

For more information go to their website at www.potomac.org.

PRSC Updates

By Steve Moore

I want to be the first to welcome you to the Potomac River Smallmouth Club's 25th year. On the occasion of this significant anniversary, a little reflection is required. The first, and most startling fact, is that our club has persisted, without national sponsorship, for so long. The club must be doing something right! The question is, "What is it?" and "How do we keep doing it?" I believe the answer is fairly simple. As a result of the efforts of many unsung heroes over the last 25 years, we delivered a vibrant speaker program focused on topics that go to the core of our fishing obsession with the gentle addiction being further amplified and encouraged via shared fishing trips.

So, when looking forward, one could say that all we need to do to extend our success is to continue to do what has worked in the past. While that is true to a certain extent, it is a dangerous perspective. As William Pollard said, *"The arrogance of success is to think that what we did yesterday is good enough for tomorrow."*

As we move into our anniversary year, I'm going to challenge myself, our board and each of you to think about how we can best improve. My father, a veteran whose service included Korea and Vietnam, once told me that during battle he would pause and ask himself the following question:

What am I doing that I should not be doing and what am I not doing that I should be doing to influence the situation in my favor?

What is our answer to that question? One view is that we need to shake things up – that we have become complacent. We took the first step away from that probable future last year when we registered the club on Meetup.com to advertise our existence and program to the wider Washington DC Metropolitan Area. Meetup is a very good automated way for a trip leader to communicate updates and details to members who have signed up for a trip and for members to get the latest info, without having to deal with long e-mail threads. While many people registered on Meetup as interested in our club, few actually attended a monthly program and fewer still participated in our various fishing expeditions. Ignoring the very obvious, positive benefit of the financial contribution a new member brings to help offset the club's expenses, the more valuable asset is their fresh perspective and new ideas.

How do we convert interest into attendance? Beyond that, if you look around the room at one of our monthly meetings, the common denominator is that we are a bunch of old guys - where's everyone else? How do we reach out? What is our program missing that fails to generate the enthusiasm each of us has for fishing causing us to go out of our way to gather in the firehouse once a month or join forces to share shuttles for fishing trips? Obviously, any new effort requires energy and time – what's the proper balance to maximize our success? And--most important--what are we doing that does *not* add value?

Give that some thought and share your ideas so we can make the next 25 years even better!

Thanks to Randy!

December 31, 2012 marked the end of Randy Chandler's three years of dedicated service to the club; two years as president and one as vice president. As president, I am profoundly grateful for the smooth transition and mentoring he provided to me over the last year, allowing us to maintain the momentum he and his predecessors established that propelled us through 25 years of viability. Randy's positive attitude and willingness to be the board's "utility player," filling in for others where needed, made him an invaluable asset and core member of the club's leadership team. For those of you who wonder how much time it takes to serve in a leadership position, all I need to do is point to the fact that Randy consistently wins our club's awards for the largest 5 fish caught. So, helping make our club great did not cut into his fishing time! In fact, rubbing elbows with the expert anglers on the board (myself excluded) probably gave him an unfair advantage! As we look to fill upcoming vacancies on the board, please look at Randy's example and raise your hand to volunteer.

PRSC Gear

We have a new selection of PRSC gear! Some of you have asked how we decide what to offer to the club. The answer is simple, we established several price points (\$15, \$20 and \$25) and buy whatever is on sale fitting within those levels that allows us to generate a minimum of five dollars of income for the club per item. If the apparel offered with the sale discount looks good, we only buy a few pieces since we do not want to be burdened with a large inventory of unpopular items. As a result of this frugal strategy, we cannot predict what we may have from month-to-month. Therefore, if you like what you see in a particular month, pick it up and help support the club. After all, we have a cool logo - so wear it! You can purchase PRSC logo items at the merchandise table at our monthly meetings.



Welcome to PRSC's New VP

Editor's Note: I and the rest of the leadership team at PRSC are very happy and excited to welcome Kristen Sorensen as the new VP for our club. Kristen joined PRSC last year, and we really appreciate her willingness to step into a leadership position. During our first board meeting for 2013, she was already full of some great ideas for the club. Please join us in welcoming her warmly and enthusiastically to her new role.

Kristen Sorensen learned to fly fish last summer in the Potomac River at Harper's Ferry. Though her first fish caught wasn't anything to write home about (see the PRSC on the Water section in this issue), she was immediately hooked on the sport. She is able to get away from the rowdy neighborhood of Adams Morgan in DC where she lives with her husband, and out to the Potomac almost every weekend.

Kristen moved to DC less than two years ago from Salt Lake City, Utah. She was recently able to travel home for the holidays where her new waders came in very handy as she used a prince nymph to fish the Provo and Weber rivers in northern Utah for brown trout (see below). Because Kristen is new to the DMV area and to fishing, she welcomes any advice about where and what to fish. Kristen has been a member of the Potomac River Smallmouth Club since July of last year and she is very much looking forward to serving as Vice President.



In Memorium - Al Pugh

By Herschel Finch

Alvin Pugh August 4th 1955 – December 22, 2012

The club lost a good friend over the holidays. Alvin Pugh passed away on Friday the 22nd of December of a sudden heart attack while on a golf outing with friends from his church.

Al was a force of nature. He was big hearted, possessed of a big beautiful bass singing voice and a big smile and laugh. Everything about Al was out sized. Al was born in Alderson, West Virginia, hard by the Greenbrier River. This is where Al learned to fish for smallmouth, which would become a life-long passion for him. It's also where he obtained his small town values, a dedication to simple things, and the common sense that would be the hallmark of Al's life. Indeed one of Al's favorite sayings when confronted with our everyday frustrations or an obvious empty-headed action was: "Common sense just isn't all that common any more Hoss."

What do we say about a guy who probably taught more people about smallmouth fishing than just about any book or fishing seminar you could name. Al's breadth of knowledge on river fishing was encyclopedic and he shared it willingly and happily. I'd be willing to bet that virtually every fisherman who ever came in contact with Al, at some point, was handed a fistful of Gary Yamamoto bait packs from his famous 80 lb black sport bag he carried with him on virtually every trip. Being pro-staff for Yamamoto baits as well as for Pro-Soft Glue, meant Al's out-sized countenance was at virtually every fishing show in the mid-Atlantic for a number of years, usually wearing what we all referred to as "the giant bumble-bee shirt." Standing at one of his booths chatting, it sometimes seemed there was nobody at the entire show that Al didn't know.

But Al was much more than just a small town, pro-staffer fishing guy. A 20 year career spent in the US Navy's submariner force running nuclear power plants was not exactly the first thing that would pop into your mind that he was cable of. But once you got to know Al, you know Tom Ehrhard got it right when he said of Al: "If the Russians had known we could take West Virginia Hillbillies and turn them into nuclear engineers, they would have quit a long time ago." He was a devoted husband to "Trish-Ann" and beloved father to his two great sons Jim, and Jeremy, and recently he was "Pap-Pap" to his greatest joy, Silas, his six-year-old grandson. Grandchild number two will be born in May of this year.

Al was many things to many people. But here at the Potomac River Smallmouth Club, he'll always be our friend,...and "Hoss"... we're gonna miss him a lot.

Al Pugh at the oars on the river. Photo by Brian Quisenberry.



PRSC On the Water

By: Jamie Gold

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.

Cold Weather Striper.



Ernie Rojas.

18.5" Juniata River Smallmouth.



Kris Andersen.

Nice Largemouth.



John Lipetz.

PRSC's New VP.



Kristen Sorensen.

Member Night 2012

By Jamie Gold. Photos by Herschel Finch

On Wednesday, November 28, 2012 PRSC held its annual Member Night Celebration. With a full house of members, excellent BBQ, and tables full of prizes, we all had a great time. MC duties were ably handled by Steve Moore, Jack Cook handed out the awards for the fishing contest (final results are provided on the last page of this issue), and all of us enjoyed some good fellowship. Below are some pictures from the happy event. I hope that you enjoyed your holidays and look forward to seeing you in 2013.



Northern VA CCA Dinner

CCA Northern Virginia Chapter is pleased to invite you to our 13th Annual Dinner and Auction taking place on Saturday, March 2nd, 2013 at 6:00 pm.

WHERE: The SHRINERS KENA TEMPLE, 9001 Arlington Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22030

AUCTION items include:

12+ Charter/Guided Fishing trips
Golf Packages
Home Furnishings
Apparel – Men & Women
Dinner Certificates
Framed Artwork
Premium Fly Rod & Reel Combos
Trolling Lures, Rods & Reels
Light Tackle Lures, Rods & Reels
Custom Fly Collections

Plus much, much more – over \$20,000 worth of merchandise!!

TIME: 6:00 Social - Hors D'oeuvres, Full Open Bar

7:00 Dinner

8:00 Live Auction

SILENT AUCTIONS & BUCKET RAFFLES running through-out evening!!

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW:

\$50.00 per person, Includes CCA Membership

EARLY-BIRD PURCHASE by 2/27 and Receive a \$20.00 Coupon!!

- Coupon good for Live or Silent Auction item – one per bidder #

Plus Cash Drawing

BLUE MARLIN Sponsor Table for 8 - \$500.00

- Includes \$100.00 coupon toward live auction item

SPECIAL RAFFLE – Hand Crafted Hugh Miller Custom Fishing Rod (Fly rod, Spinning or Casting), Built specifically for you

SUPER RAFFLE

Grand Prize TBD but it was a flat screen TV last year

2nd Prize TBD

3rd Prize TBD

For Tickets, Please Contact: Carl Onesty @ [703-407-8921](tel:703-407-8921) or Rob Allen @ [703-626-2668](tel:703-626-2668)

Conservation Corner

By Herschel Finch

Ah...is there anything as full of promise and anticipation as a new year? Even those of us who were academically challenged in school sorta looked forward to the beginning of a new year. All those new books, fresh notebook paper and freshly sharpened pencils with those big, fat add-on erasers on the end gave all of us a new beginning and the chance to maybe get an A in math this year...all right.. a C then, *sigh*.

But what we do have is an opportunity to do is become a member of our very own Potomac/Shenandoah Riverkeeper organization if we aren't already. A membership in the organization gets you a regular newsletter that keeps you up to date on all the conservation news and activities that Jeff and our new Potomac Riverkeeper Matt Logan and our upper Potomac manager Brett Walls are involved in. If you're not a member yet, you should be. I would guess a good 60% of our current membership are already members, why not come join us? The easiest way to do it is a payroll deduction from your paycheck. Once you have it going, it's like any other deduction, you never miss it.

And this year, the Potomac Riverkeeper is redesigning and reinstituting their Riverwatcher program. As we all know, the riverkeepers don't get to spend near enough time on the water actually patrolling the river. That's where we come in, using our capacity as anglers. We have a tendency to see things and to pay attention to things a little more than the casual paddler does. The changes and things we look for along the river give us clues as to where the fish are and where we need to be in order to catch them. But changes, new features, both natural and man-made, may point to clues to something not being quite right. I recall a few years ago, I wandered down to Front Royal Landing to be confronted with a wide, mud-red stain running down river right as far as I could see both up and downriver. I knew it had rained recently but ordinarily we don't get a heavy stain just on one side of the river in that area. So the only explanation was this was coming from some kind of construction site or a sewer blockage of some kind. I had my suspicions about where it was coming from so I drove up on the hill where the new high school was located and on a hill just upriver, and above that...was the new Public Safety Administration Building, construction site. Sure enough, their sediment fences had collapsed from the heavy rains we had received the day before. A few quick photos snapped and an email to Jeff put the construction office on Jeff's itinerary. Two days later, the mud-line had cleared because the fences were back up after Jeff paid a visit to the construction site.

This is just one example of what we do as riverwatchers. This is a very cool program where you will basically be "deputized" (sorry, no badges or de-coder rings) to help keep an eye on the river for Matt, Jeff, and Brett Walls. You'll get some instruction on what to look for, what to keep an eye out for in certain areas, and what to take pictures of to send back to the riverkeepers. The seminars are scheduled to be held sometime this Spring or early Summer. I'll be sure to get them posted on our Facebook site and website as soon as they publish them.

Come on out and join our "posse." I'll be looking for you.

PRSC
P.O. Box 1240
Vienna, VA 22183

PRSC would like to thank the following for contributing to Member Night and being friends of PRSC.



Big Time BBQ (Scott Cocherell)



PRSC Wishes to Thank our Recent Speakers

April 2012 - Capt. Steve Chaconas.

May 2012 - Richard Martin, Potomac Paddlesports.

July 2012 - Capt. Charles Wright, Chokoloskee Charters.

August 2012 - Jeff Turner, 50 Trophy Waters in 50 Days in 50 States.

September 2012 - Beau Beasley,
www.beaubeasley.com

October 2012 - John Millican, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

2012 Contest Results

January 2013 Report By Wallace Harvey

Good Morning everyone! Welcome to a new year, 2013. Have you gotten used to writing that yet? I usually wait until February or March to get it correct. However, we are ready for your reports on your fishing exploits for the New Year. It is a bit early yet, and as expected, no one has reported to date. I'll allow for it being winter. It took a long time to come, but it did arrive.

I would like to stress that for those of you who cannot stay off the water this time of year to use real caution. It takes only a few minutes to reach hypothermia and real danger of losing your life. If you are not sure you have what you need, check one of our experts in the club. Ask around and I know you will be directed to someone who has experience in winter fishing. I, for one, am a fair weather fisherman. I wait for the water to warm up as well as the air.

This next year I am really looking forward to getting on the water. I was a bit limited last year in my fishing, but expect to really have a go of it this year. Now all we need is to have enough water to float. A quick check of gages and we seem to be OK. However, we are still below normal for precipitation. I hate snow, but it may be the thing we need for the ground water.

A quick reminder, that when you do catch a nice smallie, to contact Jack Cook at 703-573-4403. Sorry, Jack does not do email. For those that prefer to send an email, my email address is wvharvey@comcast.net. Either way, you get entered in our contest. We look forward to hearing from you, not only on size, but location, what you caught it on, and how much fun it was. We always like to hear a good fish story. Let's have a safe year and lots of fun on the water.

2012 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: ?????

William Shriver Award: ?????

Grover Cleveland 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.