



The WSA Guzzler

WENATCHEE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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The 55th Annual Wild Game Feed Fundraiser

February 29th, 2020

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Kuykendall Hall, Wenatchee, WA

Volunteers still needed. Please Contact Game Feed Chairman Robert Scoville rscoville61@gmail.com or 509-860-1773

The Menu: various smoked meats, bighorn biscuits and gravy, Westport tuna hors devours, black bear carnitas, planked wild salmon, Swedish moose meatballs, and roasted elk, along with some sides, salad, and dessert.

Some of our bigger ticket items include:



A large bighorn ram mount (mounts to a wall)



Wine and chocolates for 10 in Leavenworth

We will also have hat, shirt, pint glass, koozie, heads and tails, rose, and card raffles, with prizes including at least 6 guns.



Guided Fishing Trip with Bob's Fishing Adventure

January General Meeting Summary

Jim Brown, regional director for WDFW spoke to the group about the current budget shortfalls WDFW is facing. They weren't given much of the necessary budget for the second year of the two year budget cycle during the last legislature, thus requiring them to hard two years of back to back large requests. The club supports a fully funded WDFW through an increase of funding through the General Fund as well as minor license increases.

Dr. Bill Gaines and Erin McKay presented on both the landscape evaluation that was completed for the Stemilt and Squilchuck areas as well as the proposed "elk study" within the upper Stemilt and Squilchucks basins. The landscape report tried to quantify and rant the quality of the habitat with these two areas. They used extremely high resolution stereo pair aerial photos as well as a significant amount of ground truthing within the analysis. The report can be found here: [https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/files/natural-resources/documents/Stemilt_Squilchuck_LandscapeEval_finalJune2019\(1\).pdf](https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/files/natural-resources/documents/Stemilt_Squilchuck_LandscapeEval_finalJune2019(1).pdf)

The elk study is being proposed to try to identify the movement patterns of elk and the timing of those movements within the upper Stemilt and Squilchuck basins. This will be a year long study that will utilize 50 trail cameras. The study may extend longer if additional funding is identified. This is being proposed as a cheaper alternative to a gps collar study for which there isn't sufficient funding to complete. The secondary goals with the study may be to assess the herd structure (bull:cow and cow:calf ratios) and overall population count. The WSA felt this was a worthwhile effort and contributed \$7,500 to purchase the cameras.

UPCOMING EVENTS and VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Wenatchee Valley Sportsman's Show. February 21-23. Town Toyota Center. The WSA will have a booth and will be helping with the kids fishing pond. If you'd like to volunteer contact Dan Dickerson (509)670-5498.

February Game Feed Fundraiser. February 29th, 2020, doors open at 4:30pm. Doors will be locked prior to 4:30 to ensure everyone gets fair access to early bidding on all silent auction and raffle items. Wild game includes moose, elk, bear, salmon, and tuna. Please, please, this event can't continue without more volunteers. Contact Robert Scoville if you can volunteer, even if you can only help just part of the event.

March General Membership Meeting. March 17, 2020, 6:30 pm. Speaker/Topic: WDFW Chelan Butte Wildlife Area Manager Ron Fox will provide a brief update on the Swakane shooting range. Aaron Garcia with the First Hunt Foundation will also provide a summary of what their group does.

Rock Island Kids Fishing Day. April 18, 2020, 9 to noon at Pit Pond in Rock Island (corner of Saunders and Delaware). If you'd like to volunteer to help kids catch fish please contact Adam Neff as neffa3@gmail.com.

April General Membership Meeting. April 21, 2020, 6:30 pm. Speaker/Topic: TBD

SOAP BOX TIME

I'd like to remind everyone of a few things.

1. This is a 100% volunteer organization. No one is paid, everyone has other things they'd just as soon be doing. So recognize and align that with your expectations for both the club in general and other members.
2. Ideas are great, everyone loves ideas, and new ideas are necessary to any organization... BUT unless you're willing to participate in the execution of your ideas, they aren't really worth much. We are down to a very small group of members that actually volunteer, that *make* the time for the WSA and our activities and efforts, they're not sitting around looking for more things to do, or for someone else to tell them how to do it differently. Volunteering others for your great idea a sure fire way to burn bridges.
3. If the WSA is something you care about please consider volunteering. We're a dying club that is seeing members both age out and burn out. Any solutions to our declining membership and volunteers is not going to be solved with a magic wand, or an ad campaign, or a new website. The only thing that will help it is if more members MAKE the time to help out, to take the lead on a project or an issue, to offer to take on tasks that need to be done.

We do a ton of great work for wildlife in this valley, work that no one else is doing. We take on projects others won't, we'll take stands that others won't. Without the WSA wildlife doesn't have a local advocate. But our future is dimming. It both inspires me and pains me to see the same people show up to every meeting. The same people on every volunteer list. There can't be only a couple handfuls of people that care about wildlife in this valley... can there?