

Columbia River Bassmasters



Board of Directors

President:	Jeff Reid	360-831-3594	Youth Director:	Zip Decker	503-320-4028
Vice-president	Gabe Cheek	503-964-2686	Conservation Director	Don Randolph	360-608-1153
Treasurer:	Chuck Smith	503-504-6672	Historian/M@L	Jim Miller	530-524-7265
Secretary	Gary Harral	856-313-8320	Member At Large	Renaud Pelletier	360-430-5616
Tournament Director	Mark Forbes	360-772-6055	Member At Large	Jeff Sparacio	360-713-2329
			Past President	Tim Ihle	503-504-2000

www.columbiariverbassmasters.org

June 2014

*** June Meeting ***

Who Song & Larry's
Tuesday, June 3rd @ 7PM
111 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver

Meeting Agenda

Call meeting to order/Guest Intro	-----Jeff
Meeting Minutes	-----Gary
Fishing Reports	-----Members
BASS/FLW Report	-----Zip
Treasurer's Report	-----Chuck
Rock Hazards on the Columbia	-----Mark
OLD BUSINESS	
Willamette Results	-----Club
Silver Lake Results	-----Club
-----	BREAK -----
NEW BUSINESS	
Boones Ferry Tournament Draw	-----Mark

Pelletier & Childers

We all knew that his was the team to beat when the drawing was done. Renaud and Shon did not disappoint as they fished their way to a 12 pound 12 ounce bag on the Willamette River. Shon reported as follows: "I'm not sure if the Willy is getting better or if it was just timing where their were a lot of male fish up? The sea lions I believe are eating the bigger fish and I think are going to eventually wipe out the small mouth! We did have a limit early and our two nicest fish off our first spot I don't throw a spinnerbait very often but with conditions something told me to throw it we got all our fish on tubes and spinnerbaits with a key fish coming later in the day that gave us a lb more on a spinnerbait. We had a fun day caught a lot of fish all our fish came from shallow backwater spawn areas."

Pelletier & Childers Willamette Win (Cont)

Renaud provided the following: "We were lucky to catch a 2.5 lber late in the day or else we might not have finished in 1st. We caught our fish on spinnerbaits and tubes. Most were 6-8 feet deep on hard bottom spawning areas out of the current. We could not get bit on vibrating or shallow diving crankbaits. We did catch most of our weight before 9:00 AM, but upgraded twice after that. As reported by several other guys we caught a lot of small postspawn males. The bite was most often very tenuous on all of our fish, requiring repeated casts to get hooked up. In my experience this is a sure sign that these fish are protecting beds just after the females have left. Males will guard the eggs until they hatch, which is 8-13 days depending on water temps. They stay around the fry for another week or so after that. Another confirming sign of this stage in the smallmouth spawn is the males "squirting" as they are handled. Two smallmouth biologists have told me this squirting liquid is not milt as is often thought. The exact nature of this liquid and the reason it is expelled has not been explained to me. I have also researched but found no good explanation of the behavior. I do believe that the size of fish in the Willamette is gradually improving. I fished it several times in March and caught much better quality fish than in the last few years." **Thanks for sharing your comments guys, the club appreciates your input.** Gary Harral and Gabe Cheek finished a strong second place with 11 pounds 3 ounces. Gary reported the following: "We fished backwater spawning areas with early results using tube baits. Gabe picked

up a 2.8" swimbait and began to throw it and started picking up additional fish. The tournament big fish of the day was caught on the same swimbait. Gabe stated that the 3 pound 5 ounce beauty was his biggest Willamette fish in years. I also started throwing a slightly larger 3.8" swimbait and the culling fest was on. The baits were fished on darter head and tungsten ball head jigs that were virtually crawled along the bottom. (Cast, sink, slow retrieve) We caught 40 fish for the day. Gabe also caught a couple of jerkbait fish. Periodic efforts using lipless and square bill cranks yielded zero results. I also hooked an extremely large grass carp (estimated by Gabe at 40 pounds) in the tail with a LVR-500 creating excitement for about 15 minutes of fight. The best news was that the LVR-500 was saved. The bad news is that a grass carp was in the Willamette."

Rich Lockhart and Jim Miller finished just out of the money for 3rd place with a nice 9-10 bag of fish. This event was by far the best event on the Willamette in several years. It was also the first event in recent history where each of the finishing teams had a limit of fish. Last year we had a tournament out of the same location on May 12th. Shon and Jim won with 8-11 and the average bag was 6-09. The average bag for this tournament was 9-12 a significant increase of 3-03 per boat. Is the Willamette getting better or was this just good timing? Will the Sea Lions take over or will the SM prevail? Will the SM be pushed into the smaller backwater areas while the Sea Lions are around? Time will tell.



1st Place Renaud & Shon 12-12



2nd Place Gabe & Gary 11-03
03-05 Big Fish

18 May, 2014 Willamette River Swan Island Results

Place	Angler	Co-Angler	Big Fish	# Fish	Total	AOY Points	Co-AOY Points
1	Renaud Pelletier	Shon Childers	2 lb 13 oz	5	12 lb 12 oz	100	100
2	Gary Harral	Gabe Cheek	3 lb 05 oz	5	11 lb 03 oz	96	97
3	Rich Lockhart	Jim Miller		5	09 lb 10 oz	92	92
4	Mark Forbes	Jody Cagle		5	09 lb 04 oz	88	88
5	Jeff Sparacio	Adam McGinnis		5	08 lb 12 oz	84	84
6	Darin Shields	Chuck Smith		5	07 lb 00 oz	80	80
DQ	Jeff Reid	Mike Ieletzky		0	0	0	0
DQ	Joe Slaven	John Slaven		0	0	0	0

All weights have been converted from decimal to pounds and ounces format and rounded to the nearest ounce.

Unfortunate that we had two disqualifications. One was due to having too many fish in the live well at weigh in and the other was due to a problem getting back through the Bonneville Dam locks. Even with a reservation, a barge showed up and bumped our CRB team forcing them to be late for the weigh in. Rumor is that they had enough to win.

Stat Summary:
 Total Weight: 58-09
 Average Bag: 9-12
 Average Fish: 1-15

Gabe and
3-05 Lunker



Boating Safety

During the last meeting, Darin Shields provided the club with some valuable boater safety information. Darin talked about the effects of current and water temperature on the ability to survive a fall into the river. The best tips are to always wear your PFD and to keep your throwable accessible at all times. Another extremely valuable tip is to ensure that co-anglers know the location of the safety equipment. While you are waiting for blastoff, take the time to show your team mate where things are located. It is also a great idea to ensure that he knows how to start your gas engine in case the boater is hurt or has other medical issues out on the water. Being prepared is the best thing you can do to prevent disaster. Please click on the following link for additional boating safety information. Take a few minutes, it could save your or your partner's life.

<http://links.mkt3362.com/servlet/MailView?ms=MjA3ODgzNTkS1&r=MzYzMTY1NDU4MzYS1&j=MzlwOTMwOTI5S0&mt=1&rt=0>

2014 Remaining Schedule

Date	Day	Location	Sunrise	Moon	Drive Time	50% Cost	Backup
May 31/June 1	Sat/Sun	Silver Lake	5:21	68%	1:10	\$57	none
June 21	Sat	Boones Ferry	5:20	28%	:45	\$49	none
July 12	Sat	Cascade Locks	5:35	100%	:45	\$53	Swan Is
August 2	Sat	Scappose Bay	5:55	37%	:45	\$48	Boones Ferry
August 30	Sat	Celilo Park	6:28	23%	1:35	\$75	Swan Is
Sept 20/21	Sat/Sun	Prineville Res	6:45	72%	3:45	TBD	none
October 18	Sat	The Dalles	7:30	23%	1:30	\$67	H Hagg
October 25	Sat	Don Abbott Classic	7:40	3%	TBD	TBD	none

Additional May Meeting Items

Chuck Smith reported a balance of \$1960. Zip gave a nice report on the youth fishing event held at Willamette Park. This event was supported by boat captains Gary Harral, Zip Decker, Ed Chin, Willie Nelson, and Jim Brinkerhoff. Zip and Gary also reported on their 2nd place and 3rd place day on Celilo. Marshall West attended his second CRB club meeting. We hope that Marshall will join the club soon. Tom Hartshorn, Zip Decker, and Ed Chin will be fishing the Western Divisional at Flaming Gorge 18-23 May. Check out the following link to obtain tournament results. Teams from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana will compete. Top two from each state will advance to the TBF National championship to compete against the top two from all the other TBF states. <http://bassfederation.com/tournaments/tbf-divisional-series/>

The draw once again resulted in a shortage of boaters, however Jim Miller stepped up to provide his boat so that he and Rich Lockhart would be able to fish. This action reduced the number of co-anglers without a ride to two. Louis Smith could not fish, which allowed Chuck Smith to fish which left only Michael Abramson without a ride. Michael will be given priority for all following tournaments.

It was announced that Tim Ihle has been appointed to the position of Past President Board on the CRB Board of Directors.

CRB BASS OBSERVATION DECK

By Historian and Member At Large Jim Miller

Well, yet another cancellation for CRB due to WIND!! Off we go from the cancelled CRB Hood River to Swan Island and the Willy. Circumstantially we did not have our normal ten boat average, and eight boats went out for some May bassin'! If you were a bettin' man, odds on would have you put your money on Renaud and Shon, as these two seasoned competitors, as Bass Master Classic finalist, Renaud, and Shon, multi-AOY CRB angler, took off in Renaud's Ranger and burned fuel from one end of the Willy to the other. Yes, indeed, their 12.74 with a 2.84 kicker was the best culled weight they could come up with. Far less pounds than most thought would be brought to the scales, but no matter, good enough for First Place. Let's look at some history on the Willy in May:

Date	# of Boats	Winner	Weight	Big Bass	# of Limits
May 2014	8 (2 DQs)	Renaud & Shon	12.74	3.30	6
May 2013	10	Shon & Jim M	8.69	3.19	9
May 2012	0				
May 2011	9	Gary E & Joe B	13.11	3.39	5
May 2010	0				

With just three May CRB events to look at in the past five seasons, it becomes interesting to consider that if Mark and Rich L. could have come up with a limit in 2013 CRB/MAY, this would have been, surprisingly, just as strong a bass weigh in for limits as the CRB/MAY/2014 event, in that all boats who weighed in would have had a limit of bass. Note that the MAY 2011 CRB event had a larger first place weight @ 13.11, but half the amount of limit performance.

However, one fact that is absolutely certain is that this 2014 MAY event was the strongest performance for culled limits in probably the history of CRB. Every boat I talked to had a culled limit, with many having more than three limits, to cull. One fact that is glaring is that a 3# bass on the Willy in May is a rare find. Have to wonder why this should be, as CRB has the talent to catch them, but somehow they become elusive in May CRB. Have to consider if the buck males simply get to the bait before the bigger bass do? As more and more of CRB uses the swimbait in May, I feel that 3# class bass will be showing up at the scales in future events.

Should be noted that there were two DQ's in this event just fished. Painful as they are, one boat had six bass in live-well and another boat never made it to the scales. DQ's happen in our sport, and all we can do is hopefully gain from them the lesson at hand.. A huge thank you to Renaud for weighing all bags of bass on his hand held scale, as our CRB scales were unavailable.

See you soon at Silver Lake, WA. for a two day CRB Large Mouth slug-fest!!

Conservation Corner

By Don Randolph

Beginning with the June 21 tournament, I will be available as release boat for the first 45 pounds of fish weighed each tournament. After that we can release the rest of the fish directly from the dock or use a second release boat. This depends upon (1) what state you're in and (2) the bottom composition around the launch. It's always good to release some of the bass away from the weigh-in site but if the area right around the launch has a hard bottom and has deep water close by, fish will be "safe" released at the dock. Studies show bass disperse quickly from a good release area; especially in warmer water. A bad place to release fish at the dock is Swan Island (Thanks to Renaud for releasing fish there in May). Questionable dock release sites would be the interior portions of marinas; Kalama, Hood River, Bingen, etc.

For Washington, WAC 232-12-168 (6a) states in part; *In any contest targeting either bass or walleye, all live bass or walleye must be released alive into the water from which they were caught after being weighed and/or measured.*

In Oregon, ORS 2635-001-0105 (1e) states; *Live fish must be released in scattered locations at least one mile from the weigh-in site or at locations designated by ODFW.*

I'm not suggesting we break the law in Oregon but if we need and don't have a second release boat, it's easy to find the better adjacent shoreline spot(s) to bid farewell to our little buddies.

Non-Tournament BIG FISH CORNER



Jim
4+ SM
The Dalles



Jeff
7-12 LM
Lacamas Lake