

NOWA FIELD NOTES



DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021



***AN AVALANCHE OF NEWS ABOUT NOWA! – AN IMPORTANT SPRING
CONVERENCE UPDATE - CRAFT IMPROVEMENT ARTICLES (COLLBORATE
FOR SUCCESS & ADJUSTING TO A NEW UNIVERSE) - ONE NOWA MEMBER’S
COVER SHOT - MEMBER UPDATES – WRITING OPPORTUNITIES AND MORE!***

NOWA FIELD NOTES – DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021

NOWA FIELD NOTES

The NOWA newsletter is published six times a year by the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association, a registered nonprofit, tax-exempt, public supported organization under IRS 501 c3 Code. Newsletter contributions in the form of craft improvement articles, photos, member photo portfolios, news items, letters to the editor and more are welcome but cannot be compensated. Send submissions by email in Microsoft WORD format. Photos can be sent in JPEG Format. The Deadline for submissions is the 15th day of the month prior to the next edition being published. Send them to:

NOWA NEWSLETTER EDITOR - John Kruse

PO Box 4269, Wenatchee, WA 98807

Tel. 509-670-8826 - Email: john@northwesternoutdoors.com

THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO – Jaana Hatton – Merganser on the Columbia

NOWA OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND MORE

The NOWA website can be found at <http://nowaoutdoors.com>

Website Editor - Dave Kilhefner Email: Dave@kbi-ins.com

The NOWA Facebook Page can be found at www.facebook.com/NorthwestOutdoorWritersAssociation/



OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Matt Liere

VICE PRESIDENT – Vacant

2ND VICE PRESIDENT – Vacant

SECRETARY/TREASURER – Risa Wyatt/Dave Kilhefner

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD – Robert Mottram

DIRECTORS

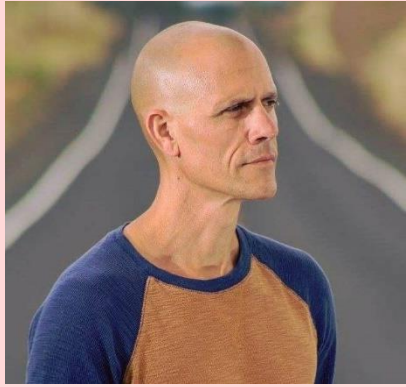
EXPIRING MAY 2021 – Greg Gulbrandsen, Bert Gildert, Harold Pfeiffer

EXPIRING 2022 – Dave Vedder, Dennis Dauble, Alan Liere

EXPIRING 2023 – Joe Warren, Risa Wyatt, Janie Gildart

SUPPORTING MEMBER LIASON – Michelle Peters

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In November of 2020, Ron Kerr announced to the NOWA Board of Directors his resignation as NOWA's president to pursue early retirement. As of November 18th, Vice President Matt Liere has succeeded Ron into the president's chair and is prepared to serve out the remainder of the original term. Ron has been doing quite well recovering from his recent illness, but seeks a quieter lifestyle moving forward, prompting his decision to turn over the reins. Ron's contributions and leadership have been invaluable to NOWA for many, many years. He will be missed.

These current events, among others, have pressed the Board of Directors to re-evaluate NOWA's governing structure, resulting in several new proposals to address both current and future needs. The Board is considering:

1. New candidates to fill positions of NOWA President and Vice President. Officer positions are one-year terms, with the Vice President serving as the president-elect, succeeding to the presidency at the end of the year.
2. New candidates to serve on the Board of Directors. These positions are three-year terms.
3. Amending the NOWA Constitution to eliminate the position of 2nd Vice President; and
4. amending the NOWA Constitution to reduce the number of directors on the Board from the current nine to 6, thus leaning the board and leaving it more agile and effective.

Online voting will take place in January for all proposals. A simple majority vote is required to elect a person to office or to the Board. A two-thirds majority vote is required to adopt a constitutional amendment.

NOWA, like the rest of the world, is navigating trying times, but these emergent needs and proposed changes should help guide us through as we seek out calmer waters. Thank you, everyone, for your support. We look forward to a time when we can, again, come together to share our stories, passions and creativity. Until then, stay healthy and be safe.

Matthew Liere, NOWA President

FROM THE EDITOR



I've had Charles Dickens on my mind as of late. Part of it is the season of course, and I will settle down in front of the television at least one evening soon to take in "A Christmas Carol". However, another novel of his, "A Tale of Two Cities", opens with a well-known paragraph which describes our present situation around the nation all too well:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the

spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

Never have these words rang so true as they have during this fall and winter of Covid-19, polarizing politics, significant societal issues and both the good and bad of social media and technology evolving before our eyes. Taken together it is creating a country many of us have a hard time recognizing, let alone coming to grips with.

NOWA, like our nation, is also going through turbulent times. My wishes go out to Ron Kerr as he continues his health battles and my thanks go out to him as well for everything he has done for our organization. As you'll read in the pages ahead, we will once again be cancelling our 2021 conference due to the COVID pandemic and it will be a struggle for us as a group to find a way to keep our organization relevant for some of our members in the months ahead.

Here's a question. Are you up for the challenge? We are all here to grow as outdoors professionals and to help our other colleagues do the same. Are you a seasoned veteran or retired writer or photographer with advice to share? Are you a young digital media savvy pro willing to teach some of us old dogs some new tricks when it comes to navigating our way through a tech heavy world full of opportunities? Do you have a recent book, article, or accomplishment you want to brag about?

If so, please write an article, put together a photo essay, and send it my way! NOWA Field Notes and the material Dave Kilhefner puts on our website at <http://nowaoutdoors.com> remain our best outreach tools for our members and all of us have something to offer in these venues for others to see and learn from. (continued next page)

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Another reason our members are here are because of the market opportunities available to NOWA members. We've been posting a bunch of them in recent weeks on our NOWA Facebook Page. If you haven't already, please like and follow this page so you can keep up on jobs and gigs that may be of interest to you!

One more item to share is a heartfelt apology to long-time member and Chairman of the Board Robert Mottram. He has been kind enough to provide two wonderful craft improvement articles in recent months and how did I repay him? By misspelling his last name. That doesn't say much for your Editor does it? Please forgive me, Bob.

Last but not least, I think we are all looking forward to putting 2020 in the rear-view mirror but before we do allow me to extend my wishes to you for a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a new year where we get back to something approaching normal again!

John Kruse

SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR THE NOWA BOARD



Help shape the future of NOWA!

The NOWA Board of Directors seeks candidates for the positions of NOWA President and Vice President, and for positions on the Board of Directors.

The officer positions are for one- year terms, and the Vice President serves as president-elect, succeeding to the presidency at the end of the year. Board positions are for a three-year term.

Persons interested in seeking one of these positions should contact

Dennis Dauble (509-375-4903; dennisdauble@icloud.com) or Bob Mottram (360-588-1972; bobmottram@msn.com).

On-line voting will take place in January for officer and board positions. A simple majority of votes cast is required to elect a person to an office or to the board

NOWA NEWS

UPCOMING VOTE TO AMEND THE NOWA CONSTITUTION!

The NOWA Board of Directors has voted unanimously to recommend amending the NOWA Constitution to eliminate the position of Second Vice President and to reduce the number of directors on the Board to six from the current nine.

The proposal aims to make the board leaner and more agile during this global pandemic and its aftermath. Such amendments will require the approval of NOWA active and retired members. (Continued next page)

On-line voting will take place in January for the constitutional amendments. A two-thirds majority of votes cast is required to adopt a proposal.

The following are the three proposed constitutional amendments the board voted to submit to you with a recommendation to approve. A line through a word indicates a proposed deletion. A line under a word indicates a proposed insertion:

CONSTITUTION: ARTICLE 2

SECTION 1. TITLES: The members eligible to vote may elect the following officers: President **and** Vice President (president elect) ~~((delete) and 2nd Vice President)~~.

SECTION 4. 2nd VICE PRESIDENT **(Eliminate entire section and renumber subsequent section.)**

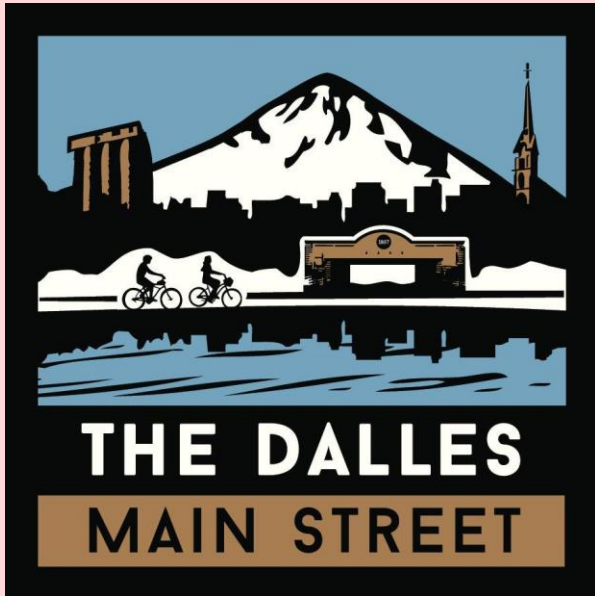
CONSTITUTION: ARTICLE 3 SECTION 1. NUMBER: NOWA members eligible to vote shall elect **six (delete 9)** directors without regard to state, province or territory, all of whom will represent all members.

Thanks for your consideration. Questions and comments are welcome and may be sent to Bob Mottram, Chairman of the Board, at bobmottram@msn.com



NOWA NEWS

***SPRING CONFERENCE CANCELLED AGAIN BUT FISH CAMP
2020 IS ON THE SCHEDULE!***



During the last Board meeting in November the difficult decision was made to cancel the spring conference in The Dalles, Oregon. Originally scheduled here for April of 2020, this cancellation is once again a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

On the bright side, with vaccines coming out it appears gatherings may be okay again by summer or early fall and Ed Iman, that well known guide and promoter from The Dalles, has announced he plans on hosting Fish Camp again in the Columbia River Gorge near the Dalles between September 12th and 15th.

This invitation only event is free for media members to attend and is traditionally a popular gather place for NOWA members every fall who enjoy free camping, meals, fellowship, networking and lots of opportunities to go on guided or unguided fishing trips for everything from salmon to steelhead to bass to walleye and even trophy-sized sturgeon. The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce has historically been a sponsor of this event and by going you can support the Chamber that has been trying to host us for two years! If you are interested in going contact Ed Iman by phone at 541-298-3753. Let him know you are a member of NOWA and you want to attend Fish Camp and we'll see you there!



THE ANNUAL EIC CONTEST IS A GO!



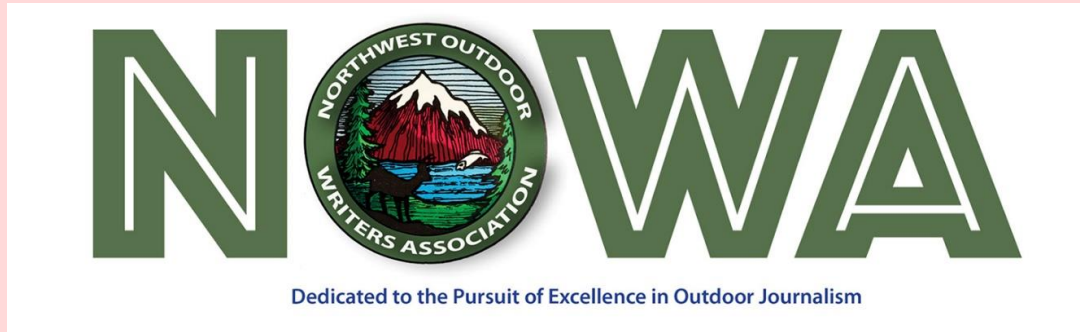
Matt Liere reports our annual EIC contest will be happening again this year but there is one important change, that being the deadline for submissions. You now have until February 1st to get your best work into Matt and the contest judges to review.

With that in mind, start getting your work ready whether it falls into a writing, photography, video or audio category and check our website at <http://nowaoutdoors.com> as well as our Facebook Page for details in the coming weeks. If you have any questions between now and then, email Matt at mwliere@gmail.com

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Here are the minutes from the October NOWA Board Meeting, provided by Secretary Risa Wyatt:



NOWA Board of Directors Teleconference October 28, 2020

6:07 pm — Call to Order by Bob Mottram, Chairman.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Chairman — Bob Mottram
President — Ron Kerr
BOD — Dennis Dauble
BOD — Bert Gildart
BOD — Greg Gulbrandsen
BOD — Risa Wyatt

Board Members Not in Attendance

1st VP — Matt Liere
2nd VP — Vacant
BOD — Janie Gildart
BOD — Alan Liere
BOD — Harold Pfeiffer
BOD — Dave Vedder
BOD — Joe Warren

Acting Recording Secretary — Risa Wyatt

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1. Approval of Minutes from April 20, 2020

Motion by Risa Wyatt: To accept the minutes from April 20, 2020.

Second: Bert Gildart

PASSED [Unanimous]

2. Committee Reports — Finances and Investments / Website & Newsletter

From Dave Kilhefner, Chair:

2021 Press Cards:

I'm in the process of issuing 2021 Press Cards. The plan is to do a dozen or so a week until they are done. Given the press card numbers, membership appears to be holding steady but at the same time, I haven't asked anyone for renewal payments yet.

Checking Account:

The July, August and September 2020 checking account statements are attached for review. Summer is typically a slow time for NOWA so there has not been much activity.

We have a checking account balance of \$3,601.05.

PayPal Account

As of 10/22/2020, PayPal balance is \$1,588.01; Our last PayPal transaction was Sept. 27th; we had a new member join (Mike Willis).

Investments

Per the attached statement for Sept 2020; below are the particulars:

- The total account value is \$45,800.96. It decreased by \$2,487.47 from last month.
- We received \$165.72 in dividends (in September).
- The annual projected dividend income is \$3,130, down from \$3,388 earlier this summer.
- The remaining cash balance is \$891.69. It should be noted in June our cash balance was \$54 so we've received \$838 in dividends since June.

Budget:

SAME AS LAST REPORT: An updated budget is (available from Risa) revised on 4/9/2020. (Continued Next Page)

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Website & Newsletter Report

John Kruse recently produced the third bi-monthly newsletter.

We have 533 Facebook Followers and 200 Blog Followers. In June, I also established a NOWA Instagram account.

I curtailed my Blog posts this summer so as not to overshadow the Newsletter. John McFarland sent in a nice craft improvement piece that was published Sept 8th.

Motion by Risa Wyatt: To accept the Financial Committee Report for October 2020.

Second: Dennis Dauble

PASSED [Unanimous]

3. NOWA 2021 Conference

Discussion of viability of NOWA hosting an in-person conference in Spring 2021, with most people agreeing that COVID-19 would still limit meetings at that time. Discussion about whether to offer webinars (on-line presentations) for NOWA members, either as a multi-day virtual conference or sessions spread out over the year. Mottram pointed out that the NOWA Constitution calls for an Annual General Meeting (AGM), which could be held virtually. Kerr brought up the need for members to elect new directors and officers, which traditionally takes place at the AGM.

Motion by Ron Kerr: To establish a committee of Greg Gulbrandsen, Dennis Dauble, and Risa Wyatt to look at parameters for running a virtual conference for NOWA in 2021.

Second: Joe Warren

PASSED [Unanimous]

Committee will research ideas to present to members to gauge interest in a virtual conference by January 15.

4. Officer and Board Member Recruitment Procedures

Ron Kerr asked Directors to review the list of previous committees and members for positions in which they would like to serve and also reach out to other NOWA members who might be willing to participate. He emphasized the importance of having a full slate of officers for the coming year to assure the continuance of the organization. Kerr will establish a committee for Officer and Board Member recruitment.

5. Establish date for next AGM and details for election of Officers and Board members

Mottram pointed out that the NOWA Constitution guarantees members anonymity in voting for officers. Goal is to have an online vote with winners announced at the AGM. At the next BOD meeting, Kerr will suggest dates for online voting and the next AGM. Risa Wyatt will research online anonymous voting systems. (Continued next page)

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6. Feedback on member proposal to eliminate membership dues for 20/21

With the likelihood of no annual conference, prospective members are reluctant to pay \$50 to join. Retired/apprentice fees are currently \$25.

Motion by Bert Gildart: To lower membership dues for everyone except supporting members for only the year 2021 to \$25.

Second: Ron Kerr

PASSED [Unanimous]

7. Feedback to John Kruse on NOWA Directory

Dave Kilhefner sent John Kruse the link to the updated, approved Constitution and Bylaws for inclusion.

8. Good of the Order

Next Board meeting will be the week of November 16. Risa Wyatt will send a Doodle Poll to determine the best date.

Motion by Risa Wyatt: To adjoin.

Second: Bert Gildart

PASSED [Unanimous]

ADJOURNED: 7:29 pm

***THANK YOU NOWA BOARD MEMBERS
AND OFFICERS FOR YOUR SERVICE AND
TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED WORK TO
THIS EDITION OF FIELD NOTES!***

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

COLLABORATIONS – CHRISTMAS ISLAND

by Dave Kilhefner



For me, the single best thing about being a NOWA member is you gain the ability to collaborate with dozens of talented members with similar interests. Over the years I've been able to take advantage of this with several NOWA members, but most often my partner in crime has been the grand-poohbah himself, Dave Vedder.

Here's a short story of what it's like to travel to an exotic destination with an experienced outdoor communicator and have all the stars align. (Continued next page)

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Back in 2013 Dave Vedder was searching out interesting trips to take and found a new lodge called the Ikari House on Christmas Island. Ikari is the native word for Bonefish. Kind of the standard deal is a hosted trip in exchange for a published article. Lodge owners are constantly getting hit up for “deals” so if you can show the lodge owner you have a solid reputation, have previously published material and have an assignment from a magazine to do a story, you have an excellent chance to put together a hosted trip. Fortunately, Dave brings all this to the table, plus he is a strong negotiator.

Once you’ve started communicating with the lodge owner it’s very important to make it clear that the article will be “an accurate representation of your experience.” In other words, no fish = no story. The reason for this is the lodge owner will want to fill his peak times with paying guests so if you don’t want to travel halfway around the world to cool your heels in a room during a flood and get skunked, get that piece of info out there early!

Dave did all these things and lucky for me was aware of one more fact of lodge life; most rooms are double occupancy. Once the lodge owner commits to hosting a trip, it’s really easy to convince them the process will be better with another writer/photographer along; a two-for-the-price-of-one deal. It makes good sense and I was in!



Kiribati or Christmas Island is the largest coral atoll in the world. Perched atop a volcano, it barely sticks out of the Pacific Ocean and most of the landmass is between 5 and 10 feet above sea level. It has a giant protected lagoon that has arguably the best saltwater flats fishing in the world. It’s just south of the equator and is a 3 /12 hour flight due south of Honolulu, Hawaii. It was “discovered” as a fishing destination back in the early 80’s.

As a fishing destination everything was going great but then sometime in the 90’s the local population was growing and netting bonefish for food and tragically, the bonefish population collapsed and with it, the tourist industry. It took a while for the sports fishing to rebound and when it did, Dave and Dave were there! Our trip timing literally could not have been better. (continued next page)

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We arrived at Christmas Island the week before Christmas. It was a very good fishing time for several reasons, not the least is that travel to fishing destinations is way down so we were able to monopolize Simon Corrie for the whole week, who at that time the best guide at the lodge. Dave Vedder told me he had been trying to catch a Giant Trevally for ten years. The first time we went after them he had a double, catching two on the same plug. It was crazy! Before the week was out, we had caught hundreds of bonefish, a lodge record 99-pound Wahoo and for me a G.O.A.T. sized Giant Trevally. (GOAT = greatest of all time).

We were so impressed with the fishing we came back 3 more times.

Dave Vedder was able to publish 3 or 4 full length feature articles in several national magazines and besides my photos gaining national exposure, I had several fishing experiences of a lifetime.

From a publishing standpoint, believe it or not there is a down side. These exotic

destination articles are hard to sell! Every outdoor writer wants to go there so editors are constantly getting bombarded with offers to do a CXI story. For this reason, I've been content to let Dave Vedder take the lead publishing the stories. I've gotten some mileage with a couple Guide Profile articles on Simon Corrie and Moana Kofe along with a few blog posts for my local fly shops. Plus, it's fun to pull out my phone and show people what "a proper GT" looks like. There were a couple fish from that first trip I don't think I'll ever top. They truly in the G.O.A.T. category!



CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

ADAPTING TO A CHANGING WRITING UNIVERSE

By Dennis Dauble

I chuckle whenever an octogenarian NOWA writer reminisces about an all-expense paid trip to an exclusive fishing lodge in the Adirondacks. Back when all they had to do was show up, eat four-course meals, and write a story. The last guided trip I got invited on led to a 6-hour boat ride and a controversial salmon. The no-tell motel stay, gasoline to get there, and food to eat were covered on my own nickel.

For sure, times have changed. I floundered to sell stories until I joined NOWA. “Get to know editors,” I was told. “Deliver a quality product on time and within the prescribed word count, and you will be retained on their roster of writers.”

Sage advice that I parlayed into half a dozen articles published over the course of an average year in mostly regional magazines. Indeed, I thought I’d reached the big time when a large check arrived in the mail for a short essay published in a prestigious fly fishing periodical.

Then just like that, over the space of the next several months, things dried up. Editors I had worked with for years no longer returned email queries. Contributing editors came and went. A careful assessment of angling magazines revealed greater reliance on internal editorial staff and less so on free-lance authors like myself. Admittedly, I had reached my fill of writing “where to, how to” articles on demand, what I called “Me and Joe Bob” articles. Beggars can’t be choosers it seems.

Fortunately, a local newspaper editor continued to support an occasional piece about fishing local waters. Another newspaper’s special editions furthered my writing resume. As a result of the latter slot, I was asked (along with two other NOWA writers) to write a regular monthly column for a string of regional newspapers. Even better is we get to write about a relevant outdoor topic of our own choosing!

Most newspapers no longer generate sufficient revenue to support a full-time outdoors writer. Retirement slots are not filled and editors rely on generic copy to supplement a shortened daily print version. What this means to aspiring outdoor writers is opportunity. Interestingly, the penny-per-word pay for some newspapers (or their e-edition) exceeds what many magazines now pay. More important, (and in contrast to many struggling magazine publishers), newspapers usually pay upon receipt of invoice. (Continues next page).

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Dennis Dauble in his happy place!

Given the current situation with COVID-19 and requirements for social distancing, it's not possible to enter a newspaper office and introduce yourself. An alternative approach is to search newsstands and newspaper websites within your geographic area of interest and develop a list of contacts to query. Except for a smaller revenue stream, not much has changed in the outdoor writing world. Readers yearn for well-written articles that describe the human experience in a natural setting. Editors expect timely articles that inform and entertain. While you're unlikely to receive a free trip to a five-star resort, an occasional newspaper article might tender enough gas money for an adventure of your own choosing.

ACTIVE MEMBER RATES HAVE BEEN REDUCED

RENEW NOW!!

By Dave Kilhefner

Good news! The NOWA board has lowered the Regular Membership fee to \$25 per year for 2021. A couple folks have already paid the regular renewal rate of \$50 and will be credited for 2 years.

We have a Paypal account set up, below are links. If you don't trust links, you can log into your Paypal account and send the money to Davenowaoutdoors@gmail.com

Regular, Apprentice & Retired (\$25)

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=PAFW76QD75FUW

Supporting Members (\$100)

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=9PJVERYM6Z26C

If you want a paper or PDF renewal invoice, just let us know and we'll get one to you ASAP.

You can also mail in your membership dues to: **NOWA, PO Box 888, Tualatin, OR 97062**

Thank you for your continued support of the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association, it is sincerely appreciated! [NOWA Supporting Member Application](#)

MEMBER UPDATES

NOWA MEMBERS ARE REELING IN SOME BIG ONES!



George Krumm, Editor of *Fish Alaska Magazine*, was doing a bit of field research on the NakNek River this fall when he caught this huge rainbow trout. Meanwhile, Michelle Peters, President of *Visit Lewis Clark Valley* and our Supporting Member Liason, hauled in this monster B-run steelhead out of Idaho's Clearwater River this fall.



MEMBER UPDATES

***NOWA WELCOMES ANOTHER NEW MEMBER AND HE'S
LOOKING FOR ARTICLES!***



Mark Alexander is a founder and co-owner of Global Outdoors, a web and app based platform that lets users find, rate, and review outdoor experiences. Mark has two children and currently resides in Columbus, MS.

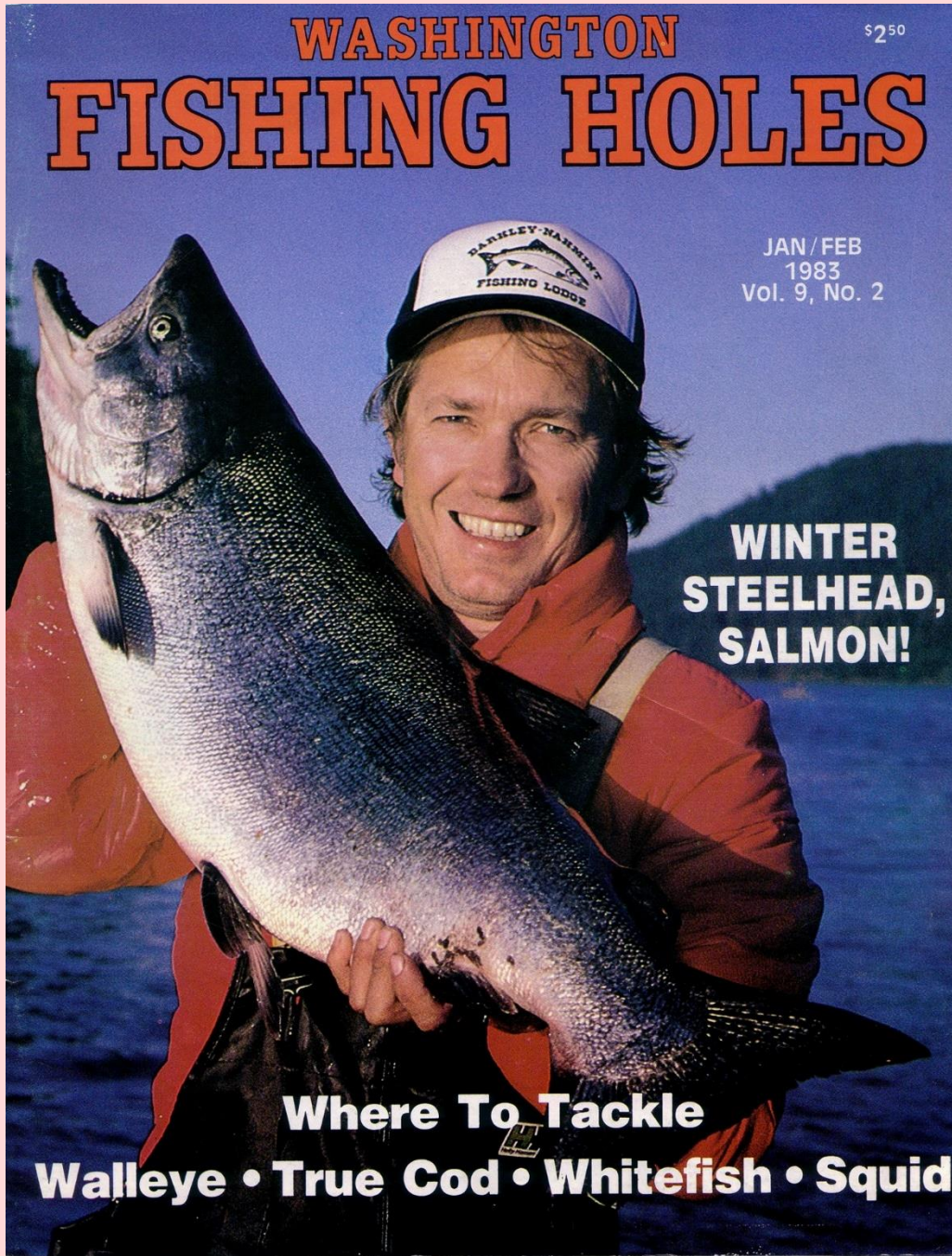
Global Outdoors is currently seeking submissions for our “Featured Articles/Blog” section of the website. “How-to’s”, personal outdoor experiences, and blog post-type articles around 500 words are preferred, but articles up to 1,000 words can be considered.

Submissions do not have to be first run, but second-run articles to be at least 12 months out from the last publication.

Please send to submissions@globaloutdoors.com, with “Submission” as the subject. Please do not include your submission as attachment. Instead, please paste the contents of your submission into the body of the email. Any questions regarding submissions can be sent to the same address.

Regarding payment, payment by the word is preferred but Mark is open to paying a flat rate depending on the submission. Starting scale is 20 cents per word with additional payment for photos considered. Find out more at <http://globaloutdoors.com>

A BLAST FROM THE PAST!



Doug Wilson took this wonderful photo that graced the cover of *Washington Fishing Holes* during a time when we didn't have software to better our photos and you actually had to rely on good composition and natural light to get the job done!

SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

Since 1969

Mack's
Lure®

ICE RIG
VALUE PACK

Featuring Sling Blades, Glo Hooks and Hum Dingers

SLING BLADE

HUM DINGER

GLO HOOKS

The advertisement features a black background with a white and yellow fish logo on the left. On the right, three fishing lures are displayed: a red Sling Blade with white and yellow markings, a purple and pink Hum Dinger, and a blue and pink Sling Blade. Below the blue Sling Blade are two red Glo Hooks. The text 'ICE RIG VALUE PACK' is prominently displayed in large yellow and white letters. The product names 'SLING BLADE', 'HUM DINGER', and 'GLO HOOKS' are placed near their respective items.

NOWA MEMBERS GET 15% OFF THE ENTIRE PRODUCT LINE AT MACKSLURE.COM WITH CODE: NOWA15

FINAL SHOT



Sometimes it's the mundane tasks that make memories. A case in point is this photo of my son and our guide's hard working lab at the end of a good day of duck hunting on Potholes Reservoir in Eastern Washington. This is the sort of hunt where you help with the clean up and picking up the decoys, as my son David is doing here, was captured in a photo at the end of this fun morning. Until next time, here's hoping you have a very Merry Christmas and that you'll find joy in both the spectacular and in the routine life has to offer as we enter the new year!

John Kruse