

NOWA FIELD NOTES

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021



*CRAFT IMPROVEMENT FROM PETER SCHROEDER – DENNIS CLAY’S
FUNERAL SERVICE – NEW BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS – UPDATES FROM
OUR BUSY MEMBERS – WRITING OPPORTUNITIES – SUPPORTING
MEMBER ARTICLES - LAST CALL FOR FISH CAMP!*

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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:

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THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO – Doug Wilson – Ocean Sunset

NOWA OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND MORE

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



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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – WHAT WE DO IS VERY IMPORTANT



We are living thru some very interesting times and complaining about it has become a new national pastime. I wish I could say I was immune, but there have been a few times I couldn't resist wallowing in woe. I wish it could help in some way but it doesn't. I only end up feeling like I've eaten a bad cheeseburger.

The other day, three of my friends came to visit my wife and I while we were camped out at our secret spot on the Sandy River. One is out of work, one is employed part time and the other was self employed some of the time. Hard times or not, they took the time to get out and enjoy life.

It seems they had taken up a new hobby: Panning for gold. So while I brought beer to enjoy the weekend, they brought buckets, shovels, gold pans.....and guidebooks.

Their enthusiasm was contagious. Soon, I was wielding a shovel and digging black sand in the 90 degree heat because the guidebook said you had a better chance of finding gold in black colored sand.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued)

We dug a few five gallon buckets of sand, drug them over to the rivers edge and shot the breeze with our feet in the cool water, swirling sand & water out the sides of the pans.

Did we find any gold? Why yes we did, a speck so small that it was worth less than an empty beer can. But still, we did find some gold and I felt proud. We all felt it was a reason to celebrate, and so we did.

It struck me that no matter how bad things may seem, there will always be a need for what we do so people can get out and enjoy life in the great outdoors.

For my part, that little speck of gold (and I'm not even the one who found it) put a spark back in my desire to write and take pictures. I saw how much fun my friends were having following the written advice of a knowledgeable author and this in turn made me feel important, because sometimes I fill those shoes.

I felt important because I'm getting a little coin to do a dream job and real people depend on what I write to have a good time. Sure, my pay scale right now is flatter than the plains of Kansas but it could be worse.

So, this new found motivation helped push out four new stories I didn't know I had in me. It seems that little speck of gold was worth a lot more than I thought.



Dave Kilhefner

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FROM THE EDITOR – NORTH TO ALASKA!



This edition I head north to Alaska to report on the great adventure my daughter Faith and I enjoyed at Sportsman’s Cove Lodge on Prince of Wales Island. The journey started at SeaTac airport where a quick two-hour flight brought us to Ketchikan. After lunch in town, we boarded a de Havilland Otter floatplane and enjoyed a 20-minute flight over the Inside Passage to the lodge. The facility is located in a remote cove and features comfortable accommodations, a large dining room, a small pub, laundry facilities and the marina where the fishing boats are docked and where the fish are processed, vacuum packed and frozen for your journey home.

After a dinner of soy-glazed salmon we headed to the docks where our Captain made sure we had the correct sized rain gear and gave us an orientation to the 37-foot Delta fishing boat our group of six would be fishing out of with him and his deckhand for the next several days. The boat has a comfortable

cabin, a marine head, and the ability to completely walk around (and fish around) the boat.

Mornings at the lodge always start off by making your lunch from a variety of sandwich fixings before eating a hot breakfast that changes daily. By 6:30 AM you are on your boat and the fleet of five charter boats heads out for the day.

Faith and I were on board the *Mystic Lady*, captained by Hunt Edwards, a Florida charter boat captain who had been working at Sportsman’s Cove for ten seasons. Our deckhand, Jim, was a friendly young man from Kentucky and had the strongest work ethic I have ever seen.

FROM THE EDITOR (Continued)

The fishing was very, very good. Our mornings were spent fishing off the bottom for halibut and true cod and once we had our limit (of one quality halibut per angler) we would head towards an area where the salmon were schooling in good numbers.

Most of the salmon were pink salmon but there were also coho (silvers), bright chum salmon and a few Chinook (kings) as well. Our method of fishing was an old school one called mooching. We each had a cut plug herring with three to four feet of leader tied to a six-ounce weight and would drop it down and reel it back up rapidly in a controlled fashion. Many times, the salmon would follow the bait all the way to the boat at which point you dropped your bait back down 30 feet or so, reeled up again, and quite often the salmon would then take it. With every day a 40+ salmon catching day on the boat we had lots of excitement on the water.

Around 3 PM the fleet comes back to the docks where photos are taken of the day's catch and appetizers await. Dinner is then served at 6 PM, followed by an awards ceremony where the anglers catching the big fish of the day from a variety of different species gets a coffee cup with their name and the weight and species of the fish on it to memorialize the occasion.

You'll want to bring your camera and binoculars too because wildlife is abundant. During our visit we saw bald eagles, humpback whales, Orca whales, sea lions and black bears.

The whole experience was fun and wonderful. Part of the reason for this, in addition to the great fishing and food, is the fantastic customer service. This is established through careful hiring practices and also through the fact that there are 32 staff members on hand to take care of the 30 anglers who occupy the lodge for any given 3 to 4-day stay during the summer.

On the final day you actually get to fish again for most of the day before taking a floatplane back to Ketchikan. Most stay one more night in town, which gives you the opportunity to explore Alaska's First City, a very popular destination for cruise ships.

The return rate to Sportsman's Cove Lodge is very high and with the pent-up demand of this season they are sold out for this year. Fortunately, an additional four-day trip has just been added at the very end of the season, arriving on September 8th and departing on the 13th. This is typically the time of year when the biggest coho salmon of the year are landed. If you want to book this trip (or book a trip for the 2022 season) you can do so by going to www.alaskasbestlodge.com or by calling 1-800-962-7889.

John Kruse (this was originally published in the *Washington Outdoors Report* on July 24th)

ISRAEL TRIP: CASE LESSON IN JOURNALISTIC RESEARCH ETHICS

by Peter Schroeder

How do you decide whether to participate on a press trip? For me, I have three criteria: Can I get an article from it? Will they pay expenses? Can I write what I want without restrictions? If these conditions are satisfied, I will accept and don't care who hosts the trip. But a recent journey made me weigh decisions more carefully.

Not too long ago I traveled to Israel on a press trip organized by the Ski Club of International Journalists (SCIJ) with support provided by the Israeli government and several Israeli private enterprises. The week-long itinerary balanced the historic (Masada, Akko, Caesarea), modern (desalination plant, wineries, Fassuta, Tel Aviv), biblical (Jerusalem, Nazareth), political (West Bank, Golan Heights, Kibbutz Ein Gedi), and recreational (Hadera, Dead Sea, Tel Aviv).

After we returned, controversy began. Other journalist colleagues who did not participate on the trip deemed the visit unprofessional, unethical, and contrary to the standards of journalistic integrity. Wow! Was I taken aback!

Why? The first criticism was the itinerary included a visit to the Golan Heights, territory in Syria that was captured by Israel in 1967. When annexed by Israel in 1981, the UN Security Council said the action violated the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibiting acquisition of territory by force. Our travels also included presentations by Israelis living in the settlement of Katzrin about the local Golan Winery. International law regards the Israelis living there as illegal settlers.

The second criticism was that we participating journalists compromised the integrity of SCIJ by visiting territory that Israel occupies. Critics asserted we were unwittingly used as public relations tools. While in the Golan Heights, settlers (and most likely incognito government agents) photographed us enjoying ourselves and commenting on the excellent wine, as though this were all part of Israel.

ISRAEL TRIP (CONTINUED)

The third criticism was the suggestion that after being feted on an excursion paid for by the Israeli Government, we would be unlikely to write anything negative about our experience.

After reflecting on these complaints, I decide to reject all three criticisms. This trip was about journalistic research and I needed to be there, regardless of the circumstances, for the first-hand experience. How else can I talk to Australian UN peacekeepers stationed on the border with Syria? Only when hearing the continuous gunfire of ISIS troops do I grasp how the fighting continues unabated. By seeing three Arab countries—Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia—less than a quarter mile away practically surrounding the southernmost city of Eilat do I understand why militaries of all countries are on constant alert. How else would I find a quote that sums up the complexity of the region as succinctly as Michael Asi, Greek Orthodox priest in the Christian village of Fassuta in northern Israel which is subject to frequent shelling by the nearby guns of Lebanon: “We are Israeli but not Jewish, Arab but not Muslim, Catholic but not Roman Catholic.”

Bottom line:

--I'm glad I went on this research trip, which I could never afford as a freelance writer, and would gladly go again;

--Regardless of the occupied land issue, I found it informative to visit the Golan Heights;

--My articles are balanced and avoid political controversies.

Peter Schroeder and Risa Wyatt in Israel



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MEMBER OPPORTUNITY!

FISH ALASKA AND HUNT ALASKA MAGAZINES ARE ACCEPTING QUERIES!

Hi Everyone,

I hope you have all had a great summer and have made it through the pandemic unscathed. I'm grateful to all of you who contributed to *Fish Alaska* and *Hunt Alaska* in 2021.

Please send queries you'd like me to consider for 2022 *Fish Alaska* and *Hunt Alaska* issues. Queries should include a proposed article title and a paragraph describing what the article will be about. **The deadline for queries is August 23rd.**

I'll be developing the editorial calendar in the coming weeks and will email you to let you know what we will use.

Some things to keep in mind:

- Standard length for a feature article in *Fish Alaska* or *Hunt Alaska* magazine is 2500 words
- Upon submission, we'll want at least a dozen great photos from which to choose.
- First run only; we don't reprint anything that has been published elsewhere.

Please submit your queries to me ASAP, not later than August 23rd. If you have questions, please reply or call me. I look forward to working with you in 2022!

George Krumm

Editor - *Fish Alaska* and *Hunt Alaska*

907-529-6172 cell george@fishalaskamagazine.com



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MEMBER UPDATES

A SERVICE FOR DENNIS CLAY

Garnet Wilson invites NOWA members to what looks to be a very special funeral service for Dennis Clay. It's taking place at 11 AM on September 8th at the Washington State Veteran's Cemetery in Medical Lake, Washington. Dennis, a longtime member of NOWA, served as our president before he passed away and was also the recipient of the Fred L. Peterson award. Photo courtesy of the Columbia Basin Herald.



NOWA MEMBERS AT WORK!

Troy Rodakowski has two articles out in the current edition of *Northwest Sportsman Magazine* about antelope and bear hunting.

Guy Miner has been collaborating with Gavin Gear who has a popular YouTube Channel, *Ultimate Reloading*. Guy has been appearing in videos, writing blogs and sharing photos.

Jaana Hatton has a great article in the current edition of *Foothills Magazine* about hiking.

Randall Bonner has a blog published by *Salmon-Trout-Steelheader* about bead buoyancy and is working on a book called "The Bead Bible".

Vickie Loftus is also hard at work on a new book about stillwater fly fishing and blogs on her website at www.stillwateradventure.com

FISH CAMP REMINDER!



Photo montage courtesy Doug Wilson

Ed Iman’s annual Fish Camp is a go and you are invited! With no conference in 2020 or 2021, Fish Camp is your best opportunity to mingle with other NOWA members in person this year!

Fish Camp takes place in the Columbia River Gorge, specifically, at the Peach Beach RV Park across the Columbia River from Biggs Junction. As we mentioned in the last edition of *NOWA Field Notes*, as a media member you’ll camp for free in either a tent (provided) or your own tent, camper or RV. If you prefer a roof over your head, you can pay for hotel accommodations in The Dalles. All of your meals and drinks are also provided at Fish Camp and it’s fair to say you won’t lose weight while you are here. As fun as the camping and socializing is though, going out on the water every day with a guide or tournament angler is what really makes this fun. Most folks go after Chinook salmon off the

mouth of the Deschutes or Klickitat Rivers but you can also cast for smallmouth bass, walleye or trophy size sturgeon. If you are up for a walk you can wander along the Klickitat or Deschutes Rivers for a morning of fishing and you just might hook into a salmon or steelhead if you do. Returning to camp you'll get to enjoy a nice dinner and a drink while taking in presentations from the sponsors of the event, all companies in the fishing or outdoors industry.

What's expected of you? In addition to having a good time, you'll also be expected to produce and publish content about the sponsors and/or the guides you are fishing with. It's a great event that NOWA members have been attending for nearly 20 years but it might not go on forever so if you've been thinking about attending, this would be a good year to do so.

The dates for Fish Camp this year are September 12th through the 16th. Call Ed Iman if you have questions or want to attend. His phone number is 971-235-0448

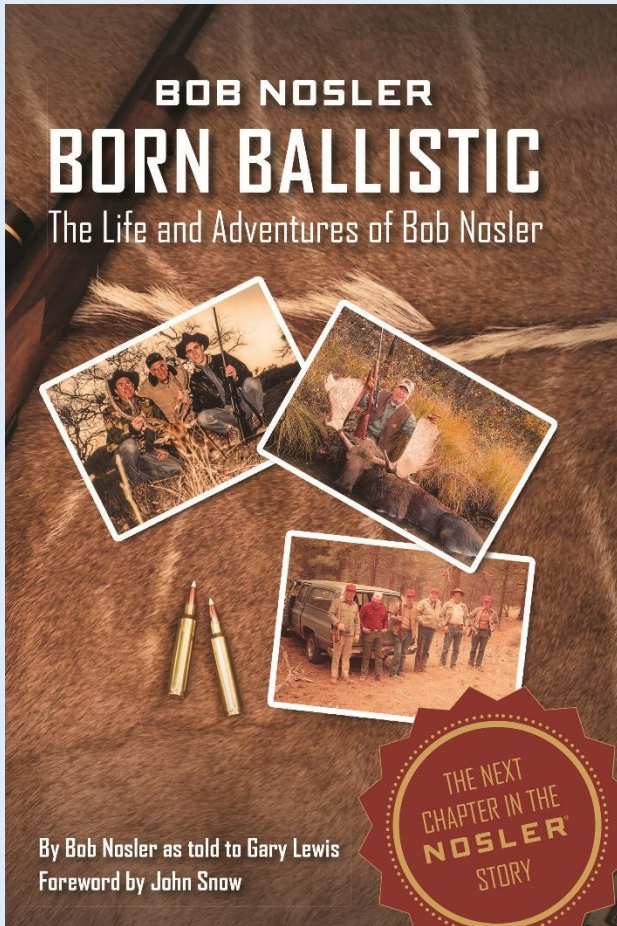
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The collage features several images: a 'Burgway Pub & Eatery' sign, people on a riverfront patio, two people on bicycles, a person jumping over a river, a wine bottle and glass, a Columbia Gorge Discovery Center building, and a large brick building with 'Sawtooth Winery' signage.

MEMBER UPDATES – A NEW BOOK FROM GARY LEWIS



When sportsmen want a bullet they can depend on, the name they trust is Nosler. Nosler bullets are used by hunters and shooters around the world.

Bob Nosler Born Ballistic is the next saga in the epic tale of one of the American West's great industrial and hunting families. Struggling to hold fast to the dream sketched on a napkin and forged on the factory floor, Bob Nosler's vision helped transform an industry.

You know Bob Nosler by the bullets with his name on them, by the accurate rifles built in Bend, Oregon. With one foot in the boardroom and one in the forest, this is the story of a man armed with a bolt-action rifle and a relentless drive to succeed.

Bob Nosler Born Ballistic is now available from Gary Lewis Outdoors (www.garylewisoutdoors.com), Nosler, Inc. (www.nosler.com), Amazon and fine bookstores and sporting goods stores.

Bob Nosler's contribution to the shooting sports is legendary. Today, he stands among the leaders of the industry. *Bob Nosler Born Ballistic*, with over 80 photos and practical wisdom on every page, will give the reader insight into the events that shaped Partition and founded Ballistic Tip, AccuBond, E-Tip and more.

Bob Nosler Born Ballistic by John Nosler as told to Gary Lewis

Foreword by John Snow

ISBN: 978-0-9761244-9-8

Price: \$24.95

SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS



A DIVE INTO THE 202 U.S. COAST COAST GUARD BOATING SAFETY STATISTICS REVEAL HOW THE PANDEMIC AFFECTED BOATING IN WAYS JUST BEGINNING TO BE UNDERSTOOD

The [U.S. Coast Guard recently released the 2020 Recreational Boating Statistics](#), and reports of accidents, fatalities and injuries were significantly up over the prior year. While still under review, the Coast Guard believes that the primary driving factor for the significant increase in deaths was the significant increase in boating activity. The nonprofit [BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water](#) looks at some select data points in the report and offers some lessons for the future, long after America has put the pandemic in the rearview mirror.

1. **A change in the top five reasons for accidents:** In 2020, the top five reported contributing factors in accidents were 1. operator inattention, 2. operator inexperience, 3. improper lookout, 4. excessive speed and 5. machinery failure. “Machinery failure,” at number five on the list, is new for 2020. While it is only a single data point, it likely indicates that a well-maintained boat is also a safer vessel. “One could reasonably assume that first-time boat owners are understandably inexperienced in boat maintenance, and some boat owners likely had difficulty getting service during the pandemic,” said BoatUS Foundation President Chris Edmonston. He also noted that, “With the limited manufacturer supply of new boats available, some older, less seaworthy boats were probably on the water that otherwise would not have been.”
2. **Operator inattention and improper lookout never change:** Some may attribute the No. 1 and No. 3 reasons for accidents in 2020 solely to first-time boat owners, perhaps giving more experienced boaters a “pass.” However, to do so would be a mistake. These two factors have remained consistent across many years of Coast Guard reporting indicating perhaps, for experienced boaters, there is always room to improve boating safety.

BOAT U.S. (Continued)



3. **Carrying more passengers aboard:** In 2020, the Coast Guard Report noted 5,265 accidents, 767 deaths and 3,191 injuries. That represents a one-year increase of 26%, 25% and 25% respectively. While not directly acknowledged in the report, Edmonston notes that when boats did head out in 2020, they did so not only with more frequency but also with more passengers aboard. “In 2020, boating provided the respite that many families needed, and no one was left at home alone on Saturday. With more aboard, however, there is likely an increase in the potential for injuries in any single accident.”

4. **The access and congestion issues:** Another effect of the pandemic was the temporary loss of waterway access, as some states and localities were driven by public health concerns to reduce park or launch ramp staff. “Limiting access increased congestion and user conflict in the vicinity of those remaining open,” said Edmonston. “What we have learned is

that like many other pandemic-affected outdoor activities, we need to find ways to keep access open. Perhaps technology, such as automated access, could help in the future.”

QUESTION OF THE MONTH FROM “THE MACK ATTACK” NEWSLETTER



Q: I've heard the term "pop gear" from a lot of people recently. What are they talking about?

A: Pop gear is another name for a gang troll, which can be used in an assortment of ways when trolling. They generally consist of a wire leader that can have anywhere from 2- to 6-blades that spin to create extra flash and attraction to a line. Mack's Lure carries a variety of gang trolls called Flash Lite® Trolls, Hot Wings® or Troll Lite™ Flasher. The Flash Lite® is our gang troll that offers both versatility and added attraction, allowing you to catch more fish by drawing them in. The

blades themselves are similar to our Smile Blade®, made of mylar plastic, reducing the drag on your rod by up to 85%. The Hot Wings® are smaller in size when an angler wants a lower profile in the water column. The blades also counter-rotate to increase flash and attraction. Gang trolls can be used in-line with normally a 2- to 3-foot leader when using an in-line spinner such as a Wedding Ring® or just above a Double D™ Dodger, which adds side-to-side action of the dodger

A REVIEW OF “THE ROCK SHALL DANCE”

The Book – by Peter Schroeder/ The Review - By Gary Lewis



Peter Schroeder sits at the machinery inside the Hanford Nuclear Plant, May 3, 2015

A voracious consumer of the written word since the age of six, my taste runs to American history, but it is a particular pleasure to sample all sorts of prose. After a long run of Native American and sixgun tales, I turned to a Stephen King book called *On Writing*. It is one of the finest treatments of the subject and this would be my second reading. It had been so long, the chapters were almost new to me.

Then the recent NOWA newsletter appeared in my inbox. I hate that it comes to my inbox and not my mailbox, but I lost that battle in a boardroom a long time ago, did I not? Of particular interest was a press release about a new book from Peter Saxton Schroeder, *The Rock Shall Dance*.

BOOK REVIEW (CONTINUED)

It was twenty dollars for the soft cover edition and in a few days the book arrived at my door. The Stephen King book set aside, I sampled the first chapter then turned back to the disclaimer, acknowledgements, dedication and introduction. This book would give full value for the twenty. Bits of the story, I had heard, whilst on a yellow bus headed to Hanford, sitting at the controls of the long silent nuclear plant and at various NOWA conferences over the last 20 years, but there was more here than expected.

Schroeder writes in the present tense, which seems to be what ski and sailing magazines prefer, and it took me a while to get used to it. But the writing had the immediacy that spoke of either an unusually clear memory or a person who had a lot to say and a short time to put words on paper. The years and his age are recorded at the beginning of each chapter, which seemed unnecessary at first, but then became a great way to mark time as I grew absorbed in the story of a life. For Peter (The Rock) was a Do-er and found his way into the nuclear weapons machine. And this was the first value the book paid back, a deep look into the grinding wheels of the war machinery in the 1960s and 1970s. Schroeder sought the best positions while at the same time searched out how to make the system provide travel and leisure. Having sat through many of his presentations at conferences, I smiled knowing how the early travel planning informed the later travel. Every life well lived reaches a turning point and Schroeder's was a particularly hard turn. Outrunning the headlights, he almost did not see the curve coming. Given six months to live, he subjected himself to cutting, poisoning and burning to rid himself of the cancer, and then he turned to specialists of another kind. Don't tell me there is not a lot the West could not learn from the East. The search for meaning is poignant and provides important counterpoints to the difficult days in college and boardrooms. Without a lot of judgment for either the marketplace or the meditation, and only a little judgment for himself, Schroeder winds up this story at age 40, four decades ago. It becomes apparent how, when and why the book was written -to inform the ones he thought he would soon leave behind.

It is hard for children of writers to read their words, but I hope his children read their father's work. My twenty dollars? It was well spent. A person can take important lessons from the journey. I must also say the book was well edited. I like to think Risa Wyatt had a hand in that. I have returned to reading *On Writing*, which I recommend. So, yeah, Peter Saxton Schroeder, I put down a Stephen King book to read yours.

Gary Lewis is twice a past president of NOWA. Contact Lewis at garylewisoutdoors.com or email to garylewisoutdoors@gmail.com

FINAL SHOT



A coastal sunset photo by Doug Wilson and a wilderness sunset photo by Jason Brooks bookend this edition of *NOWA Field Notes*. Jason was scouting for the upcoming hunting season when he captured this beautiful sunset photo in southern Washington. Jason continues to keep busy as both a writer, photographer and the editor of *The Tailout*, a digital magazine from the publishers of the *Salmon & Steelhead Journal*.