

VOL 24 ISSUE 10

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

HEAD HOOKER'S MESSAGE

PAUL WELLS



Well, gents here we are a month later and still in the Corona virus freeze. **Bob Schmidt** & I have spent many hours searching for a place where we could have an in-person meeting and Bob finally found one.

On Saturday, October 10th, at 8 am, we will hold a meeting outdoors at:

American River Water Education Center

At intersection of Folsom Auburn RD and Folsom Dam RD.
7785 Folsom-Auburn Rd
Folsom 95630

There are 2 parking lots, one is gated but the other one isn't.

We will be Social Distancing and wearing masks. Coffee and donuts will be provided. This facility has a covered patio with some tables and benches. Bring a lawn chair, if you can, so we will have enough seats to Social Distance.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Insurance-possibly cancelling our insurance until be resume regular activities.
- Dues-discussion
- Cancellation of the Xmas party-discussion
- Cancellation of Auction-discussion
- Officers for 2021-Discussion

Please let me know if anyone has an item they want to add to the agenda.

Please RSVP by either phone (916) 687-6640, (916) 952-4721 or email wellswiltn@yahoo.com, so we will have an idea as to how many will be attending.

Also, it is official that the Elks Lodge is up For Sale as there is a For Sale sign posted in front. This means we will have to find a new place for our meetings. This is not urgent since we can't meet there now but we do need to start looking for a new place. If anybody knows of a place or sees some place that they think might work, please let us know.

I hope everyone is well and I hope to see you at the meeting!

Paul



JOLLY HOOKERS MEETING LOCATION OCT 10TH 8:00 AM



OCTOBER MEETING SITE

FISHING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BOB SCHMIDT

The New Nimbus Hatchery Fish Flume

Construction on a new fish ladder at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery was started on March 16, 2020. It is not truly a ladder but more of a long concrete flume. The Bureau of Reclamation is overseeing and funding the 9.7 million-dollar project. The property of the Nimbus Dam and Hatchery is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and the State of California runs the Hatchery. I was able to tour the construction site in August and my guide was **Scott Ransdell**, Sr. Vice President of J.R. Conkey & Associates Inc., a construction firm out of Roseville that was awarded the project.

Why does the hatchery need a new fish ladder when the old one has been working so well for so many years? It comes down to water control and water flows. When the fish barriers or screens are in place in the river the river flows are kept to a minimum so as not to wash them out. The barriers are placed in the river each year and are located just downstream of the Hazel Bridge on the west side. The fish barriers or screens direct the Salmon and Steelhead into the existing fish ladder that feeds them into hatchery. The new flume will have no fish barriers in the river to direct the fish up and into the hatchery. It will be done by water flow. This will be done by increasing or decreasing flows from the dam and adding more water flow into the flume. This system will be able to work at any river level or flow rate.

The new flume starts on the South side of the river right in front of the dam and travels under the Hazel Ave Bridge and will tie into the side of the exiting fish ladder at its top. The flume will travel over 2000 feet and has 3 main sections. Water flow into the new flume

from the hatchery will use the same two existing pipes used for the old fish ladder. The existing pipes are 42 and 62- inch diameter and come from the lake above the dam. When the new flume goes into operation the existing fish ladder will be gated off and water will then be directed into the new flume.

SECTION #1 "The Rock Lined Trapezoidal Channel" is a dug out natural section of river bed and will be lined with cobbles and large rocks for about 200 feet. It will enter into a concrete catch basin transition structure to the flume, the start of next section **"The Flume"**. The catch basin has 2 added smaller water pipes that can boost up the water flows. This will help by providing noise and turbulence. This is intended to help lure the fish up and into the flume.



TRAPEZOIDAL CHANNEL



CATCH BASIN TRANSITION STRUCTURE

SECTION #2 “The Flume” starts at the catch basin. It is a long square concrete flume about 8 feet wide and walls about 8 feet tall on each side. It will take about 1,800 yards of concrete to complete the 2,000 foot-long flume. The first part of the concrete flume has a very short fish ladder that will rise less than 20 feet. The main flume will average about .5% slope (almost flat) for the entire length. The flume will have 4 adjustable weirs or steps along the way. The weirs are boards that can be added or be taken out to raise and lower the water level or to stop and hold the fish along the way.



FLUME SECTION LOOKING TOWARD NIMBUS DAM



FLUME BETWEEN HAZEL AVENUE AND THE DAM

SECTION #3 “Viewing Area” The last section of the Flume is the public viewing section before it goes into the existing old ladder and holding pens. It will have under water windows on the North side. Visitors will be able to walk down below the water level and be able to see the fish swim by.



FUTURE FISH VIEWING SITE – UNDERWATER WINDOWS WILL BE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE FLUME. BEYOND IS THE OPENING INTO TOP OF THE EXISTING FISH LADDER.

The existing ladder will be used for this fall salmon run. It will not be removed for now. In August the fish barriers or screens across the river were placed into position but not fully lowered into the river yet. They are in place and ready to be used. The final dropping of the bars into the river will take place sometime late October. Right now there are plenty of salmon in the basin in front of the dam already. You can see them rolling and rising in the water.

Right now the construction crews are trying to complete the basin area East of Hazel Av by Oct. 15. They need to be out of this area before the weather changes and water flows go up. The existing bike trail and walkway that were removed will be put back in place. It will be along the Northern edge of a portion of the flume. Visitors can walk along the flume edge and look over the 2 to 3 foot-high wall into the flume. The flume will have a fence over it to keep people out and to keep the fish in. Other parts of the basin will be put back to its natural state. Completion date for the project is July 2021 in time for the next year salmon run.

If you are in the area you can stop and take a view of the project. Parking is available in the hatchery parking lot any day of the week. Then walk part way up either side of the Hazel Ave. Bridge and you can look down onto the project. NOTE: The existing fish ladder viewing area and walkways have been removed and are closed to the public for this year.

The nature trail along the river South side and West of the old fish ladder is open. The inside viewing area and museum is also closed for now and maybe opened when the fish start entering the hatchery.

Good Luck Fishing and be Safe Out There
Bob Schmidt

	Treasurer's Report By Ben LaSala October 2020
Starting Balance	\$1,682
Income	
Breakfast	
Non-eaters	
Hat Sales	
Subtotal	0
Expenses	
Breakfast	
Raffle Prizes	
Derby Pot	
Guest Breakfasts	
Insurance	228
Subtotal	228
Ending Balance	\$1,454

FISHING REPORTS

BEN AND STEVE'S GREAT ALASKAN ADVENTURE AUGUST 2020

BY: BEN LA SALA

Before **Steve Paulick** and I started our trip from Sacramento to Juneau, AK on Friday August 14, we had to get a Corona virus test. I tested negative, but it is kind of funny that Steve still did not know of his results until we got back to Sacramento. We stayed in Juneau two nights, deciding to do some sightseeing. While we were there, we visited the site of the Mendenhall Glacier and Nugget Falls. To get there, we took a city bus, which was free, and then walked a couple of miles to get there. If you have been to Alaska in the summer, you know what happens almost every day, it rains. So, we got a little wet, but it was not that bad.

The next day, we were met at the airport by a couple of buses that transported about 50 of us to a large catamaran. After loading all our gear, we embarked on a two-hour boat ride to our final destination, "**Doc Warner's Alaska Adventures**", Excursion Inlet, AK. We attended an orientation which informed us about the lodge accommodations, fishing boats and equipment, fishing regulations, boundaries and shallow water hazards. Alaska has huge tides. It is not unusual to have a 15' difference between low and high tide. The message we received was to stay away from these shallow water hazards as they could be very costly and dangerous. We were all fitted with rain gear and boots which we kept the whole week. The rain gear was hung in a drying room, so you never had to worry about having to wear wet gear.

Breakfast was at 5:30 a.m. on Monday. We prepared a box lunch which was kept in a waterproof bucket, and then headed down to the dock to our assigned boat. The boats were very sturdy aluminum boats with 90 HP motors. All boats were equipped with Lowrance Hook 7 fish finders and manual downriggers. Steve and I chose two rods apiece, one for salmon and one for halibut. Each of us was given our choice of a large dodger and a couple of hoochies for salmon fishing. The lodge also provided a small ice chest with frozen herring every day for halibut fishing, along with halibut rigs and lead weights. You could buy more gear as needed at the lodge.

We decided early on that we would spend part of our day fishing for salmon, and the rest of the day for halibut. I have always heard that the best time to fish our local Delta is two hours before and after a tide change. We applied the same principal in fishing for halibut in Alaska, and it worked. While we had a very general idea of where we should be fishing, the area where we could fish covered a lot of water. The first day out, we tried to find where the other boats from our lodge were fishing for salmon, and then we joined them. We had little success this first day of fishing; it was windy and rainy. We did not know where to go, but we caught a limit of halibut in the 20 - 30 pound range, and a couple of salmon.

While we tried trolling for salmon much as we do here, while paralleling the shoreline, many of the other fisherman were trolling perpendicular to the shore from relatively shallow water to deeper water. We did not get the hang of this until later in the week, but the theory is that the salmon could be in 100' of water or they could be in 600' of water depending what they were. Most of the salmon we caught were at a depth

15' to 25'. Our largest Silver Salmon was just over 14 pounds. We thought it was a Chinook at first...it was a nice fish. While we did not catch as many keeper salmon as I would have liked, we caught several small salmon along with some pinks that we released.

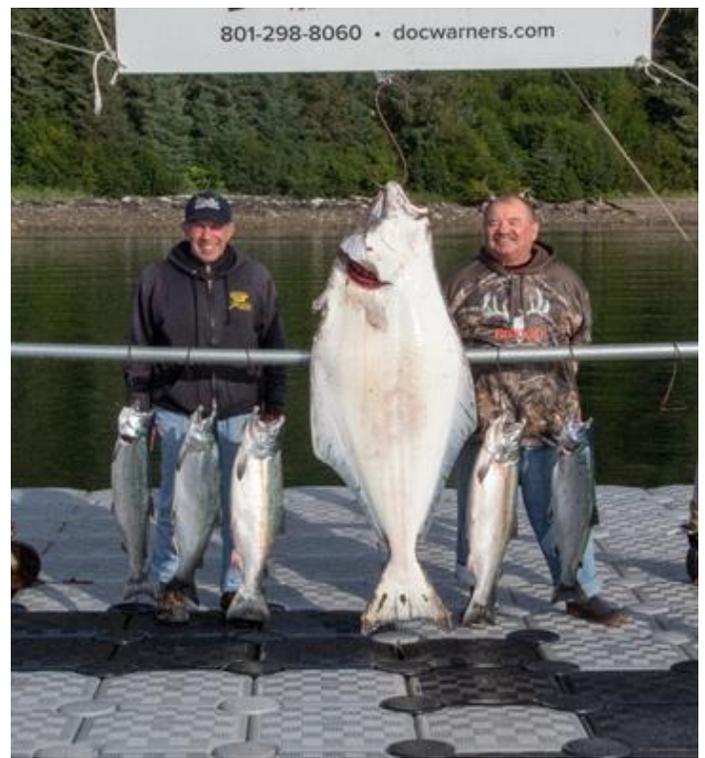
Our best day of fishing was on Wednesday. As the week wore on, we became more confident in what we were doing and where to fish. We started out fishing for salmon and we kept five nice Silvers. We then went looking for a location to set anchor and fish for halibut. There were several waypoints marked on our GPS unit, and Steve picked one of them. It was in about 100' of water. Shortly after getting a line down, I got a bite. As we were using circle hooks, you do not need to set the hook, you just hold on and the fish hooks itself. I could tell that it was a large fish as it started taking drag. Just as I was getting set for a battle, my line went slack. You probably know the feeling. No fish, no weight, nothing...damn. What happened? I reeled my line in expecting that the braided line had broken. Instead I found that the swivel, that the line was tied to, had come apart. It was weird.

About a minute later, Steve started to get a bite. Well this one stuck. Steve took his time fighting the fish, he had no choice. I lost track of time, but I would say it took 10 to 15 minutes before we saw that it was a monster. This halibut ended up weighing just over 100 pounds. Then, we had an unexpected problem, we could not get the fish into the boat. Steve and I are both short, and the boat had high gunnels. We just could not wrestle this fish into the boat. After about an hour of trying different things, we tied part of the anchor rope around the tail, and along with the hook in its mouth, we finally got it into the boat. We were exhausted, and called it a day.

The rest of the trip was anticlimactic...we could not hope to match that great day. During the week we were there, several halibut between 100 -200 pounds were caught. The largest we heard about was just over 200 pounds. How did they get it into their boat??? Steve and I have already booked a trip for next year. I hesitate to spend that much money on single trip...\$4500 -\$5000, but Steve says it was well worth it. Oh, I forgot to mention, I was lucky enough to catch a 43 pound halibut on light tackle; it was a blast.

If you are interested you can talk to me or Steve. Here is a link to the lodge:

<http://docwarners.com/>



JOLLY HOOKERS BEN LA SALA AND STEVE PAULICK WITH SOME OF THEIR CATCH

SALMON FISHING ON THE "OUTER LIMITS" IN SEPTEMBER

Past Head Hooker **Peter Tinoco** sent in this picture.



Here is a pic of our Pacific Salmon run Aboard the Outer Limits.jack pot winner.



**Jolly Hooker Fishing Club
Gene Pearson
3536 Rolph Way
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762**

2020 Steering Committee

<u>Head Hooker</u>	Paul Wells
<u>Asst. Head Hooker</u>	John Bergman
<u>Treasurer</u>	Ben LaSala
<u>Secretary</u>	Gene Pearson
<u>Activities Chairman</u>	Rene Villanueva
<u>Fishing Chairman</u>	Bob Schmidt
<u>NDO Chairman</u>	Walt Summers