

Olympic Peninsula Outing August 20th–23rd, 2020 Fish Master - John Bohrsen

We have a planned outing on the Olympic Peninsula for later this summer. You may have heard about an incident in Forks where a homeless family in a bus had been harassed by some locals. The Board wanted to make sure you had as much information as possible as you make your decision about attending the outing. I have talked with the Clallam County Sheriff's Office, the Executive Director of Fork's Chamber of Commerce, the people at Three Rivers RV Park, and our guide, Terrance Stevens, to gather as much information as I can about this incident.

All four of the above sources agree that the situation has been exaggerated in the news reports. It all began when a gun shop owner in Sequim started a Facebook rumor that Antifa protestors were coming to the area to start riots and that local citizens should arm themselves to discourage protestors. This coincided with a family from Spokane traveling in an old school bus stopping in Forks for groceries. Some locals thought this family was the Antifa protestors rumored to be in the area and confronted them, followed them to their campsite, harassed them and blocked their exit until a sheriff's deputy arrived and diffused the situation.

The Clallam County Sheriff's office said the incident has been blown out of proportion and that they have spent over 5,000 hours investigating what happened and who was involved. The Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce has said this was an isolated incident and not representative of the community. Hope, at Three Rivers Resort said, "What happened was not right, but it is being set right by the community." A "Go Fund Me" page has been established for the family with Forks' dollars. The sheriff's office knows some of the harassers but continues to investigate the incident. The Board just wanted to make sure we shared as much information as possible about our outings.

What about our outing? I take the people I have talked with in Forks at their word. I would not want my town judged by a few people's mistakes. The sites are reserved at Three Rivers under my name for CSF members on a first come first serve basis. Just call 360-374-5300. Hope will ask for your name and phone number. You can then transfer the site from my name to yours. Please let me know that you are attending and location you reserved.

The last few years we have gone to the Olympic Peninsula in mid-September and the fishing has been slow for Chinook and Steelhead. So I thought we might try earlier with a better opportunity to target Coho Salmon and Sea-run Cutthroat, and you might hook a summer run steelhead. This year's dates will be Thursday August 20 thru Sunday August 23.

In an attempt to maintain 'social distancing' and staying safe and healthy, I did not reserve the house this year. What I did reserve are: a one bedroom cabin (sleeps 2), an RV site with power and water and three dry camping sites. Three Rivers will hold these sites for CSF members until August 1. These sites are reserved in my name. You can take one of them by calling Three Rivers at 360-374-5300 and letting them know you are with CSF. Would you please let me know which site you took. There are two or three hotels in Forks where members have stayed in the past. Two that come to mind are the Forks Motel and the Olympic Suites Inn. There may also be camp sites available at Mora Campground. You can check at recreation.gov or check the Bogachile State Campground

which is quite a bit further away. There is also the Riverview RV Park across the road from Three Rivers.

Again, trying to practice safe distancing, we will not be hosting a potluck dinner on Saturday night. Everyone should plan meals on their own. For those who believe alcohol is a cure for the Corona Virus, happy hours may pop up spontaneously.

For more information and updates please contact John Bohrsen at 360-281-6035 or jbohrsen@gmail.com.