

Local sand drag racers open 2016 season



COURTESY DIRT-N-DUNEZ PHOTOGRAPHY

Florence sand drag racers Gee Armstrong (left) and Budy Palmer compete in the 2016 USA Drag Race opener.

Florence sand drag racers Budy Palmer and Gee Armstrong recently entered the 2016 USA sand drag racing season-opener at the Kern County Fairgrounds in Bakersfield, Calif., where more than 200 racers from around the United States and

Puerto Rico registered for the race. Palmer won the Sport 1 Class Race and placed Second in the 776-900cc Heads-Up Race. Armstrong used the four days of racing to break-in and tune-up an all-new motor and chassis setup

for the 2016 season. Their next race is scheduled for April 16 at Albany Sand Drag's "Best in the Northwest" Grudge Race in Albany, Ore.



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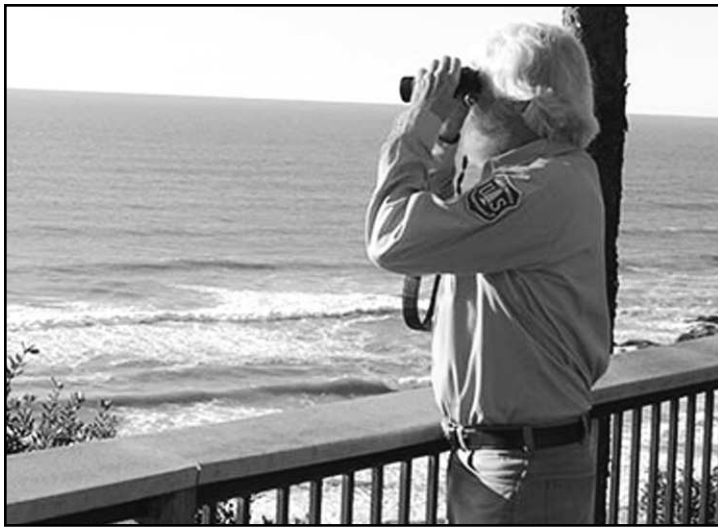
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COURTESY PHOTO

Retired chief park ranger Michael Noack will host a special presentation on grey whales March 21.

Whales from 1B

the visitor center. Whale Watch Week is part of Oregon State Park's Whale Watch Spoken Here program. All presentations and events are free, but a Northwest

Forest Pass, Oregon Coast Passport, federal recreation pass or \$5 day-use fee is required within the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area. For more information, contact the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center at 541-547-3289.

Fishing from 1B

ALSEA RIVER: Steelhead
Winter steelhead fishing is good with anglers doing well in the upper to mid river sections. With so much rain this winter, many fish have pushed upstream quickly. During higher flows, the upper river fishes well. During lower clear flows, it's better to focus efforts in the mid to lower river sections. Casting spinners / spoons, or floating bait or a jig are good options.

SALMON RIVER: Steelhead
Winter steelhead fishing is fair and fish can be found throughout the mainstem as river conditions allow. Casting lures, bouncing the bottom or drifting jigs or bait under a bobber are good techniques to consider.

SILETZ RIVER: steelhead
Winter steelhead fishing is fair to good with both bank and boat anglers hooking fish through the mainstem as river conditions allow.

The river should fish well most of this week. Side drifting, bouncing bottom or bobber fishing can be productive.

WILSON RIVER: Steelhead, Chinook
Steelhead angling should be good as the river drops from recent high water. Fish are spread out through the system. Angling for Chinook is closed. An error in the 2016 Fishing Regulations mistakenly lists river as open for hatchery Chinook beginning Jan. 1; the correct opening date is April 1.

YAQUINA RIVER:

Steelhead
The winter steelhead fishery is fair in the Big Elk and should continue to produce over the next few weeks.

Look for the next good rain to push in another batch of fish. Anglers are reminded that there is a lot of private property along the Big Elk. Casting lures or bobbers fishing are the best techniques for this river.

COOS COUNTY LAKES AND PONDS: Trout
Lakes in Coos County are open all year for trout fishing. Last week 30 hatchery steelhead, that returned to Eel Lake trap, were stocked into Butterfield Lake to provide additional fishing opportunity for trout anglers.

These steelhead stocked into Butterfield Lake are no considered trout and may be harvest.

The daily trout bag limit in Butterfield is 5 trout per day with only 1 trout over 20 inches per day.

COOS RIVER BASIN: Dungeness crab, steelhead, bay clams

Steelhead anglers are catching lots of steelhead when conditions are right. With the recent rain the river might be fishable today but too high and muddy tomorrow.

Anglers are catching steelhead drift fishing corkies or eggs. Jigs fished under a bobber area also catching several steelhead.

The West Fork Millicoma River is the first river to clear after a rain followed by the East Fork Millicoma and South Fork Coos rivers. Anglers fishing the South

Fork Coos River above Dellwood will need a permit from Weyerhaeuser, which they can pick up at the Dellwood office.

In the Coos Basin 1 additional hatchery steelhead may be retained per day for a total aggregate of 3 adult fish harvested daily.

Recreational harvest of crab re-opened from the Columbia River to the California border.

TENMILE BASIN: Trout, steelhead

Streams in the Tenmile Basin are now closed for trout fishing until May 22. Tenmile Lakes is open all year for trout but trout fishing has been slow.

Steelhead fishing has been slow in Tenmile Creek and Eel Creek. Thirty five hatchery steelhead from the Eel Lake Fish Trap were recycled back into the fishery at Spinreel Park. In the Tenmile Basin 1 additional hatchery steelhead may be retained per day for a total aggregate of 3 adult fish harvested daily.

UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: Steelhead

The South Umpqua is currently open to adipose fin-clipped steelhead harvest, and winter steelhead fishing will improve as water levels recede.

There will be excellent hatchery steelhead harvest opportunities on the South Umpqua as the season progresses, especially around Stanton Park in Canyonville.

WINCHESTER BAY: Bottomfish, perch

Fishing for bottomfish in the Triangle and South jetty has been successful.

PACIFIC OCEAN and BEACHES: Bottomfish, Dungeness crab

Recreational harvest of crab is open along the entire Oregon Coast. It is still recommended you discard the crab viscera (guts/butter) before cooking.

Fishing for bottom fish is open to fishing at all-depths. Fishing for black rockfish and lingcod continues to be very good from Charleston to Bandon when the ocean is calm enough for anglers to get out on the water.

The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish and a separate daily limit for lingcod (two).

Anglers can only keep 3 blue rockfish and 1 canary rockfish as part of their daily limit and there will be no harvest of China, quillback, or copper rockfish. Retention of cabezon is prohibited through June 30.

BOTTOM FISHING

• Cabezon retention is prohibited through June; this is an annual seasonal closure.

• The few boats that were able to get out of Newport last week had limits of large rockfish and nearly one lingcod per angler. Effort in other places was limited due to rough seas.

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