



JANUARY 2009



SANDY STEELHEADER NEWSLETTER

Published by the Sandy Chapter of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders.

Meetings are monthly the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at the Sam Cox building in Glen Otto park 1106 E. Columbia River Hwy in Troutdale OR

President: Howard Berg (503)665-8008
Vice Presidents: Jeff Stoeger (503)282-4830
Jeff Kirkman (503)266-1504
Secretary: Colonel Thomas (503)666-5035

Treasurer: Mike Myrick (503)281-6438
Directors: Larry Palmer, Leslie Hinea,
Larry Beaver
Membership: Bill Beith (503)252-8278

Classroom Fishtanks: Mike Myrick
Sales: Hal Blenn (503)491-5542
Newsletter: Eric Neiwert (503)669-2058
Raffle Tickets: Jay Burris

Our Website: <http://www.sandysteelheaders.org>

Chapter Meeting speaker Jack Glass

Sandy river fishing guide Jack Glass will be our next chapter speaker. Jack has been a fixture on the river for many years and knows the river very intimately. He has also provided leadership for improving runs and habitat within the basin and in the region. Jack will be speaking on winter steelheading and the techniques he and his son Brandon use to effectively catch these fish.

Jack Glass has been guiding on the Columbia and Sandy rivers full time for over 20 years and is a steward of the waters he fishes. He started fishing northwest Oregon rivers at age 8, and began professionally guiding in May of 1983 under the name Hook-up Guide Service. In 2005 Jack teamed up with his son Brandon and renamed his business Team Hook-up Guide Service.



President's message

Well, it's the start of a new year, a time to take stock of what we have accomplished this past year and think about the challenges and opportunities for the new year.

I was very impressed by the large number of volunteers we had on our river cleanup, STEP and children's camp programs this year. Mike Myrick has done a great job as club treasure and also volunteers a lot of time to the club. Several members of the Sandy River Steelheaders are doing a super job in raising money for the Association by selling raffle tickets. Art Israelson has consistently been a top ticket seller. More Sandy River Steelheaders are involved in the Association executive committee than any other club. I can't say enough about the support that I, as your new president have received from the membership

It's been a rough year for the nation and the next year doesn't look any better. The coming year is going to be very important for the survival of the Association. We must get the Association back on a solid financial footing. The Association has hired a new Executive Director, Paul Cathcart to organize fund raising projects and apply for grants. He is going to have a very difficult time in this economy and will only succeed if he gets lots of cooperation from all the clubs. I know the Sandy club will be one of the top clubs helping out.

I am looking forward to trying out some new ideas for the club to bring in new members and retain old members. The secret to surviving as a person or club is adapting to new conditions. One thing you can say about this new year is that it is going to be interesting and I hope some fun too.

SANDY STEELHEADER

A message from Paul Cathcart,

As your new Executive Director, I want to thank you for your support since my hiring on October 1 as the first paid "E.D." of the Northwest Steelheaders in almost two decades. I am truly excited and honored to be the Executive Director of this incredible natural resources organization and commit to work hard to provide management leadership and promotion of our organization to partners in the sport fishing community and the general public.

One of my key interests is full disclosure to our members or as some would call it, "transparency," in the sense of consistent communication. Hence, you are receiving the first of what will be monthly email newsletters from me succinctly summarizing the previous month's activities and initiatives undertaken by our team in Portland and elsewhere throughout the Northwest as we diligently support the work of our growing membership base of 1,500 members and 14 active chapters.

To start off, please take a moment and note some of the highlights of our team's recent work:

ANWS Leadership Restructuring — If the news hasn't floated down to you yet, I want to be sure you're aware that our existing three "Co-Presidents" structure with Norm Ritchie, Marc Davis and Tom Smoot as a modern-day troika leadership structure has been adjusted as of November 15 to where only one President will preside over Board of Director activities. That is, Norm Ritchie and Marc Davis have magnanimously stepped down from their co-president roles for the sake of operational fluidity and increased efficiency. These hard-working gentlemen will continue to remain as Board members with Norm focusing on legislative and policy matters while Marc overseeing Chapter development. Give a symbolic applause to these two esteemed Steelhead members who have consistently worked "beyond the call" during their tenure of co-presidency. I almost forgot; Tom Smoot has generously assumed the President's position and will continue to oversee office operations along with his focus on Board management and work with Norm on policy matters.

Chapter Visitations — So far, I have had the privilege of being hosted at the monthly meetings of the McLoughlin Chapter in Oregon City, the Tom McCall Chapter in Portland and the Tualatin Valley Chapter in Beaverton. The lesson I took away from each of these visits is the realization of how all our members are united in their passion for fishing and the dedication to do the right thing in advancing the mission of the Northwest Steelheaders. Over the next two months, I plan to visit all the Northwest Steelheader Chapters which stretch from the

Sandy River in the east to the Chetco River in the south, from the North Santiam River in the Valley to the Salmonberry River on the coast. Thank you all for your invitations.

November Board meeting — Thirty-plus members found the time on a windy and rainy November 8 to meet all day in Eugene to hear reports from Board Directors, Chapter Presidents, staff and guests on a variety of subjects. Some of the enthralling presentations covered topical issues such as Marine Protection Areas, SAFE for Salmon, the Tillamook timber harvest impact on the Salmonberry River and the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals adverse impact on sport fishing and vital salmon and steelhead habitats in the Lower Columbia River basin. Regarding the latter subject, the Board approved a Resolution stating that the Association of Northwest Steelheaders is opposed to the Bradford Island and Warrenton LNG proposed terminal sites and will take actions to prevent the construction of these sites.

Closely Tracking Policy Issues — Various Board members continue to closely monitor a variety of public policy issues that potentially impact sport fishing and fish habitats. In addition to the topics noted in the November Board Meeting section of this email, other subjects being reviewed include but are not limited to ODFW's 25 Year Angling Enhancement Plan draft, the same agency's Oregon Mid-Columbia River Steelhead Conservation and Recovery Plan, and the State's endorsement of the Western Climate Initiative. We will continue to be vigilant in tracking, analyzing and testifying on these and other matters relevant to our mission.

New Legislative Advocate — With the hard working Phil Donovan moving on to greater challenges, we have recently filled the void created by him and retained the services of Bob Oleson as the Northwest Steelheaders' new Legislative Advocate. Bob brings 30 years of experience working with lawmakers in Salem and various staff at State agencies. While Bob's official start date technically begins January 1, he hasn't waited for this date to hit the road running as he has already taken the initiative to attend numerous ODFW and other agency meetings to bring himself up to date on fish issues while briefing staff and Board leadership along the way. His deep competency on the complex governmental labyrinth is very apparent and thus, his status on our team will be a welcome addition.

Holiday Gift Wine Fundraiser — To help our members with a gift idea for the holidays, the home office has made arrangements with a Portland wine purveyor and will purchase at least 30 cases of red and white table wine adorned with the Association of Northwest Steelheaders logo on the label reinforced with the wording,

continued on next page

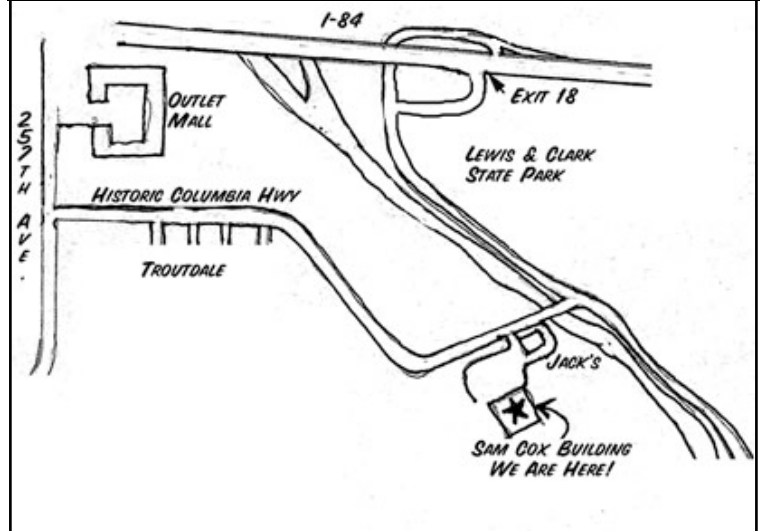
SANDY STEELHEADER

Paul Cathcart

"Protecting fish and habitat, enhancing lives for 50 years." The cost is \$180 a case (which comes to a very affordable \$15 a bottle in a twelve bottle case). If you're interested in purchasing a case or cases, contact us at the home office at 503-653-4176 or email us and we'll make arrangements to get the cases to you for holiday gift giving. Hurry because we expect these specially labeled cases to be quickly sold out by mid-December. Net proceeds will go towards support needs in our home office. If you'd like to more information, click on the attachment.

2009 ANWS Fundraising Campaign — Speaking of fundraisers, the newly formed ANWS Development Committee recently reviewed a report I assembled which recommended new strategies for the organization to undertake to raise almost \$200,000 for fiscal year 2009–2010. Recommendations included enhancing communications strategies (new website, informational brochures, formation of a speakers bureau, ad placements in local media, etc.) to promote the Northwest Steelheader brand and implementing membership recruitment strategies for retention of existing members and recruiting new members. Stay tuned for more detailed information on this campaign and ways you can help as well as how your Chapter will benefit.

Meeting Map



SANDY STEELHEADER CALENDAR

Date	Event
January 7	General Chapter meeting 7:00 pm Sam Cox Building Glen Otto Park Troutdale: guest speaker Jack Glass
January 3-9	Portland Boat Show
January 16	Fisherman's breakfast Tippy Canoe restaurant 8:30 am
February 4	General Chapter meeting 7:00 pm Sam Cox Building Glen Otto Park Troutdale: guest speaker Paul Cathcart
February 28	Ray's Frostbite Follies Sandy River Lunch location TBA

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JOIN THE ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST STEELHEADERS *today!*

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☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Contribution

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Membership: limited time only! ☐ \$10

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☐ Senior, \$15 ☐ Life, \$500

Contribution of \$ _____ (Amounts over \$20 are tax deductible)
Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Expiration Date: _____

Card # _____

Signature _____

Sandy River Chapter Volunteer Hours Form

Name _____

Event _____

Date _____ Hours _____

Event _____

Date _____ Hours _____

Event _____

Date _____ Hours _____

Event _____

Date _____ Hours _____

Event _____

Date _____ Hours _____

Fill this form out and return it at a general meeting.

Please mark your time as beginning when you left your home until you returned home from the volunteer event.

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Raffle Tickets

The Association of the Northwest Steelheaders needs your support! Selling raffle tickets is one of our most important sources of funding. How many of you have been on a fish along? Did you learn something new at one of the meetings? Did you make a new friend or fishing buddy? Any one of these things is well worth the price of a book of raffle tickets.

I joined the Steelheaders because I wanted to donate my time, money, and efforts to an organization that supports fishing and is willing to take on some of the tough issues that face fish and fisherman. I am sure you did too. Now we have a chance to help a great organization keep working and fighting for a cause that is important to us all.

I thank everyone that have already purchased raffle tickets! I encourage everyone else to step up and buy some tickets. They will be for sale at the Chapter meeting or you can contact me if you cannot make it to the meeting.

REMINDER! Raffle ticket stubs must be turned in! Even if you have paid for the tickets the money cannot be turned in without the stubs

Sincerely,

Jay Burris

Sandy River Chapter

Raffle Coordinator

Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Jay Burris, Bill Beith, Leslie Hinea, Jeff Stoecker, Howard Berg, Larry Beaver, Larry Palmer, Colonel Thomas and Mike Myrick

Meeting began at 6:00

Old Business

Auction report

auction earned \$2863

due to low turnout, next year we are going back to a dinner theme because we are serving a dinner again, prep time will begin at 1:00, the hall is already reserved if there are any tax forms still not turned in, please get them to Leslie ASAP

credit cards not accepted was no problem

because he has experienced many other chapter auctions, Larry P. feels that our auction rates very high (round of applause for all those that worked to make this activity so successful)

Seminars

Jim Teeny has offered to hold a seminar, which will focus on increasing membership

Cookie sign up sheet



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Sheets are still disappearing (Leslie proposed hiring an armed guard to solve this problem)

Ticket sales

as might be expected with the economic climate, Jay report ticket sales are down

Board meeting location

because a private/quiet room is available, board meetings will now be held at Round Table Pizza on NE 122nd

Officer Reports

Financial

we have approximately \$9K- 11K, in savings

chapter is going to purchase a chiller

New Business

membership/mailling list was covered, it saves the chapter funds if the newsletter can be delivered by email

possible RFBF dates are 2/21,2/28, 3/7 or 3/14 - this is possibly the chapter's most popular fishing activity

Meeting adjourned at 7:30

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Jack Glass

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Purchasing my license online

The state of Oregon recently initiated hunting and fishing licenses online. Being reasonably tech savvy I decided to give it a try for my 2009 license. The procedure was reasonably easy. Although I found that the menus to navigate to the correct licenses could be a bit confusing if you weren't paying attention.

I would be able to print a temporary license and receive my license in the mail. The real problem was that it wasn't until I made my purchase that I received the warning that I would not be able to fish or hunt for anything that required a tag until I received my hard copy in the mail. I went into panic mode. I couldn't fish for steelhead after January 1 until my tags arrived and it might take up to ten days for that to happen! Fortunately for me my tags and licenses arrived in the mail on December 30, only two days after I purchased them. Now if we can just get it to stop raining (and snowing) long enough to bring the rivers into shape!

Kudos to the state for making licenses available online. It will now be easier to direct out of state friends and family to purchase licenses prior to a visit where we intend to go fishing. Also, with a little more pre-planning I can have my license in hand without having to drive to a store to buy it.

ODFW adopts spring chinook allocation

PORTLAND, Ore.—The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission today amended a proposed catch-sharing plan for allocating spring chinook in the lower Columbia River between commercial and sport fishing interests. The decision is expected to lead to additional negotiations with the state of Washington before an allocation is finalized.

The commission debated a plan developed by the Columbia River Working Group, a special committee created by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions specifically to tackle the perennially contentious issue of dividing available spring chinook between sport and commercial interests. The Group is comprised of three members from each state's Fish and Wildlife Commission and citizen advisors from both states representing sport and commercial fishing and local governments.

The plan originally proposed a base allocation of available impacts of 65 percent for the sport fishery with 35 percent for the commercial fishery. Several commissioners pushed for a greater allocation for the commercial fishery.

The commission directed ODFW to develop a 55-45 percent catch-sharing plan with the flexibility to adjust the allocation if necessary to reach agreement with Washington fishery managers.

While the commission made a change to the proposed 65-35 allocation split, it did agree on several key management objectives outlined in the original plan:

- Likelihood of a 45-day sport fishery in the lower Columbia in March and April.

- Provide stability to the commercial fishery in the select areas – off channel fisheries in places like Youngs Bay and Blind Slough. Most of the fish entering these areas are hatchery fish and potential impacts on wild, threatened spring chinook are minimal.

- If the run size permits, allow some commercial fishing in the mainstem of the lower Columbia during March and April.

- Provide a predictable sport fishery above Bonneville Dam allocating it 25 percent of available impacts.

In addition, the plan established a 35 percent conservation buffer that will minimize the risk of exceeding federal Endangered Species Act limits on the harvest of wild chinook.

The spring chinook run on the Columbia River is comprised of both hatchery and wild fish. Wild spring chinook are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act and must be released if caught. Harvest quotas are based on federal rules designed to limit the impact of incidental mortality associated with the catch and release of wild fish. The total number of "impacts" allowed in both sport and commercial fisheries ranges from .05 to 2.7 percent of the total run.

To manage the available impacts, state fishery managers will use a sharing formula (matrix) based on strength of the spring chinook runs in both the upper Columbia and Willamette fisheries.

Under the plan, the base allocation could vary depending on the forecasts for the upper Columbia and Willamette.

In related decisions, the commission decided to continue the current sport/commercial allocation (50 percent each) for summer chinook downstream from Priest Rapids, and to extend the current 2006-08 sturgeon management plan for an additional year.

Editor's note; This allocation flies in the face of the proposed allocation mentioned in the article that was agreed to by a panel that was convened by the states of Oregon and Washington. It represents an end run by commercial interests that don't want to change the way they are doing things on the river. It was done primarily by three commissioners who got one other commissioner to go along with them. This has created an enormous amount of controversy and will only delay the resolution for a fishery that benefits both sport and commercial anglers as well as the all important fish runs... stay tuned to this one!

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PGE and ODFW save Sandy river smolts!

On Christmas Eve, while many of us were either huddled in our houses under blankets of snow or checking our last minute Christmas gifts Portland General Electric crews and ODFW biologists rushed to save up to 900,000 spring chinook smolts at the Clackamas fish hatchery near Sandy.

A power failure on Dec. 22 threatened to shut down pumps that supply water to the holding ponds where the fish are raised. Backup generators were being used but on Dec. 24 those generators began to fail. PGE then summoned a crew to repair the downed power. The crew, including Mike Wolford, Kevin Akers, Grant Young, Nick Rost and Jim Sweet, worked through the night to replace a blown transformer and restored power to the hatchery at 1:30 a.m. on Christmas Day.

Let's hear it for the hard working folks at PGE and ODFW!

Ocean best in half a century!

NEWPORT, Ore. – Ocean conditions during 2008 for many fish species in the Pacific Northwest, including chinook salmon, were greatly improved because of a huge cold water influx that settled in across much of the northern Pacific Ocean – a phenomenon not seen on this scale in years.


In fact, scientists who surveyed near-shore waters from Newport, Ore., to LaPush, Wash., this year found the highest numbers of juvenile chinook salmon they've encountered in 11 years of sampling.

The reason may be traced to the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, a pattern of climate variability that historically has shifted between warm (positive) and cool (negative) regimes over cycles of 20 to 30 years. During 2008, the PDO was the most negative it has been since 1955, according to Bill Peterson, a NOAA fisheries biologist at Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center.

"We usually see cold water conditions for a few months once upwelling begins in late spring and early summer," said Peterson, who has a courtesy appointment in OSU's College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences. "Since April of 2007, though, we've been in a constant 'summer-state' ocean condition, which is something we've never seen in more than 20 years of sampling. And we're not sure why."

Strong, continual upwelling has fueled phytoplankton growth that forms the basis of the marine food web. Cold water has drawn a huge biomass of northern copepods from the Gulf of Alaska, and these zooplankton species have high fat reserves that provide a rich diet for ancho-

Income Tax Bookkeeping



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vies, herring and other baitfish, which in turn become prey for salmon, ling cod and other creatures.

"The ocean is thick with these large copepods, which accumulate fat as a way to survive the winter," Peterson said. "When the Pacific Decadal Oscillation is in a positive phase and warmer water moves into the coast from offshore and the south, the copepods we see are species that are smaller and don't retain lipids."

Peterson said anecdotal evidence from other researchers at OSU's Hatfield Marine Science Center suggests that recruitment for juvenile ling cod and other rockfish was extraordinary in 2008. Seabirds, including pelicans and a large murre colony at Yaquina Head, were healthy and well-fed. And there was a large population of sand lances – a small baitfish that feeds on copepods.

If there is a downside, Peterson says, it is that the survey didn't find as many juvenile coho salmon in 2008 as the scientists had hoped. The number of juvenile chinook, on the other hand, was 2.4 times higher than any other survey recorded in the past 13 years, Peterson said. The scientists used an array of nets in their survey, including a trawling net as tall as a five-story building and as wide as half a football field.

Editors Note: I will see you gentlemen on the stream in 2011!

Return Service Requested

Portland OR 97294-9114

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STEELHEADERS

SANDY CHAPTER NW



Spring 2008
Sandy River

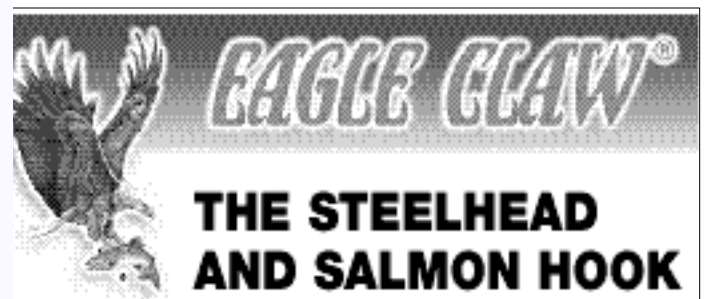
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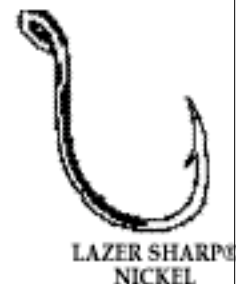
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