



Our Mission Statement

JANUARY
2017

The Association of NW Steelheaders Anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future.

Meetings

Jan 4

Sandy River Chapter of the NW Steelheaders

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Where: Sam Cox Building at Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Columbia River Highway, Troutdale, OR

Guest Speaker: Jeff Stoeger (Jigs) / Brad Halverson (Columbia River Reform)

Jan 11

Sandy River Chapter of the Northwest Steelheaders board meeting

Time: 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Izzys Pizza - 1307 NE 102nd Avenue, Portland OR

Events & Workshops

Jan 11 - 15

Portland Boat Show

Portland Expo Center

Jan 12

Winter Steelhead Clinic

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Where: Sportsmans Warehouse on 82nd

Feb 8 - 12

Pacific Northwest Sportsman's Show

Portland Expo Center

Feb 25

Steelhead Workshop

Time: 9am - 4pm

Where: Glenn Otto Community Park

Cost: \$52. Pre-registration Required

March 4

Hook Line, and Sinker

Winter Steelhead Tournament

Where: Tillamook OR

More details coming

March 17-19

Family Fish Camp

More details coming soon

April 1

Salmon Quest

More details coming soon

Our Forms

Our forms will no longer be provided at the end of our newsletter.

You will find them on our website. Please go to: www.sandysteelheaders.org click on Articles, then click on "A list of Links to Sandy Chapter Forms"



We will have a monthly feature, discussing exciting new fishing stories and reflections. The article will be called "One Last Call". In February Jim will drill down into the continuous learning model that he and Larry have been developing for the Chapter.

One Last Cast Jim Cathcart (aka Navigator)

Fishing is continuous learning. Partners and best friends might call it obsession. The Sandy River Chapter is blessed with providing fisher-folk the opportunity for continuous learning. In recent years, Larry Palmer brought the chapter to a new level of learning opportunity - the fishing clinic; or as some prefer, workshop (so as to not imply we are sick and in need of treatment). These started as open houses, classroom demos, on the water learning - to our current partnership of offering Steelhead 101 Workshops through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Larry's vision is to achieve continuous learning through continuous membership recruitment and camaraderie. Camaraderie leads to retention. And retention secures the future of the Steelheaders.

I have gotten involved because I hunger for learning, I enjoy teaching others and sharing my passion for the outdoors; and I believe in Larry's vision. I have been inspired by the many other Chapter members that have joined the effort. The Chapter has a good vibe going. Larry and I met recently - in this case - under the guise of continuous improvement. The Chapter has done a great job in delivering workshops. The question we are now facing - is how do we develop the camaraderie and retain the new members we are bringing into the Chapter?

The answer is fishing! Building off some ideas from a debriefing discussion amongst the volunteers that put on the November 2016 Steelhead 101 Workshop, Larry and I came up with an idea. Since the clinics target inexperienced anglers (some have never fished) and steelheading is the fish of 1,000 casts and 10,000 tips and secrets, we came up with the idea of a Steelhead Passport to chart the journey. Complete the 101 Workshop, volunteer for the next workshop, pick a technique, gear up, tackle up, commit to a river, attend Chapter meetings, go on a bank fish-a-long, read a book or blog, attend an outside seminar, hook a steelhead, land a steelhead. You get the idea.

Look for this idea to develop in 2017 as Larry and I work with the Chapter Board in laying out a calendar of continuous learning opportunity for Chapter members. Central to our idea will be a schedule of Chapter Bank-Fish-A-Longs so collectively we can learn from each other. In the meantime, cut to the chase and get out and fish!



Smoked Salmon Recipe (Works equally well with Steelhead)

Brine

1/3 cup	White Sugar
1/4 cup	Non-iodized Salt
1/3 cup	Soy Sauce
2-1/2 cup	Warm Water
3/4 cup	White Wine (Chablis)
1/2 tsp.	Onion Powder
1/2 tsp.	Garlic powder
1/2 tsp.	Pepper (fine ground, black)
1/2 tsp.	Tabasco Sauce

Instructions

Mix all the liquids. The water should be warm to help dissolve the sugar and salt. Add the other ingredients.

Cut fish into chunks from 1" to 1-1/2" thick. Soak in the brine for from 8 to 10 hours. Keep refrigerated while soaking. Stir the fish and brine at least twice during the soak.

Remove the fish from the brine and rinse lightly. Dry the meat with paper towels and place on racks. Let air dry until the surface of the meat gets a glazed appearance (from 45 to 90 minutes). These steps are very critical. Light drying leaves the meat moist without much darkening or firming of the surface. Aggressive use of towels and long air drying will produce a dryer product with a hard dark surface.

Start smoking with a tray of cherry chips. Follow this with two trays of hickory chips. Continue smoking until the fish reaches the desired firmness. Total smoking time is between 5 and 10 hours depending on desired firmness and outside temperature and humidity. Oilier fish may need to be towed off after the first few hours.

Smoked Salmon Pate'

donated by Norm & Joli Ritchie

8 oz.	Smoked Salmon
8 oz.	Cream Cheese, softened, lite
2 Tbs	Sour Cream, lite
1/2 tsp	Garlic Powder

Break up the salmon into small pieces into a bowl. Shake in the garlic powder. Blend in the sour cream and cream cheese. Blending will help shred the salmon chunks. If too dry or stiff, add more sour cream.

Want to learn how to catch a FISH like this?
Join us for our next "HOW TO" Steelhead clinic!

**9am - 4pm Saturday February 25th &
8am - Noon Saturday March 4th (Fish-a-long)
Glenn Otto Park (Sam Cox Bldg.,)
1102 East Columbia River Highway, Troutdale**



Subjects Covered Include:

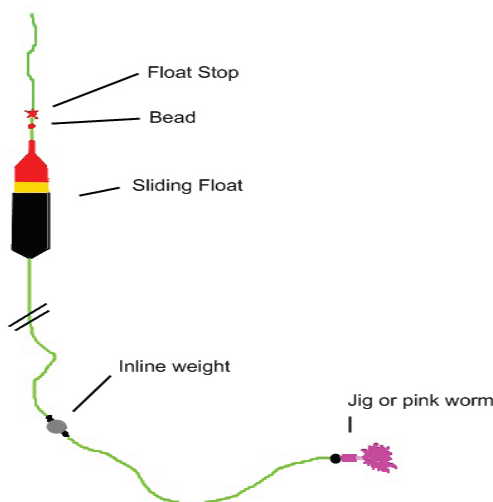
- * **Choosing the right rod and reel**
 - * **Drift Fishing**
 - * **Bobbers, jigs, pink worms, beads**
 - * **Using spinners and spoons**
 - * **Knot tying and hook sharpening**
 - * **Rigging baits and how to cure baits**
 - * **Where to go, river maps**
 - * **On stream fish along March 4th.**
- Learn hands-on from experienced chapter anglers!**

Adult Steelhead Fishing Workshop, Saturday February 25th 9am - 4pm
Cost \$52.00

Register for this clinic online at the ODFW website: ****Pre-registration is required****

CALL 503-947-6025

Directions: From I-84 take Exit 18 and from Crown Point Hwy take a right on Historic Columbia River Highway and cross the bridge just past Lewis and Clark Park. Glenn Otto Park and the Sam Cox Building will be on your left.



Bobber Doggin (Float Drifting) for Steelhead

By Brad Halverson

Drift fishing has long been the standard when fishing for steelhead. It's simple and effective because it keeps your offering in the zone. But, because it is so good at keeping your gear down low, you break off frequently. Bobber fishing for steelhead has continued to grow in popularity over the years because it too is effective (in the right water conditions). This method is easy to learn, and keeps you from breaking off so often. Bobber Doggin or Float Drifting marries the best of both methods. It is easy, effective, and keeps you fishing and covering lots of water. Essentially, you are using both methods at once. It is drift fishing with a visual indicator. And, this can be very effective if there is much pressure on the river you are fishing. In these instances, steelhead tend to head lower in the water column to seek cover. Bobber Doggin keeps your bait down low in the zone naturally. Unlike Float Fishing, where your float must be perpendicular to the water to ensure your gear is in the zone, when Bobber Doggin, your float lays down on the surface pointing downstream, because you will utilize a slip bobber set 1'-2' deeper than the water depth you are fishing. Counting your leader, this will mean setting your

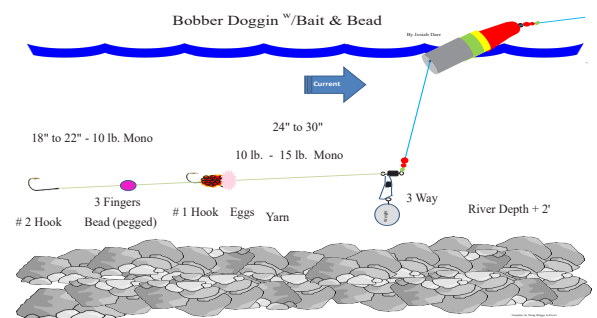
bobber stop about 7'-8' above your weight. This is probably the most difficult concept to grasp when contemplating Bobber Doggin. We are so used to the need for our floats to be straight up and down to keep our gear in the zone, that the thought of it laying over on its side seems wrong. But, remember, we are not floating our gear through the zone, we are dragging it, and the float is the mini power boat pulling our gear. You will still match your float to your terminal gear, and set its depth to make periodic contact with the river bottom, just as in drift fishing. So, if you are fishing in 8' of water, set your bobber stop at 10'.
Rigging for Bobber Doggin: Just as in float fishing, I recommend you run braided mainline. I like 35 lb. high vis Tuf Line. A good practice anytime when using braided mainline is to tie on a bumper of mono using an Albright or Uni Knot. I usually run these bumpers 18', and for steelhead use 15 lb. Maxima Ultragreen as my bumper. Braid floats and does not stretch. You want your terminal gear to sink, and you want some stretch when the strike happens. Thus the need for mono. Keep in mind fluorocarbon does not stretch, so I don't recommend it for a bumper section. Also, a bobber knot repositioned on braid can mar or "burn" it, so another reason to run your sliding bobber on mono rather than braid. On the mono

bumper, thread on a rubber bobber stop followed by a bead or small corkie to stop your float. Then the float followed by another bead and rubber bobber stop set ½" above the swivel, to act as a shock absorber against the knot and to prevent losing your float in case of a break off at the swivel. Rubber bobber stops hold tighter on mono than knots made with braid or Dacron. Chopped Floats: The float system preferred for Bobber Doggin is called a Chopped Float. And for this I use a 1oz. Beau Mac float cut in half. This results in the equivalent of ½ oz. floatation with more bottom profile. The chopped float concept is useful for keeping your gear from getting hung up. Remember, the float lays down on the surface at about a 45° angle (from top of float to surface of water) because you have set it 1-2' deeper than the river bottom. If your float is running straight up and down, you either need to add more weight or set it deeper to contact the bottom. If it is headed upstream, you definitely need to add weight. To repeat: picture your float as a mini boat pulling your gear downstream. This orientation and position straight out from the boat or a bit downstream moves your gear along in a natural drift at the bottom of the stream bed. If your lead sticks, the chopped butt will now provide a larger surface for current, and this added

pressure will in most cases lift your gear off the bottom, so you lose zero time from being in the zone. Remember, you are not dredging the bottom, but rather hitting the tops of rocks with your lead. Next I tie a 3-way Rolling Drop Swivel by Pucci in size 3 or 5 to the mono bumper. Some like the new Stoney River sinkers because they are made out of stone rather than lead, and just don't seem to get hung up. Others use split shot, inline weights or slinkies. However, I still prefer using: Stick Weights: to make these sinkers, use .035 eyed spinner wire (12 packs of 6") with 1/8" hollow core lead. Run wire through hollow core lead cut to length at 5-1/2" and crimp wire end over end of lead. Finish with 1" of heat shrink tubing on end. Weighs approximately .42 oz. Note: use canine nail clippers to cut hollow core lead without crushing end. These weights, due to their slim profile and wire support will glide in and around rocks rather than getting stuck like leads do. In low/clear water conditions, you can cut this stick in half for use with smaller terminal tackle. Rods: I like the Okuma SST Steelhead Spin rod 8'6" rated for 6-12lb. line out of the drift boat. From the bank, you may prefer a bit longer rod, such as the 9'6" Lamiglass XMG Certified Pro JS series in 6-15 lb. Leaders: 22" – 36" of 12-15 lb. mono or flouro. I like Maxima Ultragreen. #1 hooks with yarn balls scented to

preference. Can add small bait of eggs in egg loop. To shank of top hook, tie on another 18" leader in 10 lb. fluorocarbon snelled to a #2 hook with 12mm egg bead pegged 2-3 fingers above hook. Use 10mm with #4 hook in low clear water and 14mm bead with #1 hook in turbid water. A small Cheater or SpinGlo is recommended for floatation of your terminal tackle. And, Puff Balls work well for this as well. If low, clear water conditions, eliminate the yarnie and go with just the bead leader lengthened to 6'. Terminal Bait: Water clarity will dictate length of leader anywhere from 2' to 4'. Yarnies are favorites, but bait, beads or pink worms and other soft plastics will all work with this set up. From a drift boat, set your boat parallel to the drift with the bow headed downstream, and spread out the floats rather than run one in line with another. And, because floats are so visual you have more control of positioning. Cover water based on the clarity: the more clarity the wider the distance between floats. The more turbidity, the closer together. Don't be afraid to fish close to the boat. Open and close bail, mend line to keep in preferred section of drift. With low clear water, seek riffles and broken water. In high water, steelhead are tucked into the edges. In these conditions, bobber doggin is an excellent method to get

your offering in close. Open your bail for an extended drift, keeping your off hand near the bail for strike. You want as natural presentation as possible moving at current speed, or a bit faster, but not slower as that is not natural. And, chopped floats with stick weights allow you to achieve this, rather than the stop and go all day of side drifting. Continue to mend line as needed to eliminate belly on surface. Seek a middle ground for your rod angle, such as 10:00 o'clock. The lower the angle the better the hookset but more belly on the water; and, the higher the angle, the less line on the water, but the harder to get a good hook set.





NW Steelheaders Winter Steelhead Clinic

Thurs Jan 12th from 6pm - 8pm

**Sportsman's Warehouse - 9401 SE 82nd Ave
Portland, OR**



Jeff Kirkmand and Jeff Stoeger from the Sandy River Chapter of the NW Steelheaders will be giving a clinic on techniques and nuances of chasing that elusive winter run steelhead.

Be sure to bring a notebook and ALL who attend will receive a \$10 off a \$50 purchase, gift certificate!!

**Please send an email to:
204-fishing@sportsmanswarehouse.com
if you would like to attend**

2017 Willamette Salmon Quest



Join the Steelheaders for the 2017 Salmon Quest Fishing Tournament April 1st. Begin your day with a full day of spring fishing with the best guides and anglers in the area. Fin clipped salmon and steelhead can put you on the winners platform. The day concludes with a dinner, awards and silent auction at the Airport Holiday Inn in NE Portland. Angler registration fee includes guided fishing, dinner, and award ceremony. Proceeds from the tournament are dedicated to improve sport fisheries through on-the-ground restoration and fisheries projects in the Willamette and Sandy river basins.

Do you have questions about your rods, reels or tackle?

Take your fishing equipment and questions to our chapter meetings where experienced Chapter Members will be glad to help you solve your problems. This message brought to you by Sandy Chapter President, Steve Rothenbucher.

Visit our website at: <http://www.sandysteelheaders.org>

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