



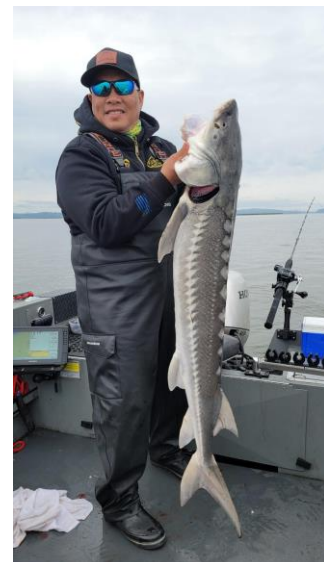
January 2023 *The Association of NW Steelheaders Anglers is dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future.*



January 5, 2023, Thursday, Sandy River Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm – Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR

Ken Vilante of Coldwater Strong is our scheduled speaker.

Coldwater Strong LLC is a local company located in Vancouver WA. They are committed to bringing new and innovative Leaders Systems to meet the ever-changing ways of fishing for Salmon/Steelhead in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Ken will be bringing fishing gear for purchase at the meeting with a portion of all sales being donated to the Chapter.



<https://www.coldwaterstrong.com/>



February 2, 2023, Thursday, Sandy River Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm – Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR

Ryan Queen, ODFW Sandy Fish Hatchery manager is our scheduled speaker. See article on broodstock article on pages 5 -6.



February 10, 2023, 6pm to 10pm Friday, SETUP for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Sandy River Chapter Steelhead 101 Workshop – Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



February 11, 2023, 7am to 7pm Saturday, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Sandy River Chapter Steelhead 101 Workshop – Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



February 12, 2023, 9am Sunday, Fish along for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Sandy River Chapter Steelhead 101 Workshop / On the river event -Meet up Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



March 2, 2023, Thursday, Sandy River Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm – *Speaker to be Announced.* Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



April 6, 2023, Thursday, Sandy River Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm – *Speaker to be Announced.* Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



May 4, 2023, Thursday, Sandy River Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm – *Speaker to be Announced.* Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



May 6, 2023, Saturday, Sandy River Chapter Annual fundraising event and auction. *Speaker to be Announced.* Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



June 1, 2023, Thursday, Sandy River Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm – *Speaker to be Announced.* Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



August 19, 2023, Saturday - 11:30am, Annual Sandy River Chapter picnic - Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park area B, Troutdale, OR

Sandy River Winter Steelhead fish along Sunday, January 8th



Our January fish along will be a Winter Steelhead bank fishing session. Meet in the Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale at 8 AM, January 8th, 2023.

We will meet at the west end of the parking lot, near the large garbage bins. Look for a large yellow sign. From there we will begin the event on the beach at the upper end of Glen Otto Park.

As previously noted, I need to get a head count of those planning to attend. **I need to hear from you by the evening of our January 5th, 2023 Chapter meeting** (7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm – Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR) **if you plan on attending this fish along.**

My contact information is-

Rob Bitney
503-320-9821
dmitrob73@gmail.com

Steelhead 101 Workshop, 2023



Once again, we will partnership with the ODFW to present this, workshop. ODFW will provide goody bags for participants, manuals, and lunch for instructors. Please mark your calendars as we always need volunteers for any or all days for our continued success. More news in the upcoming months.

In the upcoming months ODFW will be advertising on their website for participants to enroll in this event. We will need volunteers for the following dates:

February 10, 2023, 6pm to 10pm Friday, to *setup for event*

February 11, 2023, 7am to 7pm Saturday for the *Workshop*

February 10, 2023, 9am Sunday, *Fish along* for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Sandy River Chapter Steelhead 101 Workshop / On the river event

Volunteers needed.

Call Rob Bitney at (503-320-9821).

And, a signup sheet will be at our January 5, 2023 Chapter meeting.

Another sign Winter Steelhead season is here!

Broodstock Steelhead collection time



The “wild” (non-hatchery) Steelhead Broodstock program on the Sandy and other Oregon Rivers were developed with the help of Guides and ODFW. This program has become wildly successful at bringing back strong runs of in-basin fish that are considerably more like non-hatchery fish. These fish have stronger DNA, are more aggressive biters, larger on average, and return over a much broader range of the season. Most years by Christmas time one can begin to expect to see catchable Steelhead on these rivers. Both hatchery and non-hatchery fish will be in the river through the month of March. This is a unique program in place on several other Oregon rivers like the nearby Alsea, Nestucca, and Wilson Rivers. The program provides stronger hatchery return Steelhead that anglers can keep. This program is an example of programs we support in building a better fishing future.

Volunteers use hook and line to catch and collect wild adult fish with 49 Steelhead for the program on the Sandy River this year. These will be kept alive in aerated boxes. Each tank has an aerator in it and the tank will hold several Steelhead for a few hours until they can get to the drop off point that is located along the river on private property.



A Hatchery crew will pick up the wild Steelhead throughout each week and transport them from the tank to the hatchery, where the adult fish are spawned.

Unlike Salmon, Steelhead will return to the ocean and even return to their home river again following a year or two in the ocean. “Scientists believe that salmon navigate by using the earth’s magnetic field like a compass. When they find the river they came from, they start using smell to find their way back to their home stream. They build their 'smell memory-bank' when they start migrating to the ocean as young fish.”¹



The 49 wild Steelhead which volunteer anglers collect will produce 90,000 Broodstock Steelhead smolts which, along with 70,000 Hatchery Steelhead. These will be planted in the Sandy River in the spring of 2024 after acclimating them in water of the Sandy River watershed. A total of 160,000 smolt to be introduced to the Sandy River. These fish will have their right maxillary clipped/removed.

The maxillary is a bony structure, located on the upper jaw of a fish, which is circled in red in this photo.

Portions of this article are paraphrased from the following articles:

<https://www.nbcsports.com/northwest/outdoors/sandy-river-winter-steelhead-profile>

and, WILSON RIVER BROODSTOCK PROGRAM, Grant McOmie, March 3, 2017 at : <https://traveloregon.com/things-to-do/outdoor-recreation/fishing/wilson-river-broodstock-program/>

- 1- <https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/how-do-salmon-know-where-their-home-when-they-return-ocean#:~:text=Scientists%20believe%20that%20salmon%20navigate%20by%20using%20the,star%20migrating%20to%20the%20ocean%20as%20young%20fish.> – USGS (United States Geological Survey)

Sandy River Chapter Websites

We invite you to visit the Sandy River Chapter Facebook Group at “**Sandy River Chapter NW Steelheaders**” - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/451895135882897> . Or the Chapter Website at: <http://www.sandysteelheaders.org/>

Note: There will be redundancies between the Chapter Newsletter and our Facebook Group page in our attempt to share items to followers of both. Due to limited space in our Newsletter, there may also be more posts on the Facebook group page than in the Newsletter.

Happy New Year!

By Rob Bitney

Another year has come and gone, but at least we have COVID on the downside and optimism for what lies ahead. I sometimes feel as if I am slowly coming out of some sort of fog, almost like a never-ending fog at that. Maybe it's just the lingering effects from the winter solstice, at least that would be an easy explanation. But hey, the days will soon enough be getting longer, the temperatures will start warming up and things will rebound once again.

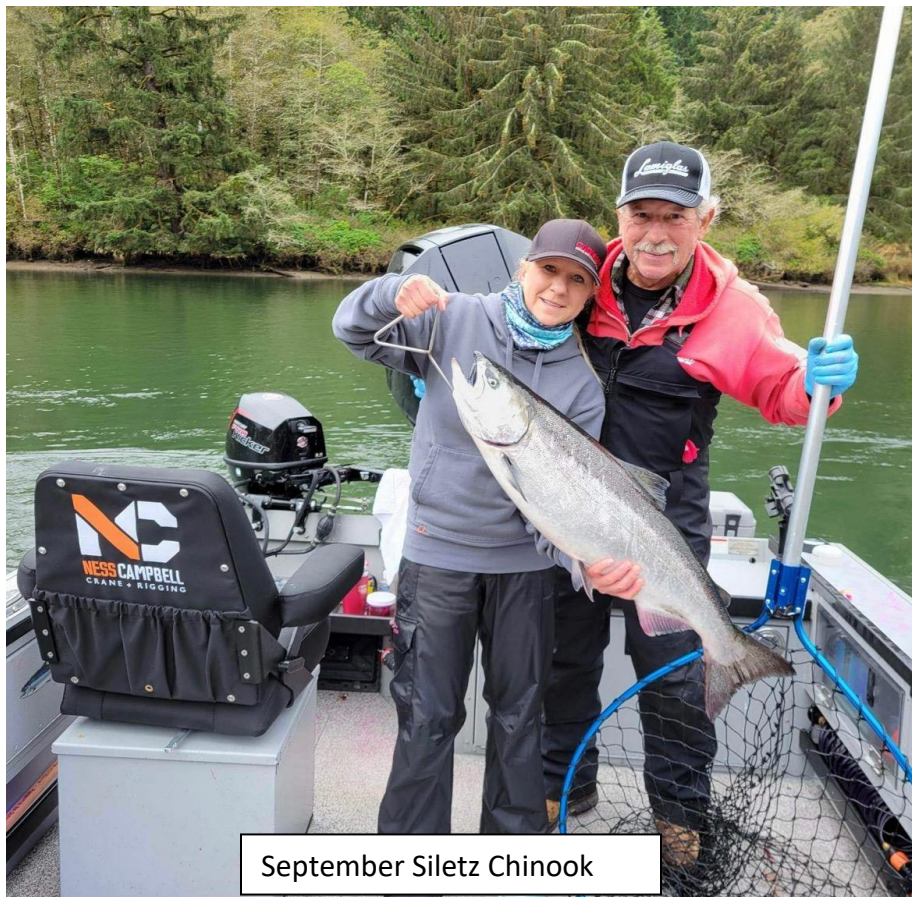
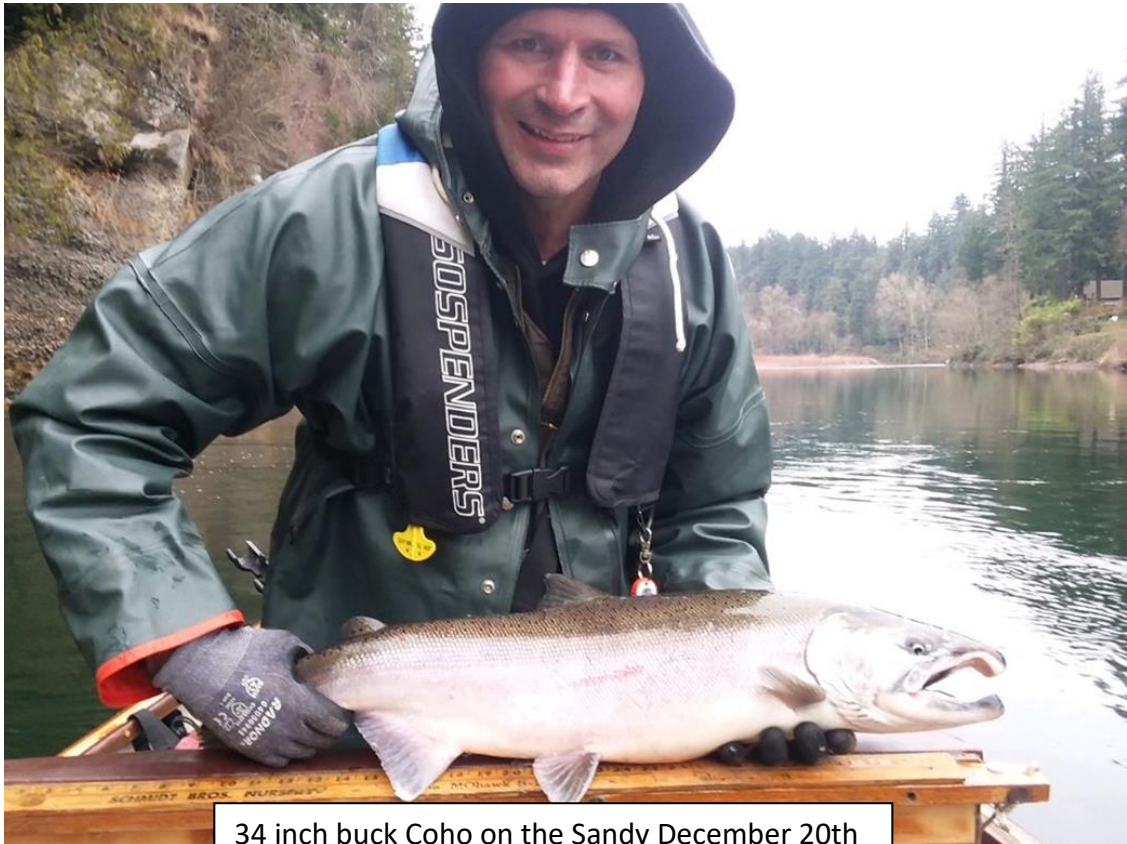
Speaking of rebounding, the activities of the chapter have been picking up speed once again. We are hosting fish-alongs almost every month, a Steelhead 101 class coming up on February 11th, the May 6th chapter auction & dinner are in planning stages and a time slot reserved for the picnic this August 19th. There is so much more than a monthly meeting. That being said, what are you willing to do to help going forward. It is said many hands make light work; I wish to see many hands as the work is there.

I have been reflecting of late, partly because I am dealing with a health issue, partly because of how many trips around the sun I have enjoyed but mostly because I do so enjoy my time spent fishing and I want to pass along that love to the next generation. Some call me an enabler but I prefer to be considered a mentor. And yourself, what do you wish to see passed on? The Steelheaders say one of their objectives is "a place to fish and a fish to catch". Are you in? How about all in?

We have a serious need at the chapter level. We have too few people doing the work and that's just not right. I urge you to think about what you can do to help. There are some things that take not much more than attending the meetings, others a couple of hours a month. I must confess I personally am not a social media person, but the chapter does need a presence on social media if we want to remain relevant in the years to come. Any takers?

Want to start out with something easy? We have a Steelhead 101 class coming up on February 11th (classroom) and the fish along portion the following day. We are looking for volunteers to help. I can only offer a free lunch but the chapter gets to log volunteer hours. People with bank fishing experience are especially wanted. Please contact me at by email at dmitrob73@gmail.com or phone at 503-320-9821 If you can take part. That way I can keep you apprised of the progress towards this event. Come on down, it will be fun! Let's pay it forward. See you at the meeting.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS PICTURES



BOARD OFFICERS

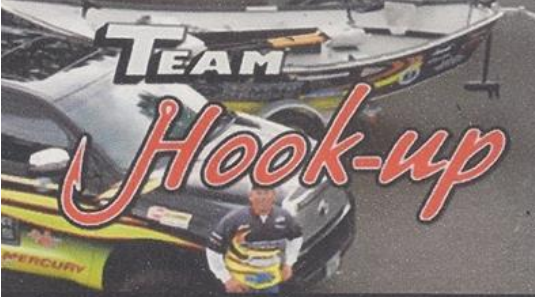
Position	Name	Phone	Email
President	Rob Bitney	503-320-9821	dmitrob73@gmail.com
Past President	Jeff Stoeger	503-701-7920	mjstoeger@msn.com
Vice President	Steve Rothenbucher	503-257-0039	srothenbuchers@gmail.com
Secretary	Terri Boughton	503-307-2546	solcater@comcast.net
Treasurer	Greg Reed	503-869-1795	g_a_reed@comcast.net

DIRECTORS

Position	Name	Phone	Email
Eggs to Frye	Mike Myrick	503-281-6438	mcmifishandivote@msn.com
Newsletter	Greg Reed	503-869-1795	g_a_reed@comcast.net
River Cleanups	Rob Gibbs	503-257-8317	None
Sales	Rob Bitney	503-320-9821	dmitrob73@gmail.com
Angler Education	Vacant	-	-
Fish Along Coordinator	Larry Palmer	971-295-6235	palmerlarryd@yahoo.com
Fish Along Assistant	Hank Hyde	503-492-7119	None

COMMITTEE HEADS

Position	Name	Phone	Email
Special Events	Steven Rothenbucher	503-257-0039	srothenbuchers@gmail.com
Website, Content	Vacant	-	-



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 email: trevor@redsguideservice.com



Check out the Sandy River NW Steelheaders Apparel!!!

Contact: Rob Bitney
 503-692-0180



B&R TACKLE



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