



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



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.



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 -Starting Location: Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



February 19, 2023, 8 am Sunday, Winter Steelhead fishing from the banks of the Sandy River. We will meet at the west end of the Glenn Otto Community Park Paring Lot, (1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale), near the large garbage bins. Look for a large yellow sign. From there we will move to the river.



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 – Annual Election of Chapter Officers will take place this evening. *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 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.

Sandy River Winter Steelhead fish along
8 am on Sunday, February 19, 2023



We will meet at the west end of the Glenn Otto Community Park Paring Lot, (1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale), near the large garbage bins. Look for a large yellow sign. From there we will move to the river.

This fish along will be a Winter Steelhead bank fishing session.

*As previously noted, I need to get a head count of those planning to attend. **I need to hear from you at or by the evening of our February 2nd, 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.** Last fish along had 8 attendees.*

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.

Chapter news

By Rob Bitney

Have you noticed the changes of late. Not so much the length of the daylight, I mean that too, but the broader movement of people resuming their lives as if the future suddenly holds more promise? The Chapter seems to be riding the wave of renewed enthusiasm lately. There were over 30 attendees at the last meeting followed up with 8 attendees at the monthly fish-a-long. So good to see people wanting to get involved in something not associated with a video screen. Looking ahead on the calendar we have several events coming up. The monthly Chapter meeting is February 2nd, followed up with a Steelhead 101 class the 11th & 12th & February finishes with the Chapter fish-a-long on February 19th. Further down the road we are planning to be putting on our annual fund-raising banquet/auction on May 6th, with the Chapter picnic penciled in for August 19th. There is still a HUGE need for volunteers at the Steelhead 101 class, if you've never assisted in the class, you really should, it is very satisfying, & very much hits at the core of who we are/what our goals are; continuous education. I find it very satisfying in that you can take a person who does not even know how to hold a rod & get them reading the water, casting, tying knots & on the verge of holding their own. Not to overly simplify things, but you can strip fishing down to the basics & still be fishing. I hope to see you there, please let me know how you'd like to help. I can be contacted at Ph: 503-320-9821, or email: dmitrob73@gmail.com.

Next up, some news from the Association. Your annual Steelheader dues will go up to \$40.00 starting February 1st. The Association has not been able to host their Hall of Fame Banquet since 2019 & the loss of dues paying membership that COVID brought upon us is crimping their ability to help the chapters. Then we have some bad news, the Tom McCall Chapter has shared it is dissolving. In this case it was mostly due to lack of people stepping up to fill the various Chapter level leadership roles. So, I guess the only constant is change.

Back to the Chapter. Elections are coming up quick & as always, there is a need for someone to step up & fill a role. I am the shortest termed officer at just a year, but the other 4 positions have been held for longer than the bylaws currently allow. Part of what keeps the Chapter energized is new people assuming leadership roles. You will add value to the Chapter as well as keep it functioning. The biggest acknowledged reason for the Tom McCall Chapter's demise was nobody was willing to help, & the leadership was unable/too tired to keep things going by themselves. Have you heard the adage of "many hands make light work"? Now the Tom McCall members are bemoaning the loss, looking back with fond memories, & realizing they lost something that cannot be returned. DO NOT let that happen here. The time dem& is not that great, be the positive change, & personalize the Chapter.

On a positive note, the Chapter has procured 5 Sandwich boards to be used in guiding members (potential, current & lapsed) to Chapter events. I like how they look, a good visual presentation & it will be easier to find the meet-up place if unfamiliar to the area. We are looking into purchasing, for resale, some oval vinyl stickers of the Chapter logo & were curious what size(s) would be most desirable. I would assume there would be a dem& for the stickers, but some input would be appreciated. Please let me know at the next meeting.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS PICTURES





LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO REMOVE NON-TRIBAL GILLNETS FROM THE LOWER COLUMBIA MAINSTEM - IN WASHINGTON

<https://www.wildsteelheaders.org/legislation-introduced-to-remove-non-tribal-gillnets-from-the-lower-columbia-mainstem/>

by Alexei Calambokidis / January 10, 2023

A NEW BIPARTISAN BILL IN THE WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE WOULD ENSURE MORE STEELHEAD AND SALMON REACH THEIR SPAWNING GROUNDS

Kicking off the start of the 2023 Washington Legislative session, Senator Van De Wege (D-24) has introduced a new piece of legislation at the request of Governor Inslee that would permanently remove non-tribal commercial gillnet fisheries from the Washington side of the Lower Columbia River. By substantially reducing the bycatch impacts of these indiscriminate fisheries, this legal effort has the potential to be a huge boost for struggling populations of wild steelhead and salmon throughout the Columbia-Snake Watershed, especially wild B-run steelhead and Spring Chinook, both of which are hovering at all-time low returns and at risk of extinction in many spawning tributaries. The legislation is co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of legislators.

Commercial gillnet fisheries had been removed from the mainstem Columbia before. In 2016, they were shifted to side channels to target hatchery salmon returns and reduce bycatch of wild steelhead and salmon migrating through the Columbia mainstem. In 2020, at the urging of the commercial fishing fleet, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission voted in favor to allow gillnets to move back into the mainstem below Bonneville Dam.

Since then, Wild Steelheaders United, Washington Council of Trout Unlimited, and our partners have been working to correct this mistake.

We have supported efforts to buyback commercial fishing licenses, and last year the Washington legislature committed \$14.4 million dollars to reduce the size of the gillnet fleet and give license holders a generous off-ramp to leave the fishery. This new legislation from Governor Inslee moves the needle even further by clearing the way completely for migrating fish.

It is important to understand key details in this legislation: **First, this proposed legislation *only* applies to commercial, non-tribal fisheries using gillnets on the Washington side of the mainstem of the lower Columbia River.** Though fishery allocations are managed concurrently with Oregon, this rule doesn't change the status of

Oregon's gillnet commercial fisheries in any way. Also, absolutely no fishery governed by tribal co-managers is impacted at all anywhere in Washington state waters. In Washington's waters, tribal fisheries are strictly protected by the Boldt Decision and this law doesn't change that in any way.

Second, this proposal doesn't close the fishery or put gillnetters out of

business. Those operators who declined to take the buyback opportunity last year and opted to keep fishing simply won't be allowed to fish with gillnets in the mainstem of the lower river. They will be shifted back into side channels where they will have ample opportunity to target hatchery salmon, as they had done for many years previously.

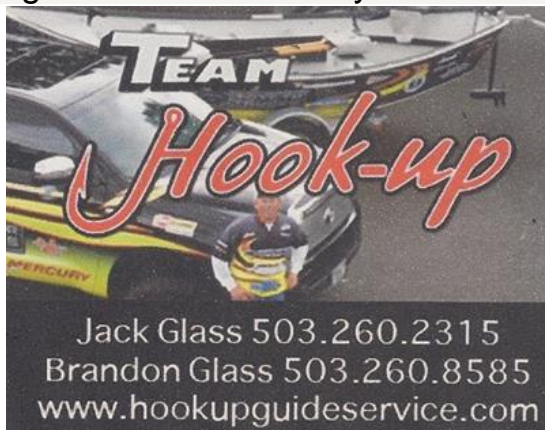
Third, to benefit the recovery of endangered and struggling wild steelhead and salmon, the fish protected from bycatch with this legislation must be allowed to increase escapement and wild fish conservation. The goal must be to allow more wild fish to successfully reach their home spawning grounds and rebuild their populations. *This element is critical, as the result of commercial fishing reform must be to give our critically endangered wild Columbia River steelhead and salmon populations the best chance of survival.*

Ultimately, sustainable commercial salmon fisheries in the Columbia River would evolve to selective fisheries that would allow the targeted harvest of hatchery fish while avoiding any bycatch of wild fish. Great work is being done to advance these systems. By greatly reducing bycatch from the lower Columbia commercial, non-tribal gillnet fleet, this legislation is a crucial step in the right direction.

We thank Governor Inslee for this important effort to protect and recover wild salmon and steelhead and his past investments and support for the gillnet license buyback program.

Stay tuned for more information as this proposal moves through the Washington legislature. We know from past experience that any effort to reduce bycatch from commercial gillnets often faces stiff opposition. Advocates will need to be ready to speak to their representatives to let them know these protections are critical to recovering the basin's wild steelhead and salmon and should be supported.

In the meantime, we will provide an additional preview of the 2023 Washington State legislative session early next week.



TERRI BOUGHTON

REALTOR IN OREGON SINCE 1989

503.307.2546

TERRIBOUGHTON@GMAIL.COM

CENTURY 21
Cascade

12901 SE 97th Ave. #220 Clackamas, OR 97015

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



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Doug Hays
Cell: 503.708.8353
email: oregontackle@comcast.net



Check out the Sandy River NW Steelheaders Apparel!!!
Contact: Rob Bitney
503-692-0180



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