



Sandy Steelheader

Sandy River Chapter of Northwest Steelheaders

Meets the First Wednesday of Every Month at 7:30 PM

Sam Cox Bldg., Glen Otto Park • 1106 E. Columbia River Hwy. • Troutdale 97060



March 2006

President's Notes

Well I hope that everyone is enjoying this last burst of good weather before it takes a turn for the worst. I have reports that fishing on the Sandy has been fair to good. A couple of members from our chapter have caught some nice size fish the last couple of days. Steve Stewart and a buddy of his caught a nice 14 lb. Dan Christopher is putting on a clinic for winter fish. I think that he's averaging about 4 fish a trip. So get out while you can and catch a few of these fish. We will have our election of officers at our April meeting. We need to have someone step up and become our new Chapter President. You must be current with dues paid up to date and have been active member of the chapter for the least 3 years. So if you have the ambition to become the President of one of the best chapters around here is your chance. You can run a Co-President campaign or have your best friend run as your vice president. Because as of April 1st I will step down and work as past president.

Join The Mailing List!

The Sandy Chapter email mailing list is back! After a long hiatus the mailing list for the Sandy river chapter has been re-established. We can use this mailing list to send messages to other steelheaders in the chapter. Start a discussion, ask a question, make an announcement, or use it to hook up with fellow steelheaders to go fishing. To get subscribed simply send an email to mailinglist-request@sandysteelheaders.org in the body of the message type the word "subscribe" without the quote marks. This mailing list is totally safe and moderated. Your email address won't end up on a spam list and it won't be given to anyone else so use it with confidence.

Guest Speaker; Trevor Storlie; Red's Guide Service Winter steelhead and river Etiquette

Trevor will speak on winter steelhead fishing and the techniques best suited to fishing for them this time of year when both native and broodstock fish are in the river. He will also speak on showing proper etiquette on the river. With increasing pressure on the Oxbow park area from boats it is important to be respectful of others who are fishing the river. Trevor will go over some of these important rules to observe and live by while we all learn to fish the river we all love.



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503-665-8008

Raffle & Auction

Leslie & Ray Hinea 360-892-0473

Volunteers

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Classroom Fishtanks

Mike Myrick 503-281-6438

Recreational Activities

Jeff Stoeger 503-282-4830

Sales (shirts and hats)

Roger Beal 503-695-6410

Newsletter

Eric Neiwert (503)408-0108



Broodstock capture program

How would you like to fish for wild native fish and keep them? Well you can! Here is the catch. ODFW is allowing us to target wild fish on the Sandy River. These fish are to be used in the Brood Stock program. Each boat that signs up to participate in this program is given a transporting tank. You then are able to capture these wild fish and keep them alive with the tank. At the end of the day ODFW will collect the fish and take them to the Hatchery for the brood stock program. It's free and fun. The stipulation is that you must sign the appropriate form to participate. If you fail to sign the forms you can receive a ticket and lose your gear. We hope to have this going in February and have it run through March. So please stay tuned for we will get the information out ASAP when we get it. If you have any questions please call me. My phone # 503-282-4830, Jeff

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Hagg lake opens March 4

SALEM - State fisheries officials today reminded anglers that Henry Hagg Lake in Washington County opens to fishing March 4. Located 25 miles southwest of Portland, Hagg Lake is a 1,200-acre reservoir constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation for irrigation and flood control. The lake averages 51 feet in depth and is 110 feet deep at its maximum.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fisheries workers recently planted the first 2006 stocks of rainbow trout in the lake. This is done two weeks before the park opens to allow the fish to acclimate and distribute throughout the lake.

Hagg Lake also is regarded as a premier destination for yellow perch and bass fishing. The state record smallmouth bass - 8 lb., 1.67 oz. - was caught there last May.

The lake is operated by Washington County as Scoggins Valley Park. Facilities include two boat ramps, several picnic areas, a handicapped fishing dock, and a network of hiking trails. Users pay a day-use fee for vehicles and boats. For more information about the park, call Washington County Parks Department at (503) 846-8715.

New President(s) and Board members needed

Hey you! Yeah you, the one holding this newsletter! You know that in the past you have thought about how you would have done something different in how the chapter runs things. You might have even come up with some ideas that could improve how things are done around here.

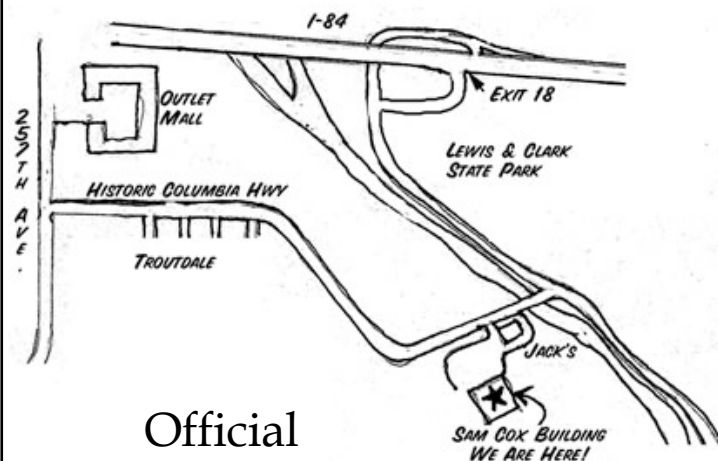
So the question is, why haven't you done anything about it? Yeah, I know. You go to the cleanups, and the fishalongs. You volunteer your time for the kids at camp Angelos. But when are you going to actually do something that gets people moving to make our chapter better?

Here is your opportunity. Jeff and Dana will no longer be co-presidents. We also have openings in the board. That means we need to have you step up and take part in the leadership of the chapter. The chapter is only as good as the members who are in it and the effort they put forth in making things run.

Last year we won chapter of the year. How are we going to improve what we are doing if you don't step up and involve yourself in making things run better?

Put your name down as someone who will make a difference in our chapter, our local rivers, and our fisheries today!

HOW TO FIND US



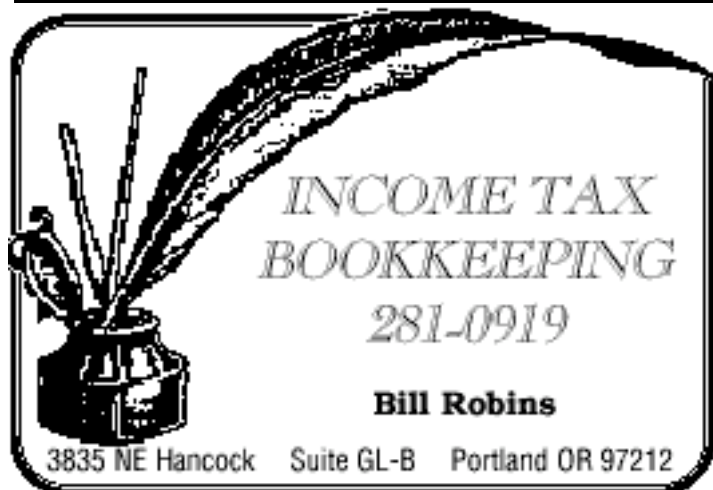
Official
"No Excuse"
Map!

Sandy River Chapter Meeting Location.
You now know exactly where we meet
We need your attendance!

SANDY STEELHEADER'S CALENDAR

March 1
April 5

General Chapter Meeting 7:30 p.m. Sam Cox Building,, Glen Otto park
General Chapter Meeting 7:30 p.m. Sam Cox Building, Glen Otto park Elections!



Chapter membership report

Welcome New Members:

Thanks mainly to our new \$10 promotional program there were 23 new members who joined the club in January and February.

Donald Bench is from Sandy Oregon.
 Charlie Bottita is from Sandy Oregon.
 Jim Elliot is from Washougal Washington.
 Steve Dennis is from Troutdale Oregon.
 Terence Fernandes is from Portland Oregon.
 Mike Housley is from Portland Oregon.
 Kenny Karst is from Portland Oregon.
 Nothanyell Jenkins is from Gresham Oregon.
 Mark Emter is from Woodland Washington.
 Doug Kersey is from Troutdale Oregon.
 Ching Wu is from Gresham Oregon
 MikeStanislawski is from Portland Oregon.

Chris Locke is from Vancouver Washington
 Joe Locke is from Vancouver Washington
 John McPherson is from Vancouver Washington
 Jim Meyers is from Portland Oregon.
 Lavin Neang is from Portland Oregon.
 Bob Nelson is from Gresham Oregon
 Brian Raymond is from Vancouver Washington
 Michael Smith is from Vancouver Washington
 Tom Steiert is from Fairview Oregon.
 Scott Welch is from Portland Oregon.
 Mike Landers is from Portland Oregon.

Please welcome our new members when you see them at the next meeting and don't forget Daren, when he can make our meetings.

I have placed brochure stands with Association and chapter information and membership materials at fishing counters in the various sport shops around the area. I try to make the rounds of the fishing departments on a regular basis, but it also helps to have others check too. The next time you are by the fishing counter check, let me know if you see that the brochures are running low or out.

If you like me you have a hard time remembering all the renewal dates for all your magazines and club memberships, so from now on I will yellow highlight the renewal dates for those members with past due memberships. When you get your next news letter check the date on the address label, that is your membership renewal date.



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A New Fishing Gadget

While reading the latest Salmon Steelhead Journal, I came across an idea that seemed interesting: a rod holster/belt rig that holds a rod securely and out of the way freeing your hands. Curious but interested, I immediately ordered one via the internet and am pleased I did. The rod holder is attached to a heavy duty nylon belt and allows you to rest/support your rod in it while doing some other task. Certainly you can experience successful fishing without this holder: you can support your rod between your legs, in the crook of your arm, rest it on the ground, against a nearby bush/tree or many other possibilities, but having your rod so close and strongly supported makes life a bit easier, which in turn makes fishing more pleasant resulting in a happier fisherman. Now if we could only figure out a way to get those darned steelhead/salmon to bite more often.

I tested this device on the Sandy the day after this new year began. My only problem was that a couple times I resorted to old habits and looked for my rod on the ground or resting against a nearby bush, while it was actually on my hip.

Those of you that know me, understand that I am always on the watch for something new/different. Personally, this is the best piece of new equipment I have seen in a while, and is reasonably priced at \$20 + shipping. I have no idea where/when it will be available in retail outlets, but in my opinion, it is only a matter of time. If some of you are interested in obtaining a holster, you might consider going in together and perhaps save some shipping costs.

If this rod holder interests you, see me at the next meeting, river clean-up or the FB Follies. Feel free to phone or email with any questions. The website where more information is available is www.fullstrike.us and is located in California.

I have no interest in this item except to review it for chapter members and to make public information on new fishing items that might make easier our fishing pursuits - Colonel Thomas

Comments needed on Sandy hatchery plans

Steelheaders need to make comment to counter the expected anti-hatchery responses to the Sandy River Hatchery Genetic Management Plan (HGMP). Detractors will likely say that the risk are greater than stated and that there should be less hatchery fish. Sandy Chapter members Jack Glass, Norm Ritchie, and Mike Myrick have been part of public review committees over the last decade that were part of what led to this plan.

Alan Flanagan and other Steelheaders participated in the Native Fish Conservation Policy and Hatchery Genetic Management Policy that establish the guidelines for the HGMPs.

You need to review the attached and send Todd Alsbury your comments supporting the HGMP, considering if the risk assessments are accurate and if the risk management is adequate. Do you think the hatchery releases are adequate for all sport fishing or do you think the releases are too conservative and greater releases could be possible while still protecting wild fish genetics in the Sandy River basin?

Please take a few minutes to review the HGMP and pass on your comments.

Norman E. Ritchie, Co-President,
Association of Northwest Steelheaders
day: 503.745.6388, fax: 503.745.8819, cell: 503.807.7729
neritch@email.sae.org CLACKAMAS – The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking written public comment on a draft Hatchery

Genetic Management Plan (HGMP) for the Sandy River spring chinook program (Stock 11). The comment period is open February 15 – March 7, 2006.

NOAA Fisheries requires HGMPs to provide a review of each hatchery's current operational components for each fish species reared at a facility. Following public and ODFW review, the HGMP will be submitted to NOAA Fisheries for final review.

A copy of the draft spring chinook HGMP can be requested from the Northwest Region office in Clackamas at 503-657-2000. The draft also is posted on the ODFW Web site at www.dfw.state.or.us on the Fish Division Page.

All written comments should be sent to Todd Alsbury, District Fisheries Biologist, 17330 SE Evelyn St., Clackamas, OR 97303 or emailed to todd.alsbury@state.or.us. Comments must be received or postmarked by 5 p.m. March 7, 2006.

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Frost Bite Follies Wrap Up

The morning started at Dea's for breakfast at 5:30 am. We had 22 members show up and a shared story's of how well fishing was on the river. A couple of our members who were out fishing the past couple of days got into fish. They were informing us on what they were using and what area's to look for fish, for they weren't in the regular holding areas. We dropped off our boats at Oxbow and are rigs at Dabney. We had a total of 12 boats for are adventure. We had a total of 35 guys for the event and at the last minute we had a few guys no show. We ended up with 29 guys. The fishing was good for some boats while others had high expectation and drew blanks. We all thought that we were going to target wild fish for this event only to find out, that we were going to target hatchery fish. Well we hooked and landed 8 wild fish and 1 hatchery fish. The hatchery fish was caught by Mr. Lucky. Colonel Thomas was the only person that was able to catch a hatchery fish. He caught on a Jig from First bite Jigs. The fish was caught early in the morning and did very well in the fish box. We then all headed to Camp Angelos for lunch and it was very good. After lunch we all then headed to the take out at Dabney Park. Some of us made a last minute effort to catch that allusive fish. Jeff Kirkman was able to catch a wild fish just at the top of Dabney Park out of the wind. Rex McIntire and his partner each landed a wild fish. Several other fish were caught as well but weren't reported back to the newsletter editor or the president. Sorry if we missed your fish! We finally called it a day and a few went of went to a local watering hole to cap off a great day of fishing.



Colonel Thomas and Todd Alsbury congratulate each other on landing the only fish to be collected for the acclimation program



Shane and his partner with a couple of nice fat native steelhead



The collected hatchery fish resting quietly in the transportation box; the aerator keeping it supplied with Oxygen



Rex McIntyre with one of the several wild steelhead caught on the day. This one was below camp Angelos.





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Ocean Salmon Meeting Set.

NEWPORT – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife officials today announced a Mar. 2 meeting in Newport to review the 2005 ocean salmon season and discuss projections for this year's season.

The Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will host the annual Ocean Salmon Industry Group meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hallmark Resort Hotel, 744 SW Elizabeth St.

Officials will review last year's season, provide 2006 forecasts of abundance of salmon stocks, review current issues related to salmon management and how those issues will be used to develop ocean salmon regulation proposals for ODFW staff to take to the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

"The forecasts indicate some salmon stocks are down in 2006," said Eric Schindler, Ocean Salmon Project Leader for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. "Managers will be looking for suggestions from industry on how to structure the season so it is equitable to all fishers and protects the resource."

Ocean anglers, commercial salmon troll fishers, and others interested in participating in the development of ocean salmon fishery regulations for the 2006 season are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Sandy River recreation report

SANDY RIVER The Sandy River should begin to see improvement for winter steelhead angling in the coming days as the water has dropped and cleared. On Monday the river was running at 2,024 cfs (9.63') and the water temperature was near 42°. There have been reports of a few steelhead being caught, but so far the angling has only been fair at best. Catch rates were reported to be a little better up near Dodge Park than down below Oxbow Park. Fish should be spread throughout the system from Marmot Dam down to Troutdale. Native steelhead are still routinely being caught just below Marmot Dam and anglers should remember that these fish are to be released unharmed.

The Sandy fish are now a later returning stock versus what anglers were used to a few years ago. This is a result of the wild broodstock program that is part of the current Sandy River fish management plan. These steelhead should create a mid-to-late winter fishery that likely goes on into spring.

Anglers can access the river from many parks including Lewis and Clark, Dabney, Oxbow, and Dodge. Access is also available to the Cedar Creek area at the Sandy Hatchery. When fishing the Oxbow Park area, remember that there is no angling from a floating device upstream from a point that is 200 feet below the Oxbow Park boat ramp.

Collection/recycling receptacles for discarded or lost fishing gear can now be found along the Sandy River. Look for them near boat ramps at Lewis and Clark, Dabney, Oxbow, and Dodge parks. Any tangled fishing line or old gear can be collected and disposed of in these canisters as an effort to maintain a healthy, clean Sandy River. Please use nearby garbage cans for any other types of trash.

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ODFW commision endorses plan for setting summer, fall chinook in Columbia river

SALEM — The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Friday unanimously endorsed guiding principles and objectives that Oregon officials will use to negotiate Columbia River summer and fall chinook sport and commercial fishing seasons for 2006 that aim to meet conservation and treaty requirements, and share the allowable harvest between recreational and commercial fisheries.

In addition, the Commission directed Oregon fishery officials to enter into negotiations with their Washington state counterparts with the goal of adopting a three-year agreement to manage summer chinook harvest in the Columbia River. The purpose of the multi-year agreement is to provide stability to the regulation-setting process.

The Commission is the policy-making body for fish and wildlife issues in the state. The seven-member panel meets monthly.

With the Commission direction, the staff from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will enter into negotiations for the fall chinook season through the "North of Falcon" public process with the state of Washington, tribal governments, federal fish managers, the commercial fishing industry and the sport fishing industry to establish exact seasons, regulations and bag limits. The summer chinook allocation will be negotiated separately with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Since 2000, improved returns of summer and fall chinook salmon and federal Endangered Species Act listings have created a situation where it has become necessary to negotiate a sharing agreement of the allowable fish harvest between treaty Indians and non-treaty sport anglers and commercial harvesters.

Biologists expect 49,000 summer chinook to enter the Columbia River this year between June 16 and July 31. The run is composed of both hatchery and wild fish that either head to hatcheries or spawning grounds located in the Upper Columbia above Priest Rapids Dam. The summer chinook run in the Columbia River averaged 63,000 fish in 2004 and 2005.

Biologists are expected to announce predictions for 2006 fall salmon runs destined for the Columbia Basin and other Pacific Northwest coastal river basins later this month at public meetings. The fall total chinook run was about 550,000 fish in 2005. Columbia River fall chinook enter the river beginning Aug. 1 and are composed of five major hatchery and wild stocks that return to different parts of the river.

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