



APRIL 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

PROGRAM-Break it Down: Dam Busters

We are showing a movie, produced for National Geographic for national television exposure, detailing the story of the construction and removal of Marmot Dam. This story explains just how close this project came to being a catastrophic blow out rather than the huge success it was.

Public Invited!

Short business meeting consisting of election of chapter officers and directors precedes the movie.

President's message

This is my final President's message, my term as your club president is over. It has been a privilege to serve as an officer for the Sandy River Steelheaders. I have had my share of successes and goofs to be sure, but on the whole I feel that my performance has been a positive one.

The reason I am not running for a second term is that this coming year is going to be very demanding for me if I am to meet all of the goals I have set. I am finding that time is just racing by since I retired; it's kind of like when I use to be on vacation. Like a lot of other retirees I have put a lot of things off thinking I had a lot of time, well at 70, I now find that it's time to finish some things.

I still plan to be active in the Steelheaders, wherever I can help. I plan to be available to the next president for whatever assistance I can provide.

I would encourage all members to volunteer for a club officer's position or Board member. Sure it takes time, but it also has its rewards especially for a retired person. The brain like any other organ in the body needs to be exercised.. I thought that the slowing mental process was just part of growing old. Well, I found that this process can be reversed by getting involved in a mentally stimulating activity like a club office or project.

These are very exciting times for the Association of Northwest Steelheaders, with all of the state and national legislation that we are promoting. The Association is a great organization that is growing and fulfilling a real leadership role in promoting the cause of Sport anglers, the environment, and teaching children the joys of fishing.

Thanks for everything

Howard



SANDY STEELHEADER

Membership Drive!

The Association will reward members who recruit new members in the 2009/2010 Membership Drive Incentive Program.

Valuable prizes will be awarded to those members who help us achieve our goal of recruiting 750 new members which would equal a 50% increase in membership.

Every new member signed up is good for one chance in quarterly drawings beginning in May.

Membership Drive Awards

Guided Fishing Trips

Rods

Reels

Tackle

Limited Edition Art Prints

Other Gear

Additional ways to gain chances to win.

Recruit a new Business or Life Membership and receive 10 chances to win.

Recruit 10 new members, and receive an additional 10 chances.

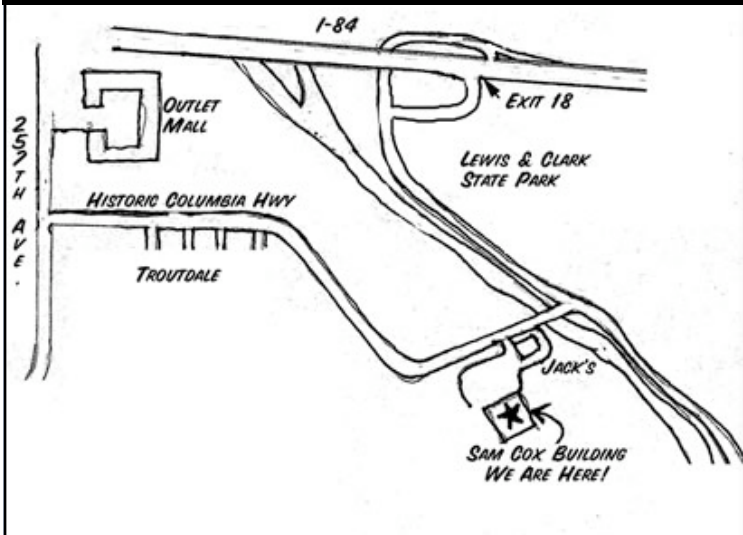
Top recruiters will also be recognized for their efforts.

Rules

The Membership Drive will begin Feb. 14th 2009 and end Feb. 10th 2010.

Awards will be awarded to those who have recruited new members during the drive and have their name or ticket drawn in a random quarterly drawing. Write your name on the back of the membership application or provide a list of who you have recruited so you will receive credit well prior of the drawings.

Meeting Map



Wild and Scenic...

Upper Sandy River!

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Bird and Wildlife Viewing

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Fall Chinook and

Winter Steelhead!

Coastal Rivers now

and the Sandy River in January

10% of all fees will be donated to the Sandy Steelheaders if booked by members or their referrals

SANDY STEEL-

Date	Event
April 1	General Chapter meeting Elections and Movie 7:00 pm Sam Cox Building Glen Otto Park Troutdale
April 4	Association Hall of Fame Banquet and Auction; Portland Airport Holiday Inn

SANDY STEELHEADER



JOIN THE ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST STEELHEADERS *today!*

JOIN THE STEELHEADERS!

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Contribution

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Chapter of Choice OR Member At Large _____

Association of Northwest Steelheaders

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Membership: limited time only! ☐ \$10

☐ Regular, \$30

☐ Sustaining, \$100

☐ Junior/Student, \$15

☐ Family, \$40

☐ Business, \$100

☐ Handicapped, \$15

☐ Senior, \$15

☐ Life, \$500

Contribution of \$ _____ (Amounts over \$20 are tax deductible)

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

☐ VISA

☐ MasterCard

Expiration Date: _____

Card # _____

Signature _____

Legislative Activity

I received this message in an email from Norm Ritchie. I am including it to give you, our general members an idea of what Norm and others are doing on your behalf to make our case heard in Salem.

I went in to the hearing knowing that our membership that had voiced an opinion were not in favor of the fee increases without a turn-around in the department's priorities to provide sport anglers what they are paying for – opportunities to participate in quality fisheries. These opportunities have been reduced and the quality of the fisheries have deteriorated. On the other hand we don't want to shoot ourselves in the foot. A lesser budget will result in even worse results.

The biggest risks came from TU and Native Fish Society, asking to eliminate or reduce hatchery budgets. Pretty much everyone else supported the expenditure side of the budget and some even supported the funding side with fee increases.

Thankfully Bob Oleson helped me draft a position that addressed the most important issues, resulting in the following testimony.

The Association of Northwest Steelheader membership is growing more concerned as the ODFW income budget continues to shift to a greater dependence on sport fees while the expenditure side sees smaller percentages of resources expended on providing sport services. Most an-

glers feel it is unfair to pay greater fees while angling opportunity and quality deteriorates.

That is why maintaining funding for our hatcheries is more important than ever! The wild fish component is not enough to meet the departments mission. Hatchery fish are an investment in our cultural values and our economy. In reference to hatchery efficiency, I point to Representative Krieger's testimony that the \$40M hatchery investment has provided a \$400M economic value. That is a great return.

Steelheaders work closely as volunteers with ODFW staff. We know of their dedication and professionalism. Oregon can't afford a budget that eliminates any of these hard working ODFW staff. The Northwest Steelheaders does not agree with the inequities of the income structure with sport dollars funding non-sport functions but we support the full budget and expenditures.

I thought my final point about inequitable fees and fee use was going to get us in trouble but to my surprise this was well received by ODFW management. We need to remember, they are between a rock and a hard place. They must support the Governor's budget. Only the public can speak to the budget's deficiencies.

-Norm Ritchie

SANDY STEELHEADER

Queen Charlotte fishing trip

A few of us at the last Sandy River Chapter meeting discussed the possibility of booking an entire fishing lodge for a 5 day – 4 night fishing adventure. This would be a lot of fun with everyone involved being friends and having common fishing backgrounds. We had done this several time in the 1990s but it ran out of steam when the members who were managing it were no longer able to participate. We got a “corporate discount” at that time that was shared equally between all participants as a cost discount.

Canadian lodges give us our best over-all value for trips that include both chinook salmon and halibut. They typically include chartered air fair and fish processing as well as typical lodge amenities. We used North King Lodge off the near shore islands in the ‘90s and that was great. The first trip was considered “a trip of a lifetime” but most of they guys and gals that went had such a great time, they couldn’t say “no” the following trips. Some took additional trips on their own. Now we are hearing great things about the Queen Charlottes in general and specifically about Oak Bay Marine Group lodges. This is the outfit that has provided the ANWS raffle prize at a much discounted price. (See their web site at www.obmg.com)

We are looking to hit the peek of the chinook season the summer of 2010 for this event. We would need to provide deposits this year to hold the lodge for one of the best fishing weeks. Their smallest ship/lodge is the Mv Charlotte Princess that takes 30 anglers. It is also their most luxurious. The published price is \$4,695.00 Canadian, which covers everything from the time you get to the Vancouver BC airport to the time you return with your processed catch 5 days later. (We can negotiate our lowest possible discount or free trips for the following year’s ANWS raffle or a combination of the two.) The Mv Marabell is a larger ship/lodge that is moored in the same cove as the Mv Charlotte Princess. A portion of that boat will be a fallback position if we are unable to get 30 anglers but have more than 15.

We would drive up the day before and stay at a local motel near the airport. The motel allows our vehicles to stay secure in their lot and shuttle us to the airport. They pick us up the day we return. Some stay the night with their catch in the motel’s freezer. Others just drive strait through back to Oregon.

So, is there interest in pursuing this? Several have indicated their own interest and they are on the list. Please email me with your interest or questions if you have not already done so.

Norman E. Ritchie, norman.ritchie@comcast.net



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Mark Anderson*

Association Hall of Fame Banquet

April 4th will be the date for our Association of Northwest Steelheaders Banquet

This is the years biggest fundraiser event for the Association,

There will be both a Silent and auctioneer auction
The tickets are \$40 each and we only have 10 left to sell
Holiday Inn-Portland Airport
8439 NE Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97220-1382
503-256-5000

4:30 PM – No Host Bar; Silent Auction Begins
6:15 PM – Dinner is served
7:30 PM - Auction
9:30 PM – Auction Closes

The dinner menu is set as “Surf & Turf” (Tilapia & Steak)

Jim Martin. He has agreed to be our “motivational speaker and Rhonda Shelby, Weather anchor for KATU will be our master of ceremonies

contact:
Howard Berg
bergate@verizon.net
503-665-8008

SANDY STEELHEADER

Ray's Frostbite follies

This year's follies turned out to be everything we could hope for and more. We had the big rains the days leading up to the event date and the river came up and then dropped like a rock due to low freezing level. The river had perfect color and great level to fish. The river was running at 9.8 ft. We had 43 people sign up for the event and everyone had a seat in a boat. I want to thank all the guys who had boats to make this event happen and go as smooth as possible. I also want to thank our crew who prepared our lunches, the food was great and we had plenty for all to have seconds as well. The first fish was caught at the boat ramp at Oxbow from one of the guys who decided to do a little bank action before his boat left the ramp. This fish was a little dark and he released it. It wasn't five minutes later and he hooked his second a nice chrome brat. It weighed about 7 lbs. Well we all made it down to Camp Angelos and we had three more fish caught all done by bank fishing. Todd Alsbury hooked three fish and lost them all. This year's event was great as always and I want to thank everyone for participating and making this a superb event as well.

-Jeff Stoeger

I want to thank Jeff for organizing this event. From dealing with late drop outs, and late additions to finicky participants not to mention handling the arrangements for the lodge, lunch, and stickers for the boat ramp, Jeff handled everything with his tireless patience and warm personality. Everyone who participated owes Jeff a huge 'thank you'.

-editor

Ocean Indicators Help Develop Forecast for Columbia Salmon Returns

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<http://www.cbbulletin.com>

All of the signs -- called ocean indicators -- point toward swelled returns to the Columbia River basin in 2010 and 2011 that could even challenge 2001's record upriver spring chinook salmon run, according to ongoing research conducted by NOAA Fisheries Service's Northwest Fisheries Science Center.

"The ocean was chockfull of food" in 2008 when juvenile salmon emerged from the Columbia to start their ocean sojourn, the center's John Ferguson told the Northwest Power and Conservation Council last week.

Ferguson, head of the center's Fish Ecology Division, was among those on a panel assembled by the Council to discuss "Status of Adult Salmon Runs, Ocean Conditions and Mainstem Passage." He briefed

those in attendance on the effects of changing climate and ocean conditions on fish populations and on the evolving "Ocean Ecosystem Indicators of Salmon Marine Survival in the Northern California Current" project.

NOAA researchers have since 1996 collected physical and biological ocean data during research cruises to study the coastal upwelling ecosystem off the Pacific Northwest. The data is used to develop environmental indicators to help forecasts of salmon returns.

They include the status of large-scale ocean and atmospheric indicators such as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation and the El Nino Southern Oscillation Index and local and regional physical indicators such as sea surface temperature, coastal upwelling of nutrients, the strength of the springtime transition to upwelling and deep-water temperature and salinity.

Biological indicators include measures of the quality and quantity of organisms that build the near-shore food chain and the actual netting, and counting, of young fish. Juvenile salmon caught during June and September trawl surveys off the coast serve as an index or surrogate measure of ocean survival for spring chinook and coho salmon.

The June 2008 trawls for chinook were "the best that we've seen," Ferguson said.

The counts were "literally off the charts" kept over the 11 years of the study. The catch of more than 40,000 juvenile chinook last year was more than double that of 1999. The catch per unit of effort, 2.55, was also double the next best catch rate in 1999. Those smolts caught in 1999 contributed to the banner 2001 run.

"Every time we put the net in the water we caught salmon," Ferguson said.

The other 10 indicators showed favorable conditions for the young chinook as well. Each of the conditions measured is rated red, yellow or green -- bad, intermediate or good conditions for salmon survival. Never before has there been a green sweep of the rating's chart.

"2008 was comparable to 1999," Ferguson said.

"We expect spring Chinook runs in 2010 and 2011 to rival the high returns of this species seen in 2001 and 2002; however, expectations for returns of coho in 2009 are somewhat lower due to warm sea -- surface conditions throughout August and low catches of coho salmon in our September 2008 survey," according to the ocean indicators January forecast.

SANDY STEELHEADER

Court upholds salmon listing

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<http://www.cbbulletin.com>

Federal appeals court edicts issued Monday preserve decisions to list 16 West Coast salmon stocks, and Upper Columbia steelhead, under the Endangered Species Act.

NOAA Fisheries Service methods for defining individual species that include both hatchery and naturally produced stocks, and for evaluating whether those species need ESA protections, are valid under the law, according to two decisions released by U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Judges Diarmuid E. O'Scannlain, Pamela Ann Rymer and Andrew J. Kleinfeld.

A March 16 Ninth Circuit opinion reversed decisions by U.S. District Court Judge John C. Coughenour that said NOAA's "hatchery listing policy" violated the ESA, as did a decision to downlist Upper Columbia River steelhead stocks from endangered to threatened. The latter decision was based in part on the hatchery listing policy.

The Ninth Circuit did affirm Coughenour's decision to deny a request that NOAA be required to consider hatchery and natural-origin fish separately during ESA status determinations. The request came from a coalition of fishing and conservation groups.

In a "memorandum" issued Monday regarding a separate appeal, the same Ninth Circuit panel affirmed an August 2007 ruling by Oregon-based District Court Judge Michael R. Hogan that said NOAA Fisheries satisfied ESA requirements in making its 2005 West Coast salmon listing determinations.

The 16 stocks range from the Canadian border, through the Columbia River basin, to the central California coast. They include the Snake River spring/summer and fall chinook stocks, the Upper Columbia spring-run chinook, the Lower Columbia chinook and Upper Willamette chinook, Snake River sockeye, Lower Columbia chum and Lower Columbia coho.

Both district court decisions were appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Oral arguments were heard by the appellate panel during a joint hearing in September in Seattle.

"We must decide whether the National Marine Fisheries Service may distinguish between natural and hatchery-spawned salmon and steelhead when determining the level of protection the fish should be afforded under the Endangered Species Act," the March 16 opinion said of the appellate panel's task in deciding the appeals.

It concluded that that NMFS (NOAA Fisheries Service) can indeed make that distinction.

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We are getting an average of 10 returned newsletter a month
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"This is a huge decision, mainly because it lifts our enormous anxieties for all of our listings" NOAA spokesman Brian Gorman said of the Ninth Circuit's validation of the policy, which describes how hatchery fish should be regarding in making ESA determinations. Of the 26 West Coast salmon and steelhead listings assessed during an intensive 2003-2005 effort, 25 involved the application of the new hatchery listings policy guidelines.

Earthjustice's Jan Hasselman said the decisions represent "the end of this 10-year campaign to eliminate Endangered Species Act protections for salmon" by lumping wild and hatchery stocks together and thus "conflating" population numbers. Earthjustice represented the fishing and conservation groups in the lawsuits.

Volunteers needed!

We are still in need of volunteers for the Association Hall of Fame Banquet on April 4. Volunteers will receive a terrific banquet meal as well as our undying appreciation. Please contact Larry Palmer at (503) 286-2093 or palmerlarryd@yahoo.com

SANDY STEELHEADER

Three more sea lions captured

Oregon and Washington biologists this week captured three more California sea lions below the Columbia River's Bonneville Dam with two of the big marine mammals likely to be ticketed for residence at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium.

Officials are now awaiting the result of blood tests from the third sea lion before deciding whether he is healthy enough for placement in a zoo or aquarium.

The trapping is being conducted by the Oregon and Washington departments of fish and wildlife as a part of their effort to deter California sea lions from preying on salmon, steelhead and other fishes. The salmon run includes both spring chinook salmon and steelhead stocks that are protected under the Endangered Species Act.

The states applied for, and a year ago won, the legal authority under Section 120 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to remove predatory California sea lions. An increased number of sea lions have begun to congregate below the dam in recent years in springtime, drawn upstream most likely by the buffet provided by the salmon run.

The trapping began last week and two lions were captured. Both showed a urogenital virus that made them ineligible for relocation. They were euthanized. The authorization allows removal by lethal injection or by shooting but state officials say their preferred option is placing the captured animals in zoos or aquariums. So far spots for

eight animals have been located.

Of the three animals captured this week, one has been spotted at the dam in every year since 2002. Ongoing research was launched that year to evaluate the pinnipeds' impact on the salmon run.

The states intend to continue trapping California sea lions each week through May.

Over the past two weeks, researchers have seen as many as 16 California sea lions and 20 Steller sea lions at the dam on any given day. Since 2003 the number of individual California sea lions seen at the dam annually has ranged from 69 to 106.

The California sea lions feed primarily on salmon and steelhead, though they have been observed by researchers this year taking at least 30 sturgeon. The number of salmon counted in Bonneville's fish ladders remains low with only 43 having passed the dam through Thursday.

Income Tax Bookkeeping



Bill Robins

(503)281-0919

3825 NE Hancock Suite GL-B Portland OR 97212

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.

Return Service Requested

Portland OR 97294-9114

PO Box 301114

STEELHEADERS

SANDY CHAPTER NW



Spring 2008
Sandy River

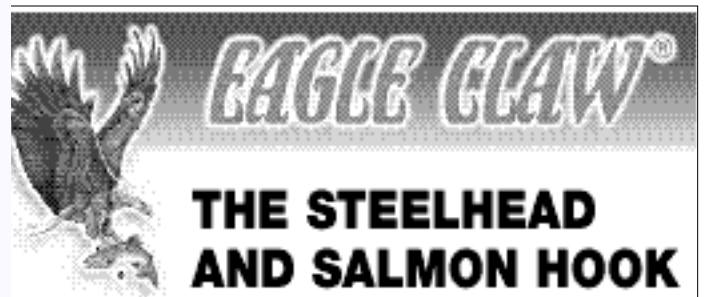
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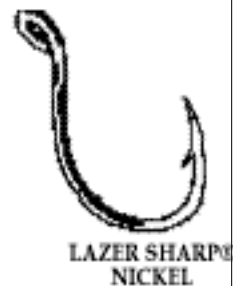
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