



JUNE 2008



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: Mike Myrick

Our Website: <http://www.sandysteelheaders.org>

June Meeting

I want to thank the following two guys for making our last meeting very successful. They are Ed Fast and Eric Neiwert. The demonstration on making jigs and powder coating was very helpful and very easy to understand. Ed points out that you can make home made jigs with almost any thing that you have in your fishing vest or on your fly tying table. You can buy pre-packaged jig making kits at various stores. Rob at Jacks snack and tackle has these kits that only cost a few bucks. You can also buy jig kits from Mark Anderson at First bite jigs. Again I want to thank Ed and Eric for their outstanding job.

The chapter is going to show the video of Mark Anderson on how to fish jigs and how to read water for jig fishing. Mark will show us how to tie up his jigs and materials that he uses for tying them on his video. Mark will then show us how to read water and what to look for when Jig fishing. He will demonstrate how to fish for summer steelhead and winter steelhead as well as salmon. So come with paper and pencil to take notes. If you are unable to make the meeting you can buy the video either on line or at one of the local sporting goods stores.



President's message

Ted Fountain, the new membership director for the Association of Northwest Steelheaders sent me an article about the new face of Volunteerism. The message was that volunteers now days are choosing causes that mirror their lifestyle, rather than commit to one group. Clubs that don't adapt are now finding it hard to retain members.

On one hand it is a little unsettling for me, but I also can see some terrific opportunities for some of our projects in the way we organize and promote them.

We have an opportunity in our ODFW West Salish Pond kids fishing day event on Saturday May 31st to find out how this is going to work. In past years our members helped the kids fish and some also went around picking up trash, which is bad in this area. This time we are going to see if the public wants us to join us in picking up trash. So when the ODFW puts out is press release they are going to ask for cleanup volunteers as well as kids to fish. Our club will provide SOLVE bags for volunteers. I have contacted The city of Fairview and they will have extra garbage cans at both entrances.

It's all great and good for people to just want to "do their thing" but some one has to organize "their thing" and that's where we come in. It's away to magnify the results of some of our projects.

It will be interesting to see what kind of response we get from the public and maybe we can sign up a few new members.

Howard Berg, President

bergate@verizon.net 503-665-8008

SANDY STEELHEADER

Sandy River Habitat Project

Chapter members-

Our first Stream Enhancement project of the season is scheduled for Sunday June 22. Sorry about the Sunday. I work every Saturday, so until I find someone willing to ahem "step forward" and lead projects on Saturdays-we are on the Sunday program.

Our work on this day will consist of helping the Sandy River Watershed Council remove some invasive grasses from a side channel used by fish for spawning and rearing near the town of Sandy.

We will be working in the stream so bring wading gear .

I need a couple fellows to volunteer to cook the lunch on the Chapters propane BBQ and Stove, and another to document our work with a digital camera and record volunteers names. Hey, it beats staying home and doing yardwork!!!

Please also bring (if you have them) a set of hedge trimmers (as shown in photo..)we'll use to cut the grass, and work gloves. The Chapter will provide you with lunch and drinks.

In order to know how much food to get, please contact me with your eager request to serve by Wednesday 21st. By phone at 503-286-2093 Or by e-mail at palmerlarryd@yahoo.com. No response...no food for you!!!

Please meet in Glen Otto Park where we will leave at 8 AM SHARP...and head up to meet the Coordinator of the Sandy River Watershed Councils project Russ Plaeger.

If you live closer to Sandy you can meet at the Hoodland Thriftway grocery. Go to stop light on Hwy 26, turn right. By 9 AM. We leave there at 9 AM SHARP!!



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Salish Ponds fishing help

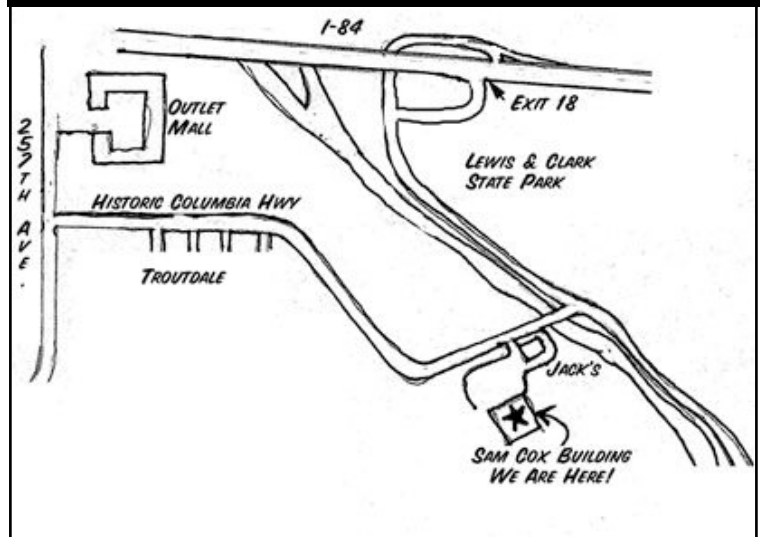
ODFW has asked us to help kids fish at west Salish Pond from 8:30 to 2pm. ODFW will provide all the gear and bait for the kids. The pond has been well stocked and the weather should be fine.

For those of you who haven't helped in the past the Salish Ponds are on Glisan between Fairview Av and 202nd. We would like you to park in the school parking lot off of 202nd, just go behind the school and park next to the ponds.

We will also have SOLV bags for those of you who want to pick up trash, so bring gloves, we will have some trash grabbers to loan out.

If you can't stay until 2pm that's ok too, most of the help for the kids is in the morning getting them started.

Meeting Map



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SANDY STEELHEADER CALENDAR

Date	Event
May 31	Salish Ponds kids fishing help 8:30-2.
June 4	General Meeting at Glenn Otto Park 7:00 pm First Bite Video
June 8	Passport to Fishing
June 22	STEP Habitat enhancement project
July 26	Chapter Picnic at Rooster rock details forthcoming
July 1-15	Camp Angelos volunteer help days

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Sandy River Chapter Volunteer Hours Form

Name _____

Event _____ Date _____ Hours worked _____

Event _____ Date _____ Hours worked _____

Event _____ Date _____ Hours worked _____

Event _____ Date _____ Hours worked _____

Event _____ Date _____ Hours worked _____

Event _____ Date _____ Hours worked _____

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.

SANDY STEELHEADER

Bonneville Sealion Deaths caused by overheating

The death of six marine mammals found May 4 in two closed floating traps below the Columbia's Bonneville Dam was likely caused by overheating, according to the findings of a necropsy performed on each of the animals.

State and federal officials "are pretty confident that this is the cause of death," Brian Gorman of NOAA's Fisheries Service said Wednesday. NOAA, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials reviewed the necropsy findings on the four California and two Steller sea lions.

The findings for all six animals are consistent with death from heat prostration, according to a NOAA press release. More conclusive results may be available once studies are completed, in about 10 days, of tissue samples taken from the animals.

The findings were the conclusions of Bob Delong of the National Marine Mammal Lab and its necropsy team. The lab is located at NOAA's Sand Point facility in Seattle.

Necropsy reports and other documents associated with the investigation will be made public once the investigation has been completed.

The investigation into the circumstances relating to the deaths of these animals continues, one of its mysteries now potentially solved and another not. The trap doors were left open and investigations are focused on how they got closed. The doors could have been tripped by natural forces, such as by sea lion jostling or potentially by rising and falling water elevations, or by humans.

Foul play has "not been ruled in or out," Gorman said. "We're looking at the human element."

Anyone with information that may assist in the investigation is asked to call the NOAA Enforcement Hotline at 1-800-853-1964.

One theory is that the blubber encased pinnipeds were kept high and dry for too long and died of heat exhaustion.

Clearly, they were in the traps and they couldn't get in the water," Gorman said. But, he said, the weather was cool. The air temperature at Bonneville that night fell to 39 and only rose to 56 on May 4, according to NOAA Weather Service data.

The deaths occurred between 7 p.m. that Saturday night when U.S. Army Corps of Engineers observers saw the trap doors open, and when the dead animal were found just before noon the next day.

The traps were positioned at the dam as part of an effort by the states of Oregon and Washington to trap California sea lions for relocation to zoos and aquariums around the country. The goal of that program is to reduce the predatory sea lions' impact on spawning salmon and steelhead

Spring Chinook Fishery comes to a close

With the prospect of breaching newly established Endangered Species Act "incidental take" limits, the states of Oregon and Washington and treaty tribes have all but ended, for now, Columbia River mainstem fish harvest activity.

The states decided Monday that the lower Columbia River will remain closed to steelhead fishing until further notice to avoid the incidental catch of protected upriver spring chinook salmon. The announcement effectively delays a fishery for hatchery steelhead scheduled to open May 16 from the Interstate 5 Bridge at Portland downriver to the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line a few miles east of Astoria.

The steelhead closure could extend as late as June 15, unless returns of upriver spring chinook begin to pick up, said Cindy LeFleur, WDFW Columbia River policy coordinator. Starting then the chinook salmon passing the dam are counted as "summer" chinook and a new fishery management period begins.

"With returns of upriver spring chinook falling far short of expectations, we need to do everything we can to conserve protected runs," she said. "At this point, that means some fisheries that have only an incidental impact on upriver chinook will be affected."

The closures were triggered by an updated spring chinook run forecast of 180,000 adult returns to the mouth of the Columbia, down from 269,300 fish initially projected by fishery managers from the states, tribes and federal agencies.

The falling upriver spring chinook forecasts have put the states and tribes in jeopardy of surpassing ESA limits on the take of listed stocks, wild Snake River spring/summer and Upper Columbia spring chinook.

If the final run tally is 180,000 adult upriver chinook, the catch in hand would represent an estimated 2.04 percent impact on upriver spring chinook for non-tribal sport and commercial mainstem fisheries.

A new harvest biological opinion approved last week by NOAA Fisheries Service says those impacts must be limited to 1.9 percent or less for returns that number 217,000 or fewer.

SANDY STEELHEADER

STEP Projects Volunteers and Items Needed

I have accepted the position of STEP Coordinator (stream work and related projects for fish...) for this chapter. It is a position I have held before, although for another chapter. We were very successful increasing the numbers of spawning salmon and steelhead in streams near Tillamook at very low cost, in concert with our ODFW STEP biologist.

We did surveys of the streams to determine the best actions to take in the future, developed plans, gathered tools and materials and got to work. We can do the same thing here.

I found that everyone can play a role, and it is surprising what helps to make a project really "GO".

One of our members was unable physically to get into the streambed and do much rock moving, but was a heck of a good cook. We purchased camp style cooking gear, and following every project were treated to a nice lunch. I am certain participation in the projects increased as a result. Another member, a CPA by trade, kept careful track of all expenses, filed paperwork and greatly helped keep things organized. I'll find something that suits anyone who wants to help.

Here is a starter list of cooking gear and related supplies that you can dig around in your garage for and see if you have some to spare. Contact me at 503-286-2093 or palmerlarryd@yahoo.com to let me know what you'd like to donate.

ITEMS NEEDED:

Propane fired stoves
Metal mixing bowls ,Frying pans and griddles
Woks, Metal plates
Ice chests, Insulated jugs
Can openers, Knives and cutting boards
Anything useful for "camp style" cooking!

From the tool shed:

Slip joint pliers and linesman pliers
Large pry bars
Hammers
End wrenches and ratchets/sockets from 7/16"-3/4"
Cable cutters
Slot style screwdrivers
"Come-Along" winches
5 gallon plastic buckets
Work Gloves/ grip gloves
3,10,14,and 18, gallon Rubbermaid tubs

Short range "Walkie Talkies"

Clipboards

Gather it up and contact me – Larry Palmer at
palmerlarryd@yahoo.com

503-286-2093

Volunteers needed to-

Conduct stream surveys

Cook food for project workers

Store and transport project tools

Assist in doing STEP project paperwork

Track volunteer hours and cost of donated materials

Lead stream work parties

Photograph project sites and forward j-pegs to chapter website

Help recruit volunteers

Co-ordinate with other community groups

And lots more!

I promise that if you want to volunteer, I'll find you a job that you like. All you have to do is get involved.

I am actively working with other groups to seek out projects for us this summer season. It may be surveys at first, but

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Catch of a Lifetime

During my fishing adventures, I have been lucky to have landed several steelhead 20 pounds and up, but the truly large chinook had evaded me. Bill, Brandon, Jerry and other fishing friends have mentioned their trophy chinook while I tried to imagine the thrill.

Last November 5, while preparing for the 2007 North Coast Salmon Rendezvous, I was fishing the coast with Russ Morrow. About 9:45 in the morning, Russ' rod bucked and he handed it off to me. Because as a guide Russ does not often get to fish, I protested, but he would not listen. Taking the rod, I played a salmon for many minutes before the rod went limp.

Discouraged with the slow fishing and thinking that might be our only bite, I sat back and waited. Perhaps 15 minutes later a fish picked up my herring. Waiting patiently, I set the hook and felt the tugging of a fish. Russ would have nothing to do with my attempts to hand the rod to him.

But I was not able to do anything with this fish. My first thought was that this might be a sturgeon because he seemed to sit on the bottom, and I could not budge him. However, after several minutes more the fish began moving. Playing him, I figured this might be a nice fish, but when he suddenly came to the surface 30 feet off our side I was struck with the realization that this might be my first 50 pound chinook.

While the exact time escapes me, I am sure he fought for 35 minutes before Russ was able to drop a net on him. Seeing this truly exceptional fish on the boat floor was amazing, and I sat down exhausted but exhilarated, if not a little numb.

Naturally my camera was home, and Russ' camera was not working. The only thing I could do was measure length and girth: 47 & 26.75. According to formulas I found, the weight would be in the high 40's to 52 lbs. Seeing other pictures of fish with measurements shown, make me now think this fish was closer to the 50 mark.

Quite possibly I will never hook a 50# again, but that November morning remains in my memory as if it were yesterday.

Board Meeting Minutes

Board meeting 5/2/08, 6:00

Present: Mike Myrick, Bill Beith, Leslie Hinea, Jeff Stoeger, Jeff Kirkman Howard Berg, Larry Palmer, Colonel Thomas

To begin the meeting, Howard passed out a typed meeting agenda outline and newly elected officer list. This facilitated the meeting staying on course and lessened stray dialogue.

1. chapter picnic date is 7/26 at Rooster Rock - sign up at next meeting
2. discussion regarding purchasing new software with unanimous agreement, cost not to exceed \$1300.00
3. officer reports
4. the ANWS meeting is scheduled for 5/10
5. Passport to Fishing event is 6/7 and more volunteers are needed/appreciated - more volunteers makes for an easier day
6. Camp Angelos cancer camp is July 1-7, and Greek Camp July 8-15, fishing equipment repair will be 6/21
7. no July board meeting
8. projection screen for Glen Otto meeting hall
9. clean-up was a success with good turnout - pre clean-up breakfast at Shirley's may have contributed to response - looking into obtaining small SOLV bags for autos, we are obligated to do at least two river clean-ups a year and some work near Glen Otto to offset our free use of the building - there is normally a fee charged
10. new chapter hats/shirts being investigated
11. Larry discussed need to come up with ideas/plans for STEP projects
12. volunteer hours - very important to keep track of hours and turn in

Passport to fishing

Every year the passport to fishing is a great even to get involved with because it helps kids get into fish and experience fishing when those opportunities are often out of reach for them. We will be asking for help from members to volunteer to assist at the event. Mark your calendars now for June 8. There will be a sign up at the June meeting.

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Spring 2007
Sandy River



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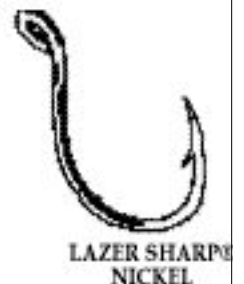
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