



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



June 1, 2023, Thursday, there will be no Sandy River Chapter monthly meeting this date. In its place we are holding an **ODFW Angler Education Instructor Certification class** with Amanda Boyle, ODFW begins at 6:00 pm. **This class is currently full with those who have registered to attend.** 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



September 7, 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

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 Websites @: <http://www.sandysteelheaders.org/> , and our new site <https://www.sandyriversteelheaders.org/> Also, we now have an Instagram site @: [SandyRiverSteelheaders](https://www.instagram.com/SandyRiverSteelheaders) and a Twitter account @: <https://twitter.com/drifthesandy>

Note: There will be redundancies between these sites 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 Chapter Annual Family Picnic

Saturday, August 19, 2023 at Glenn Otto Park,

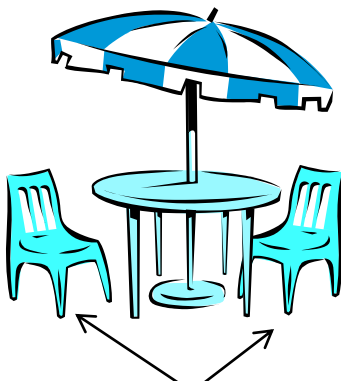
Area B, Troutdale

Everyone can expect a great time with a barbecue and plenty of relaxation and fellowship with good friends and family. We have both the picnic site and the meeting hall, so everything can happen rain or shine. There is bench seating at the tables but bring your own chairs if you like. A couple of participants will win door prizes just for showing up! Corn Hole and Ladder Ball will be set up per last year. There will be bingo after the meal, so bring three one-dollar bills for the bingo games. Winners take all!

The location is a place we all know well. We have a site straight down the trail, area B, from the Sandy Chapter meeting hall. The chapter will provide grilled salmon, hamburgers, and hotdogs with volunteers doing the grilling – also various Sodas, Water, and Coffee. What makes the meal a real success is the potluck of side dishes, salads, and desserts. There is a lot of gastronomic talent in our chapter and it's a lot of fun to share and partake in that talent.



People should arrive with their chairs and potluck items starting about 11:30 am but be sure to be there before we start serving from the barbecue which starts at 12:30 pm.



See these chairs? We can't provide so remember to bring your

We need an accurate headcount to know how much food to purchase so sign up at the June chapter meeting or call before Friday, August 11th.

To sign up or if you have any questions or suggestions call Joli Ritchie at 503-760-5551 or email neritchie1@gmail.com letting us know how many are coming, what each person wants off the grill (salmon, hot dog, or burger), and if you will be bringing a salad, side dish, or desert.

Volunteer recognition

Congratulations to Sandy River Steelheaders Steve Rothenbucher, Jeff Boughton and, Terri Boughton on the well-deserved recognition at last month's Chapter meeting. These three members are warriors and their time and effort is much appreciated by our membership.



Steelhead Fishing in the Sandy River: Best Spots and Tips (Excerpts)

by Eric Apalategui For: "*Best Fishing in Oregon*"

<https://www.bestfishinginamerica.com/or-sandy-river-oregon-steelhead-fishing.html>

The Sandy River has just about everything going for it as a steelhead stream – it's close to home for anyone in the greater Portland metropolitan area, it has plenty of access, and it often remains fishable when other rivers blow out of shape.

Most of all, it has strong runs of hatchery steelhead for the table and big natives for catch-and-release fishing.

The river is truly a year-round fishery for steelhead.

The winter run generally far exceeds the summer run for numbers of fish going home for dinner, but the summer fishery can offer a pleasant experience in good weather.

Best Time to Fish

The Sandy River's winter steelhead appear in the highest numbers from about the middle of December through March.

Usually by Christmas, you can expect a good number of hatchery fish and the first fish in a wild run that builds into mid-winter.

Some of the largest natives (must be released) arrive from late January through the end of winter, accompanied by good catches of fin-clipped steelies.

Later in the season, especially in March, the steelhead population will be a hodge-podge of spawned-out hatchery fish running downriver, late-arriving winter fish and the first summer steelhead. There may also be a few early spring Chinook.

If you target summer steelhead, they typically are caught in the best numbers in about May and June, often along with spring Chinook.

Note that the Sandy River is often milky during the warm months because its headwaters are fed by the melting snow and glacial ice on Mount Hood.

While most steelhead of both runs are caught from the mouth to Revenue Bridge, the less-fished section of river from the bridge up to the mouth of the Salmon River offers small catches of steelhead, usually peaking in mid- to late winter and again in the mid-summer months of July and August.

Where to Find Steelhead

Bank access is fairly good on the Sandy. Good starting points are Dodge, Oxbow, Dabney and Lewis and Clark parks, as well as several other public access points.

After the runs have been going for a while, the Dodge to Oxbow stretch remains good and there is walk-in access in the upper river near Cedar Creek Hatchery, Revenue Bridge, the old Marmot Dam site and on upriver to the mouth of the Salmon River.

These upper-river locations also remain fair bets into the warm months as summer steelhead numbers build.

For boaters, the three lower parks (Oxbow to Lewis and Clark near Interstate 84) have good ramps that offer access to excellent winter steelhead water in the lower river, with modest opportunity for summer steelhead in the spring.

Farther upstream, the 7.5 miles of river from Dodge Park down to Dabney Park is best-suited for technically skilled boaters. While it can be done with a drift boat, a raft is a safer option. It's probably best to first learn this section with someone who knows the water.

Once you're on the Sandy, look for water in the 3- to 7-foot depths with some current for a lot of your steelhead fishing, especially in the winter, but also try down in the deeper pools when water conditions get quite low.

Local Expert Fishing Tips

In the upper river, where even anglers traveling by drift boat must step out to fish, most of the usual bank techniques will catch fish.

Drift fishing, the old standby, catches plenty of fish on the Sandy and is one of the better ways to go in medium to high water levels.

Jack Glass of [Team Hook-Up Guide Service](#) often prefers to tempt winter fish with either salmon roe, a sand shrimp, or a pink rubber worm on the hook. He suggests using a slinky or pencil lead weight to make your offering bounce along the bottom in likely holding water. A 3- to 4-foot leader is best.

Glass also uses a lot of jigs, especially as river flows drop to medium and low flows. He likes jigs from First Bite Tackle and Beau Mac, especially in pink and white colors for winter fishing, floating beneath a bobber.

For lures, Glass suggests throwing a Steelie spoon, a Vibrax Blue Fox or one of the spinners from local R & B Lures.

Glass likes R & B's matte silver finish accented with black or green for much of his winter spinner fishing.

If the water gets low in winter, or potentially for summer fishing, sometimes a more subtle approach to spinners and spoons is good, with brass or nickel finishes and green or black trim.

However, in this river summer water clarity can be low due to glacial silt, so keep your presentations reasonably visible.

In high water most associated with the winter runs, whether on shore or anchored in a boat, plunking might be your best option.

Glass rigs up with a three-way swivel. On a 12-inch dropper line he ties a 4- to 6-ounce pyramid sinker. Then he uses about three feet of leader off the other end of the swivel that goes to a No. 4 or 6 Spin N Glo.

He baits his plunking hooks with either sand shrimp or roe.

Remember, even in high flows, steelhead most often travel in 3 to 7 feet of water, which might be only 10 to 20 feet from shore. Don't make the mistake of repeatedly plunking beyond the fish.



Chapter news

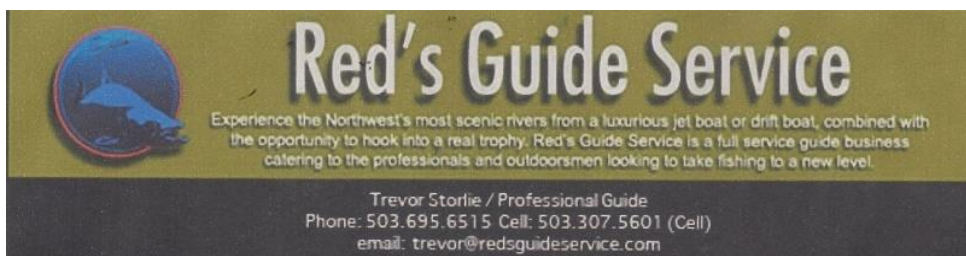
By Rob Bitney

First and foremost, a huge THANK YOU to outgoing Chapter officers Terri Boughton, Jeff Stoeger, Greg Reed & Steve Rothenbucher for all their hard work in guiding the chapter through the pandemic. Officially, their terms were up years ago, but they stayed on to keep the chapter running smoothly until such a time as replacements could be found. I am proud to say we now have 3 new chapter officers in; Vice-President, Brian Davis; Treasurer, Brad Garrett & Secretary, Luke Maurer. Along with new officers comes fresh viewpoints and skillsets, and in this case, there is no exception. Brad & Brian have given the chapter's digital & social media presence a complete review and have implemented some much-needed changes. The chapter has long had a website, in fact it was 16 years old and in dire need of a technological boost. So now, if you go to www.Sandyriversteelheaders.org, you will see the new and improved website, formatted to fit smart phones and with links to all sorts of great information. You can even upload to the site, there's a link for that. Need Steelheader gear? Click on the link that says store and it will take you to the chapters online store. For those that need to know right now, we now have an Instagram account @ [SandyRiverSteelheaders](https://www.instagram.com/SandyRiverSteelheaders) and/or a Twitter account @ <https://twitter.com/driftthesandy>.

Next on the agenda, we plan to have the newsletter in email format by this fall. Also, the Sam Cox building where we have our meetings is to undergo a tech update, if all goes well, we may be able to live stream and/or digital archive the meetings for viewing at your convenience. Things are happening, come on down and join us!

The June 1st meeting will be an ODFW Angler Education class, no regular meeting will take place, please plan accordingly. The annual chapter picnic will be Saturday, August 19th, 11:00 through 3:00. There will be lots of great food, games, and some silent auction items as well. A sign-up is preferred so we make sure there is enough for everyone, please email me at dmitrob73@gmail.com and we can work through the particulars.

Lastly, the Association is going through some trying times right now. They no longer have paid staff, both co-presidents have resigned, and shall we say, the boat is slightly adrift. There are numerous people working to correct the situation, all are hoping for a favorable outcome but if by chance you have the inclination to help, now would be a very good time. Contact me, the email is above, and I can get you connected.



BOARD OFFICERS

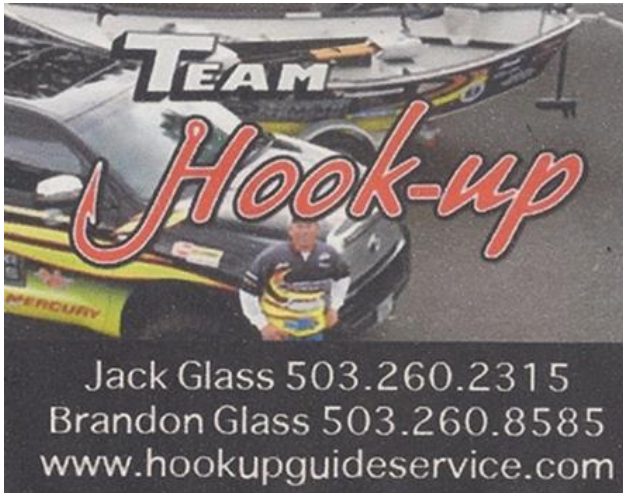
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President	Rob Bitney	503-320-9821	dmitrob73@gmail.com
Past President	Jeff Stoeger	503-701-7920	mjstoeger@msn.com
Vice President	Brian Davis	(503) 250-4873	davis@dhfishing.org
Secretary	Luke Maurer	(309) 287-0540	lukeaurer@gmail.com
Treasurer	Brad Garrett	(503) 860-7681	garrett.brad@gmail.com

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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	Vacant	-	-
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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