

August 2016

Volume 3.8

## Our Mission Statement

The Association of NWSteelheaders Anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future

### August 2016, Sandy River Chapter Newsletter

## NO CHAPTER MEETING IN AUGUST

Enjoy your summer with family and friends.

See you in September.....Bring your summer fish stories!

Sandy River Chapter Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, August 10, 6:00 PM, Izzy's Pizza Parlor, Gateway Shopping Center

## SANDY RIVER CHAPTER: UPCOMING EVENTS

### AUGUST, 2016

- 3 No Chapter Meeting in Aug.
- 10 Chapter Board Meeting
- 20 September newsletter deadline

### OCTOBER, 2016

- 5 Chapter Meeting. Glenn Otto
- 12 Chapter Board Meeting

### SEPTEMBER, 2016

- 7 Chapter meeting. Glenn Otto
- 14 Chapter Board Meeting
- 17 Weekend, Tillamook Fish-Along/  
Crab Along . Fri. pm, Sat., Sun.  
See event schedule in Sept. issue
- 24 October newsletter deadline

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## **Tillamook Fish-Along/Crab-Along, Weekend of Sep. 17, 2016**

The Sandy River Chapter's Fall Chinook fish-along and the McLoughlin Chapter's Crab-along will join forces this year to enjoy the best of two worlds! These two events have been conducted separately in Tillamook in September for about two decades. The McLoughlin Chapter has a biggest crab contest with close to limits per crabber over several days and the Sandy Chapter has achieved up to a fish per angler in two days of fishing.

Combining these great events and inviting other Steelheaders to join us, we gain options! Got a camper or other RV needing hookups, or just like tent camping? The Barview Camp Ground has all the amenities for tenters and full hookups for RVs. Does a bunk house feel like a better fit? The Sandy Chapter has the 4-H bunk house at the Tillamook fairground, where meals will be provided.

Show up Friday evening for a pizza dinner and a fishing report and fishing and crabbing clinic. There will be breakfast Saturday and Sunday morning and a "build your own" lunch bar with lunch meat selections for sandwiches, fruit, a snack, and a beverage.

With breakfast in your belly and a lunch bag in your hand, you are ready to head out with your fishing buddies. There will be a BBQ dinner Saturday night followed by tales of the day's exploits and big fish prizes. Then we'll set up teams for those who want to fish the next day. Sunday morning starts with another hot breakfast. All this for just \$80! (See fee details below.) Everyone will need to pack out before leaving for fishing Sunday morning.

Got a boat? Bring it! Those volunteering their boats for this event will get a \$20 discount on their event registration. Boat captains are able to pick their own passengers, but we will help coordinate other boaters and riders to balance local knowledge and expertise to insure this is a learning experience for everyone who needs it as well as being a great weekend of fishing. This will be done well in advance to allow participants to coordinate their fishing. Riders are expected to cover boat fuel, launch fees, and bait (which are only a portion of the boat owner's cost).

There may be fresh dungenous crab for Dinner – assuming we can catch enough prior to the event and on Saturday. Interested in doing some crabbing? (One boat with three crabbers can get a limit of 36 crabs. A boater that takes out two sets of three crabbers can get up to 84 crabs which has been accomplished in previous years.) Let us know if you are interested, particularly if you have a boat and some traps.

### **Location**

The Tillamook Fairground Dorm is an ideal location for this event. It is located between the most popular Tillamook Bay boat ramps and is between the Wilson and Trask Rivers. There are also bank fishing opportunities just as close.

The dorm has a large kitchen and dining/meeting room on the main floor and two bunk rooms with bathroom & showers up stairs. Bring your sleeping bag, towel, and other shower supplies. A hot



Close to a typical Tillamook Bay Fall Chinook catch at last year's Fish-Along.

shower really feels good after a day on the bay! (Ear plugs can be helpful if there are attendees that snore.)

Other options include the traditional Crab-Along's Barview Jetty County Park, located at the Tillamook Bay north jetty, just north of Garibaldi. Make reservations soon if you are coming before the fairground is available. Register on line at <http://reservations.co.tillamook.or.us/> or call (503) 322-3522.

**Cost – Fees are due no later than Friday, Sep. 9, 2016:**

(This is not a fund raiser. These fees just cover all the costs.)

- Per individual staying at the dorm: \$80 (no reduction for staying only one of the two nights – we still need to make accommodations)
- Per additional family members staying at the dorm: \$70
- Per individual or family member not staying at the dorm but participating in evening meals and activities: \$30 (does not include breakfast or lunch)
- Not staying at dorm but participating in all meals: \$50
- There are a limited number of RV sites with 20 amp electrical, water but no dump are an additional \$10 per night. A few sites with 50 amp are available for \$15 per night.



Biggest Crab Winner Jean Davis showing her winning catch. Just one of the limit of 12 keepers she pulled in that day.

Payment must be received no later than September 9<sup>th</sup> in order for us to know how much food to purchase. Please make checks out to the "Sandy River Chapter, ANWS" and mail to Norm Ritchie, 2834 SE 166<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97236-1861.



Fresh caught and cooked crab is hard to beat!

Weather Cancellation can take place the morning of 9/14/15 due to extreme conditions making boating unsafe (eg. Gale force winds). All participants will be called if this happens. The registration fee will be returned less \$10. A donation receipt will be provided for the \$10 and the funds will defray the costs of food purchased for the event that will need to be donated to the local food bank. This has happened only once in the nineteen years of this event, so the risk is low.

Contact Norm Ritchie (503) 807-7729 to sign up or for additional details. Or email [neritchie1@gmail.com](mailto:neritchie1@gmail.com) with the following information: name; phone number; will you be

staying at the dorm, bringing an RV or staying elsewhere?; Will you be fishing the bank or do you want a ride on someone else's boat or will you be bringing a boat ; If you are bringing a boat, how many people can you take on your boat and do you have anyone already set up to go on your boat (must be a NW Steelheaders member); What is your knowledge of Tillamook fall chinook fishing and crabbing?

# John Day Fishing

By

Anthony Pedro

On a Friday morning in late June, boats containing Steelheaders from the Sandy River Chapter were launched from LePage Park at the mouth of the John Day River. Forty mile per hour gusts of wind slammed against boats and Steelheaders alike on the three-mile trip up river to Albert Philippi Park: our base camp for the next two days and nights. Boats were docked with skill (despite the high winds), and the process of unloading gear, staking claims and setting up camp for the weekend had begun. Steve Childress had spawned the idea of a Steelheaders warm water fishing and camping getaway months earlier and (with the help of John Hydorn and Steve Rothenbucher) it had finally become a reality.

Albert Philippi Park is hard to miss; it is the largest patch of green you will encounter after departing upstream from LePage Park. A large sign perched atop a well-manicured lawn welcomes you to this once abandoned oasis. Newly reopened (after being closed in 2013); it is maintained by the Army Corp of Engineers. The park facilities include two boat docks, bathrooms with showers, thirty-five campsites and a swimming hole. It's nestled in the east bank of the John Day River, the third longest undammed river in these contiguous United States. Surrounded by ancient canyons rimmed by basalt--it's easy to feel small here.

Once tents of varying shapes, sizes and ages were erected--fishing began. Sandy River President, Steve, started out strong with a pair of good-sized smallies using a high-low rig baited with earthworms, a touch of garlic scent and enough lead to keep the setup from drifting into the weeds. The rest of the crew soon followed suit, pulling in a mixed bag of bluegills, crappie and black bullhead catfish. Powerful blasts of wind sent monofilament line flailing into knots, up- turned tackle boxes, and transformed unsecured worm container lids into Frisbees. After being beat up by the unrelenting wind for a few hours, our energy began to fade; it was time to seek refuge from the winds and enjoy a dinner of freshly caught fried bass and rice.

After dinner, the wind had subsided just enough to begin fishing again with renewed vigor. A red- tailed hawk drifted overhead, screaming repeatedly as the sun began to dip lower and lower. I plucked a large 1/5 oz. Rebel crawfish in "Ditch" pattern from my Plano box, clipped it to the snap swivel at the end of my 8 lb. mono and sent it sailing into the water. I cranked it fast down to the bottom and began a slow retrieve over the rocks below towards shore. A pair of duel treble hooks connected with my first bass of the day as it slammed the crawdad a mere three feet from the bank. Alan recommended that I add a touch of his Pro-Cure Garlic/Crawfish Super Gel to the lure: a great idea which I accepted, and went on working my way along the shoreline. The lure/scent combination proved to be effective--provoking fierce bites close to shore. Success continued until my brave crawfish met his fate like so many other six-dollar lures I have known: hung up in the ever-darkening water never to be seen again. Heartbroken at the loss, I tied the only other crawfish I had-- a 1/10 oz. Rebel in a "nest robber" color scheme. At only a fraction the size of his predecessor, he would only manage to seduce a pair of pumpkinseeds.

The rest of the crew had also enjoyed success that night over at the far boat dock, returning to camp with a blend of bass, bluegill and catfish. After swapping fish tales with the group, I headed down to the river to clean my largest fish of the evening for breakfast. A mule deer doe grazed alone on a far hillside while one by one stars began to dot the sky. Just then a procession of campers appeared (coming from the river) hauling stringers of massive channel cats! At least thirty whiskered fish dangled from ropes. "Where'd you get those?" someone hollered. "Up at the narrows," they replied. That settled any dispute about where we would head the next day. By that time the moon had risen, illuminating the surrounding hills in a pale blue green reminiscent of a Frederick Remington nocturne. Sleep came easy.

If you fancy yourself an early riser, you have never stayed overnight anywhere with the Sandy River Chapter of Northwest Steelheaders. These guys begin stirring about at 4:30AM. I thought I was on top of things waking up at 7:30AM but found myself the last one up. I had already missed breakfast and a good deal of fishing. I felt like a delinquent being the last one out of my tent and scrambled to get ready. I fried up my bass from the night before (along with a few strips of peppered bacon, dressed, and choked down as much instant "coffee" as I could before I was hustled onto a boat. No time to waste, we were in pursuit of giant John Day River cats. The wind had stopped and the sky was cloudless; it was going to be hot over on the dry side of Oregon.

The depth of the river began to plummet the further up it we went. In only a matter of a few miles it dropped from a

height of 60 ft. to under 10 ft. I was posted as lookout on the bow of Ron's boat to seek out any obstacles in our path such as large boulders or aquatic vegetation that could foul the prop. Geese and white pelicans lounged on the sandbars we passed, seemingly uninterested in our slow moving progress. The numbers on the Lowrance were dropping like a New Year's Eve countdown until we hit 2 ft. and that was the end of the line for us; no catfish was worth damaging the boat. The big cats (we had dreamed about the night before) swam less than a mile away--just out of our reach. Other boats equipped with jets motored past, unfazed by the low water while we rigged up for bass.

The largest channel catfish reported taken from the John Day River system was said to weigh thirty-five pounds. According to Pete Heley's book *Oregon Bass & Panfish Guide*, some smallmouth from the area have unofficially weighed in at 7-9 lbs. Heley claims the channel cats and bass undoubtedly profit from the large populations of forage fish such as bluegills and bullhead catfish. Black bullhead catfish (on the other hand) have a tendency to overpopulate a body of water stunting their own growth. The world record, coming from upstate New York, weighed in at 7 lbs.7 oz. Both catfish found in Oregon: the channel and black bullhead are non-native.

Bev's excitement was contagious as she pulled in bass after bass. Live earthworms impaled on a drop shot rig, complimented with a touch of Pro Cure's Garlic or Bloody Tuna scent, proved irresistible. There was no doubt we were on top of fish; unfortunately, they were all fry-- all falling within the 4-9 inch range. I sent a few plastics adrift on a drop shot; a 4 1/4" KVD Green Pumpkin Dream Shot by Strike King drew the most hits. The "kicker" motor was fired up and we cruised slowly back down river targeting weed edges, shady spots and downed trees, anything that could provide fish with some relief from the sun. Thanks to Ron's patience and ability to maneuver us into positions along the bank, we were able to continue a thrilling afternoon of bass angling.



**Photos by John Hydorn and Anthony Pedro**

# SANDY RIVER CHAPTER – FAMILY FUN DAY – SUMMERFEST 2015



Our chapter was invited to participate in a community family event, sponsored by BCT (Beaver Creek Telephone) , Saturday July 9. Thank you Rick Pare', Sandy Chapter Membership Director, who provided us with a venue to create interest in family fishing. The day was beautiful, lots of things for us to look at and lots of people who looked at Robert's collection of pictures of our chapter activities and pictures of 'the big ones that did not get away'. We are very happy to announce that we have three new members.... and yep, we have added another woman to our roster!

A little rain and a few major gusts of wind added some excitement to the day. Our tents are always weighted down but we did see a few who experienced some problems. No damage but interesting to observe as they lift off of the ground.

Put this event on your calendar for next year! The day started with a delightful pancake, sausage breakfast, good coffee and juice. Compliments of several community businesses. Always fun to see the children proudly carrying their iced fish bags away from the fish tank and to hear their stories of 'the catch'. Participating chapter members were Robert Wisner, Laurie Beadell, Art and Kathryn Israelson.

The Northwest Steelheaders are well known to some people and for others they are very interested in our projects, conservation efforts and of course, fishing. It was a great day.

What, no raffle tickets?  
Hard to imagine Art in a booth just sharing fishing stories with no raffle tickets to sell. Just meeting the people!

By Kathryn Israelson

**You are invited to honor our Veteran's and attend the dedication of a  
BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER  
at the new**

**VETERANS OUT PATIENT MEDICAL CENTER  
1800 NE Market Street,  
FAIRVIEW, OREGON  
Friday, September 9th, 3:30 PM.**

**Sponsored by Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs**

**WHAT IS THE BLUE STAR MARKER?**

National Garden Clubs, Inc. adopted the program in 1945. Blue Star Markers pay tribute to the men and women who have or are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. We are honored in Oregon to currently have 79 markers in place. See a small marker at the Troutdale Rail Depot at the end of Main Street. This marker was dedicated February 18, 1996.

Please join us for our dedication, September 9th, 3:30 pm. followed  
by a reception in the lobby of the new Medical Center.

**By Kathryn Israelson, Clackamas District Blue Star Marker Chairman**





**Steelhead Workshop  
Photos by Robert Wisner**

# Oxbow Park Steelhead Workshop Report

By  
Larry Palmer

July 23rd marked another one of our Sandy River Chapter/ODFW fishing workshops, this time at Oxbow Park. We chose that location to allow more fishing room for students in the class, something that has been difficult in other locations at times. As many of you know, Oxbow Park is a real gem with great scenery, access to the Sandy River and nice facilities which are done in such a way that the outdoorsy qualities of the setting aren't overwhelmed by human comforts.

That said, we had a nice covered picnic area with sturdy tables right next to a great path down to the river, with a long gravel bar to fish from. Heck, I caught a fish there myself earlier this year!

Initially enrollment for the workshop was slow, and we posted it on the "MeetUp" website when we had about 8 registered. Bill Monroe listed it on his website, and Kathryn Isrealson got it listed in the Gresham Outlook. Registration really took off then, and even overwhelmed the ODFW staff a bit. I allowed the size of the event to take in an additional 6 students over our 30 norm. Even so, a few more got accommodated and we ended up with about 42.

Our volunteers were ready and handled everything like clockwork, a really smoothly operating team! This impressed the ODFW staff present, Shahab Farzanegan, as well as Liz Keller, a reporter who stopped by from the Sandy Post .

For this event our principal staff was –

Food- Art and Kathryn Isrealson

Snacks- Robert Wisher

Knot tying – Steve Rothenbucher, Tim Heath, Mike Myrick

Volunteer coordination- Don Voeks

Technique instructors- Ralph Young, Jeff Stoeger, Jim Cathcart

Greeting and parking- Art Isrealson and Mike Myrick

Overall event coordinator- Larry Palmer

I have missed out on a couple of you who came and volunteered. I'm sorry about that. I do appreciate your efforts. I'll try and give you the proper recognition in the future.

The success of our July 23 Workshop was made possible by the following nineteen volunteers: Larry Palmer, Henry (Hank) Hyde, Robert Wisher, Laurie Beadell, Mike Myrick, Jim Cathcart, Beverly Betzer, Don Voeks, Anthony Padro, Tim Heath, Steve Rothenbucher, Jeff Stoeger, Ralph Young, Steven Thompson, Gerry Raban, Robert Wisher, Tom Gerber, Paul Prasert, Art and Kathryn Israelson

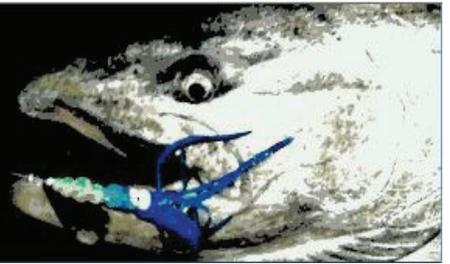
Look for our next ODFW Workshop event in November! Details in upcoming newsletters.

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