



**August
2017**

Our Mission Statement

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

Did you know you can access our newsletter anytime? Just go to our website <http://www.sandysteelheaders.org/Newsletter>.

Meetings

*No Chapter Meeting in July or August, but we are still having a lot of fun events!

August 9

Board meeting

September 6

Chapter Meeting 6:30-9 p.m., Sam Cox Building, Glenn Otto Community Park.

September 13

Chapter Board Meeting

Events / Workshops

July 29th

Annual Sandy River Chapter picnic to be held at Glenn Otto Park

Contact: Joli Ritchie at 503-760-555

August 26

Volunteer Appreciation Potluck Barbecue

Contact: Jim Cathcart (503) 238-4775, Ext. 106; or navigator@hotmail.com

** Registration encouraged**

September 16

NW Steelheader Tillamook Fish-Along

Contact: Norm Richie 503-807-7729

neritchie1@gmail.com

**** September Newsletter Deadline August 20, 2017**

Do you have questions about your rods, reels or tackle?

Take your fishing equipment and questions to our chapter meetings where experienced Chapter Members will be glad to help you solve your problems. This message brought to you by Sandy Chapter President, Steve Rothenbucher.

~ REMINDER ~ REMINDER ~

If you volunteered for any event please remember to send me your hours. I know a lot of you volunteered at the ANSW Family Fish camp but I have not seen many hours yet so stand forth and be recognized. And many thanks to you for your dedication to helping others learn to fish..

Visit our website at: <http://www.sandysteelheaders.org>

Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue Potluck Saturday, August 26 – Rooster Rock State Park

The Chapter could not function were it not for member participation as volunteers. At the center of our efforts is conducting our Steelhead Fishing 101 Workshops in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's "ODFW Outdoors" program. But, members are also busy serving on the Executive Board, conducting river clean-ups, serving the Eggs to Fry program in schools, selling



raffle tickets, tending the acclimation ponds, participating in Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) projects and/or volunteering for Association events such as the Steelheaders' booth at the annual boat and sportsman shows or helping out with Family Fish Camp.

As a way to say "THANK YOU" to our volunteers, the Chapter is hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue potluck picnic from Noon to 4:00 pm (food served at 1:00 pm), Saturday, August 26th, Rooster Rock State Park* (Exit 25, Interstate 84, Oregon) - Group Area D. The idea here is to gather and celebrate as a group all the good work we do. As a means to lighten the cooking load, we are asking attendees to bring a favorite side

dish, chips, salad, dessert or other suitable fare that will complement the main fare provided by the Chapter (hotdogs, hamburgers, veggie equivalents including buns and an assortment of condiments). The Chapter will also be providing water, soft drinks and tableware (napkins, cups and plates). Please bring your own chair for added comfort.

If bringing food is not your thing; then sign up to help with set-up or take down. (Set-up will begin at 10:00 am.) Lastly, we would much rather have you ATTEND than not attend because it was inconvenient or not practicable for you to bring something or help out before or after.

Please RSVP to Jim Cathcart at ornavigator@hotmail.com. Let Jim know if you are coming, how many guests will accompany you, what your dietary restrictions or preferences are, what you plan to bring for the potluck if you chose to do so and if you are available for helping with set-up or take-down. (Questions, email Jim or call him at work at (503) 238-4775, Ext. 106.)

*Rooster Rock State Park charges a \$5.00 Day Use Fee which attendees will need to be responsible for. So, carpooling is encouraged and don't forget your annual or biannual Oregon State Parks Day Use Parking Permit if you have one.

Steelhead Fishing 101 Workshop a Big Success!

June 24th marked yet another of the Sandy River Chapters educational fishing workshops in partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The summer workshops have been held in beautiful Oxbow Park on the Sandy River which features excellent river access and a fine covered picnic structure ideal for this event.

This year's event changed the format from last years, having students rotate to different technique "stations" to learn hands on from experienced chapter members. This made for a more active feeling event than previous ones and seemed very well liked by all participants.

Students learned on-river about spinners and spoon fishing, drift fishing, bobber and jig fishing. Knots and other skills were learned up at the covered picnic structure. As always, the picnic style lunch, and baked snacks were a big hit. Big shout out to Kathryn Israelson and the cooking crew!

The event flowed smoothly along thanks to meticulous pre-event preparations and planning, but of course we took notes on how to fine tune it a bit more. The students seemed genuinely pleased with the knowledge gained and the helpful attitude of all chapter volunteers. It was a fine day. Special thanks go out to Rick Paré whose better half made rod wraps as an appreciation gift for all the volunteers. We have such an awesome group of volunteers and wanted to take the time to say a special thank you. If you see them at a future event let them know you appreciate all that they do.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!

Station Leaders

Todd Alsbury - ODFW
Jeff Boughton
Jim Cathcart
John Hydorn
Rick Paré
Steve Rothenbucher

Whips

Jenny Ammon - ODFW
Beverly Betzer
Bob Pierson

Mentors

Terri Boughton (Pink)
Tom Gerber (Red)
Tim Heath (Green)
T.J. McConnaughey (Purple)
Larry Palmer (Blue)
Stephen Thomson (Yellow)

Food/Snacks

Laurie Beadell
Hank Hyde
Art Israelson
Kathryn Israelson
Robert Wisher

Assistant Volunteers

Pat Guffey
Suzanne Hamor
Steven Sargent
Don Voeks

Helping the chapter be what you want it to be

Our chapter does a lot check out this abbreviated list –
Educational fishing workshops
Chapter fish alongs
River cleanups
Special fundraising events
Stream nutrient enhancement- the “Salmon Carcass Toss “
Participating in special projects for the Association
And more...

All of these functions are organized and overseen by chapter officers/directors and staffed by chapter volunteers. In the past couple of years, we have grown in numbers largely through the Steelhead Workshop process, but have lost a couple of officers/directors due to work changes, moving away, etc. Our president, Steve Rothenbucher, has tried to pick up the slack but simply put he can't be everywhere at once. We need the positions filled.

Currently we need a vice president, and a secretary. Steve Rothenbucher has job descriptions for each position.

As a chapter, we want to fulfill your expectations you had when you joined, holding informational meetings, Workshops, frequent member fish alongs and stream conservation projects. But takes more than one person to oversee and coordinate all those things. It takes YOU.

I'd take one of those positions myself, except that about a year and a half ago I was placed on a swing shift schedule at work and simply can no longer make either chapter general meetings or board meetings. I continue to be able to play a role in the coordination of the Steelhead Workshops. I have some useful experience in chapter doings however. So, let me make you an offer. Contact me about filling in on one of our vacant positions. You can even team up with a buddy to share a position if you like, and I'll help you along with advice, contacts, what we did in the past etc. It's not rocket science, just a simple stick to it sort of thing. I'll help you. What do you say?

Larry Palmer palmerlarryd@yahoo.com 503-793-9225

The Few, the Proud, the Successful at the Annual John Day River Pool Campout

Jim Cathcart

The Chapter's second annual boating, camping fish-a-long on the John Day Arm of the John Day Pool formed by the John Day Dam on the Columbia River was a big success for the few that could justify stealing the time away over the Father's Day weekend. Participating in the event (and home in time for Father's Day) were Allan Kraxberger and Stephen Thomson as hosted by Steve Childress' and his boat. John Wheeler provided the second boat for the event and hosted Jim Cathcart through the weekend.



We stayed at Philippi Park, a US Army Corps of Engineers facility maintained and operated by the [Opal Foundation](#). What an excellent facility – flush toilets, showers, lush irrigated grass, plenty of shade, picnic tables and top notch boat docks. If you never have been there before, the first question that comes to mind is what are all those three legged metal mini-tables for? (Hint: Did I mention the grass was irrigated).

Fishing for warm water species was excellent. Steve and company dialed into picking off smallmouth bass ranging from "weenie" size (8-10"), to aerobic hotdogs (10-12") to full fledge pound sausages (12" and up)! The trick was twitching Mr. Twister type lead head grubs in every color imaginable as long as

it was chartreuse! the big surprise of the trip was John and Jim dialing into the walleye fishing. While salmon and steelhead have been taking a few hits from the droughts of the past few years, apparently, the walleye have been winning and spreading their range as a result of these conditions. Not known to previously be in the John Day Arm in significant numbers, Jim and John fished below The Narrows with walking sinkers and night crawler spinner harnesses and cleaned-up. A couple of fish over 20" were taken, some in the 18-20" range and a slug in the 13-16" range. Filleted and skinned, these fish make excellent camp and home table fare. Also caught were pumpkinseeds, bluegills, smallmouths (including a 15 incher) and juvenile channel catfish.

The weather was splendid with powder blue skies and mostly manageable wind.

I have it on good authority that the organizers are going to stay clear of the Father Day's weekend next year. So, keep your other June 2018 weekends free for next year's event.

What's the point?

Anglers are a funny sort. We get all excited about gear, boats and related stuff, spend a lot of money traveling around to fish and then sometimes ignore the most basic things that negate all of our other efforts.

Really when you get down to it you have to admit that there's not much more elemental in fishing than a well tied knot and a good sharp hook. I went fishing one day years ago with someone who had spent about \$60,000 on a boat and another \$50,000 dollars on a truck to tow it, and somehow had not figured out the good knot and sharp hook thing....but that is another (sad) story for later. Let's get after that hook point here...

Modern hooks are generally of good quality. A couple ultra premium brands are even sharp enough to use right out of the package. Here's the deal though, most hooks are not sharp enough when new, and they all get dull in use. Some methods, like drift fishing, place the hooks in close contact with rocky river bottoms. Rocks are hard on hook points. So you have to be able to sharpen the hook points. Check your hook every five casts!

Basically you have three easy tools available to sharpen your hooks- hook files, hook stones, and diamond coated sharpeners. There are advantages and disadvantages to each.

- Hook files- These really move a lot of metal and are my favorite method on a big hook. Simply lay the file on the side of the hook and follow the lay of the metal. Push towards the point. Do both sides, then a little dress up stroke on the outside. Get one of those plastic file holders and shoot it full of WD-40. Salt water loves to corrode files!
- Hook stones, a bit slower and more delicate than a file, but finer in grit and unaffected by corrosion. Makes for a very fine hook point. Some stones have a small hole on them for a cord to go through. The last ones I bought off of the internet in a medium and ultra fine grit for about \$2.00. They were mounted on a flat piece of 1/8" thick plastic and really worked great. Also good for sharpening your fish knives. Use the same sharpening method on as with the hook file.
- Diamond hones- These come in various grits. The medium grit will move a lot of metal pretty fast, but for the best hook point I prefer a fine grit with a drop of WD-40 on it. Use the same sharpening method as with the hook file. The resulting hook point will be so sharp you'll want to get it out in the water away from you as soon as possible! One day I dropped a K-14 Kwikfish I had just diamond honed in a friend's boat. It fell about 6 inches and one of the hook points stuck in the aluminum of the gunwale. Pulling it out left a perfect little hole where the point had been. Yup, that was a good sharp hook! I re-honed it and sent it on its way. Later a fish came to the same conclusion.

Check your hooks often and make them sharp. You may only get one chance that day. Make it count!

Thanks Larry Palmer

One Last Cast *Jim Cathcart (aka Navigator)*

Everybody likes to be appreciated. The Sandy River Chapter is blessed in that we have a dedicated cadre of volunteers that carry out the functions of the Chapter. Whether it is supporting the ever popular raffle table at the monthly meetings, planning a clean-up event, running the eggs to fry program,

compiling and editing the newsletter, managing the website, or volunteering at one of the Chapter's Steelhead Fishing 101 workshops — volunteers are the engine that run the Chapter. At the helm are our elected Chapter Board Officers, Steve Rothenbucher, Greg Reed and our Directors.

First officer is Beverly Betzer who is the volunteer that coordinates the volunteers and ensures all our hours are reported and counted. This is a thankless job, but every hour reported to the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife brings federal money into Oregon.

Life Member, Larry Palmer, has always appreciated volunteers and has taught me the importance of not taking volunteers for granted. Some of you may have benefited from being selected in one of Larry's volunteer appreciation drawings - where volunteer names are put in a hat based on the number of hours reported and selected for a fishing trip with Larry. I have recast this idea, made it a bit more formal and have gotten Chapter Board approval to implement. It goes something like this. It starts with volunteers reporting their hours using the volunteer reporting form available on the website. The year is divided into 2 six-month periods: October through March and April through September. Twice a year, a drawing is held for a cool volunteer appreciation fishing outing. You get one ticket in the drawing for every 5 hours reported; 1- 5 hours is one ticket, 6-10 hours is two tickets, 11-15 hours is three tickets up to a maximum of five tickets per person. Names are selected and documented at a Chapter Board meeting with alternates selected in case the first chosen are unable to make the event.



Appreciated Volunteers at the Blue Hole (Left to Right: Hank, Steve, Beverly, Larry, John H., Jim, John W. Patti and Anthony).

The first drawing was held in April. This resulted in the following volunteers taking part in the first event - a bank fish-a-long outing led by Steve Rothenbucher and myself to the Blue Hole in the Sandy River Gorge: Beverly Betzer, Hank Hyde, John Hydorn, Larry Palmer, Anthony Pedro, Patti Synder, and John Wheeler. Others selected but not able to make this outing will be offered a make-up outing: Gary Acfson, Steve Childress, Larry McClintock, Mike Myrick, Rick Paré, Norm Richie, Jeff Stoeger, Stephen Thomson, Don Voeks, Fusako Voeks and Ralph Young. The next appreciation outing is being planned for December.

Sandy Chapter Annual Family Picnic Saturday, July 29th at Glenn Otto Park, 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. You will need to bring your own lawn chairs for outside picnic seating. There will be bingo. 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 from the Sandy Chapter meeting hall. John Hydorn will be grilling up his famous salmon and we will also feature Jeff Stoeger grilling the traditional burgers, and hot dogs. What made the meal a real success last year was the potluck for 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. Of course, we also provide various sodas, water, and coffee.



See these chairs? We can't provide them this year so remember to bring your own!



People should arrive with their chairs and pot luck 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.

We need an accurate headcount to know how much food to purchase, so if you were not able to sign up at the chapter meeting, please call before Monday, July 24th.

To sign up or if you have any questions or suggestions call Joli Ritchie at 503-760-5551. If she doesn't answer please leave a message or email neritchie1@gmail.com. We will want to know your preference of salmon, hamburger, or hot dog and what you intend to bring as a pot luck item so we know how much we need to buy.

NW Steelheader Tillamook Fish-Along. Weekend of Sep. 16. 2017

You will want to block out Friday evening through Sunday on your calendar now! Year after year this is the chapter's most attended fishing event.

Show up Friday evening for dinner and a fishing report and fishing 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 setting up teams for those who want to fish the next day. Sunday morning starts with another hot breakfast. Everyone will need to pack out before leaving for fishing Sunday morning. (The dorm will be cleaned and locked up when everyone leaves. The gate will be left unlocked until late afternoon for the RVs.)

The Tillamook Fairground Dorm is an ideal location for this event. It is



We can catch both Chinook and Coho.

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. There is water and 30 amp electrical service for RVs and plenty of parking for boats and other vehicles. It is just south of Highway 6 on Third Street, just off the Wilson River Loop Road. (Turn south off Highway 6 at Wilson River Loop Road. This road ends at the fairground with the two story bunk house to your right.)

Fee Schedule

(Fees only cover actual costs of renting the dorm and RV spots and buying food.)

- ☐ *Per individual staying at the dorm or RV: \$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:*
- *Per additional family members staying in RV (not at*
- *Per individual or family member not staying at the dorm but participating in evening meals and activities: \$30 (does not include breakfast or lunch)*

- *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.*



Those providing seats on their boats are offered a \$20 discount on their total fees as an incentive to bring boats. (Riders are still expected to cover boat gas, ramp fee, bait, etc.)

Further details and a signup will be coming your way in the newsletters. Contact Norm Ritchie with any questions or suggestions. 503-807-7729 neritchie1@gmail.com.



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Spinner Dave's Custom Designs is now Top Line Spinners. For over a decade, Spinner Dave's has been able to offer the highest quality and highly innovative products thanks to our GREAT customers.

Our shift to our new name, Top Line Spinners is also a shift in how we connect with our customers. Our new online storefront will enable us to give our customers an updated format for shopping our products and let us integrate social media applications and video into the shopping process.

Please take a look at our new store and be sure to check out all the new products along with all the products you have come to rely on from Spinner Dave's.

Thank you!

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