

Sept  
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

#### September 6

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

#### September 13

Chapter Board Meeting \*\* I need where & when I know it changed

#### October 4th

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

#### October 11th

Chapter Board Meeting \*\* I need where & when I know it change

### Events / Workshops

#### August 26th

Sandy Chapter's Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue on Noon to 4:00 pm, at Rooster Rock State Park

#### September 16

NW Steelheader Tillamook Fish-Along  
Contact: Norm Richie 503-807-7729  
[neritchie1@gmail.com](mailto:neritchie1@gmail.com)

#### Sept 20

ExCoM Meeting - NW Steelheaders

#### Oct. 5-7

2017 Salmon Hawg Open Tournament Clinic

#### October 7th

Bank Fish-a-Long. 6:30 am to 1:00 pm. Sandy River. Contact Jim Cathcart; [ornavigator@hotmail.com](mailto:ornavigator@hotmail.com) or (503) 238-4775, Ext. 106 to register.

#### October 21

ODFW Family Fishing Event - Mt. Hood Pond

#### November 4th and 11th

Winter Steelhead Fishing 101 Workshop. Glenn Otto Community Park, Troutdale. Full day in classroom on November 4th. Half day On the Water Session on November 11th. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Contact Jim Cathcart; [ornavigator@hotmail.com](mailto:ornavigator@hotmail.com) or (503) 238-4775, Ext. 106 to volunteer.

\*\* October Newsletter Deadline September 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.

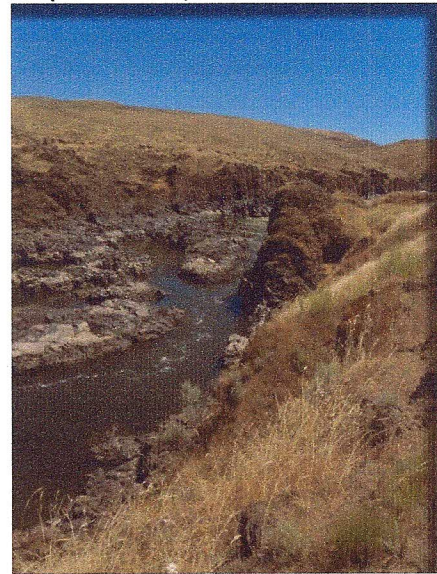
Visit our website at: <http://www.sandysteelheaders.org>

## One Last Cast

Jim Cathcart (aka Navigator)

The big one got away. That is never a good lead in line for describing how a fishing adventure went upon your return to reality. But, for me, it seems the old normal. I once heard or read that you tend to remember the fish you lose as oppose to the ones you land. My head is stuffed with memories. Here is the most recent.

I was fishing with John (let's call him John because that is actually his name) – we were spending a nice long weekend at the Chapter fish-along outing on the John Day Arm of the John Day Pool formed by the John Day Dam on the Columbia River. (Which is nowhere near John Day nor within the Path of Totality ....). We had heard of the catfish fishing along the lower John Day River in a spot called "The Narrows". If you have not been there, the best way to describe "The Narrows" is that it is like a mini Sherars Falls on the Deschutes River. Deep pools formed by bedrock cliffs and ledges below a fall. Catfish country. What we learned is that catfish – both channels and blues – are fluvial. Meaning, they migrate to spawn, but not from the ocean, but from the Columbia. May and June is the migration run and they use the John Day River to spawn. So, they keged up in The Narrows as they rest before navigating the cascades and falls. Naturally, people fish for them and do quite well – hauling stringers of 2 to 12-pound fish. If you don't know it, catfish are excellent table fare.



John wanted to give it a try. We looked at our gear and quickly concluded we had none suitable. Not deterred, I said "I can use my trout pole (which was subbing as my bass pole this trip) and just deal with it if I hook a fish ..... So, we motored up to The Narrows, beached the boat, and hiked in the ½ mile to the fishing holes. I casted out night crawlers on a one ounce weight working the seams and eddies to get the worms down to the fish. One particular cast got below them pesky bass and I hooked up. I put everything my homemade fiberglass Fenwick spinning rod and 6 lb. Andre line could give and magically I worked the 8-pound blue catfish to a ledge. Problem – our net was safely stowed ½ mile down river. Then I forgot to do the math – holding an 8-pound fish out of the water on 6 lb. test results in only one thing when one is waiting for the other to go down and grab the fish. SNAAAAAAAAAAP!!!!!! You might have heard it, the sound was so loud. Both John and I thought the rod broke. (It didn't). The cat rolled back in the river with that "not this time" smirk and nod. Big one that got away.

### **Last Call for Signup! Tillamook Fish-Along, Weekend of Sep. 16, 2017**

Well, almost last call but if you won't be able to attend and sign up at the Sep. 6<sup>th</sup> Sandy Chapter meeting, you need to contact Norm Ritchie at (503) 807-7729 or email [neritchie1@gmail.com](mailto:neritchie1@gmail.com) to sign up or for additional details.

Show up Friday Sep. 15<sup>th</sup> by 6:00 pm for pizza dinner and a meet with Robert Bradley, District Fish Biologist followed by a fishing report and fishing clinic. (It's OK to show up later but pizza choices may be more limited.) 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 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.) Bring your



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

sleeping bag, towel, and other shower supplies. A hot shower really feels good after a day on the bay! (Ear plugs can be helpful if there are attendees that snore.) 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 Dungeness crab for Saturday Dinner – assuming we can catch enough prior to the event. Interested in doing some crabbing before Saturday? It's generally good in the bay in September and can be even better in the ocean. Let us know if you are interested, particularly if you have a boat and some traps.

**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 member staying in RV (not at the dorm): \$50
- Per individual or family member not staying at the dorm but participating in evening meals and activities: \$30 (does not include breakfast or lunch)

\*\*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.)

