

September, 2020

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

<u>Cancelled</u> - Sandy River Chapter September, 2020 meeting

News from Norm Ritchie

"Just got back from Fireweed Lodge on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. Best three days of fishing ever. 5 chinook, 18 coho and three halibut caught & frozen for the trip home. My son Daniel's first Alaska fishing trip. Great accommodations, food, guides, and friends."





One Last Cast

Jim Cathcart (aka Navigator)

Trains. Railroads. I was born with an innate love for trains and railroads; an interest that was kindled by my late father William Turner Cathcart Jr. We took many a trip to model railroad shows and the railroad museum in Sacramento, California was another favorite destination.

My father was a model builder and he build many a railcar for our garage HO gauge railroad layout. This love for trains did have its nuisance aspects as I was a child as it was my custom to call out the "ding, ding, ding" of the railroad crossing signal lights and sounds as we waited for the beloved train to pass. As you can imagine, this became quite annoying for long trains.



As I turned to father myself, our family tradition was visiting the Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Club's annual holiday open house as well as at other displays at events such as the Providence Festival of Trees. We recently reawakened this tradition with a family gathering to ride the Oregon Railroad Heritage Foundation's Holiday Express pulled by steam engine Southern Pacific 4449 along the Willamette River from Oaks Park. It is great to see one of my offspring, Peter, keep the tradition with a home N-gauge model railroad layout for the holidays.

My belief is that an intrinsic love for trains and fishing go hand in hand. I live close enough to Sullivan's Gulch to hear the Union Pacific freight train horns from trains leaving Portland. We can also hear the Holiday Express steam whistle from Oaks Park. These sounds bring a joy to my heart and often trigger memories of fishing locations accented by a nearby railroad. Many a bank fishing access point is reached by walking (and listening) down a train track. One of my favorite experiences of trains and fishing is the Deschutes River, where at the mouth, a former railroad right-of-way provides access along the east bank of the river and the active railroad along the west bank of the river provides a comforting back drop. Sometimes I pause and admire the Burlington Northern freight trains rumbling up and down the canyon. Other times I focus my attention on the fishing – usually swinging flies or spinners for summer steelhead – so as to be ready for that train bite. The trains will also awake me at night and it is somewhat eerie to see the glow of the train's main light glow on the tent walls. One of the Deschutes go to flies for summer steelhead, the Freight Train, was named after this association.

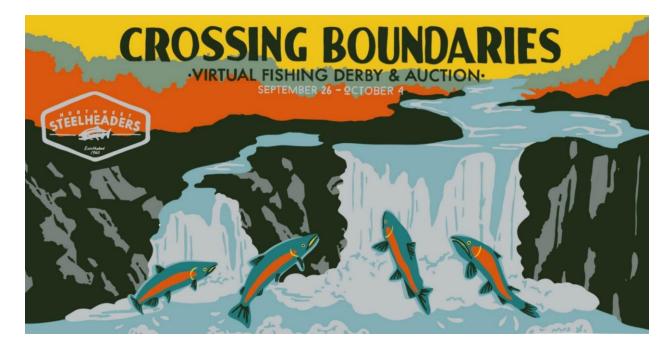


Other areas where railroads and fishing opportunity go hand in hand are the Salmonberry River, the boat launch at Ridgefield, Washington, Benson Lake and just about everywhere along both sides of the Columbia River. Railroad spikes are also a favorite for weights used for plunking on the Columbia below Bonneville Dam. So next time you hear a train, think fishing.

August, 2020 at Buoy 10 fishery with Jack Glass.

John Hydorn, Bill Beith, Steve Rothenbucher, and Greg Reed





You're invited to the Association of Northwest Steelheaders first-ever virtual fundraiser from **September 26th through October 4th**! Our theme, **Crossing Boundaries**, represents our fearless and resolute commitment to deconstruct the physical, social, and economic barriers that recreational angling faces in 2020... and we're not just dipping our toes in, we're diving headlong into the whitewater!

Our goal this year is to invite fresh perspectives to sportfishing and give anglers the tools to fight tooth and nail alongside us for the restoration of salmon and steelhead populations in the Pacific Northwest.

SUPPORT OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Northwest Steelheaders has come a long way over the past 60 years, and this year, we're excited to usher in a new era of growth and change. Our theme, *Crossing Boundaries*, represents our fearless and resolute commitment to deconstruct the physical, social, and economic barriers that recreational angling faces in 2020... and we're not just dipping our toes in, we're diving headlong into the whitewater!

From September 26th through October 4th, our fundraising efforts will support our mission to activate a conservation ethic in both novice and seasoned anglers. This starts with our work to provide environmental education to kids by overcoming financial obstacles for schools and families. We aim to do this by extending the reach of our <u>Fish Eggs to Fry</u> program,

offering <u>Family Fish Camp</u> scholarships in increasing numbers and partnering with organizations that promote underserved communities in outdoor spaces.

Further, we are launching our brand new <u>Women's Program</u>, which is built to bridge the divide between outdoorsmen and women and offer new female anglers a safe place to hone their skills and learn from female mentors.

Our goal this year is to invite fresh perspectives to sportfishing and give anglers the tools to fight tooth and nail alongside us for the restoration of salmon and steelhead populations in the Pacific Northwest. Together, we dare to cross these boundaries into new waters. Join us!

Crossing Boundaries Auction Registration opens September 1st, so now is a great time to get your teams together for the fishing derby and trivia night!

Events Schedule:

- Sept. 26 Oct. 4: <u>Virtual All-species Fishing Derby</u> More Information at : <u>https://nwsteelheaders.salsalabs.org/virtual_derby/index.html</u>
- Sept. 28 Oct. 4: <u>Online Auction</u> More Information at : <u>https://nwsteelheaders.salsalabs.org/virtual_auction</u>

Sept. 29 @ 6:00 pm: Fishin' for Answers Trivia night

Bill Monroe: Fishing, hunting groups get creative amid coronavirus pandemic

Updated Aug 14, 2020; Posted Aug 14, 2020

https://www.oregonlive.com/sports/2020/08/bill-monroe-fishing-hunting-groups-get-creative-amid-coronavirus-pandemic.html

By Bill Monroe | For The Oregonian/OregonLive

School is out, takeout is in.

Even drive-ins are making a social-distancing comeback.

And my personal favorite pandemic twist — free pizza delivered to your door and then a virtual online meeting with a cemetery representative "about your future" — thanks, but no thanks.

Fishing and hunting? They're in for sure, but as pandemic rules and regulations entangle most of society's norms, outdoor advocates are working hard to meet challenges no one could have imagined when the year began.

"Like every other organization, our world got turned upside down," said Chris Cone, executive director of <u>Coastal Conservation Association Oregon</u>, which advocates for conservation and sportfishing.

Cone drew on his past experience with Boy Scouts of America and in February and March reorganized chapter banquets into a series of online silent auctions. Memberships were extended through the end of the year and a raffle is underway with a limit of 500 tickets for \$100 each to win chances at prizes from coolers to a Florida tarpon trip and a \$10,000 driftboat.



"It still matters," Cone said of current fisheries issues. "The other side of the fence is taking full advantage of the situation. We appreciate and need (membership) renewals. The more proactive we are, the more successful we'll be."

Liz Hamilton, executive director of the <u>Northwest Sportfishing Industry</u> <u>Association</u>, had to cancel the association's major fundraiser, the annual Buoy 10 Challenge, and replaced it with an online silent auction.

She said participation was good "and we learned a lot." Enough that she'll conduct two more before the end of the year. Especially gratifying, she said, were several hundred dollars in donations.

"We need to stay together," Hamilton said. "Traditions are so important to the fishing community."

The <u>Oregon Hunters Association</u> conducted a virtual banquet in July and raised funds through a silent auction. Chapters have also been doing raffles.

So, too, for <u>Ducks Unlimited chapters</u> across the state engaged in raffles.

The <u>Oregon Bass and Panfish Club</u> has canceled all of its in-person meetings, but is making videos of programs and making them available to members.

Its bulletin comes as an email these days and Herb Doumitt, who edits the bulletin with his wife, Carol, said the shows get approximately 50 viewers each. Only a handful of members don't have internet access, but have family members print out the emailed bulletin.

The club is about to launch a fishing event with unusual rules and a simple challenge.

Husband and wife teams can choose any four days (not necessarily consecutive) and catch 10 species of warmwater fish (including walleye). Results will be shared with the rest of the club.

The Doumitts fished for a day recently in Multnomah Channel and caught eight species.

"We get emailed questions about crappie, smallmouth and walleye from people frustrated about salmon," Doumitt said. An email handler refers questions about fishing to the right club member.

Chris Hager, the innovative new executive director of the <u>Association of Northwest</u> <u>Steelheaders</u>, is also piecing together an enticing "virtual" fishing tournament to raise funds.

Between Sept. 26 and Oct. 4, participants can sign up to fish for two days at a time. No need to be consecutive, just two days within the week.

Fair game are legal sportfish in five categories: Salmon and/or steelhead, bass (large or smallmouth), panfish, rockfish (including greenling, lingcod and rockfish) and catfish.

"It can be a family thing or individuals," Hager said. "They can fish for as much as they want. We're trying to make every category available to everybody. If they do everything, that's even better."

Judging is still being worked out, but Hager said it will include the use of smartphone cameras with time and date showing on the image, along with lengths of the fish, submitted via email.

Cost is \$30 for children, \$50 for adults (entry fees also include a steelheaders membership or renewal), with prizes of tackle gift packs for the winners of each species category and cash awards to the overall winner and the runner-up.

"We'll do our best to respect an honor code," Hager said. "At the end of the day, it's all about how can we make it fun and have a tournament centered around education, and invite new perspectives to recreational angling."

Details will be available in early September.

Short casts: Oregon, Washington, Idaho and treaty tribes have been issued a <u>permit</u> by federal managers to take more than 400 estimated California and Steller sea lions from the Columbia River upstream of the Interstate 205 bridge and any tributaries along the Columbia in an effort to control predation on salmon, steelhead and sturgeon. ... Oregon has produced an app for newer iPhones to make them compatible with the state's new licensing system for anglers and hunters. The state says approximately one-third of license and tag holders are using the system with smartphones. ... A reminder to coho anglers that <u>ocean coho fishing between Cape Falcon (Manzanita) and Humbug Mountain (Port</u> <u>Orford) closes Sunday evening</u>. Chinook seasons remain open until October.

-- Bill Monroe for The Oregonian/OregonLive

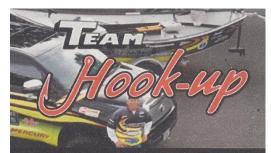


Photos found from the December 12, 2002 Rendezvous!

Colonel Thomas, Bill Beith, and Ray Hinea



<u>1st Place Award (2002) to Chapter members:</u> Jerry Hoffer, Bill Beith, Colonel Thomas, and Ray Hinea.



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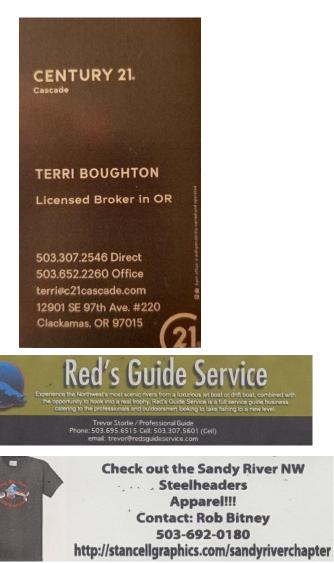
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