



December 2015

Volume 2.12

Bobber Doggin (Float Drifting) for Steelhead

By Josiah Darr

Drift fishing has long been the standard when fishing for steelhead. It's simple and effective because it keeps your offering in the zone. But, because it is so good at keeping your gear down low, you break off frequently.

Bobber fishing for steelhead has continued to grow in popularity over the years because it too is effective (in the right water conditions). This method is easy to learn, and keeps you from breaking off so often.

Bobber Doggin or Float Drifting marries the best of both methods. It is easy, effective, and keeps you fishing and covering lots of water. Essentially, you are using both methods at once. It is drift fishing with a visual indicator. And, this can be very effective if there is much pressure on the river you are fishing. In these instances, steelhead tend to head lower in the water column to seek cover. Bobber Doggin keeps your bait down low in the zone naturally. Unlike Float Fishing, where your float must be perpendicular to the water to ensure your gear is in the zone, when Bobber Doggin, your float lays down on the surface pointing downstream, because you will utilize a slip bobber set 1'-2' deeper than the water depth you are fishing. Counting your leader, this will mean setting your bobber stop about 7'-8' above your weight. This is probably the most difficult concept to grasp when contemplating Bobber Dog-

gin. We are so used to the need for our floats to be straight up and down to keep our gear in the zone, that the thought of it laying over on its side seems wrong. But, remember, we are not floating our gear through the zone, we are dragging it, and the float is the mini power boat pulling our gear. You will still match your float to your terminal gear, and set its depth to make periodic contact with the river bottom, just as in drift fishing. So, if you are fishing in 8' of water, set your bobber stop at 10'. Rigging for Bobber Doggin: Just as in float fishing, I recommend you run braided mainline. I like 35 lb. high vis Tuf Line. A good practice any-time when using braided mainline is to tie on a bumper of mono using an Albright or Uni Knot. I usually run these bumpers 18', and for steelhead use 15 lb. Maxima Ultragreen as my bumper. Braid floats and does not stretch. You want your terminal gear to sink, and you want some stretch when the strike happens. Thus the need for mono. Keep in mind fluorocarbon does not stretch, so I don't recommend it for a bumper section. Also, a bobber knot repositioned on braid can mar or "burn" it, so another reason to run your sliding bobber on mono rather than braid.

On the mono bumper, thread on a rubber bobber stop followed by a bead or small corkie to stop your float. Then the float followed by another bead and rubber bobber stop set 1/2" above the swivel, to act as a shock absorber against the knot and to prevent losing your float in case of a break off at the swivel. Rubber

bobber stops hold tighter on mono than knots made with braid or Dacron.

Chopped Floats: The float system preferred for Bobber Doggin is called a Chopped Float. And for this I use a 1oz. Beau Mac float cut in half. This results in the equivalent of 1/2 oz. floatation with more bottom profile. The chopped float concept is useful for keeping your gear from getting hung up. Remember, the float lays down on the surface at about a 45° angle (from top of float to surface of water) because you have set it 1-2' deeper than the river bottom. If your float is running straight up and down, you either need to add more weight or set it deeper to contact the bottom. If it is headed upstream, you definitely need to add weight. To repeat: picture your float as a mini boat pulling your gear downstream. This orientation and position straight out from the boat or a bit downstream moves your gear along in a natural drift at the bottom of the stream bed. If your lead sticks, the chopped butt will now provide a larger surface for current, and this added pressure will in most cases lift your gear off the bottom, so you lose zero time from being in the zone. Remember, you are not dredging the bottom, but rather hitting the tops of rocks with your lead.

Next I tie a 3-way Rolling Drop Swivel by Pucci in size 3 or 5 to the mono bumper. Some like the new Stoney River sinkers because they are made out of stone rather than lead, and just don't seem to get hung up. Others use split shot, inline

weights or slinkies. However, I still prefer using:

Stick Weights: to make these sinkers, use .035 eyed spinner wire (12 packs of 6") with 1/8" hollow core lead. Run wire through hollow core lead cut to length at 5-1/2" and crimp wire end over end of lead. Finish with 1" of heat shrink tubing on end. Weighs approximately .42 oz. Note: use canine nail clippers to cut hollow core lead without crushing end. These weights, due to their slim profile and wire support will glide in and around rocks rather than getting stuck like leads do. In low/clear water conditions, you can cut this stick in half for use with smaller terminal tackle.

Rods: I like the Okuma SST Steel-head Spin rod 8'6" rated for 6-12lb. line out of the drift boat. From the bank, you may prefer a bit longer rod, such as the 9'6" Lamiglass XMG Certified Pro JS series in 6-15 lb.

Leaders: 22" – 36" of 12-15 lb. mono or flouro. I like Maxima Ultragreen. #1 hooks with yarn balls

scented to preference. Can add small bait of eggs in egg loop. To shank of top hook, tie on another 18" leader in 10 lb. fluorocarbon snelled to a #2 hook with 12mm egg bead pegged 2-3 fingers above hook. Use 10mm with #4 hook in low clear water and 14mm bead with #1 hook in turbid water. A small Cheater or Spin-n-Glo is recommended for floatation of your terminal tackle. And, Puff Balls work well for this as well. If low, clear water conditions, eliminate the yarnie and go with just the bead leader lengthened to 6'.

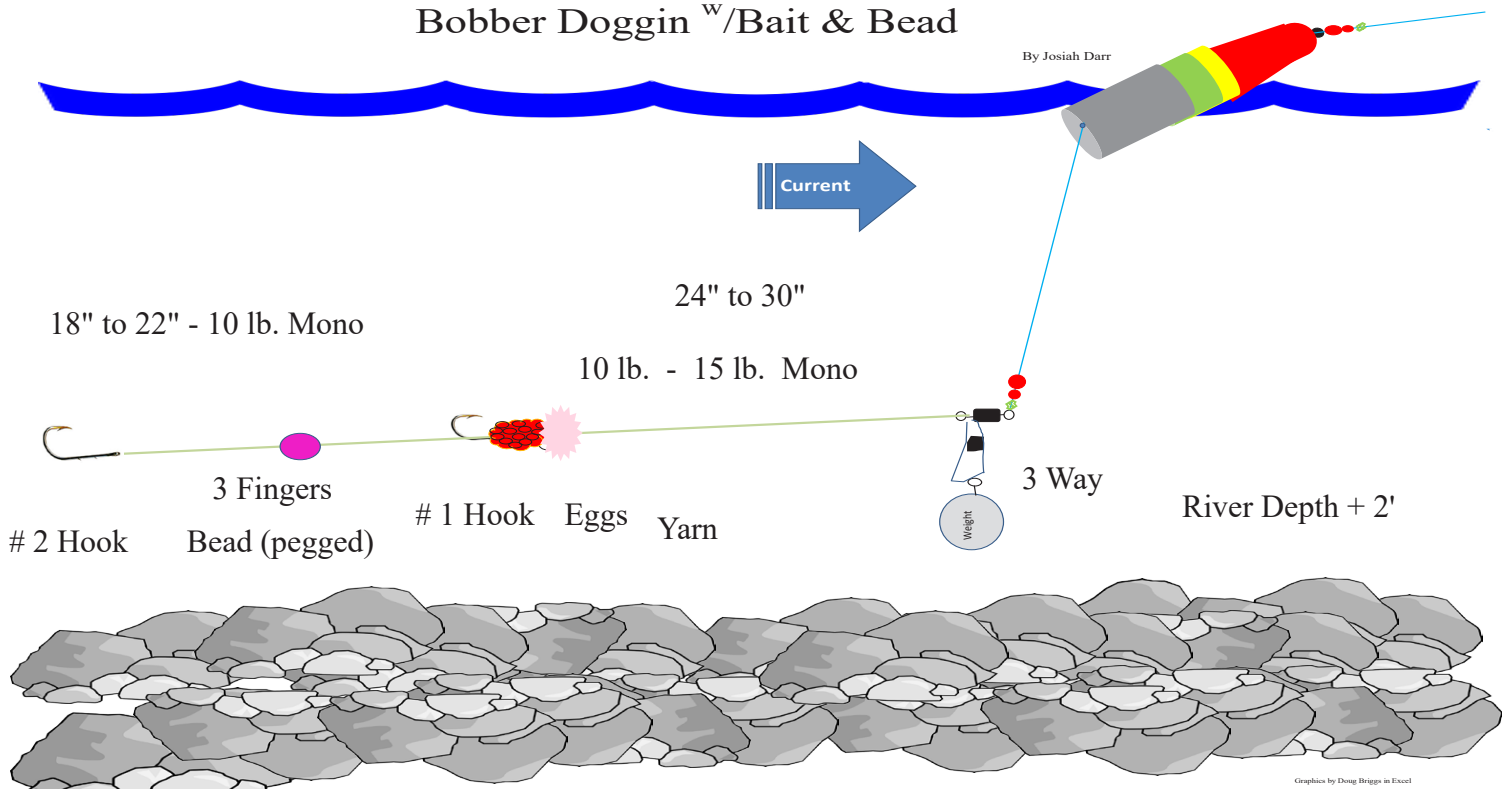
Terminal Bait: Water clarity will dictate length of leader anywhere from 2' to 4'. Yarnies are favorites, but bait, beads or pink worms and other soft plastics will all work with this set up.

From a drift boat, set your boat parallel to the drift with the bow headed downstream, and spread out the floats rather than run one in line with another. And, because floats are so visual you have more control of positioning. Cover water based on the clarity: the more clarity the wider

the distance between floats. The more turbidity, the closer together. Don't be afraid to fish close to the boat. Open and close bail, mend line to keep in preferred section of drift. With low clear water, seek riffles and broken water. In high water, steel-head are tucked into the edges. In these conditions, bobber doggin is an excellent method to get your offering in close. Open your bail for an extended drift, keeping your off hand near the bail for strike. You want as natural presentation as possible moving at current speed, or a bit faster, but not slower as that is not natural. And, chopped floats with stick weights allow you to achieve this, rather than the stop and go all day of side drifting. Continue to mend line as needed to eliminate belly on surface. Seek a middle ground for your rod angle, such as 10:00 o'clock. The lower the angle the better the hookset but more belly on the water; and, the higher the angle, the less line on the water, but the harder to get a good hook set.

Bobber Doggin^w/Bait & Bead

By Josiah Darr



Chapter Board Members

President

Steve Rothenbucher
(503) 257-0039
rothenbuchers@gmail.com

Senior Vice President

Robert Wisher
(503) 780-8212
rjwisherstix@gmail.com

Vice President

Don Voeks
(503) 661-1816
donvoeks@gmail.com

Secretary

Lee Van Speybrock
(503) 200-8117
squawfishslayer@yahoo.com

Treasurer

John Hydorn
(503) 255-0600
johnhydorn@gmail.com

Membership Meetings

When:

First Wednesday of the month
7:00 P.M. Sharp

Where

Sam Cox Building,
Glenn Otto Park
1102 E Columbia River Highway
Troutdale, OR

Sandy River Chapter
NW Steelheaders
PO Box 301114
Portland, OR 97294-9114

<http://www.sandysteelheaders.org>



Committee Heads

Special Events

Jeff Stoeger
(503) 704-7920
mjstoeger@msn.com

Stream Projects

Robert Wisher
(503) 780-8212
rjwisherstix@gmail.com

Website, Content

John Hydorn
(503) 255-0600
johnhydorn@gmail.com

Website, Design

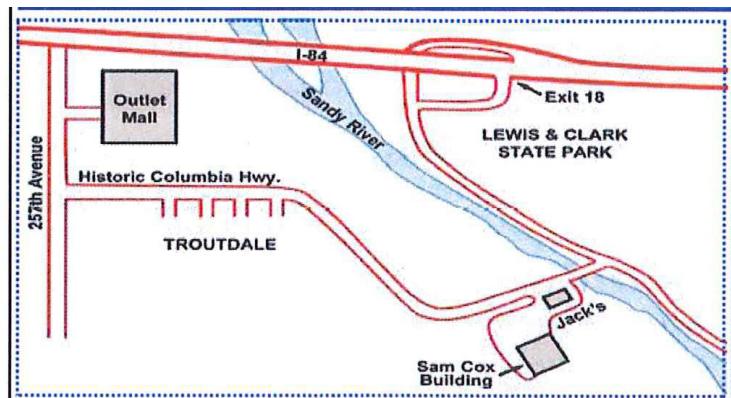
Kerin Laurence
(503) 643-3168
kerindimeler@comcast.net

Website Development

Victor Laurence
(503) 998-3365
victor@victorlaurence.com



At Our Meetings



Our members are our greatest asset. We welcome visitors to join the Sandy River Chapter, Association of Northwest Steelheaders.

Chapter Directors

Auctions

Leslie Hinea
(503) 653-4176
officemanager@anws.com

Fish Tanks

Mike Myrick
(503) 281-6438
mcmifishandivote@msn.com

Membership

Frank Cantino
909-322-4606

Newsletter Editor

John Bennett
(503) 341-8728
primertee@gmail.com

Newsletter Publisher

Larry McClintock
(503) 257-0553
lwmclintock@comcast.net

River Clean Up

Russ Sumida
(503) 665-3953
ras8529@frontier.com

Sales

Brad Halverson
(503) 201-6052
orcabrad@comcast.net

Special Projects

Larry Palmer
(503) 286-2093
palmerlarryd@yahoo.com



DECEMBER
2 Chapter Meeting
9 Board Meeting

Oregon Tackle
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Doug Hays
 CELL 503-708-8353
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Chef's Corner

We wish to add a NEW feature to the monthly newsletter, sort of a Chef's Corner.

Given the vast amount of fish that each of you catch, we're certain you must also have one or two favorite recipes to prepare them. That being the case, please SHARE!

Just send us one of your favorite recipes and it may appear in the newsletter for others to enjoy.

Thanks,

Frank Cantino

Membership Director

Sandy Chapter of ANWS

Newsletter Deadlines

January issue -- December 16

February issue--January 20

March Issue---Februaruy 17

April Issue--- March 23

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Please do not forget to turn in your volunteer hours. It is important that these hours are recorded.

You can turn in the volunteer hours form at the monthly meeting to Robert Wisher or by e-mail: rjwisherstix@gmail.com

Sandy River Chapter Volunteer Hour Report				Name:				
Event:								
Event:								
Event:								

Remember to include your travel time to and from the event. If you have any questions about your how to report your hours, contact the event coordinator. Turn this form in at the monthly meeting or by e-mail to Robert Wisher (rjwisherstix@gmail.com).

Sandy River Chapter Logo Apparel

Shirts (men & ladies), hats, sweatshirts, blankets, fleece and accessories

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or Call Brad Halverson (503) 201-6052



TEAM

Hook-up

Tillamook Fish-Along ... Reflections of a Rookie

By

James B. Stengle, Sandy River Chapter Member

Chapter President Steve Rothenbucher asked if I would put together an article about the Chapter's recent fish-along from my perspective as a rookie angler. This was my second year attending this annual September event. As a beginner angler and non-boat owner, it's a great way to gain some on-water experience and maybe boat a salmon or two. Here's my story and I'm sticking to it!

The Gathering

Friday evening kicks off the event with pizza at a local restaurant. This allows for introductions, a quick meal with no cleanup, last minute purchases at the nearby tackle store, and shows our Chapter's presence and support to the local businesses. We then moved to the Tillamook County Fairgrounds where we based our operations for the weekend. The facility is ideal with a large kitchen, barracks, good showers, dining hall, electrical hookups for campers, and plenty of room for boats and trailers. Members got their boat assignments and coordinated with the boat captains on departure times. Norm Ritchie gave an excellent clinic covering the where, when, with what, and how. We packed our sack lunches, stayed up late rigging up, and went to bed trying to sleep before that 4:00 a.m. wakeup call.

Day One, Saturday

The day started early with a hearty breakfast before departures. Doug Miller and I had the privilege of fishing with North Coast Chapter President Bill Hedlund. We met at the Memaloose Boat Launch to troll spinners in the upper bay. Bill is a retired guide, an expert, and true professional. He was breaking in a new boat and had volunteered to teach us the craft of spinner fishing and educate us some on the area's fishing opportunities. Memaloose Point is the upper bay area where the

Tillamook, Trask, and Wilson rivers converge into the bay. It is fairly shallow with many braided channels and deep holes. During this early season, salmon need big tides and/or lots of tributary flows to move up into the upper bay and rivers. Fish move in with the tides and drop back down into deeper holding water. We had softer tides and the rain the week before had moved fish up into the rivers. Along with sunny skies, fishing was slow.

Bill showed us the basic trolling techniques. We used a slider with about a 12" dropper with only a 1½ oz. lead. Our 4-foot leaders were 40 lb. test with a snap to the spinner. We did not use flashers. Because the bite can be quick, you troll with the rod in hand, not in the rod holder. This allows you to set the hook with any change in the presentation (tap, hit, slack bite, etc.). It also allows you to easier adjust to depth changes and re-contact with the bottom as you troll over ever changing depths. We were cautioned that if we had a fish on, expect it to explode with jumps and runs. This is due to the shallow depth where there is no room to dive. We typically were fishing in less than 15-ft of water and at times much shallower.

Bill taught us the landmarks for this troll fishery including the Picket Fence, the Oyster House Hole, channel markers, and the upper end of the trolling area. Although we saw a few fish caught, including some by bobber anglers, we did not have any hookups. But for a rookie like me, it just doesn't get much better than this opportunity to fish with an expert on his home water. To top off Day One, we returned to the Fairgrounds for an excellent meal of fresh crab, salmon, and steak!

Day Two, Sunday

I was assigned to Norm's boat along with Steve and Robert Wisher. Based on the previous days' results from the bubble fishery, I knew this would be an excellent day. My anticipation was running high. We launched early in the dark but pulled into an empty slip. We set up the all the equipment, rigged our rods, got familiar with the equipment arrangement, donned our raingear, and put on our lifejackets. For me, this was an important step because I have limited time and experience on boats. Once we were all set and good-to-go, we headed out to the jaws (jetties) and started fishing. Tides and conditions were good. This was a trolling show and we used cut plug herring and whole herring behind flashers. Norm again showed us how to rig whole herring (Lister Method). There were lots of boats trolling. I have not experienced this amount of fishing pressure or this large fleet of recreational anglers. I was in awe of the boatmanship, the experience level, and the cooperation that was on display by this large fleet. We fished out through the jaws into the bubble around the South Jetty. Landmarks (Pyramid Rock to the south & Twin Rocks to the north) that Norm had covered during his clinic began to appear with the lifting mist. Fish were being caught by many boats all around us. After considerable effort, Robert landed a large chinook. Ocean conditions deteriorated some so we moved back into the bay. Fish were still being caught by other boats. A phone call indicated that the ocean had settled down some so we moved back out into the bubble outside the South Jetty. Norm picked up a chinook on the letdown. He handed off his next fish to me and I landed a wild coho. Then I lost a fish. But minutes later I had an aggressive take down. I landed my first Tillamook chinook! Not only was it my first Tillamook chinook, it was my largest salmon

ever ... a conservative 25-pounder!

I learned some lessons that I want to share. On my first fish, I was totally focused on getting the fish to the boat and I was oblivious to everything else including the all- important netter. I got the fish in but my 16-oz lead bounced off my netter's head! Steve (yes, our Chapter President) took the hit and I did not even know it occurred. He graciously explained to me that this happens ... but not to let it happen again! This was a rookie mistake by me. When the fish is ready to net, slow yourself down and be aware of the surroundings to keep all safe.

Another important lesson is to know your knots. This is a basic skill that you must master. This point has been driven home in every fishing clinic that the Chapter has sponsored. Let's just say that I now know why. Practice those knots so that you can tie them naturally. It is that important.

I am still in awe of the boat handling and operators. This is a skill that takes experience. There were dozens and dozens of boats all fishing in tight to each other and to the jetties. It amazes me that this huge fleet of recreational anglers cooperates so well and so safely. There is much going on when fishing under crowded conditions. Pay attention to the boat operator and learn from the experience. Fish compatibility, not competitively. Disaster can happen quickly so be prepared for your own safety and the safety of others.

Lastly, I want to express my appreciation to the Chapter for hosting this event year after year. We have some behind-the-scenes volunteers that have worked hard for years making this event happen. It has allowed many of us to gain experience with our own equipment, build our knowledge and skills, and enjoy our passions of fishing and conservation. I'm really proud to be a member of this organization and I thank all of you for what you do for conserva-

tion, education, and fellowship.



And the winner is....

The last time I asked for volunteers for a fishing clinic I promised you that I would conduct a prize drawing for a fishing trip with me. Everyone's name went into the hat and Robert Wisher won it! He will be accompanying me in my drift boat for a winter steelhead trip down the Sandy River from Oxbow Park to Dabney Park a little later this year. For the past couple of seasons my practice has been to cook a simple hot lunch to warm up at mid float. I may get apple turnovers this time as well! I will be conducting a similar prize drawing for all volunteers helping out with fishing clinics in the future. Our next clinic will be on Saturday Feb. 20th from 9 am to 4 PM. The subject will be Boat Techniques for Spring Chinook.

I am currently looking for volunteers who can help with the subjects of-

- Herring – plug cutting , whole and how to rig them up
- Trolling with shrimp – and how to rig them up
- Anchor fishing with flatfish type lures, wrapping / stuffing
- Anchoring safety
- Trolling with spinners
- Depths, locations and strategies
- Any other relevant skills to this subject

Join the clinic team, win, and go fish...

Thanks

Larry Palmer

palmerlarryd@yahoo.com

503-286-2093

Our Fish Along Stream Team has great first outing!

Saturday Nov. 21st the Fish Along Stream Team (known hereafter as the FAST...) took about 15 new members of our recent clinic out for a day of practice. Much was learned and the students all got to review what was covered at the clinic right out on the water. Everyone learned a bit more about Oxbow Park, reading water, rigging up and so forth.

Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers that made this possible! I intend to make this a feature each month, focusing on a particular technique.

Given the complexities of the Christmas/New Year's holiday, it looks like Saturday December 19th will be our next FAST event. Be at Glenn Otto Park at 8 AM.

The technique that day will be bobbers and pink worms, rubber eggs or bait.

Please RSVP me about attending, and let us know if you'll need one of those ODFW supplied spinning rods.

Thanks

Larry Palmer

palmerlarryd@yahoo.com





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Tuna cure for Salmon

Several people have asked for my tuna cure for my superbait and super plugs. My cure is really simple. The base consists of Chicken of the Sea tuna (in oil). I use the can to measure the contents that go inside. It's a great tool so don't throw it out. Regardless of where you fish, if you target salmon, this is something you'll want to try.

Here's what you'll need: (I use pautzke products for this cure)

Canned Tuna
Red Fire Cure
Fire Power (krill powder)
Brad's Super Bait/Super Cut Plug
Red Fire Dye

---The Salmon Have Tuna on Their Mind Cure---

Step 1:

Drain all of the oil out of the can (just like your mom used to do).

Step 2:

Empty tuna into a gallon Ziploc.

Step 3:

Fill ¼ of the empty tuna can with Red Fire Cure. Then dump it into the bag (with the tuna in it) and mix thoroughly.

Step 4:

After mixing, shake Fire Power into the can. Either fill up the bottom of the can so you can't see metal anymore or simply shake into the bag.

Step 5:

Add Red Fire Dye into the bottom of the can. You only need to squirt enough to cover the bottom. That stuff is very potent. If you can't find Fire Dye locally, Red Fire Brine will work.

Step 6:

The Super Cut Plug and Super Bait is a plug that opens. It's designed to be stuffed with bait. Pop open the hinge that opens the lure and the rubber band that holds it together. Once you open the plug notice a foam sponge inside. Place that sponge inside the Ziploc and allow it to soak with the magical scents you just created.

Step 7:

Take a pinch of the cured tuna and stuff the Super Cut Plug so it is full. But, don't overfill.

Step 8:

Place the sponge over the bait so it holds in that aroma. If desired, you can add additional scent at this time to the sponge.

Step 9:

Close the bait, slide on the band and fish it!

I run this cure because it holds the tuna inside the bait longer and also "milks" red giving this Super Cut Plug called "BlackJack" a perfect wounded herring look that Chinook and coho (kokanee, trout and lake trout also) can't ignore.

Brian Rolan



The Best Team Around

Once again, on November 7th, our fishing clinic team did a masterful job, demonstrating their skills before two program supervisors from ODFW, and members of a couple visiting chapters. I have received a lot of credit for these clinics, but as I have said before...I am like the coach of a team, a really good team. Actually, a championship team, because at this game we are quite simply the best.

I am busy thinking up a couple of new ideas for our next clinics, but would be glad to have input from you as well. Current ideas are as follows-

- Basic spring chinook boat fishing techniques. Learn about her-ring trolling, plug cutting and rig-ging, anchor fishing with K-fish type lures and other boat fishing information.

- Trout fishing for kids and parents. A simple class identifying the sorts of rods and reels, knots and baits used for starting out, maybe a little bit about trout trolling in a lake. Class will feature a field trip to a stocked kids-only trout pond.

- Make a spinner- catch a fish. Our recent demonstration of spinner making was very popular. In this class we would provide the parts, tools and instruction on how to build trolling and casting spinners. All of the spinners the students build that day, they take home!

- Fishing basics. A general overview class of the many types of fishing available locally, types of tackle used and basic strategies.

- Summer Steelhead on a bobber. This year I want to reserve a spot up at Oxbow Park for this class. Learn the ins and outs of bobber methods right on the water! And those BBQs on site....yeah, we're gonna use those for sure!

For all of you who help in some way in putting on these clinics, thanks. You are a member of the best team around.

We learn and improve a bit from each effort, and that will be true here as well. Your input on suggested improvements or other class ideas can be e-mailed to me at

palmerlarryd@yahoo.com.

IT'S PIE NIGHT!!!



6 JANUARY 2016

First general membership meeting of the New Year and the treat is on you. Bring your favorite pie either from your pantry or from your favorite pie place. Because it's a great way to greet, and meet new and not seen often enough Steelheaders, while eating a piece of Pie and Ice Cream.

Please let me know what kind of pie you are bringing. Either call me at 503-780-8212 or email me at, rjwisherstix@gmail.com. Lets register our choice so we don't have too many of the same.

We have many important activities and dates to impart at this meeting and sharing them while having dessert is like having a spoonful of sugar

IT'S PIE SOCIAL!!!

to make the pill go down better.

Many opportunities to catch fish, help others fish. Do you remember catching your first fish?

Help a child or a handicapped person catch their first fish. Participate in the Annual Boat or Sportsman shows coming soon enough. How about Drift Fishing the Sandy? Here will be your opportunity to know the when and where so you are not left behind. See you January 6th and Happy New year.

Robert Wisher



IT'S A NEW YEAR!!!



The Association of NW Steelheaders is organizing our first Family Fish Camp

They are seeking volunteers with fishing clinic experience. This event will take place at the Twin Rocks Friends Camp and Conference Center in Rockaway Beach Oregon, on Highway 101, a few miles north of Tillamook, Saturday Jan. 16th, and Sunday Jan. 17th.

Participants will learn about sports fishing, the mission of ANWS and how we work to protect the environment, and how to recreate as a family.

Volunteers will be able to share their passion and knowledge with participants helping to solidify a future membership base for ANWS. They will be able to participate at no cost with a seminar segment including top professional guides.

Please contact the NW Steelheaders Association office at 503-653-4176 or contact Bob Rees at "Bob Rees" executivedirector@anws.org