



December 2022

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



December 1, 2022, Thursday, Sandy River Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm – Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR

Trevor Storlie of Red's Guide service is our scheduled speaker. Trevor Storlie has been a State of Oregon licensed guide for over 25 years. Trevor is a native Oregonian, spending much of his youth learning the rivers he now guides. **Red's Guide Service** home is located on the Sandy River which enables Trevor to stay very close to his work. Trevor has a great sense of humor and a passion for his work.



RED'S
guide service

<https://www.redsguideservice.com/>



January 5, 2023, Thursday, Sandy River Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm – Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR

Ken Vilante of Coldwater Strong is our scheduled speaker.

Coldwater Strong LLC is a local company located in Vancouver WA. They are committed to bringing new and innovative Leaders Systems to meet the ever-changing ways of fishing for Salmon/Steelhead in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Ken will be bringing fishing gear for purchase at the meeting with a portion of all sales being donated to the Chapter.



<https://www.coldwaterstrong.com/>



February 2, 2023, Thursday, Sandy River Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm – Speaker to be Announced. Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



February 10, 2023, 6pm to 10pm Friday, SETUP for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Sandy River Chapter Steelhead 101 Workshop – Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



February 11, 2023, 7am to 7pm Saturday, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Sandy River Chapter Steelhead 101 Workshop – Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



February 12, 2023, 9am Sunday, Fish along for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Sandy River Chapter Steelhead 101 Workshop / On the river event -Meet up Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



March 2, 2023, Thursday, Sandy River Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm – Speaker to be Announced. Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



April 6, 2023, Thursday, Sandy River Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm – Speaker to be Announced. Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



May 4, 2023, Thursday, Sandy River Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm – Speaker to be Announced. Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



May 6, 2023, Saturday, Sandy River Chapter Annual fundraising event and auction. Speaker to be Announced. Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



June 1, 2023, Thursday, Sandy River Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm – Speaker to be Announced. Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR

Sandy River Chapter Websites

We invite you to visit the Sandy River Chapter Facebook Group at “**Sandy River Chapter NW Steelheaders**” - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/451895135882897> . Or the Chapter Website at: <http://www.sandysteelheaders.org/>

Note: There will be redundancies between the Chapter Newsletter and our Facebook Group page in our attempt to share items to followers of both. Due to limited space in our Newsletter, there may also be more posts on the Facebook group page than in the Newsletter.

River Clean-up event

Thanks to all 13 volunteers who met on Saturday, October 29th at 8 am in the Sam Cox parking lot to attack the debris on the Sandy River banks.



Volunteers started on the riverbank and worked three hours 8am to 11am. These volunteers provided approximately 40 hours of service to the city of Troutdale Glenn Otto Park and the protection of the Sandy River.

In 2018 the City of Troutdale, in recognition of our partnership with them through the years, approached us asking if we would officially Adopt Glenn Otto Park. We gladly accepted and this was brought to fruition.

For many years our Chapter and its members have helped in park and river cleanup events. The chapter also has helped in maintaining surrounding park trails. This will continue as the purpose of the City of Troutdale's Adopt-A-Park Program is to provide volunteers with an opportunity to maintain, preserve, develop, and improve parks and trails in the City of Troutdale. And they in turn provide us with free access to the park and its facilities for meetings and other events. These facilities, with their prime location on the Sandy River are a great asset to our organization.

Four Ways to Winter Steelhead Success

There is more than one way to catch the Northwest's premier winter sport fish, steelhead. Yeah, I know, it's cold and rainy, maybe even snowy, but that's what winter steelhead and those who chase them thrive on. And while you likely have a preferred "old faithful" fishing method, you'll likely up your odds of success by switching methods until the fish signal their approval with a tail-walking leap.

Drift Fishing

If there were ever a classic steelhead method, it would be the one called Drift Fishing. Drift fishing is easy to describe but harder to master: cast out, across and upstream with enough weight so your sinker will bounce the bottom as your outfit drifts downstream in the current. Your drift is complete when your rig swings near shore, which is when you'll need to reel in and cast again. Drift fishing is a series of casts, drifts, and retrieves.

The hardest part once you've got the drifting down, which has a lot to do with using the correct amount of weight so that your outfit will skip the bottom every few yards, is learning to detect when a fish is mouthing your bait. You wouldn't expect such a light take from a big fish like a steelhead that averages seven to 10 pounds and can tip the scale at 20 or more. But the fact is that this fishing method requires an almost uncanny sense of feel in order to differentiate a steelhead mouthing your bait (or bait imitation) from a tackle-grabbing snag.

The rule here is that if your drifting outfit stops, pauses or hesitates, set the hook—and set it hard. So...pay close attention, follow your drifting line downstream with your rod tip, and don't be bashful about setting the hook if you suspect a bite.

Besides rod, reel, and line, when drift fishing you will need a selection of pencil weight or slinky style sinkers, hooks, swivels, leader material, and



This Wilson River winter steelhead was tricked by a Maxi Jig.

bait (egg cluster) or egg imitation like a Corky or Spin-N-Glo.

Bobber 'n Jig

The Bobber 'n Jig method is similar to drift fishing in that you allow your offering to drift downstream in the river current. The difference is that you'll be fishing with your eyes rather than by feel. And while the learning curve can be quicker than with other methods, realize that this technique yields the best results when fishing slow water, working current edges or when rivers are low and clear. The depth of the water determines how far your bobber should be from your jig; try positioning it one-half to three-quarters of the way to the bottom. An important tip is to make sure your jig runs horizontal in the water.

Besides rod and reel, all that's required are a few bobbers (steelhead floats) and a selection of steelhead jigs.

Side Drifting

The next two methods are boating techniques that, unless you have a boat, will require you to go with a friend or hire a guide. The first is called Side Drifting and is similar to the standard drift fishing method except that your drift is extended the full length of each hole by the use of a river boat. This more natural presentation is enhanced by the use of light line, small weight, hook, and bait or bait imitation like a yarn ball or size #12 Corky Drifter.

The boat is more than simply a casting platform, since to do this correctly; its operator must keep the boat moving at the same speed as the lines. Each angler and their guide (or friend) must fish in a very coordinated way for this method to be successful. For example, the boat should already be moving downstream as the angler(s) parallel cast across and upstream from their boat. Then it's the boat operator's job to keep the craft moving just ahead of or parallel with, and at the same speed as, the drifting lines.

Backtrolling Plugs

Another effective method employed from boats is Backtrolling Plugs. What's unique about this fishing method is that it produces hard, rod-bending strikes. To do it your boat should be held mid-river, starting at the upstream end of a steelhead drift.

While holding your boat steady in the current, free spool your favorite steelhead plug (like Mag Lip or Kwikfish) out 40 to 50 feet and engage your reel. Now, back off on your rowing or motor speed enough so that your river craft will slowly slip downstream. Strikes will be savage, so hang on and get ready to set the hook when your rod tip arches toward the water.

Bandon hits the salmon jackpot in 2022

Bandon Western World - https://theworldlink.com/community/bandon/news/photos-bandon-hits-the-salmon-jackpot-in-2022/article_0f804100-6648-11ed-b743-f7ab49403a86.html?utm_campaign=blox&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&fbclid=IwAR2YJOCnHQRosTzCeNU3NiXHumZWTKGCSnOTyeOwH4LYtLGdPHK2ty1gnlc

Nov 18, 2022

The mood is festive this fall in the Bandon Hatchery's cramped spawning room.

"How can you not have a smile on spawning days?" said Helena Linnell, biological operations, and planning manager for the Coquille Indian Tribe.

That's especially true in 2022. After years of sparse salmon returns in Bandon's Ferry Creek, this fall brought more than 150 breeding pairs of hatchery Chinook salmon – the most in at least 20 years.

Spawning is continuing through November, with 2022's plentiful broodstock yielding hundreds of thousands of fertilized eggs. This bumper crop of new salmon brings fresh hope for the Coquille River's imperiled Chinook population. We're really blessed with the number of fish that came back this year," said tribal Chair Brenda Meade. "The hard work and dedication of so many people is what brought us successes this year."

A coalition of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Coquille Tribe and community volunteers collected about 300 adult salmon in Ferry Creek over the past several weeks. Some of the fish were caught in a fish trap, others were netted in the creek, and some made their way to the hatchery on their own.



"People have really stepped up," Meade said. "We're getting so many volunteers from the community."

The number of collected salmon far exceeds ODFW's goal of 75 breeding pairs. It's even more impressive in comparison with recent years. *Only three pairs were spawned at the Bandon Hatchery in 2020. The number rose to 24 last year – an eightfold improvement, but far too few to sustain the Coquille River fishery.*

After learning of the salmon's plight in mid-2021, the Coquille Tribal Council declared an emergency. Municipal governments, local ports and community volunteers stepped up to help ODFW and the tribe combat predators, gather broodstock, and enhance salmon habitat.

This year's breeding bounty reflects both natural and human factors. Along with better ocean conditions in 2022, Ferry Creek has *new and better broodstock harvesting equipment, thanks to the tribe, the Port of Bandon and volunteers from the Coquille Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP).*



The fertilized eggs will be kept in incubation tanks for several weeks before being moved to Cole Rivers Hatchery in Trail, Ore. There the juvenile salmon will hatch and mature until they are large enough to be acclimated into the Coquille River system.

Improved hatchery production is just one part of the story. In a separate project, two wild fall Chinook females recently were spawned at the hatchery, producing about 3,400 eggs each.

Spawning these wild salmon at the hatchery launches a groundbreaking "conservation hatchery" program on the Coquille River. The new program will collect adult salmon from the naturally spawning population, protecting them from predators until they can be spawned.

Those wild salmon will be kept separate from the regular hatchery population, and their offspring will be released with unclipped fins in the Coquille River basin's upper reaches. (Clipped adipose fins indicate a hatchery pedigree.)

The goal is to build a more robust population of "wild" fish that eventually will return to spawn in the upper basin, far removed from their hatchery-bred cousins.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS PICTURES



Rob Gibbs - Clackamas Coho/Silver



Steve Childress end of season Fall Chinook



Boughtons in Belize



Matt Joy end of season Fall Chinook

BOARD OFFICERS

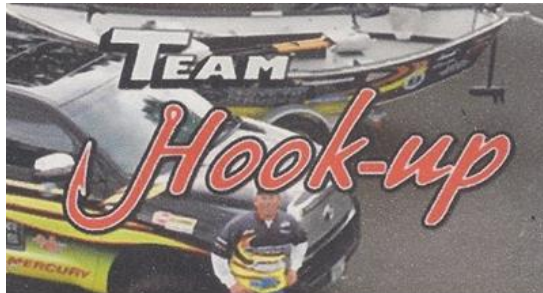
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Treasurer	Greg Reed	503-869-1795	g_a_reed@comcast.net

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Angler Education	Vacant	-	-
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Fish Along Assistant	Hank Hyde	503-492-7119	None

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Website, Content	Vacant	-	-



TEAM Hook-up

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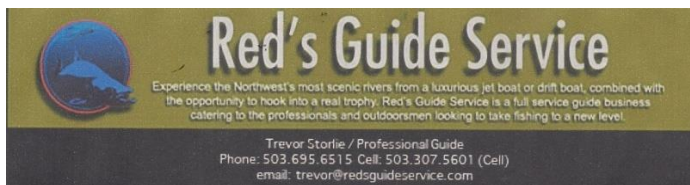


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Experience the Northwest's most scenic rivers from a luxurious jet boat or drift boat, combined with the opportunity to hook into a real trophy. Red's Guide Service is a full service guide business catering to the professionals and outdoorsmen looking to take fishing to a new level.

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Check out the Sandy River NW Steelheaders Apparel!!!
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