

The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

February, 2013

A Message from the President *by Gary Barnes*

As I step out of my car, I string line to rod, and attached a Sawyers Pheasant Tail and a Zebra Midge to tippet. As I was making my way to the river, the cold was starting to sting, and I was starting to form an ice mustache. As I was getting ready to make my first cast into the frigid water, I was distracted by a flock of Swans flying by. It is nice to see they are making a come back. I then went back to my task at hand, I made my first cast into the air. Then I mended my line trying to achieve that perfect drift. My guides iced up on my first cast, and after about an hour of cleaning out my guides, I came to a conclusion. I think I like being a fair weather fisherman. The cold usually doesn't bother me. I have been known to wade wet in April. Just imagine how the Fish must feel when we pull them from their frigid depths and expose them to the freezing temperatures of the outside air. As much as I love fishing, I think this time of year I will be happy in my tying room re-filling my fly boxes, and coming up with some new patterns to try out when spring comes.

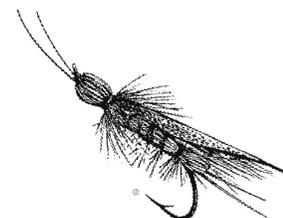
The club has a great line up of presentations in the next few months at the Shilo. They are on the second Wednesday of each month, and some of them are listed in this news letter. The plans for the expo are well underway, and it is looking to be another great event.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Kenly Bitton
Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls
780 Lindsay Blvd.

Wednesday February 13th, 6:30 PM



Steelheading with Kenly Bitton



No that may not be a steelhead (he's also an authority on fishing the South Fork), but he's been chasing steelhead for about three decades. That's longer than some young buck enthusiasts have been on the face of the earth. Whenever local conversations turn to steelheading, Ken Bitton's name is in the forefront. Through the decades his experience has extended to west coast and Canadian waters, but it began on the Salmon River and soon extended to the Clearwater system. So enthusiastic is Ken that he leaves eastern Idaho behind during October to encounter Clearwater steelies. For the last two seasons he has guided there. Now for the Salmon River and the Clearwater River system, he is sought after for solid information on location, technique, timing, and fly patterns.

Ken will be sharing thoughts on these subjects during the meeting. If you are a steelheader, this is the meeting for you. Bring your notebook and questions because here is your best chance for answers as well as information. Ken will also tie his favorite flies for encountering them. That's another reason for bringing a notebook.

Big Lost River Access by Dan Garren

IDFG was able to secure a perpetual easement to access the river here thanks to the generosity of the Rothwell family and a donation from the Snake River Cutthroats. Funding from the Snake River Cutthroats was used to help purchase fencing supplies that were used to separate the easement ground from that of the landowners. This was part of the agreement that allowed the access to be granted. As a result of this easement, anglers now have perpetual access to the lower Big Lost River, and can easily float from upstream access points like the Stennett Access downstream in a pontoon or kick boat and take out at the new Rothwell Access.



Electronic Newsletters Available

For those still receiving hard copies of the newsletter via standard mail, but would prefer to receive it via email, please send your email address to Carol Staples, our membership chair, at casbas@ida.net.

Fewer mailings mean more dollars for conservation projects. The fish will appreciate your cost saving efforts.



**2013 Outings Schedule
By
Ron Scott**

Feb 16 Wade Fish South Fork Snake River (Host: Jeff Armstrong)

At 1200 noon. Meet at Heise Pizza Parlor for lunch. Visit with Heise Expeditions Guide, James Osmond or A J Rasmussen. Wade fish the river for a couple of hours.

Mar 23 Float Trip on the South Fork, probably from Lorenzo to Menan. (Host: Ron Scott)

At 8:30 am: Meet at Menans, Rigby for breakfast. Leave for river at 9:30. Fish from Drift boats. Approximately a 7 hour trip.

May 11 Float trip on the Henry's Fork, from Stone Bridge to Ashton take out. (Host: TBD)

At 8:30 am, Meet at Trails Inn, Ashton for breakfast. Visit with a guide from Henry's Fork Anglers about the river and what's working. Leave for the river at 9:30 am. Fish from drift boats. Approximately a 7-8 hour trip with shuttles & float.

Jun 8 Twin Lakes Fishing for Blue Gill. (Host: Jimmy Gabettas)

At 7:30 am. Meet at Jimmy's All Seasons Angler. Travel to Twin Lakes (about 2 1/2 hours). This is primarily a boat fishing trip. Some float tubes have been used. Lunch provided by the Club. There is a \$5.00 entrance fee to the lake.

Jun 21 Hiking Trip to Shoshone Lake in Yellowstone Park. (Host: Bruce Staples)

Meeting time TBD. Travel & hike to Shoshone Lake. Fish primarily from float tubes. Yellowstone Park License and non-motorized boat permit required

Jul 19-21 South Fork Overnighter. (Host: Dave Pace & ?)

Meeting time TBD. Float from Palisades Boat Launch to Byington Boat Launch on the South Fork of the Snake River. Wade fishing and drift boat fishing. The premier outing of the year.

Aug 16-17 Hebgen Lake to Fish for Gulpers (Host: Bob Starck)

Meeting time TBD. A time to camp next to Yellowstone Park & fish Hebgen Lake. Best fished with a float tub, pontoon, or drift boat. Usually fished in the Madison Arm. Put on your calendar now.



Aug 24 Board Float on the South Fork. (Host: Ron Scott & Wade Allen)

Meet at the Launch site. Tentative planned to float from Byington Boat Launch to Lorenzo. This is a drift boat trip. For Senior Advisors, Club officers and Board of Directors. Should be outstanding for dry flies and streamers.

Sep 20-21 Silver Creek Overnighter. (Host: Allan Woolley & ?)

Meeting time TBD. Excellent outing on a premier spring creek. Wading or Float tube. You could even try fishing for browns at night.

Oct 18 Lower Blackfoot River (Host: Bruce Staples)

At 8:00 am. Meet at Dad's south of Idaho Falls for breakfast. Leave for the river at 9:00 am. This is a wading trip. Excellent stream to fish with nymphs and other wet flies.

Oct 26 Chesterfield Reservoir (Host: Dave Pace & ?)

At 8:00 am. Meet at Dad's south of Idaho Falls for breakfast. Leave for the reservoir at 9:00 am. It is a 2 hour trip there. This is a float tube, pontoon or boat trip. Nymphs and jigs work

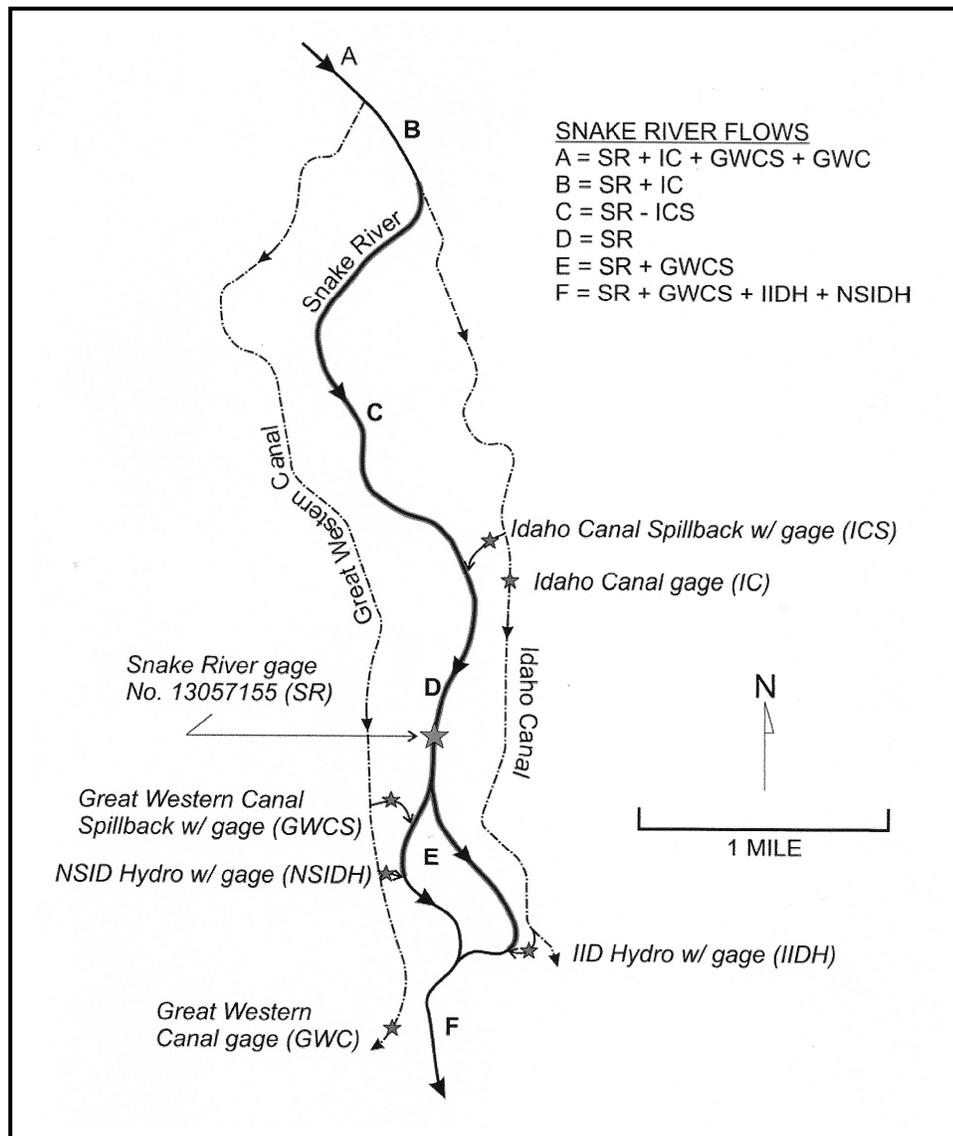
**A Job Well Done
by
Matt Woodard**

Ed Emory, a local fishing guide for the South Fork Lodge, recently brought together several fishing guides, members of the Swan Valley community, and others to help clean up debris from a semi truck that crashed and unloaded several cases of hamburgers into the South Fork Snake River just below where Rainey Creek joins the river. It was a remarkable effort given the cold temperatures and harsh conditions just a week before the Christmas holiday season. Numerous bags of debris were collected from the rocks and shoreline of the river at the crash site and downstream of there for several miles. I was more than happy to give Ed and his crew a hand with this effort to help clean up one our most precious local resources the South Fork reach of the Snake River. It renewed my faith in humanity seeing both guys and gals of all ages out there working in bitterly cold temperatures cleaning up plastic bags, broken Styrofoam containers, and other debris associated with this crash. No one complained as they worked hard to get as much of the crash debris as possible. The irrigation community should certainly appreciate this effort as well; debris like this can be very troublesome for water diversions. I take my hat off to Ed Emory for organizing and bringing this effort together under very short notice!



Another Proposed Diversion from the Snake River

The Idaho Canal Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 13886, and the Great Western Canal Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 14126 are both proposed to be located on the Snake River north of Idaho Falls. As shown in the figure below the diversion and powerhouse locations for the two projects are located opposite each other on the Snake River. The primary impacts of each proposed project arise from reduced water flow in the Snake River between the diversion and powerhouse locations. A Pre-Applications document (PAD) has been issued for each project. The PADs discuss the potential impacts of the Idaho Irrigation and Great Western proposals as stand-alone projects. The document "Analysis of Snake River Flow Impacts Due to Combined Idaho Canal and Great Western Canal Hydro Projects" considers the combined impact from development of both projects. The project developers have proposed to maintain a minimum flow at all times between canal intakes and spillbacks.



2013 Class Schedule

Beginning Fly Tying Class – In session.

Fly Rod Building Class - Rod Building Class will be on Saturday, February 16th, 2013 from 10 am to 5:30 pm. An introductory class will be held on Wednesday, February 6th from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm where instructors will help students to decide which rod blank and components they will need for the class and where to buy the blank and components. The class is designed for building a quality rod for fresh or salt water. The novice can easily build a rod with patience in this class. Cost is \$30.00. This is your chance to get a fantastic rod at half the cost. Build a rod you will love to fish with. For further information and/or to sign up for this class contact Jeff Armstrong at 522-7005.

Free Fly Casting Class - On Tuesday, May 7th and Thursday, May 9th 2013 starting at 6:30 pm there will be two free casting classes taught by FFF casting instructors. Classes will last for approximately 2 hours and are located at Tautphaus Park by the fountain (southeast corner of the park off Boulevard). This is open to everyone. The class is designed for beginners and intermediate casting levels. This is a great chance to start casting or improve you casting ability, and it is free. Contact Jeff Armstrong 522-7005 for more information. Some equipment can be provided for the students to use during the class. Attend one or both classes.

For more information or to register for the rod building class, call Jeff Armstrong at 208-522-7005. Please leave your name and phone number and the class or classes in which you are interested.

2013 Calendar	
Date	Activity
Tuesday, February 5 th	SRC board meeting, 6:30 Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls
Wednesday, February 13 th	Membership meeting, 6:30 Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls Guest: Kenly Bitton
Tuesdays, Feb. 12 th , 19 th	Beginning Fly Tying
Saturday, February 16 th	Rod Building Workshop (see details above)
Tuesday, March 5 th	SRC board meeting, 6:30 Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls
Wednesday, March 13 th	Membership meeting, 6:30 Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls Guest: Bob Jacklin
Fri.-Sat. April 19 th -20 th	Eastern Idaho Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo



Recipe of the Month

Whitefish Chowder

Many of our major rivers host the under-harvested whitefish. Very locally they have been labeled “stiffies” for years. No one seems to know why. Traditionally creel stiffies are smoked with great results. These make fabulous hors d’oeuvres. With all due respect, whitefish provide good sport, especially this time of year. Through this recipe they make great table fare on a cold winter eve. Here is how they double your fun catching and eating.

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|--|-----------------------------------|
| 2-8 oz. whitefish fillets, thawed, skin removed, chopped | 1 tbsp. ham, diced |
| 1 bunch green onions, chopped | 3 medium potatoes, peeled & diced |
| 1 tsp. salt | 1/8 tsp. white or black pepper |
| 1 cup water | 1 qt. milk, scalded |
| 1/4 cup butter, softened | 1/4 cup flour, sifted |
| 1 cup cream | Paprika |

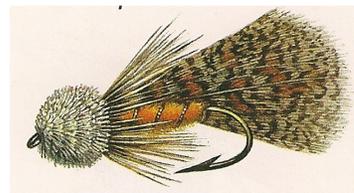
In a large heavy pot, sauté ham and onions together over medium heat until onions are soft. Add potatoes, salt, pepper, and water. Simmer until potatoes are cooked. Add milk and whitefish; stir to break up fish. Prepare a roux: In a small saucepan, heat butter until melted, add flour all at once and mix well. Stir butter/flour mixture into chowder and cook until thick. Add cream and heat through without boiling. Sprinkle individual bowls with paprika. Add hard-crust bread or rolls, a bottle of good white wine, and you have a dinner fit for a king.

Fly of the Month

Matuka Sculpin

Regardless of its name, this is actually a muddler minnow variation. Its “claim to fame” is that the wing gives a better imitation of a sculpin. Use the tinsel rib to secure the feathers given for the wing to the body as done in tying the matuka. You can have some fun with the spun deer hair head if you have packed it tightly. Take a felt-tip marking pen and color its deer hair tip any scheme you think helps imitate that of the sculpin

- Hook: Dai-Riki 710, or equivalent, size 2-6
- Body: Amber sparkle yarn
- Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel
- Wing: Pair of mottled grouse feathers
- Hackle: Tips of deer hair used to spin head
- Head: Natural deer hair spun and clipped to shape
- Thread: Gray or yellow GSP



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Idaho Falls, ID 83402

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