



The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

November 2015

A Message from the President *by Paul Patterson*

Given the fall weather that we've had, it seems strange to be thinking about the Cutthroat's Christmas Party, but it will be here before we know it. The fun-filled event will be held at the Senior Citizen's Center on Wednesday December 9th. A signup sheet will be at Jimmy's just after Thanksgiving. The cost will be \$15. If you would like to donate items that we can use for gifts, please drop them at Jimmy's between Thanksgiving and December 5th or bring them to the November membership meeting. Gag gifts and "re-gifts" are welcome. It's potluck with the club providing the main course. Final details will be in the December newsletter. If you would like to volunteer to help with the Christmas Party, talk to me or one of the other board members.

If you have ever considered serving on the Snake River Cutthroats board, the election for new board members will be held in May. It's a great way to get to know more members. So whether you've lived in the area all your life or just moved here six months ago, give it some thought.

Another opportunity to volunteer will occur in April, which is when we hold our major fund raising activity for the year. The East Idaho Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo is scheduled for April 22-23. If you are interested in serving on the Expo board – the group that manages and runs the Expo, contact Wade Allen, Expo Chair. His contact information is on the back page. If you just want to help out during the Expo for a few hours, contact Arn Berglund. His contact information is also on the back page. We will also have signup opportunities at our monthly membership meetings.

I hope my request for volunteers is not perceived as whining on my part. The Snake River Cutthroats are very fortunate to have a very dedicated cadre of volunteers, some who have served for decades. I was reminded of this by Chris Jones, Trout Unlimited National Leadership Council rep for Idaho. At the State Council Meeting in October he mentioned that at the national Trout Unlimited meeting the importance of producing and publishing a hardcopy newsletter was emphasized. We give members the option to get the newsletter electronically or by mail. But if it wasn't for the dedication of Bruce and Carol Staples we wouldn't have the great newsletter that we do have, regardless of how it gets delivered. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Dave Pace. The Cutthroat Chronicles "new" format was one of Dave's many contributions when he was president several years ago.

As always, there is a lot of good information in the newsletter, regarding current and upcoming activities. Hope to see you at the November meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Fly Fishing Salt River Tributaries
with Mike Carlson
Wednesday November 11th 6:30 PM
Shilo Inn, 780 Lindsay Blvd, Idaho Falls



Fly Fishing Salt River Tributaries



with Mike Carlson
Pioneer Anglers, Alpine, Wyoming

Mike and Christie Carlson began Pioneer Anglers in Afton, Wyoming not too terribly long ago. More recently they moved Pioneer Anglers to Alpine to be closer to the South Fork, Grey's River and the Yellowstone Park waters. In this location Pioneer is a full-service fly shop. It offers guided trips on the Salt River, shuttle service, quality merchandise, solid information, and friendly service.

Through years of experience fishing the Salt and Greys River drainages, Mike is a recognized authority on how to approach these waters. Both drainages are small stream paradises. It appears Mike's presentation will target the Salt River tributaries including Cottonwood, Crow, Jackknife, Tincup and Stump creeks. Snake River fine spotted cutts are king here with browns thrown in. All except Cottonwood Creek flow east out of Idaho. Christie will complement Mike by tying some of the favorite flies originating in Star Valley. It is sure to be an informative evening, so come out to meet Mike and Christie.



Bug Club to Resume Meetings



It's been around for decades, but had an interruption for a few years a while back. After we decided to include breakfast before fly tying, it came back strong. For several years, right up to last year, we met at Dad's Frontier Pies just off I-15 Exit 113 south of Idaho Falls (IF). That restaurant closed recently, so the search began for a new location. After several inquiries, Shari's on Broadway Street, just east of I-15 in IF, offered a great facility. The first meeting will be December 5th at Shari's, breakfast at 8 AM, tying beginning around 9 AM. We decide on next tying subject at the end of each meeting. Everyone is welcome to take part. Want more details or want to take part? Contact Buck Goodrich (208-357-7328, fayebuck@cableone.net). It's a great way to kick off a winter morning!

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.



New Salmon Run in Palisades Reservoir

by Brett High (Idaho Fish and Game)

Kokanee Salmon are the landlocked version of ocean-going Sockeye Salmon and are a highly prized sport fish in Idaho waters. Palisades Reservoir was stocked with Kokanee in the early 1960s. Since that original stocking effort, no further stocking of Kokanee Salmon has occurred. The Kokanee Salmon in Palisades Reservoir are wild, naturally produced fish. Palisades Reservoir Kokanee currently spawn only in Big Elk Creek. While Big Elk Creek has supported a population for four decades, the fishing in Palisades Reservoir for Kokanee could be improved. Palisades Reservoir is large, and it is unlikely Big Elk Creek can produce enough wild Kokanee to fill the reservoir. Additionally, access to Big Elk Creek is periodically limited due to low water levels in the reservoir. Kokanee must swim through culverts under Highway 26. When reservoir levels are low, the culverts become inaccessible to fish. To improve the Kokanee population in Palisades Reservoir, IDFG transplanted 100 Kokanee from Big Elk Creek to Bear Creek. IDFG hopes these transplanted fish will spawn in Bear Creek, then the fish hatching in Bear Creek will return as adults and start a new salmon run. A new run of fish into Bear Creek would increase the overall number of Kokanee in Palisades Reservoir, improve fishing in the reservoir, and help keep numbers up during years when Big Elk Creek runs are low. Kokanee in Bear Creek from this year's stocking efforts are expected to return during the early autumns of 2017-2020. If successful, future efforts to further expand salmon runs would be made in McCoy Creek.

Henrys Lake, Best Fishing of the Year Health Advisory for Algae Bloom Removed

by Damon Keen, Henrys Lake Fisheries Biologist

The blue green algae health advisory that was in place in certain areas around the lake is lifted. Although fishing continued with the isolated blooms, some anglers had concerns with the warnings and others avoided the lake completely. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and East Idaho Public Health lifted the advisory on 9/14/2015 after two consecutive weeks of readings below threshold health concern levels. Cooler temperatures and frequent storms reduced the bloom and with it the advisory signs. The lifted advisory couldn't come at a better time. For the past several weeks, fishing action has been Henrys-like. In other words, catch rates are good and big fish are in the mix. After a tough first 3 months to the season, anglers are smiling once again. Fish up to 6 pounds are common and fish even larger than that are frequent. A reminder, don't expect the exceptional catch rates for smaller fish of the last few years. The catch rates have moderated as the overall numbers of fish in the lake have reduced. With that comes the large fish that Henrys is noted for and that dedicated anglers expect. Also coinciding with the improved water quality is the annual fingerling trout stocking. We have reason to believe this year's stockings will do well. First, we should end up with larger than average size fish. The spawn was early, which provided a longer period of growth at Mackay and American Falls hatcheries. Large stocking size usually means better survival. Second, we should have more cutthroat to plant this year than in the past several years. Poor tributary flow reduced natural production this year, more hatchery fish should help offset this shortfall. Lastly, as promised we're planting some Gerrard strain hybrids. We'll evaluate the Gerrard hybrid vs. our Hayspur hybrid in the coming years to determine what strain performs best. We're excited about this evaluation and will keep you informed of the results. The best fishing of the year is happening now.



Visit Sand Creek Ponds

by Eric Anderson, Wildlife Biologist (Idaho Fish and Game)

The Sand Creek WMA was created in 1947, when Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson) funds were used to acquire the Chapman Ranch, 17 miles north of St. Anthony. This 4,763 acre parcel of private land was purchased to perpetuate the small herd of elk that wintered on the property. From this beginning, the primary focus of the Sand Creek WMA has been to provide winter range in sufficient quantity and quality to support the Sand Creek elk herd during the winter months. Soon after the formation of the Sand Creek WMA, managers envisioned the creation of several ponds from the existing marshlands to enhance the wildlife productivity on the WMA. Blue Creek Reservoir existed previous to the founding of the WMA; however, improvements were made to increase its size. These improvements, along with the formation of a lower impoundment, were initiated in 1955. This lower impoundment later became the main dike of what is now known as Pond 4. In the following years improvements were made to this impoundment until completion in 1961. The remainders of the ponds were completed in reverse order of their numbering. Pond 3 was completed in 1965, Pond 2 in 1968, and Pond 1 in 1978. Collectively, these ponds are referred to as the Sand Creek Ponds.

The first recorded fish stocking of the ponds was in 1968, when Ponds 2 and 3 were stocked. Current fish management at the ponds includes fish stocking at Blue Creek Reservoir, and Ponds 1 and 4. Ponds 2 and 3 are not stocked with fish. Blue Creek Reservoir and Pond 1 open for fishing Memorial Day weekend. To protect nesting and brood rearing wildlife, there is an annual human entry closure at Ponds 3 and 4 until July 1. This wildlife closure has been in place for 22 years. Other wildlife frequent the Sand Creek Ponds such as elk, moose, Columbia Spotted frog, and trumpeter swans. Grizzly and black bear are common in the area, and visitors should practice appropriate bear awareness and safety including carrying bear spray and keeping human food and garbage secured. We hope you enjoy this longstanding and important wildlife management area.

Grey's River Outing

by Matt Woodard

On August 15, 2015 I hosted a walk and wade trip to the Greys River, which flows into the Snake River right behind the town of Alpine Wyoming. If you have never fished the Grey's it can be a treat, and the scenery up there is absolutely gorgeous. You will need a Wyoming fishing license. A one day licenses can be obtained at the local grocery store in Alpine or the Chevron station has them as well. Cost is \$16.00 After driving to Alpine from Idaho Falls and acquiring our one day permits we journeyed up river approximately 30 miles to fish. Dry flies were the order of the day with small attractor patterns, small hoppers, and or parachute adams are good choices.

We arrived at mid-morning to break up and fish. This area is primarily a Yellowstone Cutthroat trout river with a few rainbows but not many. The fish will vary in size but most of them are on the small side 10-14 inch fish, but there are some bigger ones to be had. Smaller light weight rods are ideal for this area. Your willingness to walk and cover some ground will directly translate to how many fish you can catch. A number of us came back to our trucks to have lunch together. Always bring a good camp chair along to relax and enjoy the amazing views. Those in attendance that day were Rory Cullen, Scott Long, Paul Patterson, Kim Ragotzkie, Dave Pace, Steve Kowall and me. I believe that Dave likely had the best day numbers wise but he was also the one that covered the most ground. This area is one of those hidden gems that is off the beaten path. It was a great day to be in the mountains. I was also lucky enough to host a trip earlier in the year to fish with two folks I've never fished with before on the Greys. I had a wonderful time fishing with Marty and Janet Downey. Marty and Janet as I soon discovered were just a lot of fun to fish with. This trip was part of the six guys fishing trip that is raffled off every year at the Snake River Cutthroat's annual fly tying show and banquet. Janet outbid everyone for this year's trip. These are two people that I hope to fish with again sometime soon. I made some new friends that day.

I consider myself lucky to have had two great trips to Grey's river this year. If you never fished the Greys you should put it on your bucket list. It's a great place to camp let alone fish.



Lower Blackfoot Outing

by Bruce Staples



It was a beautiful day, perhaps too beautiful as it turned out. We began at 8 AM having hearty breakfasts at O'Brady's. Stories began to flow there, and after picking up Mike, they got even better. Albeit dusty, the roads were in excellent condition, some having been graded only a few days ago. Even the sometimes questionable section from Trail Creek Bridge south for a few miles was in great shape. Ranchers were present to gather stock, making the road a challenge to avoid "cow pies." By now we could see the river at "low tide (Rory read the flow at the Shelley Blackfoot River gauge just before leaving for O'Brady's.....71 cfs). No question that fish would be concentrated in deepest remaining runs and wondering "where did all the water go?" So our three vehicles drove to the Fred's Hole overlook (see pic above). We split up there: four of us trying the section of river from Graves Creek up to private land about a mile or so above. Others went on up to Cutthroat and Sage campgrounds. Everywhere we tried the river was low and very clear. Abundant weeds were beginning to break up, but would not do so big time until a killing frost hits the river. That such a frost had yet to happen was proven by the numerous grasshoppers in streamside grasses. So we fished through the day, then met at Graves Creek to swap believable and unbelievable stories. What was believable was that fishing was slow for just about everyone. Mike was the champ with an even dozen trout landed, a few of which appeared to be hatchery bows planted about two weeks ago (Why were these fish allowed in what is a cutthroat stream?). Was it the low water, the bright sky, the unseasonably warm weather, or fish not in an eating mood? Who knows but it is called fishing, and we hashed over the subject at the campground in the presence of jerky, sweet sopresata, chips, beer, and wine. After about an hour of conversation we broke camp and headed into the setting sun along with a few stockmen and retiring road hunters but left the cow pies for the next drivers. Even with slow fishing it was a great outing.

Recipe of the Month

Asian Duck

Change of pace (not Dave) for a recipe since it is duck hunting season. When cooking duck for the first time, you should know a few things. Duck is somewhat fatty with a thick layer of skin, which becomes quite crispy when grilled or broiled. Compared with upland game birds, ducks contain a lot of natural oils that will cook off in the first few minutes. Some chefs actually drain off the grease in the early stages of cooking. One way to limit the amount of fat is to remove the skin altogether. Or you could make small slices into the breast meat approximately one inch apart to allow the grease to drain out, thereby improving the overall taste. Serves 2

- ¼ cup soy sauce
 - 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
 - ½ tsp Sriracha (hot Asian chili sauce)
 - 2 tbsp garlic, minced
 - ¼ tsp pepper
 - 2 duck breasts, halved
1. In large mixing bowl, combine all the ingredients except the duck.
 2. Once thoroughly mixed, add the duck breast to the marinade, stirring until they're completely coated. Cover and refrigerate for at least two hours.
 3. Preheat grill to medium-high. Remove duck breasts from marinade and grill for 5 to 10 minutes, flipping at least once, until the meat is no longer pink inside.
 4. Let the breasts stand for five minutes before serving.
 5. Combine with such as fried rice, egg drop soup, and serve.

Fly of the Month



Dark November Sculpin

This pattern was my favorite for chasing migrating brown trout this time of year. I also created a white version. Darwin Atkin helped me name this pattern which I now use infrequently because I prefer a variation of Jack Gartside soft hackled streamer. It has a zonker wing attached to the body by the wire ribbing. Ends of the dyed black deer hair used to make the bullet head form the collar.

Hook: Daiichi 1280, or equivalent, #2-8
Thread: Olive 6/0
Body: Olive wool
Rib: Medium copper wire
Wing: Four grizzly saddle hackles dyed olive
Collar and head: Dyed black deer hair



2015-2016 Calendar



Date	Activity
Tuesday November 3rd	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Wed. November 11th	General Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Tyer: Christie Carlson Speaker: Mike Carlson
Tuesday December 1 st	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday December 9 th	Christmas Party Idaho Falls Senior Citizens Center Social: 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 6:45 p.m.
Tuesday January 5 th	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30
Wednesday January 13 th	General Membership Meeting, 6:30 Tyer/Speaker: TBA
Tuesday February 2 nd	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday February 10 th	General Membership Meeting, 6:30 Speaker: TBA
Fri.-Sat. April 22 nd & 23 rd	East Idaho Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo Shilo Inn
Wed., May 11th	Annual Business Meeting, 5:30 Papa Tom's Pizza

*Note: membership and board meetings are held at the Shilo Inn.

2015 Outings

Contact Mike Miller for more information 357-5569

Nov 14-16 Steelhead fishing on the Clearwater River (Host: Kenly Bitton) Work out of Orofino. Meet for breakfast get orientation of what is hot and where. Wade or drift fishing. Could also book Kenly for a guided trip.



Snake River Cutthroats
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Snake River Cutthroats

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