

The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

January, 2017

A Message from the President *by Rory Cullen*

Wow!! What a fun and exciting Christmas Party. I hope everyone enjoyed the broasted chicken and brisket as the main dishes. I am always excited to see what kind of pot-luck dishes and desserts show up. SRC members were not disappointed. A huge thank you to all the people that showed up early and stayed late for set-up and clean-up. Thanks to Dave Pace and his wrapping committee for all the great Cutthroat exchange presents. Also, the participation gifts were great. Thanks to Scott and Sherry Long for picking up the main dishes. Last, but not least, thanks to Paul Patterson for always having the essentials for large gatherings.

Speaking of Paul, this year I thought the Christmas Party would be a great venue to recognize a SRC member for a new award called the President's Award. I was thinking qualifications for this award would be as follows.

Someone who has been involved for many years, someone who participates and volunteers all the time, someone who has been a board member and someone who puts many unseen hours into the club.

Congratulations to Paul Patterson for being the first recipient of the President's Award. (custom fishing net)

Thanks to our own board member, Mike Avery, for customizing this beautiful net. Mike is owner Snake River Net Company. The great thing about this award is that you can hang it on the mantle or you can put it in your boat. I already have some ideas for next years recipient.

Bruce Staples will be our presenter at the January's membership meeting. Bruce's presentation will be on the Yellowstone Region. You don't want to miss this one. Date and time are in this newsletter.

If you get a chance, please thank or visit the following businesses that donated gifts to our participation table. Jimmy's Fly Shop, Loop, Simms and Cabela's.



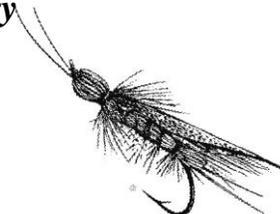
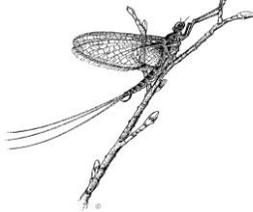
UPCOMING Membership Meeting

Fly Fishing the Yellowstone Park Back Country

Bruce Staples

Wednesday January 11th, 6:30 PM

Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls



Wednesday, January 11th

6:30 PM

**Fly-Fishing the Yellowstone Park
Backcountry**



The park is at the center of the Greater Yellowstone Area. It hosts icon waters such as the Firehole, Lamar, Madison, Yellowstone, Gibbon and Gardner Rivers, Slough Creek, and Yellowstone and Lewis Lakes. Notice that all or much these waters are mostly roadside. These waters represent only a fraction of the quality waters the park hosts and up to now only a few media works address what more the remote waters offer the fly-fisher looking for a quality experience. Yes, some of these waters exceed the icon waters in quality aspects, but there are certain conditions that apply in order to enjoy many of them. Included are required physical effort, preparation particulars, the presence of wildlife large and small, park regulations, and appropriate fly-fishing equipment. All of these will be discussed, but the visual emphasis will be on scenery and appearance of these backcountry waters many of which are in near primitive condition.

**An Unusual Sturgeon Happening
(Taken from Article by
Dan Garren
IDF&G Regional Fisheries Manager)**

Idaho's several hundred thousand anglers and hunters value their wildlife enough to act as eyes and ears for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. These sportspersons report poachers, support efforts to preserve habitat and protect wildlife in general. A good example occurred locally not long ago when a concerned angler called IDF&G to report a sturgeon trapped in a canal behind the Idaho Falls WINCO. About ten years ago the IDF&G began efforts to establish a sturgeon population in the Snake River around Idaho Falls. It was almost inevitable that an individual would get trapped in a canal that has gone dry at the end of the irrigation season. So an IDF&G crew went to the canal, retrieved the sturgeon, and returned it to the river near John's Hole. Sturgeon can live up to fifty years and can reach a length of ten feet or more. Thanks to the concern of an Idaho angler, this individual has a chance to attain this age and this length as well as provide entertainment for local anglers. All these possibilities are present because of an angler who values wildlife.

**Electronic Newsletters
Available**

Receiving hard copies of the newsletter via USPS, but would prefer to receive it via email? Please send your email address to membership chair Carol Staples, casbas@cablone.net. Fewer mailings mean more \$ for conservation projects. Fish appreciate your change!



Idaho's Fresh Water Lobster by Jon Flinders

Ririe Reservoir is the best location for finding crayfish in eastern Idaho, but they inhabit all quality eastern Idaho waters from the main stem Snake River to small tributaries and ponds. They inhabit rocky areas and water around abundant aquatic vegetation. Submerged logs and undercut banks are also favorite haunts. These features give them protection from predators, and from these they emerge at night to scavenge the bottom. They are omnivores, meaning they eat both animal and plant debris, including fresh dead animals. They can grow to five inches long, and when startled swim away backwards by flipping their tail and abdomen. The front two of their ten legs are developed into large claws called "Chellae." If you pick up an individual, do so with fingers just behind the claws. These are strong enough that if getting ahold of your fingers, can give a quite painful pinch.

You need a valid fishing license to legally catch crayfish in Idaho. This license allows a maximum of five traps. Traps cannot be more than two feet in length in any direction and cannot exceed eight cubic feet in volume. They must include an identity tag holding ownership and address information. They must be checked at least every forty-eight hours.

Using traps is the best way to capture a large quantity of crayfish quickly. There are a variety of traps, available from sporting goods stores, but most are cylindrical or conical with a small funnel in the middle that allows the crayfish to enter, but not to escape. Bait a trap before placing it in water. Use fresh fish or chicken parts. Old rotten bait seems not to attract crayfish as well.

Another method, but less effective, is to tie fish or chicken parts onto the end of a leader and cast it out into an area known to host crayfish. Attend the line until you feel a slight tug, then slowly pull the bait to the surface and net the crayfish.

A Fun way to combine activities is snorkeling to capture crayfish in water clear enough to see bottom near shore and around hosting features such as those given above. Before snorkeling place baits near locations close to their hiding places, then return later to dive and catch the unsuspecting crustacean.



Choosing Tippet Size

Leaders transmit the cast from the fly line to the fly and hence they are very important. In addition, the leader is what the fish sees so we must be very careful with it. You can buy knot-less leaders or make your own leaders from tippet material or a combination. Before you start on any leader, knot-less or knotted you must understand the X system of designation of leaders and leader material. X refers to the diameter of the leader material with 0X = .011 inches in diameter. Every increase in the X number decreases the diameter by .001 inches. So, a 1X tippet would be .010 in., a 2X would be .009 in., a 3X would be .008 in., a 4X would be .007 in. etc. up to 8X which is .003 in. in diameter. (A human hair is also .003 in. in diameter.) How does this system relate to pound test? Well not really well. In general, every 1X equals approximately 1 pound test. 0X is about 8 lb. test so 1X is 7, 2X is 6 etc. So you can subtract the X number from 8 and get the approximate pound test. Obviously 8X is not zero which is why this method is only an approximation but good enough for fishing. So much for that. You buy knotless tapered leaders by length and the tippet strength. So a 9 foot 3X leader would be 9 feet long tapering to a 3X or .008 in dia. or 5 lb. test tippet. The next question is - How do I know what size tippet to use? Well, this is determined by two things: 1) What size hook are you going to use and 2) How clear is the stream you are going to fish? The eye on the hook decreases in diameter as the hook becomes smaller therefore the tippet diameter must also decrease. Here is a little table to help you.

Tippet size	Recommended Hook Size
2X or 6 pounds	6-8-10
3X or 5 pounds	8-10-12-14
4X or 4 pounds	12-14-16
5X or 3 pounds	12-14-16-18
6X or 2 pounds	14-16-18-20
7X or 1 pound	18 through 28
8X or 1/2 pound	Less than 28

Winter Workshops

BEGINNING FLY TYING: Starts on Tuesday, January 17th, 2017 and runs for 6 weeks. Classes are from 7-9 pm. Basic techniques are taught emphasizing local patterns. Materials are included for the cost of \$30. Students (10 years and older) need to bring tying vise, scissors, a bobbin and other useful tools. Not sure what tools to bring? At the first class there will be extra tools. Contact Jeff Armstrong at 522-7005.

FLY ROD BUILDING: On Saturday, January 28th, 2017 from 10am to 5:30pm. An informational pre-class will be held on Thursday, January 12th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm where instructors help students decide which rod blank and components to buy. The cost is \$30.00. The class is for novice or expert. Build a fly rod for fresh or salt water at half the cost. Contact Wade Allen at 390-3130.

Tips for the Fly Tying Season

Quill” Holder (Marvin Nolte)

If you spray your wing “quills” with fixative before use, try this handy aid. Cut the sides off a cardboard box just below the closure flaps. This should expose the corrugations. Insert the quill of feathers into the corrugations and spray away then let the “quills” dry in place.

No need to cement a whip finish (Bruce Staples)

Most fly tiers are unaware that if you whip finish a head properly, you do not need to cement it. In fact, you do not have to whip finish a head. Hang your bobbin by about three inches of thread at the rear of the head position. Run a bead of Super Glue down the thread. Tightly wrap it to form the head.

Recipe of the Month

How Do We Cook Crayfish? (Also taken from Jon Flinders' Above Article)

Crayfish have a delicious sweet meat, but transporting them away from the water from which they are captured is illegal. So they must be cooked near that water. Doing so can be the basis for a picnic or outdoor dinner. Such places as Ririe Reservoir has picnic areas ideal for outdoor cooking. Just bring a propane stove, large pot with a lid and potable water.

Before boiling crayfish, wash away any debris. Purge the crayfish (clean out intestine) before boiling. A good way to do this is in a bucket of clean, cold water to which a half a cup of salt or of vinegar is added. When the water becomes cloudy, usually in about a half hour, the crayfish are purged.

Bring a pot of clean water to a boil, and place the live crayfish in it. They will be ready to eat in about 5 minutes after turning bright red. For extra flavor add crab/seafood boil, garlic, pepper, or onions to the water before boiling. Most crayfish meat is in the tail and can be eaten plain or dipped in butter or cocktail sauce.

So you did not capture enough crayfish for a meal? Release them and try this great and easy recipe for rainbow trout from the nearby South Fork that'll save that picnic.

Flour a pound and a half of rainbow fillets

Place in a buttered baking dish

Cover with contents of a can of cream of celery soup diluted with half a cup of Sauterne.

Top with a half cup of grated cheddar cheese or grated parmesan and a half Tablespoon of minced parsley.

Bake at 350 deg. F for 45 minutes.

Serves four



Fly of the Month

Bing's Golden Stone

Bing Lempke is renowned for creation of extended body mayfly and grass hopper patterns. These brought him due accolades from the fly-fishing world. But his lesser known patterns are equally elegant. This pattern was one of the last he created before illness took away his tying ability. Golden stoneflies are widespread inhabitants of area streams. You can further honor Bing by tying this pattern to imitate the adult phase of the golden stoneflies that so many of our streams host.

Hook: TMC 5262, or equiv., size 8
 Thread: Black, 2/0
 Tail: Dark moose mane hairs
 Body: Gold or tan Antron Yarn
 Legs: Dark moose mane hairs
 Wing: Bronze turkey quill segment tied down-wing
 Hackle: Ginger or grizzly hackle



2016-17 Calendar



Date	Activity
Tuesday, January 3rd	SRC Board Meeting: 6:30, Shilo Inn
Wednesday, January 11th	SRC General Membership Meeting, 6:30 Speaker: Bruce Staples
Saturday, January 14th	Bug Club Meeting: 8:00 a.m. Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday, January 17th	First Beginning Fly Tying Class, Idaho Falls High School: 6:30 PM
Tuesday, January 24th	Second Beginning Fly Tying Class, Idaho Falls High School: 6:30 PM
Saturday, January 28th	Bug Club Meeting: 8:00 a.m. Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday January 31st	Third Beginning Fly Tying Class, Idaho Falls High School: 6:30 PM
Tuesday, February 7th	SRC Board Meeting: 6:30, Shilo Inn
Tuesday, February 7th	Fourth Beginning Fly Tying Class, Idaho Falls High School: 6:30 PM
Saturday, February 11th	Bug Club Meeting: 8:00 a.m. Shari's Restaurant
Wednesday, February 15th	SRC General Membership Meeting, 6:30 Speaker: John Stenersen

Note: all membership and board meetings are at the Shilo Inn.
 Board meetings are held in the VIP room and are open to all members.
 General membership meetings are held in the Temple/River View rooms and are open to the public

Snake River Cutthroats
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Snake River Cutthroats

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Past President: Paul Patterson (208-569-8031)
Ex. Vice President:
VP Conservation: Jeff Armstrong (208-522-7005)
Treasurer: Jim Mathias (208-684-4200)
Secretary: Tim Crain (208-821-1646)

Senior Advisors

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Ron Hover
Scott Long
Jim Mathias
Dave Pace
Bruce Staples
Marvin Stucki

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3 Yr Directors

Mike Avery (208-351-3403), Rob Knox (760-419-1682), Joe Timchak (208-569-0630)

2 Yr Directors

Arn Berglund (208-569-2243), George Klomp (208-680-2762), Matt Woodard (221-1353)

1 Yr Directors

Wade Allen (208-390-3130), Pat & Susan Marushia (208-523-1591), Mike Miller (208-357-5569)

Committee Chairs

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Historian/Newsletter: Bruce Staples (208-522-9242)
Education: Jeff Armstrong (208-522-7005)
Expo: Arn Berglund (208-569-2243)
Programs: George Klomp (208-680-2762) & Marv Stucki (208-589-9677)
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Website: Brian Morishita (208-201-1669)
Youth: Tim Crain (208-821-1646)