

The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

December, 2017

A Message from the President *by Rory Cullen*

Hello Snake River Cutthroats. Coming up next is our Christmas Party. If you are a SRC member and have never been to any of our events, this is the one to attend. The cost of this event is \$15 per person. This year three main dishes: Beef tri-tip, Lasagna and Chicken Dijon will highlight our dinner, and of course SRC members potluck salads, sides and desserts. The Cutthroat gift exchange always provides for a wild few minutes. We will also hand out our annual participation gifts. Members are awarded entries for attending all events except our General Membership Meetings. Most gifts are provided by SRC. The club will take donated and re-gifted items at Jimmy's Fly Shop along with the dinner sign-up sheet thru Saturday December 9th. This is a BYOB function. Set-up starts at 5:30 party starts at 6:00. All other info is inside the newsletter.

SRC General Membership Meeting last month featured Tim Tollett, the owner of Frontier Anglers in Dillon Montana. His subject was "Fly-Fishing Southwest Montana". Tim began with a different take on catch and release. It sure got everybody thinking. Tim is an expert on his regions waters so I will leave it at that. He covered lakes, streams and rivers in and around Dillon. He showed some useful knots, so easy I think you could tie them blindfolded. He then rounded out the night with a slide show of some vintage photos. Thanks Tim for sharing some great shots of family and friends.

A few SRC members got together and did the first "Adopt a Highway" clean up. Thanks to Tim Crain and his family, they were the core group of volunteers. Bill Montalvo, Scott Long and I were the other members that showed up on a cold, rainy/snowy Saturday. This is a beautiful stretch of highway located just upstream and downstream of Swan Valley bridge on the South Fork. It was only about two hours of work but we were all soaked and pretty tired as the upstream section was rough and not been well cleaned in years. Another worthwhile project. See you at the Xmas party!



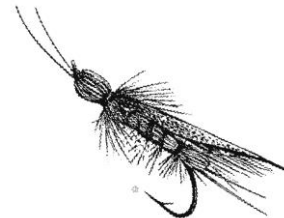
UPCOMING EVENT

Annual Xmas Party

Wednesday, December 13th, 6:00 PM

Senior Citizen's Center

535 West 21st St, Idaho Falls



SNAKE RIVER CUTTHROATS

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www.snakerivercutthroats.org





Annual Xmas Party

Wednesday December 13th

Senior Citizen's Center

535 West 21st St, Idaho Falls

Festivities begin at 6:00 PM,

Dinner at 6:45 PM

Sign up at Jimmy's All Seasons Angler

BEFORE December 9th

\$15.00 per person

This is sure to be another fun event. Gifts and games will be part as well as great food. The club will provide another great catered meat and non-alcoholic beverages.

According to your last name, please bring the following:

A through I - Will bring some kind of salad.

J through R - Will bring some kind of hot dish.

S through Z - will bring some kind of dessert.

Alcohol is allowed at the center, but BYOB

If you want to donate or "re-gift" an item for the gift swap, drop it at Jimmy's **no later than Saturday, December 9th.**

Win an Attendance Rod



Susan Marushia wins 2016-2017 attendance fly rod. You can have a great chance to win an attendance rod: just attend or take part in as many Snake River Cutthroats meetings or events as possible.

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@cablone.net.

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



Lower Blackfoot River Outing
By
Paul Voegeli



Under the leadership and sponsorship of Bruce Staples, a small number of the SRCs met at Abracadabra's restaurant on Channing Way for breakfast on Thursday 19 October to fuel up for a day on the lower Blackfoot River. The group of six included Bruce, Rory Cullen, Jeff Trimble, Robert Knox, Mike Miller and Paul Voegeli, and we were the first group seated and served at Abracadabra's that morning. We enjoyed a good meal and conversation at the breakfast table and were soon on our way headed south out of Idaho Falls having sufficiently stoked ourselves with coffee, eggs, hash browns, toast and Belgian waffles in anticipation of a good day on the water.

Bruce made a great call and decision to move the trip up one day in light of the local and regional meteorological prognostications of the media weather people, as Mike had done last month for the Daniels Reservoir SRC trip, and indeed it was a bluebird day with clear skies and a bit of a chilly wind, but an overall perfect day for fishing. Good call, gentlemen. It helps to have reasonably accurate forecasters and doppler radar in lieu of the old method of Bullwinkle J. Moose's weather-forecasting bunion to ensure a reasonable degree of certainty of a better day for fishing.

It took a little over an hour to drive on Wolverine Canyon Road and then on Blackfoot River Road to the Grave's Creek campground just beyond Morgan's Bridge. Rory had earlier checked the USGS information site and reported that the flow rate out of Blackfoot Reservoir was about 200 cfs. Bruce checked the water temperature and got a thermometer reading of 44 degrees F. The patterns that were predicted to be productive included bead headed peacock

herl bodied and maribou tailed varieties, humpies, small dry muddler varieties, small elk hair caddis imitations, olive wooly buggers, and black and olive colored leech patterns.

Conventional wisdom has it that in fishing in our neck of the woods that black leeches matter, and they did prove to be good and productive on the lower Blackfoot.

The predominant catch was of rainbow trout but several nice cutties were also on our lines and in our nets. Most of the fish ranged from ten to sixteen inches in length and they were a healthy color and sheen, vigorous, and evidently well-fed. There is a nice variety in the waterway and the different trout lies in this part of the lower Blackfoot. There was plenty of elbow and breathing room for each of us and all the fishermen had a good productive day.

Around 5:30 p.m. we all began to put the last pattern fished into the hook keep on the front end of the rod corks and made our ways back again at the Grave's Creek area. Moose Drool Ale and other assorted libations were enjoyed with the customary cheese, crackers, jerky and a treat of smoked salmon and more conversation and discussion of the day on the water. This was an especially meaningful trip for me personally. It was two years ago when I had just become associated with the SRC's, that I went on my first fishing outing with the SRC's to this exact same place. That trip was also Rob Knox's first fishing trip with the SRCs, he also having then recently moved to Ammon with his wife, following his retirement and life in southern California. Bruce was our congenial and kind trip host on that trip two years ago, so, thanks again, Bruce, for another great day on the lower Blackfoot River. We had a good and safe drive and return to Idaho Falls as we chased the last vestiges of the day's light and reflected on a day of good fishing and another exquisite day in eastern Idaho. Tight lines to all.

Second Tie One On Night

Our second Tap and Fill "Tie One On" Session featured Mike Glissmeyer of Idaho Fishing Outfitters. Mike is a good example of the old adage "If you want big fish, use big flies." He lived up to this by tying two of his streamer creations. The first, his "Whomper Stomper", simulates a sculpin but could double as a drowned mouse. His "Gliss'n Minnow definitely simulates a bait fish. Both of these flies require a quantity of material from traditional to synthetic materials. In any case, they are fun to tie and effective when presented using a sink tip line and short, stout leader. Thank you, Mike!



Snake River Cutthroats 2018 Class Schedule

Beginning Fly Tying Class - Beginning fly tying classes will start on Tuesday, January 23rd, 2018 and will run for 6 weeks. Classes are 2 hours each starting at 7:00 PM. All basic fly tying techniques are taught with emphasis on fly patterns that work well locally. All required materials and hooks are supplied for the basic cost of \$30. In addition there is an extensive set of class notes that covers each fly and tying technique in detail along with general information about materials and tools and complete section on trout food. Instructors are some of the best in the country with an average of 20 years teaching fly tying. This is a great way to get started in a hobby for a lifetime. Kids 10 years and older are welcome. The students need to bring the following; fly tying vise, scissors, a bobbin, a bodkin, hackle pliers, hair stacker, half hitch tool and other useful tools. If you have doubt on what to tools to buy, come to the first class and there will be extra equipment to use. For further information and to sign up for this class contact Buck Goodrich at 208-357-7328.

Fly Rod Building Class - The exact date for the Rod Building Class has not yet been set, however the class will be in late January or early February. There will be a pre-class two weeks before the main class where the instructors will help students decide which rod building components they will need and where to buy these components. The class is designed for building a quality fly rod for fresh or salt water. The novice can easily build a rod with patience and this class. The 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 to sign up for this class contact Wade Allen at 208-390-3130.

Free Fly Casting Class - On Tuesday, May 15th and Thursday, May 17th 2018 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 with no registration required. Just show up! 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. It is best to bring your own fly rod and reel. However for students with no equipment, rods and reels will be provided by the club to use during the class. Attend one or both classes. Contact Jeff Armstrong 208-522-7005 for more information.

What's With the Weirs? By Brett High, Fisheries Biologist

A weir is a fish trap placed in a stream to capture fish. It catches fish when they move or migrate. Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) use weirs on tributaries of the South Fork Snake River each spring. Native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout migrate into these streams to spawn. Rainbow Trout also move into these streams to spawn in the spring. Rainbow Trout are not native to the South Fork, and are the biggest threat to Cutthroat trout. Rainbows and Cutthroat can interbreed and their offspring (hybrids) are fertile. Over successive spawning seasons, Cutthroat trout can be replaced by Rainbows and hybrids. In order to keep this from happening in the South Fork, IDFG removes all Rainbow Trout and hybrids from the spawning runs before they spawn. The weirs make this possible. As trout move into the stream, the weirs guide them into a trap. Fish cannot get past the weirs without entering the trap. Each day during the spawning run, IDFG checks the trap for fish. Cutthroat Trout are moved upstream of the weir while Rainbow Trout and hybrids are removed and transported to local fishing ponds. The weirs have been used since 2001, and are very important for Cutthroat Trout conservation. With high water levels this year, we expect Cutthroat Trout to have a productive spawning season. The weirs help us make sure that the many young fish that are produced will be Native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout. Cutthroat Trout made the South Fork famous for its fishing. With help from the weirs, IDFG is confident that great fishing for Cutthroat Trout in the South Fork will not only be a "Good Old Days" story from the past, but a legacy for all of us to enjoy for a long time into the future.



Recipe of the Month

Pickled Whitefish

We have an abundance of these salmonids in regional streams. From large rivers such as the main stem Snake River to small streams such as Jackknife Creek, they reside in good numbers. Smoking and baking seem to be the preferred ways to prepare them for the table, but try this to produce delectable snacks or appetizers.

Clean fish, place in a crock, cover with plain salt (not iodized), a layer of fish and a layer of salt, ending with salt. This will make a brine and should cover the fish.

Let stand for 10 to 14 days to cure the fish.

Remove the brine, place fish in cold water, change water often. This will draw most of salt from the fish. Let stand in cold water 1 to 2 days. Skin and cut in chunks. Slice several onions and garlic.

Make pickling solution of:

- 1 part vinegar
- 1 part brown sugar (white may be used)
- 1-2 parts water
- 1 lg. pkg. pickling spice

Boil whitefish chunks in pickling solution a few minutes, let cool. Use a glass gallon jar or crock (not metal) to contain fish in solution.

Make a layer of onion, garlic, fish and pickling solution, ending with onion making sure the pickling solution covers all. Store in Mason jars.



Fly of the Month

Gray Nymph

In the 1930s Dee Vissing of Idaho Falls altered this ancient pattern by dubbing its muskrat hair body loosely enough that it trapped small air bubbles when submerged. The result was a sparkle that simulated that of an emerging nymph and dramatically increased the original patterns effectiveness. Dee named his variation “gray nymph” and proved its effectiveness on the South Fork. It produced well enough to gain national renown in an Outdoor Life article by Clyde Ormond.

Hook: Mustad 3906, or equiv, size 6-16

Thread: Black 6/0

Tail: Hen grizzly fibers

Body: Loosely dubbed muskrat hair

Hackle: A few turns of hen grizzly



2017-18 Calendar

Date	Activity
Tuesday, December 5 th	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Shilo Inn
Wednesday, December 6 th	EIFTE Organizational Meeting, All Seasons Angler, 6 PM
Wednesday, December 13 th	SRC Christmas Party, Senior Citizens Center, 5:30-10:00 PM
Tuesday, December 19 th	Tie One On Night, Tap & Fill, 7-8 PM
Tuesday, January 2 nd	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Shilo Inn
Wednesday, January 3 rd	EIFTE Organizational Meeting, All Seasons Angler, 6 PM
Wednesday, January 10 th	General Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM Shilo Inn, Guest Boots Allen
Tuesday, January 16 th	Tie One On Night, Tap & Fill, 7-8 PM

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

Board meetings are open to all members and are held in the VIP room.

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)

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Arn Berglund (208-569-2243), Cal Johnson (208-716-1535), George Klomp (208-680-2762)

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Historian/Newsletter: Bruce Staples (208-522-9242)
Education: Jeff Armstrong (208-522-7005)
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Outings: Marv Stucki (208-589-9677)
Website: Tim Woodard (208-201-1669)
Youth: Tim Crain (208-821-1646)