

# The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

October, 2017

## A Message from the President *by Rory Cullen*

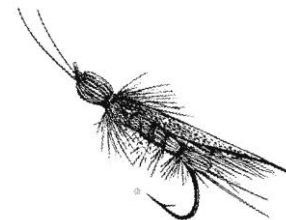
Welcome back Snake River Cutthroat Members! What a crazy water year on the South Fork! It did allow me and others to explore small streams and that was a good thing. Fall fishing on the river should be great as we have plenty of water in storage.

I would like to revisit my goals as I enter my final year as President. Increase membership, improve participation and take care of the core group of volunteers who donate so much of their time. Membership goes up and down with people moving in and out of the area. SRC has made an effort to acknowledge all first time visitors to our general membership meetings and then let them know we have membership sheets on hand. I believe that participation has improved. SRC's events, such as the picnic and the Christmas party, has seen an increase in numbers. Also, conservation projects has had a number of first timers show up. SRC will continue to provide great events with excellent food, nice venues and interesting fellowship. All in an effort to take care of our volunteers. We are headed in the right direction but there is always room for improvement. Since the last newsletter we had our SRC summer picnic. Thanks again to Mike and Ann Miller for hosting this event. What a beautiful location to enjoy food, fun and conversation. Buck Goodrich and Rob Knox did a great job as chefs and I just tried to stay out of their way. The side dishes brought by members were delicious as usual. We also had our South Fork Overnighter. This event almost didn't happen. Long time host Dave Pace was not able to host this year. Wade Allen and Scott Long stepped up at the last moment and organized a great event. Fishing was not the best but the food and beverage and the campfire conversation was as good as ever. This was a great example of SRC members donating time to make things work.

That's all for now. One more thing. Look for a new event starting soon. It involves fly-tying and beer.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
*Chad Hill on*  
*Effective Streamer Fishing*  
**Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM**  
**Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls**



**Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>  
Effective Streamer Fishing  
with  
Chad Hill**



Chad has been obsessed with fishing for forty crazy years now. His parents tell stories of trying to get him off the creek for dinner that began before he started storing memories! When he was twelve Chad entered fly tying and learned how to cast a fly rod. Life has never been the same. His love of fly fishing takes him worldwide, but so many places remain for him to discover. Chad has a real passion for solitude and large trout and this love has led him to explore the Intermountain west extensively.

Chad has turned into a streamer junkie over the last 5 years or so but he loves all kinds of fly fishing, especially if the takes are visual. He is extremely excited to be a part of Idaho Fishing Outfitters and looks forward to building relationships with its growing clientele.

Look for Chad to share streamer presentation techniques based on his experience, and watch while Mike Glissmeyer ties some of the streamers he & Chad recommend.

**Rainey Creek Gets Boost of Cutthroat  
Trout  
By  
Brett High, IDF&G**

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) stocked more than 30,000 Cutthroat Trout eggs in Rainey Creek. This was done as part of an experiment to determine if stocking eggs could be used to boost fish numbers. The eggs were obtained by spawning wild Cutthroat Trout from the South Fork Snake River. Rainey Creek is one of four major South Fork Snake River spawning tributaries for native Cutthroat Trout. Unlike the other three tributaries, few adult Cutthroat return to Rainey Creek during spring spawning runs. IDFG is tracking the impact of stocking the 30,000 eggs on the number of Cutthroat fry produced this year and the number of Cutthroat fry swimming downstream to the main South Fork Snake River. IDFG hopes that stocking Cutthroat eggs will be an effective tool to boost the number of Cutthroat Trout in Rainey Creek that migrate to and from the main river. Like salmon returning from the ocean, Cutthroat Trout returning from the main South Fork are larger fish and produce a lot more fry, because larger fish carry more eggs. Larger fish spawning in Rainey Creek means more Cutthroat in both the creek and the river

**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@cableone.net](mailto:casbas@cableone.net).

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



**Kokanee Fishery Status at Ririe Reservoir**  
by  
**Jon Flinders, IDF&G Fisheries Biologist**

Fisheries biologists are learning new information about the kokanee population in Ririe Reservoir. Regional fisheries staff and Fish and Game volunteers completed mid-water curtain netting in Ririe Reservoir last week. Curtain nets capture a variety of fish sizes, giving information on the health of the fish population. Curtain nets are common for sampling kokanee because they are versatile and lowcost. The large net hangs vertically in the water column, suspended from top to bottom. Fish that swim into the net snag their gills or fins in the mesh. In the summer kokanee cruise between 15 and 30 feet deep in search of microscopic food called zooplankton or "water fleas." We set three nets each night at sunset and pulled them at sunrise. We removed all captured fish from the nets, measured their length and then weighed them. For the kokanee we caught, we also determined their sex and whether they were mature or immature. Mature fish means they will spawn this fall in Willow Creek. We also removed the kokanees otoliths or "inner ear bone." Otoliths help Fish and Game biologists determine the fish's age and determine whether it is a hatchery or wild fish. We use this information to see how the population is looking and how well the stocked kokanee from the previous year are doing. Some of the questions we are trying to understand are: Do we have good abundances of kokanee this year? What are the different sizes of kokanee present? How skinny or plump are the kokanee? We use this information to determine the best stocking rates and regulations, and provide anglers with a high-quality, enjoyable fishery

This year's nets caught over 1,000 fish. The good news is....abundances of kokanee are higher this year than last year. The graph shows our catch per unit effort (CPUE), which is a metric of fish numbers, by species (KOK=Kokanee, RBT=Rainbow Trout, UTC=Utah Chub, UTS=Utah Sucker, WLY=Walleye, YCT=Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout). Higher CPUE's show higher numbers of fish and lower CPUE show lower numbers of fish. Last year's CPUE of 62 kokanee per net was excellent for kokanee waters. This year's CPUE of 107 indicates that anglers can expect to find and catch higher numbers of kokanee this year. The size of the kokanee is similar to last year. There is a group of smaller kokanee recently stocked around five inches. They will provide the fishery in the coming years, as the older kokanee spawn and die, or are harvested by anglers. The second group of age-1 kokanee are around ten inches, and another group of age-2 kokanee around 13 inches. The age-2 kokanee will move up Willow Creek in fall to spawn. Until these fish move up to spawn, they should provide a great kokanee fishery for anglers. These larger kokanee are around three quarters to one pound in weight and are nice and plump. So what are you waiting for, get out and fish for kokanee at Ririe!



## Yellowstone National Park Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Programs

*Native cutthroat trout are the most ecologically important fish of the park and the most prized, and highly regarded by visiting anglers. Several factors, mostly related to exotic species introductions, are threatening the persistence of these fish. The Yellowstone Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences Program strives to use best available science in addressing these threats, with a focus on direct, aggressive intervention, and welcomed assistance by visiting anglers.*

Over the past decade, the aquatic resources of Yellowstone National Park, and the ecosystems they support, have become seriously threatened by introductions of non-native (from elsewhere in North America) and exotic (from another continent) species.

For the foreseeable future, the Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences Program will focus the greatest amount of effort possible on conducting activities that are aimed at supporting its two main priorities:

- Preservation of Yellowstone Lake cutthroat trout, which is the largest remaining concentration of inland cutthroat trout in the world
- Restoration of fluvial populations of native trout, many of which have been lost due to introductions of non-native species.

The specific activity currently conducted to preserve Yellowstone Lake cutthroat trout is the lake trout suppression program, which is one of the largest non-native fish removal programs occurring in the United States. Activities related to the restoration of fluvial populations of native trout include the westslope cutthroat trout restoration in the East Fork Specimen Creek watershed. Also, prioritization of streams based on their potential for restoration success has been completed and will allow us to move forward with planning for restoration of Yellowstone cutthroat trout in streams of the park's Northern Range.

Most of the activities related to restoration of fluvial populations of native trout are financially supported by the Fisheries Fund Initiative of **Yellowstone Forever**, a non-profit organization whose mission is to fund projects and programs that protect, preserve and enhance Yellowstone National Park.

Part of the fish restoration process is the removal of non-native fish from the recovery area. Piscicides are toxins which remove fish from habitats where nets, electrofishing, angling, traps, or other mechanical methods are impractical or ineffective. Biologists in Yellowstone National Park have used rotenone in formulations approved by the Environmental Protection Agency in High Lake and East Fork Specimen Creek (2006-2009), Goose Lake (2011), Elk Creek (2012-2014), Grayling Creek (2013-2014), and Soda Butte Creek (2015-2016) to remove non-native fish species. On August 24<sup>th</sup> Rotenone application began on the Gibbon River above Virginia Cascades including Grebe, Ice, and Wolf Lakes.





## Grebe Lake Outing

By  
Mike Miller

On August 12, Bob Starck and I made the 3 mile hike to this beautiful lake to try our luck fishing for grayling. Grebe is supposedly one of the last places in the lower 48 with a natural population of grayling. While Bob and I were gearing up, two different groups of fishers made their way to the lake and I thought our solitude would be ruined but, as it turned out there was plenty of room to move off by ourselves. As we tubed ourselves to the weed beds on the northeast end of the lake, we saw a few fish rising and we caught some small fish. Then someone told the fish it was dinner time! We could not keep the fish from taking our dry flies. Any small dry fly worked.



It was one of those rare days when everything worked. Bob remarked that these fish are Kamikaze! If you missed a fish you only had to recast and it would try your fly until you caught it. The two biggest problems of the day were keeping your fly floating because of all the fish hitting it and releasing the gorgeous 10-14 inch fish without getting completely soaked.

Bob caught the largest fish of the day--a 15 inch wall hanger. We estimate that we each caught 75 to 100 fish. What these fish missed in size was made up by their beauty and willingness to take our flies. As far as my concerns about other fishing groups upsetting our solitude, I couldn't hear them from the far end of the lake over my laughter at the antics of these fish.

I'm sorry more club members didn't make this outing as it was an absolute joy. Also, two weeks later Grebe was poisoned to remove some rainbows that had been there a very long time.

## Tincup Willow Planting Project Arn Berglund

Meet at 10:00 AM at the junction of Hwy 34 and the Tincup Road, Bring waders as the pools are deep. USFS will provide pruners. If someone could bring a chainsaw to make the willow cuttings, that would speed things up. The ground is soft and planting is easy as most the channels are recently reconstructed. Barring unusual weather we should be OK. The Snake River Cutthroats may also provide lunch, so stay tuned. If the beaver have some dams in place, where we want to reinforce them, we will also be driving in wooden posts (not to fear, we have a portable hydraulic pounder). We just need

some strong backs to  
place the 80lb  
pounder on the  
post.

Contact Arn  
Berglund for details  
(208-569-2243)



## Recipe of the Month

### Italian Trout Chowder

The days are getting shorter, nights longer, and air temperatures dropping. All these changes make hot soup or chowder welcome for dinner. Try this one.

#### INGREDIENTS

¼ cup diced salt pork	1/3 cup diced celery
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil	1 cup diced onion
1 cup diced green bell pepper	2 cloves minced garlic
Big pinch red pepper flakes	1 tsp dried thyme
2 teaspoons dry oregano	¼ cup white wine
1 tablespoon fresh Italian flat leaf parsley, minced	
¾ pound peeled, diced new red potatoes	
4 cups strong fish stock or 4 cups bottle clam juice with one teaspoon clam base or any other strong stock such as lobster or shrimp	
1 28-ounce can crushed tomato	2 Tsp tomato paste
2 tablespoons tomato paste	1 Tsp salt
½ teaspoon black pepper	Grated Parmesan cheese
1 ¼ pounds fresh trout or salmon cut into one inch chunks.	

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place pork and olive oil in a medium to large heavy bottomed pot. Cook over medium high heat until the salt pork is rendered and slightly brown.
2. Add onions, peppers and celery and sauté three to five minutes or until celery is tender. Add garlic and sauté one more minute.
3. Add red pepper, thyme, oregano, parsley and diced potatoes. Sauté for 2 minutes.
4. Add wine and cook until the wine has reduced by half.
5. Add fish stock, canned tomatoes, tomato paste, salt and pepper and stir.
6. Reduce to medium and cook about 20 minutes or until potatoes are tender.
7. Taste and adjust seasoning then add the fish. Gently stir and cook over medium heat for about two to three minutes or until fish is cooked through. Do not stir too much or you will break apart the fish.
8.
  - Prep Time: 15 mins
  - Cook Time: 20 mins
  - Total Time: 35 minutes
  - Yield: 4-6 servings



**Fly of the Month**

**Double Bunny**

This is Buszek recipient and Jackson, Wyoming resident Scott Sanchez’s big fish fly. It is based on some salt water patterns he created. It won Jackson Hole One-Fly contests from 1991-1994 and has been used to subdue several gamefish species.

- Hook: Daiichi 700 (shank bent slightly at half-way point)
- Thread: Gray 3/0
- Weight: 0.035-in. diameter non-lead wire
- Body-Wing: 2 rabbit strips, hide sides opposing, dark on top, light on bottom, colors of choice
- Lateral Line: Flashabou, color of choice
- Eyes: Stick-on pair
- Rabbit strip adhesive: Contact cement
- Head cement-eye overcoat: Epoxy



**2017-18 Calendar**

Date	Activity
Tuesday, October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	SRC Board Meeting: 6:30
Wednesday, October 11 <sup>th</sup>	SRC General Membership Meeting, 6:30 Speaker: Chad Hill
Friday, October 20 <sup>th</sup>	Blackfoot River Outing, Bruce Staples 208-522-9242
Saturday October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Tin Cup Creek Willow Planting Project Contact Arn Berglund for details 208-569-2203
Tuesday, October 31 <sup>st</sup>	SRC Board Meeting: 6:30
Wednesday November 8 <sup>th</sup>	SRC General Membership Meeting, 6:30 Speaker TBA
Tuesday, December 5h	SRC Board Meeting: 6:30
Wednesday, December 13th	SRC Christmas Party, Senior Citizens Center, 5:30-10:00 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	



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## ***Snake River Cutthroats***

### **Club Officers**

**President:** Rory Cullen (208-419-8477)  
**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**

Gary Barnes  
Jimmy Gabettas  
Buck Goodrich  
Ron Hover  
Scott Long  
Jim Mathias  
Dave Pace  
Bruce Staples  
Marvin Stucki  
Matt Woodard

### **Board of Directors**

#### **3 Yr Directors**

**Wade Allen (208-390-3130), John Rivera (208-528-7997), Bob Starck (208-589-9339)**

#### **2 Yr Directors**

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

#### **1 Yr Directors**

**Arn Berglund (208-569-2243), Cal Johnson (xx), George Klomp (208-680-2762)**

### **Committee Chairs**

**Membership:** Carol Staples (208-522-9242)  
**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) & Bob Starck (208-589-9339)  
**Outings:** Marv Stucki (208-589-9677)  
**Website:** Tim Woodard (208-201-1669)  
**Youth:** Tim Crain (208-821-1646)