

The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

February, 2019

A Message from the President *by Paul Patterson*

If you didn't attend last month's meeting and you are one of those who don't enjoy the winter weather of eastern Idaho, you missed a great opportunity to at least vicariously visit a part of the world where you could currently be fishing and not needing to break the ice out of your guides. Brett Novak's program was full of great information for those looking for a salt water fishing experience. While Boot's Allen's presentation at the February meeting won't have the exotic appeal of salt water fishing, it will be full of useful information given the past presentations he's made to our chapter. So please plan on attending.

I'm hoping that by the time you read this the fly boxes for the 2019 Expo will be available. Like every year we rely on local tiers for most of the flies that we use in raffles and silent auctions at the Expo. Stop by Jimmy's and pick up a box. We'd like a dozen flies or more in every box. You can either return the box to Jimmy's or drop them at the front desk during the Expo. Remember, the Expo is early this year, March 29-30.

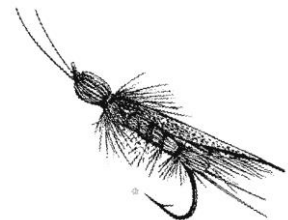
If you are interested in working as a volunteer at the Expo, we have a signup sheet at the monthly meetings. You can indicate what days or parts of days when you would be available. Or, you can call Arn Berglund or Paul Voegeli (numbers on back page) if you want more information. If you are willing to make a more significant commitment, there are opportunities to serve on the Expo Committee. This is the group that plans and executes all the different activities and events that take place at the Expo. If interested or if you simply have some questions, please contact either me or Arn Berglund. Our phone numbers are on the back page.

One of the activities that the Snake River Cutthroats have been involved with for the past 30 years was working with the Salmon-Challis National Forest on a spring conservation project. The projects were typically scheduled in April or May, depending on which stream we were working in. Avoiding high water meant dealing with Idaho's unpredictable spring weather. But because of budget constraints there will not be a 31st project. Dan Garcia, the fisheries biologist that we've worked with for 27 of these years said there is a slight chance of a fencing project this fall on Hayden Creek. But he won't know for a few more months. If you get a chance to communicate with your elected officials and if you feel like I do that the resource management agencies responsible for managing our public lands are being systematically underfunded, then let them know that this is not acceptable.

Phase III of Trout Unlimited's Tin Cup Creek project on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest did get funded, however, so there should be some work there this fall. And there is still the need to help clean screens on Rainey Creek. Contact Arn Berglund to sign up.



UPCOMING EVENT
Membership Meeting
Wednesday, February 13th, 6:30 PM
Boots Allen
Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls



Boots Allen
Wednesday, February 13th,
6:30 PM
Demystifying Still Water



Author, Head Guide at Jackson’s Snake River Anglers, associated with Lodge at Palisades Creek, renowned fly tier, and contributor to all facets of fly-fishing describes Boots Allen. Boots has been our guest a number of times over the years, and each time he has passed on solid information on various facets of fly-fishing. This time as a guest will be no exception as boots will pass on gems from his still water fly fishing experience.

Fly fishing on lakes can be intimidating to the point that many anglers avoid them altogether. This can be a mistake, as stillwater offers chances for lots of fish and the opportunity for true trophies. In *Demystifying Stillwater*, Boots taps into his 30-plus years of experience fishing lakes around the world to give the audience insight into the possibilities that exists on a wide variety of stillwater. Those who detest lake fishing with a fly rod are sure to give their nearby stillwater bodies another look after this program.

Tie One On
Meetings Continue



Dave Raisch and friend

The evening of January 15th was another “Full House” at Tap and Fill. Featured tier being Dave Raisch of Pocatello and Snake River Fly associate. The above picture how the size of trout his flies take. The Tuesday, February 19th meeting features Mike Glissmeyer of Idaho Angling Outfitters.

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.

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



Here are some South Fork numbers of interest From Brett High of IDF&G

Point estimates for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT), Rainbow Trout and Rainbow x Cutthroat hybrid trout (RBT), and Brown Trout (BNT) per mile with respective 95% confidence intervals for the Conant monitoring reach of the South Fork Snake River from 1982 through 2018.

Year	YCT/mile	95% CI	RBT/mile	95% CI	BNT/mile	95% CI
1982	436	342	6	7	101	39
1983						
1984						
1985						
1986	4659	648			1034	408
1987						
1988	2404	239			548	500
1989	2595	174	102	42	308	261
1990	3756	278	330	104	594	214
1991	2255	219	216	87	314	83
1992						
1993	2437	241	177	82	218	125
1994						
1995	1983	236	436	116	474	284
1996	2421	362	958	677	506	126
1997	1845	123	974	118	595	327
1998	2726	329	743	127	401	58
1999	2977	262	1055	204	825	273
2000						
2001						
2002	1355	191	1265	314	463	197
2003	1353	192	1501	364	386	160
2004	771	99	854	168	618	328
2005	1061	331	678	340	333	169
2006	1207	168	1092	287	531	113
2007	2224	228	1329	182	854	189
2008	1716	251	925	174	612	92
2009	1331	140	2270	486	495	77
2010	1953	457	1893	1073	772	220
2011	1975	357	1919	412	1283	267
2012	1707	167	1931	286	1438	179
2013	2258	256	1902	538	1212	342
2014	1487	213	1418	277	765	96
2015	1724	205	1052	136	1256	316
2016	1450	117	1295	122	1013	89
2017	1424	113	1849	174	923	89
2018	1832	205	3073	401	1347	208



Some More Fly Tying Tips!

Bruce Staples



Here are more thoughts that can help enjoying this tranquil and rewarding activity.

- **Dubbing Wax:** Many tiers prefer waxing their fingers rather than waxing the tying thread before applying dubbing. That is because some waxes are unsuitable for this purpose. Carefully melt some dubbing wax and add an equal portion of silicone gel fly floatant. The resulting mixture will be the right consistency on cooling to rub on your fingers before adding dubbing.
- **.Antron Dubbing (From Craig Mathews):** Pure Antron is a favored dubbing material that is easy to find, inexpensive, and adds a desirable sparkle effect to fly bodies. It can be dyed to a desired color in cold RIT dye (2:1) and vinegar. Dub it onto thread in the standard fashion or in a loop. Use it straight, or mix it with other materials.
- **Waterproofing Flies (From Ross Hendershot):** Spraying flies with Scotch Guard is not new. Trouble with doing it in the open is that fumes are not healthy, and the Scotch guard is wasted. Instead, spray Scotch Guard into a small glass bottle (ie: baby food jar). On contact with jar, fumes become liquid Scotch Guard. Dip your finished flies into this liquid, then set them out to dry. Close the jar to save the liquid for further use.
- **Dubbing Storage (From John Pike):** Take a 4-inch piece of flex-straw from your neighborhood grocery or C-store. Remove the contents of a bag of dubbing. You can use a crochet hook, or such to stuff the dubbing into the core of the straw. To remove dubbing from the straw, simply pinch the straw and roll the extruded dubbing onto your fingers. To identify the contents, write on the straw surface with a felt tip marker. Use this method to reduce storage space in a portable or travel tying kit.

I'll pass on more tips in upcoming newsletters.

A SATURDAY MORNING BUG CLUB REPORT

By
Paul Voegeli



Justin



Jolly Crew



Jim's Dubbing Technique

The Winter Blues, Short-Day Doldrums, and Seasonal Affective Disorder ("SAD") are symptoms of diminished daylight hours and secondary consequences of the course and axial rotational tilt of the planet as we revolve around the sun. One sure cure for these afflictions is the early morning gathering every other Saturday at Shari's restaurant where hot coffee and breakfast lead to an opportunity to be in the company of light-deprived fellow fly tiers and fishermen who meet to share tying patterns and techniques that are both willingly and generously demonstrated as well as appreciated.

The well-lit southern windows and the tables and chairs at Shari's provides great natural light and abundant infra-red waves of warmth. Of course, we would all rather be on the water, but as Mick Jagger says: "You can't always get what you want; but if you try, you just might find that you get what you need". We are fortunate to have the Bug Club of the Snake River Cutthroats as a tonic and creative opportunity.

Bug Club is truly a master class setting and a venue of learning. It's a front-row-center seat in a theater with experienced and skilled tiers presenting quips and pearls right in front of you and demonstrating selection of materials, thread handling, dubbing - you name it - there it is - up close and in focus. The running commentary is always entertaining, and some interesting digressions and side stories (for which fishermen and undoubtedly fisherwomen as well are known) also punctuate the learning and sharing of knowledge.

At the December 15th meeting there were several tiers including Mike Miller, Justin Barnard, Jim Slattery, and Buck Goodrich. Jim demonstrated an interesting dubbing technique and also discussed how he prepares and uses dubbing wax. Justin demonstrated his method of harvesting matching biots and tying upright wing constructs. Buck and Mike displayed their skills and recommendations for a variety of patterns. Bug Club is open to all who are interested in expanding and refining their skills. The bonus is that the tying demonstration at Jimmy's shop follows the Bug Club presentations. What a fine way to spend a Saturday morning learning and refining personal skills and avoiding winter doldrums simultaneously. So, to avoid being a Wintertime Grouch, you can always go to Bug Club then Jimmy's demos and be enlightened.

Recipe of the Month

Pike fishing is becoming more popular amongst local anglers. This is beside the fact that getting to waters hosting them requires drives of several hours or even days. Here is a recipe from North Dakota Department of Fish and Game that will help you enjoy these toothy critters even more.

Smoked Northern Pike

Brine:

1. 5 cups cold water
2. 1/4 cup canning/pickling salt
3. 1/2 cup dark brown sugar
4. 2 Tbs (or more) minced garlic

Steps:

1. Prepare fillets with skin off, ribs and peritoneum removed, and Y-bones in tact (help hold meat together when cooking).
2. Prepare brine, whisk until salt and sugar are completely dissolved. Tip - use a large stainless steel bowl.
3. Place thoroughly rinsed fillets in brine and submerge completely. Tip - place plate on top to keep meat under liquid surface.
4. Cover bowl with clear wrap and refrigerate two days.
5. Pick preferred smoking wood type. For light colored meats, I prefer fruit woods (i.e. cherry, chokecherry, apple). Feel free to mix flavors.
6. Place wood chips in box and rinse to dampen. Place wood chip box and water dish in smoker and preheat to 170F-180F. While smoker is preheating, grease meat racks with cooking spray or a wrapper from a stick of butter. Briefly rinse fillets and place on greased racks. Place a tray below racks to catch dripping water/brine.
7. *After the smoker has started to produce smoke (not before!) place meat racks into smoker allowing enough spacing for proper circulation of smoke and heat. Cooking time is about three hours. If a fully loaded smoker, you may need to add a half hour + to your total cooking time.
8. Remove meat when done and allow to rest for a half hour or longer. I place the meat racks in the oven to rest as it is an insulated and sealed container.
9. Store fillets in vacuum seal bags and store properly.



Fly of the Month

Bing's Golden Stone

Here's a pattern to begin stocking up on for the late springtime-early summer golden stonefly emergences on area streams. This is a lesser known pattern from Bing Lempke. Bing passed away in February, twenty-eight years ago, and this was one of his last fly patterns. His adult golden stone pattern is not difficult to tie. I found it effective on some Yellowstone Park waters and the Henry's Fork.

Hook: TMC 5262, or equivalent, size 8
 Thread: Black, 3/0
 Tail: Black moose mane hair
 Body: Gold or tan Antron yarn
 Wing: Single turkey quill wing segment with rounded tip
 Hackle: Ginger or grizzly with bottom fibers trimmed
 Legs: Black moose mane hair



2019 Calendar

Date	Activity
Tuesday, February 5th	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Shilo Inn
Wednesday, February 13th	Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM, Shilo Inn, Guest: Boots Allen
Saturday, February 9th	Bug Club Meeting, 8 AM Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday, February 19th	Tie One On Night, Tap & Fill, 7-8 PM
Saturday, February 23rd	Bug Club Meeting, 8 AM Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday, March 5th	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Shilo Inn
Wednesday, March 13th	Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM, Shilo Inn, Guest: Andy Millward & Matt Matkin
Tuesday, March 19th	Tie One On Night, Tap & Fill, 7-8 PM
Fri.-Sat. March 29th-30th	East Idaho Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo, Shilo Inn
Tuesday, April 2nd	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Shilo Inn
Wednesday, April 10th	Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM, Shilo Inn, Guest: IDF&G on Henry's Lake Status

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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