



The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

May, 2019

A Message from the President *by Paul Patterson*

The April membership meeting provided an opportunity for the Idaho Department of Fish & Game to present information on Henry's Lake and the Blackfoot River in terms of fish population trends and management challenges. It also gave members a chance to ask questions. Thanks to both Jenn Vincente (Henry's Lake) and Ryan Hillyard (Blackfoot River). Jenn lives in Island Park and Ryan lives in Pocatello, so they both had long drives ahead of them when the meeting ended. There was no fly tyer that night, so Ron Miller made a short and informative presentation on the Henry Fork Foundations South Fork Initiative.

I'm not sure if this is the last President's Message that I get to write, or if I get one more in July. But I don't want to miss the chance to thank all the members of the Board who served this past year. I would especially like to thank the directors who are finishing their 3-year terms: Mike Avery, Rob Knox and Joe Timchak. Joe has agreed to run for Secretary and Rob will continue his work on publicity and raffles at the membership meetings. All open board positions and candidates are shown on page 2. The election will take place at the annual business meeting, which will be held at Papa Tom's on May 8th. In addition to the candidates shown on page two, we also accept nominations from the floor on the night of the election. As an added incentive to attend, the pizza is free. We will also be voting on our revised bylaws and discussing some of the chapter highlights of the past year and asking about future projects and programs that members would like to see. So please plan on attending. Social begins at 5:30 and pizza will be served, starting around 6:15 or so.

I would also like to thank a couple of other folks who do a lot behind the scenes for the Snake River Cutthroats, Jimmy Gabettas and Marv Stucki. Jimmy of Jimmy's All Seasons Anglers allows us to use his store as a drop-off/pick-up point, his employees disperse raffle items not picked up at the Expo, and they handle the class registrations for the Expo, as well as the signup sheets for our summer picnic and Christmas party. He also allows the Expo planning committee to meet in his shop after business hours. Marv Stucki is the owner of the Stucki Law Office Building in downtown Idaho Falls. The upstairs provides the office space for Marv's law practice and the large basement storage space. Since he wasn't using all the storage space, he has generously allowed us to use the storage free of charge for the many items that appear if by magic for use during the Expo each year. Both Marv and Jimmy serve on the SRC Board as Senior Advisors and have served in this and other capacities for many years. Thank you.



UPCOMING EVENT

Annual Business Meeting

Wednesday, May 8th, 5:30 PM

1830 South Woodruff

Idaho Falls





Annual Business Meeting and Pizza Pig-Out

**Papa Tom's
1830 South Woodruff
(Southwest Corner of Woodruff & 17th)**

**Wednesday May 8th
5:30 PM (pizza then
business about 6:15)**

Besides gooey pizza and drinks of varying strength, one of the actions at this meeting is nomination of officers. We have a few vacancies on the Snake River Cutthroats Board of Directors. Want to be involved in a club that puts back into the cold water resource we love so much?

**2019 Snake River Cutthroats
Officer Nominations**

Officers:

President: (2019-2021) open
Past President: (2018-2020) Rory Cullen
Executive VP: open
Conservation VP: 2018-2020) Arn Berglund
Treasurer: (2018-2020) Jim Mathias
Secretary: (2019-2021) open

Officer Candidates:

For President: Matt Woodard (note his term will be for only one year, 2019-2020)

For Executive VP:

For Secretary: Joe Timchak

Directors:

3-Year: (2019-2022) open
2- Year: (2018-2021) Cal Johnson, Lee Morse, Paul Voegeli

1-Year: (2017-2020) Wade Allen, John Rivera, Bob Starck

Candidates for 3-Year Directors:

**Andy Bosworth
Brian King
Terrence Scott**

Additional nominations can be submitted to any board member including self-nominations, as well as made at May 8th business meeting

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.



Coping with Wind

By

Paul Bowen

A rather blustery day it was in late March a number of years ago. I was waist deep in the Chester back waters. I was trying my best to get a drag free float with a small snow fly imitation. A nice sized fish had been rising in front of me for some time now and the wind seemed to spoil almost every cast. My partner for the day was waving for me to come over to shore where he was standing. "Just a minute," I hollered back. "Come here I need you for a minute," was his anxious reply. "Oh alright," I thought to myself. "If I must. I'll probably never get a decent cast over him anyway."

As I approached my partner the problem became quite apparent. Under his nose was a precarious black dot that seemed to be attached to the end of his leader. A gust of wind had misguided his back cast and the #20 Snow Fly was embedded in a place that would have been much more suitable for a mustache. A little work with the hemostats and my friend was free again.

Errant flies are only one of the problems we face while trying to cope with the wind. It also makes a shambles out of our leaders, separates our head gear from our bald heads, (at least some of us have such crowns) and it makes a gentle fly presentation almost impossible. I've not been able to master all of these problems but I have found a few tricks that seem to make things a little bit more manageable.

Control of the fly line loop is the major element of success in all casting situations. Casting into a stiff breeze is no exception to that rule so maintaining a tight loop is essential. Most of the people I fish with go for the heavy artillery 17, 8, or 9 wt. rods when the wind gets to kicking up its heels. I too use to do the same. The other scenario I see happening is for a fellow angler to over power his rod with a heavier line than the one the rod was designed for. I now know that both of these solutions are not really the right answer for coping with the problems associated with wind. Let me explain.

Larger rods do have much more power. They also have much more bulk which adds to the work one encounters on windy days. More bulk means more wind resistance thus it takes much more energy to move the rod through the air to make the cast. The larger line size also means more bulk to be blown about by the wind. The loop size in casting is determined by the distance the rod tip flexes. A short tip movement, as in a so called fast action rod, forms a very small or tight loop. Conversely a wide tip arc, as that in a soft or slow action rod, forms a much wider more open loop. This open loop is much more wind resistant than the tight loop. This being true then over lining a rod only complicates matters even more by flexing the rod even more than normal and thus throwing a wider more wind resistant loop. The larger diameter of the line further complicates things and the cast becomes a disaster.

Under lining the rod has essentially the opposite effect. The lighter weight in the line flexes the tip of the rod less in effect speeding up the action of the rod and forming a tighter less wind resistant loop. The smaller line diameter is also less effected by the wind especially a cross wind.

(5)

The net result is more line control and a better presentation of the fly.

I have found this past year that my western action (quite stiff) 4 wt. rod handles dry flies much better in the wind than the much softer 6 wt. rod that I had been using for years. Of course if one is casting large wind resistant flies such as hoppers on sofa pillows a 4 wt. just won't quite do the job. A 6 wt. line on a 7 wt. rod would do a much better job under these conditions.

Another thing that I've found that helps when casting into the wind is to keep the forward cast very low to the surface of the water. The friction created by the water surface on the wind slows it down somewhat just a few inches above the surface. A high back cast sets up our cast by catching wind thus increasing line speed. This increased line speed aids in loading the rod and increasing the line speed on the forward cast as well. The forward cast is then aimed out low over the water in front of you where the wind has been slowed by the water surface. The fly is then less apt to be blown off target.

In a cross wind a side arm cast will keep the cast low where it is less effected by the wind. It also keeps the fly away from your precious body better than an overhead cast. Learning to cast with ones weak hand is also a great asset that will help you cope with the wind.

While nothing I know of is a cure-all for handling the wind, these few tricks have helped me to be a little bit more tolerant when I'm face with a persistent wind that threatens to ruin my day. I guess one could always stay home when its windy but then here in the west when would you ever get a chance to go? Remember; "the best time to go fishing is when you can get away" not when the wind's not blowing. Try a few of the ideas the next time your confronted by a wind that threatens to make you leave the stream in disgust. You just may find that that next cast is a perfect one that will put your fly over a nice 20" plus fish.



Snake River Cutthroats 2019 Free Fly Casting Clinic



- Thursday, May 16th 2019 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
- Located at Tautphaus Park by the fountain (southeast corner of the park off Boulevard) in Idaho Falls.
- Open to everyone. No registration required. Just show up! Its Free!
- Taught by John Rivera, an FFI certified casting instructor and master rod builder and his wife Fabia Fuenzalida and assisted by members of the Snake River Cutthroats Fly Fishing Club.
- Designed for beginners and intermediate casting levels.
- Bring your own fly rod and reel. For students with no equipment, rods and reels will be provided.
- Contact Jeff Armstrong 208-522-7005 for more information.
- Visit our website at SnakeRiverCutthroats.org or our Facebook page: The Snake River Cutthroats Fly Fishing Club



Escapes from the Crowded Lower Henry's Fork and Raging South Fork

The lower Henry's Fork, in about three weeks, features the big stonefly event. That means almost as many anglers will flock to the river in numbers not too far from that of the emerging stoneflies on the river from Warm River to St Anthony. Those numbers will stay increased, boats and all, as the annual procession of mayfly emergences continues. The South Fork reach of the Snake River is approachable in its entire length, but the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation is dumping water out of Palisades Reservoir at an increasing rate to make room for the huge run-off expected during the next few months. Because the step function-like method of release this time of year, fly-fishing is much reduced to pitching big rubber leg type flies into the calmer areas of the roaring waters. Also, the rising and ultra-cold waters add perils to wading.

Now back to the term "shoulder season." A salvation is present as some back country roads are beginning opening up to serve ranchers and farmers. Here is a two-step strategy for getting away from the crowded lower Henry's Fork and the upcoming roaring waters of the South Fork reach of the Snake River. First, in your computer browsing time, take a look at the IDF&G web site, particularly that part discussing the Upper Snake and Southeast areas. Or pick up a hard copy of the IDF&G's current regulations to do this. Note that a number of streams within these management areas are open to catch and release fishing. Consider that when roads open to these, crowding relative to the Henry's Fork and South Fork will be minor, but run-off could be a factor. This factor could narrow candidates to streams below reservoirs, but there are choices here. Second in the two-step strategy, look at USGS Idaho flow gages (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/id/nwis/current/?type=flow>) in the Snake River drainage for increasing run-off in any water being considered. The Big Lost River below Mackay Dam is likely the best early season candidate. It is adjacent to U.S. Highway 93 with public access locations around the town of Mackay. The Portneuf River above Lava Hot Springs along the old highway (Whiskey Mike's area) is a choice until irrigators demand water out of Chesterfield Reservoir. The lower Blackfoot River is a candidate when the river road opens. The lower end opens first. Within a mile of the pavement end the river in the hollow is a choice now. With 4-wheel drive you can drive the steep road down to it, or park and walk from the River Road. Midge and BWO life cycle patterns and standard nymphs (zebra, hare's ear, pheasant tail, etc) are productive offerings for these waters. Rivers in which run-off is more likely to impinge include Fall River upstream of Chester with points off the paralleling Fall River Road. Teton River in the Hog Hollow area north of Newdale offers good fishing until runoff takes over. Little Wood River west of Carey, Idaho is another. It's a long haul, so get in touch with Picabo Anglers to determine if run-off impacts angling or not. Birch Creek in the family area above Lone Pine is always in fishing shape.

So there you have candidates with possibilities and certain tranquility compared to our two icon waters. All that is required is passable roads and getting there before big run-off arrives.



Recipe of the Month

Southwestern Fish Tacos

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh cilantro
- 4 teaspoons taco seasoning
- 1/2 pound lake trout or South Fork rainbow fillets, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 4 taco shells
- Optional ingredients: shredded lettuce, chopped tomato and lime wedges

Directions

- For sauce, mix mayonnaise, sour cream, cilantro and 2 teaspoons taco seasoning. In another bowl, toss cod with lemon juice and remaining taco seasoning.
- In a skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat; saute fish just until it begins to flake easily with a fork, 4-6 minutes (fish may break apart as it cooks). Spoon into taco shells; serve with sauce and remaining ingredients as desired.

Health Tip: A simple switch to reduced-fat mayo and sour cream in the sauce saves more than 100 calories and 10 grams of fat per serving.

Nutrition Facts

2 tacos: 506 calories, 38g fat (8g saturated fat), 52mg cholesterol, 852mg sodium, 20g carbohydrate (1g sugars, 1g fiber), 20g protein.



Fly of the Month

Henry’s Fork Stonefly Nymph

This pattern comes to us from Mike Lawson, and it is time to begin pitching it and similar patterns in the lower Henry’s Fork. The big stonefly nymphs will be moving towards shorelines soon to begin the stonefly madness that overtakes trout and fly-fishers alike. A curved hook gives this pattern the coiled posture dislodged nymphs assume.

- Hook: Mustad 37160, or equiv., size4-6
- Thread: Black, 6/0
- Tail: Forked of black crow primary quill fibres
- Abdomen: Black chenille
- Thorax: Brown chenille
- Wing case: Black chenille
- Hackle: Black saddle palmered over thorax



2019 Calendar

Date	Activity
Tuesday, April 30 th	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Shilo Inn VIP Room
Wednesday, May 8 th	Annual Business Meeting and Board Election
Thursday, May 16 th	Free Public Casting Clinic, Tautphaus Park, 6:30 PM
May 17 th -21 st (Friday-Tuesday)	Montana Pike Fishing Trip Host: Dave Pace (208-360-5657)
Saturday, June 8 th	Twin Lakes Outing Host: Jimmy Gabettas (524-7160)
June 25 th -June 29 th (Tues.-Sat.)	Reindeer Lake Pike Fishing Trip Host: Dave Pace (208-360-5657)
Wednesday, July 10 th	Summer Picnic Mike & Ann Miller’s
Fri.-Sat: July 19 th -20 th	South Fork Overnighter : Contact TBD

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

Club Officers

President: Paul Patterson (208-569-8031)
Past President: Rory Cullen (208-419-8477)
Ex. Vice President: Matt Woodard
VP Conservation: Arn Berglund (208-569-2243)
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: Cal Johnson (208-716-1535), Lee Morse (208-252-0703), Paul Voegeli (303-324-0104)
2 Yr Directors: Wade Allen (208-390-3130), John Rivera (208-528-7997), Bob Starck (208-589-9339)
1 Yr Directors: Joe Timchak (208-569-0630), Mike Avery (208-351-3403), Rob Knox (760-419-1682)

Committee Chairs

Membership: Carol Staples (208-522-9242)
Historian/Newsletter: Bruce Staples (208-522-9242)
Education: Jeff Armstrong (208-522-7005)/Terrance Scott (503-432-6953)
Expo: Arn Berglund (208-569-2243)
Programs: George Klomp (208-680-2762)/Bob Starck (208-589-9339)
Publicity: Rob Knox (760-419-1682)
Outings: Marv Stucki (208-589-9677)
Website: Scott Long (520-3750), Rob Knox (760-419-1682), Tim Woodard (208-201-1669)
Youth: Tim Crain (208-821-1646)