



The Sunriver Angler

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P. O Box 4273
Sunriver, OR 97707

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"Sorry tree, but I spent hours tying that fly and I want it back." G. W.

Presidents Message:

Well it looks like winter has arrived. It is snowing as I write, and the skiing is fantastic. Great Super Bowl wasn't it. The press has established new societal norms, thou. I guess it is no longer acceptable for wives to defend their husbands from taunting fans, and receivers are not accountable for passes they drop when wide open. Oh Well! Only 53 days to opening day of the baseball season. Unless you like to watch golf, or extreme sports, on TV you might as well put on the woolies under your waders and go fishing.

The 2012 outings schedule is starting to come together. While this is still somewhat tentative, it looks like the following: May, Metolius River, perhaps 2 or 3 days with camp out; June Diamond Lake, probably starting the Monday after Fathers Day; July, East Lake; August Davis Lake; September, Hosmer Lake. That will firm up, with specific dates, in the next month or two. We will have at least 2 coordinators for each outing, will probably publish some suggested flies for each water body prior to the outing, have some brief pointers in the morning, and generally try to make each trip fun and worthwhile. Mark your calendars. If anyone has any other ideas for an outing, and would be willing to pitch in and help organize it, feel free to let me know. The more the better if we can get decent attendance.

The Deschutes River Conservancy will be holding its spring meeting in Sunriver. As part of that meeting it will hold a reception at the Great Hall on Thursday, March 1, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. An invitation is included in this Newsletter. Plan on attending if you are free, it should be quite interesting. If you do plan on attending please RSVP by February 20 to the web site indicated in the invitation. I plan on being there for sure, and it would be nice to see a good turnout of Anglers. The DRC is a tremendous organization that does a lot of extremely important work for the area, especially the fishing community. It is one of our principal beneficiaries of donated funds. So let's show our support for their efforts in this way as well.

Dave Schmerber, Gary Gehlert and I will be meeting later this month to review our participation program. We may be tweaking it a bit for the coming season, Stay tuned, but plan on keeping track of your participation in our various activities.

Remember, the fish won't come to you!

Mal

Who We Are:



The Sunriver Anglers Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, education and promotion of responsible angling in the high desert region of Central Oregon. More information can be obtained by writing to P. O. Box 4273, Sunriver, OR 97707 or looking at our website. <http://www.sunriveranglers.org>

SRA February Meeting Program: Ron Thompson



Land up to one hundred Rainbows in a day on a dry fly? Unheard of you say. Well add to that the untouched landscape, the cry of a lonely loon, and the remoteness as you've never experienced and you have the Blackwater River in British Columbia.. Got the picture? Retired B. C. Guide and Outfitter Ron Thompson will share his knowledge of 40 plus years guiding on the beautiful Blackwater River at the Sunriver Anglers February 16 meeting at the Sunriver Firehall at 7 pm.

The Blackwater River is located NW of Quesnell B.C. and is entirely untouched by manmade structures and development. The river's origin begins in the cedar swamps of the Caribou/Chilcotin area and heads east eventually joining the mighty Fraser River. Actually the drainage lies adjacent to the famous Dean River which flows to the west. The Blackwater derives its name from the tea like color of the water due to the tannins found in the soils. The river meanders through 150 miles of interconnected lakes and canyons until it eventually flows into the Fraser.

Due to the high nutrient level, abundant invertebrate population, and remote access, the Blackwater has a healthy population of Rainbows. How many, no one knows for sure as the B. C. Fisheries do not actively manage the population. The upper river fish are 13- 15", while larger but fewer fish to 18" seem to reside in the lower stretches of the river. Two to four weight rods, nine foot long seem to be the norm.

The Blackwater Rainbows are a subspecies of their own, being found only in Blackwater drainage. The beautifully marked and full bodied trout prefer large prey items such as dragonflies nymphs, snails, mollusk and small bait fish. As one year olds they feed on small course fish and are highly piscivorous at maturity. In recent years they have been used as triploids for stocking the famous Dragon Lake and will be stocked in the coming years in East Lake to devour the troublesome tui chub. As aggressive shallow water feeders they are superb at attacking dry flies.

During Ron's tenure he was active in the establishment of the Lake Kluskoil Lake Provincial Park which protects 23 miles of the Blackwater as well as helping to ensure the Heritage River designation for the river. In addition, Thompson worked to convince BC Fisheries to regulate the river as an artificial fly only water and to implement a powerboat restriction on the water as well. Pretty impressive guy!

Come join us on February 16th and learn of an incredible world class fishery and hear some great river adventures.

The Sunriver Anglers Club invites members and guests (both men and women are welcome) to its monthly meetings.

For information and the current club newsletter, visit <http://www.sunriveranglers.org>

Direct any questions about the club to president Mal Murphy at (541) 593-2641.

SRA February Board Meeting Highlights:

The minutes of the Jan. 4, 2012, were approved as submitted.

Recap of Christmas Dinner and Fish Fry: Our net for the Christmas Dinner was \$7800. This was slightly higher than 2010. The net for the Fish Fry was \$7200. This was also slightly above the previous year. Mal and Chuck are going to analyze the auction items at both events and determine what types of items are most sought after. One of our unsold items was an Internet set-up. Mark Baldwin moved and Dave Long seconded a motion that, if possible, it be donated to Village Bar and Grill for their new location. Motion carried.

2012 Budget: Jack McDonnell is soliciting ideas for this year's budget. A new tentative budget will be prepared for the March Board Meeting.

2012 Outings Discussion: Tentative Schedule: May, Metolius, June, Diamond Lake, May or July, Davis Lake, July, East Lake, Sept., Hosmer Lake. It was suggested that the club buy some new equipment for use at the outings. Alan Stout will check prices from the local shops that support our club. All members of the club will be called and invited to attend the outings. An orientation to include gear and tackle needed and other pertinent information will be conducted before each outing.

2012 Participation program: Mal, Dave, and Gary will develop criteria for the program. This will be presented at the March meeting.

Web Site Enhancement: Discussion centered on the number of monthly hits the website received. It was suggested that our Newsletter be put on the web. More educational material and the fly of the month could be included. Jack McDonnell volunteered to check on costs and turn around time with our web master.

New Business:

Fly Tying: Phil Fischer volunteered to share information with club members and become involved in teaching classes. Our past beginning classes have not been very well attended. The intermediate classes have averaged 7 to 10 participants. Phil made the suggestion that a booth be set up at free fishing day that would help interested kids tie a simple pattern.

Board Meeting Arrangements: Steve Ashton suggested that we ask for a square table arrangement that would facilitate hearing one another and encourage discussion.

Christmas Dinner Suggestions: Get a professional auctioneer. Have a short slide show about club activities. Have kids who have participated in our youth programs give a short presentation. Have our scholarship recipients speak.

Free Fish Day: Make sure that rods and reels stay in working condition through the whole program.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 6, 2012, 8:00 a.m., Sunriver Resort.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Gehlert, Secretary

An Exclusive SRA Fishing Story:



This is a story about a Penguin. To make it fun let's call the Penguin, "Pete". So this is a story about Pete the Penguin. This story has nothing to do with anyone who is living or dead and if it sounds like a story you have heard recently about an SRA outing it is purely coincidental.

One day, Penguin Pete and some of his animal friends decided to go fishing. It was a very cold and windy day, but that didn't seem to matter with the group because they wore their warmest outdoor clothes and they brought along some belly warming liquid. When they arrived at their fishing destination, someone suggested that they get nice and warm before attempting to fish. About a half-hour later they were raring to go. Penguin Pete and his animal friends were excited to get going, but there was a small problem. It seems that the pond they were going to fish was partly frozen. This didn't seem to bother Penguin Pete as he stepped on the ice and proceeded to get closer to open water. Yup, you guessed it. Yup, you are much smarter than Penguin Pete. The only remark Penguin Pete made as he was standing in chest-high deep in water was, "I should have taken Ice 101 in college."

Story by A. Nominus

SRA Coming Events:

February 16	Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Sunriver Fire Hall. Speaker- Ron Thompson on the Black-water River in B.C.
March 6	Board Meeting, 8:00 AM, Lodge
March 15	Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM Sunriver Fire Hall. Speaker TBD
April 23-May 1	Kokanee Karnival Shevlin Park
April 3	Board Meeting, 8:00 AM, Lodge
April 19	Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM Sunriver Fire Hall. Speaker – Brandon Bischof on the John Day River
June 9	Free Fishing Day, Caldera Springs
July 21	Fish Fry, Fort Rock Park
December 12	Christmas Banquet, Great Hall



As a part of our spring board meeting, the Deschutes River Conservancy is hosting a reception in Sunriver. We would like to invite you to join us for this informal gathering.

Thursday, March 1, 2012
Great Hall, Sunriver
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Please RSVP online at www.dresunriver.eventbrite.com no later than February 20th.
Questions? Please call Debbie at 541.382.4077 ext. 10

Have You Ever Fished from a Horse? Gary Lewis has: Coyhaique River, Chile

A willing horse and a river full of fish made this the perfect opportunity to catch a wild trout on a dry fly from the saddle.

When I booked a February trip with Coyhaique River Lodge in Patagonia, I told owner Gaston Urrejola, that I hoped to ride horseback to access a stream on a nearby estancia. A few days before I boarded the plane to Chile, I told him I wanted to catch a wild trout, on a dry fly, from the back of a horse. After making sure he heard me right, Gaston chose a stretch of the intimate Coyhaique and a steady Chilean gelding.

I chose a grasshopper/dropper combination on 4x tippet.

It took a few minutes to introduce the fly rod and the net to the horse. After that, the horse was not concerned about the fishing tools.

In the water, simple geometry and concern for the horse dictated we position the animal perpendicular to the current. This allowed a right-handed cast with the fly and line over the rear of the horse. Because of the high position, and the spooky trout, long casts were in order.

Casting upstream and gathering line back caused the coils to gather around the horse's legs, a liability that could have provoked a rodeo. On subsequent casts, I coiled the line in my left hand.

Two fish took the Pheasant Tail, but shook the hook. In the third pool, a trout grabbed the hopper. At the hook-set, a 14-inch rainbow took to the air.

After the second run, I brought it close and then dipped the long-handled net. The trout didn't like the look of the horse and the horse didn't like the look of the fish. They each tried to get away from the other, but my 4x tippet brought them back together.

The horse's handler stepped in to calm the gelding while I concentrated on staying in the saddle and bringing the fish to the net. On dry land, the horse calmed enough for us to net the trout and release it.

Gaston Urrejola and his brother Claudio, the owners of Coyhaique River Lodge, take pride in showing their clients different water every day. Seldom does any lake or stream see more than three or four days of pressure in the season. The guides, Ricardo Ellena and Alejandro Trepiana, speak good English, are adept with boats and are accomplished fly anglers.

The lodge is fully staffed, spacious and comfortable with large rooms and private baths. Breakfast and dinner is served in the formal dining room. The chef prepares meals worthy of the finest restaurants. Lunch is set on the river with tablecloth, silver and wine.

Peak season is January through March when the rivers are in summer shape. Best dry fly and hopper action is in February and March. Temperatures range from the high 50s to the mid-80s.

CONTACTS: Joyce Norman, Coyhaique River Lodge. US address: PO Box 1607, Bend, OR 97708. Tel. 866-242-7541. Email: info@rumbopatagon.com Web: www.coyhaiqueriverlodge.com

To contact Gary Lewis, visit www.garylewisoutdoors.com

Editor's Note: Gary Lewis fished with Coyhaique River Lodge in Chile's Aisen, Patagonia region in February 2011.