



The Sunriver Anglers

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The Official Publication of the Sunriver Anglers Club
www.SunriverAnglers.org
November 9, 2021

President's Message

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The Sunriver Anglers Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation 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 by looking at our website: <http://www.sunriveranglers.org>



Hello Fellow Anglers!

I hope you all got some fishing time in before the cold weather hit! Is anyone going to warmer climates to fish this winter? Mike and I and Henry managed to get a couple of nice outings in after a pretty meager fishing season due to the heat, smoke and other poor excuses. Our last fishing adventure was with the Anglers and guests that showed for the Angler's Annual End of Season Hosmer Lake Outing. Mal and Doug did an incredible job with the gourmet hot dogs and chili. It was a lot of fun hanging out and exchanging fish stories and it made me realize just how much I miss the Anglers outings.

A few days before we hit Hosmer, we were invited to fish Diamond Lake for the first time. Guess what? Heated flush toilets at the boat launch, and hardly anyone fishing! The temps were in the 50's with very little wind. Several nice fish were caught with even more getting away make a fun outing. (See picture, if by some miracle Mike hasn't shared it with you yet, ha-ha) ... again, but I predict nothing will happen until next year. We'll see.

I am hoping that we can revive the old SRA group trip to Diamond Lake next year. Maybe in September after Labor Day and the mosquitoes, of which there were none when we went. They have Tiger trout down there, I've seen pictures! If anyone wants to lead that trip and figure out how to get a group (?) campsite in 2022, I'm all ears.

Mike got a trip on the Williamson for his birthday with local guide Bryon Salaz. That might also be in the works for the club.

We still need a secretary and a couple of people to put the eNews together, and may be using a new newsletter template. The Newsletter Editor/Publisher will collect stories, articles and pictures and put them into the template for member distribution.

We are trying to find a venue to have an informal pre-holiday get together. Probably a potluck/appetizer/afternoon-ish event with Covid safety protocols in place, I miss you all, but I'm predicting unless we find an outside heated venue, it will be a limited capacity gathering. I am inquiring about using SHARC

Also, this month we will be hosting the incredibly talented and witty Brian O'Keefe- an expert Fly Fisherman and Photographer who has been all over the world. If you haven't been on ZOOM yet, perhaps this is the month to come and join us. BYOB, a comfy chair and....you don't have to share your video screen or sound- in other words, you can watch and listen in private. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, contact me and we can spend about 5 minutes getting you up to speed.

And lastly, Phil Fischer has the last SRA meeting about Crane Prairie up on YouTube! Thanks Phil!

Hope to see you all soon!

Rynie

Fly Fishing the 3 Seasons of Alaska – Nov. 18 Meeting

Brian's presentation to the Anglers will be via a zoom meeting, which will occur at 7:00 pm on November 18, 2021. The zoom meeting access will open at 6:30 p.m. Interested people may contact Rynie at ryniesra@gmail.com for information on the zoom meeting details.

Brian O'Keefe, a self-proclaimed ski bum and fervent fly fisherman, will return to the November 18th Sunriver Anglers monthly meeting to present an overview of fly fishing the 3 seasons of Alaska. Brian is a widely published and extensively traveled fisherman who also engages in scenic nature photography, his "hobby out of control". His work has been published in the major fishing magazines like Field and Stream, Outdoor Life and American Angler.



Brian will use his more than 50 trips to Alaska to form the wealth of information he will cover with the Anglers. He has visited with the Anglers on several occasions over the years with his first discussion occurring in 1976. Brian currently lives in eastern Oregon and works for Elevenexperience, Inc. out of Colorado as a writer, photographer, and booking guide. A native Washingtonian, he has resided in several Central Oregon locations where he fully adopted the Oregonian lifestyle.

Brian intends to provide information on the geography/locations, techniques, equipment and proper lures for each of the distinct seasons of the Alaska fishing experience which runs from June 1 through October 1. In addition, he will provide his perspective on the multitude of ways to access that experience ranging from the high end guided, lodge-based excursion to the self-guided camp-out along an isolated trout stream. His main message for the Anglers is Alaska is accessible and he hopes to educate them on the short cuts, or ins and outs of traveling to one his favorite environments.

More information on Brian's activities can be found on his website at <http://brianokeefephotography.com>.

Brian's presentation to the Anglers will be via a zoom meeting, which will occur at 7:00 pm on November 18, 2021. The zoom meeting access will open at 6:30 p.m. Interested people may contact Rynie at ryniesra@gmail.com for information on the zoom meeting details.

Last Month's Outing to Hosmer Lake

Nine brave Anglers and a fuzzy Chocolate Labrador braved a chilly day on Hosmer Lake for the Sunriver Anglers End of Season Outing. A big shout out goes to master chefs and hosts Mal Murphy and Doug Vakoc. The fishing was not too bad and some pretty big fish were caught.

The food was excellent and consisted of a hearty chili and perfectly roasted hot dogs. No kayak hatch occurred, and we pretty much had the lake to ourselves. It was great to see some familiar faces and I think we all look forward to getting together again for some fishing adventures next year.



Request From ODFW

On behalf of ODFW and the local Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (which for all intents and purposes is a dedicated STEP representative, Steve Janego, and me), we are soliciting ideas from anglers for potential projects in the Upper Deschutes basin.

Would you please reach out to SRA members? Given the drought, water levels, forest fires, invasive species, poor water quality, increased fishing pressure, etc., we are looking for ideas that may be most impactful.

What do we have in our STEP toolkit? Passionate volunteers, Mini-Grant Dollars (\$2000 max/Grant), and access to ODFW experts and larger dollar requests we can run up the ladder for starters. We are truly interested in your thoughts and would appreciate it if you would take a minute out of your busy schedules and let us know what the possible themes are from your perspective?

Sunriver Anglers do such great work already (Sunriver Free Fish Day, Kokanee Karnival, Chub removal funding, Fish salvage, Education and Outings etc.) and we THANK YOU!

If there are large issues on the table that will require the attention of the ODFW Commission and we would be happy to ensure your inputs get passed to the right decision makers. However, we are looking for local ways to make a hands-on difference through the big hearts and intensions of anglers.

Sincerely,

Jen Luke

Jennifer Luke & Steve Janego
(ODFW/STEP Advisory Committee)
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Chubby Chernobyl Ant

Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



My foray fishing the Chubby began as a stealthier approach to indicator fishing. That big fluorescent orange strike indicator over gin clear water is often a dead give-away to trout that your dropper fly should be avoided. But with a more natural looking fly like the Chubby Chernobyl Ant as the indicator, trout are often not aware of the deception. That was my philosophy, anyway.

Imagine my surprise when a big head rose and took the Chubby during the first test drive. I almost missed the strike, dumbfounded that the trout didn't take the intended dropper fly. A little while later, another fish took the Chubby and it dawned on me that I was onto something.

The Chernobyl Ant was originated by a group of guides for fishing Utah's Green River. Over time, many different versions emerged and sooner or later, wings were affixed to the fly to become what is now known as the Chubby Chernobyl Ant. The white wings make the fly very easy to see, even from a significant distance. The fly is a great imitation for many bugs surrounding our local Central Oregon lakes and rivers.

Tied in tan colors, it is an excellent imitation for hoppers. Tied in a salmon orange or golden color, it imitates salmon flies and golden stoneflies. Yet, tied in black with hints of subtle olive flash, it is an excellent imitation for big ants, and beetles, which are common in our local lodgepole forests. For this month's pattern, I strayed towards ants and beetles, as late summer and early fall these insects are very prevalent on our waters.

I fish this pattern often as the strike indicator, and using a dropper fly underneath. This is a deadly technique on Crane Prairie and East Lake. The fly is very buoyant, yet less so than a big orange Styrofoam indicator. When a fish takes the dropper, the Chubby slips under the water's surface easily, and the trout tend to hold on just a touch longer than with a more commonly used Styrofoam indicators.

That is a big plus on those days when my reaction time is a bit delayed due to a distraction, like a bald eagle flying by! Plus, an added benefit occurs when a fish takes the Chubby indicator and gets hooked. I have had trout take Styrofoam indicators many times but have never hooked one. Give this pattern a try. I think it will become a fixture in your fly box.

Chubby Chernobyl Ant Materials List:

Hook: Firehole 718, Size 4 - 16

Thread: Ultra 140 Denier, Black

Flash: Krystal Flash, Olive

Body: 75% Black Angora Dubbing
25% Ice Dub, Olive

Foam: 2 MM Foam, Black

Legs: Crazy Legs, Grizzly Olive Flake

Wings: Enrico Puglisi EP Fibers, White

Tying instructions and steps are being published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/MIY8vxypQys> Experiment with this pattern on our local lakes and rivers throughout the summer and fall. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Chubby Chernobyl Ant pattern, please do not hesitate to email me. Or if you have suggestions on future patterns to feature in this column, I welcome your input. I can be reached at Philfischer@sbcglobal.net.

SR Anglers New Educational Tool

SRA published the following YouTube page for Sunriver Anglers:

[Sunriver Anglers - YouTube](#)

Anglers are encouraged people to subscribe to this page so they can stay caught up on the videos we will publish periodically. For instance, the recent Anglers Meeting on Crane Prairie by Phil is now published and included on the following link:

[Sunriver Anglers Meeting 10/21/21 - Crane Prairie Reservoir](#)

Conservation

River Info

The Deschutes River has now reached its winter flow rate of 100-200CFS. This reduced flow will allow the upstream reservoirs (Wickiup and Crane Prairie) to accumulate water in preparation of the 2022 irrigation season which typically begins in late May or early April. Due to the ongoing drought conditions and habitat preservation efforts along the Deschutes River, Wickiup Reservoir only reached a level of 115,807 acre/ft this year (**58% of its storage capacity**). Wickiup Reservoir hasn't been full since 2018 and only reached 70% capacity in 2020.

Climatologists are again predicting another *La Nina* winter this year (last year was a La Nina year also) which usually results in wetter and cooler conditions. Let's all hope they are right and we get an ample snowpack!

Thanks to many involved, the 2021 Fall Fish Rescue Saved Thousands!

Many hands make light work! A huge thank you to our partners and volunteers for making the 2021 Fall Fish Rescue a success! As the Deschutes River decreases in flow every fall, side channels begin to disconnect from the main channel and drain. Lava Island creates a natural dam between the main stem and the side channel of the Upper Deschutes River. Fall and winter flows are too low to run over the lava dam, stranding thousands of fish as the 1.5-mile side channel drains. Because the lava channel is porous and drains quickly, rescue efforts needed to be flexible and quick.

Together with Mt Hood Environmental, Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID), North Unit Irrigation District (NUID), Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC), Trout Unlimited, Central Oregon Lady Anglers and countless volunteers, we saved more than 4700 Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Mountain Whitefish, Sculpin and Kokanee last month at Meadow Camp and Lava Island Falls!

Lake Billy Chinook Project Holds Promise For All

We all know about the impact that irrigation has on rivers in the Deschutes Basin. Now there's news from North Unit Irrigation District (NUID), one of the major agricultural users of water from the Deschutes and Crooked Rivers who is exploring a project that may solve many of the Basin's environmental and water supply problems while providing a more reliable source of irrigation for crops.

Water that is traditionally stored in Wickiup Reservoir during the winter would be allowed to flow unimpeded all the way to Lake Billy Chinook. Then, during irrigation season, farmers would withdraw water from Lake Billy for their crops. Flows in the Upper Deschutes and Crooked rivers would return to near-natural levels year around.

Years ago, this pumping option was deemed too costly. With the extended drought, things have changed and water is now much more valuable. While costly, the project may now be feasible. Mike Britton, Executive Manager of NUID, explores this revived project idea in a recent Guest Column in the Bulletin.

Check it out at: <https://bit.ly/3B9vCsK>.

Malheur Reservoir gamefish limits lifted due to drought conditions

October 11, 2021

ONTARIO, Ore. – Due to drought conditions and low water levels, ODFW has lifted all size limits (minimum and maximum), daily limits for all species of fish and gear limits from Oct. 11 through Dec. 31, 2021, in the Malheur Reservoir.

The reservoir has limited water due to low precipitation and exceptionally warm temperatures. ODFW staff have observed fish kills during previous winters when such conditions exist. Based on the developing La Nina and associated projections for a cooler winter, ODFW believes there is a high likelihood that conditions in the reservoir will become lethal for fish this winter.

ODFW plans to restock the reservoir next spring to begin rebuilding the fishery. Malheur Reservoir is a productive waterbody that will grow three-to-four-inch fingerling rainbow trout stocked in the spring into 8-to-11-inch fish by the fall. Those same fish will be 14 to 16 inches by their second fall in the reservoir.

ODFW encourages anglers to keep any fish that they catch because this will improve the likelihood of survival of fish that remain in the reservoir through the winter.

For the latest on Southeast Zone regulations visit: <https://myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report/southeast-zone>

Restoring Columbia Basin anadromous fish:

<https://columbiainsight.org/why-the-entire-world-now-depends-on-the-columbia-river/>

Fishing with Jeff Wieland

“My buddy, Skip Greenwood, invited me to salmon fish the Columbia last September, and we got our chinook both days. When he asked again while we were fishing Crane, of course I said that I was “in”. We were “lines in” at 6:15 this past Tuesday and Wednesday, trolling spinners and Stephanie Greenwood, her very bright 16-pound chinook, and guide extraordinaire, Dave Maroon.

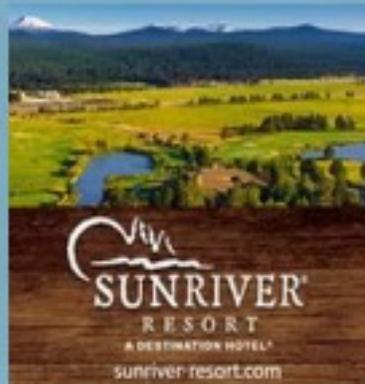
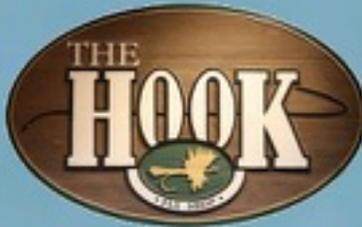


Another bright 15 pounder that has been excellent table fare.

For Sale

Steelhead Spey Rod. Sage Graphite, 14' 0", 9 3/4 oz. \$250
Bellinger Reel. Including: one floating and 2 sinking lines. Steelhead flies. Leather case. \$250. BOTH IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.
Contact Gary Carlson by phone: 541-593-5004,
or at his email: srslim17@yahoo.com

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