



P.O. Box 4273
Sunriver, OR 97707

The Sunriver Anglers

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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>

President's Message



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Hello Fellow Anglers!

I hope everyone is enjoying this crazy mix of weather we are having. After the last meeting, Mike, Henry and I drove down to the Ana River and Reservoir for a quick picnic and outing. We watched two fly fishermen walking and wading in the river near the dam.

As we left, we asked them how they did. In true fisherman fashion, they told us about all the fish they had seen, (lots!) and the size (big!) many hooked, but only a few landed. I am sure they were telling the truth because they were driving a Prius. We elected to set up our rods at the reservoir where we could sit in the sun and eat lunch. No nibbles, but lots of bugs on the water. No fish rising either. I did see some humongous snails in the water though

This month brings Bryon Salaz to our monthly Zoom meeting. Many of you probably remember Bryon from "the Hook". Please come to the meeting and show some support for his guide service, "Legendary Fly Fishing" or visit his website at <https://www.legendaryflyfishing.com>

Yancy Lind did such a great job last month speaking about the Williamson River, we asked him to return to talk about Lake Billy Chinook in April. The Anglers will schedule an outing there shortly after the meeting if the weather cooperates for the Bull Trout season.

Exciting news- Lee Ann Ross has released a date for an outing to the Williamson, come for a day or stay overnight. Cross your fingers the water situation will let that trip happen. We really need some more rain and snow!

Now that we are able to have some in-person events, we are able to reserve a space for a "Spring Fling" at Crosswater for an "all you can eat" mac and cheese event with appetizers. We would need about 65 people to commit to attend Cost would be approx \$38 per person. I am also hoping that we can have our annual picnic again this year. Hopefully we can start meeting in person at the SHARC again by summer.

I think it would be great if we can get some casting lessons out here too. Do you have any ideas for the club? Let me know! rynie

Hope to see you all soon! rynie

Club Outing to the Williamson River, June 21-24

Following up on the excellent presentation Yancy Lind gave the us for our February meeting, we have organized a club trip to the Williamson River June 21 to 24. We will stay at the Water Wheel Campground where US 97 crosses the Williamson. This is an unattractive, but acceptable campground, with a great location on the river with tent and RV spaces. Their website is www.waterwheelrvpark.com. Book soon as they do fill up. It's about a 2-hour drive from Bend.

The Williamson is known as a trophy-trout river with only wild fish, some over 10 pounds. These fish were steelhead before being landlocked by the dam in Klamath Falls. The nearby Wood River also has migratory populations of these trout along with resident browns. Like any river, you can have good days and bad days, but the good days can be spectacular.

This trip requires a drift or pontoon boat, or something similar. Not a float tube. It is an easy river to float with a few small rapids, although low water this year may make things interesting. An electric motor is helpful as there are some long, slow-moving sections. The nearby Wood River as well as upper Klamath and Agency lakes provide additional angling opportunities.

The Chiloquin boat ramp is easily found. From the Water Wheel campground, head back north on 97 and take the exit going right (east) towards Chiloquin at the Pacific Pride station. It's the road right after you see the river. After the exit, the 2nd right is a dirt road into a county park

where the ramp is. We can work together to shuttle ourselves at the end of they to pick up our vehicles.

From the ramp you can fish up to the Blue Hole (where the Sprague comes in). Many people spend all day in the quarter mile or so above the boat ramp up to the Blue Hole. You can fish up and then just turn around take out right there as well. Or, you can immediately head down river from the ramp and float to the Water Wheel. Give yourself at least 5 hours to get down to the Water Wheel. There are long slow stretches you need to get through, thus the benefit of having an electric motor. Be sure to keep to the left when you pass under the bridge over highway 97. The Water Wheel is just below the bridge.

Tackle: Both rivers have big trout so do not use anything less than a 6-weight rod; a 7 weight would not be overkill. Terrestrials like grasshoppers can be effective, especially on windy days. Some people use lake-style chromid techniques as well (these fish spend half their lives in Klamath Lake).

The most common way of landing big fish, however, is stripping back woolly bugger and leech patterns under intermediate and full sink lines. The seal bugger pattern was developed by Denny Rickards specifically for these fish. Traditional trout nymph and streamer patterns of many types also work well.

There are other lodging options if you don't want to camp. Note that Collier State Park is closed due to the fires last year. Just up the river from the Water Wheel is The Lonesome Duck, www.lonesomeduck.com. This is a nice place where Yancy has stayed at as well. It's perfect if you don't want to camp and there is great fishing right in front. There is also a Sleep Inn and Suites at 34333 Hwy 97 in Chiloquin.

Denny Rickards is the local fly-fishing expert. You can call him for info and/or you can order his flies from his website. www.flyfishingstillwaters.com.

If you would like a guide, I can recommend Craig Schuhmann at (541) 778-1194

www.guidedwatersflyfishing.com or Brent Hublitz at Trophy Troutfitters 541-591-6221 <http://www.trophytroutfitters.com>. I have gone with both of them and they are both excellent.

Water Levels: You can track the river at:

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site_no=11502500&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060

Here are some links to additional information.

If you need more info, shoot me an email. Lee Ann Ross, rossleeann@yahoo.com

More info on the Williamson River:

[Bass and Trout Fishing Digest: Williamson River](#)

Williamson River

South Central Oregon

Closest town: Chiloquin

Closest city: Klamath Falls

Boat Launch: County Park on the edge of town

Boat Exit: Water Wheel Campground six miles downriver on Hwy. 97

Recommended guidebook: Moon Outdoors Oregon Fishing

[Check out the Updated Sunriver Anglers Web Page.](#)

We have added significant new content, as follows:

There is a page where we have loaded recordings from several of our recent meetings. Most recently, Brian Smith spoke on Fly Fishing British Columbia. Check out the video and related materials at the following link:

<https://www.sunriveranglers.org/sys/website/?pageId=18150>

We have also uploaded the Newsletter archives back to 2016. You can access these resources at the following link:

<https://www.sunriveranglers.org/sys/website/?pageId=8689>

Additionally, we have uploaded the Sunriver Anglers Fly Tying Corner archives. This page has links to articles with fishing tips and techniques and trying instructions for about 60-70 fly patterns for fishing our Central Oregon lakes and streams. Check them out here:

<https://www.sunriveranglers.org/sys/website/?pageId=18148>

We will continue updating the website to contain valuable resources for Sunriver Anglers members.

[March 17 Meeting](#)

The meeting link will be sent out to all members before the meeting. Please notify rynie if you want to share the link with friends or family, only members and people who contact me ahead of

time will be allowed in. The link changes every month. If you do not receive the link by Wednesday Mar 16, contact Rynie.

Bryon Salaz, a native central Oregonian and long-time guide, will discuss redband trout fishing on the lower Deschutes River with the Sunriver Anglers at their March 17th meeting. As most local anglers are aware, the lower Deschutes is “big water” and demands particular tactics or techniques to produce results.

Redband Trout Fishing on the Lower Deschutes



Bryon will cover the many challenges trout enthusiasts would encounter on the river. These include using the appropriate gear, reading the water, understanding the unique behaviors/ habits of Deschutes redband trout and handling the steep water around deep gravel bars and congested junctions in the river.

Bryon is quick to point out anglers need not be intimidated by these challenges nor feel the river is too big to wade. He plans to identify numerous stretches or segments of the river where access lends itself to wading or casting from the bank. He will also spend time discussing the specifics

of the prevalent hatches of interest on the river such as the Caddis, Stonefly, Green Drake and Pale Morning Dun

Of course, river float trips are a key way to experience the Lower Deschutes and Bryon, who maintains a Bureau of Land Management special use guide permit, will cover available options, permit requirements and timing. In his business, he emphasizes overnight, multi-day camping trips which cover longer reaches of the river as the most complete river adventure. These longer trips afford exposure to multiple conditions and use of varied techniques, like dry fly, nymphing, streamers, and the new, in-vogue Euro-nymphing.



As a guide for Cascade Outfitters over the past 15 years, Bryon has led many outings to other, productive Oregon rivers such as the Williamson, the Rogue and certain Coastal waters in search of fall steelhead runs. His website is www.legendaryflyfishing.com. It provides an excellent overview of his experience, interests and availability. The Sunriver Angler meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, specifically, March 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Those interested in

attending this Zoom meeting should contact Rynie Miyashiro at ryniesra@gmail.com for the required permissions and meeting specifications.

Meeting April 21, 2022, Chasing Bull Trout on Lake Billy Chinook

The Sunriver Anglers will welcome back Yancy Lind to their April monthly meeting to hear his presentation on chasing bull trout on Lake Billy Chinook. Yancy recently gave an enlightening and well-received presentation on fishing the Upper Klamath Basin. As most anglers know, bull trout are an endangered species and targeting them is generally prohibited. However, bull trout are thriving in Lake Billy Chinook and seasons are open on all three arms of the lake in separate periods throughout the year. Yancy plans to cover a number of facets in the pursuit of these “very challenging” fish.



One key element of Yancy’s presentation will cover the life cycle of the bull trout in Lake Billy Chinook and especially how the knowledge of that cycle can be utilized to successfully find and catch the prized fish. As the apex predator bull trout grow quite large gorging themselves on Kokanee smolt prevalent in the Lake. PGE’s chinook/steelhead restoration efforts (the topic of an earlier SRA meeting) have provided an added smolt population in the lake for the bull trout. Knowing where the smolt are creates the opportunity to catch bull trout.

Another aspect of Yancy’s presentation will cover access to lake and the areas of interest to find smolt and thus bull trout. An intriguing technique of his presentation employs virtual flyovers of the lake with Google Maps which cover all three arms of the lake, the Crooked, the Metolius, and the Deschutes. He will also cover the optimum conditions of water temperature, depth and light which drive smolt behavior.

Perhaps the most helpful aspect of his presentation will be his insight on the gear required to pursue bull trout. Bull trout run deep in the lake thus a motorized boat is highly recommended. Heavy tackle is also a must; use of 6-7 weight rods, 3 or 7 weight sinking line and large (3-5 inches in length) saltwater minnow patterns are the norm.

Yancy remains active in Deschutes Basin water quality and allocation issues. Currently he serves on the ODFW Restoration and Enhancement Board. His blog can be found at www.coinformedangler.org

The April Sunriver Anglers Meeting will be held via Zoom on April 21, 2022 and will start at 7:00 pm. Anyone interested in participating in this meeting should contact Rynie Miyashiro at rynieSRA@gmail.com for permission and login particulars.

Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner

Modified Raccoon Fly Pattern

By: Phil Fischer



I often run into situations out fishing where I need to solve what fly pattern the fish are taking. Such was the case a couple years ago on Crane Prairie. There was a nice Black and Silver midge hatch occurring and trout were taking flies right in the surface film. But none of my usual patterns were proving to do the trick. When I got home that afternoon, I turned to Phil Rowley's "*Fly Patterns for Stillwaters*". I rely on this book often for suggestions on tackling fly pattern conundrums. As many of you know, Mr. Rowley is a stillwater expert. In the section on Chironomids, I spied a pattern called the Raccoon, and that looked like it might offer a solution to what I was seeing on the water. So, I tied up a few and gave it a try later that week. Bingo, they worked!

Fast forward to last summer, I was fishing out in Eastern Oregon at Grindstone Lakes and ran into a very similar hatch situation. There were several very large rainbows feeding in shallow water. As I took in the scene, I noticed a Chironomid right next to my float tube struggling to emerge from its shuck. It had a telltale black body and silver rib, just like those I saw on Crane Prairie a couple years prior. I quickly reached for my midge fly box and tied on my version of the Raccoon. On my first cast I was tied onto a feisty 22-inch rainbow that jumped several times and gave me quite a tussle. After releasing this fish, I gave a silent thank you directed to Phil Rowley for sharing his knowledge and wisdom in his books.

This version of the Raccoon differs slightly from the version in Phil Rowley's book. I used foam for the shellback instead of elk hair. This makes the fly a bit more durable. I also folded the foam over the ostrich gills, whereas the original tied the gills behind the fold. And, lastly, I elected to use a thread body ribbed with silver wire, instead of a dubbed black body. Give this fly a try during Chironomid time next spring. I think you'll like it.

Modified Raccoon Fly Pattern Materials List:

Hook: Tiemco 5212, Size 12-18
Thread: Ultra 140 Denier, Black
Trailing Shuck: Teal Barred Flank Feather
Gills: Ostrich Dyed White
Abdomen: Black Thread
Rib: Ultra Wire, Size Small Silver
Shell Back: 2 mm Foam, Tan

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/Kc1QLOQCcQo> Experiment with this pattern on our local lakes. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Modified Raccoon 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](#)

We are trying to publish each month's meeting speaker, as well as other useful content. Anglers are encouraged to subscribe to this page so they can stay caught up on the videos we will publish periodically.

Community Information – FYI

Information is available about the Sunriver Public Safety Building 10-year levy to be on the May 17 ballot. The Sunriver Service District is offering tours and forums to show the community the various deficiencies, present the latest information, and answer any questions. The district encourages everyone to ask all questions to get informed

Upcoming Events:

Fire and Police Facility Tours

The Sunriver Fire and Police chiefs will personally lead tours of their current facilities and answer questions about why an integrated Public Safety Building is needed.

March 9, 25, 30; April 7, 21, 27; May 3, 13, 1 - 2 p.m.
Sign up here: www.sunriversd.org/public-safety-bldg

Sunriver Community Forums at the SHARC

An in-person presentation of videos, preliminary plans, financial update and Q&A.
March 25, April 29 and May 10 , 4:30 - 6 p.m.
In person: Dillon Hall (SHARC)

Deschutes River Conservancy – Water News – click on link

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