



The Sunriver Anglers

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<https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers>
The Official Publication of the Sunriver Anglers Club
www.SunriverAnglers.org

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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>



October 31, 2023

President's Message

Hello Fellow Anglers!

Those of you who actually read my president's message each month know that due to extenuating circumstances (Mike's golf addiction, house projects) I have not been able to fish much this summer. BUT, last month, Mike and I and our cat hit the road for two weeks and fished the San Juan in New Mexico, the Green River in Utah, the Madison outside of Ennis, Montana and Fish Creek, near Missoula also in Montana.

Our first stop was Durango, Colorado. We stayed in an awesome RV park outside of town. We had hired a guide service that was recommended by fellow club members Anne and Kevin Gilmartin. The guide service was RIO EPIC, and our guide was a very easy-going young man named Owen Olsen. The river was the San Juan in New Mexico. I caught a fish my first cast, we were nymphing, and had been told the fishing had been only so-so. The weather was great and the fishing only got better. I had some trouble with setting the hook in the wrong direction and missed a few, but all in all, what a great river and beautiful scenery. The weather was awesome and as I said, our guide was great! The next day we visited Mesa Verde for the annular eclipse then headed to the Green River.



In Utah, we stayed at the Flaming Gorge Resort, (another great RV park) and bought several flies that were recommended to us. Hitting the river, we had no luck. "Hey, let's just hire a guide", I said. "How do we pick one?" Mike replied. I said let's see if any of the guides that float by us are friendly, then we will ask his name and see if we can book him for tomorrow. After getting a few duds floating by, a guy from Trout Creek Flies waved to us and when I asked him how the fishing was, he and his client both grinned and said use black ant flies. I asked him what his name was- "Nick" he said. Mike tried to call to book him, but we had no service.

Then, when we got out of the canyon, I checked my messages and saw that Kevin (Kevin travels for work and often combines fishing with his work load) had come through again- "Old Moe" guide service and "ask for Spencer Black". On a whim, even though it was after 7, I called and "Shelley" answered. I asked if we could possibly book a trip for the next day, and with "Spencer". As instructed, I told her we were friends of Kevin and Anne, and she said Spencer was available and would meet us the next day.



Well, Spencer thought he had the next day off, so he was in Salt Lake City visiting his brother. But he drove back at 3:30 in the morning in order to meet us on time, I think it was because we got good references from the Gilmartin's friends who were friends of



Spencers.

What an incredible day of fishing! Spencer was a great guide as well. I thought the San Juan was perfect, but double or triple the number of fish, and again great scenery and weather and this time freshly grilled hamburgers and macadamia nut chocolate chip cookies for lunch! Wow.

As far as the Madison and Fish Creek, they were very scenic and looked fishy. Mike caught a few, but I was skunked. When we first started planning our trip, I mentioned it to a few of you members at the last meeting. And many of you were right about the impossibly small flies they use at the San Juan. One of the reasons that I love this club is the collective knowledge you guys have and that you are willing to share it. (at least most of it!)

I believe many of you have stories and pictures and recommendations and information that you could also share through the enews or maybe even a presentation to the club. If you do, please let me know. We can write something up, or possibly even have some sort of social meeting where different people can share their thoughts or experiences about different places to fish, and how to fish them.

Calendar Dates

December 11 Holiday Dinner at the Great Hall – invitation to be sent our ASAP.

November Anglers Meeting - ODFW Reports on the Crooked River

The Sunriver Anglers will meet on Wednesday, November 1st in the Crescent Room at the SHARC starting at 5:15 p.m. Jerry George and Ben Stout from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will provide an update on the health of the Crooked River fishery following the extremely low flow summer irrigation season this year. Most Anglers avoided fishing these waters to relieve pressure under the low water conditions. However, a local guide has indicated the situation has improved more recently. The Anglers are anxious to hear this report from ODFW as the Crooked is a local favorite.

Jerry and Ben will also provide an update on ODFW's tui chub removal from several local lakes. The Anglers support ODFW in their efforts to remove this invasive species by providing the capture nets and some financial resources for OSU students to extend their time working to capture the chub. They will also report on the parallel benefit of these efforts, namely bullhead removal.



The Anglers will also establish officers for the coming year. Most notably, the club will replace Rynie Miyashiro, President, who has faithfully served for a number of years. Her leadership and commitment to the club has been greatly appreciated.

She has been the driver that has kept the club vibrant and impactful. She will remain a club member but will lessen her involvement somewhat. A new Scene correspondent will also be identified.

In December the club will hold its annual Christmas Party in the Great Hall at Sunriver Resort for members, guests and supporters. This popular event held in a favorite venue features some special activities such as a serenade from the Three Rivers Elementary School children's choir and a silent auction for a variety of fishing paraphernalia/outings to raise funds for the club's conservation efforts. Anglers should visit our website, specifically our November/December Newsletters for more details on the date and logistics of ticket purchases, menu selections, auction donations, etc.

People interested in learning more about the Anglers should visit our website, www.SunriverAnglers.org or contact us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers

Borrowed Water-Good Article

Here's a very interesting article from the Capitol Press on temporary water transfers and how they're helping farmers in Oregon.

Link: <https://bit.ly/3irr8aM>

PENDLETON, Ore.—Anglers fishing for trout in McKay Creek, a tributary of the Umatilla River, could soon encounter a salmon or steelhead.

Anglers who catch a steelhead or salmon should safely release it ([see tips](#)) as this area is closed to salmon and steelhead fishing under permanent regulations. Anglers should also take care not to fish over spawning fish (look for fish paired together or actively digging redds). Fall Chinook and coho typically spawn in late October and November, while summer steelhead will spawn in April and May.

Salmon and steelhead haven't spawned in McKay Creek for nearly 30 years. But an experimental study is allowing salmon and steelhead access to the lower six miles of McKay Creek below McKay Creek Reservoir Dam.

Last month, fishery co-managers ODFW and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation along with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) dropped the left-hand side of an adult weir that's been in place since the 1995 blocking passage. (The right side remains up as the project is also an experimental study to determine the weir's effects prior to its full removal.) Fish can now pass above the weir.

The adult weir was installed at the mouth of McKay Creek to keep anadromous species out of this section due to flows being shut off during the winter months to retain water in the reservoir for contracted irrigation storage. In 2004, a federal mandate under the ESA was issued requiring the BOR to release 10 cfs in the non-irrigation season months to protect any juvenile ESA listed summer steelhead or bull trout that might have migrated into McKay Creek. In 2019, fishery co-managers outplanted adult coho above the adult weir to look at migration and spawning in the lower six miles of McKay Creek. They found evidence of both.

"Anadromous fish will now be able to use the lower six miles of McKay Creek while fisheries managers study habitat usage, migration and spawning," said Taylor McCroskey, ODFW Umatilla District Fish Biologist.

McKay Creek represents about 25 percent of suitable steelhead habitat in the Umatilla River Basin, with the majority of this habitat located above McKay Creek Reservoir, which currently lacks fish passage. The reservoir discharges mostly cold water into the creek, making it ideal spawning/rearing habitat.

These efforts are part of a larger scale study in which fisheries managers are working towards possible reintroduction efforts into the upper McKay basin above McKay Creek Reservoir Dam.

Four days, 172 volunteers, and over 7,000 fish rescued in this year's Fall Fish

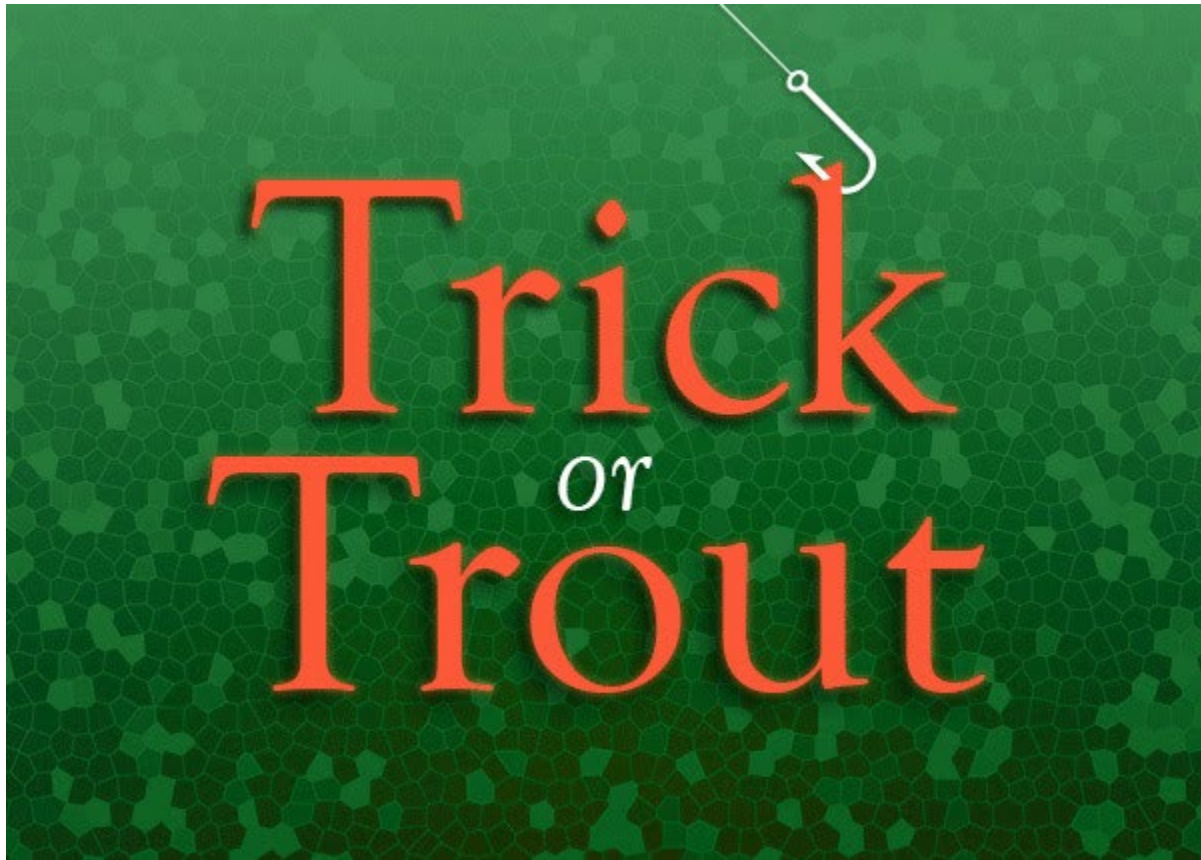
Rescue!

Over four days, 172 volunteers teamed up with the DRC to rescue fish stranded by Lava Island's side channel in the Upper Deschutes River. Under the technical guidance of NOAA, Hood Environmental, community members and DRC staff worked tirelessly to relocate and document these stranded fish from the drying channel.

Every year in Central Oregon, as the growing season concludes, irrigation districts draw down flows in the Upper Deschutes River to store water in Wickiup and Crane Prairie Reservoirs for the upcoming summer. This drawdown notably impacts Lava Island, where the river's major side channel becomes cut off from the mainstem, and the remaining pools are at risk of drying within days. For nine years, DRC has been an integral part of the Fall Fish Rescue. While we hope for a future where such rescues aren't necessary, we're grateful for the community's continued dedication to the health

of Upper Deschutes.





Anglers can get in the Halloween spirit by trick or trout-ing this year. Challenge yourself to outsmart the trout. Will the fish trick you or will you treat yourself by reeling in a trout? Take the kids fishing for a wicked good time. Trout fishing is great for all skill levels and opportunities exist statewide. Find a spot to fish with the [trout stocking maps](#) and check out the [Recreation Report](#) for recommendations on the best odds when you go. Don't forget to buy your fishing license before trying to reel in your monstrous catch (see what we did there?).

People interested in learning more about the Anglers should visit our website, www.SunriverAnglers.org or contact us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers

Water Restoration - [We've been busy! Check out our latest happenings. \(salsalabs.org\)](https://www.salsalabs.org)

Old Farmer's Almanac releases winter 2023-2024's extended forecast for Pacific Northwest <https://www.almanac.com/winter-extended-forecast-farmers-almanac>

Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner
By: Phil Fischer

AP Black Nymph Pattern



This month I am paying homage to my fly-tying mentor, the late Andre' Puyans. Andy taught many folks how to tie flies over his lifetime and I am humbled and honored to have been tutored for many years in his shop, Creative Sports in Pleasant Hill California. I first met Andy when I was just a young boy with wonder in my eyes about fly fishing. I would wander about the shop and peer at all the fly patterns, rods and reels. Andy took a liking to me and began teaching me a few basics about fly tying. That was over 50 years ago. I still retain much of what he taught me about our sport; respect, tradition, and having fun. Most importantly, he taught me how to tie flies, a passion that remains at the forefront of my life today.

For this month's Fly-Tying Corner pattern, I chose one of Andy's original designs; the A/P Nymph Black Fly Pattern. I tied thousands of AP Nymphs to fill the shop bins years ago. The whole series of AP Nymphs consisted of the AP Black, AP Peacock and Pheasant, AP Muskrat, AP Beaver, AP Hare's Ear and others that escape my memory right now. This series was designed to imitate mayfly nymphs and can be tied in various colors and sizes to match the natural. Andy experimented for years with this pattern and finally settled on this final design. I

have made only one minor deviation from the original; I used UV resin to coat the wing case of the fly, which did not exist when Andy designed these patterns. The original AP Nymph was not tied with a bead. But as time went on and beads became popular, Andy often added a bead to the AP Nymph to help it sink more quickly. He was very sensitive to a mistake made by many in calling the AP patterns “all purpose” nymphs. But he was quick to correct that faux pas with a loud booming voice that I can still hear quite clearly, “AP stands for Andre Puyans nymphs!”

Give this easy-to-tie pattern a try on our local streams and rivers. It is an excellent imitation for baetis nymphs when tied in size 18’s in black or dark brown. It is also an excellent imitation for dark colored stoneflies in the young immature stages, or even an October Caddis on a size 8 in a hare’s ear color. It fishes well for rainbows and brook trout in our area rivers. But I have also caught steelhead on this pattern tied in larger sizes on the Rogue, Deschutes and Trinity rivers. You can weight the pattern differently depending on the waters you’ll fish. The one demonstrated in the video (link below) is tied to get down quickly to tempt those brook trout on the Upper Deschutes River.

AP Black Nymph Pattern Materials List:

Hook: Firehole 718, Size 14-18

Bead: 3/32” Tungsten Bead, Matte Black

Weight: 6 wraps of .015 Lead Wire

Thread: Danville’s Flat Waxed 6/0, Black

Tail, Wing Case and Legs: Moose Mane

Rib: Copper Brown Ultra Wire - Fine

Abdomen, Thorax and Head: SLF Spikey Dubbing, Black

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/2-ysUOM7Fnk>

Experiment with this pattern during on Central Oregon’s Streams and Rivers. If you have questions or would like additional information about the AP Black Nymph pattern, please don’t 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.

Check out the Sunriver Anglers Web Page.

We continue to add new content:

<https://sunriveranglers.org/>

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

SR Anglers New Educational Tool

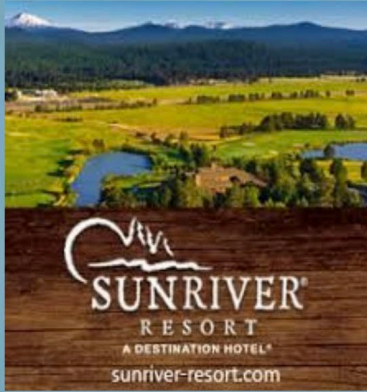
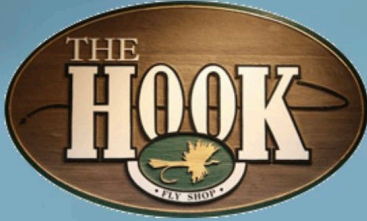
SRA published the following YouTube page for Sunriver Anglers.

[Sunriver Anglers - YouTube](#)

And if you want to be amongst the first to be notified of new content, please subscribe to this YouTube page. You will receive a notification when new content is available.

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