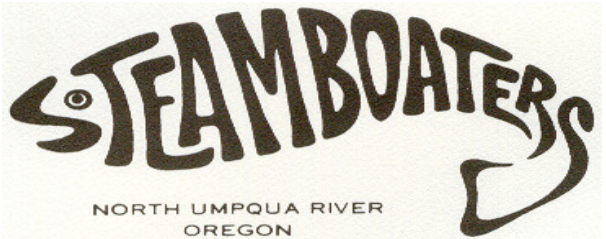


THE STEAMBOAT WHISTLE



WWW.STEAMBOATERS.ORG

Volume 49, Issue II

Winter 2011



Captain Nemo
By Pat McRae

SAVE THE DATE:

Winter Banquet
Saturday March 3rd
2012

Brix 527 Restaurant

See pg 3 for details

Inside this issue:

President's Message
Page 2

Club News & Notes
Page 3

Fly Tyer's Corner
Page 4

**North Umpqua
Chronicle**
Page 6

Membership Info
Page 9

Inform Yourself About Hatcheries

By Lee Spencer

For more than thirty years, the one thing that has been known for sure about hatchery programs is that they have a negative effect on population numbers of the wild Pacific salmon and steelhead. There would be no North Umpqua hatchery fish except for the 150-200 wild summer steelhead killed every year to produce the next hatchery generation. As has been learned again and again, without access to the diverse gene pools of wild fish, anadromous hatchery fish would cease to exist in a few hatchery generations. When hatchery fish are used as brood stock for hatchery fish these hatchery fish have shown themselves to be largely inept to producing viable offspring capable of surviving the freshwater and ocean life stages. This is one of the main reasons why sustaining populations of wild summer steelhead still exist after more than forty yearly introductions of hatchery summer steelhead juveniles into the North Umpqua River.

Twenty years ago, it would have been difficult to get at meaningful information about hatcheries and hatchery fish since these data were contained mostly within the scientific literature and was generally unavailable to the average person. This is one reason why the people who make their living off hatcheries and hatchery fish have been able to ignore confirmed scientific findings while glibly referring to their own gray literature of assertion-filled information sheets and newsletters as scientific.

Ignorance of the true nature of hatcheries is no longer justifiable. Bill Bakke through the Native Fish Society has been talking about the true consequences of hatcheries for more than a human generation. The books *Upstream* (1996), *Salmon Without Rivers* (1999), *Salmon Nation* (1999), and *Atlas of Pacific salmon* (2005) are readily available. Even a cursory glance at relevant sections of any of these books will spell out the truth about hatcheries and hatchery fish. *Continued on page 5*

President's Message

I'm Lenny Volland, your new president on the Board of Directors. My wife, Georganne, and I have been living in the Roseburg area since 2005 after moving from the Portland area. We had an opportunity to buy a place on North Bank Road right on the river so now I can fish my favorite river right off our backyard. I call the North Umpqua my "home waters" after spending over thirty years on the Clackamas and Molalla Rivers, and watching what fish management had done to anadromous fish runs on both those systems.

Although I've been fly fishing the North Umpqua since the late 1960's, I first joined the Steamboaters about four years ago to find out the "facts" regarding the wild vs. hatchery issue. I discovered the organization wasn't just a fly fishing club, but a bunch of folks with a passion for preserving a watershed and its aquatic resources. The Steamboaters remind me of a watchdog organization. Nothing happens on the North Umpqua River, or could potentially affect management of the river, without the Steamboaters knowing and attempting to do something about it.

I was also impressed by the Board membership. Each member has a particular interest and talent, and they go about your business with real professionalism. A couple of the board members are actively involved in state conservation issues and donate their time to attending meetings, writing letters and making suggestions. One member is a coordination guru for local Douglas County environmental groups. Another member has been living and fishing around the Roseburg area a lifetime and provides the much needed historical perspective for any issue that arises. As members you can be proud of the leadership that runs this organization. I would invite you to also be our eyes and ears. If any issue comes to your attention please contact myself or a member of the Board of Directors so we can take appropriate action.

Currently, as an organization, we are attempting to stay abreast of the Oregon Coastal Native Fish Conservation Plan (NFCP). Joe Ferguson and Peter Tronquet are working to get the Umpqua Basin recognized as a unique and separate entity within the plan. Management direction provided in the NFCP will undoubtedly affect the maintenance and recovery on wild fish on the North Umpqua River.

My own interest and training has been in plant ecology. I retired in 1992 from the Forest Service after 32 years dealing with ecological issues and ecosystem management. From this perspective I want to encourage the membership to consider the North Umpqua River, not only as 33 miles of fly fishing water, but also part of a larger ecosystem that includes the South Fork, the main Umpqua drainage and all the tributary streams and watersheds that makes these rivers so unique. We are fortunate that so many river miles flow through federal lands. This is one attribute that makes the North Umpqua, and the Umpqua River system, in general, so different from other Oregon coastal rivers. However, there are still issues of poorly managed livestock grazing and underutilized tributary habitat, for whatever reasons, down drainage. I am hopeful the Steamboaters will continue to be involved in conservation issues within Douglas County since precedents and decisions made on one part of the ecosystem will probably impact the North Umpqua river system also. It's the fish and the water that interconnects these system components. Smallmouth bass in the lower river and the declining lamprey eel populations are just two examples. Not directly associated with North Umpqua fly water, but never-the-less, an impact on anadromous fish populations the North supports.

We're changing the Whistle content slightly. In the winter issue (2011-2012) we are starting to include some historical information related to the River and the Steamboaters organization. Some of the membership is fairly young. We wanted to give you some perspective on where we've come from and some of the past issues in which the organization has made a contribution.

The Board of Directors is here to represent you. Help us to do our job. We covet your comments and suggestions, give me a call (541-673-2246) or email (lenv@pcez.com).

Lenny Volland

Club News & Notes:

Winter Banquet

March 3, 2012

Brix 527 Restaurant

527 Jackson ST.

Roseburg

The annual banquet will be held at Brix Restaurant on Saturday, March 3rd, 2012 beginning with a social hour at 5:30 PM. The presenter is Toby Sprinkle, general manager of Great Alaska Adventures. Toby's presentation will include a slide presentation of his Kamchatka, Russia experience. He lived there several years about twenty years ago. Also, Toby will show fly fishing for tarpon out of Holbox, Yucatan Peninsula. As a rafter, he was a member of the 1986 Ken Warren Expedition down the Upper Yangtze River in China. You will see photos of what the river and country looked like before the dam was built. It should be a very interesting night talking fish, seeing old friends, making new ones and getting your horizons stretched. We're still negotiating the food offerings and price. Check the Steamboaters website as we get closer to the March banquet.

The Whistle Is Available Electronically

The Whistle can be emailed to any member who wishes to receive it in electronic rather than paper form. Send your e-mail address to Dick Bauer or any Board member to receive this type of distribution.



Fly Tyer's Corner

Captain Nemo

By Pat McRae



Standard Dress

Tail: Long black Marabou

Body: Blue embroidery floss - #3844

Rib: Flat gold tinsel

Hackle: Black

Wing: Long blue marabou flashabou

Head: Several wraps of gold braid, with a band of green up to the hook-eye

I fish the Nemo as a sub-surface fly, as opposed to a sunk fly, and by that I mean keeping it on a semi slack line not far below the surface so that the hackles are free to move in a life like fashion, and I think that is the key to its success. When fishing it, I cast slightly upstream, raise the rod tip to vertical and make a snap roll to allow the hackles of the fly to move freely and to gain a little depth. I fish a 12 foot leader on a slow downstream swing, leading the line to maintain the freedom for the fly to do its dance.



Captain Nemo, low water dress

Club News & Notes: *Continued from Page 3*

Inform Yourself About Hatcheries *continued*

When you inform yourself, the truth is inescapable: hatcheries do not belong on rivers with runs of wild anadromous Pacific salmon and steelhead that are sustaining themselves. The hatchery at Rock Creek on the North Umpqua River is gradually undermining itself. It takes time, but eventually there will be no more hatchery summer steelhead because there will be no more wild steelhead with resilient adaptive gene pools to serve as hatchery brood stock.

Some anglers think that the summer steelhead runs have declined over the last two seasons (2010 & 2011), and are advocating the reintroduction of hatchery smolts into the fly-water zone of the North Umpqua River. You could not prove it by the fishing success of some of my friends or by the numbers of wild summer steelhead holding in Big Bend Pool.

This continued belief in hatcheries is absurdly idealistic. There have been hatcheries for Pacific salmon and trout on the West Coast of North America for 139 years. What has happened to the numbers of anadromous fish (wild and hatchery) over the last 139 years? Yet hatchery propaganda continues to be believed.

Face reality . . . be a realist . . . open your eyes and see the handwriting on the wall—hatcheries will eventually end fishing and the fish they are reputed to help. This unquestionable outcome will be hastened with the reintroduction of hatchery fish into even the lower ten miles of the fly water.

There were fires, none big, in the Glide District of the Umpqua National Forest this season. While talking with visiting fire crews at the pool, it occurred to me that one of the best things that could happen for truly sustainable angling for summer steelhead here would be for a helicopter to dip up water from the juvenile tanks at Rock Creek Hatchery and to dump these aberrant summer steelhead on the fire. By helping to put out a wild fire, perhaps for the first time in 139 years, hatchery fish might finally do some good for something wild.

How Did the North Umpqua Get Its “Fly-Only” Fishing Regulation?

Have you ever wondered when and how so much of the upper river (over thirty river miles) became designated as a fly-only regulation? Dale writes: About 1950 a road was being built up the North Umpqua River to provide access to Copco’s North Umpqua hydropower project. Some members of the Roseburg Rod and Gun Club realized that the road would have a drastic impact on the fishery resource of the river. The club was concerned that the new road would provide riverbank access and, consequently, be ideal for snagging of salmon and steelhead. Ken Gilkeson, John Amacher and other Rod and Gun Club members received verbal support from Game Commission’s Regional Supervisor, Jim Vaughn, to propose a fly fishing only regulation on the river. The regulation was approved in 1951 by the game commission and became effective for the year 1952.

North Umpqua Chronicle

by Pat McRae

October 18, 2011

Fall is in the air and my thoughts are turning to the catch and release season on the Clearwater River and its gargantuan steelhead. I hooked a couple of these fish on the fly a few years ago, one 42 inches with a mouth so big that I could have put my doubled fist in it without touching anything and another 40 inches long. I would dearly love to hook just one more of these monsters before I leave this earth and that hope is what brings me back to the Clearwater every year. But you just never know, the odds are against it, particularly even more so since fishing methods are rapidly changing on this beautiful river. Not so long ago Clearwater fishing was much simpler.

I loved the Clearwater River and the pure innocence of it all – men wading along the banks up to their waists, skilled double-haul casters, throwing long lines. There have been changes in methods during that time, none of them necessarily pleasing. Spey rods came into vogue, allowing fly fishermen to reach further out into the river and I must say there is nothing poetic about looking down a row of spey casters flogging out poorly formed loops and of course there is a limit to how many casts you can make with the big rod before your back is killing you, and you have to give it a rest before going back to the torture.

There have always been boats on the Clearwater, but they used to be small boats. Trolling fishermen in small outboards hunkered down in their jackets against the cold wind as they putt-putted along in many of the long slow stretches and yes they took their share of fish, but nothing like now. Now, there are a plethora of jet sleds that can reach all parts of the river within 15 minutes and they have electronic fish finders aboard to ensure they locate the fish, and they circle around them until they have caught and released all they can. Yes, I said released. It is not unusual to hear the boat fishermen say they are averaging 30 hookups a day. All you can say about that is at the end of the day there are a hell of a lot of sore mouthed fish in the aftermath, that are as sure as hell not going to be chasing a fly for a long time. Black Rock is one of the most well-known pools on the river, and it is not unusual to see a jet sled parked there with its clients spread out for 20 yards on either side of the boat. What a damn mess.

Fare thee well Clearwater, I loved you dearly, but unless something changes in the regulations I'll never return. We North Umpqua fishermen should feel so very lucky for the regulations we have and should never cease the fight to retain them.

Pat Mc.

Pat McRae's most recent book "The North Umpqua Chronicles" is available for purchase at Steamboat Inn, The Caddis Fly Shop, and Angler's Book Supply.

Steamboaters History

by Len Volland

The Founding of Steamboaters

Col. Jim Hayden and Don Haines were discussing the mutually shared concept of a fly fisherman's organization for those fishing the North Umpqua River at Steamboat while on a September 1, 1966 flight to the Federation of Fly Fisherman (FFF) conclave at Jackson Lake Lodge, Wyoming. The following evening, at a cocktail gathering in Col. Hayden's room, the two men presented their idea to two other couples, Stan and Yvonne Knouse, Ken and Polly Anderson. Stan Knouse suggested that the organization be called the Steamboaters.

On September 4th, 1966, the club was officially formed and made a charter member of the FFF, retroactive to August 31st, the deadline for charter membership. The following day Col. Hayden wrote a letter to Dan Callaghan saying, in effect, that he was sorry Dan had missed the conclave, but it was probably for the better because in his absence he was named secretary of the Steamboaters. Col. Hayden went on to say "We needed an honest man, a superior fly fisherman, a lawyer, and an Oregonian to be secretary; and our IBM machines produced your name four times. As you weren't present, there were no objections and you were voted unanimously to be secretary of the group." In closing Col. Hayden went on to say "I will be at the Steamboat Inn September 13-23 and Don Haines hopes to be there at least part of the time. Please arrange your work so that you can join us for important planning and action. BYO wife, Cherio, Jim Hayden".

On the same day, September 5th, 1966, Don Haines also wrote a letter to Dan Callaghan saying, in part, "We feel the basis should be conservation of our natural resources, the perpetuation of the pure art of fly fishing through our youngsters and the last being the social enjoyment of our Umpqua Gang as we meet throughout the season. We propose no fancy meetings and that club news be by mail and that for representation, officers would include one from Oregon, one from Northern California, and a Southern California officer."

On September 6th, 1966 Ken Anderson wrote a letter to Frank Moore informing him of the concept of the club and mentioned that Stan Knouse had suggested the name "Steamboaters". On September 17th and 18th there was a gathering at Steamboat Inn to begin developing organizational details. At that meeting Stan Knouse produced a rough draft of the Steamboater objectives, Col. Hayden drafted the mission statement, and Dan Callaghan wrote a rough draft of the purposes of the Steamboaters.

The first organizational meeting was held September 18th, 1966 at the Steamboat Inn. Those present were Col. Jim Hayden, Stan and Yvonne Knouse, Bud and Maggie Pate, Dan Callaghan, Don Haines and Frank Moore. Col. Hayden was selected to chair the meeting. The articles of incorporation and by-laws were approved, and the first slate of officers elected. Col. Jim Hayden was chosen as president, Stan Knouse as vice president, Dan Callaghan as secretary and treasurer, and Don Haines as assistant secretary. Honorary membership was extended to Clarence Gordon, Sen. Frank Church, Ed Strickland, Gene Andregg, and Roderick Haig-Brown. The FFF membership was approved and committees were formed. It was unanimously resolved that the club's insignia be the word Steamboaters written out to resemble a steelhead as prepared by Ken Anderson. The first receipts for membership were also taken, written out on Steamboat Inn letterhead. The letterhead read "Steamboat Inn at Steamboat, Oregon. Café, cabins, guide service, sporting goods, groceries, service station. Phone Roseburg 8-F-4. Mailing address: Toketee Route, Ideyld Park, Oregon". The first dues that day were paid by Col. Hayden, W.J. Fredricks, Don and Gayle Haines, Stan and Yvonne Knouse, Frank Moore, Kenneth Overton, Floyd Haas and Dennis Moore.

STEAMBOATERS
P.O. BOX 41266
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97404

Charter Member Club –
Federation of Fly Fishers
Member—Oregon Trout &
Pacific Rivers Council

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2011-2012

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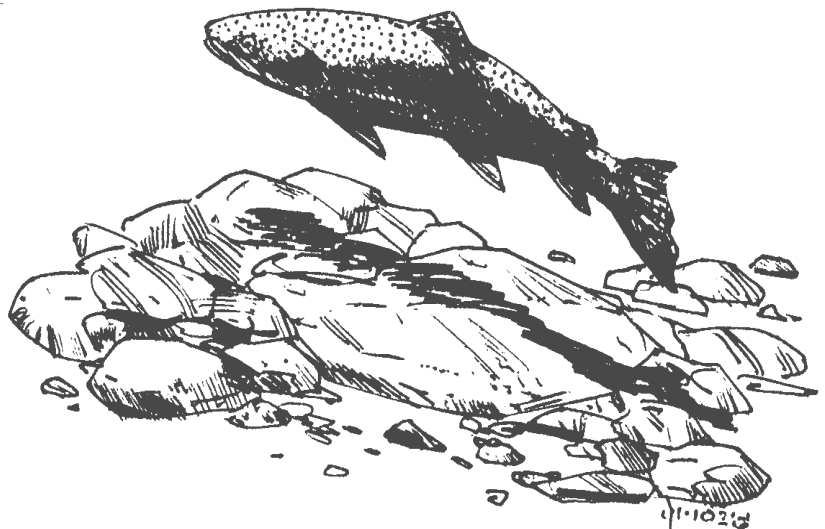
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JOSH VOYNICK

Whistle artwork by Dave Hall





The purpose and mission of the Steamboaters shall be to preserve, promote, and restore the natural production of the wild fish populations, especially steelhead, the habitat which sustains them, and the unique aesthetic values of the North Umpqua River for the present and the future generations.

Application for Membership

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Business: () _____

Business or Profession: _____

Business Address: _____

Please indicate type of membership desired:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life.....\$300.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior.....\$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular.....\$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate.....\$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate.....\$15.00 | |

Junior member's date of birth: ___ / ___ / ___ (14 and under)

Name of associate or junior member: _____

Signature of Applicant

Date

Sponsor's Signature

I understand that the purposes of the Steamboaters are as follows:

1. Work to restore the North Umpqua River System's wild fish stocks, particularly Steelhead, to a sustainable level that is consistent with the optimum natural population levels.
2. Protect, preserve, and restore fish habitat, including adequate and consistent flows of the high quality water in the North Umpqua and its tributaries.
3. Promote and support fish harvest levels that are consistent with the optimum wild fish spawning populations.
4. Promote and support the conservation of natural genetic diversity of North Umpqua wild fish stocks.
5. Promote adequate funding from state, federal, and other sources for protection and enhancement of the North Umpqua fishery and its habitat.
6. Preserve the scenic values of the North Umpqua River.
7. Educate the public of the values and the importance of the North Umpqua wild fish stocks.
8. Promote and preserve the tradition of fly fishing and the fraternity of fly fishers that fish the waters of the North Umpqua River.
9. Protect and preserve the fly fishing only regulations of the North Umpqua River.
10. Promote good sportsmanship and a code of ethics among all anglers.

I pledge myself to the furtherance of these goals: _____

Checks payable to: The Steamboaters, P.O. Box 41266, Eugene, OR 97404



PO Box 41266
Eugene, OR 97404