



# Northwest Steelheaders

## Mid-Valley Chapter Newsletter

2021, Vol 2

### President's Message

Well, Mid-valley Chapter members the COVID pandemic has made it way too long since we were able to sit down together, enjoying friendships, informative presentations, and hearing a few fish stories. Thankfully, the separation is almost at an end (we hope), but in the meantime we have the ZOOM platform to bring us together with presentations from guides, biologists, and others to peak our interest. Members can use either a computer screen or cell phone to attend meetings. If you are computer savvy, download Zoom on your own and play with it. Details to join will be forthcoming.

Events for the near future include a presentation on February 3rd from guide extraordinaire and chapter member, Damon Struble. Damon always gives us exceptionally timely, detailed information on the hot spots and tackle configurations. Don't know which river he will be highlighting, but can't wait for his report.

Our ANWS Executive Director, Chris Hager, is also attending the February meeting. In addition to listening to Damon, Chris will give us information concerning the Association's objectives and accomplishments. A great deal has occurred Association-wise during this pandemic that affects us all.

The ZOOM meeting for March 3rd is featuring another great guide and chapter member Curt Curry. Curt not only is a blast to fish with, he also gives an awesome presentation showing his gear and fishing methods expertise.

Tom VanderPlaat, Association Board President, is joining us for the March 3rd ZOOM gathering. Tom will give us a great perspective on the progress we are making to bring more fish and fishing opportunities to our members and all fishermen.

Rich Bryan from Kokanee Power of Oregon is our guest speaker for the April 7th ZOOM meeting. Rich has a report discussing scouting top kokanee lakes, and the current basic tactics. This is mainly aimed at anglers that have never been to an area and would like a leg up. Get your questions ready for Rich.

Both Damon Struble, and Curt Curry have consented to raffle fishing trips for our members. These great guys have always come through for us with presentations and donated trips. Now, although they did not request it, we have decided that due to the pandemic slow down it is time for us to give back so all sales from the raffles will go directly to the guides. We are working out the details of how to make the raffle work using the ZOOM platform.

We are building our membership back to normal levels as fast as we can. With that in mind, if you know of anyone that has been waiting for us to start our meetings so they can join, give them the information to attend via ZOOM.

I am especially looking forward to seeing each and every one of you February 3rd at 7:00pm. Stay safe and healthy.

Jim Sallee  
President Mid-valley chapter NWSH  
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## **JUST HOW MANY MOLES DON HEINTZMAN??**

*Submitted by John Snelling ([snellinj@peak.org](mailto:snellinj@peak.org))*

Don Heintzman (February 6, 1937 – April 18, 2020) and his wife Vicky contributed mightily to the success of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders. From Albany born and bred, one could say that Don and Vicky at one time were the heart of the organization here in the Valley and up in Portland.

Just one of the projects Don enjoyed was the monthly raffle with Bob Durfee; in fact I am sure many members came to our meeting just to enjoy the raffle themselves. When Don would pass the raffle tumbler around for us to choose a ticket, Durfee would look at one prize and comment “Just how many moles went into making this? How many had to die?” And Don would reply “No idea”. Now I don’t remember exactly what the item was. Perhaps one of you can write me if you remember; I’ll make sure the answer is published in this newsletter. But I can assure you Durfee’s comments brought down the house in laughter. Don and Bob were the perfect Laurel and Hardy duo.

Don Heintzman contributed so much more to the Mid-Valley (Albany) Chapter. He was the institutional memory of the club recalling fish-alongs, camping trips, picnics, big fish caught and much more. Sitting at the raffle table in the Senior Center, Don would display raffle items and sell tickets, including freebies. Placed in order were membership applications, apparel for sale, and Don’s ever present smile and queries about fishing success. I also recall that when a member such as I would bring in a bag of fishing line collected on the water, Don would dole out \$5 worth of free raffle tickets. Another of Don’s activities was the big fish

trophy program. Competitions for largest fish caught included Winter Steelhead, Fall Chinook, Spring Chinook, and Summer Steelhead. Every time I am at home downstairs, especially during this COVID time, I am reminded of the Winter Steelhead trophy I was last awarded; and then I remember Don Heintzman.

Don was also recognized several years back with a beautiful steelhead print for his “Hall of Fame, Footsoldier Award” by the Association headquarters then in Milwaukee Oregon.



Several years ago I took Don Steelhead fishing on the Five Rivers Drift, Alsea. At the Blackberry takeout I snapped this picture of Don and the boat on the ramp, newly improved by Chapter volunteers. Notice the trademark overalls which Don said were the “perfect fishing garb”. We DID catch a fish that day, but what is fishing, especially for the elusive Steelhead, but a chance to enjoy the outdoors with a kind friend sharing kindred interests?

Farewell Don!

## WORK AT E. E. WILSON FISH PONDS

*Submitted by George Larson*

Bill Pavlisick, Harold Fisher, George Larson and John Snelling spent a day assembling and then installing five benches along the footpath to the fishing pond. The benches were purchased by ODFW and are constructed of aluminum and plastic lumber. Each was mounted to a concrete pad that



was installed by Bill and others earlier thus only requiring us to hammer drill the lags to mount each onto the pads. To boot, we had a lovely mid-winter sunny day with no wind. What a relief to get out of the house and participate in another angler related improvement in our local area.

## Wounded Warriors

*Submitted by Ron Pockrus*

As most of you know, our chapter has supported local Wounded Warrior and family events for several years. Our intent is to continue WWP events in the future.

Because of the very positive success our chapter has had with Veterans, Ron Pockrus, a board member, and Veteran, have recently joined forces with The Fallen Outdoors (TFO). They are a National Organization that comprise of Veterans from all branches of service, and all ages.

As in the past, by members offering a lifting hand to Veterans through fishing, we not only help to

provide a venue for Veteran camaraderie, we also put them in an environment that helps set aside any physical, or mental disabilities they might have, and struggle with.

As we get past the pandemic, and start to have normality again, the intent is to have chapter members take Veterans fishing, either by boat, or bank fishing. It's all about just having a venue for Vets to get out of their regular routine. If this is something you would like to do, please give Ron a call at 541-401-5868, share your thoughts and ideas.

I wish you all fair skies and following winds

## Fishing Report

*Submitted by Ron Pockrus and Kim Dowe*



Another great day on the water! Chapter member Jerry Hendricks fared well recently while drift fishing on the Siletz River. This dandy steelhead was caught while bobber Dogging.



Kim Dowe caught this 5 pound hatchery steelhead caught from the Alsea River in January.

## Upcoming Meeting Information

We have guides, Damon Struble, Curt Curry, and Rich Bryan from Kokanee Power giving presentations over the next three months.

- February 3: Damon Stuble
- March 3: Curt Curry
- May 7: Rich Bryan from Kokanee Power

Damon and Curt have agreed to raffling a fishing trip to our members with details to follow at our meetings.

The meetings will be on Zoom programs for those that will join via computer screens. The meetings can also be joined by telephone. Meeting ID information will be sent to all members 3-4 days prior to the event.

## 2021 Chapter Picnic

A date has finally been set for this year's chapter picnic.

- **Date:** June 5th, 2021
- **Location:** Waterloo covered pavilion, across from boat ramp.

This is the same location as we've previously used with the large pavilion.

*Compliments of Linn County Parks Dept.  
Reservations pending Covid-19 guidelines*

## How to Join a ZOOM Meeting

Each meeting has a unique 9, 10, or 11-digit number called a meeting ID that will be required to join a Zoom meeting.

### From your computer (if using a cell phone for video and audio, you will need to download a Zoom app):

- Open the Zoom desktop client or Zoom app
- Join a meeting using one of these methods:
  - Click Join a Meeting if you want to join without signing in.
  - Or sign in to Zoom then click Join.
- Enter the meeting ID number and your display name.
  - If you're signed in, change your name if you don't want your default name to appear.
  - If you're not signed in, enter a display name.
- Select if you would like to connect audio and/or video and click Join.

### By Phone audio only:

- On your phone, dial the teleconferencing number provided in your invite.
- Enter the meeting ID number when prompted using your dialpad.



## JOIN THE ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST STEELHEADERS

Anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future.

Check one:

- Annual Member..... \$30 per year
- Sustaining Member..... \$10 per month
- Lifetime Member..... \$500 one time
- Budgeted Life Member.... \$100 in 5 annual installments

*\*These are the standard rates as of January 1, 2020\**

Contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total charged/enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my:  VISA  MASTERCARD  DISCOVER

*Note that we cannot process payments via debit card*

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Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Auth Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone 1 Phone 2

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Email

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Chapter or Member at Large

*A portion of your membership may be tax deductible.  
Check with your tax advisor.*

Mail this membership forms to:  
George Larson, 414 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Albany, OR 97321

Memberships received by the Mid-Valley Chapter will be forwarded to the NW Steelheaders main association.