

# The Salmon Run



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A Publication of the Saco River Salmon Club, P.O. Box 115, Saco, Maine 04072, 207.282.6985

## Bill Windward is on the road to recovery By *RJMere*

As many of you already know, Bill was confined to a hospital bed for some time but he is now out and about and feeling fine. The following note came from Bill to be included in this month's Salmon Run. Good health to you Bill!

I would like to thank all those who sent cards, came to visit me, and/or left me books and magazines to read while recovering at the rehab. Bill Winward

## Report on May Trips By *Dan Bonville*

May was the month that many of the salmon club's members were finally able to get out into the wilds of Western Maine to enjoy each other's company, to be amazed all over again by the beauty of springtime, and to enjoy the pleasures of fishing. On May 16 through 18, past President and Registered Maine Guide Steve Berry hosted club members at his beautiful log cabin on the Moose River, upstream from Moosehead Lake. Fishermen were Dan and Sandy Bonville, Larry Orme, Nick Sibilgia, Rick Kennedy, Brian and Simon Lewis, Fred Pierce, Mark Fohlin, and Steve.

We fly fished the East and West Outlets and rivers, the Moose River at MacCamps and below the dam at Brassua and the pool and run right out in front of the cabin (where the most and biggest salmon were caught). We also drove into Indian Pond on the West Outlet Road and canoed over into the inlet. Both salmon and bass were hooked and Simon landed a lovely smallmouth right out in front of the two campsites that are available at the end of the road.

Our evenings were spent storytelling, first out on Steve's front porch and later as the night got colder, inside around the big dining room table and a feast of grilled salmon and fresh fiddleheads, thanks to angler Rick Kennedy and the fresh greens brought up by Steve.

Several of us had fished this area before but our guide Steve showed all of us places we'd never seen or heard of before. He knows the area very well and was happy to show us some of his favorite areas.

We'll call this our first annual Moose River Trip as most everybody agreed that we must do this trip next year.

But, for those who don't want to wait a whole year, we will be having a trip back up to Steve's on October 10 through the 13.

Our first ever cast and blast weekend. For those of you not familiar with a cast and blast, we will hunt grouse (partridge) in early mornings, fish mid-day, and hunt or fish later in the

day. Seven members have already signed up! Sounds like a great weekend to me.

On May 30 to June 1, twelve members attended our third annual trip to the Carrabasset Valley and North and South Branches of the Dead River. Our hosts were Chris Bond and daughter Emma and son Niles. Chris's son, Ben, had a semi-formal Saturday night that meant that one must wear a collar. Times have changed! Anglers were Scott Wilson and son Tyler, Brian Lewis and son Simon, Fred Pierce, Mark Fohlin, Nick Sibilgia, Tommy McNeil, and Dan Bonville. A great time was had by all with Nick high rod as usual. Brookies and salmon were caught but were hard to come by that weekend. Mark and Dan kayaked Horseshoe Pond, a couple of brookies caught, and Bugeye Pond and were blanked. The kids, including Dan, wormed a small mountain brook that held pan-sized brookies and kept a few to be fried up for Sunday's breakfast. Everybody took part in meal preparations and nobody went hungry, what with American chopsuey, lasagna, salads, garlic toast, French toast and sausages, oatmeal and scrambled eggs and ham. Bagged lunches were prepared and fishermen went off in several directions. Wildlife viewing was awesome as usual with everything seen from snowshoe hares and ruffed grouse to whitetail deer, moose, and eagles. We split up on Sunday and five of us went over to the lower Kennebec River. The salmon were in, not too many, but the one that I landed was a fat and healthy 14 inch beauty.

Needless to say, we will be going back next year, and have already found some new places to explore.

**Thank you again Steve and Chris for having us up to your camps.**

## Saco River to Receive 50k Parr By *Dave Bean*

Maine Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has approved the proposal to stock 50,000 Penobscot River parr into the Saco river over the next three years. The study design includes two groups of 25,000 fish, one control and one treatment, both groups to be marked and stocked below Skelton dam. Evaluation would be based on returning adults to the Skelton fish passage facility. There are still some loose ends to be tied up before the study gets off the ground. Funding through a National Fish and Wildlife foundation grant needs to be approved, a Memorandum of Understanding between Marical/FWS/FPL and Pine Tree hatchery needs to be in place and a marking scheme that allows

good evaluation without confounding results from other studies being conducted. I should hope that this all comes together to get fish this fall and stock out next spring.

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## October 10 through the 13, SRSC First Annual Cast and Blast Trip

We will be staying at Steve Berry's log cabin on the Moose River. We will hunt for partridge in the morning and fish during the mid-day. Contact Dan Bonville for more information.

## Salmon Returns Surprisingly High for This Off-Year *By RJ Mere*

When we moved our operations from Bar Mills to Biddeford in the mid-1990's we did not raise fry or stock any salmon. Everyone, except a handful of members, thought that this year's returns would suffer for it. The following is a report from Matt LeBlanc, FPL Fisheries Biologist. It is a bit dated so the actual numbers are probably higher than written here:

The hot temperatures of the last week have really slowed things down, but we are still picking up a few shad. Temperatures at Skelton rose above 22 degrees Celsius last week ceasing trap and truck operations for salmon, but even this morning salmon continue to enter the Skelton trap. Please call Matt LeBlanc for any questions.

Cataract East  
12 Salmon  
933 American Shad  
22,536 Herring

Cataract West  
20 salmon  
121 American Shad  
4,226 Herring

Skelton  
12 Salmon  
3 American Shad  
14,250 Herring

## Upcoming Club Trips *By RJ Mere*

### August 16, A Canoe and Kayak Day Trip

Registered Maine Guide, Mark Howland will be our guide for this easy paddle between Hiram Falls and Cornish. We will meet at 8 AM at the IGA in Cornish. There are only a few extra kayaks available, so get your calls in and grab one for yourself or bring you own canoe or kayak.  
Call Dan Bonville, 207-625-7693 for more information.

### *Submit your short article for "The Salmon Run."*

General interest stories, recipes for fly tying or foods, comments and suggestions are welcomed. The editors reserve the right to edit all materials. Send to RJ Mere, 9 York St., Kennebunk, ME, 04043 or email to [rjmere@gwi.net](mailto:rjmere@gwi.net)

Visit our website at [www.sacosalmon.org](http://www.sacosalmon.org)

Editors: Dan Bonville and RJ Mere

### Saco River Salmon Club Membership Form

Name:  
Address:  
City: State: Zip:  
Phone: ( )  
E-mail address

*Dues are annual - January through December*

Single \$15 Family \$25 Student \$5 Senior \$5 Life \$300  
Donation to hatchery \$

I would like to volunteer in the following areas:

- |  |                                      |
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