

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

From the President's Corner By Dan Bonville, Vice-President

Since our last newsletter came out, our president, Jack Parker has been hospitalized with a mini-stroke. He is in rehab at Brighton Medical Center in Portland. His wife, Pat, has thanked everybody for their concern, prayers, and cards but has requested that we do not visit Jack at this point of time to ensure that he gets the rest that he needs. I did stop in twice for a couple of very short visits to ask Jack what he would like for me to do as vice-president and if he would like for me to fill in while he recovers. He told me that there was so much going on with the club that as soon as he was able, he would "blossom" out into the new areas that we will be working with, as well as keeping up with, the super smolt program and the club's goals. Jack has worked tirelessly on every program that we have and it will take several people to fill in on each item he has been covering. It's time for each one of the Saco River Salmon Club committees to get together to try to fill in where Jack left off. Over the years, we have put together committees to handle all facets of our club: the super smolt program, dam re-licensing and fish passage, grant writing and fundraising, publicity committee (monthly programs and outdoor trips and classes), stream monitoring, building and upkeep, elections, banquet, and hatchery committees have all done commendable work. Jack has run very good business meetings, with good attendance from officers and directors. The meetings have been fairly prompt, timely, and well organized. We thank him for his great dedication and organizational skills.

We wish Jack a speedy recovery and will be pleased to see him step into his guide's canoe with fly rod in hand and seeking out that 30 pound salmon on the Restigouche and Matapedia Rivers in May.

By-Law Changes Voted On Last Membership Meeting By Larry Orme

Dan Bonville presented the following bylaw revisions for discussion and vote at the February membership, Wednesday, February 16. There was good attendance with over 50 members present. All eleven changes were approved by unanimous vote. The revisions will be carefully transcribed to the bylaws to convey the exact intended meaning. Once rewritten, a copy of the bylaws will be furnished to any member so requesting one.

General Meeting – February By Dan Bonville

It was a great turnout with a wonderful chowdah meal prepared by Lynne Jackson of On the Corner Cafe in Biddeford. After the business of by-law revisions, RJ Mere and Dan Bonville did a show and tell type of lecture explaining the new rules on traveling on airlines and trains when heading out to travel fishing destinations. RJ covered travel to Alaska, and Dan did travel to Florida and other warm winter climates. Editor's Note: The current list of items that TSA will allow in carry-on or check-in luggage can be found on their website: <http://www.tsa.gov/public/> Lighters have now been added to the list of prohibited items for carry on and check-in baggage. However, the ban will not be enforced until April 14.

Elections By Larry Orme

Elections of officers and directors will occur at the upcoming social meeting on March 16. The nominating committee is recommending the following slate of candidates for election: Dan Bonville, president, Mark Woodruff, vice president, Larry Orme, secretary, and Tom DeBruin, treasurer. The complete list of directors running for election is listed below. Nominations for director or any office will be received from the floor before the vote.

Directors nominated:

Mike Arsenault, Dave Bean, Steve Berry, John Blunt, Lionel Bouthot, Ken Castner, Chuck Clark, Frank Connelly, Rey Dussault, Dave Fenderson, Al Hodson, Tom Knobloch, Art Leblanc, R. J. Mere, Bob Monroe, Richard Neal, Jack Parker, Skip Paolini, Harvey Patry, Bud Peck, Susan Polans, Ron Powell, Nick Sabilia

Program for March Meeting By Dan Bonville

In addition to voting in officers and directors at the membership meeting on March 16, registered Maine guide Ron Powell of Baldwin will present a slide show on his exploratory trip to Denali National Park in Alaska. Ron spent some time and effort trying to find a new mountaineering route up Mount McKinley. Ron has been climbing on rock and ice for quite a spell and recently became a fly fisher. Lynne Jackson from On the Corner Cafe will again cater our dinner.

It looks to be a wonderful evening. Doors open at 6pm at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Saco, on the corner of Cleveland Street and Route One.

Annual SRSC Banquet By Larry Orme

Yes, it's time to make your reservation to attend one of our highlight social evenings of the year, the SRSC annual banquet. The venue for the dinner this year is St. Martha's Church Hall in Kennebunk on Route 1 on the north side of town. Mark the Date, Friday, April 29.

Social hour will start at 5:00 p.m. with a complete buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m. For those of you who have attended social meetings this past year you will be delighted to know that Lynne Jackson who has donated her time preparing meals for our social meetings, and who is the owner of On The Corner Café, has been engaged to cater the meal. The SRSC will operate a cash bar with alcoholic beverages available throughout the evening. Soft drinks will also be available and are included in the meal price. During the social hour assorted Hors d'oeuvres will be passed. Buffet entrees will be salmon and chicken marsala accompanied by a mixed medley of vegetables, rice pilaf, salad and bread. Coffee and cheesecake will complete the meal and put all attendees in the proper mood for the ensuing auction. The entire fee for this repast including tax, gratuity, and non-alcoholic beverages is \$25.00 per person.

The directors are diligently rounding up items for the table raffle, and the auction. All members are ardently encouraged to donate items to both of these important fundraisers. There will be a separate raffle for a fishing trip for two to Grant's Kennebago Camps again this year, and tickets for that raffle are included in this newsletter and will be available throughout the banquet evening up to the raffle drawing.

We will have a few short announcements, installation of officers and directors (again short), well-deserved award presentations, and our best auction ever. Please don't miss this highlight event and the opportunity to join with other club members for an entertaining evening.

A reservation form with return address information is printed on a separate sheet included in the mailing of this newsletter. Alcoholic beverages will cost \$3.00 for beer, \$4.00 for wine, and \$5.00 for mixed drinks, and these beverages will be paid for with "chits", which can be purchased in advance with your reservation or during the evening. Due to the fact that Lynne is catering this dinner at a rented facility, it is absolutely necessary to have the exact number of people attending one week before the event. Timely reservations are necessary to determine proper amounts of food and table settings. Please return the reservation form as soon as possible or e-mail Nick Sibilila at nsibilila@maine.rr.com with your reservation and drink information. Payment will gladly be accepted at the door, but this banquet will necessarily be by reservation only. Thank you for your cooperation. Save your spot now! Friday, April 29, 5:00 p.m. at St. Martha's Church Hall.

Fish Passage Negotiations between Rounds By Mark Woodruff

Perhaps the sport of boxing isn't the best analogy for negotiations about a consensus plan for fish passage on the Saco River. There have been no hits below the belt; no punches landed to the head; and certainly no one has thrown in the towel. However, the bell has ended Round 1 and the boxers – FPL Energy and the fishery group (government agencies, the Club, Atlantic Salmon Federation) – are taking a break from negotiations.

The referee ringing the bell is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). FERC wants the boxers to spar differently in another corner of the ring and deal with re-licensing the Bar Mills hydro plant. Maybe it's time to give up on the boxing analogy. In the September 2003 edition of the Salmon Run, I reported on FPL Energy's submittal of their application for a new license. Well, FERC has reviewed the application and as part of the re-licensing process is requesting members of the fishery group and others to submit comments for the FERC Environmental Assessment. By the time you read this article, the Club along with ASF and federal and state agencies will have given information to FERC explaining what environmental factors need to be considered for the Assessment. Furthermore, by April 4 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must issue a prescription for upstream passage at Bar Mills. In order to meet these deadlines, the fishery group and FPL determined that it was best to suspend negotiations and begin a new round later in April.

Does LD 664 Threaten Our Salmon Restoration? By Mark Woodruff

Representative Ken Fletcher of Winslow and co-sponsors Rep. Annis (Dover-Foxcroft), Rep. Nutting (Oakland), and Rep. Richardson (Greenville) have proposed LD 664 - An Act To Control Fish Stocking in Inland Waters. In short, this bill would prohibit the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife from authorizing another state agency to introduce fish into the inland waters of the State.

Each May the Saco River Salmon Club receives a permit from the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission to stock salmon fry throughout the watershed. It appears this bill would make our restoration effort illegal with a penalty of up to \$10,000. A public hearing on this bill is scheduled for March 1 at 1:00 p.m. in the Cross Building, Augusta. I will be submitting written comments in opposition to the bill via John Burrows of the Atlantic Salmon Federation.

Belgrade Ice Fishing By Dan Bonville

The Saco River Salmon Club annual ice-fishing trip to Bob and Laura Richter's Belgrade Four Season Camps was once again a success. Seven club members spent two days ice-fishing on Great Pond and fly tying in the large and beautiful cabin #4. As usual, meals were good times with full breakfasts, a homemade soup,

and sandwiches for lunch and meat loaf dinner and American chop suey dinner with salads and dessert for Friday and Saturday night's meals. Evenings were spent talking fishing, planning upcoming club trips and viewing the documentary "Dead River Rough Cut", a slide show on Russ Keith's 2004 trip to Alaska and a video of Mark Fohlin's trip to southeastern Alaska. Oh yes – and this year lots of smallmouth bass, white perch, and a lovely pike was caught while ice-fishing. Oh, and the pike tasted great!

Upcoming Club Trips and Events

By RJ Mere

Fly tying and rod making every other Wednesday until April at the Hatchery. Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

April 22-25: Spring salmon fishing on the Restigouche and Matapedia Rivers. Hotel Restigouche Call Pete Dube 877-865-2848 for reservations.

May 1: Fly casting day at Shy Beaver Club, barbecue and fly fishing for trout. Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

May 20,21,22: Fly fishing Moose River area. Steve Berry's Camp Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

June 3,4,5: Fly fishing North Branch Dead River area. Chris Bonds camp at Sugarloaf. Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

June 10,11,12: Fly fishing and trolling Rangeley Lake area Art Leblanc's camp. Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

Early June: Fly fishing day with registered Maine guide Don Sicard on the lower Androscoggin River Call Don Sicard 207-353-9433

June: Striper fishing on Saco River with Boats, Canoes, and Kayaks. Dates to be announced. Call Steve Berry 282-5468 or Capt. Tom DeBruin 282-5125

June 18: Saturday night fly fishing for stripers with registered Maine guide R.J. Mere, wading. We will meet midnight and fish through the low tide (2:05 AM) until sunrise. Call R.J. 985-4420

Mid July: Trout Salmon and Smallies on Rapid River below Middle Damn / Day trip walk in to damn 1.5 miles thru gate Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

August: Small Mouth Bass on Saco River canoes and kayaks needed. Registered Maine Guide Mark Houland 625-7676

September: West branch of Penobscot River dates and times to be announced.

October 1,2,3: Cast and blast Moose River Steve Berry's camp Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

Bob Monroe in Intensive Care

By RJ Mere

Bob Monroe has suffered a stroke over the last weekend and is now in the ICU at Southern Maine Medical Center. Visitors are not allowed at this time. Bob still has his ability to speak so the prognosis looks good. We pray for a speedy recovery.

As you know, Bob has been the club's greatest asset at the hatchery. He has organized teams of volunteers and with their help he has kept our eggs in the best condition possible. We now need more club members to step forward to take over the tasks while Bob is recovering. This is a critical time for our 800,000 salmon eggs because they are on the verge of hatching. Please call Dan Bonville, 207-625-7693, to get on the schedule as a hatchery volunteer.

Check Your Membership Status

By RJ Mere

The date or word "Life" after your name on the label of this newsletter indicates your present membership status as it stands in our database. If the printed date is not 2005 or "Life", please take a moment and fill in the membership form included in each issue of the Salmon Run. Membership fees go a long way to help pay for this newsletter and other regular bills that grant foundations do not support. Imagine operating your home without electricity or a phone! Please update your membership now!

Saco River Salmon Club Membership Form

Name:

Address:

City:

State: Zip:

Phone: ()

E-mail address

Dues are annual - January through December

Single \$20 Family \$30 Student \$10 Senior \$10 Life \$300
Donation to hatchery \$

I would like to volunteer in the following areas:

Board of Directors

Newsletter

Hatchery Operations

Stocking

Hydropower Issues

Legislation

Public Relations

Membership

Submit your short article for "The Salmon Run."

Send to RJ Mere, 9 York St., Kennebunk, ME, 04043
or email to rjmere@zwi.net

Banquet Reservation Form

Friday, April 29, 5:00 p.m. at St. Martha's Church Hall

Number Attending at \$25. per person _____ =

Beer at \$3. per _____ =

Wine at \$4. per _____ =

Mixed Drink \$5. per _____ =

For Dues Payments Calendar Year 2005:

Name _____

Address _____

Membership type _____ =

Hatchery Donation _____ =

Email Address _____

Names of Banquet Attendees _____

Please mail checks with names of those attending OR e-mail all names and information to
Nick Sibia / nicksibia@hotmail.com

Total= _____

Saco River Salmon Club
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