

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

The President's Corner By Dan Bonville

I personally reached a hallmark anniversary lately when I realized that I've been a member of the Saco River Salmon Club for over 20 years. I would attend our monthly meetings with my sister's boys, Mike and Tom Elliott. Boy, a lot of water has gone over the dams since I first became aware of the club while reading all the Al Rachard and Doug Jowett articles about the club. It was Doug who put me in touch with the then president John Blunt and the vice-president John Cadwallader.

I sent my first dues payment in right after July 4, 1985 when Sandy and I had taken a ride to the Chinese restaurant in Saco. There's a small dam behind the restaurant and CMP had shut down the water flow and a dozen full grown, fresh bright salmon were milling around in the pool below the dam. Did I ever get salmon fever! Sandy and I immediately drove to Wal-Mart in South Portland where I got outfitted with a 9 foot 8 weight fiberglass fly rod and a big sized Martin fly reel and weight forward line. The next stop was a small store at Camp Ellis at the mouth of the river where I bought a couple of salmon flies from one of the club's first members who was happy to show me a couple of fresh salmon that he had caught upriver below Skelton dam. Well, I never did put my own bright Saco River salmon in my freezer but it was not for the lack of trying. The kids and I fished lots of Saturdays for several years and though one of the twins raised one fish and I actually hooked and lost one of the biggest heart stopping action happened on the last day of the season one October when a large smallmouth bass hooked up and went airborne. Bringing salmon back to the Saco, however, has become a great big part of my life as has our salmon club, the directors' meetings, our monthly general meetings, our banquet, barbeques, and all of our great outings here in New England and our longer fishing trips to Quebec, New York, Florida, Montana, and Alaska. And friends? Boy, have my family and I made friends! I have been lucky to have made friends with and fished with so many truly nice people. So, on this anniversary I would like to thank all of you folks who have helped make this club such a success and with whom I have fished so much over the years in so many places.

Remember, everybody, our banquet is coming up in April. Our elections of officers and directors is also coming right up soon (call John Blunt or Ray Dusseault if you want to run for office or to be a director) and don't forget to call Jim Black, Harvey Patry, or Nick Sibilgia with those banquet raffle or auction ideas or items.

Our fly tying and rod making evenings every other Wednesday night are still going on at our hatchery classroom 6:30 P.M., with guest fly tyers. Also, start planning those outdoor dates; fishing in Rangeley up on the North Branch of the Dead River, on the Moose River in Rockwood, on the Androscoggin, and all along the Saco River. Spring is only days away. I can't wait. See you all, soon.

February General Meeting By Dan Bonville

Once again, we would like to thank Lynne Jackson of On the Corner Cafe in Biddeford for preparing such a wonderful dinner. This time Lynn presented different tender meats and sliced carrots in a gravy over mashed potatoes along with a fresh salad, soft drinks, and coffee. Thanks to those who brought the desserts that finished off our feast.

Mark Woodruff used pictures and graphs to show us how our temperature loggers were built with lots of help from Nick Sibilgia and John Blunt, how they were placed in the tributary streams where we have been stocking fry and parr, and how after a summer and fall recording water temperatures we are able, with Mark's good work on the streams and with his computer at home, to decide which of the tributaries are the best place for future stockings. Thank you, Mark, your presentation was an eye-opener for many of us and much appreciated.

A thank you also goes to both Tom DeBruin and his son Adam for their power point slide show of Adam and his friends and clients. Adam is a freshwater guide in Montana and a licensed Captain in Key Largo, Florida. The show included slides of catches of large bonefish, tarpon, grouper, sharks, permit, and one sail fish in warmer climates. There were also stripers and bluefish in the Northeast and of trout in Montana and huge steelhead in British Columbia. I talked with Adam after seeing his pictures and he told me that he is ordering a new flats skiff in Florida and will be excited to guide in the next fall. I'm trying to set a date with him to catch the so-called baby tarpon, some of which can weigh up to 50 pounds or more!

Banquet Update....Pier 77 ...April 29th Here we come! By Jim Black

The committee has been hard at work planning a night of fine dining, fun and camaraderie. We'll start the evening off with cocktails in the world class venue of Pier 77 in Cape

Porpoise. This will give us an opportunity to socialize while placing bids on items in the silent auction. The rest of the evening will be spent enjoying our four course meal while participating in the auction and raffles. The committee is busy soliciting donations for the auctions and the raffles. Yes ladies we have donations for our all new "ladies table"! We even have a few surprises in store so if everything goes off as planned this should be a night of fun for all. At this point we are still looking for donations so if you or someone you know has an item that they would like to contribute or if you have the opportunity to solicit a donation or an advertisement from a local business please leave a message for Nick Sibilila at the hatchery, (207) 282-6985. He can provide the details on the advertising rates and coordinate the pick up of the donation.

Tickets to the dinner are \$35/pp. and include tax, tip and gratuity. You can reserve your tickets by calling me at (207) 985-4549 ext 202 or simply mail your check to the Hatchery address, c/o banquet, (address appears on the newsletter). For those of you unfamiliar with Pier 77 (formerly SeaScapes) pictures of this waterfront setting and directions to Cape Porpoise can be obtained from the web site www.pier77restaurant.com. Once you have looked it over I think you'll agree that you and your significant other deserve a special night out!

Special note.... this year we will be accepting credit cards so there is no need to break into that emergency wad hidden under your mattress! We'll see you there!

Mr. Skip Paolini and Mr. Nick Sibilila

Cordially invite you to the

Egg Picking Socials

VENUE: Saco River Salmon Club Hatchery

Day and Time: Wednesdays and Saturdays through April beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Entertainment: 650,000 Atlantic Salmon Eggs

Refreshments: Coffee or Tea

RSVP by telephone (282-6985) or just show-up.

Although this may look like an invitation for high tea with the queen, your help is needed to ensure that the good-looking eggs we have remain healthy and develop into strong fry for stocking in May. Please take the time to volunteer an hour or two on Wednesdays or Saturdays. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks, Mark Woodruff Vice-president

L.L. Bean's 14th Year of Financial Support **By Mark Woodruff**

The Saco River Salmon Club Hatchery recently received a generous donation of \$5,000 from L.L. Bean, Inc. On behalf of the membership, I want to thank the company for its continuing support of our salmon restoration program. This is the fourteenth

year that L.L. Bean has made financial donations to the Hatchery. During that time they have assisted us in a variety of other ways including: donations of fishing equipment to our fundraising auction, publicity in their store and on their conservation webpage, invitations to their sportsman's show, and always genuine interest in our accomplishments. The contributions will enable the Club to raise over one-half million salmon fry this year and release them in the Saco River Watershed. Our club has remained focused on this important restoration effort thanks to the support of L.L. Bean.

Variety Is Our Strong Suit **By Mark Woodruff**

What were you doing in February 1996? Many readers will recall that our hatchery at the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands boat launch was just in the design phase. A decade later we are raising our tenth cohort of eggs at the hatchery! As was reported in the February issue of the "Salmon Run", this season began one month earlier than expected when we learned that the eggs were ready to be delivered from Green Lake Fish Hatchery. As with any of the past ten start-ups, there has always been a last minute fix. This year was true to form: the refrigerator that keeps the water in the hatchery at a chilly 38°F broke. Fortunately, the talent pool in our club runs deep. Thanks to John Blunt, Ray Dusseault, and probably a small group of other people the problem was quickly remedied by temporarily installing two smaller refrigerators. What's more, Ray rebuilt the larger refrigerator and has got it back online. Job well done.

This story speaks to the variety of talent in our Club. We are able to plug the holes and deal with the assortment of issues that the Club and hatchery face. Think about it. We have members with experience as carpenters, restaurateurs, small and large business owners, pipe fitters, mechanical engineers, electricians, hatchery managers, fishery biologists, scientists, painters, printers, Internet web developers, computer programmers – the list goes on. Even with the variety of talent it never hurts to have old or new members volunteer. Take for instance Jim Black. Chuck Clark introduced him to the Club last year. Jim is taking the lead to organize our annual banquet and fundraising auction. It is a big undertaking, yet he is successfully getting others to volunteer and make the evening fun. As we approach the tenth banquet since the hatchery was built, I hope you consider volunteering at the hatchery, helping with and attending the banquet, or enjoying a club fishing trip this season.

The Misadventures of a Hunting Trip **By John Holmes**

10/15-16/04 Rangeley Lake. Arrival at 1900hrs. Missed Greg's driveway by one dirt road. Heard strange sound as I slowly explored this goat path in the dark. Sounded like puddles on left side of path. Let's stop and take a look. A flat tire. I don't believe this.

- Pitch Dark
- Possible - temporarily disorientated
- Dirt Goat Path

I'm slowly going to back out of here. Now I can see the rubber tire leaving the rim. Out to investigate. I'm not even sure I have a spare tire. From a nearby house I hear a faint, "Is that you John?" Ah Ha - knew exactly where I was the whole time. Gear stored and off to neighbor's house for dinner. We had good hunting in numerous covers. Down in the alder and cedar areas there is no shortage of water. Greg and I covered two more dry covers before we headed home.

Remember that flat tire? That spare tire is suspended and lowered by a small crank affair which last moved at manufacture time in Mexico somewhere, January 1995. To separate the rusted retainer from the wheel, we resorted to a 12 inch iron wedge and short handle sledge hammer. That affair was no tougher than removing the lug nuts with the Ford supplied 10 inch long lug wrench. The designer was more concerned that it fit behind the seat than he was interested in mechanical advantage of a 24 inch wrench. Greg's efforts got them all off. The rusted spare tire is mounted. The fact that the tire had air pressure amazed me!! All back together. Time for Lunch. Jack was thinking about an afternoon hunt, John was formulating a plan that we require that he leave prior to the afternoon hunt being finalized.

Packed - stowed and underway at 1500hrs. Such a nice afternoon. How about leaving West to Oquossoc, over "Height of Land", south to Livermore, Mexico, Rumford, Turner, Auburn to Yarmouth? The views will be breath taking. The last trip over Height of Land was with Porter on our motorcycles, (Two and a half days - Yarmouth/Ellsworth, Ellsworth/Campobello/Stratton, Stratton/Rangeley/Yarmouth). Aren't the leaves just gorgeous? I stop three times, stand at the edge of the drop off and snap pictures suitable for framing of the lakes and mountain region. Leaving the peak, you wind downhill carefully while minding the drop off on the right side. Approaching the bottom of the decent I notice that the newly tarred road creates a slight rumble in the steering wheel. It'll probably go away once we are back on the old road. That's funny, the vibration is still there. My, my, the back end of the Explorer sure swerved to the left all of a sudden. WHAM - CRASH - SCREECH. Look at all the sparks behind me. Is that my tire in the other lane? WOW. Hang on, she's headed for the buck wheat. WHEW! We're stopped off the edge of the road, just around a pretty good corner. HMMMMMMMM. I've frequently wondered what those poor unfortunate souls, who have broken axles, lost wheels, etcetera, do at a time like this. Well, I'm OK, just grab your new AT&T cell phone, RIGHT? The cute color display says, NO NETWORK! Just about that time, I started hearing the sound track for DELIVERANCE in my head.

I'm waiting for the Western Star tractor, hauling 120,000 pounds of logs to come around that corner. I decide to formulate another plan. Retrieve the tire and wheel which is 100 yards astern. Jack the stupid axle up off the ground. Search around for 5 lug nuts or steal one from other three wheels, mount and tighten and we'll be underway in no time flat.

1. No jack is going to fit under the axle which is resting firmly on the tar.
2. Lugs nuts are tough to find along 2-3 miles of roadway.

3. Brake shield (the part that caused all those sparks) is curled around the brake disc. Time to review current plan. Red Escort with male driver stops to ask if I need any help. Before I exhibit any type of distress, I scan inside of car, looking for two or three other males all wearing tee shirts with a distinct absence of teeth. To my surprise, there is a skinny blonde male (presumed Son), large/short female (presumed wife), and a young photocopy of female number one, (presumed to be daughter). "Well" I say, "I do have a little bit of a problem." I need to raise the back axle of my Explorer about four inches to make room for the cute little jack provided by Ford. Females reposition Escort to warn the Western Star and others of breakdown vehicle ahead.

One-two-three, Uhgg. Jack in position. Up she goes. Not high enough. Position other tire under spring, lower jack and reposition. The plan appears to be coming together. Rob, my helper, gets a lug nut off three other wheels. I could not budge the first one (10 inch lug wrench is worthless). Only two of the five wheel studs had enough thread to wind in lug nuts. Well - you've got what you've got. No better plan available. Time to lower the jack. UH OH! The tire is coming down off the crank handle to the jack. Blonde son says, "I tried to tell you guys this would happen." Rob says, "Put it in 4 wheel drive and drive right off the jack." John says, "Yes Sir" I offer Rob some money for his effort, he refuses. "I live up around here and I know what it's like to break down. It Sucks." he says.

1630hrs. Underway. Destination - Lug nut store. AutoParts in Mexico has the parts. Lug nuts would not fasten to wheel studs. "Try VIP, just a mile down the road," the clerk says. The VIP manager says, "You lost what - where? Really? WOW!" They tighten two lug nuts and attach one more. "If I fuss with this I am liable to break something and you'll be spending the night in Mexico." I agreed it would probably be fun, but still said, "No Thanks." They replaced the lug nuts I took from the other three wheels, wished me well, Happy Trails, and waved goodbye.

1830hrs. Back to Yarmouth, garage door closes behind me. "Hi honey, I'm home."
"Hi Hon, did you guys have a great time?"
"Oh yes, Dear!"

Dues Notice - 2006 *By RJ Mere*

It's that time of year again. Dues and hatchery donations submitted by our generous members cover about forty percent of our annual expenses. All dues and hatchery donations are tax deductible. If you have prepaid, a '2006' or 'Life' will follow your name. If you missed paying your dues last year just send your 2006 dues. Past dues are voluntary on your part. Annual rates now range from ten dollars for students and seniors, to twenty dollars for individual memberships, and thirty dollars for students and seniors. Life memberships remain at three hundred dollars.

Hatchery Donations By RJ Mere

Voluntary donations by members and non-members comprise a vital part of our annual revenue. They come from members, nonmembers, volunteers, organizations, or just plain people who are in tune with our mission and support our unique hatchery operation. With our new supersmolt program, we need your donations more than ever. Each dues payer will receive a membership card and a hatchery decal will be sent to each donor. Will you help us? Prompt payments will help cover our heaviest operating expenses from January through June. Thank you!

SRSC Calendar of Trips By Dan Bonville

January/February: Ice fishing for smelts.
Call Don Sicard (207-353-9433).

March 3 – 5: Ice fishing at Belgrade Lakes annual weekend at Richter's Camps. Call Dan Bonville.

April 21 – 24: Salmon fishing on the Restigouche and Matapedia Rivers. Call Hotel Restigouche, Pete Dube (877-865-2848).

April 30: Fly Casting Day. BBQ and fly casting lessons. Call Dan Bonville.

May 19 – 21: Fly fishing the Moose River area at Steve Berry's camp. Call Dan Bonville.

June 2 – 4: Fly fishing the Eustis area, staying at Chris Bond's camp. Call Dan Bonville.

June 9 – 11: Fishing the Rangeley Lakes area, staying at Art LeBlanc's camp. Call Dan Bonville.

Early June: Fly fishing on the lower Androscoggin River with Don Sicard.

Early June: Night fishing for stripers with RJ Mere (207-985-4420).

June: Fishing stripers on the Saco River with Steve Berry and Tom DeBruin. Call Dan Bonville.

July 9: Fly fishing Rapid River at Middle Dam. Call Dan Bonville.

August: Smallmouth bass fishing on the Saco River in canoes and kayaks. Call Dan Bonville.

October: Cast and Blast in the Moosehead area. Call Dan Bonville.

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:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hatchery Operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Stocking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydropower Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |

Exercise as the Soldiers do

Fishing is a necessity because good health is a necessity. Soldiers exercise outdoors until they can stand anything. You must fish and get your outdoor exercise or you cannot stand the extra work which is piling up on you.

Exhaustion lowers the digestive powers and upsets your health, makes your brain act slowly, keeps you from sleeping, reduces your efficiency and makes you an unintentional slacker. Right now, your family, your profession, your industry, your boys at the front, your country—the world—every patriotic impulse is calling you to be at your best so that you can do your full share in winning the war. Take your rod and reel and tramp the banks, whip the streams, climb the mountains, troll the lakes—fishing mornings, nights, holidays, vacations, week-ends, always with two fixed purposes—first to build up your health—second to catch your own fish to eat, thereby saving meat for the soldiers.

"Bristol" Steel Fishing Rods

For every kind of fishing. For every purse. For every whim of trim and finish. For every locality. No matter where you live or who you are, how much you can spend, or what kind of fishing you want, there is a "Bristol" Rod exactly suited to your requirements. Sturdy, durable, economical, "Bristol" Rods are the badge of patriots who are fishing for health and food.

MEEK and "Blue Grass" REELS

The practical fisherman's most expert tools for catching the most and the best fish. Known the world over for their perfect workmanship, rare excellence of material and marvelous design.

"Bristol" Rods at \$2.50 up, and MEEK and Blue Grass Reels at \$7.50 up, are for sale by 16,000 sporting goods stores and departments, or—if your dealer is not anxious to serve you, you can buy from us, by mail, at catalog prices plus the regular 25 war tax.

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Bait Casting Exercise

Bombing Exercise

Banquet Reservation Form

Saturday, April 29, 5:00 p.m. at Pier 77, Cape Porpoise

pier77restaurant.com

Number Attending at \$35. per person _____

For Dues Payments Calendar Year 2006:

Name _____

Address _____

Membership type _____ =

Hatchery Donation _____ =

Email Address _____

Names of Banquet Attendees _____

Please mail checks with names of those attending to:

Total= _____

Saco River Salmon Club
Banquet
PO Box 115
Saco, Maine 04072