

# 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 Jack Parker*

It's late September and returning salmon are again showing at the mouth of the Saco. Early summer numbers promised a boom year but prolonged heat and resulting low water halted the run for almost two months. Forty-one fish have returned so far while others wait in the estuary for a rush of cool water, contending with the huge bluefish and stripers that are savaging the shoals of baitfish now in the Gulf of Maine. Two days ago the first salmon for weeks entered the river, and we cautiously hope for a cool wet spell to promote a good fall run.

Those of you who didn't make our September social meeting at Saco's Trinity Episcopal Church missed a fascinating presentation of fly-fishing the Florida Keys with Dan Bonville, Tom DeBruin, and Nick Sibilila. The occasion was this year's Sibilila award trip sponsored by John and Michelle Gaston. Dan, whose comparisons are validated by countless previous angling adventures, said this was his best trip ever, and a combination of false albacore, black fin tuna, and permit, rattled their fly rods as never before. Mark your calendars for October 22, same place, for our next social evening, and if you can, please bring a favorite dish of yours for the pot luck dinner starting at 6pm - if you can't, come anyway!

We have asked the Maine Salmon Commission to submit a request to USF&W for up to 800,000 eggs to be made available for our hatchery this winter and to consider resuming smolt stockings in the river to 1999-2000 levels. Now that the Skelton fish elevator is operating so well, we would like to increase the chance of having more returning fish available to use it. Club members, Mark Woodruff and Tom Knobloch have completed habitat surveys of several tributaries this summer and yours truly is working on another. We just retrieved temperature recorders, positioned in June, from five streams we stocked in the spring. This data will give us a better picture of the survivability potential for our fry in these streams.

## October Meeting Date Changed *by RJ Mere*

As stated in Jack's column, the date for our October meeting is different than the one printed on your Saco River Salmon Club calendar. The reason for the date change is that the Trinity Episcopal Church is having its annual blood drive on the same date as we originally scheduled. The blood drive will take place in the same great hall that we normally have our meetings. Please mark your calendars for the new date: October 22.

Club member Bob Foisy will demonstrate rod building techniques for us after we enjoy down-home cooking at the pot luck dinner. If you've always been interested in learning how to build a spinning rod or fly rod, or if you know someone that would like to learn, be sure to come to our next meeting.

Bring the family. Bring friends. We always enjoy seeing new faces in the audience. See you on October 22!

## Volunteer Coordinator Needed for Hatchery *By Mark Woodruff*

The September issue of the Salmon Run carried a similar article stating the urgency of a Volunteer Coordinator for the Hatchery. I would like to use this opportunity to clarify the Coordinator's responsibilities.

The Volunteer Coordinator must be a leader who will contact and organize individuals to accomplish a variety of tasks. He or she must take the initiative and possess the enthusiasm to organize volunteers by phone so they will accomplish many of the tasks during the hatchery season. (We currently have a lengthy list of people who have expressed an interest in a supporting role.) While the coordinator may work along side the volunteers it is not his or her responsibility to do it all. Let's face it, with 800,000 salmon eggs arriving in February we can't continue to rely solely a few people to do it all. This approach should spread the amount of time required to operate the hatchery: many hands make light work.

Beginning in 2003, the Coordinator will be seeking the assistance of members who checked off "Assist with Hatchery" on their membership forms. Volunteers will be asked to disinfect the incubators, assist with egg delivery, pick dead eggs or fry and tally mortality, feed the fry, assist with daily water quality tests, use chemicals to adjust water chemistry, trouble-shoot the hatchery's filtration system, and assist with fry stocking.

This will be an all-volunteer position; but that is in keeping with the Club's all volunteer tradition making it a standout among other restoration efforts. Please contact Jack Parker at 490-6614 today!

## West Branch Report *By John Cadwallader*

We had a great time, the food was out of this world, and we even outsmarted the weather gods. That's right, the fishing was slow. Actually, a lot of fish were caught, but there weren't a whole lot of bigger fish taken (read none over 16-17 inches). My son had one break him off that was probably over 20, but

we never actually saw the fish. It took a dry during the evening rise in one of the pools above the Telos Bridge. I'm certain it was a salmon, but it went down instead of up after he hooked it (most un-salmon like). I'm judging it's size by the way it took his rod tip down just as the tippet parted. We both take comfort knowing that fish will probably be there waiting for us next year. We had a sizable crew this year: Don & Jackie Sicard, Bill Winward, Bruce Coburn, Chuck & Karen Conn and their sons, Jackson & Aidan, Tom Knobloch, Paul Craven and Curt Mildner & his B.I.L., Marty (sorry, Marty. I didn't jot down your last name). My son, Rob, flew up from Baltimore, and we were joined by my S.I.L., Jack Anderson. I think that makes 15, total. It didn't dawn on me until I typed out this list, but 7 of the above are from out of state. So we did our part to boost the Maine economy, without doing much harm to the fish population. It was a congenial crew, with lots of quality time spent around the evening campfire.

Don & Sandy get the "Generosity Award" for the trip. In addition to filling us with great homemade spaghetti, Don did his best to fill our fly boxes with some of his handiwork. Don's a professional fly tier (a.k.a. Casco Bay Flies). He tossed a "bin" of well over 100 flies on the table the first evening and said "Help yourself". Everyone did, but there were enough leftovers to make up some good raffles at our upcoming meetings.

Lastly, here's a message that Tom Knobloch sent me after the trip: "I had a great time and hope to make it up again next year. I ended up catching a bunch of small salmon and one that was 16 inches, but the highlight was watching an osprey dive into a pool I had just fished (unsuccessfully), and grab what must have been a very large salmon. When the raptor attempted to lift off again, it couldn't generate enough lift, and eventually just rested on the water surface for a few moments, wings fully extended, riding the current. It then attempted again, this time without a fish in its talons, and was soon air-borne. He circled overhead, shook off the water like a dog a couple times to dry off, and then flew away."

### Saco River Salmon Club Membership Form

Name:

Address:

City:

State: Zip:

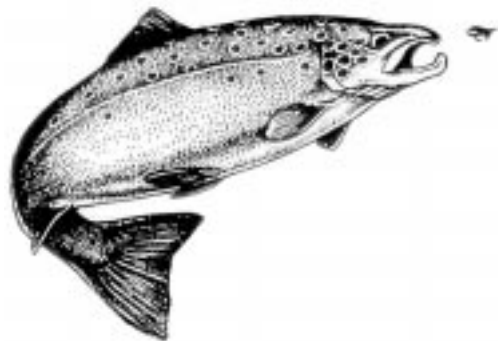
Phone: ( )

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:

 Board of Directors Newsletter Hatchery Operations Stocking Hydropower Issues Legislation Public Relations Membership

**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)

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