

# The Salmon Run



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

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*

I'm excited! I just hung up on a call from my wife's cousin David, aboard his houseboat in the Columbia River near Richmond, Washington. He exuberated at length about the enormous Chinook salmon currently swimming by his floating homestead. Each day up to thirty-five thousand Chinooks are traversing the dam passages toward their spawning grounds in the Snake, Yakima, and Columbia watersheds. About five years ago the future of salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest was gloomy. In a few short years the run has escalated enormously. Bank-to-bank anglers and guides are catching twenty to sixty-pound Chinooks throughout the area. Native Americans are netting incredible catches. This scene comprises a tremendous economic boon for the economy of the Northwest. Kudos to those who have worked to restore the salmon runs there.

While the Columbia basin flourishes, just a small glow flickers here at home. A major difference is that federal funding in the form of a Pacific Salmon Initiative has poured many millions into northwest coffers, while New England's funding has remained flat. This, plus escalating operating costs severely hamper restoration efforts in our area.

We need an Atlantic Salmon Initiative – additional federal funds for our fish. Some hope lies in recent Penobscot River agreements and additional federal funding proposed by our senators.

As the northwest prospers, we should too. Thousands of salmon are counted in northwest dam passages. The vast majority of our river dams are impassable for salmon, alewives, shad, river herring, eels, and other migrants. We've allowed them to be locked out of their river homes for decades and centuries. Why should we expect them to prosper? Would we?

It's long past time to fix this!

## October guest speaker to be determined *By Jack Parker*

At our September meeting, we had 30 club members in

attendance. We all enjoyed Cal Robinson's presentation about training and bird hunting with dogs. Thanks Cal!

This month's meeting will be on Wednesday, October 20th at 6:00. The program for the evening is unknown at the time this newsletter went to print. Come by, enjoy some great tasting food and company, and be surprised by who our guest speaker will be!

## Maine Youth Field Day *By Jack Parker*

On August 22, our club once again participated in Maine Youth Field Day for the fifth consecutive year since its inception in 2000. The field day is put on at the impressive grounds of the York County Fish and Game Club in Lyman by southern Maine fish and game associations, and instructs up to 150 children, ages 8 to 15, in the safe and proper methods of enjoying traditional Maine outdoor activities. Events included hands-on instruction in fly casting, and spin fishing; 22cal, skeet shooting, shotgun, and black powder muzzle loading; ATV and canoe safety; archery, trapping; and fire prevention. The day is endorsed by Maine Fisheries and Wildlife and many area businesses provide lunch, soda, t-shirts, hats, and other support. Because of a washout on Saturday just 90 students plus parents attended, but Sunday's weather was pristine and the sessions unhurried.

Six of our members, led by Bob Monroe, manned the fly casting clinic from 8am until 3pm. Five of us were veterans of previous years, not totally surprised by the kid's (and some parent's) enthusiasm and learning skills, but we all were delighted. The day's theme is 'Recreation in Maine's Outdoors – a lifelong opportunity' and we felt privileged to help impart it. Thanks to Bob, Lionel Bouthot, Harvey Patry, Dick Neal and Chuck Clark for once again proudly helping our club and hatchery in serving these youngsters. Our special thanks go to Waterboro's Ed Stubbs who organized the entire day, and to the many local sponsors who supported it.

## Progress Report on the State Hatchery Improvements

*By Dick Neal*

In November 2002, voters approved a bond package that included \$7 million dollars to upgrade the State Fish Hatcheries.

The Upgrade/Improvements included the installation of oxygenation systems, improving waste water discharge systems and a complete renovation of the Embden Hatchery which will include replacing the concrete raceways with up to 30 twenty foot diameter circular tanks, a new water intake system to supplement the existing water intake from Embden Lake plus a new oxygenation system and a new effluent filtration system.

The installation of the oxygenation systems at the Casco, Palermo, Dry Mills and Enfield Hatcheries has been completed. The effluent discharge upgrades at the Enfield, Palermo and Casco hatcheries are in the process of being completed.

The Embden Hatchery has been shut down and work has started on the upgrade of the hatchery. It is hoped that a June 2005 completion date will be met.

Upon completion of these upgrades/improvements, it is estimated that the Hatchery System will be able to double its production from 250,000 pounds of fish annually to 500,000 pounds of fish annually. This means that there will be more and bigger fish to stock which translates to better fishing opportunities throughout the state for the fisherman.

## Greetings from the Big Ossipee

*By Mark Woodruff*

Sunday, October 3, was a spectacular fall day. My kids and I packed a lunch and headed up to Cornish in search of the temperature loggers we put in the Big Ossipee River more than three months ago. The head waters of the river are the White Mountains and uplands of New Hampshire. It crosses into Maine forming the town line between Parsonsfield and Porter eventually joining the Saco River in Cornish.

We found the first logger easily, just upstream from the bridge on River Road in Cornish. The second logger was more of a challenge as the boulders all looked the same. After poking around for a few minutes, the logger was found along with a crayfish that was easily five inches long! It jetted in reverse through the water after I touched it. I watched the crayfish eventually scurry between a couple of large cobbles. Just upstream we spotted some fry darting for cover beneath the undercut bank of Wadsworth Brook. This spring fed stream was noticeably cooler than the Big Ossipee.

These simple observations of cool, clear water, cobbles, and boulders, different aquatic life reminded us of how nice it is to visit the Big Ossipee River. In terms of the

Club's salmon restoration program, the river and its tributaries provide excellent habitat for our fry stocking. At the same time many of the returning adults have been transported by Matt LeBlanc of FPL Energy to hopefully spawn in the river's gravelly bed.

We always enjoy the short trip to this beautiful river and I hope you have the chance to go too.

### 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:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <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  |

