

Sawtooth Fishing Guides

Newsletter - 2008



Float Fishing Main Salmon River near Stanley, Idaho – Summer 2007

Welcome to 2008 and dreams of fishing and exploring new waters and fishing with family and friends. We hope that the past year found many of you traveling to some great fishing destinations with memories of some unforgettable days.

We had some great days of fishing this past year in all locations where we have special use permits from the US Forest Service and the BLM to operate in. The year started with many days of fishing the spring run of steelhead. Over the last few seasons we have learned and improved our techniques for “blind fishing” to this spring run of fish which has added to our success rate as the pressure from larger numbers of people “sight fishing” to the fish that are visible has increased each year. Late February you will find us out on the river shaking off some of the “casting cobwebs” and looking for Mountain White Fish and, with luck, maybe an early Steelhead!

Our summer season on the Main Salmon River, both float fishing from our drift boats and walk/wade fishing along the river is a long one and lasts from mid May until well into October. We had a couple of weeks in early August this past summer where we caught some very large fish with more than a dozen fish measuring 19 inches and

larger. The largest was a Rainbow that measured out at 26 ½ inches!! Caught on a Chernobyl ant!! Talk about exciting!

The upper Middle Fork of the Salmon River and its tributaries, Marsh and Bear Valley Creeks provided us with some exciting days of fishing for wild Westslope Cutthroat trout on these “catch and release” streams. Some very nice fish were caught, and we had some pleasant days hiking long and short distances to find fish.

Last summer found us fishing more days than in years past at the mountain lakes, and we had many successful days as well as a few that just prove that fishing is called “fishing and not catching” for a reason!

The snow pack as of mid January 2008 was looking excellent for water for the coming summer and has provided us with some days of great powder snow skiing! Galena and Banner summits at the headwaters of the streams in our area are both about 25% above normal for water content in the snow pack! We hope the snow keeps coming!

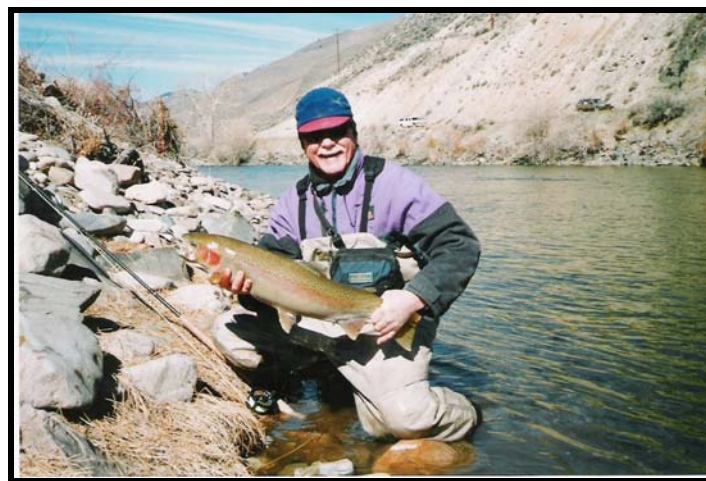
We look forward to the coming year of fishing and hope to see many of you coming back to fish with us. We look forward to meeting and fishing with new friends as well.

Take good care, and we hope to see you this coming spring, summer or fall for some good days of fishing.

Drift Boat Float Fishing

Summer and fall of 2007 saw us float fishing in our McKenzie style drift boats more days than any year in the past. Float fishing has allowed us access to many sections of the river that we cannot get to by vehicle or walking. Rarely do we see more than a smattering of other anglers floating the river and some days we see no one else.

Each year we seem to find more secret spots that hold some good numbers of fish as well as a few very large trout that continue to surprise us with their size. Last summer's record was a 26 ½ inch Rainbow Trout. In the same period of about two weeks we caught a fair number of others each day that were 19 to 22 inches. Typically, if we pick up one fish a day over 19 inches we consider it a good day, so this past summer found us smiling over large fish on many days!



Guide Bob Nall with a spey rod caught Steelhead



August 2007- Salmon River Rainbow measuring 26 1/2 inches

Steelhead Fishing

Here we go again!!! Big fish, big fun and the reports for the numbers of fish this year look good! Fish counts at Lower Granite Dam, the upper most dam of the eight dams the Salmon and Steelhead must try and survive on both the “out migration” and the upstream migration on the Columbia and Snake River system show the numbers of fish that have passed the dam in mid January at 146,632. Last year's count at this time was about 138,400. Any numbers in the neighborhood of 150,000 mean we should have some great fishing in the Upper Salmon River this coming spring!

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, we have been doing both “blind fishing” and “sight fishing” for Steelhead and this has increased the numbers of fish we are catching as many of the “sight fishing” areas are becoming heavily used and often the fish have been scared off of them into “blind fishing” areas. We still love to “sight fish” but now we often do both on any given day.

Whether you are a beginner to steelhead fishing or an old hand, we would love to get out on the river with you for some steelhead fishing this coming March or April. If you are interested in learning to use a spey (two handed rod), we can work with you on the techniques for using these rods and help you learn to cast them in some drifts that are almost impossible to fish with a single handed rod.

Wade Fishing

Wade fishing is still our favorite style of fishing for many of the places we like to fish. The upper Middle Fork of the Salmon River from Dagger Falls upstream and the tributary streams Marsh Creek and Bear Valley Creek are “catch and release” and are only accessible by wade fishing. Much of the upper Salmon near Stanley and even in some of the downstream sections is easily fished by wade fishing after driving to a turnout and walking a very short distance to the water for fishing!

Wade fishing is still our recommended method of fishing for many of our guests who would like to fish only a half day or want to introduce family and friends to fishing. Much of the Main Salmon River is perfect for beginning wade anglers and some sections can even be fished from shore for those who do not want to wade in the water. There is an abundance of hatchery reared “pan sized” fish on the upper sections of the river for those who like to catch more fish and not necessarily the largest fish!



“Wild” Cutthroat

MAIN SALMON RIVER

On several sections of the Main Salmon river and on the Middle Fork and its tributaries, we find wild Cutthroat and Rainbows. The average size and the vigorous take of these fish are as fun as you will find with a “catch and release” fishery anywhere.

Clinics and Workshops

As always, we offer custom casting and equipment clinics and workshops. For family groups, kids' groups, weddings, women's groups or any special occasion, call us to set up an outing that is customized for your group. We are known for our love of teaching and our ability to customize trips to meet the needs of individual groups!

High Mountain Lakes Fishing

Fishing a mountain lake is something that everyone should experience at some point in time, and we love to hike to the mountain lakes and either fish from shore or float craft on these lakes. Join us for a half or full day of fishing on a local lake. If you prefer to fish a lake that you don't have to hike several miles to, let us know, and we can direct you to a trip to a close by lake with easy access.

Mountain lake trips are often a family or friends "get together" where some of the group fish and others swim or just enjoy the ambiance of the mountain scenery and mountain air. Learn to fish from a float tube, fish from shore, wade fish or fish from a two or three person boat.



Float tube fishing on a High Mountain Lake

MOUNTAIN LAKE, STREAM AND RIVER - THREE DAY COMBO



Join us for the trip that we recommend for anyone who would like to experience all aspects of the types of fishing that makes our area such a great place to fish. Spend one or two days on the rivers and streams and the last day at a mountain lake, spend two days at lakes and one on a stream or spend a day wade fishing a stream, another day float fishing and the third on a lake.

This trip is custom made and cost is based on the totals of the types of trips and number of people less a discount of 5% for booking for the three days. We offer this same discount to anyone who books for three or more days on any type of full day trip.

Sawtooth Fishing Guides Contact Information

P. O. Box 194 – Stanley, ID 83278

Phone: (208) 774-8768 (774 TROUT)

Email: info@sawtoothfishingguides.com – website:

www.sawtoothfishingguides.com

Rates and Trip Information for 2007

Float Fishing – Drift Boat – Full Day	
Rate per boat with guide and 1 or 2 people .	\$410
Wade fishing – Steelhead – Full Day	
1 or 2 people.....	\$390
Wade fishing – Trout – Full Day	
1 person.....	\$350
2 people.....	390
Each additional (maximum of 4).....	100
Wade fishing – Trout – Half Day	
1 person.....	\$250
2 people.....	290
Each additional (maximum of 4).....	75

High Mountain Lakes	
1 person.....	\$375
2 people.....	\$200 each
3 or more.....	\$160 each

Hourly Clinic rate – (dryland casting & equipment clinics)	
1 person - one hour.....	\$50
Each additional hour.....	30
Each additional person per hour.....	25

Custom clinics and workshops on or off the water
Call us for group rates and customized trips

Rod and Reel rentals	
Full day.....	\$15
Half day.....	\$10

50% non-refundable deposit is required to confirm trips. Rates do not include 6% Idaho sales tax or gratuities for your guide.

Sawtooth Fishing Guides – Stanley, Idaho **www.sawtoothfishingguides.com**



(208) 774-TROUT or 774-8768 --- info@sawtoothfishingguides.com

Guides and Guide Profiles



Bev Angel



Sparky Easom



MaryEllen Easom



Bob Sevy



Verlon Herndon

Verlon Herndon has lived and fished this area for over 30 years and we guarantee you there aren't many places he hasn't fished or skied! He is our lead summer guide and continues to explore new areas and techniques. Verlon is a Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructor.

Sparky Easom is a veteran whitewater and fishing guide. He has guided for over 30 years and knows as much about the local flora and fauna as he does about the fishing. A joy to spend a day with.

MaryEllen Easom is our local head school teacher at the Stanley School. In the summer she brings this natural teaching ability to our fishing guests.

Jason Brunson grew up in Idaho and has fished the local area for years. He is a consummate steelhead and trout guide and loves to fish.

Bob Nall is our favorite Spey Casting Instructor and is a fun guide to spend a day with learning to spey cast or fishing for trout.

Bev Angel has lived and guided in this area for over 30 years. She is a well known Middle Fork guide and runs her own sewing business sewing up specialty items for river outfitters.

Bob Sevy is founder and former owner of Sevy Guide Service, an adventure boating and backcountry company. He has run custom wilderness trips to Alaska, Russia and many other areas. He is a knowledgeable guide and can tell the best fish stories of anyone we know!

Lisa Muscavage spent last summer doing much of our hiking/fishing guiding and knows the lake fishing very well.

Outfitter/ owner profile



Owner – outfitter **Julie Meissner** has lived and worked in the Stanley area for 27 years and has an intimate knowledge of the rivers and mountains in the area. Originally from Central Oregon, she has become a “die-hard” local in the Stanley-Sawtooth area! She is a Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructor and loves to share her knowledge of fishing and of the local area.

Julie had the honor of presenting a program on “Fishing the Seasons in Central Idaho” for the Southern Council of the FFF at their yearly conclave in October in Arkansas. About 700 people come to the conclave and she had the opportunity to talk with and meet many new fishing friends and to fish some of the famous tailwaters of a couple of Arkansas and Missouri rivers while she was there.

The great getaway last winter was a trip to the island of Roatan off the coast of Honduras. The island is known for its great snorkeling and diving but Julie and husband, Pat Russell, also found some good areas to flats fish for bonefish. A fun time and a new twist in the learning curve of fishing!

Julie is the consummate guide and outfitter and is always looking for new places and techniques to share with the anglers she guides. Call her for advice on fishing this area or to book a trip.