

Clever concept: Headlamps — for your boots

I recently met with Jim and Annette Manroe, the owners of SneakyHunter bootlamps, and am excited about testing out their new bootlamps. They are a unique invention and believe it or not, they produce them right here in the Pacific Northwest. So if you like supporting homegrown businesses, look no further.

As an outdoor writer I get to test literally hundreds of products each year, and 99.9% of the new products are a slight variation or improvement of an already existing one. Not so with SneakyHunter bootlamps. It is a new concept altogether.

Think of them as a headlamp for your feet. Why did I not think about that? Headlamps are great, but if you hear a bear while hiking down the trail you have to focus the light on the bear and hopefully not stumble over a rock or go off the side of a mountain when you shift the focus of the light off the trail. The bootlamp will always be focused right on the trail in front of you.

But actually, the reason that Jim and Annette invented them was because he got tired of sneaking into his favorite hunting spot before daylight and spooking the elk and deer with his wildly swinging flash-



BASE CAMP
TOM CLAYCOMB

light. If he hit them in the eyes or inadvertently swept over them, they spooked.

With the advent of SneakyHunter bootlamps, you no longer have to worry about the above scenario's occurring. Especially since it has three sight settings.

- White light for walking.
- Red light for walking AND as we know, a red light doesn't spook game.
- The violet light is used to track.

This light illuminates a blood trail better than the popular UV lights.

Operating and setting them up is easy. Both units operate off of three AAA batteries. I'd recommend putting the buckle on the outside of your foot. Your buckle is on the outside on your spurs isn't it? But if you can't bend over very good it may be easier for you to tighten them up if the buckle is on the inside.

After deciding which route you go, you might even want to use a magic marker to write an "L" on one and an "R" on the other one so in the future you know which foot to put it on in case you're OCD and absolutely have



Photo by Tom Claycomb

Bootlamps have an alternate red light setting to not only light the way, but keep from spooking game.

to have the buckle on which side you consider proper position. Normal people will probably care less.

Adjust the placement so that the Velcro strap is under your instep. There are two prongs on the front of the unit. Slip these under the boot strings. The unit is made so that it

is mounted in the proper position and the light will shine where it is needed.

While backpacking and flyfishing I love to hit the evening hatch, which means that there is a good chance that I may be down the river a good ways hitting it at dark. I wear Chaco

sandals for wading in and out of the water while fishing. But will they work on my Chacos? No problemo. I just tested it and the prongs fit under the strap and holds tightly in place.

To turn on the unit there is a button on top. One click turns on the white light, two clicks turns on the red light and three clicks turns on the violet light. But hold on, what about walking through grass in the morning damp with dew? It has a hard foam compression pad on the lid that while it doesn't rate it as water proof, it does rate it as water resistant.

Katy and I are headed over this weekend to Colorado to flyfish, ride horses and hike at the Wild Skies Flat Tops Cabin in Northwest Colorado. We got a pair of Sneaky Hunter bootlamps just in time. Bring on the adventures.

They also make hiker bootlamps. These are different in that they offer white, red and green lights. Many hikers face depth perception issues when using a light source above the waist. This problem is eliminated by the bootlamps since the light source is low to the ground. It also prevents blinding approaching hikers since it won't hit them in the eyes.

Pacific fishermen report best king salmon season in years

By Terence Chea
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Trolling off the California coast, Sarah Bates leans over the side of her boat and pulls out a long, silvery fish prized by anglers and seafood lovers: wild king salmon.

Reeling in a fish "feels good every time," but this year has been surprisingly good, said Bates, a commercial troller based in San Francisco.

She and other California fishermen are reporting one of the best salmon fishing seasons in years, thanks to heavy rain and snow that ended the state's historic drought.

It's a sharp reversal for chinook salmon, also known as king salmon, an iconic species that helps sustain many Pacific Coast fishing communities.

Commercial salmon catches have surpassed official pre-season forecasts by about 50%, said Kandice Morgenstern, a marine scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Harvests have been particularly strong in Morro Bay, Monterey and San Francisco, but weaker along California's northern coast.

"We're really surprised to be seeing this many fish being landed so far this season," Morgenstern said.

The salmon rebound comes after three years of extremely low catches that resulted from poor ocean conditions and California's five-year drought,

which drained the state's rivers and reservoirs.

Over the past several years, regulators imposed severe fishing restrictions to protect chinook salmon, and officials declared federal fishery disasters in 2018 to assist fishing communities in California, Oregon and Washington.

This year's adult salmon are the first class to benefit from record rainfall that filled California rivers and streams in early 2017, making it easier for juvenile chinook to migrate to the Pacific Ocean, where they grow into full-size fish.

Chinook salmon are also being helped by improved

ocean conditions that have produced an abundance of anchovies, krill and other feed. Several years ago, an El Nino event brought unusually warm water to the Pacific Coast and disrupted the marine ecosystem.

"For the salmon fishermen who've been dealing with disaster for so long, this is an incredible boon to their livelihoods," said Noah Oppenheim, who heads the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations.

The strong salmon season,

which typically runs from May to October, is positive environmental news at a time of growing anxiety about climate change. A United Nations report released this month warns that global warming threatens food supplies worldwide.

Morgenstern says climate change is creating greater fluctuations in ocean and river conditions, making chinook fisheries "less stable, less predictable and more challenging for fishery managers."

Most of the chinook salmon

now being caught come from the Sacramento River and its tributaries, where they spawn. Many were raised in state-run hatcheries then released into rivers to swim to the ocean. Harvests of chinook from rivers farther north have not been strong.

For consumers, the bountiful harvest has driven down wild salmon prices to \$15 to \$20 per pound, compared with \$30 to \$35 per pound in recent years. Fishermen are making up for the difference by catching more fish.

FIR

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The oldest Coast Doug-firs often develop corky, flaky, reddish-brown bark, while that of our centuries-old trees tends to stay dark—nearly black—and harder, a look the Coast variety has in middle age.

It's impressive how big our Doug-firs can grow on dry ridges and spurs, even if they don't attain the gargantuan dimensions of coastal trees. They may or may not be particularly tall—often they're pretty squat, given the whipping they take from the elements in these exposed sites across centuries. But many become massively fat and gnarled, with huge arcing limbs and elephantine rootholds. Woolly with lichen, knobby with heavyweight burls, topped maybe with a bleached lightning-rod spire or a jagged, broken crown, these are truly ancient-looking, wild-looking trees: just as worthy of respect as those soaring west-side titans.

Sometimes the lengthier, quieter timetable of these long-lived evergreens syncs up with our more sped-up human one. A hulking Doug-fir I pass by regularly on the western rim of the Wallows lost its spar-top—which it'd brandished for who knows how long—since last fall. The toppled summit, probably a victim of a winter gale, has now joined the littered deadwood debris around the trunk base. It must have been quite the crack and quite the crash—and just another war wound earned by that big fella.

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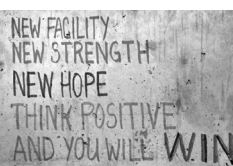


The Eastern Oregon Cancer Network invites you to help commission the walls of the new cancer center in Pendleton!

Written in
STONE

Messages from the heart: for hope and healing

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7
NOON TO 3 P.M. • CEREMONY AT 2 P.M.
1701 SW 24TH STREET • PENDLETON, OREGON



The "Written in Stone" event is an opportunity to cover the walls of the treatment room at the new Eastern Oregon Cancer Center at Pendleton with messages of hope, healing and encouragement. These words of inspiration will be embedded into the very foundation of the new center and will surround patients with the loving, supportive thoughts of the entire community.

Cancer patients, survivors, and family members, please join us and share your stories of healing and hope!

Hosted by Eastern Oregon Cancer Network, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to reducing the financial burden of local cancer patients by providing local housing during treatment, assistance with transportation and other patient needs. All donations stay in the Pendleton, Oregon area to help local cancer patients.



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