

Stanislaus Fly Fishers Newsletter

February 2013

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Greetings!

Welcome to the **February 2013** issue of the **Stanislaus Fly Fishers'** newsletter.



Please forward this email to any interested parties by clicking the button above.



President's Message

It is with great excitement (and no small amount of abject terror) that I step to the helm of this organization. Even though I have always known that a job usually looks easier from the outside, I am indebted to my predecessors and the rest of the Board for doing a bang up job at setting me up for the sucker-punch. One can almost feel flattered when told what a great job you'd do, that you are the "right man for the job", that "it's a piece of cake", that "we'll be right here to help you". Fortunately, the delusions of grandeur are brief as the cold, hard reality of the hard work and low pay (what pay?) take center stage. All kidding aside, thanks much for putting your confidence in me. I promise you that I will do my best to help improve the club in any way I can until the next sucker, I mean President, comes along. Special thanks to Gus Link for doing the hard job for the last year. We appreciate his commitment to the club and the sport of fly fishing!

We had an excellent turnout for the Yuba River outing a few weeks ago. I think the number of attendees was right at 26, which is really outstanding given the distance we all had to travel. There were even a number of brave souls (yours truly included) that braved the weather to camp for a couple of nights. The catching wasn't the best ever (there was a high flow event earlier this season that is getting blamed for the lack of insect activity), but we did have some success, and the fellowship was above board. Thanks go to Pat Roe, our Outings Chairman, for pulling the details of the trip together. He has written a good [report](#) on the club forum.

We have been looking forward to this month's presentation with anticipation since the last time Lance Gray spoke to us a couple of years ago. Lance is both an accomplished guide & fisherman AND an excellent speaker. "Central Valley Steelhead" is the topic, and check out the trip report from Derald Lahti below about several of our club members who hired Lance for an "American River Steelhead Tour" last month.

Fundraising can be a touchy subject, especially when all of the funds come out of our own pockets. Our new Vice President Mike Hewitt has agreed to take on the task of improving our club financial position through fund-raising, and especially that which doesn't directly affect our members' own wallets. To this end we are looking into holding a Rummage Sale to benefit our coffers. There are some legal issues that require legwork on our part, but look for an announcement soon on how you can participate.

February marks the beginning of our club year, and as such it is time to pay our club dues. The fee has gone up this year, in part to keep pace with actual club expenses, and in part to ensure that we have great speakers to teach, inspire, and generally help us all to be better anglers, sportsmen, and stewards of the great endeavor called Fly Fishing.

See you on the water,
Buzz

February 2013 General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Mill Creek Church, 147 Auto Center Court,
Modesto Click [here](#) for a map.

Program:

Lance Gray - "Central Valley Steelhead"

Lance's upcoming presentation is on the Central Valley Steelhead, tactics and locations. Basically a look at the valley rivers steelhead runs on the Yuba, American, Sacramento and the Feather rivers. Seasons, access areas, flies, techniques including standard and double handed rods will all be covered.



Lance Gray is the namesake and proprietor of Lance Gray & Company, a full-service fly fishing outfitter based in Willows, CA. His company offers guided drift-boats trips, fly-fishing schools, fly-fishing workshops and worldwide travel. Lance has many years of varied experience in the fly fishing

equipment and guiding industries and has spoken to many fly clubs in Northern California and beyond.

Raffle(s)

The Raffle Board started in December continues. We have a number of nice prizes lined up, but anyone who would like to donate an additional prize for the raffle can bring it to the meeting (flies, fly boxes, wine, etc.). The more prizes we offer, the more funds we can generate for bringing in guest speakers. Speakers get paid for their time and expenses and a good raffle can come close to covering the costs of a couple of speakers. So, bring your prizes and bring a little extra money to buy squares to the December meeting ... \$5 each as always. Raffle will be held once all of the squares are sold.

Here is a listing of the prizes so far:

- Custom fly box by Roger Ringsted
- Fishpond molded fly box
- It's Not About the Fish by Bryan McMurry (book)
- 2 Sees Gift Certificates (Dave Moreno)
- Orvis 20-Fly Selection
- 4 bottles of wine
- 6 hand-ties flies (Pat Roe)
- 2 Federation of Fly Fishers travel mugs
- 3 2013 Calendars
- Rainbow trout wall decoration

We also will begin this month to hold a monthly raffle at each meeting. This raffle will be completed each week, with the prize being drawn at the end of the club meeting (so don't leave TOO early).

**We will be serving soft drinks.
Donations accepted.**

SFF News

Club Website

Our Webmaster, Mike Hewitt, has updated our club website with a new look. It is much easier on the eyes as well as easier to navigate.

Upcoming Outings

by Pat Roe

NOTE: We do not currently have a fishing outing planned for February/March timeframe. Pat Roe is looking for someone who has an idea and the motivation to put together an outing in the next couple of months. Please contact Pat if you would like to help out.

2013 PLEASANTON FLY FISHING SHOW

Alameda County Fairgrounds
February 22, 23, 24 2013 Show Hours: Fri 10 - 6; Sat 9 - 5:30; Sun 9 - 4:30
[Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show](#)
Support your local fly shop.

PYRAMID LAKE

April 5, 6, 7

As in previous years we have reserved a couple of trailers at Crosby's Lodge and will be staying, eating, fishing, etc. all together. This is a great outing. For more details check out the postings on the club forum (link below) for this year and previous year's outings.

TROUTFEST at Moccasin Creek Fish Hatchery

Saturday, April 13, 2013 10am - 3pm

Trout Fest is a no-cost educational event hosted by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the CA Department of Fish & Game, that introduces people, particularly kids, to the sport of fishing and responsible angling. There are lots of activities for kids and adults alike. Our club will be demonstrating fly tying and fly casting, as well as helping kids catch their first trout on a fly rod from the hatchery raceways. Last year was an absolute blast, for both the kids and the SFF members as well! Plan on bringing your kids and/or grandkids.

KISTLER RANCH

Saturday April 20 - 6:00am - Fishing, Picnic, Fundraiser

Club member Dave Moreno has graciously provided funds to pay for the food for this outing. This is a fundraiser for our club, so plan on being there! As a way of saying thanks, call Dave if you ever need A/C or Heater servicing:



Potential Additional Outings

Beardsley Lake
Tuolumne Meadows
Bridgeport Area
Davis Lake

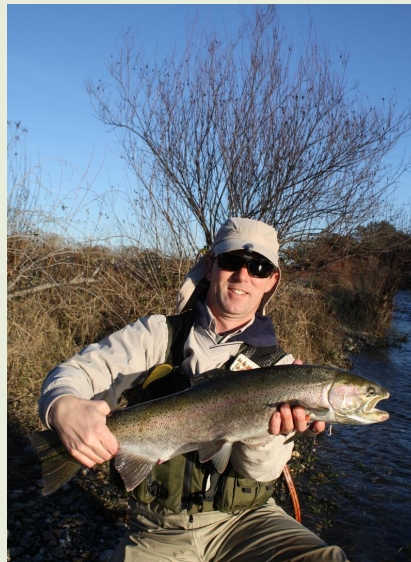
Trip Report

American River Steelhead Tour

by Derald Lahti



Six Stanislaus Fly Fishers participated in a Lance Gray Steelhead Tour on the American River. We visited the primary walk-in and boat/raft/pontoon launch access spots. This is an incredible urban fishery that hosts a strong Steelhead run. The run begins in October while the river fishes best in January and February. The American River is also a great waterway to find Shad in May and June. After lunch and rigging recommendations, look what happened to Doug (see photo). We were indicator fishing, traditional swinging, and even Spey rod swinging. Our group had a few more grabs before we headed home. The American River is only about 90 minutes from Modesto and offers an excellent, although busy, spot to catch a fish of your lifetime.





Upcoming Speakers

March 12: Jana Leiran of the US Fish & Wildlife service will be discussing the upcoming TroutFest at the Moccasin Fish Hatchery.

April 9: Ken Johnson, of the CA Department of Fish & Game, who is the Fisheries Biologist for our region, will be talking about the Heritage and Wild Trout Program and Challenge as well as volunteer opportunities in the Golden Trout Wilderness.

Stanislaus Fly Fishers Information

Membership Information: Membership dues are \$71.00 per year for first time members (includes \$35.00 annual dues for the [Federation of Fly Fishers](#) membership). Renewing members \$36.00 and will be billed by the FFF for their dues. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at the Mill Creek Church at 147 Auto Center Ct., Modesto. Click [here](#) for map.

Club Website: click [here](#)

Club Discussion Board: click [here](#)

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Sincerely,
Buzz Natzke
President, Stanislaus Fly Fishers
Newsletter editor