

February 2017

HEADWATERS

Newsletter of the Stanislaus Fly Fishers

Stanislaus
Fly Fishers

**A CHARTER CLUB
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS**

**MEMBER OF THE
NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL OF THE
FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS**

**February 2017
General Meeting**

**February 7, 2017
6:00 PM**

**Mill Creek Church,
147 Auto Center
Court
Modesto, CA**

Click [here](#) for a map



RIVERS OF RECOVERY

<http://riversofrecovery.org>

President's Message

By Jim Bowen

Wow! Are we ever having the drought buster of a winter we have all hoped for. While there are certainly negative impacts due to the weather, overall the long-term benefits of full reservoirs, the recharge of our aquifers and a huge snowpack are a blessing the state will be thankful for. As fishermen the current conditions are keeping us home due to high, off-colored water and unsafe conditions near our rivers. This is time to clean and condition equipment and spend time at the bench tying flies for the season once conditions allow us to hit the water.

The high water has impacted our Yuba River outing. The river is very high and off color and very much unfishable. Thanks to Mike Hewitt for working to reschedule that outing to June 24th. I think this will turn out to be an outing to remember so sign up and plan to go.

Our Pyramid outing is still planned for April 6th and 7th. The

Paiute tribe plans to have the lake opened by April 1st. That means the fish will have not seen much pressure by our outing dates and we can expect some awesome fishing. Please remember that your guide fees for that outing are due no later than the March 14th meeting.

This is my last President's Message so I would like to share how much fun this has been. I've enjoyed my term, and I hope my small contributions to the wellbeing of the club have been beneficial. Of course, I must thank everyone who supported me. There are several at-large board members, Pat Roe, Bob Nakagawa and Bob Ramos, who are always there to support the club, and importantly, the officers. Bud Heintz has become a regular at the board meetings and has revived our tying table at our meetings. We have had several other club members who have

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Stanislaus

Fly Fishers Membership Information

Membership dues are \$36 per year for members.

Members must also join the International Federation of Fly Fishers. Dues vary, but do not exceed \$35 for a single, one-year membership.

SPONSORS



sierraanglers.com

We're on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stanislausflyfishers/>

We're on the Web!

<http://stanislausflyfishers.org>

Club News

Program: Officer Elections & Membership *Fly Tying, Fellowship and Films*

There will be no guest speaker this month. Instead we will install our new slate of Board officers and enjoy a chance to have some informal conversations, share the knowledge of some of our tiers (including our resident tying Guru, Bud Heintz), and view a couple of short films from Trout Unlimited. Also, it is Membership Night and time to pay dues for 2017 for those that haven't already done so.

The films being shown will be two short CalTrout films regarding the Eel River.

From Headwaters to the Sea:

This short film highlights the restoration work being done on the Eel River.

Return to Abundance:

The last century has been hard on the Eel. Population growth, logging, mining, increasing demand for water, and now climate change. The Eel River ecosystem is compromised, and the salmon have suffered.

But the Eel is resilient, has shown signs of recovery, and has the ability to thrive once again. The Eel presents the best opportunity to restore historic fish abundance in California. CalTrout is leading the way with a headwaters-to-sea approach to restoring and preserving something truly wild in California.

Film by: Michael Wier Narration: Curtis Knight

Contact Information:

On the Web: <http://stanislausflyfishers.org>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stanislausflyfishers/>

Email: webmaster@stanislausflyfishers.org

Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2016 Board of Directors

President – Jim
Vice-President –
Secretary – Michael Hewitt
Treasurer –
Outings –
Membership –
Past President -
At-Large – Bud Heintz
At-Large – Pat Roe
At-Large -
At-Large – Bob Nakagawa

Board Meetings are usually held two weeks before a General Meeting and are announced in the Facebook group as well as by a monthly reminder mailing. Wish to attend a Board Meeting? Contact any board member for time and location.

Club News (Cont.)

Dinner

Dinner will be available at the club meeting for the first 25 members. **Suggested \$7.00 donation!**

Raffle News

When held, the small item raffle is \$5 per ticket or 3/\$10 and only for members in attendance the night of the meeting. The items will be on display and the raffle tickets sold prior to the meeting. The raffle will be held at the end of the meeting time.

DOOR PRIZE

The monthly door prize is for members only. When you arrive and sign in at the meeting, you will receive a ticket for the door prize raffle of a half-dozen flies tied by one of our members. ***Members who donate flies for the door-prize drawing, will receive two regular raffle tickets.***

LARGE RAFFLE (52 Playing Cards + 2 Jokers)

The current large raffle features a ½-day guided trip with Fish Habit Outfitters, a fly reel, and a tying tools kit, with other prizes expected. \$10 per chance. Raffle held when all cards are sold.

Membership

Membership Dues (\$36) for 2017 are due. For your convenience, we can now accept a credit card for your dues, but there will be an additional fee of \$1.00 to cover the cost of the transaction. All memberships are “Family Membership” status. Spouses, significant others and children are now all included in every membership.

Reminder: These are the club dues and DO NOT include IFFF dues. IFFF dues are paid directly to the IFFF and must be maintained regularly since the SFF is an IFFF Charter Club. If you are not an IFFF Life Member, or do not pay for three years at a time, **you must renew your membership yearly!** Also, remember to list the Stanislaus Fly Fishers as your **Affiliated Club**. This is important due to our Charter Club status. **Please bring your IFFF membership card so we can record its expiration date!** The online application for IFFF membership is linked below.

IFFF Membership Application: <https://fedflyfishers.org/SignUp/tabid/369/Default.aspx>

Upcoming Outings

YUBA RIVER OUTING

POSTPONED! Due to water conditons.

Rescheduled for June 24, 2017

PLEASANTON FLY SHOW

Friday-Sunday, February 24-26, 2017

PYRAMID LAKE OUTING

Thursday-Friday, April 6-7, 2017

\$190 per/person, includes guide service.

Full payment needed by March meeting. Spots limited and on first come basis.

KISTLER RANCH

Saturday, April 22, 2017

EARTH DAY @ GRACEADA PARK

Saturday, April 23, 2016

FLY FISHING FILM TOUR/ RIVERS OF RECOVERY FUNDRAISER

May 4, 2017 – State Theater

Officer Elections

As per the bylaws, which are taken from IFFF's recommendations, we need four elected officers. Our club elects a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominees for 2017 elected offices are:

President – Jim Goodwin

Vice-President – Jeff Bakker

Secretary – Mike Hewitt

Treasurer – Bob Ramos

The other Board positions are open to volunteers and are assigned by the Board. For 2017, we have the following:

Membership – Lonnie Moore/Rick Allen

Programs – **Open**

Outings – Volker Krupp

Conservation – **Open**

Raffles Coordinator – **Open**

Thank you to those members who are taking time out of their busy lives to devote time to keeping our club healthy for the upcoming year! As you can see there are still a couple of positions that are open and we could use some volunteers to fill them and share the load. We're looking forward to an exciting 2017 with lots of opportunities to get out on the water.

CalTrout Notes

The following is reprinted from the Streamkeeper's Blog for January 2017. It's important to remember that as wet as the past month or so has been, we are nowhere near being out of the woods with the drought. As Curtis Knight points out, it will take several wet years to recover and make a dent in replenishing our groundwater levels.

A Return to Abundance

A word from CalTrout's ED, Curtis Knight

January was a crazy weather month. Our staff in our Mammoth, Shasta and South Lake Tahoe offices all got good workouts shoveling out of massive snow storms. January leaves us with Shasta Reservoir at 120% of average and a Sierra snowpack around 200% of average. Recent rains have helped Southern California, though it is still drier than normal. Cachuma Reservoir on the Santa Ynez river, an important steelhead river and primary source of water for the city of Santa Barbara, is only at 11%. SoCal typically gets the majority of its precipitation in February and March, so here's hoping the area catches up. Has California recovered from the drought? No. Most notably, groundwater has been severely depleted and needs to be replenished. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 has helped promote groundwater recharge efforts but it will take numerous wet years and progressive management to recharge groundwater levels, especially in the Central Valley.

CalTrout staff and Board headed to Scotia on the Eel River this month for a board meeting and project tour. It was awesome, the Eel was running at 80,000 cfs, big and brown—and down from a peak a couple days earlier of 249,000 cfs! Such a contrast to a trip I made in September of 2014 when the river was running completely dry at the Ferndale Bridge.

That's a good thing for California's third largest watershed—the drought coinciding with an explosion in marijuana cultivation hit this area hard. And yes, I hear you steelhead anglers, the Eel has given up few fishable days—keep your eyes on those hydrographs, keep your spey rod in the car and be ready to go on a moment's notice. You can take comfort in knowing these flows, pouring out of the veins of this vast watershed, are providing pathways for migrating steelhead and salmon to access areas they have been unable to get to in years.

You've been hearing a lot about the Eel from us lately. Humboldt Steelhead Days is in full swing, our Return to Abundance film is running crazy on social media, and our North Coast staff is running hard to implement our headwaters to the sea approach to restoring the Eel. For us it's simple. The Eel River presents the best opportunity for a return to historic fish abundance then anywhere in the Pacific Northwest.

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CalTrout Notes (continued from previous page)

If you haven't yet watched Return to Abundance or read the latest issue of The Current, please do. You'll come to understand why we believe the Eel is a special place primed for a comeback and what we're doing to help get it there. We'll be rolling out more of our Eel story and plan over the next few weeks. Please watch, share and let us know what you think.

<http://caltrout.org/streamkeepers-blog/streamkeepers-blog-january-2017/>

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

attended board meetings and offered assistance and good ideas.

Arvis Haskins has been an outstanding Treasurer for the past two years and taken care of club financial issues promptly and professionally. Mike Hewitt has been Secretary and Membership officer and as I often say, the backbone of the club. Thank you all for your support and for all your help.

At the upcoming meeting we will elect and welcome our new officers. The current slate of candidates are running unopposed: Jim Goodwin as President, Jeff Bakker as Vice President, Bob Ramos as Treasurer and Mike Hewitt will continue as Secretary. Lonnie Moore and Rick Allen will share membership duties and Volker Kropp will be our outings coordinator. I plan to continue as an at-large board member and as an aid to Volker to assist with outings.

So, once again, thank you all for putting up with me and for all your support. Let's welcome our new officers and support them and have another great year for the Stanislaus Fly Fishers.

— Jim

Tundra Comics

