

JUNE 2017

Headwaters

NEWSLETTER OF THE
STANISLAUS FLY FISHERS

Stanislaus
Fly Fishers

**A CHARTER
CLUB OF FLY
FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**

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

**June 2017
General Meeting**

June 13, 2017

5:00 PM Tying/Casting
6:30 Dinner
6:45 Program

New Location!

Grace Lutheran
Church
617 W.
Orangeburg
Modesto, CA

President's Message

By Jim Goodwin

Well, here it is almost summer and the rivers are flowing. That's the good news. The bad news is with the high flows most of them are too high to fish. I keep waiting for news that they have lowered the flows and we can get back on the Stanislaus or Tuolumne rivers. Until then I wait.

But not being able to fish locally keeps me thinking of the past times and places and friends I have fished with. A lot of hours on the water or even road trips that I can laugh about keep me remembering why I fish and trips that I have taken with family and friends that can no longer happen, but the memories are still there. Stories that can be told to family & friends that the fish keep getting bigger and the trips more epic.

Sonora Pass opened last week and then it snowed from Tahoe to Mammoth. Skiers must be in heaven with the snow pack. I guess this will be a time of patience for the snow will melt and the runoff slow up, and we can find streams that are fishable again. I haven't heard from anybody that lake fishes, but even most of the high mountain lakes are either inaccessible or still covered in snow.

Looking ahead, I know in the past the club has put together trips to Montana, and I am wondering if there is enough interest to do it again? At the board meetings, we have been talking about it and now would be a good time to plan a trip for 2018. After finding out who would be interested in going, next would come the when & where.

I've heard both early & late (June/September) is the best time to go

and where to setup a base camp to run our adventure from would be next. We can fill in the gaps as far as driving out or flying and renting a car. Or it can be a combination of both. I'm thinking at least a week and having location for those who want to camp and those who need a bed (hotel) will suit more people. Also, a home base that anyone who can't make a whole week of it can come in for a day or two. Let's get this started!!!

International Fly Fishers (FFF) is having their fair in Livingston, MT August 1st to 5th and they have asked us as a club to promote it. So, if you are planning a trip out in that direction you might want to include it in your plans.

The IFF is also putting on a promotion to recruit new members through a Member Incentive Credit for every new member we recruit. The goal is to reach 1,800 new members by the end of 2017. Now would be a good time to get some new members and get a reward in doing so.

Hope to see all of you at the next club meeting, Tuesday June 13th – Grace Lutheran Church 617 W. Orangeburg Ave Modesto. We get started at 5:00 with casting and fly tying, with dinner at 6:30, and program at 6:45.

One last thing that as president I need to do. If you haven't paid your dues or renewed your membership in the FFI, why don't you go ahead and get it done?

Jim

Stanislaus Fly Fishers Membership Information

Membership dues are \$36 per year for members.

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

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RIVERS OF RECOVERY

<http://riversofrecovery.org>

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

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
stanislausflyfishers.org

Club News

Program:

Lt. Tony Spada

California Department of Fish & Wildlife DFW Volunteer Opportunities

The Natural Resource Volunteer Program (NRVP) assists the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) by providing enhanced public service to the community while offering opportunities for citizens to make a definitive contribution toward protecting California's wildlife resources.

The **mission** of NRVP is to provide conservation and enforcement education in public service, through community outreach, State Lands monitoring, habitat and pollution awareness, animal welfare and CDFW administrative assistance.

The **purpose** of NRVP is to provide efficiency and productivity statewide by using the skills of talented volunteers. These volunteers will perform tasks which support the CDFW's operations and mission.

While CDFW will make maximum effort to utilize the skills of volunteers, it is not the intent of this program to supplant any sworn or non-sworn personnel.

Volunteers are the eyes and ears of CDFW personnel, biologists, managers and public officials. Trained to observe and report, Volunteers increase field time for warden patrols and investigations. They additionally free up more time for biologists to do scientific management and research. Volunteers add value to the CDFW through their maturity, wisdom and life experience. They exemplify patience and understanding in a competitive world of consumptive and non-consumptive resource users. Volunteers are empowered by their ability to give back their talents to the community, not by the position they are entrusted with.

The objectives of NRVP are:

- To assist CDFW in providing enhanced public service to the community.
- To provide an opportunity for citizens to make a definitive contribution toward protecting California's fish and wildlife in their habitats.

Contact Information:

On the Web: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Explore/Volunteering>

Phone: (559) 243-4005 x153

Email: Tony.Spada@wildlife.ca.gov

Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2017 Board of Directors

President – Jim Goodwin
Vice-President – Jeff Bakker
Secretary – Michael Hewitt
Treasurer – Bob Ramos
Outings – Volker Kropp
Membership – Lonnie Moore
 – Rick Allen
Past-President – Jim Bowen
At-Large – Bud Heintz
At-Large – Pat Roe
At-Large – Bob Nakagawa

Board Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at Me & Ed's Pizza on Pelandale Ave. in Modesto. All members are welcome to attend.

Club News (Cont.)

Dinner

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

Raffle News

SMALL RAFFLE

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, a chest pack, and a tying tools kit, plus others.. \$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 FFI dues. FFI dues are paid directly to the FFI and must be maintained regularly since the SFF is an FFI Charter Club. If you are not an FFI 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. The online application for FFI membership is linked below.

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

Upcoming Outings

YUBA RIVER OUTING - Saturday, June 24, 2017 - Postponed from February

Watch this space for future announcements!

Tundra Comics



Rivers of Recovery Raffle

We still have several unclaimed prizes from the Rivers of Recovery raffle that did not have contact information on the tickets. Here are the raffle items and winning ticket numbers.

Anadromous Rods Custom Rod and Abel Reel 930774

Bud Heintz BWO Flies 929407

Arcade Wading Belt 929517

Prospect Theater Tickets 930604

Prospect Theater Tickets 930661

Gallo Center for the Arts Tickets 930725

If you have a winning ticket, please contact us at webmaster@stanislausflyfishers.org or come to the meeting to claim your prize!

Pilot Peak Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Released into Truckee Basin Waters

APRIL 26, 2017

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife ([CDFW](#)) will start releasing Pilot Peak Lahontan cutthroat trout into Truckee area waters to give Sierra Nevada anglers the



opportunity to catch some trophy sized trout in a year or two.

Last week CDFW received a shipment of cutthroat trout eggs from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex in Gardnerville, Nevada. This is the second shipment of eggs in the last two years and is part of a joint effort between the USFWS and CDFW to bring a native, trophy sport fish to the Truckee River Basin.

"Anglers have been pulling some amazing, trophy-class Pilot Peak Lahontan cutthroat trout out of Pyramid Lake in Nevada for the last several years, and we really wanted to get this strain of fish for our anglers here in California," said Jay Rowan, senior environmental scientist for CDFW's North Central Region Hatchery Program. "Hopefully we will start seeing some really big ones showing up in a few years."

The Pilot Peak Lahontan cutthroat trout is a lake form of cutthroat trout. This particular strain is native to the Truckee River Basin and is known for their aggressive feeding behavior and large size.

"They are an interesting fish to raise ... being wild, they are a little wary, but they seem to take to feed fairly well," said Steven Schnider, a CDFW fish and wildlife technician. "They are aggressive, so if you don't separate them when they are young, you will see the bigger fish with tails sticking out of their mouths." This piscivorous (fish eating) behavior is what allows the Pilot Peak Lahontan cutthroat trout to grow quickly and to such large sizes. In choosing which waters to plant, CDFW fisheries biologists have targeted waters that have robust bait fish populations.

"We did a survey of anglers in some of the Truckee basin reservoirs back in 2010, and 85 percent of the anglers we interviewed were in favor of CDFW stocking Lahontan cutthroat trout in these waters," said Rowan. "I think those results were largely driven by the success of Pilot Peak Lahontan cutthroat trout at Pyramid Lake."

(Continued on next page)

Stocking of the sub-catchable size fish from last year's eggs will begin as early as next week and will continue as the snow melts and planting trucks can gain access. Lakes to be stocked include Echo, Fallen Leaf, Donner, Boca, Prosser, Stampede and Webber lakes.

The Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex is an integrated fishery program that includes the Lahontan National Fish Hatchery, Marble Bluff Fish Passage Facility and Fishery Assistance. The program emphasizes the connection of fishery management with the health of the lake and river habitats upon which species depend.

<https://cdfgnews.wordpress.com/2017/04/26/pilot-peak-lahontan-cutthroat-trout-released-into-truckee-basin-waters/>

Fly Fishing Runoff Can Mean Fish On

by Johnny Spillane

HAVE YOU EVER SHOWED UP AT A RIVER AND FOUND THAT INSTEAD OF THE CRYSTAL CLEAR WATER YOU WERE EXPECTING, YOU'RE STARING AT CHOCOLATE MILK?

Here in the Rocky Mountain this is a relatively common experience. It can happen for a number of reasons, huge rainstorms, someone doing river work above you or just your normal spring runoff. Don't fret; while it might not be ideal, here are a few tips that can help you find some fish.

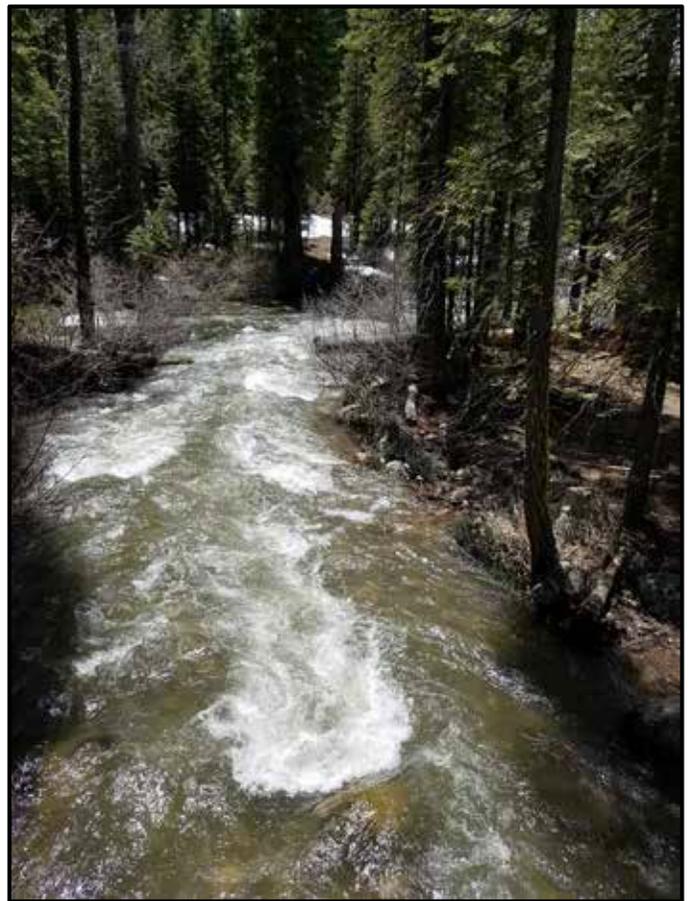
If the water is only slightly off color, you can basically use the same flies that you would if it was clear, just make everything a size or two larger. Instead of a size 18, put on a 16 or a 14. If that is not working, try adding a little bit more flash to your rig. We typically use flies with very little flash, but if the water is off color it can make a big difference in the amount of fish you stick just by changing to something that will reflect a little more light. If you were using a pheasant tail, try tying on a flash back pheasant tail and sometimes that is the only thing you will need to change.

If the water looks like chocolate milk, go big and go flashy.

Those size 22 zebra midges that you planned on tying to 6x, that aint gonna work. I like to tie on a large white zonker and dead drift it with some sort of big buggy stonefly like a Pats Rubber leg. In off color water, fish will lose some of their inhibitions and hit anything that they can see. You just have to make sure that they see it. This is also a great time to experiment with different streamers that make noise, anything that will help draw a fish towards you fly.

Fishing runoff can also be one of the best times to hit a river. If it is fully blown, it might be better to explore other options but if a river is on the downside of its peak flows and it is starting to clear up, fishing can be phenomenal. Fish that are spread out all over the river during normal flows will congregate in areas of softer water during runoff and usually if you find one fish, you find 20. When the river is really high, fish are often within a few feet of shore, so don't just wade in and start casting, make sure you work the edges hard before venturing further out. Stoneflies and big buggy soft hackles in sizes 8 and 12-14 respectively are good options. Solitude makes a fly called the Tungsten Jig Soft Spot that can be deadly when the water is high.

Remember that just because the river isn't gin clear, the fish are still there and still eating and if you try some of these techniques, you can still have a phenomenal day on the water.



Tight lines,
Johnny Spillane

<http://www.ginkandgasoline.com/fly-fishing-tips-technique/fly-fishing-runoff-can-mean-fish-on-2/>
hookups@ginkandgasoline.com

California's fish are in hot water

A word from CalTrout ED, Curtis Knight

Reprinted from *The Streamkeepers Blog*, May 2017

After a year of collaborative research CalTrout and UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences recently released ***State of the Salmonids II: Fish in Hot Water***¹, an in-depth report that details the status, threats, and solutions for California's native salmon, steelhead, and trout. Our findings reveal a disturbing truth: **45% of our native salmonids face extinction in the next 50 years** if present trends concerning climate change and human disturbance continue. Yes, this is scary. But through our research, we created a roadmap for how California can correct course to better support native aquatic species.

Coverage of the report has been exceptional, featured in the *LA Times*², *SF Chronicle*³, *Sac Bee*⁴, and in dozens more news outlets and blogs. We are sounding the alarm and getting the word out so that we can reverse this trend toward extinction and help California's native fish return to resilience.

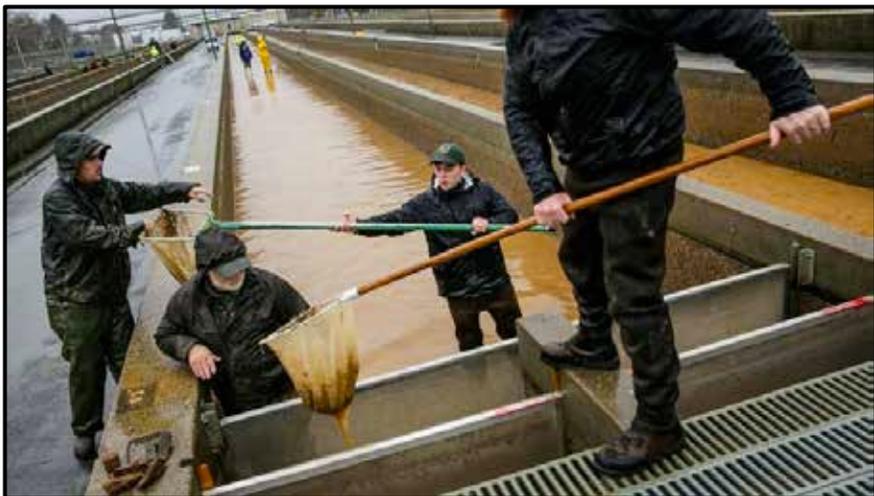
The loss of these iconic fish would be an epic tragedy. Native to California and uniquely adapted to our diverse landscape, they are more than just resident fish. Their abundance signifies that California's legacy of cold, clean water has been preserved—an asset integral to our state as epic coastlines, the magnificent Sierra Nevada mountain range, towering redwoods and Cascade volcanoes. What would the loss of our native fish mean for who we are as Californians?

The SOS II report tells the story of the fish. Its findings lay out a clear set of actions and a path forward. The science, findings and actions can be a guide not just for CalTrout, but for all organizations, agencies, regulators, and funders who care about California's fish and their waters.

California's unique fishes are worth fighting for, and CalTrout is leading the way.

Tight lines,
Curtis

1. *State of the Salmonids II: Fish in Hot Water* <http://caltrout.org/sos/>
2. *Here's why we should think about protecting California fish* <http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-sac-skelton-trout-salmon-20170529-story.html>
3. *Report: Nearly half of California salmon species on track for extinction* <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Report-Nearly-half-of-California-salmon-species-11150498.php>
4. *Trout, salmon and steelhead: A massive die-off coming for these California fish?* <http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article150821267.html>



Leftover salmon fry are rescued from the muddy water before the raceways are cleaned at the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Feather River Fish Hatchery in Oroville, Calif. (Photo Credit: Marcus Yam / Los Angeles Times)

Photos

