



The Fly Line

February 2011

President's Message - February 2011

I don't know about you, but I have good feelings about 2011. Especially good about Hangtown Fly Fishers, trout fishing in California and the year in general. That may be in part because I got a 5wt Sage Z-Axis for my birthday, but I felt this way before that as well.

First, there are lots of good things coming this way for the club. After the Fall Sportsman's Expo and a real positive experience with the Northern California Chapter of the Federation of Fly Fishers (The acronym is NorCal) we joined as an affiliate club. This means that our club has access to the resources of the Federation and NorCal. There are speakers, training and education support, clinics and other help that the club will be using during this year.

There has also been some reorganization among the leadership. Ron Zigelhofer is stepping down as President. Ron has served for two years and will remain in the loop as Past President. Jeff Nagel will be taking over the newsletter in addition to managing the web site.. Lou Archuletta will still be in charge of Programs. Dave Angelo will continue to organize the fishouts, but Dave will have his hands full with a new project. Dave is serving as the fish point person for the Fannon Restoration project. I think Todd Gillihan will stay involved with conservation and entomology. If you have an interest and would like to help the club, please let us know at admin@hangtownflyfishers.org.

We all miss OFF THE HOOK since Frank closed at the end of December. Perhaps none so much as the gang that used to gather at the shop to swap lies and tie flies. Not to be deterred, the group has a new home. My understanding is they meet on most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Senior Center in Placerville. Best bet is to stop by and look in the "Pottery Room".

It's that time of year again, Showtime. This year the only ISE Sportsman's Expo in northern California is in Sacramento. It was last weekend. The San Mateo show was dropped this year. There is one big show left, the Fly Fishing Show at the Alameda County Fairgrounds on February 2XX. <http://www.flyfishingshow.com/Pleasanton.html> is the link. The other event is the annual pre opening day event at Kiene's Fly Shop in Sacramento. <http://www.kiene.com/> They will put something up in March or so.

This is also membership renewal time. Your dues go to support the web site, pay for speakers and events like the booth at the El Dorado County Sportsman Expo. Please complete and mail in the renewal form printed elsewhere in the newsletter or get one from the web site.

It looks like we are off to a great year. Tight Lines

Karl

The February meeting will be held
at the Round Table Pizza Parlor

3975 Missouri Flat Rd. Placerville.

Among other things, we will show
the movie "Hustle & Fish"

A woman who has never seen
her husband fishing, doesn't
know what a patient man she
married !

Leadership Changes – 2011

President and Treasurer – Karl Weiland

Newsletter and Website – Jeff Nagel

Programs – Lou Archuletta

Outings – Dave Angelo

Fishing Report – Dave Angelo has fished
Willow hill pond in Folsom twice in the
last month, landing a half dozen
planter rainbows on each trip. Ask him
about his mini wiggle-tail pattern.....

EARLY TO BED...EARLY TO RISE...FISH ALL DAY...MAKE UP LIES.



Remember when it was warm?

Drive a Prius, Eat a Fish

Chris Hunt works for [Trout Unlimited's Sportsmen's Conservation Project](#) and blogs regularly at eatmorebrooktrout.blogspot.com.



Chris Hunt Brookies in the upper Roaring Fork River near Aspen,

Releasing a catch is now more common than not among fly fishers, and while the practice was born of necessity, I would argue it's time for anglers to be a bit more discerning from here on out.

While the spirit of catch-and-release is a good one, there's an argument to be made that we're partaking in too much of a good thing. In other words, the occasional harvest of a fish is not only appropriate, but, in some circles, heartily encouraged.

Here in the West, many anglers consider their catch-and-release ethic part of their conservation mantra. They might recycle aluminum cans and paper products, or they might drive a Prius and wave at us poor souls in our pickups as we're throwing down a handful of twenties at the pump. And they'll release every trout the catch ... and feel good doing it. In some places, like the Southern Fork of the Snake River, releasing certain trout should be frowned upon. Unfortunately, it's just not that simple. Not anymore.

The Western fly fisher (and every angler, regardless of their method or tackle) needs to bone up on a few things. In some rivers and streams, harvesting fish is a good idea, and releasing certain trout should be frowned upon. Take the South Fork of the Snake River. Here, native Yellowstone cutthroat trout are being shouldered out of the river by non-native rainbow trout introduced decades ago. Rainbows, native to the West Coast, can mingle on the spawning redds with cutthroats and produce a fertile hybrid referred by many anglers as a cuttbow.

Cutthroat trout evolved in the rivers and streams of the Intermountain West, and they now occupy only about 10 percent of their native range. On streams like the South Fork, which represents some of the last big-water habitat for Yellowstone cutthroats within their native range, non-native fish — particularly those that challenge the genetic integrity of the native fish — ought to be clubbed on the head and taken home for the grill whenever they're caught.

Perish the thought, right?

Well, don't. While you're busy keeping as many rainbows as you can on the South Fork, consider knocking every brook trout you catch in Western waters over the head, too. Brookies, native to Appalachia, have pushed native cutthroats out of many of their historic headwater habitats — the cold, clean water of the Rockies is ideal for the voracious char that tends to eat itself out of house and home if not carefully managed. There's a reason a 10-inch brookie is a trophy in just about any Rocky Mountain trout stream. The enthusiastic but sadly stunted 4-inch fish is much more common.