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Carmel River Steelhead Association

Advocating for Steelhead Since 1974

Fish Tales
Monthly Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Steve Park

Howdy

This is my first CRSA newsletter, one I hope will be the first of many to come. I thought it would bode well if I started with a short bio should anyone want to know that kind of stuff.

My name is Steve Park

Born 9/20/47 Oakland, CA

Naval aviator dependent

Lived in:

Coronado, CA

Yokohama, Japan

Fallon, NV

Encinitas, CA

Sparks, NV

Sacramento, CA

San Jose, CA

Carmel Valley, CA

Ketchikan, AK

Anchorage, AK

Carmel Valley, CA

Redding, CA

St Croix, USVI

Boulder, CO

Carmel Valley, CA

Graduated Sacramento City College AA degree

Graduated San Jose State 1970 BA degree School of Journalism major in Public Relations

Moved to Carmel Valley 1970

Started fishing in the Fifties

Caught my first Steelhead on the Trinity River in the Nineties and realized I had just shaken hands with an incredible animal. A super fish! Now that I have come to know these beauties better I realize how REALLY incredible they are. Rescuing and releasing are of those moments that live in rare air. I am pro rescue but I know there are other conversations on this practice.

Have been a General Contractor since 1980

Joined Trout Unlimited

Joined Wild Steelheaders

Wrote a short story on a Steelhead's journey in the Carmel River

Joined CRSA in 2018

As president of CRSA:

#1 agenda item is improving public awareness about the Carmel River and its Steelhead population.

Funding programs for CRSA

Rescues

Estuary projects

Stream passage improvement

Water catchment projects

Striped bass solutions

New Zealand snail solutions

I plan to be effective in keeping CRSA active in the pursuit of advocating for the Carmel River Steelhead. In this last rescue season CRSA not only saw more rescued fish than any other year but also more folks wanting to get involved as rescuers.

Property owners in the upper reaches of the Carmel River watershed, who have access to reaches of water, are contacting CRSA to come and save the fish. The fish rescues seem to be one of the premier vehicles for creating public awareness of what we can do as conservationists.

Our web site can be very effective in creating even more public awareness. We need to continue to post our activities on our site as they occur and continue to update our site to tie in with current activities in our area.

We have a full blown state college growing up right in our front yard. We need to get the college on our radar.

The Monterey Bay Aquarium is super important to CRSA and I plan to continue nurturing any contact CRSA may already have, as well as, find new ways to partner with them.

I thank you for this opportunity and your support. I'm ready to stay as long as you will have me.

[Donate](#)

2020 DUES

Dues for membership in CRSA for 2020 are now payable and will be considered delinquent at the end of March.

With CRSA being an all-volunteer organization, we do not have the ability to track and pro-rate dues based on when they are paid, so for those new members who paid their first dues in November or December of 2109 (Donna, Margaret, Meighan, and Daphne) CRSA gives you credit for 2020 dues.

All other members please pay your dues and those receiving this newsletter and who are not members please consider joining. The larger the organization the more influence we have and the further dues go to save steelhead.

CRSA Membership

CONSERVATION REPORT **By Brian LeNeve**

On behalf of CRSA I want to thank every person and organization that responded to our December appeal. It is very satisfying to receive donations from 13 members, friends or organizations totaling \$3,330.00. That money will go a long way to conserve steelhead on the Carmel River and considering CRSA is an all-volunteer organization, 100% of the money will go to benefit steelhead. So again, thank you all.

RIVER CONDITIONS

While we received great rain in December, since then the rainfall has been miserable with the 2-week outlook even more miserable. As of the writing of this article (February 7, 2020) the flow at the bridge to Hacienda Carmel was 60.0 cubic feet per second (cfs). The 5-day projection is for the flow to go down 10 cfs more. The two-week rain forecast for the Monterey Area is for less than 0.60 inches. And the one-week forecast is for only 5% of normal rain. By any metric the outlook is not good. All of this means that right now there is little hope of steelhead spawning in the upper river or upper tributaries.

Several years ago, when Cal Am and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) were completing phase II of Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR). CRSA filed a protest to the ASR project based on the low flow requirements of the permit application. CRSA argued that for fish to pass the critical riffle that year it took 180 cfs to meet minimum flow and MPWMD wanted a minimum flow of 80 cfs. We settled for a low flow of 120 CFS which means that to pump “excess water”

from the Carmel River for ASR, the flow in winter must be at least 120 cfs and we are only half of that.

CDFW closes the river to fishing when the flow gets below 80 cfs as they feel the fish are too much at risk due to low water. The river has been closed to fishing since Jan 25.

At 70 cfs and lower the mouth of the river starts to close at high tide and reopen at low tide. If the flow gets below 20 cfs, the mouth could close until significant rain. While we are not at 20 cfs, the mouth is closing for longer periods of time and when fish try to enter the river, they will have a hard time migrating below the lowest part of the river.

Ultimately this means that we can expect very few fish that need rescuing in Cachagua Creek and most fish will need to be rescued in the lower river.

If you know a rain dance start performing it. If you know a rain maker contact him because fish spawning in the lower river is what we do not want.

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