



Organized in 1971, the Rogue Flyfishers seek to promote fellowship among individuals and groups to further interest in the sport, to improve angling techniques, and to educate members and the public in ways to preserve and improve natural resources, environment, and conditions for fishing in the Rogue Valley

Rogue Flyfishers
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Term

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In partnership with
Temple Fork Outfitters

PROGRAM

Fishing Northern California
Jim Roberts

For over two decades Jim Roberts has guided, explored and fished the area around Mt. Shasta. He will talk to us about his experiences and share tips about where and how to fish the area.

Jim Roberts first picked up a fly rod at 13 and since has spent countless days fishing different water from Argentina to Alaska. He has accumulated a wide range of experience in the fly fishing industry, from producer of fly fishing videos, fly shop owner, instructor, guide, writer, and manufacturer.

Jim first got his guide license in 1995 and currently guides on the Lower Sacramento River for rainbows, the Trinity River for steelhead, the McCloud for rainbows and browns, and the Klamath for steelhead and salmon. He still enjoys the thrill and excitement of getting somebody into a fish or sharing knowledge with a fellow angler.

Jim is a sought after fly-fishing speaker. With thirty year's experience and his professional training as a teacher, Jim is able to share his knowledge to help other anglers make it to the next level. His goal both on the water and at a presentation is to make fly fishing instruction as fun and rewarding as possible. After 30 years his passion for chasing any fish with a fly is matched only by his desire to teach others about fly fishing.



Presidents Message

January 2026

Happy New Year everybody! I hope everyone had a safe New Years celebration. The rivers look good and some winter fish have been showing up closer to the coast. At the time I'm writing this some more rain is on the way, and I hope to get out on the next water drop. However it is winter steelhead fishing, and it might not stop raining for a week or more, and it might start raining again before the water levels have a chance to drop and clear. You just never know what's going to happen during the winter steelhead season.

2026 will be a great year for the club. We have some great presenters lined up from the Trinity river to the Minam there will be plenty to learn. The auction in May and the picnic in June are other events to look forward to this year. I'm sure that there will be some restoration projects as well if you're looking for some volunteer opportunities, so be on the lookout for emails regarding club functions, as well as the newsletter. We will also be revamping the website this year to give us a fresh new look.

I do have some sad news though. Long time club member, former club president, and all around great guy Dennis Detrick passed away recently. I'll never forget meeting him for the first time on the January coastal steelhead outing in 2018. I was a new member, and it was my first outing with the club. We met up at the Indian Creek restaurant for breakfast before heading out. He went out of his way to introduce himself and told me I had a nice boat. I'll also remember how excited he was at the 4 mile lake outing a few years ago when he caught a lake trout on the fly. He was a wonderful person and will be missed by everyone.

Take care everyone, I hope to see you all at the January meeting, and I hope everyone catches a lot of fish in 2026.

Cheers!

John Pogue

Upcoming Schedule

Board Meeting	1/7/26, 2/4/26
Auction Meeting	1/12/26
SOFT meeting	1/13/26, 2/10/26
Club Meeting	1/21/26, 2/18/26

Events

NW Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo
Albany, OR 3/13, 3/14 2026
Auction 5/9/2026

Outings

Coastal Steelhead	1/17, 1/18 2026
Club Picnic	6/13/26

Check the Club Calendar for more information

New Year's Day Chili Feed Cook-Out Winner!

The Rogue Flyfishers and Southern Oregon Fly Fishers celebrated the new year with a chili feed at the Holy Water on New Year's Day. The event was held at the picnic shelter at River's Edge Park on the south bank of the Holy Water. We had our annual chili contest again. The competition was tough and the final vote was close, but the winner of the 2026 Chili Cook-Off held at River's Edge Park on New Year's Day was Tanya Haight. All of those who braved the drizzle and cold (and who were willing to miss the Ducks playoff game), were treated to some delicious food and had a great time. Thanks Rob for getting a roaring fire going to help ward off the chill! Now tell us Tanya, what's the secret to making a vegetarian venison chili???



Chili Cook-Out Winner, Tanya Haight

Auction Update

Our next auction meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2026 at 6pm at the Lions sight and Hearing Center, [228 N. Holly St., Medford](#). PLEASE NOTE: Parking and entry is at the rear of the building.

We continue to seek corporate support to pay the costs of presenting the auction. We have a couple committed donors and a few good prospects who asked that we return in January. We just have to keep plugging away here.

Starting in January, we will officially begin soliciting for items to be auctioned off. If you are planning to help out in this area, it is very important that you attend the meeting in January. You will receive Donation Forms (receipts) and business prospects. I have already ordered and received business cards for those who attended the December meeting. Another reason to attend the January meeting is so I can get business cards for you.

If you receive an item to be auctioned off, we must complete a Donation Form. This documents who donated the item, the value and gives them a receipt for taxes. It also helps me to track donations. Also, used items are ok, however, they must be in good condition. This is a fundraiser, not a garage sale. Bring donated items to the auction meeting or get them to myself or any board member.

If you have items in your arsenal that you think would be auction worthy, please contact myself or any board member. That includes those of you who provide hosted and guided trips.

It's time to get on the ball folks. Let's get this party started!

Robbi DeBois

Auction Committee Chairman

We have a new newsletter editor.

I have agreed to become our club newsletter editor. I can be reached at bobeury@gmail.com or 707-498-5368. We are always looking for newsletter content so feel free to submit any items. Perhaps you can be the next John Gierach with a humorous story or insight. Maybe you have some wisdom or knowledge you would like to pass along regarding fly fishing or fly tying. The grammar doesn't have to be perfect. We are happy to review with you any suggested corrections. We also welcome any interesting photos; claim those big fish bragging rights.

Rogue Flyfisher's Meeting

The next club meeting is Wednesday January 21st at Centennial Golf Club
1900 N. Phoenix Rd. Medford, 97504
Wet fly 5:30 – 6:30pm
Dinner and meeting at 7:15pm
Raffle to follow Program
BUFFET DINNER is \$25 per person

Menu: Roasted chicken, fettuccine noodles with alfredo sauce,
roasted vegetables, green salad, rolls , and dessert.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

RSVP's need to be in by Saturday (January 17th) preceding the meeting.
Please email your RSVP to icrsrd303@gmail.com
(give your name and how many for dinner)
For those who cannot do email call (661)742-5835 afternoons only.
Pay when you arrive. We take cash or checks only.
Special dietary requests: email Steve Day at icrsrd303@gmail.com or
call (661)742-5835 by Tuesday preceding the meeting

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Coastal Winter-Steelhead Outing, January 17 and 18

At this time of year, I get excited about fishing for winter steelhead. Some of my favorite places to fish during the winter are the streams along the Southern-Oregon Coast. Streams there range from small creeks, where you can dead-drift flies through small pocket, to large rivers well suited for swinging flies through broad runs.

I am planning to host a joint outing for the Rogue Flyfishers and the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers on January 17 and 18. The outing will be based out of Brookings, which has a good variety of motels, RV parks, campgrounds, and restaurants. The specific streams we fish will depend on the conditions at the time. Participants should bring equipment for both swinging and dead-drifting flies. For swinging, a seven or eight-weight Spey rod with a Skagit head and a variety of sink-tips would be ideal, but a single-handed eight-weight rod would also work. The single-handed rod will be ideal for fishing the smaller streams. Bring intruder-style flies and traditional steelhead patterns in a variety of sizes and colors for swinging. Also bring egg patterns, large nymphs, and egg-sucking leeches for dead-drifting. The winter steelhead on the coastal streams can be large, so 10 to 15-pound leader would be appropriate. Be sure to bring waders, a wading staff, raingear, and warm clothing. You will need to have a Rogue-South Coast Steelhead Validation in addition to your 2026 Angling License and Combined Angling Tag. We will focus on areas that offer good opportunities for fishing from the bank; however, the lower Rogue and Chetco Rivers do offer good opportunities for those that want to bring their driftboats or rafts.



Due to the uncertainty of the weather and stream flows, this outing is subject to change. Anyone interested in attending should email me at tmdrhaight@outlook.com by January 11 to sign up. As we get close to the date of the outing, I will determine if the conditions will be acceptable; thus, if the outing will happen as scheduled. I will inform the people that signed up of the plans at that time.

David Haight

Web Message Board

We have created a Rogue Flyfishers message board. The message board's link can be found on the right column of the club's home page. Only member postings or official club information will be posted on this message board. The postings will be limited to fishing related information such as:

For Sale or Wanted Shared trip / Fishing buddy wanted Fishing reports / Big fish pictures
Postings of interest to the fly fishing community

Please submit your posting requests via email to the Rogue Flyfishers webmail address. Include in your submission the date of the event (if appropriate), any photos, a brief write-up, and a contact. Please don't send pdf files. Accompanying photos are encouraged but in jpg format if possible. Submissions will be screened for appropriateness and we reserve editorial license for all submissions.

NOTE: These postings will be viewable by the general public. Please consider this regarding any inclusion of your personal information. You may use the club email address as the contact point but if you do please insure that your name is included so we know to whom we should forward any messages. I hope you find this of value and I look forward to seeing some big fish photos!

Conservation News

By Rick Graw

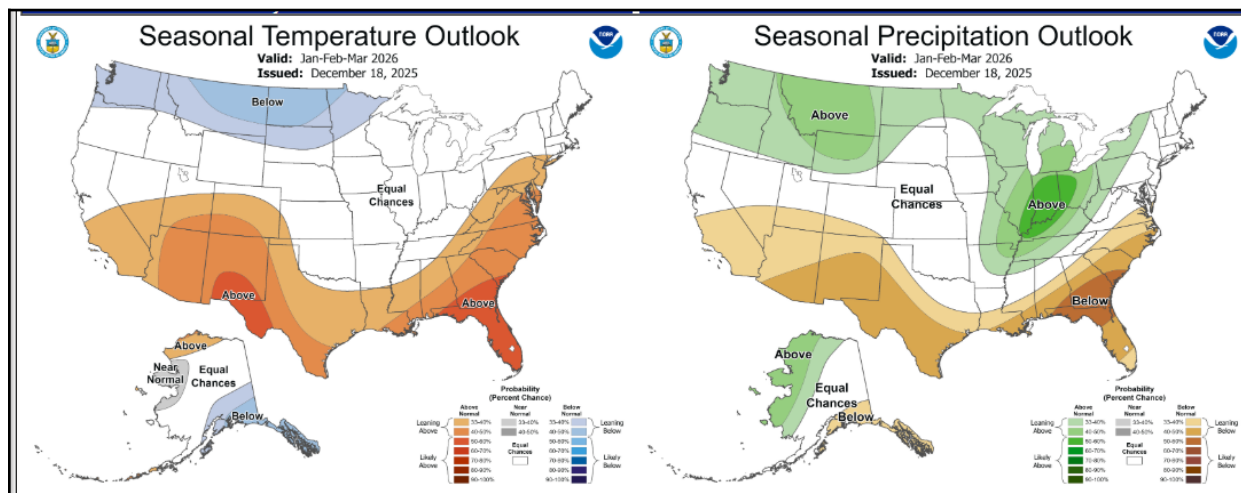
In his book *Salmon* (2020, Patagonia Press), Mark Kurlansky argues that the future of salmon and the future of man are inexorably linked. He goes on to say "there is a long list of actions that need to be taken to save salmon. This list includes stopping deforestation; putting an end to suburban sprawl; stopping the killing of bears, wolves, beavers, eagles, and other wild species; putting an end to both land-based and marine pollution; stopping and even reversing climate change; and ending the damming of rivers while dismantling existing dams."

While this list can seem daunting, there is good news. Michael Ford, research scientist at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center, who studied abundance trends of Endangered-Species Act (ESA)-listed Pacific salmon Distinct Population Segments (DPS), along with DPS that were not ESA-listed, concluded that *management efforts have avoided extinction and even succeeded in moving many populations in the right direction, but most are still far from complete recovery.*

At a local level, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife observed the following. **“Wild half pounder returns decreased after a year with higher counts, but no changes to interim winter steelhead harvest regulations will be needed for the Rogue in the 2025-2026 season”**, as stated in the 2025 Annual Report on the progress of the Rogue–South Coast Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (November 2025). Other measurable criteria for fish populations covered by the plan are generally well above conservation status levels, with the exception of Elk River coho salmon, which had a very poor return in 2023 but bounced back with a stronger return in 2024.” While most species still remain below the Desired status, the coastal stratum site occupancy levels for Winter Steelhead and Cutthroat trout exceeded Desired Status. Additionally, ODFW reports that since 2004, at least 50 barriers to fish passage have been removed in the interior Rogue watershed, and 17 sites now have improved conditions for fish passage.

In other news, as of December 29, 2025, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) reports **the Rogue-Umpqua Basin Snow Water Equivalent is just 32% of the 1991-2010 median value**, although precipitation total is 85%. This is not surprising given that we’re currently experiencing La Nina conditions. According to the National Climate Prediction Center (CPC), **La Niña is favored to continue for the next month or two**, with a transition to ENSO-neutral most likely in January-March 2026 (68% chance). The United States Geological Service (USGS) interactive map shows that stream discharge levels at Dodge Bridge on the Rogue River were between 2400 and 2200 cubic feet per second (cfs), for the week of December 22-29. This is between 25% and 75% of normal conditions for the past 30 years.

Looking ahead to the first three months of the new year, the CPC’s seasonal forecast shows that **there’s not a strong signal that temperatures will be warmer or colder than normal, but precipitation is expected to be above normal, as shown below.**



Looking to the future, Trout Unlimited reports on two new technologies that will help researchers and others improve our understanding of fish. **TroutSpotter** is a fisheries management tool developed by Trout Unlimited, Conservation X Labs, and on-Water Fish. By harnessing the power of angler catch data, it

uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to identify individual fish from angler-submitted images. Troutspotter is a free App.

Environmental DNA (eDNA) is an exciting aquatic science tool which is becoming more popular and affordable. According to TU, “every living thing leaves traces of its genetic material behind, bits of skin, exoskeletons, mucus, or water that float downstream. By collecting a small bottle of water, and sequencing the DNA inside, researchers can detect the presence or absence of a species.” This has been helpful in identifying the presence of rare species in a stream. Additionally, eDNA can be used to determine the abundance of a species with just a few samples. Currently, one eDNA sample costs \$160. This may be helpful tool to supplement ODFW monitoring or stream restoration.

Volunteer Opportunities:

ODFW is planning three days to toss salmon carcasses into tributaries of the Rogue River:

- January 14th – Flat Creek (meet at the hatchery at 9:00 am)
- February 18 – Hawk Creek (meet at the hatchery at 9:00 am).
- March 18 – Taylor Creek (meet at Ray’s Food in Merlin at 9:00 am)

ODFW also needs help with hoop trapping on four creeks and could use some volunteers to help check the traps weekly. The traps are located in (1) an unnamed tributary at Siskiyou Field Institute in Selma, (2) Lozier Creek just outside of Merlin near Jump Off Joe Creek, (3) Elk Creek, a tributary to Bear Creek in Central Point, and (4) Anderson Creek, a tributary to Bear Creek in Phoenix. ODFW also has at least two upcoming planting projects, but no specific dates set yet. More to come on those as we receive more specific information.



Support Your Local Fly Fishing Resources

The Ashland Fly Shop	399 E. Main Street at Third, Ashland	541-488-6454
The Fishin' Hole	21873 Hwy 62, Sahady Cove	541-878-4000
Rogue Fly Shop	941 SE 6th St, Grants Pass	541-476-0552
Rogue Valley Anglers	305 N. Bartlett, Medford	541-973-2988
Sportsman's Warehouse	1710 Delta Waters Road Medford	541-732-3700

Jim Ulm, Rogue River Steelhead and Trout Guide, (541) 973-6250 jimulm9@msn.com

Rogue Fly Fishers membership **Application** and membership **Renewal Form**

Applying ___ or renewing ___ as (check one): **Individual** __ (\$35.00), **Family** __ (\$45.00), or **Junior** __ (under 18, \$5.00) Member.
 (Note: New members joining Rogue Fly Fishers before June 30th pay a full year dues; **new** members joining after June 30th pay half dues.
Dues accompany your application. With membership, you will receive a member's patch, membership directory, name badge, and letter of further information and welcome. Monthly dinner meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month with a social Wet Fly from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. followed by dinner with raffle, announcements and club business, and program until approximately 9:00 p.m.

Renew in December for the following year.

Name: _____ . If a family membership,

List Family Member's Names _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Best Contact Telephone Numbers: Area Code _____ Number _____

(2nd best) Number _____

E-mail Address: _____

If you do not want your e-mail address in the membership directory, check here ___

Member Fly Fishers international? Yes ___ No ___

Prefer using the Online Newsletter ___ or by US Mail ___?

Amount enclosed _____. Mail completed form and payment to:

Rogue Fly Fishers, PO Box 4637, Medford, Oregon 97501