



Ed Phelan - In Memory

It is with a sad heart and unforgettable memories that I share the passing of RRF Life Member Ed Phelan (a.k.a. Big Pierre, "Fast Eddie").

Ed loved the Russian River Fly Fishers and, with his wife Julie, was a presenter and instructor at our RRF Youth Programs, the Healdsburg Wild Steelhead Festival, our RRF Steelhead Clinics and a member of our volunteer RRF Fly Casting Instruction team. To those who knew him, Ed was a true gentleman, conservationist and talented angler. Regarding conservation he frequently advised, "If we really want to make a difference, we need to focus on our Youth!" He loved to work with the kids and to share his knowledge with all who were willing to learn. As our spey casting guru, Ed helped introduce many RRF members to the two-handed rod.

From stories of the mighty Skeena River in British Columbia, where he and Julie made their home and pursued the majestic steelhead of that watershed, to jokes and tales for assembled friends, Ed was a storyteller. He loved to write and frequently contributed articles to the RRF and Russian River Wild Steelhead Society (RRWSS) newsletters. After moving to B.C. a few years ago, Ed and Julie welcomed RRF members to share the beauty of that renowned fly fishing mecca and often hosted them for their stay. He created unique opportunities for learning and wonder.

Our sincerest sympathy to Julie and all of Ed's family and friends. Ed will forever live in our hearts and in our personal recollections, his smile, laughter and love for fly fishing and our fisheries an inspiration and aspiration. May his legacy live on through all of us.

Steve Tubbs
RRF President