



Trout Tales

Rocky River Chapter Trout Unlimited



January 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everybody!

I hope you had a great holiday season and MAYBE got to fish with a new rod. For those who are looking for a new rod, George Anderson, the owner of Yellowstone Anglers in Livingston Montana, has done a test of 5WT rods. It was very extensive and should assist you with your next purchase.

<http://www.yellowstoneangler.com>

The winter is my time to catch up with fly fishing forums; these are great sites for local NC information and will also assist with trips outside the state you might be considering. We will have WIFI soon at our monthly meetings and will be able to show those that attend the monthly meeting these sites.

A special thanks to **Tom Adams** for the outstanding job he has done as program chair. The programs this past year were outstanding and if you missed them, they offered a great chance for information related to cold water conservation fly fishing.

We also documented over 2000 hours of volunteer service work for our 2010-11 fiscal year. Please remember the only way RRTU can exist is thru its volunteers. Volunteers are the back bone of the organization. Enjoy these forums and I hope to see you at the January meeting.

<http://www.flyfishingnc.com/>

<http://ncfishandgame.com/>

<http://cffc.memberlodge.com/>

<http://southeastflyfishingforum.com/forum/index.php>

<http://southernflyangler.com/forum/>

Please DO NOT MISS the February 16 meeting – we'll celebrate another Rocky River Trout Unlimited birthday at that one.

Finally please allow me to call your attention to our new 2012 Streamside Program. The first of those events will be held March 17 on the North Mills River; there's more information about this later in the newsletter.

Happy New Year!

- **Bill Thomas** (bill.thomas1999@gmail.com)

RRTU Calendar

Jan 14: Fly tying

Jan 19: RRTU meeting

Feb 3-5: Shiver in the River, Cherokee

Feb 11: Fly tying

Feb 11-12: Fly Fishing Show, Raleigh

Feb 16: RRTU meeting – Birthday Party!

Feb 17-19: 2012 Southeast Regional Qualifier

Mar 10: Fly tying

Mar 14: Fly Fishing Film Tour, Visulite Theater

Mar 15: RRTU meeting

Mar 17: Streamside - North Mills

Apr 12-15: Appletree

Apr 19: RRTU meeting

January 19th meeting

**Jake Rash – NC Wildlife Resources Commission,
Marion Hatchery**

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
1000 East Morehead Street
Room 205, Fellowship Hall
Charlotte, NC 28204**

**Social time: 6:30 PM
Meeting: 7:00 PM**

Note: Some RRTU members meet for dinner before the meeting at the Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 East Morehead Street, (704) 377-3808. Ask the hostess for the RRTU group; folks usually gather for dinner around 5:30 PM.

Friends of Rocky River (FORR)

The 2012 Friends of Rocky River (FORR) program campaign will officially begin in February. Watch for a letter introducing the 2012 campaign plan in your USPS mailbox soon.

A few individuals have donated already ... THANK YOU early birds!

In order to donate, please make checks payable to Rocky River Trout Unlimited and mail your tax deductible donation to:

Jonathan Miller
2900 Winghaven Lane
Charlotte, NC 28210

Some employers may match employee donations to 501(c)(3) organizations. If your employer matches employee contributions, please include those forms with your donation.

Thank you!
- Steve Craig/Terry Hill, FORR Committee

November 17, 2011 meeting

Jeff Curtis, Rivercourse camp director, presented at the November 17 meeting. Dick Heald, another long time Rivercourse volunteer, also made the trip to Charlotte from Asheville. Some of you will remember Mr. Heald as he and his wife have joined us at Appletree several times.

Just a few highlights from the meeting:

- The Rivercourse program started in 2003.
- More than 100 young people have attended the camp over the years.
- Currently limited to 16 boys and girls ages 13 - 15.
- Held at the Lake Logan Episcopal Center; a section of the West Fork of the Pigeon River runs through the camp grounds.
- Introduces campers to coldwater conservation and fly fishing.

- The camp includes a mixture of classroom instruction, fly tying and fly fishing.
- Donations of equipment, money and volunteer time are always appreciated.
- See <http://rivercourse.org/> for more information regarding Rivercourse.

Thanks to all who were able to attend the November meeting.

- Editor

February RRTU Birthday Party

The RRTU officers and board hope that you will join us in celebrating another "birthday" for the Rocky River chapter of Trout Unlimited. A few details:

- February 16 from 6PM to 9PM
- Covenant Presbyterian Church
- A FREE event
- Featuring guest speaker "Bo" Cash. To view a biography of Mr. Cash, please see <http://tablerockangler.com/about/>.
- Hors d'oeuvres and desserts
- Door prizes and raffles

Watch for additional information this month via an Evite. And please RSVP if you plan to attend.

- Editor

Upcoming RRTU Meeting Topics/Presenters

January 19 – Jake Rash

The January meeting will feature Jacob "Jake" Rash. Mr. Rash, a native of Statesville, is with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission Division of Inland Fisheries at the Marion Hatchery. He has an extensive background with studies in zoology and fisheries technology with a master's degree from Virginia Tech. Mr. Rash has married his passion of fishing with the ultimate insider job.

Please bring your questions and remember to pack an extra dollar or two for a raffle.

February 16 – Bo Cash

William “Bo” Cash, the owner of Table Rock Angler Fly Shop and Guide Service, will join us at our annual birthday party. To view a biography of Mr. Cash, please see <http://tablerockangler.com/about/>.

March 15

TBA

RRTU Fly Tying Class for 2011-2012

The second and third classes of the 2011-12 sessions were held on December 10 and January 14. Several beginners and a few experienced hands attended these Saturday classes. The next class will be held on Saturday, February 11. Here are a few pictures from the December 10 class:

Beginner flies:



Expert flies:



Fly Tying Class will begin November 12th and be held the 2nd Saturday of each month from November to March. This means that our Saturday class will precede the RRTU meeting which is held the third Thursday of the month. We will hold the classes in the same place as the last two years:

REI

9755 Northlake Centre Pkwy off of West WT Harris Blvd. We meet in the Community Room from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

In the past we have everything from beginners wanting to learn the basics of fly tying to the well advanced tier. We are able to do this because we have three levels of classes.

The most advanced class pretty much works at its own speed and the members share ideas and techniques with other tiers.

The beginning class starts with the basics of the equipment used in fly tying and its usage. Beginners will learn how to use a rotary vise, whip finisher, use dubbing, select thread and hooks. Each session will become more advanced as tiers learn new techniques. By the end of the five sessions beginners will be on their way to tying the flies they need for trout and pan fishing.

One of the greatest benefits of our classes is that we really get a chance to know the other members and talk fishing.

Charges for Fly Tying Class

This year we will charge \$10.00 to all persons who attend where an instructor is provided. The money will be used to purchase hooks and other materials for the classes. In the past **Jack McNeary** has taught the beginning tiers with help from **Alen Baker**. Each week we have found that new people show up. **Alen** will bring the new tiers up to speed. **Jack** will continue to work with the tiers from the first week to develop their skills throughout the five sessions.

Meanwhile, **Tom Adams** will work with the more advanced tiers who want to learn new and advanced techniques.

Experienced tiers who come just to tie flies at their own pace and share experiences with others will not be charged a fee for tying materials.

At noon we send someone out for sandwiches and charge \$5.00 for those who want to participate.

We have at least six rotary vises and other tools and materials for our classes. Please feel free to bring your own vise and tools if you have them. If you are thinking of coming, we would like to have a head count so please contact **Jack McNeary** at jmccneary@gmail.com. You will not be bound by this, but it will give us an idea as to how many people to expect.

We look forward to seeing you on November 12th for the first session at REI.

- **Tom Adams, Alen Baker and Jack McNeary**

Other Events

February 3-5, Shiver in the River. Cherokee, NC. Cost \$225 per two man team with \$10K in prize money. Held on the Trophy, Catch-and-Release water on the Cherokee Reservation. Website: www.fishcherokee.com/shiver.html

February 11-12, Fly Fishing Show. NC State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, NC. Show hours Saturday 9AM – 5:30PM, Sunday 9AM – 5PM. Adult admission \$15 for one day, \$25 for a two day pass. Website: www.flyfishingshow.com

February 17-19, Southeast Regional Qualifier for the National Fly Fishing Championships. Brevard, NC. Controllers and sector judges needed for this event. Website: www.usnffc.com

March 14, Fly Fishing Film Tour. Visulite Theater at 1615 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. Doors open 6:30PM, show starts 7PM. Tickets \$15 at the door. \$12 discount

tickets available at Jesse Browns. Website: www.flyfilmtour.com

April 27-29, Southeastern Council Fly Fishing Festival. Unicoi State Park, Helen, GA. Programs, fly tying, casting clinics, exhibitors, raffles, auction, youth and women activities. FFF Casting Certification. Fishing on premises. Sponsored by the Southeastern Council Federation of Fly Fishers. Website: www.fffsec.org

May 18-20, Troutfest. Townsend Visitors Center, Townsend, TN. Fri 6:00 PM banquet and auction, tickets \$50. Sat, Sun 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM: exposition, free admission. Sponsored by The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Website: www.troutfest.org

Appletree Spring 2012 Trip April 12 - 15

Appletree 2012 Group Outing Dates: April 12 – 15 on site B (50 person maximum) and October 4 – 7 on site A (25 person maximum).

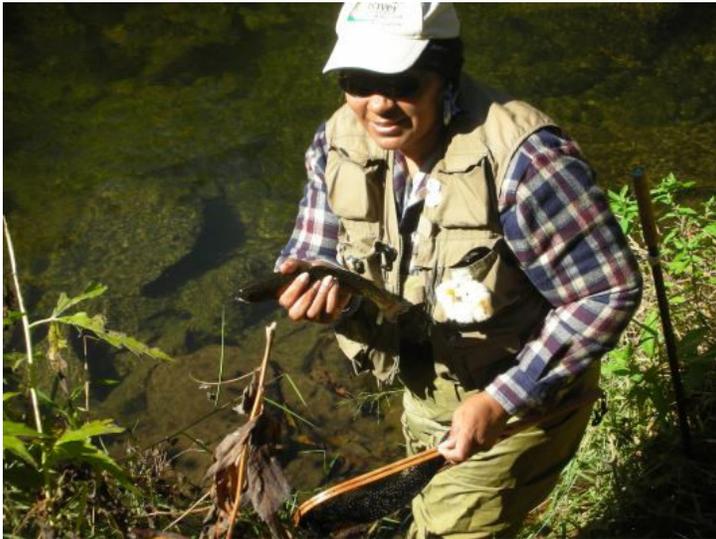
For those who are unfamiliar with our Appletree outings, these events are four day/three night tent camping events on the Nantahala River near the “metropolis” of Aquone, NC. RRTU supplies 3 breakfast, 1 lunch and 3 dinner meals and handles the camping fee for the weekend. The cost of the entire 4 day weekend trip is \$50 per camper. Some members can only make two nights and the fee for those is \$40. Sign ups can begin right away by contacting **Jim Mabrey** at rtujim@gmail.com or **Bill Thomas** at bill.thomas1999@gmail.com. You may make your payment via PayPal on the <http://www.rockyrivertu.org> web site – please include a notation on your payment indicating that this payment is for Appletree. Of if you prefer cash or check, send those to Jim or Bill. If you have never experienced an Appletree trip, please consider joining us. These trips offer two things ... great fishing and a lot of fun.

Though the Nantahala River offers Delayed Harvest and regular hatchery supported fishing, many of our RRTU members have visited other streams in the area. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is nearby; it offers hundreds of miles of pristine streams teeming with wild, native speckled trout. Other streams within

easy driving distance: Tuckasegee River, Hiwassee River, Fires Creek, White Oak Creek, Big Snowbird Creek to name only a few.

Some of you may be concerned about food on this camping expedition. Not to worry! Allow me to list just a few of the items from recent outings: low country boil, BBQ pig, fruit cobblers cooked in dutch ovens, scrambled eggs cooked in zip lock bags. Some have even been known to gain weight at Appletree!

And just to whet your appetite, here are pictures from the October 2011 trip:



Appletree information is also now available on our web site -

<http://www.rockyriver.org/appletree.asp>

- Jim Mabrey

Streamside Program 2012

As we start a new year with RRTU, we are also going to try to refresh our streamside programs. This year **Tom Adams, John Oliver, Tim Ramsey** and I will be hosting 3-4 streamside fishing Saturdays. We are going to start off with a trip to the North Mills River. As

many of you may recall, RRTU donated \$5000 to help secure this fishery in August 2010. I, for one, have not fished this river yet and would like to get a good view of what our donation accomplished. The trip is planned for March 17th.

Two of our hosts will drive up early and establish a "base camp" so that we will have an area set up to meet and have lunch. For those of you that are early birds, I can assure you, we will have coffee and some Danish pastries available to help you start the day. For those who would like to get a little later start, the other two hosts will be available to help those traveling to find their way or ride along with a carpool or caravan. We will determine a meeting location and time as we see how many are interested.

Lunch will be served around noon for a cost of \$5. It looks like we will be serving chili and cornbread from the kitchen of the famous Miss Roz (that would be my wife, awesome chili!!). Please bring your own beverages.

The second streamside will be on May 19th. The river is yet to be determined, but the Mitchell River may be on the radar. If you have not been there in the past 6 months, several major improvements have been made and this river shows promise to fish even better than in the past. There have been improvements: bank erosion barriers, many new runs have been formed with changes made in water flow, riffles and deep pools have also been created. I'm not sure who made all these changes, but I tip my hat to them. Their effort has made a dramatic difference in the way that the Mitchell River will fish.

For those of you that are interested or want more information on the RRTU 2012 streamside program, please send an e-mail to NCTroutScout@gmail.com. We will need to try to get a solid head count so that we can better prepare for everyone to have a good time.

- David Hollifield

Rivercourse – June 17-22, 2012

Rivercourse 2012 will be held June 17-22 at Lake Logan near Canton, NC. Rivercourse, in its tenth

session, is for boys and girls ages 13-15. This camp emphasizes Trout Unlimited's mission, the conservation of cold water fisheries, while at the same time teaching campers the basics of fly fishing, a sport for a lifetime. The deadline for Rivercourse 2012 applications is fast approaching. Ten slots are being held until February 15 for NC Trout Unlimited chapters. After that date all unfilled slots will be open on a first-come, first served basis. Rivercourse tuition is \$595 per camper. You will find more information, including application forms, at <http://rivercourse.org/>.

- Editor

TU – National News @ tu.org

Looking for information on legislation? How about recent press releases? Searching for the TU president's message in the TU newsletter? Interested in member benefits? You will find all of these ... and much more at www.tu.org

- 2012 TU Annual Meeting -

You will NOT have to travel far for the 2012 TU Annual Meeting though you will still have to "go west." More precisely ... northwest to our very own Asheville! Watch for news on this exciting event and mark your calendar for this September 14-16, 2012 event.

- Other "stuff" -

(1) In the News: Sportsmen's group tackles off-road debate head-on (*The Durango Herald*), Hunters and Environmentalists Claim "Attack on Sporting Heritage" (sheridanmedia.com).

(2) TU in Action (see website): Taking in the California backcountry; TU, NOAA offer restoration grants; TU Pushes Plans to Restore Denver's South Platte; TU, Growers Making Streams Salmon Safe.

(3) Got a question? That question may already be answered in the Ask Trout Unlimited section located here: <http://www.tu.org/about-us/ask-trout-unlimited>

- Trout magazine -

Lost your recent issue? Trying to find an old article? You will find current and archive issues of *Trout* on the TU web site in the Press Room tab:

<http://www.tu.org/press-room/trout-magazine>

- January 2012 Lines to Leaders -

TU has taken a leadership role in the work to remove non-native lake trout from Yellowstone Lake in Yellowstone National Park.

- December 2011 Lines to Leaders -

TU is working to stop proposed cuts to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Hatchery Funds. Seven of the nine mitigation hatcheries are in the southeast; one of the hatcheries threatened by cuts is the Erwin facility in Tennessee.

Tales from the Stream

Editor's note: We are always excited to hear from RRTU membership about their fishing adventures. This one comes from member **Alen Baker** ... THANKS Alen!

Fly Fishing a Remote Stream

After a long drive on a curvy, climbing dirt road many miles into the mountains beyond the Wilson Creek DH...Paul Isaacs and I reached the end of the road yet we still had yet another hour of hiking to the remote stream, Lost Cove Creek. A fairly easy 35 minutes downhill about 1000 feet vertically will place you on the stream, however another 30 minutes or more will take you downstream to the larger pools and slightly better fly fishing opportunities. The trail is very easy to follow, just long, steep and rugged. Paul caught the first rainbow only minutes after he was engaged in the first of many pools. As I worked my way up on the other side of the stream, I encountered a water snake slithering away as if he felt I was a threat. Well, Mr. 357 was available for any bear encounter, but shooting into rocks at a snake is not necessary and unwise. Yes, there are currently two active bear dens in the upper section of Lost Cove Creek but that was several miles upstream from us.

It could not have been a more gorgeous day, with the air temperature and humidity nearly perfect. However, the water was hitting 66 degrees, low and very clear as is typical in late-August. Both Paul and I caught a reasonable number of rainbows for the day, but only a few hitting the eight inch range. No brown trout were caught although in my prior trips this year, about half the fish caught were brown trout. After fishing all morning and early-afternoon, we had progressed upstream back to the trail-head. It was time to make the 1000 foot vertical trek up the mountain to the vehicle. We discussed why we did not bring the Yuengling with us as it would have been nice to celebrate a long day on the stream. However, had we brought the Yuengling, we may have

elected to simply stay lost on Lost Cove Creek. So, with a hard march up the mountain, 40 minutes later we were opening the Yuengling as one cold one each was just enough.

- Alen

Tip of the Month

Have an alternate stream in mind when you travel to the mountains to fish a trout stream. As you have looked forward to a nice day on a stream you have had in mind, you may arrive to find that too many anglers have the same idea or the last few days of weather have caused the stream to rise to dingy, almost unfishable conditions. Study the maps and ask others for a good alternate stream and have the stream as plan B. Keep in mind that rain has less impact on high elevation streams that are in pristine watersheds, so know these areas that are close-by and explore another stream rather than get snookered by high dingy waters.

- Alen Baker

Fly of the Month

This "fly of the month" represents the latest in the **Tim Wilhelm/Tom Adams** series.

Kevin's Stonefly

I think may have already written about the Chambliss' Paint and Tackle of West Richland, WA. You would walk through the paint store on the way to the back where Bill Jr. managed the tackle store. I don't think Bill Jr. ever really worked a full day in his life and even when running the tackle store I think a lot of his time was spent telling stories and making bold proclamations.

One of the techniques for catching steelhead was to bounce a lure aptly named a steely over the bottom of the Columbia River. You could feel the lure tapping along the bottom and anytime the rhythm changed or there was pause to the tapping, you set the hook. Sometimes you would be hooked into a bolt of silver lightning but most times you would be hooked to a boulder. Bill liked that because that meant you would

buy more Steelies. One day while I was replenishing my supply a fellow came in the shop and during the course of his conversation he boasted that he never lost tackle to which Bill Jr. said "If you ain't losing tackle, you ain't catching fish!" Wow! I thought - how profound!

I think of Bill Jr. and his statement every time I fish a nymph. Roughly translated, if you aren't putting the fly where the fish are, you won't catch fish. The same is true of Kevin's Stonefly. From the Davidson River Outfitters website: "The best trout fishing in the summertime occurs in early morning and late afternoon. Stoneflies will emerge most of the summer in the late evenings through the night. The trick to being successful with your stonefly imitations is to fish them on the bottom of the river. If you are not bouncing on the bottom then you are not in the zone where the trout are looking for stoneflies."

Reading that last sentence, I'd say Kevin Howell has been to Chambliss' Paint and Tackle.

Kevin's Stonefly Fly of the Month 01.12

HOOK : Tiemco 5263 4x TDE Streamer or equivalent,
Size: 4,6,8,10

Thread : 6/0 Uni or equivalent in Black

Tail : Black medium rubber legs

Rib: Fine gold wire

Abdomen: Peacock herl

Thorax: White chenille with palmered grizzly hackle

Legs: Black medium rubber legs

Wingcase and back : Turkey feather ---

Note: Turkey ties in better, without splits, if treated beforehand with some sort of sealant. Matte spray, head cement, Dave's Flexament etc. This is true almost anytime you use turkey.

Directions:

1. Overwrap the hook from the barb to three eye lengths back from the eye with .025 lead or equivalent

2. Tie on thread at the eye, build a small dam to stop the lead, soft wrap the lead in open turns to the back and build a small dam. Let the bobbin hang
3. Select a length of rubber leg and tie with a soft wrap. Tie in slightly firmer with a x pattern. Holding the legs in your left hand, lift the legs slightly to align them on the top of the hook shank and then tie in more firmly. The legs should flare naturally on either side of the hook. Do not trim the excess yet.
4. Tie in a section of turkey feather that is about 1/4 to 3/8 wide with the smaller tapered end first. The feather should tie in with the darker side positioned down, which allows for the darker side to be on top when you pull the feather forward.
5. Tie in a length of gold wire and move out of the way
6. Select five or six peacock herls and trim the bottom slightly. Stroke the barbs out with gentle finger strokes and tie in by the bottom as one clump. Advance the thread to the thorax and let the bobbin hang
7. Begin wrapping the herl in tight, slightly overlapping wraps. Twisting the herls will lessen the see through to the stem. Advance the wraps to the thorax and tie off. Trim the excess.
8. Take the turkey feather forward to the thorax and pull slightly to lengthen the back and secure with open and fairly soft wraps of the gold wire. Advance the gold wire to the thorax and tie in. Trim the waste and push the turkey back and out of the way. Let the bobbin hang.
9. Select a webby grizzly saddle hackle and tie in by the tip.
10. Tie in a length of white chenille (with your fingernails pull the chenille fibers of exposing an eight of an inch or so of rope to tie in with) advancing the chenille to the end of the lead wrap and tie off.
11. Palmer the grizzly forward stroking the fibers back as you advance. Tie off at the end of the chenille and trim the excess
12. Tie in two rubber legs (to make four legs) very close to the end of the chenille as before, be careful not to over tighten the wraps in as much

as it will flare the legs out and you want them angled back. Do not trim the length yet.

13. Grab the turkey feather and pull firmly to the head and secure. Trim the excess and whip finish the head.
14. Trim the back legs to about the length of the hook by holding together and making one cut. The front legs should be slightly past the thorax and trim in the same manner. If they are still bound together, separate.

Kevin's Stonefly



- Tom Adams, Tim Wilhelm

2012 Officer and Board Challenge

A member of our board, **David Hollifield**, recently challenged the RRTU officers and board. David's proposal was this:

- Catch at least one fish per month in 2012.
- "Catch" means in the net. The Jim Casada "temporary connection with another life form" does not count; some refer to this temporary connection as the "long distance release."
- The penalty for not catching at least one fish per month - a \$10 Rivercourse donation for that month.

This challenge seems to offer a win on both sides of the coin ... either we are out fishing more than usual and (hopefully) catching more fish or we miss a month and support Rivercourse.

We are looking for effective ways to report on our progress ... watch for challenge updates. If you would like to join us in this worthy pursuit, contact an officer or board member.

- Editor

RRTU on Facebook

How's your social network doing? How about your fishing network? RRTU certainly wants to help with the second question. RRTU now has a Facebook page. Search for us on Facebook under Rocky River Trout Unlimited and sign up to join us. Also, please "like" the page as this will help us to be located more easily. You will be able to post and respond on this Facebook page. You can post pictures, invitations for fishing buddies or trip results, flies that work for you, etc. This page is for your use; we hope you use it often! RRTU on Facebook is a "closed" group meaning your name is public but your information is not.

- Jim Mabrey

Stream Water Flow Data

Ever wonder about the water flow in your favorite stream? How about after a big rain? The USGS has monitoring on some NC streams. You may check on that data at this web site:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nc/nwis/rt>

Hatch Charts

Familiar with any web sites which list hatch charts we could reference here in the newsletter? If so, please share. The flyfishingnc.com site has this chart:

<http://www.flyfishingnc.com/fly-bugs/patterns/fly-hatch-chart-north-carolina-smoky-mountains>

- Editor

The all electronic RRTU newsletter

The RRTU board made a decision to move to an electronic-only newsletter format starting in 2011. Our printing and postage costs for the paper newsletter were running over \$3000 annually; we plan to put all newsletter cost savings into RRTU programs. We use an electronic mail list server for sending the monthly RRTU newsletter. If you want to receive the monthly electronic newsletter, please follow these instructions:

Using the email account with which you wish to register, send an electronic mail message addressed to:

sympa@list.nctu.org

The subject line of this email should read:

Subscribe rrtu-news firstname lastname

Example: **Subscribe rrtu-news John Citizen**

RRTU Officers and Board Members

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2nd VP: Tom Adams – 704.877.3367
Secretary: Tim Wilhelm – 704.442.1253
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Open TBA replacing Jonathan Miller (2012)
Alen Baker (2013) – 704.875.1505
David Hollifield (2013) – 704.938.8735
John Oliver (2014) – 704.467.1063
Tim Ramsey (2014) – 980.621.4562
Jim Mabrey (past president) – 704.786.034