

March 2019

Headwaters

NEWSLETTER OF THE
STANISLAUS FLY FISHERS

Stanislaus
Fly Fishers

A CHARTER CLUB
OF FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

MEMBER OF THE
NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL OF FLY
FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

2018
General Meeting

Tuesday
March 12, 2019
6:00 p.m.

New Location!

Grace Lutheran Church
617 W. Orangeburg
Modesto, CA

President's Message

Well, it looks like if you live in Sonora March came in like a lion, lets hope for fishing sakes it goes out like a lamb. I guess if you are looking for fishable water now you are looking to our foothill reservoirs.

The delta is still high and off color, our rivers are high and muddy and if you look to the open rivers in the Sierra there might be too much snow to access the water. Tough for someone needing a fishing fix but a great situation for the summer and fall fishing. This sure beats suffering through a drought winter praying for rain.

I just returned from a week in Oregon trying to fish the Rogue but like home it is high and off color. We did find some fishable water and fished some water that wasn't really fishable but when you travel to fish you are a little more determined to get a fly into the

water than usual. No, no steelhead. A couple of taps but no serious takers.

It did remind me that as I continue to mature, read that as getting older, a wading staff and a lot more caution is more important than ever. Nothing like taking one more step out into the river and wondering if you will be able to get back without going for a swim. If you are wading this time of year please think twice and use extreme caution.

This Tuesday is our March meeting and we will meet at the Buckhorn Grill at Vintage Fair Mall. This is a no host dinner meeting and we are encouraging all to attend and to bring your significant other. We will meet there at 6:00pm and share fishing stories, secret spot locations and plans for fishing when the waters improve. if you haven't tried this restaurant yet this is a good excuse to give it try. Come on down and join us there.

Stanislaus Fly Fishers Membership Information

Membership dues are \$40 per year for members.

Members must also join Fly Fishers International. Dues for the IFF vary, but do not exceed \$35 for a single, one-year membership.

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Club News

March Program: Family Night @The Buckhorn Grill



This month's meeting will be a family meeting at The Buckhorn Grill, located in front area of the Vintage Faire Mall complex. As usual the meeting time is 6:00. Come with family for a meal and/or beverages and an evening of good conversation. We're trying to have a family night meeting once a quarter and hope to see a good turnout.

We're nearing the date for annual Fly Fishing Film Tour fundraiser for Rives of Recovery. This is the eleventh year of the 3FT showing in Modesto and (I believe) our tenth year of helping coordinate the event. Past President Derald Lahti can correct me if I'm wrong. More than \$750,000 has been raised over the past ten years to sponsor the the outdoor recreational rehabilitative therapy program for combat disabled veterans.

We are soliciting prizes for the raffle, so if you or someone you know wants to donate, please contact [Michael Hewitt](#) or [Jim Bowen](#). donations of all types are welcomed: gift cards/certificates from stores or restaurants, gift baskets, fishing or outdoor gear, handcrafts, event tickets, artwork ... just about anything you could think of.

**Fly Fishing Film Festival - April 18, 2019 - \$10 Admission
Veterans, First Responders and Students admitted free**

Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2019 Board of Directors

President – Jim Bowen
Vice-President – Pat Roe
Treasurer – Dennis Stambaugh
Secretary – Michael Hewitt
Membership – Dennis
Stambaugh
Conservation – Open
Raffles – Jim Goodwin
Webmaster – Mike Hewitt
At-Large – Bud Heintz

*Board Meetings are held
on the fourth Tuesday of the
month at 5:00 p.m. at Me & Ed's
Pizza on Pelandale Ave. in
Modesto. All members are
welcome to attend.*

Club News (cont.)

Raffle News

SMALL RAFFLE

When held, the small item raffle is \$5 per ticket or 3/\$10 and only for members in attendance the night of the meeting. The items will be on display and the raffle tickets sold prior to the meeting. The raffle will be held at the end of the meeting time.

LARGE RAFFLE (52 Playing Cards + 2 Jokers)

There is no current large raffle.



Membership Information

Membership Dues (\$40) for 2019 were due January 1st. For your convenience, we can now accept a credit card for your dues, but there will be an additional fee of \$1.00 to cover the cost of the transaction.

All memberships are “Family Membership” status. Spouses, significant others and children are now all included in every membership.

Reminder: These are the club dues and DO NOT include FFI dues. FFI dues are paid directly to the FFI and must be maintained regularly since the SFF is an FFI Charter Club. If you are not an FFI Life Member, or do not pay for three years at a time, **you must renew your membership yearly!** Also, remember to list the Stanislaus Fly Fishers as your **Affiliated Club**. This is important due to our Charter Club status. The online application for FFI membership is linked below.

Upcoming Outings and Events

GENERAL MEETING - Tuesday, March 12 6:00 p.m. @ Buckhorn Grill

BOARD MEETING - Tuesday, March 26 5:00 p.m. @ Me & Ed's Pizza

PYRAMID LAKE OUTING - Thursday/Friday, April 4-5

FLY FISHING FILM TOUR - Thursday, April 18 5:15 @ State Theater

Tundra Comics

MY FATHER HAD A SAYING: "GIVE A MAN A FISH AND HE'LL EAT FOR A DAY; TEACH A MAN TO FISH AND HE'LL SPEND ALL HIS MONEY ON TACKLE HE DOESN'T NEED, PASS ALL HIS TIME SOMEWHERE OUT ON THE WATER AND EVENTUALLY END UP DIVORCED."



Conservation Notes

Don Pedro Dam Re-Licensing Meetings

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has issued the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the re-licensing of the Don Pedro and La Grange Dam. The document lays out the conditions (flow, non-flow measures, and improvements to recreation) that the Projects will be re-licensed under.

There are a couple of opportunities to comment on the Draft EIS. The first is in person on March 26th at the DoubleTree Hotel in Modesto from 1-4pm and 7-9pm. The second is to comment online by April 12th at the [FERC website](#). You must reference Project No. 2299-08 and Project No. 14581-002. The Draft EIS can be found at the FERC website shown above. The document is 794 pages long so it will be quite a job to wade through it to find a section you might want to comment on. There are sections that show what flows are proposed for the different types of water year (wet, dry, normal, critical) and what non-flow measures will be taken to improve habitat and for predator suppression. A general comment on re-licensing and conditions can be made without referencing any specific section.

Fisheries Fund Grantee: Save Montana's Smith

March 6, 2019 By: Erin Block @ midcurrent.com

Montana's Smith River is one of the most iconic and breathtaking waterways in the nation. 59 inaccessible river miles from the Camp Baker put-in at the Sheep's Creek confluence to Eden Bridge, the 5-day float is considered a bucket-list item by many. But for tens of thousands of Montanans, the Smith, in all its rugged and pristine wildness, affords a quality of life and livelihood that they've known for generations – a quality of life and livelihood that is currently under threat of being erased by the proposed development of a copper mine in Sheep Creek, the Smith's headwaters.

AFFTA has long stood with Montana residents and many conservation groups opposed to mining for copper in Sheep Creek – and we are proud to continue our support by awarding a Fisheries Fund grant to one of the front-line organizations, Montana Trout Unlimited, for their Save Montana's Smith Riverawareness and education efforts.

Key project objectives include:

- Educating the public (in Montana and nationally) about the threats posed to the storied Smith River by a copper mine proposed in its headwaters, including risks to water quality, stream flows and fisheries.
- Increasing national awareness with anglers and other Smith River recreationists about threats to the river.

- Working closely with guides, outfitters, and representatives from the outdoor industry to engage them in the fight and keep them updated on the needs and progress.

“Montanans want to protect the Smith River’s wealth of sustainable virtues — recreation, angling, scenic beauty, cultural treasures, and outdoor economy,” says David Brooks, Executive Director of Montana Trout Unlimited, “rather than allow a foreign mining company to risk those values and our grandchildren’s legacy for short-term profit.”

“Supporting the tireless work that Montana TU is putting into protecting the Smith goes right to the heart of the Fisheries Fund mission,” adds Tom Melvin, Chair of the Fisheries Fund committee, “and right to the heart of every fly angler who understands the importance of standing up for their own home water. We’re proud to help that work continue.”

Learn more about the campaign and how you can get involved by visiting smithriverwatch.org today.

Suggested Reading

- [“Don’t Recast Your Fly Until It’s Had A Chance”](#) *Gink & Gasoline*
- [“US Regulators Clear Path For Genetically Modified Salmon”](#) *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*
- [“Major fish recovery project in NE Washington and Idaho gives boost to cutthroat and bull trout”](#) *The Spokesman-Review*
- [“Summary of Pacific salmon outlook units for 2019”](#) *Fisheries and Oceans Canada*
- [“Fishermen’s group calls Corps’ analysis of potential tailings dam failure at Pebble ‘woefully inadequate’”](#) *Anchorage Daily News*
- [“How to Match the Hatch by Observing Flight Patterns”](#) *Orvis*

Recommended Videos

- [“A Moral Steelhead Story”](#) *Vimeo*
- [“Steelhead - The beginning”](#) *Vimeo*
- [“A River of Memories”](#) *Vimeo*
- [“How to Hold Your Line Hand During a Case”](#) *Orvis*
- [“The Basics of Trout Identification”](#) *Orvis*