

June 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

**2019**  
**General Meeting**

**Tuesday,**  
**June 11, 2019**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**June Location!**

The Twisted Pig  
2717 Coffee Rd.  
Modesto, CA



## *President's Message*

I just heard that the Sierra snowpack is 202% of normal for this time of year. If your plans include stream or river fishing then plan to fish the edges and use extreme caution if you're wading.

That brings me to wondering how you check water levels prior to going out for the days fishing. There are apps for everything today so I suppose you look to one for water levels. What apps do you find useful as a fisherman?

I like "Fishhead" for general weather, sun and moon rise and set as well as moon phase. What I really use this app for is tides when striper fishing the delta. It's also good for river levels. Who wants to travel to a steelhead river that's blown out.

Another important app is "Windfinder". Also good info when deciding whether or not to go out to the delta.

While not an app "Dreamflows" is a great website for various river gauges to dial in the flows more specifically for your "secret" spot.

Finally, I like "Accuweather" when planning a trip. However this app isn't as "accu" as I wish it was. If this ones says it's going to be warm you'd better carry a jacket and conversely if it predicts cold carry shorts!

Well, those are some apps I find useful so come to the no host dinner/club meeting this Tuesday at 6:00pm at The Twisted Pig and share the apps or websites you find useful. We have the long table on the patio reserved so see you there.

- Jim

# 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

### June 11, 2019 Meeting: *"Family Night @ The Twisted Pig"*



Tomorrow's meeting will be held at The Twisted Pig, 2717 Coffee Rd. Modesto (about half way between Floyd and Rumble). We'll be on the outside patio. Come enjoy the family fellowship, and excellent food and beverages, and share some good times before we take our annual summer break. There will not be a formal meeting in July; however, there may be an informal get together held somewhere near water. Details will emerge as/if they develop.

Normal monthly meetings will resume in August. President Jim Bowen is currently trying to reschedule the visit of Clay Hash from the Northern California Council of FFI.

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*"Soon after I embraced the sport of angling I became convinced that I should never be able to enjoy it if I had to rely on the cooperation of the fish."*

*-Sparse Grey Hackle*

## 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** **Membership Informa0on**

#### **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.

FFI Membership [Application](#)

## Upcoming Outings and Events

**Little Truckee Outing** - TBA, October 2019

**Salmon Festival** - Knight's Ferry, CA November 9, 2019 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Holiday Dinner** - TBA, December 10, 2019 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show** - February 21-23, 2019

**Pyramid Lake Outing** - TBA, April 2020

## Tundra Comics



## Conservation Notes

*Reprinted from the California WaterBlog*

<https://californiawaterblog.com/2019/05/12/some-innocent-questions-on-california-water-part-i/>

### **Some common questions on California water (Part I)**

Posted on May 12, 2019 by [Jay Lund](#)

People are interested in California water problems, and they ask reasonable questions. Here is a first installment of short science-based answers to some reasonable questions often heard at public and private discussions of water in California. (Longer answers are possible, of course.)

#### **1. Why doesn't California just build desalination plants to end water shortages and leave more water in streams for the environment?**

Desalting ocean water is expensive, about \$2,000-\$3,000/acre-ft. This cost is too high to be economical for almost any crop in California. This cost is also over \$1,000/acre-ft more than other sources available to California's cities (including wastewater reuse, conservation, and buying water from farmers). Providing only 20% of California's urban water use by desalinating sea water (1.4 maf/year) would cost households at least \$3.5 billion/year (about \$300/household per year). The environment would benefit more from other expenditures of such money.

<https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/california-touts-desalination-but-take-it-with-a-grain-of-salt>

#### **2. How much water do we lose from evaporation? Wouldn't reducing evaporation from reservoirs be cheaper than building new reservoirs?**

Evaporation is the second largest flow of water in California, following precipitation. Average California precipitation is roughly 200 million acre-ft/year, with roughly 70 maf/year of river runoff, meaning that most precipitation (~130 maf/yr) evaporates quickly back to the atmosphere. Additional evaporation of runoff occurs from agricultural fields, reservoirs, and urban landscapes (evapotranspiration is roughly 26 maf/yr from crops, 2 maf/yr from cities, and 2 maf/yr from reservoirs and canals). Evaporation in all its forms is most of the water that falls on California.

Retaining and reducing evaporation is usually difficult, because it is so widely distributed and driven by the sun, which we all enjoy in California. Farmers often manage irrigation to reduce unproductive evaporation from bare soil. Water system operators sometimes shift water among reservoirs to reduce evaporation. Since the 1950s, researchers have experimented with adding covers and thin layers of floating chemicals to reduce evaporation from reservoirs, but these are rarely economical or environmentally friendly.

<https://water.ca.gov/Library/Modeling-and-Analysis/Statewide-models-and-tools/Economic-Modeling-and-Analysis-Tools>

### **3. If we are short of water, why don't we just build new reservoirs?**

Just as a refrigerator stores food, but does not make it, reservoirs don't make water, but only shift it in time. For reservoirs to supply water, they must first fill with water from an earlier wetter time. Even the largest reservoir cannot reliably supply more than its river's average annual inflow.

Reservoirs are important and attractive because of California's seasonally variable streamflows and wet and dry years. They can reliably store water from California's wet winters for the following dry summer, because modest amounts of storage can refill every year. Larger reservoirs become less efficient for storing water from wetter years for dry years, when a reservoir might need several years (or longer) to refill. Large reservoirs for over-year drought storage often refill infrequently, but re-paying for their construction occurs every year.

Increasingly large reservoirs become more expensive and refill less frequently, providing less water per unit of storage expansion and cost. The additional water supplied from larger reservoirs can become very expensive. In addition to these limitations of physics and economics, environmental objections and concerns often arise for new and expanded reservoirs.

<https://californiawaterblog.com/2011/09/13/water-storage-in-california-2/>

### **4. On California's coast, why don't we gather fog water?**

California's coast is often foggy and some of its coastal ecosystems receive a sizable share of their water from summer fog. But for humans, the costs of gathering fog water will almost always greatly exceed the costs of alternative water sources or the value of the water use they would supply.

<https://californiawaterblog.com/2015/01/26/demystifying-mist-as-a-source-of-water-supply/>

### **5. Why doesn't California import water from the Pacific Northwest, the Great Lakes, or the Mississippi River? They seem to have extra water.**

The Pacific Northwest, Great Lakes, and Mississippi River all have relatively abundant water supplies. These water sources also are all far from California, with mountain ranges in between. Constructing and operating aqueducts, tankers, or railcars to move water great distances is expensive, and moving water (which is heavy) over mountains is very energy-intensive. The cost of moving water these great distances typically exceeds the value of the additional water uses in California (Perrier and Fuji water might be exceptions). Environmental, political, and legal opposition also would likely be barriers to California importing large amounts of water.

### **Some Larger lessons**

Some broader lessons arise from this first set of common questions on California water. First, there are many ways to get water in California, which vary tremendously in cost, availability,

environmental impact, and practicality. Second, because so many potential water sources are available in California, it is sometimes said, “There is rarely a shortage of water, but more often a shortage of cheap water.” California is often a dry place, and the relative costs and benefits of different water supplies and demands typically drive the use, rejection, and research for water management options.

*Jay R. Lund is Director, Center for Watershed Sciences and a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California – Davis*

## Suggested Reading

- [“Some common questions on California water” \(Part II\)](#)
- [“Fly Fishing Gear for Small Streams”](#)
- [“Swinging Streamers for Trout in Deep Water”](#)
- [“How to Get New Fly Line for \\$5, or Pretty Close”](#)
- [“Indiana salmon hatchery to raise nation's first genetically modified animal cleared for human consumption”](#)

## Video Links

- [“Iskanapi: Trailer”](#)
- [“Bikepacking the Colorado Trail and Flyfishing Salida!”](#)
- [“How to Perfect Your Forward Cast”](#)
- [“Rising From the Shadows - the Return of the Cutthroat”](#)
- [“Mayfly with Santa and Henry”](#)