

February 2020

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**

Holiday Meeting

**Tuesday,
February 11, 2020**

6:00 p.m.

Usual Location!

Grace Lutheran Church
617 W Orangeburg Ave,
Modesto, CA 95350

President's Message

I'm still on the south coast of Oregon chasing steelhead. We have been fishing hard, but have yet to find a willing candidate. Never fear because Tom, my lifelong fishing buddy, and I have discovered a new gravel bar that we will fish on Monday.

It's way down a steep bank but we've seen ropes strung along the path and we're betting we can make it down to the bar to fish it. The real question is can we make it back up. If you see me at the March meeting you'll know I made it.

Pat Roe, our club VP, will be hosting the February meeting which will be another fly tying meeting. Come to the meeting with your tying gear and questions, and share your fishing stories and your ideas for outings we can plan for

the year. We need to know what kind of activities we need to plan to keep you interested in the club.

We have the Pyramid outing on the books, but what next? Let us know, give us ideas, offer to "Fish Meister" an outing.

By the way, it's club election time. Please let us know what office you are thinking of standing for. We will take nominations and vote for new officers at this meeting. Can't wait to seat the new officers.

Please pay your club dues promptly and remember to pay your Fly Fishers International dues if you haven't done so already.

Got to go. I have to get my gear tuned up and ready to fish on Monday. See you all soon.

Tight Lines, 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

Monthly Meeting:

Lying and Tying with Pat and Bud

Featuring Pat Roe and Bud Heinz

The February meeting will feature another fly tying night. This month they will feature the elk hair caddis. Bring your tying stuff. They will have most materials if members don't have their own. Sizes are 12s, 14s, or 16s. Please bring any questions about any fly tying problem or presentation/fishing problem and we'll try and help.

Members can also come and sign up for the Pyramid trip as well.

Invented by Al Troth, the elk hair caddis has over the years proved to be an un-paralleled fish catcher. In the tradition of all great flies its "why didn't I think of that" quality has reinforced its reputation and resulted in a continual presence on practically every trout bearing water in the world.

Primarily thought of as a skater, it's the perfect fly for imitating both the newly emerged caddis flies' maiden voyage (take off) and the skittering female dropping her payload of eggs under the evening sky.



Time

Friday: 10am – 6pm
Saturday: 9am – 5:30pm
Sunday: 9am – 4:30pm

Location

Alameda County Fairgrounds
4501 Pleasanton Avenue
Pleasanton, CA, 94566

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.

FFI Membership [Application](#)

Upcoming Outings and Events

Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show - February 21-23, 2020

Pyramid Lake Outing - April 2-5 2020 (2nd-3rd are guided)

Rivers of Recovery/3FT Fundraiser – *Tentative date* April 30, 2020.

Conservation Notes

*Sunday, February 9, 2020 News Release from **Restore the Delta**.*

Delta Flows: The Trump-Newsom, Newsom-Trump Water Plan for the Delta

By Executive Director, Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla

One of Restore the Delta's primary functions has been to rally people to advocate for comprehensive policies that would be protective of water quality and quantity for the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary.

For years, meeting that objective included fighting the Schwarzenegger and Brown Administrations' various conveyance projects ending with the twin tunnels.

A Moment of Hope and Collaboration

During the last year, with a brief respite in tunnel planning, we were able to begin working on plans for greater overall environmental protections for the region. We created a comprehensive analysis of the flood threat to the Delta and made sound, researched recommendations to the Newsom Administration about next steps for dealing with climate change impacts manifesting in the Delta. Part of this effort included documenting the problems with Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the Delta – and making the connections to how this water quality challenge leads to air quality problems and numerous public health problems.

We have also tracked the dangers of the Trump water plan for the Delta and have spoken out when President Trump's directives, carried out by Department of Interior Secretary Bernhardt on behalf of Westlands Water District, have weakened overall protections of Delta water quality and species.

Trump Intervenes

The Trump Administration's involvement in California water has emboldened the State Water Contractors to go for broke in grabbing all the water they can through their Long Term Operations plan. The State Water Contractors' General Manager even went so far as to say that they had to fight SB1, a species protections law primarily helpful to the Delta, because the Trump water plan had to be preserved. Yet, too many on our side sat on the

sidelines during the fight with Governor Newsom over SB1, where the Newsom Administration began to unravel protections for the Delta. Devotion to Trump's plans for overall environmental deregulation caused a blindness in some to the Delta's needs, even though species protections in the Delta result in better water quality for all beneficial uses.

Sadly, as we had anticipated, killing SB1 is where Governor Newsom began to move the goalposts for Delta protections, and since that time he has championed a revision of state policies aimed at greater Delta water exports, all bound up in junk science created by the Trump Administration. We are proud at Restore the Delta that we consistently fight bad Delta policies and for a healthy estuary and community. We will not give an inch on water quality protections because both the Trump and Newsom administrations will then take a metaphoric mile of water for the agricultural special interests who fund political futures.

Water Buffalos Return to Battle

In 2019, Westlands Water District has approved a CEQA exemption for itself to execute a permanent water delivery contract of up to 1.1 million acre-feet of water – even though such volumes of water will not be available in the majority of years. Such a contract will help Westlands transform themselves into a water broker agency as they are forced to retire drainage impaired land out of physical necessity.

In addition, Westside growers have a two-year experimental period in which to discharge more selenium into the San Joaquin River, landing in the SF Bay-Delta estuary. Westlands is also forming a new JPA with the San Luis Water District to hide how they are going back into the bond market for \$200,000,000, to finance its drainage settlement with the Federal government. How will Westlands meet the debt load in the third and fourth year of drought? Probably like they did with financing from the Federal government in another three-card monte scheme for twin tunnels financing that ended up with Westlands employees paying large SEC fines several years ago.

The Newsom Administration is now offering a series of “voluntary agreements” with inadequate Delta flows for fisheries and healthy waterways. Westlands' threats to walk from negotiations seems to have worked on the Governor as he has yet to file a promised lawsuit against the Trump administration over bogus science in the new Delta fish biological opinion.

Climate Reality Lacking in California Water Planning

The state's new Fourth Climate Change Assessment found that accelerated permafrost melting will not only increase sea level rise, but the melting will increase droughts and major storm events throughout the Pacific Coast states. The Newsom Administration has created an inadequate Water Resilience Portfolio that ignores his administration's own climate change assessment and related impacts on water supply. He has announced planning for a mega-single-tunnel project that will only be built to a two-hundred-year flood standard, that cannot be operated during floods. We surmise from the State Water Contract Long Term Operations Plan that pumping limits will be abused during dry periods because bond debt repayment will have to be made somehow.

To add insult to injury, there is no funding presently in the budget for the levee subvention program (state match to local funding for levee maintenance and improvement).

We listened to recent Newsom Administration promises of increased outflow during dry water years, when in truth, they are tying flow numbers to the rollbacked standard of the Trump water plan. DWR leadership now admits that they worked with the Trump Administration to create “the science” of operational standards for the Federal and then State water pumping rules. They are loosening the standards now with a 15-year regulatory rubric, that still needs major buy-in across the state, so that the rules can be rewritten at the end of the contract around the time tunnel construction is completed. Of course, adaptive management means, they will build the tunnel first and figure out how to operate it later, claiming climate change as the basis for future decision making, while ignoring the best available science on climate change in the present.

Was Collaboration just PR?

At Restore the Delta, we feel whiplashed. We kept our word to work with the administration by writing reports, attending meetings, and making solid, fact-based recommendations through numerous processes. The Newsom Administrations claims great pride in working with Delta communities, but seems to pat stakeholders on the head, without addressing and RESOLVING concerns or ACTING on Delta recommendations made by us, elected officials, or other environmental groups – like completing a solid water inventory before moving forward with planning a tunnel – or creating a loading order for regional water projects and then determining if a tunnel is needed and at what size – or increasing flows through the Delta and into the Bay to restore water quality and protect species which the best available science deems as necessary.

We have not continued with the old binaries as Governor Newsom claims as an excuse to dismiss opposing concerns. We offered a rubric for sound analysis to get to the best outcome for all. But instead, Governor Newsom claimed at the PPIC conference that water deliveries have to be made available to protect jobs in the San Joaquin Valley, even though industrial agriculture has never lifted a San Joaquin Valley community from poverty, and available jobs continue to decrease with agricultural mechanization.

The Governor has not met with the Delta environmental justice community. But he poses for photos with Westlands farmer John Harris, who has been instrumental in crafting bad Delta water policies with Senator Feinstein and the Trump Administration. Governor Newsom remains silent about the Westlands contract -- a corrupt Federal taxpayer giveaway – that will result in San Joaquin Valley farm towns paying even higher rates for polluted drinking water for bond repayments. His administration is pushing forward a voluntary agreement that will bring State Water Project operations in alignment with a bad federal standard, and they are wrapping it up in a feel-good green bow of faux environmentalism and the rhetoric of concern. He will have participating parties without having impacted parties from the Delta in the room for negotiations.

Time for a New Game Plan

“A fish rots from the head,” wrote Shakespeare; something we know literally and politically all too well in the Delta. The Trump-Newsom, Newsom-Trump water plan will leave California unprepared for our climate future. There is no “resistance” in California political leadership in regard to the Trump administration when it comes to fighting for a

solid water policy that will best serve all Californians. The Newsom administration will work in drips and drabs when it is politically expedient to appear as resisting a bad Trump administration water idea.

But there is resistance in the Delta and other communities throughout the state. We will not go quietly. We will fight the Governor's status quo water plan – a plan that has been recirculated every five years by every governor for the last 40 years – until he gets it right by bringing supply and demand into balance in a way that is equitable for the majority of the state, and not just special interests. To end the old binaries, the Delta must be protected while improving regional water supplies. That means protection of water quality for the Delta's people.

Seeing that the Newsom Administration refuses to consider this balancing, to complete a needs assessment of its own water plans and projects, to prioritize regional plans before considering a tunnel, to evaluate public health and safety needs for Delta people, then "No Tunnel!" is the only response this region can offer. And remember as we send out new signs and bumper stickers in the weeks to come, we were the party that sought true collaboration.

We did the work, and we attempted to meet Governor Newsom halfway. He didn't keep his word to the Delta.

Suggested Reading

- [Small Stream Casting](#)
- [Putting your rod tip in the water can be a game changer](#)
- [Friends of the River: Point Positive](#)
- [Book Review: Fly Fishing Treasures](#)
- [Safety Tips For Fly Fishers](#)

Video Links

- [H.R. 5598 Boundary Waters Hearing](#)
- [Wyoming Trout | North Platte River](#)
- [Resilient Waters - A 5 Rivers Odyssey Story](#)
- [Everyone Can Find A Community in Fly Fishing](#)
- [Travels with Charlie](#)



 **COSTA**

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SIMMS



2020 FLY FISHING FILM TOUR



April 30, 2019
The State Theater
1307 J Street Modesto, CA
(209) 527-4697
All Proceeds Benefit
Rivers of Recovery



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