

JULY 2020
Special Quarantine Edition

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

General Meeting

No Meeting in July

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

President's Message

I hope everyone is weathering the virus well. Looks like good hygiene, face masks, and social distancing are still rules to live by. It's tough to see the numbers on the rise again. Please take social distancing seriously and avoid crowds. With that said, it will be awhile before we have a club meeting.

On a more pleasant note, it sounds like several members have been out wetting a line. Pat is just home from Montana so we need to see a report from him. Mike is just back from Wildhorse Reservoir in Nevada, and I'll bet he had some good times to share with us. I've been out a little. I've fished a little over near Lake Almanor.

I've fished a little near our place here in Calpine, and I've included a report on a very recent trip to Fall River. If you have been out, please post a report on our Facebook page.

It looks like Davis Lake and Frenchman's Lake are warming up, and for survival of the fish, maybe fly fishing is over until fall. That leaves high elevation lakes and almost all of our rivers wide open. Is that all?! The hardest part of this time of year is deciding where to go. So many choices, so little time. Get out there!

In these trying times fishing will help you maintain your sanity. It's easy to practice social distancing and the fresh air and scenery will renew you. 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.



Like us on Facebook 

We're on the Web!



Club News

As you all know, the Stanislaus Fly Fishers is a charter member of Fly Fishers International. Our affiliation with them provides us with an affordable insurance policy to protect the club and its board members. This includes providing the insurance riders we need to provide to the church for our meeting location and The State Theater for our Fly Fishing Film Tour event, as well as any other event we may have need for in the future. Being a charter club means that we have to have 100% individual membership in FFI to maintain our status. There are also other benefits that FFI provides that members might want to be aware of.

FFI has recently upgraded their online presence by offering a series of webinars. Past webinars have included reports on the FFI and its direction in the future, fly tying instruction and tips, casting instruction, conservation topics, and fly fishing around the world, with more upcoming fly tying and casting instruction programs scheduled on a regular basis. For a list of past webinars and a calendar of future offerings, you can check them out [here](#).

For FFI's main page, you can check it out [here](#) and find links to other important information about the organization as well, including Covid-19 & safety guidance for clubs, and a report of a dam removal project.

As Jim mentioned in his President's Message, I just returned from a week at Wildhorse Reservoir, which is located about 60 miles north of Elko, Nevada. I first fished this lake in 1995 and have only missed fishing there five years since then. My friends I go with have actually been going there for almost 40 years. I have to confess that I did not fly fish the lake this time, but there were several fly fishers who were doing quite well. As Bob Fujimura mentioned in his report on the same water in our last newsletter, balanced leeches and midge nymphs seemed to be the hot ticket. I saw several fish caught in the 19"-22" range. If I could still float tube or scramble around the shore, I definitely would have been fly fishing. The lake was full as could be and the weather was mild for most of the week.

All in all it was a great trip, and I look forward to next year. On a side note, we made a trip over Maggie Summit to Wilson Lake where the guys threw a few lures. (Continued next page)

Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2020 Board of Directors

President – Jim Bowen
Vice-President – Pat Roe
Treasurer/Membership –
Dennis Stambaugh
Secretary/Webmaster –
Michael Hewitt
Outings – Bob Bullock
Raffles – Jim Goodwin
Webmaster – Mike Hewitt
At-Large – Bud Heintz
At-Large – Jeff Bakker

*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.)*

We didn't stay long, but on our way out we talked to a gentleman that had been fly fishing from a pram who had been having good luck dragging a wooly bugger. I think it would be a nice lake to add to a list of places to fish. A local bar owner we talked to also said fishing below the dam could be very productive as well.
– Mike

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.

Pat's Fly Box – Stimulator



This month's fly is the Stimulator. This fly is a great searching pattern and really attracts fish. It does have somewhat of an interesting story in the question of the inventor. Credit has been given to Randall Kaufmann as is the Sofa Pillow. However, past member and owner of Campfire Lodge, Montana Jim Slattery is the real developer of the Stimulator pattern. Please read the link provided for more history on the fly and tying instructions. There are also many videos online of many variations that you can choose to tie, and I encourage you to try one if you don't know how to tie it already. Member Bud Heintz taught me how to tie it, and he is a great local resource for us. Reach out to him if you can.

I first saw the Stimulator in a magazine article many years ago, before I actually saw the real pattern, where the fisher had had a forty-fish day. It looked like the fly in the second picture. I told a friend at work that looked easy enough to tie. So I whipped some up. At some point I saw the real pattern before I embarrassed myself at the fly shop and figured I better get some help. (*Continued [here](#)*)

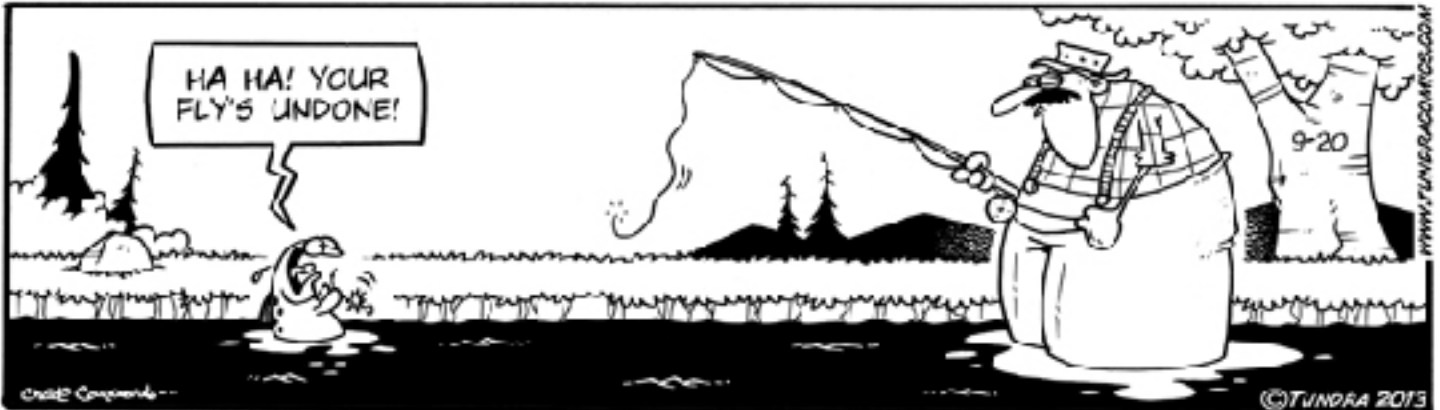


Upcoming Outings and Events

Rivers of Recovery/3FT Fundraiser – *Rescheduled*, September 10, 2020.

Salmon Festival @ Knight's Ferry – *Tentatively scheduled*, November 14, 2020

Tundra Comics



Membership Information

Membership Dues (\$40) for 2020 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.

Conservation Notes

Recovering Lost Leviathans: Pyramid Lake Lahontan Cutthroat

FishBio - June 15, 2020

Renowned for its imposing size, the Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkia henshawi*) is the stuff of fish legend. Anglers from around the world travel to Nevada's Pyramid Lake in hopes of hooking one of these lacustrine leviathans, which can reach lengths of nearly three feet. While these remarkable giants have been only a distant memory in most of their range, recently, fish carrying the ancestral genes of Pyramid Lake Lahontan cutthroat trout migrated to the waters of the Truckee River in 2014 to spawn for the first time in 80 years. The return of these fish to the Truckee, which has continued each year since, represents the culmination of years of conservation efforts by local, state, and federal agencies, as well as the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. [*More ...*](#)

Truckee River fish passage to help Lahontan cutthroat

US Fish & Wildlife Service - June 2, 2017

If Lahontan cutthroat trout are to one day migrate barrier-free along the full length of its historic 120-mile range between Nevada's Pyramid Lake and Lake Tahoe, California, fish passage must first be improved. Four 100-year-old dams on the Truckee River stand in the way.

The Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex is working alongside the Truckee Meadows Water Authority to remediate structures managed or co-managed by the water company as part of the Truckee River Fish Passage Improvement Project, with the first phase of construction slated to begin in the fall of 2018. [*More ...*](#)

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Monitoring At Summit Lake

FishBio - June 19, 2017

Nevada's Summit Lake is home to one of the last self-sustaining populations of Lahontan cutthroat trout. Since 2011, FISHBIO has provided technical assistance for the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe's fisheries monitoring program for Lahontan cutthroat trout. This includes the installation of a Vaki Riverwatcher automated fish counter to monitor the migration of spawning trout from Summit Lake to Mahogany Creek, and ground-truthing the Riverwatcher's data with the tribe's fish trapping program. In an effort to count juvenile Lahontan cutthroat trout migrating from Mahogany Creek to Summit Lake, FISHBIO and the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe designed, fabricated, and tested a prototype underwater video smolt counter known as the Smolt Spy. The Smolt Spy is equipped with motion detection software to only record video when fish are passing near the camera. The Riverwatcher, Smolt Spy, and a PIT tag antenna constitute the tribe's fisheries monitoring system. In 2016, FISHBIO produced an outreach film for the tribe called "Fish of the People: Lahontan Cutthroat Trout at Summit Lake." [*More ...*](#)

Video Links (Click on title for link)

Taming Elk Hair: A Stimulating Experience

Fly Fishers International Online- "Fly Tying With Jerry Coviello"

Jerry Coviello, the head of FFI's Fly Tying Group, offers his expertise and insights into dealing with elk and deer hair, including what to look for when acquiring hair. Part of a series of presentations from FFI that are available online, both live and archived for later viewing at your leisure.

Conservation Conversation with Dave Peterson

Fly Fishers International Online

Dave's special guest is Dr. Richard Williams, a fisheries ecologist focusing on the conservation of native steelhead, redband, and cutthroat trout in western North America. Dr. Williams will discuss the Columbia River and the Pacific Northwest Salmon and Steelhead Recovery.

Orvis Guide to Fly Fishing Hatches

Orvis - June 6, 2020

This fascinating video explores the details of insect hatches and their importance to trout as a source of food. The four key hatches Tom Rosenbauer discusses are: Mayflies, Caddis, Midges and Stoneflies. Choosing the right fly, leader setups, presentation techniques and much more are covered by this educational video. It also includes incredibly detailed animations, underwater video and simple-to-understand information. This video is a must-watch for any fly fisher!

The Last Cast

PMD Productions - March 18, 2020

Climate change represents a major threat to cold water fisheries and rivers around the United States. It's time for anglers around the nation to take collective action to protect the health of our streams and rivers for future generations. Check out @Montana Wildlife Federation and @Montana Trout Unlimited's new film, The Last Cast, and take action today!

Hunting for Culvert Kraken

Dinksonly - June 12, 2020

Two young fly fishermen prove that fish are where you find them as they mine Montana drainage ditches for trophy browns with impressive results. This is just one of several videos on their YouTube channel.

Pat's Fly Box (Continued)

Once I figured it out, I was pretty proud of how it turned out and once you get use to it, you'll see how relatively easy it is. Well, as long as the deer or elk hair and hackle cooperate. Bud taught me to add crystal flash into the wing and helped me with some really good hackle and hair.

I had a phenomenal evening once at lake in Wyoming fishing just outside the reeds in knee-deep water. One grab after another. You can have the same success in our California lakes as well. Try tying a zebra midge six or eight inches off the bend of the hook.

I also talked to a friend who just recently came back from a trip to Oregon and had the same exciting experience with fish cruising near shore and grabbing the fly.

I hope you are able to get out there and wet a line. Jean and I are in the middle of a trip to Idaho and Montana at the time of this newsletter post, and I'm hoping the Stimie's are working their magic.

Cheers,
Pat

Yellow Stimulator

Hook: Daiichi 1260, sizes 4-16.
Thread: Red, UTC 140 denier.
Tail: Deer or elk hair tips.
Rib: Copper wire.
Body: Yellow dry-fly dubbing.
Body hackle: Brown dry-fly saddle.
Wing: Deer or elk hair.
Head hackle: Grizzly dry-fly saddle.
Head: Hot orange Ice Dubbing.

Video instructions [here](#)

The **Fly Fishing Film Tour** fundraiser benefit for **Rivers of Recovery** has been postponed. The committee has rescheduled the date to **September 10, 2020**. Hopefully, everything will have settled down by then and we'll all be glad to have a night out and a chance to support our veterans.



The poster features logos for COSTA, YETI, and SIMMS at the top. The main text reads 'RESCHEDULED! - 2020 - FLY FISHING FILM TOUR'. The event is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020, at THE STATE THEATER, 1307 J Street, Modesto, CA. The poster also states that all proceeds benefit Rivers of Recovery and support recreational rehabilitation of combat disabled veterans. Ticket prices are \$10, with free admission for veterans, first responders, and students. The background of the poster shows a silhouette of a person fishing in a circular frame, with a large fly and a fish visible.

COSTA YETI SIMMS

RESCHEDULED! - 2020 -

FLY FISHING FILM TOUR

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020
THE STATE THEATER
1307 J Street, Modesto, CA
Doors 5:15 pm Film 6:30 pm

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT RIVERS OF RECOVERY AND SUPPORT RECREATIONAL REHABILITATION OF COMBAT DISABLED VETERANS

Tickets \$10
Veterans, First Responders & Students Free!

Fishing Report by Jim Bowen

I am very happy to report that I've just crossed another river off the list of rivers I've always wanted to fish. I was invited to fish the Fall River with a friend and a few guys from his fly club. We lodged at the Circle 7 Ranch just outside of Fall River Mills. The ranch has five guest houses and is right on the river. Part of the deal was a boat with an electric start outboard with a trolling motor as well. The boat Dale and I shared was a 14-ft. Jon boat.

The house provided very good lodging. There were eleven beds available, but we were a crew of six. The kitchen was satisfactory, but maybe a tad small. The dining room was very nice and seated ten. There are huge cottonwood and aspen trees to shade the yard in the afternoon. A dock is immediately behind the house with our boats tied up and ready. The ranch handyman charges batteries and tops off gas every evening.



The very best part of the trip was that the fishing was on fire. I indicator fished a little and caught a few fish, but the productive method was stripping. We were using 6wt. rods with a 6wt type 7 full sink line. Our leaders were 4X and 10 to 12 feet long. The fly choice was a size 12 leech pattern in olive or black. Dale did very well with a #12 woolly bugger in Jay Fair short-shank black. We would cast down stream and then retrieve at different speeds and hook fish all day long.

The fishing is by boat only. All land along the river is private property with plenty of no trespassing signs. We rented boats from Circle 7, but the CalTrout access is just down the road. The river is crystal clear, the fish are beautiful and hard fighters, and the scenery is awesome. You're fishing on that beautiful river with Mt. Shasta in the background. It just doesn't get much better. I can't wait to go back! – Jim

