

August 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
August**

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

President's Message

Here we are in the Dog Days of summer. Do you know what the meaning of that is? Google it like I did and see how many interpretations there are for Dog Days. I have always supposed that it is a term for the hottest days of summer

Even though our valley temps are going up there are plenty of places to fish without stressing the quarry. Our local tailwaters still run cool. You can chase bass in the foothill reservoirs, and the country up Hwy 108 and Hwy 120 is fishing well with cool water.

We have been invited to share in a seminar sponsored by the Delta Fly Fishers and hosted by Reading Waters Fly Co. to learn about the upper Stanislaus in the vicinity of Arnold. A good opportunity to shortcut your learning curve on this Hwy 4 river. If you are interested, contact me for details.

Vivian and I went for a little ride to Sonora the other day to check out the new Sonora Fly Co. fly shop. Since our friend Bob Nakagawa decided to retire our nearest fly shops are in Sacramento and Citrus Heights so it's nice to see someone open a shop a little closer to home.

We all know what a risk it is to open a brick and mortar shop these days so try to get up there and do a little business with Steve Fisher and support his shop. Steve has a good line of Simms, Patagonia, Rio, Sage and Orvis gear and a great selection of Galvan reels. He can also arrange a guide for some of our tail waters and a walk and wade trip in the Stanislaus National Forest. Let's show that shop some love!

If any of you are going out for a day on the water take some pictures and post a report. Barry Kutz posted a great report from Kennedy Meadows a couple of weeks back. William Chang and Gus Link have reports for us and yours truly has a second Fall River report.

We just can't justify an in person club meeting yet so feel free to email Mike Hewitt or me with fishing reports, conservation or any fly fishing related articles or other interesting tidbits that we can share to take the place of person to person meetings.

Well, that's about it for now. Stay healthy and practice your good pandemic safety habits,

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

Monthly Meeting: No meeting in August

Club member Gus Link shared the results of couple recent fishing trips. The first was on the Kaweah River at Powisha inside Sequoia National Park. He reported the water flow was low with temps running 62°-64° and great fishing in the late afternoon and evenings using 14-16 Parachute Adams. As he described it, it was his "favorite type of fishing, rough, difficult terrain." The weather was warm and lent itself to wet wading.

His second trip was to fish the Kern River about 11 miles from Kernville. According to Gus the water flow was good with the temperature about 64°+. He described the Kern fishing tough as usual, lots of large, slick granite boulders, with one nice-sized pike minnow caught and one brief hookup. He was using a two-fly nymph rig, a large stone attractor and various small droppers. There was absolutely no action on dry flies.

Reporting in from the Little Truckee was member William Chang who said on Facebook that he ran into guides Matt Heron and Dan LeCount while fishing Thursday, July 23. Dan



spotted a riser and shouted it's location to William. After rigging with a Bud Heintz #16 Comparadun, he hooked up on his second cast. The accompanying photo was taken by Dan and shows William in full battle mode. William related that the flow is dropping into the 180 cfs range and that there is a nice PMD hatch about 10 a.m.-noon. He added he's looking for fishing company as August is shaping up to be a good month.

Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2019 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.)

Also turning in another fishing report, just to make the rest of us jealous about the amount of quality time he's been spending on the water, is club president Jim Bowen. He reports on another trip to the Fall River, this time accompanied by his lovely wife Vivian. Here's Jim's report including photographic proof that this is not just another fish tale.

Fall River 2.0

By Jim Bowen

On my previous trip to the Fall River I had so much fun and caught so many fish that I felt I had to take Vivian and show her the fishery. We stayed at The Circle 7 Guest Ranch (circle7onthefall@gmail.com). There are 4 houses available at \$500.00 per night for a group. After being closed early in their season due to COVID-19 they are booked almost solid now but we were fortunate to find a two night availability and were given the couples rate of \$250.00 per night. [More ...](#)

Pat's Fly Box – "Chaos Hopper"



The pattern for this month is the Chaos Hopper. To me there's nothing better when fish are grabbing top water flies. I included a photo of a variety of hopper patterns from my box, but the one featured here is super simple to tie and very productive. I like to tie it with yellow legs, but use what you like. This fly was developed in western Montana for the Yellowstone area, and Bob Nakagawa used to carry it in his shop. So, of course, I had to tie a few . . . well maybe more than a few:D. You can be creative with the wing by using deer hair and or crystal flash. Tie a variety in 8, (10), 12 sizes on a TMC 200 R type hook. Also with any buoyant fly this time of year, tie on a dropper like a crippled ant, crippled anything that also might be hatching or a zebra midge, PT, etc. Good luck to you and wade safe. Video Instructions [here](#).

Hook: TMC #200 R size 8-12
Thread: UTC Ultra 140 or 70 Brown
Foam: 2mm Cocoa Craft Foam
Wing: Tan Crinkled Z-Lon
Legs: Square Rubber Legs in Tan, Yellow or Green
Post: 2mm Orange or Yellow Foam

Upcoming Outings and Events

Stanislaus Sampler – August 15-16, 2020

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

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

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.

FFI Membership [Application](#)

Comics



Conservation Notes

An Introduction to State Water Project Deliveries

California Waterblog - May 24, 2020

Most people in California receive some of their drinking water supply from the State Water Project (SWP). The SWP also supplies water to over 10% of California's irrigated agriculture. The SWP and its service area span much of California, delivering water to 29 wholesale contractors shown in Figure 1.

Each year, the Department of Water Resources announces SWP Table A allocations which inform water contractors' SWP deliveries: "Table A", "Carryover", and "Article 21." What are these different SWP delivery categories and how do they work? [More ...](#)

Coho Climate Challenge: Identifying At-risk Populations

FishBio: The Fish Report - July 13, 2020

A wealth of data about the past can make it easier to predict the future. Biologists studying economically valuable salmon often have the advantage of working with extensive, long-term ecological data sets. A long history of using dams to regulate water also gives these scientists access to extensive data on environmental conditions in the rivers salmon inhabit. Researchers in Oregon leveraged abundant data on river conditions and fish passage at dams to assess the movement of coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in relation to changes in flow and water temperature, and to compare these relationships with future hydrological conditions predicted by climate change models (Flitcroft et al. 2018). Their findings help to identify when and where coho populations may be most vulnerable, such as the first adults returning to rivers in late summer and early autumn – knowledge which may be essential for targeting future management efforts. [More ...](#)

Federal Regulators Clarify Path to Klamath Dam Removal

CalTrout - July 16, 2020

Washington, D.C.— This morning the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the partial transfer of ownership of the lower four Klamath River dams from PacifiCorp to the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) for the purpose of removal. The approval is conditioned on PacifiCorp remaining a co-licensee.

A 2016 negotiated agreement proposes to transfer the dams from PacifiCorp to the KRRC for purposes of removal. The agreement allows PacifiCorp to transfer the dams and \$200 million to the KRRC and then make a clean break from the project. [More ...](#)

Suggested Reading

Is Your Fly Swimming Right-Side Up?

Gink & Gasoline - July 3, 2020

A FLY FISHING HERO OF MINE, CAPT. BRUCE CHARD, ONCE TOLD ME, "IT'S NOT HOW PRETTY YOUR FINISHED STREAMER IS AT THE VISE THAT MATTERS, BUT RATHER HOW IT'S GOING TO SWIM IN THE WATER?"

Until about the last ten years, I gave very little thought with regard to how I tied my fly tying materials on the hook for my streamer patterns. Nor did I think about how those materials being tied on the hook would in turn, influence how the streamer would keel in the water during the retrieve. This especially was true with fly patterns of mine that I intended 100% to ride hook point up in the water, for example, many of my saltwater fly patterns. It turns out that I was very ignorant, all of those years, thinking as long as I tied my dumbbell eyes on the correct side of the hook, that the weight of the dumbbell eyes would always flip my fly right side up in the water. [More ...](#)

Montanans keep fly fishing industry afloat during pandemic

8 KPAX - Missoula & Western Montana - June 25, 2020

With the Blackfoot, Bitterroot, Rock Creek, and the Clark Fork rivers, combined we have 400 miles of river to fish, and that's all within an hour's drive of Missoula.

Needless to say, when it comes to fly fishing, it doesn't get much better than this. Blackfoot River Outfitters owner Terri Raugland is an expert in all things fly fishing. She says the sport is a \$7.1 billion industry in Montana.

When out of state travelers were deterred from the Treasure State due to the COVID-19 pandemic, fly fishing, one of our biggest attractions suffered drastically. [More ...](#)

Perfect from the Start

Troutbitten - June 28, 2020

Call them educated. Say they're picky, experienced, touchy or selective. The wild trout that many of us target are efficient feeders, and they don't buy lousy presentations of a fly.

In many regions, the rivers are so rich with bug life and baitfish that these trout have options. They eat what they want. In some places, like the spring-fed streams of limestone country, trout feed all year long, with no pause for water that's too warm or too cold. It isn't, so they eat whenever they want. There is no "feeding season," because it happens 365. And when a trout can feed on what it wants, when it wants, that trout doesn't eat poor presentations of a fly. The cast and the drift — our presentation — must be perfect.

[More ...](#)

Video Links (click on title for link)

Fly Fishing a Small Stream in Colorado full of BIG Browns, Brookies and Native Cutthroat trout!

“In part 4 of the Colorado series I’m fly fishing a small stream in Colorado full of big browns, brookies and native cutthroat trout! This was my first time fishing this small stream in southern Colorado and I was surprised by the quality of fish living in it.”

Fly Fishing Southwest Colorado - The Conejos River Drainage

“We spent 7 days camping in the Rio Grande National Forest near the Conejos river in Southwest Colorado. We fished the many rivers, creeks and lakes for Brown, Rainbow, Brook and Rio Grande Cutthroat trout. It was a trip full of adventure and great fishing!”

Club News (continued)



The houses are very nice with modern full kitchens and several bedrooms and bathrooms. Another benefit of staying there is the use of a boat with outboard and electric trolling motor for an additional \$100.00 a day. The houses are right

on the river and you walk out your backdoor and right on to the dock to your boat. The scenery is nice when you can make yourself look up from fishing and look around. This is mostly cattle country but the river is lined with cool barns and nice riverside homes. I got a kick from watching the muskrats swimming around not to mention seeing all those fish in that clear spring creek.

The fishing was even better in July than my previous trip in June. While you will usually hear that fishing the Fall River is an indicator kind of





mirror reflection in the river. We had a great time, great fishing in a unique setting, and an incredibly comfortable home to stay in. We would highly recommend giving this place a visit.



thing, and that method will certainly produce we stripped leeches exclusively. Vivian planned to give the indicator method a try but we were so successful with leeches that she couldn't bring herself to try anything else.

The fishing was awesome.

We did get out early, around 6:30 a.m. We fished until about 1:00 p.m. due to the heat. The daytime temps were in the mid 90's. We would come back in, cool off, have a snack and go back out around 5:30 or 6:00 until dark due to the heat. We figured out that the two nights and two days boat rental was only slightly more than one day with a guide. A pretty good deal for such an incredible fishery.

A bonus was sitting on our deck at night and having a great view of the Neowise comet with a



One final fishing report comes from SFF vice-president Pat Roe who, along with his wife Jean, recently returned from a trip to the Madison River in Montana where he not only checked in on Bob Nakagawa, but managed to squeeze in a float trip.

Floating the Madison

By Pat Roe

Jean and I were able to take a trip to Idaho and Montana early in July this year. I wanted to hit the salmon fly hatch and Boy Howdy!

I hired a guide to float down the Madison River from the Slide Inn, Kelly Galloup's fly shop. My guide was Daniel Bragg, a former roommate of Bob Nakagawa's at Campfire Lodge. I mostly threw giant foam salmon flies all day for 17 miles. These big fish pictured are literally camped out six inches from the shore. What a hoot. I really honed my casting skills and had great success hooking and landing these beautiful fish. My guide said hopper fishing in August is very productive and becoming more popular now with the salmon fly hatch. If you haven't been, give it a try.

