

November 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**

General Meeting

***No general meeting
this month.***

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

President's Message

The Rivers of Recovery online auction has come and gone, and I'm very happy to report that it was a huge success. I think with the success that was seen Amy Simon, RoR's executive director, will consider making this an annual event. The goal set was \$65,000 and the total raised is now \$71,639.75 so thanks to everyone who helped with this event. All monies raised will go directly to sending our veterans on the fly fishing trips that do so much to help them heal.

I would like to personally thank some of the club folks who stepped up and contributed to making this auction a success. First, thank you Mike Hewitt! Mike really puts in the work behind the scenes to coordinate between Rivers of Recovery and our club. He also has to pull the reins in on me regularly as I get a little carried away during this fundraiser and want him to post news almost daily or even hourly regarding the event. Thank you, Mike. Your advice not to overload everyone with too many postings was dead on.

Thank you Bud Heintz! Bud provided two boxes of his expertly tied, beautiful flies. The club can always count on Bud for support for anything we take on. Thanks again,

Bud.

Our illustrious VP Pat Roe donated a box of bass flies and a box of streamers to the auction. Pat is a huge help behind the scenes also. It's especially tough to work on projects like this during this time of virus safety and social distancing so a hard working board of directors like our club boasts is huge!

Speaking of the board, thank you, Bob Bullock, for the donation of the gift certificate for The Ashland Fly Shop.

Thank you Gus Link! Gus built a rod on behalf of the club. The rod is a 9 foot 5 weight with some flourishes added by Gus. He found someone to produce the Rivers of Recovery logo to fit the rod as well as adding the winning bidder's name to the rod. Great job Gus!

These are just the club members that pitched in on this event. I'm blessed to have several family members that donated and bid on items. There are people and businesses across the country that made this event a success and to all, Thank You!

Well, now it's time to start striper fishing. The steelhead fishing is going well, not to mention late season trout. Get out there and be sure to send in a report!

— 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

Another month has come and gone and we're finally beginning to see fall-like weather. Hopefully, some of you have been getting out to try your hand with some fall fly fishing. Member Bob Ramos joined fellow members Bob and Jean Fujimura and other members of the Delta Fly Fishers for a day on the Lower Sac. I'm not sure about Bob and Jean's numbers for the day, but Bob Ramos indicated it was a slow day, although he said he brought two fish to the boat and lost three. Even though the temps were a tad high, all indicated it was a good day on the river. Bob Ramos said his guide Scott Sugimoto gave him a card and that he'd be willing to donate to the club, which I assume means something towards our next fundraiser for Rivers of Recovery. Bob Fujimura's pictures will be at the end of the newsletter.

Speaking of Rivers of Recovery, Director Amy Simon reported that the recent online auction fundraiser reached its \$65,000 goal! I believe member and club donations brought in over \$900. Many thanks to Prez and Mrs. Bowen, Pat Roe, Bud Heintz, Gus Link, and Bob Bullock. Those are the ones that I happen to know of. Let's all hope next spring sees us able to host our Fly Fishing Film Tour RoR fundraiser once again.

Unfortunately, we're still no closer to holding a regular meeting at this point, but as soon as the board feels we can safely gather again to everyone's sense of comfort we'll let you know.

Bob and Jean Fujimura aren't the only ones who seem to get in more than their fair share of fishing opportunities. Our intrepid club president Jim Bowen and his wife Vivian do one heck of a job of putting in time on the water as well. I expect the fact that the wives enjoy fly fishing as much as the men contributes to the amount of fishing they seem all seem to enjoy. Jim sent another great fishing report which you can find at the end of this newsletter.

Speaking of fishing reports, I can ALWAYS use a good report and pictures are a definite plus. If you manage to put in a little time on the water, put in a little more on an email to me and let's share the stories.

— Mike

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.)



Want to catch a striper like the one Pat Roe is so proudly displaying? Then check out this month's Pat's Fly Box for his not-so-secret fly.

Pat's Fly Box **The Clouser**

This month's feature fly and video is the Clouser Minnow developed and tied by Bob Clouser. This fly can be tied in a multitude of sizes, colors and materials, white and chartreuse being the most popular out of buck tail.

I use this fly and variations of it almost exclusively when I fish for stripers and large mouth bass in the delta and valley lakes, specifically in sizes 1, 1/0, 2/0 and 3/0. Of course, if you go smaller, it is an effective small mouth bass fly as well. It also can be tied on a jig hook of various sizes. I prefer those with a 60 degree angle as opposed to a 90 degree angle.

We've had several delta guides speak at our meetings in the past and this fly is the predominate one they bring to show and discuss. So get some tied up or purchase some for your box and give them a try. It is worth it to split the cost of a guide for a day with a friend and give the delta a try. Even a ten-inch striper puts up one heck of a fight on an 8 weight rod for a "whale" of a time. Ouch! Did I just say that?

Hope you are staying safe and healthy.
Pat



Video Instructions [here](#).

Upcoming Outings and Events

No outings planned at this time.

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

How Coho Cope With Drought: Studying Summer Sanctuaries

FishBio - Monday, October 5, 2020

Dry summers are a hallmark of Mediterranean climates, and animals in such regions have adapted to tolerate and even take advantage of this seasonal pattern. However, from California to South Africa to Australia, climate change is leading to more frequent drought in these already dry areas. Although climatological data make it possible to predict changing patterns in drought occurrence, predicting the resulting impacts on aquatic species is far more difficult. This is partly because not all habitats are affected by drought in the same way. Complicating things further, withdrawing river water for human use can change former fish refuges into ecological traps by causing them to dry more rapidly than they would have under historic conditions. Understanding these factors is especially important for conserving sensitive species inhabiting intermittent streams that sometimes dry up, such as endangered Central California Coast Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). Recent dry years in California provided scientists with the California Sea Grant Russian River Salmon and Steelhead Monitoring Program a unique opportunity to evaluate the over-summer survival of juvenile Coho during periods of extended drought. Their recent publication describes a seven-year study of juvenile Coho salmon in tributaries of the Russian River, which revealed that certain habitats have remarkable resilience to drought (Vander Vorste et al. 2020). [More ...](#)

Daily Bag Limits on Trout: What the Numbers Tell Us

Midcurrent.com - Undated - Bob Mallard

When it comes to trout fishing, the standard daily harvest or “bag limits” across the country are all over the map, and in many cases, not what you would expect them to be, or in fact what they should be. This is because they are often dictated by social desires, and public pressure, rather than ecological impact. And at best they’re based more on conservation, not preservation—and in some cases, neither.

In 2017, the Michigan Natural Resources Commission doubled the daily bag limit on brook trout in 33 streams in the Upper Peninsula. The limit leaped from 5 fish to 10 fish due to pressure from local anglers who want to eat trout. It was reversed in 2018 due to a clerical error, reinstated in 2019, and reversed again in 2020 due to lawsuits, hardly what could be called science.

Harvest limits are set based on the assumption that not everyone will keep their limit, or at least not every time they go, and some won’t keep any fish at all. It also assumes not everyone fishes every day, and that waters are not always fishable. While these are reasonable assumptions, they are exactly that, assumptions, and as wrong as they are right. One group of determined anglers can change the game by acting outside the assumed norms. [More ...](#)

Suggested Reading

Winter Fly Fishing - Midges 101

Gink and Gasoline - October 20, 2020 - Kent Klewein

There's no doubt there are times when big flies are the ticket for catching big fish. However, when you find yourself fly fishing on technical trout water and the bite is extremely tough, in many cases, it can provide you with big rewards if you put up those big gaudy fly patterns and break out your midge box. This especially holds true during the cold months, when you're fly fishing to educated trout on technical spring creeks or high-pressured tailwaters. As fall passes, and we find ourselves smack in the middle of winter, most of our larger bug hatches will have long faded. This time of year, most trout will transition into consistently feeding on the most abundant food source that requires the least amount of energy to consume. On many of our trout waters during the winter, the most predominant aquatic bugs available for trout to eat, day in and day out, are midges.

[More ...](#)

Pyramid Lake to Reopen to the public November 2

kolotv.com - October 10, 2020

Nearly seven months after shutting down Pyramid Lake due to COVID-19, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council has approved reopening the lake for day use. The lake will reopen to camping, boating and fishing on Monday, November 2, 2020. State Route 446 will also reopen to the public.

Back in March, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe passed a motion to close the lake to all activities to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In April, the Council stated a declaration of emergency for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Reservation, and as a result, implemented new guidelines and regulations for lake usage.

Those [COVID guidelines](#) will be in effect when the lake reopens.

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council has also approved a new [fee schedule](#) effective with the opening of the lake.

Streamer Fishing Myth vs Truth — Eats and Misses

troutbitten.com - October 21, 2020 - Domenick Swentosky

Over time, over endless conversation, cases of craft beer and thoughtful theories, we came to understand that our hook sets were rarely at fault. No, we set fast and hard. We were good anglers, with crisp, attentive sets. The high percentage of misses were really the trout's decision. We summarized it this way: Sometimes a trout misses the fly. Sometimes a trout refuses the fly. And sometimes a trout attempts to stun the fly before eating it

I first dedicated significant river time to the long flies in my twenties. Until then, I was like most anglers. I'd occasionally attach a Woolly Bugger to the line when I couldn't get anything else going. It was a last resort that provided new hope and novel entertainment if not always a trout in the net. [More ...](#)

Video Links (Click on title for link)

How To Use Sinking Leaders

In this episode of RIO's "How To" series, RIO R&D Product Manager Chris Walker explains how to fish sinking leaders. Sinking leaders (or VersiLeaders in the RIO stable) are great additions to a floating line to turn it into an instant and temporary sink tip. Chris explains the difference between sinking leaders and sinking tips, how to attach the right amount of tippet to a sinking leader, and runs through the RIO portfolio of sink rates and VersiLeader options.

Clearly explained in Chris's easy-going, simple-to-understand style, this film gives you some great information about quick-fix options when a little extra depth is needed.

Rogue River – A Conservation Alliance Success Story

Oregon's Rogue River is a world-renowned whitewater and fishing destination that is home to salmon, steelhead, and many other wildlife species. Join Robyn Janssen, Rogue Riverkeeper Director and Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center Ambassador for a float down the Rogue to learn about the work that's been done to protect this special place.

With help from the grantee WaterWatch of Oregon, The Conservation Alliance has worked for years to protect the Rogue and its surrounding landscapes. The removal of six dams and diversions, which unblocked 157 river miles, as well as the passing of the Oregon Wildlands Act in February 2019, which designated 252 river miles as Wild and Scenic has made the Rogue basin one of the finest refuges for wild fish in the Pacific Northwest.

Over the last 31 years, Conservation Alliance funding has helped protect 73 million acres and 3,575 river miles, stop or remove 36 dams, acquire 17 climbing areas, and designate five marine reserves.

Redington - A Life Worth Fishing

Being a teenager isn't easy, even for those who have experienced what one would think of as a normal childhood. Unfortunately, many teenager's experiences aren't exactly what one would consider normal. Too often, the hand that some young people have been dealt with is from a deck that is heavily stacked against them.

At age 15, Kayla Lockhart got emancipated and begun the next chapter of her life's journey on her own. She had to navigate the later years of adolescence and young adulthood without the comfort of home. Struggling with depression and anxiety, Kayla searched for a safe and stable outlet. At age 24, she picked up her first fly rod and found a new way to cope.

Today Kayla works with THE MAYFLY PROJECT, a nonprofit organization that mentors foster children and other at-risk individuals through engagement in fly fishing and the outdoors. Fly fishing is not an end-all solution to the challenges many youths face today, but it's a good place to start building confidence and to develop a meaningful connection with the outdoors because everyone deserves a place to feel at home, and a life worth fishing.

For more information about how you can get involved with THE MAYFLY PROJECT, please visit their [website](#).

Fishing Reports

Here are some of Bob Fujimura's pictures from the Delta Fly Fishers' Lower Sac outing.



President Jim Bowen sent us a nice report on his recent fishing activity. Enjoy!

October was a good month to be fishing, and I was happy to get out as much as I did. The weather was a little too warm for the most part, and at times the smoke from all the fires made it difficult to stay out for long periods. On the other hand, the fall colors added to the scenery and beauty of the places I fished.

Early in the month Vivian and I hauled the boat to The Place planning to fish on and off at Davis Lake and Frenchman's Lake. I had anticipated much cooler water at the lakes than I found. If the season cools a little sooner, the fishing turns on as the trout begin feeding up prior to winter. We fished two days at Davis with one fish each day. After that my friend Dale and I fished Frenchman's and settled for one fish for Dale and a missed grab for me. The next day we hit Davis again with just one fish again. The water temps were 60 degrees in the morning warming to 62 degrees in the afternoon. The fish were spread out and we never found any pods on either of the lakes.

On the 17th of the month I headed to Crowley Lake and fished the day with Bob Bullock. I went traditional for that time of year and fished a deep indicator rig. I was fishing about 18 feet deep and ended a short day with one very nice brown to the boat and another that I LDR'd after a long fight. Bob stuck with stripping, but didn't have much luck with that method. Unfortunately the Creek Fire smoke settled in and we were forced to come off the water at 2:00 pm. We are thinking about a club outing to Crowley next fall if the virus situation has calmed down.



Lake Crowley Brown

Vivian and I next headed to the North Umpqua to give steelhead a try. Sadly there had been a terrible fire along the N. Umpqua, and at first I wasn't sure I'd get to fish there. I was lucky and most of the fly-only water that had been closed due to the fire had just reopened the day before I was to fish the river. I have always wanted to fish the N. Umpqua and had heard it wasn't an easy river to fish. To help shorten my learning curve I booked Summer Run Guide Service to show me the ropes. Tony Wratney, my guide, was a great host and led me to many good access points along the river. I will say that if you think of fishing that river, do yourself a favor and prepare with a

little aerobic exercise and get those legs ready for some hiking. The hikes from the roadway down to the river and back were exciting at times, and I rate the wading at moderate to difficult. The second best thing about that outing was that I was the only fisherman on the entire stretch of river due to it just reopening from the fire closure. The best was the nine-pound steelhead that Tony led me to! I can't say enough about Tony and his Summer Run Guide Service. He also has a small cottage that his sports can use for a small fee while fishing there. Very nice and comfortable. We expected a "rustic" cabin and were happily surprised with the cottage. I highly recommend Tony, who has guided the N. Umpqua for 32 years if you are heading that direction.

Next we went to the Klamath River for a couple of days. Again the area around Happy Camp is in recovery mode from another severe fire. We did find several half pounders, but no adults. We were surprised by the crowds on that section of the Klamath.



North Umpqua Steelhead



Davis Lake Rainbow

Almost all of my "secret" spots had been discovered. We cut that part of our trip short due to Red Flag wind conditions and an algae bloom that really discolored the river.

From the Klamath we returned to The Place figuring rightly that the water had cooled. However, the fish still seemed to be spread out and we never did find the fall season action we expected. The couple of fish I managed to hook were very nice and very hard fighters. However, as the fishing was slow we cut that outing a little short and headed home with the boat so I can get it ready for Delta striper fishing. All in all a good month of fishing. And as we know, that's why it's called fishing not catching.

— *Jim*