

December 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***

It feels like winter, or what passes for winter here in the valley, has arrived. I have been bundling up for my morning walks and my gloves really feel good on these frosty mornings.

Vivian and I made it out to the delta a couple of times while it was still warm. The weather and conditions were great, but we couldn't find stripers anywhere. We covered a lot of water around and south of Mildred Island, but came up empty. I hope to get out again soon and fish the area around B&W Resort. B&W is an easy to use launch and puts you near some really good striper water. I'm looking forward to hitting that area soon.

We, the board of directors, are trying to come up with ideas to keep interest in the club during these times of social distancing. We are going to have a Zoom board meeting soon and if all goes well we will plan a Zoom general meeting for January. We will discuss the possibilities of small group activities as well and let you all know what we come up with. I would like to hear back from some

of you on how you feel about holding club outings. For? Against? Would you attend if precautions were followed? Also, throw out your thoughts on locations for outings whether out of town or local. We are setting up an email account for questions, concerns and feedback regarding club functions. Your input can be emailed to [president@stanislausflyfishers.org](mailto:president@stanislausflyfishers.org). Please let us how you feel about outings, small get togethers, and your interest level in using Zoom for general club meetings until we can meet in person.

I am taking reservations for the Pyramid Lake outing on April 1st and 2nd. We will limit attendance to 12 angler's this year. To reserve your spot send a deposit of \$120.00 or full payment of \$240.00 made out to Stanislaus Fly Fishers to me at 30112 Hall Rd. Escalon 95320. We already have 9 angler's signed up so if you plan to attend please let me know ASAP.

Well, that's about it for now. Hope your Thanksgiving was safe and happy. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Tight lines,

# 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 we approach the end of the calendar year, we can reflect on the challenges we've faced over the last nine months. The COVID-19 virus has disrupted our lives in ways we couldn't have imagined, and it doesn't seem like we're out of the woods yet. Obviously we have been unable to hold any sort of general meeting in that time, and it may be a while before we can all gather together and share our passion for fly fishing.

If this were a normal year, we would be starting the process of electing officers for 2021. However, this is definitely not a normal year so we are going to have to be a bit creative and flexible as we proceed into the new year. The board is looking into options for conducting a voting process that will be in accord with the by-laws that were submitted to FFI when club formed in 2008. As soon as we have clarity we'll send out an email with the procedures we will be following.

In the meantime, please consider those individuals you would like to nominate for office once we have announced what procedure we will follow. We hope to have that accomplished within the next week with an election to be held in January as usual. The elected offices are President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. The offices of Secretary, Membership, and Outings Director are appointed and/or are filled by volunteers.

Board members have been in contact with the Northern California Council of FFI looking at ways other clubs are weathering this disruption. It would be a shame for our club to fall apart as a result of our not being able to conduct business as usual, so we ask that you have patience, follow club members activities through our newsletter and on our Facebook page, and look for us to develop new strategies to keep us moving forward. We thank you for the patience you shown so far.

As you have already probably surmised, there will not be a



## 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  
Pelendale Ave. in Modesto. All  
members are welcome to attend.*

## Club News (cont.)

holiday party this year. Let's keep our fingers crossed that normalcy will return soon.

A few of the usual suspects have managed to get in a little fishing and you'll find their reports and some pictures later in the newsletter. If you have been fishing lately, please, please, please drop us a line in an email with a brief write up and any pictures you may have taken. It's not the same as sharing our fish tales face to face, but it helps to fill the void. Reports and pictures can be sent to [webmaster@stanislausflyfishers.org](mailto:webmaster@stanislausflyfishers.org).

Side Note: The website for the Sportsman's Expo in Sacramento indicates they can't wait for 2022 so it's not being held this year. The Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton still shows dates for 2021, but my guess is that given the fact that so many counties have returned to purple status that it will not be held this year either. – Mike



Hook: Grip 13021BL #12  
(or other 2XL medium wire  
hook)  
Thread: Benecchi 12/0, tobacco  
Weight (optional): Lead wire  
Rib: Copper wire, bright  
Tail: Lemon woodduck barbs  
Abdomen: Australian possum  
Hackle: Lemon woodduck barbs  
Thorax: Australian possum -  
in split thread

### **Pat's Fly Box - Bird's Nest**

This month's fly addition is the Bird's Nest. To me it's a must-have in my trout nymph fly box. It is a great caddis pupae imitation. I use it as the point fly, first fly, then I add a dropper fly, a smaller nymph. Or I use it as the dropper fly to a larger fly. Or just by itself. Either way it is a killer fly.

I like to tie it with Lemon Wood Duck flank feathers because of the warm color tone they offer, and they are just a great looking feather. I'm also giving you an early Christmas gift with the tying instructions.  
[flyfishingthesierra.com](http://flyfishingthesierra.com).

This is a great site for tying instructions, descriptions of flies, and the flies' histories. Hope you add some to your box this winter.

I hope you are staying safe and warm,  
— Pat

Video Instructions [here](#).

## Upcoming Outings and Events

**Pyramid Lake** - April 1-2, 2021, Pyramid Lake, Nevada, \$240/person

### 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

### 5 Reasons to Rethink the Future of Dams

*The Revelator* - October 30, 2020 - Tara Lohan

***The United States must grapple with a legacy of 90,000 dams, many unsafe or unwanted.***

The tide has shifted on dams. Once a monument to our engineering prowess, there's now widespread acknowledgment that dam-building comes with a long list of harms. Some of those can be reversed, as shown by the 1,200 dam removals in the past 20 years.

But the future of our existing dams, including 2,500 hydroelectric facilities, is a complicated issue in the age of climate change. Dams have altered river flows, changed aquatic habitat, decimated fish populations, and curtailed cultural and treaty resources for tribes. But does the low-carbon power dams produce have a role in our energy transition? [\*\*More ...\*\*](#)

### Tester introduces bill to protect Montana rivers as wild and scenic

*Bozeman Daily Chronicle* - October 27, 2020 - Helena Dore

GALLATIN GATEWAY — The Gallatin River snaked behind Montana Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Tester Tuesday afternoon as he introduced a bill to permanently protect hundreds of miles of rivers and streams across southwestern Montana.

Tester and conservation advocates presented the Montana Headwaters Legacy Act in front of the Montana TroutChasers Lodge and Fly Fishing Outfitter here. The bill would designate 336 miles of rivers and streams in the Lewis and Clark and Custer Gallatin National Forests as wild and scenic.

"This place has been discovered. It's going to continue to have more and more people," Tester said. "There's going to continue to be more pressure put on air and water every day, and now we're really past the time to do something about it." [\*\*More ...\*\*](#)

### California Slammed Over 'Blank Check' for Delta Tunnel Project

*Courthouse News* - October 29, 2020 - Nick Cahill

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CN) — Lobbing another hurdle at California's \$16 billion plan to tunnel underneath the West Coast's largest estuary, environmentalists on Thursday sued to freeze public funding for the megaproject championed by Governor Gavin Newsom.

Led by Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity, a familiar coalition of critics of the so-called delta tunnel claim the cash-strapped state is pursuing a "blank check" for a project that isn't fully cooked.

"It's outrageous that California officials would commit funds for this massively harmful water tunnel without public engagement or environmental review," said John Buse, the center's senior counsel in a statement. "This boondoggle will destroy the delta ecosystem in a desperate attempt to continue unsustainable water use in Central and Southern California." [\*\*More ...\*\*](#)

## Suggested Reading

### Taming Your Buck Fever

*Gink and Gasoline* - November 1, 2020 - Justin Pickett

You've stumbled upon a sexy piece of water to find a big 'ol trout feeding in the tail of the run.

It's one of the biggest trout you have ever seen. The one that sends chills down your spine. Without a second's hesitation you rip line from your reel and begin your back cast as you stare intently at this fish moving side to side in the current. You judge your distance as best as you can in the moment and you fling your flies behind you... And this is where things typically start to go wrong. Did you get tangled in a tree limb behind you? Or worse, did you catch some of the Rhodo creeping over the water on the far bank? Or maybe you just made a bad cast and piled your line up, right on top of the trout that is now hunkered back under the undercut bank? If not, then that's great! But, the vast majority of us tend to get ourselves into trouble when we are faced with such a situation. [More ...](#)

### Stream Etiquette, Two Stories About How To Share The Water

*Gink and Gasoline* - November 3, 2020 - Louis Cahill

TWO EXPERIENCES IN TWO DAYS LEFT ME WITH TWO VERY DIFFERENT FEELINGS.

I spent a couple of days fishing in North Carolina a couple of weeks ago. A dear friend came in from Colorado and gave me the chance to share some of our eastern rivers. We had two close encounters with other anglers which proved to be lessons in stream etiquette. One a great example of how to share the water, the other not so much.

Stream etiquette is often complained about but seldom taught. What's expected on the river changes from place to place but there are some simple ideas of respect and tolerance that are universal. If you're not sure what's cool and what's not, I hope these two examples are helpful.

[More ...](#)

### The Unwritten Rules of Fly Fishing Etiquette

*Adams Built Fishing* - July 5, 2019 - Mont Adams

Fly fishing is often a solitary sport, and many anglers like it that way. The experience of being alone on a pristine river with just a gentle breeze and the swish of the line playing out, not to mention the glory of reeling in a big one, is an almost religious endeavor for some outdoor lovers. However, there are bound to be the encounters that are memorable for the wrong reasons—and not just because the big one that got away. Instead, it's the fellow fishermen (and women) who sometimes are to blame for a less-than-enjoyable encounter on the water.

So, with plenty of great fishing days still up for grabs this summer and into fall, here's a look at the unwritten rules of fly fishing etiquette. Put them to use around Wyoming or wherever else the fish are biting. [More ...](#)



## **Video Links (Click on title for link)**

### **Lahontan – A Trout Unlimited Science Story**

Twelve-thousand years ago, there was a lake - Lake Lahontan - that covered more than 8,500 square miles of the Great Basin. Most of the rivers and lakes there today were at some point tributaries to this giant lake, or wholly covered by it. What does that mean for a species that's been in the Great Basin for more than 10 million years in one form or another? It tells us that these fish were once widespread across the landscape with no barriers to movement, so they were likely well distributed without much genetic difference. Learn more by watching our film.

### **Wild Trout - A Montana Fish Story - Trout Unlimited**

In the 1970's, young Montana biologist Dick Vincent discovered that stocking hatchery-reared trout on top of wild trout populations in the Madison River actually suppressed trout fishing. Based on his research, the state of Montana prohibited stocking streams occupied by wild trout populations turning fisheries managers' attention to restoring habitat quality after decades of pollution, damming, and drying up streams. The shift in focus to quality stream habitat changed the trajectory of Montana's legendary trout fisheries from a steady decline to world class. Since Montana's wild trout policy took hold, angler conservationists with Trout Unlimited and its partners have unleashed four decades of restoring streams and the quantity and quality of the cold, clean waters trout and anglers depend upon. Wild Trout: A Montana Fish Story chronicles Montana's conversion to wild trout fisheries and the profound changes still evident in our beloved trout fisheries.

### **How To Spot Trout with Amelia Jensen | Orvis Podcast**

Amelia Jensen and her husband David, are fanatical river anglers for trout. They travel throughout New Zealand and western Canada/America each year in pursuit of trout on dry flies. In this fascinating podcast, Amelia is interviewed by Tom Rosenbauer about special techniques for spotting trout...before you spook them. It's often not easy to see a trout near structure and Amelia provides critical information on how to spot them before you cast.

### **Steelhead - Spey fishing Oregon**

This October myself and two friends went to USA and Oregon state to fish for Steelhead for the first time ever. Since 2018 was a difficult season for trout and salmon in Scandinavia we did not want to get our hopes up too much. With that said we were not surprised when we heard that it had been the lowest run of Steelhead in 40 years when we arrived. Either way we had a blast and we all got what we came for, our first wild Steelheads, and we will be back next year!

## Fishing Reports

From Bob Fujimura (via Facebook):

Spent two days fishing with Peter Santley and had a great time enjoying one day on the Lower Sacramento and next on the Trinity River. We had consistently good fishing on the Lower Sacramento with 10 trout to the net. Jean started that morning strong with the four largest trout of the day. I caught up with Jean in the afternoon with typically smaller fish. The Trinity River looked tough with low flows and very clear water. However, Jean hooked five steelhead and landed four using a novel fly pattern and working fast and shallow pockets. I landed one smolt and watched Peter help Jean to one of her best days on the Trinity.

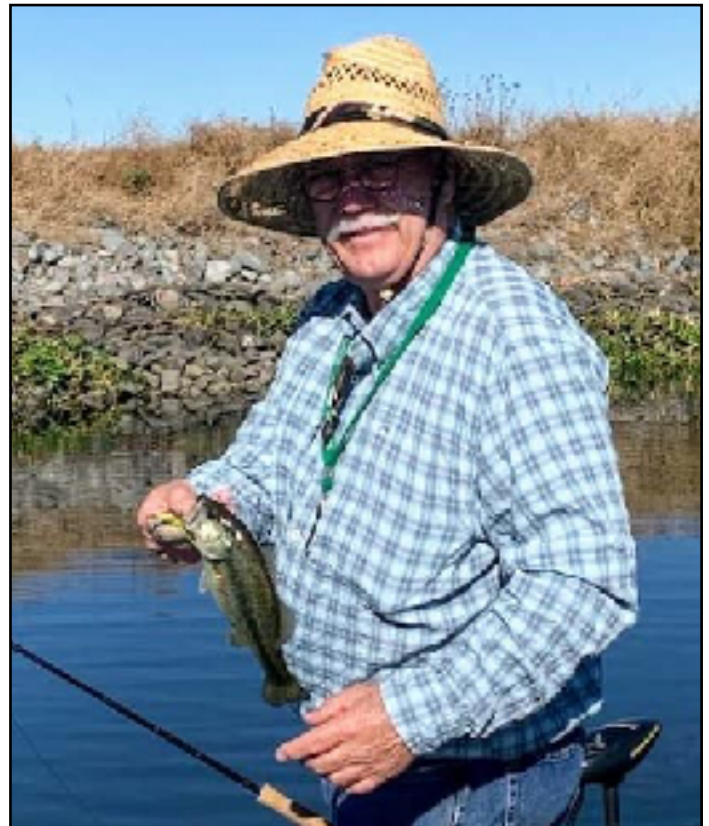






Member Pat Roe recently spent some quality Delta time with his son, John. The fish were few, but as Pat said, "... hey, it's fishing. Better than sitting around watching football." Nothing in these pics is going to set records, but they weren't skunked! Pat offered the following report:

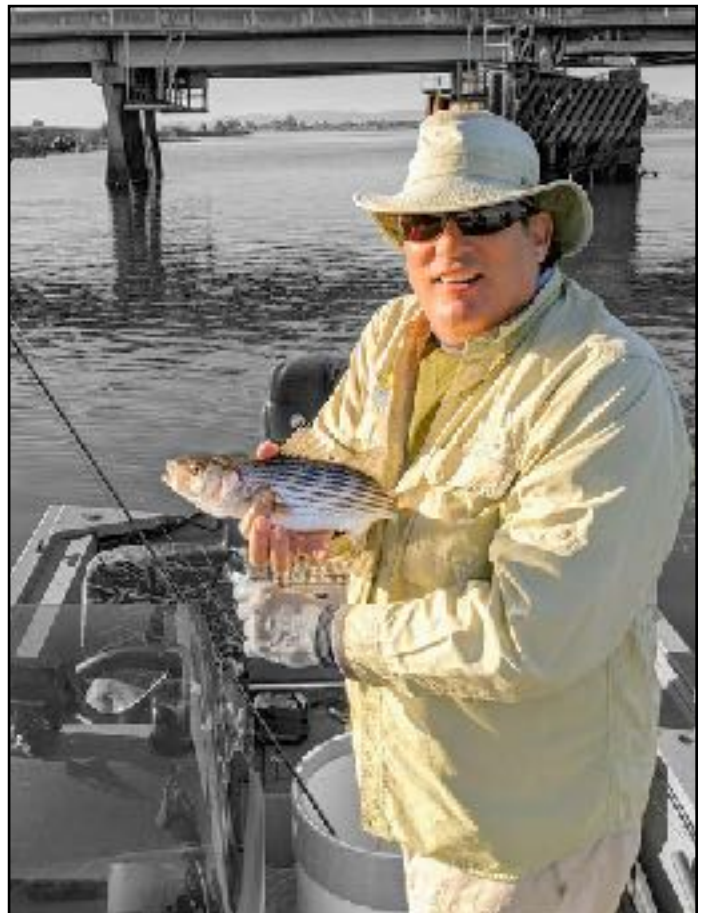
"We launched from B&W Resort on the beginning of a rising tide. We fished around the Hwy 12 bridge getting a few grabs and one fish. Then we went up the Mokelumne





River and mostly fished some tule islands using Clouser type flies all the while. A few more fish were boated. After lunch we ran out to the San Joaquin River and fished some more tule islands with few grabs and maybe one fish. All and all we caught eight fish, five stripers and three "largemouth" bass. As you can see the weather was great. Not too cold, not too hot."

In addition to his father and son outing, Pat also had the opportunity to fish with Derald Lahti. Derald's report on the number of fish caught was essentially the same so they either rehearsed their stories well or they were on the up and up. You be the judge. :-)





## Northern California Council, FFI December 2020 Report

By Mark Rockwell, NCCFFI President

### **Huge Win on the Klamath - Dams are Coming out**



It is with great pride and happiness that I can say that the fight to get 4 dams off the Klamath River in Northern California is nearing the finish line. NCCFFI and interested parties began negotiations for dam removal starting in 2003 to push for removal under the legal requirement to re-license the dams through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). A new 50 year license was being requested by Pacific Power (PacifiCorp) to continue operation. At issue was bringing the dams up to current day environmental standards, which meant fish passage by

anadromous species like salmon & steelhead. The question was: Is it better for PacifiCorp to remove the dams, or upgrade them to allow fish passage. We spent the next 7 years developing arguments to show that removal was financially and ecologically better for everyone.

Two agreements were signed in 2010 to remove the dams and to upgrade the watershed in the upper basin around Klamath Falls to allow fish passage and keep the agricultural community whole with adequate water. For more than 4 years Congress did not act to support the Basin upgrade, and that agreement terminated at the end of 2014. However, a new deal was struck in 2015 to continue the process for dam removal. We have been working on that ever since, including creating a totally independent company, the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC), to manage all issues related to removal & restoration. Here's a link to KRRC to access all documents you may want to look at: <http://www.klamathrenewal.org>. They have been securing permits, hiring contractors, working with FERC to meet federal requirements, working with the states on water quality certifications, and meeting with communities to answer questions and





handle concerns. A major partnership has been with the Karuk and Yurok Tribes who live on the river, and meeting their needs in the recovery process.

In 2019 a license transfer request was made with FERC to move the license to operate over to KRRC from PacifiCorp. This past summer 2020 FERC allowed the license to be transferred to KRRC, but held PacifiCorp on the license, making them liable for any risks during removal, as well as any financial overrun costs that might happen. This caused a near termination of the agreement for removal, but we all met and agreed that we'd find a solution, and not terminate the agreement. For the past 3 months negotiations between the 2 states, Tribes, Pacific Power and KRRC have resulted in a Memorandum of Agreement on risk and cost overrun, allowing Pacific Power to be confident they can proceed to decommissioning.

On November 16, 2020 the 2 Governors, Pacific Power leaders, Tribal leaders and KRRC held an announcement Zoom event to share the agreement.

Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvHimoNzC5E&feature=youtu.be>

Press Release: <http://www.klamathrenewal.org/bi-state-agreement-with-klamath-dam-owner-advances-historic-salmon-restoration-plan/>

What this means is that all the major barriers to removal are now gone. The final action that FERC must do is allow the license to be surrendered to KRRC, which was formally requested on November 16, 2020. The states of California & Oregon and Pacific Power each added \$15 million to the funding account, to ensure FERC would be confident there is adequate funds available to complete the removal. Permitting and regulatory evaluation will start immediately, and pre-construction work begins in summer 2022, and removal begins January 2023. All 4 dams will be removed simultaneously. On the KRRC website you can have access to all documents showing the process and timing. We are ready to go, and once license surrender is done, the door is fully open to establish a free flowing Klamath in late 2023.

***This is the largest river restoration in U.S. history. NCCFFI has been engaged in this effort for nearly 18 years now, and the finish line is in view!***

***Your NCCFFI is working for you, our members and clubs, on important issues to all who fly fish and care about healthy & vibrant rivers and fish.***

***This will be a win for our State, Tribes, Fly Fishers and Future Generations***