

February 2021

Headwaters

NEWSLETTER OF THE
STANISLAUS FLY FISHERS



**A CHARTER
CLUB OF FLY
FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**

**MEMBER OF THE
NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL OF FLY
FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**

General Meeting

**Tuesday,
February 9, 2021
Zoom Meeting
6:30 pm**

**Jon Baiocchi's
Skwala
Presentation
7:00 pm**

President's Message

Vivian and I felt like we needed to get out of the house for a couple of days so we came up with a COVID safe plan and headed to the Eel River for a couple of days. We packed food and the Coleman stove and Weber grill and exercised safety protocols when we were around the hotel. Most of the day we were on the river and distant from others and at meal times cooked our meals riverside. It was a lot of fun and we had a good time.

There is a ton of water to fish up there. Between the South Fork Eel and the main stem Eel you can fish for days. The rivers were starting to get low, but still had a decent color so we fished up and down both rivers. I struck gold and hooked a beautiful hen steelhead that is my biggest steelhead to date. That was the only grab we had, but if you're an experienced steelheader, you know that's not a bad score for two and a half days of fishing. That swung-fly grab is what keeps me chasing those amazing fish.

This past Saturday was going to be a local get together at the Mill Pond to float tube, but the rain blew it out and turned it to chocolate. I don't think anyone will complain as we needed the rain desperately. If we get rain and snow, there will be water to fish into the year. We are going to try to schedule meet-ups locally so members can get together for a little fishing and camaraderie. If you have ideas on good places to meet up and fish, let us know and we will put out notices to make it possible for meet-ups to happen.

Speaking of meet-ups, don't forget we have the bass ponds at Kistler Ranch reserved for March 13th. The cost for this outing is \$35.00 per person for adults and free for children. Valid California fishing licenses are required for anyone 16 or older. Plan to make this one. It's always fun.

We will be hosting a Zoom meeting for our general club meeting on February 9th. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm with Jon Baiocchi presenting his "Skwalas on the Yuba" show at 7:00 pm. If you are interested but not sure how to join a Zoom meeting, let one of us know and we will walk you through the procedure to be able to join.

Looks like folks are starting to receive vaccinations so hopefully we will start to see life returning to some form of normal. We are hoping to have an in-person meeting in April. Daylight Saving Time will be in effect by then so an outdoor meeting may be possible. We will see how things are going then and plan accordingly.

Well, that's it for now. Please plan to join the general meeting and see and hear our friend Jon Baiocchi's presentation. Until then, stay safe and healthy!

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

February 9, 2021 – General ZOOM Meeting

6:30 pm: Welcome

7:00 pm: Presentation

Jon Baiocchi: "Skwalas on the Yuba"



Jon is no stranger to the Stanislaus Fly Fishers having presented with us previously and guided several members. Jon has been fly fishing and tying flies since 1972, and is a California licensed fly fishing guide (#2847), and a published author featured in California Fly Fisher, Northwest Fly Fishing, and Sierra Fisherman. Jon is also an educator, innovative tier, and an award winning public speaker with well over a 150 presentations to his credit for fly fishing clubs, expos, and trade shows across the state of California, and Nevada.

Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2021 Board of Directors

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

*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.)

We're moving forward in 2021 with a series of Zoom-based meetings in order to maintain contact with members and provide presentations where we can. If you haven't used Zoom before, a web browser client will download automatically when you join your first meeting by clicking on a provided meeting link. Zoom is free for the users. A YouTube tutorial on using Zoom for the first time is [here](#).

Join Our Zoom Meeting on Tuesday, February 9th [Click here for meeting](#)

As you likely have heard already the Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show has been canceled for 2021. Details listed [here](#).

VP Gus Link has sent out info on the upcoming Kistler Outing March 13th. Cost will be \$35/pp to cover cost of pond rental.

The Fly Box Bass Bugs



This month's Fly Box will be about poppers. There's nothing more exciting than having a fish explode trying to grab your topwater offering. It's a type of fishing that keeps you coming back. Plus, it's something that you remember and long for, IMHO

Next month the club has rented Kistler Ranch which has three ponds to fish for Bluegill and Bass so now's a good time to get a few poppers into your box. Popper making is a mix of tying and arts and crafts.

After trying a lot of different techniques I've settled on making mine out of balsa wood, decorating them with colors, flash, feathers, rubber legs and eyes. I guess I get it from my dad, who didn't fish, but built models as a hobby and passed the heritage onto me. When he was young, in the 1930's, the WWI airplane kits were made from balsa wood, and he had to shape the fuselage and other parts, paint, string the wings, and decal to complete the model.

Pretty intricate work if you've ever seen them. I don't build models anymore, but turned my creative interests to fly tying which is an art form in itself.

This video of the many, many out there is a short one by "In the Riffle." It's a good no-frills simple one from a foam kit. I recommend a kit like this if you want to try making some up. If you really want to get into it there are some really good videos to pick and choose from. Feel free to contact me if you want to delve further into creating some spectacular looking poppers.

So on to fishing these. You can use a floating line with just the popper alone or like the "hopper dropper" you can add a small olive wooly bugger and a nymph below that if you like. Or mix up your combos. I'll plop it onto the water, let the water rings settle, give it a pop, and then repeat and watch out! Hope to see you at Kistler's to give it a try. ~Pat Roe

Video Instructions [here](#).

Upcoming Outings and Events

Kistler Ranch - March 13, 2021, Hwy 108, \$TBD

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

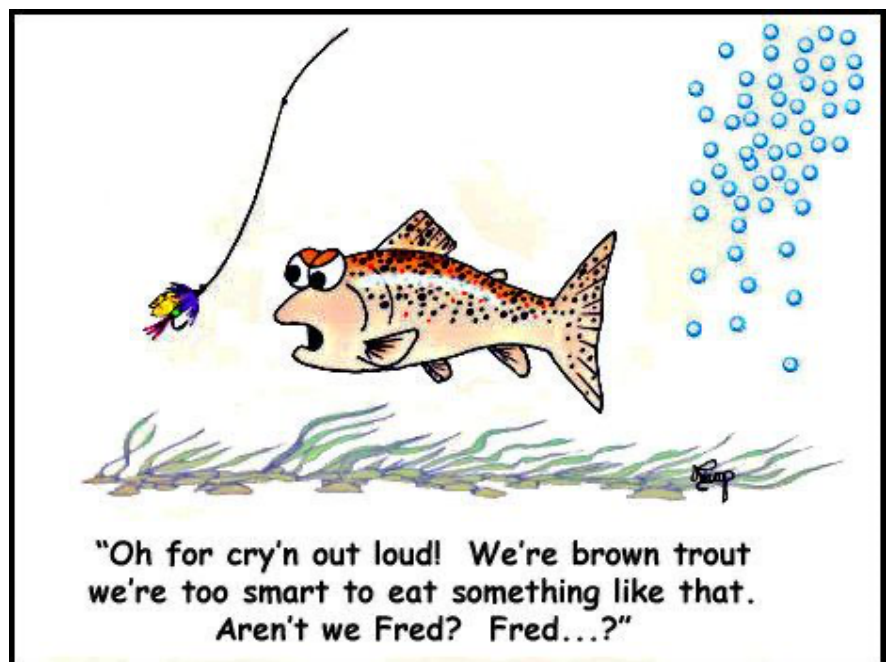
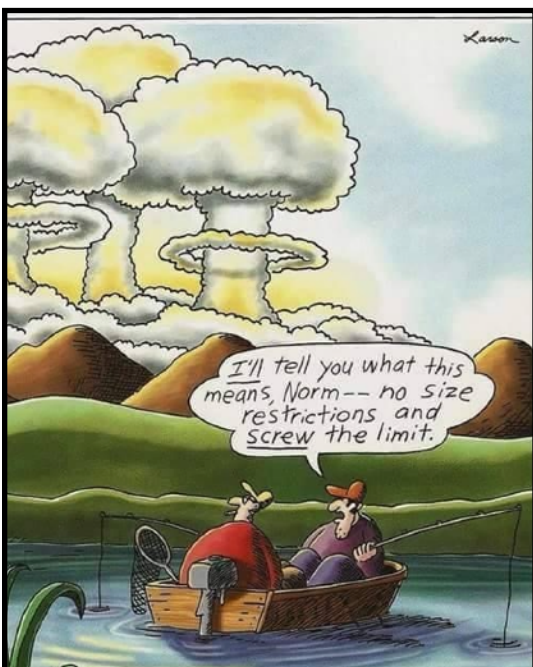
Membership Information

Membership Dues (\$40) for 2021 are now due and payable. For your convenience, we can now accept a credit card for your dues for an additional fee of \$1.00 to cover the cost of the transaction. All SFF memberships are "Family Membership" status; spouses, significant others, and/or children must also be FFI members to be official SFF members. FFI General Memberships include you, your spouse or co-habiting partner, and children under 18.

Reminder: Club dues *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!** **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



Northern California Council Fly Fishers International Report

Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International Report January, 2021, Mark Rockwell

As we all continue to struggle with the challenges of COVID-19 I find myself dreaming of time on a river or lake. I realized it has been more than 7 months since I've fished. As 2021 begins I think we all are hoping that we can begin to see declining numbers of cases, falling hospitalizations & deaths. Our future rests on our ability to do our personal part to use masks, social distance & not be involved in large gatherings. As a doctor I know these are the best actions we can take while waiting on vaccinations. Our future is bright if we do these things, and I realize we are all tired of it and want our lives back. Hang in there. Help is coming.

The Northern California Council Board has not met since late October as we decided with the holidays and virus challenge there was no good reason to meet. We decided to continue our activities as planned and meet in January hoping things would be better. So, we have a Board meeting set for January 18th and all club Presidents are invited to attend. Our focus this year will be to support our clubs, work to create and tighten our sense of community, and to come together for the good of all our clubs and to support our sport of fly fishing. I've asked our Presidents to attend the meeting (zoom of course) to hear their concerns, needs and ideas as we as your Council plan our goals and objectives for 2021. Of greatest importance is to help clubs continue to survive in conditions less than ideal, and to continue to work on conservation concerns facing our watersheds and fisheries.

In 2020 we started holding **Club President's Happy Hours** every 2-3 months, and I believe we all really enjoyed being able to talk with each other, and to exchange ideas and discuss actions the clubs are doing to fundraise, hold fish outs, and have club meetings on Zoom. Everyone enjoyed the calls I believe, and most learned new ways to operate as well as new things to do that keep members engaged both as a club and with each other. The NCCFFI has compiled a speakers list, many of which do zoom presentations, and it is available to all clubs by sending me an email (mrockwell1945@gmail.com). We will continue to do the Happy Hours into 2021, with the next one likely in February. A disappointment for all is that the Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton will not be held at its normal time of February, but may be held in late April or May if conditions allow. We will keep you advised.

On conservation you should know that we are now past most of the difficult hurdles to remove 4 dams from the Klamath River. We ran into a serious snag in August when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) agreed to license transfer to the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC), the removal entity, but didn't remove Pacific Power. That resulted in 3+ months of negotiations to satisfy Pacific Power. Finally, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed in Mid November by Oregon, California, Klamath Tribes, KRRC & Pacific Power that will remove PP from the license once FERC agrees to license surrender to KRRC. From that point forward it will only be KRRC and the removal & restoration contractors who will make the calls based upon the already signed Klamath River Hydropower Agreement (KSHA), of which NCCFFI is a signatory. We have represented all of you - Fly Clubs and members - since 2003 in this negotiation. We are proud of this, and we are proud to be a part of bringing back the 3rd most productive salmon & steelhead rivers of the lower 48.

Lastly, after 5 years of effort the NCCFFI & Ben Taylor have completed a Fisheries Monitoring Plan for the Smith River. The Smith is the last great anadromous fish river in California with no dams and historic runs of Chinook salmon & Steelhead. This plan provides for DIDSON sonar monitoring of the incoming runs of fish in the fall and winter, and scientifically valid data upon which to make management decisions on the fishery. Our goal was to make sure this last great river is managed for future generations and is kept healthy with a dominantly wild population of fish. We are working to complete an MOA between the DFW and the Tolowa Dee Ni Tribe, who will be managing the equipment and collecting the data. We hope to have the equipment up and running in October, 2021. This is a huge win for the river & fly fishers who love it.

Conservation Notes

State Report Says Salmon and Steelhead Are Near the Brink of Extinction

The Daily Chronicle - January 18, 2021 - Staff

A new report from the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office shows a number of salmon and steelhead populations in Washington state are teetering on the brink of extinction, according to a Thursday press release by the state Recreation and Conservation Office.

The report, titled 'State of Salmon in Watersheds,' shows that 10 of the 14 populations of salmon and steelhead listed as threatened or endangered in Washington under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) are not making progress. Of the 10, five are in crisis.

"We have come a long way in addressing the factors killing salmon," said Erik Neatherlin, the executive coordinator of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. "Some salmon populations are strong and nearing recovery. Unfortunately, many challenges are outpacing restoration efforts, holding back recovery of the majority of salmon."

The report noted that salmon populations are expected to worsen as the climate warms and mountain glaciers, which feed cold, clean water to salmon-bearing streams in the summer, continue to disappear. In addition, Washington's human population is expected to grow from 7.6 million to 9 million people by 2040, adding the equivalent of three more Seattles to the state.

"More people means more demand for water and for land along waterways, both of which conflict with what salmon need," Neatherlin said. "It's important to remember that Washingtonians rely heavily on salmon to support jobs in the fishing and tourism industries, as a food source and for traditional tribal culture and for recreation."

Cause and Effect

The report comes one month after the Washington Department Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) announced that all but one coastal river (Quillauyute) was expected to have below the expected returns for steelhead. That prompted the WDFW to prohibit fishing for salmon and steelhead in coastal rivers from floating devices and the use of baits and scents, starting Dec. 14, 2020. The department is also closing coastal rivers sooner than usual, ranging from Feb. 1 to April 1, depending on the river.

On Monday, the Olympic National Park announced it will close the Queets River for steelhead fishing on Feb. 1 to protect the native run. The 2020-21 forecast for Queets wild steelhead is expected to be well below the escapement goal of 4,200 fish. Queets wild steelhead have failed to meet their escapement goal in each of the last four years, and returns in recent years were among the lowest on record. [More ...](#)

For more information and to read the full report, visit <https://stateofsalmon.wa.gov>.

Suggested Reading

Pleasanton Fly Fishing Shows Cancelled

Alameda County Fairgrounds – site of the Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show – has been designated a COVID-19 vaccine distribution center, ending any hope for 2021 while restrictive government attendance mandates forced the cancellation of the Lancaster, Penn. show, announced Ben Furimsky, president and CEO.

The Denver Fly Fishing show is still on track for April 30-May 2, confirmed Furimsky.

In addition to becoming a vaccine distribution center, emergency medical services will take over all of the Alameda County Fairgrounds' primary buildings and the main paved parking lot with an end date of July 4, it was announced.

In Pennsylvania, regulations will only permit 463 attendees in the Lancaster Convention Center. The Lancaster Fly Fishing Show attracts far more than that together with exhibitors, show staff and presenters, according to Furimsky. "We had no choice but to cancel for 2021 and look toward 2022," he said.

Dates and venues for future Fly Fishing Shows will be announced when final.

4 Proven Ways To Effectively Fish A Streamer

Gink and Gasoline - January 19, 2021 - Louis Cahill

While it's fair to say that there is no "wrong way" to fish a streamer, there are some proven techniques which will help make that trophy dream a reality. Presenting big, heavy flies to the largest fish in the river brings with it a whole new set of challenges, including a new way of thinking about presentation. Your presentation is no longer passive, but active, and it is the action of your fly which must excite the predatory instincts of the fish. In the end, you will find your own style of fishing streamers but here are four techniques that have been proven to bring big fish to the net time after time. [More ...](#)

The Blob is Weakening

Cliff Mass Weather Blog - January 28, 2021 - Cliff Mass

There are a lot of Blob enthusiasts in the Northwest and I wanted to provide an update on their favorite ocean/atmosphere feature.

The Blob, as many of you know, is an area of persistent above-normal temperatures in the northeast Pacific. The Blob has substantial impact on western Washington weather, tending to increase daily minimum temperatures, sometimes by as much as 2-8 F. The Blob also has implications for local marine life, including the northward movement of subtropical marine species.

If we take a look at sea surface temperature anomaly (difference from normal conditions or climatology) for last October, one can view a "healthy" Blob off our coast ...

[More ...](#)

Video Links (Click on title for link)

Dam removal time-lapse on Washington's Middle Fork Nooksack River

In the summer of 2020 the dam on Washington's Middle Fork of the Nooksack came down and we captured it with a four month time-lapse shot in 4k.

The Middle Fork Nooksack River Dam was built by the City of Bellingham for water diversion and supply in 1961. Though state law at the time required fish passages, dam construction was permitted without the inclusion of passage. The dam obstructs access to approximately 16 miles of river and tributary stream habitat for three anadromous Endangered Species Act-listed Puget Sound species: Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout, as well as other native resident fish species. For years, the Nooksack Tribe and Lummi Nation advocated for fish passage at the dam.

Guardians of the River

In this film by American Rivers and Swiftwater Films, Indigenous leaders share why removing four dams to restore a healthy Klamath River is critical for clean water, food sovereignty and justice.

“Guardians of the River” features Frankie Joe Myers, Vice Chair of the Yurok Tribe, Sammy Gensaw, director of Ancestral Guard, Barry McCovey, fisheries biologist with the Yurok Tribe, and members of the Ancestral Guard and Klamath Justice Coalition.

American West(s): How the Yurok Tribe is reclaiming the Klamath River

The Klamath water crisis has shaped the Yurok Tribe for a generation. Many feel a fierce responsibility for a river that not only carries fish and water, but centuries of stories and struggle. Now, for the first time, one of the tribe’s own citizens is leading its long-running legal fight for increased water flows in the Klamath.

American West(s) explores the issues of the vast region between the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains through the reporting of High Country News and the eye of documentary filmmaker Forrest Pound.

The Aerial Perspective Klamath River Dams OFFICIAL

After decades of work from tribes, non-profits, water warriors and affected communities, four dams on the Klamath River in northern California are slated for removal. EcoFlight flew over these dams to provide the aerial perspective to stakeholders that are working tirelessly to ensure that the dams are finally removed.

A big thank you to the Yurok Tribe Karuk Tribe The Klamath Tribe & Hoopa Valley Tribe for allowing us to film on your lands and for helping us to tell this story.



ATTENTION ANGLERS

The California State Fish and Game Commission has approved **NEW** Statewide Inland Trout Fishing Regulations for the 2021-2022 fishing season.

The current 2020-2021 regulations remain in effect through Feb. 28, 2021.

The new regulations will go into effect on:

MARCH 1, 2021.

Below are some significant changes for INYO and MONO county.

- ❖ All Lakes and Reservoirs in Inyo and Mono counties will open to year-round trout fishing with a 5/10 bag/possession limit on March 1, 2021.

EXCEPT
*(those listed in the alphabetical list of special regulations by water name).

***Specifically, Crowley Lake and 19 other "Resort Lakes" will NOT open on March 1, 2021.**

*(These lakes retain the traditional "Fishmas" opening and closing dates. The last Saturday in April through November 15).
 (Bridgeport Reservoir and tributaries; Convict Lake; Crowley Lake; George Lake; Grant Lake; Gull Lake; Horseshoe Lake; June Lake; Lundy Lake; Mamie Lake; Mary Lake; Rock Creek Lake; Sabrina Lake; Silver Lake; South Lake; Twin Lakes (Mammoth); Twin Lakes, Lower and Upper (Bridgeport); Virginia Lake, Lower and Upper).

- ❖ All Rivers and Streams in Inyo and Mono counties will open to **catch and release trout fishing** (only artificial lures with barbless hooks, 0 fish limit) on March 1, 2021.

EXCEPT
*(those listed in the alphabetical list of special regulations by water name).
They are currently closed through Feb. 28, 2021.

- ❖ All Rivers and Streams in Inyo and Mono counties open to trout fishing with a 5/10 bag/possession limit on the **last Saturday in April 2021 through November 15, 2021.**
*(except those listed in the alphabetical list of special regulations by water name).
- ❖ There are 60 waters, or sections of a water, or geographic area listed in the alphabetical list of special regulations by water name, section, area within Inyo and Mono counties.

See the new CDFW 2021-2022 fishing regulations on our website at:
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland/Trout-Plan/Regulation-Simplification>
 @ Table of proposed changes to waters with special fishing regulations (section 7.50) (PDF)
 Smart phone regulations maps: <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/sportfishingregs/>