

March 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,
March 9, 2021**

**Zoom Meeting
6:30 pm**

**Presentation
7:00 pm**

President's Message

Here we are in March and the weather is making me want to get out and fish. We have been wishing for rain, but if we aren't to have it, then at least we have awesome weather to enjoy. I had to be in the Seattle area last week and while there had the opportunity to run out to the Olympic Peninsula and fish for a day. I fished the Sol Duc River near Forks, Washington on a day with typical coastal Washington weather. It hailed, poured rain, rained lightly, and the sun even shone on occasion and briefly. I did hook a nice steelhead and played it almost to the net, but it came unbuttoned before I got it in a net. If you are a steelheader, then you appreciate that that is an outstanding day of fishing. There is nothing like the grab on a swung fly. Even if you don't get the hero picture.



I hope you are all excited that we have reserved the Kistler Ranch Bass Ponds for March 13th. The outing is open to club members and family and friends. We will have the ponds from sunrise to sunset. VP Gus Link and Bob Bullock plan to get there early and put out a sign and some balloons to mark the turn off into the ranch. Drive around to the first pond and from there you can access any of the three ponds as you see fit or feel lucky about. We don't have many rules to abide by, the most important ranch rule will be "leave gates as you find them". If open, leave them open. If closed, close them after you travel through. Please bring your own lunch, drinks and snacks. Bring a chair and anything else you may want to be comfortable during the day. This is primarily a 4wt, 5wt fishery so probably a lighter 9ft. rod with a floating line should cover your needs.

(Continued here)

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

March 9, 2021 – General ZOOM Meeting
Peter Drekmeier - Tuolumne River Trust
6:30 pm: Welcome 7:00 pm: Presentation

Join us as TRT Policy Director Peter Drekmeier lets us in on the latest efforts of the TRT to protect and restore the Tuolumne River watershed for present and future generations through focusing on three key areas: education, advocacy, and restoration.

Join Our Next Zoom Meeting on Tuesday, March 9th

[Click here for meeting](#)

Our first Zoom-based general meeting had 18 participants plus presenter Jon Baiocchi and was very, very informative. Jon's presentation on Yuba Skwalas was excellent. We'll continue to offer these Zoom meetings each month until such time as we can meet in person. Many of the other fly fishing clubs around the country have gone to this format as a way of maintaining a connection with and among members. With limited resources we won't be able to pay for presenters for every meeting, but we will do our best to provide quality content.

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](#).

FFI has a series of online videos on a variety of subjects available over YouTube. Subjects include fly tying, casting, conservation, and Women Connect, as well as profiles of legends such as Al and Gretchen Beatty and Gary Borger. You can find them here: **[Season 1](#)** **[Season 2](#)**

We'll soon be announcing two card-deck raffles for a couple of E.C. Powell fly rods and reels by Teton. Proceeds will be used to help fund club speakers. Rods will be available for inspection and casting at the Kistler outing.

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.)

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. Non-club members will be required to sign standard waivers holding the club harmless.

Rivers of Recovery has announced they will soon be posting dates for upcoming trips for the veterans. **Echo Adventure** out of Groveland has generously donated toward a trip on the Tuolumne River, and **The Fly Shop** in Redding has continued their long-time support for a trip on the Lower Sacramento River. Kudos to both supporters for their help in providing these trips for our combat disabled veterans.

Pat's Fly Box **Booby Fly**

This month's fly from Pat Roe's fly box is the Booby Fly. It originally came to us fly fishers from England in the 1950's. It's worth looking up the history of it online for more details on how to fish it, etc. It is a stillwater fly that we discovered was being used at Pyramid Lake, and so of course, Greg Ewert and I had to try it. I tie it on with my bugger set up with my 'type 4-6' weighted line and strip it along just like when I use a tadpole, and man does it produce. Not a visit has gone by that I haven't caught a fish at Pyramid using this fly. The tutorial provided that I am sharing from The Reno Fly Shop is the fly I tie and use, colors and all. However, other members have told me they have done well with black, maroon, and purple as well. It is outlawed in many lakes in England, so that should tell you its success. Tie some up and try them out. Not just in Pyramid, but your favorite stillwater as well.

Hoping you stay well,
Cheers, Pat



Hook: Daiichi 1150, 1120 or 1530
Thread: MFC 6/0 or UTC 140, Hot Orange
Tail: Marabou, Hot Orange
Body: Crystal Chenille or 15MM Gel Core Fritz, Hot Orange
Wing: Marabou, Hot Orange, Mixed with a few strands of holographic Gold Flashabou tied in along the sides of the wing
Eyes: Booby Cord or Rainy's Booby Eyes, medium, white

Video Instructions [here](#).

Upcoming Outings and Events (Click on title for online presentation links)

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

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

Crowley Lake - September, 2021, *TBD*

Membership Information

Membership Dues (\$40) for 2021 are due 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

February-March, 2021, Mark Rockwell

Diablo Valley FF - Youth Fly Fishing Scholarship - Open to ages 10-15



The Diablo Valley Fly Fishing Club is seeking applicants for the DVFF Frank Harris Youth Fly Fishing Scholarship. This annual scholarship covers the cost of attendance at The Fly Shop's five-day FishCamp™, which takes place at the shop's well-established Antelope Creek facility north of Redding. The scholarship is open to all youth aged 10-15 residing in the San Francisco Bay Area. The application deadline is April 30, 2021. Additional details and the application can be found at <http://diablovalleyflyfish.org/FishCamp>.

For 2021, the DVFF is offering one scholarship for the week of July 19-23, 2021. The scholarship committee will award the scholarship within one week after of the application deadline. An alternate will also be chosen in case the primary scholarship recipient cannot attend.

The Frank Harris Youth Fly Fishing Scholarship was established during 2019 in memory of member Frank Harris, who was passionate about the value of getting kids outdoors to have fun through learning the skills of fly fishing and gain an appreciation of nature. Frank was one of the founders of the Bay Area Youth Fly Fishers program and instrumental in its success.

FFI Online - Season 2 - FFI has rolled out season 2 of its of its new and exciting video content on fly casting, fly tying, fly fishing skills, and conservation. Each week shares either skills in tying or casting, or in-depth 'how to' skills to better fish streams or lakes, as well as in-depth covering of national conservation issues of concern. Be sure to connect with the FFI website for the latest showings: <https://flyfishersinternational.org/FFI-Online>. Also, you can watch back showings from previous months or years at:

https://flyfishersinternational.org/Events/FFI-Online/Previous-Webcasts?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FFIOnline

NCCFFI - Your Council held a joint board/Club Presidents zoom meeting to discuss more cooperation & developing greater connection within our fly fishing community. There was much discussion on how important it is that we all work together, while continuing to promote and support fly fishing clubs. It was agreed that the Council will represent all our clubs and members on larger conservation issues like recovery in the S.F. Bay-Delta, Klamath dam removal and other large state level actions. Clubs will continue efforts locally, and we both will reach out to our local and Northern California community of fly fishers. It was agreed by all to hold the **NCCFFI Club Presidents Happy Hour** meetings every month so we all can come together to support all our clubs during this challenging period. Most club Presidents expressed the benefit of talking, sharing ideas, and

developing ways for clubs to provide member benefits and work together for the continued success of all clubs. ***Anyone interested in participating is welcome.*** Contact your club President for dates.

Preventing Guide Icing on Winter Outings - It's winter and some great fishing is available. The issue for us is the snow & cold. Iced up rod guides can be a real challenge, but you might try something different - Lemon Pledge. See this short video on how easy it is, and avoid this frustrating problem.

<https://flylordsmag.com/diy-prevent-your-guides-from-icing-up-during-the-winter-months/>

Mark Rockwell
mrockwell1945@gmail.com

Conservation Notes

OUTDOORS: Study — Trapped Elwha River steelhead maintained genetic diversity during isolation

Peninsula Daily News - February 10, 2021 - Pierre LaBossiere

PORT ANGELES — A recent study, with its roots going back to 2004, has showed promising news that Elwha River steelhead trapped for a century miles from the Strait of Juan de Fuca by the Elwha River dams have managed to maintain their natural genetic diversity during that time and are able to return to their old natural cycle of returning to the sea. [***More ...***](#)

Climate Change among Threats to Recreational Fishing

American Fly Fishing Trade Association - February 10, 2021 - Press Release

Bozeman, MT – Today, the American Fly Fishing Trade Association and the AFFTA Fisheries Fund (jointly AFFTA) released a report, “Recommendations to Improve the Health and Sustainability of America’s Marine Fisheries.” The report, developed by a blue-ribbon panel comprised of fishery scientists and managers, provides a focused set of recommendations and lays out the steps needed to enact bold federal fisheries management and marine conservation efforts guided by the best available science. [***More ...***](#)

GOP congressman pitches \$34 billion plan to breach Lower Snake River dams in new vision for Northwest

Seattle Times - February 7, 2021 - Lynda V. Mapes

For nearly three decades, the region has been stuck in unending litigation and spiraling costs as salmon in the Columbia and Snake rivers decline toward extinction. But in a sweeping \$34 billion proposal from an unlikely source, at an auspicious moment, comes a chance for a fresh start. [***More ...***](#)

Suggested Reading

Pyramid: The three year cold shoulder

hatchmag.com - February 4, 2021 - Spenser Durrant

Three years is, in the context of space and time, a blip. Even in the context of a human life, three years isn't much time at all.

Still, three years is the difference between being 47 and 50. It's 1,095 days. It's the length of the Korean War. It takes a kokanee salmon at least three years to reach spawning maturity. And so it's somewhat surprising just how much life can happen in three years. A newborn turns into a toddler, a 10-year-old into a teenager, and a 13-year-old into a licensed driver. Those are the Instagram moments, the momentous instances where we stop, take pictures, and wonder how so much happened in just three years. [*More ...*](#)

The Case for Shorter Casts

troutbitten.com - February 14, 2021 - Domenick Swentosky

My path into fishing was fortuitous. In so many ways, how I grew up fishing, and the waters where I pursued trout, shaped my tactics and formed my approach on the river. I'm thankful that I fished gear as a kid, because it has allowed me to understand fly rod tactics more completely. I fished bait, so I can tell you first hand that minnows and worms do not outperform a good nymphing game. The stocked streams I grew up with were thought to be fished out by mid May, and it took an adventurous angler to prove otherwise. So I learned to cover water, to make the most of the good stuff and be ready for the few chances that would come my way. I have memories — burned in and vivid — of being sixteen with a driver's license, exploring later into the year and fishing further away from home than ever before. [*More ...*](#)

Insect Facts: The Family Stone

orvis.com - February 16, 2021 - Phil Monahan

Fly fishing is a sport that often defines itself by the minute scale of the patterns that anglers present to finicky trout, and it's not unusual to hear an "expert" brag about his success casting size 24 or 26 midges on tiny tippets. But at the other end of the scale are the stoneflies (order Plecoptera), a group of insects prized for their sheer bulk, which dwarfs that of most mayflies and caddisflies. A turned-over a rock on a freestone stream can yield several species of insect larvae, but stoneflies will immediately stand out because they are often several times larger than anything else. Imitations of these outsize larvae are favorites of anglers who believe that "big flies equal big fish," as well as for those fishing during high water. [*More ...*](#)

Video Links (Click on title for link)

Fly Fishing Big Brown & Rainbow Trout in Back Channels (Part 1)

Big trout rivers are best broken down to their smallest components. And one of the most obvious feature of big rivers is the side channels, back waters, braids and other bits of water that big brown and rainbow trout reside in. In this video we focus on those smaller parts of large rivers and discover some great fly fishing for big brown and rainbow trout in those side channels and braids.

The New Fly Fisher: Epic Big Horn Dry & Nymph Fishing | Montana

The Big Horn River is famous for the quality of the trout fishing it offers and Mark Melnyk joins the great people at Bighorn Angler Fly Shop to sample the dry and nymph fishing. Great rigging options for nymph fishing are included in this wonderful full-length video that chronicles our week fishing this fantastic river in Montana. The guides at this fly shop can take you fishing on the Bighorn River virtually year-round.

Surviving: The Story of the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

The Pyramid Lake Lahontan Cutthroat Trout was declared extinct in the 1940's as a result of a badly planned diversion dam on the Truckee River. Built with no consideration of the downstream Indigenous Peoples of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and their cherished homeland, the dam desiccated the lake and destroyed the habitat of its native fish. However, the fish made a near impossible return, aided by the efforts of biologists, tribal litigators, and a carpenter.

This documentary was completed as part of a graduate study in media innovation at the University of Nevada, Reno. It premiered at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Nevada City, California in January of 2019.

Free Webinars (Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

North Coast Fly Fishers Presents: Fishing Pennsylvania Trout with Wet Flies

Free Online (Zoom) Presentation - March 3, 2021 - 4:00 PST

Tim Flagler: What Trout Like to Eat & Flies to Feed Them -

Free Online (Facebook) Presentation - March 16, 2021 - 5 pm PDT

An evening with Chris Wood, TU President

Free Online ([Zoom](#), Facebook Live, [YouTube](#)) - March 16, 2021 - 4:15 PDT

Tim Flagler: Night Fishing

Free Online (Zoom) Presentation - March 25, 2021 - 4:30 pm PST

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/>

President's Message

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I would plan on having poppers, minnow patterns, leeches and wooly buggers. Don't forget to include midges and nymphs as well. Zug bugs, prince nymphs, hares ears and pheasant tails under indicators can work also. Pat Roe has provided a picture of some of the flies he will use and they are a great representation of the stuff you need out there.

We have been gifted a 9ft.-9wt. Powell Tiburon rod and a 9ft.-3 wt. Powell LGA rod. We will be raffling the rods to raise money for the club to finance outings, speakers, and assorted events. The cost of a ticket will be \$5.00. Each rod will be drawn individually so bring a little extra cash and buy a chance or two. The rods will be at the Kistler outing so you can look them over and give them a cast or two. Help the club and buy tickets!

Gus Link has sent out a SignUPGenius invitation to members, but if you are interested in attending, but did not receive an electronic invitation, contact Gus at flylink@att.net for information or just show up. I believe we have communicated the cost to you for the day, \$35.00 for all-day access. Minor children are included with your entry fee. Fishing license for those 16 years and older are required. Come on out and enjoy a fun day of bass and blue gill.

Coming up soon is our Pyramid Lake outing. It is scheduled for April 1st and 2nd, a Thursday and Friday. You may still be able to arrange lodging at the lake, but if not, the Nugget is only 45 minutes out. I am going to schedule a Zoom meeting about a week prior to the outing to answer any questions or concerns attendees may have. If you haven't fished there before, you may want to invest in one of Rob Andersons guide pack of flies. The pack isn't expensive and contains the flies you need to fish successfully. I usually spring for the guide pack even though I have tied a bunch of Pyramid flies over the years. I'd hate to find out I didn't have the top secret fly that everyone is catching on! Stay tuned for more info on this outing.

Tuesday March 9th is our general meeting. Of course this will be a Zoom meeting. We will open the meeting at 6:30 pm for general discussion and fish stories and kick off our guest speaker at 7:00 pm. This month we are fortunate to have Peter Drekmeier, the Policy Director of the Tuolumne River Trust speaking. Please plan on Zooming in to this meeting.

I have been watching YouTube videos about the Float and Fly technique for bass fishing the foothill reservoirs. I hope to get out a couple of times before our meeting to give this a try. I should be able to report out on this method at our Zoom meeting. If you are interested in this and haven't really looked into it check out Ryan Williams' YouTube videos at R.W.Fly Videos. All the information you need to try it out.

Well, that's about all for me. Pray for rain but enjoy the weather we have for now. Get out and wet a line. See you soon!

Tight Lines!

~ Jim

