

April 2021

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

Live Meeting

Tuesday,
April 13, 2021
Roosevelt Park
Modesto, CA

Opens @ 6:00 pm

President's Message

I leave for Pyramid Lake tomorrow and have spent the day getting ready for an early start so this will be a short message. There are several things in the works that I want to mention.

First up, the club is planning to offer our services to a women's group to host a "how to" fly fish weekend. We are looking for volunteers to help out. Day one will be a Friday and we need help with basic knot tying and casting instruction. Mike Hewitt has a lesson plan in the works and will welcome any help he can get. Day two, Saturday, will be spent helping with casting/fishing and once again a lesson plan is being developed.

Second, we are planning an actual meeting for our April meeting. Let's all bring a lawn chair, plan to maintain safe distancing and meet at 6:00 pm at Roosevelt Park just down the street from the Grace Lutheran church. We will review the Pyramid Lake outing, discuss the Ladies on the Fly program and swap some fishing stories.

Thirdly, Vivian and I will be at Crowley Lake the weekend of July 17th and hope that we can develop this into a club outing. I will present details very soon so stay tuned.

Well, wish the Pyramid gang luck and big fish and we will report back following the outing.

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

April Meeting - April 13, 2021
6:00 pm - Roosevelt Park, Modesto
Recaps of Kistler Ranch and Pyramid Lake Outings



We're Back in Business!

Sort of ... as Jim mentioned in his President's Message, we're planning on holding a socially-distanced live meeting this month at Roosevelt Park. Grab a chair and come down and join us! It's been too long.

President Jim Bowen and others will share their reports from our recent outings. The Kistler Ranch outing was very well attended with some very nice bass brought to hand throughout the day. Pyramid has been producing some nice fish lately as well as you'll see in the photos I stole from Bob Fujimura and placed at the end of this newsletter.

If you ask nicely, maybe Jim and I will also tell you about our recent Float & Fly experiment at Don Pedro. Maybe not ... we'll see how it goes.

Also, bring a few extra \$5 bills and get in on the raffle for two Powell rods with reels. Details on [**Page 7.**](#)

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

In-person board meetings are currently suspended until Covid protocols have determined it is safe to resume them.

Club News (cont.)

Pyramid Outing Report - By Jim Bowen

Just back from the annual Pyramid Lake club outing and let me tell you it was a blast! The weather was really good which isn't exactly what you wish for as the nastier the weather the better the fishing but plenty of fish were caught. Maybe the best part of the outing was finally getting to socialize and share good times with a great group of anglers. There were club members, new club members, guest from the Delta Fly Fishers, past members who know how much fun this trip is and of course a couple of good fishing buddies who are welcome to join me on any fishing expedition.

Rob Anderson's Bucket List Flyfishing hosted as always and let me tell you Rob really knows how to "git 'er done". He is an excellent host and an outstanding guide. Rob is widely recognized as the guru of Pyramid Lake fly fishing. His knowledge and experience guarantees a good time will be had and he's just fun to spend time with. Here's the cast of characters that attended this year. Club members Pat Roe, Scott Sugimoto, Bob and Jean Fujimura, Dennis Green and John Driver. Old friends Chris and Tom Mills. Delta Fly Fishers member Dan McDaniels and good friends and fishing buddies Dale Howell and Jerry Kerstulovich and of course, yours truly. Thanks to all of you for making this outing a success again this year. You all are what it's all about! [Here](#) are a few pictures from the event.

The Fly Box "Fonzi Fly: A favorite Winter Fly Pattern"

By Bob Fujimura

Winter is a favorite season for fishing our local tailwaters – fewer anglers with diverse opportunities for great steelhead and resident rainbow trout fishing. Although nymphing is still the most productive method of fly fishing, swinging or dead drifting salmon alvein or fry patterns can be a very enjoyable change of pace. My favorite salmon fry pattern is the 'Fonzi Fry' introduced to me in a Delta Fly Fishers' tying session taught by Joe Balderston. I usually swing this pattern using either an intermediate sinking line or from an intermediate sinking leader attached to a floating line. It is an effective technique when Chinook salmon fry are rearing in the Mokelumne, American, or Yuba Rivers. When larger trout have been feeding selectively on these baby salmon, their takes can be violent, and break offs are common until you let the fish set themselves. Instructions on how to tie this fly can be found on this link: <http://www.current-works.com/how-to-tie-fly/fonzi-fry/>. You can easily modify the recipe to suit your interests – I use some marabou in the 'wing' to enhance its movement or replace the body dubbing with metallic tinsel for a classic wet fly look.



Upcoming Outings and Events

Davis Lake Outing – June, 2021: Details TBA

Lake Crowley Outing – July, 2021: Details TBA

Little Truckee Outing – October, 2021: Details TBA

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



Conservation Notes

The Water Grab

Saving the McCloud River from Bottled Water Disaster

caltrout.org - Curtis Knight

"We have a problem in McCloud."

That was the message in the Fall of 2003 from our friends at the McCloud Watershed Council concerned about a back room deal by the Nestlé Corporation to establish one of the world's largest water bottling plants in the town of McCloud. We would learn the deal was especially egregious and would threaten the springs that feed the majestic McCloud River. [More ...](#) [Video Link "Enough is Enough"](#)

"Deliver the River", A New Paper On The Stanislaus

Friends of the River - Undated

In 1973 Gerald Meral and David Kay were among a small group of leaders who formed Friends of the River to save the Stanislaus River from New Melones Dam. The Campaign to Save the Stanislaus built a movement that put an end to the era of big dam building and protected thousands of river miles in California. Alas, the Dam was completed in 1978 and remains the second highest dam in the state. The loss was immense as the reservoir flooded historic treasures in the deepest limestone canyon on the west coast and America's second most popular commercial white-water rafting run. [More ...](#)

Are Clean Rivers Too Expensive? Ninth Circuit Will Decide

Courthouse News Service - March 4, 2021 - Karina Brown

Pollution threatens to make Montana's rivers unfishable and unswimmable. Yet the EPA found the state doesn't have to clean them up because doing so would be too expensive.

PORTLAND, Ore. (CN) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency let Montana excuse itself from requirements to protect world-class trout streams from pollution that creates toxic algal blooms. The reason? It would simply cost too much to protect rivers to the degree the law requires, attorneys told judges for the Ninth Circuit on Thursday.

[More ...](#)

Your favorite fishing stream may be at high risk from climate change – here's how to tell

theconversation.com - March 4, 2021

Many of the streams that people count on for fishing, water and recreation are getting warmer as global temperatures rise. But they aren't all heating up in the same way.

If communities can figure out where these streams will warm the most, they can plan for the future. That has been difficult to predict in the past, but a new method involving temperature patterns may make it easier. [More ...](#)

Suggested Reading

Fly Fishing: Be a Big Brother

Gink & Gasoline - March 26, 2021 / By Kent Klewein

How many times have you stood there watching a rookie fly fisher struggling to catch fish, and instead of helping them out, you turned your cheek, simply because you were in too much of a hurry to wet your own line?

I know I've been there many times. Heck, I've been the guy joking around with my buddy saying, "Look at that guy. He's standing right where the fish are and casting his fly where he should be standing." It's easy to forget that we've all been that newcomer at some point in our fly fishing past. Make no mistake, even the anglers currently with mad fly fishing skills, the ones that often carry overly inflated egos both on and off the water, knew absolutely jack squat about fly fishing much more recently than they'd care to admit. Take a minute or two to reflect on your own past, and chances are, it probably hasn't been all that long since you were that angler that you just finished making fun of for being clueless. I can clearly remember making long drives on the weekends to chase trout up in the mountains, only to drive home discouraged with the smell of skunk all over me. It was never a good feeling, and in most cases, it could have been avoided if someone would have stepped up as a big brother/sister and helped me out for a few minutes. [*More here ...*](#)

What Lies Beneath

[*troutbitten.com*](#) - Feb 26, 2020 - Domenick Swentosky

There's a world unseen below the surface. The riverbed weaves a course and directs the currents, giving shape to its valley. Water swirls behind rocks. It moves north and south against submerged logs. The stream blends and separates, merges and divides again as vertical columns rise and fall — and all of this in three dimensions.

Few people understand what lies beneath the riffled, whitewater breakup or the smooth glide of a river's surface. Many drive, jog or walk past the water, or they admire the winding bends from a scenic overlook, high above on the neighboring ridge. But the angler knows. He intuitively learns the push and pull of the currents as he wades upstream. She easily predicts the speed of a run by the depth of its color. Because as analytical anglers, we are forever in thought.

The fly fisher who drifts and strips flies under the surface is immersed in a mental puzzle, forming an imaginary map featuring the unseen parts of a river. That picture is colored by educated guesses. And it's informed by things we learn with each cast of the nymph, streamer or wet fly. When our fly drifts slower than expected, we take note. And the mental map shifts a bit. [*More here ...*](#)

Video Links (Click on title for link)

Enough is Enough

Enough is Enough is a story about the fabled McCloud River in Northern California. This movie follows the stories of three anglers and the river they love. Follow CalTrout Conservation Director Curtis Knight, CalTrout Ambassador Craig Ballenger and McCloud River fishing guide Ron Heart on a soulful and heart felt journey into one of America's premier rivers.

Filmed by Keith Braunies and Mike E. Wier. Editing by Keith Braunies
Produced by California Trout.

Indicators and Dry Droppers

Tom Rosenbauer (*The New Fly Fisher*) goes into great detail to discuss advanced techniques and tactics for using nymphs under indicators or dry flies. From leader and rigging options to how to successfully fish these setups, Tom covers it all in this very educational video. A must-see video for all beginner anglers and even advanced fly fishers. Enjoy!

More Club News - Raffle

We are currently raffling two E.C. Powell rods with Teton reels that were donated to our club by Philip Hawkins, the Atwater school teacher whose students were doing a salmon release back in February of 2020 and invited our club members to attend and provide casting and fly tying instruction. The first is a Powell Tiburon 9ft 9wt with a Teton Tioga reel and includes Gus Link custom-sewn rod sack and reel pouch. The second is a Powell LGA 9ft 3wt with a Teton Trinity reel and also includes custom-sewn rod sack and reel pouch from Gus Link. We are selling playing cards, one deck for each rod combo, for \$5.00 each. The raffle drawing will be held when either the decks have sold out or at our December 2021 meeting, whichever comes first. Proceeds will be used to help fund speakers for our general meetings. Many thanks to Philip for his donation to our club.

9ft 9wt Powell Tiburon II/Tioga Teton



9ft 3wt Powell LGA/Tioga Trinity



More Club News - Outings

Kistler Ranch Outing March 13, 2021



**Pyramid Lake in March
Robert & Jean Fujimura**



SFF Pyramid Outing



Jim Bowen's first big fish of the trip



John Driver 16#



Scott Sugimoto 16#



Jim Bowen 14#



Jerry Kerstulovich 18#



Chris Mills 10#



Bob Fujimura 12# w/Rob Anderson



Bob Fujimura 2nd fish



Pat Roe ... where's your fish?



Early Morning



Pat Roe getting ready