

September 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,  
September 14, 2021  
5:30 pm

Scout Hut  
3017 High St.  
Riverbank, CA

## President's Message

Hey! What nice weather we're having right now. Hope you are getting out and enjoying this cool weather and maybe getting in a little fishing. Haven't heard much in the way of fishing reports from any of you. I have seen reports that the stripers are in the delta. If you can get out there now and latch into these fish while they're fresh and hot, you'll have a blast. Watch out when you hook up with one; if you pinch the line against the cork, you'll likely end up with a line burn! We are going up next week to bring the boat back from The Place and I'm hoping to get out shortly thereafter. Between stripers and bass it's a fun time to be out there.

If you are heading north or find yourself in or near Redding on Labor Day weekend, stop in at **The Fly Shop** on Friday September 3rd from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm for a celebration of this awesome business. Manufacturing reps will be showing their products. Shop staff will be mingling to answer questions about the shop and local fishing. Raffles will be held through the day and an outdoor buffet will be complimentary from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. I wish I could get up there for this event.

Speaking of events, **Rivers of Recovery** is hosting another online auction to raise funds to continue the good work done for our veterans. The auction will be held October 26 to November 2, 2021. Please consider donating an item for the auction. The more items to bid on the more money that will be raised. Plus it's fun to get into a bidding war on an item that catches your eye.

The club is hosting a general members meeting on September 14th beginning 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Riverbank Scout Hut at 3017 High St. Riverbank. We are planning on this meeting being a Tying and Lying session featuring Buzz Buzek award winning tyer Bud Heintz. Bud will be there to help you with tying techniques and helping with problems you may have with different patterns. If you want to see a particular tie, then let Bud know ahead of time so he can be prepared to demonstrate. Vivian and I just returned from Belize so I will present a little recap of our trip. Mark Pieczarka will give a talk on fishing the salt over on the Santa Cruz/Monterrey coast. We will also be offering dinner of hot dogs, chili and chips for a mere \$7.00! We will have bottled water, but if you want soda or beer, you're on your own. Sounds like fun, huh? Bring your vise and come out and we'll share stories and tying tricks and have a good time. See you there!

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

### September Meeting "Lying and Tying"

Tying by Bud Heintz and lying by just about everybody else. Food available for \$7:00. Meeting starts with tying demo at 5:30 pm.

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### A sneak peak at Jim and Viv Bowen's Belize Trip



(more pics on last page)

Mark Pieczarka will be giving us the low down on surf fishing.





## 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.)

Pat and Jeannie Roe snuck out of the state when no one was looking in July and made a trip to Montana with their grandson. His report didn't include many fish caught even though they fished hard. He did say the weather was cool and pleasant and quite enjoyable. Apparently his grandson did manage to catch a pizza.



In August they went to Kennedy Meadows where they caught lots of fish with dry droppers, both before and in the meadow. If you want to know Pat's secret fly combination, come to the September meeting. I'm sure he'll lay it all out for you chapter and verse. Don't bother asking where the honey hole is though. That's a secret! More pics at the end of the newsletter.

## The Fly Box “Pheasant Tail & Partridge”

According to Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard the Pheasant Tail & Partridge (P.T.) is “a neutral fly that fairly imitates most mayflies and caddis ... [with] roots in the time of Dame Juliana Berners in 1496 when she wrote a treatise describing the wet-fly patterns used in England at that time.” This is a relatively simple tie, one that Chouinard chose be the only fly he needed to catch trout, salmon, and saltwater fish in a one-fly challenge. Tie up a handful of these for your fly box and give them a try next time you hit your favorite stream.

[Video here](#)



### Fly Description

- Thread: Black 8/0 to 12/0 or tiers choice
- Hook: Wet Fly Hook (tiers choice). Size: 10 to 16
- Tail: Pheasant tail fibers 3-6 depending on hook size. (Tiers choice)
- Body: Pheasant tail fibers wrapped from tail to thorax.
- Ribbing: Fine Copper wire ribbing. Counter Wrap
- Thorax: Peacock Ice Dubbing, Peacock Herl, or Bead (tiers color choice)
- Hackle: Partridge Hackle

## Upcoming Outings and Events

**The Fly Shop** – September 3, 2021, Labor Day Weekend Luncheon, Redding, CA

**Little Truckee Outing** – October, 2021: Details TBA

**Salmon Festival** – November 13, 2021, Knight's Ferry, CA (unconfirmed)

**International Sportsmen's Expo** – January 20-23, 2022, Sacramento, CA

**Fly Fishing Show** – February 25-27, 2022, Pleasanton, CA

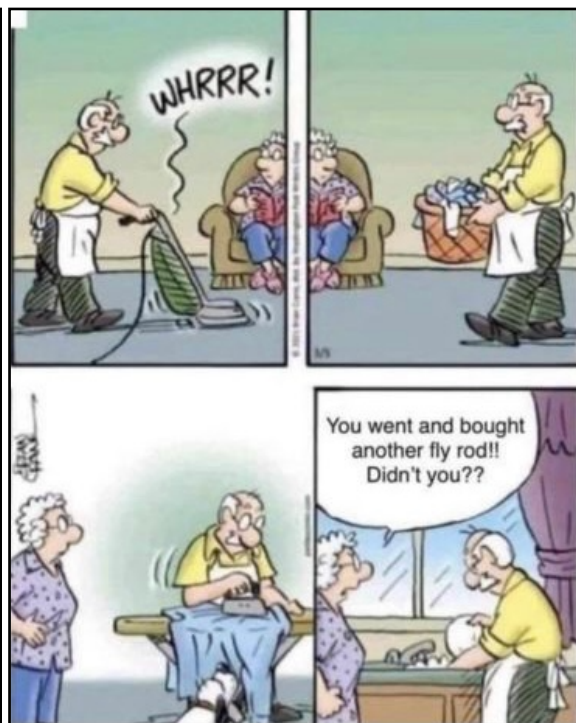
## Membership Information

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



### **A Glimmer of Optimism: New Methods to Keep Our Watershed Resilient Against Wildfire**

We work across the entire watershed because each region is inextricably connected to the other. [Forest health](#) determines water quality. [Flows](#) in the lower river affect keystone species like salmon, which provide nutrients for soil that grows food in the valley, driving a thriving economy. [When floodplains are healthy](#), homes and communities benefit. When [parks provide green space](#) and recreation opportunities, people connect more deeply to their surroundings, sparking an interest in [advocating for policies](#) that protect these landscapes.

### **The headwater forests of the Tuolumne help keep the entire ecosystem in balance. What happens upstream affects the river downstream.**

**As we work to bring our environment back to health and build a more symbiotic relationship with our ecosystems, we must listen to the landscape rather than fighting against it.** In partnership with the [Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions leadership team](#) and the Stanislaus National Forest, we identified a 116,000-acre priority landscape in the Stanislaus National Forest to protect against wildfire.

This project, named SERAL (Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape), is designed to **return the forest to its balanced natural conditions and increase resilience against fire, drought, insects, and disease.**

[SERAL](#) focuses on a site that is not only home to a myriad of biodiverse ecosystems but also has many communities that would be tragically impacted if a high-intensity wildfire came through the region.

Using what is called a [PODS approach](#) (potential operational delineations) we are [strategically collaborating with the natural characteristics of the ecosystem](#).



This method creates smaller roughly ten-thousand-acre containers on the land, so that if a high-intensity fire broke out, even if we are unable to stop it from burning, we would have a better chance to preventing the fire from spreading.

- We start by assessing the land and identifying natural features where the fire may be stopped, redirected, or contained, such as rivers, ridges or roads.
- We can then install fuel management features to create PODs within the forests.
- Once we identify the PODs, we then go into each container and bring it back to health through low-intensity prescribed fires, and thinning the undergrowth of smaller trees, and shrubs to decrease fuel for fire.

These [PODs allow us to systematically work](#) across large landscapes to increase forest health and work to prevent mega-fires from devastating the Sierra Nevada Region.

This is just one tool in our toolbox as we work to restore the Watershed! We'll be back in your inbox next week to highlight more ways we're stewarding ecological resilience!

**Our communities are only as healthy as the environment they inhabit. We are working to build a collective vision that brings more balance and resilience to this remarkable watershed.**

**Will you join us?**

[Become a Member](#)

[Volunteer With Us](#)

[Come to an Event](#)



## Tips and Tricks

### Tips for Angling to Decrease Fish Stress (Suggested by Bob Ramos)

- Minimize the time you spend "fighting" the fish and any hands-on handling.
- Use rubber or coated nylon nets to protect a fish's slime layer and fins.
- Quickly remove the hook with forceps or needle-nosed pliers.
- Minimize the amount of time the fish is exposed to air, especially when the weather is warm. Keep your hands wet when handling the fish.
- If the fish is deeply hooked, do not pull on the line. Instead, cut the line as close as possible to where it is hooked and leave the hook.
- Allow the fish to recover in the net before you release it.
- If the fish does not stay upright when you release it, gently move it back and forth.
- Avoid fighting fish from deeper, cooler waters and bringing them into warmer waters at the surface.
- Target fisheries that have stable water levels or species that are more resilient to elevated temperatures.

## More Club News - Raffle



*9ft 9wt Powell Tiburon II/Tioga Teton*



*9ft 3wt Powell LGA/Tioga Trinity*

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.

## NCCFFI News (From NNCFFI President Mark Rockwell)

**FFI Virtual Expo - November 5-7** - Registration starts Monday August 16th! Here's the link: <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Virtual-Expo/Activities>

The first event that is coming is the **Facebook Painting Auction** on Saturday August 28th starting at 12 noon PDT. Artist Duane Hada will be creating a watercolor painting that will be up for a silent auction for 48 hours following its completion. Proceeds from the auction will be used for the youth and educational programs for Fly Fishers International.

Duane Hada is a well-known artist, guide, and angler from Mountain Home, Arkansas. His work is highly sought after in the U.S. This is a unique opportunity to watch a master at work and get a chance to see his entire creative process. **Tune in to our**



**Facebook Page to watch the painting and participate in the auction.**

Here is a link to the 8/28 auction page: <https://www.facebook.com/FlyFishersInternational/>. We have the painting, a rod combo kit, trip & assorted flies. The auction closes on August 30.

**This event is the first for FFI, and great work has gone into its creation.** Over the course of the three-day event you'll find casting and fly tying demonstrations, conservation presentations, fly fishing skills workshops, discussions on travel and destinations, and so much more. A \$25 registration fee grants you access to the Expo, with some workshops requiring an additional fee. **Please join and have fun, learn and help Fly Fishing.**



## Report on Conservation in California

As I write this I am listening to the State Water Resources Control Board August meeting. They are discussing the extreme drought we're in, as well as planning for another year of dry conditions in 2022. The discussion is serious and covers many streams where emergency drought stream flows are either in place or are about to start. Two of the most impacted streams are the Scott & Shasta Rivers, tributaries to the Klamath River. These streams are main spawning & rearing habitat for Chinook, Coho & steelhead. We have sent 2 letters to the State Board supporting emergency flow recommendations supported by CDFW. The letters can be read here: <https://www.nccffi.org/conservation-efforts/>. See Item #12 on the list.

Joining us on our advocacy for the Scott & Shasta is the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA). They have been very active and made technical recommendations with the State Water Board and support the implementation of emergency curtailment of diversions of water.

Over many years CSPA and NCCFFI have worked on many issues that negatively impact our fisheries and work together on FERC power dam relicensing to improve flows and habitat, as well as to work for improved flows in the S.F. Bay-Delta and its tributaries. It takes a team effort to be successful in keeping our fisheries healthy and available for sport fishers. <https://calsport.org/news/>

CSPA and NCCFFI have decided to join together more closely in the future, and to work together and share information with members. Bill Jennings of CSAP and Mark Rockwell of NCCFFI have discussed the relationship and agreed to do several actions: 1) Share information each organization is working on, and report to members; 2) Do monthly reports for our members and place these reports on our websites; 3) work together to create a conservation presentation to use of fly club visits to inform our members about conservation needs and work being done.

Current Joint Efforts - Yuba River: Both CSPA and NCCFFI are working on relicensing on the Yuba system, and focused on Water Quality Certification. Both organizations are working with the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL), and focused on funding by Yuba County Water Agency for habitat improvement on the Lower Yuba & a pilot program to re-introduce salmon to the Upper Yuba. Stanislaus River - CSPA is working to block a proposed water transfer of up to 100,000 acre-feet to Westlands Water District. This transfer would greatly reduce water carry-over in New Melones Reservoir which is needed to protect Delta fish if the 2022 water year is dry.

Santa Clara Valley Watershed - NCCFFI is working with Cal Trout, TU, PCFFA and Flycasters of San Jose to improve salmon & steelhead streams in the Valley. Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River & Stevens Creek are the streams of focus. We are now working on a MOU with Valley Water to ensure future cooperative efforts to complete the Fish & Aquatic Habitat Cooperative Effort (FAHCE) for these streams, signed in 2003. We are also now reviewing the draft EIR for the Guadalupe & Stevens Creek. Work to be done includes:

barrier removal, stream enhancements for rearing, improved spawning habitat & improved water flows. This will be a 10 year effort to recover and stabilize salmon & steelhead populations.

Smith River Fishery Monitoring Plan - We have been notified that monitoring will start for both Steelhead and Chinook Salmon in California's last great anadromous river in the Fall of 2021. The Tribal partner - Tolowa Dee-Ni Nation - will be doing the monitoring and running DIDSON sonar monitoring equipment. This will be the first time we will have an annual monitoring program on this river, and it is hoped that it will take place over at least 3 generations of Chinook (9-12years) and Steelhead. This information will be useful for managing the river fishing regulations to ensure they are consistent with run size and population health.

### **Summary on Conservation & Fly Fishing**

After several discussions with various club Presidents and members, it is clear that fishery conservation is an important benefit NCCFFI brings to clubs & members. It is also noted that conservation is not always a primary focus for some club members. The sport of fly fishing is focused on casting, tying and getting together to fish, and is focused on the social process that clubs provide. However, if we don't have healthy fisheries and watersheds we have no real way to put our casting and tying skills into action. I think we all recognize that no fish means no sport.

So, my plea to everyone is to continue to support our Council's conservation efforts, and our ability to join with other partners, like CSPA, Cal Trout & TU to keep our state's valuable natural resources healthy and available. That takes work, effort and time. In our Council the conservation work never ends because the demands made on our natural resources is great, and all natural resources are in limited supply.

Fishery Conservation is important to all fly fishers. NCCFFI needs our clubs & members to recognize that conservation is one of our primary purposes and we do it to keep our sport alive and fly fishers able to catch fish.

Your support can come by: 1) joining us on our conservation network, 2) financial contributions by clubs to NCCFFI to allow us to do this work, 3) Taking an active part in local watershed conservation efforts and working to include NCCFFI in that effort. Grants are available through this Council.

Contacts for questions or to contribute:

Mark Rockwell, 530-559-5759, mrockwell1945@gmail.com

Send contributions to: NCCFFI c/o Tom Smith, Treasurer, P.O. Box 7231, Reno, NV 89510-7231 (all contributions are tax deductible)

Thank You for your considerations! We're here for you!





*Join Us in Celebrating  
the Fly Fishing Season in  
Northern California  
at The Fly Shop*

**FRIDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 3,  
2021  
10:30 AM TO 4:30 PM**

## **2021 TROUT SEASON LABOR DAY WEEKEND LUNCHEON!**

It's been 43 years since The Fly Shop began in a tiny strip mall behind a pizza parlor on the outskirts of Redding, California. There have been a lot of changes and incredible memories over those four decades, all leading us to where we are today...profoundly grateful to be one of the most famous fly shops in the world. We so appreciate all of our faithful friends who have helped us get to where we are, and who share our love and passion for the remarkable quality and diversity of our Northern Californian fly fishing opportunities.

These are exciting times to be a fly fisherman, and this year's Labor Day Weekend Luncheon Party will be second to none! As usual, our product manufacturer reps will be on hand to showcase their fly fishing gear, and we will have our own staff here to mingle and answer any questions you may have. As well, we will have raffle events throughout the day. We will sponsor a complimentary outdoor buffet lunch - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm - available for our valued customers, served by our local fly fishing club, the Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers...we hope you will be able to join us for this!

Though we have been experiencing a serious drought in Northern California, with low warm water in some of our streams, the bright spots have been our tailwaters and spring creeks, particularly the Lower Sacramento, Fall River, Hat Creek, and the McCloud (as of this

writing in July the McCloud is unfishable due to Mud Creek flowing...well...mud into the river, but with cooling temps in September it should fish well again).

- The Fly Shop Staff

Be sure to sign up for door prizes when you get here! If you have any questions or need further information, please call:

**Sandy Watts at 530-222-3555**  
or email: [sandy@theflyshop.com](mailto:sandy@theflyshop.com)

As part of our continuing efforts to support our conservation groups, we are again offering to donate a \$50 Gift Certificate to those California fly fishing clubs who mention the event in advance in their on-line or print newsletter. Just send a copy to the event coordinator, Sandy Watts here at The Fly Shop or e-mail: [sandy@theflyshop.com](mailto:sandy@theflyshop.com) and we'll get the certificate sent immediately.

**The Fly Shop**

4140 Churn Creek Road  
Redding, California 96002

800-669-3474    530-222-3555    email: [sandy@theflyshop.com](mailto:sandy@theflyshop.com)    [www.theflyshop.com](http://www.theflyshop.com)



## **Our Rivers of Recovery Auction is better than ever!**

We're bringing back the Rivers of Recovery Online Auction. **Mark your calendars for October 26 to November 2, 2021.** Anyone can join us online.

As we all recover from the trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic, our veterans need OUR help more than ever.

The pandemic significantly increased our long waiting list of veterans, and donors like Stryten Manufacturing have helped us add trips to our 2021 schedule.

But the more we raise, the more veterans we can help.

### **Donate an Item**

We have set a goal to raise at least \$65,000 with 100% of the proceeds going to Rivers of Recovery programs.

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.... We are currently looking for donated auction items in the form of gift cards. We expect a large nationwide audience to participate in our event, so universal gift cards (Amazon, Target, Walmart, Home Depot, Best Buy, Starbucks, Kohls, Cabela's, Jamba Juice, Olive Garden, Sephora, etc.) would be a great place to start!

Gift cards are an easy way to support our veterans because they are popular auction items that raise more than their face value. That means YOUR dollar stretches even further to help a veteran!

You can donate gift cards online at <http://rorauction2021.givesmart.com> by clicking the "Donate an Item Now" button. Or email [amy@riversofrecovery.org](mailto:amy@riversofrecovery.org). Gift cards can be mailed to Rivers of Recovery, PO Box 22326, Eagan, MN 55122.

Or visit our [amazon.com wish list](#) wish list to donate a gift for the auction.

THANK YOU in advance for your contribution. Watch for our official invite!



## Travels with Pat Roe Montana



## Kennedy Meadows





## Bowens in Belize

