

October 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**

**October Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 12  
Round Table Pizza  
Save Mart Shopping  
Center  
Pelandale Rd.,  
Modesto, CA  
6:00 pm**

## *President's Message*

Hey, looks like the powers that be are gaining containment on several of the worst of our fires and the Forest Service has reopened the national forests after the safety closures. It's time to get out and get your Fall fishing in before you turn around twice and it's winter. The Delta sounds good and will remain that way until water temps drop in December. The high Sierra is fishing well where there's enough water flowing. Our tail waters are plenty cool enough, and of course, our foothill reservoirs are always an alternative. This is my favorite time of year in general, but particularly for the fishing.

We are heading to Oregon for a short trip. We will be crabbing at the public pier in Bandon and roaming the beaches for surf perch. Both are fun and don't require technical fishing skills at all. If you've never been crabbing, you are missing out on a ton of fun. And some good eating if you get lucky. We've hit it good in previous Octobers and had crab omelettes for breakfast, crab sandwiches for lunch and crab salads for dinner. Nothing better than fresh Dungeness crab!

It's time for our monthly meeting, and as we are still having low attendance, we are going to hold our meeting on October 12th at the Round Table Pizza on Pelandale at 6:00 pm to whenever. The Round Table is in the Save Mart shopping center and has outdoor seating so we are hoping this will put folks at ease and we will see more of you there.

Please plan to attend. Bring a good story or maybe share your plan for Fall fishing. Until then,

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.



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**We're on the Web!**



## Club News

**October General Meeting  
Tuesday, October 12, 2021  
Round Table Pizza  
Save Mart Shopping Center  
Pelandale Ave., Modesto, C A  
6:00 pm**

An informal general meeting is scheduled for October. This will be a combination board/general meeting. We'll see how this works out and then decide about November. Our December meeting would normally be the holiday dinner. However, due to a declining attendance at the few general meetings we have been able to hold, and a significant drop in paid membership, there doesn't appear to be enough interest to warrant the cost of putting together a full dinner. Instead, instead it's been discussed that we plan an unhosted, informal, drop-in get together at a location (to be determined) for those that would like to attend. More details will come as they are developed.

### Fish Report from Pat Roe

Recently my friends and I went on our annual guys trip. This outing includes fishing Topaz Lake for a day and a half, and lounging around Topaz Lodge/Casino, enjoying ourselves. After having no luck in the lake, a friend and I went up to the West Walker near Hwy 108 and had a nice afternoon of fishing. Although the river was low, it was quite cool and the catching wasn't too bad either. I saw one fish in particular rising to some kind of subsurface hatch in a very slow stretch of water. After a few looks at my Missing Link size 16, he finally decided he'd seen enough and "bam" he grabbed it. I was pleasantly surprised. Got him to hand. Took a quick pic and popped the fly off. That made the trip. The next day we hit the East Carson on our way home, turning left off of Monitor Pass and stopping at the bridge. I took my friend down and helped him catch fish. There are still some nice bows and browns in the deeper holes. The water is cool and the weather is pleasant.

Hope you can make it up there. (Pics on next page)



## 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.)



East Carson



West Walker

Thanks for the teaser, Pat, but maybe we could squeeze a few more details from you next time. 😊

## The Fly Box “October Caddis”

This month's fly will fittingly be the October Caddis. This is a rather large bug in its pupal and post-hatched stage. In our part of the Sierra these bugs are prevalent. I've seen them in the West Walker, but I think their hatch goes a little unnoticed because of the low levels and sparse amounts of fish by this time of year. I think these bugs probably played an important role in years gone by when the river ran large and bigger fish swam up and down the river. In researching this bug I learned that the pupa, when starting to emerge, will swim along the shoreline and crawl out of the water to become an adult on dry land. So that's how you would fish the imitation. The female adult skates along the surface of the water laying her eggs, so that's how you would want fish the dry. I guess the male just kicks back and smokes cigarettes and drinks beer.

Once again there are many variations of imitations for us to choose from. The easiest would be the Elk Hair Caddis with an orange body. But I would experiment cutting a V out of the bottom hackle to help it skate on the surface. You could also fish a stimulator in similar colors.

Tie or purchase these flies in sizes 12 or 10. Remember these are the trout's last big meal before winter.

### October Caddis Pupa

Hook: Scud 12 & 10  
Bead: Black  
Thread: Hot orange  
Body: Sili Skin, orange  
Collar: Orange ice dub, black  
hackle, purple ice dub, hot  
orange thread against bead.



## Upcoming Outings and Events

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

**Salmon Festival 2021** – Canceled

**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

### **Catch-and-Release: All It's Cracked Up to Be**

[midcurrent.com](http://midcurrent.com) / Bob Mallard / October 3, 2021

*This is the eighth article in their series on fly fishing conservation.*

Catch-and-release is not overrated. In fact, short of stopping fishing, something very few of us are willing to do, catch-and-release is the best tool we have for maintaining natural age and size distribution, as well as abundance. And while some anglers, and unfortunately many state fish and game managers don't seem to agree, natural balance is best for all involved.

Like most cold-blooded species, fish demonstrate what is referred to as indeterminate growth. This means that they keep growing until they die. So, if you want big fish, leave them in the water and let them grow. The giant brook trout of Labrador, some of which are over eight pounds, are often over six years old. Fish half that size are rare in Maine, as are fish over three years old. Coincidence? [\*More ...\*](#)

### **On the Klamath, Dam Removal May Come Too Late to Save the Salmon**

Yale School of the Environment / Jacques Leslie / September 28, 2021

The removal of four obsolescent hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River in the U.S. Pacific Northwest, expected in 2023 or 2024, should have been an occasion for celebration, recognizing an underdog campaign that managed to set in motion the biggest dam removal project in American history.

But that was before the basin's troubles turned biblical. [\*More ...\*](#)

### **ODFW to ban steelhead fishing amid low returns**

[bendbulletin.com](http://bendbulletin.com) / Michael Kohn / September 30, 2021

Poor returns of steelhead to the Columbia River Basin this year prompted the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to extend a fishing closure on the Deschutes River through the end of the year. Coho salmon angling is also temporarily banned to support fish habitat.

The current forecast for steelhead above Bonneville Dam indicates that this will be one of the lowest steelhead runs on record, according to a release from the ODFW.

Lower Columbia River coho salmon and steelhead are listed under the endangered species act. Both populations and others have been declining in the Lower Columbia River Basin due to multiple factors, including habitat loss, high harvest levels and the effect of hydropower operations. Rising ocean water temperatures are also believed to have had a negative impact on fish populations. [\*More ...\*](#)



## Tips and Tricks

Ever hook into a big fish only to experience the disappointment of having it break off, leaving you heartbroken and cursing your luck? How often do you stop and take time to check your tippet after having fished it for a few runs? It only takes a few seconds and might save you from losing that trophy and watching it swim away.

If you will run the tippet through your thumb and finger, you can feel for abrasions and rough spots that tend to be a point of failure. When detected, either cut out that section and rejoin with a blood knot or replace the tippet with fresh material. It is also important to take your time and tie a good tippet knot to begin with. What's the old saying? An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Give your freshly tied knot a good tug and extended pull. It's better to have it break now rather than when you're in the middle of a good fight.

Make checking your tippet and knots a regular habit. Good habits lead to more successful fishing trips.

## 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.

### News from NCCFFI, September 22, 2021

By Dr. Mark Rockwell, President

**Please indulge me and read this through to the end. Thank You!**

After returning from fishing in British Columbia where the guides we fished with did not wear masks & were not vaccinated against COVID-19, I was perplexed. I believe we all share a responsibility to each other to do our best to avoid spreading the disease. Hence, I am sharing with you my suggestions for avoiding COVID, and how the vaccine works.

It is clear that the impacts of the Delta variant of COVID-19 is taking its toll on us. Just yesterday more than 2,300 Americans died of COVID. We cannot think we are out of the woods with this disease, and we must admit we are all at risk of contacting COVID in our daily lives. This is an air-borne problem, and the disease is transmitted from the lungs of infected individuals to others around them. We must recognize that it is up to us to act responsibly to stop the spread. Wearing a mask tells everyone that you care about them, be it your family members, neighbors, or friends at a fly club meeting. Wearing a mask is an inconvenience, but is necessary to protect those you care about.

Also of importance is getting vaccinated. I've done a deep dive on the mRNA vaccines to understand them better, and to evaluate their risks. It is clear to me, a health care professional, that these are safe and effective vaccines. They are different from previous vaccines in that they are not an attenuated or killed virus, like the flu vaccines. They are a way to direct your body, using the mRNA messenger your body already uses, to produce a protein which blocks the ability of the virus to attach to your cells. mRNA is a normal cellular component, and our body uses it every day. It is a directive molecule, and part of normal physiology & body chemistry. As such, your body accepts them readily and allows them to direct the production of antibodies (the proteins) that block the virus. This is revolutionary new molecular chemistry, and more safe than previous vaccines. I encourage you to consider getting vaccinated. Also, if you qualify, consider a booster. Immunity naturally reduces over time, which is normal body physiology. When a threat is not imminent the body relaxes (lowers its immune response). Hence, a booster should be considered.

Why do I spend time and energy writing this? Because I care about all of you! You are all part of my fishing family, and as such I want the best for you. We all want good health, and to protect our families and friends. Getting vaccinated and wearing a mask to prevent the spread of COVID-19 & its variants is the best way to accomplish a healthy outcome. How long do we have to do this? For as long as it takes! We've passed 680,000 deaths in the U.S. from COVID. This is no joke!

Don't fall prey to the rumors & myths on the internet, and don't listen to uninformed individuals who tell you stories about the vaccine or wearing a mask. Masks & the vaccine are necessary defenses to this disease. Scientists do not post their findings on the internet.

They post in scientific journals, and that is where the truth resides on science matters. Healthcare is a science driven profession, and a trust in the science is important for good health outcomes. Follow the CDC directives, and the California Dept. of Health recommendations. They are using science, not rumor, to protect all of us. Believe what they say. The directives likely will change over time, driven by new discoveries about the disease and what works for treatment or protection. That is how science works. It's a "learn as we go process" with this new (novel) virus and its variants. Stay informed and trusting of your doctors.

My hope is to inform everyone about this disease and how to avoid it. Your lives and the lives of your friends & family are at risk today - like it or not. Please - be careful and do what you know inside is best for you and your loved ones. It's a responsibility we all have to each other. Be strong & vigilant. We will get past this. It, too, will pass.

## **September Report on California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) Activities**

By Cindy Charles, Golden West Fly Fishers

The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance has been in the trenches fighting for fisheries and water quality on multiple fronts during this historic 2021 drought. Here is a link to our website for the most current news <https://calsport.org/news>

Recent activities include:

**Sacramento River:** On August 26th, the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, AquAlliance and the California Water Impact Network filed a lawsuit in federal District Court against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation over the plans of a group of Sacramento River Settlement Contractors to pump extra groundwater in 2021. Reclamation's Plan would enable further groundwater pumping from an already depleted groundwater basin during the current drought. It is noteworthy that these water users have enough river water now to sell to south-of-Delta interests. The Court denied an injunction against the additional groundwater extraction, and CSPA and allies are appealing the denial. Meanwhile, the case is pending until later this year and the groundwater extra pumping continues.

**Yuba River:** CSPA gave a presentation on September 17 on lower Yuba River flows in an important public technical workshop at the State Water Board. The subject of the workshop was the Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the FERC relicensing of the Yuba River Development Project. The purpose of the workshop was to review the technical issues raised in petitions for reconsideration of the Certification. Project owner Yuba Water Agency, CDFW, and a coalition of NGO's, including CSPA, each filed petitions. NGO Petitioners objected to the certification because key conditions related to flows and habitat restoration



were vague and kicked the can down the road on controversial issues, including flow. CSPA expects the CA Water Board to make a final decision on the petitions in an upcoming meeting.

**California Drought Plan:** CSPA has been providing timely and extensive feedback on drought planning responses to the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources, who “manage” the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project. Most recently, CSPA appeared before the State Water Board on September 21 to advocate for an immediate halt to water transfers from Sacramento River Settlement Contractors to farmers south of the Delta. Cessation of these transfers would increase end-of-November storage in Shasta Reservoir by over 100,000 acre-feet. CSPA told the Board :

[S]tart now to keep the present condition from getting worse. Specifically, the Board should act now to end the ongoing water transfers that BOR is making on behalf of Sacramento River Settlement Contractors from water sourced in Shasta Reservoir. The Board should not allow it to get worse by allowing BOR to complete these transfers in the balance of September and in October. The August Addendum currently anticipates Shasta storage to be 728 thousand acre-feet. That storage level is reckless.

## Suggested Reading

### 12 Tips For Epic Fly Fishing Trips On The Cheap

[ginkandgasoline.com](http://ginkandgasoline.com) / Louis Cahill / October 4, 2021

#### **You may be poor, but you don't have to fish like it.**

Some of the greatest fly fishing adventures I've taken have cost me the least. I love fishing in exotic locations and spending time at great fishing lodges. Who wouldn't? But that's a fairly recent thing for me and primarily funded by my Nikon. Working for my fishing days has paid off for me, but that's not an option for everyone.

I have never let a lack of funds get between me and great fly fishing. I've always figured out a way to get on the water and create some kind of epic adventure. Over the years I've figured out one or two tricks that make for great fly bum trips on the cheap. I'm going to share a few of them so you can do the same.

#### **TEAM UP**

There's nothing more helpful than a good fishing buddy, or two. Having good friends to share both costs and experience with will make your fishing trips a hundred times better. A buddy can do more than split the cost of gas. He might lend you a rod or take turns rowing the boat. He may have knowledge about water that you don't. He may just tell a good story or be a good listener. Finding good, compatible friends to travel and fish with is the most important step you can take in having a truly epic trip. [More ...](#)

Memo from FFI:



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: All Members, Clubs, and Councils of Fly Fishers International**

**FROM: Patrick H. Berry, President and Chief Executive Officer**

**RE: FFI Events and Covid-19 Updated Policies**

**DATE: September 14, 2021**

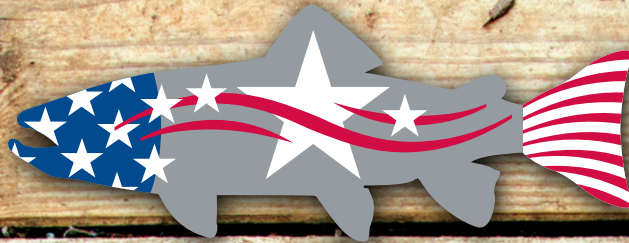
In the past month, as cases of the Delta Variant of the Covid-19 virus have continued to increase nationwide, the Executive Committee of FFI announces the following revised policy regarding FFI sanctioned and/or sponsored events until further notice:

1. All FFI sanctioned and/or sponsored events shall be governed by the following policies:
  - A. Any person with any symptoms of illness must not attend an FFI sanctioned and/or sponsored events.
  - B. All participants must provide a copy of their CDC Covid Vaccination record to the FFI program coordinator prior to arriving on site for any event.
  - C. Sign a Hold Harmless agreement and return it to the FFI program coordinator prior to the event.
  - D. Masking and social distancing for indoor gatherings is strongly recommended.
  - E. Outdoor activities where people are gathered should include social distancing and masking where practicable.
  - F. All participants are recommended to obtain a Covid-19 test prior to attending any event. All test costs are the responsibility of the participant.
  - G. Testing for Covid infection may be required by event organizers, and may include the rapid antigen test or PCR test administered by a health care professional.
2. Until further notice, FFI will not support or endorse any official FFI presence or sponsored appearances at large gatherings such as fly fishing shows, conclaves, or other events.
3. The Executive Committee encourages all Councils and Clubs to adopt these protocols and set an example of responsible behavior until this crisis passes.

**ALL FISH, ALL WATERS**



# Save The Date



RIVERS OF RECOVERY

October 26 - November 2, 2021

[rorauction2021.givesmart.com](http://rorauction2021.givesmart.com)

**Support our military heroes  
at the Rivers of Recovery on-line auction.  
All proceeds directly benefit Rivers of Recovery  
programs.**

## Online Auction and Event

### *Our Mission*

Rivers of Recovery is dedicated to providing rehabilitation to physically and psychologically injured combat veterans through innovative, outdoor-based therapies and pioneering research. We strive to provide our participants with therapeutic programs which result in measurable and sustainable improvement.

Our programs are designed to re-enable and re-energize participants and provide the support and self-confidence necessary to maximize long-term recovery.

[www.riversofrecovery.org](http://www.riversofrecovery.org)

### *Show Your Support*

**SPONSORSHIPS** are immediately available at the following levels:  
\$25,000 • \$15,000 • \$10,000 • \$5,000

If you or your company can donate goods or services to the auction please send an email to Amy Simon at [amy@riversofrecovery.org](mailto:amy@riversofrecovery.org)

Rivers of Recovery specializes in the rehabilitation of combat veterans suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), minor Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI), stress, anxiety and depression.

Our program, which combines outdoor recreational activities with instruction on the self-treatment of symptoms of stress, depression and anxiety, empowers veterans to live a life that is no longer restricted by psychological or physical disabilities.