

December 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, 12/14/21
6:00 pm
@ Commonwealth
1022 11th St.
Modesto, CA**

President's Message

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! Hope your holiday season is rolling along with time spent with friends and family. If calories equate to good times, then I'm having the time of my life. My waistline will not miss this holiday season. Speaking of good times spent with friends, our vice president, Gus Link, has planned a no-host get together at Commonwealth Brewery for Tuesday the 14th beginning at 6:00pm. Please come on down and enjoy a bite and a brew and share fishing stories and holiday cheer. Commonwealth Brewery is located at 1022 11th St. Modesto.

Vivian and I fished the middle Rogue in November. We fished two days with guide James Sampsel of Humble Heron guide service. James really knows the Rogue and is an excellent Spey guide. I had two solid grabs each day with one totally blown set on my part, two mystery drops that are steelhead specialties, and one good wild steelhead to the net. There is nothing like a steelhead grab on a swung fly. Combine that with a Spey rod and you may decide it's the only way to chase this magnificent fish.

We took a little ride the other day and ended up in the Sonora Fly Shop. The shop has really expanded inventory since I was there last. While there I chatted with the owner about local fishing and one thing I found out is that I need to read the regs closer. There are waters open outside of regular season that were closed in the past, and I imagine, vice versa. The upper Stanislaus below Beardsley to the footbridge is open
(Continued next page)

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

President's Message (Continued)

outside of regular season that were closed in the past, and I imagine, vice versa. The upper Stanislaus below Beardsley to the footbridge is open outside the normal season for catch and release and barbless hooks. I also found out that California Fish and Game has planted brook trout in several waters including Beardsley Reservoir and Tulloch Reservoir. Looks like snow may not close the road to Beardsley for awhile so you have a chance to get up there and give it a try. Vivian and I went to Tulloch and managed to find a few of the brookies. They were feisty and seemed to like sparkle brown chenille woolly buggars. I landed several and had several missed grabs. Vivian missed several grabs which earned me a little vocal abuse although I'm not sure if I really deserved it. If you have access to a boat, Tulloch is a fun place to fish and it's conveniently local. I'm planning to go there and give the "float and fly" a try for bass. Winter is supposed to be the best time for that technique so I'll let you all know how that turns out soon. That's about all I know so I'll just ask you all to check out Contentment Brewery on the 14th and wish you Merry Christmas!

Tight Lines,
~ Jim

No-Host Holiday Get Together
Tuesday, December 14, 2021 @ 6:00 pm
The Commonwealth
1022 11th Street, Modesto, CA

Join us for an informal gathering to celebrate the holidays. Our recovery from the pandemic doldrums precludes us from holding our usual dinner, but that doesn't mean we can't get together. Come by for a beverage, some food, visit with old friends, and perhaps make a few new ones.

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.)

Normally at this time of year we would be taking nominations and preparing to elect officers for the upcoming year. Sadly, the pandemic has taken a toll on membership and active club participation. The few in-person meetings we have tried to hold have been poorly attended. We've been fortunate that Jim Bowen has hung in there as president for the past few years and worked hard to keep us on track. Next time you see him, give him a hearty thank you. And if anyone of you has an interest in keeping this club alive and regaining its footing, please speak up and think about becoming an active board member. The time commitment is not nearly what you think it might be, and board meetings are actually on the fun side when you consider it's a chance to have a beverage and pizza and spin a lie or two.

Hope to see quite a number of you at The Commonwealth on the 14th!

The Fly Box “Lefty’s Deceiver”

The Lefty's Deceiver is an artificial fly streamer pattern used in fly fishing for freshwater and saltwater species. The fly was originated by fly angler and author Lefty Kreh in the Chesapeake Bay for striped bass. The original fly was tied to resemble smelt, a common striped bass forage. The Deceiver is arguably the best known saltwater fly pattern in the world and in 1991 the U.S. Postal Service honored Kreh's creation with a postage stamp. The original Lefty's Deceiver was tied with white saddle hackles tied in at the bend of a standard, short shank saltwater hook. Four to six hackles were used with tips curved to the outside. Flash was added on top of the hackles. The original body was silver tinsel. A collar of white buck tail was layered at the top, sides and bottom of the front of the hook. The buck tail extended just beyond the hook bend. Here's Tim Flagler of Tightline Production's tying video: [Lefty's Deceiver](#).

Hook: Tiemco 811S, 2/0
Thread: Danville Mono Thread, .004
Body: Bucktail, Purple/Black
Tail: Hareline Strung Hackle, Purple
Body: Krystal Flash, Black
Wing: Peacock Herl



Upcoming Outings and Events

International Sportsmen's Expo – January 20-23, 2022, Sacramento
Fly Fishing Show – February 25-27, 2022, Pleasanton

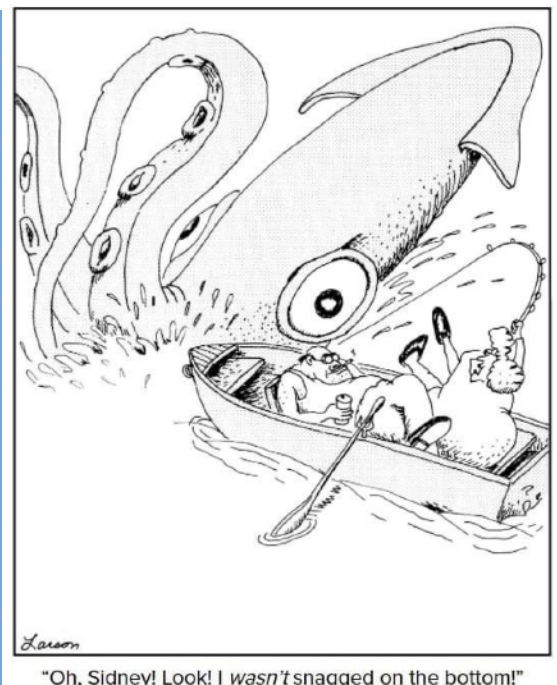
Membership Information

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

CDFW Saves More Than 2 Million Chinook Salmon From Drought; Begins Releasing Fish Into Klamath River As Conditions Improve

wildlife.ca.gov / November 19, 2021

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has begun releasing juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon into the Klamath River now that river conditions have improved with cooler temperatures and increased flows that give the young salmon their best chance at survival and reaching the Pacific Ocean.

More than 2 million baby Chinook salmon that were hatched in early 2021 at CDFW's Iron Gate Fish Hatchery in Siskiyou County were held over the summer at three different CDFW facilities, including 1 million fish trucked to the Trinity River Hatchery through Redding in triple-digit heat. All three groups of fish did exceptionally well over the summer and thrived despite challenging circumstances.

Drought conditions impacting the Klamath River – including a disease outbreak – would have killed about 90 percent of the young fish according to scientific projections, had those fish been released this past spring as is the standard practice. CDFW so far has released into the Klamath River the 1.1 million juvenile Chinook salmon held over the summer at the Iron Gate Fish Hatchery and at a nearby satellite facility at Fall Creek. Those releases provide room and sufficient water quality for the 1 million fish relocated to the Trinity River Hatchery to return to Iron Gate. This group has spent several weeks at Iron Gate to reacclimate to the Klamath River and will be released later this month.

“Dozens of CDFW staff worked diligently over several months at the three locations in a united effort to save these fish that would have otherwise perished,” said Dr. Mark Clifford, hatchery senior environmental scientist for CDFW's Northern Region. “Over 2 million healthy Chinook salmon are on their way to the Pacific Ocean that will ultimately benefit commercial, tribal and recreational fisheries and will retain the intrinsic value of these fish and their genetics for the Klamath River population.”

Four Klamath River dams are slated for removal in coming years, the largest dam removal undertaking in U.S. history. The removal is expected to restore fish access to historic salmon habitat in several rivers and tributaries connected to the upper Klamath River above the dams. The juvenile fish being released this year could be the first salmon to return to a new Klamath River after their life in the ocean and find miles of additional spawning habitat and contribute to future generations of wild fish.

CDFW thanks its partners for their time and expertise in working through this difficult and unprecedented situation. These partners include the Karuk Tribe, the Yurok Tribe, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Klamath Tribes, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and NOAA Fisheries.

* Original article [here](#).

Fish stranded after Hebgen Lake Dam glitch cuts off water to Madison River

mtstanford.com / November 30, 2021 / Brett French

A dramatic plunge in the upper Madison River due to a problem at the Hebgen Lake Dam has stranded some fish and bodes ill for brown trout eggs resting in now exposed gravel.

"It was pretty ugly up there," said Kelly Galloup, owner of a fly-fishing shop close to the dam.

Overnight releases from the dam plunged from about 650 cubic feet per second to 195 cfs in a freefall recorded on U.S. Geological Survey's streamflow gauge below the dam. Likewise, the gauge recorded a sharp decline in the water temperature as it went from 39 degrees to 32 before rebounding to 34 degrees after the gauge was exposed to the air.

"NorthWestern thought it was a glitch in their gauge," Galloup said.

The energy company's public relations specialist said in an email that NorthWestern was aware of the problem and was working to restore the flow.

"The real question is how they could not know it happened," Galloup said.

An angler on his way to fish the river at 9 a.m. was the first to notice the declining river level, Galloup said. The fisherman stopped at the shop, and Galloup and his colleagues began working the phones to try to alert NorthWestern Energy officials to the problem but couldn't get through. Then they tried agency personnel who finally reached NorthWestern officials.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks information officer Morgan Jacobsen said fisheries biologists were on scene assessing damage to the resource.

"The severity at this point is unclear," he said.

Jacobsen discouraged anyone from traveling to the river to rescue stranded fish. Galloup said people stepping onto the dried riverbed could inadvertently crush brown trout eggs resting in gravel that's been exposed.

Montana Trout Unlimited tweeted a photo of the gauge, alerting people around the nation to the concerning conditions on one of the most popular trout fisheries in Montana. Then calls began pouring in to Galloup's fly shop from the East and West coasts.

"People care about this river," he said. "This puts a big exclamation point on it."

Initially, the low flows were limited to a two-mile stretch of water just below the dam, but by late Tuesday afternoon the flows were plunging next to Galloup's shop and moving slowly downstream.

"The brown trout eggs are what everyone is worried about," he said, because if the eggs die the river could potentially lose an entire year-class of fish.

Photos Galloup shot show the upper river reduced to a trickle, dead trout stranded around a dewatered pool and sculpins and trout left stranded on the streambed.

"If it goes on another eight hours it could be a catastrophic loss," Galloup said, especially if low water is combined with freezing overnight temperatures.

The Madison River starts in Wyoming in Yellowstone National Park before flowing into Montana and Hebgen Lake.

NorthWestern finished work on the dam's intake in 2013 after stoplogs failed in 2008. The stoplogs are anchored in front of the dam's four outlets. The earth-filled dam was built in 1915 and contains a concrete core wall. It is 721 feet long and 85 feet high.

The dam controls flows into the Madison River's most popular stretch to fish. In 2017, the river recorded an estimated 207,000 angler days, according to FWP surveys.

This summer a fish kill was documented on the stream below Ennis Dam, with more than 800 whitefish and almost 20 trout found dead. Lab tests could not specify what caused the fishes' deaths.

Original story with photos [here](#).

Suggested Reading

Don't Ride the Brakes During Your Fly Casting

ginkandgasoline.com / November 24, 2021 / Kent Klewein

Are you finding that you're lacking distance and falling short of your target with your fly casting?

Is your power and line speed insufficient? If the answer is yes, I bet you're also getting a fair amount of tailing loops or dreaded wind knots aren't you? Come on, be honest. There's absolutely nothing to be ashamed of if you're periodically falling into this category with your fly casting. Believe me when I say, you're not at all alone. I see it regularly on the water guiding, and most of the time anglers struggling with these problems usually are only doing one thing wrong with their fly casting. Nine times out of ten, in this scenario, anglers are decelerating their fly rod during their forward cast, back cast, or even both, in some cases. What you need to be doing to fix this problem is smoothly accelerating your fly rod during your casting stroke, making sure you're stopping the rod at it's fastest point. This will allow your fly rod to distribute the energy loaded during your cast efficiently, and you'll have plenty of power (line speed) to reach your targets. *More ...*

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.

December Northern Calif. Council, FFI Report

By Mark Rockwell

First of all I want to wish all of you a very happy holiday season. We've been challenged over the past nearly 2 years with COVID and the inability to socialize with friends and family. I'm hoping this year will be at least better, and that 2022 will be the year when we can get back to some level of normal. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the officers and Board members of NCCFFI!

About 4 months ago we formed a Strategy Group to set a path forward for the Council. The group members are: Frank Rinella, Mark Likos, Anne-Marie Bakker, Ron Beltramo, myself, and Dean McKay as facilitator. We have met every 2 weeks over these past months, and have now developed a path forward to put NCCFFI in a leadership role for fly fishing in Northern California. We have finalized our basic plan, and will begin sharing it with our full Board starting the 29th of November, and seeking Board approval in January. Our first order of business was to clearly articulate who we are and what we stand for. Here is a listing of our new Vision, Mission, and Values for NCCFFI:

Vision Statement:

To inspire, facilitate & connect people with the joy, traditions & values of fly fishing, and to conserve healthy fisheries for everyone's enjoyment. We do this to preserve our traditions, support our fly fishing community, and protect our natural world.

Mission Statement:

1. We are a volunteer, non-profit educational and conservation organization dedicated to:
2. Supporting our regional fly fishing clubs and their members through education, conservation, advocacy, and outreach on behalf of their members & communities.
3. Informing the public about the joy, values & benefits of fly fishing and Its traditions
4. Advocating for clean water, healthy fisheries & watersheds so we pass forward a healthier world to the coming generations.

NCCFFI Values:

1. Be honest with fly fishing clubs & members
2. Create programs that benefit fly fishing, our clubs & their members
3. Treat each other with respect & courtesy
4. Act with integrity - Do what we say & follow through to complete any job accepted
5. Listen to our clubs & members and take action to assist them
6. Remember that fly fishing is an activity to build respect and understanding of the natural world & our place in it.
7. Be inclusive of new & future fly fishers to share the joy & knowledge of the sport.

We have also created a list of 13 actions to accomplish this Mission and Vision, and will be discussing them with our Board in the next few weeks. Once we have them finalized and approved I will share them with all of you. We are excited to begin this new era of NCCFFI work, and want you all to know that we are dedicated to our member clubs and all those who love fly fishing. We are a family in fly fishing, and working together to make our fishing community better is our purpose. Please join us in this effort.

Mark Rockwell, President

mrockwell1945@gmail.com



Rainbow Trout is a painting by David Rogers.