

March 2022

# 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**

## **Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, 3/8/2022  
6:00 pm  
@ Round Table Pizza  
Pelandale Rd.  
Modesto, CA  
(Save Mart Center)  
Members Welcome!**

## ***President's Message***

I'm excited! I'm taking a break from packing for the Pyramid Lake outing to write this message. Pyramid Lake has been a very popular outing for many years. It is even more exciting now that the Pilot Peak strain of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout has been reintroduced and there are very large fish to be caught. I just saw a picture a couple of days ago of a 31 pound LCT. We all knew there was a 30 plus pounder waiting to be caught. We have a good group going and this trip will be a total blast.

On another topic I need to mention, the club is hosting the Sisters on the Fly outing again this year. This outing is Friday and Saturday May 13 and 14 at the Sonora Fair Grounds. On Friday we will provide casting instruction and discuss basic knots and entomology. Saturday will be casting instruction and, hopefully, fish catching at the Kistler Bass Ponds. We desperately need members to step up and volunteer to assist on either or both days of the event. I was able to help out last year for the first day casting instruction and it was a lot of fun. If you are willing to help out, you can bring your gear on Saturday, and after coaching the ladies, take advantage of the ponds for a little bass fishing. Drop me a message or let us know via Facebook if you can help out.

Speaking of Kistler Bass Ponds, we have our club outing to the ponds on March 27th. That is a Sunday as they were already booked for all the Saturdays around this time. As this is not only our club outing but also a fundraiser, we will be charging \$30.00 per adult angler for the day. Bob Bullock will be providing a lunch of hot dogs, chili and chips for \$7.00.

*(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.



Like us on Facebook 

**We're on the Web!**



## Club News

### Board Meeting

**Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 6 pm**

**Round Table Pizza**

**3601 Pelandale Ave., Modesto**

***Members Welcome!***

### *President's Message (cont.)*

Bottled water will be available, but bring your own if you want something else to drink. Come one, come all. Past or present club members or friends. Please drop us a message if you plan to attend to help with headcount for Bob's lunch count. The ponds are full and the fishing should be good. See you there.

We are still planning to begin in person meetings soon. We are looking for a meeting location, and we are looking for a speaker for our first in-person meeting. If you have ideas for a meeting location or for a speaker, let us know. We always welcome help from the membership.

Speaking of membership, I was not going to mention dues as I didn't want to hammer the issue, but one of our members felt like it is an issue that demands hammering. We do very very little club fundraising and rely on dues to fund the club. Meeting sites and speakers aren't free. We pay for these things through our treasury and our treasury is funded primarily through dues. Please consider getting up-to-date with your membership dues including your FFI dues. Remember you are always welcome to attend our board meetings and your input on how our club funds are spent are welcome. Help keep the club viable and operating by staying current on your dues.

Well that's about all I know right now. I need to get back to Pyramid packing so I'll close this message and get back to packing before I forget something important. Get out and fish! Bobbers Down!!!

*~ Jim*



## 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 - Pat Roe

## Club News (cont.)



*"The times they are a-changin'"* - Used to be the signage for the Kelsey Bass Ranch. Looks a little different now. There are no details regarding the change on their website or Facebook. Who knows what the future will hold?

## The Fly Box "Must-have Flies" by Jim Bowen

Lately on my morning walks, I walk a little over an hour every morning so I have plenty of thinking time, I've been thinking about flies I like. Flies I consider must-have flies. Flies I wouldn't leave home without. As I've been thinking of must-have flies, I've wondered if I could narrow the selection down to just a couple, and as I imagine I can do this, I then think of another fly I would want to know is in my box. Now I've begun considering flies according to species, and further, am I fishing on top or subsurface? Even more, am I fishing fresh or salt water?

Of course, there are so many fly patterns out there. Flies designed for salt or fresh water. Flies designed for different fish species. Flies designed to match the hatch. Flies designed to fish on top. Flies designed to fish subsurface. Attractor flies, terrestrial flies, the list goes on and on.

I sometimes think we fall back on thinking that if we only had the "right" fly we would really be catching fish, and it's the fly not skill that is the difference between catching and not catching. As we gain experience and our skill level raises, it becomes apparent that many times it is how we fish a fly rather than the fly itself that makes the difference.

So I guess, with all that heavy thinking, what have I come up with? I guess the first thing to realize is I'm probably full of you-know-what. Secondly, I've decided to first consider trout as my targeted species. If I were to have only three flies to chase trout with, it would be a Parachute Adams for my dry fly. Tied from very small to very large you can use this fly in any hatch situation with a good chance of getting a look at least and probably a grab. Approach the water with a little stealth, watch for risers, time their rise, and deliver a cast that the provides a drag-free drift, and it's likely that the Parachute Adams will deliver. Of course, in a strong to blanket hatch this theory may just fly out the window, but sometimes in those hatch situations a fly that is a little different in color or size will get a grab.

My fly for a nymph imitation would be the Pheasant Tail nymph. Once again, tied in different sizes it will imitate almost any nymph a trout might see. Even tie a few of these unweighted and fish them in the film as emerges. The third fly I would have would without a doubt be a woolly bugger. This fly can be a streamer or a big stonefly or even a crawdad. In different colors, sizes and weights, it could be the most productive fly in your box. As Karl Malden once said, "Don't leave home without it!"

Well, as you can see I'm probably full of bull regarding this theory because we've all had days when only a particular fly would produce. But in the nature of putting up or shutting up, and as I'm not much on shutting up, I'm going to hit a trout stream this summer with only those three flies and see if my theory holds water. I'll let you know, but in the meantime make sure your fly box has these three flies. There will be a time when they are the flies that will bring you success. [Pattern links here.](#)

## Upcoming Outings and Events

**Kistler Ranch Outing** – March 27, 2022, Highway 108

**Sisters on the Fly “Fly Camp”** – May 13-14, 2022 Sonora Fairgrounds/Kistler

### Membership Information

Membership Dues (\$40) for 2022 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

### UCSC researchers study effects of wildfire runoff on steelhead sense of smell

[USCS.EDU](https://ucsc.edu) | February 2, 2022c | Kathleen Wong, UC NRS

In 2020, a massive lightning storm ignited wildfires across much of Northern California. Among the thousands of acres it charred were multiple coastal watersheds from San Mateo County to Big Sur.

For UC Santa Cruz fish ecologist Eric Palkovacs, the burns offered a chance to study how the runoff after wildfire affects one of the region's most iconic fish: steelhead trout. Unlike rainbow trout, which technically belong to the same species (*Onchorhynchus mykiss*), endangered steelhead hatch in freshwater streams, migrate to the ocean to mature, and finally return to their natal stream to spawn. [More ...](#)

### Drought conditions worsen in California

[COURTHOUSENEWS.COM](https://courthousenews.com) | February 24, 2022 | Matthew Renda

The two large storms that broadsided California in October and December brought optimism that the dry weather that has plagued the state would be relegated to the past.

But after a dry January and February, that optimism has been replaced with a sense of gloom.

On Thursday, the U.S. Drought Monitor released its weekly report showing that 68% of California is in severe drought and 100% of the state is suffering from abnormally dry conditions.

The authors of the report said 37 million Californians are living in areas severely impacted by drought. [More ...](#)

### How 'solar canals' could help California survive a megadrought

[FASTCOMPANY.COM](https://fastcompany.com) | February 2, 2022 | Roger Bales

Mounting evidence suggests the western United States is now in its worst megadrought in at least 1,200 years. Groundwater supplies are being overpumped in many places, and the dryness, wildfires, and shrinking water supplies are making climate change personal for millions of people.

As an engineer, I have been working with colleagues on a way to both protect water supplies and boost renewable energy to protect the climate.

We call it the solar-canal solution, and it's about to be tested in California. [More ...](#)



## NCCFFI Report to Clubs - February 2022

*By Dr. Mark Rockwell, President & VP Conservation, Northern Calif. Council, FFI*

Over the past months the NCCFFI has been focused on work that brings more value to our clubs and greater environmental certainty to our fisheries. The two major projects we've been focused on are pushing forward on removing the four dams on the Klamath River and organizing how the Council will work over the next couple of years to bring greater value to you, our members and clubs. First the Klamath & how close are we to dams out?



As you likely know we have been working on this for 20 years, and we are now down to the last steps before removal can start. Just last week the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) released its Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) which is now open for public comment. This will take about 2 months with a Final report due later this year. This is the last major step before License surrender to the Klamath River Renewal Corp. We are hopeful that it will happen by summer when pre-removal construction is scheduled to begin. The good news is that we remain on schedule for removal to begin in January, 2023. We all are pushing FERC to move quickly to license surrender in order to stay on schedule. As it stand now, all 4 dams will be removed by October 2023. As the pictures above show, the dams are the primary barrier to a free flowing river, and once we get them out the fishery will have the opportunity to recover and re-establish its greatness as the 3rd most productive salmon/steelhead river in the lower 48 states. This has been a long process, and we are nearly there. Fingers crossed for great fly fishing on the Klamath in the future.

Read the DEIS here: <https://klamathrenewal.org/draft-environmental-impact-statement-for-lower-klamath-project/>

The second area of focus for the Council has been developing our goals and activities for 2022 & 2023. We spent 3 months at the end of 2021 with a strategy team developing this plan, and we are establishing committees to develop the details necessary to accomplish our goals. We want you to know that you, our member clubs are our focus,

with the goal of bringing greater value to you, and to work together to teach and promote fly fishing. We all do better when we work together.

Here are our goals:

- To continue to develop NCCFFI as the regional go-to fly fishing organization in Northern California/Nevada/Hawaii
- Tighten connections with fly fishing clubs and add value through educational programs, coordinated conservation work, effective communications, and creating a sense of community.
- Create a sense of community by working together with our Board, partner clubs, like minded organizations, and fly fishers at large.
- Focus on new and younger fly fishers to create opportunities for children & families to become involved with the sport of fly fishing by sharing our collective knowledge & expertise.

We have developed Action Steps to achieve these goals and our Board is now creating committees to develop these action steps into activities that will benefit our Council, clubs and members. Again, working together as a community of dedicated fly fishers makes our sport better, creates functional fly fishing clubs, and protects our watersheds and fisheries. You can count on the NCCFFI to be a good partner to make our sport more fun and have positive impacts on our communities and state.

## More Club News - 2021 Raffle Results



SFF member Barry Newlin was the winner of the 9ft-9wt Powell Tiburon II and Tioga Teton reel.

The 9ft-3wt Powell LGA rod and Tioga Trinity reel were won by Sisters on the Fly member Berta Varble of Medford, Oregon who was a participant in our instructional camp last spring.

Congratulations to both! Stay tuned for future raffle opportunities!



## Outing Report

### Pyramid Lake Outing - February 2022

The annual Pyramid Outing is in the books and details from a couple of members have emerged. Pat Roe reported that on Day One they had “about 13 hookups and 2 or 3 landed.” He indicated they had better luck on Day Two, but was unsure of the actual numbers.



*Photos courtesy of Pat Roe*

Also reporting in was Bob Fujimura:

“Just returned from fishing with the Stanislaus Fly Fishers at Pyramid Lake. Extremely slow fishing for Jean and me this year. Dan McDaniel was one of the high scoring fishers of the trip with three cutts landed over two days. Jean did not get a bite which was a first for her. I had only one takedown; but, I was able to landed a large fish on the second day. Looking forward to when we return later this month.”



*Photo courtesy of Bob Fujimura*



Bob Fujimura also related the details of a recent trip he took to the Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout Waters:

### **Eagle Canyon Private Trout Water Report**

By Bob Fujimura

On February 10, Jean and I fished with the Amador Flyfishers at the Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout Waters. Confluence Outfitters offers private trout fishing from two spring-fed ponds approximately 20 miles east of Red Bluff, California. Trophy rainbows from 4 to 15 pounds inhabit these intimate ponds and flourish in the fertile coldwater habitat. Near several private, state, and federal trout hatcheries, they are a perfect home for trophy trout.

About 12 members of the AFF gathered in front of the gate to the ponds at 8:30 am and were guided to the two ponds by the caretaker who later gave a short orientation talk. After disinfecting our boots, waders, and float tubes were left to fish until 5 pm. This was our first visit. And despite these ponds are relatively small compared to other stillwaters we fish, these trophy-sized fish were no pushovers – fishing seemed surprisingly technical. Weather was unusually sunny and warm in the 80's in February; water was warm in the low 60's and ponds were shallow. Fished the smaller pond for 90 minutes without a bite. Jean placed herself on the middle of the earthen dam on the large pond and got immediately several bites and LDR'ed a large trout. We were prepared to float tube the lake but found we could fish just as well from the bank. About late morning, the bite started to pick up. Some of the more experienced fishers like host Joe Jimenez were very successful at consistently hooking and landing fish throughout the day 9-5 pm. Joe used a rubberleg suspended from an indicator slowly pulled from a float tube. I landed 4 large (22" to 28") trout using either nymphs stripped from an intermediate line or suspended from an indicator. Later, Joe said that over 20 fish were caught and landed that day.

We enjoyed the challenging nature of these ponds and the chance to catch some exceptionally large trout. It was a very nice opportunity to get to meet and know some of the AFF members and share some fishing stories on dinner.



## The Fly Box (Continued)

### Parachute Adams



#### **Recipe:**

HOOK: dry fly hook, size 16

THREAD: grey Unithread

TAIL: brown and grizzly hackle fibers

BODY: Adam's Grey Fine & Dry Dubbing

WING: grizzly hackle tips

HACKLE: brown and grizzly

HEAD: tying thread and head cement

[Video Here](#)

### Pheasant Tail Nymph



#### **Recipe:**

Hook: 2X-long nymph hook, sizes 12-20

Thread: Brown, 6/0 or 70 denier

Rib: Copper Ultra Wire, small

Tail/abdomen: Dark brown pheasant tail

Legs and wingcase: Dark brown pheasant tail fibers.

Thorax: Peacock herl

Head: Brown thread and head cement.

[Video Here](#)

### Woolly Bugger



#### **Recipe:**

Hook: Daiichi 2220 #1-14

Thread: Black 3/0 Monocord

Weight: Lead Wire

Tail: Black Marabou

Rib: Brassie Sized copper wire

Body: Medium Olive Chenille

Hackle: Black Rooster Saddle

[Video Here](#)