

December 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

December Meeting

Tuesday,
December 13th
6:00 pm Round Table
Pizza
(Save Mart Center)
Pelandale Ave.
Modesto, CA

President's Message

Stripers! These critters may be the best game fish in our area. I had a great day out with guide Bryce Tedford in late November. We covered a lot of water and he put me on a lot of fish. These guys really put on a fight and make a serious bend in an 8wt or 9 wt rod. The actual grab is really interesting. Sometimes they attack the fly on a hard fast strip and almost rip the rod out of your hand. Other times you'll feel a light nibble on a falling fly on the pause between strips. Regardless of the grab, once you set up on the fish the fight is on! I haven't been out as often this year as I hoped to, but I plan to chase them from now into the spring.



Fishing for them will slow down as the water continues to chill but will pick up again in the early spring when water temps start to rise with very good fishing in April and May. The spring may be the best fishing for stripers, but the problem then is catching a day without a serious wind. Even with a decent trolling motor you will fight current and tide to hold a good line, but add wind as a third element and you may spend more time managing boat position than fishing.

(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 Notes

General Meeting

Tuesday, December 13th, 6:00 pm
Round Table Pizza, Pelandale Ave., Modesto
(Save Mart Center)

Pat Roe and I have been out a couple of times this season and on one outing we discussed the amount of time we have put in chasing these awesome fish and all that we have learned over the years about how it's done. Rods and reels, fly lines, flies, boats, motors, locations, tides all important to the game. If you want to give stripers a try and you're new to the game, consider a guide. They will have everything you need and will really shorten the learning curve. Bryce Tedford will certainly put you on fish and, if you need it, will help you with your casting. My advice, learn to double haul and practice your casting. Get out and chase stripers. Hook up and you'll agree with me that they are the best game fish in our area.

As you all know the Rivers of Recovery auction has come and gone. I haven't heard yet how well it went, but I'd like to thank Bud Heintz, Dennis Green, Roger Ringsted, Pat Roe and anyone else who donated that I may have missed for donating to the auction as well as any of you who bid on auction items. I do want to mention that Jim Mayol who initially involved the club in this organization made a substantial donation with the message, "In honor of the Stanislaus Fly Fishers for their unwavering support of Rivers of Recovery and Greater Stanislaus veterans." Thank you, Jim, for the recognition, but more importantly for involving Stanislaus Fly Fishers in the Rivers of Recovery and providing us with the opportunity to do our part to help and support our veterans. Thank you!

Finally we will meet on December 13th at 6:00pm at the RoundTable pizza on Pelandale for our finally general meeting of 2022. Come out and have a slice and a beer and we'll share pictures and stories about our fishing and plans for fishing to come in the new year.

Tight Lines,
Jim

Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2022 Board of Directors

President – Jim Bowen

Vice-President – Gus Link

Treasurer/Membership –
Dennis Stambaugh

Secretary/Webmaster –
Michael Hewitt

Outings – Bob Bullock

At-Large – Bud Heintz

At-Large - Pat Roe

Club News



The Fly Box - “The Silver Hilton”

With January around the corner, here’s a steelhead fly.

Hook: Streamer sizes #2 - #10

Thread: Black

Tag: Flat silver tinsel

Tail: Grey mallard flank

Rib: Oval silver tinsel

Body: Black chenille

Wings: Grizzly hackle tips flared

Hackle: Grizzly sat hackle

Click on the video to view or YouTube link [here](#).

FLY TYING FOR BEGINNERS: A SILVER HILTON WITH JIM MISIURA



Have a favorite fly pattern you’d like to share? Drop me a line [here](#).

Upcoming Outings and Events

International Sportsmen's Expo - January 19-22, 2023 - Sacramento, CA
The Fly Fishing Show - February 24-26, 2023 - Pleasanton, CA

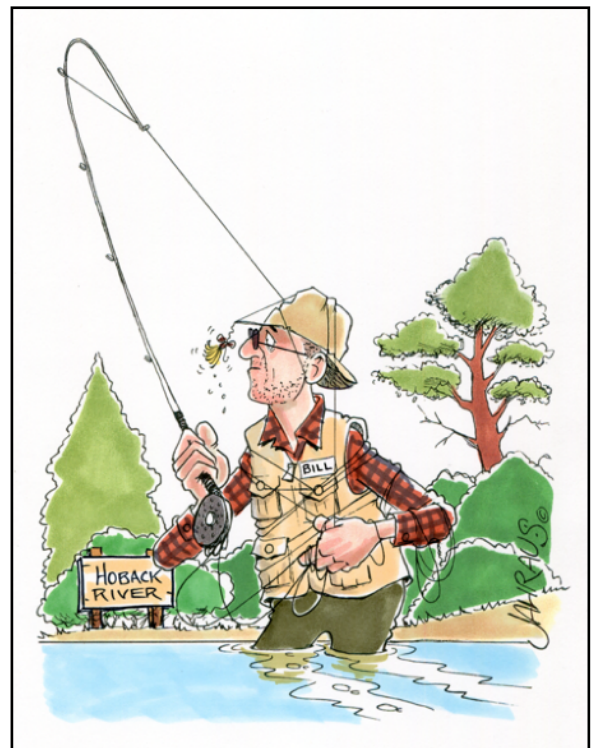
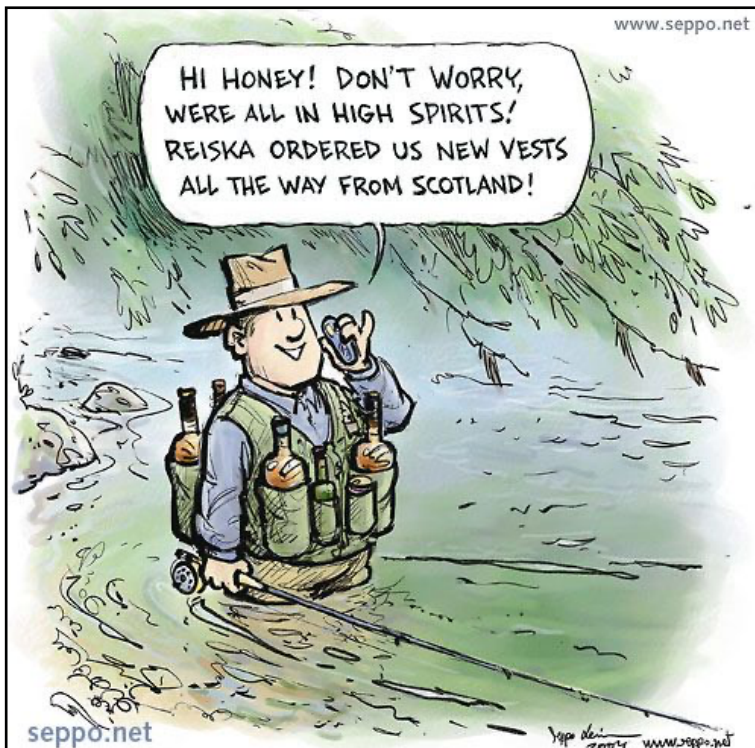
Membership Information

Membership Dues are suspended for the rest of 2022. 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.

Mail Membership Dues to:
Dennis Stambaugh
3833 Blue Bird Drive
Modesto, CA, 95356

Comics



NCCFFI Report to Clubs - December 2022

This has been a very crazy few weeks. We celebrate a very successful Yuba Fest up in Sycamore Ranch park on the Yuba River, the Project Healing Waters online auction, and the final approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the surrender of the license to operate the Klamath hydropower project from PacifiCorp to the Klamath River Renewal Corporation. All of these were historic for different reasons. I will give some thoughts on all:

Yuba Fest - October 15 & 16

Without question, this event was a success for our clubs, for fly fishing as a sport, and for NCCFFI. We worked hard, with Clay Hash's leadership and Gold Country Fly Fishers volunteers to make this an event we'd be proud of and for attendees to have fun and learn. More than 200 attended including our teaching sessions on fishing the Yuba River, fishing technical waters, learning to fly fish, and how to fly cast. The fly casting skills development program was a big hit with the leadership of Russ Carpenter & Sarah Trenchel and other certified casters from the Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club. People enjoyed a good lunch and daytime music from the Harmony Grove Band, and a BBQ dinner of Tri Tip, Chicken or a vegetarian lasagna with trimmings. After dinner we were treated to the music of Karrie O'Neil, a Reno, NV singer/songwriter. Sunday was a day long course of fishing technical waters with Clay Hash, where technical casting and techniques to use on waters like spring creeks. It was a great weekend!



Klamath River License Surrender - The Dams are Coming Out!

"After more than 100 years of being dammed, the lower Klamath River will flow free once again" said Dr. Mark Rockwell, President of Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International (NCCFFI) in his press statement on November 17, 2022. It has taken decades of advocacy by Native American Tribes who depend on a living Klamath River for their cultural identity and food security, as well as the states of California and Oregon, the dams' owner, federal agencies, and several nonprofits, including NCCFFI, to navigate the lengthy planning, fundraising, regulatory and project design processes. But finally on November 17, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the hydropower License Surrender to remove four dams from the Klamath River.

The Klamath was once a highly productive salmon river with one million fish returning to the river each year. The dams changed that creating a river chocked with toxic algae (cyanobacteria), breeding fish-killing parasites and water too warm to support its natural fishery. In 1918, the Copco 1 Dam was completed, cutting Klamath salmon off from the upper part of the basin. Over the next 44 years, three more dams were built (Iron Gate, Copco 2, and J.C. Boyle dams) on the river in California and Oregon, effectively closing off 400 miles of habitat to salmon and steelhead, ultimately resulting in dramatic fish population declines. Removing the dams will end these problems. The fish will be able to return to habitat they have not seen for a century. Cyanobacteria will be no longer be a problem – it does not persist in flowing water. The beautiful Klamath River will be better able to sustain life.



Barring any further interruptions, pre-construction will start in the summer of 2023, with the first dam - Copco 2 - coming down by the Fall. The other 3 dams - Copco 1, J.C. Boyle & Iron Gate - will be removed by October, 2024. That will begin a 7 year process to rehabilitate and restore the watershed, and monitor the process. The hatchery now at Iron Gate will be closed and operations will move to the newly rehabilitated hatchery on Fall Creek. This will operate for up to 7 years, with the hopes that in-river spawning will provide enough natural salmon to support closure by the end of 2031.

It is impossible to convey the essence of this accomplishment. My personal involvement now spans 20 years, with a break between 2015-18, when Lowell Ashbaugh stood in for NCCFFI. Lowell held the flag high and keep our voice in the effort. Thank You, Lowell!!

I've spent thousands of hours on calls, zoom meetings, on-site meetings in Oregon & California, and written hundreds of articles, given more than 30 presentations inside and outside the fly fishing world, and given talks to community service groups and clubs all in the grand hopes that we would prevail. It is with great pride and happiness that I can say - We Did It! In the end, the Tribes, fishery and river watershed are the great winners, for they are the ones who had the most at stake. We fly fishers had to be part of the advocacy effort that made this happen, and the Northern Calif. Council, FFI took on the challenge. We can all take pride for that effort. FFI members, fly club members, and those who gave time & money over the years are all thanked to have contributed to Lowell and I being able to represent our community. We are humbled by this support and by all those we worked with to make this happen. It did not come without great effort.

President Teddy Roosevelt knew what it takes:

“It is not the Critic who counts.....The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by the dust & sweat & blood. Who strives valiantly. Who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid soles who know neither victory nor defeat.”

Conservation

The world's largest dam removal will touch many lives in the Klamath River Basin

[opb.org](https://www.opb.org) | Cassandra Profita | November 18, 2022

The four-dam teardown brings hope and uncertainty to residents in an area of Southern Oregon and Northern California where drought has made water a source of controversy.

Video [here](#).

Looking down at a pool filled with Klamath River salmon swimming back to their spawning grounds, Karuk Tribal Councilor Aaron “Troy” Hockaday says he can’t wait to see what the future holds for them.

“These fish right here give me hope,” he said. “They had a long journey from the mouth of the Klamath coming up here, so right now what they’re doing is resting a little bit.” It’s a spot at the confluence of the Klamath and Scott rivers near the Northern California town of Yreka. Hockaday comes here often to check on the salmon that are vital to his people and their culture.

Right now, there aren’t many salmon for the Karuk and other area tribes to catch. That’s because hundreds of miles of salmon spawning habitat are blocked by four dams on the lower Klamath River.

But an historic decision made on Thursday in Washington, D.C. holds the promise to change that. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s approval of removing those four dams should set free a huge stretch of one of the West’s most important coastal rivers for salmon and reopen 400 miles of habitat — much of which salmon have been unable to reach for more than a century.

“It’s gonna be one of the best things for our fish and our fisheries,” Hockaday said. “It’s been a long, long journey to get to where we are today.”

Next year, deconstruction work will begin at JC Boyle, Copco 1, Copco 2 and Iron Gate dams, with the biggest dams scheduled to be removed in 2024.

Getting to this point has taken decades of negotiation and planning, and removing the four dams will be a massive, \$500 million undertaking that many in the surrounding communities still oppose.

Full article linked [here](#).