

February 2023

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

February Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 21,
2023

6:00pm

Tuolumne River
Lodge

2429 River Rd,
Modesto, CA

See map in newsletter.

President's Message

February 1, 2023

2023, wow! That means it has been 10 years since I was last President of Stanislaus Fly Fishers!

Yup, I am the Prez once again! For those of you that might remember my last term, it didn't last long, and I don't think I did that great of a job. In my defense, I was dealing with a brutal divorce, distinct lack of funds and a whole slew of emotional baggage. I had so much other shtuff (portmanteau, s#!t and stuff!) going on I could not devote the time or energy to the job of President.

So here we are a decade later! Much has changed in my life, and hopefully I have grown enough to do a better job this time! I am looking forward to this!

First order of business, our outgoing President, Jim Bowen. Jim is going to be a tough act to follow. He got this Club through some brutal times; he has my admiration and thanks. He is not going away, just stepping down. I am sure I will be leaning on him for advice and direction. Cue much applause!! Second order of business, Thanks to a HUGE amount of effort by Bob Bullock (our Club VP), we have a place to meet! Tuolumne River Lodge, 2429 River Road in Modesto. Thank You Bob! Cue much applause!!

In my opinion, Covid about wiped us out, and I believe that if we are to save this club, we need to start meeting face to face again. My hope is that a consistent meeting place will be the start. Kudos to Bob and the effort he put out to get this location for at least the next 6 months. (Continued next page)

Stanislaus Fly Fishers Membership Information

Currently, membership fees are \$40 per year.

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

President's Message (Continued)

How are we going to save this Club? That is going to be my theme for the foreseeable future. We have a six-month commitment to TRL, I plan to take at least small steps forward in the next 6 months to see if we can pull this off. My thoughts ...

- Place to meet ... check. Get back to In Real Life meetings.
- Start tying at meetings. Personally, that greatly improved my (albeit limited!) skills as a tyer.
- Speakers: I would like to have someone from CADFW come in. Someone from FishBio. It would be nice to have a guide come in. For that to happen, we need to get folks to start attending. Tough to justify the \$\$ output when we have 4 people at a meeting. Maybe start with the free speakers and see how we are doing in six months.
- Swap meet! I know I have some things I would like to part with, maybe with a swap night we can attract some members who need some of the things we want to part with.
- Dinner party, family night. We have a great location, let's make the most of it.
- Outings: whether we do our own outings, or share with some of our neighbor clubs, I think this is a great way to grow the club.

And the most important thing we need at meetings? YOU! Yeah, YOU, the person reading this! Plus, anyone you can bring. Your friends, your neighbor, your spouse, the kid from down the block. We need to have people at the meetings! We need new members, old members, prospective members, everybody we can get. How do we do that? We need participation by ALL members. Come to the meetings, invite your friends, participate in the club!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone not only at the meetings, but out on the water in 2023!

Tight Lines!
Gus

When you're finished changing, you're finished.
- Benjamin Franklin

Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2023 Board of Directors

President: Gus Link • Vice-President: Bob Bullock
Treasurer/Membership: Dennis Stambaugh • Secretary/Webmaster: Michael Hewitt
At large: Jim Bowen • At-Large: Bud Heintz

Club News

General Meeting
February 21, 2023 6:00 pm
Tuolumne River Lodge
2429 River Road, Modesto, CA

Program: “Fly Tying Demonstration and Tying Party”

Due to Valentine’s Day falling on our regularly scheduled meeting night, we are moving our meeting to Tuesday, February 21st, just one week later. The February meeting will feature award-winning tier and SFF member Bud Heintz, who is featured in the current issue of American Fly Fisher magazine, as well as SFF member Pat Roe sharing some of their favorite patterns along with tips and techniques for tying

We’ll have water on hand and maybe a munchie or two, but feel free to bring your own beverage of choice.

The Fly Box - “Zebra Midge”

This month’s fly is one for the beginners. A go-to fly in anybody’s fly box, the Zebra Midge is simple to tie and can be fished in rivers and stillwater. This video from Savage Flies gives a nice overview of this chironomid pupa pattern.

Chironomid midges have four life stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The life cycle from egg to adult ranges from less than a week to more than a year, depending on the species and time of year. Most adults emerge within one to two weeks, starting in late spring and finishing in early fall. Midges are a year-around staple in the diet of trout, and a very important source of food, especially during the winter months, where midges are often the only insect available. A single fish can eat 1,500 midge pupa in a morning feeding period!

Click on the image to view or go the YouTube link [**here**](#).

Have a favorite fly pattern to share? Drop me a line [**here**](#).



Hook: #16-22 curved
Bead: 2.0 mm
Thread: 70 denier, body color
Rib: Small wire, silver or gold
Tail: Crystal flash (optional)
Body: Thread

Upcoming Outings and Events

The Fly Fishing Show - February 24-26, 2023 - Pleasanton, CA

Membership Information

Membership fees for 2023, currently \$45, are now due. 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 as that links you to us on their roster.. The online application for FFI membership is linked below.

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

[*SFF Membership Form*](#)

[*FFI Membership Link*](#)

Comics



NCCFFI Report to Clubs - February 2023

We invite all of you to the Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton, CA., February 24, 25 & 26th. We will be there in force with our normal booth meeting fly fishers and referring them to all of you, our clubs, so they can visit and consider joining. Beyond this club communication effort, we'll be again teaching fly tying to kids, with a focus on qualifying Scouts for the Fly Fishing Merit Badge. That will include tying 2 different flies, learning 3 knots, and doing some casting. In addition to our "in-the-building" efforts, we'll also be supporting a large host of fly casting instructors who will be teaching casting to the event visitors. This will take place out on the grass lawn area which is located behind the pavilion of the show through the back gate and the right. Look for the signs for 'Casting lessons'



A major part of the show for us is introducing club casting teachers to the **Fly Casting Skills Development Program (FCSD)**. It is a fun way to improve casting skills for all fly fishers in a self-paced fashion. There are now four levels from beginner to advanced: Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Sarah Trenchel and Russ Carpenter will be on site to teach club casting teachers how to set up the course and the process to actually teach the various casts needed to pass the different levels. Both Sarah and Russ are certified casting instructors from the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club in S.F.

This specific program will be taught on Saturday the 25th starting at 9:30 in the morning. **Please contact Clay Hash, clayhash.fft@gmail.com, to register to attend.** We can only take 6 people at a time. It's possible we'll have more than one session, so it's important to register so we can advise you of the time you should be there for your session. Clubs that have started this program for members all say they have really enjoyed the casting sessions, and they are learning a lot. If you pass one or more of the levels - Bronze, Silver, Gold - you can apply and receive a certificate and pin from FFI. **We promise you, it will be both fun and rewarding!**

Another activity we will be doing is our **Club President Luncheon**. It will be hosted starting at noon, location to be determined, but it will be at the show location. Our Booth will have location details, so stop by for directions.

We invite either the club President, or, if they can't make it, a club representative. We want your club to attend to meet & share information about your club, and hear what NCCFFI has prepared for 2023 activities. We have developed many exciting learning programs - casting, tying, fishing and techniques for difficult fishing locations. **Clay Hash, Founder of Fly Fishing Traditions**, will present at various locations in our region in 2023. All of these activities are designed to be utilized by our clubs and members, and, we promise, they will be both educational and fun. We'll cover details of locations, times and dates for all of these at the lunch.

For conservation, a major focus of NCCFFI, we'll give you a glimpse of what we're working on to improve & recover our watersheds and fisheries. We'll also present a wonderful short video on what will be happening on the Klamath dam removal & restoration process that starts in 2023 - this year!! We are focused on improved fisheries for all fly fishers.

Please contact Mark Rockwell, mrockwell1945@gmail.com, to register for the lunch. We need to know who and how many will attend so we can provide adequate food and drinks, as well has enough space to have a restful and enjoyable time. It will be a fun time!

Mark Rockwell, President, NCCFFI

Conservation

Dam Removal Puts California Salmon in Hot Pursuit of Cold Water

[fisheries.NOAA.gov](https://fisheries.noaa.gov) | January 17, 2023

Collaborative efforts reopen six additional miles of habitat to migrating and resident fish.

California salmon are now traversing a rocky stretch of river northeast of Sacramento for the first time in a century. Until a few months ago, an 8-foot concrete dam in Auburn Ravine stopped most of them from reaching miles of cool spawning habitat. NOAA Fisheries supported the planning and removal by partners of 8-foot Hemphill Dam. It had been installed in the early 1900s to divert water into the Hemphill Canal but lacked passage for native salmon and federally listed steelhead.

“This is a true win for the native fish stocks in Auburn Ravine and the people who live in Placer County,” says Neal McIntosh, Natural Resources Management Specialist for NOAA Fisheries California Central Valley Office. “The Placer County Conservation Program has helped focus the community and partnering agencies by highlighting important projects like this one.” [More ...](#)



Hemphill Dam after rehabilitation. Image courtesy ECORP Consulting, Inc.

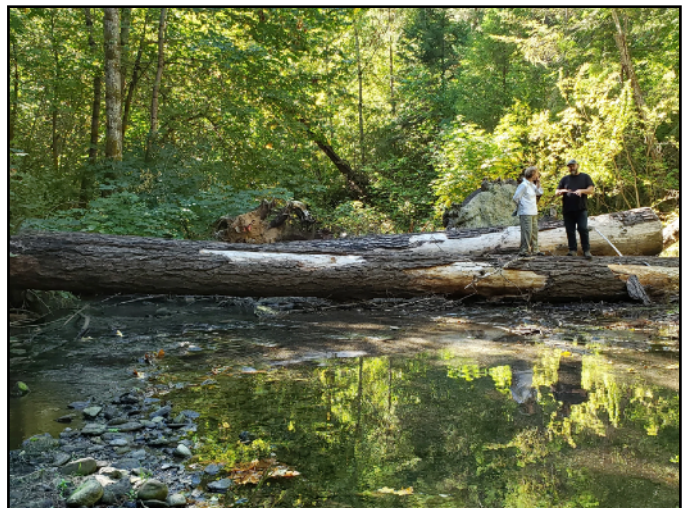
The ‘messy’ creek restoration that will help bring back salmon on the Klamath River

ijpr.org | Juliet Grable | January 14, 2023

Though tributaries like Horse Creek are far out of the spotlight, they are an integral part of the whole Klamath River ecosystem. Without these, it’s unlikely that dam removal alone will help coho and Chinook fully recover.

It’s not every day that you see a full-sized conifer, stripped of its limbs but with base and roots intact, fall from the sky.

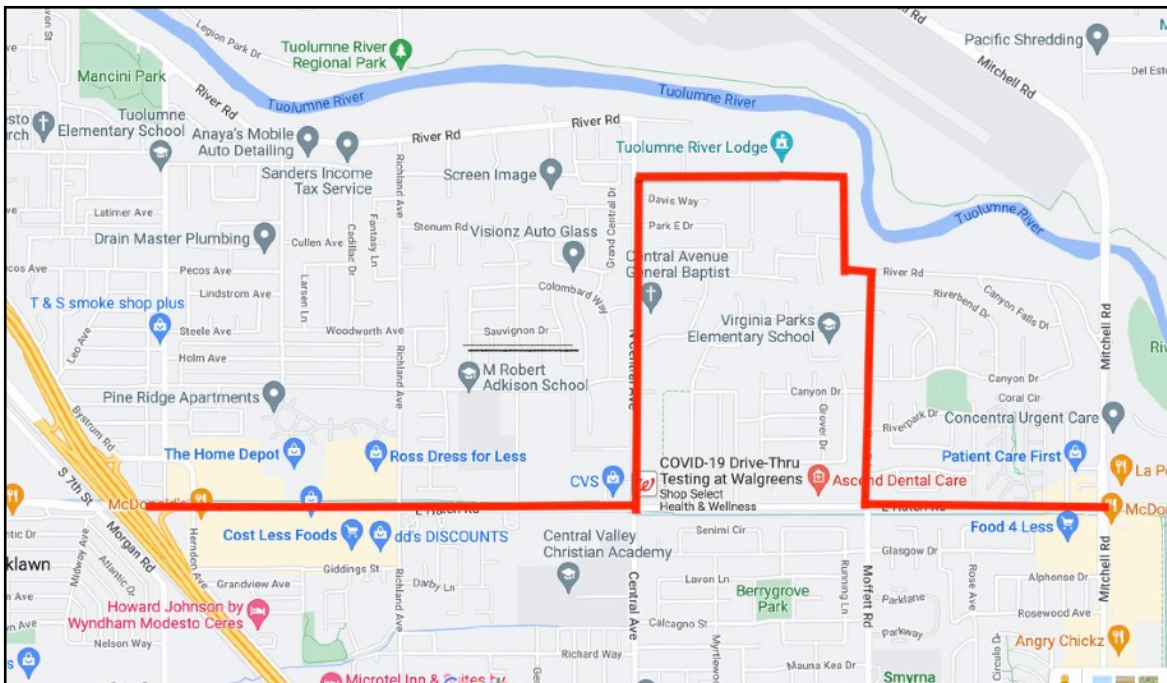
But over the course of two days in 2020, pilots from Columbia Helicopters shuttled over 120 such trees to the upper reaches of Horse Creek and let them crash to the woods below. [More ...](#)



Karuk Tribe Fisheries Program Manager Toz Soto (right) stands on a log that was dropped by a helicopter into upper Horse Creek. Image Juliet Grable /JPR

This and That ...

Directions to Tuolumne River Lodge



From 99 take Hatch Rd east to Central. Left on Central to River Rd. Right on River Rd.
From Mitchell Rd take Hatch Rd west to Moffett Rd. Right on Moffett to River Rd.
Left on River Rd.

Amador Flyfishers presents: AFF Mid-Summer Fly Tying Day

Here's an opportunity for beginning tyers to get instruction and guidance from experienced tyers. Sponsored by the Amador Flyfishers it will be held on July 8, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Jackson, CA, and *IT'S FREE!*

“Calling all fly tyers and those interesting in learning!

Come to the AFF Fly Tying Day in Jackson, Ca on Saturday July 8th.

Ever thought of doing some fly tying but just don't know where to start?

Come to this AFF event where intermediate and advanced tyers will be there to demo, answer questions and offer instruction and answer any questions you may have about the world of fly tying.

Sit down and try your hand at tying basic nymphs and streamers with the help of one of our expert club tyers. Exchange ideas and techniques!

Open invitation to other clubs in the area as well. We would love to have tyer volunteers from other clubs show up and show off their favorite flies.

Come one come all!”

Signups are on MeetUp:

<https://www.meetup.com/amadorflyfishers/events/291190171/>

Delta Fly Fishers Elko County Outing

Bob Fujimura has offered our SFF members to join with the Delta club on an outing in Elko County, Nevada in May. This is the area Bob spoke about in his presentation at our last general meeting. Details here:

Mark Your Calendars for the 2023 Eastern Nevada Outing

Date: *Wednesday May 17 to Friday 19, 2023*

Location: *Elko County Nevada; approximately 500 to 600 miles or 9 to 11 hour drive from the Stockton area*

Summary: Want to fish some of the most productive trout reservoirs in the West? Join a 2 ½ day fly fishing clinic with guides led by guide Rob Anderson of Pyramid Lake Fly Fishers. Participants will have plenty of opportunities to fly fish well stocked reservoirs and use various techniques under the guidance of experienced guides. The outing costs \$295 per person and includes two full days of guided fly fishing and lunches and dinners.

Introduction: For years, guide Rob Anderson has invited his long time clients to little known but well stocked reservoirs as a change of pace from the intense guiding schedule at Pyramid Lake. Despite the long distance from Reno and CA, his clients have enjoyed these spring outings with some of the most remarkable trout fishing of their fishing season. Bob and Jean Fujimura have been regular fishers for this outing for several years and look forward to sharing their time with those DFF members who make this long trip. This outing is designed for intermediate or advanced skilled fly fishers who are familiar with fishing lakes and reservoirs from a personal watercraft.



Event Agenda: The exact locations have not been determined at this time since they pre-fish and select the best of several fine lakes in Elko County, NV. However, participants who register will be given the tentative location at that time. Typically, the itinerary includes an informal orientation, gear set up, and dinner on the afternoon of the first day. Next day, fishers will have a full day of lake fishing with lunch provided at the fishing location and later dinner at the nearby campground. The attendees will have another full day of fishing and lunch. The guided session will end in the afternoon of the third day. Given the distance, many attendees choose to extend their fishing trips either before and/or after this guided session independently.

The Fish: Typically, Rob selects the best reservoir for his clients to catch numerous medium to large sized trout during his sessions. Depending on the reservoir, rainbow, cutbow or tiger trout hybrids, cutthroat, and brown trout can be available. Some of the area's reservoirs also have fishable populations of various bass (largemouth, smallmouth, and wipers) and yellow perch.

Techniques: Rob Anderson and his guides are experts in stillwater indicator fishing, and these locations are selected for the best fishing using these techniques. Terminal gear and flies are very similar to those used at Pyramid Lake. Productive indicator flies include balance leeches, attractor nymphs, and chironomid pupa patterns. Nine to 10' single handed rods in 5 to 7 weights with matching floating fly lines are suitable for fishing this technique. For those who prefer stripping wet flies, angler can also fish streamers, leeches, and smaller stillwater nymph pattern using an intermediate or slow sinking line. However, often the best presentation is technical and generally less productive than using indicator or 'naked' indicator techniques. All participants should bring a personal watercraft such as a float tube, oared pontoon boat, or pram with suitable safety equipment such as an anchor system. A personal floatation device is also required for floating any lake and all participants must have valid NV or tribal fishing license.

Accommodations: The reservoirs in Elko County are often between 5,000 to 6,000 feet in elevation and the weather can quickly drop to winter temperatures with wet/icy and windy conditions. Unless you are experienced with tent camping under extreme conditions, participants should either camp in hard-sided RVs or stay in cabins or motel lodgings in the area. Contact the DFF outing host for information on the suitable campgrounds or motels in the area. Outside of Elko, NV restaurants or cafes are quite limited so participants should be prepared to provide their own breakfasts (during the guided period) and all meals outside of the guided session. DFF participants are also responsible for their travel, lodging, meals, license or permit costs.

To Register: Contact Rob Anderson, rob@bucklistflyfishing.com or (775) 742-1754 to register/pay or obtain more information on his guided outing. All registered DFF participants should 1) let Rob know that you are a DFF member and 2) notify Bob Fujimura that you are coming. Bob will provide more details to those members who sign up and help coordinate any group side fishing or camping opportunities if needed. Bob Fujimura's contact information are email: deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or cell phone: (209) 329-1692. A signed 2022-2023 DFF liability waiver form is a requirement for participation.

* ***Please call Bob Fujimura before contacting Rob Anderson just so he/they know you are an SFF member who is attending.*** This shared offer is open to SFF members only. You must be a paid SFF member to participate.

Classifieds

For Sale ...

Sage 996 GFL 9'6" #9 2-piece rod w/metal tube & sock. \$125.00



Sage Graphite II 1090 DS #10 9'0" 2-piece rod w/metal tube & sock. \$125.00



Both rods will be at the February meeting. If questions, send an email to Mike Hewitt at: webmaster@stanislausflyfishers.org