



President's Message

Where the heck did November go? Just seemed to fly by! Add to that I have recently realized Thanksgiving dinner is an incredibly lopsided event! Prep all week, cook for 2 days, everyone finally gets to the table, dinner is over in 20 minutes! Worth it though! If for nothing else but the leftovers! MMMMM!

I would like to welcome Roger Ringstad as our newest Board Member At Large! Welcome aboard Roger! Great to have you on the Board!

Looking forward to this month's dinner meeting, tacos and beer! Most importantly though, the camaraderie of fellow fly fisher folk! I am glad we could do a dinner this year. It is an event I always looked forward to in the past. Nice to be able to re-establish a fun event.

Outings: This is the time of year when we start to plan outings for the upcoming year. We have talked about some camp outings, probably some stillwater outings. We are really trying to have outings that are within a reasonable drive. Any suggestions? Please, we want to hear them. Also, if you want to coordinate an outing, let us know! We would be happy to help!

Book Report: I am currently reading *The Feather Thief* by Kirk Wallace Johnson. I am only about halfway through, but totally hooked! I definitely recommend it, and will have a full report next month!

As always, I hope to have a large turnout at the meeting (December 12), because what do we need at the meetings?

YOU! Yeah YOU, the person reading this! We need participation by ALL members. Come to the meetings, invite your friends, participate in the Club! Grab some flyers to hand out (ask any Board member), be passionate about your sport!

Do you have any suggestions? Anything that you would like to see happen at the meetings? Or anything that you would like to see happen with the Club? Please, feel free to reach out to me, or any Board Member, and tell us. We welcome any and all questions, suggestions and feedback. After all, it is not my Club, it is everyone's Club. The more participation we get, the more successful the Club can be.

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Tight Lines!

~ Link

Club News

... December General Meeting - Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Tacos and beer! December will see the return of our annual year-end dinner. It should be a fun time for all. If you haven't already RSVP'd, do so now! The signup deadline is Monday, December 4th. We need a good headcount for the caterer. There will also be wine and water provided, otherwise it's BYOB if you have another preference. There will also be a raffle/auction with some nice prizes. This is an excellent event to have an opportunity to get to know your fellow club members a little better. Bring your spouse/partner and join the par-tay! Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdjfz28w>



... Knight's Ferry Salmon Festival

The Knight's Ferry Salmon Festival sponsored by US Fish & Wildlife returned this year with a bang. The turnout by the crowd and vendors was great! Sadly, someone forgot to invite the salmon. The return on the Stanislaus has been low. I heard that there was only about 1000 counted as of the date of the Salmon Festival. For the brief time I stood on the bridge I only counted seven upstream and could see none downstream. Other than that, it was a beautiful day. We gave casting instruction to young and old and had great conversations with a bunch of attendees. Members Gus Link, Bob Bullock, John Driver, Roger Ringsted, and myself represented the club (did I forget anyone?) and had a most enjoyable day. This is always an enjoyable activity for me. It's one of my favorite outreach events.



... GGA&C Club Free Casting Clinic

Just a reminder that the free casting clinic is held the second Saturday of every month from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm at Golden Gate Park. Saturday, December 9th is the next session. I had hoped to put together a carpool group to attend, but too many things coming up have pre-empted that. But if you're free, head on over. It's a great experience and the folks who run it are really nice. The event is held rain or shine.

... The Fly Fishing Show

The club is going to have an information booth at the Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton this year! We hope to use the opportunity to promote our club to any and all area attendees, as well as promote the Fly Fishing Film Tour which will be held this coming spring. There is an opportunity for members to work the booth and get a free pass to the event. This year's event runs February 23-25, 2024.



... 2023 F3T Film Showing

This Friday, December 8th, the SFF is hosting an intimate showing of the 2023 F3T film from this past year at the Prospect Theater Project located on 1214 K Street in Modesto . This is an informal event with a \$12 ticket price to cover the event costs of film and facility rental. There will be a raffle that evening as well. The doors will open at 6:00 pm with the program starting at 6:30. The bar will be open for the sale of beer, wine, and cocktails! Tickets are available on the [Prospect Theater website](#) but will also be available at the door. Please, please, please come out and attend. This should whet your appetite for the



main event next spring when he host the 2024 3FT at the State Theater!

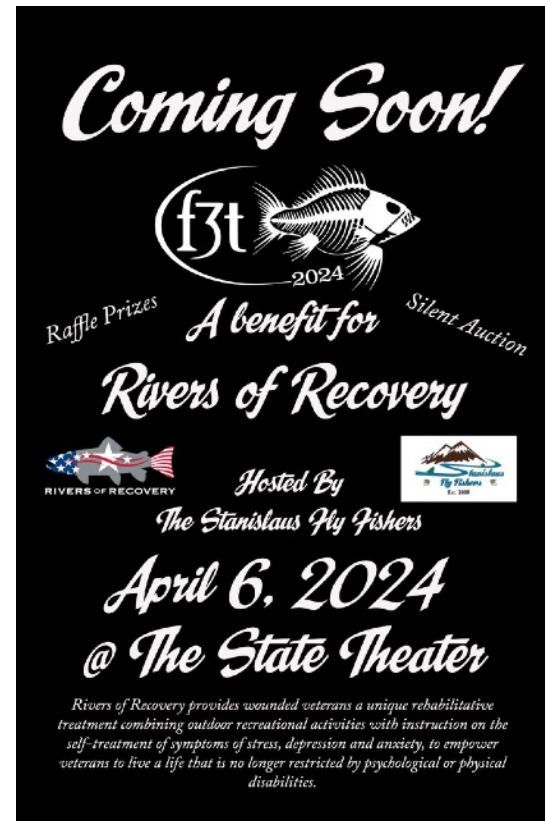
... Fly Fishing Film Tour Returns!

Speaking of the 2024 Fly Fishing Film Tour, the date has been set for April 6, 2024 @ The State Theater in Modesto from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm. We'll present more details as they get solidified. In the meantime, please be thinking about how you can make this a fantastic fundraising event for Rivers of Recovery. For those that don't know, The SFF has been involved in promoting the F3T event at The State since its inception, which I believe dates back to 2009. The local event was suspended due to the Covid lockdown in 2020, but it's time we brought it back bigger and stronger than ever. We not only will need member support in running things the day of the event, but also in arranging the donation of raffle prizes. There'll be more on that in the upcoming months.

All proceeds from the raffle and profits from the event will be donated to Rivers of Recovery, an NPO that provides recreational, outdoor rehabilitative therapy for combat disabled veterans.

... Outings and Activities in 2024

As the club regains it's health following the toll taken by the Covid shutdown, we've had a renewed focus on not only rebuilding membership, but establishing a regular pattern of group-based outings. Group outings are only successful to the degree they engage members to participate, and many factors weigh into the level of participation they receive, including but not limited to cost, distance, scheduling (weekday vs. weekend, time of year, outing length, etc.), type of fishing (stream, stillwater, personal float device, boat), and skill level required. Not every outing will appeal to or be available to every member for a number of reasons, but it's important that we provide a variety of activities



and outings so that there is something for everyone at some point during the year.

To that end the outing director coordinates the effort to schedule these activities, but it is imperative that club members involve themselves by providing input to their development. We need recommendations for possible future outing locations, feedback on the outings we have scheduled in the past, and suggestions as to the types of outings that make the most sense for you as a member. It's important to remember that we are a club of volunteers connected by a shared interest in our sport and as such the club will only be successful if we pull together to make it work.

As with outings, non-fishing club activities are also important. Our information booths at community events like farmers' markets, craft fairs, festivals, and the upcoming Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton are important to raise awareness of and promote our club and the sport. Our annual fundraising effort for Rivers of Recovery is a way of not only generating club awareness, but more importantly giving back to and being involved with the community, specifically our disabled veterans. These things too need your active participation so please don't be shy. Step up and say, "How can I help?"

... Fishing Reports

First, from our intrepid Man on the Stream (or river or lake) Jim Bowen we have a report on his recent outings in search of stripers:



The Delta is RED HOTT with two T's!! I have been out chasing stripers for a little while now. The year is proving to be the best return of stripers that I can recall, and I've been fly fishing for them since the early 80's. Of course, I may be a little better at fishing for them now also. I guess after this many years I should have figured out a few things after all!

First, let me give you a rundown of the fishing from my perspective. I fished with Bryce Tedford of Bryce Tedford Fly Fishing on November 16th. We covered water from out west, meaning west of the Antioch HWY 160 bridge. We fished several spots out there where I caught several good fish including a very nice 8-pounder. We fished the later part of the day up in the Liberty Island area catching several more fish including a nice 10-pound fish. If you think trying the Delta is something you want to do, give Bryce a call. He's not only a

quality delta guide, he's a good guy to spend the day with in a boat.

On Monday the 27th, Vivian and I fished out of Buckley Cove. As it was really really cold, we didn't leave home until 8:00am. That put us fishing at about 9:45am in warming conditions. As it turned out the weather was perfect. We were so overdressed that it was almost funny. We could have been in shorts and tee shirts in the afternoon. We only fished about 4-1/2 hrs, but we boated about 20 stripers and I think 3 black bass. Vivian was working on smoothing out her casting first thing and had a grab that nearly yanked the rod out of her hand.

Unfortunately, she let the line slip and didn't hook what was probably a very good fish. We had a blast and spent a great day in the Delta.

On Wednesday the 29th, Pat Roe and I got out on the San Joaquin to chase stripers. We had a great day. We left here at 8:00am. I'm starting to like getting out a little later than I used to. I never thought it would happen, but I've gotten a little older and a 5 or maybe 6-hour day is plenty. Anyway, we got



Pat breaking the ice

out of the marina and immediately saw birds diving the water and started casting to that area and were rewarded with several fish. That was the beginning of an awesome day of striper fishing. Pat is an accomplished striper angler and it's fun to fish with someone who knows the ins and outs of the game. I believe every spot we hit but one produced fish. Pat was the hot rod and while I caught 12(?) fish, he caught many more including a beauty of a 10-pounder. I know we boated 30-plus fish and had more grabs and dropped



Liberty Island 10-pounder



Vivian smacking 'em on the San Joaquin

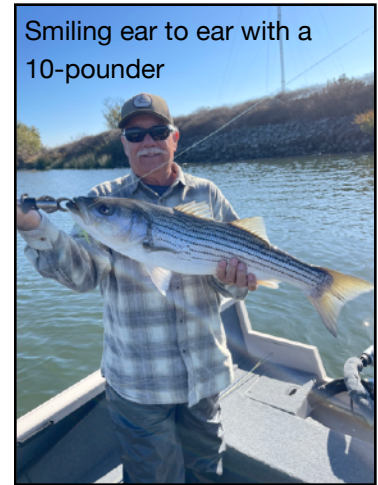


An even bigger one

a few as well. Another great weather day. The best thing was that rain was forecast for the morning and everyone stayed home. When we arrived at Buckley Cove, there were only two other rigs in the parking lot. We had the Delta pretty much to ourselves. I can't wait to get out there again. These water conditions and warm weather only last a short time so it is time to go.

How To

This fishing, as with most, is extremely easy but also extremely difficult. The first big hurdle to Delta striper fishing is that you need a boat. Any boat with a trolling motor will do. A boat without a trolling can work, but will be way more difficult. In the Delta you are always dealing with three issues. Wind, current and tide. Managing the positioning necessary to successfully fish is nearly impossible without a trolling motor. If you have a boat, or better yet a friend with a boat, you are on your way. Next you will want an 8 or 9wt rod. Two rods are even better. I use two 8wt rods. One with a Rio



Smiling ear to ear with a 10-pounder

Outbound Intermediate Extra fast sink that tapers from intermediate to 5 inch per seconds to 7 ips. This line gets you down by and into the zone perfectly. The other 8wt is lined with a Rio Outbound Short floating line that will toss big air resistant flies with ease. Just ask Pat Roe! We fish the intermediate line almost exclusively with Clouser Minnows tied in many colors and variations including tied with rattles. On the floating line we fish Gurglers, Crease flies, Pole Dancers and Bubble Heads. When a top water opportunity arises you want to be ready, and any of the mentioned flies will work. I dream about top water stripers!

Finally, where do you find stripers? I'm not going to give you an X marks the spot, but I'll tell you what to look for. We always watch for birds working. When you see birds circling and hitting the water, start casting! I also look for egrets. When you see egrets on the banks, especially several egrets, fish that area. We also look for the big pumps pumping water into the Delta from surrounding farms. The current created by the pumps draws bait fish which in turn draws in the stripers. We also look for flats of 12 to 3 feet bordered by

deep water. Stripers like to hang in the deeper water and ambush bait fish in the shallower flats water and return to the deeper water safety.

Finally tides. With time spent out there you'll find spots that fish better on an incoming tide and spots the work best on the outgoing tide. It is thought that the slack during the tide change is a good time to take a break and maybe eat your lunch. However, I have caught fish on the slack tide. You can also chase the tide meaning running in or out river to stay in a moving tide. Best done with a higher horsepower boat and motor.

Well, there you go. All of my secrets. A amazing and productive fishery in our backyard. Get out and get some.

~ Jim



John Driver spent some time on the Lower Sac with guide Anthony Carruesco of [*AC Flyfishing*](#). For those of you not on Facebook, here are a few pics from that trip.



... Conservation News

For those of you following the dam removals, here's some great info on PG&E's "Initial Draft Surrender and Decommissioning Plan" for the Eel River.

PG&E PLANS TO REMOVE EEL RIVER DAMS IN 2028

Draft Surrender and Decommissioning Plan Offers Two Paths to Freeing the Eel – Soon to be California's Longest Free-Flowing River

Eureka, CA – For well over a century, Eel River dams have blocked salmon access to hundreds of miles of cold water habitat in the Upper Eel River watershed, but not for much longer. Today PG&E unveiled their initial draft plan for removing two Eel River dams and surrendering the utility's federal license for the 100 year old Potter Valley Project. One alternative would simply remove Scott and Cape Horn dams; the other, advanced by Sonoma Water, would move forward with a new diversion to the Russian River during the dam removal process. [More here ...](#)



Scott Dam - CalTrout Image

The Klamath Dams removal project is also moving along. Here is some information from American Rivers on that project.

DAM REMOVAL ON THE KLAMATH RIVER

For nearly 100 years, dams on the Klamath River have blocked salmon and steelhead trout from reaching more than 400 miles of habitat, encroached on Indigenous culture, and harmed water quality for people and wildlife. But now, four dams – J.C. Boyle, Copco No. 1, Copco No. 2, and Iron Gate – built between 1908 and 1962, are coming down. This river restoration project will have lasting benefits for the river, salmon, and communities throughout the Klamath Basin. [More here ...](#)



Klamath River Dam | Daniel Nylen

... For Sale

Former member Robert Snell is selling his Simms waders, size 12 boot, and his Fat Cat float tube. Price is negotiable but reasonable! If interested, contact Bud Heinz @ 209-985-2815.

I'm also looking to sell my Outcast float tube and Force Fins if anyone is interested. Contact me at webmaster@stanislausflyfishers.org. The above image is NOT my tube, but it's the spitting image of it.



Anyone looking to get into fly fishing lakes and ponds, these two options are great ways to grab gently-used equipment at decent prices.

Respectfully submitted,

~ Mike Hewitt, Editor

Upcoming Outings & Events

[Click here for a link to our Google Calendar.](#)

- General Meeting "Annual Dinner" - December 12, 2023
 - SFF Board Meeting - January 4th - Track 424 Brewery, 2150 Yosemite, Modesto
 - Fly Fishing Film Tour 2023 @ Prospect Theater - December 8, 2023
 - Sacramento International Sportsman's Expo - January 18-21, 2024
 - Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show 2024 - February 23-25, 2024
 - Fly Fishing Film Tour 2024 @ The State Theater - April 6, 2024
- Stay tuned for more information on these as it develops.



STANISLAUS FLY FISHERS IS A CHARTER CLUB OF FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL AND MEMBER OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

SFF 2023 Board of Directors

President: Gus Link • Vice-President: Bob Bullock • Secretary / Webmaster: Michael Hewitt
 Treasurer / Membership: Dennis Stambaugh • Outings: John Driver
 Community Outreach: Paul Wallace • At-Large: Bud Heintz • At-Large: Roger Ringsted

SFF Membership Information

Membership fees for 2024, currently \$45, are due January 1, 2024 and can be paid starting now. For your convenience, we can now accept a credit card for your dues for an additional fee of \$2.00 to cover the cost of the transaction. All SFF memberships are "Family Membership" status; spouses, significant others, and/or children must also be Fly Fishers International 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. Standard annual FFI dues range from \$20-\$35 based on status (general, senior, veteran, youth).

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

[SFF Membership Form](#)

[FFI Membership Link](#)

Directions to Tuolumne River Lodge Tuolumne River Lodge 2429 River Rd, Modesto, CA

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.

[Google Map](#)

