



President's Message

2024 for me has so far been busy! Started a new job and traveled back to Springfield, MO for training. Link has been busy! No fishing though, sigh... Did scope out some locations in and around Springfield when I come back. Oh, and went to Bass Pro here, WOW! Good fly shop here also.

I know I am repeating myself here, but I am really looking forward to outings this year. I really need to hit some small water this year, catch some trout and camp! I need a good fire, some stew, and some good beer at the end of the day! We want to do some camp outings, probably up 108, lots of great water up there! We are starting to plan for the year ahead. Please, if you have any input, let us know. Also, if you want to coordinate an outing, let us know! We would be happy to help!

Had lots of airplane time this month, and finally finished *The Feather Thief*! WOW! What a great read! Absolutely fascinating on many levels and highly recommended! It is beyond my comprehension that people would one, tie flies and not fish. And 2, be so obsessive about it. Boggles my mind!

Hope to see lots of Club members at the Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton (Feb 23-25). Always a good time to see friends, gear, and everything fly fishing! I will be at the Club booth all Sunday, and will probably be at the BSA booth all of Saturday, helping Scouts tie flies.

As always, I hope to have a large turnout at the meeting (February 13) 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 2024!

Tight Lines!

~ Link

Club News

... February General Meeting - Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Our program this month will feature Peter Kelly, State Fire Management Officer BLM-CA, with a presentation on an "Overview of the Bureau Of Land Management California Fire Program and Wildfires Impacts on Public Lands." We all know the possible devastating effect of wildfires in general, but this should offer insight into their effect from a firefighter's experience.



... 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.



... 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, February 10th is the next session. A carpool group is a fantastic way to attend if you're free that weekend. It's a great experience and the folks who run it are really nice. The event is held rain or shine.

... 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. This is shaping up to be great event! 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 we are dedicated to bringing 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. We welcome all manner of items, including but not limited to gift cards, gift baskets, handmade items, gift certificates, small appliances, tools, camping gear, etc., fishing and non-fishing related. All proceeds from the raffle and profits from the event will be donated to [Rivers of Recovery](#), an NPO that provides proven-effective recreational, outdoor rehabilitative therapy for combat disabled veterans. This is our opportunity to give back to those gave so much for us.



... Outings and Events

Outings Director John Driver has several things on the calendar for the upcoming season beginning with a local outing to McSwain Reservoir on April 13th. Then June 14th-16th, there will be a weekend outing to either Beardsley or Clark Fork (TBD). This can also be a one-day trip for those who can't make the whole weekend. September 6th-8th we'll return to the Fall River and Circle 7 Ranch. This a a beautiful place to visit and fish! And finally (for now) we're looking at a trip to Eastern Nevada and Wild Horse Reservoir October 4th-6th. And of course, we are always open to suggestions and ideas for outings!

Upcoming Outings & Events

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

- General Meeting "Peter Kelly - BLM" - February 13, 2024
- SFF Board Meeting - February 22nd - Track 424 Brewery, 2150 Yosemite, Modesto
- Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show 2024 - February 23-25, 2024
- Turlock Farmers Market Booth - March 16, 2024
- Fly Fishing Film Tour 2024 @ The State Theater - April 6, 2024
- McSwain Reservoir - April 13, 2024
- Beardsley/Clark Fork - June 14-16, 2024
- Fall River/Circle 7 Ranch - September 6-8, 2024
- Wild Horse Reservoir, Nevada - October 4-6, 2024

... SFF Pheasant Hunt

Sunday March 3rd, SFF has planned an unconventional outing for fly-tyers. If you'd like to hunt your own feathers, we are planning a trip to Birds Landing Hunting Preserve to hunt pheasants. Birds Landing will plant 2 pheasants per hunter, supply a dog, and a handler. You will need to supply a hunting license & upland game bird stamp and your shotgun. Non-toxic shot is required in California. The cost will be \$170 per hunter, extra pheasants or chukar can be purchased.

I have never hunted birds landing, but I've found them very pleasant when I've shot sporting clays there. They seem to really understand that we are looking to come home with some nice tying feathers, and Ashley is confident they can deliver.

If you'd like to go, but don't have a hunting license, you may walk the fields with us, but you need a license to shoot a bird yourself.

I intend to skin my birds, but they do have bird processing available. Birds landing has a restaurant and serves breakfast and lunch.

Please contact fishmeister Paul Wallace for more questions or to reserve a spot. pwallace@StanislausFlyFishers.org

**Northern Calif. Council, Fly Fishers International
February, 2024 President's Message
Fun times at the Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show**



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL

Each year in February the Fly Fishing Show rolls into Pleasanton to provide NorCal fly fishers the opportunity to gather and see what is happening with the latest gear, fly fishing opportunities and educational opportunities.

The NCCFFI will have a booth at the show and will be offering fly fishers a chance to get to know what types of things we have to offer. You will be able to meet members of our NCCFFI Board and meet us face to face and let us share our visions and goals for 2024. The NCCFFI's job is to connect with NorCal fly clubs and their members and provide opportunities for conservation, fly casting instruction, and fly fishing education.

At the show this year we will be working with scouts to help them achieve their fly fishing merit badge, we will have fly casting instruction on all three days of the show. The fly casting features the FFI's Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) program, a program for beginning to advanced fly

fishers. There is more detailed information about the fly casting at the show in the article below.

The Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show starts on Friday, February 23rd and runs through Sunday, February 25th. It is the only show that focused solely on fly fishing. I highly recommend inviting your fly fishing friends and making the trip to enjoy the show. You will not be sorry that you spend the time and effort to go.

I hope to see you there,
Clay Hash. NCCFFI President

NCCFFI Conservation Report - What is Happening to the S.F. Bay-Delta Today?

January 26, 2024 - Dr Mark Rockwell, V.P. Conservation

As many know, NCCFFI and many others have been working for more than 20 years to recover our fisheries in the Central Valley, it's huge river systems, as well as most of the western Sierra watershed. This is a huge geographical area, and encompasses hundreds of streams, rivers and lakes. At the center of this process is how California manages water flowing from all these rivers into and through the Bay-Delta and San Francisco Bay. This is the largest inland watershed in the western Americas. These waters not only are home to most of our state's fisheries, both anadromous (sea going) and resident populations, but it supplies water to more than 25 million state residents. Literally hundreds of organizations & people, including NCCFFI, work daily to provide citizen input to this process.

The public agency that oversees and regulates the entire state's water system is the California State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) - https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/. If we expect adequate water to be available to fish and wildlife, the Water Board must do it's job to balance water available to people as well as our natural world. It has the regulatory power and ability to decide who gets water and who does not. Here is their responsibility:

"To preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations."

They MUST meet this mandate, and protection of the environment is its responsibility. The Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan is the road map the agency uses to manage water, both for state and federal obligations. It is the

management plan for the entire system. Every 7 years it must be reviewed and updated, and we've been working on it for the past 7 years.

We have just finished commenting on the most recent up-dated Staff Report (Water Board Staff's version of the plan) and we do not agree with most of it. It's clear that the Water Board is feeling the pressure from both the Governor's office as well as from Washington to manage our water in ways that benefit human and business use over protecting our fisheries and the Bay-Delta ecosystem. We have joined other organizations who have commented on the Staff Plan to advise them on what needs to be improved, and where their plan does not meet legal requirements. Here are two links to those letters:

1. FOR (Friends of the River) et al:

2. PCL (Planning & Conservation League) et al:

These are complex letters listing changes needed and improvements to be made. It's important we get this right as we'll have to live with the outcome for the next 7 years.

Two of the people I work with on this are Jon Rosenfield, fisheries scientist and Eric Buescher, attorney, at the S.F. Baykeeper. They, like NCCFFI, have been working on this issue for years. Jon, received his training at the U.C. Davis Watershed Center, and under Dr. Peter Moyle, and is the most knowledgeable person I know on this issue and the fisheries in the S.F. Bay-Delta. I've worked with and lobbied with Jon for more than 20 years.

I encourage you to read their Guest Commentary here:

<https://mavensnotebook.com/2024/01/24/guest-commentary-gov-newsom-is-accelerating-californias-extinction-crisis/>

You can help all of us and help the Bay-Delta watershed & fisheries by sending comments Via Phone or in writing to:

- Joaquin Esquivel, Chair: SacDeltaComments@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 341-7365
- Governor Gavin Newsom via email: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/contact/> (916) 445-2841
- Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, Calif. Natural Resources Agency: email
- ceqaquestions@resources.ca.gov or call (916) 653-5481

Citizen action can make our state better. We need to protect our fisheries and the water system of the S.F. Bay-Delta. Send emails or make calls today!

Thank You!

Mark Rockwell, VP Conservation,

Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International

mrockwell1945@gmail.com

... Fishing Report

Once more our good friends Jim and Vivian Bowen offer up a fishing report to make us jealous (albeit, not intentionally). Here are the details from their recent visit to Kiritimati!

Vivian and I started this new year with a trip to Christmas Island. What an amazing fishery. We had a great time and the fishing was phenomenal!

We left home and flew to Honolulu on January 1st. On Tuesday the 2nd we flew to Christmas Island, "Kiritimati." Fiji Air is the only airline servicing Kiritimati and only flies in and out on Tuesday. If for any reason Fiji Air is not able to land, you just might get a bonus week of flats fishing.



Flying in



Vivian with a dandy bonefish

We joined a group hosted by Fly Fishing Specialties. What a great bunch of anglers! We had a good time hanging out in the evenings with everyone rehashing the day's fishing and seeing everyone's hero pics.

We were fishing out of The Villages lodge. There are currently five lodges on Christmas Island but The Villages is the only lodge that is right on the beach and the only one that has a one to one guide to angler ratio. It's great not

sharing a guide as I will promise you that you won't start seeing bonefish or many of the other target species until you've been fishing for two to three days and then if it's overcast you won't see fish. However, in even tough conditions the guides there can still spot fish in plenty of time for you to get a good shot in. They also know what flies to use for the particular fish you are stalking. They speak English fairly well, some better than others, but communication is not a problem.

The island is very primitive. If you want something, you had better have packed it. There are no stores, no fly shops, and no reason to leave the lodge. The

folks there are extremely friendly, and it is clear they want you to have a good time.

Bonefish are the primary target, but there are trigger fish and giant trevally and several other varieties of trevally available on the flats. You can also go out and fish the blue water for milkfish, yellowtail tuna, and many other species. We found that after a few days of bonefish we were asking to target triggers and GT's to try something different.

There is a lot more story to tell about this trip, but the bottom line is, we had a great time, and if the opportunity were to arise, we would definitely go back!



Jim and his "baby" GT. Giant Trevally



A Picasso trigger. The state fish of Hawaii



Vivian with a baby GT



Heading to the boats to get out to the flats

2024 Membership Dues Are Now Due

Just a friendly reminder that dues are due January 1st each year. You can pay by mail or at a club meeting. \$45 buys you a family membership to cover you, your spouse/partner, and minor children. SFF Membership form is [here](#). You must also maintain an active FFI membership since we are an FFI charter club. That info is [here](#). Checks and membership forms can be mailed to: Dennis Stambaugh, 3833 Blue Bird Drive, Modesto, CA 95356.

... 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.

Also, our own board and club member, Roger Ringsted, has some great fly fishing and fly tying wood creations at Osprey Wood Designs on Etsy. Check them out [here](#)!



Respectfully submitted,
~ Mike Hewitt, Secretary/Editor



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

SFF 2024 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](#)

