

January 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

Live Meeting

Tuesday, 1/18/2022
6:00 pm
@ Round Table Pizza
Pelandale Rd.
Modesto, CA

President's Message

Rain! Rain! and more Rain! What an awesome dose of rain and snow we were blessed with in December. After last year's dry winter this was just what our reservoirs and aquifers needed. Let's just hope the precipitation continues through the rest of our rain season. It would be great to fish through 2022 with full rivers and lakes. While what we received isn't near enough, it's a very good start.

I heard from Pat Roe today (Sunday) that the delta is blown out and and very dirty. It will be at least a week depending on rain and runoff before it clears and cleans up enough to fish. When we have rains like we've had a lot of debris is flushed out of dead end sloughs and while that is beneficial, if you decide to go out, please be careful and boat slowly so you aren't unpleasantly surprised by partially submerged logs or other hazards.

I was fortunate and got out onto the north delta just as the storms were beginning. On the day I was out there was only an occasional sprinkle and no wind. I caught several nice 3 to 5 pounders and lost a fish that was probably a double digit fish. I fished with guide Bryce Tedford. A fun day with a talented guide. I hope to fish with him again in the spring. If you are looking for a striper guide, I highly recommend Bryce.

I would be remiss in my presidential duties if I didn't start the year by recognizing and thanking several of our supporting members. First, thank you, Mike Hewitt! We couldn't ask for a better webmaster and thanks for the the new club website you built. I know a lot of work and frustration went into that job. Thank you, Dennis Stambaugh! Your support and efforts as club treasurer are invaluable. Thanks, Bob Bullock. Due to COVID your position as outings chair has been extremely difficult, but hopefully 2022 will bring positive changes that make that job a little easier. Thank you, Gus Link for stepping up and assuming the Vice President position. It's great to know you are there and always helping with good advice and a willingness to help out however you can, and thank you for arranging and hosting the Christmas get together. Thank you, Bud Heintz, Pat Roe, and Mark Pieczarka. As board members at large we know we can count on you for support and to help out with club projects such as Salmon Fest. It's folks like these that make this club work and quite honestly keep it in existence! Thank You, All!

You general members can do your part to keep the club going. And your task is the easiest of all. Just attend meetings and outings and stay current with your dues. I know that the COVID era has many of you wondering why you should keep up with dues, but our hope is that soon in person meetings will be held again and we will need a healthy treasury to fund a meeting site and pay for speakers. With that said we will hold a general club meeting Tuesday January 18th beginning at 6:00pm at the Roundtable Pizza, 3601 Pelandale Ave. Please plan to stop in and share fishing stories and camaraderie.

Well, that's all I know right now. Stay safe, go fishing, and I'll see you January 18th at the meeting.

Tight Lines
~Jim

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/General Meeting Tuesday, January 18, 2022 Round Table Pizza 3601 Pelandale Ave., Modesto 6:00 pm

On December 11th, several members of the SFF attended a fly tying seminar sponsored by the Delta Fly Fishers. Captain Hogan Brown, who led the seminar, is based out Chico, CA, which is nestled between the Lower Sacramento River, Feather River, and the Lower Yuba River. These three rivers, their watersheds, and surrounding lakes offer 365 days a year of fly fishing for anglers of all skill levels for resident striped bass, migratory striped bass, rainbow trout, both spring and fall run steelhead, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, carp, and American shad. Hogan guides for all of these species on these three rivers plus Lake Oroville and many other impoundments. Attendees spent the day tying some of his favorite trout nymphs and dry flies for fishing our Central Valley waterways. SFF attendees included Jeff Bakker, Robert Fujimura, Bud Heintz, Gus Link, and Pat Roe.



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 – Jeff Bakker
At-Large – Pat Roe

In-person board meetings are currently suspended until Covid protocols have determined it is safe to resume them.

Club News (cont.)

It's that time of year that we establish a governing board for 2022. Thanks to Covid, we've not been able to hold general meetings until recently, and even then they've been limited by multiple factors. Luckily past members of the board have been able to stick it out through 2020 and 2021. We are especially grateful to Jim Bowen who continued to hold down the fort in the president's position. As we embark on a new year, we greatly need to improve our membership numbers and resume providing regular general meetings, schedule outings and events as prudent, and generally get our club healthy again. But to do this we need you! We need your membership. We need your meeting attendance. We need your participation. We need your support. Membership dues support meeting space rental, outside speakers, and club insurance. Please make an effort to attend announced meetings. Bring a friend. Observe Covid precautions as needed, but let's return our club to normalcy.

The Fly Box "The Intruder"

As we head into winter steelhead season, one of the most productive flies can be an Intruder. It's slightly more complex to tie than some, but definitely worth the trouble to spend the time to tie a few. So, what is an Intruder? Is it one set pattern and recipe? Not so much a specific pattern as it is a style of fly whose sole purpose is to prompt a response from an aggressive fish. Trout, steelhead, and salmon can all be very territorial and will attack what they see intruding on their territory. The Intruder is designed to take advantage of this and elicit a strike response.

Over the years Intruders have evolved and there are many variations, and they are tied in a wide spectrum of colors. [***The Global Fly Fisher***](#) has a good article that presents an overview of how and why they're tied. For a video on tying an Intruder, look [***here***](#). Our own Jim Bowen says that his go-to colors for winter steelhead are purple and black.



Upcoming Outings and Events

International Sportsmen's Expo – January 20-23, 2022, Sacramento
Fly Fishing Show – February 25-27, 2022, Pleasanton

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

Madison River rule repeal could have unintended consequence

billingsgazette.com | Brett French | December 16, 2021

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission's proposal to repeal new fishing regulations for the Madison River before they are implemented has come with an additional twist.

"I found it to be a real blockbuster to hear for the first time that repealing these sections in (Administrative Rules of Montana) does not restore the walk-wade sections," said Hugh Zackheim, a Helena angler.

Zackheim spoke during a public comment Zoom meeting on the rule repeal issue. He wasn't the only one taken aback.

Bozeman fly-fishing outfitter Dave Kumlien also said it was "a bit of a surprise" and not what anyone intended in pursuing repeal of the new rules. [*More ...*](#)

NorthWestern files Hebgen Dam report on malfunction that dewatered Madison River

mtstanmard.com | Brett French | December 15, 2021

Although the failure of a specialized dam part resulted in significant dewatering of an upper Madison River below Hebgen Lake Dam on Nov. 30, stranding and killing fish, it was lower flows farther downstream that violated NorthWestern Energy's requirements with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The company also violated its license because it is required to limit changes in outflows from Hebgen Lake Dam to no more than 10% a day.

Details of the incident are revealed in a Dec. 9 filing by NorthWestern Energy with FERC. FERC oversees the license under which NorthWestern operates Hebgen Lake Dam and was therefore required to report the incident. [*More ...*](#)

California spent decades trying to keep Central Vally floods at bay. Now it looks to welcome them back.

www.watareducation.org | Alastair Bland | November 19, 2021

Western Water In-Depth: Floodplain restoration gets a policy and funding boost as interest grows in projects that bring multiple benefits to respond to climate change impacts.

Land and waterway managers labored hard over the course of a century to control California's unruly rivers by building dams and levees to slow and contain their water. Now, farmers, environmentalists and agencies are undoing some of that work as part of an accelerating campaign to restore the state's major floodplains. [*More ...*](#)

Rivers of Recovery

For those of you who don't do Facebook, the following is a recent FB post from Rivers of Recovery recognizing the California program and the SFF.

Rivers of Recovery

December 30, 2021 at 5:00 PM

We launched our California program in 2012, thanks to our Chairman of the Board at that time, Jim Mayol. He attended a trip in Dutch John, Utah, and his passion for the program sparked our long partnership with the Fly Shop in Redding, CA.

We started out doing 1-2 trips per year, and pre-COVID we had grown to hosting 6 trips per season on the Lower Sac River. Our lodging was first provided through The Fly Shop, and a generous donor has since provided a beautiful house on the river to make the trip even more enjoyable for our veterans.

Each year the Modesto Fly Fishing Film tour, headed by Jim Mayol with support from the Stanislaus Fly Fishers Club, has brought in funds for our California trips. The continuous support from those same donors every year has made this one of our strongest RoR communities. We'd particularly like to thank the Stanislaus Fly Fishers Club for their endless support with auction items, film tour logistics, and other help. They jump into action every time we call on them.

Board member Gunny Reyes and alumni Jose Jauregui have been an integral part of recruiting veterans and raising awareness about our program. Over the years, many of our California alumni have continued to give back to the program by being a trip host or offering their cooking skills to keep everyone fed and happy.

Since 2014, some alumni female veterans have organized women-only fly fishing trips in Redding, California. These trips help combat-injured female veterans enjoy the experience of learning something new with the additional benefit of meeting people who've experienced similar situations related to combat and other traumas.

We are very excited about the coming year and what we will accomplish in California as well as nationally with ROR. We truly give our hats off to you our supporters, donors and veteran participants. We are wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year and look forward to sharing our upcoming successes with you!

Thank you!



More Club News - Raffle



9ft 9wt Powell Tiburon II/Tioga Teton Trinity

9ft 3wt Powell LGA/Tioga

We are currently raffling two E.C. Powell rods with Teton reels that were donated to our club by Philip Hawkins, the Atwater school teacher whose students were doing a salmon release back in February of 2020 and invited our club members to attend and provide casting and fly tying instruction. The first is a Powell Tiburon 9ft 9wt with a Teton Tioga reel and includes Gus Link custom-sewn rod sack and reel pouch. The second is a Powell LGA 9ft 3wt with a Teton Trinity reel and also includes custom-sewn rod sack and reel pouch from Gus Link. We are selling playing cards, one deck for each rod combo, for \$5.00 each. The raffle drawing will be held when either the decks have sold out or at our December 2021 meeting, whichever comes first. Proceeds will be used to help fund speakers for our general meetings. Many thanks to Philip for his donation to our club.

NCCFFI News

Hi all, and the Board of NCCFFI wants to wish you a very Happy New Year. Unfortunately, it is again a challenging start due to COVID. We will be having our first Club President's Happy Hour Zoom meeting on January 27th, starting at 5 p.m. If you are interested in being part of this get-together, please email me, Mark Rockwell, mrockwell1945@gmail.com. I'm sure we'll be talking about how everyone is dealing with the newest COVID Challenge.

Late last year our NCCFFI Board formed a Strategy Group to develop our future Goals, Vision, Mission and lay out action steps to support all of you as members and clubs. It is our primary purpose to add value to you and your club by working together with you in 2022. We are now finalizing our action steps and Goals, and will be reviewing with our full Board at our January meeting on the 24th at 6 p.m. You all are welcome to tune in. Again, contact me for the Zoom link, mrockwell1945@gmail.com.

During the last few months of 2021 we began an outreach effort to several clubs asking them to recommend someone from the club to become a member of the NCCFFI Board. The purpose of this is to get both participation from our clubs, as well as input on what your club needs from the Council. It is our goal to strengthen the sense of community with all of you. We strongly feel that working together is our best way forward..

The good news is that we have now added 8 new Board members from 5 formerly unrepresented member clubs. The clubs added are: Shasta-Trinity, Amador, Delta, Russian River, and Stanislaus. We now have Board representation from 17 of our 23 member clubs. This gives us much greater diversity, better input from the club level, and allows us to take on additional tasks to help us begin to expand the benefits the Council can provide to all members and clubs. It's an exciting time for us to see this growth. We are hopeful that our new vision, mission and goals will bring greater value to all of you in the years ahead.

Vision Statement:

To inspire, facilitate & connect people with the joy, traditions & values of fly fishing, and to conserve healthy fisheries for everyone's enjoyment. We do this to preserve our traditions, support our fly fishing community, and protect our natural world.

Mission Statement:

We are a volunteer, non-profit educational and conservation organization dedicated to:

1. Supporting our regional fly fishing clubs and their members through education, conservation, advocacy, and outreach on behalf of their members & communities.

2. Informing the public about the joy, values & benefits of fly fishing and Its traditions
3. Advocating for clean water, healthy fisheries & watersheds so we pass forward a healthier world to the coming generations.

Goals:

1. To firmly establish NCCFFI as the pivotal Fly Fishing organization in Northern California/Nevada.
2. Tighten connection with FF clubs and add value through educational programs, coordinated conservation work, effective communications, and creating a sense of community.
3. Create a sense of community by working together with our Board, partner clubs, like-minded organizations, and fly fishers at-large.
4. Focus on New/younger fly fishers to create opportunities for children & families to become involved with the sport of fly fishing by sharing our collective knowledge & expertise.

I am Hopeful we can accomplish these goals with our larger and inspired Board of Directors. You and your club's input is key to this success. We invite you to help us move forward. Fly Fishing is our passion, and all of you and your clubs are our customer. We aim to make our fly fishing world better. Join us!

Mark Rockwell, President
Northern California/Nevada Council,
Fly Fishers International
mrockwell1945@gmail.com

Tips & Tricks

10 Most Common Fly Fishing Mistakes and How to Fix Them

islandfishermanmagazine.com | Bill Luscombe | January 2, 2022

I have been fishing pretty much all of my 63 years, and taught fly fishing for 31 of those years. In that time I have committed and witnessed many mistakes. Below is a list of the most common. Keep them in mind when you next hit the water and you'll fare better.

1. Too Much False Casting

Many seasoned fly fishers still keep their line in the air too long. Remember, false casting is just a means to an end. False casting is used to quickly extend line and change targets—that's all. As I continually tell my students, the fish are in the water, not in the air. Lift your line, extend the cast, and get the fly back in the water. False casting too much gets tiring and throws your line motion and shadow over the fish. Both of those things are undesirable. If you have trouble extending line, then I suggest you practice more or get a lesson or two from a good teacher. It will help you immensely.

2. Tying Poor Knots

I have lost fish because of this one. There is nothing quite as disheartening as losing a fish thinking your tippet has broken only to find a little curly-cue at the end of the line when you retrieve it. This mistake is completely avoidable with just a little patience and knot tying practice. Use good terminal knots such as the improved cinch knot or uni knot, and use the surgeon's knot and loop for all your other monofilament connections.

3. Fishing the Wrong Areas

An understanding of the aquatic environment and fish needs and preferences helps a great deal in figuring out where are the best places to fish and why they are the best places. River, stream, or lake, the same basic rule applies: Study and get to know your quarry and how they live, where they live, and why they live there. With that knowledge you can assess any given piece of water and increase your chances a great deal. Chucking and chancing works sometimes, but to be consistently successful takes knowledge.

4. Using the Wrong Fly

Here again is a basic knowledge mistake. It is critical to know your basic aquatic entomology and to apply that knowledge every time you go fishing. You won't catch a lot of trout fishing a salmon fly during a caddisfly hatch on a local river. Take the time to learn the basic foodstuff of the fish you pursue, when it is available to the fish, what it looks like, how it moves, and how to imitate it in the water. You don't have to tie your own flies to come up with imitative patterns. There are so many good shops online that sell flies at such great prices that, even though I tie my own flies, I have ordered some patterns online just because it was cheap and easy. Remember, match the hatch by matching the food's size, shape, color, and motion. If you have not been doing this, you are in for a delightful increase in your success rate.

5. Playing the Fish too Long

I am notorious for doing this. I hate forcing a fish. I like to play it out, but if I plan on releasing it, I need to get it in before it exhausts itself so it will have a greater chance of survival. There are some situations where a light hand is sometimes necessary, like playing a pink salmon. They have soft mouths and you can tear the hook out easily if you play it too hard, but as a rule try to get the fish in fairly quickly without reefing it in, especially if you plan on releasing it. Also, playing a fish too long allows the hook to wear loose and can result in more lost fish. There is a happy medium in the amount of time you should play a fish— try to find it.

6. Using the Wrong Line

There are two aspects to using the correct line: balancing the line/system weight to the size of fish you are fishing for and using the correct sink-rated sinking line to get the fly down to the fish without catching the bottom excessively.

Big fish require heavier fly systems. All fly systems are balanced for rod weight and line weight. Using 8-weight systems fishing for 10-inch brookies is serious overkill, and you will hardly feel the fish. On the other hand, using a 3-weight system to fish for coho won't work at all; you will either run out of line rather quickly or break the rod in an effort to slow the fish down.

When fishing subsurface flies, you must get your fly to the fish and try to keep it there. Figure out the depth of the water you are going to be fishing and the speed of the current if you are fishing moving water, and then research the various sinking line sink rates. Use the one that will best get your fly to the fish for the longest period of time under those given conditions.

7. Casting too Far

Many people cast a long line rather than moving closer to the fish for fear of spooking them. Casting too far, though, results in a lot of line on the water and so drag becomes a serious problem, as does your reaction time in setting the hook. With a lot of line on the water, there is a lot of line and current between you and the fish. You have to manage the drag, and too much line can end up being unmanageable: You just can't mend all that line. Also, all that line has to be picked up, along with the slack, if you try to set the hook. The longer the line, the slower the hook set because of the slack. The rule is to move closer when you can. Again, practice will give you a better idea of the happy middle ground.

8. Using the Wrong Leader/Tippet Sizes and Combination

This is a mistake many lazy (or cheap) fly fishers make. Your leader and tippet system is optimally designed to taper from the same stiffness and diameter as your fly line tip down to your fly while still being stiff enough to roll your cast over and present the fly first. If you use monofilament of a single diameter it is either going to be too stiff and the fly won't "swim" or float naturally, or it will be too supple and your fly will end up catching the monofilament because the casting loop cannot be maintained as the cast rolls out. There are some exceptions to this, but as a rule you should taper your system down from the fly line tip to an X-diameter that matches the size of fly you are going to use. This is called the rule of thirds, and it goes like this: fly size/3=X-designation of the tippet. (Example: #12 fly/3=4X tippet.)

9. Poor Casting

There is really no good excuse for poor casting once you're past the beginner stage. Learn to cast. Get a lesson or two. The resulting increased success and reduced frustration will more than justify the cost. Heck, call me or email me and I'll teach you if need be.

10. Goo on Your Fly

Fish can smell. Make sure you tie your fly on before you eat citrus or wipe on bug dope or sunscreen. It makes a difference. And remember: Bug dope and sunscreen literally eat vinyl. Your expensive fly line is vinyl—you have been warned.

There are many more mistakes people make on the water, but these ten are very common and often complained about. Read, learn, and put that knowledge into practice. That is the best remedy for all of them.

This article appeared in Island Fisherman Magazine.

<https://islandfishermanmagazine.com/10-most-common-fly-fishing-mistakes-and-how-to-fix-them/>