

January 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

January Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023

6:00pm

Tuolumne River  
Lodge

2429 River Rd,  
Modesto, CA

See map in newsletter.

## President's Message

Rain! Snow! Yay! Keep it coming. I hope this precipitation continues into May. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see our reservoirs fill and our rivers run full after several years of drought? I'm thoroughly enjoying the rain even though it is keeping me indoors. This is a great opportunity to tie flies, tune up the fishing gear and plan fishing trips for later in the year.

Speaking of making plans, plan to attend the January meeting. Club member Bob Fujimura will be presenting a program describing the amazing fishing in Elko county in Eastern Nevada. This will be a very informative program that will introduce you to some of locations and methods and species you can expect to encounter in this part of Nevada that is largely unknown to many of us. Bob has fished this area for some time now and is very knowledgeable. Come to the meeting and decide if you need to head east for some awesome fishing.

I am happy to announce that the club now has a new roster of officers on the board of directors. The faces are the same but the positions are new. Gus Link is now President. He had been serving as Vice President. Thanks for stepping up, Link. I certainly appreciate it! Bob Bullock is your new Vice President. Welcome to the position, Bob. Dennis Stambaugh will continue as treasurer and membership chair. Dennis, you've done an amazing job, and the board is very fortunate that you are staying on. Mike Hewitt will continue as Secretary and Webmaster. I've said it before and I'll say it now, Mike and his energy is the backbone of this club. Thank you so much, Mike, for your support. I truly believe your dedication to the club is what has kept the doors open. Finally, thank you to everyone  
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# 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)

who has held a position on the board or offered a helping hand during my time as president of the Stanislaus Fly Fishers. I am happy to have served the club, but to be honest, I am extremely happy to step away and welcome the new leadership. I am sure the club will prosper and grow with this new board of directors. Good luck guys!

There will be a general meeting on January 10th beginning at 6:00 pm at a new meeting location that Bob Bullock worked hard to secure. The meeting will be held at the Tuolumne River Lodge at 2429 River Rd., Modesto. Come to the meeting and see the new digs and hear Bob Fujimura's program, and I hear there may even be refreshments. See, the new leadership is already hard at work!

Thank you all and for the last time,  
Tight lines!  
Jim

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### General Meeting

January 10, 2023 6:00 pm

Tuolumne River Lodge

2429 River Road, Modesto, CA

Program: "Fly Fishing Elko County, NV"

Long-time member and friend Bob Fujimura will be presenting information regarding tips, techniques, and times of year for exploring the waters in this northeastern region of the Silver State. You might be surprised at the opportunities for regularly catching fish in the 18"-20" range. Join us as we welcome in the new year in a new home ... the Tuolumne River Lodge!

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



## Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2023 Board of Directors

President – Gus Link

Vice-President – Bob Bullock

Treasurer/Membership –  
Dennis Stambaugh

Secretary/Webmaster –  
Michael Hewitt

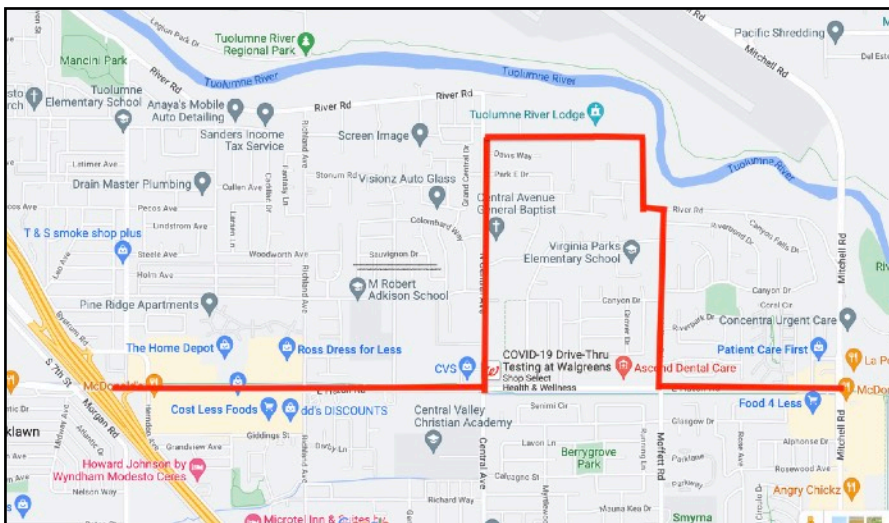
At large – Jim Bowen

At-Large – Bud Heintz

At-Large - Pat Roe

## Club News

### 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.

### The Fly Box - “Bruised Balanced Leach”

“Balanced” patterns feature some extra weight beyond the hook eye, to balance-out the weight of the hook. The result is a pattern that hangs horizontally in the water, like a real baitfish or leech. In this month’s video, Tim Flagler of Tightline Productions shows you how to tie an effective leech pattern he learned about from Rowley and The New Fly Fisher host Colin McKeown. The key is creating the counterweight, using a pin and a tungsten bead. Then it’s simply a matter of tying a cool Simi Seal Leech over that base. The result is a pattern that you can fish under an indicator in both still water and rivers, for both trout and smallmouths (as well as many other game fish).



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

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 fees for 2023, currently \$40, 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 - December 2022

From Mark Rockwell, President NCCFFI

I want to wish you all a happy new year, and to say that we in your Northern California Council, FFI have been working hard to create some great fly fishing programs for 2023. We plan to introduce them to all club Presidents in our January Club President's Happy Hour on January 26th at 5:00 p.m.

Here's the link to attend: <https://zoom.us/j/96999165694?pwd=bWt0NVVMxZnovZENNb1hPL014VEFCUT09>

Club leadership & members are all invited!

## Here is a listing of what we have planned for 2023:

**1. International Sportsmen's Exposition (ISE) - January 19-22, 2023** - We will have a group of fly tyers demonstrating their fly tying abilities and styles all day, each day. Thanks goes to Frank Rinella, Jeff Stevens and all the tyers who participate. We will also have a Q & A table where Council Board members will talk to visitors, direct those interested to fly clubs in the region, and tell them that our Council and Clubs are the place to go to learn to fly fish and have fun on our rivers and lakes. We will collect names & Contact info of those interested in Fly Fishing, and share this with our clubs to call and invite them to a meeting.

**2. Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton - February 24, 25 & 26th** - We will have several events at this show:

- **Fly Casting Skills Development Program** - With the assistance of the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club & Certified Casting Instructors Sarah Trenchel & Russ Carpenter, we will be offering training for club instructors on implementing the Skills program. They'll also be teaching fly casting to show visitors. One goal is to 'Train the Trainers' from our local fly clubs so they can set up and run this great learning program at their clubs.
- **Club President's Lunch** - On Saturday the 25th at 11:30 a.m. we will host a 'Club Get-together' for our club leaders to sit together and share information and meet each other. Please plan to attend as this is our only time of the year we'll all be together. In addition, we'll have a nice lunch available at no cost and have a chance to discuss Club-Council activities and support. We'll also do a short presentation on the programs we will be doing for our clubs & their members (see below for more info).
- **NCCFFI Booth at the show** - We will be doing several activities here. Boy Scout merit badge teaching and certification, briefing visitors on the Trout-in-the-classroom program many clubs manage locally, Discussion on joining a fly fishing club and taking names & contact info to send to clubs, Talking about joining FFI to support both the national and local work we do in Conservation and skills training for fly fishers. Goals: new club member referral and growing FFI membership.

**3. Fly Fishing Skills Development** - This is an easy to do program to improve our casting skills. It's fun and there are 3 competitive levels of accomplishment - Bronze, Silver, & Gold. Each level requires skill abilities and there is a test to move to the next level. For those who want recognition, you submit it to FFI and they send a certificate of accomplishment. We will be doing 3 training days around our region to "Train the Trainers" from your club to be able to set up and teach at the club level, including testing for each skill level. This will provide consistent and thorough fly casting training in our clubs so more members have the skill level they want. We all know the better the caster the better the catching. The locations and dates for these trainings will be given at the Club President's Lunch at the Fly Fishing Show.

**4. NCCFFI Skills Clinics** - Learn to be a better fly fisher - Our goal here is to provide professional level training that is consistent and thorough. Fly Fishing 101 - learn to fly fish is a program that includes 15 Power Point programs that that the student from beginning to end on what fly fishing is all about. This serves as a resource that will be available to clubs to use over the years they teach a fly fishing course. Gone are the days were a club program is totally dependent upon one person to do all the work to teach. Use these programs to guide and teach, resulting in a club program that is reliable and thorough. Other programs we will be introducing in 2023 are: Euro nymphing and why it works so well; Fishing techniques for technical water - spring creeks, etc.; Fishing the Yuba River, a specific technical river we visit often.

All of these will be available to all our clubs and members in various locations in 2023.

**5. Yuba Fest 2023** - The Gathering of the Clan - September 23rd - Sycamore Ranch County Park on the Yuba River. This has become the annual celebration of fly fishing which will include most all of the programs discussed above. It will include many of the programs and classes to teach beginning fly fishing as well as the more complex fishing challenges like technical waters, fishing the Yuba River, and others. We'll also have a conservation program where many of our state and local NGO watershed groups will be available. We'll have a raffle, auction and other fun things to do, as well as lunch and a great dinner in the afternoon. We've moved it up a month in 2023 to allow for more sun and longer daylight. Why Yuba Fest? To bring the fly fishing clan together to celebrate! It's a party. Mark it on your calendar! Be there and have fun!

The Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International (NCCFFI) is working to be a resource our clubs can rely upon to assist them to bring high value, quality programs to our fly fishing community. Working together - clubs & Council - means we can be more engaging with club programs that are valuable to new as well as experienced fly fishers. We have heard often the question, "What does the Council do for us?" Well, we do a lot to

help clubs be more appealing to members, and to take fly fishing to your local communities.

Additionally, we take on conservation challenges that are large, state-level problems that a club cannot manage alone. Actions like removing 4 dams on the Klamath River, or protecting salmon & steelhead in large watersheds like all of Santa Clara County. We work with a host of conservation partners to advocate for fishery and watershed health throughout our state. Working together - clubs & Council - we have more clout and influence, which means healthy fisheries our sport & fishers can access and enjoy.

**We do better together - in many ways. We just need to remember both clubs and the Council are important - for fly fishing and to protect our fisheries.**

Mark Rockwell, President  
NCCFFI

## Conservation

### **Gualala River: Conserving a Lifeline for California Salmon and Steelhead**

<https://www.westernrivers.org/projects/ca/gualala-river>

#### **HEALTHY FORESTS EQUAL THRIVING RIVERS**

Flowing from the rugged slopes of northern California's Coast Range, the Gualala River is an exceptional free-flowing river with three main forks: the South Fork, the North Fork and, the largest of the three, the Wheatfield Fork. The Gualala supports an abundance of wildlife at the edge of a region that has experienced significant development during the last 50 years. On its 40-mile journey to the Pacific, the Gualala courses through a mosaic of redwood forest, mixed conifer forests and oak woodlands that provide important habitat for numerous threatened, endangered and sensitive species. These remaining expanses of California forest and woodlands are crucial to fish and wildlife and provide critical watershed functions for rivers like the Gualala. They are also important as open space for towns throughout the region, while the area's working forests and ranches provide income for families and revenue for local economies.



The Gualala River is home to threatened Northern California Coast winter steelhead and endangered Central California Coast coho salmon, two crucial populations of imperiled anadromous fish whose future hinges on the health of rivers like the Gualala. The river is also home to the Gualala roach, a distinct species of minnow that is endemic to the river and has been isolated to the watershed for thousands of years. [\*\*\*More here ...\*\*\*](#)