

June 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

June Meeting

Tuesday, June 13,
2023

6:00 pm

Tuolumne River
Lodge

2429 River Rd,
Modesto, CA

See map in newsletter.

President's Message

Well, two outings under our belts! At Kistler, some folks caught fish, but it seems to be the pattern out there for a lot of folks I have talked to that fishing is great, catching is tough! Salt Spring Valley Reservoir I could not attend, but the fishing was tough also. Heck of a nice crappie Paul caught! Kudos to getting out and fishing! The Fish Expo was a success, I hope we can participate in other events and promote our club.

Thanks to everyone who came out for Ken Johnson's presentation on the Heritage Trout. I thought he was going to talk more about the program as a whole. I did find the presentation very interesting. I am hoping to invite him back and get a better understanding of the whole program. July speaker will be Jason from FishBio. I will update what his talk will be about in the next newsletter.

This month's meeting will be dinner! If you have not already, please sign up through the Sign-Up Genius site. Menu elsewhere in the newsletter.

Last month I talked about growth through how I used to fish and expanding my tying abilities. Let's expand on that. I have been fly-fishing for almost 30 years. Backstory: I fished a LOT as a kid. We always seemed to live near water. Somewhere around 7-8th grade I stopped. Other interests and hobbies came into my life, but I have a distinct memory of just not being interested in fishing any longer as it just did not hold my interest. Fast forward to sometime before my son was born (97), so maybe 95 or 96 (details are kinda hazy!), my brother-in-law asked me to go fly-fishing with him up at Strawberry by Pinecrest. I promptly replied with the old tried and true statement about fly-fishers: Why would I want to fly-fish? Those guys are a bunch of elitist snobs! My BIL gazed at me coolly and cocked an eyebrow, I quickly went "Except for you!!" My BIL is still one of the coolest guys I know! So, he took me out, and, pun intended, I was hooked! I took to the sport immediately, struggled for the first few years to get better, asked for a LOT of advice from the fly shop and the crew that hung around, joined the club, and lo and behold, suddenly, I was passionate!

I have grown in many ways since that day, and fly fishing has been a big part of that growth. I have other hobbies and interests, yet fly fishing continues to fascinate me and ground me. I am a huge supporter and promoter of the sport. I spend quite a bit of time volunteering for the

(Continued on next page)

Stanislaus Fly Fishers Membership Information

Currently, **SFF membership** fees are \$45 per year.

Members must also join **Fly Fishers International**. **IFF** dues vary, but do not exceed \$35 for a single, one-year membership.



Like us on Facebook 

We're on the Web!



President's Message (continued)

sport, both with the SFF and with Boy Scouts. Fly fishing has influenced my life so much, and I never tire of it. Could I have even imagined where I would be 30 years ago? No way! Is fly fishing solely responsible for my growth? No! Kid, divorce, life, has shaped my growth also. The constant ... fly fishing. I have learned so much through fly fishing. It truly is a lifetime hobby.

As always, I hope to have a large turnout at the meeting (June 13), because what do we need at the 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 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! Grab some flyers to hand out (ask any Board member), be passionate about your sport!

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

Club News

General Meeting

June 13, 2023 6:00 pm

Tuolumne River Lodge

2429 River Road, Modesto, CA

Program: "Family Dinner Night"

Join us for our first ever Family Dinner Night. Dinner-meisters Gus Link and Paul Wallace will be firing up the Dutch ovens and cooking clam chowder, chicken cacciatore, corn bread, and a berry cobbler for dessert. There will also be hot dogs and salad. This will be BYOB! Please RSVP [here](#) so that we'll have an accurate head count. Friends and kids welcome!

Pre-Meeting Casting

We'll be practice casting before the meeting starting at 5:00 pm. Come early and join in. If you are new to fly fishing, we'll have club rods available and can provide basic instruction. If you're not new, it never hurts to get in a little practice!

Salt Spring Reservoir

John Driver, Bob Bullock, and Paul Wallace tried out the action there in a last-minute posted outing recently. No bass on this day, but a couple of bluegill and Paul caught a nice crappie.



Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2023 Board of Directors

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

Wildhorse Reservoir

Member Pat Roe and friend Tom Mills recently spent several days fishing Wildhorse Reservoir an hour north of Elko, NV. According to Pat, a balanced leech was the hot ticket and the bite was good. For once, he produced photographic evidence! According to Pat their color choices



were burgundy/black or black/purplish blue in size 10. Check area reports if/when/where you go for what might work best. They were fishing two-fly rigs in 12'-15' of water with flies about 6'-7' below an indicator. Tom (L) is holding a nice football and Pat's is no minnow either.

The Fly Box - "Midnight Fire Balanced Leech"

Since Pat Roe reported such good results using a balanced leech at Wildhorse Reservoir, and the fact that high water flows will be with us for awhile meaning stillwater fishing will be a good alternative, let's revisit this fly style. Note that while these videos often refer to specific brands of materials, in many cases you can substitute with something close and the fish won't know the difference. Pat's arsenal of flies is shown on the right, and you can see that the basic designs are the same, but there are a lot of variations in color and style that are possible, including this Midnight Fire Balanced Leech.



Click [here](#) to go to the direct YouTube link for the tying video.

Click [here](#) for the webpage with pattern details.

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

Upcoming Outings and Events

June 13, 2023 - General Meeting: “Family Dinner Night” - 6:00 pm

June 22, 2023 - Board Meeting @ 5 Eye Brewing, Ceres, CA - 6:30 pm

July 11, 2023 - General Meeting: “FishBio Program” - 6:00 pm

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 - June 2023 By Mark Rockwell

Hi all, and I hope you're able to get out and do some fishing these days, though most rivers are not really fishable yet. I am hearing that the lakes are in good shape and fishing has been good in most of them - trout & bass especially. Nice to see Spring/Summer has arrived.

I wanted to let you know about events we have coming in different regions here in Northern California. Here is a list of activities and events you can attend and join in on the fun:

June 17th, 2023 - NCCFFI/Fly Fishing Traditions - Fishing Technical Water Workshop. Brown's Valley on the Lower Yuba. Come learn to fish waters where fish are picky but large. Contact Clay Hash - ClayHash.fft@gmail.com to register!

June 24th, 2023 - Fly Casting Skills & Development (FCSD) Program, Los Gatos Creek County Park, Campbell, CA.

- **9 a.m. - 11 a.m. - Train-the-Trainers** - For club casting teachers to come learn how to construct & run this fun program for your fly club. **Must Register at: nccffi.org**
- **12 p.m. - 3 p.m.** - Opportunity to actually learn the casts for each of the 3 skill levels and actually take the test if desired. Registration not required. Come & have fun. Bring your fly rod.

June 29 - July 1, 2023 - Women's Connect 3 Day Float Trip Deschutes River, OR. See NCCFFI May Newsletter for details or contact **Anne-Marie Bakker**, 707-721-6184, ambconsulting@sbcglobal.net. This will be great fun on a beautiful river!

July 9, 2023 - Bay Area Youth Fly Fishing, - Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club, Golden Gate Park. Opportunity to get kids into fly fishing and casting. Great teachers & beautiful place. Contact Ron Beltramo for times - 415-999-8348, rjbeltramo@aol.com.

August 12, 2023 - NCCFFI/Fly Fishing Traditions - Fishing the Lower Yuba River. Sycamore Ranch County Park, on the Lower Yuba. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Taught by Clay Hash, Yuba Expert! Contact Clay Hash to register - ClayHash.fft@gmail.com.

September 30, 2023 - Yuba Fest - Sycamore Ranch County Park - **A Celebration of Fly Fishing** - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Save the Date!! This promises to be the event of the year for all of us to gather and just have fun together. More to come out next month!!

- **Will include FCSD program** for club casting teachers - Train-the-Trainers 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. **Register at: nccffi.org**
- Noon - 4 will be practice casting and teaching & testing for FCSD skill levels.

October 1, 2023 - NCCFFI/Fly Fishing Traditions - Swing/soft Hackle/Trout Spey Workshop. Sycamore Ranch Park on the Lower Yuba River, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact Clay Hash to register: ClayHash.fft@gmail.com.

October 29, 2023 - Bay Area Youth Fly Fishing event - Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club in Golden Gate Park. Contact Ron Beltramo for times & details: 415-999-8348, rjbeltramo@aol.com.

As you can see, we have many fun events planned for all of you to participate in and learn some skills you may have thought about but keep putting off. Now is the time. Sign up with the contact person. Remember - Yuba Fest on September 30th - It will be great fun. You can also camp at the park. Go here to reserve a space: [https://www.yuba.org/departments/community-development/parks & campground.php](https://www.yuba.org/departments/community-development/parks&campground.php)

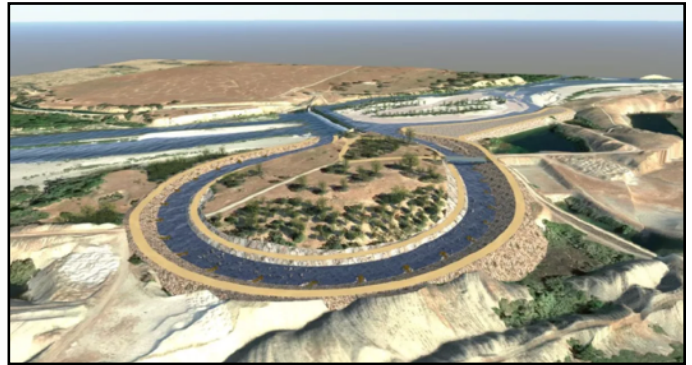
Conservation

Newsom touts \$60-million plan for ‘fishway’ along Yuba River; critics say it falls short

latimes.com | May 17, 2023 | Alex Wigglesworth

Citing the need to boost survival rates for imperiled salmon and sturgeon along the heavily dammed Yuba River, state, local and federal officials have announced a \$60-million plan to build a channel that will allow fish to swim easily around a dam that has impeded their passage for more than a century.

Joined by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Tuesday, officials announced that the fishway would bypass the DaGuerre Point Dam, in Marysville, and allow spring-run chinook salmon, green sturgeon, steelhead, and lamprey to access 10 to 12 miles of spawning habitat upstream. [More ...](#)



First Klamath River Dam to be Removed by End of Summer

caltrout.org | May 24, 2023

We are thrilled to share that (de-)construction for removal of the Klamath River dams is well underway. Copco 2, the first of four lower dams slated to be removed, will be removed by the end of September, according to Mark Bransom, CEO of the Klamath River Renewal Corporation.



How will Copco 2 be removed?

In a recent interview with KDRV, Bransom explained that contractors will drill small holes into the large concrete structure of the dam, pack those holes with explosives, and then detonate them. This will enable crews to break up larger pieces of concrete into smaller pieces that are more easily managed by their equipment.

When will the other dams be removed?

By the end of 2024, the remaining three dams — Copco 1, Iron Gate Dam, and J.C. Boyle Dam — will be removed. River restoration activities, led by Resource Environmental Solutions (RES), will continue in the years following dam removal.

Removal of the Klamath River dams will be the world’s biggest salmon restoration project. We are thrilled to see this project coming into fruition after years of hard work by so many – most notably by the Tribes and indigenous people that have lived along the river and stewarded it since time immemorial.

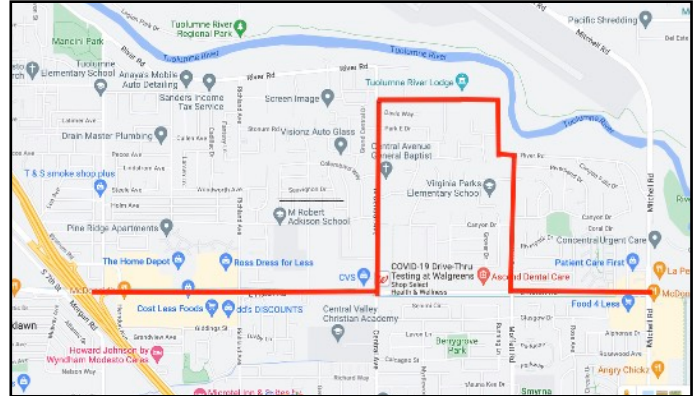
This and That ...

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.

Click on map for link to Google Map.



Informative Fishermen's Expo @ Modesto Toyota

On Saturday, May 27th, SFF board members Gus Link, Bob Bullock, John Driver, Paul Wallace, and Mike Hewitt set up a booth at the expo to spread the word about our club. It was a fairly nice day with a good crowd that was generally focused on bass fishing and conventional gear, but quite a few people showed interest in what we have to offer. And there were free street tacos! We are planning to do more community outreach by having information booths at the Turlock, Modesto, and Newman Farmers' Markets. If you know of other opportunities to spread the word, please let us know.



Volunteers Needed Teaching Fly Fishing for Scouts

Wente Scout Reservation invites you to volunteer to teach fly fishing for one week between June 18 thru August 3, 2023

The teaching sessions are at the Wente Scout Reservation. There are 7 weekly sessions 6-18 thru 8-3-23. Teaching days are Sunday thru Thursday of each session. Staff tent is provided as well as all your meals. Classes are two hours in the morning and two in the afternoon. Scouting is coed and at times space permitting adults take the instruction.



Wente Scout Reservation is located 140 miles north of Oakland and 6 miles east of Willets The lake is called Winawa and has a healthy population of largemouth bass and bluegill.

Fly Fishing Instructors have full access to the lake after classes and dinner. You can bring your own watercraft or use the rowboats or canoes made available to those who would like to use them.

If interested email Gus Link at flylink48@gmail.com and he can answer questions or send a link to the Sign Up Genius site.



FLY CASTING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Join us to try out the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Levels
Fly Fishers International Fly Casting Skills Development Program



Fishing can be even more fun when your casting skills keep you fishing instead of tangling! This program is designed for anglers with some fishing and casting experience to check in on and build their skills. The bronze, silver, and gold levels are a series of common fishing casts that build upon the scenarios anglers see on the water.

Come give it a try! Our experience with this program is that it is a FUN way to LEARN something new, no matter how much time you've spent on the water.

Saturday, June 24th
12:00 Noon to 2:30 PM
Los Gatos Creek County Park*
1250 Dell Avenue
Campbell, CA

*Note: \$6.00 Parking Fee at Park.

- *Skill Levels: Beginner (with some skill) to Advanced*
- *Great way to build skills with a group or your friends*

What to bring:

- A 5 or 6 weight fly rod, a 7.5' OX leader, if you have it.
(If not, we've got gear for you.)
- A hat, sunglasses, water, snack, etc.,
- Curiosity
- Willingness to have *FUN!*

Questions?

Contact Clay Hash
clayhash.fft@gmail.com

To register, scan code →



FLY FISHERS | **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

nccffi.org

FLY CASTING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

TRAIN THE TRAINERS WORKSHOP



The FCSD is a series of common fishing casts to help anglers gauge and build their skills. Being a good facilitator requires some casting skill as well as the ability to work well with others and create a positive experience. This event is for those club members that teach or lead casting programs for their club, and want some hands on experience learning and facilitating this program!

Join Sarah Trenchel and Russ Carpenter, FFI Certified Casting Instructors, as they guide you to all the tools you will need to successfully facilitate this fun program effectively and efficiently.

Saturday, June 24th

9:00AM to 2:30PM

Los Gatos Creek County Park*

**1250 Dell Avenue
Campbell, CA**

***Note: \$6.00 Parking Fee**

- *From 9 AM to 11:30 AM, Train the Trainers Program for Fly Fishing Club Casting Teachers and Mentors*
- *From 12-2:30 PM, participants will get hands-on FCSD facilitating experience working with Sarah & Russ to train aspiring fly casters.*
- *Bring lunch.*
- *Space is limited. Secure your spot early. Participants must register at:*

nccffi.org



Questions?

*Contact Clay Hash
clayhash.fft@gmail.com*

Register at nccffi.org



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