



President's Message

August 1, 2023

Dang, it's hot! Been up and down the valley for work, and dang, it's hot all over! Funny how that happens every year about this time! Just can't figure it out! Hope everyone is getting some time on the water. I am hoping the rivers are finally slowing down enough to fish.

Most of my time lately has been up at Wentle Scout Reservation. My annual two weeks at camp were very close together. It seems that all I have been doing lately is getting ready, getting there, having a great week, getting back, squeezing some work in, and then doing it all over again! Very worth it and highly recommended.

I will not be at the General meeting, because, surprise, I will be at Wentle! My Trusty Crew I am sure will comport themselves with their usual alacrity!

As always, I hope to have a large turnout at the meeting (August 8), because what do we need at the meetings?

YOU! Yeah, YOU, the person reading this! Reach out to anyone you know who fly fishes or has an interest in fly fishing. 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! The more people we can get to come to a meeting, the more people we have the chance of signing up to be members. And for the record, it is working! We are seeing new faces and getting interest at outreach events. BRAVO!!

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

Tight Lines!

~ Link



SFF President Gus Link leading a fly tying session at Wentle Scout Camp.

August General Meeting - Tuesday 8/8/23

Our featured speaker for the August meeting will be Past President Jim Bowen presenting information on fishing The Fall River. Jim and his wife Viv spend quite a bit of time traveling and fishing up and down the west coast, as well as some more adventurous trips (see his tarpon fishing report elsewhere in this newsletter). Having fished The Fall a number of times, Jim will offer his knowledge of the equipment, flies, and techniques needed to hopefully have a successful trip.

As usual, casting fun begins at 5:00 pm with the formal meeting starting at 6:00.



Past President Jim Bowen with a Fall River native rainbow.

Upcoming Speakers

September 12th - Jim Correa, Central Sierra Chapter Trout Unlimited

Upcoming Outings

Outings Director John Driver is busy planning several outings in the upcoming months. Details about each will be presented as they get fully developed, but the early schedule looks like this:

- McSwain- Sept/Oct ??
- Fall River - Sept 22-23
- Heenan Lake- Oct 13-14
- Salt Spring Reservoir - Nov

Stay tuned for more information on these as it gets developed.



Outings Director John Driver with another Fall River native beauty.



Club News

Our outreach project continues with a visit to another farmer’s market, this time in Ripon on August 3rd from 5:00-8:00 pm. We’ll be demonstrating fly casting and fly tying and providing general information about the club. Come check out the market and what it has to offer and stop by our booth and say hello.

Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers August Report



Join Us for a Celebration of Fly Fishing and Protecting our Rivers - Yuba Fest 2023!

On Saturday, September 30th we will hold the fly fishing event of the year in Northern California! We're calling it the **Gathering of the Clan** - bringing like-minded people together for Yuba Fest. If you fly fish, love rivers, recreate on the water, or have an interest in conservation - **This event is for you!**



Saturday will offer a full day of fly fishing learning, casting with certified casters, fly tying with experts, and the opportunity to learn what is happening in Conservation from numerous organizations. A great lunch will be available for purchase during the day, along with drinks (more details on food service coming soon), and you'll enjoy live music in the afternoon. In addition, there will be a raffle, silent auction for fly boxes and other great items & a live auction for selected high value items. Be sure to stick around for the Social Event from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM.



There is a lot to do in and around the Grass Valley/Nevada City/Yuba City area and it is a great place to spend a delightful full weekend. For more information about Yuba Fest (and things to do in the area), go to the NCCFFI Website at <https://www.nccffi.org> to get all the information you will need and register to join us for this great celebration at Sycamore Ranch County Park on the Lower Yuba River.

More details to follow soon. We look forward to seeing you there!

Nor Calif. Council, Fly Fishers Int'l (NCCFFI)

Gold Country Fly Fishers

Fly Fishing Traditions





Welcome to Sycamore Ranch Park – Yuba Fest 2023



Also, consider joining in the fun, camping on Friday & Saturday at Sycamore Ranch Campground, with a planned social event in the campground on Saturday night from 7 PM on for storytelling & just visiting! Be sure to make your reservations at the Sycamore Valley Campground in advance!

Areas where Yuba Fest will be held



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

Caught Fishing ...

From Past President Jim Bowen ...

Vivian and I made a trip to Florida in early June. While the primary goal of the trip was to visit my 95-year-old uncle, we couldn't go that far and not do a little tarpon fishing while there.

Our first stop was Marathon Key where we fished two days with Orvis-endorsed guide Todd Ziels. Captain Todd put us on some "baby" tarpon in Florida Bay the first morning. I hooked several, but didn't boat any of them. The general opinion is that if you hook 10 you may boat 3 of them. They go ballistic when hooked and spend almost as much time in the air as in the water. With all those jumps it is really hard to keep them pinned.

Later that day we went out on the ocean side to try for the big adults. We had a few shots at them and two or three acted interested, but unfortunately no takers. The second day we tried for "babies" again in the early morning and then went ocean side again and tried for the big fish, but once again no joy.

Next we detoured to Key West as we had never been there. We had a lot of fun but I'd probably recommend that for adults, although there are plenty of things to do and sites to see if you find yourself there with children.

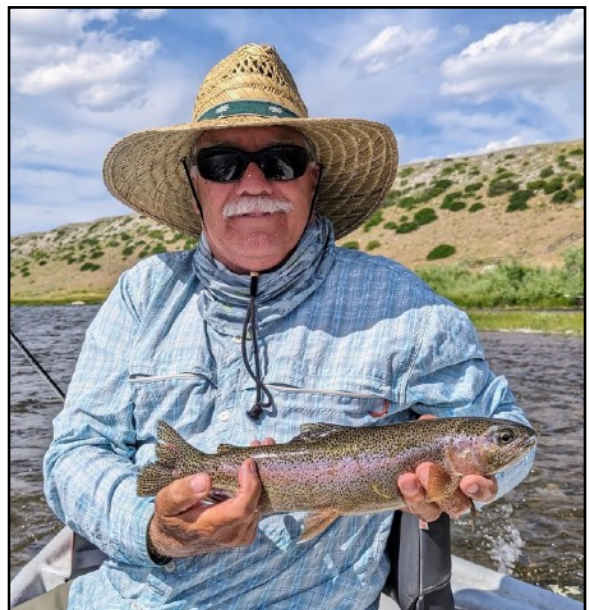
We left Key West for Everglades City and Everglades National Park where we fished one day in the Ten Thousand Islands with Captain Adam Boehlke. Even if you didn't get into fish that trip would be worth it just to get a good look at Everglades NP. However, my luck changed and I did finally land a good tarpon.

After chatting with both guides, we are going to make our tarpon pilgrimage next April as the run will have just gotten underway and the fish won't be quite as "shy" as they were in June. The Keys and the Park are amazing places and well worth visiting. We saw hammerheads and bull sharks. We saw manatees and many birds, including a Roseate Spoonbill. We saw a really large alligator in a roadside canal on the way to Everglades City. All in all a great trip. We are already counting down to next April.



From Pat Roe ...

Well, let's see. "It was a dark and stormy night". . . No no, that's the other story. Jean and I recently took a trip to Idaho and Montana in the middle of July. We were hoping to hit the salmon fly and golden stone fly hatches on the Madison River, but we were a few days late. Just caught the tail end of it. A seasoned fly fisher told me that that hatch is overrated, but I can tell you it is not. My pictures from a few years ago prove that. Anyway, I went with a guide one of the days and we hooked into some nice fish. Mostly on dries, except for that big brown. We were drifting a big meat fly, kind of like a Slumpbuster on steroids, and a caddis pupa dropper which he took up against a big rock. We also fished a couple of days below the 3 Dollar bridge with minimal results. I did see one fish rolling near the surface that finally succumbed to a split back pm� after a few passes. So if you ever get the chance to go there, try to plan for the first of July. It could be great.



WENTE SCOUT RESERVATION FLY FISHING MERIT BADGE PROGRAM 2023

Every summer since 2014 (except 2020) I volunteer to teach the BSA Fly-Fishing Merit Badge to Scouts at Wente Scout Reservation in Willits, California. Not only do I volunteer at the camp, but I also manage the signups for the camp. We have a pool of about 75-100 people that we send invitations to from a site call Sign Up Genius. Volunteers are asked to come up to WSR for a week to teach the Fly-Fishing Merit Badge program. Camp runs for 7 weeks. Instructors go up for a week to teach the program to the Scouts attending that week. We try to have enough volunteers to fill four positions per week. Camp provides meals, a tent and cot, and a private lake!

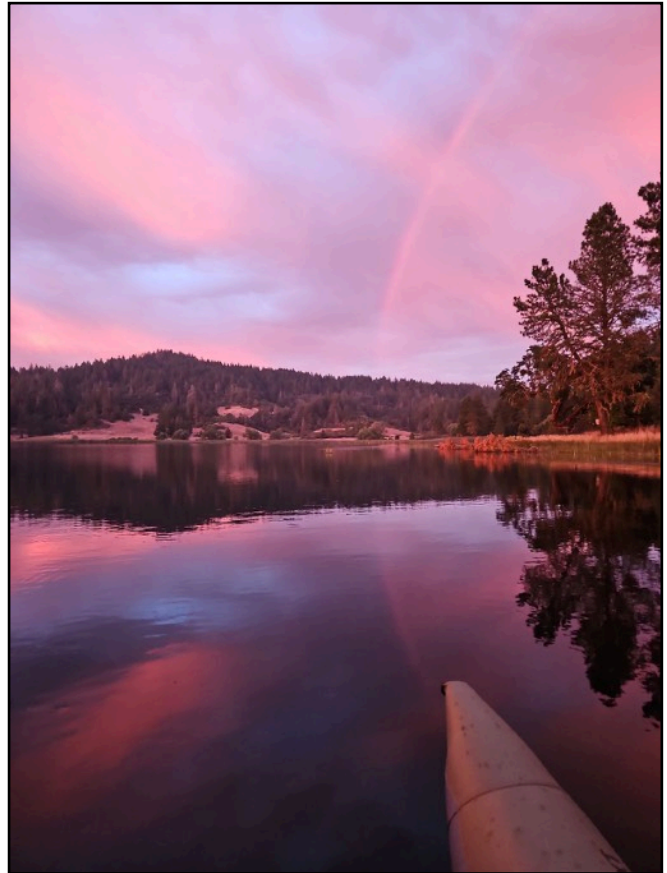


This year (2023) I spent two long work weekends at Camp, and two weeks as an instructor. The core group of fly-fishers that promote the program also are committed to the health of the lake at WSR. One of our members recruited the help of a fish biology program at Humboldt State to run some studies so we have a baseline of the lake and are working to improve the overall health of the lake. This study has a 5-year plan to evaluate the health of the lake. We have a number of our volunteers go up to WSR to help out this program. How do we help? We get to fish all weekend! Pretty good gig! In addition, work weekends are a great time to go up, help maintain the Camp, oh, and fish!

For the Merit Badge program, we teach kids the basics of Fly-Fishing. We don't try to make them proficient, just give them the basics, and hopefully, they will take it up on their own. Casting, if they can get a fly on the water reasonably well, I am good with. The main focus, get them fishing! It is absolutely wonderful to see a kid who has never caught a fish catch a little bluegill! Never gets old!

Why do I do this? Because I and the cadre of instructors feel it is important to pass the knowledge of fly-fishing on to youth. Our demographic is aging fast, and I feel that it is important to pass the knowledge on to as many people as possible so our sport does not die out. My fellow instructors feel the same. We have many people who have been involved in the program for years. We have so much fun doing this! Seeing these kids learn and catch a fish is the best feeling.

Anyone who might be interested in participating, please let me know.



SFF 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

SFF 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 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](#)

