



President's Message

Well, the Fly Fishing Film Tour was a rousing success! Thank you to everyone who came out and participated! I had a great time; I hope everyone else did also. I really missed this event, didn't realize how much until we actually got it going again! Amy from Rivers of Recovery and I were talking after the event, we both agreed it was great to be back and much better than the online version. Paul, Mike and Dennis, you guys did the majority of the heavy lifting, Great Job! To everyone who helped, Thank You! The event was not a success because of one person, but everyone who helped and participated. Looking forward to next year!

Great turnout at the last meeting! Way to go! Thank you for coming out and supporting the club. Nice to see new faces! Nice to see all the faces! Great to see some folks that we have not seen in a while, when we have to add chairs to the initial set up, Whoo Hoo! I cannot express how happy this makes me! There is hope for the club!

Looking forward to our outreach events coming up, Earth Day and Farmers Markets in Turlock, Modesto and Ripon. Standing invitation to anyone who would like to help out with the booth, come on out! Half an hour or half the day, all help is appreciated.

Finally got in some fishing! Friend and I went to the South Fork of the Stan in an area I had not fished in... decades? Nice that the new regs have opened up some water to C&R outside of traditional "Trout Season". We got to fish some water that in another week will be unfishable due to the increasing runoff. I caught 1 fish, my buddy caught a whole bunch! Nice change of pace, usually I am the one catching more fish! Nice to get some dry fly action in, that will always be my favorite! (Yeah, I know, Bob, fish get the vast majority of their diet underwater!!)

As always, I hope to have a large turnout at the meeting (May 14), because what do we need at the meetings?

Craft Beer! Yes! Good Craft Beer! That means someone has to bring some! Is that someone you? Bring some beer to the meeting and find out!! And for the record, I very much like Craft Beer, if you had not surmised that! All kidding aside, please come out and participate. Participation makes the Club successful.

As always, we are open to 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

... May General Meeting - Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Our May program will feature Greg Vinci, author of *[Flyfisher's Guide to California](#)* and Social Media Director for *[California Fly Fishing Reports](#)*. Greg is also a photographer whose his stand-alone work and photo essays have been featured in such publications as *Northwest Fly Fishing* magazine, *Southwest Fly Fishing* magazine, *American Fly Fishing* magazine, and *Gray's Sporting Journal*, as well as a host of others. His program will focus on steelhead, shad, and salmon in the American River. We're excited to have the opportunity to have Greg visit our club and share his knowledge and experience with us. This will be a meeting you won't want to miss!



... 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, May 11th is the next session. The event is held rain or shine and is a great way to brush up or improve upon your casting skills. And you get a hot dog lunch!

... Fly Fishing Film Tour Wrap Up

After months of planning and preparation the F3T event benefiting Rivers of Recovery arrived and by all accounts was a rousing success. A large crowd showed up and the auction, raffle, and ticket sales raised \$5275 for RoR! We're already thinking ahead to next year and looking for ways to make it an even bigger event. We appreciate all who donated their time and raffle/auction prizes and contributed to such a successful return of the event. Without your efforts this wouldn't have been possible.

... Outings and Events

We're still manning information booths at the local farmers markets this spring to promote the club. In addition we are also promoting club-sponsored clinics and classes to help expand the fly fishing community.

We will be offering a **casting clinic** geared to introducing newcomers to fly fishing on Saturday, May 18th, at the Tuolumne River Lodge. Class will be limited to 10 people on a first-come basis. See the [flyer](#) at the end of this newsletter for details. \$10/per person fee.

Unfortunately, our McSwain outing was canceled due to inclement weather, but we still have several things on the calendar for the upcoming season. June 14th-16th, is a weekend outing to Clark Fork with an option for Beardsley Afterbay. 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. And finally (for now) we're looking at a trip to Eastern Nevada and Wild Horse Reservoir October 3rd-6th.

... 2024 Dues are now due and payable!

Please see info at the [bottom of the newsletter](#). Pay by mail or in person at a club meeting.

... Fly Tying Class

We initiated the first class in this new endeavor. It was a small, but enthusiastic group and we had a lot of fun teaching and learning. Mike Hewitt taught the Zebra midge and Walt's Worm. Gus Link taught the Leisengring Spider wet fly. Pat Roe taught woolly buggers, and Bud Heintz taught tying a PT nymph. Members Dennis Stambaugh, Paul Wallace, Bob Bullock and Derek Vierra assisted. Planning has begun for a second class that will be designed for new tyers that have had some previous experience tying.



Working the Earth Day festival at Graceada Park.
(l-r) Bob Bullock, Mike Hewitt, Roger Ringsted,
Paul Wallace, and Dennis Stambaugh.

... Open Fly Tying Night, Monday, May 13th

After months of hoping to find a home for an open flytying night, we've decided to go with the same room we've been using for our tying class. It's large enough to hold a flock of tyers. (A raft? A gaggle? A hatch? A clowder? What do you call a group of tyers?) The Ceres school district has been graciously accommodating to us and the location and room is easily accessible. These will be loosely structured show-up-and-tie affairs with flexibility. Maybe a featured fly on occasion, or specific flies for upcoming outings, but generally just whatever you want to work on in a room full of like-minded friends. The room will usually be open by 6:30 pm and the session will wrap up no later than 9:00 pm. BYO gear/ drinks/snacks (no alcohol!). Our first session will be **Monday, May 13th**, but thereafter will be held on the 3rd Monday of each month beginning in June. Hope to see a lot of you there! —> [2503 Lawrence Ave, Ceres, CA](#). Room 33. Park in District Office lot and look for SFF sign.

... Hetch Hetchy Letter

Our club has been asked, along with other FF clubs, to add our signature to a letter to Superintendent Cicely Muldoon, Yosemite National Park, requesting modifications to restrictions re: fishing at Hetch Hetchy. Current regulations require fishers to stay above the high water mark making it realistically impossible to fish. The letter was initiated by Yosemite Outfitters and forwarded to us by Jim Correa of Trout Unlimited and Merced Fly Fishers. Due to the request for a response prior to May 1st, the board discussed and agreed that it is a reasonable request and board member Paul Wallace will sign on behalf of the club. More details will be presented at the May general meeting. The [letter](#) from Yosemite Outfitters is attached at the end of the newsletter.

Upcoming Outings & Events

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

- Flytying Night - May 13, 2024 - 6:30 pm, Ceres Unified Schools District Office, Rm. 33
- General Meeting - "Greg Vinci, American River Steelhead, Shad and Salmon" - May 14, 2024
- SFF Intro Casting Clinic - May 18, 2024 - 8:30 am, Tuolumne River Lodge, \$10 fee
- SFF Board Meeting - May 23, 2024 - 6:00 pm, Track 424 Brewery, 2150 Yosemite, Modesto
- Clark Fork, Stanislaus River (or Beardsley) - June 14-16, 2024
- Fall River/ Circle 7 Ranch - September 6-8, 2024
- Wild Horse Reservoir, Nevada - October 3-6, 2024
- YubaFest- October 5, 2024 - Sycamore County Ranch Park, Lower Yuba River
- Salmon Festival, Knights Ferry - November 9, 2024



Our NCCFFI Accomplishments – 1st Quarter 2024

As President of the NCCFFI it has been a busy three months. I'm taking a breath to think about and talk about the accomplishments we have made so far this year. I want to thank everyone that has helped, our board, our Club Presidents, and Club Leadership. Thanks to all our fly club members that support our efforts.

Council Elections - We started the year with an elected board. There has not been an election held for as long as I have been a member of the board, which is about 5 years. We will have regular elections from this year forward.

Newsletters – The council has published the RiverMouth newsletter in past years, but it was not a consistent effort. We have published four editions of RiverMouth, which goes out to our FFI members and others on our mail list of over 900 people. The RiverMouth will continue to be published monthly. We have also published four editions of the Club News newsletter which goes out to our club Presidents and Club Leadership. This will also be sent out monthly to keep our club leaders connected with what is going on in Northern California.

Website and Social Media – The council has continued to improve our website and social media presence. The website is an ongoing project that we will continue to improve and upgrade. If your club has a meeting or event that they want to let everyone know is happening, please let us know and we can share it on social media and in our Newsletters.

Presidents / Club Leadership Happy Hour – We have continued this monthly Zoom meeting which allows our fly club leaders to share ideas and get to know each other better. This is a great opportunity to stay in touch and help each other.

Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show – The council had a booth at the show and was able to meet our fly club members and introduce others to the NCCFFI and

share where they can get connected with our NorCal clubs. We also supported the fly casting and the Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) program that took place at the show.

Fly Casting Skills Development – The council continues to support the rollout of the FCSD program with our clubs. There are many clubs interested in starting their own FCSD program. If your club is one of them, please reach out to me and we will help you get the FCSD program up and running.

Presidents Lunch – The council put on a “Presidents Lunch” at the Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show that allowed us to “Connect” with our fly club leaders. We shared “The Reasons Why” we should work together for our mutual benefit. It was a fun and enjoyable experience that all that attended learned about council goals.

Yuba Fest – The Yuba Fest Committee has been formed and a date has been set for the event. The date is Saturday, October 5th, 2024, at Sycamore Ranch County Park on the lovely Lower Yuba River. We are inviting all our fly clubs and fly club members to attend the “Gathering of the Clan.” More information will be coming soon.

Hall of Fame Dinner – The Hall of Fame Dinner is happening after a many, many years absence. The event will induct Mike Mercer, a well know and accomplished fly tyer. The Hall of Fame Dinner will take place on Saturday, November 9th, 2024 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center. In summary, we have accomplished a lot and will strive to continue the effort for the 2nd quarter and for the remainder of the year. I will make a request for the NorCal clubs that are not represented on our Board to appoint someone from your club to attend our board meetings so that the council can connect in a meaningful way with your fly club and members. If you need to discuss anything of concern with the council and your club, please reach out to me anytime.

Clay Hash
NCCFFI President

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 now due. 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](#)

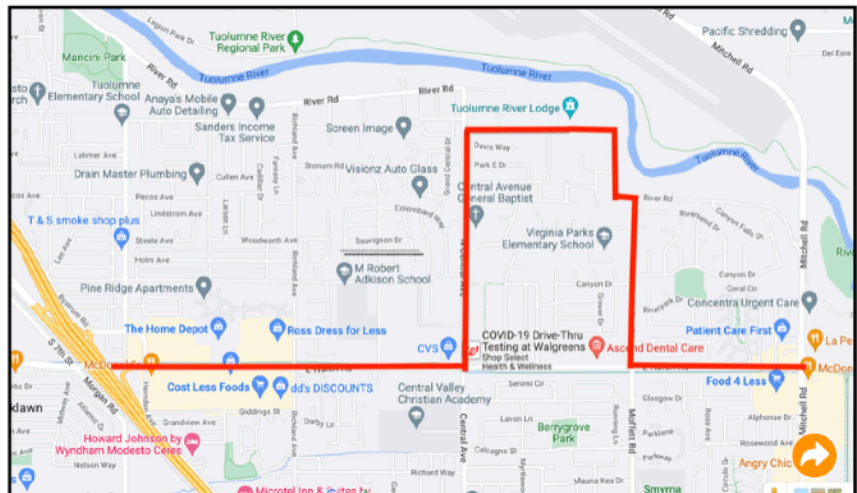
[FFI Membership Link](#)

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.

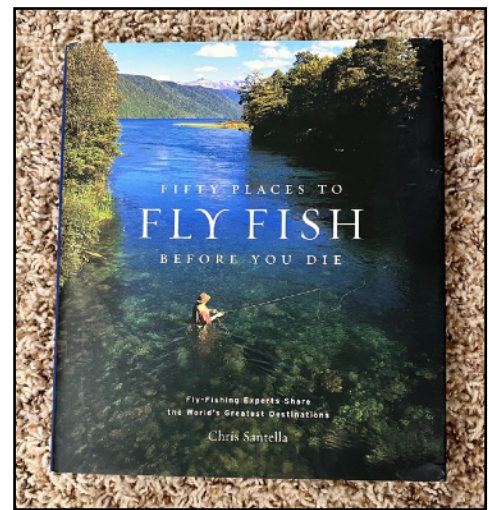
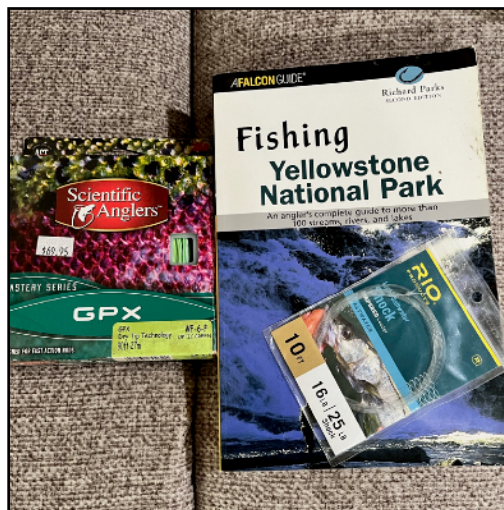
From Mitchell Rd take Hatch Rd west to Moffett Rd. Right on Moffett to River Rd. Left on River Rd.

[Google Map](#)



Upcoming Meeting Raffle

To help offset part of the cost of our speaker for May, Greg Vinci, we are going to be featuring some significant items for our monthly raffle. Please help support our ability to have recognized expert speakers and guides present to our club by buying monthly raffle tickets. Dues alone cannot support the cost of speakers who charge a fee for their services. It's only possible through additional fundraising such as raffles, fees for clinics and classes, and sales of items donated to the club to be used for the club's benefit.





CASTING CLINIC

\$10 PER
PERSON



MAY 18TH, 8:30 AM TO 11:30AM
TUOLUMNE RIVER LODGE,
ON THE LOWER BACK OF THE LOT.

YOU WILL LEARN:

- A BRIEF HISTORY OF FLY FISHING, ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND WHAT MAKES FLY FISHING UNIQUE.
- ABOUT THE ROD AND REEL, LINE TYPES AND FUNCTION, AND SET UP FOR USE.
- HOW TO HOLD THE ROD AND THE BASIC TECHNIQUE OF CASTING

YOU WILL PRACTICE:

THE CASTING PICK-UP AND LAY-DOWN, FALSE CAST, SHOOTING THE LINE, AND STRIPPING.

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING YOUR OWN ROD AND REEL SET UP, BUT PLEASE COME EARLY SO THAT WE CAN CHECK THE OUTFIT FOR USE, NO HOOKS PLEASE! A LIMITED NUMBER OF CLUB RODS ARE AVAILABLE FOR USE.

WATER AND SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED.



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

Yosemite Outfitters ◇ Restore Hetch Hetchy ◇ Others ...

May 1, 2024

Superintendent Cicely Muldoon
Yosemite National Park

Re: Fishing in Hetch Hetchy Reservoir

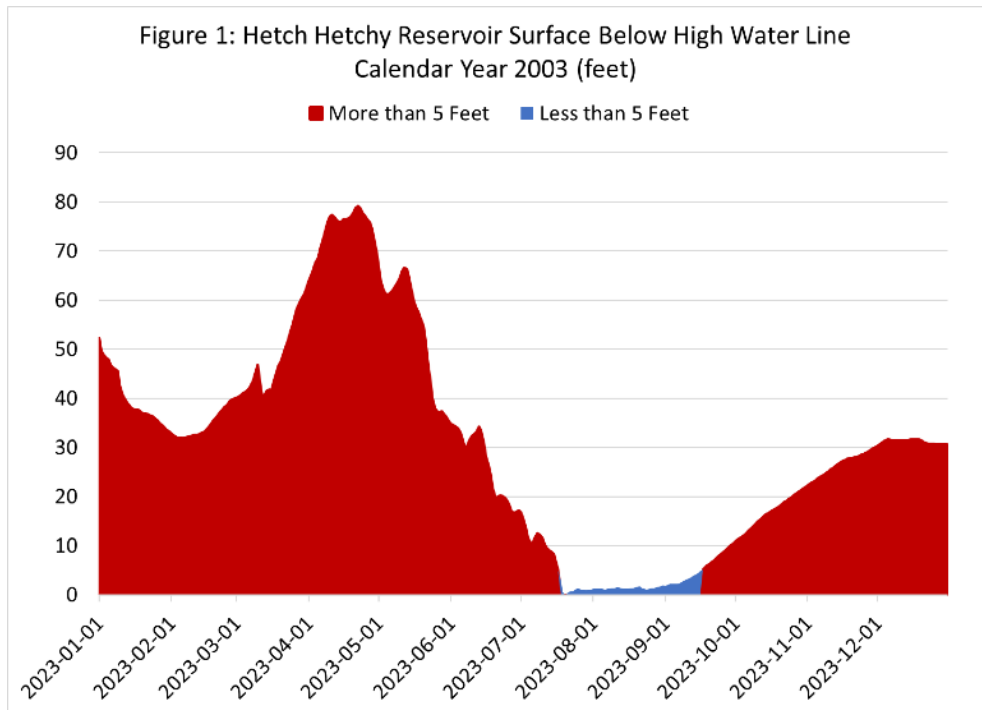
Dear Superintendent Muldoon:

Our organizations support fishing in Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. We ask the National Park Service to modify its regulations prohibiting access below the high water mark of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir so fishing is possible.

A sign posted in the parking lot at Hetch Hetchy indicates that fishing is indeed allowed from the bank of the reservoir. The prohibition of access below the reservoir’s high water mark, however, as included in the Superintendent’s Compendium, in the National Park Service brochure distributed at the Hetch Hetchy entrance, and on the webpage for fishing in Yosemite National Park, effectively precludes fishing.

It’s simply not possible to fish in the reservoir if you can’t get near the water. Like all water supply reservoirs, the water level at Hetch Hetchy Reservoir fluctuates seasonally and is rarely close to its high water mark. For example, in calendar year 2023 the water level was within 5 feet of the high water mark for only 60 days in the summer (see Figure 1).

The brochure and Compendium state that prohibition’s purpose is to maintain a clean source of drinking water. The Raker Act, however, which authorized the construction of Hetch Hetchy



Superintendent Cicely Muldoon, Yosemite National Park
Re: Fishing in Hetch Hetchy Reservoir
May 1, 2024

Reservoir, placed only specific limitations, i.e. no “human excrement, garbage, or other refuse” (shall be placed in the reservoir) and ”No person shall bathe, wash clothes or cooking utensils, or water stock in, ruin any way pollute, the water”. Further, the Raker Act expressly forbids the National Park Service from granting any additional rules or restrictions to protect water quality beyond those enumerated.

Further, Congress enacted the Raker Act with the full expectation that fishing would be not only permitted but encouraged. Congressmen, including Scott Ferris, Chairman of the Committee on Public Lands when the legislation was considered, enthusiastically embraced fishing in the reservoir.

It is not clear when this de facto ban on fishing was implemented. Until recent NPS website updates, it appeared that year round access was given to fish all of Yosemite's lakes as well as Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

A storied written history exists of fishing Hetch Hetchy. Numerous visitors, NPS employees, and others have enjoyed the fishery. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir has some of Yosemite's largest trophy trout and provides outstanding value as a fishery. It is unreasonable to restrict recreation for responsible users who wish to respect the landscape and the National Park Service.

We ask the National Park Service to rescind the current prohibition on access below the high water mark of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir so park visitors can fish.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

David Gregory, Yosemite Outfitters
Spreck Rosekrans, Restore Hetch Hetchy
Others ...