



## President's Message

July 1, 2024

Finally got in some time on the river! And camping! It was much needed. Being outdoors, being in the river, always relaxes me and brings life back into focus. A common phrase often heard in fly-fishing circles, "It's not all about the fish," is spot on for me. I only caught two fish, but was happy to be out fishing, camping, and in the river. Also, good food and drink shared around a campfire is an amazing experience no matter how many times it is done.

The July meeting will be our inaugural Swap Meet! Want to sell gear? Need to buy gear? Come on out! We hope to make this an annual event, so let us know what you think!

The Clark Fork outing went well. Rivers were high, but towards the last we found some creeks that could be fished. A couple of guys came over from the Santa Cruz Fly Casters club; It was great having them participate.

I know we need to promote outings a bit more, and definitely have better turn out, BUT, we are still learning. Things are not as they were, and we are adapting, learning, and moving forward. Any suggestions, comments, ideas? Please, let us know. If you have a favorite place to fish and would like to coordinate an outing, please let us know.

And that brings us to a subject I am going to touch on quite a bit, helping out your club.

I know a little something about myself: Hello, my name is Link, and I am a volunteer-aholic! Yup, that's me! It has taken me a while to figure this out, but I am happiest when I am helping out. Between the SFF and the work I do with scouting, I am always busy! That can be said of the SFF Board also. We volunteer because we love fly-fishing and we want to see the club succeed. Would we like to see other volunteer-aholics helping out? You bet! Not a volunteer-aholic and still want to help out? Fantastic!

The level of commitment to help out the club does not have to be total immersion. We need people to handle all sorts of things, from helping out with a plan to start having food, to helping coordinate the sale of our donated items. There are lots of other things that need to be done to grow the club. Do we know them all? Nope! We are growing, we are learning. We have more members now than we have ever had before! This is amazing! If you have a desire to assist, please, let us know.

As always, I hope to have a large turnout at the meeting (July 9), because what do we need at the meetings?

Lots of stuff to buy and sell! And, people to buy and sell said stuff! And of course, craft beer! MMM! 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

### ... July General Meeting - Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Our July program will be our first ever Swap Meet Night. The club has been gifted with a couple of legacy donations of fly fishing and tying gear. There is much here the club can use for instructional purposes, club use, and/or club fundraising. As a result, some of it will be available at the swap meet. It is also an opportunity for members who have gear they no longer need to turn that into cash (which can be used to buy more gear!). If you are interested in buying fishing gear or tying supplies, come to the meeting. If you would like to have table space (no charge) to offer your excess gear for sale, please fill out the registration form on our [website](#) to let us know what you need so we can be prepared.



### ... 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, July 13th 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!

### ... Outings and Events

Anthony Johnson is acting as fishmeister for a surf perch outing to Palm Beach State Park July 6th. We'll be piggybacking on a Santa Cruz Fly Fishers outing at their invitation. 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. Information on all trips are on our [Outings](#) page of our website.

We are half way through our first Fly Fishing 101 class. This has been a multi-day class covering fly fishing gear, basic entomology, reading water, and casting. This course is intended to get an absolute beginner up-to-speed with the basics of fly fishing. There are two more sessions to be taught. We gratefully thank the Ceres Unified School District for allowing us to use classroom space to hold our sessions.

### ... Open Fly Tying Night, Monday, July 15th

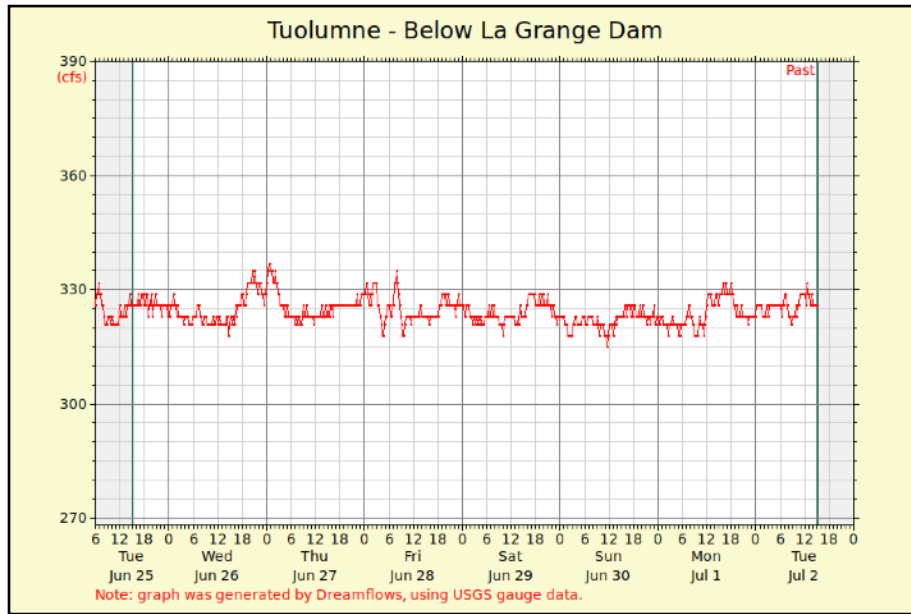
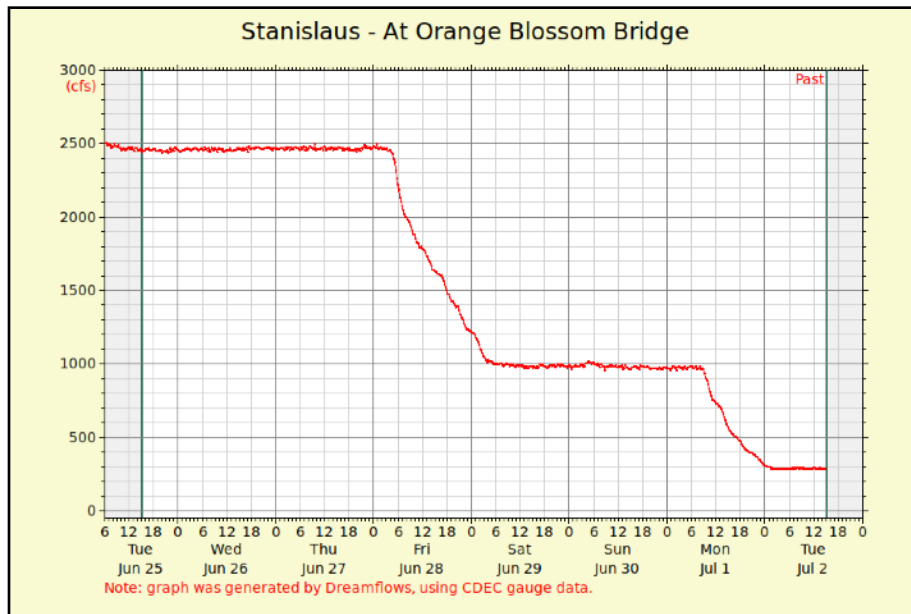
The fly night is currently held at Food Fix at 938 11th Street (between I and J Streets) in Modesto. This is easily accessible and food and beverages are available. These are loosely structured show-up-and-tie affairs with flexibility. Maybe a featured fly on occasion, or specific flies for upcoming outings, but generally just whatever you want to



work on in a room full of like-minded friends. Tying will usually start around 6:30 pm and the session will wrap up no later than 9:00 pm. BYO gear, but for beginners we'll have some equipment you can use. This is an going meetup to be held on the 3rd Monday of each month throughout the year. Hope to see a lot of you there!

### ... Fly Fishing Film Tour/Rivers of Recovery Fundraiser 2025

As previously reported, we're already looking into planning next year's fundraising event. Now is a good time to offer any and all suggestions/recommendations for making this an even bigger and better event. With nearly 130 attendees this year, we'd like to boost those numbers next year. Please let us know about the things you think we got right and the things you'd like to see added or changed. We can't guarantee suggestions can be implemented, but we'll do our best to give them all serious consideration and do what we can where we can. Please drop your ideas to: [pwallace@stanislausflyfishers.org](mailto:pwallace@stanislausflyfishers.org).



## Upcoming Outings & Events

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

- Surf Perch Outing - Palm Beach State Park - July 6, 2024
- Fly Fishing 101 Class, July 8, 2024 (final night)
- General Meeting - Swap Meet Night - July 9, 2024
- Flytying Night - July 15, 2024 - 6:30 pm, Food Fix, 11th Street, Modesto
- SFF Board Meeting - July 25, 2024 - 6:00 pm, Track 424 Brewery, 2150 Yosemite, Modesto
- 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



## Summertime Fun!

By Clay Hash, NCCFFI President

### Clay's Message

The summer heat has arrived and rivers and streams are starting to settle down into reasonable flows. More places to fish are opening up weekly. It's time to get out and enjoy our sport chasing your fish species of choice. I've been chasing shad in the Lower Yuba. Quite a kick! Also made a trip to Utah to work on my Euro techniques. Also a lot of good times. I hope you are all getting out and getting after it.

At our last NCCFFI Board Meeting we focused on the remaining events we are planning and organizing for the remainder of the year. In this newsletter, there are articles about them. The articles provide a lot of information about the events, how to register, buy tickets and such. We hope many of you support and attend these events. They bring our NorCal fly fishers together.

### Our Major Events

- Train the Trainers and FCSD event in Sacramento on September 28th.
- Yuba Fest at Sycamore Ranch County Park in Browns Valley on October 5th
- Hall of Fame Dinner in Lafayette on November 9th

The Hall of Fame event is the most important one as it is a major fundraiser for the NCCFFI, partnering with the Fly Shop in Redding. I encourage you to read the information about the event, buy a ticket, and support our NCCFFI fundraising efforts.

### Articles this Month

As far as fishing articles and information this month, there are articles from our regular contributors. I thank them for their contributions to our monthly newsletter.

As I mentioned above, I've been fishing the Lower Yuba for shad and have written an article about my experiences doing so this spring. After spending time in Utah I have written an article about my experiences Euro

nymphing there using the "Front End Loader" fly. I used the fly with great success utilizing Euro Dry/Dropper techniques.

The NCCFFI will continue its efforts to connect in a meaningful way by sponsoring fly fishing events in the future and also continuing with the Monthly RiverMouth newsletter. The NCCFFI Board will be reaching out to your fly club to ask for a volunteer to be on the NCCFFI Board as a liaison to your respective clubs. If you are interested, please let me know.

I look forward to meeting you in person, at one of the events this year.

Clay Hash

NCCFFI President

### **Nor Cal Fly Casting News**

By Clay Hash - Acting NCCFFI Education Chair

The NCCFFI in partnership with the CFFU fly club, Willy George, the GGACC, and its certified fly casters are hosting a special Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) Program event in Sacramento on Saturday, September 28th. The event will take place at William B. Pond Recreation Area along the American River at 5700 Arden Way, Carmichael, CA. The event is free but there is a \$7 per vehicle fee to access the Recreation Area.

The following clubs, mostly located in the Sacramento area, are invited to participate in this fun casting education activity: CFFU, Granite Bay, Gold Country, Davis, Amador, Delta Fly Fishers, and Tahoe-Truckee. Special recognition goes out to the California Fly Fishers Unlimited (CFFU) club for taking on the lead role for this event and for organizing a pulled pork BBQ luncheon (including cole slaw, chips, sodas, and water) for all attendees. There will be a nominal \$10 donation requested for the 12 Noon - 1 PM luncheon to cover costs.

The FFI Fly Casting Skills Development Program will be presented in two parts:

(First Session) - In the morning from 9 AM - 12 Noon, club casting instructors and volunteers can participate in an FCSD Train-the-Facilitators Workshop. This will enable these club volunteers to facilitate FCSD activities back at their own clubs.

Participants in the FCSD Train-the-Facilitators Workshop are asked to sign-up by providing their name and email address to Clay Hash [clayhash.fft@gmail.com](mailto:clayhash.fft@gmail.com). There will be pre-reading information sent to all workshop participants by the main instructors before the event so we need facilitator-trainee names and emails from each club.

(Second Session) - From 1 - 4 PM, club members from all Sacramento area clubs can participate in Foundation, Bronze, Silver, and Gold level casting skills activities. This afternoon session will allow the facilitators who trained in the morning to apply their newly acquired facilitation skills.

(General Information) - In addition to the FCSD activities which feature an objective measurement of a caster's skill level using real world, fishing casts, there will be open casting lessons offered from 1 - 4 PM in the afternoon in a field immediately adjacent to the FCSD Bronze, Silver, and Gold courses. This will allow brand new casters to start with the Foundation-level basics but will also allow experienced casters to get pinpointed feedback to help them improve, for example, moving from FCSD Bronze level up to Silver or from Silver up to Gold.

Loaner rods will be provided free of charge for both facilitators and students. We suggest that facilitators arrive around 8:30 AM (so we can start at 9 AM SHARP!). Please bring sunscreen, a hat, their club's logo wear (such as hats, shirts, or jackets), your club's name badge, layers for warmth, rain gear (as needed), and a folding chair.

Facilitators should plan to stay for the entire day so they can practice in the afternoon what they've learned in the morning.

Club members who are not training to be an FCSD Facilitator should arrive around 11:45 AM to enjoy a delicious BBQ lunch and socialize from 12 Noon - 1 PM. Casting education, including FCSD and casting lessons, will be held from 1 - 4 PM and free loaner rods will be provided.

We invite one member from each club to join the "organizing committee" for periodic Zoom calls to work out the details and to provide their clubs with up-to-date communications.

As we get closer to the September event date, we ask that club representatives plan to provide the organizing committee with an approximate head count from their club for (a) facilitators (all day participants) and (b) students (lunch and afternoon participants) about one month prior to the event.

If you have questions about the casting instruction, the FCSD Train-the-Facilitator Workshop, or the FCSD activities please contact Willy George, NCCFFI Casting Director, FFI Certified Master Casting Instructor - Single Handed MCI and Two Handed THMCI, email: [busygeorges@aol.com](mailto:busygeorges@aol.com)

If you have questions about the event location, venue layout, bbq luncheon, or volunteer needs, please contact Jeff Stephens, CFFU President, email: [ffjeff4@aol.com](mailto:ffjeff4@aol.com)

## YubaFest 2024

The NCCFFI is proud to announce that Yuba Fest 2024 will take place on Saturday, October 5th, 2024. The 2024 event will be a one-day affair with fly clubs and fly club members invited to a gathering of our fly fishing clan.

This is a great way for our fly clubs and fly club members to bond with fly fishing on the lovely Lower Yuba River at Sycamore Ranch County Park. The Fly Casting Skills Development Program will be featured with NCCFFI clubs that are experienced with program facilitating the fly casting. This will be an all-day affair with fun social activities later in the afternoon.

Yuba Fest is a partnership with the NCCFFI, the Gold Country Fly Fishers, and Fly Fishing Traditions. This has been the main fundraising opportunity for the NCCFFI over the past number of years. We seek and welcome your support. More information and details will be coming.

Tickets for the Yuba Fest event will be available soon. For more detail click [here](#).

Mark the date and come and have a fun day.



## Klamath River - With Dam Removal Comes Renewal

By Mark Rockwell, NCCFFI Conservation Chair

The 3rd most productive salmon and steelhead river in the lower 48 states is soon to be free of barriers to migrating fish. We are now in the last few months of a 20+ year process to free the Klamath. As was discussed in my Fall 2023 Osprey article, work began to remove 4 dams from the river in late 2023, and that process has been steadily moving forward for the last eight months. Once spawning was finished, eggs were hatched, and fry became smolts, the river was free of anadromous fish and open for work to begin. The first dam, Copco 2, was removed by the end of October. Here is a link to a video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWkzUEFTCms>

Though this took about 2 months to complete, it has left the river in a more natural state than it's been in for nearly 100 years. This dam was the smallest, and upstream of the primary barriers of Copco 1 and Iron Gate, both of which did not have fish passage. Hence, working on it during the spawning period was not problematic as water quality concerns were managed successfully for downstream activity.

From this, two months were spent preparing for the removal of the three remaining and larger dams on the river. All three remaining dams hold back a lot of water in the lakes behind the reservoirs - Iron Gate, Copco 1, and J.C. Boyle in Oregon. The first job was to drawdown the lakes and let the water flow downstream, which started in January, 2024. Prior to opening the gates, so to speak, a safe and controlled process had to be created for water releases to avoid impacts to the fishery. The goal was to release water and silt at a rate that would not be too injurious to the watershed or fishery.

J.C. Boyle had a useable exhaust tube that just had to be blasted open, and Iron Gate Dam also had a useable flow tunnel installed during initial construction. Copco 1, however, did not have a useable vent for water release. Crews staged at the base of Copco 1 Dam drilled a 10- foot diameter outlet tunnel through the concrete structure, that ran about 30 feet into the concrete dam base. Kiewit, the contractor, left a 10 foot plug of concrete in the hole to hold back the lake water until it was time for drawdown.

On January 11, 2024, drawdown of Iron Gate started, slowly emptying the lake into the river. Later in January, drawdown at Copco 1 began with the blasting out of the concrete plug that was left in the 10 foot tube at the base of the dam.

Essentially, all this water and silt moved downstream and into and through Iron Gate Reservoir. Shortly after Copco 1 began drawdown, the same process started at J.C. Boyle, the highest in the river of the dams to be removed. By February 15th the initial phase of drawdown was complete. In essence, this was the first time in more than 100 years that water in the upper Klamath watershed in Oregon freely moved downstream to the Pacific Ocean. It was monumental in our minds.

At this point, with mostly mud showing in the lakes, it was time for seeding to begin in the watershed restoration process. The dams total over 350 vertical feet and their associated reservoirs covered an area of approximately 1,300 acres, which, after removal, will be revegetated and restored to provide critical riparian habitat for wildlife in the Klamath basin. Dam removal is only the first step in watershed-wide restoration. Millions of collected and cultivated seeds are being spread on the barren mud and lands that were once lakes.



Trees are being planted by our restoration partners- Restoration Environmental Solutions (RES) and Yurok & Karuk Tribal members, all along the footprint of the Klamath project. Joshua Chenoweth senior riparian ecologist with the Yurok Tribe, is leading the effort to replant newly revealed reservoir footprints, and coordinating Tribal work.

As a way of understanding the changes since drawdown, take a look at these pictures to get a glimpse of how it looked right after drawdown, and the changes that have happened since this planting effort has begun.

Here's a look at the lakes after they were lowered:



Jenny Lake Entering Iron Gate Dam



Copco 1 Near Complete Drawdown

Here's what these areas look like today, with much growth left to come this summer:



We are in the early stages of revisitation and stabilizing the ground under the lakes. There has been a lot of silt movement from the lakes resulting in turbidity and lowered oxygenation of the water, but that was temporary, lasting less than 24 hours. Water quality monitoring has been done on a regular and consistent basis to ensure upper limits of tolerance for wildlife is not exceeded. With the silt loose and easily moveable, NOAA Fisheries and the Bureau of Reclamation planned flushing flows from Link and Keno reservoirs upstream during March and April with the goal of doubling baseline flows and moving silt while it's loose and mobile.

See this link for more info: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/klamath-river-reshapes-itselfflushing-flows-move-reservoir-sediment-downriver>

As all this continues now, the dams themselves are being demolished. Starting in late March, 2024, a test blast was done on Copco 1 dam to observe & measure how well it started the breaking up of the top of the concrete reservoir. This was the beginning of the demolition of the concrete dams in all 3 locations - Copco1, J.C. Boyle, and Iron Gate. By mid April, 2024, all the remaining dams were in process of being dismantled. The process is simply doing small Klamath River - With Dam Removal Comes Renewal blasts, like the one below, to break up the top of the concrete barrier, bring in drilling and other equipment to break the pieces into movable parts, lift them into trucks and carry them to the dump site.

By May, all dams had at least the top layer of concrete removed. From there, it is repeat the process until the dams are gone. They simply move to the next layer and blast, break-up and carry away the debris. This will go on for the remainder of the summer until all the hard dam pieces are removed. J.C. Boyle, the dam in Oregon, was a bit different in that it was about 75% earthen, 25% concrete, so it will move along faster. Iron Gate Dam, the most downstream of the four to be removed, began to be dismantled in May, 2024. It is the largest of the dams, and has towered above the river since it was completed in 1962. It stands 173 feet tall and 740 feet wide. Iron Gate is where the old hatchery once stood, which has now been replaced by an updated hatchery on a tributary, Fall Creek, just up river a half mile. This hatchery has a smaller capacity but because it is an off-river replacement in Fall Creek, and operates in a stream with colder and cleaner water, will produce about the same number of surviving salmon smolts reaching the ocean as the old hatchery. Of note, since hatcheries are always a concern and threat to wild fish, this hatchery has a seven year life, and if in-river spawning takes hold as hoped, will close operation in 2031 or so.

The hope is the Klamath will once again become a fully wild spawning river in the future. There is no plan for a hatchery beyond 2031. Going into the summer, we will see continued deconstruction work being done at all 3 reservoir locations. In addition to this construction work, the Yurok Tribe and RES will be continuing their efforts to plant the footprint with natural seeds of indigenous plants of the Klamath region, as well as trees that will one day shade the water and provide refuse locations for insects and bugs needed by the fishery recovery. RES has a 7 year contract to monitor and maintain the riparian landscape of the dam footprint to ensure that what is done today will last and become self-sustaining over time.

The schedule is to have all 3 dams out of the river, and it be free flowing by the end of October, 2024. The river will be open for fish returning to spawn in the Fall, and we'll see and monitor their arrival to observe and monitor their success. Likely, it will take several years for the river to fully stabilize and be able to support a million or more wild, in-river spawning salmon & steelhead. The good news - the Klamath will once again have a chance to return to its historical greatness. For those of us who have spent generations working on this project, we have learned that it's critically important to work together, keep your eye on the end result, and never give up. Everyone should be proud of this accomplishment - not for ourselves, but for the fishery, the watershed, the Tribes, and all the critters who need the river more than we do. It's for them that this is happening.

Let's be thankful!

[Contact Mark Rockwell for the Entire Article with Videos and Photos](#)

## 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/year, 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](#)

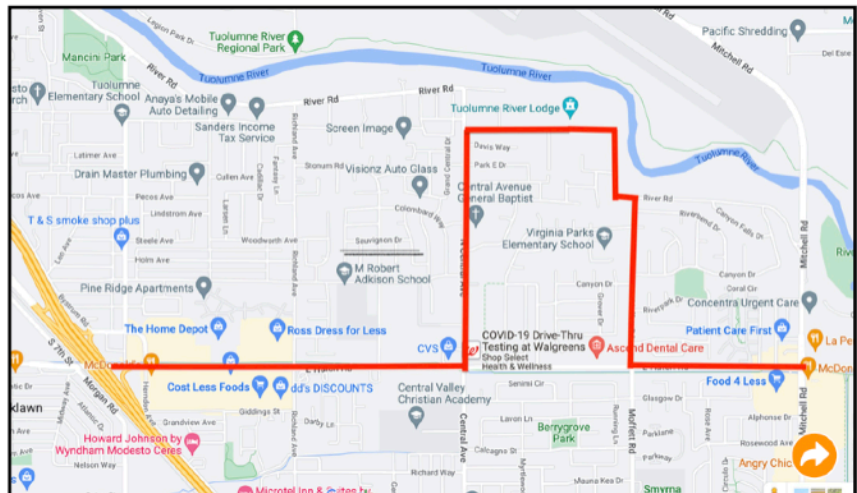
[FFI Membership Link](#)

### 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.

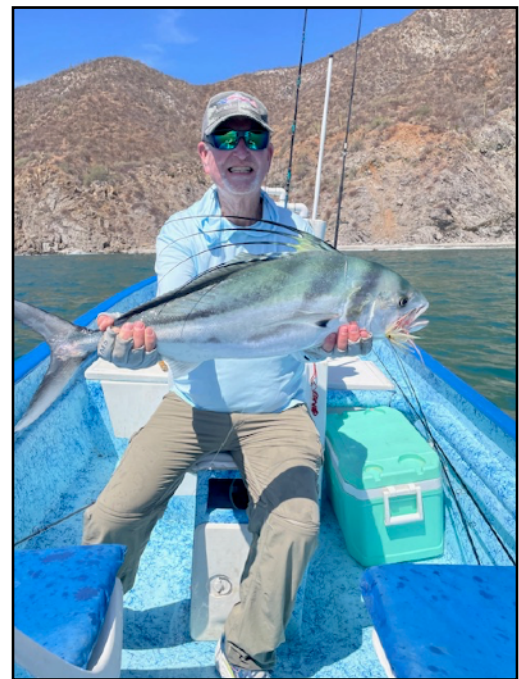
[Google Map](#)



# Something fishy this way comes ...

By Jim Bowen

Vivian and I just returned from Baja Mexico fishing the Sea of Cortez for Rooster fish and Dorado. We fished with a group of anglers arranged by Red's Fly Shop and hosted by FlyFishMex at the Gran Suenos resort about a two hour drive north of Cabo San Lucas. This was such an amazing trip that we are probably going to do it again next year. The resort provided excellent lodging and amenities with breakfast, lunch and dinner included. The food was very good and the staff intent on ensuring that all guest fully enjoyed their visit. The fishing in that area is simply amazing and everyone caught numbers of rooster fish and dorado with additional catches of jack crevalle and trevally to add to the excitement. While no one in our group caught them bill fish are also on the menu as well. A great trip that we thoroughly enjoyed!



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