



## President's Message - January 2025

It's a new year and a new president for our club. Every month last year Link reminded us that the important thing for our club is you. That hasn't changed.

Last year was an unprecedented success and we have each other to thank for that. Some old friends came back together, and some new friends found us. Every time we gather, we build energy together. That's inspiring and motivating. We are a club and being social is a big part of my plans for 2025. That you were here last year is giving us a big start to this year. We have speakers planned for the first 6 months of the year and are working on the rest of the year. We'll hear from peers, craftsmen, conservationists, guides, and we'll have our annual cast-iron family dinner. Because there are so many of us working together and paying dues (please pay your dues!), we can hire guides to offer great programs. There's a link to the club calendar on the webpage, so you can find speakers, outings, classes and events.

Conservation will be a theme for my year as president, expanding our conservation efforts and education. John Driver and I are continuing to represent the club in the NOAA Salmon in the Merced and Tuolumne efforts. John and I are also reaching out to our nearby clubs to collaborate. We've even opened a conversation with TID, since they will be directly involved in the effort to sustain and improve the Tuolumne River. I have been asked to represent our interests on the local Trout Unlimited board, I look forward to bringing you news from TU!

Let's go Fishing! We have a lot of outings in the mix for this year. Quite frankly we have so many ideas and plans that we will need your help to make it all happen. We are planning outings to lakes, rivers, and the ocean. We have dates already for a spring trip to Fall River. In the Fall we intend to return to Mono Hot Springs. Those are both multi day adventures. There will also be some day trips to lakes and the ocean. We started the new year with a trip to La Grange (thanks fish meister Derek!). I am committed to have many short and

easy trips for people who are new to fishing, aren't very mobile, or have that scourge of fishing...work!

What if your favorite fishing buddy doesn't know how to fish yet? We'll be offering our fishing and tying 101 classes again this year (we even have an interested group already). Bob will be offering a couple of 3-hour clinics! Many of us are intermediate or advanced fishers and tyers but would still like to improve our skills! Mike and Pat will be offering a bass popper class soon! Derek has graciously taken responsibility for the Film Festival, on May 10th. Please offer him your help. Most importantly invite your friends and family. It's a great event and raises significant funds for Rivers of Recovery! I know we are all proud of our film festival and supporting our veterans!

So, there it is, my incoming president's message. We have a great year ahead of us. I'm excited, which I hope you share. I'm also a bit overwhelmed and I hope you'll be willing to be a part of carrying the burden.

I hope you're enjoying the rivers being reopened, I wish you tight lines in the new year.

~ Paul

### **Link's Lines – January 2025**

Welcome to the Inaugural Link's Lines! Or, alternatively titled: Link is going to ramble on about all sorts of things that may or may not have to do with fly-fishing! Should be a fun ride!

Let's start with a quote attributed to Art Scheck:

"Upstream usually seems the right way on new water. Something in a fisherman wants to face into the current, wants to move toward the source. Each step against the flow feels like a step away from all the things that fishing is better than."

As a stream guy, this always resonates with me. The further I am upstream, the more everyday life slips behind. This was especially true when I went through a divorce, fly fishing helped me get through. Amazing what an hour on a stream could do for my mental health. As an aside, divorce was in 09, weird milestone-I have been divorced now longer than I was married, hmmm... One struggle subsumes another? Fishing alleviates suffering? Buddhism has entered the chat!

As the New Year is upon us, resolutions seem to be in order. Honestly, it always has seemed a little... silly? Short sighted? I don't know, seems that most NY resolutions fade off rather quickly at the end of January. Still, I have a couple of things that I have been pondering that I might as well translate to resolutions! In no particular order:

Put the phone down!

Get back into reading. I have been missing reading, in the past I have had a ravenous appetite for literature, from Tolkien to Gierach. I have a couple of books that are staring at me from my side table. It seems like a good time to pick them up.

Fish more! Starting a new job really messed with my fishing, I need to figure out how to make time and find more local spots.

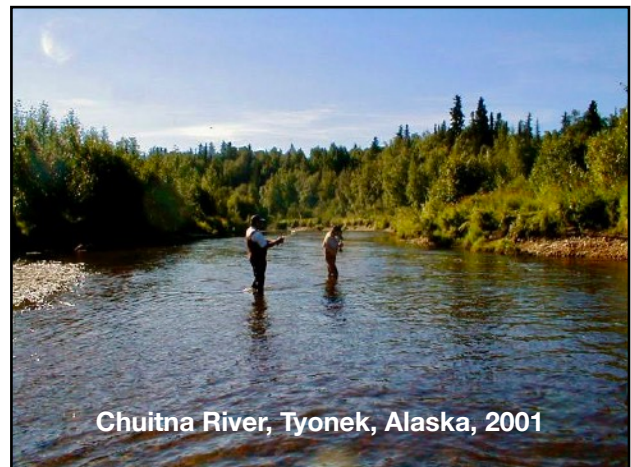
Well, that's it for now. See everyone at the meetings, and thanks for all your support!

~ Link

## Club News

### ... January General Meeting - Tuesday, January 14 , 2025

Our January meeting will feature Matt Vejar sharing details of an Alaskan trip for Coho (silver) salmon on the Tsui River. Alaska can be a bucket-list trip so be sure to catch this presentation. Having fished for slivers in Alaska myself (Chuitna River, 2001), I can tell you it is a blast!



Chuitna River, Tyonek, Alaska, 2001

### ... SFF Annual Holiday Dinner

By all accounts the annual holiday dinner was great! Nearly three dozen members and spouses/partners attended. The food prepared by member Hank Olson of Food Fix was delicious and plentiful. There were desserts galore and wine to be shared. The auction had some fantastic prizes. But best of all, everyone enjoyed being together and sharing the experience. It was an outstanding way to end our SFF year! There will be pictures at the end of the

newsletter. As an added bonus, Hank shared his brining recipe for the turkey. You'll want to download and save it! It was perfect! You'll find the recipe [here](#).

### ... GGA&C Club Free Casting Clinic

The free casting clinic is usually held the second Saturday of every month from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm at Golden Gate Park. The next event will be held

Saturday, January 11th. 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

No formal outings planned for December or January, although some members hit the rivers that opened up January 1. Hopefully, we'll get some positive reports. However, January and February are show months beginning with the ISE show in Sacramento January 17th-19th. Club Members Bud Heintz and Ron Fisher will be tying at the show. The ISE is not a fly fishing exclusive show like Pleasanton's, but is worth checking out.

### ... Open Fly Tying Night, Monday, January 20th

The fly night is 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-tye affairs with flexibility. Tie whatever you want, but there may occasionally be a target pattern for those interested in learning a new fly or in perfecting one.

Tying will usually start around 6:00 - 6:30 pm and the session will wrap up no later than 9:00 pm. BYO gear please. For beginners we'll try to have some equipment you can use, but if you truly want to make progress, you need to have your own equipment so that you can practice at home. If you are a new tier and intend to be there, please text me at 209-606-0424 to let me know so I can tell Bud Heintz who has been great helping out the beginners.



HOSTED BY  
STANISLAUS  
FLY FISHERS

A BENEFIT FOR  
RIVERS OF  
RECOVERY

SATURDAY  
MAY 10,  
2025

2:00 PM

SKWALA YETI COSTA

FLY FISHING  
FILM TOUR 2025

THE STATE  
THEATER  
MODESTO, CA

PRESALE  
TICKETS  
\$10

DAY OF SHOW  
\$15

VETERANS  
FREE W/ID

NRS MONSTER AIRLITE SA SCIENTIFIC ANGLERS DECKED  
DAIICHI C&F Sawyer  
YAKODA TURTLEBOX TroutRoules RAMBLER KEEFITH RESTORLINE  
Adventure Outside Anglers Journal Flytrends  
www.flyfilmtour.com

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

We're already looking planning next year's fundraising event which is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 2025. Both the theater and the film have been secured. 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: [mhewitt@stanislausflyfishers.org](mailto:mhewitt@stanislausflyfishers.org). Of course, we're always looking for donations for raffle prizes to help generate excitement and funds we can contribute to Rivers of Recovery.

### ... Upcoming Classes

Planning is in the works for Fly Tying 101 and Fly Fishing 101 for the spring 2025 as well a couple of casting clinics. The current plan is to offer Fly Tying 101 on Wednesdays:

- April 2nd - Zebra Midge
- April 9th - Wet Fly
- April 16th - Woolly Bugger
- April 30th - PT Nymph
- May 7th - Elk Hair Caddis

Final details once our location is confirmed.

January 17th and 24th we're offering a bass popper-making class led by Pat Roe. This will be a two-night class with classes one week apart. Night One

will be cementing hooks into bodies, tying on tails, and painting. Night Two will be applying a hard finish to the bodies. **Cost will be \$25 to cover cost of materials and a contribution to the general fund. Class will be limited to nine participants.** Since class size is limited, only *paid* registrations are final ... first come, first served. Register [here](#) or at the January meeting.



### ... 2025 SFF Dues

Dues for 2025 are now due and payable. Please remit your dues ASAP along with your membership form and a signed liability waiver. Dues can be paid in person at the January 14th general meeting, by check mailed to Dennis Stambaugh, or by Venmo. Links to forms and mailing and Venmo info are [here](#).

Starting this year we are following the lead of other fly fishing clubs and requiring all members to sign a hold-harmless waiver when they join or renew their membership. Any guests attending an outing will be required to sign the same agreement before participating. A copy of the waiver can be downloaded [here](#) and mailed to Dennis Stambaugh at the same address linked above. Waivers will also be available at the general meeting.

## Upcoming Outings and Events

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

- SFF Board Meeting - January 2 - 6:00 pm, Track 424 Brewery, 2150 Yosemite, Modesto
- General Meeting - January 14 - Fishing for Alaskan Coho - Matt Vejar
- ISE Show - January 16-19 - Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA
- Flytying Night - January 20 - 6:00 pm, Food Fix, 11th Street, Modesto
- Fly Fishing Show - February 28-April 2 - Pleasanton, CA
- North Shore Tulloch Lake Outing - April (TBD), 2025
- Fall River Outing - April 24-27 - Burney, CA
- Surf Perch Outing - May (TBD), 2025
- Outdoor Family Night - June 10 - Tuolumne River Lodge
- Fly Fishing Film Tour 2025/Rivers of Recovery Fundraiser - The State Theater - May 10
- Swap Meet Night - June 10





*happy new year*



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





### SFF 2025 Board of Directors

President: Paul Wallace • Vice-President: Bob Bullock • Secretary / Webmaster: Michael Hewitt • Treasurer / Membership: Dennis Stambaugh • Outings: John Driver  
 F3T Chair & Outings: Derek Coelho • Programs: Janice Rinehart  
 At-Large: Roger Ringsted • At-Large: Anthony Johnson • Past President: Gus Link

### SFF Membership Information

Membership fees for 2025 currently \$45/year, are now due. For your convenience, we can 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. Application and liability waiver links are below.

Venmo or Mail Membership Dues to:

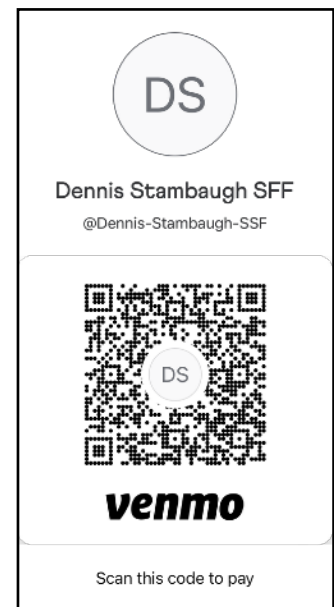
Dennis Stambaugh  
 3833 Blue Bird Drive  
 Modesto, CA, 95356

[SFF Membership Form](#)

[FFI Membership Link](#)

[SFF Adult Liability Waiver](#)

[SFF Minor Liability Waiver](#)



### Directions to 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.

