



## President's Message - March 2025

I hope your next fishing trip is as exciting and inspiring as Tim Flagler's surface feeding Trout videos.

Last night's gathering to hear Tim speak was entertaining and educational. Tim's talent for showing us trout's underwater world is so clarifying. I know I will be seeing the clips of nymphs moving and breathing next time I sit down to imitate one at the tying bench. And I will be enthusiastically using striped and mottled materials in my flies! It was such a pleasure to meet and host Joan and Tim. The room was full of people glad they came out for the evening!

I hope you are all as proud of yourselves as I am of you. The reason a little-O fly club in Modesto can create this type of opportunity is the hard work y'all put into making it go. This is a great community we have and I'm glad to be part of it with you!

As our community is getting stronger, I'm glad to see we can give back to the environment we enjoy. I had a great surf fishing outing last weekend; no fish were caught. But a fabulous time enjoying the ocean and coast! Not Tim quality but I took a nice video of crabs and sculpin in the tidepools. Out here in our local rivers we are making contacts, and planning projects to support our local rivers. We'll soon be doing a clean up at the Tuolumne River Campground to save our fish from vandals' trash.

I think we're all on a journey to understand our fish, their river home, and how we interact with California water. I have found a new rabbit-hole <https://mavensnotebook.com/> this is a daily and weekly curation of California water news. I found it via a story about salmon reacting to predatory bass <https://mavensnotebook.com/2025/02/25/cu-boulder-how-young-salmon-navigate-a-gauntlet-of-danger-en-route-to-the-sea/> . You can read the story and there's a link to the actual scientific paper. The same issue had a story about chinook salmon <https://mavensnotebook.com/2025/02/25/uc-berkeley-diversity-in->

coho-salmon-could-be-key-to-species-survival/ using alternative areas to grow and how that my help their survival.

Today is a lovely day in the 70's. I'm itching to go fishing. It's time to get some informal local outings on the schedule. If you're willing to fish-meister or at least help, please give John Driver a call or email!

Derek and the film festival committee is starting their efforts. How would you like to help? Soliciting donations, He has a list. Ask if you want an assignment. Or if you have an idea of a likely source of support, please give Derek a call or email and see if it's been solicited yet! Or perhaps you'd like to chat up the public at our farmer's market booth; nothing helps your tying and your heart more than making hat pins for little kids.

~ Paul

### **Link's Lines – February 2025**

Volunteering: A lifelong pursuit, personal fulfillment and a belief in Santa Claus!

This will be a two part essay.

I believe I have touched on this before: to borrow a line from AA, "Hello, my name is Link, and I am a volunteer-aholic!"

I was raised to be a volunteer. One of my earliest memories is of helping out at Dad's Jeep club meetings. We would always stay after and help take chairs and tables down. I remember being handed a chair and directed to take it over there. I thought it was great fun, especially since there was a cookie involved! The specific memory associated with this task was a Christmas time meeting, and the club must have had a Santa come out for the kids. I don't remember that part, what I do remember is putting chairs away, and recognizing the guy helping me. I am sure my eyes got big, and I remember saying "You're SANTA!" This guy, big dude, white hair and beard, gives me a wink and says "Santa always helps!" My fate was sealed! While we all know the Santa who lives at the North Pole with a bunch of elven assistants is not real, the idea of Santa and his giving ways, I still believe!

Then there was school, I was always volunteering to raise/lower the flag, or help out in the kitchen, put equipment away, all sorts of jobs. Why? I thought it was fun and thought that was what you were supposed to do.

And then came Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts, and 4-H, and Band. And guess what? I was always in the fray, helping out. So were my parents, setting the example, there was always something to do. Even in my self-centered 20's, I still helped out friends as I had a truck and was always the go-to guy for helping to move folks. Mostly I partied, rode my Harley and had fun, but still!

And then marriage and having a kid, guess what? I was right back in the fray! Helping with whatever needed to be done. Help with the baseball team, Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scouts. Kid wanted to learn to shoot trap, I ended up running the trap program for 6-7 years.

And then, fly-fishing!

To be continued...

~ Link

## Club News

**... March General Meeting - Tuesday, March 11 , 2025**

Our March meeting will feature guide Scott Sugimoto on "Wade Fishing the Lower Sac."

"At ON THE RIFFLE GUIDE SERVICE, I am dedicated to giving you the most memorable day of fishing on the Sacramento River. My passion for fly fishing and the years of meticulously studying the river have helped me to put my clients in the best situation to catch fish. Whether a beginner or experienced fly fisher, man or woman, you will have an incredible time."



**... 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, February 8th. 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! They have poles or bring your own. Please sign up in advance.

<https://ggacc.org/event-5922118/Registration>. Cathy and Paul Wallace have made this a “day in the city,” casting in the morning and museum in the afternoon. Sometimes, a stop at Lost Coast Outfitters; always a nice lunch in the city! They’ve figured out the BART/Muni connection and it’s easy!

### ... Outings and Events

The Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show runs February 28-March 2. This is always a fun show to attend with a lot of great speakers. Definitely worth attending for at least one day.

No definite date yet, but sometime in early April we’re planning on a group outing to Tulloch Lake for spring bass. Stay tuned!

Our first major outing is the Fall River trip booked for April 25-27. There is room for 11 participants. Signups are open now. Cost is \$225 per person for two nights lodging if paid prior to April 1st. \$250 per person after that. For more information on the trip, there is a detailed description [here](#).



Fall River looking from the deck of the White House

### ... Open Fly Tying Night, Monday, February 17th

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-tie 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 tyer and intend to be there, please text me at 209-606-0424 to let me know so we can tell Bud Heintz who has been great helping out the beginners.**

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

We're already hard at work on this year's fundraising event which is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 2025. Both the theater and the film have been secured. We're always looking for donations for raffle prizes to help generate excitement and funds we can contribute to Rivers of Recovery, so if you have contacts with local businesses that might be willing to donate, please reach out to them for solicitation.

### ... 2025 SFF Dues

Dues for 2025 were due and payable. January 1st. 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.

### ... Tim Flagler Presentation

We enjoyed a wonderfully informative presentation by Tim on the 25th. He artfully used his videography to visually illustrate the feeding habits of



trout and discussed fly patterns that effectively work and why they work. If you've never seen any of Tim's videos, you really need to check them out.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIdIkp\\_uBiYEw-Pb4-BDBjw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIdIkp_uBiYEw-Pb4-BDBjw) .



## Upcoming Outings and Events

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

- General Meeting - March 11 - Scott Sugimoto "Wade Fishing the Lower Sac"
- Fly Casting Clinic - March 16 - Tuolumne River Lodge
- Flytying Night - March 17- 6:00 pm, Food Fix, 11th Street, Modesto
- La Grange Outing - March 22
- Fly Fishing Show - February 28-March 2 - Pleasanton, CA
- Beginning Fly Tying Class - April 2, 11, 17, 30 & May 7
- North Shore Tulloch Lake Outing - April (TBD), 2025
- Fall River Outing - April 25-27 - Burney, CA
- Surf Perch Outing - May (TBD)
- McSwain Outing - May 17
- White Pines Outing - May 31
- Fly Fishing Film Tour 2025/Rivers of Recovery Fundraiser - The State Theater - May 10
- Fence Creek Weekend Outing - August 22-24
- Mono-Hot Springs Outing (Guided)- October 7-8

Tim's wife, Joan, shared this message with us after the event:

"Tim & I really enjoyed meeting you and your club members last night, thanks again so much for having us! And thank you for dinner, that was a real treat, what a fun place.

In case you'd like to pass it along to your club, all the flies that were included in the presentation are on Tim's YouTube channel, and there are playlists there which can help narrow patterns down by category: <https://www.youtube.com/user/tightlinevideo>

Also, as we mentioned, Tim & I host trips annually to Patagonia in Argentina and we also have started hosting trips to Spruce Creek in Central PA in April, May, June, Oct & Nov. In addition, Tim hosts a trip to the Kootenai River in MT every summer in late July, to the Northern Rockies in British Columbia in August and the Erie tributaries for steelhead in early Dec.

If anyone is interested in getting more information on any of these trips, they are welcome to call or email. Some of the information is on our website ([www.tightlinevideo.com](http://www.tightlinevideo.com)) and we'll be updating that as well.

Thank you for your support, we truly appreciate it!

Looking forward to seeing you again this weekend.

Kind regards,

Joan"

### ... Classes/Workshops

The next fly tying class begins soon with classes on April 2nd, 11th, 17th, 30th and May 7th. This five-night course will cover the basic skills and tools to get started. Flies covered include midge nymphs, wet flies, woolly buggers, the PT nymph, and an elk hair caddis. Tyers are encouraged to have their own tools, but club tools can be borrowed for a \$50 returnable deposit. The class costs \$75 for SFF members and \$100 for non-members. The class will be held in the Ceres Unified Schools District Office, Conference Room C, 2503 Lawrence Street, Ceres, CA., from 6:00-9:00 pm. There are currently two open slots in the class. Fly materials will be provided. Sign up [here](#).

Two casting clinics are scheduled: March 16 & April 19. These are one-day, three-hour clinics covering basic, foundational fly casting techniques.

## Floodplains at Work

### Recent Floods Demonstrate the Power of Restored Riverways

<https://riverpartners.org/news/floodplains-at-work> | Julie Rentner | 2/16/2025

With powerful storms battering California, the need for bold, nature-based flood solutions is clear. Our state is experiencing more extreme and frequent floods that put communities and our future in harm's way, and our rivers already hold the key to resilience. By restoring native habitat along rivers and reconnecting historic floodplains, we create natural buffers that absorb floodwaters, reduce levee stress, and protect people—while also recharging groundwater and reviving vital wildlife habitat for endangered species like salmon. [More ...](#)

### NOTES FROM THE SFF INVENTORY MEISTER (Gus Link) MARCH 2025

I have taken over managing the Stanislaus Fly Fishers donated inventory. My plan is to get the inventory managed in sections. We have quite a lot, and if looked at as a whole, it is a daunting job.

Derek Coelho, John Driver, Bud Heintz, Michael Hewitt, Roger Ringsted and Paul Wallace have already done a HUGE amount of work getting this started. I see my role as managing/coordinating the inventory, I believe this will be a much more efficient way of dealing with getting the inventory cataloged and sold.

I hope the above-mentioned folks will continue to help me, and if anyone else is interested in taking on a small project, let me know. We can use all the help we can get.

First on the inventory list: Rods and reels. I have gone through and put all rods, combos and reels in a spreadsheet with pricing. This spreadsheet will be available for the asking at [flylink48@gmail.com](mailto:flylink48@gmail.com) or ask me at the meeting. I will schedule sell nights throughout the year. I will add sections as I can, and I hope to have the list posted in the near future.

Pictures? Not at this point ... too much work just getting the inventory cataloged and organized. Any other questions? Please let me know.



**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 • Classes Co-ordinator -  
 Cristie Crawford • Roger Ringsted • 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 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.

