



## President's Message

Hello folks,

The month of February was a challenging one for us fishers, a lot of rain/snow, high rivers and oh yah a lot of fog. I have heard some got out when conditions improved, manageable water found, and some even caught some fish. Consider, no matter what the conditions are, fish still have to eat, it is up to the "fisher" to find out what and how to present. So I hope that many of you that I haven't heard from accepted the challenge and were out there. The next month or so will probably continue with the same challenges, with conditions improving as the days go on. I am looking forward to next month's report of a lot more fishing activity.

One way I would like to help to motivate you is our upcoming outing March 7<sup>th</sup> at McSwain Lake 8AM till when done, it is a wonderfully moderate size, stocked lake just down from the Lake McClure, \$10 per vehicle, \$9 - \$10 per water craft (I don't think float tubes). I am suggesting you come to fish from a boat, float, or shore. If you are considering being in the water, prepare for the cold water. Some of us will be there to offer assistance if you would like. If some of you have a boat and would consider bringing it as a means of demonstrating how to fly cast from a boat, which is altogether a different technique of fly fishing, that would be great. I will be there with a boat and a float unit to loan for a tryout.

On another note, I went to the Pleasanton Fly Fishing show Saturday. As expected it is a wonderful event of enticements, knowledge, demonstrations, and the meeting of people with the same enthusiasm of the sport of fly fishing. I also attended a presentation by FFI, about what they have accomplished, are doing and their future goals. One thing that interested me and should some of you also is their intent to offer more ways to provide casting and fly fishing instruction, and to increase the "certified" instructors to assist in this task. They have many things going on that may interest you, their members, you have paid the dues so consider them an extension of our club. Check out their website and see what they have to offer in your interest. You should be getting a monthly newsletter from them, if not inform us and we will make sure you do.

Take a moment to check out our new letter's dates of activities, we are trying to give you opportunities. Note the Farmer's Market dates at Turlock and Modesto, come on by, say hello, maybe stay for awhile and talk to some passerby that wants to know about the sport you enjoy so much, possibly entice them to attend the Rivers of Recovery Film Fest this April 18<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you on the water, Bob!

## Link's Lines

### The Stuff We Hang On To

Or, what makes an inanimate object important to us?

To borrow a phrase I have heard from members of the Armed Forces (specifically Marines, but it seems that this could apply to most Branches).

This is my Wiggins. There are many like it, but this one is mine.



What, you may ask, is a “Wiggins”? It is an electrical tester. There are many brands, they are commonly called Wiggins after the inventor of the device, George P. Wiggington. A fairly simple device, and absolutely necessary for diagnosing electrical issues.

My Wiggins came to me sometime in the mid-80's, I was working for a General Contractor on an island in Washington (Bainbridge if you must know, we commonly referred to it as BrainDamage Island!). We were doing a remodel and being the junior member of the crew, I got tasked with the unpleasant tasks of attics and other such crawlspaces. On this particular day, crawling around in an attic, I found this Wiggins! Don't know how long it had been there, but, finders keepers! It has been in my toolbox ever since. Used it over the weekend to troubleshoot why the Ranch well was not pumping. Hmm, power here, ok. Power here, ok, AH! No power here! There is my problem! Literally 5 minutes.

So once again, this simple tool has saved the day! It is beat up, spray painted, loaned out, lost and at the end of the day, is a reliable tool that I have great affection for. I think part of it is how it came to me, part of it is I have had it for decades, and part of it is the simple effectiveness of the tool. As I get older, I become even more of a KISS human. The simpler the better!

How this relates to fly-fishing (because EVERYTHING relates to fly-fishing!!) next month!

Tight Lines!

Link

Club News



**SKWALA** **YETI** **COSTA**

# FLY FISHING FILM TOUR

**APRIL 18, 2026**  
**THE STATE THEATER**  
**1307 J STREET**  
**MODESTO, CA**

**HOSTED BY STANISLAUS FLY FISHERS**

A BENEFIT FOR  
**RIVERS OF RECOVERY**

**DOORS OPEN 12:00 PM FILM @ 1:00 PM**

**ADVANCE TICKETS \$10**  
**DAY OF SHOW \$15**

  
**VETERANS & FIRST RESPONDERS FREE!**

  
**LOTS OF RAFFLE PRIZES!**



## March Meeting Featuring: Gear Care with Derek & Gus

A great day on the water often starts long before the first cast—it begins with well-maintained gear. At our March meeting, Derek and Gus will walk us through the basics of keeping your fly fishing equipment in top shape.

They'll cover practical tips on rod and reel care, fly maintenance, and general upkeep for the gear we rely on every time we hit the water. Whether you're new to fly fishing or have years behind the rod, a few small habits can make a big difference in performance, longevity, and reliability when that fish of the day finally takes your fly.

If you've ever wondered how to properly clean a reel after a trip, extend the life of your flies, or keep your equipment ready for the next outing, this will be a great session to attend.

Bring your questions—and maybe even a piece of gear that could use a little expert attention.

## Casting for Recovery

We are excited to have had some initial conversation with Casting For Recovery. This is a group that uses Fly Fishing to ease the burden of cancer. We will be offering their literature at our farmer's markets booth. Our hope is to offer clinics or outings where we could help cancer patients or survivors, by introducing the sport we love so much! This is our core of promoting fly fishing and supporting our community.

## Farmer's Markets

We are returning to the Turlock and Modesto Farmer's Markets! This is our way of publicizing the Film Festival and our classes. We need **volunteers to help**. We've been doing this for a while, and we have a formula. We need you to come **share your enthusiasm** with potential fly fishers. Please pick a date or 2 and sign up with Cristie at [learn@stanislausflyfishers.org](mailto:learn@stanislausflyfishers.org) or Paul at [pwallace@stanislausflyfishers.org](mailto:pwallace@stanislausflyfishers.org). It's fun, and it's over by lunchtime.

If you are truly curious, tying hat pins at the booth will develop skills fast! It's easy, it's fun, and you get to make little kids happy!

While it's a good time, this is pretty **essential to our success as a club**. Please, find a 4-hour shift that will work for you, and **Sign up!**

We are tentatively scheduled at Modesto Farmer's Market by the Library:

- March 14
- March 21
- April 4

We are tentatively scheduled at Turlock Farmer's Market on Main Street

- March 28
- April 11

## Indicator Class

Paul Driver will be holding an indicator class on March 28, 2026 at 10 AM. We will meet North Old la Grange Road. Go to the end of the road, at the north side of the Old La Grange Pedestrian Bridge. Bring your rods, waders, wading staff, and indicators (if you have them). For more information: [jadriver1@gmail.com](mailto:jadriver1@gmail.com)

## Kern River Outing

Paul Wallace is working on a mid-summer outing to the Kern River Drainage and the eastern Sierras for Heritage trout. We would seek Golden Trout, Little Kern Golden Trout, Kern River Rainbow trout, and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. I'm expecting a 3-day trip Friday-Sunday. We would start North of Kernville and end Near Independence on the east side of the Sierras. Fishing would be small mountain streams. I expect we'd want to go in July or August. I need to know if anyone is interested. We will need to coordinate schedules and if we are camping or staying in hotels.

Please email [pwallace@stanislausflyfishers.org](mailto:pwallace@stanislausflyfishers.org) or reach out to Paul directly.

## SFF Budget

The board has adopted a budget. Any member that has questions about club finances or the budget is intitled to see the document or have their questions answered. Please reach out to [pwallace@stanislausflyfishers.org](mailto:pwallace@stanislausflyfishers.org) with any questions or requests.

## Flytyers Corner - *Michael Hewitt*



How many fly tying books does a tyer need? I can't answer that. I don't know if they really need any. One can pretty much do a YouTube or general Google search and come up with just about any fly you can imagine and a variety of approaches for tying it with step-by-step video instruction. Who needs a book?

Someone like me, I guess. I don't actually *need* them, but since I started tying long before the internet explosion consumed our world, I grew accustomed to having them. And if I see a book that somehow catches my eye, I will buy it, most often at a discount from a used book reseller where you can find some great deals. Which leads me to my last purchase and the subject of this month's article.

*Tying Dry Flies* by Randall Kaufmann from Western Fisherman's Press was published in 1991, with illustrations by Mike Stidham and a foreword by Jack Dennis. Kauffman was a co-owner of Kaufmann's Streamborn, a fly fishing supply mail-order house and the author of several books, including the *American Nymph Fly Tying Manual* and *The Fly Tyer's Nymph Manual* among others. I found my first edition copy of *Tying Dry Flies* through Thrift Books. Original retail was \$26.95, but my used copy was only \$9.99 with free shipping. And when it arrived I found that it was a signed copy!

The book has three main sections. "Part I: Getting Started - Basic Techniques" is followed by "Part II: Tying Instructions," and "Part III: Pattern Directory." The tying instructions contain how-tos for 29 common dry flies. The pattern directory has recipes for a couple hundred, with many including comments as to their origins and/or use. All are nicely indexed for an easy look-up. None of the instruction images are color plates, but there is a color four-page center section with 80 flies represented. I believe subsequent editions introduced more color images in the instructions. Each of the 29 instruction chapters contains quite a bit of information about the insect(s) being represented, significant elements of the fly, and historical background preceding the actual detailed instructions.

All in all, a pretty good find and well worth my ten bucks. So, if you are a tyer *and* a book person, keep your eye out for bargains like this one and build your own tying library.

Happy tying!  
Mike

## 2026 SFF Membership 2026 update

When you attend your next meeting, it would be a big help if you would bring your Fly Fishers International card with you so that we can update our records. Also, if you have not already paid your dues, its that time again! Barry will be at the meeting to answer all of your membership questions - Barry Kutz

## Fly Fishing 101

Fly Fishing 101 is scheduled for May 6-13-20-27 and June 3.

**Please recommend the class** to anyone you know who is not yet an experienced fisher! Cost is \$100 per student. With Paul's approval children may participate, but they must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

We are seeking somewhat experienced members to **please lead a class lecture** on the following topics:

- Quick overview of aquatic insects, and other things our quarry bites.
- Dry Flies what they imitate, how to fish them.
- Nymphs what they imitate, how to fish them.
- Streamers what they imitate, how to fish them.
- Knots (how to tie clinch, surgeons, and a loop knot).
- Where to fish in our area. Maybe a panel or group presentation.



You share a quick bit about your passion for fly fishing, then give a 30-minute lecture, there is a projector if you want PowerPoint or to show a video. You do not have to be an expert to teach newbies!

Each class meeting starts at 6PM. Students have a 30-minute lecture, have a 30-minute casting clinic, and a second 30-minute lecture. Class starts at 6pm and is over at about 9pm.

Please reach out soon, some of these topics may be claimed quickly!

### **Fly Tying 101 Class**

The Fly Tying 101 class will begin on March 18th from 6:00 – 9:00 pm in the Ceres Schools District Office, Conference Room C, 2503 Lawrence St., Ceres, CA. The cost for the class is \$100 for Stanislaus Fly Fishers members or \$125 for non-members. It is highly recommended to have your own tools, but club tools can be provided for a \$50 deposit, refundable upon their return. Materials for the flies will be provided. Advance registration required. Venmo link at the bottom of the page.

Class size is limited to 8 participants.

The class schedule will be as follows: • March 18 – “Nymphs” • March 25 – “Streamers” • April 1- “Wet Flies” • April 8 – “Dry Flies” • April 15 – “Terrestrials”

### **NOTES FROM THE SFF INVENTORY MEISTER**

Been a while since an inventory update!

We have a new location for inventory, a lot closer to me than where it is stored currently. My goal is to get the inventory all in one place so I can catalog and create lists with pictures.

Still very much a work in progress.

#### **Attention Fly Tyers!**

We'll have all the feather materials (saddles, capes, etc.) from our donated material inventory for sale at our next meeting. Bring a few extra bucks and grab what you need!

### **News from NCCFFI**

## **FFI FlyFest 2026**

**Mark your calendars to save the last weekend in September for FlyFest!**

This year, **FFI FlyFest 2026** will be held here in **Redding, California, the last weekend in September** (9/25 to 9/27). Join Fly Fishers International for FFI FlyFest 2026 — a two-day celebration of fly fishing, community, and hands-on learning. Whether you're new to the sport or a lifelong angler, FlyFest offers the chance to connect, learn, and be inspired.

#### **What You'll Experience**

- Indoor & outdoor workshops led by top instructors
- Fly casting and fly tying demonstrations
- Conservation and education sessions for all skill levels
- Connection with a passionate, global fly fishing community

More information to follow in the next few months.

[NCCFFI Newsletter](#)

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

### Upcoming Outings and Events

- McSwain outing - March 7, 2026 - 8AM until we are done!
- General Meeting – March 10, 2026 – Tuolumne River Lodge “BSA Camp” & “Insect Presentation”
- Turlock Farmer’s Market - March 14, 2026 - 8 AM set-up (9am - 1PM)
- Fly Tying 101 Class Starts – March 18, 2026 – Ceres Schools District Office – 2503 Lawrence St., Ceres
- Modesto Farmer’s Market - March 22, 2026 - 7 AM set up (8am to 1PM)
- Open Fly Tying Night – March 24, 2026 – 6PM - ? Food Fix (**Note date change due to conflict**)
- Board Meeting – March 26, 2026 – Track 424
- Turlock Farmer’s Market - March 28, 2026- 8 AM set-up (9am - 1PM)
- Indicator Class with John Driver - March 28, 2026 - 10 AM North Old La Grange Road
- Modesto Farmer’s Market - April 4, 2026 - 7AM set up (8am - 1PM)
- Turlock Farmer’s Market - April 11, 2026 - 8 AM set-up (9am - 1PM)
- General Meeting – April 14 – Tuolumne River Lodge – “FishBio”
- F3T/Rivers of Recovery Fundraiser – April 18, 2026 – State Theater
- Open Fly Tying Night – April 21, 2026 – 6 PM - ? Food fix
- Fall River Outing – April 24-26, 2026 – Circle 7 Ranch, Fall River Mills
- Flyfishing 101 Class Starts – May 8, 2026 – Central Valley High School, 4033 Central Ave., Ceres
- Dutch Oven Dinner at Tuolumne River Lodge - June 9
- Fence Creek Outing - August 21-23 - Contact Gus Link if interested
- Kings Canyon Outing - Tentative date first week in October - Tuesday - Thursday
- FFI FlyFest - September 25-26 - Redding, CA
- Owens and Crawley outing - Tentative date November 11 -12
- Salmon Fest - Early November - date TBA
- Holiday Dinner Party - December 8, 2026 - Tuolumne River Lodge

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FARMER’S MARKETS** - If you are interested or willing to volunteer for one of our Farmer’s Markets days please contact **Bob Bullock** at [bullockb373@gmail.com](mailto:bullockb373@gmail.com) and let him know the dates and times you will be able to attend



*Courtesy of John Driver*

### **SFF 2025 Board of Directors**

President: Bob Bullock • Vice-President: John Driver • Secretary: Monica Bourke • Webmaster: Michael Hewitt •  
Treasurer: Paul Wallace • Outings: John Driver • Membership: Barry Kutz  
• F3T Chair/Outings: Derek Coelho • Hospitality Coordinator: Janice Rinehart • Inventory Chair: Gus Link •  
Learning Coordinator - Cristie Crawford • Past President: Paul Wallace

#### **[SFF Membership Information](#)**

Membership fees are currently \$45/year. 2026 dues will become payable January 1, 2026. 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:

**Paul Wallace**  
**722 Mt Rushmore Dr**  
**Newman CA 95360**

Paul Stan Fly Fish Wallace

@Paul-StanFlyFish



[SFF Membership Form](#)

[FFI Membership Link](#)

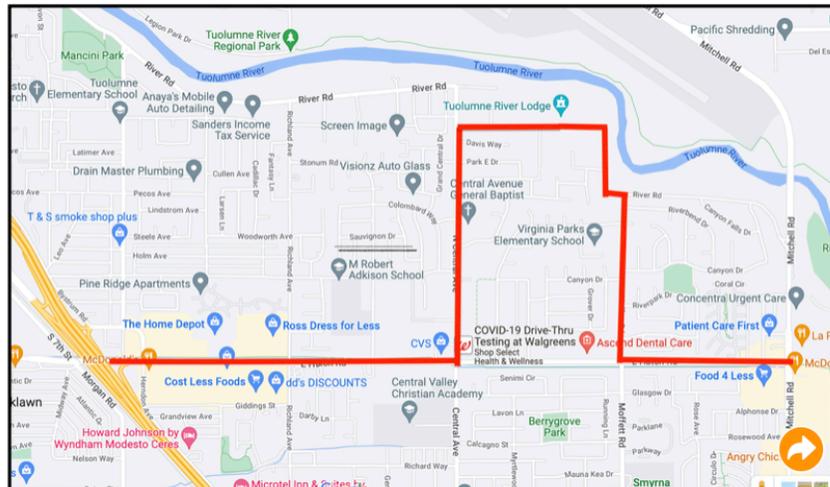
[SFF Liability Waiver](#)

### 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.



*Happy Fishing!*