



President's Message

Good day, everyone—spring is a wonderful time of year. Temperatures are rising, water conditions are improving, and many rivers and streams are settling into safer flows for wading. Aquatic life is becoming more active in the upper water columns, and the fish are feeding with greater consistency.

My suggestion? Get out and go fishing. Even better, call a friend or fellow club member to join you. It's always nice to have someone along—especially someone who can vouch for that "one that got away"... or the big one you landed.

On a different note, I'd like to talk about our club—a community of people with shared interests, engaging in common activities, supported by structure and purpose. I bring this up because we need your help.

Your Board of Directors is actively working to grow our membership so we can continue providing the kinds of information, activities, and experiences that matter most to you. As part of this effort, we'll be increasing our involvement with local civic organizations and community events. This helps demonstrate our value and purpose to the broader community—positioning us as more than just a group of anglers.

That said, we are fishers first. But to sustain and strengthen our club, we also need to give back. This requires time and participation—not just from a few, but from as many members as possible, whenever they are able.

We'll be announcing upcoming opportunities to get involved, and when we do, I encourage you to reach out to any member of the Board of Directors and let us know how you can help.

SFF President - Bob Bullock

Link's Lines

The Stuff We Hang On To Or, what makes an inanimate object important to us? (*Two part ramble*)

Ever since I started building fly rods, I have divested most of my factory rods. Not only do I enjoy the craftsmanship of building a rod, I very much enjoy fishing with something I built. For me it is a further connection to the sport.

I do keep 2 factory rods.

One is the first set up I bought, an inexpensive Phlueger 9' 5 wt that I probably paid 50 bucks for on ebay. It casts OK, looks like hell, but I fish it whenever I can. It is the setup that got me started and lived in my truck for many years when I traveled for a living. It remains in my arsenal, an old and trusted friend. Sometimes I like to go back to the waters I first learned to fish on and fishing this rod always brings back memories. (S. Fork of the Stan, from Strawberry to the dam)

The second is a 4 wt glass Redington Butterstick. This was the first "real" rod I ever bought! I purchased it when Sierra Anglers was going out of business. I couldn't really afford it at the time, and ate Ramen for a month because of the outlay, but DAMN! What a GREAT rod! I still love to fish with it! Plus, it is tied to Sierra Anglers and Bob Nakagawa. Those ties are important to me.

Again, inanimate objects, yet they have a history that resonates with me. When I fish these rods, I feel that connection.

There are other things that connect me to a different time, I have something from my grandfather's key rings on all my key rings, I often think of him when sorting through my keys. He and I were close, I like to be reminded of him.

And this may be secret: these things are not talismans or amulets, they don't have a magic power, but I think they are a conduit. They are a conduit to a memory, a path to remembrance, and for me, positive memories.

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!



Club News

April Club Meeting

Hello SFF!

The winner of our Simms Sling Pack will be announced at the April Club Meeting!

Get your tickets!

\$5.00 each!



Jason Guignard*Field Director and Fisheries Biologist*

The April General Club Meeting will be held on April 16th from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM at the Tuolumne River Lodge and will feature Jason Guignard. Jason Guignard is a fisheries biologist with 18 years of salmonid research, monitoring, and restoration experience. He has supervised and implemented a variety of fish population and passage research projects in Central Valley watersheds, and is experienced in all aspects of field sampling and data analysis. Jason's experience includes electrofishing, seining, trawling, rotary screw trap monitoring, spawning surveys, mark-recapture studies, acoustic telemetry and DIDSON/ARIS operation. He has also collaboratively planned and implemented multiple floodplain enhancement and restoration projects.

Jason has served as project lead for several fish monitoring and rescue operations in the Sacramento and San Joaquin basins, and is the project manager for FISHBIO's long-term monitoring efforts on the Tuolumne River. Jason has authored or co-authored multiple technical reports on adult salmon spawning surveys, juvenile outmigration monitoring, smolt survival estimates and water temperature requirements for Chinook salmon and steelhead. Prior to joining the private sector, Jason was a California Department of Fish and Game Associate Biologist with experience collecting and analyzing fisheries monitoring data on multiple life stages of Central Valley Salmonids.

Come out and join us this month and discover what's happening here in the Central Valley!

To learn more about the work that is being led by Jason and/or Fishbio, please visit their website here:

<https://fishbio.com/>

Modesto Rec Fest

RecFest is an annual, free, family-friendly event that promotes outdoor recreation and connects Central Valley communities to the Tuolumne River Regional Park. It's a grassroots, collaborative event that brings together local groups, organizations, and agencies to host informational booths and hands-on recreational activities for attendees.

This year's event will be held on May 2nd from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Stanislaus Fly Fishers will be participating, and for those who have attended or helped with the Salmon Festival at Knights Ferry, this event will have a similar feel. We'll be setting up a booth to share information about our club, along with an area for fly casting demonstrations and hands-on participation.

This is a great opportunity to connect with the local community, showcase who we are, and share what our club has to offer—while hopefully growing our membership.

With that in mind, we're asking for your help. Please let your Board of Directors know your availability. It should be a fun and rewarding experience for everyone involved.



We are excited to have had some initial conversation with Casting For Recovery. **Casting for Recovery** is a nonprofit program that provides **free fly fishing retreats for women with breast cancer**, at any stage of diagnosis, treatment, or recovery.

Founded in 1996, Casting for Recovery combines the therapeutic elements of nature, peer support, and the rhythmic motion of fly casting to promote healing—both physically and emotionally.

What they offer

- **All-expenses-paid retreats** (lodging, meals, gear, instruction)
- **Fly fishing education**, even for complete beginners
- **Medical and psychosocial support**, with trained healthcare professionals on-site
- A **supportive community** of women sharing similar experiences

Why fly fishing?

The casting motion itself can be gentle rehabilitation after surgery, while the outdoor setting and mindfulness of fishing help reduce stress and anxiety. It's as much about **connection and recovery** as it is about learning to fish.

Who it's for

- Women with **breast cancer at any stage**
- No prior fishing experience needed
- Participants apply and are selected for retreat spots

It's a really inspiring non-profit that combines fly fishing instruction, time in nature, and a supportive community to promote healing and connection at every stage of the journey. The club is excited about the potential opportunity to partner with them. We will continue to post updates in the newsletter as this relationship develops.

To learn more about Casting for Recovery, please visit their website: <https://castingforrecovery.org/>

Monica Bourke - Chair

Farmer's Markets

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 and let him know the dates and times you will be able to attend.

Please pick a date or 2 and sign up with Cristie at learn@stanislausflyfishers.org or Paul at pwallace@stanislausflyfishers.org. It's fun, and it's over by lunchtime.

If you are curious about tying, 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:

- April 4

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

- March 28
- April 11

California Heritage Trout Outing

Planning Meeting

6PM April 16, at Track 242 (2150 Yosemite Boulevard Modesto, CA 95354)



California has a wonderful variety of ancient and beautiful trout species. These are mostly hidden in small, isolated river systems. The state has a program to recognize anglers who catch at least 6 of these special trout.

For more information check out the Department of Fish and Wildlife webpage:
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland/HTC>

In late June or July 2026, we are planning an outing to Catch 4 of these special trout. The outing will be 3 days and 2 nights. We will begin in the upper Kern drainage and wind up in the Eastern Sierras. We will be looking for The California Golden Trout, the Little Kern Golden Trout, the Kern River Rainbow and The Lahontan Cutthroat trout.

At the meeting on April 16, we will be figuring out the schedule, how many are interested, and all the other stuff that goes into planning a multi-day trip. This is probably a camping trip, but there are options if people don't want to camp. Most of the fishing is accessible by car.

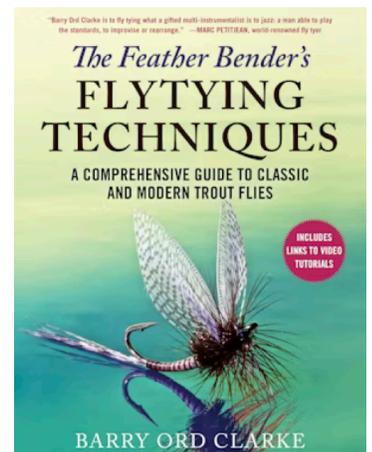
If you are unable to attend the meeting, but want to go on the outing; please email
PWAllace@stanislausflyfishers.org

Flytyers Corner - *Michael Hewitt*

The Feather Bender's Flytying Techniques

If I could only have/afford/suggest one book as a beginning fly tyer, this 2019 book might be the best choice ever. Written by Barry Ord Clarke, award winning fly tyer, photographer, and writer, it's a great companion to all of his tying videos that can be found on his [YouTube channel](#) and website, [The Feather Bender](#). He also has a presence on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). But don't make the mistake of thinking this a beginners-only book. While it's a great resource for tyers with minimal experience, filled with essential elementary techniques, Clarke presents many of his twists on the "old tried-and-true," including many of his techniques and flies developed in more than three decades of tying.

The book opens with sections on Tips and Tricks, Materials, and Dyneema (gel spun)/Thread, a fantastic reference right from the start. The patterns covered in The Flies section are organized by fly type and are indexed in the back for easy lookup. At the top of each pattern description is a QR code which will link to a video of Clarke tying the fly. One can view the video and then use the step-by-step instructions and excellent photos in the book to work on learning to tie the pattern. If you are QR-challenged, there's a printed YouTube address given for each pattern and the video title as well to facilitate online searching. There are patterns for 28 flies, a blank notes page, a page of useful websites and organizations, and the previously mentioned index, which not only lists pattern names, but techniques as well to make search and lookup a lot quicker. The photography throughout the book reflects the author's talent with a camera as well as his knowledge of fly tying.



If you have ever watched one of Clarke's videos, you may remember that he was born in the UK and his accent can be challenging (at least for me) to understand sometimes. That really makes the step-by-step instructions and photos of the book particularly valuable.

The book retails for \$35 US for hardcover according to the dust jacket, and in my opinion is worth every penny. I don't know if it's available in a softcover version, but there are a number of secondary book sellers with prices closer to \$25 for pre-owned copies.

Happy tying!
Mike

2026 SFF Membership 2026 update

We're pleased to welcome two new members, Rod Cascia and Jeff Holt, who joined us at our recent meeting. Marco Barragan also brought a guest, Ruben, to check out the club—we're glad to have you all with us.

As of March 10, 2026, we have 32 members who have renewed their Stanislaus Fly Fishers membership. With the addition of our two new members, we currently have a total of 34 paid members.

FFI membership tracking continues to be an area we're working to keep current. At this time, 23 members have confirmed their FFI memberships are up to date. Our two new members have indicated they plan to complete their FFI membership and will provide updates at the next meeting. Of the current group, 13 members will need to renew their FFI membership at some point during 2026.

As a general observation, members who regularly attend monthly meetings tend to have all required items up to date, including SFF membership, signed liability waivers, and FFI membership.

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!

Email Paul Wallace for more information: PWallace@stanislausflyfishers.org

Fish Tails

Runs and Riffles's: A Fish Whisperer's Notebook

The other day, I went fishing with a master from the Stanislaus Fly Fishers, which is how I learned I'm the kind of person who will stand in 47-degree water if someone else looks confident doing it.

We hiked into an undisclosed location where the river sits at the bottom of a canyon and politely insisted you cross it if you wanted to participate (which was not easy wearing wading boots and a blindfold). I waded in like a flamingo with trust issues. While, the Master stepped in like he'd set the temperature himself.

We reached a small island, and within five minutes—*five*—the Master cast into a spot he called “where the riffles turn to run” (I nodded, of course and pretended like I understood), and he immediately caught a beautiful rainbow trout. He reeled it in, we admired it, thanked it—because apparently that's a thing—and sent it on its way. The fish left. I stayed, trying to process my new reality.

The morning unfolded with canyon walls rising around us and the air smelling like spring had finally gotten organized. The lupines were outrageous—tall, vibrant, and showing off in every shade of purple and blue. If happiness had a mascot, this would be it.

Meanwhile, I fished. Or more accurately, I negotiated with a fly line that had goals of its own. At one point, I created a knot so complex it felt less like fishing and more like a craft project.

Eventually, the Master hooked what he calmly called a “monster.” It leapt, twisted, and escaped—taking the fly, the hook, and what may have been a small piece of his dignity. What followed was a respectful moment of silence.

By noon, spring turned into summer. The same water that had earlier shocked my soul now felt refreshing, which tells you everything about how the day was going.

One fish landed. One fish escaped. A few that entered talks but declined the offer.

On the way back, I noticed everything—the canyon walls, the river, the birds—and kept a safe distance from the Master's fishing rod, which swung behind him like it was a fish tail that had opinions and possibly a union.

No phone. No time. Nowhere else to be.

Somewhere between the cold water, the chaos of my fishing line, and the overachieving lupines, I had a really good time.

I went out there as a beginner.

I came back as a convert.

And possibly still a little cold.

Monica Bourke - Fly Fisher 'Newbie in Training'



NOTES FROM THE SFF INVENTORY MEISTER

For any float tubers, pontoon boat folks, if you need a set of fins, let me know.

Deal o'the Month:

1 pair Force Fins, 1 Sea Dog Folding anchor in a duffle: \$100.00

If you are looking for less expensive fins, let me know

Still working on inventory, a slow process.



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!

For inventory questions, please contact Gus Link: flylink48@gmail.com

News from NCCFFI **President's Message** **by Ron Beltramo**

As a follow up from our recent RiverMouth Edition regarding the Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton, I think that the show was a big success in bringing the fly fishing community together. It was well attended with good crowds particularly on Saturday and most of Sunday. At the NCCFFI/Learning Center booth we had a steady stream of people and provided information about our 29 Fly Fishing Clubs in Northern California and Nevada, what we do (NCCFFI & FFI), plus had fly tying and knot tying at our booth for the Bay Area scouts...plus fly casting instruction and practice outside on the grass. NCCFFI also hosted a lunch meeting with club presidents and board members

and had nearly 50 people attending, representing 19 Fly Fishing Clubs, where we made a presentation about NCCFFI, FFI, conservation, fly casting skills development, and upcoming events. We received a lot of positive feedback from attendees at the lunch and anticipate that your club will send pertinent information from the meeting to all its members.

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

- 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”
- Planning Meeting for Kern River Outing - April 16th at 6PM- Track 424 Modesto (all welcome)
- F3T/Rivers of Recovery Fundraiser – April 18, 2026 – State Theater
- Club Meeting - April 14, 2026 - 6PM - 8PM - Tuolumne River Lodge
- Open Fly Tying Night – April 21, 2026 – 6 PM -8 PM Food fix, Modesto
- Fall River Outing – April 24-26, 2026 – Circle 7 Ranch, Fall River Mills (event full)
- Flyfishing 101 Class Starts – May 6, 2026 – Central Valley High School, 4033 Central Ave., Ceres (May 6th, 13th, 20th, & June 3rd)
- Club Meeting - May 12, 2026 - 6PM - 8PM - Tuolumne River Lodge
- Open Fly Tying Night - May 19, 2026 - 6PM to 8 PM - Food Fix, Modesto
- Dutch Oven Dinner at Tuolumne River Lodge - June 9
- June or July - California Heritage Trout Outing (final dates TBD)

- 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

(If there is interest, other events in the works are Los Banos Creek in April to fish for crappie, a Stanislaus River float, White Pines- June, a trip to the Eastern Sierras, McConnell State Park, LaGrange, Tuolumne River) - please let one of the board members below know if you are interested in other trips.

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](#)

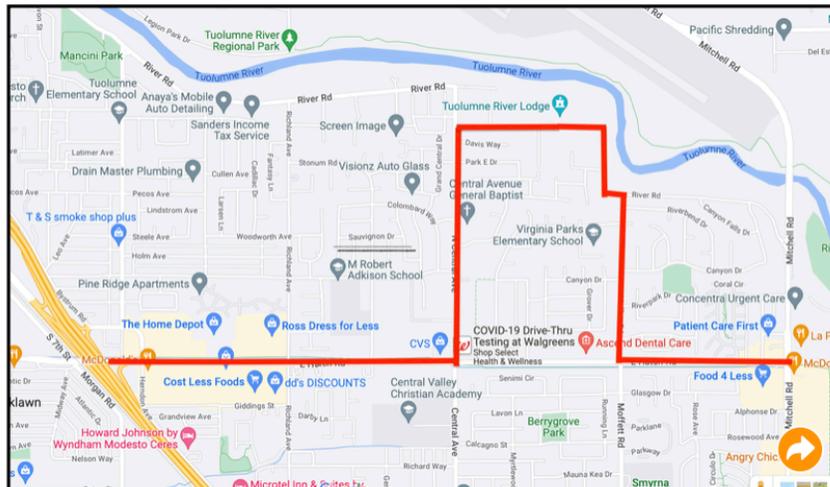
[SFF Liability Waiver](#)

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.



Indicator Class - March 28, 2026



Farmer's Markets





Happy Fishing!