



President's Message

There is no time like the present to get out and go fly fishing. Unexpected circumstances can always arise and interfere with even the best-laid plans—believe me, it happens. However, as a member of this community of anglers, you'll find a great deal of support and assistance if it does. Camaraderie is at the heart of this organization, so make connections—and go fly fishing.

This past April was a very busy month. Our presence at the Farmers Markets each weekend required a great deal of engagement—sharing who we are, what we offer, and what's ahead—along with fly tying demonstrations and handing out hat pin flies. The Film Fest supporting Rivers of Recovery was also very successful (a full summary will be available soon following final review). The Fall River outing offered good fishing, with weather ranging from beautiful blue skies to more challenging conditions, including wind and Sunday rain. The food was plentiful, and a great time was had by all.

We are also expanding our outreach within the local community by participating in Modesto RecFest (that is indeed how it's styled). This event will take place on May 2nd at Gateway Park in Modesto. Our goal is to present a program similar to what we typically offer at the autumn Salmon Festival in Knights Ferry. I'm confident our membership will once again step up with support and participation. Please contact Dan Ward for more information.

My sincere thanks and appreciation go out to everyone who dedicated their time to organize, set up, coordinate, and participate in these events. Your efforts are what make them successful.

We are also exploring the possibility of building a relationship with Casting for Recovery, an organization that supports individuals recovering from cancer. While the details are still being developed, there is strong interest in providing social support while also strengthening our role in community service and membership engagement. If you have questions, please reach out to Monica Bourke, who is leading this effort.

The coming months promise a variety of events that we hope will spark your interest. Please review our events calendar for details. If you would like to get involved, or if you have comments or suggestions, feel free to speak with any member of the Board of Directors—we welcome your input.

Hope to see you on the water soon.

SFF President - Bob Bullock

Link's Lines

I have rambled on about things we hang on to, though I would touch on things we let go of. And, as my habit as of late, this will be a two-parter!! I have let go of 3 major things in the last year: my 06 Jayco tent trailer, my beloved 04 Chevy Avalanche and just recently, a 1940 Harley Knucklehead.

My Jayco tent trailer: I bought this in 06 with my ex-wife. We had some memorable trips with it! Death Valley, going from Badwater, where temperature was in the 90's, up to the Limekilns and having a snowball fight will always be a cherished memory. I had incorporated it into my post divorce life, many trips and memories! But it was time to let it go. Our last trip to Willits and Fort Bragg really brought home that it was not what we needed any longer. We REALLY needed a bathroom! So we went RV shopping and ended up with a wonderful Jayco travel trailer. Trading in the tent trailer was a little emotional, so many memories! But I also realized, it was a conduit to the past, and part of that past was my ex. It felt good to leave that behind.

My Avalanche: I loved that truck! Funny because when I bought it (also with my ex, seeing a pattern here?) Before I test drove it, I thought they were incredibly ugly! And then I drove it! Again, so many memories in that truck. I went all over the west, Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, camping, fishing, it was an integral part of my life. However, while it towed the new trailer, it did not do it well. Telling this to my Mom, she offered to trade vehicles. They had a 19 F350 that mostly sat except for the once a month dump run. How could I turn that down? So once again, I was faced with an emotional parting, I truly loved that truck. It was however, that last big thing tying me to my ex, when that last bit severed, I felt it. FWIW I have been free of her for a long time now, I don't hate her (and boy do I have cause to), I don't feel anything for her. But severing that last link, that definitely was a big part of the emotion I felt with parting with my truck.

And finally, the 40 Knuck: Believe it or not, I used to be HUGE into Harleys, went to trade school and was a factory certified mechanic, was all into the lifestyle. Bought this thing as a basket case in July of 1990, right before I went to Sturgis. Futzed around with it over the next few years, but then met a girl, got married, had a kid, got divorced and then fell out of love with the Harleys. No particular incident, it just lost its luster. Making the decision to sell it was liberating!

I will tie this all to fly-fishing next month! Tight Lines!

Link

Club News

Here are some of the exciting activities and events being planned by the club. Please consider joining us:

1) Heritage Trout Outing/Camping trip June 26-28. Long circle from the upper Kern river drainage to highway 108 and 395. Fishing for California Golden Trout, Little Kern Golden Trout, Kern River Rainbows, and Lahontan Cutthroat trout. This is 4 of the 6 needed for the California Heritage trout species. For more information ask Paul pwallace@stanislausflyfishers.org

2) Fly Fishing 101 begins Wed may 6th 6pm at Big Valley High School. Sign up with Cristie her email Learn@stanislausflyfishers.org Send all your Fly Fishing Curious Friends.

Call for help If you would like to help us with casting instruction we could use a helper or 2 to teach newbies the basics of casting.

3) June 13 is the FF101 field trip to The Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club for their Saturday free lesson. All members are welcome to join. Paul will lead us on BART and Muni from Livermore. We'll be doing the GGACC casting lesson then lunch in Northbeach, and a trip to Lost Coast Outfitters.

FishBio

For those of you who enjoyed Jason Guignard presentation from FishBio, there is a new cool article entitled "No Brain, No Problem": <https://fishbio.com/no-brain-no-problem-fish-healing-and-regeneration/>

General Meeting - May 12, 2026

Vanessa Kolmar

Environmental Scientist

This month, the club is pleased to feature Vanessa Kolmar. Vanessa is an environmental scientist who has been with the Department of Fish and Wildlife for more than 16 years. She spent 12 of those years working on the Merced River and the greater San Joaquin Basin, followed by four years in Sacramento contributing to the State Water Project.

Vanessa will present "*The Nigiri Project: An Overview and Feasibility Analysis for the San Joaquin Basin.*" She will provide an overview of the Nigiri Project, discuss its potential benefits and challenges, and explore whether it is a practical and effective approach to salmonid conservation in the San Joaquin Basin.

In addition, Vanessa will lead a discussion on other conservation initiatives and share ways community members can get involved.

We encourage you to join us at our General Meeting on May 12, 2026, to learn more about this important topic and hear Vanessa's insights.



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

Fly Tying Night

At our next fly-tying night at Food Fix, Link has offered to demonstrate how to tie a simple foam hopper for anyone interested. He will provide materials including foam, dubbing, legs, and some Krystal Flash, and may also have a limited number of hooks available.

Additional details and updates will be shared prior to the event.



Ingredients:

Size 12 standard length nymph hooks, I like a downturn eye.

2/0 Denier yellow or gold thread

Yellow dubbing

Brown or tan 2 mm foam

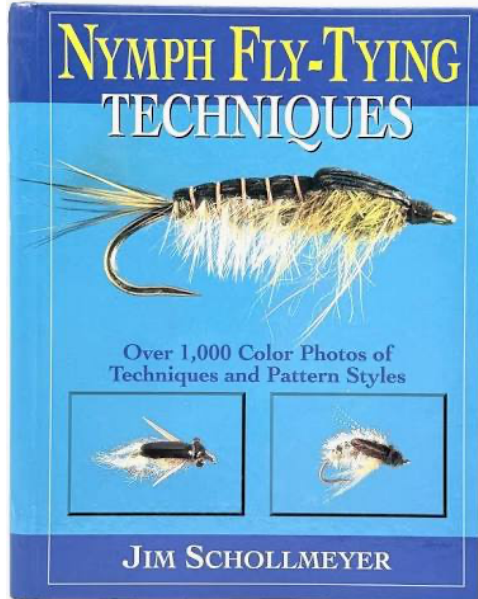
Pearl Krystal Flash

Black rubber legs

Yellow foam

Flytyers Corner - *Michael Hewitt*

Nymph Fly-Tying Technique



This month's review features an interesting book by Jim Schollmeyer. Schollmeyer is an avid fly fisherman and photographer, and first sparked his interest in fly fishing on the upper Missouri in Montana. Once hooked, he began fishing more of the west coast rivers and even traveled abroad to learn more about the unique aspects of fishing. Schollmeyer is very knowledgeable about fly fishing, fly patterns, and hatches. He has authored and co-authored a number of books on various aspects of fly fishing.

As the title implies, this is not just a book of patterns, but a treatise on specific techniques that can be used when tying nymphs. Chapter 1 is devoted to these techniques and encompasses more than a third of the book. The remaining five chapters feature patterns and instructions in the following categories: Lashed and Extended Bodies; Strand Bodies; Herl, Barb, Feather, and Quill Bodies; Dubbed Bodies; and Bead, Pulled, Stacked, Spun, and Woven Bodies.

Patterns are presented with concise but thorough instructions with color photos of each step. The same goes for the section on techniques. There is a general index, a fly index, and a fly pattern group index to allow for a quick search for specific information.

A quick search produced pre-owned copies for sale for as little as \$15 compared to the list price of \$23.95. If you are into fly tying books, this is another good one.

Happy tying!
Mike

2026 SFF Membership 2026 update

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@stanisalusflyfishers.org

Fish Tails

"Advanced Line Management (Beginner Level): 37 Easy Steps to Forget"

First

a quiet pause

like the river is holding

its breath with you

Draw back

waterload the line

(which if you are new, sounds vaguely medical and slightly alarming)

then cast

a small act of hope

designed as confidence

The line lands,
not exactly where you meant
but close enough to lie about it later

Mend the line
a gentle correction
like apologizing to the water

Then strip, strip, strip
fingers remembering
what the brain is still negotiating

Through the riffles it goes
tugging, whispering,
pretending it might be something edible

Maybe mend again
because of course you should have
mended sooner

Now into the run
where things feel promising
for reasons no one can fully explain

Strip, strip, strip
a little faster now
as if enthusiasm might count for skill

Nothing
(or maybe everything. It's hard to tell).

Then gather it all back in -
as if this time
you'll remember exactly how it's done

Monica Bourke - Fly Fisher 'Newbie in Training'

NOTES FROM THE SFF INVENTORY MEISTER

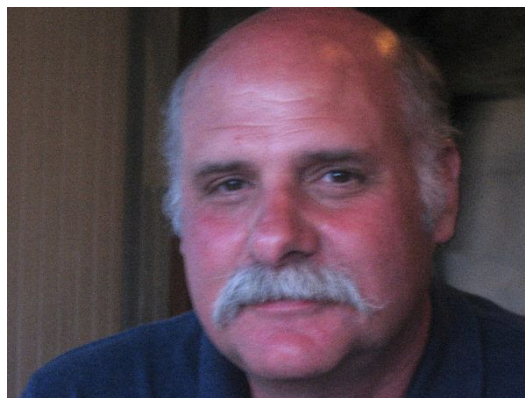
At the May meeting, I will have misc. dubbing and legs.
I may have some fur if I have the time to organize



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

News from NCCFFI

President's Message by Ron Beltramo



Spring into Spring! I hope that everyone has been enjoying this great spring weather and the incredible growth we are seeing in the trees, shrubs, grasses & plants witnessing their wonderful flowers & blooms. It is a time of regeneration that we all can enjoy...including heading out to fish our favorite streams (like Putah Creek, Yuba

River and the Little Truckee) and waters (like San Luis Reservoir, Pyramid Lake and Henderson Springs). Take advantage of this short window while you can...**Seize the Day...Life is short, so enjoy the sport we all love!**

In last month's issue of the River Mouth we noted that FFI had extended the "Show Special" (**Save \$20 for New FFI Members**) that was offered for new members joining FFI for the first time at the FlyFishing Show. Well...Good News...**FFI has extended the offer** for the next five months, so if you are not a current member of FFI, **now is the time to join FFI for only \$25 for the first year** (see the FFI article in this newsletter for details). We are asking our fly clubs throughout California & Nevada to reach out to their club members and ask them to take advantage of this limited time offer and join FFI.

NCCFFI just participated in the Spey-O-Rama event at GGACC April 17th & 18th and had a great time meeting with many people attending. Look for the article in this newsletter from Kim Lloyd who ably headed up the Spey-O-Rama effort for NCCFFI with highlights from the event.

We are ramping up for the Putah Creek Cleanup & Restoration Project on June 13th and are asking volunteers to sign up at the NCCFFI website at www.nccffi.org. In January we had 80 people from 13 different fly clubs that participated with terrific results, and a great time had by all. We are hoping to get between 80 to 100 people to join in on June 13th, so please go to the NCCFFI website and sign up.

Now is the time to sign up for the upcoming **FFI FlyFest Event planned to be held in Redding September 24-26, 2026**. Please review the article in this newsletter for this outstanding event and register now using the QR code included. This will be a great opportunity to really connect with others — a three-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.

Think of FlyFest as The Fly Fishing Show, where you can actually have a wide range of places to go fish all within an hour's drive of Redding. We suggest that you plan some great fly-fishing trip while attending the FlyFest event. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the NCCFFI/FFI efforts during the show, and you can sign up as a volunteer at the FFI website.

We also have the Hall of Fame Event on October 24th. Nominees for induction to the NCCFFI Hall of Fame are due by April 30th. Please review the article about Hall of Fame Event in this newsletter for more information.

You will want to save the dates for the following events:

- **Putah Creek Restoration (Phase 2) -June 13, 2026** (go to the NCCFFI website and register in advance at www.nccffi.org).
- **FlyFest in Redding California – September 24-26, 2026**. Go to the FFI Website (<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/FlyFest>) and **register now!**
- **NCCFFI Hall of Fame Dinner/Event – October 24, 2026**. Save the date and look for more information on this event in next month's newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you at some of these upcoming events, and especially FlyFest in Redding!

Ron Beltramo

NCCFFI President

Reach me at rjbeltramo@aol.com or at 415-999-8348

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

Upcoming Outings and Events

- 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

Other potential outings include: Fishing at White Pines, Stanislaus River Float, Eastern Sierras, Kings Canyon, McConnel State Park, LaGrange Tuolumne River. Consider stepping up and taking the lead as the “Fish Meister”. There are seasoned trip leaders in the club who would be happy to help you.

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](#)

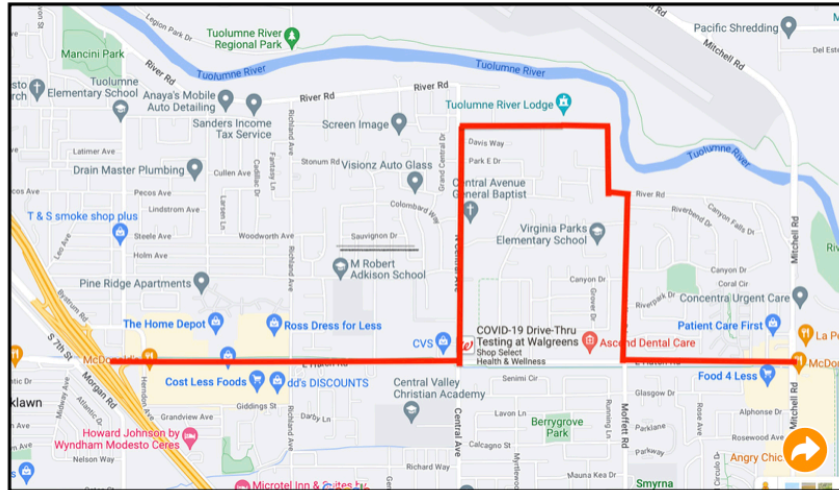
[SFF Liability Waiver](#)

Directions to Tuolumne River Lodge

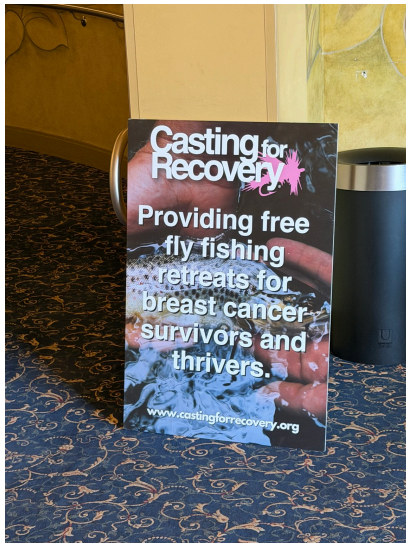
2429 River Rd, Modesto, CA

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.



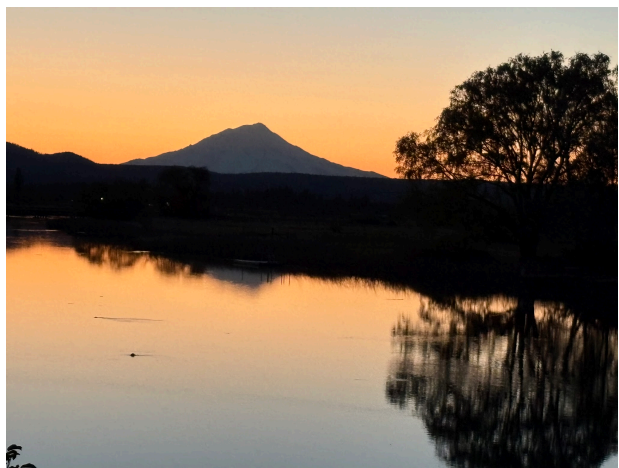
Film Festival





Fall River Outing





Farmer's Markets



Happy Fishing!