



President's Message

I went to the FFI Fly Fest 2026 this past weekend and found it very gratifying. There were presentations from counseling on how to continue to be a successful club. Equipment you might need or would like to have or at least seemed interesting, or maybe places you like to go with a guide's assistance, also people to talk and share advice. There were presentations given by well known highly knowledgeable people on fishing, how to and what to use and when and where, and the explanation of Fly Tying. Our club had a very good representation; Bud Heintz, tying, demonstrating some fantastic flies; Ron Fisher making, showing and explaining how to construct some spectacular "Poppers", and Roger Ringsted showed his craftsman talent of constructing magnificent, practical fly boxes. Thanks guys.

Taking for granted that you are reading this then it is a fair assumption that you are interested in this club's activities, well then you should come by for our club meetings. We, your board of directors, have made great effort to make the meetings interesting. For instance, we think that you would like something to eat at the end of your day without having to rush around, or much later after the meeting. So starting for this and next month at about 5:30 Dan Ward will be cooking up some "Lockeford, Dakota and Hot Sausages" with some condiments for your enjoyment for a suggested donation of \$10, while you converse with your fellow members about fishing you have taken part in recently or planning to do.

We will have a fine presentation by the "Yosemite Rivers Alliance" representative to inform you of what they have accomplished and what their goals are to make a better fishery of the Tuolumne River. This should be of great interest to you as fishers. So I hope to see you all there.

Go fishing,
Bob Bullock
SFF President 2026

October General Meeting

Our monthly program will feature Yosemite Rivers Alliance. Possible topics may include the Yosemite road proposal, Proposition 45/CEQA, and the recent habitat reconstruction below La Grange Road Bridge among others. This is a great opportunity to hear about their latest work.



“At Yosemite Rivers Alliance, we unite conservation and community to protect and restore the three rivers that flow through the Yosemite Region—the Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and Merced.

“They’re the ties that bind us from the Sierra crest to the Pacific coast. Sustaining the Central Valley farms that feed the nation; providing drinking water to millions in the Bay Area; supporting over 600 wildlife species, and creating endless opportunities for recreation.

“For over 40 years we’ve led the way, creating the connection between ecology, policy, and on-the-ground action. As the longest-standing organization dedicated to this area, our advocates and restoration experts build durable partnerships to amplify our collective impact.

“Together, we’ve planted over a million trees, reduced wildfire risk across thousands of acres, advanced healthy river policies, and inspired more than 40,000 young people to become environmental stewards. Our alliance continues to grow, and so does our reach. When you help us protect the interdependence of the rivers, forests, wildlife, and communities, you protect our future.”

SFF Sponsors Mending The Line at The State Theatre

Sunday, November 22nd, our club is sponsoring a showing of Mending The Line (2022) at the historic State Theatre in Modesto. Doors will open at 1:00pm with a 2:00pm film start. Mending The Line tells the story of a Marine wounded in Afghanistan who is sent to a V.A. facility in Montana where he meets a Vietnam Vet who teaches him how to fly fish as a way of dealing with his emotional and physical trauma.

“Reviewers say Mending the Line delivers a deeply moving experience with authentic portrayals of PTSD and trauma recovery among veterans. Brian Cox and Wes Studi's superb performances, combined with [the] stunning cinematography of Montana's landscapes and fly-fishing scenes, create a powerful meditation on healing and hope. ... most found it profoundly inspirational and beautifully written The film's therapeutic message resonates strongly”

We will be featuring a small raffle and pre-sell ticket vouchers can be purchased at upcoming Modesto and Turlock farmers markets dates (see schedule below). The collected vouchers will also be entered into a door prize drawing. Let's turn out and make this a great event!



SFF at Modesto and Turlock Farmers Markets

We will be hosting booths at both markets this fall to promote our club, our fly fishing and fly tying classes, and the upcoming SFF-sponsored film Mending The Line showing at the State Theatre. We encourage members to come spend an hour or two working the booths with the board members. It's a lot of fun meeting new people and sharing our love of fly fishing. If you want more information or to let us know you'll be helping out, contact Michael Hewitt at (209) 606-0424 or mhewitt@stansilausflyfishers.org.

Farmers Market Schedule

Saturday, October 3 - Modesto - 8am-1pm
 Saturday, October 10 - Turlock - 8am-1pm
 Saturday, October 31 - Turlock - 8am-1pm
 Saturday, November 7 - Modesto - 8am-1pm

Fly Tying 101 Class

Our next Beginning Fly Tying class will be offered in January. We'll be trying a new model this time. A practical, progressive fly tying series of monthly, one-off classes designed to give students an approachable entry point to fly tying while building skills from one class to the next. There are four classes to be offered with each one a standalone class based on interest/ability. Classes will be once a month at a time and place to be determined. Cost for each class is \$25 and includes all materials. Limit six students per class.

FLY TYING 101: The Fundamentals. Three foundational trout flies: Zebra Midge, Woolly Bugger, and Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ear.

FLY TYING 102: Wet Flies & Nymphs. A step forward with BWO Soft Hackle, GRHE Wet Fly and PT Nymph.

FLY TYING 103: Foam Flies. Three productive foam patterns: Foam Ant, Foam Beetle, and Foam Hopper.

FLY TYING 104: Killer Trout Patterns: Two deadly patterns: Elk Hair Caddis and Slumpbuster.

Learn to Tie Flies
WITH
**STANISLAUS
FLY FISHERS**

STANISLAUS
FLY FISHERS

**FLY TYING 101:
THE ART OF FLY TYING**

Why do we tie flies? There's a special satisfaction in fishing with a fly that you spent time and effort to create. It's an extra connection to the art of fly fishing that goes beyond the thrill of landing a fish on a shop-purchased fly. It's the sense of pride knowing that the fly that enticed your fish to take was one that you personally created. Without even fishing the fly, the flies we tie are miniature works of art. When you tie a fly, you are creating art.

**LEARN THE BASICS
WITH FLY TYING 101**

If you are looking to try something completely new or looking to return to fly tying and refresh dormant skills, Stanislaus Fly Fisher's Fly Tying 101 class is an excellent starting point. This two-hour beginners course will provide a solid foundation in fly tying fundamentals.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

- Basic tools and their proper use
- Common materials and when/how to use them
- Step-by-step instruction on tying simple, effective trout flies for most waters
- Foundational techniques that will serve you throughout your fly tying journey
- Three basic flies: Zebra Midge, Woolly Bugger, and Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ear

Each student is provided with a workstation including a vise, tools, and all necessary materials--no need to bring anything except a willingness to learn and have fun! However, if you have your own tying gear, feel free to bring it. Our instructors will guide you step by step, making sure you leave with both knowledge and confidence.

CLASS DETAILS

- DURATION:** Two hours (6:30-8:30 PM)
- LOCATION:** TBD
- CLASS SIZE:** Limited to 6 students
- COST:** \$25 registration

JOIN US! | *Discover the art. Catch more. Have fun.*

Link's Lines

My Slow Journey of Fly Tying

I do not consider myself a good fly tyer. Middle of the road I would say. I have tied flies for a long time, but haven't gotten serious until recently. I got into fly-tying like a lot of other folks, thought it would be a good hobby and kinda fun! I did realize it was not going to save me money, I think hanging around "The Shop" and having mentors who were realistic about such things killed that idea.

I started slow, I would tie a couple of flies and that was it. I wandered on this path for quite a few years, never really getting into the rhythm of tying.

Then something changed, I started teaching.

I have struggled with this whole teaching thing for quite awhile, and have actively resisted labeling myself as a teacher. I considered teachers those folks who dedicate their lives to the profession. It took me a LONG time to realize that there are many teachers in this world, not just the ones who molded my wee brain as a youth in the school system.

I have come to realize that teaching is not only about passing knowledge on to others so they can learn, but also about your own learning. When I started teaching more fly tying, I wanted to clean up my own habits, bad or otherwise, so, I started to tie more. Lo and behold, I started getting better! And then learned something that changed my fly tying world! You have to tie a whole bunch of flies of the same pattern to really get good! WOW! Once I started tying a dozen of each pattern, I got better with that pattern! Imagine that!

I maintain that pattern today, I plan to tie up at least a dozen flies, sometimes more, whenever I pick a pattern to tie. I also think that preparation is a key, know your recipe, have the materials on hand. Whatever you can prep ahead of time, get it done.

I will say tying a bunch of flies in one setting kinda sucks, so I try to shoot for reasonable goals, usually 6 per session.

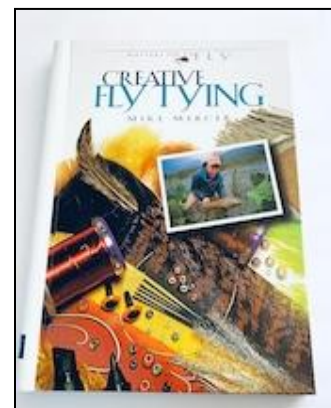
If you are interested in tying flies, come on out to fly tying nights at Food Fix, usually someone can take some time for a bit of instruction.

Tight Lines!
LINK

Fly Tyer's Corner - By Michael Hewitt

Kelly Galloup considers Mike Mercer one of flytying's "elite group" of fly tyers with flies that "are as close to a guarantee as it gets." Mercer's 2005 *Creative Fly Tying* is recognized as a window into Mercer's mind as it chronicles the thought process involved in developing his signature patterns. Listed at \$39.95 my bargain surfing produced an author-signed copy for \$11.50 plus shipping!

The book begins with an introduction detailing his early-life experiences that developed his love of fishing in general and later those experiences and individuals that moved the needle towards fly fishing and tying. He also recounts the beginning of his long association with Redding, CA's The Fly Shop.



He next offers a brief section on "Reading the Water," in which he explains that fly tying books and fishing books are "inextricably entwined" in that the experiences of fishing many waters and conditions play a major role in his development of his patterns. If you purchase this book, don't just skip past this section to get to the patterns. It's a nice, concise essay on the role reading water plays in successful fishing, finishing with some helpful tips to improve water reading skills.

He then devotes twelve chapters to some of his signature ties, each accompanied by a story detailing what influenced them and step-by-step instruction with color photos of each step. Along the way there are many beautiful photographs of flies and materials that are excellent as well.



Following a brief afterword there are several blank pages for your personal tying notes. The index lists pages for the flies, of course, but also specific mentions of individuals, places, materials, and tools for easy searching.

Fly Fishing 101

The club is offering Fly Fishing 101 starting Friday 10/2 in Ripon. This class will be a group of middle school kids and their parents. It will be our largest class yet.

We'd love to have your help! There will be 3 classes with casting instruction, a couple Introduction to tying sessions and a knot tying class. It's always rewarding to teach our skills to new and excited students. Would you come to help these students learn the skills we love?

Friday October 9th all members are invited to join the class as John Driver leads an aquatic insect collection in the Tuolumne River. The Group will meet at 4:30 near Basso Bridge, see the Pin below. These are interesting opportunities to see what bugs grow in

our river! John does this every month and would love to have members join him.

Here is the exact pin of where we will meet: 37.651315, -120.490257.

https://www.google.com/maps/dir//37.6537552,-120.4889694/@37.654682,-120.4895658,771m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m2!4m1!3e0?entry=tu&g_ep=EgoyMDI2MDUyNy4wIXMDS0ASAFQAw%3D%3D

Please Contact Paul or Bob if you have any interest in being part of the class!

NCCFFI's President's Newsletter



FlyFest was a blast! Club & Council Day on Thursday was very informative for the people that attended, and the show itself with the outstanding presentations, fly casting & fly tying venues, along with great industry partners... and the Friday night dinner & auction was terrific. If you got a chance to join us there, we would love to get your feedback about your experience.

After the show I was able to go fishing on the Trinity River and had a great time (caught 2 salmon and 3 steelhead with guide Lonnie Boles). For me, it was great to get out on a river to enjoy the beauty, fresh air, sunshine...and of course the joy of catching feisty salmon and steelhead on a gorgeous Sunday morning. If you haven't been out fishing recently, this is a wakeup call to get out there and savor the opportunity.

We have the NCCFFI Board Elections upcoming for 2027. We are delighted to have two additional NCCFFI Board members that will be joining the Board...

- Robert Farley (current President of Granite Bay)
- Doug Lovell (Active Conservationist/Retired environmental engineer)

The full election slate will be sent out in October (see listing in the Election article in this newsletter) and you will be asked to vote.

The NCCFFI Hall of Fame Event is scheduled for October 24th. Mark Rockwell will be the NCCFFI Hall of Fame Inductee for this year (well deserved for Mark's many contributions to conservation & fly-fishing). **Please review the articles about Hall of Fame Event in this newsletter for more information** (including the history of the event, Mark Rockwells many accomplishments and the reasons why you should come). This event will be held at the Veterans Memorial Center located on Mount Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette and will feature a catered dinner, the induction ceremony, with a silent and live auction. Some of the auction items include a seven-day fishing trip to The Matapiojo Lodge in the Chilean Patagonia Region with the main property on the Futaleufu River (double occupancy), the Henderson Springs Cabin that sleeps six with four lakes on the private estate, B Reel Ranch in Lewiston for three day stay with two days guided Trinity River Trips for four anglers, plus guided trips from The Fly Shop (3), Mike Pease, John Feaster, JAG Fly Fishing, and other high value fly fishing equipment and items. This event attracts people from all over California and the Western United States) and we only have room for 150 people to attend. **Sign up today at www.nccffi.org** to assure your place at the NCCFFI Hall of Fame event on October 24th!

Ron Beltramo
NCCFFI President

Feel free to reach out to me at rjbeltramo@aol.com or at 415-999-8348 if you have any questions

[For a Copy of the President's Letter. Click Here](#)

Swaggin' it with Janice



Have you been looking for a way to show your Stanislaus Fly Fishers pride both on and off the water? Rustic Embroidery Barn is now offering a selection of SFF apparel and merchandise featuring our club logo.

Whether you're looking for a new hat for your next fishing trip, a UV-resistant decal for your vehicle or boat, or an embroidered shirt to wear at club events, there are several options available. A complete price sheet and product catalog are included with this newsletter for your review.

Please click here to view some of the items available:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hEa-uJVMZrds2y1CqOCX0Pc_kW7dnDsz1PNWL-lbHeU/edit?tab=t.0

I appreciate the opportunity to provide quality club merchandise for our members and look forward to helping you represent Stanislaus Fly Fishers wherever your fishing adventures take you.

Janice Rinehart
Rustic Embroidery Barn
(209) 535-6302

What's Up with WhatsApp?

The SFF board recently faced a situation where our use of a text group to facilitate communication, coordination, and planning ran into a familiar problem. Due to the different technologies used in text messaging between Android (cellular based: SMS/MMS) and iPhone (internet based: iMessage), when we need to add a new individual to our mixed-platform group message, we are forced to start a whole new group text thread, and in the process lose continuity. It's not a major deal by any means other than it causes confusion if someone mistakenly posts in an old group text (and there have been several at this point), and it starts a snowball of disconnected messaging. After some discussion, the board determined that the internet-based messaging app WhatsApp provides us with a solution. Members to a WhatsApp Community (which is simply a text group) can be added or removed without disrupting the chain and history of messages. So, we created a Community called Stanislaus Fly Fishers, and within it, we created a restricted Group for the SFF Board.

That now presents us with an opportunity to achieve something we had talked about for several months ... a way to communicate with club members in a timely manner (other than via email) regarding event reminders, outing coordination, requests for assistance, etc. Emails might only be checked sporadically, but text messages are usually delivered, noticed, and read more immediately. With that in mind, we are making our WhatsApp Community open to all paid members who wish to participate. WhatsApp is free to download and use for both platforms. At the bottom of this article, there are links to the app stores and a link to an open invite to the Community. It will be open to all current paid members.

This is purely an opt-in situation. Only use it if you want to receive more timely reminders of our activities. Click on the link below, and if your club status is current, your request will be approved. Alternatively, email me with your phone number or WhatsApp username, and I will use that to send you an invite. mhewitt@stanislausflyfishers.org. This is new territory for us so please be patient as we work out the bugs.

[Apple App Store](#)

[Google Play Store](#)

[Stanislaus Fly Fishers Community](#)



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

Upcoming Outings and Events

- Modesto Farmers Market Booth - October 3, 2026 - 8am-1pm
- Kings Canyon Outing - October 6-8 (Tentative)
- General Meeting - "Heritage Trout" - October 13, 2026
- Turlock Farmers Market Booth - October, 10, 2026 - 9am-12pm
- Open Fly Tying Night - October 20, 2026 @ Food Fix
- Board Meeting - October, 29, 2026 @ Track 424
- Turlock Farmers Market Booth - October, 31, 2026 - 9am-12pm
- Modesto Farmers Market Booth - November 7, 2026 - 8am-1pm
- General Meeting - November 10, 2026
- Owens/Crowley Outing - November 11-12 (Tentative)
- Salmon Festival - Knights Ferry - November 14 - 10am-3pm
- Open Fly Tying Night - November 17, 2026 @ Food Fix
- Board Meeting - November 19, 2026 @ Track 424
- "Mending the Line" Film - November 22, 2026 @ State Theatre
- Delta FF Fly Tying Day - December 5, 2026
- Annual Holiday Dinner - December 8, 2026
- Open Tying Night - December 15, 2029 @ Food Fix
- ISE Show - Sacramento, CA - January 14-17, 2027
- Fly Fishing Show - Pleasanton, CA - February 26-28, 2027

SFF 2026 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
Member-at-Large: Dan Ward

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](#)

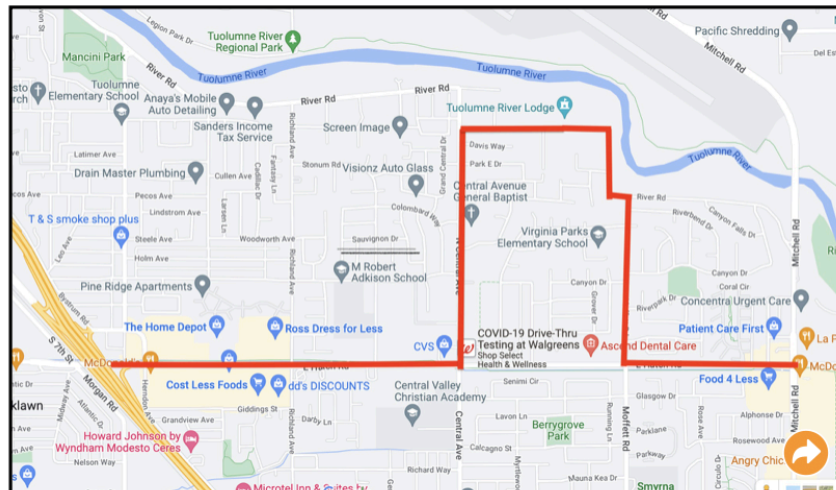
Directions to Tuolumne River Lodge

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.



Around the Water



In the Classroom



Happy Fishing!