Hey, I'm back. I have been installed, at my great honor, as this year's club President. I have a hard act to follow. Jim Goodwin has had the helm for the past two years, and as we can all agree, he has done a fantastic job as our fearless leader. Thank you Jim!

Jim has helped out with a new meeting location at the Lutheran Church. He has dealt with many issues those of you not on the board may not be aware of. He has done it all with humor and grace. Once again, thanks Jim. I owe you a beer!

By the way, I have been joined in the club's leadership by Pat Roe as Vice President, Dennis Stambaugh as Membership/Treasurer, and last but certainly not least, Mike Hewitt as secretary. Thanks gentlemen, I will be leaning on your strong shoulders this year.

It's that time of year again, it's time to clean fly lines, organize fly boxes, check to be sure the leader spools aren't empty, the floatant bottles are still good to go, and while you're at it, maybe give the rods a pre-season cleaning.

Man! I can feel spring in the air on these sunny days between rain storms. Thank goodness for all that rain and snow. It bodes well for a good trout season this year. Although summer and trout are hard to beat, there are opportunities to catch great fish now. Winter steelhead season is NOW!

If that's your game then get out there and get after it. Striper fishing will be good now once the delta clears up a little. There are some trout rivers open all year that will be good when water levels are safe. Pyramid is fishing well and big fish are being caught. As those of you who fish out there know stormy weather means big fish. Just wear all the warmies you own if you head out there this winter!

As those of you who attend meetings know we have had a lean attendance at many of our meetings this past year. I would really like to see more of you at our meetings so let me ask, what would it take to get you to a monthly meeting. I understand the more pressing obligations of children and jobs but I would like to see if there is something the club can do to increase meeting attendance. If you have thoughts or ideas please respond via email or Facebook. Let me know what will bring "You" out to a meeting and we will see what we can do.

We have a meeting this coming Tuesday which will feature a group discussion and a brief film or two. Hope to see you there.
Membership dues are $40 per year for members. Members must also join Fly Fishers International. Dues for the IFF vary, but do not exceed $35 for a single, one-year membership.

February Program:
“Round Table Discussion & Short Films”

February’s meeting will feature the installation of the 2019 officers, followed by a discussion of upcoming activities and outings, including the upcoming Pyramid Outing and the Fly Fishing Film Tour at The State Theater, our annual fundraiser for Rivers of Recovery. Some select short fly fishing films will also be shown.

Fly Fishing Film Tour RoR Fundraiser

It never too early to begin accumulating prizes for the 3FT/RoR event. If you wish to make a donation of a prize or know of anyone or any business that would donate, please touch base with Michael Hewitt. He'll be tracking and assembling donations as they come in.

Other Business

When you see Jim Goodwin, be sure to thank him for all of his effort as President for the past two years. He's done a fine job of keeping the club going and finding some new activities for us. Of course, thanks are due all of our outgoing (and in many cases, ongoing) board members for their work on behalf of the club as well. And remember, all board meetings are open for members to attend, and they are encouraged to attend at any time!
Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2019 Board of Directors

President – Jim Bowen
Vice-President – Pat Roe
Treasurer – Dennis Stambaugh
Secretary – Michael Hewitt
Membership – Dennis Stambaugh
Conservation – Open
Raffles – Jim Goodwin
Webmaster – Mike Hewitt
At-Large – Bud Heintz
At-Large – Jeff Bakker

Board Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at Me & Ed’s Pizza on Pelandale Ave. in Modesto. All members are welcome to attend.

Membership Information

Membership Dues ($40) for 2019 were due January 1st. For your convenience, we can now accept a credit card for your dues, but there will be an additional fee of $1.00 to cover the cost of the transaction.

All memberships are “Family Membership” status. Spouses, significant others and children are now all included in every membership.

Reminder: These are the club dues and 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! Also, remember to list the Stanislaus Fly Fishers as your Affiliated Club. This is important due to our Charter Club status. The online application for FFI membership is linked below.

FFI Membership Application

Pleasanton Show Info

• Dates: February 22, 23, & 24, 2019
• Time
  Saturday: 9am – 5:30pm
  Sunday: 9am – 4:30pm
  Friday: 10am – 6pm
• Location:
  Alameda County Fairgrounds
  4501 Pleasanton Avenue
  Pleasanton, CA, 94566

Club News (cont.)

Raffle News

Pleasanton Show Info

SMALL RAFFLE
When held, the small item raffle is $5 per ticket or 3/$10 and only for members in attendance the night of the meeting. The items will be on display and the raffle tickets sold prior to the meeting. The raffle will be held at the end of the meeting time.

LARGE RAFFLE (52 Playing Cards + 2 Jokers)
There is no current large raffle.
Federal Biological Assessment Will Be A Game Changer For California’s Water Landscape - KPFA

“The Bureau of Reclamation released its long-anticipated Biological Assessment this week, triggering a process that will change the way water deliveries are made in California for both the federal and state water projects. The Bureau says the move will maximize water deliveries to water contractors while promoting the survival of salmon and other wild species by applying new scientific methods. Delta advocates, environmental groups and the fishing industry were quick to criticize the assessment. They say the new rules will harm the Bay Delta environment and put even more pressure on endangered fish species struggling to survive. Vic Bedoian reports from Fresno.”

Central Valley Environmentalists and Farmers Disagree on Interior Department Nominee - KQED (@ 10:39)

“This week President Trump nominated a former lobbyist for the Westlands Water District in the Central Valley for secretary of the interior. Nominee David Bernhardt has been the acting secretary since Ryan Zinke resigned. Big Ag is praising the decision but environmentalists say he pits farmers against fish. Reporter: Monica Velez"
“Dams are not America’s answer to the pyramids of Egypt. We did not build them for religious purposes and they do not consecrate our values... Dams do, in fact, outlive their function. When they do, some should go.” - Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt

California has thousands of dams, from small earthen barriers to large dams hundreds of feet tall. More than 1,400 of those dams are large enough to fall under state safety regulations. A great number of them provide critical water supply, flood control, and hydroelectric power. But many have outlived their functional lifespan and the ecosystem and economic benefits of removal far outweigh the cost of leaving them in place.

California Trout’s Top 5 California DAMS OUT Report highlights five dams that are ripe for removal and that must, for the health of the ecosystem and communities around them, come out. The five dams were selected by analyzing information found in several studies to assess the overall benefits that removing the dam would present to native fish, water, and people. Dams were selected based on the following criteria:

- The dam blocks access to habitat for salmon and steelhead species listed as critical or high concern in the State of Salmonids II Report (written by UC Davis and California Trout scientists).
- The dam no longer serves its original purpose, whether generating hydroelectric power, increasing water supply, or managing flood control, and may now pose a public safety threat.
- A dam removal opportunity is present.
- The primary purpose of the dam is not flood control or water supply for people.*

(*As listed in the United States Army Corps of Engineers National Inventory of Dams)

Dams that are part of the State Water Project or federal Central Valley Project were not considered for inclusion in this report due to their vital role in California’s water supply system. Similarly, dams designed to protect people and property from catastrophic floods also were not considered.

The report highlights removal opportunities, such as dam license renewal or new funding opportunities to support the removal process, and status of work being conducted to that end. It also identifies partners involved in removal efforts and provides opportunities for the public to take action to advocate for removal of each dam listed.

To learn more visit: caltrout.org/DamsOut
Suggested Reading

- “What Are We Doing to Our Public Lands and Waters?”
- “Save the San Joaquin River Gorge! Stop Temperance Flat Dam.” (Includes video)
- “Federal public lands bill, with many Montana benefits, clears early vote”
- “A River’s Last Chance” (Includes video)
- “New Conservation Group Addresses Uncertain Future of the Deschutes”

Video Links

- “Kingdom of Fishing”
- “Blue Carbon – A Story from the Snohomish Estuary”
- “Mosquitos & Mayflies”
- “February Fly Fishing”
- “One Minute Bighorn River Film”

Orvis Animated Knot Series (Click heading for link)