

GCFF NEWSLETTER – September 2021



GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP Oct 5, 6:30 pm

Join us by clicking on the link below:

[Zoom Here](#)

Meeting ID: 841 4986 1103

Passcode: 798502 Dial in: +1 669 900 6833

Special Guest:

[Andy Guibord](#) will be sharing a lifetime of experience focusing on the four seasons of the American River.

American River Chrome



GCFF Coming Events

Aug 31 – Dec 1st Lower Yuba River above Hwy 20 closed

Oct 1 - Opening of Lahontan Cutthroat Season – Pyramid Lake

Oct 5 - GCFF General Meeting via Zoom

Oct 16 – Fish-out: Jackie's Pond

Nov 2 – GCFF General Meeting - Tony Buzolich – Striped Bass in the Delta and local rivers

Nov 5-7 - FFI Virtual Expo (see below)

Nov 9th – 11th Fish-out: Sacramento Delta Stripers

Tip of the Month:

I've been working on my Spey casting for Steelhead this fall/winter & found a great Spey website with awesome instruction, tech, and equipment info! [Swing The Fly](#)

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From your Editor:

Please send stories, articles, and/or pictures for next month's newsletter to your Newsletter Editor, **Lee Coffee** (leecoffee13@gmail.com). I would love to hear from you with ideas, suggestions, or written and photographic material. Note: *Send pictures at high resolution and include person name, date, general place, & gear/technique etc.* Please get your submissions to me by Oct 15 and/or let me know if something is coming later.

Thank you!

Steelhead Season is Near **BREAKING NEWS (click)**

Northwest Steelhead in Danger!

The number of steelhead returning to the Columbia River this year is the lowest ever recorded. A group of conservation and fishing organizations say people should stop fishing for them this fall. Listen to April Vokey Interview: [Anchored with April Vokey](#)

CDFW Reopens 34 Properties After USDA Forest Service Lifts Statewide Closure

President's Message:



Hi everyone.

Another month of 2021 in the record books and what events we have experienced. For me, in addition to the numerous holy days of Judaism during September this year, I lost my best friend for the last eleven plus years on September 13th when my dog, Gracie, died. I found the energy to fish only one day and a slow day it was. I was not able to get, as the expression goes, my head in the game. I returned home after a sorely needed relaxing weekend with my daughter-in-law, my son, and my two grandchildren in Berkeley. So, here I am once again preparing for another club board meeting and writing a message to you, our club members.

With all the fly-fishing information, written articles, YouTube videos, or live Zoom, out there these days, it is a challenge to know just where our fly-fishing club fits in. Clearly, face-to-face meetings are what should differentiate our club. However, our club has not met face-to-face at the Ponderosa Building since March 2020. That's quite remarkable.

In 2021, about 140 people chose to renew their membership in Gold Country Fly Fishers. About 50 people chose to not renew. Hopefully, we can encourage those folks to rejoin once we are able to meet again at the Fairgrounds. The club's monthly Zoom meetings are attended on average by only 25 members. So, the club is still not attracting a very high proportion of our members. Given the absence of face-to-face meetings, the board members receive almost no feedback on how members and non-members believe the club is doing. It certainly has not been as much fun to be on the board during these times, we have done our best to figure what best attracts and retains our members. Please let us know how we've done by considering three questions:

1. What has the board been doing well and should continue to do?
2. What do you believe to be less beneficial and should be eliminated?
3. What have you not seen but would like to see in the future?

Please consider these questions and send your suggestions to the board member of your choice.

The board has chosen to implement a new tool to help operate the club. The tool is called Club Express. It includes member management, e.g., the roster, event management, e.g., fishouts, classes & clinics, communications, e.g., newsletter and emails, all integrated into a single website point of entry. As is common among organizations, our club evolved with the introduction of various technology tools over the years. The new Club Express tool will take all those disparate tools and integrate them. This will greatly reduce redundancy of records and tasks.

As a result, however, you, our members, will need to do a little work for us. You will receive emails with instructions on how to get up and running in this new tool. One huge benefit of Club Express is a 24/7 support desk for all members not just for those few responsible to operating the tool. So, anytime you have an issue, there is help available.

The next general Zoom meeting occurs on October 5th and will feature Andy Guiborg. A staff member at Kiene's for over twenty years, Andy has done it all. He has fly fished for Tarpon in the Caribbean, Stripers in the rivers of the central valley, and trout all over the western US. Andy is a prolific writer and photographer whose images have appeared in national publications, and he also writes a regular column for California Fly Fisher Magazine. Andy will talk about fly fishing the American River.

Please stay safe and fish when you can.

Tight lines!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry Strauss
GCFF President
The tug is the drug!

GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Tuesday October 5th at 6:30pm PDT

Andy Guibord is a NorCal fly-fishing legend. He has been a fly-fishing guide, a fly tyer, a casting instructor, and wildlife photographer for more than twenty years in our Central Valley and Sierra Foothills. He is also the author of a very informative and beautiful website/blog. Andy says the purpose of his endeavor is to offer services as a guide and teacher, and to share his many years of fishing knowledge and passion for photography and life. If you have not already run into Andy, then check him out at: <https://andyguibord.wordpress.com/> We are lucky to have Andy as our guest speaker this month to share some of his experience focusing on the four seasons of the American River.



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GCFF: 2022 Leadership Slate

by: Larry Strauss

The nominating committee composed of Larry Strauss, Bill Burden, Tom Grant, Clay Hash, and Dave Ackerman are pleased to present this slate of officers and directors to the GCFF membership for a vote at the November general meeting:

President: Bill Burden 1 yr term
Vice Pres.: Clay Hash 1 yr term
Treasurer: Mike McKinley 1 yr term
Secretary: Debbie Bond 1 yr term
Director: Scott Berry 2nd yr
Director: Carol Kramer 1 yr term
Director: Larry Strauss Past Pres
Director: Mark Seufert 2 yr term
Director: Mike Connor 2 yr term

The vote will be for all but Scott, in his second year of a two year term, and me, by virtue of the bylaws, I can accept the fifth director seat. Carol is filling the second year position of Debbie Bond as she will continue, if elected, as secretary.

Clearly the club will be in good hands. The new members in 2022 are Clay Hash, Mark Seufert, and Mike Connor. Please thank them for their service when you have a moment.

I also want to thank each of you for your support of me and the club during my tenure as president. Saying the last 2 years were unusual is certainly an understatement. So far, the club has persevered and I know good things are in store in the future.

Fish-out Reports

By Tom Grant

Fish-out Leaders needed - If you have an idea for a fish-out for the coming months and/or would like to lead a trip please contact Tom Grant, 530-263-2492. We will also be reaching out to last year's leaders to build-up our 2021/22 Fish-out schedule. Pyramid Lake Lahontan Cutthroat season is now open so we'd love to see someone volunteer to organize a fish-out!

Current Schedule

Sat, Oct 16 - **Lakewood Bass Fish-out** (Jackie's Pond)



Bass and Bluegill fishing on private pond! 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
8800 Auburn Valley Rd, Auburn, CA 95602
This fishout has a 8 person limit. All participants must be GCFF members **and sign the new 2021 Liability Waiver**, and show proof of completed Covid -19 vaccinations completed 2 or more weeks in advance of this event. Further details and map on the [GCFF website](#) .

November 9 - 11, 2021 - **Sacramento Delta Stripers!** (Tues, Wed, and Thurs)



If you've never caught a striper on a fly rod you NEED to do this trip! Plenty of details on the [GCFF website](#)
B&W Marina 964 Brannan Island Rd, Isleton, CA 95641

News from NCCFFI, September 22, 2021
By Dr. Mark Rockwell, President

Please indulge me and read this through to the end. Thank You!

After returning from fishing in British Columbia where the guides we fished with did not wear masks & were not vaccinated against COVID-19, I was perplexed. I believe we all share a responsibility to each other to do our best to avoid spreading the disease. Hence, I am sharing with you my suggestions for avoiding COVID, and how the vaccine works.

The impact of the Delta variant of COVID-19 is taking its toll on us. Just yesterday more than 2,300 Americans died of COVID. We cannot think we are out of the woods with this disease, and we must admit we are all at risk of contracting COVID in our daily lives. This is an air-borne problem, and the disease is transmitted from the lungs of infected individuals to others around them. We must recognize that it is up to us to act responsibly to stop the spread. Wearing a mask tells everyone that you care about them, be it your family members, neighbors, or friends at a fly club meeting. Wearing a mask is an inconvenience but is necessary to protect those you care about.

Also, of importance is getting vaccinated. I've done a deep dive on the mRNA vaccines to understand them better, and to evaluate their risks. It is clear to me, a health care professional, that these are safe and effective vaccines. They are different from previous vaccines in that they are not an attenuated or killed virus, like the flu vaccines. They are a way to direct your body, using the mRNA messenger your body already uses, to produce a protein which blocks the ability of the virus to attach to your cells. mRNA is a normal cellular component, and our body uses it every day. It is a directive molecule, and part of normal physiology & body chemistry. As such, your body accepts them readily and allows them to direct the production of antibodies (the proteins) that block the virus. This is revolutionary new molecular chemistry, and more safe than previous vaccines. I encourage you to consider getting vaccinated. Also, if you qualify, consider a booster. Immunity naturally reduces over time, which is normal body physiology. When a threat is not imminent the body relaxes (lowers its immune response). Hence, a booster should be considered.

Why do I spend time and energy writing this? Because I care about all of you! You are all part of my fishing family, and as such I want the best for you. We all want good health, and to protect our families and friends. Getting vaccinated and wearing a mask to prevent the spread of COVID-19 & its variants is the best way to accomplish a healthy outcome. **How long do we have to do this? For as long as it takes!** We've passed 680,000 deaths+ in the U.S. from COVID. This is no joke!

Don't fall prey to the rumors & myths on the internet, and don't listen to uninformed individuals who tell you stories about the vaccine or wearing a mask. Masks & the vaccine are necessary defenses to this disease. Scientists do not post their findings on the internet. They post in scientific journals, and that is where the truth resides on science matters. Healthcare is a science driven profession, and a trust in the science is important for good health outcomes. Follow the CDC directives, and the California Dept. of Health recommendations. They are using science, not rumor, to protect all of us. Believe what they say. The directives likely will change over time, driven by new discoveries about the disease and what works for treatment or protection. That is how science works. It's a "learn as we go process" with this new (**novel**) virus and its variants. Stay informed and trusting of your doctors.

My hope is to inform everyone about this disease and how to avoid it. Your lives and the lives of your friends & family are at risk today - like it or not. Please - be careful and do what you know inside is best for you and your loved ones. It's a responsibility we all have to each other. Be strong & vigilant. We will get past this. It, too, will pass.

September Report California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) Activities

By Cindy Charles, Golden West Fly Fishers

The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance has been in the trenches fighting for fisheries and water quality on multiple fronts during this historic 2021 drought. Here is a link to our website for the most current news <https://calsport.org/news>

Recent activities include:

- **Sacramento River:** On August 26th, the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, AquAlliance and the California Water Impact Network filed a lawsuit in federal District Court against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation over the plans of a group of Sacramento River Settlement Contractors to pump extra groundwater in 2021. Reclamation's Plan would enable further groundwater pumping from an already depleted groundwater basin during the current drought. It is noteworthy that these water users have enough river water now to sell to south-of-Delta interests. The Court denied an injunction against the additional groundwater extraction, and CSPA and allies are appealing the denial. Meanwhile, the case is pending until later this year and the groundwater extra pumping continues.
- **Yuba River:** CSPA gave a presentation on September 17 on lower Yuba River flows in an important public technical workshop at the State Water Board. The subject of the workshop was the Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the FERC relicensing of the Yuba River Development Project. The purpose of the workshop was to review the technical issues raised in petitions for reconsideration of the Certification. Project owner Yuba Water Agency, CDFW, and a coalition of NGO's, including CSPA, each filed petitions. NGO Petitioners objected to the certification because key conditions related to flows and habitat restoration were vague and kicked the can down the road on controversial issues, including flow. CSPA expects the CA Water Board to make a final decision on the petitions in an upcoming meeting.
- **California Drought Plan:** CSPA has been providing timely and extensive feedback on drought planning responses to the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources, who "manage" the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project. Most recently, CSPA appeared before the State Water Board on September 21 to advocate for an immediate halt to water transfers from Sacramento River Settlement Contractors to farmers south of the Delta. Cessation of these transfers would increase end-of-November storage in Shasta Reservoir by over 100,000 acre-feet. CSPA told the Board:

[S]tart now to keep the present condition from getting worse. Specifically, the Board should act now to end the ongoing water transfers that BOR is making on behalf of Sacramento River Settlement Contractors from water sourced in Shasta Reservoir. The Board should not allow it to get worse by allowing BOR to complete these transfers in the balance of September and in October. The August Addendum currently anticipates Shasta storage to be 728 thousand acre-feet. That storage level is reckless.

Conservation Committee

September was finally a month that the GCFE members were able to get out on the river and help clean up our watershed. Many of our members signed up for the SYRCL sponsored Great Yuba River cleanup. The annual event is about the 18th year for our club and 23 years for SYRCL. Because of Covid protocols this year, the masked volunteers worked in smaller groups on our lower Yuba River Parks Bar site.

Our thanks go out to a large group of volunteers from California Solar in Grass Valley who came out and worked hard and really helped us all out. Our group picked up an estimated 4,000 lbs. of trash, junk, car parts, and household garbage. Even though we picked up almost a ton of trash, we were unable to get everything because of time and some items were just too large for us. Our plan is to do two events in the future to help keep the river clean.

The club working with SYRCL will be scheduling another river cleanup soon and we are asking our members when they are out on the river to take a few extra minutes to find some trash and take it with you.

Because of new Covid guidelines that have been passed onto all the Fly Fishers International clubs in the Country of which we are a member, all clubs have been asked not to sponsor or attend any large gathering and to adopt all local covid protocols. With that being said, our booth and our event at the Pleasanton Fly Fishing show in February 2022 has been canceled, the show is still scheduled to be open.

Covid protocols are going to be a new way of life for all of us in our near future. We all need to work together to get safely through these trying times. We are all lucky that we have a sport that gets us outside into the great watershed we have in our area. Go Fish'n!

The FFI is having a Virtual Expo November 5th through 7th. The online Expo is offering over 150 workshops. There is a one-time cost of \$25 for the 3-day event. Check out the FFI website at Flyfishersinternational.org

Thanks to those that helped!



- Bill Burden
- Drew
- Rick Weaver
- Pam Kline
- Debbie De Santos
- Debbie Bond
- Mark Seufert
- Rocco
- Frank R
- Dennis Monax
- Clay Hash
- David Cowell
- Sam H

And Others!



Pretty Fish of The Month

Dave Streater – Canejos River CO



Jon-Luk Ryan - Yuba



Roger Stover – Redside McKenzie River, OR



Tom Grant – Skeena River, BC



Mark Rockwell – Big Chrome & Friends on the Skeena



Rich Choy – Hex Hatch Almanor & Butt Valley



Catch This!

by Roger Stover

Select articles and videos to improve your game and enhance your enjoyment.

Eliminating a Bad Surprise

Earlier this year I was fishing the Lower Yuba and having a bit of a challenge finding willing fish. So, when I finally hooked a nice fish, probably 17" or more, I was stoked! I hooked this trout in a pool below a tailout and, as it went barreling downstream toward another tailout drop—with a huge snag in the middle of it—I was thinking, "I'd better get this under control fast." But, before I could apply some extra drag my spool suddenly stopped, and it was "goodbye fish" when my tippet broke. I hate that. This fish had taken me down to my backing on the reel, where the line was crossed underneath other wrap of line on the spool, an underwrap. I was baffled by the physics of this. I posted the question of how this could happen on the Trout Unlimited Forum, and found the answer: by winding up my leader and tippet all the way onto the spool at the end of an outing, it found its way underneath another wrap. Because line is often very loosely wrapped on a stored reel, the underwrap can go undetected as it gets deeper into the spool. With my line rapidly unspooling by a running fish, the underwrap finally tightened to the point that it was essentially a knot. Lost fish = bad surprise. Has this ever happened to you? This video explains it and offers a nice fix.

- [Never Get Under wraps on Your Fly Reel Again](#)

When Indicator Use is, uh, Indicated

Tom Rosenbauer explains and demonstrates the "when and where" of indicator fishing, not the "how". Some very good information here.

- [Indicator Fly Fishing – When and Where to Use](#)

A Fun Little Project for Managing Tippet

I usually carry 3 or 4 spools of tippet material on my chest pack so that I can adjust to conditions and fishing style quickly. I happen to use Stroft GTM monofilament, that I buy on 130-meter spools. They come with a foam rubber tender to keep the line in place on the spools, but these don't last very long and need to be replaced long before I use up the material. I searched around the Internet for options and found this video by Tim Flagler, showing how to make some pretty cool tenders that work well. They're also fun to make.

- [DIY Spool Tenders](#)

Domenick Swentosky's presentation at our club meeting a few months ago was outstanding. He just announced his inaugural podcast, which is sure to be instructive and entertaining. Check it out:

- [Episode 1: This Is Troutbitten](#) (ed note: I listened to it – Dom does not disappoint!)

Roger

FLYPAPER

by
Ralph Wood



UNREAL EGG

Since this is Salmon and Steelhead time, I thought that an egg pattern would be appropriate. This is a simple pattern originated in 1994 when almost all of us were following the latest craze of the time ---- bead flies. The pattern isn't seen much anymore because of our current trend is to use the pegging beads system a la Alaska style. That certainly doesn't mean that this fly is not effective. It just means that that we have moved on to another craze!

I like to have several variations of any pattern or type in my boxes. If the fish aren't taking the pattern I have on, I like to offer them a variation. Quite frequently the change will result in "fish on". After all no one wants the same desert time after time.

This egg pattern was originated by Jim Pettis, a guide with the Redding Fly Shop, in 1994. The unreal egg is tied with Glo Bug yarn over the body which when wet allows the interior bead to glow through.

Unreal Egg

Hook: Tiemco 2457 #12

Thread: 6/0 red

Bead: Dark orange(sl) or red(sl)

Over-body: Peach King, Champagne, or Apricot Glo Bug Yarn.

1. Slide the bead on the hook and start a base approximately three eye lengths back from the eye and wrap forward.
2. Use between a half and a quarter strand of yarn. Insert the center of the yarn over the hook eye extending past the base. It is OK to have a small amount of yarn facing into the bead after you trim the excess.
3. Slide the bead onto the base and over the remaining tuft of yarn. Fasten the bead by bringing the thread under the bead and making a few wraps.
4. Use your fingers or a small brush and tease the yarn fibers evenly around the bead. Then using the thread tie down the fibers and whip finish. Trim the excess yarn close to the bead. FINITO!

Jim Pettis used a twelve-foot leader with another fly as a dropper with no weight and an indicator. This system is good for deep runs and pools. Of course, the standard nymphing system will also work.

Thanks to Frank Rinella for the suggestion to use a steelhead fly this issue!

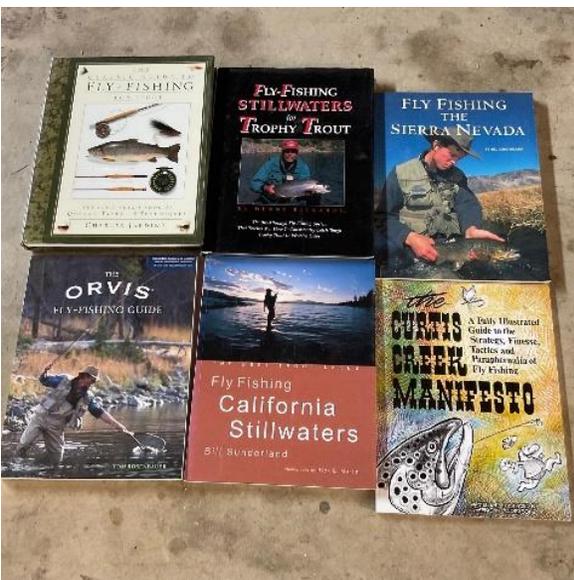
Fly Gear for Sale

Lisa Cody - A previous member of our club has some nice gear to pass on at good pricing

You may contact her at: **soderman820@gmail.com**

Sage XP 6 wt, 9.0' with reel & case / Sage SP 5 wt, 9'6" with reel & case

Assorted Flies & Boxes / Lines / Assorted Books / Vest / Staff/ Net



Gold Country Fly Fishers

Post Office Box 2988
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Officers and Board Members:

President:	Larry Strauss
Vice President:	Bill Burden
Treasurer:	Mike McKinley
Director:	Frank Rinella
Director:	Lee Coffee
Director:	Rich Tortosa
Director:	Carol Kramer
Director:	Scott Berry
Director:	Debbie Bond

Committees and Chairs:

Fish-Outs:	Tom Grant
Classes, Clinics, Workshops:	Clay Hash
Newsletter:	Lee Coffee
Meeting Programs:	Dave Ackerman
Membership:	Debbie DiSanto, Pam Kline
New Member Orientation:	TBD
Website:	Tom Grant
Conservation:	Frank Rinella, Drew Irby, Wilton Fryer
Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge:	Bob Winters & Frank Rinella
Trout in the Classroom:	Robin Denegri, Larry Uno
Holiday Fund Raiser:	Bill Burden
Damsels – Women Fly Fish Too:	Diane Berg
General Meeting Dinners:	Mike Connor
-Drinks and Snacks:	Larry Uno
-Raffle:	TBD
-Setup and Take-down:	Lee Coffee & TBD
Library:	Mark Hermes
NCCFFI:	Frank Rinella

MISSION STATEMENT

The Purpose and Objectives of Gold Country Fly Fishers are to:

- Support the "Catch and Release Ethic".
- Support fly fishing for the recreation of members.
- Promote and support the conservation of our waters and fisheries.
- Provide assistance to members in the skills and techniques of fly fishing.
- Publicize and promote fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying and other related topics.
- Represent fly fishers through liaison with sports and conservation organizations.