

GCFF NEWSLETTER – December 2020



Promoting the Art, Recreation & Conservation of Fly Fishing Since 1975

No December GCFF General Meeting
Next meeting in 2021
January 5th at 6:30PM

**PLEASE JOIN THE GCFF ZOOM
GENERAL MEETING**

Simply click on this link:

[General Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 841 4986 1103

Passcode: 798502

Dial in: +1 669 900 6833

[ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS](#)

NOTE: Zoom credentials will be the same for all general meetings. Looking forward to seeing you there!

From your Editor:

Please send stories and/or pictures for next month's newsletter to your Newsletter Editor, **Lee Coffee** (leecoffee13@gmail.com). He would love to hear from you with ideas, suggestions, or written and photographic material. **Please get your submissions to him by January 10th and/or let him know when something is coming.**

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**GENERAL MEETING OF
THE MEMBERSHIP
Tuesday January 5th
Via ZOOM at 6:30pm PDT**

Note: As in the past, there will be no December Membership meeting

**HOW TO JOIN OUR ZOOM
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Join us by clicking on the link below:

[Zoom Here](#)

Meeting ID: 841 4986 1103

Passcode: 798502

Dial in: +1 669 900 6833

Looking forward to seeing you there!

President's Message:



Hi everyone.

Here we are at year end. How many times have you heard someone say, "I can't wait for 2020 to be over!"? I reviewed my first letter to the club from last December. We had terrific plans but cancelled almost everything the 2020 board had planned for the year. COVID-19 is being called a once in a century event. Fortunately, I have not heard of someone in my family or circle of close friends who was taken ill by the virus. I have not heard that any of our club's members had to deal with the virus. It gave me much to be thankful for. I believe myself to be generally optimistic. I use fly fishing to hone my optimism since I find it rather easy to be optimistic when planning for fly fishing. So, let's be optimistic in looking forward to 2021!

It is my honor to report the club has elected the 2021 board of directors.

President: Larry Strauss
Vice Pres.: Bill Burden
Treasurer: Mike McKinley

Board Members: Lee Coffee Carol Kramer
Rich Tortosa Scott Berry
Frank Rinella Debbie Bond

The board has pondered the question, "what value does our club have in the eyes of the members?" Please read Bill Burden's article titled, "What is GCOFF Worth to You?" elsewhere in this newsletter. We are collecting statements of how our club provides value initially from the board and committee chairs. However, it is even more important to hear from our members at large. Please heed Bill's request to send your thoughts on how the club provides you value.

Our club has three primary areas of spending: 1) our meeting facility, 2) our membership in Fly Fishers International including our insurance policies, and 3) our meeting speakers. GCOFF is financially healthy relative to many fly fishing clubs in that we have a reasonable cash reserve. Since we are not meeting at the fairgrounds, we are not paying for the Ponderosa building. However, our FFI membership, insurance, meeting speakers, and other odds and ends do require funds. The GCOFF dues for 2021 will remain unchanged from 2020. The individual 2021 membership will be \$40 and the family membership will be \$60. It is the board's hope that most of our current members will renew their membership in 2021. The revenue from membership dues will enable our club to offer high caliber meeting presenters throughout 2021. Like you, the existence of GCOFF is important to me. While I have fished my entire life and exclusively fly fished since the 1980s, I find there is more to learn about this sport and there is no better way to acquire knowledge than through the GCOFF community. I look for primarily two attributes when meeting new people: commonality and likeability. Most of my current circle of good friends have come from our fly fishing club. So, please join the GCOFF leadership in 2021 and renew your membership. We have made the renewal process simple. Click on this link: [Renew GCOFF Membership](#) and pay with your bank card. Or mail a check to Treasurer Mike McKinley at 10660 Harris Road, Auburn, CA 95903.

I wish all of you the best for this yearend holiday season. Should you choose to celebrate with family or friends outside your immediate household, please be safe.

Larry Strauss
GCOFF President

Be well and stay safe!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Larry Strauss
GCOFF President
The tug is the drug!

What is GCFF Worth to You?

What a year! Something to tell your grandkids about! No fishouts this year, though It sounds like most of us were able to do some fishing anyway. No meetings since March except for our Zoom meetings and no big December fund-raiser feast! Nonetheless, the club's Board of Directors is actively planning for next year even while so much seems up in the air. The good news is the new vaccines that could "change everything."

We have had some excellent speakers on our Zoom meetings (e.g., Devin Olsen on Euro-Nymphing), and good fishing info on the GCFF Website and Forum. We have also continued to plan 'COVID-19 Safe' informal fishouts and other activities for 2021, so we can be fully ready when conditions do improve.

Why I Value My Membership

Some initial responses from some of our members when asked what value they get from their membership in Gold Country Fly Fishers:

- Learning about new waters.
- Fishouts are the greatest. Miss them!
- The friendships and social network that comes from membership and participation with club members.
- Fly Fishing 101 was invaluable.
- Getting to know more about this wonderful area from the best fly fishers anywhere.
- Tri-tip BBQ.
- The more active I have become the more I value my membership.

Tell us why you value membership in Gold Country Fly Fishers:

- The best fishout?
- A tip?
- A most memorable presentation?

Do you have suggestions to make this club better? Let us know! Contact Bill Burden (Wlmburden3@gmail.com) and we will add your comments to our next Newsletter issue!

In the meantime, we should all take advantage of what we have available to us now:

- Look for the email links for the monthly Zoom meetings (starting again in January). A simple click will take you there (Larry includes step-by-step directions). Future meetings will also focus on sharing what is fishing well right now –from member's experiences. We are adding additional Zoom meetings on specific tips and techniques and fly-tying tutorials from some of our talented members!
- Go to the club's website (<https://www.goldcountryff.org>), and particularly to the Forum page (for members only). This is an underused treasure and is the right tool for staying connected in our COVID-19 world.
- Let us know what you like, and what you think could be better. Also, give us your feedback on the meetings, the speakers, and any other aspect of GCFF activities. We will have a new separate sidebar in the Newsletter for your input on these issues each month.

One other thing you can do. GCFF is a volunteer-run organization. We operate by our members getting involved in the big and little things that keep our club going. Our members have different interests, responsibilities, and talents but volunteering an hour or two a month on a club committee can make a big difference – particularly when we get back to fishouts and in person meetings. GCFF has a great bunch of member volunteers, but we need to keep that group fresh. Check out the committee list here in the newsletter and see what gets your attention.

In the meantime, if you have any ideas or suggestions, you can get in touch with me – I would love to hear it!

Bill Burden

wlmburden@gmail.com.

DON'T MISS OUT!

GCFF Monthly zoom meetings offer:

- Face-to-face (on the computer screen) meetings with club members
- A chance to visit with friends you may not see that often these days
- Updates on who is catching fish and where (i.e., fishing reports)
- Presentations by experts on fishing techniques and/or locations
- Complete with their slides and photos, just like a real meeting
- Update on GCFF activities by club officers
- All in a covid-free atmosphere (your home)

[Don't zoom? It's easy – now is the time to learn.](#)

[Click This Link to Learn How:](#)

Long Line Euro Nymphing the Lower Yuba River GCFF Member Spotlight: Roger Stover

By Jon Baiocchi



I'm always amazed at some of my guests and friends whose fly fishing skills sky rocket in a very short time. We are all different, and each of us learns at varied rates as we climb the staircase of progression. With fly fishing, we are constantly learning, and that is a big part of its allure, as the riddle is never really answered. Our craft is one that is a perishable skill. You must keep in tune with it to succeed. The more you fish, the more experience you have that can be applied to myriad opportunities. Put in the work, and see results, a discipline that must be balanced to still make it fun, whether we are successful, or not.

One of those friends whose skills has increased dramatically in a short time happens to be a member of our club, Roger Stover.

He took it upon himself to not only learn the moody Lower Yuba River, but to adapt his love of Euro nymphing to a big water scenario. Roger put in many hours of studying the idiosyncrasies of how one could effectively Euro nymph the Yuba. Fly design, reading the right water, fighting fish, leader construction, and equipment selection just to name a few. Many hours of research with internet explorations were put in, then applying those ideas to the water, and putting in well over a hundred days a year refining the technique. It paid off quickly for Roger.

Though I have been tight lining since the 70's, the game has been elevated substantially by the European influence, mainly in regards to rod construction, fly design, and the configuration of the leader. Roger opened my eyes to the possibilities of taking on big water with the Euro rig where one must cast far, up to 40 feet out and further if needed. The entire system he found most effective is so simple and clean and consists of a competition Euro nymphing fly line, a

40 foot leader with a sighter section, an extremely heavy point fly, and a smaller fly on the tag end dropper. That's it. With this rig, an angler does not have to adjust an indicator for depth, or add and subtract additional split shot. Instead the angler adjusts the length of line out and the rod position, both its angle to the river surface, and its position relative to the fly, leading, tracking or following. It's so simple, and much easier for me to teach my guests how to effectively nymph, no matter the river. They not only see the take, but feel it, and that's where it all clicks with them. Now they understand the concept of nymphing. Now they are on their way in being in tune with the arena that surrounds them. Hat's off to fly anglers like Roger who are never satisfied with mediocrity, and not only put in the work, but find great pleasure in sharing the knowledge so others may prosper.

Conservation and Education Committee

Our committee is facing a lot of unknowns in our ability to hold meetings or schedule events for the near future. We as your co-chairs of the committee will do our best to keep all the members informed if any new conservation news, meetings, or events happen. On a local note, SYRCL, SSI, and the Bear Yuba Land Trust are up and running and have been having fund raisers and online events to keep them afloat, so please do what you can to help them out.

Outside of our area an incredibly positive thing has happened. The permitting for the Pebble Mine in Alaska has been denied! This battle has been going on for many years and we hope that this decision puts a final stop to this unneeded and unwanted project by many in the conservation and fishing communities.

Another positive development is the moving forward of the Klamath dam removal. This is a project that our own Mark Rockwell has been working on for over 10 years. Thank you to Mark and your committee members. This project when finished will give the Klamath river Salmon and Steelhead access to many miles of new spawning waters.

We have received word from the Sacramento ISE Show scheduled for the middle of January that the show has been canceled. The Northern California Council Fly Fishers International and our members have been putting on fly tying demonstrations for over twenty years at this show. Last year we had 58 Nor Cal club tyers at the show. The Pleasanton Fly Fishing show in February has not been canceled at this time; however, the NCCFFI Booth and fly casters will not be at the show. The NCCFFI Board has reviewed the safety factors of trying to hold an indoor event and they felt there was no way to practice social distancing in our booth or the isles of the show. Willy George who heads up the casting instructors at the show shared our same thoughts that the instructions could be at risk teaching at the show. The NCCFFI members at the booth and the SF Casting and Anglers club members will not be asked to volunteer for the event, for health and safety reasons.

There are several free Zoom events scheduled by FFI. It is called Season 2. This is a great way to get your fishing fix and practice social distancing. Check the FFI website for details, dates, and times.

Check out FFI Online Season Two! <https://mailchi.mp/flyfishersinternational/8xc4nco9yf-992125?e=a3c0bf68e2>

Co-Chairs:
Frank Rinella
Drew. Irby
Wil Fryer



Catch This!

by Roger Stover

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

Fly-Tying Thread Reference

With so many tying thread choices it can be a bit confusing when deciding which one to use. Likewise, there are times when a recipe calls for a specific thread, we look in our stash, and see that—dang!—we don't have that one. However, we may have something that is very close... we just don't know which one that is.

- This online [Fly Tying Thread Table](#) lists most brands and sizes, along with relative strengths. What I really like is that it is sortable by any column (category) which can help make informed decisions quickly.
- Sometimes, you just want something quick and simple. Here is [J. Stockard's comparison chart](#). When you view this on the website, you can download it as a pdf for use offline.

California's Truckee River

This article is well-written and delivers lots of useable information for fishing the California portion of the Truckee River, map included.

- [California's Truckee River](#) from Fly Fisherman

Great Tip for Stillwater Anglers

We all know that getting our flies to the right depth is critical to hooking up. This can require a lot of experimentation when fishing stillwater, requiring multiple line/leader changes. If you've ever tried to do this while in a float tube or kayak you know how frustrating it can be. In this video Devin Olsen demonstrates a method for changing lines and leaders in these situations that is fast and trouble-free.

- [Stillwater Fly Fishing: A Simple Leader and Quick Line Change System](#)



Update on the Lower Yuba Restoration Project.

The "plain" in this photograph was a 50ft high mountain of cobble just a few weeks ago. It is downstream of Daguerre Point Dam and part of the Hallwood Restoration Project that the The Yuba Water Agency guys described on our October GCFE Zoom meeting. I ran across a couple of surveyors there today and they said that the plan is for a similar treatment to be done to the large island just below the dam in 2021. The goal is to improve the flood plain and habitat for the fishery.

Fish on!
Roger

Northern California Council, FFI November 2020 Report By Mark Rockwell, President

Huge Win on the Klamath - Dams are Coming out



It is with great pride and happiness that I can say that the fight to get 4 dams off the Klamath River in Northern California is nearing the finish line. NCCFFI and interested parties began negotiations for dam removal starting in 2003 to push for removal under the legal requirement to re-license the dams through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). A new 50 year license was being requested by Pacific Power (PacifiCorp) to continue operation. At issue was bringing the dams up to current day environmental standards, which meant fish passage by anadromous species like salmon & steelhead. The question

was: Is it better for PacifiCorp to remove the dams, or upgrade them to allow fish passage. We spent the next 7 years developing arguments to show that removal was financially and ecologically better for everyone.

Two agreements were signed in 2010 to remove the dams and to upgrade the watershed in the upper basin around Klamath Falls to allow fish passage and keep the agricultural community whole with adequate water. For more than 4 years Congress did not act to support the Basin upgrade, and that agreement terminated at the end of 2014. However, a new deal was struck in 2015 to continue the process for dam removal. We have been working on that ever since, including creating a totally independent company, the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC), to manage all issues related to removal & restoration. Here's a link to KRRC to access all documents you may want to look at: <http://www.klamathrenewal.org>. They have been securing permits, hiring contractors, working with FERC to meet federal requirements, working with the states on water quality certifications, and meeting with communities to answer questions and handle concerns. A major partnership has been with the Karuk and Yurok Tribes who live on the river, and meeting their needs in the recovery process.

In 2019 a license transfer request was made with FERC to move the license to operate over to KRRC from PacifiCorp. This past summer 2020 FERC allowed the license to be transferred to KRRC, but held PacifiCorp on the license, making them liable for any risks during removal, as well as any financial overrun costs that might happen. This caused a near termination of the agreement for removal, but we all met and agreed that we'd find a solution, and not terminate the agreement. For the past 3 months negotiations between the 2 states, Tribes, Pacific Power and KRRC have resulted in a Memorandum of Agreement on risk and cost overrun, allowing Pacific Power to be confident they can proceed to decommissioning.

On November 16, 2020 the 2 Governors, Pacific Power leaders, Tribal leaders and KRRC held an announcement Zoom event to share the agreement.

Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvHimoNzC5E&feature=youtu.be>

Press Release: <http://www.klamathrenewal.org/bi-state-agreement-with-klamath-dam-owner-advances-historic-salmon-restoration-plan/>

What this means is that all the major barriers to removal are now gone. The final action that FERC must do is allow the license to be surrendered to KRRC, which was formally requested on November 16, 2020. The states of California & Oregon and Pacific Power each added \$15 million to the funding account, to ensure FERC would be confident there is adequate funds available to complete the removal. Permitting and regulatory evaluation will start immediately, and pre-construction work begins in summer 2022, and removal begins January 2023. All 4 dams will be removed simultaneously. On the KRRC website you can have access to all documents showing the process and timing. We are ready to go, and once license surrender is done, the door is fully open to establish a free flowing Klamath in late 2023.



This is the largest river restoration in U.S. history. NCCFFI has been engaged in this effort for nearly 18 years now, and the finish line is in view! Your NCCFFI is working for you, our members and clubs, on important issues to all who fly fish and care about healthy & vibrant rivers and fish. This will be a win for our State, Tribes, Fly Fishers and Future Generations

The Slow Season?

The winter doldrums are about on us. The water temps are nearing the low 50's to mid 40's. Fish are very slow to bite, and their strike zone is very small. For years, all I could do at this time of year was tie flies or try for steelhead. Fishing for steelhead is a cold and frustrating endeavor. Good water and enough fish to satisfy me means the Trinity.



I am always caught between 2 desires; clear water in the river, vs sufficient rain/snow to make for good fishing next summer. Enough precipitation for summer usually means a blown-out river for steelhead. But lately I have found a third option.

The canyon reservoirs in the north state have been blessed with spotted bass. Spots will continue to bite in cold weather. They might not move far, but they will frequently suspend in 10 to 20 feet of water. They like steep banks where they can move up to sample food that might be washed in, and they want quick access to deeper water for safety. Lake Oroville has an excellent such fishery; closer to home Bullards Bar and

Englebright also have spotted bass.

Ryan Williams has talked with us before. We have his video about Float N Fly on our webpage in the Forum. His webpage also has several educational videos (FlyFishCNV.com). He offers good instruction about the rigging for this technique, as well as what to watch for on the float. This YouTube video is targeted to gear guys, but the basics and tips apply to FF as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqZfnRklvc0>

Note the gear guys are catching crappie; Ryan uses this system on Clear Lake in the spring for crappie, bass, and catfish. Do a little review and/or study and give it a try. Not as far to travel as steelhead, no water color worries, and more bites. Let me know about your success. Any questions? Give me a call!

Michael McKinley



Ack Man-Spotted Bass Bullards
10/2020

More Float & Fly for Spotted Bass from Dave Ackerman – Like Mike says Now is the time to think about hitting Bullards Bar for bigger spotted bass. And they get MUCH larger than this!! This one came deep in the coldest part of the year on a float 'n fly. Dress warm!

Photo Gallery

Mike Tipton and Keith Kinnard took a trip to Idaho in October. Weather was great as was the fishing. They fished Big Lost River & Silver Creek. Here are some fish pics!



Tipton-Kinnard
Idaho 10-2020

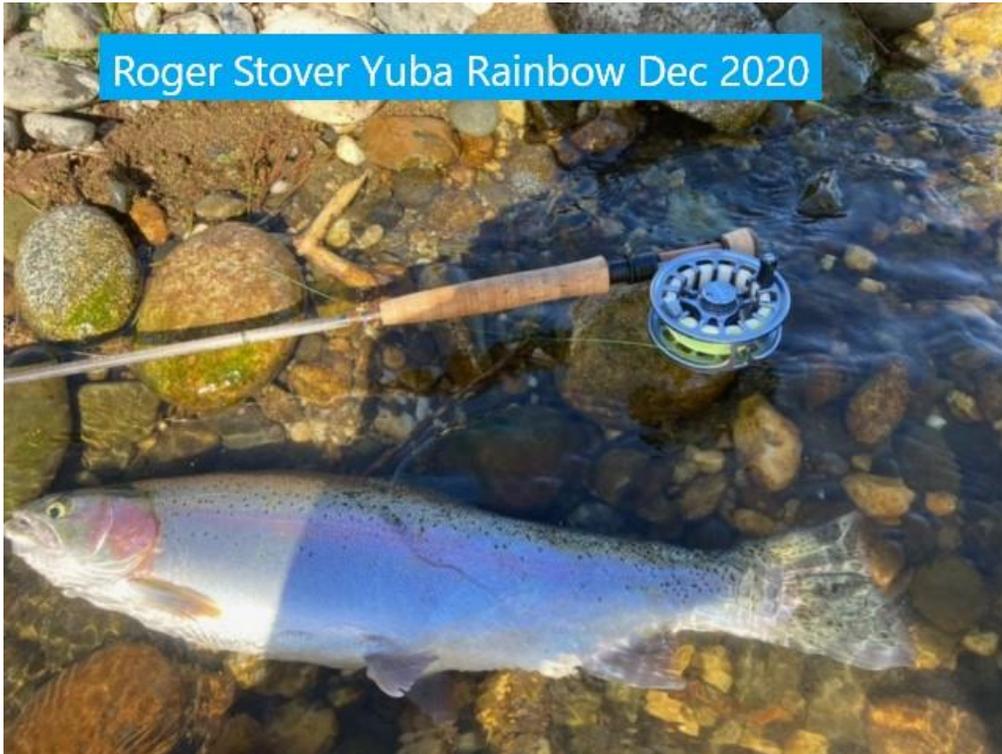


Tipton-Kinnard
Idaho 10-2020

Trent Pridemore submitted this picture from happy Pre-Covid life at the Yuba BBQ & Don't Step on The Fish!



Roger Stover caught a nice rainbow with his 3 wt euro rig on the LY recently - 23"!





From your editor:

For those into big **Coastal Steelhead** note that the Russian River peaked at 250 CFS last week. One more good rain should bring the flows above 300 cfs which means it will be fishable if the bar at the mouth has been breached. Here is a link to [Russian River Fly Fishers](#) for more info. You will need a Steelhead card with your license and it's barbless catch and release only from Nov – April. It is obviously pressured but if you go mid-week it can be good. The Russian fish can be big & tough! Beads, Flesh Flies, Comets on the swing with 7 or 8 wt rod sinking line/tip. See me and Mr. Big Buck a couple of years ago. Note: Probably had a brush a seal/sea lion at the mouth of the river.



FLYPAPER

by
Ralph Wood

The Dark Lord



The Dark Lord is a pattern from the vise of Ron Hart, a long time guide on the Upper Sacramento River. The pattern is a spin off of the Prince Nymph (with a darker tone). It is more imitative of the stone fly nymphs found in the Upper Sacramento. Ron decided to tone down the white biots and the body of peacock herl (using dark brown dubbing) of the original Prince. This has proven to be a winning pattern along the Upper Sacramento River as well as most of the rest of the rivers and creeks in our state. When you can't buy a hit on a Prince Nymph, give this pattern a try.

Dark Lord

Hook: TMC 3761, Mustad 3906B sizes #12-16

Thread: Black 8/0

Body Weight: 5 to 7 wraps of .015 lead wire (optional)

Bead: Gold (if you want additional weight use a gold tungsten bead)

Tail: Two brown goose biots

Rib: Gold wire to match hook size

Body: Dark brown or black antron dubbing

Hackle: Hen saddle black or very dark brown

Wings: Two ginger or tan goose biots

Collar: Same as body dubbing

1. Slide bead on the hook. Start the thread behind the bead and wrap to the bend of the hook. Take two brown goose biots and attach on the sides of the hook shank. Tails should be no longer than 1 1/2 times the gap of the hook. The biots should curve toward the hook.
2. Tie in your gold wire at the base of the tails. Then pinch dub a smooth body

tapered all the way toward the bead. At the largest point the body should be the diameter of the bead.

3. Take the ribbing and make 4 to 5 wraps finishing just behind the bead.
4. Take the ginger or tan biots and tie in flat on top of the body-the tips should extend just beyond the end of the body and curve toward the hook shank.
5. Using the hen hackle fibers, tie in a set of legs on each side of the fly extending the length of the body.
6. Use your dubbing to cover the thread wraps and whip finish right behind the bead.

I fish this fly on a dead drift in my favorite sizes #12 and #14. I use this pattern under an indicator or as a dropper behind a Stimulator or a larger weighted nymph.

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
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New Member Orientation:	TBD
Website:	Tom Grant
Conservation:	Frank Rinella, Drew Irby, Wilton Fryer
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Trout in the Classroom:	Robin Denegri, Larry Uno
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-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.