

Fly Fishers of Davis<http://www.FlyFishersofDavis.org>

Volume 54 Issue 7

The Fisherman's Line



July Meeting: Tuesday July 29, 2025 7:30 pm @ Stonegate Country Club Guide Tad Kisaka Presents The Fisheries of Sitka, Alaska (Southeast)

This month Tad Kisaka, Sitka's longest running freshwater guide, will present via Zoom, Fly Fishing the Fisheries of Sitka, Alaska (Southeast). Tad has been fishing since snoopy poles towered over him. Tad first fell in love with fishing while in the Boy Scouts. Becoming an Eagle Scout taught him valuable life and survival skills. Tad has fished all over the country and even tested the waters abroad. He was introduced to fly fishing while attending the University of Idaho on a Udall Scholarship. It was on Idaho waters that he became addicted to catching fish on the fly. During his college years he also studied overseas in Australia. Traveling around Australia with a backpack and fly rod in tow, he thought the most amazing thing was never knowing what was going to be tugging on the end of his line. Returning home, he stopped off in New Zealand and fished for steelhead on the Tongariro River. Along with receiving his degree from one of the top 10 Natural Resource schools, Tad also earned the Outstanding Senior Award in Fishery Resources and The Outstanding Senior in the College Award. After receiving his degree in Fishery Resources, he traveled around the Northwest, hitting some legendary rivers and lakes. It was then that he landed a biologist position in Vancouver, Washington and learned to fish the Columbia River for spring Chinook salmon, shad, and sturgeon.



"Fishing has guided me to some incredible places and has fostered some lifelong friendships. Although, I have fished across the country, primarily in the Northwest, the waters around Sitka exceed the beauty and fishing value of the other places I have traveled."

Tad currently lives with his wife and 3 young sons year-round in Sitka and loves it. He has been fishing the waters around Sitka since 1999 and is familiar with all the different runs of salmon, the timing of trout and char species, and is an extremely knowledgeable naturalist. "Come up and visit! We'll do some fishing, and I'll show you this magical place that I call home."

THE PREZ SEZ



Hi everyone!

If you missed Fly Fishers of Davis's annual picnic in the park last month, you missed a great event. The weather was perfect, and the event was well attended. Dana's tri-tip sandwiches melted in your mouth, along with numerous tasty side dishes and desserts made for a great afternoon. I would like to thank all members of the setup and planning committee for their contribution to organizing this successful event.

If you missed the annual picnic this year, you would not want to miss the Fly Fishers of Davis annual dinner next year. The event will be held at our usual location, Lillard Hall, on March 14, 2026. The organizing committee has decided to make a change in the menu for 2026. They have opted-out of having the dinner catered, and opted-in for a home-grown Tri-Tip, chicken and sausage dinner with a vegetarian option. Yes, a Tri-Tip Dinner! So, mark your calendars. Save the date. This is going to be one event you do not want to miss.

Ken Lazzaroni

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS



Your FFD Board of Directors meets once per month on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss many aspects of the club, including charitable contributions, conservation issues, budget planning, and planning for the Annual Picnic and Annual Dinner. If you would like to attend a board meeting, bring up an issue you're concerned about, or send a message to your board members and officers, note that the BOD meets conveniently in Davis, and always welcomes your feedback! Since meeting places may change, please contact a board member or club officer for time and place details, if you would like to attend a monthly meeting.

CONSERVATION REPORT

By Lowell Ashbaugh

Conservation Mailing List Want to keep up on conservation issues in between newsletters? Join the FFD Conservation Google Group list. Click [here](#) for instructions on how to join, and search for “FFD-Conservation”. Or send an email to Ashbaugh.lowell@gmail.com with your request.

Note: If you’d like to try writing a conservation column, please let me know. I’d like to find someone to start taking over this role. I’ll help get you started.

Dan Bacher reported some good news in [Daily Kos](#) regarding chinook salmon in the San Joaquin River. For perspective, the Friant Dam was completed in 1944 by the Bureau of Reclamation without a fish ladder or a hatchery, in violation of California Fish and Game Code. Returning salmon had no way to get to their spawning grounds and the once prolific run went extinct after a few years – salmon returned but could only reach the lower river and the sloughs and canals where they perished.

In the 1980s a group of anglers and environmentalists began a movement to restore salmon to the river, and in the 2000s a court settlement mandated flows in a section of the San Joaquin River. In 2014, the San Joaquin River Restoration Program was established by legal action and political pressure, and reintroduced spring-run salmon to the river. The reintroduced salmon came from the Feather River Hatchery.

This year, the spring-run salmon hit a new record for returning fish, with 448 adults. This is the highest number recorded since 2014. These fish were caught in Fyke Traps located in the Eastside Bypass and at Sack Dam in the San Joaquin Valley. From there, they are trucked to Reach 1 of the Restoration Area to hold over before the spawn, as you can see in the map to the right. These salmon will spawn in September, with the new generation emerging in November. They will migrate out to the ocean in spring 2026. Biologists are hopeful that the new generation will be numerous and increase the number of returning fish in a few more years.

Utah Senator Mike Lee introduced an amendment to the budget reconciliation bill to sell off up to 3.3 million acres of federal lands in part to pay for tax cuts and in part to create development projects for housing. Lee’s proposal would also direct the Forest Service and BLM to make more than 250 million additional acres eligible for sale. This resulted in a huge outcry from outdoor recreation groups, hunters, and those of us who like to fish.

Opposition to the proposal also included arguments that making federal lands available for affordable housing has not worked in the past, and even though Senator Lee proposed the sell-off to address that issue it contained no provisions to ensure the land would be used in that way. Fortunately, the Senate Parliamentarian ruled that the provision could not be included without getting a 60-vote majority, so it was stripped out of the reconciliation bill. The bill that passed and was signed into law did not have this provision.

Our federal lands are still under assault, though, threatening many of the places we love to fish. Keep on the lookout for additional proposals to sell federal lands cheap so that developers can make a profit. The losers in these proposals will be not only those of us who use the land for recreation, but also all American taxpayers who will be giving these lands away for far less than they’re worth. Development for affordable housing does



Restoration Area map showing key in-river passage impediments and general location of adult salmon capture and release. From San Joaquin River Restoration Program.

not pencil out, high-value homes are required to make the economics work. You can read more details at [Propublica](#).

[The California Water Impact Network](#) (C-WIN) has submitted [written testimony](#) and a [detailed report](#) to a State Water Board hearing excoriating Governor Newsom's proposed Delta Water Conveyance Project (DCP). The DCP is the Delta Tunnel, which many people say would destroy the delta and cause more serious harm to California's salmon fishery.

"Our [testimony](#) and [full report](#) were prepared by [ECONorthwest](#), a leading environmental economics research firm, and it documents how the DCP simply doesn't pencil out," said Carolee Krieger, C-WIN's executive director. "ECONorthwest estimates that if it ends up getting built, **the DCP could cost anywhere from \$60 to over \$100 billion.**" That is 3-5 times higher than the approximately \$20 billion that the Department of Water Resources has been falsely claiming.

"The DCP represents a massive transfer of money from working Americans to powerful corporations and wealthy plutocrats," said Gomberg. "The DCP will basically exist to provide guaranteed revenues for Southern California water agencies and to maximize profits for almond and pistachio producers in Kern County, with most of the costs borne by Southern California ratepayers and taxpayers. Their children and grandchildren will still be paying the interest and operating costs of this massive boondoggle decades from now."

The ECONorthwest testimony, prepared by [Dr. Mark Buckley](#), details multiple flaws with the DCP, including:

Cost Overruns and Affordability - The Oroville spillway restoration was supposed to cost \$200 million. It ended up costing \$1.1 billion – 450% higher. Estimated costs for the California High Speed Rail were \$33 billion, with real costs now standing at about \$128 billion and rising. DWR's low-ball cost estimate for the DCP similarly fails to account for multiple sources of uncertainty and financial risks. With inevitable cost overruns and water rates rising quickly, the DCP could force many households, both urban and rural, to choose between paying for water and other basic needs.

Opportunity Costs - A project that could end up costing well over \$60 billion negates the possibility of other investments in conservation, local supplies such as recycled water and stormwater capture, and retirement of agricultural land.

Overestimated Municipal Water Demand - Urban water use is steadily declining as Californians become more waterwise. Moreover, California's population growth is slowing in part due to climate change-induced cost of living impacts, including increased insurance rates. The cherry-picked forecast water demand scenario used to justify the DCP therefore has no basis in reality.

Fishery Collapse - Economic losses from salmon fishery impacts would range between present value \$1.1 and \$2.6 billion over the lifetime of the DCP.

The ECONorthwest report also documents flaws in DWR's assessment of seismic benefits and agricultural impacts, further undermining their justifications for the DCP.

"It is time to put this fever dream to bed and the ECONorthwest report proves why," said Gomberg.

Read the [full testimony](#) and [report](#).

FLY CASTING PROGRAM

By Jeff Hogan

The recent single hand spey casting clinic at Gristmill on the American Rivers was attended by four very enthusiastic students. They made steady progress and at the end of the session were able to reposition the fly efficiently without the help of a back cast.

During that clinic, one of the students made a comment that the distance of the last cast they completed was the furthest they can put the fly. I thought about that and asked if they know how to shoot line. The answer was yes, so I asked the student to repeat the cast and shoot 2 feet of line. Well, after about 3 minutes of coaching those casts were easily going 4 feet further than the previously proclaimed max distance! In fact, one “bumped the reel” which is a term used when the energy of the cast pulls the loop so fast that when the line straightens it snaps the line against the rod handle and reel. I think it feels awesome. It’s like hitting the sweet spot on the golf club, the tennis racket, or baseball/softball bat.

So, it is with that experience, I have decided the next casting clinic on **Sunday, August 17**, will be “Shoot - Go Beyond Your Maximum Distance.” You will work on perfecting your false casting and stops so when you want to shoot line and present the fly, you will go beyond what you thought was your maximum distance. Let’s try achieving a 50-foot cast at the very least.



Jeff demonstrating a narrow loop with a straight top leg that results in “bumping the reel.”

FFD EVENTS: 2025 FFD ANNUAL PICNIC

This year's annual picnic was a blast, with ideal weather and delicious food as usual. Attendance was excellent, including many members we don't often see at the monthly meetings. This makes the picnic a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and to make some new ones.

As we all know, it's not all about the fishing, but about the friendships we make along the way. For many of us the annual picnic is the highlight event of the year. If you attend next year, you'll be back every year after that, guaranteed!



Perfect day for a picnic-blue skies-cool summer day-plenty of shade.



Paul thanks everyone for contributing all the delicious food.



Ken lining up the dogs and flipping the chicken.



Ken! They're still frozen!

FISH CAMP SCHOLARSHIP 2025

By Brooks Henderson

Dear Fly Fishers of Davis,

I was the winner of the Fish Camp Scholarship award this year and would like to say that it was a really great experience and was a lot of fun. I learned lots of new skills that I have already been applying to my Fly-Fishing experience. One of my favorite things was that there were plenty of fish and every camper caught at least one fish.

Sincerely,

Brooks Henderson



FFD T-Shirts!

Fly Fishers of Davis logo T-Shirts are for sale at our club meetings! \$25.00

Only a few remaining!



MADISON RIVER TRIP, JUNE 2025

By Stuart Meyers

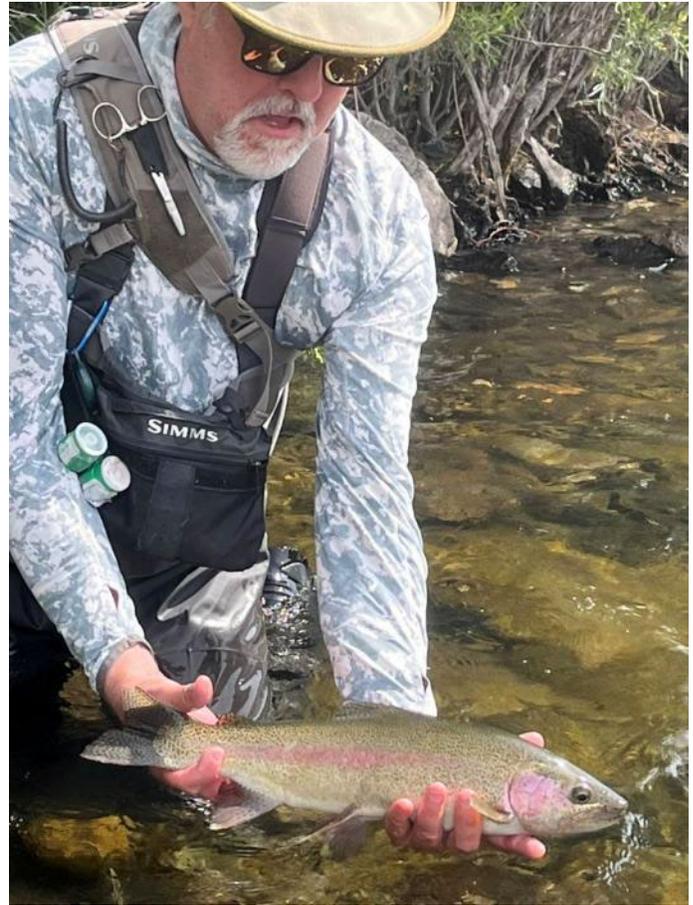
Several members of FFD spent a week fishing the upper Madison River near the Three Dollar Bridge area including Mike McDonnell, Jeff Williams, Stu Meyers and a few friends. The salmon fly hatch had not quite started, but the fishing offered a few epic days of tightlining and dry fly fishing from June 28th-July 6th.

There was lots of great fishing for browns and rainbows, with the occasional Mountain Whitefish. Tightlining was the predominant success mechanism, however, there were numerous fish caught on dry flies for those who dedicated the time; mostly on chubbies and stimulators.

This was a fun diversion from the constant nymphing that produced the most fish. There was also time for guitar playing and sampling bourbon, and everyone had a superb week!



Mike with a beautiful brown



Jeff landing a fine rainbow



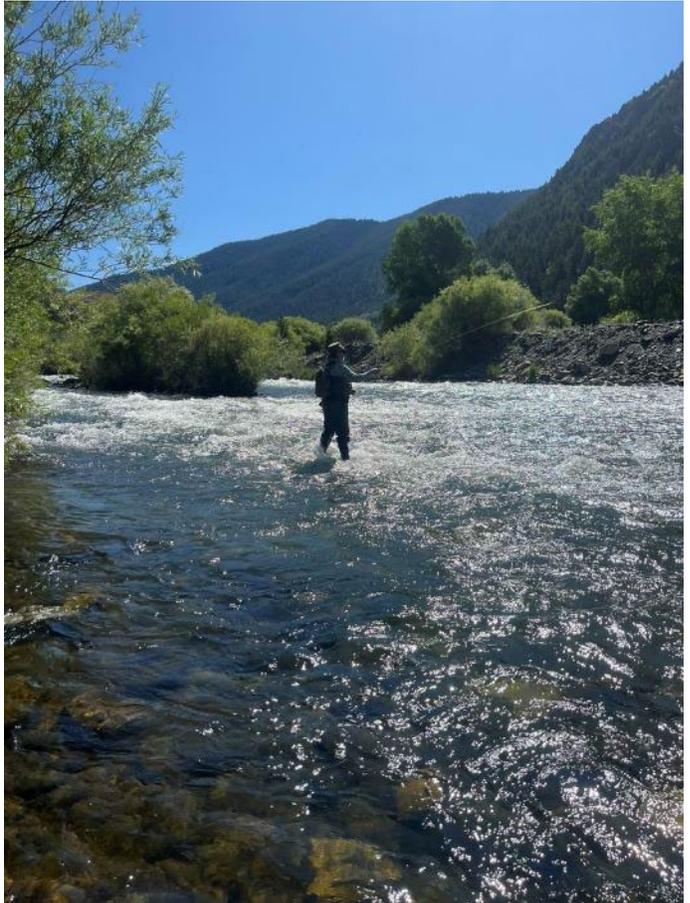
The whole group!



The view from the deck over the Madison River valley



Jeff at the bench with Mike supervising



Jeff in the "Fast Water"



Too many cooks...



Stu's first brown!



Priorities!



The late afternoon Madison



Celebrate California Fly Fisher's Relaunch Anniversary with a Special Offer for Fly Club Members

For more than three decades, *California Fly Fisher* has been the go-to publication for anglers who care about California's fisheries, wild trout, and the craft of fly fishing. In July 2024, the magazine underwent a beautiful redesign and relaunch—and it's better than ever in both print and digital formats.

To mark their one-year relaunch anniversary, *California Fly Fisher* is offering club members an exclusive subscription discount—plus 10% off all merchandise.

Special Anniversary Rates for Fly Club Members:

- \$39.95 – One year print + digital
- \$20.00 – One year digital-only

Use promo code FLYCLUBANNIV at checkout.

Subscribe at calflyfisher.com/subscribe or scan the QR code below:



CALIFORNIA BOATER CARD

An important reminder to all FFD boaters!

If you do not have a California Boater Card you are **not in compliance with California Law.**

The California Boater Card shows that its holder has successfully taken and passed a NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators) state-approved boater safety education examination. The California Boater Card program was phased-in by age for operators of motorized boats on state waterways.



As of January 1, 2025, all persons who operate on California waters were required to have one. The lifetime card fee is \$10. The lost card replacement fee is \$5.

The card is issued by the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW). Once DBW has received your application, proof of education and payment, and after taking an approved course and successfully passing the test, you will receive a 90-day temporary boater card by email. You should receive your official boater card by mail within 30 days from the time the application was approved.

Not only is mandatory education the law, the California Boater Card Program promotes boating safety on our waterways. U. S. Coast Guard accident data show that states with some form of boating safety education have fewer accidents and fatalities than states without any boater education requirements.

For more information, or to apply for the card, please visit <https://californiaboatercard.com/>



FLY FISHERS | NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
INTERNATIONAL | COUNCIL

[Home - Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International \(NCCFFI\)](#)

MEETING SCHEDULE

The meeting schedule has been tentatively set for the next few months. Peter Hawes is the program chair - let him know if you like the program speakers, or if you have ideas for one, please let us know at the next meeting.

Fly Fishers of Davis 2025 Meeting Schedule			
MONTH	SPEAKER	DATE	TOPIC
July	Tad Kisaka	July 29	Fly Fishing the Fisheries of Sitka, Alaska
August	Paul Thick	August 26	Fly Fishing Travel Outfitters
September	Noah Sondgroth	September 30	Carp on the Fly
October	Christopher Dewees	October 28	Gyotaku or Japanese Fish Printing
November	Doug Rodricks	November 18	Sierra Drifters Guide Service Mammoth Lakes
December	Club Members	December 30	Homegrown

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DETAILS



Website Members: If you signed up for membership on the new FFD website, you will get an email in the late December/early January timeframe with your renewal details. No need to go to the website before that, so please wait for your renewal information email.

Website Non-members: If you're an FFD member, but you did not sign up on the website and you wish to renew your Membership, please stop by the membership table at our next in-person general meeting, and pay your dues with check, cash, or credit card for 2024. You can also send a renewal check to Fly Fishers of Davis, P.O. Box 525, Davis, CA, 95617.

Note: Our preferred method is for website non-members to become website members, by signing up on the website!

Dues for adults and families are still \$30/year, and the student rate is \$15/year. Your dues help to fund many club activities — including our superb array of guest speakers, outings, the annual picnic, fly casting and fly tying clinics, our amazing FFD 101 classes, Salmon in the Classroom, and best of all, our contributions to numerous outreach, education and conservation organizations. Thank you for your generosity and support!

California Fly Fisher Magazine is Back in Print

[Check it out online here – and subscribe!](#)





OUTINGS & EVENTS - FFD 2025

PROPOSED FFD OUTINGS & EVENTS

Trip 2025	Fish	Dates	Contact	Notes
Fuller Lake	Trout	August 2, 2025	trouthookup1@gmail.com	Day Trip
Casting Class		August 17, 2025	jeff.hogan8454@att.net	Watch for an E-Blast for time & loc.
Lake Manzanita	Trout	TBD	trouthookup1@gmail.com	Camping / Boat
Striper Fest	Striped bass	November 2025	trouthookup1@gmail.com	Day Trip

Don't Forget to Check Out the Website Classifieds Section

The website's Classifieds section is public. However, you must be a member to post. The instructions are listed on the menu. You can find the page here → <https://flyfishersofdavis.org/resources/classifieds/>

Jeff Putnam's

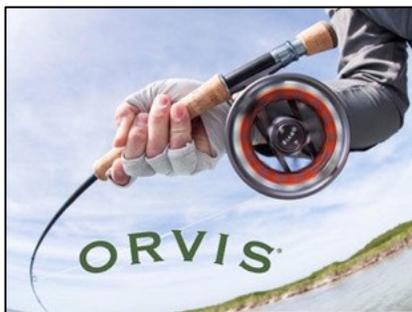
Fly Fishing Instruction
On-Demand! Email: jeff@jpflyfishing.com
 Phone: 1-541-299-0086



FLY FISHING SPECIALTIES

Wild Rivers To Blue Waters

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Facebook

Fly Fishers of Davis is now on Facebook! Like Us and Follow Us to get the Latest updates on Club Events and other News.

Facebook.com/FlyFishersOfDavis

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OFFICERS	
President:	Ken Lazzaroni
Vice President	* Open *
Treasurer	Andan Bailey
Secretary	Matt Perry
DIRECTORS	
Through Dec. 2027	Dan Galloway
Through Dec. 2026	Stuart Meyers
	Marc Wilson
	Matt Perry
COMMITTEES	
Outings	Dana Hooper
Conservation	Lowell Ashbaugh
Membership	Ryan Mitchell
Newsletter	Wilson / Meyers
NCCFFI	Lowell Ashbaugh
Programs	Peter Hawes
Hospitality	Peter Hawes
Raffle Chair	Ken Lazzaroni
Fly Tying	Bob Zasoski
Youth Programs	Adney Bowker
Youth FishCamp	Andan Bailey
Casting	Jeff Hogan
Website	Beverlin / Berliner

The Fly Fishers of Davis

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The Fly Fishers of Davis (FFD) is a non-Profit 501.C.4 charitable organization dedicated to the education, participation, conservation and enhancement of fly fishing. FFD meets monthly. Our regular monthly meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except for December, and other exceptions are noted in our newsletter. December meetings are held the second Tuesday to accommodate holiday schedules.

FFD meetings and membership are open to the public. The Fly Fishers of Davis provide equal opportunity membership without discrimination on sex, race, origin, age or religious orientation.

E-Newsletter Policy

Each month, the e-newsletter will be posted to our website and emailed prior to the meeting. To view our PDF newsletter, download Acrobat reader at: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

Members are urged to maintain their current email address and other important personal data by logging in, and visiting: <https://flyfishersofdavis.org/account/>. This ensures accurate communication and notification of our monthly newsletter, which is also downloadable at: <https://flyfishersofdavis.org/media/newsletters/>.

How to become a member of the Fly Fishers of Davis

FFD collects annual dues for adults (\$30), students (\$15) and families (\$30). Family membership may include a spouse and children living with named member up to maximum age of 25. All family members will share one membership and username. Please provide a valid email address. For insurance reasons, you must be a current club member or registered family member to attend any of our fishing outings. For more information or if you have questions, please email membership@flyfishersofdavis.org

- Membership benefits: go to <https://flyfishersofdavis.org/about/membership-benefits/>
- New members ONLY: to join, go to <https://flyfishersofdavis.org/memberships/>
- Existing members, login and dues assistance: email webmaster@flyfishersofdavis.org

Important: The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter's articles are those of the respective authors only, and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Fly Fishers of Davis Board of Directors, or the club's general membership.