



**September Meeting**  
**Tuesday September 25, 2026**  
**7:30 pm @ Stonegate Country Club**  
919 Lake Blvd, Davis, CA 95616

**Dave Gumpel presents: Hunting for Bolivian Gold**

*T*his month, Dave Gumpel returns to share tales of hunting for Bolivian gold ... Golden Dorado that is. Dave spent a week in September 2024 at TSimane Pluma Lodge on Bolivia's Pluma River — and hit the Motherlode!



Since retiring in 2020, Dave spends his time chasing fishing opportunities both near and far. This includes Stripers in the Delta, Rainbows on the Lower Sac, Steelhead on the Klamath, Feather, Rogue, Klickitat and the OP, Tarpon in Florida, Redfish in New Orleans, Roosters in Baja and Permit in Yucatan. Further afield, Dave has fished for Rainbows and Steelhead in Kamchatka, sea-run Browns in Tierra del Fuego, Browns and Bows in Patagonia and New Zealand, Barramundi in Australia, Taimen in Mongolia and Atlantic Salmon in Norway. Upcoming trips include Golden Dorado in Argentina and Peacock Bass in Brazil.

Come join us for this very interesting presentation!

## **THE PREZ SEZ**

*By Ron Rabun*

Reports have the Delta fishing for largemouth bass being good using surface flies. So, buddy up with a member with a boat and get out there. September has always marked the beginning of the winter trout bite in NorCal rivers. In my 50 years fishing the Upper Sac and McCloud, it seems trout begin feeding more because the days are shortening. Reports have the Truckee fishing well from Boca down to Reno. So, Tahoe area streams are a good bet. My favorite two-fly short-line nymphing patterns are Bead Head Gordon Prince, Pheasant Tails and Hare's Ears, sizes 14, 16 and 18. Similar Euro patterns are also effective.

**Your immediate action is needed.** The Salmon and Steelhead in the Classroom Fund Raising Project is moving ahead quickly with nearly \$18,000 of the \$20,000 already pledged as reported by Matt Perry, Committee leader. You can help meet our goal by making your donation at the next regular meeting. Twenty more members donating \$100 each can fulfill our goal. Any amount is appreciated but remember you can sponsor your own individual aquarium for a donation of \$575. Bring your check made to the Fly Fishers of Davis noting "Aquarium Project" to the next meeting or mail one to PO Box 525, Davis, CA 91617. Matt can be reached at [matthew.deremore.perry@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.deremore.perry@gmail.com) if you have any questions, or if you would like to make a donation. The Committee's goal is to obtain and install the new chillers before this year's November egg distribution.

Our new Membership Chairperson is Marc Wilson. Thanks to Marc for stepping up to fill this important leadership position. Show your appreciation to Ryan Mitchell, past membership chair, for his many years fulfilling these important duties. Ryan was instrumental in setting up the online and automated pay portal for the club.

The September meeting will have a sign up for those members interested in attending the NCC Hall of Fame Dinner and buying a table of 8 (see below). Otherwise, the individual cost is \$150. NCC is also looking for donations, so let me know if you have any donation items. The NCC is our main NorCal voice on conservation issues and performing multi-club on-stream projects.

I'm glad this month we will hear a brief talk from Elijah regarding his Fish Camp experience as our youth scholarship (Fish Camp) awardee.

### **NORTHERN CA COUNCIL OF FLYFISHERS INTERNATIONAL (NCCFFI) AND FFI**

- NCCFFI Hall of Fame Dinner/Auction, Mark Rothwell inductee.
- Saturday, October 24, 2026, 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM
- Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, CA 94549
- Website: [WWW.NCCFFI.org](http://WWW.NCCFFI.org),
- Tickets: Individual, \$150; Table of 8: \$1120

### **NAME BADGE DRAWING**

The September 2026 regular meeting, we will be holding a drawing for a fly box with flies for all those members wearing their badges. Come up to Ron Rabun prior to the start of the meeting and you will receive a ticket for the Badge Drawing conducted following the regular drawing.

## **CONSERVATION REPORT**

*By Lowell Ashbaugh*

**Conservation Mailing List** Want to keep up on conservation issues 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](mailto:Ashbaugh.lowell@gmail.com) with your request.

**Note:** I’m still looking for someone who would like to take up this column, preferably someone a few years younger than me. It’s not hard, but it will take a couple of hours each month to put the column together – less if you’re more organized than I am. I’ll help you get started.

**Mark Rockwell** will be honored at the NCCFFI Hall of Fame Dinner next month. For those who don’t know him, Mark was a longtime Conservation VP of NCC and served as President to bring NCC back from a moribund organization to a vibrant participant in the local fly fishing community. Mark is very well deserving of this honor. Mark and I worked together (mostly Mark, though) on removing the four dams on the Klamath River. He also spent several years as California organizer of the Endangered Species Coalition, helping to preserve the Endangered Species Act

The dinner will be held in Lafayette at the Veterans Memorial Center on October 24 from 6:00-9:30 p.m. You can read more about Mark and the Hall of Fame dinner at [https://nccffi.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=4091&club\\_id=195494&item\\_id=2989903](https://nccffi.org/content.aspx?page_id=4091&club_id=195494&item_id=2989903). Let me know if you’re interested in going to the dinner. The cost is \$150 per person, but we could get a table of 8 for \$140 each (total \$1200).

**Beaver dams** are well known for transforming landscapes and recreating wetlands. From Maven’s Notebook, “In their absence, artificial versions were built in northern California to recreate lost wetlands – boosting the survival of threatened coho salmon.” The findings are published in *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*. Fish biologist Michael Pollock of NOAA’s Northwest Fisheries Science Center called the results “mind blowing.”

The Scott River valley in northern California was once home to so many beavers it was known as Beaver Valley. Their dams created an enormous riverine wetland, providing habitat for juvenile coho salmon and a host of other wildlife. Then European fur trappers arrived in the 1830s. Thousands of beavers were trapped and killed, and much of the habitat created by their dams and wetlands was lost – taking with it the cold, slow-moving habitat favored by the coho.

With the beavers all but gone, in 2015 the nonprofit Scott River Watershed Council built two artificial dams on a tributary called Sugar Creek. Wooden posts were hammered into the streambed, interwoven with willow and conifer branches, then the gaps were plugged with gravel, straw and mud.

Several more dams were constructed on French Creek, coho salmon survival rates increased from 8% to 60% on the dammed creeks. You can [read more from BBC Wildlife](#).

**The Modesto Irrigation District** released an announcement that the [Tuolumne River Partners](#), including Modesto Irrigation District (MID), [Turlock Irrigation District](#) (TID) and the [San Francisco Public Utilities Commission](#) (SFPUC), in partnership with the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife](#)

[Service](#) (USFWS), have begun construction on a restoration effort designed to improve spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and other native aquatic species.

The self-funded project will restore spawning habitat impacted by high river flow events in 1997, 2011 and 2017 by reconstructing riffles and gravel bars and enhancing in-channel habitat complexity and diversity.

The Powerhouse Riffles Restoration Project will add approximately 25,000 cubic yards of spawning gravel, creating 4.8 acres of new gravel features and restoring approximately 2,400 feet of the Lower Tuolumne River. Coarse sediment mixtures have been carefully selected to maintain channel complexity while allowing the river to naturally evolve.

In addition to new spawning habitat, crews will install approximately 50 large pieces of woody debris throughout the project area to promote channel complexity, improve sediment sorting and provide juvenile fish refuge from predators. Approximately 80 strategically placed boulders will also be added at the downstream ends of select riffles to create improved feeding areas for fish. This in-water work is expected to be completed in October 2026.

"We continue to invest in science-based solutions to improve habitat and support healthy fish populations in the Tuolumne River," said TID General Manager Brad Koehn. "We're building on the success of our previous restoration efforts, and this project is another important step in the investment and early implementation of our comprehensive habitat restoration program."

The Tuolumne River Partners are working with the [Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California](#) and the [Northern Valley Yokuts/Ohlone](#) tribe to ensure that tribal monitors have an opportunity to inspect any ground disturbing work and to ensure that known or discovered sites of tribal significance are protected.

This same team of project partners were instrumental in the construction and completion of the Tuolumne River Partners' successful [Old La Grange Bridge Habitat Restoration Project](#) in 2024.

By 2030, with the help of experts River Partners and Applied River Sciences, the Tuolumne River Partners aim to develop 77 acres of suitable salmon floodplain rearing habitat and add approximately 100,000 tons of gravel in specific reaches of the river for optimal salmon spawning and rearing.

To learn more about the Tuolumne River Partners' stewardship efforts, please visit [tuolumneriverpartners.com](https://tuolumneriverpartners.com).

**[The State Water Resources Control Board](#)** released for public comment a revised [draft water right decision](#) and [draft permit](#) early this month for the proposed Sites Reservoir in Northern California that they claim would balance the project's water supply benefits with the protection of senior right holders, water quality and flows for fisheries.

The proposed 1.5 million-acre-foot reservoir, which would be the largest built in California in more than 50 years, would increase the state's supplies by diverting water from the Sacramento River when flows are relatively high and storing it for farms, cities and the environment. If approved by the State Water Board, the revised drafts would allow the project to divert up to 986,000 acre-feet of water per year — enough to supply about 8.4 million people annually.

The documents released today are revised versions of drafts [released in March 2026](#) after two years of [public proceedings](#) overseen by the board's Administrative Hearing Office. Both the initial and revised drafts reflect careful consideration of public comments submitted during the proceedings and were informed by extensive deliberations by board members in closed sessions. The main revisions to the draft decision and permit expand opportunities to divert water from the river and ensure the project aligns with the [recently released final draft](#) Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta Plan).

**If adopted by the board, the new permit would:**

Authorize up to 986,000 acre-feet of diversions annually.

Align with the requirements and compliance pathways in the final draft of the Bay-Delta Plan, while ensuring coordination between the board and water users participating in the [Healthy Rivers and Landscapes](#) program under the plan.

Provide flexibility for project operations to maximize diversions while avoiding unreasonable impacts to water quality and fisheries, and injury to other water users.

Grant project proponents the opportunity to show that water is available from local creeks to divert and store in the reservoir.

**Next Steps**

Final written comments will be accepted through Oct. 5. The board will consider adopting the draft water right decision and water right permit at its Nov. 4 public meeting.

[The Klamath River](#) restoration is getting a boost from NOAA Fisheries. Two years after the last Klamath dam came down, federal money is now flowing toward the part of the recovery that gets far less drone footage: the side channels and floodplains where young coho actually survive their first year.

NOAA Fisheries has awarded \$103 million to 16 habitat restoration projects nationwide, and two of them land in California. California Trout gets \$5.4 million to reconnect floodplain habitat for coho salmon along the Klamath River. The California Department of Water Resources gets \$8 million to restore fish passage for salmon and sturgeon, the second-largest single award in the round.

The Klamath grant matters because dam removal solved the access problem, not the habitat problem. Adult Chinook have already pushed upstream past the old dam sites, but coho, listed as threatened, depend on slow, cold, off-channel water to rear before heading to sea. Much of that habitat was cut off by levees, roads and channelization long before the dams. Reconnecting it is the unglamorous work that decides whether a river merely reopens or actually rebounds.

[Read more from Active NorCal](#)

[The Bureau of Reclamation](#) and the [Westlands Water District](#) have indicated they will not participate in the Voluntary Agreements (VAs) if the State Water Board approves the [updated San Francisco Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan](#) ("Bay-Delta Plan"), prompting renewed criticism from the Delta Tribal Environmental Coalition (DTEC), consisting of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Winnemem Wintu Tribe, Little Manila Rising, and Restore the Delta.

DTEC has long raised concerns about the Bay-Delta Plan's reliance on VAs, privately negotiated deals allowing powerful water districts to offer limited flow commitments and funding in exchange for exemptions from stronger, enforceable regulatory requirements. The coalition has criticized the VA framework as scientifically inadequate and lacking enforceable protections needed to safeguard threatened fish species and address harmful algal blooms (HABs). DTEC is calling on the State Water Board to prioritize strong, science-based, and enforceable protections for Delta water quality and ecosystems—and to abandon the failing Voluntary Agreements framework.

The State Water Board is accepting comments on the plan through September 18, before considering adoption at a hearing scheduled for October 28-29.

## **CASTING FOR RECOVERY SWEEPSTAKES!**

By Nicole Lazarus, CFR Fishing Coordinator

To all our friends at Fly Fishers of Davis:

Help support Casting for Recovery, and get the chance win a 2026 Ineos Grenadier Fieldmaster — complete with Off-Road Rough Pack, plus \$10k cash for registration, taxes and other fees. The total value of this prize is close to \$100k. The winner will work with their local Ineos dealer to customize the vehicle to their liking.



Scan the QR code (to the left) for details. Through the QR code, our Northern California CFR chapter will receive 70% of the proceeds from your ticket purchase.

This is a great way to donate to Casting for Recovery with the possibility of winning a prize. The more tickets you purchase, the more bonus entries you get.

For example:

- \$25 gets 18 entries + 4 promo entries
- \$100 gets 90 entries + 18 promo entries

The sweepstakes runs through 12/1/26. The winner is drawn on 12/9/26.

## **FFD FLY CASTING PROGRAM**

*By Jeff Hogan*

Last month's casting clinic was well attended, and we enjoyed a beautiful late August morning learning how to double haul. We are going to continue to focus on this casting skill at the next clinic on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at Northstar Park, 9:00 to noon. This is an essential skill that, when learned, will provide you with longer presentations, tighter loops, and the ability to combat wind. You will also be able to fish water few others cannot because you can cast further.

Bring your favorite rod and reel with a matching floating line and join me on October 11<sup>th</sup> at Northstar Park, 3434 Anderson Rd, Davis from nine until noon..

Starting later this fall and all through the winter, the monthly casting clinics will be devoted to learning and/or improving Bronze level casts in the Fly Casting Skills Development program. The horizontal cast, shooting line, distance to 50+ feet are some of the casts you will be working on.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need a loaner rod:  
[casting@flyfishersofdavis.org](mailto:casting@flyfishersofdavis.org)



Jeff providing instruction on the double haul at last month's clinic.



"Don't haul before midnight!"

## *A Little Eastern Sierra Trip*

By Paul Berliner

Bob Brodberg and I took a little jaunt to the eastern Sierra last month, and we covered a lot of ground in three days. The goal was mostly recon, since we'd never spent much time fishing the wealth of waters over there – and it was time to learn.

We scoped out the June Lake loop, Rush Creek, the Upper Owens, Hot Creek (no thanks – smelled like Sulphur), Rock Creek, the Little Lakes Valley (at 10,000 feet elevation), and the Tuolumne Meadows area on the way home.

But the best part was certainly a day-trip to Crowley with guide Joe Contaldi, who's presented to our club before. Here are a few highlights:



Rush Creek – Gorgeous, No Fish



Little Lakes Valley – Gorgeous, No Fish



Tuolumne Meadows – Gorgeous, No Fish



Bridgeport – No Fish



Bob at Crowley – Major Big Fish!



Paul at Crowley – Let's Go Again!

## **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. You can email him at [programs@flyfishersofdavis.org](mailto:programs@flyfishersofdavis.org).

| Fly Fishers of Davis 2026 Meeting Schedule |                  |              |                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MONTH                                      | SPEAKER          | DATE         | TOPIC                                                            |
| September                                  | Dave Gumpel      | September 29 | Golden Dorado                                                    |
| October                                    | Johnny Feaster   | October 27   | Berryessa                                                        |
| November                                   |                  | November 17  | Custom Rod Building                                              |
| December                                   | FFD Club Members | December 15  | Homegrown, White Elephant Gift Exchange<br>FFD Officer Elections |

## **IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

### IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DETAILS



**Website Members:** If you signed up for membership on the 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 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. You can also send a renewal check to Fly Fishers of Davis, P.O. Box 525, Davis, CA, 95617.

**Note:** Our preferred method for renewal is to become website members, by signing up on the website! Dues for individuals and family memberships are \$35/year, and a student membership is \$10/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!

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

Your FFD Board of Directors (BOD) meets once per month on the second Tuesday of each month (effective February 2026) to discuss many aspects of the club, including charitable contributions, conservation, budget planning, and the Annual Picnic and Annual Dinner. If you'd like to attend a board meeting, bring up an issue or send a message, the BOD meets in Davis, and 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.



# UTINGS & EVENTS - FFD 2026

## PROPOSED FFD OUTINGS & EVENTS

| Trips & Events<br>2026   | Species & Info        | Dates      | Contact                     | Notes                    |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Casting Clinic           | Jeff Hogan Instructor | October 11 | <a href="#">Jeff Hogan</a>  | Northstar Park 9-12      |
| Striper Fest             | Stripers              | Oct / Nov  | <a href="#">Dana Hooper</a> | Boater pair w/non-boater |
| Heenan Lake/Carson River | Trout                 | Nov 6-9    | <a href="#">Jacob Orton</a> | Camping and fishing      |

Here's a link to NCCFFI  
Website, Calendar of  
Events and Membership.



**FLY FISHERS | NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

**Jeff Putnam's**  
**Fly Fishing Instruction**  
**On-Demand!** Email: [jeff@jpflyfishing.com](mailto:jeff@jpflyfishing.com)  
Phone: 1-541-299-0086

**FLY FISHING SPECIALTIES**  
*Wild Rivers To Blue Waters*  
6360 Tupelo Drive, Citrus Heights, CA, 95621  
916.722.1055 [info@flyfishingspecialties.com](mailto:info@flyfishingspecialties.com)  
[www.flyfishingspecialties.com](http://www.flyfishingspecialties.com)



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](https://www.facebook.com/FlyFishersOfDavis)



## The Fly Fishers of Davis

**P. O. Box 525 • Davis, California, 95617-0525**  
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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 meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except for December, and other exceptions are noted in our newsletter. 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.

| OFFICERS       |                 |                  | DIRECTORS     |                   |               |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Term: 2 years  |                 |                  | Term: 3 years |                   |               |
| President:     | Ron Rabun       | Through Dec.2027 | Stuart Meyers | Through Dec. 2026 |               |
| Vice President | Dana Hooper     | Through Dec.2027 | Peter Hawes   | Through Dec. 2026 |               |
| Treasurer      | Andan Bailey    | Through Dec.2026 | Marc Wilson   | Through Dec. 2027 |               |
| Secretary      | Matt Perry      | Through Dec.2026 | Dan Galloway  | Through Dec. 2027 |               |
|                |                 |                  | vacant        | Through Dec. 2028 |               |
|                |                 |                  | Dan Brugger   | Through Dec. 2028 |               |
| COMMITTEES     |                 |                  |               |                   |               |
| Outings        | Dana Hooper     | Programs         | Peter Hawes   | Youth Fish Camp   | Andan Bailey  |
| Conservation   | Lowell Ashbaugh | Hospitality      | Dave Fujino   | Casting           | Jeff Hogan    |
| Membership     | Marc Wilson     | Raffle Chair     | Peter Hawes   | Website           | Bob Beverlin  |
| Newsletter     | Meyers / Wilson | Fly Tying        | Bob Zasoski   | Website           | Paul Berliner |
| NCCFFI         | Ron Rabun       | Youth Programs   | Adney Bowker  |                   |               |

## 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 individual memberships (\$35), student memberships (\$10) and family memberships (\$35). 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**Newsletter Submissions:** To send articles and photos etc. to be included in the newsletter, email all materials to [newsletter@flyfishersofdavis.org](mailto:newsletter@flyfishersofdavis.org). Please put *FFD The Fisherman's Line* in the subject line. Deadline for materials is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Not all submissions will be published.