

Northern Calif. Council, FFI Report January, 2023

I want to wish you all a happy new year, and to say that we in your Northern California Council, FFI have been working hard to create some great fly fishing programs for 2023. We plan to introduce them to all club Presidents in our January Club President's Happy Hour on January 26th at 5:00 p.m.

Here's the link to attend: <https://zoom.us/j/96999165694?pwd=bWt0NVVMxZnovZENNb1hPL014VEFCUT09> Club leadership & members are all invited!

Here is a listing of what we have planned for 2023:

- 1. International Sportsmen's Exposition (ISE)** - January 19-22, 2023 - We will have a group of fly tyers demonstrating their fly tying abilities and styles all day, each day. Thanks goes to Frank Rinella, Jeff Stevens and all the tyers who participate. We will also have a Q & A table where Council Board members will talk to visitors, direct those interested to fly clubs in the region, and tell them that our Council and Clubs are the place to go to learn to fly fish and have fun on our rivers and lakes. We will collect names & Contact info of those interested in Fly Fishing, and share this with our clubs to call and invite them to a meeting.
- 2. Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton** - February 24, 25 & 26th - We will have several events at this show:
 - **Fly Casting Skills Development Program** - With the assistance of the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club & Certified Casting Instructors Sarah Trenchel & Russ Carpenter, we will be offering training for club instructors on implementing the Skills program. They'll also be teaching fly casting to show visitors. One goal is to 'Train the Trainers' from our local fly clubs so they can set up and run this great learning program at their clubs.
 - **Club President's Lunch** - On Saturday the 25th at 11:30 a.m. we will host a 'Club Get-together' for our club leaders to sit together and share information and meet each other. **Please plan to attend as this is our only time of the year we'll all be together.** In addition, we'll have a nice lunch available at no cost and have a chance to discuss Club-Council activities and support. We'll also do a short presentation on the programs we will be doing for our clubs & their members (see below for more info).
 - **NCCFFI Booth at the show** - We will be doing several activities here. Boy Scout merit badge teaching and certification, briefing visitors on the Trout-in-the-classroom program many clubs manage locally, Discussion on joining a fly fishing club and taking names & contact info to send to clubs, Talking about joining FFI to support both the national and local work we do in Conservation and skills training for fly fishers. Goals: new club member referral and growing FFI membership.
- 3. Fly Fishing Skills Development** - This is an easy to do program to improve our casting skills. It's fun and there are 3 competitive levels of accomplishment - Bronze, Silver, & Gold. Each level requires skill abilities and there is a test to move to the next level. For those who want recognition, you submit it to FFI and they send a certificate of accomplishment. We will be doing 3 training days around our region to "Train the Trainers" from your club to be able to set up and teach at the club level, including testing for each skill level. This will provide consistent and thorough fly casting training in our clubs so more members have the skill level they want. We all know the better the caster the better the catching. The locations and dates for these trainings will be given at the Club President's Lunch at the Fly Fishing Show.
- 4. NCCFFI Skills Clinics - Learn to be a better fly fisher** - Our goal here is to provide professional level training that is consistent and thorough. **Fly Fishing 101** - learn to fly fish is a program that includes 15 Power Point programs that that the student from beginning to

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end on what fly fishing is all about. This serves as a resource that will be available to clubs to use over the years they teach a fly fishing course. Gone are the days were a club program is totally dependent upon one person to do all the work to teach. Use these programs to guide and teach, resulting in a club program that is reliable and thorough. Other programs we will be introducing in 2023 are: **Euro nymphing** and why it works so well; **Fishing techniques for technical water** - spring creeks, etc.; **Fishing the Yuba River**, a specific technical river we visit often.

All of these will be available to all our clubs and members in various locations in 2023.

5. **Yuba Fest 2023 - The Gathering of the Clan - September 23rd - Sycamore Ranch County Park on the Yuba River.** This has become the annual celebration of fly fishing which will include most all of the programs discussed above. It will include many of the programs and classes to teach beginning fly fishing as well as the more complex fishing challenges like technical waters, fishing the Yuba River, and others. We'll also have a conservation program where many of our state and local NGO watershed groups will be available. We'll have a raffle, auction and other fun things to do, as well as lunch and a great dinner in the afternoon. We've moved it up a month in 2023 to allow for more sun and longer daylight. **Why Yuba Fest? To bring the fly fishing clan together to celebrate! It's a party. Mark it on your calendar! Be there and have fun!**

The Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International (NCCFFI) is working to be a resource our clubs can rely upon to assist them to bring high value, quality programs to our fly fishing community. Working together - clubs & Council - means we can be more engaging with club programs that are valuable to new as well as experienced fly fishers. We have heard often the question, "What does the Council do for us?" Well, we do a lot to help clubs be more appealing to members, and to take fly fishing to your local communities.

Additionally, we take on conservation challenges that are large, state-level problems that a club cannot manage alone. Actions like removing 4 dams on the Klamath River, or protecting salmon & steelhead in large watersheds like all of Santa Clara County. We work with a host of conservation partners to advocate for fishery and watershed health throughout our state. Working together - clubs & Council - we have more clout and influence, which means healthy fisheries our sport & fishers can access and enjoy.

We do better together - in many ways. We just need to remember both clubs and the Council are important - for fly fishing and to protect our fisheries.

Mark Rockwell, President
NCCFFI