

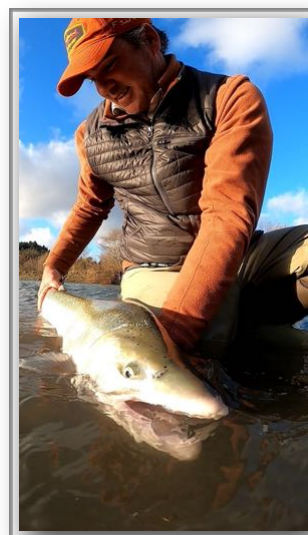


The Wonders Of Northern California *with Chris King*

In-Person Presentation: January 17, 2023

Wet Flies: 6:00 p.m. / Dinner: 7:00 p.m. / Program: 8:00 p.m.

In the words of Chris King, our January presenter, "There is more water in Northern California than you can fish in a lifetime." Beyond the well known Upper and Lower Sacramento, Pit and McCloud rivers, there are a host of lesser-known streams between Sacramento and the Oregon border. They combine scenic beauty with truly amazing fishing. The McCloud is well known as the "bio-home" of the rainbow trout. It is well worth the eight-hour drive, only twice as far as Bishop, to enjoy the diversity of the Redding area. As an added incentive, a new airline (Avelo) is offering inexpensive flights from Burbank to Redding. The region is truly a year-round fishery with a healthy run of steelhead on the Trinity and Eel rivers in the winter months. All the gear you use in the Eastern Sierra will work just as well four hundred miles north. Join Chris King as he shares his insight of over two decades fishing and guiding these waters.



Chris King

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JANUARY 2023 MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 17th
Wet Flies: 6:00 PM / Dinner: 7:00 PM / Program: 8:00 PM
Place: St. Augustine By-the-Sea Episcopal Church
1227 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401
Cost: **\$30** per person with dinner or **\$10** per person program only
Parking: City parking structure across the street is most convenient.
Posted rates first 90 min. free, \$2 first add. ½ hour, \$1.50 -
\$2 each add. ½ hr., \$20 daily max. Expect to pay \$5 to \$7.
1234 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS: [RESERVE ONLINE](#)
OR CALL THE HOT LINE 310 280-3459
OR MAIL IN THE FORM ON PAGE 10

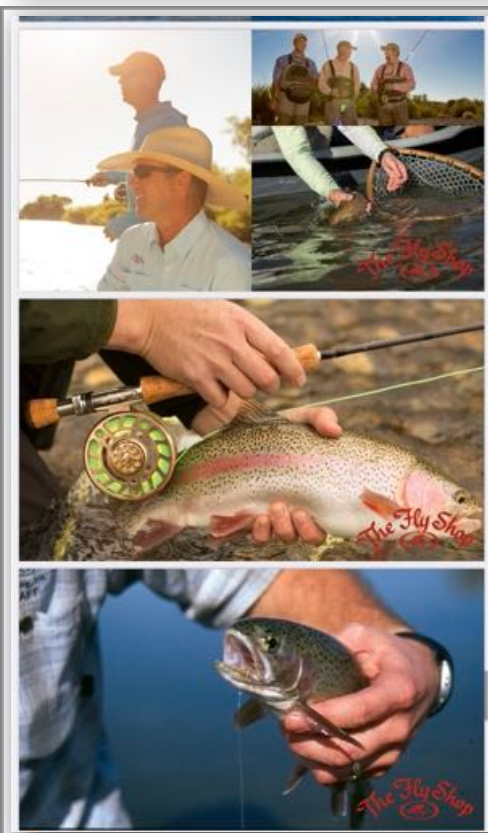
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The Wonders Of Northern California

The son of an Air Force fighter pilot, Chris lived in many places for a short time. After his father retired from the service, Chris spent his grade school years in Iowa where he grew up playing hockey and spending summers at hockey camp in Minnesota, chasing walleye and musky. The year before he started high school, he was thrust into culture shock when his father changed jobs and the family moved to New Jersey (exit 352). It was here, spending weekends in the Poconos and Catskills, that his dad introduced him to fly fishing. Like most teenagers in the 80s, he would rather chase the big-haired beauties at the local arcade than spend time in the woods with pops, and it wasn't till he took a semester off college and spent eight years in Breckenridge, Colorado, that he truly fell in love with the sport. In Colorado he turned his passion into a career. From there he made his way West and in 1998 he found a home at The Fly Shop in Redding, CA. Chris met the late Mel Krieger and was mentored by him for six years in fly casting and casting instruction. This led to the pursuit of becoming a certified casting instructor with Fly Fishers International. He is currently Master Certified, Two Hand Master Certified and an emeritus member of the organization's Casting Board of Governors. He was a featured presenter in the first *Spey-O-Rama* at the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club. Chris resides in Redding with his wife and two children and has been guiding and teaching casting in Northern California for over 20 years. He continues to exhibit the same passion for sharing his love of the outdoors and fly fishing as he did in his first year of guiding back in Colorado so many years ago.

[Eds.: A few of our WFF members "discovered" Chris King during his presentation to the Long Beach Club a couple of years ago. Be assured that this will not be just another how to/where to program. Flight reservations to Redding are somewhat limited so you may want to reserve a seat now before Chris does his program and word of these numerous angling options gets out to all of the SoCal clubs.]



Board of Directors

President	Board
Vice President	OPEN
Secretary / Zoom Host	Celia Carroll
Treasurer	Tom Rasmussen
Treasurer	Art Antolick
Speaker Programs	Scott Clark
Membership	Greg Dahlem
Dinner Reservations	Ken Trabert
Inventory	Clay Dodder
Database Manager	OPEN
Conservation	Celia Carroll
Outings	Peter Haight
	Larry Carroll
Webpage	Larry Carroll
Newsletter	Rich Peters
	Michie Hirooka
	Clay Dodder

Club Activities & Committees

New Member Committee	Reece Lewis
	Leslie Riley
Spring Super Raffle	OPEN
Conservation Super Raffle	OPEN
Hotline	John Dalton
Casting Classes	OPEN
Fly Tying Classes	Peter Haight
Trout in the Classroom	OPEN
SW Council - FFI Rep.	Celia Carroll

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Wildernessflyfishers@gmail.com

To join WFF, visit our website
www.wildernessflyfishers.org

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

The monthly Board Meeting, held the Tuesday, one week before the monthly club meeting, is held via Zoom. Please contact Celia Carroll for an invite at ccarr10186@aol.com. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 P.M. All members are welcome. New members are especially encouraged to attend. Come and see how your club runs and you might pick up some fishing tips, too.

Minutes of Board Meetings are available to members on the website's [Document Library](#)

COMING EVENTS

For more information go to the WFF website [CALENDAR](#)

WFF Fly Tying	Sat. Jan. 28
WFF Outing Bishop	Fri. - Sun. Feb. 17 - 19

WFF Fly Tying

The classes are from 9 am to about 12 noon on the fourth Saturday of the month at St Augustine Church, 1227 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Park across the street in the city parking structure. See page 1 for parking rates and address.

This month we will tie the Klinkhammer Special to prepare for spring fishing and practice tying parachutes. We hope to see you there.

Materials:

- curved hooks (size 12-16)
- peacock herl
- cdc feathers
- dun hackle feathers



Note: Peter Haight has agreed to hold private classes to fully vaccinated individuals. Those interested should call him at 310-476-9931 for more information and to arrange classes.



Holiday Party Wrap Up

Like last year the WFF Holiday Party was hosted by Roger & Kathy Later at their beautiful home. Kathy prepared a fabulous Julia Child recipe of Boeuf Bourguignon, scalloped potatoes, salad, and tasty desserts. Many guests brought bottles of wine, platters of cheese and other appetizers to add to the festivities. As usual a good time was had by all especially when so many come together with the goal of having a good time and great hosts opening their home.



Maggie & Doug Hall, Marcelo Reynoso, Scott Clark, Peter Haight, Roger & Kathy Later, Michael Miller, Cynthia Clark



Art & Penny Antolick, Mary Jo and John Dalton



Peter Haight, Celia & Larry Carroll



Club News - Welcome to 2023

What can you say about the outgoing 2022? Not as bad as some? Better than most years? Fishing was OK but not great? Take your pick. One thing, however, is certain – we now have an opportunity to reset, start over and start fresh. Make new plans, explore new fishing destinations, introduce new potential members to the Club? How about all of the above?

In the meantime, here are a few friendly reminders for those of us who might find them useful. **Please renew your WFF membership** as soon as possible, preferably at the Golden Trout level. In the absence of past fund raising auctions and raffles, we rely mainly on annual dues and voluntary donations to support our operations – primarily the speakers program and monthly dinner meetings. While you're at it, please consider a supplemental donation to assist with the Club's finances.

It's also time to **renew your California fishing license** so that you'll be ready for that early season trip to the Lower Owens where game wardens cheerily patrol the river banks. California is now using a 365-day license system so you could wait until your first fishing trip to renew, but don't forget to renew in the rush of things and be caught without your 2023 license. And you might as well renew any out-of-state licenses for venues that you know you will fish this year as many states do not prorate fees for late renewal. The Club's **2023 outings schedule** is still in progress but likely venues will include the Williamson River (Oregon), the San Juan River (New Mexico) and perennial favorite, Hot Creek Ranch as well as the Upper and Lower Sac in California. If you have a special request for a particular destination, please contact either of our outings co-chairs, Peter Haight or Larry Carroll.



Heading for new water. Photo courtesy of Gerald Berman.

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Club News - Welcome to 2023

Finally, on the subject of club business, we have a pressing need to fill two critical administrative positions going forward – **Webmaster and MTL Production Editor**. The website and Mending the Line are both longstanding institutions within our club and without filling these positions immediately we are in jeopardy of losing them both. Please step up and help if you can.

We have a great speaker line-up again for 2023 so mark your calendars now.

January: Chris King (The Fly Shop) – Northern California

February: Gary Bulla (Ventura) – Baja Fishing Adventures

March: Kip Vieth (Minnesota) - Fly Fishing in Minnesota (Zoom Presentation Only)

April: Landon Mayer (Colorado) – Favorite Patterns for Tough Trout

May: Marlon Rampy (Medford, OR) - Redband Trout

June: George Daniel (Pennsylvania) – New Book

July: Alex Cady (Huntington Beach) – SoCal Bass

August: No Program; Gone Fishing

September: Member Show-and-Tell

October: Kesley Gallagher (Westlake Village) - Chasing Trout

November: Rick Ferrante (Santa Clarita) - High Sierra Horse Packing

It's shaping up to be a great year for fishing in California and throughout the West. Start the year by signing up for Chris King's presentation on northern California in January and we'll all be off to a good start in the New Year.



Sunset on the Pacific Ocean



Marcelo & Scott's Big Adventure

by Scott Clark

October 2 to 8, 2022

Neither of us have ever fished the Upper Sacramento River, so we watched countless hours of “how to” videos on YouTube and were all set; no further instructions needed. Well let's just say there's more to fishing these beautiful rivers than meets the eye.

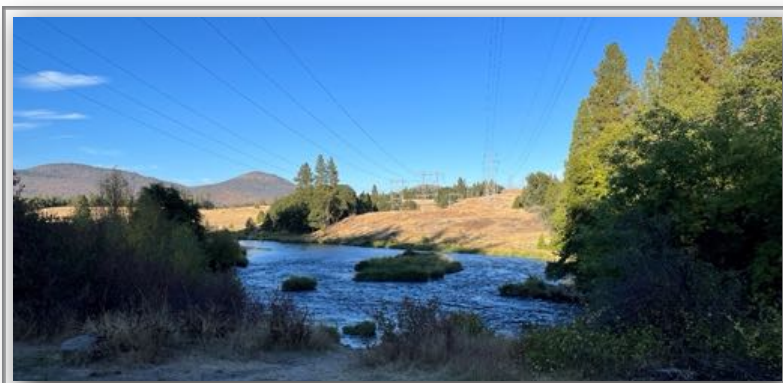
We flew into Medford, Oregon airport and rented a car and drove about two hours south to our little Airbnb in Dunsmuir, California. Dunsmuir retains much of the charm and scale of the 1920s and 1930s, and has been designated on the [National Register of Historic Places](#).

Our plans were to fish for six straight days dividing our time between the Upper Sac, McCloud and Hat Creek. Our little rental home in Dunsmuir was centrally located and down the street from the well-known Ted Fay Fly Shop. At the very least, buy a map (streamtime.com) of the Upper Sac access points that follow Interstate Highway 5. When looking at Google maps it appears the river is pretty easy to access, however, the river is in a deep canyon and access can be very difficult. Most, if not all of the access points are from the frontage roads that connect all the little towns.

On the first day we decided to fish the head-waters of the Upper Sac which flow out of Lake Siskiyou through an incredibly steep canyon. We were surprised how clear and pristine the water was. At this point, the river was only about 15 to 20 feet wide with overhanging trees, at times deceptively deep, mostly fast moving turbulent water and surprisingly cold at 58 degrees. Euro-nymphing was the golden ticket and I did very well. Marcelo, a diehard dry fly fisherman, found the conditions less than ideal.



Headwaters of the Upper Sacramento



Hat Creek

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Marcelo & Scott's Big Adventure

OK, we've tasted the Upper Sac now let's try a different river. Next up was Hat Creek. We drove to Power Station number 2. Given the limited access points for this river I was dreading the crowd. When we arrived there was nobody. Wow, we figured that mid-week and off-season most likely explained the absence of people. I guess that was a little overly optimistic. The crowds never showed up, because Hat Creek is a bust. Oh, I caught 40+ fish that day, but they only averaged about four inches long and only a couple were nice size. Apparently, Hat Creek went from 5k fish/mile to less than 1k fish/mile due to the infiltration of sediment that choked plant life and spawning beds. CalTrout has implemented a long-term restoration plan and I hope the river recovers.

For the next three days we fished various sections of the Upper Sac about four to 12 miles south of Dunsmuir. There are many small spring creeks that flow into the river. At this point the river is 35 to 50 ft wide and still absolutely crystal clear and cold. The nighttime temperatures dropped to 45 degrees and the hottest point of the day reached 90 degrees. The cold nights pushed the



One of the few glides on the Upper Sac

water temperatures to a perfect 58 degrees. Contrast this with August when the river temperatures can reach 70 to 72 degrees. The water was flowing at 160 cfs, down from the normal 220 cfs for this time of year (Google USGS 11342000 to get current water flows). This is a very difficult river to wade as the rocks are very slippery, the current is fast and deep. Again, a perfect river for Euro-nymphing with a 3mm to 4mm tungsten bead on your point fly. The rainbows were very large, but very spooky as I rarely caught more than one fish per hole. Landing these fish was quite a battle as they took advantage of the heavy fast water and many times taking me down to the backing on my reel.

Marcelo & Scott's Big Adventure

We were told by Ted Fay Fly Shop that one of the best times for dry fly fishing is late June. Despite the lack of hatches, Marcelo never gave up fishing with a dry fly. Every time I'd hook a fish I'd yell over at Marcelo, who pretended not to hear me, to try a dry dropper or indicator. No way, he'd yell back, I love the art of dry fly fishing. I don't need to always catch fish, he'd say. I love the challenge of a perfect cast and a drag-less drift. For a while I stood on the bank and admired Marcelo's effortless 40 ft casts under overhanging fir trees or next to big boulders. The currents are complex and strong so getting a drag-less drift can be a real challenge. The few glides we found are very difficult to fish as the water is so clear and fish spooky. Marcelo would carefully enter the water and slowly make his way over to where the few fish were rising. I didn't have to look to know he had hooked into another nice fish!

I always bring a spare rod because you just never know if you're going to need it. I've dropped a section of the rod between large boulders in the Owens Gorge never to be seen again. I've had an outboard motor chew my rod up and spit it out. So I know from experience to be prepared. While fishing the Upper Sac the tip of my Euro rod came off, slipped down the leader and right into the rapids. There was no way I could grab the top section of the rod as the water was too fast and footing treacherous. I made my way to the bank and looked down stream, but I was certain it was gone. The walk back to the car was a long ways, so Marcelo and I decided to have lunch first. About 30 minutes later I started walking back, but decided I'd take one last look. I walked down about 200 ft from where I lost the rod section, but not surprisingly I didn't find it. I thought to myself, the rod will probably continue floating downstream until it gets to a deep pool. So I walked further until I found a deep pool and there it was caught on a rock at the side of the pool. Wow.....I won the lottery!!!



Marcelo fishing the tail of the pool. Notice the lava rocks in the foreground, which were quite slippery.



Marcello & Scott's Big Adventure

We decided to try the famous McCloud River. The Nature Conservancy regulates the number of fishermen and registration can be done on-line or on a first-come basis. Despite knowing someone at the Nature Conservancy, I could not get a reservation. We decided to go early and gamble on getting a spot. It was mid-week and we thought our chances were pretty good. After all, we'd only seen a handful of fishermen for the last five days. We got about halfway down the long steep dirt road in our little rental sedan and decided the road was way too rough to go any further. We ran into a ranger on the way out and he said we needed a high clearance vehicle/4-wheel drive to make it to the Nature Conservancy area. The ranger said the water was muddy because of the low snow pack this year. There are no formal fishing reports for the McCloud because there are so few people who are able to access the water.

At the end of each day of fishing, we'd head over to the local grocery store in Dunsmuir and pick up some items for dinner. I was in charge of cleaning and Marcelo cooked all the breakfasts and dinners. Marcelo is quite the talented chef. We'd enjoy a beer together, eat a beautiful dinner and then talk about the day's fishing and other places we wanted to go. We both agreed that we're definitely coming back!!



Notices

FEBRUARY 04. 2023
BISHOP, CALIFORNIA



FLY OR SPIN FOR THE WIN



On Saturday February 04, 2023 the town of Bishop and the Eastern Sierra will welcome anglers from California, Nevada and abroad to take part in the 2nd Annual Bishop Trout Rodeo. The Bishop Trout Rodeo is an open competition targeting trout on some of the most scenic and productive waters in California. The tournament will be held rain or shine and will be open to both fly and conventional anglers (in separate divisions) of all ability levels who will compete for the prizes of longest stringer landed and released and the largest single fish.

There are also team categories and there is no maximum limit to number of anglers on a team (scoring for teams is done on average so size of team has no advantage/disadvantage). So get your friends, club members or family together, come up with a name, and get yourself registered when the portal opens November 01, 2022.

With support from the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, the event is being produced by the Southwest Council, Fly Fishers International. This event will provide outdoor fun in a safe and beautiful environment during a time of year that offers very productive angling opportunities with minimal crowds on the water.

For more information, including times, location, rules and when to sign up, please visit:

<https://www.swcffi.org/rodeo>

For press info general questions, or sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

Southwest Council, Fly Fishers International

Michael Schweit 818-601-9702

specialprojects@swcffi.org



Print & Mail Coupon

If you prefer not to use our website, mail in a coupon with your check.



Wilderness Fly Fishers Membership Application

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Annual Dues:

- ☐ \$50 Single - Regular
☐ \$70 Single - Golden Trout
☐ \$60 Family - Regular
☐ \$80 Family - Golden Trout

_____ Additional Donation

_____ TOTAL enclosed

Mail Check With This Form To:

Wilderness Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 3358
Santa Monica, CA 90408-3358

Monthly Meeting Reservations

Please make your dinner [reservations online](#) or send in this coupon.
Your check must be in the club mailbox by the Wednesday, the week before the meeting.

Names _____

_____ Dinner(s) and Program(s) x \$30 per person

_____ Program(s) only x \$10 per person

Total \$ _____

Please make check payable to W.F.F.

Mail to:

Wilderness Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 3358
Santa Monica, CA 90408-3358

Join us online, Visit our website www.wildernessflyfishers.org



January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa (1st Day)	27	28	29	30	31
1 New Years Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 WFF Board Meeting Via Zoom	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday	17 WFF Monthly Meeting: Chris King: "The Wonders of Northern California"	18	19	20 WFF Deadline for Newsletter Articles	21
22 Chinese New Year	23	24	25	26	27	28 WFF Fly Tying
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

