

The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

April 2025

First FFI Affiliated Club in Louisiana



North Louisiana Fly Fishers

Established in 1984



By Dave Whitlock



The North Louisiana Fly Fishers is a comprehensive flyfishing club:

Established in 1984, The NLFF is affiliated with Fly Fishers International and is composed of a core group of very experienced fly fishers. In addition to this group of experienced fly fishers is a large population of intermediate fishermen. Most importantly, the NLFF club has a healthy contingent of people just learning how to fly fish who are members of the club. No matter what your skill level, you are welcome to join. The goal is to help each other in the sport. The goal is also to enjoy the magnificent fly fishing journey. The sport can refresh the soul, mind and spirit. Come join us on the journey.

6 Main components of the NLFF:

- 1) **Education:** We teach all aspects of skills and techniques associated with fly fishing. Casting, rod assembly, knots, fly ID courses, line management, gear reviews, and safe wading are just a few of the topics addressed.
- 2) **Destination Programs:** We provide programs and lectures on ideal locations to fly fish. Secret locations, easy wading river bottoms, rivers, ponds, lakes and streams are all presented. Some close, some more distant. We also share current fishing reports.
- 3) **Fishing Trips:** We organize trips to rivers, streams, ponds and lakes. We fish cold water and warm. We even offer salt water trips.
- 4) **Fly Tying:** We offer complete fly tying instruction. We provide you all the tools you need to tie you own fly, plus a one on one instructor.
- 5) **Social Activity and Community involvement:** The NLFF has given back to the community with involvement in Veterans Projects, Reel Recovery, Refuge summer camps, and more.
- 6) **Travel:** We support, participate, and travel to regional fly fishing conventions, and gatherings.

Cover Photo: Charles Croft ties his first fly at the Bass Pro Formal Fly Tying Lesson held the 3rd Thursday of each month. at 6:30 PM.

April NLFF

Events...

- **April 1st:** Brews and Bugs
- **April 5th:** Farm Pond fishing outing
- **April 8th:** Monthly Meeting
- **April 17th:** Formal Fly Tying at Bass Pro

Laid-back Monthly Event (April 1st).....

1st Tuesday of the Month!

Brews and Bugs

A social time and fly tying practice time at Great Raft Brewery



What could be better than tying a few flies, hearing a few nuggets of fishing wisdom, and sipping a local brew (nonalcoholic beverages also available) in a classy atmosphere. Come out for this relaxing and enjoyable monthly break from the normal routine. Bring you spouse or significant other. If they do not tie flies, they are welcome to take along any craft they enjoy. It could be sewing, crocheting, painting... Anything. The point is just to get together and enjoy each other's company. Discount beverages offered to all that tie flies. A food truck is on site with sandwiches and chicken dishes. Beat the rush hour and arrive at 5 PM.

When: Tues. April 1st 5-8 PM

1st Tuesday of each month at 5 PM

Where: Great Raft Brewery

1251 Dalzell St, Shreveport 71104

April 5 NLFF outing..

Farm Pond Bliss.....



A place where anyone and everyone will catch fish!

Carve a little time out of your calendar and make the trek to one of the most beautiful farm ponds you will ever lay your eyes on. If you are relatively new to fly fishing, you just gotta go on this trip. It's just a half day outing. The beauty of this trip is you can practice your cast in a VERY friendly environment. The other nice thing about this pond is it is loaded with fish. You will learn to detect a strike, which is critical with fly fishing. For experienced fly fishers: walk round to the north end where the big boys lay. It's challenging. It requires a strong tippet. Get ready for a wild ride.

Here's the deal. We meet at 7:30 AM at Louisiana Downs. We condense autos and drive to Calhoun La. It's about an hour and 75 minute drive. Pack a lunch. We will fish from 9 to 11. Picnic at the pond. Then leave by 11:30 AM. We will be back at La Downs by 1 PM

When: April 5th from 7:30 AM to 1 PM **Where:** Meet at La Downs at 7:30 AM drive to Calhoun La

Questions: Call Steve Oliver at 318-349-6411 or Rick Fontenot at 318-455-9893

April 8th *Monthly Meeting...*

Bonus: Tippet Wisdom. By Tim Powell

Jay Sikes Presents

Redfish Insanity!

Part 1 of a
3 part
Spring Salt-
water Series



Jay is an accomplished saltwater fly fisherman. He has trolled the shores of the Gulf from Texas to Florida. The life cycle of redfish, Florida Redfishing, and new redfish regulations are just a few topics Jay will dive into. This is interesting and fascinating stuff!

WHEN: April 8th at 6 PM

Where: Red River Refuge

150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City

April 17th

Formal fly tying lesson at Bass Pro...

3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM

Fuzzy Bee



Few flies catch fish like the Fuzzy Bee. Steve Oliver continues to refine this incredible fly. I have witnessed this fly pulling in a fish every cast for hours on end. Come and tie our own at this well planned lesson. You will leave with a handful of free flies!

This fly is perfect for beginners. We will provide everything you need. Vise, tools, materials and an instructor. Advanced tyers, we encourage you to participate. We like to observe your skills.

When: April 17th at 6:30 PM

Where: Bass Pro in the Fly Shop

Questions: Call Brett Rowell: 318-207-6097

FOR SALE...

Jeff says:
"Please buy my camper, the baby needs new shoes!"

2019 Flagstaff Camper T12 with off

-road package



The family is growing and the camper must go. Lightly used.

It sleeps 2 comfortably, 3 in a pinch. Port-a-pot included!

This camper can be towed with almost anything.

It has massive storage up front. Super easy set-up. Takes 5 minutes to open.

\$7,000 Or best offer!

Contact Jeff at (337) 344-7100

Pontoon Boat



This is a really fun boat for rivers and lakes.

Light and easy to haul.

\$625

Contact Dennis North (903) 930-5460

If you would like to list an item for sale related to fishing text me a photo with a short description. Scott Irwin 318-469-0854

Recurring Events:

Monthly Meetings

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Red River Refuge in the Conservation Conference Center at 6 PM. Bring your fly tying equipment to meetings and come tie flies.

Red River Refuge

150 Eagle Bend Point

Bossier City LA 71112

Officers: Steve Oliver: President 318-349-6411 Mark Chrisman: Treasurer 318-797-8790

Board: John Reisz 318-560-5831, Dickie Turner 318-469-9600, Brett Rowell 318-207-6097
Scott Irwin 318-469-0854

1st Tuesday of the month at 5 PM: Brews and Bugs at Great Raft Brewery

1251 Dalzell St, Shreveport LA 71104

Come out for a relaxing start to the month tying flies with your friends in a classy environment. This is the perfect time to practice tying what is taught at the 3rd Thursday formal fly tying lesson. But you can tie whatever you like. This is also a good time to ask for help with any techniques you wish to master. Alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks are available. A food truck is on site with tasty sandwiches and chicken offerings.

3rd Thursday Monthly Formal Fly Tying Lesson:

Come join us for an enjoyable evening of fly tying at Bass Pro on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM. If you are new to fly tying this is a great place to start. We provide you with a vise, tools and materials to tie your first few flies. If you are an experienced fly tyer, come and demonstrate your skill. We always enjoy sharing new and different techniques.

The fly tying session is organized in a lesson format. An instructor chooses a fly that is a guaranteed fish catcher in the Ark-La-Tex. The lesson follows the process of constructing the fly step by step. An experienced floater tyer is available for those that desire a little extra assistance.

It is the charge of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers to afford the general public and our members in particular, a better understanding of Fly Fishing, Fly Tying, and Rod Building. We wish to perpetuate the sport as a most pleasurable and exciting fishing method and provide education, instruction and the opportunities for relaxation to the membership.

The North Louisiana Fly Fishers (NLFF) Club serves the Ark-La-Tex area surrounding Shreveport. As the closest cold water fishery, we consider the Little Missouri (Little' Mo) River near Murfreesboro, AR our home waters. We also fish the local rivers and lakes. We even have a growing group of kayak fishermen that, as well as the local rivers and lakes, will fish the gulf coast marshes for some saltwater action!

We meet the second Tuesday of every month at the Red River Wildlife Refugee (150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA). Meeting starts at 6 pm, tie flies and practice casting when the weather permits. See you there!

NLFF Outings and Events....

NLFF Planned Outings



March Outing

Sowbug Roundup

In beautiful Mountain Home Arkansas



The premier Fly Fishing Festival in the United States!

Attend the Sowbug Roundup (sponsored by the North Arkansas Fly Fishers) with your fellow NLFF members. The festival features fly tying workshops with Tim Flagler, fascinating seminars, casting instruction, vendors, and endless demonstration tyers. Plus, the White River is just a few miles away and offers world class fishing.

Many members are staying at the Super 8. Prices start at \$60 a night. Admission to the festival is Just \$10. It is an amazing value. Some members will arrive Wednesday March 26th and leave Sunday March 30th. Come and stay for the whole festival of just for a few days. This is a 5 star fly fishing experience. For more information go to: northarkansasflyfishersl.org. Click on "Sowbug Roundup homepage".

When: March 26-29th 2025

Where: Mountain Home AR

April Events listed in beginning of this Newsletter

May NLFF outing...

Bring your spouse!

Flies & Fleas

Located at Purvis Creek State Park in Texas (southeast of Canton)



This is a truly unique outing. It takes place on one of the most well managed warm water lakes in America. The fishing is phenomenal.

We combine this with the option to attend the largest flea market in the world, the First Monday Trade Days in Canton TX. (Thursday May 29th).

Most members will arrive on Tuesday May 27th and stay 3 nights. They will depart Friday May 30th. Camping is available at the state park. Hotels are nearby for those without campers.

This is a mid-week trip due to the fact the outdoor organization has booked the campground many weekends.

But the lake is fantastic for mid-week fishing. It will not be crowded.

Contact Steve Oliver with questions: 318-349-6411

When: May 27 –30

**Where: Purvis Creek
State Park** near Canton Texas



June NLFF Outing...

Wet Wade

Kisatchie Bayou



Kisatchie Bayou is an anomaly in Louisiana. It looks like it belongs in a far away state. Its only a 90 minute drive. Waterfalls, white sand, clear cool water. It's stunning. To top it off, it is breaming with fish. All you need are some old tennis shoes, a swimsuit, and your flyrod.

We will meet at the Home Depot in South Shreveport at 8 AM. We will caravan to the Bayou. Pack a picnic lunch. We will fish until about 2 or 3 pm. Then return to Home Depot by 5 PM. It's a day trip.

When: June 21st at 8 AM Where: Meet at Home Depot

Call Scott Irwin with any questions: 318-469-0854

July Blockbuster event:

Caddo Flyfishing Expo

Sponsored by the North Louisiana Fly Fishers



When: July 18th and 19th
2025

Where: Historic Downtown
Jefferson Texas at the con-
vention Center.

(305 E. Austin St)

Plan now to attend the first Caddo Flyfishing Expo.

Fly tyers and experts of the fly rod will gather in one room to further the sport of fly fishing. The event will include:

- Seminars
- Incredible fishing just steps from the convention center
- Demonstration fly tyers and fly tying lessons
- Food, prizes and more



***Register now to be a
demonstration fly tyer
at the event. Spots are
limited. Apply now:***

Name_____

Number attending Caddo Expo _____

Address_____

Email (print clearly)_____

Cell Phone _____

Day you will arrive (Friday, Saturday or both? (We hope both)_____

Fly or fly fishing skill you would like to demonstrate (if known at this time)

Optional: I would like to be a teacher at the event to teach fly tying

Circle one: YES NO

{Complementary dinner Friday night and all day Saturday for demonstration tyers!}

Spots are limited. The first 30 spots are for tyers traveling from out of town. Remaining spots to locals.

Mail this form to NLFF, P.O. Box 29531 Shreveport LA 71149 or email to nlffclub@gmail.com

Make Reservations NOW! Campground filling up!

September NLFF Outings....

(Must be a member to attend)

Joint Outing! (Rescheduled from February)

North Louisiana Fly Fishers +

Contraband Fly Fishers (a Lake Charles Club)



**Make Reservations
NOW! The campground
and cabins are already
70% occupied!**

One of the many benefits of participating in a fly fishing club is the chance to meet incredible people in other clubs. Some of these clubs are close to salt water, some cold water, some warm water. But the fellowship is always warm. Join the NIFF and the Contraband Fly Fishers for a trip to The Lower Mountain Fork at Beavers Bend Oklahoma. (Three hours from Shreveport). Get a cabin, stay in the park lodge, or camp at Beavers Bend State Park. Make reservations early. You can always cancel a reservation. AGAIN, RESERVE NOW!

When: Arrive Friday September 19th, Depart Monday September 22nd (3 nights)

Where: Accommodations at Beavers Bend State Park. Fishing: Lower Mountain Fork River

More info: Scott Irwin: 318-469-0854

NLFF

Roster:

I apologize , I have not had a chance to update this roster.

This roster is current as of December 31st. We have had many new members join.

Patrick Leahy
Allen Rowe
Joe Linder
Steve Oliver
Brett Rowell
Rex White
Rush Clay
Al Higgins
Jack Lamb
Howard Malpass
Ardis Peace
Jim Roat
Artur Sele
Dick Seal
Chuck Tiller
Chris Horsley
Dickie Turner
Ed Cates
Mark Chrisman
CL Bourn
Russ Rogers
Tom Hopkins
John Reisz
Jay Sikes
Rick Fotenot
Tom Mee
Colin Fontenot
John Scarborough
Matt Kendall
Tad Britt
Scott Irwin

Antoinette Sheppelman
Tim Powell
Dennis North
David Lanzillotti
Alan Carter
Larry Cooper
Richard Kennedy
David Frey
Terry Williams
Chad Garland
Keith Burton
Bill Meaney
Larry McCarver
Scott King
Jack Weiner
Wendy Kelly

Don't see your name on our membership roster? Join today. We would love you as a member of the NLFF. The club is diverse. It revolves around fly fishing but also includes travel, regional fly fishing conventions, interaction with other fly fishing clubs, and plenty of "eating meetings" You can find a membership form on our website "Northlaflyfishers.org" or use the form below.



North Louisiana Fly Fishers

P.O. Box 29531 · Shreveport, LA 71149
www.northlaflyfishers.org

Club Membership Form

Member Information*

Primary Member's Name:	DOB:	
Other Active Member or Spouse:	DOB:	
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
FFI Member?:	Yes or No (Circle One)	Home Phone:
Fly Tyer?	Yes or No (Circle One)	Cell Phone:
Kayaker?	Yes or No (Circle One)	Other Cell Phone:
Primary Email:		
Wireless Carrier (Need to send texts):		

*NOTE: All information is confidential and for the private use of the NLFF.

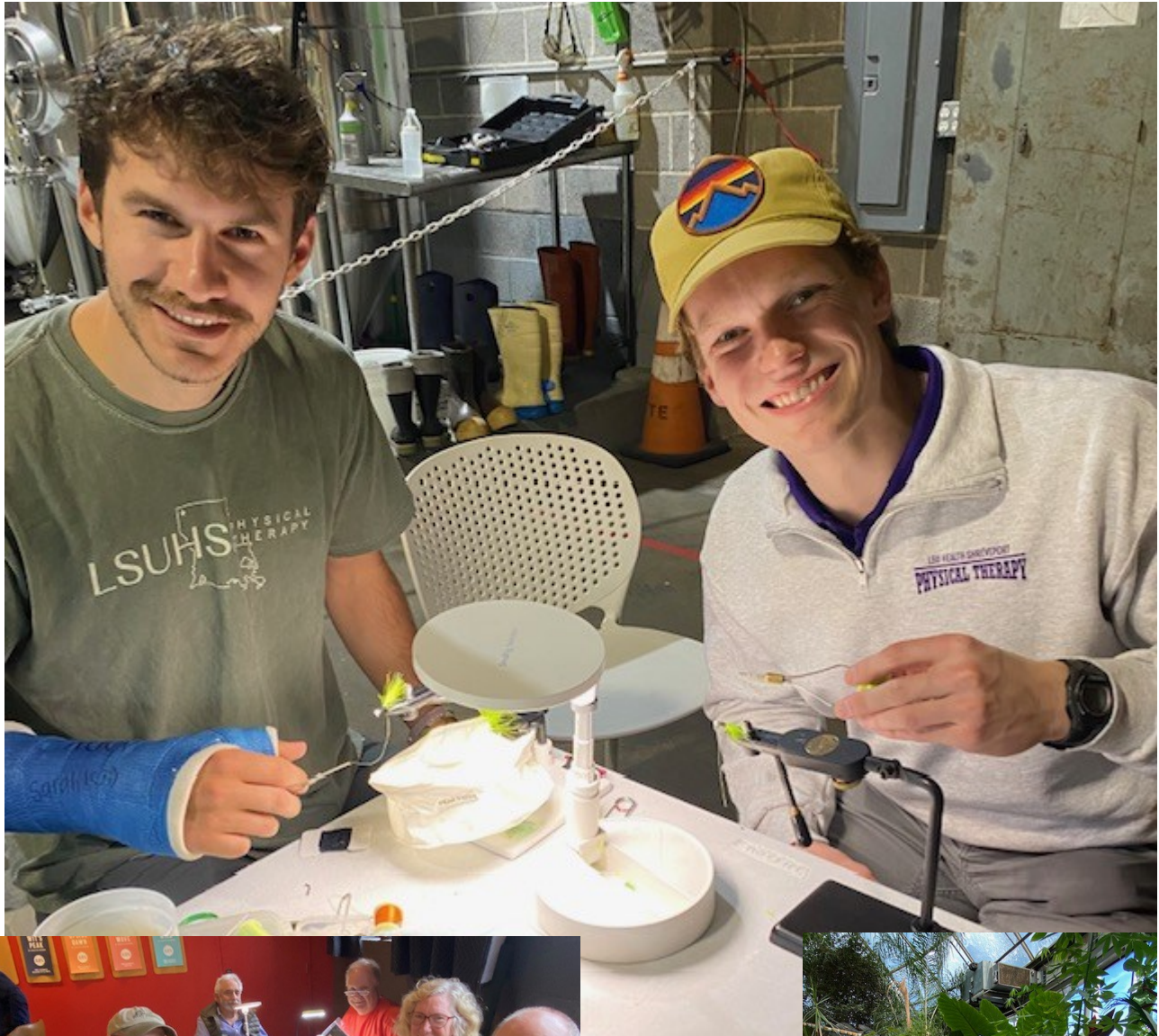
Membership Type (Check One)

<input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$35)	A parent or parents along with their children under 18 years of age. Limited to a two vote maximum.
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-Yr Family (\$90)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$30)	All individual members are allowed one vote.
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-Yr Individual (\$75)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$20)	Any student under the age of 18, but not included in a Family Membership. Student members are considered to be full members and have one vote.
<input type="checkbox"/> Active Military (\$20)	Any active member of the U.S. Armed Forces. Active military members are considered to be full members and have one vote.
Payment Method:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card	<input type="checkbox"/> Check

NOTE: Dues are payable by the end of January of each calendar year. Make checks payable to North Louisiana Fly Fishers (NLFF). Dues for **new** members joining on or after September 1st shall be valid through the end of the following year (excludes Military and Student). For example, if you join on Sept. 1 2016, your membership would be valid through the end of 2017.

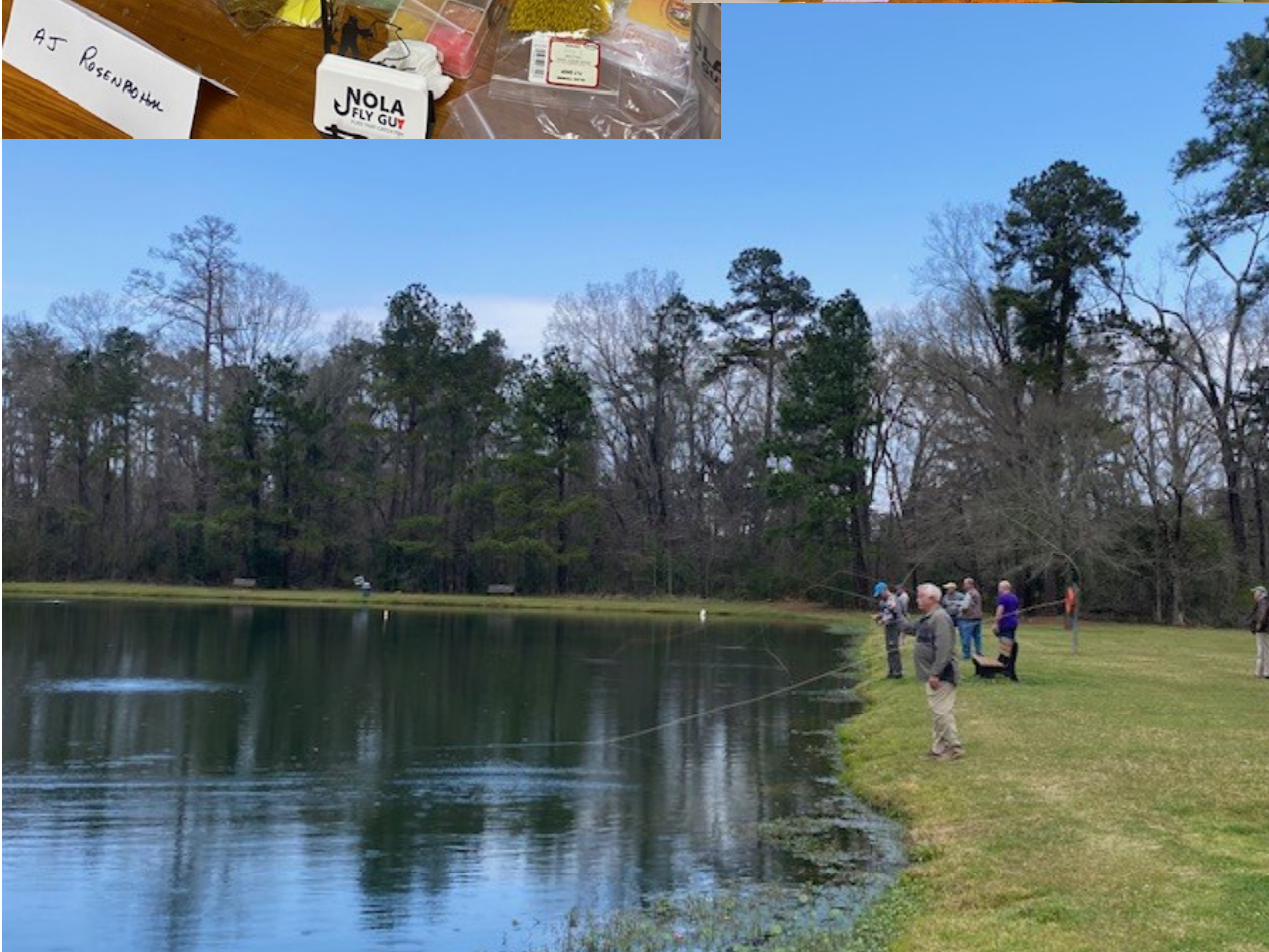
March NLFF Photos..

This is just plain fun....





Red Stick day in Baton Rouge....



Phil O'Bryant teaches formal lesson at Bass Pro





COME JOIN THE ADVENTURE.....

*Steve Oliver, Scott Irwin, and
Chris Horsley travel to Tyler
TX fly fishing club.*

*The Tyler Lone Star fly fishing club says
"Hello"!*

Dinner at Stanleys

David Hudnell Speaks

