



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

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January 2018

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

In this Issue

Page 2—[Installation Dinner Info](#)

Page 2—[A chance to clean out the closet](#)

Page 2—[The Delta's crashing fisheries and slumping economy](#)

Page 4—[Dinner reservation form](#)

Page 5—[Release of Liability form](#)

Calendar

January 1, 2018 New Years on the Moke

January 10, General Membership meeting, John R. Williams School

January 17, BOD Meeting, Oak Grove Park

January 20. Annual Installation Dinner



From the President's desk, (or pram or van or camper)

A personal invitation...

I'd like to personally invite each and every one of you to this year's awards and installation dinner. Why? Because your presence is the best way to thank all those people who have worked so hard during the past year to make it a successful one for the club. And it is a way to celebrate that, even after 40 years, the club is still relevant and healthy.

If you haven't already purchased your dinners, you still have until the 15th of the month to do so. I've included a dinner mail in as part of this newsletter should you need a form to fill out. Please have the form and a check in the mail by Friday, the 12th so that Charlie Reames can give the caterer a dinner count by Monday, the 15th.

And I'd like to invite each and every one of you to get more involved in the club this coming year. We plan to expand the number of outings and Tim Costello is considering adding an intermediate fly tying class as well as a beginning fly tying class.

To make it easier to attend a club outing, Bill Beckett has planned a number of local outings on the delta and I'll add a few as well. We also plan to add some new loca-

tions, some close to home and a few in the neighboring state of Nevada. It's my belief that you really get to know your fellow club members after sharing some time on the water, and sitting around a campfire.

To make it easier, I've included an insurance waiver form for 2018 as part of this newsletter. Our carrier asks that each of our members have one on file before participating in a club outing.

We also have some special events planned for the year including another casting day, this time an on-the water event, and again, complete with a club lunch and a casting Olympics. And another special fly tying day to end the year's activities.

I'd also like to invite you to step up and become more involved if you're not already. How about leading an outing, taking on a chairman's position, attending board meetings, volunteering to help or run one of the three county fishing derbies, leading a Fly of the Month class.

However, to start things off, just come to the awards and installation dinner. It's a fun night, with great company and a chance to increase your fly fishing equipment inventory.

January meeting's focus on the club's home water

The Mokelumne and its prodigious return of salmon and steelhead is a outlier in an otherwise dismal state management of its salmonid fisheries. While the Sacramento system is in catastrophic troubles, the Mokelumne is a shining light on good fishery management. It is not an accident. East Bay Municipal Utility District has stepped up like no other utility in the state to accept responsibility for the health of the river's fishery. You can hear all about it by attending the January club meeting where Jose

Seca, EBMUD's senior biologist will discuss how the utility have been able to accomplish miracles in an otherwise dismal state of affairs for the state's salmonids.

Have some friends that are interested in fly fishing? This is a great meeting to bring them to since it is a great start to the years' activities. The meeting will be held with refreshments starting at 6:30, call to order at 7pm. Wednesday January 10th, John R. Williams School. And of course, the Public is invited.

Annual Installation Dinner to take place at Elks Lodge

You can pay for your dinner tickets for the club's annual installation dinner at the January general membership meeting. Charlie Reames will be accepting checks or cash at the meeting, the cost, \$35 for a beef, chicken or vegetarian dish.

Most members already know the details of this annual event but for new members, it's a time to celebrate our fly fishing year, honor some members with awards, welcome some special guests and hand out donations to support some of our conservation causes, and say thanks to the departing officers and board members while welcoming in the new people.

The evening ends with a giant silent auction and raffle and if you've read the president's message and raffle article you know that this year features FOUR GRAND PRIZES with a total value of over \$1,500 as well as numerous smaller items.

The cut off date for buying tickets will be January 13th since the caterer needs to have a head count in advance.

An open bar and bottles of wine are available for purchase at the lodge. If members choose to bring their own wine, a corkage fee of \$5 may be charged. Let's make this a really good one!!!

A chance to clean out the closet

All of us have some. Something you've acquired, maybe as a gift, maybe as a raffle prize, or maybe an impulse purchase that you've never put to use. Well, if it has to do with fly fishing or camping, consider donating it to the club for use in the monthly or annual raffle. It doesn't have to be something expensive and it doesn't have to be brand new as long as it's in good shape and serviceable. If you're an old fly fishing veteran, think back of how long it took you to acquire all the necessary items to make your fishing day a success. You can make a little easier for a club newbie to fill up their inventory by donating your surplus gear.

If you itemize on your taxes, the donation can be a tax deductible gift. Since the club is a 501c3 corporation, (non profit)

our club treasurer will give you a receipt that can be used with your taxes.

If you don't have something at hand but are a fly tier, consider tying up a box of flies to donate. They are the most sought after items at most of the club raffles and silent auctions.

Warning!!! If you have a non fly fishing spouse or partner, be careful about their reading this article! You may come home to find your favorite fly fishing gear missing to make room in the closet for something much less appealing!

If you're that non fly fishing person and need that closet room, you can bring the gear to any club officer or director. They'll get it to the raffle chair!

The delta's crashing fisheries and slumping economy

"Grant me the serenity to accept the size of the fish I catch, the courage not to lie about it, and the wisdom to know that none of my fishing buddies would believe me away."

... Anonymous

California's Water Fixes' ongoing Efforts to Destroy the Delta

November 30th the State Water Resources Control Board (SWB) received testimony regarding the Dept. of Water Resources

(DWR) and the US Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) request to change the point of diversion for California's "WaterFix" (CWF). This testimony was for the second part of the SWB's hearings regarding impacts of the proposed water diversion on the Delta's fish and wildlife, its recreation, and the loss of Public Trust values. The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CPPA) was one of 78 groups represented by 110 people, from

(Continued on page 3)

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Trout Bout (November)

Charlie Reames

Webmaster

John Keagy

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(Continued from page 2)

environmental organizations, cities and counties, water agencies, and fishing and recreational groups. CSPA pointed out to bias the hearing in favor of the California WaterFix by not presenting testimony, the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) all failed to appear. As CSPA pointed out, "That's right. They were AWOL: the first time in history the fishing agencies were absent from a major water rights meeting". Their absence from the hearing is another confirmation of the WaterFix's lack of scientific integrity.

CSPA presented 11 individuals giving testimony regarding the negative effects increased water diversion has and will continue to have on the Delta if the diversions continue. All of their presenters have unique areas of expertise about the Delta. Jerry Neuburger, our president, was one of the expert witnesses for CSPA. Jerry's testimony was two-fold regarding our fisheries, both as recreational fisherman and a professional guide, and the Delta's ongoing economic losses caused by loss of our fisheries.

Jerry has fished the Lower Sacramento River and the Delta for close to 50 years. During that time he has "seen a dramatic decrease in both the number and size" of the stripers population. He "also has become aware of the decline and collapse of the retail support system that made the Delta a unique recreational opportunity for anglers, to be rivaled only by some of the most famous fisheries on the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico." He commented that his testimony was anecdotal. However, every issue he makes in his 11 pages of testimony is verified by readily available data.

As a child Jerry's mother first took him fishing on the Sacramento River when he was from 7 to 10 years of age. Like Jerry, I remember my early years fishing the Delta. I fished from from a row boat on Potato Slough during and shortly after WW2. It was common to catch between 10-15 "shakers" with an occasional larger striper. Jerry returned to the Delta in his 20's and, after learning better technics and buying a boat, catching 10-15 lb. stripers were the norm. During the Rio Vista Bass Derby, stripers in excess of 40 lbs. were common with 70 to 100 boats on the water. To quote Jerry, "To say fishing was

excellent during those years was an understatement." During those years the requirements of a family and a job kept him off the water until the late 1980's. In the 80's, he switched to fly fishing and was catching stripers in the 8-10 lb. range. He later became a professional guide for 10 years ending his guiding career in 2016. Neuburger's early years as a professional guide taught him more about the Delta and it's fisheries. Both he and his clients were pleased with the catch rate. During the first 5 years of guiding most of his clients caught at least one striper in excess of 10 lbs..

In his testimony he notes the DFW'S website confirms that "conditions of fresh water with moderate to swift currents as the principal components necessary for spawning. In recent years continuing massive water diversions have caused the primary spawning areas water flows to be reduced to tidal flows. Only minor amounts of fresh water from the Mokelumne River flow to the Delta. With the continuing water diversions for corporate agriculture we know what has happened to our fisheries. There is a direct relationship between increasing water diversion from the Delta and the loss of it's fisheries. Neuburger noted that "things really turned sour during the 2013 season." Fishing had become more difficult since the later part of the 1980's and now fish in the 10 lbs. range are very difficult to find. Were once fish in the 2 to 4 lbs.range were abundant, his clients were only catching 1 to 3 smaller fish and had to change their location frequently.

Neuburger noted that the Delta's population of adult stripers has been estimated to have been 9 million fish at one time. Currently the DFW estimates the number had dropped to 350,000-650,000 fish in 2014. However, Neuburger and others feel DFW number's are inflated and a more accurate count is 250,000 stripers. He noted that his catch rate has dropped by much more than 50%. He also pointed out that there are now only 1/36th of the stripers that existed in the past.

The second part of his testimony is titled, "The Economic Impact of the Decline of the Striped Bass Fisheries." Nothing in life happens in a void. The Delta's fisheries have been a major part of the Delta's economic viability. Restore the Delta points out that the fisheries and recreational use of the Delta has previously generated \$750,000 million income for

the 5 Delta counties. Jerry's testimony describes the loss of bait shops, boats, mooring facilities, recreation suppliers, boat repair facilities, ship chandlers, restaurants, and many secondary businesses. With the decline of striped bass fisheries he estimates the loss of two to three thousand jobs and several hundred business owners.

CSPA presented testimony from 11 experts in many aspects of the Delta. Bill Jennings, CSPA's Executive Director, gave testimony of the decline of water quality and the decline of the fisheries over the past 50 years. He also drew attention to the SWB's failure to prevent the collapse of the Central Valley Fisheries and their poor ongoing decisions as the collapse occurred. Chris Shutes, CSPA's Advocate, pointed out that since the fish agencies failed to show up, the SWB should accept their previous scientific observations which do not support the CWF. Some of CSPA's presenters testimony was over 50 pages in length and supported their testimony with as many as 60 exhibits. CSPA testimony verifies it's not possible to justify the California CWF economically or environmentally.

The USBR Looking to Increase Water to the Central Valley Project

The last week in December a spokesperson for the USBR said the Trump administration is looking into the possibilities of increasing water flows in California's Central Valley Project (CVP). According to the USBR's spokeswoman, they will begin with an 18 month analysis of the proposed project. This is another attempt at a massive water grab in the Delta for corporate agriculture and the expense of near extinct salmon and endangered Delta fish species.

The CVP is the biggest federal water project in America comprised of a network of 500 miles of canals with 18 dams and reservoirs drawing water from the Delta. The senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Doug Obegi, interprets this action,"as the latest attempt by the Trump administration to roll back protections for salmon and other endangered native fisheries...in order to increase water supplies for the state's agricultural water agencies." There will be a public comment period until February 1. Trump has repeatedly shown his lack of

(Continued on page 6)

2018 DFF Installation Dinner Banquet, Raffle and Silent Auction

Saturday, January 20, 2018

Elk Lodge # 218

The evening begins with a no host bar, open at 6:00pm. The bar will be available through the dinner with beer, wine, mixed drinks and non-alcoholic beverages. Corkage fee is \$5.00 per bottle.

Dinner service begins at 7:00pm. This year's menu includes either tri-tip, Chicken Piccata or vegetarian lasa-

The night's program will feature the installation of the 2018 officers and directors and an awards ceremony as well as some special presentations by invited guests.

This year's raffle will include FOUR grand prizes including a Cabela's pontoon boat and three Redington rod, reel and line combination outfits, the value of the four grand prizes approaches \$2,000. In addition, the raffle and silent auction will include a number of other rods, reels, lines, fly boxes and other fly fishing equipment

If you are receiving this notice by mail, please fill out and return the bottom portion along with a check for the amount due using the enclosed return envelope. If you are responding to a electronic request or the form in the January newsletter, please fill out the bottom portion of this notice along with a check for the amount due and mail to:

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Detach and return this order form with payment in the enclosed, unstamped envelope.

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Grand Total =_____

Please print your name _____

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FOR THE YEARS 2018-2019

Read Carefully - Affects Your Legal Rights

**RELEASE, WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK
HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT AND INDEMNITY**

1. In consideration of participating in *Fly Fishing and Activities related thereto* and other valuable consideration, I hereby RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE *Delta Fly Fishers*, their Board of Directors, the officers, chairpersons, agents and members (hereinafter referred to as RELEASEES) from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions on causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage or injury, including death, that may be sustained by me or to any property belonging to me, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, or otherwise, while participating in any such activities or while in, or upon the premises or location where such activities are being conducted or in transportation to and from said premises or location. *This agreement shall be effective for all activities during the calendar year in which this agreement is signed.*

2. To the best of my knowledge, I can fully participate in these activities. I am fully aware of the risks and hazards connected with the activity including but not limited to the risks of drowning, hook injury and as noted herein, and I hereby elect to voluntarily participate in said activities and to enter the premises and locations where the activities are being conducted, knowing that the activities may be hazardous to me and my property. I VOLUNTARILY ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY RISKS OF LOSS, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR PERSONAL INJURY, INCLUDING DEATH, that may be sustained by me, or any loss or damage to property owned by me, as a result of being engaged in any such activities, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OR DELIBERATE ACT OF RELEASEES or otherwise.

3. I further hereby AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE RELEASEES from any loss, liability, damage or costs, including court costs and attorney's fees, that may arise from my participation in said activities, WHETHER CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE OR DELIBERATE ACT OF RELEASEES or otherwise.

4. I WAIVE the protection afforded by any statute or law in any jurisdiction (e.g. CA Civil Code 1542) whose purpose, substance and/or effect is to provide that a general release shall not extend to claims, material or otherwise, which the person giving the release does not know or suspect to exist at the time of executing the release.

5. This Release and Hold Harmless Agreement shall bind the members of my family and spouse (if any), if I am alive, and my heirs, assigns and personal representative, if I am not alive shall be deemed as a RELEASE, WAIVER, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the above named RELEASEES. I hereby further agree that this Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

6. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT *Delta Fly Fishers* or any of the named Releases will not be responsible for any medical costs associated with any injury I may sustain. I also understand that I should possess adequate health and accident insurance to cover any personal injury to myself which may be sustained during the activity or transportation to and from said activity.

7. I further agree that I am or will become familiar with the nature and requirements of said activities before participating. I further assume the complete risk of any activities and I will provide any and all safety equipment, whether or not required by law. IN SIGNING THIS RELEASE, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND REPRESENT THAT, I have read the foregoing Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement, and understand if I sign it voluntarily as my own free act and deed; no oral representations, statements or inducements, apart from the foregoing written agreement, have been made; I am at least eighteen (18) years of age and fully competent; and I execute this Release for full, adequate and complete consideration fully intending to be bound by same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this month _____ and _____ day of 20 ____.

Read Carefully Before Signing

Participant Parent must sign if under 18 years

Print name Street Address, City & Phone Number

(Continued from page 3)

understanding of environmental issues and has consistently shown his anti-environment mentality. The decision to increase water flows to the CVP will not be decided by the Trump or his administration but by the courts.

Ron Forbes

Conservation Chair

Rx Fly Fishing! Advertising Rates

2 column inches each newsletter issue for the year for \$400, six months \$200, quarter \$100, one month \$40. The ad may include artwork and will link to the advertiser's website.

Additional column inches of ad space may be purchased at \$200 for the year, \$100 for six months, \$50 for a quarter year, \$20 per month.

Included:

- A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.
- Permission to post specials and other advertising on the [club's Face book page](#), 2 per month.

For additional information please phone or e-mail [Jerry Neuburger](#), Editor 209-369-5752



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