



Rx Fly Fishing!

Volume XL

Number I

January 2017

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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Calendar

Don't forget your 2017 fishing license.

January 11, General Membership meeting, Creekside Elementary School

January 18, BOD Meeting, Oak Grove Park

January 19-22, International Sportsman's Exposition, Cal Expo Fair Grounds

January 21, Annual DFF Installation Dinner and Raffle

January 25, 2017 Fly of the Month, Oak Grove Park

February 4, Stanislaus Drift, Mike Nicholson, Fishmiester

February 8, General Membership Meeting, John R. Williams School

February 12, Casting clinic and rodeo, Oak Grove Park

February 15, BOD Meeting, Oak Grove Park

So many fish, and I want to catch them ALL!



Well the club will have to put up with a 73 year old retread as president for the next year. I was president the first time way back in 1991 and lots has changed since that time. We've lost some

good practices and taken on others. Our membership has stayed fairly steady, hovering around the 100 mark for all those years and we still meet at the same two locations we did when I started, the John R Williams School and the Oak Grove Nature Center.

I'm lucky enough to have a full staff of officers and directors to work with. President Gil was not that fortunate for the two years he led the club. At our first directors meeting, we've laid out an ambitious schedule for the club with additional outings and two special events, a Casting Clinic and Casting Olympics day in February and a Fly Tying Saturday in December. This year's outings include the old favorites and also feature some not so new locations from the past, such as the shad outing on the American in May.

We've already brought back two well received member activities, the monthly raffle, so well received so far, and refreshments and desserts at the membership meetings, again, an extremely appreciated part of the evening. We need to thank vice-

president Cliff Hoover and his wife, Linda, for their efforts in bringing the refreshment corner back to life.

While the club is springing back to life, we still need a few volunteers for some missing activities basic to a fly fishing club. The first is an instructor for a six session fly tying class for beginners. Almost all of us old-timers were taught fly tying by member Don Gillett. He taught the skills for many years and the result was a group of fly fishers who got to know each other over the tying table and participated in many club outings together.

The second necessary position is an instructor to teach some classes in beginning fly casting. It's not necessary that the person be a Certified Casting Instructor, just a member with some casting skill, some teaching basics and the time to set up a series of three to five casting sessions or one long Saturday session for new fly fishers.

If any of you have noticed, I've dropped about 75 pounds in the last year with a target of dropping a total of 100. Some back problems caused the commitment and since I've lost the weight, my back problems have eased considerably. The new mobility allows me to plan a lot more fishing excursions, some of them close by, some as far away as Florida. As the headline says, "So many fish and I want to catch them all."

Jerry Neuburger

The Installation Dinner is coming. Do you have your tickets yet?

The club's biggest event, the installation dinner will take place on Saturday, January 21 at the Elks Lodge, 8900 Thornton Road, Stockton. Open bar at 6:00pm, dinner at 7:00pm. This year's dinner features tri-tip, Tuscan Chicken or vegetarian Lasagna as main courses. A corkage fee of \$5 will be charged for members bringing their own

wine.

The cut off date for ticket purchase coincides with the club's January meeting, January 11th. Dinners are \$35 per plate. Please attend this once a year event. The monies raised help the club to put on activities throughout the year. **More on page four about the raffle and other activities.**

Return to the Lower Yuba River

By Bob Fujimura

Due to the random lottery system, the Delta Fly Fishers returned to the UCD section of the Lower Yuba River in early December after its February's outing earlier this year. What a difference ten months made. The 2016 water year blessed the Yuba River drainage large amount of rainfall during the winter with flood flows up to 10 to 23 thousand cfs below Englebright Dam in March (see graph). These flows scoured and reset the streambeds of the lower river and removed some of the food organisms that were established during the lower and more stable flows seen during the drought years.



For those familiar with past outing at this location above the Hwy 20 Bridge, UCD made some significant changes this fall. First, the entrance gate had a combination lock which the attendees could freely come and go without the need of a key. UCD did away with a staff member opening its property and did not issue individual passes. Lastly, UCD closed their north trail to the upper section of the river. This was a disappointment to several club members who consider that section one of their favorite reaches to fish.



The Yuba, "Wild Bunch" Photo by Jerry Neuburger

When later asked Chris Feddersen, Business Officer, said that "Sorry about the "No Unauthorized Access" posting on the gate to the east trail. We had that posted for some public tours that another organization lead for salmon viewing in October/November... We will put the ladders back, but the sign will stay on the gate. In the future, you can still access that trail (ignore the posting)."

Sixteen members arrived at the entrance to the property before the starting time and got an early start at getting set up for fishing. Attendees were Cliff & Linda Hoover, Jerry Neuburger, Sam Thompson, John Highsmith, Larry Schmidt., Karen & John Keagy, Amy Terra, John Martin, Bill Hogan, Dan McDaniel, Tony Ott, Barry O'Regan (not pictured), and Bob & Jean Fujimura.

We were treated to nice weather throughout our visit: clear and cold in the morning with warmer temperature in the afternoon with just a touch of wind. John Highsmith said he was very pleased with the weather since his two previous outings were rainy and windy. Despite that the fish season was only three day old, there was surprising few other fishers in the area. Water had recently dropped from 1200 to 1000 cfs and water was running clear.

Unlike previous trips fishing was very tough, several members got grabs (Karen, Larry, Amy, John H?) few got hook ups (Tony) but no one landed fish. Tony got his best fishing in the north side of the tail-out from the Eastern overlook. Tony saw several fish working section before the bend and got most of her bites on bigger stonefly or caddis nymph patterns. Karen said she got her bite on a tiny

nymph pattern. Jerry tried swinging a black leech on an intermediate Type II and finally a Type VI line but with no success. Jerry's partner Cliff tried an egg and a big stone fly nymph under an indicator but struck out as well.

Jean fixed a huge lunch of bacon, Ortega chili, cheese burgers, potato and three bean salad, chips, and cookies. Many stories were shared and many calories consumed during that lunch!

The rocky streambed and hydraulic mine tailings took a toll on most of the members. Most members got tired walking the rocks and cobbles on the river plains. One secret of veteran fishers of the Lower Yuba River is to remain on the higher bluffs until see a prime river location. Dan McDaniel fell and injured his knee which worried the other members. Jerry had difficult time walking the uneven stream shoreline with his nerve problem in his right leg. Some of the young members got also challenged when they tried to hike over the mine tailings piles rather travelling across them. Amy got a sizable rip in her waders.

Before leaving the UCD property Bob Fujimura spend a few minutes fishing the head of the pool in front of Founder's Overlook and hooked two middle-sized 12-14" trout and LDR'ed both of them. It was about sundown and hooked both fish on Mercer micro mayfly nymphs.

Although fishing was disappointing, we look to better conditions in 2018 when the next time that DFF will return there. Storm floods are a necessary force in restoring and maintained streambed for long-term production of wild trout and salmon. High flows resets rock and gravel in the stream, removed silt and fine sediments, and removes encroaching riparian vegetation from the shoreline.

The Delta Fly Fishers on Facebook

By Jerry Neuburger

If you have not been participating on the club's Facebook page, you're missing out on some of the benefits of being a club member. Bob Fujimura does an outstanding job of keeping the page current and posts new articles on fly fishing almost daily. In addition, he posts all of the coming events with the option of giving those reading the option of saying whether they will attend or not. You can post fishing reports or arrange an outing with other club members.

It's a great resource for communicating

with other members, especially those people who have just joined the club and don't really know all the members. Are you planning a fishing trip and want to share expenses to make it a little easier on the pocketbook but your fishing buddy can't go? Post your proposed adventure on the club's Facebook page and someone might just take you up on the offer. You can even post pictures of the outing when you return.

The page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Delta-Fly-Fishers-Inc-265097290192284/>

Oh my gosh, we've been leaving people out

By Jerry Neuburger

My wife brought it up. "How come I don't get anything about the club in MY e-mail?" And I didn't have an answer.

Thinking about it, since we have a family membership, I wrote Bob Fujimura

about it and asked if her name could be added to the mailing list so she could receive the club newsletter and other communications on her own laptop and phone. Bob said, "No problem."

If there are any other spouses, get that, spouses, not necessarily the fairer

sex, with a family membership that are not receiving the newsletter or communications but would like to, please e-mail [Bob Fujimura](#) for the newsletter and [Steve vonBerg](#) for miscellaneous notices.

If only all the problems in the world were as easy to solve as this one. :-)

The Delta Fly Fishers continue their support of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance with a check for \$1,000

The Delta Fly Fishers continued their commitment to our fisheries and our natural resources with a check for \$1,000 to the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA). The delivery of the funds is half of the \$2,000 that the club earmarked for conservation this year, the second half going to Restore The Delta (RTD). Both organizations are deeply involved in advocating for the waters close to where we live.



Conservation Chair Ron Forbes hands Bill Jennings, CSPA, a check for \$1,000

The CSPA, under the direction of Bill Jennings has been an advocate for our fish and water for over 30 years and was a principal in the re-establishment of the salmon runs on the Mokelumne and the Joint Settlement Agreement between the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

RTD is working hard to make the delta swimmable, fishable and farmable and has done so for a number of years. They speak for a broad coalition of fishermen, businesses, farmers and delta residents. Both groups are worthy of both the club's and our individual support.



DDF Officers

President	
Jerry Neuburger	209-327-5993
Vice President	
Cliff Hoover	209-642-3809
Secretary	
Karen Keagy	
Treasurer	
Jason Stapleton	209-334-9201
Directors	
Ron Forbes	209-368-5767
Karen Keagy	
Larry Schmidt	209-482-8742
Sam Thompson	
Gary Tecklenburg	
Steve VonBerg	209-327-6161
Dena Mason	
Tim Costello	
Mike Nicholson	

Committees

Bob McMillan Trout Bout	
Catfish Derby (June)	
Earl Summers	209-957-6756
Conservation/Restore the Delta	
Ron Forbes	209-368-5767
Education	
Dena Mason	
Fishing Mentor Program	
Membership	
Bob Fujimura	209-339-0683
Outings	
Steve VonBerg, Gil Parker	
Programs	
Al Smatsky	209-368-9261
Bob Sousa	209-368-2683
Property/Historian	
John Keagy	
Publicity	
Steve VonBerg	209-327-6161
Raffles	
Gil Parker/Jerry Neuburger	
Trout Bout (November)	
Charlie Reames	209-642-6704
Webmaster	
John Keagy	

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Any correspondence regarding this publication should be directed to:
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“Give us your [not too] tired, your [not too] poor...”

Yes, we're looking for donations for the installation dinner raffle and silent auction. Do you have any gently used fly fishing gear, camping equipment, outdoor clothing that was the wrong size that you never took back? If you do, bring it to the December meeting. You can even put a value on it and get a tax deductible re-

ceipt since the club is a 501c3 corporation. Dig around in that closet, attic or garage and you'll be amazed what you might find. I was!

Fly tiers, we need you!

If you're a fly tier, how about tying up a presentation box of flies. I know we have

some very experienced fly tying specialists. Any club member would spend a hearty sum on tickets just to win one of those precious boxes. If you can't get it done by the January meeting, just let Gil Parker know that you'll have one done in time for the dinner.

Some guests of honor, some surprises, the raffle and silent auction at this year's installation dinner

This year's installation dinner will be just a little different than recent past ones. We'll have some guests of honor from the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Restore the Delta, the County of San Joaquin Parks and Recreation and East Bay Municipal Utility District.

And of course, we'll have the retirement of our outgoing slate of officers and directors and the installation of their replacements. (Well actually, most of the officers and directors are staying on!)

We have some special awards as well as the Incomplete Angler, the Presidents' Award and Fly Fisher of the Year. I can't

tell you more right now because it's a SURPRISE!

The raffle, under the supervision of outgoing president Gil Parker will be as big as usual and the silent auction will feature two half day guided delta trips and a guided trip down the Lower Sac. As for the grand prize, we have two this year, a pontoon boat and a Sage Rod with a high dollar reel.

The January 21, dinner's venue is the same as last year's, the Elk's Lodge at 8900 Thornton Road, with an open bar at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00. The menu is your choice, tri-tip, Tuscan Chicken or vegetarian lasagna at a cost per plate of \$35.

You may bring your own wine, the corkage fee is \$5.00 per bottle.

The deadline for reservations is January 11th at the club's January membership meeting. Don't forget, the meeting place for the GM will be at Creekside Elementary School, 2515 Estate Dr, Stockton with doors opening at 6:30 and the meeting starting at 7:00.

This is the club's best attended event of the year and all of the officers and directors, both outgoing and incoming ask that you make the best effort to attend. Let's bring in the New Year with a great dinner and all the pomp and circumstance surrounding it.

The preliminary 2017 outings schedule is done. Make your plans!

The board of directors approved the preliminary outing schedule at the December board meeting. The list includes some new locations and some old favorites. However, the rest depends on YOU. If you want to lead an outing and it's not on the list, let someone on the board or one of the officers know about it as far in advance as possible. The outing can be any-

thing from a few hours on the American, fishing for shad to a week long expedition to Desolation Valley, backpacks and all. It can be added to the calendar and approved by the board, which will qualify it for the club's liability insurance coverage.

For our newer members. Our outings are where we really shine. It's a time to prac-

tice the art and science of fly fishing and share the camaraderie of the other members of the club. They are also great learning experiences for someone just entering the sport since a lot of help from the more experienced members is right at hand. And if you're just learning, don't be shy, everyone was a beginner at one time.

2017 Club Outing and Event Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Fishmiester</u>	<u>Other Description if necessary</u>
*Jan. 21	Installation dinner		
*Feb. 4	Stanislaus drift	Nicholson	
*Feb. 12	Casting classes/casting rodeo	Mason/Terra	OGP Burgers/hot dogs
Feb. 24-26	The Fly Fishing Show	Pleasanton	\$15 Admission
*Mar. 4	Bob McMillan Trout Bout		OGP/Boat House
*Mar. 15-19	Pyramid	Mettler/Neuburger	Basque dinner

*Apr.22	Kelsey	Smatsky	Lunch provided
*May 6	One Fly Contest	Fujimura/Calaveras FF	Lunch purchased
8May 20	American Shad	Smatsky/Neuburger	Lunch provided
*June 3	Catfish Derby		OGP/Boathouse
*June 14	DFF Barbecue		OGP/Group BBQ
*June 15-18	Almanor	Neuburger/Hoover	Sat. night barbecue
*June 24	Delta Bass	Neuburger	Dinner provided
*July 29	Santa Cruz	Neub/Smatsky	Purchased lunch
*Sep 21-24	Bridgeport	Gillett	Saturday night BBQ
*Sep 23	Mokelumne clean up	Hoover	Van Assen Park
*Sep 29/1	Heenen/Carson/Indian Valley	Hoover	Saturday night BBQ
*Oct 5-7	Lower Sac	Rollans	Saturday night rest
Oct 9	Columbus Day		
*Nov 5	Delta Stripers	Neuburger	Lunch provided
*Nov 18	Trout Bout		OGP/Boathouse
*Dec 9	Fly tying day with guest tier	Smatsky	OGP/Boathouse Pizza

More water for the Delta? Maybe. A tough choice for the SWB with ag pushing for a big NO!

By Ron Forbes, Conservation Chair

And finally, I fish not because I consider fishing as being terribly important, but because I suspect that so many other concerns of men are equally unimportant, and not nearly so much fun.

John Volker

December's State Water Resources Control Board Meeting In Stockton

After twenty years of neglect, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWB) is holding a series of meetings to address the ongoing diversion of water from the Delta. On September 16, the SWB proposed updating the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan to allow 40% unimpaired flow from the San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers. The proposed flows would be from February to June. The increased flows would have several objectives. They would help control salt intrusion in the south Delta, and protect fish and wildlife. The proposed flow increases would help salmon and other fish species migrate to and from their points of origin to the ocean, lower water temperatures, and reduce the toxicity of the rivers' pollutants. Meetings were held in Sacramento, Stockton, Merced, and Modesto during December

with a final meeting to be held January 3 in Sacramento. It is crucial that the SWB moves forward to initiate these flows.



The State Water Control Board members

The Delta Fly Fishers were represented at the Stockton meeting by Jerry Neuburger and myself. Jerry's comments and mine addressed different aspects of what the diversion of water has done to the Delta. Jerry spoke to human side of what the lack of Delta water has caused to the people living in the Delta. Jerry commented, "on the small businesses, the bait shops, small grocery stores, tackle shops, and small restaurants, now closed and the marinas with empty berths because of the collapse of the delta's fishing." He pointed out that, "These people, many of

them mom and pop operations and seniors with their personal fortunes wrapped up in their businesses, didn't have wealthy water districts with banks of lawyers to represent them, nor crop insurance to cover their losses when their businesses were forced to close their doors."

Jerry's comments touched a raw nerve that isn't often addressed at SWB meetings and received a strong round of applause from the audience. Jerry spoke to the SWB as Delta Fly Fisher's president and I spoke to the board as our conservation chair. My comments addressed the decline of our fisheries caused by over 50 years of diversion of water from the Delta. Because of these ongoing diversions we are faced with species that face extinction. And due to these diversions, the Delta now faces collapse. Other issues discussed were the intrusion of salt destroying Delta farms, the loss of the Delta's ecosystem, the loss of our current drinking water standards for 4 million people living in or adjacent to the Delta, and the ongoing toxicity of the Delta's waterways due to the SWB's continually granting waivers to farmers allowing them to not comply with California's Clean Water Act. One more meeting will

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be held in Sacramento at the Cal/EPA Headquarters, 1001 I Street, on January 3 at 9a.m..

After the hearings are over, comments can be sent to the SWB by regular mail, email, or fax.

For fax send to: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board Fax: (916) 341-5620

State Water Resources Control Board
Email: commentletters:@waterboards.ca.gov

Mailing address:

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, Ca. 95814-

In the subject line: "Comment Letter-2016 Bay Delta

These letters, emails and faxes must be received by January 17, 2017

The revisions updating the Bay Delta Water Quality Control plan is essential to the survival of the Delta's viability economically and environmentally. Hopefully, this time the SWB will do the right thing.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein sold out Northern California, the Delta, and the San Francisco Bay to give California's Water to Millionaire-Billionaire 'Farmers

This last month President Obama signed a massive water bill that included measures that would help some areas in need but will potentially devastate the Delta, San Francisco Bay, and Northern California. Within hours of the bills closure for attachments deadline, Sen. Feinstein slipped in an attachment that will allow California's public water to be transferred into the hands of private corporate farmers. She purposely slipped in her attachments at the last minute to avoid any congressional scrutiny of her attachment.

When the bill went before the Senate for discussion she bluntly lied in her presentation. According to her, "These water supplies are not for big corporate agriculture, as some would have you think." They are indeed for big corporate agriculture. She went on to claim that the water was for the "tens of thousands of small farms that have gone bankrupt." Her pas-

sionate presentation helped get the bill passed. Unfortunately, her statements before the Senate were outright lies and dishonest. There are no "tens of thousands of small farmers or farm workers "who have gone bankrupt or who have lost their jobs." The state's Employment Development Department (EDD) records disagree with Feinstein statements. She claimed that in 2014 and 2015, farm labor employment dropped by 17,000 and 10,000 jobs respectively. However, EDD records show that in 2014, farm employment was up a fraction of a percent and up almost 2% in 2015. Also, in 2014, farm revenue was up to near an all time high at \$47 billion, and increased to a record-setting high of \$56 billion in 2015. The tens of thousands of bankruptcies Feinstein claims are non-existent

She also talked about a farmer who was in her office "with tears in his eyes" because the lack of water in the drought which caused him to lose the family farm. Records show however, the farmer miscalculated the amount of water he would receive from the state and federal water projects in 2009, three years before the drought. Again she misrepresented the truth.



Senator Dianne Feinstein

Feinstein has taken care of her wealthy corporate interests at the expense of the people of California she is supposed to serve. The bill she has helped push through will increase the wealthy farmer's water this year from 10% to 40%. Her water plan was done in secret, without any public input, behind closed doors. Former Rep. George Miller said, "Best I can see, she's making a decision that jobs in the Bay Area and Northern California aren't as important as jobs in the Central Valley." Retiring Sen. Barbara Boxer vainly fought against Feinstein on this bill, but the bill passed despite her efforts and was signed into law.

The more you become involved in fisheries and environment issues, the more you

realize how many politicians, like Feinstein, have sold us out to special interest groups. Feinstein is known as the "Queen of Insider Relationships." One classic example is how she created legislation that sent \$25 billion of taxpayer money to a government agency that had just given her husband's real estate company a contract to sell foreclosed properties at rate higher than normal. For four years, Feinstein was the chairperson of the Military Construction Appropriations subcommittee. Two companies that were controlled by her husband benefited enormously from a government contract she steered his way. These deals are just a few of her ongoing conflict of interest deals that benefited both her and her husband, Richard Blum.

Stewart Resnick is one of the most wealthy men in California. He is the owner of Paramount Agribusiness, the most wealthy farming company in the U.S.. Resnick has written thousands of dollars in checks to Feinstein to help her get re-elected and held parties for her re-elections at his Beverly Hills mansion. She is often his guest at his estate in Aspen. In return she has helped him become one of the most successful anti-environmental corporate agribusinessman and privatizer of public water in the world. She has frequently used her position as our senator, on Resnick's behalf to directly contact the President or the Secretary of the Interior for Resnick's financial gain

It's disheartening to know that our representatives no longer work in the best interest of those of us who elect them, but rather special interests. It now appears that the only way to protect our fisheries, the Delta, San Francisco Bay and their ecosystems, and Northern California water, will be through litigation and the court system.

Drugs in Salmon?

Last week the Seattle Times reported that environmental toxicologists, working for NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center, have found many different drugs showing up in the tissues of juvenile chinook salmon. The source of these drugs is tainted wastewater from sewage treatment plants. So far, 81 drugs and personal care products have been found in juvenile chinook salmon. It seems that many of the treatment plants do not fully treat their

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effluent which is discharged into Puget Sound, and many personal use products and drugs, including toxic drugs, are being found in the juvenile salmon. The toxicologist tested for 150 compounds from treated effluent and found 61% of those compounds tested positive. Some of the drugs found include a wide variety of antibiotics, fungicides, anticoagulants, antiseptics, nicotine, caffeine, pain medications, including codeine, and many other drugs. The study shows that fish in the Puget Sound area have a high probability of bioaccumulation of these toxins. Recent studies are showing that the juvenile chinook that migrate through the tainted estuaries of Puget Sound are dying

at twice the rate of fish in other locations.

We know that the Delta is also polluted with a wide variety of toxins. The Bay area cities are allowed to discharge over 1,166 acre feet treated sewage into the Delta and Bay on a daily basis. How is this effecting our ecosystem? We need to start testing our own ecosystem to see how much damage is being done to the Delta and our fisheries.



Toxicologists examining fish samples

January 1st on the Mokelumne and the Delta Fly Fishers were there!




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