

Delta Fly Fishers, Inc.

December, 2012

Rx Fly Fishing!

President's Message by Marty Kjelson



Wow, it's December already! Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving with a reminder of all the good things of which we are thankful .

November ended with a nice outing at O'Neill Forebay with great fellowship, a super lunch from Bob and Jean Fujimura and Mark Delabarre, and good fishing, though most of the stripers seemed to have lockjaw. Those who didn't get the strong tugs of fish, don't give up on O'Neill as it's still a winner and a safe place for small craft.

Thanks to all who helped on the Trout Bout under the leadership of Charlie Reames. The crew did a heck of a job in providing hot food and drinks to the wet and cold anglers. There were some hardy souls out there on the pond under heavy rain conditions. Kids learned that fishing can be challenging , but still fun when the rod bends.

Another thanks to those who volunteered to be on the Board of Directors for 2013. Most are returning incumbents, though two, Bob Fujimura and Gil Parker are new. Give all these people thanks when you see them. They do a great job keeping our club running efficiently, legally, and with a diversity of fly fishing experiences that we all enjoy.

I enjoyed our November speaker , Robert Tamson , sharing fly fishing on the Texas coast. Looks like a very interesting place with plenty of opportunities to sight fish for a multiple of species.

We have some good events coming up in December including the Yuba outing for trout though recent word tells us that it may be true north coast weather, ie rain, wind and cold. I know some hardy folks

will be there and find the fish. We all know trout feed better under cloudy skies , so go for it!

We also have some additional dates that will allow us to return to the private UCD waters on the Yuba in 2013. I know the spring can be good too when the bugs start hatching. Our December program will provide talks by members on their travels to a variety of waters near and far. I know we will all enjoy that and learn some new places to go and new techniques to apply.

Finally, " One's first trout on a fly ". Bill Laughlin shared his experience on Rancho Seco lake with Bob Souza some years back when he first joined the club. Bob acted as mentor, bringing a lot of experience to the water. Well, as Bill tells it, it really hooked him on fly fishing as he landed nine of those huge rainbows that SMUD used to plant there. He used a variety of flies which included his own creation of an orange and chartreuse wooly bugger, damsel nymphs, hares ears , the dependable Red Ryder, and believe it or not a Griffith's Gnat.

Bill, always humble, was a bit embarrassed, as Bob apparently only caught one bluegill. My guess is that Bob had plenty of strikes, but did the LDR thing, ie long distance release, to make his mentee feel good. I can attest to Bob also doing that to me recently!

This story reminds us to offer to mentor some of our newer , inexperienced members. It's a good thing and you'll be rewarded too.

Have a great Christmas season.

Marty



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Calendar

December 1, [Steelhead outing, U.C. Davis property on the Yuba at Hwy. 20](#)

December 5, [Fly of the Month Tying Session](#)

Prince Nymph and Beadhead Pheasant Tail - Instructor Joe Balderston

December 8, [NCCFFF Board Meeting, Elks Lodge, Fremont](#)
www.nccfff.org

December 12, [General Membership Meeting](#)
[Members Program Night](#)

December 19, [DFF Board Meeting](#)

January 1, 2013 New Years Outing,
Van Assen Park



**Have yourself a merry little Christmas.
Let your heart be light.**

**From now on
Our troubles will be out of sight.**

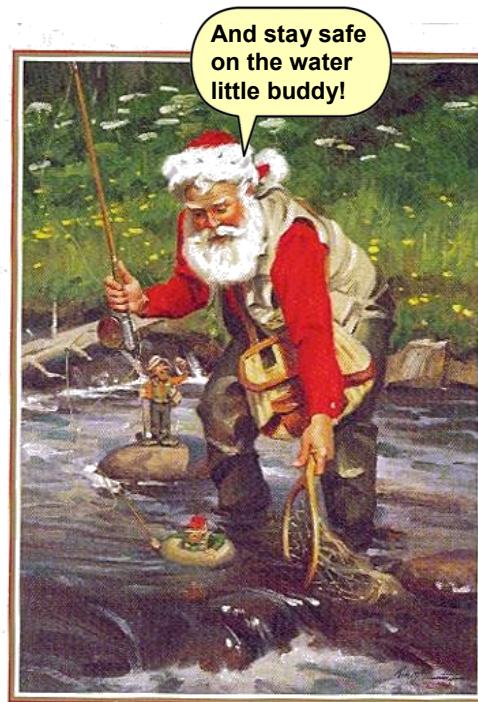
**Have yourself a merry little Christmas.
Make the Yule-tide gay.**

**From now on
Our troubles will be miles away.**

**Here we are as in olden days,
Happy golden days of yore.
Faithful friends who are dear to us
Gather near to us once more.**

**Through the years
We all will be together
If the Fates allow.
Hang a shining star upon the highest bough,
And have yourself a merry little Christmas now.**

lyrics by Ralph Blane



THE “DON PAYNE AWARD” WILL BE RETIRED THIS YEAR BUT DON WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN BY THOSE WHO KNEW HIM



By Jerry Neuburger

November 1, 2012—It is said that time heals all wounds. In some cases the healing is impossible but it does soften the memories.

In January of 1991 I was president and as my last act in office I presided over the annual dinner. Back then the club presented two awards at the dinner, the Fly Fisher of the Year and the Incomplet Angler. I felt the need for another award, one that would recognize the person that had stepped up and helped me in my term as president. I received permission from the Board of Directors to create the award as the President’s Club Service Award.

When the time came at the Annual Dinner, it was my great pleasure to present Don Gillett with the first President’s Club Service Award for his continued efforts in making my year an easy one, his leading several outings, his participation as a board member and, most of all, his mentorship in the club’s fly tying classes.

In those days we also had a “prime time” speaker at the dinner. The speaker we selected that year was Lani Waller, a nationally noted steelhead angler. Lani put on a heck of a show with pictures of giant fighting steelhead from the Babine River in British Columbia. His thrilling descriptions of these fish motivated Linda Payne

to purchase a special birthday gift for her husband, Don, a trip with Lani to his lodge on the Babine later in the year.

Don, was a very active member of the club, a member of the board of directors and the “go-to” guy when something needed to be done. He helped publicize the club’s activities and provided the legal knowhow to properly rewrite the club’s bylaws. Although very busy in the Stockton building and development community, Don always made time to go on the club’s outings and really enjoyed his time on the water.

It was a shock when the club learned that Don was killed in a plane crash when flying in with Lani to the Babine on September 11th, 1992.

Here’s a quote from an article in the club’s October 1992, Rx Fly Fishing: “Don, Lani Waller, the plane’s pilot, and another fly fisher were approaching the landing area when the pilot found that they had overshot the runway. The pilot banked the plane to make a second approach but clipped a wing on a tree top. The plane crashed into the river where three of the occupants were killed with the impact. Lani was able to escape through a broken rear window and was pulled from the water and is in critical condition.”

Everyone in the club was saddened and grieved for Don’s loss and the others killed in the crash. It took Lani a full year to recover from the shock and injuries.

The club searched for an appropriate way to memorialize Don as an active member of the club, someone that made a difference. It was decided at a future board meeting on my motion that the President’s Club Service Award be changed to the Don Payne Memorial Award in recognizing his commitment to the club and his efforts.

That was twenty years ago. And, yes, time does soften the hurt of old wounds but it also brings on change. Very few of the club’s members today remember Don, and it has become somewhat awkward to have to explain the origins of the award at each dinner before its presentation.

This coming annual dinner will mark the 20th presentation of the Don Payne award and the last one using Don’s name. After this presentation the award will revert to its former name, the President’s Club Service Award.

The change in the award’s name will not erase Don’s memories for those that remember him, and since Don was an active board member who always worked to have the club move forward I’m sure he’d understand and approve.

Bring in the New Year by catching a fish!



New Years Day on the Moke, can it get any better?

New Years Day Fishout

Fishmiester: TBD

Date: January 1, 2013

Time: A little after sunrise

Location: Van Assen Park, Mokelumne

River

Fish species: Resident rainbow trout
and steelhead

Equipment:

5-8 weight rods

Floating lines

Glow bugs, nymphs under an indicator

Waders and boots

Eye protection (Polarized sunglasses)

Warm clothing and rain gear

Wading staff recommended

By Jerry Neuburger

Van Assen Park, CA — Break out the long johns. Pulling on a pair is standard attire for attending the opening day ceremonies at Van Assen Park on the Mokelumne at the base of Camanche Dam on New Year's Day.

It's been a long standing tradition of the

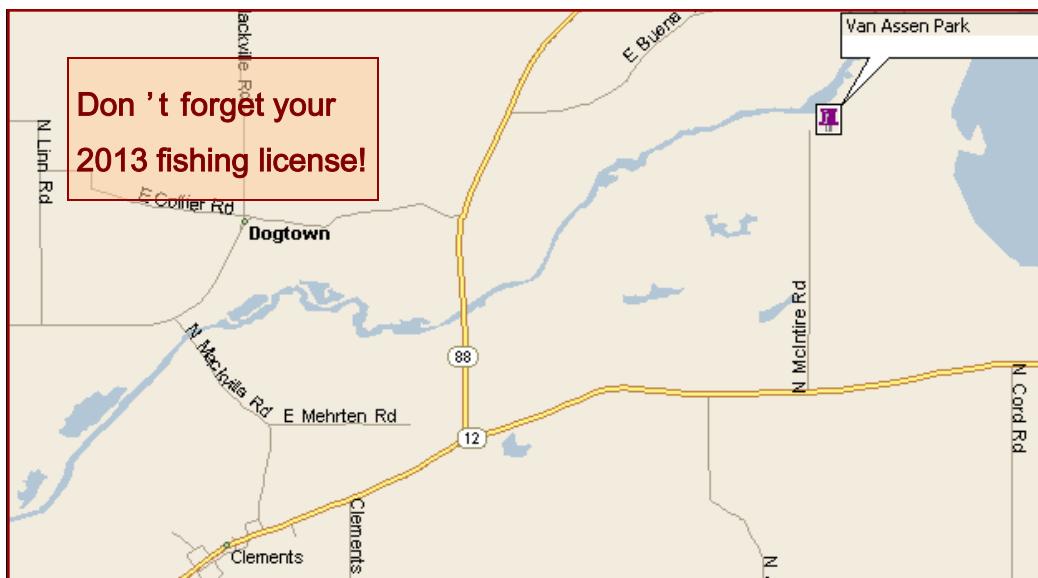
Delta Fly Fishers to welcome in the new fishing year by showing up at the tailwater fishery below the dam with some members fishing and others just taking in the day.

The action starts about sunrise with a few hardy members setting up some pavilions to keep the heavy dew off the coffee and donuts. The Delta Fly Fishers banner is erected and the lawn chairs set out.

Other members pull on their gear and wade out into the chilly water, looking to hook up with their first fish of the year. The most adventurous launch a canoe, kayak or driftboat for a ride down the river to the take out point at Clements.

About 11:00am or so, the anglers start wandering back to the base station, the tables loaded with the traditional New Years lunch goodies, tube steaks (hot dogs for the uninformed) and chili, washed down with more hot coffee, cocoa or soft drinks.

This is a rain or shine event. Some years it has been like spring with a light fog in the morning followed by a bright and warming sun. Other years have been a little more on the wet side. However the weather has never cancelled this event. It's a tradition. And as Tevye, in "Fiddler" says, "Without our traditions our lives would be as shaky as... a fiddler on the roof."



Van Assen Park is located at the base of Camanche Dam. Travel east on Highway 12 past Lockeford and Clements. Continue on Hwy. 12 for 1 3/4 miles past the intersection with Hwy. 88. Turn left on McIntire Road and drive to the end, about a mile. The park is on your right. The club meets in the large parking lot about an eighth mile past the entrance.

A day's worth of fun, a lifetime of memories

Fishing trips make the BEST presents



This Christmas you can give your favorite fly fisher a special shad outing trip with the Delta Fly Fishers.

The club has booked two days of guided shad fishing with Wayne Syn, Orland Outfitters, the dates, Sunday, June 2, 2013 and Saturday, June 8, 2013.

The cost of the trip is extremely reasonable at \$140 for the day. For that price your special person will ride in a jet boat with three other anglers to some of the best locations on the Sacramento to spend the afternoon and early evening fishing

for shad. Another three boats will bring 12 more club members along.

While your special person is fishing, Wayne and the some of the guides will be working the grill, cooking up delights for those taking a break while others coach those needing a little help in the water.

Eight hours later, the tired anglers will climb back into the jet boats and head back to the launch ramp. But it doesn't end there. The photos and memories of

what is bound to be a great fishing day will linger on.

For more information [e-mail](#) or phone Jerry Neuburger, 209-369-5752.

Here's a link to [last year's outing photos](#). This year your special person can be part of the fun.

Kiene's Fly Shop

2654 Marconi Ave, Sacramento, CA 95821
Toll Free USA - (800) 400-0359 (Jan 2013)

December is Members' Program Night



November 17, 2012 - Delta Fly Fishers travel the world! Yes, it is once again DFF's member's program night. We have a good line up of travelers to talk about their fly fishing adventures this past year. Doug Ridgway will show case his adventure to Alaska, Bud Heintz will show off his Montana big trout trip, Dan McDaniel will take us to the Olympic Peninsula for some unbelievable steelhead fishing, and Jerry Neuburger will take us on a Montana odyssey, covering the entire western half of the state.

Remember, the December monthly meet-

ing is our annual Members' Program Night. This is your chance to shine! You need not fish an exotic location or catch giant fish to secure your place in history. Nor do you need to present professional quality photos, a short talk about your past years adventure (good or bad) is all that is needed.

We still have space for other members to participate and welcome you to join in! Please call or [e-mail](mailto:Al.Smatsky@msn.com) Al Smatsky, 368-9261.



Inside the [Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation](#) headquarters, Missoula Montana. Photo by Jerry Neuburger



Rain doesn't deter Trout Bout crowd



by Jerry Neuburger

November 17, 2012, Oak Grove Park, CA - The rain came down in buckets a good part of the morning but it didn't seem to stop Stockton residents from turning out for San Joaquin County's closing fishing event for the year, the 28th annual Trout Bout. Some of the anglers fished from under the cover of portable tents, some wore rain gear and a few just toughed it out in heavy jackets and street clothes.



Mark DeLaBarre handles registration duties, signing up this group of young anglers, ready to handle the inclement weather.



Bob Fujimura and Jim Rich tie flies as Walt Kotecki looks on. Ron Forbes (in background) chats with Sandy from the County

Club members Charlie Reames, Herman Spalinger and John Keagy got things going early in the morning, to be joined by another 14 club members. Sallye and Bruce Rollans, Harry Hamlin, Earl Summers, Mark DeLaBarre and Sam Thompson helped cook and serve donuts, hot-dogs, chili and nachos and cheese dishes. Rich Greene and Jason Stapleton drove one of the electric carts and delivered food to people on the banks fishing. Bob

Fujimura, Jim Rich and John Highsmith tied demonstration flies. Walt Kotecki helped with the weigh ins, Ron Forbes provided liaison with Sandy from the county and Jerry Neuburger took pictures.

While the event was billed as the trout bout, a group of boys fishing off the boat dock found the catfish were on the bite and finished the day with a nice stringer of fish. Other anglers reported the trout fishing as slow although the county planted lots of fish in the lake.

The weigh-ins were handled by Jason and Walt and the results are still outstanding. At the time of this writing, one fish weighed in approached four pounds and another close to three. Even with the rain and wind, those bringing fish had smiles on their faces, a sure sign that the 28th annual trout bout was a success with those participating.

You can view the club album of photos taken at the event by clicking [here!](#)

High Plains Drifter Guide Service

Steve Cooper— 209-956-1032 (Jan 2013)

ADG Titanium "Titan" Fly Rods

ADG, Inc., International Marketing,

P.O. Box 441403, Aurora, CO 80044-1403
(720) 870-3400 Tel/Fax, adgfish@msn.com (Jan 2013)

Delta Stripers

Jerry Neuburger, (209) 369-5752
gneuburger@yahoo.com (Jan 2013)

Virginia Lakes Resort

John & Carolyn (CJ) Webb
HC62 Box, Bridgeport, CA 93517-4602
(760) 647-6484 Tel/Fax (Jan 2013)

Finally, a river runs through it!



"Only after the last tree has been felled, the last river poisoned and the last fish caught, man will know that he cannot eat money."

A Cree Indian Saying

The San Joaquin River Restoration Project

For the last three years I have been Delta Fly Fisher's representative at the [San Joaquin River Restoration Project \(SJRRP\)](#) meetings held at U.C. Stanislaus in Turlock or at various federal facilities in Sacramento. The two committees I have served on are the Water Management and Fisheries Management Technical Committees. These committees are comprised of two groups. The first group is the technical staff and second are those who have a vested interest in the project such as those interested in the fisheries or those with interest in the water issues such as irrigation districts. When I began attending these meetings, I had no idea of the complexities involved in the restoration of the fall and spring run of chinook salmon, nor of the complexity involved in restoring a river that has been seriously neglected for over 60 years.

First, a brief history the why and how the SJRRP came about:



Friant Dam is a concrete gravity dam on the upper San Joaquin River in the Sierra Nevada foothills of Fresno County, California near the town of Friant. The dam, completed in 1942, forms Millerton Lake and was built by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which owns and operates the dam. BOR photo.

Now you can access the club's website and the club's Facebook page right from the newsletter!



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The San Joaquin River flows from the High Sierras in a southwesterly direction to the Central Valley where it turns abruptly to the northwest and eventually into the Delta at Suisun Bay. The San Joaquin is 320 miles in length. The section under restoration extends from the base of Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River and is 153 miles in length.

Prior to the construction of Friant Dam in 1942, the San Joaquin hosted both a spring and fall run of Chinook salmon. It is thought that the number of salmon spawning in the San Joaquin was equal to the salmon spawning on the Sacramento River and its tributaries. The San Joaquin spring Chinook run was the largest in North America. These fish are now extinct. After the dam was in place, a section of the river 30 miles below the dam basically dried-up for 60 miles, which destroyed the salmon's century old spawning grounds. Historically it is now recognized that the loss of the fall-run was the first to be caused by low water flows and high temperatures. By 1949, both the fall and spring salmon had disappeared from the San Joaquin.

California's Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG) put forth huge efforts in trying to save the both salmon runs, especially the spring-run. In 1950, they said that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), who was operating the dam, must comply with [DFG Code 5937](#) and release enough

water to maintain any fish, planted or otherwise, in good condition that was below the dam. BOR officials and Friant Dam water users said the main purpose of the dam was for irrigation and they had no legal obligation preserve the fish

In 1951, California's Attorney General Pat Brown gave the opinion the federal government did not have to comply with the state's DFG codes. According to Brown, any preservation of fish, "would constitute a waste of water in the grave need for all available water for higher use elsewhere". DFG was very unhappy with Brown's opinion and pursued the matter, going to an early version of the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR). Unfortunately, DWR found DFG's actions to be, "not in the public interest." However, the dam was required to release minimum water at least to a point 30 miles downstream known as Gravelly Ford. Today, except in flood years, the San Joaquin is bone-dry most years for 60 miles beyond that point. The loss of the San Joaquin River was California's the first major loss of a salmon fishery, unfortunately to be followed by many others.

Brown was elected governor in 1958, and halted any further legal action by DFG to prevent further loss of the salmon. Now because for the construction of Shasta Dam and other obstructions without any concern for our fisheries, many runs of salmon and steelhead are either threatened or extinct. For example, in Northern California, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&W)

(Continued on page 6)

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says that of 22 tributaries on the Sacramento River they have worked on, 18 of 22 populations of steelhead are now extinct. Now Governor Jerry Brown, with his proposed dual conveyance/peripheral canal scheme, is following directly in his father's footsteps. If he succeeds, as his father did, all salmon in the Central Valley will become extinct.

In 1988 the [National Resources Defense Council](#) (NRDC) were plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA). The FWUA is a group of 29 water districts. The NRDC was joined in the suit by a coalition of environmental and fisheries groups. After 18 years of contentious haggling between all parties, the suit was settled in 2006. In the settlement, Judge Lawrence Karlton concluded that the BOR's operation of Friant Dam was a disaster and had destroyed not only the salmon population, but the rainbow trout, the splittail, the river's habitat and qualities. He was angry with the defendants for re-litigating the same arguments. All parties were given a period of time to settle their dispute, but if they didn't, the court would settle it in a manner that would probably not be satisfactory to any of the litigants.

Despite the BOR's poor management of Friant's water resources, Karlton did suggest that agriculture's use of water for irrigation should not suffer unduly in the restoration of the river. His ruling considered needs of all parties involved in the action.

The two main objectives in the case settlement are, 1) restore and maintain the fish populations in the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the confluence with the Merced River.

These fish are to be self-sustaining populations and, 2) to reduce or avoid adverse water supplies for long term contractors that might result from either interim or restoration flows.

The state is a supporter of the settlement and has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with all parties using the state's Environment Protection Act (EPA), DWR, DFG, and the Resource Agency. If all goes as planned all environmental goals will be met, along with water supply certainty for the over 15,000 farms irrigating 1 million acres which produces \$4.5 million in crops annually. This will be in addition to the recreational benefits the river will again provide and improved water quality benefits below the dam.

The SJRRP is a massive effort. Four counties, Fresno, Madera, Merced, and Stanislaus are involved. The 153 miles of restoration has been divided into 5 reaches:

- . Reach 1 Friant Dam to Gravelly Ford
- . Reach 2 Gravelly Ford to Mendota Dam
- . Reach 3 Mendota Dam to Sack Dam
- . Reach 4 Sack Dam to Bear Creek/ /Eastside Bypass
- . Reach 5 The Bear Creek/Eastside Bypass to the Merced River confluence

Because of differences in the physical and environmental make-up, some of the reaches have been subdivided into more than one section. All reaches present complex and unique problems that must be dealt with.

Current Issues

In 2010, there were pictures in all the papers and on TV of water flowing down the San Joaquin River past Gravelly Ford for the first time in over 60 years. Since then there have been repeated water releases for experimental purposes and data collection. In my naiveté when I first started attending the meetings I thought

if you just released enough water from Friant Dam to fill the canal and restocked the river, the situation would be resolved. I was wrong. The problems with restoring the San Joaquin are very complex and there are no easy answers.

BOR has a major concern with the section between Gravelly Ford to the Mendota Dam. The levees in Reaches 2 and 3 are badly degraded after 60 years of neglect and pose a major problem for flood control.

Another problem will be levee foundation seepage after the river flow on a full time basis. Also, the canal flow has been seriously degraded because of

a build-up of sediment and heavy intrusion of vegetation. More than 10 miles of the river channel must be widened as it approaches the Mendota Pool. Then a bypass around the pool will have to be built for salmon passage. Each reach presents specific problems that are unique to that part of the river.

One of the major agreements in the San Joaquin Settlement Act is to re-establish its fall and spring-run of Chinook salmon and all other fish that existed in the San Joaquin prior to the building of Friant Dam. After 60 plus years of total neglect, this too is proving to be a huge undertaking. The area below the dam has issues that are going to be hard to overcome. In addition to some

of the problems previously mentioned, the river now presents a lack of spawning beds and has a relatively flat gradient which prevents silt from being washed downstream from existing beds and those to be constructed.



**The San Joaquin River near Los Banos, September 2009.
The Fresno Bee**

Your newsletter is now totally integrated with the World Wide Web. You'll find many clickable links throughout the newsletter to [the club's website](#), [the club's Facebook page](#) and other external links.

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Please print this page, sign and bring with you to the December General Membership Meeting

DELTA FLY FISHERS

*Read Carefully - Affects Your Legal Rights **FOR THE YEAR 2013***

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 or 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 Releasees 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 ____ day of 200 ____.

Read Carefully Before Signing

Participant

Parent must sign if under 18 years

Print name

Street Address, City & Phone Number

The Delta Fly Fishers Navy was on hand...

O'Neill Forebay, hot for some, cold for others



by Jerry Neuburger

November 11, 2012, Santa Nella, CA - Eleven eager anglers from the Delta Fly Fishers met on the south shore of O'Neill Forebay on a chilly if bright morning to try their hand at hooking up with a few landlocked stripers. Fishmiester Marty Kjelson led the crew to the water and Bob and Jean Fujimura set up coffee and snacks as the crew prepared their various craft to float the forebay.



Vernon D'Souza tries out Marty's kayak. Not too much freeboard with Vernon snuggled in. Photo by Robert Fujimura

Marty planned to fish the day from his veteran electric powered white pram while Vernon D'Souza tried out kayak fishing with a loan from Marty of his old trusted and faithful blue sit in, Sam Thompson had a bright and shiny new blue sit in and Ed Smith sported the newest and spiffy sit on including built in fish finder and compass. Mike Okazaki put his Portaboat and small gas engine together and was ready to cover lots of ground while Jerry Neuburger and Mark DeLaBarre set up their pontoon boats for fishing the lake. The rest of the crew, Herman Spalinger, Steve Specht, and Marty and Jean Fujimura, were equipped



Sam Thompson shows off the lunch fare prepared by Bob and Jean Fujimura. No one went away hungry! Photo by Jerry Neuburger

with anything from pontubes to standard float tubes.

Marty was able to cover ground and brought three fish to the net early. Mark DeLaBarre rowed well across the lake to



Ed Smith (foreground, left) sets up his kayak as Mark DeLaBarre gets ready to haul his pontoon boat off his vehicle's roof. Photo by Robert Fujimura

hook up with six, all under 25 inches. He did break off a larger fish. Steve Specht netted a very skinny fish that looked underfed. That was it before lunch.

In the mean time, Bob and Jean Fujimura returned to shore early to prepare the group lunch, and what a lunch it was. The main course was big fat foot long hotdogs in sesame seed buns with lots of condiments, even sauerkraut, a real meal in a bun. Side dishes included baked beans, potato salad and an eight, nine or ten bean salad (who's counting), followed by Biscotti for dessert. Bob even fired up a pro-



The Delta Fly Fishers Lunch Club. Photo by Jerry Neuburger

pane powered heater to take the chill off those with cold hands or feet.

Lunch over, some of the crew decided to head home while others chose to strike out and explore other areas of the lake. While all have not reported in, Mike Okazaki sent an e-mail saying that he ended the day boating two 17 inchers and LDRed two other fish late in the afternoon.

I'll bet the others who hung around for the afternoon fishing stuck a few fish as well.

Additional photos are posted in the [club's photo album](#).



Hey, how about hinting to someone special that a 2013 fishing license would make an excellent Christmas Present!



Sierra Anglers Fly Shop

700 McHenry Ave, Suite D, Modesto, CA 95350
(209) 572-2212 (Jan 2013)

L-3 Rods

Larry Lee,
5645 St. Claire Way, Citrus Heights, CA916-962-0616
916-601-7853 (Jan 2013)

December's Fly(s) of the Month, perfect for the Moke on opening day!

The Prince Nymph and Sawyer's Pheasant Tail Nymph



December tying session: Wednesday, December 5, 6:30pm
Oak Grove Nature Center
Instructor: Joe Balderston

Sign up for this session on the club's [Facebook event](#) page to reserve a seat.

The Prince Nymph

From Bass Pro: The Prince is a classic nymph pattern that will continue to be effective on streams and rivers for years to come.

Created by Doug Prince, this special fly incorporates many flashy materials that fish just can't resist. The peacock herl used in the fly's body construction shimmers brightly when in the water, while the split tail and wing give the impression of a stonefly or mayfly nymph that has come free from the bottom. The Prince Nymph is not tied to imitate any particular aquatic invertebrate that trout seek out, but rather play into the opportunistic behavior of fish not being able to pass up a helpless, tasty treat.



The fly can be tied with or without the bead, and with or without the lead wrap. The accompanying video shows both a bead and lead wrap used in the tying process. Some tiers use a silver or chrome bead while others use a bronze or brass bead. The fly can also be varied by using chenille rather than peacock herl for the body.

Materials:

Hook: Nymph Hook, Size 12, 2X long
Thread: Uni-Thread, Size 8/0 (Black)
Hackle: Furnace Hackle
Tail: Brown Goose Biots
Body: Peacock Herl
Wing: White Goose Biots
Rib: Fine Gold Tinsel

Watch the [YouTube demo](#) video

Sawyer's Pheasant Tail Nymph

From WestFly: Over 600 species of mayflies dwell in North America, and most of them are small and brown when they are nymphs. Thus the small, brown Pheasant Tail Nymph suggests a wide range of living creatures that trout are



fond of munching. In rivers, it resembles pale morning duns, blue-winged olives, March browns, and a host of others. In lakes, it's a darn good representation of a Callibaetis nymph.

Originally tied by Frank Sawyer, the Pheasant Tail Nymph is one of the oldest of modern nymphs. A few good wrinkles have been added over the years, such as the peacock thorax, optional beadhead, etc., but when you peel them away, it's still Sawyer's elegantly simple, generically suggestive, devastatingly effective nymph.

Materials:

Hook: Nymph Hook, Size 14, 2X long
Thread: Size 8/0 (Rusty brown)
Tail: :Pheasant tail fibers
Rib: Copper wire
Abdomen: Pheasant tail fibers
Wing Case: Pheasant tail fibers
Thorax: Peacock Herl
Legs: Pheasant tail fibers

Watch the [YouTube demo](#) video.

Excellent Adventures

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Fortunately, descendants of the original fall-run Chinook in the San Joaquin can still swim above the Hills Falls barrier, in Salt and Mud Sloughs, and other locations above the confluence with the Merced River. These fish will be tagged with both visual and acoustic tags to help with research as the project continues and their eggs will be used to establish the new run for fall Chinook.

Unfortunately, the spring-run is going to be far more difficult to establish than the fall-run of the Chinook. Despite the heroic efforts of DFG members, the spring-run Chinook became extinct in 1949, to be replaced with 60 miles of sand. After much research, the USFWS has decided to use brood stock from the Feather River. This year approximately 560 eggs were segregated from the spawning operation at the Feather River Fish Hatchery.

First, under the requirements and permits required by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), these eggs will be held at a holding-quarantine facility at the Feather River Hatchery. As of the last meeting I attended on November 2, the eggs were still in the Feather River facility. They will stay there until it has been determined the all compliance and permits have been met under experimental population section of the Environmental Species Act(ESA).

After satisfying the ESA requirements, the brood stock will be transferred a holding facility consisting of enclosed pens to be located somewhere on Reach 1 on the San Joaquin River. It is important that these juveniles be reared on the San Joaquin to develop homing instincts. An estimated 54,400 eggs will be har-

vested and ultimately released. The Restoration Program plans to start monitoring of return of adults by 2015. In the next 10 to 12 years a return 10,000 fall run and 30,000 spring run-run Chinook is hoped for. The USF&WS scientists I have spoken with feel it will be more than 20 years before these chinook will be self-sustaining.

The restoration of 153 miles of a river with the complex nature of the San Joaquin, has never been attempted in America's history. The recent issues presented by local, county, state, and federal governments only increase the complexities. The restoration of an extinct species, including all fish previously existing in a river, has never been accomplished. It has been frustrating to watch the SJRRP trying to progress with all the collateral issues that have developed. But it is heartening to watch the attempts of all who work on the project. Their attitude is that the restoration of the San Joaquin is for perpetuity, and they want to get it right.

Ron Forbes

Conservation Chair

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