

August 2009

# Delta Fly Fishers

Rx

Flyfishing

## President's Message by Stephen Johnson (the top dog in camp)

August, 2009

Apologies, apologies abound, computer froze up and I thought my July message was delivered but, I guess some little cyber monkey has it in his back pocket somewhere on a cloud. Damn...lot's to cover so let's get to yapping.

First a gear review: Now this is first person, personal and my opinion...others may think different, and what I have to say is by no means any reflection on DFF members if they disagree. My faithful Orvis guide boots gave up the ghost, actually they died a couple of years ago but being the cheap SOB some think I am (I have ducked taped the soles way to many times)...so off to the local Fly shop to see if I can spend the national debt equivalency on a new pair of wading boots. Now this long haired young dude tells me he has tested these new Simms boots and they are the best ...so I plunk down one hell of a lot of money and off to the river I go. Grade A for looks, grade A for support, grade A for hiking long distance to fishing spots over rough terrain...but a big fat F on slippery wet round and uneven surfaces...unless you have burning desire to see rock snot up close and personal...pass on the hard rubber (Vibrahm) type sole. I've a pair of size 11 for sale (cheap), went back and bought a pair of Chotas with studded felt soles and I'm now back in the game.

5 fishing trips last month ...drum role please, upper Stanislaus fishing very well, ant patterns knocking them dead everywhere...4 hours fishing above Kennedy 23 fish in the 14 to 16 inch range... I have never caught that many big fish in this area. Mokelumne 3 trips ...a big fat Zero. Water is low and very warm and I have not caught a single fish. Over the hill to the East Carson river...damn now this is what fishing is all about Wednesday and Thursday not another feather flinger in site and a fish (many 7 to 9 inches) on every cast but a couple of 20+ in. fat healthy rainbows to make the day a huge success. I have had to forgo the monthly trip to the Rogue due court dates this month so will have to report on the So. Oregon trip next month.

I understand Herman and Earl had a nice trip with my buddy Dave Roberts... I will let you in on a little secret...Earl has picked up a new nick name (Set the damn Hook Earl), seems he was a little slow on the draw...good thing he was fishing and not in a gun fight with the Earp's and Doc Holliday at the OK Corral.

Question...has anyone tried the "new" fishing sensation Carp on a fly rod? I have two local waters I have been trying this on what a hoot...a four or five pound carp is all you want to fish while standing in slippery mud....and the crazy fish will chase anything drug thru the mud. Lots of carp in our local sloughs, easy wading and your wife Roses will love ya...make great food for the rose garden.

August is going to be busy...I have to go to Florida for some K9 training ...damn right next to Cape Canaveral and all that Red Fish fishing in Mosquito Lagoon, what's a guy to do.

Our very own Nate Cooper is headed to Nye, Montana on the 6th to attend the tryout for the USA Youth Fly Fishing Team. Remember I said I would donate Delta airline sky miles for his and Steve's tickets...what a job that turned out to be, yes, no, maybe, yes and then finally no we can't do it....surprise, do you know who you're dealing with, I'm the President (of DFF) and you gave me a confirmation number 6 days ago. Long story short, I got them two round trip tickets with a small caveat...Steve and Nate have to stay in Montana, (in August, arguably the best fishing month) 1 day extra because of Delta's scheduling snafu....poor boys. GOOD LUCK NATE.

I'm working on a design for a new Delta Fly Fishing Logo for some new hat's and shirts...I will have examples at the August meeting so the membership can chime in and help come up with a new look.

My four footed partner...Kate...has been under the weather...hornet bites, 13 of them on her face. Pretty sick and very allergic reaction, face swelled up and both eyes were completely shut...but she is doing much better today. Which brings me to her favorite quotes again.....

Geirach -- "Maybe your stature as a fly fisherman isn't determined by how big a trout you can catch but how small a trout you can catch without being disappointed, and, of course, without losing faith that there's a bigger one in there . . ."

Remember our Wednesday evening casting and fly tying classes and come on out and shoot the breeze.

**Membership Form**

Regular membership – \$30\*

Family Membership – \$35\*

62 years or older – \$25.00\*

\*New members please add \$5.00 Initiation Fee

Dues are for one year, from September 1 to August 31 Please fill out then mail to:

Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862, Stockton, CA 95207

Check one:

New membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renew membership \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Membership:

One year \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Senior (62+) \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership:

One year \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be on the \_\_\_\_\_ committee

Please renew your membership, if you have not done so. If you are not sure, check the mailing label for your current status. If there is any questions or problems please contact: Bob Souza at 209-607-6604 or e-mail at [suzasbs@clearwire.net](mailto:suzasbs@clearwire.net).

**Wednesday Night Casting & Fly Tying**

The weekly Wednesday evening fly casting sessions will continue through the Spring, Summer and Fall. Meet at the Nature Center, in the Oak Grove Park, at 6:30. The exception is the 2nd Wednesday night when DFF has its monthly meeting.

Whether you are a novice and want tips on how to cast or an expert that wants an excuse to get out of the house, then come out for the camaraderie of other members. This is an excellent chance improve your fly Casting and/or BS abilities. For more information contact Jim Rich at 477-6404.

There also will be opportunities for fly tying. For more information contact Joe Balderston at 474-8515 or Jim Rich at 477-6404.

**Oak Grove Parking**

Jim Rich wants to inform DFF members that they will now need a DFF parking permit to display on your dash as the county sheriff's office will be writing tickets for non DFF members on Wednesday nights. Jim is going to print up placards or permits, so see Jim to get one. Information: 477-6404 or [jrich1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrich1@sbcglobal.net)

**Fishing Buddy Request**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE CONTACTS: (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

The best time to contact me is \_\_\_\_\_ My E-mail address is: \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE A FISHING BUDDY TO HELP ME WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Casting  Fly Tying  Attending Outings  Equipment
- Knot Tying  Float Tubing  Pontoon Boating
- Stream Fishing  Lake Fishing  Trout Fishing
- Steelhead Fishing  Shad Fishing  Bass Fishing
- Striper Fishing  Salt Water Fishing  Private Water Fishing
- Rod Building  Selecting a Guide  Travel
- Entomology  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe what you would like help with \_\_\_\_\_

If you need further information, please contact the Fishing Buddy Committee:

Bob Souza at 209-607-6604 or [suzasbs@clearwire.net](mailto:suzasbs@clearwire.net)

Grady Lee at 951-3623 or [gmississippi@aol.com](mailto:gmississippi@aol.com)

Mail the form to: Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862, Stockton, CA 95207

# MILLION BOAT FLOAT

By Bruce Connelley

The Fox is guarding the hen house! Does anyone care what happens to the California Delta Estuary? Our Governor has given marching orders to his appointees to lay out a plan to destroy the California Delta in order to extract more water out of a system that is already over tapped, to feed desert lands in the central valley for farming, and pump more water to southern California. Don't get me wrong, I have the utmost respect for our governor, but he is at the least extremely misguided on the direction to take in regards to the state water woes. I am not talking about the current drought. I am talking about the decade's long challenge this state has faced over water supply and how we go about creating more water for our ever increasing population. In the past half dozen years or more, the ecosystem in the Delta has been in rapid descent. There have been many discussions, many studies as to how and why this has happened. There is no question there are many stressors on the Delta's environment, but the main stressor far above and beyond all has been the excessive pumping of water out of the Delta to the central valley and southern California. While pumping has increased, the ecosystem has decreased. It's as basic as that! It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what the main cause of the problem is. The governor's appointees through the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force, under the auspices of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), claim to have the solution. The BDCP appears to have a very comprehensive conservation and restoration plan of the Delta, but underlining the plan is to put in place a peripheral canal that will tap water from just below Sacramento, divert it around the Delta to the pumps in the south. What will happen when the state starts pumping up to 15,000 cubic feet per second out of the river before it gets to the Delta and Bay Area? It will no less than turn the Delta into a muddy marsh and finally destroy the Delta ecosystem as we know it today. I started with "The Fox is guarding the hen house." Let's take a look at the main players in this game. If you look at the top level of appointees, you have the governor from southern California whose legacy project is to solve, once and for all, the water supply issues of the state, particularly for the south. Number two would be Mike Chrisman, Secretary of Natural Resources Agency and a farmer from the Central Valley. Then you have Linda Adams who was instrumental in the beginnings of the now failed CALFED program after which she was the Secretary of Department of Water Resources (DWR) when they started accelerating the pumps into the SWP, and then was promoted to her current position as head of CAL/EPA. Next, there's Lester Snow. Previously he was the head of CALFED, as it went down in smoke. To reward him, the governor appointed him to the head of DWR. It sounds like one big happy family from southern California. Also, for your information, the main steering committee for the BDCP is made up of the southern California water contractors. What's wrong with this picture? There have been many organizations that have been weighing in on the issue of the BDCP and the peripheral canal. Local governments have been playing the political game. Various fisheries, environmen-

tal, and farming groups have been waging a battle to save the Delta, but the political force at the state capitol continues to press on. Time is running out! It's time for the people to come together and show our state legislators and the governor that we are concerned about our resources and will not sit by while they destroy the largest estuary on the entire west coast of both north and south America. Over the past several months, there have been discussions about this subject at the Sportsmen YC and recently our Club has decided to take a stand and has authorized me to coordinate what I have coined "The Million Boat Float." The idea is to bring this issue to national attention and encourage as many boaters and water enthusiasts to participate in a floatation of boats from the Bay/Delta region up the Sacramento River to Sacramento and proceed to the capitol door steps and let our state government know we won't let them continue this charade. Restoring the ecosystem of the Delta has to be priority number one. There are other means of creating water resources for this state other than destroying the Delta. I'm asking all of you "Are you willing to contribute to this process and participate?" What will happen when the state starts pumping up to 15,000 cubic feet per second out of the river before it gets to the Delta and Bay Area?

Contact Bruce Connelley at [bconnelley@comcast.net](mailto:bconnelley@comcast.net)

## Million Boat Float to Stop Arnold's Panama Canal North

by Dan Bacher, editor of the Fish Sniffer

July 22, 2009 -- As the Department of Water Resources begins drilling locations for possible intakes for the peripheral canal, canal opponents will be holding a "million boat float" on August 16 and 17 to save the California Delta and stop the construction of a project that would rival the Panama Canal in size and length.

The event, sponsored by the Sportsmen's Yacht Club in Antioch, will start in Antioch on August 16 and conclude in Sacramento on August 17. The exact times and locations for the massive historic protest will be announced soon on the website, <http://www.millionboatfloat.org/index.htm>.

"The purpose of this mass flotilla on the Sacramento River to the State Capitol is to show our legislators that we are united in the defense of our precious Delta," said Bruce Connelley, Float Chairman and Oakley City Councilman. "We want to bring national attention to this issue with this dramatic protest."

"We are saying no to the 'alternative conveyance system,' since it's just another version of the peripheral canal, no to interference with the natural flow of our waterways, and yes to saving the Delta!" Connelley exclaimed.

Restore the Delta, the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors and other groups are co-sponsoring the float. More groups are expected to join "the guerrilla flotilla" as planning for the protest proceeds.

The boats are scheduled to arrive in Sacramento on August 17, since that's the day the Legislature is scheduled to go back into session after recess, according to Connelley.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Conservation by Ron Forbes

It has been evident that the Delta has been contaminated with a variety of pesticides for a number of years. In an article published in the Sacramento Bee mid-July the major source of pesticide contamination has been found. That source is the city of Sacramento. The study was headed up by UC Berkeley toxicologist Donald Weston.

Evidently the people of Sacramento are dumping their unused pesticides into their home drains, which goes to the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSA). The SRCSA is not treating this problem. Another source of pesticide contamination is the urban storm drains that flow into the American River, then into the Sacramento River and then into the Delta.

One of the major toxins is in the group known as pyrethroids. They are used as insecticides. Two pyrethroids most commonly found in the research were cyfluthrin and bifenthrin. They are used to kill cockroaches, fleas, flies and lice. These pyrethroid pesticides are common on your store's shelves. In low doses they are not harmful to humans. But even in very low concentrations they are very toxic to aquatic life. They thought pyrethroids were safe since they don't dissolve well in water. This chemical is easily attached to soil however. They can wash into the rivers through storm drains with normal watering or during periods of heavy rain. They remain toxic in landscaping and in river beds for months. Weston and his group found the toxin killing the tiny shrimp in the American River. The shrimp are a basic link in the American's food chain. If the shrimp are exposed to pyrethroids even in very low concentrations for four days they are either killed or paralyzed. And of course, when basic elements of the food chain are lost the higher species like fish are at great risk.

The research also shows that there is not just one but many sources of toxins in the Delta but, Sacramento is the major source pesticide contamination. If the SRCSA would only hold their waste water in large holding ponds for a period of thirty days before discharge, the pyrethroids would degrade and not be a problem. Much to Stockton's credit, Stockton does hold its waste water for a period of thirty days in giant ponds to allow the pyrethroids to either degrade or settle out before the waste water was released. There has been no evidence of the toxin found Stockton's treated discharge. Good job Stockton!

Stan Dean of SRCSA said "It might be that a public education program could go a long way. Ultimately, you might need to have more controls on consumer products that have pyrethroids in them." Part of his statement is true. The public does need to understand the proper use of and disposal of the toxins we use. However, Dean's comments are typical of a hypocrite. What he isn't talking about is his district's responsibility to treat their sewage properly when they know toxins are present. He wants to totally shift the blame to the public and not assume any responsibility for the lack of proper sewage treatment. As you might remember, in June the Conservation article had a section about how SRCSA will not add a tertiary system to the sewage treatment and continue to dump over 30,500 gallons of ammonia into the Sacramento River every day at Freeport. And it continues, day, after day, after day.

At this point Sacramento has done very little to stop any of their part in destroying the Delta. Moreover, they now seem to be one of the major problems the Delta faces. And because of their lack of action the Delta continues to decline.



### 2009 NCCFFF Conclave

Mark your calendars for October 23, 24 and 25th for this year's NCCFF's Conclave. As it was last year, it will again be held at the Hutchins Street Square in Lodi. It has just been confirmed that this year's key note speaker will be Lani Waller. Lani will do presentations both morning and afternoon Friday and Saturday, he will speak briefly at the Saturday night dinner and be around both days, all day. He will be doing a book signing of his new book, *Steelheader's Way*, and will sell his books and DVDs there too. He is contributing two sets of his old book, *River of Dreams* and his newly revised DVD sets, *How to Fish Steelhead* to the auction and/or raffle. The DVD is a compilation of his 3 past vhs tapes and a new additional material on current day fishing techniques and spey rods. Additionally, he will donate to the live auction item a new Sage z-axis 13' 6" spey rod, with reel and Skagit versa-tip fly line.

This year's Conclave should be terrific! As everything gets firmed up, I will be keeping you informed as to what's happening.

Right now there are only a handful of people putting this together. We desperately need volunteers to help on Friday and Saturday. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Dustin Rocksvold – Chairman, Home: 209-295-7551 Email: [drocksvold@amadorflyfishers.org](mailto:drocksvold@amadorflyfishers.org) and let him know that you are willing to help.

## DFE Officers 2009

### President

Stephen Johnson 209-887-9255

### 1st Vice President

(Open)

### 2nd Vice President

Herman Spalinger 209-477-3412

(Temp)

### Secretary

Sallye Rollans 209-274-0448

### Treasurer

Bruce Rollans 209-274-0448

## Directors

Joe Balderston 209-474-8515

Charles Edwards 209-951-0391

Ron Forbes 209-368-5767

Marty Kjelson 209-477-9618

Bill Laughlin 209-477-6644

Doug Ridgway 209-957-0170

Sallye Rollans 209-274-0448

Larry Schmidt 209-948-3360

Earl Summers 209-957-6756

## Committees

### Education

Joe Balderston 209-474-8515

### Newsletter

Doug Ridgway 209-957-0170

### Conservation/NCCFFF Member

Ron Forbes 209-368-5767

### Historian/Property

Jim Grimes 209-367-4663

### Membership

Bob Souza 209-478-8344

### Outings

Earl Summers 209-957-6756

### Publicity

Grady Lee 209-951-3623

### Programs

Marty Kjelson 209-477-9618

John Keagy 209-369-5690

### Raffles

Bill Laughlin 209-477-6644

### Catfish Derby (June)

Earl Summers 209-957-6756

### Trout Bout (November)

Charlie Reames 209-369-6053

### Bob McMillan Trout Bout

(February)

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

### Web Site

David Coon 209-239-9936

### Fishing Buddy Program

Bob Souza 209-478-8344

Grady Lee 209-951-3623

Ron Pettitt 209-931-2997

## Delta Fly Fishers Official Club Merchandise For Sale

Help support your club by buying and using club merchandise.

Polo Shirt w/club logo sale \$26.00

Ball Cap \$11.50

Club Patch \$5.00

Lapel Pin \$7.00

Lic. Plate Frames \$3.00

Official coffee mug \$5.00

Also the club has a video library

Videotape Rentals \$2.00 Per Video

See Jim Grimes 209-367-4663 for info on merchandise and videos at all the meetings.

## Membership Meeting

August 12

June Board Meeting

August 19

June Newsletter

The deadline for the September issue is August 25th

## Million Boat Float to Stop Arnold's Panama Canal North

*(Continued from page 3)*

“Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is very clear that soon as he finishes with the budget, he wants to get back to working on the water bond, including the peripheral canal,” said Connelley. “There is too much back room dealing at the Capitol. The Legislators are trying are trying to push through the Governor’s mandate to build a peripheral canal through the Bay Delta Conservation Plan process.”

While the Nature Conservancy is outright backing the canal and some “Big Green” groups are waffling on the issue, boaters, recreational fishing groups, commercial fishing organizations, Delta farmers, Indian Tribes, principled environmental groups and elected officials in the five Delta counties are adamantly opposing the canal for its enormous financial cost and environmental catastrophe that it poses to the Delta and its ecosystem.

“It doesn’t take a brain surgeon to figure out that diverting most of the water out of the Sacramento River into the canal will destroy the Delta,” stated Connelley. “Certain legislators in Sacramento are determined by any means to destroy the Delta by moving legislation ahead to construct a water conveyance system, comparable in size and length, to the Panama Canal, that will surely nail the coffin closed for the greatest estuary in the western hemisphere.”

Plans for the canal and more dams are being ramrodded through the Legislature as Central Valley and Delta fisheries continue to approach the abyss of extinction. Central Valley Chinook salmon, Green sturgeon, Delta smelt, Longfin smelt, striped bass, Sacramento splittail and other fish populations have plummeted to record low levels in recent years, due to massive water exports out of the Delta and declining water quality.

Connelley strongly criticized Legislators and the Governor for refusing to allow Delta stakeholders, including elected officials from the five Delta counties, a voice in the process.

“It’s time to wake up the Governor and the nation and expose this great tragedy,” said Connelley. “The drilling in search of the best place to start the canal just below Sacramento is about to get underway. Therefore, plans are in the works to bring the people together to speak with one voice and demonstrate to our lawmakers that we will not sit idly by and let this destruction take place.”

A planning meeting for the float will be held on Wednesday, August 5, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sportsmen’s Yacht Club in Antioch.

For more information, contact:

Contact Bruce Connelley

Chairman of the Million Boat Float

[bconnelley@comcast.net](mailto:bconnelley@comcast.net)

925-625-7467

P.O. Box 523

Oakley, CA 94561

## Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

### Fishing tip: Fishing Journal or not!

Obviously keeping a fishing journal is a permanent memory input to a deficient memory output (in my case) and can serve those that want to keep a diary for future fishing excursions. If you decide to start a fishing journal here are some basics for your format. Obviously, the date, name of the stream/lake, location access, weather conditions (clouds, clear, rain, air temperature, water temperature, etc.) species of trout, fly pattern, size, and time of day. For the anal retentive, you might want to add presentation type, success rate at time of day, observations of hatches (month, day, time and duration for each bug) or whatever you feel is necessary for your dairy. My notes are overly basic for my 2-cell brain. You can abbreviate to your encryption capacity or whatever you can read later or makes sense for your personal recollection database. There are still more categories you could use like water level, clarity, trail route (secret location), lake diagram with points of "catching". Doing a hatch journal takes time, and requires a bit more work. Personally, I fish with only a few flies – Zug Bug, Potts hair fly variation, and one dry pattern (cowdung, or olive elk-hair caddis). The majority of the time that I fish, I leave early am and it's always clear, meaning there will be clouds in the pm, and my notes read zug-amclr/stripPhII (strip Potts over type II) ghp xg (grey hackle peacock, extra good), P6U (Potts hair 6' strip under). If you have the gift of the pen, sketching is an exceptional way to interpret your field observation, but stick-figure flies don't work well as "no talent" equates to poor documentation of fly patterns. A journal can only prove to be as informational as the input or as a source of humor for the days you yearn to be on the water.

### Legislation and/or News

DFG had been on a gag-order not to release any stocking figures and it was recently lifted but witness signatures are no longer required. You can go to their web-site and see the full list of waters that are currently not stocked due to the lawsuit filed in 2008 which was updated May 2009.

Golden trout eggs were collected this spring (300,000) and will be reared to fingerlings and air stocked at the end of this season into the areas that cannot sustain a renewable population for recreational angling.

Remember to check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water as to limits, size, and gear.

**ROCK CREEK** – Has been good, and fish are hitting black woolly buggers, olive Matukas and spruce flies. Mosquito Flats is still high and the mosquitoes are the pits, I've got my head netting ready. Deet, deet and more deet!

**HOT CREEK** – (149cfs) Is fishing well early and late on dries, scuds, WD40's, stones, mayfly patterns, dry-drop with scuds, and small olive caddis emergers or larva patterns with PT as your nymph. Constant afternoon breezes will make things harder, but if you know your stuff you'll get into some browns (near fence) shhhhh!

**CROWLEY** – Has had a few windy days and the weed beds have put a damper on the bite and are reported down to 16

feet. Look for algae free creek channels if you want to get into fish. Conditions should improve in the next couple weeks. Try gray zebras, tiger or crystal, try everything and don't give up. Water temps are moving the fish around and up and down, and don't forget the two fly rig is always a good choice. Try the unobvious (is that a word), PT flashback (imperative). Weather has finally turned nice and the wind has subsided for the time being so things will start to change for the better.

**CONVICT** – Has been producing nice Alpers on large woolly buggers in black and purple #6 or 8. Also try the Marvel, the wonder fly, be sure and ask what color is working. The Marvel is a flash-body woolly bugger with a small prop at the head. Hardware is good and gets action. Some standard midges for top water by the south bank where the party boats cruise.

**MAMMOTH BASIN** – Lake Mary has been producing on some small dries. George and Mamie are also doing well on dries, but try some Matukas, black leaches, and black or chocolate woolly buggers.

**SAN JOAQUIN ROAD** – Access with your own vehicle is before 7am and after 7pm. Water is leveling off with good clarity so try anything dry even a big bright "fluffy" with small bead-head dropper, ants, hoppers, or damsels.

**JUNE LAKE** – Silver and Gull have been doing the best on black, and purple woolly's, grey ghosts, and spruce flies. Also try some stones, mayflies, ants and caddis near Rush Creek for best results.

**LUNDY** – has been producing and has continued to see some really nice fish on black woolly buggers #6 or 8, and the Marvel. Ponds behind the resort are fun and hitting small midges and dries. Bugs are also thick and tasty!

**VIRGINIA LAKES** – Had been a hot ticket for tubers tugging black woolly buggers with lots of tail flash, but hare's ears are producing along with midges by the trillions. The gnats are like leaving LA at 5pm; wall-to-wall so wear a mask so you can breathe, breathing is good. Use sparse Griffith Gnats, small mosquitoes and Adams females all #18-20. Some emergers have worked over the past couple weeks, but will increase with the temps. Of course dragging a streamer always works but rather dull. Try some Rickard's flies and hold on.

**EAST WALKER** – Flow currently is at 119cfs and the mosquitoes are vicious. Blood transfusions might be required after an outing, so bring the "juice". Emerging Caddis will buy you the "beast", so anything resembling this "bug" should put you into poundage. Lots of blood midges going off for the hungry browns, so select your imitation with care.

**WEST WALKER** – Water is at approx 168cfs, so look for flat water and fish the bottom and curves, and try a two fly rig with large attractor as indicator and tiger, crystal or flashback Zug as the bottom fly.

**SADDLEBAG RESORT** – Opened the 27th, the lakes are doing well on small dries early am and very late pm, there are some nice golden trout back there. Gardisky is also doing well if you know the combination. This lock can be hard to crack on occasion.

See you on the water....cj 9.7

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Every Wed<br>(except meeting nights)            | Nature Center<br>Oak Grove Park<br>Stockton | WEDNESDAY EVENING FLY CASTING & TYING<br>Contact: Joe Balderston 474-8515<br>Jim Rich 477-6404 |
| Every 2nd Wed<br>(except July & Aug)<br>7:00 PM | John R Williams School<br>Stockton          | Membership Meeting<br>Contact Marty Kjelson 477-9618<br>John Keagy 369-5690                    |
| Every 3rd Wed<br>(except July)<br>7:00 PM       | Nature Center<br>Oak Grove Park<br>Stockton | Board Meeting<br>All Members Welcome   |
| Wednesday<br>August 12                          | John R Williams School<br>Stockton          | Membership Meeting<br>The President's Annual Presentation                                      |
| August 5  | Sportsmen's Yacht Club<br>Antioch           | Planning Meeting<br>Million Boat Float   |
| Sunday-Monday<br>August 16 - 17                 | Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers<br>Delta      | Million Boat Float   |
| Wednesday<br>August 19                          | Oak Grove Park<br>Stockton                  | Board Meeting<br>All Members Welcome   |
| September                                       | Bridgeport Area                             | Annual Bridgeport Trip   |
| October 23, 24 & 25                             | Hutchins Street Square<br>Lodi, California  | A Festival of Fly Fishing<br>Conclave 2009   |

## DFF Newsletter is Moving Towards Sending Via E-mail

DFF is working towards being able to send out DFF's Monthly Newsletter to our members electronically. By sending the Newsletter this way the DFF will be saving rising printing and postage costs that can then go towards our many programs. There is no need to send an email to Bob Souza, [suzasbs@clearwire.net](mailto:suzasbs@clearwire.net), if you want to continue receiving the Newsletter by hard copy, snail mail.

If you want to receive the Newsletter by email, send your email to [suzasbs@clearwire.net](mailto:suzasbs@clearwire.net).

Please put the following in Subject Field of your e-mail: Newsletter Email. Advise Bob of your full name and the email address you would like the magazine sent to.

This is strictly voluntary but you will be saving the Club money. also, since Bob emails out the newsletter before he takes it to the printer, you will receive it sooner.

## Fall River in the Heat by Bruce Rollans

Sallye and I journeyed Interstate 5 North through the mid day heat July 17 to our destination-Clearwater Lodge at the Pitt River. We were booked to fish the Fall River with guide Gino Bernero for two days. Enroute we heard from Gino with bad news. He was suffering from a severe leg infection and had to reschedule us with Mike Peters from Grants Pass, Oregon. While we enjoy Gino, Mike Peters proved every bit as capable a guide.

The Fall River is a large spring fed river about 20 minutes from Clearwater Lodge. Guides from Confluence Outfitters work with the lodge and have two private accesses on the river. There are only two public accesses, both primitive.

We used a pram-type boat powered with electric and gas motors. The mornings we fished both above and below Spring Creek Bridge. Going under this bridge requires you to get very flat in the boat or risk serious pain. We started with



PMD dry patterns size 16 and 18, as they are the most prevalent mayflies on the river, normally.

As the morning wore on we switched from three and four weight rods to

four and five weight rods using nymphs such as Pheasant Tails or AP, same sizes. All were fished below a large dry fly or small indicator.

Sometimes we were drifting and sometimes anchored. In both cases we stripped off enough line to get the flies about 30 feet from the boat to reduce our presence in such clear water. Saturday, with few hatches, only a half dozen takes and temperatures reminiscent of Baja, we gave up about one p.m. Sunday the hatches were almost non-existent. Switching to nymphs, Mike went through his fly boxes until we hit pay dirt with the San Juan Worm above an AP nymph.



After breaking off two big fish Mike changed the tippet from 6X to 5X and we both began landing fish. The best was 18" but even the 13" fish proved strong and great leapers

We fished the lower river both days, getting on the water about 8:30 p.m. for what was left of the Hex hatch. This hatch begins about June 9. By June 15 it's common to be surrounded by 20 other boats, including at least one warden who is there to make sure you stop fishing by 10 p.m. Both nights we fished the hatch, there were no other boats.

We anchored up until the hatch began at 9:04 p.m. then variously drifted and anchored. These large may flies announce their presence with a loud plopping sound as they break the surface to dry their wings for about 45 seconds before flying away. Sometimes we were rewarded with a grab by casting our fly next to a live Hex. Most often we succeeded by casting about three feet up from the rising fish and allowing the fly to drift over the fish. Make



sure the leader has no slack; this was often the reason for missed hook-ups. We fished until about 9:50 p.m. Even though no wardens were present, we no longer had enough light reflecting off the water to show our flies or the rising fish.



I recommend The Fall River: *California's Big Sky Country* by Andrew Harris in the August issue of California Fly Fisher. Andrew was a recent DFF Program speaker and his Fall River article gives all the details you need for fishing the river.



By the way, Sallye had twice my hook-ups. But, I brought twice the number of fish to the boat!

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