

# Delta Fly Fishers

September 2007

Rx

Flyfishing

## President's Message by Herman Spalinger

September, 2007

As we head for the Fall season, September is the month not only to renew our membership by bringing our dues current for the 2007/2008 season but also a time to reflect on what you individually as a member can bring to this organization. We should reflect on what direction we would like this club to head in the future. I know some of you are busy in your various occupations, but perhaps now is the time to pause and ponder why we joined this club. Was it for the camaraderieship (if there is such a word)? Was it because you wanted to learn more about fly fishing, or was it because you wanted to be able to call another member and/or invite him or her on a local fishing trip? Or was it because you wanted to get involved in an organization that furthers the sport of fly fishing through conservation and helping others in the various nuances of fly fishing? Whatever your answer is to this self-analysis, this club offers all of the above plus more. We are a membership of young and old, not so experienced and very experienced, and not so good at tying our own flies to tying a fly good enough to sell in a fly fishing shop. I have noticed though our board meetings and discussing various topics of fly fishing with you members over the past several years that even though each of you come from various backgrounds you share one specific goal in mind and that is to help your fellow members on any weaknesses he or she exhibits in either casting, tying knots, or tying flies. This aspect of our club is what draws us together, and I want you newer members who may read this article to not be shy in coming forward to a more experienced member and asking for help in whatever area of fly fishing you feel you need help. Don't be embarrassed because we all had to start somewhere and we were in your shoes at one point in time. We all want to share our experiences with one another and it is in that way we learn more about our sport. If any of you feel you have a fresh idea on how the club is run, or even have a complaint about some aspect of our organization - please feel free to contact any officer, board member or committee chair to discuss what's on your mind - or, if you're so inclined, come and sit in on one of our board meetings out at the Nature Center at Oak Grove Park the third Wednesday of each month and see how things are done. Maybe several of you might want to become an officer, board member or committee chair. If so, let us know because the clock is ticking for the officers and board members as their terms expire at the end of this year so now is the time for you to consider volunteering for next year. We would like to see some new faces and ideas that contribute to the smooth operation of this club. With that said, the end of October is when you'll be dropped off the membership list if you haven't renewed your dues for the 2007/2008 year so please get out your checkbook and send your dues in to Bob Souza before then.

For those of you who missed the August meeting, I announced we have allowed our club's name to be added to a long list of statewide fly clubs on a position paper that has been submitted to the Delta Fishery Recovery and Restoration Vision by The Allied Fishing Groups. This is a position paper submitted to the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force that makes recommendations to the Resources Agency and the Governor. This paper, among other things, is submitted with as many fishing groups as the Allied Fishing Group can muster to let the Blue Ribbon Task Force know that fishermen would like to have a loud voice in helping them come to some sort of plan that is viable to all concerned and that we fishermen are as much concerned as the agri-business people on how the Delta water system is managed for future generations. This is only a first step in a long, long process to hopefully reach any sort of resolution to a very complex solution: supplying water to a growing population and at the same time managing the fisheries. If any of you have further interest in this aspect of conservation, contact Ron Forbes and he can fill you in with more detail. He is doing a fine job in trying to keep us abreast of developments up and down the state. It's hard to cover the subject and not project some bias, but we should strive to approach this task with as much an open mind as possible.

Our next monthly meeting will be at J.R. Williams School on Wednesday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m. The school has completed their remodeling and the multi-meeting room is now open for our club. Be aware the parking lot has been redesigned.

[www.deltaflyfishers.com](http://www.deltaflyfishers.com)

# Membership Form

Membership Form - Regular membership is: \$25 and a Family Membership is: \$30.00 or \$20.00 for 62 years or older. New members please add \$5.00 one time new member initiation. Dues are for one year September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007. Please fill out then mail to: Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862, Stockton, CA 95207

Check one: New membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renew membership \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Membership for one year \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Two years \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership for one year \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Two years \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone: 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).

## 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:

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Casting           | <input type="checkbox"/> Fly Tying         | <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment          | <input type="checkbox"/> Knot Tying            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attending Outings | <input type="checkbox"/> Float Tubing      | <input type="checkbox"/> Pontoon Boating    | <input type="checkbox"/> Stream Fishing        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Fishing      | <input type="checkbox"/> Trout Fishing     | <input type="checkbox"/> Steelhead Fishing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Shad Fishing          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bass Fishing      | <input type="checkbox"/> Striper Fishing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Water Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Water Fishing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rod Building      | <input type="checkbox"/> Selecting a Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel             | <input type="checkbox"/> Entomology            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 [gmississippikid@aol.com](mailto:gmississippikid@aol.com)

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

# Bridgeport Outing

## September 14, 15, 16 2007



It is that time again to make plans for the annual family outing to the Eastern Sierra which is always well attended and offers a wide range of fishing opportunities. 20 to 50 fish days have been common for a lot of DFF members in the past.

Headquarters for the DFF will be Robinson Creek Campground (take Twin Lakes Road east out of Bridgeport for about 10 miles and look for the sign for the campground). There will be a potluck barbecue at Bob Bradley's trailer Saturday night. Cocktails at 6pm and dinner will be around 7. Bring a dish or snacks to share, your entree to barbecue, along with the beverage of your choice.

Directions: Getting to Bridgeport takes about 4 ½ hours by car or longer by RV. Hwy 88 to 395 is the best RV route. By car Hwy 108 over Sonora pass to 395 is a bit quicker. Don't try this route with an RV.

Information: Bob Bradley 209-369-4048

## September's Member Program

### Trinity River Steelhead Fishing

#### By Jim Roberts

**Jim Roberts** - Jim is a Mt Shasta resident that has been fly fishing for over 15 years, his love of fly fishing has taken Jim all over the United States and the world. Jim enjoys guiding fulltime when he isn't out fishing for himself. Jim's area of expertise is on the McCloud, Upper Sacramento, Pit, Hat Creek, Lower Sacramento and Klamath Rivers. Jim has given many fly fishing seminars at the International Sportsmen Shows and is a true professional when it comes at instructing folks in fly fishing.

Roberts was baptized into fishing on Hot Creek and the Owens River in the Eastern Sierras. He rapidly found his calling and spent most of his free time chasing trout. After college and a brief stint as a teacher, Roberts decided to make fishing a career. Partnering and running companies in retail (Buck A Bug), wholesale (Innovative Anglers), and guiding (Trout Guys), he has accumulated a wealth of information that helps him introduce ideas to others willing to listen and watch.



The Trinity River west of Redding California offers exceptional opportunities of catching rainbows, browns, steelhead, and salmon. It is a scenic river and offers quality fishing for anglers at all levels of experience. This seminar goes though the calendar and explains in detail what the angler will find on the river at various times of the year and the techniques used to be successful on the water.

## September Conservation

by Ron Forbes

In the ongoing battle between environmental and property rights groups, another major battle has been won for the environmental side. Again the issue is the battle between the hatchery Chinook salmon and the wild Chinook salmon. The fish concerned are the Puget Sound salmon and Chinook that run across the entire Pacific Northwest. In 2001, U.S. District Judge Michael Hogan rule in favor of the builders, farmers and others who basically wanted no real protection for the fish or the environment if it would interfere with their business practices.

In 2001 the Bush people decided not to appeal Hogan's decision on environmental issues and to let the decision stand. The decision provoked an environmental reaction we are still seeing.

In the middle of August of this year Judge Hogan changed his ruling. In 2001 it was ruled that the wild and hatchery fish could be combined and as long as those numbers didn't decline, the fish would not be considered under the endangered policy. However, science has shown that despite the fact that the factory salmon are superior in numbers they are no match for the wild fish when it comes to going to sea and returning to reproduce. The wild fish are superior in this respect. And the court now agrees with this fact.

This decision follows Judge John Coughenour's decision in Seattle that we reported in an earlier issue of DFF. Again it will not allow the National Marine Fisheries Service to count hatchery fish as true examples of what is really happening to environment. This is a far more true representation of what is really happening in nature.

The property right's side has been represented by the Pacific Legal Foundation and of course is upset by their loss. Earthjustice lead the environmental forces. Frankly it's delightful to finally see science moving into its rightful place ahead of personalities and special interest when making decisions on the environment. And again this should be a major win for the fish and the environment!

In the middle of August, Westland Water District and Senator Diane Feinstein have been involved in behind closed door meetings which will adversely affect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta along with its fish and wildlife. And if Westland's has its way it will be for the enrichment of Westland's at the expense of the taxpayer. The fact that the negotiations are behind closed doors and not open to the public tells one something, especially since we are dealing with the State's public water.

The normal water contract normal term is usually 30 years. Westland is asking that this period be extended to 60 years and will give Westland's the highest water priority rights in the Central Valley Project. Also Westland's has not cleaned up the selenium contamination or the contamination caused by its pesticides or fertilizers dating as far back as the Kesterson debacle of the 1970's. Westland now faces a \$2 billion damage action. What a surprise, behind closed doors, Westland is asking Feinstein to forgive its debt and have the taxpayers pay.

Unfortunately, all the details at this time are unknown, but the Bureau of Reclamation, the Westland Water District and other San Luis Contractors are having discussions about giving Westland 75% delivery even in dry years. That would be 800,000 acre. Also it would agree that the CVP contractors, in the south Delta, will never be cut back for any reason and that any loss to the them must be paid for by the public or other water users. Also San Luis Contractors will no longer have to comply with the 960 acre limit, which will pretty much kill the small family farm.

All of this and the fact that the San Luis Contractors wants to be forgiven the \$400 million+ construction debt for the CVP and no longer pay for the O and M cost of the CVP is totally beyond belief. In other words they use it-we pay for it. But Feinstein and the Bureau of Reclamation seem to be considering just such action. This is for the enrichment of small, but powerful, groups of wealthy people, at our expense. Again it will be interesting to see whose side the Bureau of Reclamation and Senator Feinstein decide to favor, the people of the State of California or the special interests, again. At this point, all the discussions are still behind closed doors. And again we need to watch what is going on. The water decisions, made in the very near future, will decide the environmental future of the State of California. And close to home, it will decide whether or Delta lives or dies.

## FFF MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**FFF Club Opportunity to Sign Up New FFF Members at Discounted Rate –**

From July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 club members may join the Federation at the special discounted price of \$15.00 for a regular one year individual membership. You may use current FFF applications and cross off the normal 35.00 rate and write in 15.00. Membership form must be signed by the club president to certify that the applicant is a member of the affiliate club.

• These will qualify for credits towards Rod New Member Incentive Program during this promotion period. • This is not for FFF membership renewals

**FFF Life Member Promotion – July 1, 2007 until December 31, 2007**

For individual Life membership - At a price of \$750 it will include for a new member, choice of a Sage 590-4 Z-AXIS Series Rod in 5 wt OR a Sage 890-4 XiZ 8 wt. Thus the new member gets a package valued at approximately \$1150.00 for his \$750.00 investment.

For couple life membership – For the husband and wife who fish together, receive 2 rods and membership at the price of \$1,250.00

Note: Life payment plans do not qualify for this promotion. Full payment is required at time of sign up.

Mail a check to: FFF – 215 E Lewis – Livingston, MT 59047 or call with a credit card 406-222-9369 ext 106

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Grady Lee 209 - 951-3623

Ron Pettit 209 - 931-2997

Help support your club by buying and using club merchandise.

Polo Shirt w/club logo sale	\$26.00
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Ball Cap	\$11.50
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Club Patch	\$5.00
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Lapel Pin	\$7.00
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Lic. Plate Frames	\$3.00
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Official coffee mug	\$5.00
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Also the club has a video library

Videotape Rentals	\$2.00 Per Video
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See Jacob Loyko 468-2664 for info on

merchandise and videos at all the meetings.

## The Bass Anglers of the Silent Society By Harvey Hamlow

The fly-fishing workshop, put on by Delta Fly Fishers, went over big with the Bass Anglers of the Silent Society. I heard nothing but good things about the workshop. Several members of the Bass Silent Society showed an interest in fly-fishing. We had many questions about which weight fly rods and line to use for different types of fishing.

The program consists of fly tying, casting, equipment and educational material on fly-fishing. Herman brought his trout carvings to the workshop. They were a big hit with everyone. A few members of the Silent Society would have liked to take one of the carvings home with them. The Bass Anglers of the Silent Society furnish hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch. It was an enjoyable day for everyone.

The Bass Anglers of the Silent Society would like to thank Herman Spalinger, Bill Laughlin, Joe Balderston, Dean Watson, Marty Kjelson, Jacob Loyko, Larry Schmidt, Rick Green, Jim Rich, and Harvey Hamlow, for making this workshop possible.



## **KD and LMB**

### **By Bruce Rollans**

I treated my bother in law and my 16-year-old nephew each to a morning fly-fishing for Large Mouth Bass in the Delta with Kevin Devore during the second week of August. Neither had ever held a fly rod so some lessons and a lot of practice were involved. KD has a great attitude working with novice fly casters and both the brother in law and nephew benefited from his laid back approach.

The bass we caught these two mornings were small; the largest under 2 lbs; however, the bother in law finally got his reaction time in sinc and landed two bass. My nephew bested dad with two bass and one very small striper.

Best of all, my nephew got a lot of work done toward a boy scout merit badge for Fly Fishing by catching two species on a fly rod and learning how to tie three types of flies.

## **Another Lesson: Eating Humble Pie**

### **by**

### **Bruce Rollans**

After 5 days casting to tarpon, we returned to Cancun for a day on the flats at Isla Blanca about an hour North of Cancun. Our primary goal was to hook a Permit, which is much easier said than done. Notice no pictures of Permit. We were taken to school.

We were on the flats by 7:00 a.m. searching for signs of Permit tailing fish, wakes or even nervous water. In the next 3 hours we saw a lot of these signs. I got to cast to more Permit than I can count. I hooked absolutely none.

**Lesson 1 – Do not move your feet while standing on the casting platform. This will spook the fish. This will also make for a tiring experience.**

**Lesson 2 – Always cast 2 feet in front of feeding Permit. Any greater distance and the fish will not see the crab pattern. Much closer and the target fish will spook.**

**Lesson 3 – Do not cause noise when your fly hits the water. This will spook the Tarpon. How you consistently accomplish this, I am still not clear about.**

**Lesson 4 – Place the fly within two feet in front of the Permit without a splash down and without lining the 6 to 10 Permit you do not see encircling the tailing Permit to which you are casting. I still have not learned this lesson.**

**Lesson 5 – If you sight a single Permit feeding behind a cruising Sting Ray, cast the fly onto the back of the ray. Supposedly, the fly will fall off the ray into the path of the Permit. How you do this without spooking the ray then the Permit I still do not understand. Casting a crab pattern fly onto a moving 2 foot disc (ray's back) was not something I achieved more than one time that day.**

Back at the dock we shared stories and beer with John from St. Louis. John fly fishes salt water only. He owns a large construction company, a 2nd home in the Florida Keys and fishes for Permit about 3 weeks a year. This day he hooked one Permit. The previous day he hooked none. I began feeling somewhat better then out guide told us the first time Keith Kaneko fished Isla Blanca, he hooked and landed 7 permit. I had another beer and Sallye went looking for shells.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Wed (except meet- ing nights)	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	<b>FLY CASTING</b> Contact: Jim Rich 477-6404 Rick Greene 477-1488
Every 2nd Wed (except July & Aug) 7:00 PM	John R Williams School Stockton	<b>Membership Meeting</b> Contact Marty Kjelson 477-9618 John Keagy 369-5690
Every 3rd Wed (except July) 7:00 PM	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	<b>Board Meeting</b> All Members Welcome
Wednesday September 12	John R Williams School Stockton	<b>Jim Roberts</b> Fishing the Trinity River
Wednesday September 19	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	<b>Board Meeting</b> All Members Welcome
September 12	Bridgeport, CA	<b>Bridgeport Outing, Fishmeister Bob Bradley 369-4048</b>
Oct. 19-21	Redding Convention Center Redding, CA	<b>NCC/FFF 2007 Conclave</b> <b>2007 Festival of Fly Fishing</b>
Oct. 20	O'Neil Forebay Santa Nella, CA	<b>Striper Outing</b> Fishmeister: Bob Souza 478-8344
November 17	Boat Dock Oak Grove Park Stockton	<b>Trout Bout</b>
TBA November	Rancho Seco Lake	<b>Outing</b>
TBA December	Rancho Seco Lake	<b>Outing</b>

# Mexico Tarpon by Bruce Rollans

Sallye and I were up at 2:00 a.m. August 1 to make our 6 a.m. flight from Sacramento to Cancun, Mexico and five days hunting Tarpon out of the small town of San Felipe about 3 hours Northwest of Cancun's airport. We ended our travel day tying on shock tippets and flies at 9:00 p.m.

Up for breakfast at 5:00 a.m. and on the boat ½ hour later, we followed the same routine every day, tides permitting. After an hour's high-speed ride we began searching for rolling Tarpon up to about 70 lbs. This search continued until about 11:30 a.m. after which we returned to our hotel for lunch and a welcomed nap until 3:30 p.m. In the afternoon we fished mangroves and nearby flats for baby Tarpon up to about 15 lbs.

Our first morning put us on more adult Tarpon than I ever hoped to see. In about 2 hours I watched in excess of 200 Tarpon move past the boat, about half within our casting range. Image 1 is a Tarpon I brought to the boat. Just as the guide reached for the tippet, the fish did a headshake and threw the fly. The guide opined it weighed 50 lbs. Image 2 is a 30 lb Tarpon I got to hug.

Baby Tarpon proved just as challenging as adults, if not more so. They were violent head shakers and leaped repeatedly. No matter how closely we followed Leo's tips, these small Tarpon threw the fly about 3 of 4 hook ups. Image 3 and 4 are a couple of Sallye's baby Tarpon. Probably the most important lesson I learned about tarpon is to sharpen the hook every time it makes contact with the fish.

Cancun is still rebuilding from the last hurricane and has developed enormously since our last trip 4 years ago. The coast from Cancun to Tulum is elbow to elbow with resorts.



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4

# *Delta Fly Fishers*

**Rx Flyfishing Newsletter**

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