



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

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Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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Calendar

October 5-7, Lower Sac at Redding outing

October 11, Club potluck and swap meet, John R. Williams school

October 13-15, Heenan Lake Outing

October 18, DFF Board Meeting, Oak Grove Park.

October 25, Fly of the Month fly tying session, Oak Grove Park



President's message for October

I'm back!

Over 6,000 miles, 45 days, 13 states, 14 or 15 national parks and monuments, two hurricanes and we're home for a while. I had planned to fish my way across the gulf coast of the country but we found ourselves just staying ahead of hurricanes from Galveston to St. Augustine.

I fished a total of two days, one at Sea Rim State Park in Texas, fishing the marshes for redfish, and a second day, fishing the Dog River in Alabama for largemouth. I zeroed out on the redfish but managed to land a dozen largemouth, all topwater in the few evening hours I fished in Alabama. Most of the time we did touristy things like visit museums, take house tours, lots of eating out, ranger walks and talks at the national parks or just walk the sidewalks and drive the neighborhoods of new and different towns.

This was the third time I tried to mix a vacation trip with fishing and the third time it didn't really work out. I brought a lot of fishing gear that I never or barely used including my eight foot pram, a small outboard, anchors, life vest, four seven weight rods, flies, fly tying table and supplies, all of which took up space in my van. The same thing happened in the past. Lots of plans but little in the way of follow through.

It seems that once on the road, we find ourselves taking detours to see things we've heard of, read of, seen on TV, learned about in school or things that just whet our curiosity. It's not that the fishing wasn't worth while, there just never seemed to be enough time.

The planning for our next cross country trip is shaping up. This time, starting at the end of May, 2018, we'll head north

through Idaho and Montana to Alberta, Calgary, Edmonton, the Yukon and Alaska. Now you would think that if there would be any trip I'd be taking as much fishing gear as possible, this would be it. But no, I'm taking two five weights, a box of reels and lines, a gear bag full of flies, a pair of waders and that's it!! I'll probably kick myself when it's all over for not bringing the pram.

IN THE MEAN TIME...

October is probably one of the best months of the year for fishing in the state. The delta is kicking out stripers and the Sierras are full of fat trout that have eaten all summer long. In addition, the mid day heat is no longer a drain and the crowds have long since disappeared. If the weather holds and the snow holds off, the club is sponsoring an outing to Heenan Lake near Markleeville in the middle of the month, Heenan is the lake DFG uses for raising Lahontan Cutthroat trout and is filled with broodstock. Fish from 18 to 26 inches are common.

The club's fall potluck also takes place this month and it is being combined with a swap meet instead of a speaker and raffle.

Tim Costello is looking for members who want to start another beginners' fly tying class and Dena Mason is coordinating four more Salmon in the Classroom set-ups for Lodi Unified.

Finally, the club is looking for a new treasurer and membership chair.

It looks like it's going to be a busy and fun year.

Jerry

The annual potluck and a swap meet will be the main course of the October meeting

Our **October 11th** general meeting will be the **annual club potluck** at John R Williams School. Instead of a program, the club will hold a **swap meet** in conjunction with the dinner. Members are asked to bring something to share according to the following schedule:

A to J: main dishes (casseroles, pastas, meat dishes, etc.)

K to N: hot or cold side dishes

O to S: Salads

T to Z: desserts

The club will furnish soft drinks and coffee.

Please set your contribution to the potluck on the tables closest to the stage.

If you're bringing items for the swap meet, please set up on the rear tables.

The event start time is 6:30. Feel free to cruise the items brought to the swap meet during the dinner.

October 6-7 outing scheduled for the Sacramento River at Redding

DFE, Inc. will have an October, 2017 outing; floating the Lower Sacramento River out of Redding, CA. It is scheduled to cover Thursday, October 5, Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7. This should provide enough coverage for any member who plans to take part.

Keep in mind, Saturday will probably bring out the most boats on the river. If the salmon are in, this should prove a great time to be fishing for wild rainbow trout

up to 24 inches!

If you want to join fellow members for dinner at a Redding restaurant on Saturday, October 7, please contact Bruce Rolans for inclusion in this no host meal.

Best to reach Bruce before October 5, 2017 at his email address mbrsmr36@gmail.com, his home phone at 209 781 6408 or his cell at 209 781 5154.

Help wanted... We need a new Treasurer!

Jason Stapleton, our current treasurer has served the club in that position for the last five years. In that time he's done a fantastic job and has kept the books in perfect order and made sure the club was financially solvent. However, all good things must come to an end and Jason says that he just doesn't have the time any more to continue.

We've functioned as a club without a variety of officer's positions filled but the office of Treasurer is one that cannot be left vacant. The workload is fairly light and involves paying a few bills each month, mostly reimbursing other officers for expenses, making deposits from money taken in from memberships and

other club functions, paying the club's annual insurance and filing the club's 501c3 taxes.

Additionally, the office holder is asked to attend board meetings, and help in the preparation of the club's annual budget.

Jason currently uses a spread sheet to keep the books and a one write system for the checking account. He'll be available to assist in coaching the new treasurer in his or her duties.

I can't stress how important this position is to the club's well being and even it's continuance. Without proper record keeping we would not be able to continue as a functioning organization.

DFE Officers



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

Committees

Beginner's Fly Tying	
Tim Costello	
Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)	
John and Karen Keagy	
Catfish Derby (June)	
Earl Summers	209-957-6756
Conservation/Restore the Delta	
Ron Forbes	209-368-5767
Education	
Dena Mason	
Fishing Mentor Program	
Tim Costello	
Fly of the Month	
Mike Nicholson	
Membership	
Bob Fujimura	209-339-0683
Monthly Raffles	
Jerry Neuberger	
Programs	
Al Smatsky	209-368-9261
Bob Sousa	209-368-2683
Property/Historian	
John Keagy	
Publicity	
Steve VonBerg	209-327-6161
Rod Building	
Bob Fujimura	209-339-0683
Trout Bout (November)	
Vacant (contact Pres. Jerry Neuberger)	
Webmaster	
John Keagy	
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An October 13th to 15th outing to Heenan Lake, home of some good sized Lahontan trout

September and October offer a rare opportunity to fish Heenan Lake, a lake operated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as a brood stock facility for the raising of Lahontan cutthroat trout. The 130 acre lake is only open for three days a week, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and only for two months out of the year, September and October. The angling is fly fishing only, catch and release.

Heenan is located on Highway 89, about eleven miles from Markleeville, at an elevation of 7,100 feet. It can be fished by float tube, pontoon boat, kayak, canoe or pram, no motorized craft although electric motors area allowed.

A free dry campground is available at Centerville Flats on Highway 4, about four miles from the junction of Highway 89 and a full service RV campground is available at the Carson River Resort, **Address:** 12399 CA -89, Markleeville, CA 96120 **Phone:**(530) 694 -2229

Heenan Lake trout are generally willing to take a fly and can strip some line from a five weigh before coming to the net.

The fish respond to #10-12 copper johns both fished on indicators and stripped slowly in on intermediate to Type II lines. Fishing size 8 to 16

chironomids on an indicator is also a proven effective technique. And of course, when hungry for something meatier, they'll fall for a properly stripped woolly bugger.

Although the lake is at 7,100 feet, long range weather reports are for sunny days with mid day temperatures in the mid 60's and night lows at about 30 degrees.

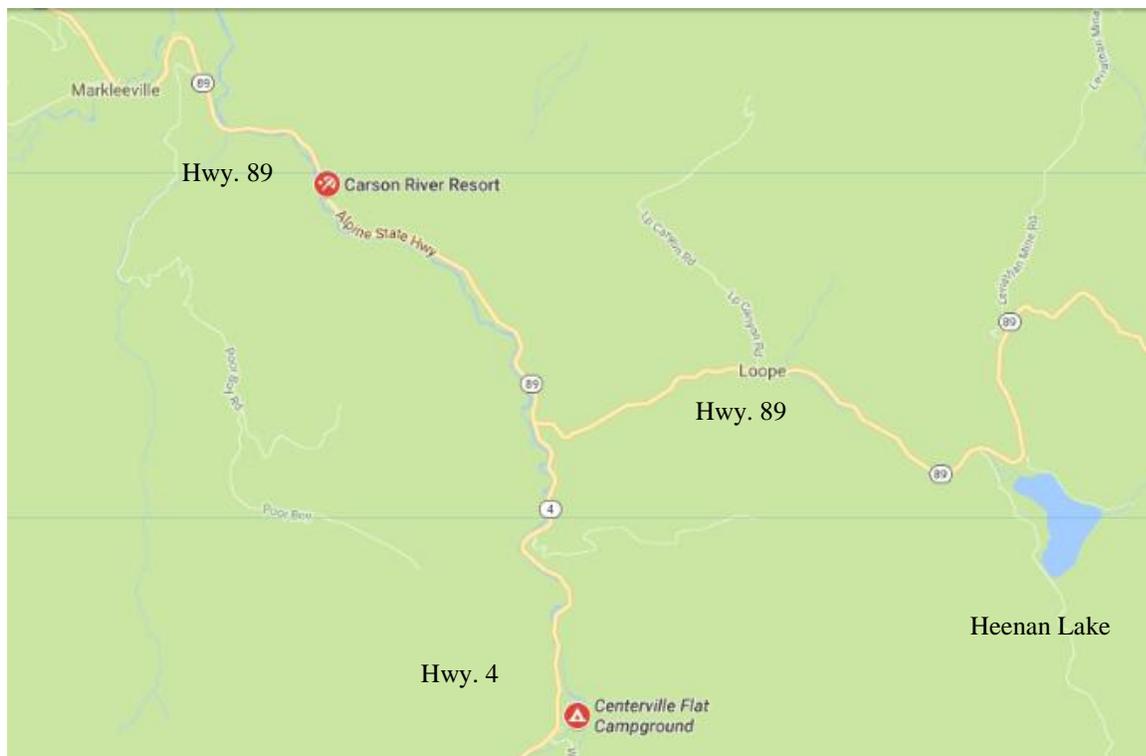
Winds can be a problem at the lake but long range predictions call for winds under 12 mph at the worst.

Fishmiester and club president Jerry Neuburger will have set up his well traveled travel trailer at the Centerville Flat Campground on Thursday, October 12 and plans to stay through Sunday, the

15th. If a few more members show interest and plan to go on the outing and stay at the campground, a barbecue and potluck and can be arranged for Saturday night.

Jerry can be contacted either by e-mail (preferred) or phone 209-369-5752 if you're planning to attend.

A map is attached. Distance from the junction of 89 and 4 to either the Carson River Resort is about 4 miles, and 5 miles from the junction east to Heenan Lake for a total of about nine miles from either campsite.



Tim Costello is looking for some recruits for a beginner or intermediate fly tying class. Are you interested? A sign up will be available at this month's potluck and swap meet.

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT ADDS MAJOR CONFUSION TO TWIN TUNNELS WATER GRAB SCHEME

"Three candles that illuminate ever darkness: truth, nature, knowledge."

.. an Irish proverb

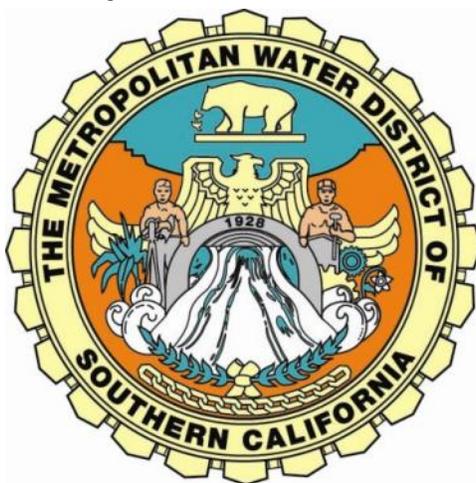
While at the club's Bridgeport outing last week, I drove to town to talk with my wife via cell phone. When I opened my cell phone, I found a surprising text from her. Westlands Water District (WWD) Board of Directors had voted against being part of Gov. Brown's California's Water Fix/Twin Tunnels Scheme. Their board voted 7-1 against the project because they felt their cost to participate does not pencil out economically. Westlands BOD feel they can't afford their \$3 billion portion of the \$17.1 billion project given the probability of future water availability. Historically, WWD has problems "putting their money where their mouth is." Their action has thrown a major wrench into the gears of the project. Has their action killed the Twin Tunnels project? No. But it has added major financial problems to be solved before the project can move forward. In the past and currently, WWD has not done what they were financially obligated to do, and has been subsidized by the taxpayers, accumulating their wealth. They are now the most wealthy water district in America, and the most politically powerful. Public money has made them so. Their recent vote seems to be another attempt to grab our water and have the state and federal taxpayers foot the bill once more.

One of WWD's objections to the financial structure of the Waterfix project is the Bureau of Reclamation's (BR) exemption of some water districts from any financial responsibility in the project. The state of California has a long-standing tradition that if you are a water contractor and receive benefits from a project, you are held financially responsible for that project. Although the State Water Project (SWP) and the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) both send huge amounts of water south, they have different methods of determining who pays and who doesn't. The federal government has excused some water districts from any cost in the WaterFix project. At this point, they say it's doubtful the BR will change their policy on who pays and who doesn't pay.

After years of claiming that only those

who use our water will pay for it, Gov. Brown is now trying to stick the state and federal taxpayers with the bill. This is another lie he has pushed on us. It's ironic that he wants to make us pay for a project that will destroy our Delta farms, fisheries, water quality, and recreation. And he will continue to keep us from voting on his California WaterFix. Now he has approached President Trump for federal funds for his project. But, at this point, those funds seem problematic. During Trump's swing through California in his pre-election campaign, he promised the south valley farmers his support in getting them our water. However, Rep. Devin Nunes (R-Turlock) a strong advocate of the tunnel project, sees little support for congressional aid now. He is referring to the project as a "textbook boondoggle."

Another federal funding source may be the Bureau of Reclamation (BR). As you recall from last month's newsletter, it was pointed out that the BR illegally misappropriated \$32 million that was meant for fish and wildlife in the Klamath Basin was secretly used instead in planning the twin tunnels project. Over the years it has been well known that the BR has consistently violated the federal law supporting projects. Despite Gov. Brown's promise of no public money for the Twin tunnels, he has again been dishonest.



Last week the manager of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) started talking about the possibility of a "scaled back project." MWD suggested that the MWD and the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) can build a much smaller tunnel project with-

out federal funds. A smaller project has yet to be considered and there are no details of a "smaller version" plan. At this point, the south state water contractors, sans WWD, have major concerns that they and MWD alone will be financially responsible for a "scaled down version of the tunnels project. This is a scenario they will avoid at all cost.

In retrospect, I should not have been surprised by WWD's failing to come up with their share of the project. They have not paid for their water obligations incurred in the 1960's. Once again they want the taxpayers to pick up and pay their bills. At present, they are sneaking around the back rooms of Washington and Congress with the BR and asking that their massive debt (over 2 \$ trillion in today's money) be forgiven. We have made millionaires and a billionaire of many of these subsidized farmers and they will do anything to continue their free-loading ride. Deadbeats are that way.

THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG

In September's Conservation article, it was noted that Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) director, Chuck Bonham, signed a permit so the California Water-Fix project can proceed. Bonham abrogated his responsibility to enforce DFW's mission statement and his personal integrity. He has violated several sections California's Environmental Species Act (CESA) laws pertaining to endangered species. Bonham's actions have not been lost on several conservation groups. These groups have decided to confront the illegality of Bonham's permit in court. His permit signing, if allowed to continue, will kill endangered salmon and cause the extinction of endangered fish.

Last week, the Bay Institute (BI), the Center for Biologic Diversity (CBD), the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the San Francisco Baykeeper (SFB) filed suit in Sacramento's Superior Court against the DFW and Chuck Bonham for his illegally granted permit. The plaintiffs maintain that granting this permit would allow the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) to both kill and harm state protected fish species.

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Jeff Miller of CBD said, "You can't just give a permit to decimate California's remaining salmon runs and drive critical fish species to extinction. It's time to kill this misguided tunnels project once and for all and focus on improving fresh water flows to restore the Delta."

The program director at the BI remarked that, "Salmon and smelt populations are already on the verge of extinction, and the state's own science shows that exporting even more water from the Delta would hasten extinction. It's nearly illegal to permit the WaterFix when doing so would place the future of these species at risk, and unnecessary too, since there are better ways to meet our state's water supply needs than approving this project." This suit is important. By law, the WaterFix project cannot move forward without the required "incidental take" permit. This is a suit to watch. Hopefully, it will continue to drag-out for several years, further delaying progress on the tunnel project,

DWR TRYING TO SELL ILLEGAL BONDS?

It is amazing to watch the Dept of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation operate. They seem to have a mentality that assumes neither state nor federal law pertains to the them. When Gov. Brown started pushing for his Bay Delta Conservation Plan / California WaterFix project, he was terrified it would be voted down as was his peripheral canal project in the 1980's. To prevent another major embarrassing loss, he claimed no state money was to be used for the project. Only those who received the water would pay for it, definitely not the taxpayers he assured us! With the multiplicity of potential problems surfacing, no one believed him; not the south state water contractors nor the DWR. Now, surprising no one, the DRW is attempting to illegally sell bonds to help finance the WaterFix project.

True to form, Gov. Brown, south state agriculture, and the DRW have again been dishonest. Adam Yeats, senior attor-

ney for Center for Food Safety, explained that, "Just last week the Inspector General of the US Dept. of Interior blew the whistle on a \$50 million dollar scam that illegally shifted the cost from BIG AG water contractors to the general public. These bonds suffer from essentially the same problem, as they fail to ensure that California's taxpayers will not be stuck holding the tab for this boondoggle of a project."

The organizations filling the suit are: Restore the Delta, the Sierra Club, Friends of the River, the Center for Food Safety, the Planning and Conservation League, and the Center for Biologic Diversity. Earlier the DWR filed a suit to have the

DISTRICT MAP



bonds declared illegal and invalid. If the court agrees with the plaintiffs, there is a strong possibility that this action might be the final nail in the WaterFix projects coffin! The ability to build the WaterFix is totally dependent on it's funding. Bob Wright who represent the plaintiffs commented, "DRW is attempting to subsidize the WaterFix project in direct violation of the Delta Reform Act, which requires that the water contractors who receive the water pay all costs for construction, operation, and maintenance of any new Delta water conveyance facility." As an aside, this year alone, the DWR has been the culprit in a series of ongoing scandals and illegal activities. In almost all cases

the public pays for DRW's blatant disregard of the state and federal law.

TAXPAYER MONEY ILLEGALLY MISUSED ONCE AGAIN FOR TWIN TUNNELS PROJECT

A new federal audit has shown that once again the BR has illegally given federal funds illegally to help south state water districts. This time the funds were used in the planning of the Delta tunnels project. The US Dept of Interior found that their agency, the BR, illegally used \$85 million. Those who support the project have consistently promised no public funds would be used in it's planning. The BR did not disclose to Congress that it had supplied \$84.4 million to the project, nor did they tell Congress they waived \$50 million in the reimbursement of "debt." The audit also found that the central valley water districts were to pay for 50% of the planning cost. They have only paid 18%. Thomas Birmingham, general manger of WWD claims, not surprisingly, "He knew nothing that was inconsistent with either state or federal law." He also maintains that the state "knew what was going on."

The attorney for the NRDC was not pleased with the BR's action saying, "The public is paying for what a private party is supposed to pay for. That's taking the public money and that's not okay." Jeff Huffman, a member of Congress from California, was not shocked at BP's action saying, "I wish I were surprised to learn that WWD colluded the the Dept. of Interior to hide millions of dollars in unauthorized payments from Congress, but this is typical of a long standing and incestuous relationship between the largest irrigation district in the country and its' federal patrons.

Members of San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors actively opposed Brown's WaterFix project. This DR's action has infuriated them. Lodi's Supervisor Chuck Winn said " It provides irrefutable proof that (the tunnels) proponents cannot be trusted and that the integrity of the process for reviewing the tunnels should be

(Continued on page 6)

Have you paid your 2018 dues yet? Dues were due in August. Remember to pay them at the October meeting.

(Continued from page 5)

questioned. Supporters will clearly say or do anything to get the tunnels constructed, including misusing tax dollars, employing deceitful accounting tactics, and betraying the public trust."

WWD and other water district's supporting the tunnels project have long been shown to have violated both state and federal law. This includes Gov. Brown, his administration and agencies. They continue to violate these laws with impunity. The question is NOT IF they are

culpable of these illegal acts! They are. The major question is WHY they are not prosecuted for the illegal acts with massive fines and prison sentences. After all, supposedly no one is to be above the law.

Ron Forbes
Conservation Chair

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