



# Rx Fly Fishing!

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Stockton, California

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## Calendar

March 4, Bob McMillan Trout Bout, Oak Grove Park

March 5, DFF Kid's Fishing Day, Oak Grove Park

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

March 15, Fly of the Month, Oak Grove Park

March 15-19, Pyramid Lake Outing

March 22, BOD meeting, Oak Grove Park

March 30, First Beginners Fly Tying Class

April 12, General Membership Meeting, John R. Williams School

April 19, BOD meeting, Oak Grove Park

April 22, Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing

April 22, EBMUD Kid's Fishing Day

April 26, April Fly of the Month, Oak Grove Park

## March is turning out to be a busy month

The sun is shining... If there is any hope in the year's calendar, it seems that March is the month when it all happens. This year, with more water than we've seen in the last seven, really has me planning. This month, Pyramid, next month, the delta, May the Fall River and Shad fishing, June, Oregon and Almanor, July, the delta for Large-mouth and the ocean for rockfish. Then in August, a three month odyssey from Texas, through Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, fishing for redfish, snook, sea trout and tarpon.

These past few months, being land bound, I've cleaned and organized all my equipment, tied flies, purchased new lines, and poured over maps.

Does any of this spill over to the club's activities? You betcha! Let's start with this month, March. On Saturday, March 4th, the SJC Parks & Rec in coordination with our club, will put on the Bob McMillan Trout Bout. Any and all DFF members are asked to turn out to help.

The next day, Sunday March 5, we will be holding the first DFF Kid's Fishing Day. Almost 4 dozen adults and kids have signed up for this family event. It should be a great success and maybe the kids will even catch a few fish.

## Scott Sugimoto covers the Lower Sac at the March Meeting

Growing up in Fresno, the heart of the Central Valley, I found my love for fishing at an early age. My grandfather would take my brother and me to the Kings River to catch trout and to the San Luis Reservoir for striper fishing. We would go out with our salmon eggs or anchovies and fish all day long. It wasn't until I moved to Redding and I picked up my first fly rod that fishing became my passion. I started guiding on the Lower Sacramento and found that teaching people to fish was even more

On Wednesday, March 8, we'll be introducing fly fishing to the Lodi High Science Club. That same night, Scott Sugimoto will talk about fishing the Lower Sac at the club's general membership meeting at the John R. Williams School. The meeting will feature refreshments and a great raffle. On the 15th through 19th, the club is holding its first fishing outing of the year at Pyramid Lake. That same night, the Fly of the Month class will take place at the Nature Center at Oak Grove Park. On the 22nd, the club's Board of Directors meeting will take place, again at the Nature Center. Bob Fujimura is planning the dates for the club's first rod building class in many years, working with Larry Lee, L# Rods. And finally, on Saturday, March 30th, Tim Costello will start the Beginners Fly Tying Class. Wow, and that's just March!

If you're a new member, this is the time to get involved. If you're a veteran member and have fallen away from participating in the club's activities, come on back. If you're one of the club stalwarts, don't stop what you're doing!

See you at the meetings, or even better, on the water.

Jerry



# We're going retro at this month's raffle

The grand prize at this month's raffle will be a brand new fiberglass six weight rod equipped with a classic but fully functional auto wind Shakespeare reel, along with a bass popper floating line, a twisted leader and a box of Leo's poppers.

The prize is in addition to another dozen items offered including club logo gear, boxes of tied flies, fly tying books and other fly fishing paraphernalia. The reintroduction of the monthly raffle has turned out to be a big success and has helped the club in its efforts to provide an

expanded program for the 2017 year.

The other addition, thanks in large part to the efforts of Cliff and Linda Hoover, is the reintroduction of drinks and snacks at the meeting. Linda and Cliff have really stepped up, with some really special desserts and cookies as part of the fare that is open to the club members throughout the meeting night. The items are free to all attending although a small donation is asked to help cover continuing expenses.

With the opening of the meeting doors moved to :30, it has also allowed mem-

bers to bring their fly tying gear and tie flies before and during the meeting.

This month, Scott Sugimoto will cover fishing the Lower Sac, one of the real gems of California's trout fishing. If you've never fished the Sac it should be on your bucket list.

The meeting will be held at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Avenue, Stockton on March 8th. The doors open at 6:30pm with the meeting starting at 7. The meeting is open to the public. Bring a friend!

# The club's first casting day was a huge success!

Thirty club members assembled at Oak Grove Park for the club's first Casting Day. Willy George and his two assistants put on a great class during the morning session with everyone able to try their hand at casting a spey rod. That was followed by another session on how to im-

prove casting a single handed rod.

Larry Schmidt and Earl Summers provided a great hamburger and Polish sausage lunch with everyone eating their fill. Following the lunch, Amy Terra, Dena Mason, Al Smatsky and Jerry Neuburger

umpired the club's casting Olympics with veteran club member Marty Kjelson winning the grand prize, a complete five weight outfit.

The overall reaction to the day was, "Let's do it again next year!" We'll try to make sure that comes about.



# The Bob McMillan Trout Bout is this weekend. Come lend a hand.

The DFF is more than just a fly fishing club. We're the hub of fishing in the Stockton area and provide the county with a great service in helping the Parks and Rec department put on three public fishing days.

The Bob McMillan Trout Bout is this coming Saturday and club members Karen and John Keagy need your help to make the event a success both for the young anglers in the county and for the club's efforts to repay the county for use of the Oak Park Nature center throughout the year.

The early shift is covered with promises from Cliff Hoover and Amy Terra as well as myself in arriving at the park at 5:45 to get things started. The next shift is the big one with people needed to man the food counter, cook the food, drive the

food cart throughout the park, register the participants and weigh the catches.

The old veterans have supported this event year after year. It's time for new blood to step up and lend a hand. It is also



*A happy angler from last November's trout bout.*

a great time to get to know the other club members, talk fishing and plan future trips.

People are needed from about 7:30 to the end of the event about 1pm. Allow enough time to wait in line at the park entrance for admission to the park and once at the pay booth just tell them that you're with DFF to avoid paying the entry fee.

The weather predictions for this Saturday are for bright sunshine throughout the day. The crowds should be out in numbers. See you there.

## Tim Costello is starting a Beginner's tying class. Check with him for room in the class and times

After way too long a club absence, Tim Costello has stepped up and will be conducting a Beginners Fly Tying class.

Tim says the class will be in five sessions and will cover the techniques necessary to tie streamers, dry flies and nymphs. Participants are welcome to bring their own tying equipment or may use the club's starter kits.

Current plans are for the class to start on Thursday, March 30th with a start time of 6:30. The class will be held at the Nature Center at Oak Grove Park.

A small fee may be charged for the class to cover the materials needed for the five sessions. That amount will be set at the coming March board meeting.

If you have never tied your own flies, this is a great opportunity to get started. Catching fish on one of your own hand tied flies does provide a certain inner satisfaction and extends the sport from the water to the den. Even when it's pouring outside, you can spend a few hours tying flies and dreaming of the fish you'll catch.

Tim can be reached at 209-484-7424.



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This article ran for the first time in the February newsletter and is updated with the latest info

## The Delta Fly Fishers First Annual Kid's Fishing Day, March 5th

Bring your kids, your grandkids, or even, if you're really an old codger, your great grandkids to the club's first annual Delta Fly Fishers Kids Fishing Day. Sunday, March 5, is the Sunday following the Saturday Bob McMillan Trout Bout, an event that the club assists the county with every year. Usually enough fish remain in the pond at the park to make it worthwhile to fish the following day.

This is NOT a fly fishing event! It's time to dig in the closet and get out that old spinning rod, stop by the tackle shop and pick up some PowerBait, hooks, sinkers, and bobbers and a forked stick to prop up that rod while sitting in a lawn chair and watching for the line to straighten and the rod tip to move. Bring the lawn chairs and any other stuff you'd haul along for a lake-side picnic.

The early response to this event has been outstanding with close to 40 people signing up to date. The large number of people signing up has caused some revised planning for the event.

Participating families are asked to bring side dishes of some kind for the day, either hot or cold, enough for them-

selves and a few other people.

The dishes will be set out for all to share in. The club will still furnish the burgers, buns, condiments and hot dogs

The club will furnish some hot drinks in the morning, coffee for the big kids and hot chocolate for the smaller ones, along with some fluffy donuts and later, cook



*Nathan Chaney, fishing in grandpa's pram up a lunch of hot dogs, and burgers.*

The following is the schedule for the day

Enter the park any time on the morning of March 5. PLEASE PAY THE PARK ENTRY FEE WHEN ENTERING SINCE WE WILL BE USING THE PARK'S RESOURCES FOR THE

EVENT. DO NOT EXPECT FREE "DELTA FLY FISHERS' ENTRY.

8:30 Coffee, Chocolate and donuts

11:30 Hamburger and hot dog lunch with side dishes supplied by members.

The "official" event time of 8:30 to 11:30 for the fishing time with lunch after was set taking into account that some of the participants have nap times and we wouldn't want these young anglers to miss out on their rest! However, if you really want to catch the Big One, you might arrive a little earlier than the start time of 8:30.

BRING: Your own fishing gear, worms, powerbait, etcetera, lawn chairs, warm clothes for the morning, all the things you might bring for a picnic.

As an added treat for the kids, each participant 12 years and younger will be given three raffle tickets with the club raffling off a number of age appropriate fishing gear.

See you on Sunday

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## Bob Fujimura is coordinating a rod building class with Larry Lee, L3 Rods, there's still time to join

Club members have shown interest in a rod building class and Bob Fujimura has volunteered to coordinate the scheduling dates with Larry Lee, L3 Rods.

Larry has built hundreds of rods, both fly fishing and conventional and his rods are greatly sought by the avid fly fishers in his home club, the Granite Bay Fly Fishers. Larry is willing to spend the time necessary to guide members in building a quality custom

rod using the finest materials and has a number of options for those that would like to participate in the class. Kits start at about \$200 and include all the materials necessary. In addition to the blanks Larry usually supplies, he has access to Sage, Loomis and other high dollar blanks if the rod builder wishes to purchase the more expensive unit.

Once the rods are assembled and ready for final finish, Larry will take them to his shop inspection and for

the epoxy treatment.

Larry advises that the class will be in two sessions, each of about four hours. The dates and times have not been worked out as of yet. Bob would like all those that wish to participate to contact him and, along with Larry, a schedule for the class can be worked out.

Bob can be reached by E-mail at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com). His home phone is 209-339-0683

The fly if the month class will be held earlier this month on the **THIRD** Wednesday of March. The pattern will be announced at the general meeting. The classes are held at the Oak Grove Park Nature Center with a start time of 6:30. A \$5.00 fee is charged for the cost of the materials.

## The off again, on again Pyramid outing is **ON AGAIN!**

Why fish Pyramid Lake, one reason, 20 pound trout! That's right, the decedents of the ancient species of trout that inhabit the lake can reach over 20 pounds and 'teeners are caught every week.

The lake, about 40 minutes north of Reno/Sparks is on the Paiute Indian Reservation. The tribe manages the lake as a trophy fishery and operates a fish hatchery on the west shore, close to Sutcliffe.

This year's storms damaged a good number of

roads within the reservation property and took out the towns water supply It was necessary to close the lake while

repairs were being made. The lake was originally scheduled to re-open April 1st but the most critical repairs were completed quicker than anticipated allowing the lake's early opening at selective locations.

The club had an outing scheduled for March 15th through the 19th. That outing was cancelled and was going to be re-scheduled for some time in April but with the lake's reopening, the outing is back on.

Larry Mettler and Jerry Neuburger had volunteered to be the fishmeisters for the event but Larry ran into some other commitments and cannot make it this year. He is still willing to make the connections necessary to arrange rooms at the Nugget in Sparks for those that want to go. Jerry will be staying at the lake in his little

travel trailer, most likely at the North Nets.

Assuming the snow storms lay down, Jerry plans to arrive at the lake on Wednesday, March 15th about noon, and stay until noon Sunday, the 19th.

Jerry will cover some of the details at the club's general membership meeting on the 8th. If you're considering going, a sign up with the days you plan to attend will be available at the meeting.



*The crowd at the North Nets, a slow day from the few ladders in line. Bluebird days produce slow fishing.*

While a long way from an expert, Jerry has fished the lake for a number of years and can answer some basic questions about the lake and fishing for those that have never fished the water before.

Here's some information for the first timer.

Licenses and permits: A Nevada fishing license is NOT required to fish the lake. Instead, anglers must purchase a tribal fishing license.

Camping at allowed unimproved areas along the lake shore is permitted with certain regulations. A tribal permit is required.

Boating is allowed and the lake has some basic launch ramps. A tribal boating permit is required.

All of the licenses and permits can be purchased on-line at <http://>

[www.pyramidlake.us/pyramid-lake-permits.html](http://www.pyramidlake.us/pyramid-lake-permits.html)

Crosby's at the lake also has permits, rooms to rent, a small store, a restaurant and a bar. The store has some fly fishing supplies and a good stock of flies for sale. Again, you can find more information on their website. <https://www.crosbylodge.net/>

A full service RV park is located in Sutcliffe but I have no information as to whether it is currently open.

Fishing

Rod and line: a 6-8 weight rod, or rods with both floating and quick sinking lines.

Flies: Cast and strip beetles, woolly

buggers

Chironomids fished on an indicator

The shores of the lake are mostly sand beaches that gradually fall away. Most fly fishers bring a six foot ladder or special rigs to take out and set up in the water as a stand to fish from.

I'll have a fishing update at the general membership meeting.

If a storm blows in and it's predicted that the pass at Truckee will be closed, I'll either adjust my personal fishing dates or cancel depending on the severity of the storm. I'll post on the club's Facebook page as to whether it's a go for me or not on the Tuesday night before.

I've been waiting a whole year for this one. I hope the weather doesn't close the pass.

# Oroville Dam, a disaster narrowly averted and a resurgence of steelhead on the Mokelumne

*"I look into my fly box and think of all the elements I should consider choosing the perfect fly: water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, and what the fish are eating right now. Then I remember what a guide told me: "Ninety percent of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about 5/8's of an inch long."*

... Allison Moore

My apologies for not being able to submit a conservation article for last month's newsletter. For those of you who don't know, I slipped on black ice on the road at White Pine Lake and fractured my left upper humerus. I should be back on the water in four months.

## Things Are Never As They Initially Appear With The Central Valley Project

When dealing with water issues in California, you immediately become aware that there are no simple or straightforward answers to the state's water problems. And nature continually makes the issues more complex. For example, in the mid-1860's, central California was a lake from north of Sacramento to Fresno with water depths up to 10 feet deep. In the last century we have had 10 droughts. Now after a devastating 5 year drought, Lodi has 207% of its' normal rainfall in the last week in February. Constant change is the norm in California.

The recent massive amounts of rain, following 5 years of drought, is finally drawing the public's attention to critical issues in the state's flawed infrastructure. This is especially true of the Central Valley Project's (CVP) Oroville Dam. In researching the dam, I read an article in the California Sportfishing Protection Alli-

ance's (CSPA) website written by Chris Shutes showing how federal and state agencies have taken short cuts to save money at the expense of the public's safety. This action is typical of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and their constituents.

A motion was filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) by Ron Short of Friends of the River. Short was concerned and warned the FERC in a motion that the "ungraded, unarmored" spillway at Lake Oroville Dam should be a real spillway made of cement and not just "a concrete wall at the top of a huge reservoir on one side and a hillside covered with dirt on the other". Short was joined in his motion by the Sierra Club and the Friends of the South Yuba River. They predicted that the ungraded spillway had the possibility of the loss of control of Lake Oroville should it overtop the dam. They also pointed out that the spill-



way did not conform to current FERC engineering regulations. This motion was filed and totally ignored in 2005! The FERC, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and others ignored Short's motion by pushing it under the carpet for 12 years.

Had our last weather front been like its predecessor, and the secondary spillway failed, we would have potentially faced

the worst dam disaster in the history of the United States. A crest of water 20-30 feet tall would have sweep downstream destroying all life and property before it.

Shutes's points out that, "This is life before the FERC. The argument is that something is not a bad idea. It's that it is someone else's problem. Many of the FERC license holders and their consultants and attorneys who work for them have this cynical game down to a science: "the best available science of keeping evidence out of the record. Fighting back takes time and patience and incredible tenacity. And often, it takes more than a decade." Case in point: In an article in the Sacramento Bee, the general manager of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDC) told the Bee, "His agency had not been cheapening out arguing against the a real spillway: on that issue we did not say it was a cost issue. We said that it was an issue that

needs to be decided in an appropriate forum". Jeff Kightlinger's answer to the BEE is typical of MWDC's response when MWDC is financially responsible after mishaps. More smoke and mirrors. Another major issue that needs to be investigated is why the main concrete spillway was failing when only 55,000 cfs were flowing. The spillway was designed to function at 250,000 cfs. In other words, the main spillway was failing when operating at only 22% of its' supposed capacity. That's scary

An independent investigation should have been called for, not a state investigation which has tendency to be "incomplete". Hopefully, it will not be narrow in scope but examine all our state's water infrastructure.

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## Good News for the Mokes Steelhead

Eleven years ago Dougald Scott, chair of NCCFFF's Steelhead Committee, asked me to join him and members of his committee, in Sacramento for a meeting with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The hearing was to inform interested groups what the USFWS was trying to do to re-establish the steelhead populations in northern California. This was my formal introduction to the reality of what we have done to the fisheries environment in California. The biologist's from USFWS first statement blew me away. Of the original 22 steelhead populations in the North State, only 4 exist today and they are at risk of being lost. This was my introduction to the sordid politics in our state, federal government, their agency's, corporate agriculture, and others play in the loss of our fisheries.

Fortunately for the Mokelumne River's steelhead, that is not the case. The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) has worked hard to re-establish the Mokes Steelhead. Until recently they have had limited success. Over the years as the numbers increased with returning salmon, the numbers of

returning steelies have remained low, remaining in the 50's to 80's range. The Moke's environment is good for fish. EBMUD has improved the flow gradient and increased the river's gravel beds. The Moke has cold water temperatures, and



there is ample food available. The steelies were not going to the ocean, but remaining in the Moke. Probably because the river is such an excellent environment.

This year however, the Mokelumne River has had a record-setting steelhead run. In later January, Dan Bacher's article in the Fish Sniffer pointed out that 707 steelies have returned to the Moke's hatchery. In the last week in February, I called Bill Smith, hatchery manager, for an update on numbers and found that 719 steelies have returned.

A year ago, I read Dr. Peter Moyle's scientific paper on how we must use "adaptive management" with our fisheries or face the loss of many species. Bacher's article, and my conversation with Bill Smith, confirmed this is exactly what

the Moke's hatchery has done with outstanding results. Bacher points out that this is the first year the hatchery has used Moyle's techniques. Bacher listed the new protocols for releasing the fish:

1) The hatchery increased the output from 100,000 to 250,000 fish released in prior years.

2) A later release of the fish to the months of February and March rather than of the usual earlier November-December releases.

3) The fish are released at new and different locations and events. For example, fish are released on a full moon, during the dark of night, during storm events or heavy water releases, and they do not release major numbers of fish all at once.

Hopefully these and other techniques will significantly reduce the predation of the steelhead. Also the EBMUD operates a Speece Cone from August till mid or late October. The cone improves the lower lakes oxygen levels that flow to the hatchery.

Bill Smith informed me that 90% of this

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(Continued from page 7)

years run are adults in the 18-21 inch range. They weigh approximately 3 pounds each. He also said that most of these fish have not returned to the sea, rather stayed over in the Moke due to cold water conditions and abundant food. However, they have seen some steelies in the 5-6 pound that are returning from the ocean.

The hatchery has also changed their philosophy on the genetics of the fish being released. Now they emphasize releasing steelies that are more biodiverse than their predecessors to assure a more stable, ongoing population. Several years ago when I was talking with Jose Sitka, a supervising fisheries biologist for EBMUD, he told me that probably all trout, steelhead, and salmon in the Moke genetically have a hatchery background. There are probably no wild fish left in the Moke. Smith told me that in the current steelhead run, only 5 of the steelies were wild. Maybe there is a chance of wild steelies in the Moke down the road.

It's encouraging that the Mokelumne Hatchery has adopted new philosophies and techniques. The upper steelhead run was lost when EBMUD built Pardee Dam in the 20's and almost the entire run was decimated when Camanche Dam was built in 1965. Hopefully this years run of 719 steelies is the return of the Moke to a renewed, viable steelhead river.

Ron Forbes  
Conservation Chair

### Rx Fly Fishing! Advertising Rates

2 column inches each newsletter issue for the year for \$400, six months \$200, quarter \$100, one month \$40. The ad may include artwork and will link to the advertiser's website.

Additional column inches of ad space may be purchased at \$200 for the year, \$100 for six months, \$50 for a quarter year, \$20 per month.

Included:

A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

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For additional information please phone or e-mail [Jerry Neuburger](#), Editor 209-369-5752



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