



Rx Fly Fishing!

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Jerry Neuberger, Editor

Stockton, California

In this Issue

Page 2— [\\$1,000 raffle, fly tying and special treats all part of December meeting](#)

Page 2—[2017! Can you believe it? Come spend the morning on the Moke bringing in the New Year and maybe a few fish as well](#)

Page 3— [Oophs, we forgot! We still need to elect the 2017 board of directors](#)

Page 3—[A DFF Expeditionary Force will fish the U.C. Davis property on the Yuba December 3rd](#)

Page 3—[November on the Trinity: it's steelhead time!](#)

Page 4—[A thank you, a reminder and a request from our membership chair](#)

Page 5—[More water for the delta and you can make it so...](#)

Page 7—[February 12, The First DFF Casting Day!](#)

Calendar

December 3—U.C. Davis, Yuba Outing

December 14—General Membership meeting at John R. Williams School—annual members' night for story telling. Al Smatsky is program director.

December—21— DFF Board meeting at Oak Grove Park

January 1, 2017 — New Years Outing to Van Assen Park on the Moke. Don't forget your 2017 fishing license.

January 11, 2017—General Membership meeting, Creekside Elementary School

January 18—DFF Board Meeting at Oak Grove Park

January 21, 2017—Annual DFF Installation Dinner and Raffle

January 25, 2017 Fly of the Month, Oak Grove Park

February 4, 2017 Stanislaus Drift—Mike Nicholson

President Gil: A passing ship in the night

As most of you know, and as a result of my own choosing, I have handed the presidency of the club, over to the new incoming president, Jerry Neuberger. He stepped up when the club needed it and I am thankful for that. My two plus years at the helm, feels like that startled buck you see in the woods, seen but quickly disappears. Doing this was one of my better decisions in my life. I enjoyed the friendships that I've made, the arguments that I had, and the rewards that I have felt.

I came into this club as "a worm canner," a stolen line from a great fly-fishing movie, "A River Runs Through It!" And now proudly call myself a fly fisherman, perfectly willing to catch and release. I still have a lot to learn and I think in this life, at my age, it's a good thing to be learning something new! Who says old dogs can't learn new tricks? In addition to learning, there are the cheap thrills; catching my first striper on a fly rod; my first trip to Bridgeport; winning the Incomplete Angler of the Year Award; standing on the Three Dollar Bridge, over the Madison River in Montana; perched on a rock, in a kayak, in the

middle of the Sacramento River, feeling like Mr. McGoo; picking up trash on the Mokelumne; or spending New Year's morning swapping fish stories on the banks of the Moke with twenty-five other members! All of which, has enriched my life. The stature of our little organization, and the pride of leading the men and women of the Delta Fly Fishers will always bring a smile to my face.

I would like to thank all the officers and board members for taking the job seriously, by showing up when required and pitching in when needed. I would also like to thank all those members who helped me when I asked! In retrospect, we might have done more, and clearly there is more to do, but I am very confident, we will find a way to get it done.

I would also like to say Maybe I have said enough. I am both humbled and grateful. Thanks for the opportunity. See you at the meetings or on the water.

Gil Parker
President Delta Fly Fishers
2014 to 2016

December's program features club member's travels

Let the bragging begin! On Wednesday December 14th the Delta Fly Fishers will feature the fishing trips and adventures of club members from 2016. This year's presentations will cover a state wild trout challenge, members participate in Nevada's Wild Fish Slam, trophy steelheading in BC, trout fishing at Crane Prairie Reservoir and the surrounding lakes in Oregon, kayaking the Pacific coastline in search of big rockfish, what's the big deal about permit fishing. This promises to be an outstanding evening of exciting stories and fish tales—some even true!

Remember, the December monthly meeting

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

We still have space for other members to participate and welcome you to join in! Please call Al Smatsky 368-9261

The meeting will begin at 7:00pm at John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow, Stockton. The public is encouraged to attend.

\$1,000 raffle, special Christmas treats and fly tying all part of the December membership meeting

WOW!!! The December general membership meeting is starting early with fly tying, will step up to the holiday occasion with a giant raffle with close to \$1,000 in fly fishing gear and other items and some special treats in the forms of Christmas desserts and snacks.

The doors will open early for the December meeting at the John R. Williams School, with the pre-meeting activities starting at 6:30pm. The club has some outstanding fly tiers and they are encouraged to bring their tying tables, set up and tie some of their favorite patterns. Non-tying members are encouraged to come early as well to share fishing stories, have some after dinner treats and preview the month's raffle items.

The raffle will include a complete five weight outfit including a 4 piece 5 weight graphite rod which is unique in that it comes with an extra tip section, an aluminum reel with a full drag system, a weight forward floating line, backing and leader.

Other items include a closed face spinning reel and rod and tackle box, (a great kid's Christmas present), fishing hats, fly

boxes, DFF logo gear, a sleeping mat, a Penn star drag reel, a fly tying vice, a gear bag, wet wader neoprene socks, fly tying books, fly boxes, a gently used eight weight rod, and miscellaneous other items. And of course, Mr. Mettler, will supply one of his premium wines for the drawing. Each of the special prizes will



have their own drawing bag as well as a group of general prizes, all drawn from the same bag.

Tickets for the drawing are offered at one for a dollar, seven for five dollars, fifteen for ten dollars and forty for twenty dol-

ars. Make sure you bring some cash to participate in this special drawing.

And then there are the treats! As those who attended the November meeting know, the club is again offering drinks and snacks at the regular club meetings including soft drinks, coffee, cookies and surprise items. At the November meeting, president elect Neuburger's wife baked two pumpkin pies that were quickly snatched up by hungry club members.

What surprises will the Christmas season bring? You'll just have to come to the meeting to find out! The refreshments are funded by your donations. Please stick a buck or two into the donation jar when helping yourself to the treats. However, if you're like me and frequently don't have a buck in your pocket, don't feel that you can't give yourself a treat. Just double up next time.

And finally, friends and family are always invited to the meetings as well as the general public. The doors open at 6:30 with the meeting starting at 7:00.

See you there!

2017! Can you believe it! Come spend the morning on the Moke bringing in the new year and maybe a few fish as well.

By Jerry Neuburger

I'm a new comer to the club, having been a member for only 30 years but as long as I can remember, the club's new year has always started off with New Years Day on our home water, the Mokelumne River at Van Assen Park, at the base of Camanche Dam.

The early arrivers show up, rain or shine, and set up the club's rain cover, get the stove started and the coffee made. Others pick up the donuts and have them ready for the soon to be arriving club members and whom ever else might show up hungry and with a sweet tooth.

Then there are those who's principal focus is fishing, fly fishing... The waders go on, the rods are strung, flies tied on and soon in the water.

While the water is the lure for some, the principal action takes place around the club's tent cover. Old friends meet and talk of fish caught and good times had while new members listen, sometimes in awe, of the exploits described.

Later in the morning the fog clears and the kitchen crew puts on the hot dogs and warms the chili beans. At the same time, the fishing crew straggles in, some with stories of fish caught and pictures to prove it.

This is the beginning of the club's 41st year. If you haven't been a part of this crew, you're missing out. If you've come out in the past, plan to be here one more time.

And we need some worker bees to put the whole thing together, from picking up the

supplies, putting up the rain cover, bringing the tables and setting up the cook table. If you can, lend a hand. A sign up sheet will be passed around at the club's December meeting. Sign up for the work party if you can but if you can't, just sign up to be a part of the celebration.

Here are the details:

Where: Van Assen Park, base of Camanche Dam. Go east on Highway 12 from the intersection of Hwy. 12 and 88 for approximately 2.5 miles. Turn left (north) on N. McIntire Road and drive to the end. Turn right to the park.

When: 7:00am to 1:00pm, New Year's Day.

If you plan on fishing, don't forget your 2017 fishing license.

Ooohs, we forgot! We still need to elect the 2017 Board of Directors!

Due to some confusion as to who was to mc the last general membership meeting, we neglected to elect the 2017 board of directors. We will correct the error at this month's GM meeting.

Again, the nominees are:

Ron Forbes

Karen Keagy

Larry Schmidt

Jason Stapleton

Steve von Berg

Dena Mason

Tim Costello

Mike Nicholson

Gary Tecklenburg

A DFF Expeditionary Force will fish the U.C. Davis property on the Yuba River December 3rd.

The club was extra lucky in getting first draw on the opportunity to fish some private water on the Yuba River. The University of California at Davis owns a section of river access up from the Highway 20 bridge. The water holds both resident trout and migrating steelhead and has, on past occasions, been generous in its catch rate for attending members. The university allows fly fishing clubs access through mid winter with a drawing and

this year, the DFF was the first club selected to fish after the river was opened to fishing by Fish and Wildlife.

Bob and Jean Fujimura are the group leaders for this effort and have full crew signed up. They have hosted the event in the past and the lunch they provide is legendary. We will be able to hear of the results of the expedition at the December meeting.

November on the Trinity: It's steelhead time!!!

By Bruce Rollans

The first week of November, 2016 several DFF members floated the Trinity River out of Weaverville. Bob and Jean Fujimura floated Wednesday and Thursday with Tahoe based guide Peter Santley. Bruce Rollans and Charlie Reames floated Thursday with Redding based guide Jeremy Baker. Finally, Bruce and Bob floated Friday with Jeremy Baker.



ity bridge. Fall colors were striking and the air very cool with the morning fog layer. As Bob sug-

gested this was true steel heading; i.e., fish of a thousand casts. Unlike past years, adult steelhead

The river was covered in these various floated from Indian Creek put in to the Bagdad take out just up stream of the North Fork Trin-

(Continued on page 4)



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Earl Summers 209-957-6756

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Bob Sousa 209-368-2683

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Raffles
Vacant

Trout Bout (November)
Charlie Reames 209-642-6704

Webmaster
John Keagy

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(Continued from page 3)



Charlie, pointing out his lost fish was probably the only 38" steelhead in the river that day. Bruce had two adults on, but made more than enough tactical errors to perform early releases. Everyone hooked small steelhead; those who have yet to get

gaged in extensive conversation about the fishery. It worked for Bob. With his almost last cast the indicator went down. Bob immediately knew he had hooked the large underwater rock he had cast over and slightly upstream. The guide just as quickly corrected this observation. Bob had an adult steelhead on his line. He then did everything right resulting in a great photo of a 7 lbs hatchery steelhead.

were few and even farther between.

Bob and Jean had just a few grabs their first two days. Jean, tongue in cheek, pointed out Bob did an excellent job bringing small sticks to the boat. Bruce and Charlie had a very similar experience the day they shared a float. Charlie did hook an adult fish, but did not land it. The guide tried to console

their sea legs.

The last day Bruce and Bob enjoyed one another's company. Bruce focused intently on his indicator, aka bobber, while Bob and the guide en-



It's time to buy your 2017 fishing license. Get one before DFW runs out!

A thank you , a reminder and a request from our membership chair

We thank again all of our renewing members who promptly paid their duties and welcome all of our newest members who joined recently. Our club has currently 87 memberships which are slightly less than the 103 at the end of the membership year on August 30. Most of the remaining members who have not paid are relatively new members who have joined our club less than 3 years. Although there are many reasons that people

join our club, most are seeking comradery and support as they learn this sport. Please remember this when you see visitors or new members at our meetings or club functions. A few words of acknowledgment and encouragement can make huge difference to a new member. Our newest members are Jonathan Martin and Bill Beckett of Galt and Colleen Manwaring of Stockton.

This month we will be finalizing the club membership roster and paid members will be receiving their updated phone directory and the annual liability waver forms by email attachment. We appreciate if all members could read and sign their waver form and mail it to Karen Keagy if they haven't already. All members will be also receiving their invitations to the annual installation dinner by mail.

New members, are you having a hard time meeting our veterans? If so, show up early at the December meeting, have some refreshments and talk to the folks tying flies or standing around. Fly fishers love to talk but sometimes need a kick in the waders to get started.

Please, please, please read this month's article and show up. It's our home water!

By Jerry Neuburger
Our Conservation Chair's article this month has such an important message that I need to draw attention to it. It's so important that anglers get involved in this fight.

In fact, I received an e-mail from Chris Shutes, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance asking me to first, attend the hearing, and second, to spread the word. Ron Forbes has done the second job for me, I plan to follow through with the first,

showing up and speaking to the issue. But my voice won't be enough to turn the tide. If you have the time free, please consider showing up at this most important hearing.

More water for the delta and you can help make it so...

"Calling fly fishing a hobby is like calling brain surgery a job."

Paul Scullery

For generations the Delta has suffered from neglect and degradation because of the lack of fresh water flowing into the estuary. Now we have a chance to change the neglect. Peter Drekmeier, the Policy Director of the Tuolumne River Trust, is asking for our help. In a recent article, Drekmeier explained what is occurring and how the Delta Fly Fishers can help increase water flow in the Delta. A new section of the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan (BDWGCP) proposes increasing the minimum flows from four rivers. They are the San Joaquin, Merced, Stanislaus, and the Tuolumne Rivers. The updated plan calls for a 40% unimpeded flow from the San Joaquin and its three tributaries. Currently, these flows are as low as 21% of the water allowed to enter the Delta. That would be almost a 100% increase in water flow from rivers such as the Tuolumne. The increases would take place from February to June.

The proposed flow increases will have several benefits for the Delta. First, it will improve the ability of fish to travel from their rivers of origin to the ocean and return. Second, increased amounts of flowing water will dilute the high concentrations of the Delta's current high level of toxic pollutants, and finally it will lower the Delta's water's temperature which is critical for salmon's successful migration. The increased flow will create floodplains which are essential for habitat for young fish.

Drekmeier's article also points out that the Bay-Delta is the largest estuary on the west coast of both North and South America, and is home to over 500 species of wildlife and is a major migration pathway for salmon, steelhead and sturgeon. Six years ago the State Water Board

(SWB) thought that 60% of natural flow from February to June would completely protect the fish and wildlife. Three years ago the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife maintained that a 50-60% of natural flow should stay in our rivers to protect and restore our rivers and salmon. Drekmeier pointed out that through better management of our snow pack, water efficient technologies and irrigation use, and by replacing water intensive crops, we can have more productive agriculture with less water.

This is how the Delta Fly Fishers can help...

There will be a series of public hearings at which we are asked to speak in favor of the Bay-Delta Plan for a 40% unimpaired flow of the San Joaquin, Merced, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Rivers. The meeting closest to us will be held in Stockton on Friday, December 16 at 9:00 a.m. at the Stockton Memorial Auditorium, 525. N Center Street. It has been my experience that it's best to arrive at the meeting site early. You will be asked to fill out an agenda card stating the item you wish to address, the group you represent (either the Delta Fly Fishers or yourself), your name, and email. Hand the card to the board clerk to sign in. At most of these hearings you will be only given from 3 to 5 minutes to present your views. Have your thoughts organized. When speaking before the SWB, address the chairperson, give your name, the group you represent (or yourself), and when you finish, thank the board chair. Present yourself professionally, and do not use anger or profanity in your presentation. Remember, the earlier you arrive and sign in the earlier you will be heard. About 9 months ago a SWB meeting was held with an issue that was bitterly contested. The meeting ended just after 11 p.m.! Be early. This SWB meeting will also be held at 4 other locations so Stockton's meeting probably will not be a long

one.

You may also write a letter of comment to the State Water Board which is addressed to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street

Sacramento, Ca. 95814-0100

Fax: 916-431-5620

Email: comments-letters@waterboards.ca.gov

Also if you want tips and suggestions of writing the letter contact:

peter@tuolumne.org

He has an excellent list of topics and suggestions you can use.

It has been over 20 years since we have had any input or chance of increasing water flow into the Delta. There is a direct correlation to the drainage of Delta's water for corporate agriculture and the near extinction of the Delta's fisheries. Delta Fly Fishers can have an impact helping restore the Delta and its fisheries. Lets have our membership speak out and be a part in restoring the Delta!

Saving our Salmon: if you really want to save our salmon, don't annihilate the striped bass

Predation in the Delta is a complex issue and there are no simple solutions despite what our politicians would have you believe. Currently there are three bills before congress that include sections that will annihilate striped bass as a species. Politicians base their decisions on issues other than the best science available. Unfortunately their decisions are predicated on economic gain of those

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

who fund them. If you want to see why your representatives vote the way they do, follow the money and see who funds them.

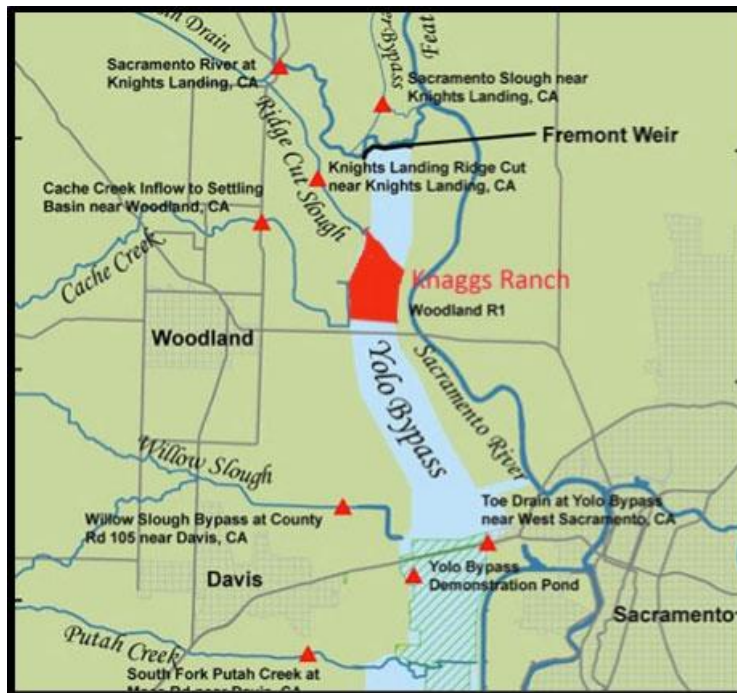
In a recent paper from the University of California, Davis, Dr. Peter Moyle, and Andrew Sih et al, wrote on some of the complexities of the predation of the Delta's native fish. Predator controls will result in unintended results. If we reduce the striped bass population, a major predation species like the Mississippi silverside will flourish. The silverside is a major predator of the Delta smelt's eggs and it's larvae. The author's research found that predator control will actually cause far more problems than it solves.

One of the best long-term solutions for the Delta is to improve the Delta's ecosystem so that the small fish or prey fish are far more abundant than they are in the current system, resulting in a healthy ecosystem with increased predator/prey relationships. The authors maintain that an ecosystem recovery should be based on the, "arc of habitat that includes the Yolo Bypass, the Lindsey-Cache slough region, the Cosumnes-Mokelumne River region, Sacramento River, Sherman Island, and Suisun Marsh." This tidal flow area has the most populated area of native fish.

Dr. Moyle and the co-authors authors suggest that bypassing problem areas will reduce impact on the fish population caused by predation. If flow releases are increased in the Sacramento River down the Yolo Bypass during winter, these flows would carry large numbers of juvenile salmon to the Yolo Bypass which is a very productive environment. Fish reared in the Yolo Bypass are from 2 to 3 times larger than those raised in the Lower Sacramento River. The Yolo Bypass reared fish avoid ripped channels and high predation areas such as the western Delta and the lower Sacramento River.

Those of us who have fished for striped bass know that some of the best striper action is around release sites where young

salmon have been trucked and released. This faulty technique has been used by hatcheries and by pumping plants in the south Delta. Predators are always attracted to large numbers of prey. These prey-fish are confused after release and are easy prey for the stripers. The authors discuss different methods to release young salmon such as slow release of fish from barges at varies times of the day and night. That would not allow predators to concentrate in large numbers at specific areas where the fish are trucked for release as they are presently.



Striped bass are predators and they move continuously in search of prey. It is likely that if one predator, such as striped bass, is removed, another predator will move in. Each predator hotspot has its own issues and must be dealt with on a unique way. Research has shown that the elimination of the striper population is not the answer. "It is important to consider habitat alterations and interactive effect when estimating large-scale predation impacts and when planning local management strategies". For example, it was found that last year stripers fed on 8 to 29% of the juvenile salmon at Lodi's Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam. Reducing the bass population at Woodbridge would only temporarily reduce predation issues. The dam is a temporary predation hotspot, as opposed to a major permanent hotspot such as Clifton Court Forebay, where the fish and larvae are drawn to the pumps. During the years

the of the pumps operation, millions of fish and larvae have been lost to predation. Only changes in operation and structure will lower predation at the forebay.

It should also be noted that hatchery-raised salmon have a much higher rate of loss than do wild fish. They are raised in cement "rivers" and get fed automatically each day with pellets. They never have a chance to learn how to avoid a predator. Studies have shown that about 30% of hatchery salmon die within 2 days of release. The authors of the paper noted, "In short, the heavy rate of juvenile hatchery salmon is more a reflection practices than of unnatural rates of predation by striped bass or other predators."

It is ludicrous that striped bass are blamed for the continuing decline of our salmon population. Since the initial 132 striped bass were brought to California in 1879, both the salmon and the bass have flourished in the Delta. Between 1899 and 1900 the Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG) could not estimate the populations of salmon or striped bass. Both fish populations flourished and were both estimated to be in excess of one million fish.

In the 137 years since the stripers were introduced into the Delta, both fish have coexisted well. That changed drastically

when the state and federal governments diverted water from the Delta. Anyone who has fished for either the salmon or the stripers know both species face extinction. Their possible extinction had nothing to do with predation but with the egregious malfeasance of our state and federal water agencies, Gov. Brown, and the greed of South San Joaquin Valley corporate agriculture. They will continue to blame the predation of stripers for the loss of our salmon rather than themselves.

Science has continually shown that the loss of our salmon populations and other fisheries has nothing to do with predation but rather with the pernicious, continual diversion of water from the Delta. We need to continually fight to reverse this!

Ron Forbes

Conservation Chair

Put this day on your calendar and don't miss it!!! Sunday, February 12, 2017. You will become a better fly fisher!

- The DFF is bringing in some world class casters to show us the techniques of casting double handed rods and helping our members become better at throwing a fly line. I need it. You need it. We all need it!!!

On Sunday February 12, 2017 the Delta Fly Fishers will be hosting casting lessons at Oak Grove Park in Stockton. Our special guest instructor is Willy George, President of the Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club in San Francisco. Willy is certified as a Master Casting Instructor by the International Federation of Fly Fishers, serves on their Casting Board of Governors, and co-chairs the Casting Instructor Test Committee. Willy fly fishes around the world and will teach Delta Fly Fishers both single-hand and two-handed Spey techniques at our casting session. Students should bring their own single-hand and two-hand rods, reels, lines, and leaders. Yarn practice flies will be provided. Willy will also bring some loaner Spey rods that students can "test drive" that day.

The casting demonstrations and lessons will start at 9:00am and continue on to a club furnished lunch of burgers, dogs, potato salad and beans with a flour tortilla or two to wipe the plate and maybe a few chocolate cookies for dessert. A donation jar will be prominently displayed to help fund the cost of the lunch and the cost of the speakers. Club members are asked to dig a little deeper than usual for this great opportunity to cast with the best.

Following lunch, the competition will begin! Members Dena Mason and Amy Terra will offer a Casting Olympics, a series of events to test the skills of our club members. The events might include, distance casting, casting with your off hand, hitting a series of hula hoop targets and setting off mouse traps. The emphasis is on "might" since only they will know the final challenges until the day of the event. Some great prizes will be awarded including a prize for each event and a first, second and third place prize for overall winners.

We are asking members to sign up so that we can make sure we have enough in the way of food and other preparations to make this one of the most fun days in

years. Let's hope for a dry day. If just too miserable, we'll have to cancel. Another reason to make sure you sign up so you can be notified in the case of a cancellation.

Willy George – Head Casting Instructor

As an avid outdoorsman, Willy has been fly fishing for almost four decades and he enjoys sharing his passion for the sport with others. As a result, Willy has taught thousands of fly fishing students from beginner to advanced over the years. He also instituted the perennially popular Novice Fly Fishing program for the Diablo Valley Club back in 1984. Willy can often be found at the Golden Gate casting ponds in San Francisco conducting casting lessons for individuals as well as large groups, sometimes numbering up to 100 students.

Willy is an accomplished fly fisherman in both fresh water and salt water, in the US and internationally. He has caught and released many trophy sized game fish including multiple varieties of trout, bass, striped bass, steelhead, salmon, muskie, shad, tarpon, bonefish, redfish, snook, and trevally to name just a few species.



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Some things to remember...

- The next General Membership meeting is December 14 at the John R. Williams School and will start promptly at 7pm. This month, club members tell of this year's adventures. Great Christmas refreshments, giant Christmas season raffle
- You can bring your money for the January installation dinner to the December 14th meeting, \$35 per plate.
- The club's next outing is the New Year's celebration at the Moke. It's a definite "Be there!" thing.
- And lastly, don't forget to buy your 2017 fishing license!

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 similar ad on our website monthly articles equal to the number of newsletter advertising months. (App. Two per month.)

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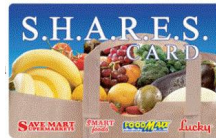
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