



# Rx Fly Fishing!

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Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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## Here comes 2016, we're on a roll!

It is hard to say whether our Annual Installation Dinner is a great wrap up of 2015 or great start for 2016? What can be said, is what a terrific event this year's dinner was. I want to congratulate both Bruce Rollans and Charlie Reams for all their efforts to make this event so successful. I am sure the Board will want to review the new venue and the catering but my thoughts were that the building and meal preparation was everything we hoped it would be!

A major congratulation to the Delta Fly Fisherman of 2015, Charlie Reams, a very deserving and well earned recipient. Also the 2015 President's Award winner, Marty Kjelson, past President and long overdue thank you! Lastly, a congratulatory oops to this year's Incomplete Angler, Jerry Neuburger. Take it from someone who qualified twice in the same year, their is something very prideful about having your name on that Catfish trophy. Good luck to all those future candidates, remember you too, can screw up while others are watching!

I thought John Highsmith's auction and raffle was far and away, one of the best in my three year club tenure. I think we sold or auctioned off all but one item, including the bicycle.

Nothing like this happens without a lot of people jumping into the tasks with a "can do" spirit. I want to personally thank those who contributed.

Special thanks goes out to the following: Jean Fujimura and Jean Highsmith for auction basket preparation. Nancy Summers and Jean Laughlin for raffle operation and management. John Highsmith, Jason Stapleton, Mike Nicholson for auction help. Jerry Neuburger and Al Smatsky for donations and anyone else I am not aware of? Bob Fujimura for audio visual. Larry Schmidt for always showing up! Their are others that I either forgot or am not aware of, and to those my apologies, and I say a heart full thanks for your help.

Enough about 2015, it is 2016 and here we come. I think we got our feet under under us and are heading to the middle of the river, the Board has written our 2016 club goals and we are headed up stream. I encourage all our members to get involved in our outings, events and classes. I promise you that your volunteerism will enrich your life and your depth of friendship with others in the club. We are a club in transition working to enjoy our lives while connecting with nature.

## Calendar

February 10, General Membership

February 13, Rescheduled U.C. Davis, Yuba River Outing

February 17, DFF Board Meeting

February 24, Fly of the Month

February 26, 27, 28, Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show

### Cash only at the gate

One day pass \$15

Two day pass \$25

Three day pass \$35

Parking \$8

### Show Hours

Friday: 10am – 6pm

Saturday: 9am— 5:30pm

Sunday: 9am – 4:30pm

March 5, Trout Bout???

## Fly of the Month to continue on February 24 at Nature Center

The Fly of the Month tying sessions will continue at the Nature Center on the

fourth Wednesday of the month The start time for these sessions is 6:00pm, an early start time so everyone can be home about 8:30 or so. The fee for the sessions is \$3,00, the cost to cover materials with enough materials for ten tiers. The fly of the month will be announced at this month's general meeting. **If you are a new member this is great time to get to know your fellow club members. Don't worry about the skill level. Help available.**



# East Bay MUD's Supervising Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist to speak at the February General Membership Meeting

- February is the club's conservation month

It has been over 30 years since the Delta Fly Fishers, in conjunction with the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, sued the East Bay Municipal Utility District regarding the collapse of the Chinook salmon and steelhead fisheries on the lower Mokelumne. Since that time, EBMUD has not only met all of the requirements of the Joint Settlement Agreement but has gone well beyond what was required of them. Through their efforts, the returning salmon counts have gone from fewer than 50 to over 16,000 in some years. They currently have three fisheries biologists on their staff and fund the costs of the Camanche Hatchery as mitigation for the use of the bountiful pristine Mokelumne river water.

At this month's meeting, Michelle Workman, the Supervising Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist for the district will speak regarding the current health of the Mokelumne and the other rivers in the southern Sierra watershed.

Michelle manages a staff of nine and coordinates the long term fisheries monitoring programs, fisheries research, and habitat restoration projects in the Mokelumne River and watershed. She has 17 years of experience with EBMUD, and 5 years of experience with the US Fish and Wildlife Service working on salmonid management and restoration projects on the Tuolumne River, Merced River and the San Joaquin River Restoration Program. She received her Bachelor of Science in 1991 and Master of Science in 1999 in Bio-

logical Sciences with a concentration in Biological Conservation from California State University, Sacramento.

While not a "fishing" program, we all need to be watchdogs regarding the health of streams, rivers and lakes. This program will provide us with the information necessary to be good stewards of our water resources.

The meeting will be held at the John R. Williams School, Don Avenue, Stockton on February 10th at 7:30. Members are encouraged to bring a friend and the general public is invited as well.



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## February Membership Report. Great news, five new members and the return of two old timers

By Bob Fujimura

Greetings and a happy new year to the general membership of the Delta Fly Fishers.

Since December 2015 our club has gained five new memberships for a current total of 99 memberships so far in the new year. Cliff & Linda Hoover and Terra Amy of Lodi were referred by Jerry Neuburger and they are already participated in at least two of the club meetings or activities. John Duecker of Herald and Larry Dextraze of Stockton are returning former members of the club; welcome back John and

Larry. Rod & Robin Tateishi were given a gift membership by John Duecker. According to Duecker, Rod is an experienced fisherman although relatively new to fly fishing. Let's offer a warm welcome to these new members when they participate in your upcoming activities.

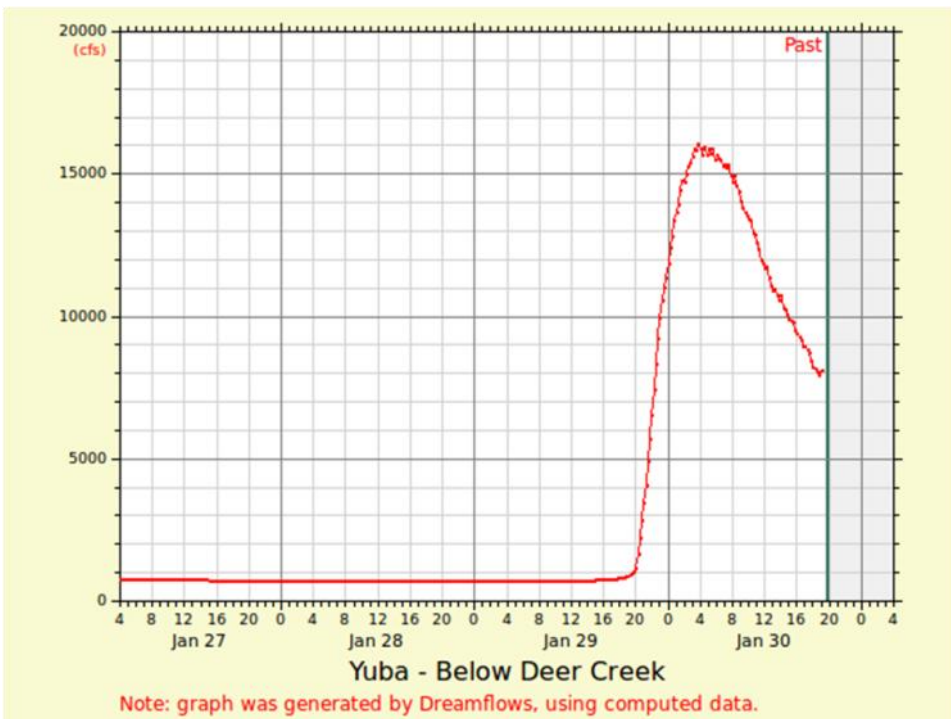
The Board of Directors have voted in their past two Board meetings for all club committees to reduce their 2016 budget items by 10% of their 2015 committee budgets. To meet this goal, the membership committee will be reducing its

budget by limiting mailing and publications costs. If you are on the hardcopy newsletter circulation list, please contact me if you want a hardcopy of the 2016 phone directory so I can make arrangements for you to pick one up. The electronic subscription members are getting their phone directories and other club communications via email at no cost to the club. The printing and postage costs for the hardcopy newsletter subscribers are the bulk of the expenses for the Membership committee.

# January Outing to the Yuba cancelled due to high water. Rescheduled for February 13th.

The outing to the Lower Yuba River outing for January 30<sup>th</sup> was cancelled because a forecast storm front was expected to blow out the river on the day of the scheduled outing. The forecasted storm did raise river flows from 600 to over 16,000 cfs on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The outing was rescheduled to February 13<sup>th</sup> which could be even better date for this outing if weather

and river conditions permits. Those persons who wanted to join this outing but were unable to get a space before should contact Bob Fujimura at [delta-flyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:delta-flyfishers@gmail.com) or (209) 339-0683. We had a few cancellations from the original group but already have two or more members who are interested in attending this rescheduled outing.



Haven't gone fishing yet this year, Danger, Danger, Danger Will Robinson!!!! Don't forget to buy your 2016 Fishing License. Even space kids need a license if they're over 16! [Get one on-line!!!](#)



## DFF Officers

President Gil Parker	209 951-7154
Vice President John Highsmith	209-369-3251
Secretary Karen Keagy	
Treasurer Jason Stapleton	209-334-9201
Directors	
Ron Forbes	209-368-5767
Jerry Neuburger	209-369-5752
Larry Schmidt	209-482-8742
Bob Fujimura	209-339-0683
Jason Stapleton	209-334-9201
Steve VonBerg	209-327-6161
Dena Mason	
Tim Costello	
Mike Nicholson	

## Committees

Bob McMillan Trout Bout	
Catfish Derby (June)	
Earl Summers	209-957-6756
Conservation/NCCFFF	
Ron Forbes	209-368-5767
Education	
Fishing Mentor Program	
Membership	
<a href="#">Bob Fujimura</a>	209-339-0683
Outings	
Steve VonBerg, Gil Parker	
Programs	
Al Smatsky	209-368-9261
Bob Sousa	209-368-2683
Property/Historian	
John Keagy	
Publicity	
<a href="#">Steve VonBerg</a>	209-327-6161
Raffles	
Vacant	
Trout Bout (November)	
Charlie Reames	209-642-6704
Webmaster/Newsletter	
<a href="#">Jerry Neuburger</a>	209-369-5752

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Any correspondence regarding this publication should be directed to:  
The Delta Fly Fishers Inc.  
PO Box 77862  
Stockton, CA 95207-7862



# Are the delta tunnels dead? We're making our best effort to get the job done...

The difference between fly fishers and worm dunkers is the quality of their excuses.

... Anonymous

In last month's conservation article, it was pointed out that 2016 is going to be a critical year in stopping the Twin Tunnels Project. One area that is critical in accomplishing this is to curtail the State Water Board's (SWB) efforts to move forward with their illegal attempts to hurry the permitting process through various agencies. On Tuesday, January 19th, Restore the Delta (RTD) asked the Delta Fly Fishers to state our position against what the SWB is trying to do. The meeting was held in Sacramento at the CalEPA building. Organizations with interest in the SWB actions were given 3 minutes to present their arguments. When it was my turn I spoke about the catastrophic losses to our fisheries in the Delta due to their continuing malfeasance of their duties regarding water exports. I reminded them that in California there are stringent requirements to be granted licenses to practice medicine or dentistry. A major requirement is a practitioner must take post grad education to stay current with their field. If they do not, the State considers them "unfit to practice" and removes their license. The SWB is required by law to update the Wa-

ter Quality Control Plan (WQCP) every 3 years. However, the SWB has not done so in over 20 years and are in violation of both the federal and state Clean Water Acts. Since they are acting illegally in fulfilling their required obligations, they should not be allowed to sit on the SWB. There was no response.



SWB actions and the ongoing problems of the Delta's decline. The SWB's actions will destroy the only source of drinking water for one million people and cause many other catastrophic problems in the Delta. The SWB seems to see the Delta as "California's sacrifice zone." The major theme of the

teleconference was, "How did we get into this situation and what must be done to fix it now?"

Bob Wright, attorney for Friends of the River, pointed out that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) trashed the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). Gov. Brown came up with the California Water Fix (CWF). The CWF is

just another plan to export water around the Delta with no environ-

A week after the SWB meeting, Restore the Delta (RTD) held a teleconference regarding the

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mental protection. This would prevent the fresh water flowing through the Delta as it has for thousands of years. No other options have been mentioned. There is no "Plan B". Wright used the analogy of a patient bleeding to death in an emergency room and taking his blood for a blood drive. He commented, "The Delta needs more freshwater, not less freshwater. The Delta Tunnels are dangerous weapons aimed at the people living in the Delta."

The BDCP/Water Fix plans intentionally exclude fresh water to the Delta and exports that water to corporate agriculture and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC). There are viable plans, such as the Environmental Water Caucus' (EWC) plan, that "would reduce exports and is focused on 21st century water solutions such as urban and agricultural water conservation, recycling, store water recapture and reuse, and reinforcing levees."

The health of the Delta directly effects the health of the San Francisco Bay, its' fish and crab industries, the Bay's environment, and its' economy. Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, Darcie Luce, noted that the Bay's fresh water quality has been declining and we are "doing a worse job in the past decade. What is evident is the widespread decline in our fish species. She quoted Dr. Peter Moyle, an outstanding authority on our fisheries saying, "That from a fish prospective, California has been in an increasingly severe drought since the 1960's; and that in this current extreme drought, the environment is the 'water user' that has suffered the most". Luce spoke

about how the recent toxic algae blooms are an indication the decline of fresh water has had on the San Francisco Bay.

RTD's Tim Stroshane, Policy Analyst, and Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, Executive Director, both contributed to the teleconference. Tim spoke on the Delta's continuing lack of a federal and state required Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP). Both the state and federal law require that the WQCP be



completed every 3 years. For 15 years, between 1980 and 1995, the Delta did not get a WQCP. Since the state had not acted, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued it's own Delta regulations in 1993 that are still in place. However, in 1995 our fish populations fell drastically and many species were placed on the both Endangered Species Acts and listed as threatened or endangered. In 2005 the collapse of the fisheries intensified. But water exports increased by 50% to 3.6 million acre feet in 2000. Still the SWB did nothing. In 2009 the legislature ordered the SWB to find how much water the fish required,

which they did. But the SWB has did nothing and totally ignored what their studies found. For 20 years they have failed their duties as required by law. Stroshane pointed out that despite a current WQCP, the Twin Tunnels Plan asked the SWB for water rights to build and operate the Twin Tunnels despite the fact there is no water plan saying those tunnels should be built. Stroshane pointed out that builders do not build a house first, then determine if their

plumbing is going to work. That is done before construction, not after the fact. But the SWB wants to devise a WQCP and grant water rights at the same time. And there will be extreme political pressure on the SWB to do just that.

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla spoke to the political and administrative nature of the SWB and how that effects their decisions. The SWB is appointed by the Governor and he notes their performance. The bottom line is that if they do not follow his

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

agenda, they will be replaced. This is true for all state agencies. This fact alone guarantees their actions will be made politically, under pressure, and not in compliance with our laws and the best science available. Tim Strohane pointed that out in his presentation. The SWB should not consider a water rights permit until after we have a WQCP in place and then follow that plan to determine if the Twin Tunnels should be built. As Barrigan-Parrilla points out, the SWB is under a huge amount of pressure and seeking to have 2 permits granted simultaneously without knowing how much water is available. It's a recipe for disaster. She also pointed out the pressure the SWB is under. The MWDLA has already spent \$100 million trying to push the twin tunnels down our throats. This money is from their rate payers. The water districts feel they will get an increase in their water supply from the tunnels. This will, of course, occur at the expense of the water that should be flowing through the Delta. The pressure on the SWB comes from Gov. Brown, MWDC, Westlands, Kern County Water Agency, corporate agriculture, and Californians for Water Security. In addition to the pressure they are putting on the SWB, they are planning to discredit accuracy of the Delta's history as an estuary of fresh water. They plan to put forward their own "history" so the SWB will not adopt standards for increasing fresh water for the Delta. The major point that Barbara made in her presentation was in the form of a question. "The question will be if they (SWB) have the moral courage and the fortitude stand up to

Gov. Brown's political push and the rewriting of state water history by the Metropolitan Water District".

California Sportfishing Protective Alliance's (CSPA) Bill Jennings (Chairman/Executive Director) spoke to the devastation occurring to our fisheries in the Delta. He started his presentation by reminding us that our fisheries "evolved and prospered over thousands of years and survived the 100-year mega droughts of the past". He noted that Fish and Wildlife 2015 Fall Midwater Trawl has shown that the 6 species studied are at their lowest levels since the populations were first counted in 1967. The average loss of fish population in the Delta was 97.9%. The Anadromous Fisheries Program, started in 1967 also, has shown that the natural production of Winter-run and Spring-run Chinook salmon in the Sacramento River has dropped 98.2% and 99.3% respectively. Bill pointed out that the outrageous loss of our fish was not caused by nature but rather by federal and state regulatory agencies who are controlled by politically powerful special interests. He commented that the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) and the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) have only complied with water quality standards 8 of 21 years. Even though there have been "thousands upon thousands of violations", the SWB has never enforced legal action and the fishery agencies have always gone along with this action and said nothing. These actions continued with the SWB in 2014 with the reduction of the required Delta flow by 43%. However, they increased the exports by 18%. In 2015, Delta flows were reduced by

78% and exports were increased by 32%. This amounted to over 1 million acre-feet of water that would have protected our fish and the Delta's environment being used for corporate agriculture. Bill Jennings also noted that in each of the drought years, "Central Valley agriculture production has set new record highs".

The longer one is around groups trying to protect the Delta and the more accurate information we get about how our state and federal agencies bow to the special interests at the public's expense, the more angry you become. This is especially true with the Delta and our fisheries. Jennings summed it well regarding our fisheries by saying, "Our captive regulatory agencies are sending our fisheries to the scaffold because the demands of special interests outweigh the protection of public trust resources belonging to all Californians". More people are needed to stop these illegal activities of the SWB.

Ron Forbes  
Conservation Chair

## Hey, you new members!

The best way to get to know other club members is to go on an outing or attend one of the Fly of the Month sessions. It doesn't matter if you are a real beginner. In fact, that's what being a member of our club is all about, the more experienced members reaching out to those new to the sport.

Don't judge the club by just attending the membership meetings. Between the president's covering club business and our speaker, there's little time to get to know people and it's not nearly as much fun as tying flies or getting out on the water and getting some instruction by a veteran..



# The annual dinner was a big success! We got it right this time.

By Jerry Neuburger

Our president did a terrific job both at the dinner and in his message on the front page of the newsletter, thanking all those that made the Annual Installation Dinner

a success. It was about time. After two years of unkept promises from the venues where the dinner was held previously, we finally ended up with a winner. I asked several tables if there were any complaints and the response was nothing but

positive. And wow, what a raffle and silent auction. We had a turn out of 90 members this year and hope o build on it for next year. Here are a few photos of the dinner and the awards.



Marty Kjelson won the President's Club Service Award



Charlie Reames more than earned the Fly Fisher of the Year



Jerry Neuburger took a dunk to earn the Incomplete Angler award



New member Amy Terra won the raffle grand prize



John Highsmith put on an outstanding raffle and auction



And his two elves, Jason and Bob passed out the goodies



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### *Delta Fly Fishers, Inc.*

P. O. Box 77862  
Stockton, CA 95207-7862  
[www.deltaflyfishers.com](http://www.deltaflyfishers.com)