



Rx Fly Fishing!

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Stockton, California

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Calendar

June 10--Annual BBQ at Oak Grove Park

*June 11-14--Davis Lake Outing

June 17--BOD

June 21--Father's Day

July 4--Independence Day

July--No General Meeting or BOD

*July 11--Beardsley Afterbay (Mike Nicholson)

August 12--No general meeting

August--No BOD

*August 1-2--Lakes on Hwy 88 (Caples, Red, Blue, Sunset, Meadow, Little Twin) (leader?)

The annual BBQ will be **Wednesday, June 10 at Oak Grove Park**. Activities will begin at 6:00 PM, with dinner being served around 6:30. Please remember to bring your plate and utensils. As in the past, you are asked to share something with the group.

A to D: hot or cold veggies

E to H: salads

K to N: desserts

O to SM: side dishes

SO to Z: bread and butter

A big thanks to all the members who helped with the Catfish Derby yesterday. John and Karen Keagy did a great job of organizing the event and Charlie Reames was master of the grill. As customary, Walt K. and Ed S. registered entrants and manned the scales for the weigh in. Again, thanks to all who volunteered their time on Saturday.

Steve von Berg



President's Message for June: A Derby, a Barbecue and an Outing

New members still joining, and the year is nearly half over. I am excited by the amount of new interest in our club. June will bring about a lot of activity. On the 6th, several of our members will be with the Orlando Outfitters for a Shad outing. Also on the 6th we will be helping San Joaquin Parks and ec, at Oak Grove Park, run their Catfish Derby. I am looking for our membership to come out and help us with the event. If your looking to meet more of the members there is no better way than be at a volunteer project such this! The day starts early at 6 AM at the boat house on the west side of the park! It is possible to enter the park through the employee entrance just east of Main gate. Plenty of set up to do and is usually over by lunchtime. Look forward to seeing you there!

The June General Meeting will take place at Oak Grove Park on the second Wednesday, June 10th, we

will be sponsoring our annual Steak BBQ and auction. We supply the steaks, and our membership supplies the pot-luck dishes. Look for Steve von Berg's emails, to find out what your part of the pot luck will be. Should be fun and I encourage senior members to sit with new members and make them feel comfortable.

On the next day, the Lake Davis outing will begin, and finish up on the weekend. Having gone on this outing in years past, know it to be one of our best. The reports have the lake fishing slow but the lake has plenty of water and should be on verge of breaking loose. Check in with Fishmeister Tim Costello.

Check In on Ron Forbes Conservation contribution to this month's newsletter!

See you on the water!

Conservation: Spending a day at the Water Quality Control Board is a study in frustration

There are worse things in life than death. Have you ever spent the evening with a fisherman?

---- Woody Allen

On the 13th of May, the state's Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB), also called the State Water Board (SWB), held another meeting to assess the effects of the drought. This was a "fact finding session" with no actions to be taken. When you attend these meetings you have to be prepared for boredom. Also pay attention what is being intentionally misrepresented or key topics that are intentionally deleted from the discussion. Representatives from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) made the first comments and went on and on for 45 minutes about water releases during the four years of the drought. Not once did they discuss why or for whom the water was released. The board members ask inane questions, but never ask a single question regarding the state's responsibility to fulfill its Coequal Goals requirements, nor did the board ask how the timing of the releases affected the Delta and our fisheries. The meeting was just another charade to fulfill the state's legal responsibility and not to find positive solutions for California's grossly mismanaged water system.

The most upsetting presentation, however, was made by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and NOAS's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). They went on and on about the severity of the 4 years of drought but not once did they mention that SWQCB's actions are decimating our fisheries and destroying their environment. There was a very short discussion about the Delta smelt losses. They flashed a slide showing at the last trawl. Of the 40 sites monitored, only one Delta smelt was captured. Most slides are shown and discussed for 4 or 5 minutes. Some longer. This slide was left up for less than 30 seconds and nothing was mentioned that SWB's continuing action is leading to the destruction of the Delta and to the extinction of the Delta smelt and other species. It is upsetting to sit and listen to members of the USFWS and NMFS not take charge and be honest about what is happening in California's fisheries. Instead, they have chosen to abrogate the responsibilities of their job and have once again chosen politics over science. How pathetic!

The last presentation of the morning session (at 1:30 pm) was made by made by California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA), Aqua Alliance(AA) and Restore the Delta (RTD). Bill Jennings of CSPA

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wasted no time in bringing the meeting back to the world of reality. He started by saying that the SWB recent orders are nothing more than an execution warrant for fisheries. He pointed out how the Board's weakening of the Bay-Delta standards is fully responsible for the continuing collapse of the Delta's species. Jennings continued, "The Board's 2014 Sacramento River temperature management plan has lead to the estimated loss of 95% of the winter-run, 99% spring-run, and 97% of the fall-run Chinook salmon."No comment from Board members.

Jennings pointed out that the DWR and BOR's water mismanagement is totally responsible for the drought crisis we are experiencing today. In the state of California, we have had 10 droughts in the last century which have lasted for a total of 41 years. Less than 50% of the time the state gets "normal" snowpack and rainfall. He then pointed out how the state's agencies cannot claim to be taken by surprise nor unprepared for something that happens more than 40% of the time. He added that the DWR and BOR know that the SWB will not hold them legally responsible for their acts. And, as I pointed out earlier, all of our fisheries agencies do not protect our fish, but weakly follow in step with the DWR and BOR.

He showed that despite what corporate agriculture in the south San Joaquin Valley has claimed, crop production in California has increased during the drought according to both the California and US Departments of Agriculture. Last month you will recall the newsletter article about Westland's Water

District concern about farm labor job losses. This is another falsehood. California's Employment Development Department: Employment & Labor Force's statistics show that during the drought, farm labor has increased to an all time high --not decreased as Westland's would have you believe. At the last SWB meeting, the south Valley corporate agriculture claimed water was needed for "health and human" needs and for special crops. They aren't required to justify or specifically explain those needs. When they ask for that the water, it will be sent...no questions asked. It should be noted that at the height of the drought the SWB is granting them a 57,000 acre feet (AF) increase over last year. This, in spite of the fact the rest of us are being put on drought restrictions and Paramount farm's is increasing their almond production over 4% this year with new orchards being planted. Incidentally, they are planting alfalfa as an inter row crop.

Jenning's conclusion was powerful. "The majority of water projects provide little public benefit. The projects have already exported over 1.5 MAF of water in this fourth years of drought. It is an unreasonable use of water to send

species into extinction and hijack water from the environment, areas of origin, and urban communities simply to supply junior water rights holders in the desert with water to irrigate crops that produce relatively little revenue and few jobs." California's "water crisis exists because of egregious malfeasance!" All five board members would not look at Jennings during his presentation nor did they make any comments. The meeting was quickly adjourned for lunch.

Gill Rot Is Back

Because of the ongoing mismanagement of our water, we are once again face the loss of this years' entire salmon population in the Klamath River Basin. It 's estimated that probably 100% of this year's smolt are infected with gill rot. This deadly disease is caused by Certomyxa shasta and is endemic to the Klamath River Basin but causes little or no pathology in the salmon when water temperature's remain the the 50 degree F range. However, because of DRW and BOR once again bowing to political pressure, water has been and will be released for the South San Joaquin Valley almond crop.

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The water temperature at present is in the 69-71 F range. Water samples showed lethal temperature ranges was early as April this year. Members of the Yurok tribe, which live in the Klamath River basin, have already found around 1,000 dead, diseased



salmon infected with gill rot. Tribe members are pleading with government officials to release water from Trinity River to cool the water. The release of cold water would stop the gill rot. However, the BOR is planning to con-

tinue to send more water south to the corporate almond crops.

In 2002, then vice-president Dick Cheney interceded with middle level federal bureaucrats for political gain. His interference with the release of cold water caused the death of close to 70,000 salmon. As Yogi Berra once said, "It looks like deja vu all over again."

Ron Forbes
Conservation Chair

NOLA REDS ONE MORE TIME

Sallye and I flew into New Orleans early May planning to sight fish for redfish, aka red drum, six days with three guides at multiple locations. As with many long distance trips booked months in advance, weather can prove a problem.

We fished with native resident Capt. Mark Brockhoeft first. We were in the Baratarian Estuary on the West side of the Mississippi River. Due to the near hurricane weather then off the Southeast Atlantic Coast and the torrential rains coming into Texas from the Gulf of Mexico, we had high water and high winds making sight fishing impossible. We blind cast for several hours, landing one 7 lb. red before calling it a day. We had scheduled a second day with Mark the following week, but weather caused us to cancel.

The next day we were with Capt. Greg Moon in the Delacroix area east of the Mississippi River. Greg is larger than life. He was raised in Laguna Beach, California, attended college at UCSB and, per Greg, served in security details in Iraq/Afghanistan with one or more private contractors before moving on to better things such as guiding.

The Delacroix area is somewhat brackish water where crab traps abound. A single crab fisher will set as many as 500 traps. Here the wind from the previously noted weather conditions was so strong as to prevent the tide going out. The incoming tide caused water depths much higher than the reds were comfortable with this day. We did land several reds about 10 lb.

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Again with Greg the next day, we left a small commercial launch area named Hopedale {ask for colorful details later). We headed out on an hour boat ride to the Gulf of Mexico just south of Biloxi Marsh. We passed over the largest oyster bed in the US; 25 miles east, 25 miles south and 25 miles west.

Greg took us into a large lagoon. The tide was just starting to drop. Oyster beds were starting to show. Almost immediately our guide spotted reds; trophy red! I wound up having seven opportunities to cast to reds between 30 lb. and 40 lb.. I choked! These were huge fish with tails and backs out of the water, showing a little cleavage. Spread your arms wide and you will get an idea of their length. Greg said these were fish up to 40 years old.

I cast short. I cast long. I cast behind the fish. I lined fish. I wanted Sallye to take pictures of these

fish, but she was too busy yelling at me, echoing the guide as to where and how to cast. Little good it did.

I did manage to hook one fish about 35 lb. I did this with too much slack in my line. Remember this. At first the red seemed not to know it was hooked. Suddenly it did know. All hell broke loose. As it just finished taking my fly line, Greg moved down from the polling platform to start the engine planning to recover line. Alas, too late. The red suddenly turned and came straight back at me, creating enough slack line to toss the hook.

When the water got too skinny we had to move elsewhere and did manage to land several reds to 15 lb.

We fished two more days with Capt. Brian Carter, an excellent guide originally from Mississippi.

Brian in his final year for his masters degree in geology.

We fished the East side of the river, area not named although we had to cross the river on the Point De La Hatch Ferry. Both days were difficult due to wind, but did result in 10 lb. reds to the boat. Ask me sometime about tournament fishing in this area.

We plan to go back and fish with these guides. One options that Capt. Brian Carter offers is offshore for Cobia, big reds, Tarpon and more.

Please note photo depicting local spinfishing for reds.

Finally, while having lunch at Clancy's on Annunciation Street, Joe Montana and family came in and sat down at a table within reach. I wanted to take a photo with my cell, but did not know how to turn off the flash.



Davis Lake Outing

June 11th through 14th.

Grasshopper Flats Campground

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