



Rx Fly Fishing!

Volume XXXVII Number XII December 2013 Jerry Neuburger, Editor Stockton, California

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Calendar

December 7, 2013 NCCFFF Board Meeting TBA www.nccfff.org

December 11, 2013 General Membership Meeting, Member’s Night

December 18, 2013 DFF Board Meeting

January 1, 2014, New Year’s Day at the Mokelumne

January 11, 2014, U.C. Davis property Outing, at the Yuba River, Highway 20

January 25, DFF Annual Dinner

March 1, 2014 Bob McMillan Trout Bout

June 7, 2014 Catfish Derby

President’s Message by Marty Kjelson

Happy Holidays, Delta Fly fishers

The holiday season is upon us as is the winter fishery. Start thinking of those gift suggestions to make your fly gear more complete! If you don’t ask, you’ll get ties and dress socks. Ha. I hope you had a nice Thanksgiving and realized the many things for which we are thankful. Having an active fly fishing club with good friends is just one of many!

We had another good trout bout headed up by our leader, Charlie Reames. Thanks to all who came and helped in the event that bring out many families. As usual most of the fish were caught in the east pond though selected spots in the main lake saw some good catches. There is a rumor that the county is hurting for money to support the event. Hope that isn’t true. I enjoyed working the snack truck with Dan McDaniel’s granddaughter, Andrea, who wanted to provide a community service for her high school project. She and I met some nice folks on our route.

About eight or so of our members ventured out to Discovery Bay on Saturday the 23rd as our fishmeister Jerry Neuburger heard that this year there were fish in that area of the Delta. Well,



The black bass and bluegills (for some bank fisher-folks) showed up but the stripers were a bit scarce.

One of our new members was able to land some. See more details of catching on our facebook site. Unfortunately, family needs prevented me from going out but I plan to chase stripers the first week of December.

All enjoyed another of Jerry’s fine lunch and fellowship. Thanks for all who got out and helped in the event. The Delta has been fishing pretty well, though the stripers are moving a lot, so one has to cover a bit of water to find them. Temps are in the upper 50s, good! Foothill lakes should be picking up as the planting has started. We need to pray for good rain and snow this winter as everything is dry in the hills with reservoirs very low.

We have an outing planned for the 7th at Paradise Pt. though we need a fish-

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meister at this writing. There are fish in the eastern delta as seen by myself a few wks. ago when a salmon followed my clouser but didn't grab. I was with my neighbor who got a nice striper just off the docks at Paradise Pt. That water is pretty protected so don't hesitate to get out there in smaller craft.

We had a great attendance at our member meeting on the 13th. Nearly 70 folks showed up including young, old and some ladies too. Bob reports our membership is now nearly 100. Good! I enjoyed Kirston Koth's talk on a fly fishing bucket list particularly the fact, that he gave a good basic overview on the vast diversity of techniques, locations, gear, species, etc. that characterizes our wonderful hobby/sport/avocation/habit/etc. This, hopefully, was very helpful to those in our audience that are new to fly fishing. He also showed some neat underwater video of brown trout feed-

ing on caddis in Hot creek.

We look forward to our member meeting on December 11th where any member can share his/her adventure in fly fishing over the past year. It is always a good show and we learn a lot! Call Al or Bob if you wish to participate. A talk need not be long or professional, just come and share.

On a very serious note, we need nominations for vacancies for President and Secretary for 2014. Both Sallye and I will help getting the new officers started. It's a good position of service. Put your name in the hat, you won't be disappointed.

Finally, Ones first fish on a fly. It seems that Al Smatsky was invited to fish on the Yuba R. back a few years ago, actually 1970, I didn't know Al was that old! His lifetime fishing buddy had the fly rods and the rest is history. Bob fished near Deguire Dam, as I did those years, when one could drive up to the dam. Those

good old days when things weren't so crowded or complicated! Anyway, Al fished with an old shooting head with amnesia running line. That stuff was, and is, enough to drive one out of fly fishing, with all it bird's nests. Al prevailed and caught a sack full (oops, no, he released them all) before his arm gave out. Expect he went over his waders a few times on that river. As we know, after that great experience, Al moved forward with the sport and has grown to be one of the best fly fishers and guides in northern California, fishing all over the world and taking folks on many memorable trips. Thanks Al, for all of your many contributions to our club.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our next member meeting. My last President's letter will be in the January issue of this newsletter.

Thanks, Marty

The December meeting features our own members telling a year's worth of fish tales

By Al Smatsky

Let the bragging begin! On Wednesday December 11th the Delta Fly Fishers will feature the fishing trips and adventures of club members from 2013. This year's presentations will cover steelheading in British Columbia, bass fishing in Arkansas, coastal fishing in North Carolina, floating rivers in Alaska, and fly fishing on the North Platte River and in Rocky Mountain National Park. 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. For more information go to deltaflyfishers.com.

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Only a few spots left for the U.C. Davis property steelhead outing on the Yuba at Hwy. 20

By Steve VonBerg

As 2013 is quickly coming to a close, we are already preparing for our annual trek January 11 to the UC Davis property on the Yuba River. Bob Fujimura has agreed to be fishmeister for this very fun, and often times productive steelhead outing.

The UCD Foothill Research property is located in Browns Valley, CA at 7861 Scott Forbes Rd. DFF members should arrive at 7:00am sharp to meet Bob, as the gate to the property will be locked once the group enters. Bob will be driving either a silver Honda minivan or a silver Toyota 4Runner.

Lunch will be provided at 12:45pm under the gazebo---please let Bob know if you have any dietary restrictions. This is a great opportunity to meet members and discuss the fish stories of the day. Unfortunately,

only 20 member can attend this outing, so let Bob know ASAP if you want to go. Bob can be contacted at 209-329-1692 or at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com.

The club will be fishing the Lower Yuba tailwater above the Hwy 20 bridge. Bob recommends 6-7wt rods of 9-10ft. WF floating lines fished indicator style seems to work best, but you can also swing flies. Leaders should be 4-5ft of 12-15 lbs fluorocarbon, with tippets of 6-8 lbs fluoro.

Flies that can be productive are rubberlegs, stones, BWO and caddis nymphs, salmon fry, glo bugs, woolly buggers and streamers. On overcast days a BWO hatch is possible. Be sure to bring waders, a staff and good wading boots. Last year the water was quite high and limited shore fishing.

Bob is a well known and respected member of DFF. Over the years, he has fished this property 6 times. Though this can be technical fishing, Bob feels the property's limited access will give members a fair chance of connecting on a fish or two. Bob prefers indicator fishing or tight line nymphing, but if fishing is tough, he will swing or dead drift streamers.

Last year's trip was a blast. Fisher were caught, great food was eaten, and a lot of fish tales were swapped. DFF is looking forward to another great outing to the UCD property. Thanks to Bob Fujimura for stepping up to be fishmeister. We have other outings planned for the year that will need fishmeister. If you would like to lead an outing, please contact Steve von Berg at dfffish-tales@gmail.com.

Cold weather and lack of a fishmeister cancels December 7, Paradise Point Outing

While the late fall weather has been mild to date, the sudden cold front hitting the valley on Wednesday night will plunge delta water temperatures below the fifty degree mark. The cold water generally makes for slow fishing, one good reason to cancel the planned outing at Paradise Point on December 7th.

The second reason is the lack of a fishmeister. Jerry Neuburger had planned to lead the outing but ran into plumbing problems with his main sewer line plugged. That has put him somewhat out of commis-

sion for the time being, since he's assisting in the excavation of 90 feet of old clay pipe and replacing it with ABS, a week long project because much of the old piping was buried under a concrete driveway.

The next two outings should make up for the cancellation with the traditional New Years Day outing on the Mokelumne and the third trip to the Yuba River gold fields both popular and well attended.

Make sure you buy your 2014 fishing licenses!

Now you can access the club's website and the club's Facebook page right from the newsletter!

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Bruce Rollans	209-274-0448
Larry Schmidt	209-482-8742
Bob Fujimura	209-339-0683
Gil Parker	209 951-7154
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Delta Fly Fishers fishing the Mokelumne on New Years day is a tradition almost as old as the club itself

By Steve vonBerg

2014 is just around the corner! Ring in the New Year at our annual outing to the Moke on January 1st. This year's fishmeister, Joe Balderston, has been fly fishing for over 35 years and has fished the Moke numerous times. You will be targeting resident rainbows and steelhead this time of the year. Joe guarantees great "fishing" but not always great "catching." He makes the following suggestions: rods 4-7 wt, floating/intermediate lines, 9ft leaders tapered to 3x-5x, glo bugs and alevin patterns, attractor nymphs and mayfly nymphs in sizes 8-18, and olive and black buggers. Swinging flies and indicator fishing can be the most successful methods, but dry fly fishing is possible when conditions are right. The Moke may be fished from the

shore in Van Assen Park or you may like to float the river. In low water years you may encounter many river obstructions. In high water years it may just be too dangerous to float. Good judgment is always advised.

The group will meet in the parking lot of Van Assen Park at 8:00am, rain or shine. Look for the DFF banner and Joe's black Avalanche. Coffee and doughnuts will be served in the morning. Plan on bringing your own lunch for the afternoon gathering. Start the new year off right, with a tight line and bent rod--not a headache!!!!

You may sign up for this outing at our next meeting on December 11 or you may contact Joe at joesteelhead@aol.com.



Don't forget to buy your 2014 fishing license before you cast a line...

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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:

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- 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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Hunting and fishing the Big Sky Country in the fall

By Gil Parker

Not much luck up here. Was limited to two brief outings, one on the the Yellowstone River and one on the Big Horn. I am not here with my own vehicle. Got to Ft Smith next to the Big Horn in the late afternoon, noticing that Ft Smith consisted of a gas station, a bar, a few residential streets, a church, and two fly shops. You think the fishing might be good here? Ft Smith is on the Crow Indian Reservation, so above the town was a major dam (I believe it's called the Yellowstone Dam, which drains into a Forebay, which has a spillway at the edge of town that is controlled by the tribe and requires a \$5 dollar parking or boat launch fee. Excellent for entering with a pontoon. I waded out from the near-by shore into a current that was at 2000 cfm if the chalk board at the fly shop was accurate. The BH River was easily seventy yards wide and about waist deep all the way across. Based on the fly shop info, I used a dual bugger set up and in the short time I was able to fish, I managed to get a couple good tugs! The tug is the drug! I would have like to had more time, but the sun was going down and the wind had really kicked up. I saw a guy come into the parking lot with a truck and pulling a trailer pontoon and unchaining his Yamaha scooter from the sign post. He then loaded it onto the rack hanging from his front bumper. So he was a one man float shuttle operation. He dropped his boat into the water, then drove his rig to the

exit spot on the River, got on his scooter and road it back to where his pontoon awaits. Then chained his scooter to the sign post. Clever. He had a pretty good day. Nobody else on the water, everyone is hunting or working. And actually this time of the year is excellent for fishing. So I am told.

The fishing came to a halt when we woke up the next morning to a temperature of 2 degrees and breezy with snow flurries. Steady sub zero weather for next couple days until today, leaving for home in the AM. On this trip, I have crossed the Snake, the Salmon and others in Idaho, the Beaverhead, the Big Hole, the Blackfoot, the Clark fork, the exit to Rock Creek, the Jocko, the Flathead, the Gallatin, the Madison, the Yellowstone and both the Little and the Big Horn rivers. These waters are so famous that it makes Hemingways' character Nick come to life. Sheridan, Wy, was one day road trip with a stop off at the Custer National Monument on a cold solemnly morning. In my mind, I am already planning a return trip late in the fall next year, pulling my fifth wheel and fishing when the notion should call me to do so!

West to east this state is a jewel for natural beauty. The other day we took a gravel road to seek hunting permission and the directions had us take this road to the second pump house, turn right and follow for two miles, then look for a small white sign (no words, just a white

sign), turn right again and follow that road for 14 miles. Then a mile off the right side of that road was a ranch and ask for Swede. We were so far from humanity that during the 14 mile stretch of road I didn't see a fence line. Ask for Swede, if that is not a little slice of Americana and the American West, I am not sure you can find it! The bigness of it all, is rich with a unique beauty. I love this place.

A bearable weather has returned (30 to 40 highs with freezes at night). Our hunting was restricted to a specific district and suffering from a major die off of White-tail deer. Apparently, Montana had a rare wet summer with 8 inches in two consecutive months leaving many standing ponds and a midge like insect was swallowed by the white tails causing a disease called blue tongue. The only tag available was a B and applied to Whitetail does only. Too late to buy an A tag which includes elk and mules. Mean while we are staying on a very large cattle ranch in the bench country (with many low profile mesas with wooded ravines) and every morning we are entertained by bands of mule deer both does and bucks. My brother-in-law is the hunter but I spotted two deer on a ridge this evening and challenge myself to stalk them to see how close I could get. Stalking two deer is much tougher than just one, since one is always alert to danger. Got within 40 yards.

Fish and Friends at the 2013 Trout Bout

By Bob Fujimura

Delta Fly Fishers members gathered at the Boat House at Oak Grove Park on Saturday November 16 to volunteer their help to run the San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation's Trout Bout. This annual event provides urban trout fishing opportunities and designed to help introduce fishing to children and their families.

Delta Fly Fishers have partnered with the County as their commitment to the public and have provided food services, fly tying demonstrations, and helped run the fishing contest. Twenty-three members arrived as earlier as 5:30 in

the morning to set up the canteen and help register the contestants.

The number of anglers was lower than recent years probably due to less publicity on this event. In contrast, club participation was high and everyone enjoyed the socializing and sharing fishing stories.

The cold temperatures caused an early run on hot drinks and donuts. This year's we served hot dogs from Alpine Meats – we could tell the difference in quality. The chili-cheese nachos were a big hit and great value sold out quickly. Dan McDaniels brought his granddaughter Andrea who helped as part of

her high school's community service project.

Other members who attended this event were: President Marty Kjelson, John Highsmith, Jim Rich, Steve Von Berg, Jason Stapleton, Ron Forbes, Joe Balderston, Sam Thompson, Earl Summers, John Keagy, Harvey Hamlow, Mike Sansone, Larry Schmidt, Grady Lee, Walt Kotecki, Ed Sill, Bruce and Sallye Rollans, Bob and Jean Fujimura, and our newest member Tate McKenzie. Our group was led by Charlie Reames – many thanks to them and all of our members who volunteered their time.

A few Trout Bout photos photos courtesy of Bob Fujimura



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