



# Rx Fly Fishing!

Volume XXXVII Number VIII

August 2013

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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## Calendar

August 14, 2013 General Membership Meeting, President's Agenda, Oak Grove Park

August 17, 2013 Pinecrest Lake (Marty Kjelson, Fishmeister)

August 21, 2013 DFF Board Meeting

August 30-31, 2013 Santa Cruz Kelp Bass (Jerry Neuburger, Fishmeister)

September 7, 2013 NCCFFF Board Meeting TBA [www.nccfff.org](http://www.nccfff.org)

September 7, 2013 DFG Free Fishing Day

September 11, 2013 General Membership Meeting

September 14, 2013 Mokelumne River Drift (Jerry Neuburger, Fishmeister)

September 18-22, 2013 Bridgeport Outing

September 25, 2013 DFF Board Meeting

## President's Message by Marty Kjelson

It is with great sadness as I write this message due to the death of our good friend and club member , Bill Laughlin. He suffered a fatal stroke this past Saturday evening. We all extend our most sincere sympathy to his loving wife , Jean, and family. The Delta Fly Fishers were well represented at his internment service at Cherokee Memorial park on August 2nd and the reception that followed at Woodbridge Country Club.

This has been a warm, dry July with stream flows and reservoir levels very low due to a low snow pack. I've got in a few days out on the water close to home and a three day trip to the eastern sierra with Bob Fujimura. Our destination was Lake Crowley, the Owens River, Hot Creek, and lakes near Mammoth and the June Lake loop. We learned a lot, got humbled, found the fish struggling with warm water and avoiding our flies. We did catch some fish on the upper and lower Owens. Found some hatches and rising fish on what I call "no see ums", ie those midge emergers and micro caddis that are matched with size 22 to 28 size hooks. We both caught only two fish on that evening. I will be sharing our experiences at our member meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. Traveling showed that the Carson and Walker rivers were very low, though the mid Stanislaus at Kennedy meadows seemed in good shape. I hope some of you will be ready to share where you've been fishing at our member meeting.

We're glad to have Jerry Neuburger back from his trip east and hope he can share some stories of his catching stripers. Jerry keeps our newsletter and web site in good shape. It is a valuable source of information about our club activities. Use them regularly. You'll be glad you did.

Gil Parker , our mentor chair, has been in contact with our new members. We have a wealth of experience in our club that all members should utilize. Let Gil know

when you need a mentor to help you get on the water or simply get informed about areas of which you need help.



Speaking of membership, Bob Fujimura reminds us the club dues are due to be paid in August. He has set up a raffle of a great fly rod for those of us that get our dues in this month. Also, there are some officer and chairperson positions open for 2014. Please consider volunteering for one of them. You'll not be disappointed.

I will be coordinating our August outing to Pinecrest Lake on Thursday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. I changed the date as I have a family obligation on the 17<sup>th</sup>. I'll write up an article for that outing for the web page soon and also share ideas at our member meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. I'll also share a fishing report on the 16<sup>th</sup> (Fri) as to how we found the lake on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of August if you wish to go on the 15<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>. Thanks.

Finally, My wife , Lockey, shared a nice quote from one of her desk calendars. It has great wisdom. " If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there would be a shortage of fishing poles".

See you soon. Marty

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## Pinecrest Lake targeted for August 15th outing

by Fish Coordinator Marty Kjelson

As I noted in our August newsletter, I will be leading an outing to Pinecrest Lake on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> not the 17<sup>th</sup>. While this day change was necessary due to a family commitment, people can go on the 17<sup>th</sup> using information gained by myself and others on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Here's some basic information on Pinecrest. It is located just off HYW 108, to the south (right exit) above Sonora and just before the town of Strawberry. It's about a two hour drive. Restaurants are available in Sonora and I plan to make reservations at the Italian, Villa D'Oro , in Twain Harte, 8 miles east of Sonora, to catch their excellent early bird special (before 6pm, \$17 for a full meal incl. desert and wine). Please let me know if

you plan to attend the outing and wish to go to dinner.

I'd suggest getting to the Lake by 8am or earlier as the wind often come up in the afternoon. Pinecrest is at about 7000 ft. and the lake is stocked regularly and the rainbows generally give us hookups on the regular lake flies, wooly buggers, etc. Though there can be top water action, intermediate, sink tip, and sinking lines are generally best.

We will meet at the swimming beach on the west side of the lake at 8am where the road ends and past the camp grounds. This is across the lake from the marina and provides a nice shallow launch site. Fish are all over the lake, though many fish the Stanislaus River inlet on the far south end. Float tubers need to stay closer

to the launch site, while paddleboards and kayaks can venture further in safety. Rental boats and other craft are available from the marina which may be a good option. Look up the Pinecrest Lake, Ca. Marina and give them a call on rates, etc. if interested. We'll be on our own for lunch. Bring regular gear, including sun-screen, anchor, etc. Try to team up with a buddy to save gas and enjoy traveling fellowship.

A U.S. Forest Service campground is located near the lake on Pinecrest Lake Road.

I'd like to get an idea as to how many folks will be coming, so give me a call, 209 477-9618 or email : [martykjelson@yahoo.com](mailto:martykjelson@yahoo.com), and to ask any questions you may have. I'll be sharing more information at the member meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. See you then.

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Conservation by Ron Forbes

## Just when you think things can't get more outrageous ...

*"It impossible to grow weary of a sport that is never the same on any two days of the year."*

Theodore Gordan

In June, Restore the Delta (RTD) started making anti-dual Jerry Brown twin-tunnels signs available. Those of us who helped at the RTD booth at Isleton's Cajun-Blues Festival gave them out to passersby's and they were well received. Since then, the signs have appeared throughout the Delta and in surrounding cities. In large, bold letters, they say: SAVE THE DELTA, and below that, STOP THE TUNNELS. On the lower left of the sign is RTD's logo and to the right is the e-mail website. The signs express their owners economic and environmental opposition to the twin tunnels concept.

There is nothing odd or strange about the posters, so you can imagine the outrage of the people who had posted the signs when they discovered CalTrans was entering their private property and confiscating the posters. It seems that Gov. Brown had ordered CalTrans to confiscate the signs.

They did so without notifying the landowners which is illegal. When the property owners protested, CalTrans threatened each landowner with a \$10,000 fine. Initially CalTrans claimed the signs would have to be 600 feet from a public roadway since they were "political" in nature. Obviously, that isn't true. In an election year you can't drive on any road in California without seeing thousands of political signs. Political signs have never been removed, especially by CalTrans. This action was nothing more or less than Gov. Brown's continuing effort to stop all efforts to oppose his tunnels.

However, it seems Jerry Brown has violated the First Amendment rights of the property owners. Brown claims this is a political issue and the signs had to come down. It isn't a political issue. It's an environmental issue. However it makes little difference if it's an environmental or political issue. In a recent Dan Bacher article on the subject, he quotes the 1996 Attorney General's statement that, "the

expression of a political belief by a property owner whether displayed by sign or otherwise" is constitutionally protected.

After hearing about the sign confiscations, the first thought crossing my mind was if Brown is so concerned about environmental and political issues why haven't all of Westland's signs been removed on Hwy 99 and on I 5 . He won't have them removed because Westland's wants the tunnels also. When asked why those signs haven't been removed, The local head of Cal Trans said, "That's not my district". Brown's actions show he is just another bully in the schoolyard.

On July 17th, I attended the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Administrative Draft meeting in Sacramento on Chapters 8,9,10 of the BDPP. In the middle of remarks by state representatives, a large group from Discovery Bay quietly walked into the meeting with signs resembling stop signs that had the same message as the RTD signs. There were about 40 signs. As people would make their presentations, a sign-holder would stand behind him so they were both recorded on TV. After the meeting, I was talking with several angry people in Discovery Bay group and his comment was, "Just let Cal Trans try to take my sign again!" Brown has successfully infuriated

## No Fly of the Month tying session for August

the entire Delta community with his self-righteous attitude regarding the poster removal.

Actually, the more I think about the issue, the more I think we owe Jerry Brown a thank you. We received a lot of radio, TV, newspaper, and internet coverage about the sign confiscations at no charge. And his action has helped inform even more people about what is really going on. Brown has given us a great boost forward. We need to get the word out and his actions certainly helped. Thank you Jerry!

In the near future, Restore the Delta will make a decision on proceeding with legal action against Gov. Brown and Cal Trans for their actions. the issue is far from over.

### Just the tip of an iceberg

In 2009, our state legislature required the creation of a Delta Plan to be created by its newly-formed Delta Stewardship Council (DSC). The purpose of the plan was to settle years of disagreement over water and its use in the Delta. The DSC finally finished its Delta Plan (DP) in the middle of May this year after close to 100 public meetings. Once again, those who either live in or had interest in the Delta were excluded from the DSC process and planning sessions. The plan includes 14 sections that will have the impact of law

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and over 70 recommendations. However, the DP it is incomplete in its required legislative charge.

Over the years, the Delta's environment and fishers have been protected by the environmental protection laws. A number of years ago, I was at a meeting in Sacra-



mento when representatives from The Department Water Resources and the Westland's Water District proposed changing that policy and created the "co-equal goals" policy. Ultimately, the policy was changed to make water exports and the environment equal in importance. This is the situation we live under today. However, if you understand the DP and Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), it is obvious both are attempts at outright water grabs.

We are now seeing the tip of an iceberg. Seven lawsuits have been filed against the

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DP. These lawsuits are on both sides of the issue. Michael Jackson, an attorney representing Restore the Delta and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, says, "We all recognize the incomplete work done by the Delta Stewardship Council. I think its relatively clear that in courtrooms, judges on that fact (we) seem

to agree that they should go back to square one and start over". Stockton attorney, Dante Nomellini, comments are more graphic and to the point. "The game plan these guys are following is to degrade the water quality in the Delta, take a lot of our land out of production, strangle us with regulations and shove the tunnels down our throats". Nomellini is right. Those of us in the Delta realize the plan does

not protect the Delta. However, on the other side, the State Water Contractors say the Delta Stewardship Council's plan "go well beyond it intended scope". This first series of lawsuits will take from between three to five years to resolve.

Ron Forbes

Conservation Chair



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## More info on the October Lower Sac outing

By Bruce Rollans

Those who plan to hire a guide to float the river do so asap. The Fly Shop has the most knowledgeable guides. Those who plan to float the river via pontoon boats/kayaks contact The Fly Shop regarding

suggested flies, leaders, etc. or contact Bruce Rollans. The Fly Shop has basic maps of the river showing put in and take out sites. These maps also show access points for waders. Contact Bruce Rollans for additional information. Bruce and Salye will float the river October 11-12. They

will see you on the river the second day. They will also stay over on the morning of October 13 to assist any of you pontooners who need shuttle service. Call Bruce at 209.274.0448 if you need this shuttle assistance.

## An adventure on the Alagnak River, Alaska

By Charlie Reames

To get there was the first adventure 14 Hr. three different flights from Sac./ King Salmon.

Arriving at King Salmon we bored a float plane to fly sixty miles upriver at 2 pm.

Setting up camp something all ten of us worked at, 6 fishermen, three guides along with one young lady training to become a Guide.

My son Todd and I shared a tent or more so a rain shelter for us and our gear.

The Sockeye salmon were just starting to arrive with one salmon in the net, along with Rainbow and some Arctic Grayling.

Day Two: Breakfast at 10:00 this was a norm, we could count on.

The fish were down river from us so we broke camp and went down river to them, The BEARS showed us where the fishing was good.

We passed several bald eagle nest close to the river but were not able to take pictures of due to the speed we were traveling, for the river was higher and faster than they had ever seen it.

The object of the day was to run the rapids and set up camp below them. This is where the planned trip became cloudy for the rapids were more or less water falls.

One boat flipped end over end losing three people and gear in the cold water. This created a number of challenges to workout; one of my favorites was no Bug net.

Being out of contact and as the saying go UP THE CREEK WITH OUT A PADDLE We made the best of it.

Camping that night next to a group of Germans and there bond fire. The word night has little meaning until after midnight when the sun dims.

One large tent was set up and all slept in it with wet clothes and sleeping bags hanging everywhere.

The next morning I received my fist lesson fishing for Sockeye, 16 hook ups and 16 early releases. I decided it was not going to change so I changed rods and went to caching Grayling up to 15 inches long with a few Rainbows using dry flies.

We kept on moving down river stopping at different camp spots, meeting new Bears along with some cooperative Sockeye.

Day Seven a few chum salmon showing but no hook ups.

Nothing left we hit flat water, the float planes need for pickup. Deflating boats, packing tents there must have been a ton of gear. It took three planes in and out.

Arriving back at King Salmon about 4:00 pm. Flight out at 7:00.

I was able to buy razor, tooth brush, borrow my son's shoes, and didn't need bug net now. Drink a couple of Beers, bought gifts and I was back in Sacramento at 8 am.

My first trip I learned a lot and looking forward to lodge base outing next time.

Charlie

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



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## August is Membership Renewal Month

The annual membership ends on August 31 and DFF is holding a special raffle to whose members renew their memberships early or on time. A well-made fly rod will be the prize to some member who renewed their membership early. Any member who pays their membership by August 31 will receive 3 raffle tickets and 1 ticket for those who pay their annual dues during September. The raffle will be held at the October

general meeting. The prize will be on display at the upcoming meeting.

discount on their upcoming annual dues if they recruit a new member before August 31. Also new members can wave the remaining dues on this membership year (Sept. 1, 2012 to Aug 31, 2013) if they join before Aug 31. So they can get up to 13 months of membership for the price of 12 month.

For more information on these offers or your membership status, please contact Bob Fujimura at

(209) 339-0683 evening or at [taflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:taflyfishers@gmail.com).



### Other membership offers...

Current members can earn a \$2.00

**Membership Renewal Form** – Family Membership is \$35.00, Regular Membership \$30.00 or \$25.00 for an individual 62 years or older. Dues are for one year September 1st to August 31th of the following year. If you are receiving hardcopy newsletters through the US mail, we ask that you also include \$10.00 to offset printing and postage costs. Make check payable to **Delta Fly Fishers**. Please fill out this form, then mail it and your check to **DFF Membership c/o Bob Fujimura, PO Box 1562, Lodi, CA 95241-1562**.

Family Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Regular Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Senior Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

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Please contact **Bob Fujimura** at **(209) 339-0683 evenings or e-mail at [taflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:taflyfishers@gmail.com)** if you have any questions on your membership status or procedures.



## DFF Officers

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Vice President John Highsmith	209-369-3251
Secretary Sallye Rollans	209-274-0448
Treasurer Jason Stapleton	209-334-9201
Directors	
Joe Balderston	209-649-0291
Ron Forbes	209-368-5767
Jerry Neuburger	209-369-5752
Bruce Rollans	209-274-0448
Larry Schmidt	209-482-8742
Bob Fujimura	209-339-0683
Gil Parker	209-951-7154
Earl Summers	209-957-6756
Jason Stapleton	209-334-9201

## Committees

Bob McMillan Trout Bout	
Steve Cooper	209-956-1032
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Earl Summers	209-957-6756
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Ron Forbes	209-368-5767
Education	
Joe Balderston	209-649-0291
Fishing Mentor Program	
Gil Parker	209-951-7154
Membership	
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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

# We're doin' it again! Kelp Bass fishing at Santa Cruz, August 28th—29th.

**Friday-Saturday, August 28-29, 2013**

## Fishing for Kelp Bass at Santa Cruz

**Fishmeister:** Jerry Neuburger

**Location:** Santa Cruz Pier

**Directions:** South on I-5 to I-205/580 then West on I-205/580 to I-680 then South on I-680 to Hwy 262 then West on Hwy 262 to I-880 then South on I-880 and continue south on tot Hwy 17 then left onto SR 1 at Santa Cruz. Continue on to Chestnut Street. Turn Left on Lincoln Street to Center Street then turn right on Center Street to pier area.

**Distance:** 107 miles. Estimated Driving time from Stockton 2 hours, 15 minutes. Start Time from Stockton approximately 5:00 a.m. unless you leave the day before.

Save gas, money, and the environment! Carpool! Arrange a ride with three other people. Except for the driver, the crew can sleep all the way down, and if someone else drives the morning driver can sleep all the way home.

PLEASE CONTACT THE FISHMEISTER IF YOU'RE GOING ON THIS OUTING. Jerry's phone number 209-327-5993, or (preferred) gneub-urger@yahoo.com

**Boat Rental:** [Capitola and Santa Cruz Boat Rental](#) - On the Pier at Santa Cruz (831-423-1739)

From their website. "Our sturdy first-class ocean skiffs are equipped with 8hp outboard motors and are just about the best way to enjoy the beauty of Monterey bay – and maybe catch "the big one"! Your boat will be lowered to the water equipped with an outboard motor, fuel, life vests, anchor, oars, gaff, a safety kit, and a ton of advice.

The price is only \$20 an hour or \$85 for the day! Boats can depart as early as 7:00am any day. Boats rented from each store must stay within rental boundaries. Boats must be back at the wharf by 3:00pm.

Call ahead and make a reservation. This is usually a good idea during holidays or whenever you want to be certain you'll get a boat. It is suggested that you make

your reservations at least two weeks in advance.

Skiff Rental University is accepting students! Get your diploma and save time getting on the water. Tuition is free!! [Take this ON-LINE test and print your Diploma to save time.](#) IF YOU BRING YOUR DIPLOMA, YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO TAKE THE REQUIRED BOATING OPERATIONS COURSE ON THE PIER."

## Fish Species:

Kelp bass run from about a half pound to six to eight pounds with two pounders being an average fish. Olives and blues are the most prevalent but other species are present.

White sea bass can exceed 40 pounds and are excellent eating!

## Equipment:

- 7 to 9 weight rods
- Reel with decent drag
- A selection of lines from express to floating
- #20 six foot straight leader
- A Buddy II if you have one
- Sun block
- Sun glasses
- Light jacket or coat

## Flies:

Clousers, deceivers, other streamer patterns 2 to 1/0

**Details:** Although this outing is only a one-day event, it is a totally different experience for our DFF members and can be a whole lot of fun! The day starts early with a 5:00 am or earlier departure time from Stockton unless you want to drive to Santa Cruz the day before and enjoy some of the sights.

Once on the pier, bring your Skiff Rental University Diploma with you and secure the boat you reserved two weeks before. Load your stuff in, get the handout map of skiff boundaries and fire up that engine.

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

The outing date was selected because it features a neap tide and low water in the morning. The neap tide means that there will be very light currents throughout the bay allowing the fish to move away from the rocky structure they routinely cling to, and the low tide means that the fly fisher will be closer to the rocky pinnacles that these fish are drawn to. High tide is around 6:45 in the morning and low tide at about 11:00 am with less than one foot of water exchange. The next high tide is at 5:30 pm but is greater in volume. However, fishing should extend for at least two hours beyond low tide before the flow really starts moving.

Use the chart and your Buddy II (or follow someone else that has one) to locate the rocky pinnacles shown. Once over them, start casting. Allow your line to sink and start stripping in, using a strip similar to what you would use stripers fishing but with slightly smaller strips. You should start getting strikes right away if the currents have slowed. You may even see the fish following your fly to the surface. On really calm days with little current you can sometimes even see the fish cruising right below the surface. (I don't know if it will produce a strike but I'm bringing a rod with a floating line and popper just in case!) Some days are better than others but you should expect to catch from about 15 to 50 fish per rod. You're encouraged to release these fish. While the fillets are good eating, the fish are a slow growing species and are already overfished.

While the target is kelp bass, don't expect to see any kelp. You'll be fishing in water 40 to 80 feet deep over rocky high spots. You won't have to fight casting into a maze of vegetation. If you find that the bite has fallen off, you've probably drifted away from the pinnacles, fire up that engine and get back over the fish. In addition to kelp bass, there is always the possibility that a school of white sea bass will move through. This is especially true since the smaller kelp bass have left their

cover and are exposed. If you tie into one of these fish you'll have your hands full, especially on that seven weight. White sea bass are as tough as stripers and will peel line off your reel faster than a bone

ness, some things can be done to prevent it. The swell at Santa Cruz where the club will be fishing is usually very gentle to non-existent. Unless you KNOW you are subject to Mal De Mer and know that

using a patch or taking pills will help, I recommend that you NOT take those precautions. Plan a non-greasy breakfast. Oatmeal, cereal, waffles, pancakes are better than sausage, eggs and hash browns. Don't overhydrate but do not deprive yourself of all liquids.

Rig your gear while on the dock! Mount your reel on your rod, string up the line and tie on a fly! Have your other flies and all other gear easily accessible. Do NOT spend a lot of time looking down into the boat rigging lines, gear, changing flies, etc. When tying on a new fly, hold it up at the horizon. If you feel at all queasy, STOP focusing

on things near you, get your head up and look at the horizon. In the two outings our club held in the past, no one had to leave the water because of sea sickness.

Want to go on a vicarious outing and find out what the whole thing is like? read Dan Blanton's writeup of the San Jose Fly Caster's trip that he wrote up years ago. Want to know what it's like from a member's prospective, talk to Al Smatsky or Bruce and Sally Rollans, participants in last year's outing.



A Santa Cruz kelp bass. Photo by Sallye Rollans

fish.

Given that the tidal flow will really start moving about 1:00 pm, we'll probably head for the pier to check in the boats. Once everyone is checked in, we'll pick out a restaurant order a few brewskies and a seafood lunch. Then we'll have the two hour drive home with photos and memories to keep us smiling.

#### **Boating and Sea Sickness in the salt:**

While many people worry about sea sick-



Jerry Neuburger with a Santa Cruz Ling Cod. Photo by Jeanette Neuburger

# What you didn't know about Bill Laughlin

By now, most of you know that Bill Laughlin, stalwart club member, long time raffle chair, member of the board of directors and an almost certain participant in any Delta Fly Fishers event, passed away from the results of a stroke at his home Saturday evening, July 27th, after having a family barbecue.

What most of us didn't know was that Bill, a graduate of Edison High School was a member of its Football Hall of Fame. He was All American playing for San Joaquin Delta College and a member of the undefeated 1961 Fresno State football team, going on after the regular season to win the Mercy Bowl. He was also a member of the Stockton Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Your newsletter is now totally integrated with the World Wide Web. You'll find many clickable links throughout the newsletter to the [club's website](#), the club's [Facebook page](#) and other external links.**

He served his country as a marine (what else!) 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

He worked for Stockton Parks and Rec. and while there won gold at the U.S. Life-guard Olympics.

Using his football experience, he coached Pop Warner, leading the North Stockton Bengals team to win the 1982 Pop Warner Super Bowl. Still not finished, he volunteered to work with the Sunrise Little League and the Julia Morgan Elementary School where he was fondly known as, "Grandpa Bill."

And he was rock solid in other ways as



well, celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife Jean, June 22, 2013.

His life was a celebration of just how much good one man can do. He will be missed by his wife, family and friends.

(Information on Bill's life taken from the short biography passed out at his memorial service.)

## 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.

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A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

Permission to post specials and other advertising on the club's Face book page, 2 per month.

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

## Rx Flyfishing!

### Delta Fly Fishers, Inc.

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