President's Message by Marty Kjelson

Greetings, Delta Flyfishers. Spring has finally arrived with warming water temperatures and plenty of spots to fish. Our Yuba River outing reflected (possibly) Mother Nature's final fling with high water, wind and rain but with good fellowship, food and learning experiences. The higher water is much appreciated by the spawning stripers and shad as they make their way upriver to spawn. Let's hope they have good production and survival even though they face many obstacles, natural and manmade.

We've got about ten signups for our Pyramid lake outing as of this writing, and we are looking forward to the trip. Rob Anderson of Truckee River Outfitters battled a snow storm to come down and give us some excellent information on fishing the Lake so we should be well prepared along with two fly tying sessions by Jerry Neuburger on Lake patterns. I got a step ladder today, paid up my insurance and practiced backing up the steps. Gag, do I really want to do this? Maybe I'll wear Neoprenes so that when I swan drive off the ladder to 40 degree water I'll at least float!



May and June also is the American shad season with two jet boat trips by Orland Outfitters on upper Sac planned for June 3rd and June 9th. Again we'll have a class tying shad flies along with Al Smansky's talk on shad fishing May 9th to get us ready for the June outings. suspect Al will share various spots

in Northern California to fish for shad both by boat as well as from shore where one can simply drive and wade. So get ready for these fresh water tarpon.

While I'm mentioning outings, I know many of you fish at

other times than just our club outings. We're in need of photos and written articles for our newsletter and for our membersharing meeting in the fall. I also encourage you to invite a new member to get out with you. They will appreciate it greatly and you'll have a new friend to share experiences with and probably will learn from too. I thank those of you that are doing that already. It makes our club something special. Back in the 80's and 90's a friend introduced me to the many flowing waters on the west slope of the Sierra between 3 and 5,000 feet. While I can't jump from log to log as I did then, there are still some fun days to be had up there. Give them and some of the high country lakes a try.

I encourage each of you to participate in the White Pines Lake one fly contest on May 12th. It is a worthy fund raiser with great food, tactical and earnest competition. Also in May there are two volunteer opportunities. Our Catfish derby and the Trout Fest at Moccasin Creek hatchery, May 26. Plus we continue to have openings for two committee chairs. You'll gain a lot from helping the club with just a little time and effort.

On that topic, come to a Board meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Oak Grove Park. You'll see how the club is run and get to know some fine folks. Recently the club gave financial support to three conservation organizations to help them in the continued battle to protect our fish resources and their habitat. Ron Forbes, our conservation chair, continues to do a great job at keeping us posted on those issues. Give him a thanks as well as your other Board members when you see them.

Finally, In preparation for the spring fishing, one needs to know how to cross a stream under high water conditions. One of our members has a unique approach and has actually tested it. He got four members to grasp the wader suspender of the man immediately ahead. All four men (no lady members volunteered for some reason??) successfully reached the opposite bank at points ranging from one eighth of a mile to one half mile downstream. Take Care! Have a great May. See you on the water. Marty

FUTURE EVENTS SCHEDULE

May 2 - Fly of the Month Fly Tying Session

May 9 - General Membership Meeting Al Smatsky - American Shad Fishing

May 12 - White Pine Lake One Fly Contest

May 16 - DFF Board Meeting

May 23 - Fly of the Month Fly Tying Session Pyramid Lake flies

June 2 - Oak Grove Park Catfish Derby

June 6 - 2012 -Fly of the Month Fly Tying Session Davis Lake flies: Damsel Fly nymph, blood midge

June 3 - SOLD OUT! DFF jet boat trip with Orland Outfitters, shad fishing on the Sacramento River

June 9 - SOLD OUT! DFF jet boat trip with Orland Outfitters, shad fishing on the Sacramento River This trip is exactly the same as featured on the flyer but will take place on the 9th rather than the 3rd.

June 13 - General Membership Meeting Annual Barbecue

June 16 - Mokelumne River Float Outing

June 20 - DFF Board Meeting June 22 - 24 - Lake Davis Outing

----000-----

DID YOU KNOW cutthroat trout incubate for two months before hatching from their eggs. Both sea-run and river-run cutthroat are able to spawn numerous times. Older cuts, however, have a greater likelihood of dying during spawn. A single spawn produces only a few thousand eggs as opposed to the spawn of other fish, like cod, that produce tens of millions of eggs.

----000-----

AL SMATSKY - MAY 9TH SPEAKER ON CENTRAL VALLEY SHAD

Why are some anglers more successful than others? This program, presented by club member Al Smatsky, is intended to help the novice angler understand the key ingredients to make every shad trip an enjoyable experience.



The program will focus on fly fishing for shad in our Central Valley Rivers. He will have an in-depth open discussion on selecting the right fly line to match the water conditions, what effect water conditions have the shad migration, time of year, what is "holding water" and "traveling water", leader material and fly selection.

Al with a nice Patagonia, Chili, brown trout. One of the many species of fish that have fallen to his fly fishing expertice

Al has been a fly fisherman for most of his life. Encouraged by lifelong friends and fishing buddies over 35 years ago, Al purchased his first fly rod for a trip to the Yuba River for shad. From that point on he was hooked. (Pardon the pun) Since that time, he has been fishing from Alaska to South America in pursuit of both fresh and saltwater species.

Milestones

- Joined the Delta Fly Fishers in 1977.
- Board Member and past-president (twice) of the Delta Fly Fishermen.
- Awarded the honor of "Life Member" in 2003.
- Licensed California Guide since 1994.
- Owner of Excellent Adventures, a fly fishing guide and travel business.

Al's presentation will be held at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Avenue, Stockton at 7:00 pm, May 9th. The public is cordially invited.

----000----

CONSERVATION ISSUES

"O, sir, doubt not that angling is an art; is it not an art to deceive a trout with an artificial fly."

----- Isaac Walton

The problem is worse than we thought

Last year I wrote an article for Delta Fly Fishers newsletter regarding the request of farmers, farm coalitions, and farm bureaus to be granted yet another waiver of compliance with California's Clean Water Act. Unlike industry, business, and urban users, California farmers have enjoyed total exemption of compliance for the 7 million acres they've farmed for 30 years. The waiver was granted by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board (SRWQCB).

As I sat in the meetings and listened to the coalitions present their cases, they kept extolling the fact that they were an outstanding example of a group that was very capable of enforcing the state Clean Water Act and therefore should not have the state control them. Their main argument was that they had spent millions



of dollars examining alleged possible agricultural pollution in the unmonitored use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizes and had the situation well under control. During the day I had asked several farm groups just how they went about this. They asserted that when a farmer is out of compliance and was reported they "Checked his farm, told him of the issues and told him he had to comply with the Clean Water Act." When I asked how they enforced their position, I was told that the farmers were sent a "notification of non-compliance". When I asked about the "notice of non-compliance", I was told that they had no legal right of enforcement. The fact is that even thought they roared like powerful lions during these meetings, they are, in fact, nothing more than a 30-year-old lion with neither teeth nor claws. Because of these waivers, agricultural pollution has gone unchecked and will continue to do so.

Let me make it clear: I do not intend to put all farmers in a bad light. After my post-graduate work, I returned in 1965 to live in Lodi. In my circle of friends I am fortunate to have many that are farmers. To a person they are ethical, hardworking people and try to the best of their abilities to comply with the state's Clean Water Act. One of these farmers worked for a farm chemical company, and I was always impressed with his knowledge of the chemistry and science involved in his job. Unfortunately, there are some who are only interested in the bottom line profit. With the help of the State granting waivers to the compliance of the Clean Water Act and the State allowing permits the use of banned chemicals, some of

these products are now in the soil and ground water.

Several years ago many divergent groups went to Sacramento with a common purpose: Their commonly held belief is that it is a basic human right to have clean, safe water for drinking, bathing, and food preparation. Last year it was thought that 150,000 people in the southern San Joaquin and Salinas Valleys were living in areas where the water is toxic and unfit for human consumption. Economically they are a deprived people and many have to drive 10-15 miles to get bottled water to survive. It's an economic burden they can't afford.

Both the assembly and senate passed legislation and the bill was passed to the governor to become law. However, former governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the bill because of the concerns of Westlands Water District, Paramount Farms et cetera, on how the bill might affect their water allotments. Many find it ironic that they were against clean water for the workers that make their huge profits possible.

However, a new and ugly snake has raised its head. In March of this year, UC Davis scientists working for UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences, have released the most comprehensive study to date that shows nitrate pollution is far worse that previously thought. The study has shown that agriculture is responsible for 96% of the nitrate contamination in the five counties studied. These counties are in the southern San Joaquin and Salinas Valleys and are 5 of the top 10 agriculture-producing counties in the nation. The UC Davis researchers feel that 10% of the 2.65 million people in the counties tested may be drinking nitrate contaminated ground water. This study includes the cities of Bakersfield, Fresno and Salinas. If the pollution trend continues, 80% of those residents will be drinking nitrate-laced water by 2050. This will amount to 40% of the state's irrigated crop land.

There are two major sources for the nitrates from agriculture; one source is ammonium nitrate fertilizers and the other source is cow manure. These nitrates filter into the soil and run off contaminating both the groundwater and wells. After the high nitrate laden water runs off, it also causes problems in our lakes and ocean with increased bacterial activity and loss of oxygen. This in turn leads to algae blooms and dead aquatic areas in which neither fish nor other aquatic species can survive

The toxicity caused by nitrates in humans is devastating. In infants nitrate overexposure can cause "blue baby exposure" (methemoglobinemia). The nitrate inhibits the child's hemoglobin from carrying the amount of oxygen needed and has resulted in those children's deaths. In adults nitrates have been linked to cancer of the thyroid, skin rashes, and hair loss. Many of the towns in the area studied have experienced unexplained deaths much higher than the national average. One source I read claimed the tolerable level for nitrates is less than 45 ppm. In one town with a high unexplained death rate, the nitrate level is 106 ppm.

The cost of solving this problem is high. In San Gerardo their water bill was \$25 per month; it is now \$130 per month. Fresno

has had to shut down tainted wells. The research concluded that about 1 person in 10 in the studied area is drinking unsafe water. Jay Lund, one of the co-authors of the study said that it will cost between \$20 million to \$35million a year to give them clean water. To solve the problem "You would have to shut down huge amounts of agriculture or greatly reduce its profitability. It would be devastating to a lot of these areas."

At present there are two methods thought to help the nitrate leeching. One technique is to only plant crops that require more nitrogen. The other is to use nitrate-contaminated groundwater for irrigation purposes partially cleansing the polluted groundwater. Both techniques show some promise

Restore the Delta has asked for our help

At the April Board of Directors meeting I informed the board that Restore the Delta has asked for our help in writing two letters to Jared Huffman, Chairman of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee. Both of these pieces of legislation are critical for the understanding of the cost of a canal through the Delta and establishing new water flow criteria in the Delta that will protect our anadromous fish populations.

The first bill is AB 2421 (Berryhill) which asks for the Legislative Analyst's Office analysis before the construction of a peripheral canal. It is hard to believe the State is proceeding with trying to build one of the largest projects ever constructed in California with no idea of its cost.

The second bill, AB 1813 (Buchannan), is calling for the "establishment of flow criteria established by the State Water Resources Control Board to ensure there is no lowering of water quality in the Delta channels and to include flows into, within, and out of the Delta channels that replicate conditions that existed when local and anadromous fish populations where at a healthy and self-sustaining level."

The first bill is critical for a clear understanding of what a potential peripheral canal will actually cost; the second bill is critical to protect our Delta fisheries. At our Board of Director's meeting I informed the board that as Conservation Chair I am writing letters of Delta Fly Fishers support of both bills. Your individual support in writing letters on both issues would also be greatly appreciated. When you write these letter please let me know.

Fax your letter to Assembly Member Jared Huffman, Chairman Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife, at 916-319-2106.

You can also send a letter via regular mail to:

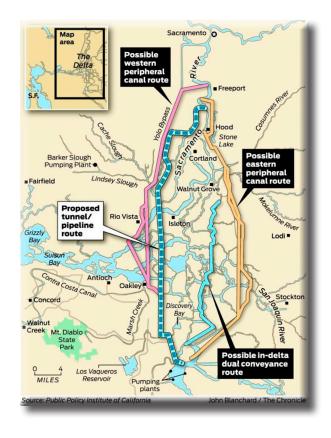
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Chairman Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife State Capitol, Room 3120 Sacramento, CA 95814 Go to Restore the Delta's website: http://restorethedelta.org for examples you can use, or use you own thoughts. Thank you!

Governor Brown and a Peripheral Canal

Despite our politician's consistent rhetoric about their beliefs in the rights of the American voter, they consistently do whatever it takes to abrogate those rights. Earlier this April Record staff writer Alex Breitler wrote an article titled "Agency to Adsorb Delta Council." Mr. Breitler's article is an excellent case in point.

When our former governor put groups and committees together to support and built a peripheral canal, all groups representing the Delta were systematically ignored and excluded. Under Jerry Brown this system continues.

Our legislature created the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) to act as an independent agency to audit what was going on with the Bay Delta Conservation Plan which is pushing for the canal at the expense of our fisheries and the environment. At this point the DSC is our only real voice to express our interest in protecting the Delta



However, in the last week in March Gov. Brown released his plan to "reorganize" the state's water bureaucracy. The plan is to make 5 agencies into 3. The idea is to streamline the state government. However, buried deep in the "reorganization" is a small section that will put the independent Delta Stewardship Council under the control of the State Resources Agency. If this occurs the DSC will lose all independence.

Bill Jennings of California Sportfishing Protection Alliance said "This is kind of a stealth move. It's not been publicly announced, it's not been vetted, it's not been analyzed. Clearly the legislature had intended this (council) to be an independent body to evaluate proposals brought before it."

Brown wants to take away DSC's independence by placing them under State Resources Agency. That's Brown's concept of streamlining. The final decision will be made April 25th by the Little Hoover commission.

Ron Forbes, Conservation Chair

May 12, White Pines One Fly Contest

Delta Fly Fishers has been challenged again! Chose a fellow DFF'er and join the Calaveras Fly Fishers at White Pines Lake for the most fish and the largest fish contest using only one fly!

The event starts at 7:00am with registration (\$25) at White Pines Lake in Arnold Fishing begins at 9:00am with each



club member contestants pairing up.
Basic rules:

Basic rules: Only one fly may be used during the contest.

All fish are to be released with numbers of fish and size

kept on the honor system.

Only trout may be counted for the most fish award.

Any fish over 16 inches may be measured and submitted for the largest fish award.

No motors, gas or electric, are allowed on the lake.

Fishing ends at 1:00pm with a tri-tip lunch (included in registration fee) to follow.

Awards will be given for the most trout caught and biggest fish caught following lunch.

The profits from the event are part of the Calaveras Fly Fisher's Scholarship Fund. The club issues a \$500 scholarship annually to a Bret Harte High School Senior intending to major in a conservation/fisheries/forestry field.

Important: The Calaveras Fly Fishers asks that our club forward what we believe to be the number of participants from our club so that they can order enough foodstuffs for the lunch.

PLEASE go to the Delta Fly Fisher's Facebook event page and click on "Join" if you plan on attending this event. We need to give a final count on Monday, May 7th. We will NOT have a general membership meeting before this contest is due.

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Fishing tip:

This winter was very mild producing only 5 storms with a few minor disturbances in between. April started out great with a lot of areas above 8000 feet starting to show large amounts of water, but mid month brought in a series of spring storms without much moisture except over the crest. Agencies that measure the snow pack have a difference of opinion as to the water content, but all I can see if around 3-4 feet of snow at around 9700 feet at Virginia Lakes. Wind drifted snow is normally deeper in the trees. Any additional moisture below that elevation soaked right into the ground. DWP reported 37% of normal for early February which was better than the January water content of 19% of normal.

Spring finally hit the Sierra with night temperatures in the high 30's to low 40's but until the temp increases substantially run off won't start to crank up.

Eastern Sierra weather can be unpredictable so come prepared and bring extra layers of clothing, and don't forget the bug



juice as the mosquitoes have had all winter to learn the art of camouflage.

Be safe if you walk in and around desert brush, and watch for rattlesnakes.

News - DFG reported that AB7 is still driving some increases. Hot Creek is still only stocking mud-snail positive waters. The secondary well at Fish Springs killed approximately 40K fish when DWP did maintenance on the main well assuming the secondary was capable of supplying enough water to the one raceway. Overall increase of stocking is expected but it depends on a lot of factors related to the current economy, but it does look good.

Regulation changes for the West Walker and Crowley were submitted last fall and will be discussed this summer in Mammoth Lakes.

Remember to check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water concerning limits, size, and other restrictions.



LOWER OWENS is at 275cfs and producing nicely with #20 midges and scuds according to Dave at the Fly Shop (Bishop).

ROCK CREEK is frozen and you can get right to the ice but it may be unstable opening weekend. Road was plowed the 17th of April. There is a small section of open water at the southeast corner where the inlet is located. Try the stream near US 395 where it's accessible with standard nymphs or dries for the best action until more snow melts. Mosquito flats road is plowed but the gate is still locked.

CONVICT is simply beautiful and I saw some nice fish, really nice fish under the bridge getting some rays awaiting the deli. Trails are clear for almost 2 miles and they are ready for

CROWLEY ice free and ready for opener with over 500,000 fish stocked last fall, a lot were fingerlings- but a good portion will be in the 12" range by opener. These trout were stocked into November last year at 6 to the pound, 4,000 pounds of rainbows, two to the pound and they still have browns, cutthroats and Eagle Lake bows earmarked for the lake. Also they have been holding 150,000 to 180,000 pounds of bows to be stocked just before opening weekend.

MAMMOTH BASIN road crew hit the asphalt and is working on the road now. Lake Mary has blue ice meaning it's starting to get thinner but no open water.

SAN JOAQUIN is projected to open by May 11 with Reds Meadow road to Devils Postpile by the 29th.

JUNE LAKE loop has been open most of the winter. The June Lake cage culture program did not raise fish this past winter due to a technical problem. Try some streamers in dark patterns using quick action near weedy areas by the west end of the lake. There are a lot of deer moving into in the area, so stay alert and avoid wrecking your vacation.

GULL LAKE iced out very early and was stocked for the opener. Try streamers, buggers and a dropper near the reeds. SILVER LAKE also iced out late March and stocked but I'd hit the smaller areas of the inlet and outlet for browns cruising for larger morsels to fill whet their appetites...

GRANT LAKE is on the low side anticipating the run-off, but that's still a lot of water to fish, try the south shore or the inlet for fish cruising for smaller fish. Check with Ernie's or the Grant Lake Marina for specifics.

LUNDY \sim Road is open to the second gate. But resort will not be open until early June from the latest report. You can walk in the last 1 ½ miles and try the ponds for some great dry fly action or the inlet on the mountain side of the resort. Water is down a bit.

VIRGINIA LAKES road has been open all winter (a first in my 36 years there), and the County plowed the circle at Big Virginia for ice fishermen on the 6th. Big Virginia is free of snow but has water on top the ice in the south west corner of the lake with dark spots. Little Virginia has very little water at the inlet and outlet. Ice may only be safe from 5am to 7am,

so use extreme caution when going out on the lake.

TRUMBLE LAKE may have some open water in time for opener so Tubers might get some action, but it depends on the intensity of the heat in the next week

EAST WALKER flow is at 128cfs and coming up slowly, and the reservoir will rise so the flows can increase on a moderate scale instead of flushing everything down the pike. I scouted the area and found midges everywhere. San Juan worms, birds nests, tiny zebra midges, WD40's, and Tail-water Tiny all in micro sizes (20 & 22). Be sure and stop in at Ken's for the exact pattern of the day.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR is fairly high and clear. Water has been stocked and DFG bows are ready. A huge load from the hatchery will hit the water Wednesday and more are expected to be stocked before Saturday.

WEST WALKER flow is 316cfs but it's early, it will get

higher as the temps increase and runoff kicks in.

TIOGA PASS ~ The Park Service started on April 15th and they are moving fairly fast. The road will be open to the park entrance by



opening weekend, but the weather and road condition is the main factor.

SONORA PASS – Crews are working hard from both sides. No predicted date as of today.

MONITOR PASS opened on the 8th of April. See you on the water, CJ (12.4)





DFF OFFICERS 2012

President Marty Kjelson 209-477-9618 **Vice President** John Highsmith 209-369-3251 **Secretary** Sallye Rollans 209-274-0448 Treasurer John Keagy 209-369-5690 **DIRECTORS** Joe Balderston 209-649-0291 Ron Forbes 209-368-5767 Bill Laughlin 209-477-6644 Jerry Neuburger 209-369-5752 Mike Riley 209-483-9534 Bruce Rollans 209-274-0448 Jason Stapleton 209-334-9201 Larry Schmidt 209-482-8742 Earl Summers 209-957-6756 COMMITTEES **Education** Joe Balderston 209-649-0291 Newsletter Herman Spalinger 209-477-3412 Conservation/NCCFFF Member Ron Forbes 209-368-5767 Historian/Property **VACANT Membership** Bob Fujimura 209-339-0683 **Outings** Earl Summers 209-957-6756 Larry Schmidt 209-482-8742 **Programs** Al Smatsky 209-368-9261 **Bob Sousa** 209-368-2683 **Publicity VACANT Raffles** Bill Laughlin 209-477-6644 **Catfish Derby (June)** Earl Summers 209-957-6756 **Trout Bout (November)** 209-369-6053 Charlie Reames **Bob McMillan Trout Bout** (February)

209-956-1032

209-956-1032

Steve Cooper

Steve Cooper

Fishing Mentor Program

Membership Form

Regular membership – \$30 * Family membership – \$35* Senior (individuals 62 years or older) – \$25.00* *Add \$10 to receive a printed newsletter by U.S. materials.	ail
Dues are for one year, from September 1 to August fill out then mail to: Bob Fujimura, Membership Chairman PO Box 1562 Lodi, CA 95241-1562	31. Please
Check one: New membership Renew membership Regular Membership Senior Membership (62+) Family Membership	
NameSpouse	_
Address State Zip	
City State Zip	
Phone: Home ()	
Cell (
Work (
**For receiving monthly e-mail attached newsletter	rs and club
notices	
I would like to be on the	committee
Please enclose any dues as a check made to Delta F If there is any questions or problems please contact	ly Fishers.

USED ITEMS FOR SALE

1 St. Croix Model UFT996 rod. This is the Legend Ultra 9 and 1/2 foot 6 wt. 3 piece rod with cloth covered tube. It is a very good nymphing rod, used, but has been well care for by original owner. \$130

1 Teton Model 4 full cage fly reel loaded with 20# dacron backing and Scientific Angler Mastery WF3F line. Never used. \$150.

Call Bruce Rollans at 209 274-0448

Releasing Eggs from the Classroom Teacher Joe Balderston





Let's make sure we have one in there



Is that smolt smiling for the camera?



Joe's class gives a big THANK YOU for the opportunity to raise salmon for release

Yuba River Outing March 31, 2012



The Lunch Pavillion



We couldn't get warm inside fast enough



Let's get the hamburgers going!



Fly of the Month Tying Sessions

A series of five fly tying sessions featuring flies recommended for each month's outing will start on March 28th. For a fee of \$3.00, club members and their guests will be furnished with the supplies to tie one to two patterns with materials for from six to eight flies and provided with instruction on how the flies are tied. Members may either use their own tying equipment or the one of the dozen or so club's kits. All classes will start at 6:30pm at the Oak Grove Park Nature Center on either the first or fourth Wednesday of the month. The sessions are expected to last about an hour and a half.

Material packets will be available for 15 tiers. To assure a seat at the session, those wishing to attend are ENCOURAGED to use the club's FACEBOOK event feature to sign up. Simply click on the events link on the left side of the Delta Fly Fishers, Inc. Facebook page (easiest reached from the Facebook link on the right side of the address bar on the club's website) and once the list of events appears click on "join" at the right side of the proper event. A second method of RSVPing is to contact the instructor for the particular session you plan to attend. Since the number of packets available is limited to 15, priority will be given to those who first have signed up for the session.

The list of session dates, flies and instructors are:

May 2nd – Shad Fly Session One – Instructor: Al Smatsky or Jerry Neuburger

May 23rd – Shad Fly Session Two – Instructor: Al Smatsky or Jerry Neuburger

----OOo----



SteveCooper's Flies



The infamous Red Rider



Al Smatsky
619 W. Pine Street
Lodi, CA 95240
(209) 368-9261
www.excellentadventures.org
Licensed and Bonded Guide
California License # 2427

Excellent Adventures

Excellent Adventures is a unique and complete fly fishing travel business serving your needs since 1994.









Delta Fly Fishers
Rx Flyfishing Newsletter
PO Box 77862
Stockton, CA 95207-7862
A Not-For-Profit Organization

www.deltaflyfishers.com

