

# Delta Fly Fishers

April 2012

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Flyfishing

## President's Message by Marty Kjelson

Greetings, fellow Flyfishers. We are to be pleased with the recent rain and snow which will give us a little more flow to our streams, lakes and delta. Hope for a wet April too. Late February and then March had us enjoying some good activities with the Flyfishing show at Pleasanton, our Budget completion for 2012, a variety of new plans for flytying and technique classes and outings. I really enjoyed the talks at Pleasanton, particularly those on carp fishing, San Lewis Reservoir, Lake Davis, and stillwater tips. Carp fishing appears to be very challenging and I look forward to really doing it in 2012 after procrastinating for the last few years. They call it the poor man's bonefish but even more spooky. We have plenty of carp water to chase these big guys. I'd appreciate any local tips from those of you that have had any success with them. I also learned some good tips for San Luis Reservoir from Dan Blanton. He suggested for those of us with small craft to fish the shorelines near the two main boat ramps both near shore and out to 25' of water.

Mark Delabarre and I fished it in early March and graphed fish but found no takers. We got blown off in about 2-3 hours yet felt that it's worth a return. The main concern is that it can get very windy in the spring and summer particularly, so great caution is needed. There are some really big Stripers in the lake and they are quite numerous. We also found some protected bays on the south shore that could be fished from shore. If you go, make sure your craft is totally dry as they inspect closely for zebra clams.

A number of us attended the flyfishing film in Modesto on March 22nd and really enjoyed it, and it was for a good cause, i.e. "Casting for Recovery". While I won't be able to attend the Yuba outing, Fishmeister Herman Spalinger has worked



at preparing for a good time. The only concern is high water that is starting to drop at this writing.

Al Smatsky has scouted things out for the Kelsey Ranch trip and believes it should be good on April 8. Larry Mettler is preparing for our Pyramid Lake adventure in late April. Jerry Neuberger fished it the third week of March and found it slow, but by the end of April the fish should be in close to shore to spawn. Our speaker for April, Rob Anderson, should give us the latest information on the lake.

I enjoyed a Wednesday evening of fly tying and encourage all of you to come out and learn from the many expert tiers we have in the club. Bill Laughlin gave me some great tips on how to tie the caddis sparkle pupa pattern by Gary La Fontaine. I look forward to our upcoming tying classes. Our speaker for March, Frank Pisciotta, gave us some good guidelines as to where to fish in the challenging North Tahoe area. His handout on "Fishing Tips for the Two Truckee Rivers" was excellent and should enable us to have an edge on the trout of these waters. My experience there has been humbling, yet with the new information, particularly regarding the use of tiny flies (18 to 24's), I'm ready to go.

Have a couple good reads. One, "The White Fly", which I really enjoyed, but it may be out of print, and, two, "Royal Wolf by Mc Mafferey." Both are novels. If you've also read some good flyfishing books let us know so we can also enjoy and learn about them. I continue to learn from "The California FlyFisher" and more recently a courtesy copy of "Sierra Fisherman" I picked up at the Pleasanton show.

Finally, two members fishing on Sunday morning were feeling pretty guilty, especially since the fish didn't bite. One said to the other, "I guess I should have stayed home and gone to church." To which the other member replied lazily, "I couldn't have gone to church anyway. My wife's sick in bed." Have a good month and enjoy each other's company.

Marty

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## FUTURE EVENTS SCHEDULE

**April 4 - Fly of the Month Fly Tying Session**

**April 7 - Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing**  
A private water lake all to ourselves, lunch included!

**April 11 - General Membership Meeting**  
Rob Anderson, Truckee River Outfitters,  
"Fishing Pyramid Lake"

**April 18 - DFF Board Meeting**

**April 25 - Fly of the Month Fly Tying Session**

**April 26-29 - Pyramid Lake Outing**

**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**

**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 - 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**

## APRIL 7th - KELSEY BASS RANCH

Our Annual Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing will be held Saturday, April 7th, 2012. Kelsey Bass Ranch is located about 28 miles east of Turlock, and 5 miles east of Snelling, CA. Kelsey Lake is a 125 acre impoundment stocked with trophy size Florida Black Bass.

**Past outings:** Last year we had good weather and pretty good fishing. A few anglers reported catching a fair amount of bass but no one had a big number day. Typically, the spring can turn cold, putting the fish down until mid day. Some good top water action can be had when the water warms up. You will want to fish the heavy cover along the shoreline, whether you are in a floating craft or walking the shoreline. A good choice is a dragonfly nymph or weedless popper. For those of you fishing further out in the lake, an effective pattern is a woolly bugger or something similar.



You may sign up any time by emailing [algorithms@softcom.net](mailto:algorithms@softcom.net) or calling Al Smatsky at (209) 368-9261, or you can sign up at the March meeting. The cost for this year's outing is \$85 per person. This outing is by reservation only. A map with directions and a combination to the front gate will be sent upon receiving

your reservation. A barbeque lunch prepared by Al is included in your entry fee.

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### Used Items For Sale

- 1 pr Cabela's Neoprene boot foot chest waders, size 9 stout - \$50
- 1 pr Patagonia wading boots w/felt soles & cleats, size 8 - \$25
- 1 pr Patagonia flats boots, size 10 - \$22
- 1 pr Reddington wading boots w/felt soles & cleats, size 10 - \$18

Contact Bruce Rollans @ 209-274-0448

## APRIL 11th SPEAKER

Rob Anderson grew up in Virginia and was fishing from the time he can remember. At the age of 9, he learned to fly fish. From that point on he, along with his two brothers, fly fished small farm ponds for bass and pan fish as much as possible.

After college Rob pursued his other passion, golf, by working in that business for 15 years. During this time, he had headed west and settled in Lake Tahoe. In 1997, while still working in the golf industry, he was reintroduced to fly fishing by his friend Chris Evison. Chris taught him the art of fly fishing for trout in moving water. His love of the sport was reborn!

In early 2001 Rob had a serious accident while fly fishing on the Yuba River. An innocent slip on the water left him with a shattered ankle. After emergency surgery successfully repaired his ankle, he was left with months of intense rehabilitation which forced him to temporarily leave the golf business. In the free time that he had, he regularly visited the Reno Fly Shop where he began learning how to tie flies from Andy Burk (he is now a Signature Fly Designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants with over 20 patterns tied commercially). In the fall of 2001, the Reno Fly Shop offered Rob a part-time job which shortly thereafter turned into a full-time position managing the retail store, private waters program and guide business.

In 2003 Rob started focusing on more exotic trips which has also created a fly fishing travel business highlighted by Peacock Bass fishing in Brazil. Rob's trips to the Amazon continue to be on most fly fishing angler's "bucket list". It was in 2003 that Rob pursued his interest in guiding at Pyramid Lake. He attended a Paiute Indian tribal council meeting and ultimately became the first non-tribal fly fishing guide. Since that time, he has guided hundreds of anglers from the basic beginner to the avid fly fisher looking to learn the ropes at Pyramid Lake.

Rob's love of Pyramid Lake has also driven him to design Pyramid-specific flies which have increased the popularity of nymphing at the lake. Two of these flies are the Maholo Fly and Maholo nymph. Through the Reno Fly Shop Private Waters program, Rob was able to incorporate his passion for food into the guiding experience. This unique offering sets guide trips with Rob apart from all others. Pyramid Lake is the perfect setting for clubs and groups to get together. Rob now has a program designed for larger groups at Pyramid Lake. It includes beach side breakfast and lunch and guided fly fishing for parties of 10 or more. Meals are gourmet and can be things like Biscuits and Gravy, Turkey Noodle Soup, Venison Burgers, and much more. There are currently 4 Fly clubs that have Rob host their outing at Pyramid Lake including the Orange County fly fishers who have been on board for 6 years and have had as many as 17 anglers at their Pyramid Lake outing.

Rob resides in Reno, Nevada, and currently has his own fly fishing travel business and is the lead guide for Truckee

River Outfitters. He regularly does speaking engagements



on Pyramid Lake and other Northern Nevada and California waters and continues to guide and host in the Reno/Tahoe area. Rob is always willing and ready to educate fly fishing enthusiasts and can be reached at [rob\\_renoflyshop@](mailto:rob_renoflyshop@sbglobal.net)

[sbglobal.net](mailto:rob_renoflyshop@sbglobal.net).

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## 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. mail

Dues are for one year, from September 1 to August 31. Please fill out then mail to:

Bob Fujimura, Membership Chairman

PO Box 1562

Lodi, CA 95241-1562

Check one:

New membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renew membership \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Senior Membership (62+) \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ \* \*

\*\*For receiving monthly e-mail attached newsletters and club notices

I would like to be on the \_\_\_\_\_ committee

Please enclose any dues as a check made to Delta Fly Fishers.

If there is any questions or problems please contact: Bob

Fujimura at 339-0683 or e-mail at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com).

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## April 26-29, Pyramid Lake 40 miles N/E Reno on Hwy. 445.

**Fishmeister:** Larry Mettler, 209-481-6478.

**Website:** <http://www.pyramidlake.us>

**Species:** Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

**Fishing license:** \$9 one day, \$74 season, other combinations available on-line.

**Hotel Accommodations:** Larry will arrange accommodations at the Nugget in Reno at a special rate for DFFers attending this outing, cost somewhere between \$30 and \$40 per night, two to a room. Plans for dinner Thursday night are at the Basque restaurant in Sparks, and at the Nugget smorgy on Friday.

**Camping:** \$9 per day, permit available on-line.

The western lake shore is open to dry camping. An RV park with hookups, seldom used, is available at Sutcliffe Pyramid Lake Store

Carla & George Molino  
29555 Pyramid Highway  
Sutcliffe, NV 89510  
775-476-0555  
FishPyramid.com

**Supplies:** Fishing licenses, flies, fishing supplies, snacks and some groceries, gasoline and propane are available at the Pyramid Lake Store on Hwy. 445, as you approach the lake.

### Recommended Equipment:

7 weight rod, floating and quick sinking lines. 6 foot ladder.

Flies:

Pyramid Lake Woolly worm

Pyramid Lake Beetle

Pyramid Lake Tadpole

Snow cone midge

Mahalo nymph

Damsel and Dragon fly nymphs

### Fishing regulation highlights:

- 2 barbless hooks per line.
- Artificial only.
- South and North nets closed from March 15th to May 16th.
- Fishing permitted from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

Two fish may be kept, see the slot limit for sizes.

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## Fishing for Dinosaurs by Jerry Neuburger

As I lay in my bed in my trailer, the whole structure felt as if it was being shoved around by mastodons. It rocked and rolled and squeaked and creaked as the 40 mph wind gusted and blustered over its 16 foot length. I looked through the closed venetian blinds but could see nothing in the darkness, not even a headlight on the highway a mile away or a glint of a reflection off the water. I had set my trailer up on the wide open beach at Pyramid Lake's South Nets. I was parked parallel to the water about 75 feet away from the sandy shore. The gas flame in the refrigerator and the pilot light on the water heater had blown out a few hours earlier but the flame on the forced air heater was deep inside the trailer and still working. I flipped on the light and looked at the outside temperature on the onboard weather station as another wave of sand-filled air washed over the trailer rocking it. Thirty-eight degrees! Warmer outside than I had believed. The same weather panel showed a nice and toasty 73 inside the trailer.

I fell back into bed, spread my arms and legs out, and waited for the next gust. I must have fallen asleep since when I next looked out images on the outside of the trailer were taking shape. Although I would have sworn I was the only one on the beach the night before, I could see a line of ladders with anglers perched on top 50 yards out in the lake, the water now flat calm. I put a pot of coffee on the burner, brushed my teeth and dug around for my long johns, sweat pants, and four layers of shirts and sweaters.

Fifteen minutes later I opened the door, stepped out, pulled my waders on and my half frozen flats boots over the waders. I had stowed my rods in my van. I opened the door and grabbed the one with the T-8 line, woolly worm and beetle rig. My ladder hadn't blown away. I grabbed the top step and dragged it behind me and out into the lake, looking for a hole in the line of the twenty-plus anglers that had mysteriously appeared in the early morning light.

The water was crystal clear and I could see the sandy bottom as I plodded out to a fairly wide opening between a fly guy on my right and a spin fisherman on my left. I set the ladder up with the steps on the lake side, plastic stripping bucket hanging on the left and my long handled net attached by a rope on the right. I stepped around to the front and backed up the rungs until I was sitting on the top step, stripped out 70 feet of line and head and cast the rig straight out, watching the line lay down progressively as the loop rolled out.

As I waited for the line to sink to the bottom, I glanced to my right. I could see two rods bent down the line, fish splashing in the water as they neared the anglers stripping or reeling them in. On the fourth cast the line just stopped and straightened as I started a strip. I added a little emphasis on the strip to set the hook and raised the rod tip. Fish on! Not big. Well, maybe bigger than I thought. It's on the reel. A few minutes later it was at the ladder. At three pounds too small to net so I just stepped down the ladder and held it alongside my left thigh as I reached into its mouth and pulled the white and chartreuse beetle from its lower lip.

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Back up on the ladder and six casts later I'm hooked up again. The fish runs parallel to the shore and after about 30 seconds my line goes slack. Damn, that felt like a big fish! I guess I didn't set up hard enough on that bony jaw. Another ten casts, another fish. This time the fish comes in, about four pounds, respectable but no monster. I've been on the ladder for a half hour. Time to go in have a cup of coffee, take a pee and maybe make a bowl of oatmeal and then repeat the whole thing over again. I'll be here for the next three days. I've got plenty of time and the lake is fishing well.



**Jerry's Brother-in-law Joe with a 9 pound Lahanton Cutthroat - April, 2009**

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#### Bob McMillan Trout Bout

(February)

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

#### Fishing Mentor Program

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

### Fishing Mentor Request

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE CONTACTS: (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

The best time to contact me is \_\_\_\_\_

My E-mail address is: \_\_\_\_\_

**I WOULD LIKE A FISHING MENTOR TO HELP ME WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- Casting    Fly Tying    Attending Outings    Equipment  
 Knot Tying    Float Tubing    Pontoon Boating  
 Stream Fishing    Lake Fishing    Trout Fishing  
 Steelhead Fishing    Shad Fishing    Bass Fishing  
 Striper Fishing    Salt Water Fishing    Private Water Fishing  
 Rod Building    Selecting a Guide    Travel  
 Entomology    Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe what you would like help with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**If you need further information, please contact the Fishing Mentor Chairman:**

Steve Cooper, 956-1032 or e-mail @ [repuoc3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:repuoc3@sbcglobal.net)

Mail the form to: Delta Fly Fishers

P.O. Box 77862 Stockton, CA 95207

## Conservation Issues

"I've gone fishing a thousand times in my life, and I have never felt unlucky or poorly paid for those hours on the water" Walter Tapply

Given our clubs upcoming trip to the Lower Yuba River, I thought this would be a good place to start this month's conservation newsletter. In early March the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released their biological opinion that Daguerre Point and Englebright Dam both pose a threat to the survival of salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon on the Lower Yuba River. It has ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that these fish are able to bypass both structures.

By March 1st, 2014, the Corps must start a program to trap and transport these fish around both dams. The order stops short of ordering the dam removal. This "trap and transport" step is a temporary fix to the situation. By January 31st, 2020, the Corps is required to have a permanent solution in place. There are three options available: These are permanent trucking the fish around the dams, building fish ladders, or removal of the dams.



In doing research I found some interesting facts about the dams: Englebright Dam was built by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1941, is 280 ft. tall, and contains 70,000 acre-feet of water. The dams were not built for flood control, drinking water, farming or electricity. In the 30's and 40's there was a

proposed resumption of hydraulic mining in the rivers east of the dam's location. The dam's only purpose was to stop erosion and debris from being washed downstream as it had in earlier hydraulic mining. Fortunately, this type of mining was not started again. However, the Corps did not build fish ladders on either of the two dams. This failure prevents fish passage to all three forks of the Yuba and is a loss of hundreds of miles of pre-existing steelhead and salmon habitat.

There is another problem with the dams. During the hydraulic mining period, large amounts of mercury was used in the extraction of gold. No real efforts were used to prevent escape of mercury into the environment or remove the mercury from the environment so much of it remains trapped in the sediment and the debris at Englebright Dam. In the latter 90's tissue samples from fish above Englebright showed mercury levels of 0.3ppm. Some samples of the tissue approached 1.0 ppm, which approaches the Department of Food and Drug Administration's level of concern.

The Corps chief of Operations in Sacramento claims that NMFS is requiring them to go beyond the Corps' legal

mandate. According to them, "Fish passage is not in our authorization at Englebright; it's not part of the project's purpose; it's not something we are going to be able to just do." There are several questions the Corps should have to answer: First, since the sole purpose of the dam was to prevent the damages from hydraulic mining that never took place, why does the dam need to exist and be maintained? Second, since the Corps has helped destroy part of our salmon and steelhead fishery, why aren't they responsible to re-establish that fishery?

### HR 1837 Update

As you know HR1837 passed the House of Representatives along party lines. Unfortunately, two South Valley Democrats, Jim Costa, D-Fresno, and Dennis Cardoza, D-Atwater, joined South Valley Republicans and voted for the so-called San Joaquin Reliability Act. Given their districts' locations, their vote is not surprising. The bill now moves to the senate where it will face revisions in committee. One of the provisions proposed in the bill would kill the San Joaquin River restoration plan. At this point most feel that this part of HR1837 will not make it out of committee. The bill's chief author, Delvin Nunes, R-Visalia, is not a favorite of Sen. Feinstein's having said she allied herself with radical environmentalists and hippies. He proceeded to attack her on being a hypocrite on water issues. At present there are no committee meetings scheduled between Feinstein and Nunes concerning his bill. In a letter from the Natural Resources Committee, they point out what HR 1837 passage would mean to us in California on a national and state level. It also addresses problems other states will have.

#### At the National level:

It will destroy the 100 years' standing of existing states' water rights. This will leave all states' water rights under federal control thru the Bureau of Reclamation. Seventeen western states (including California) will have lost their ability to control, use, appropriate, or distribute its irrigation water. It will stop West Coast states from working together to restore our salmon population.

#### At the state level:

- It will forbid California using its own water code and our State Constitution in dealing with water issues;
- It will cause more legal uncertainty for affected communities;
- It repeals the legally binding San Joaquin River Settlement Act and prohibits federal participation in the Act;
- It destroys 18 years of the coalitions work;
- It would change all water contract renewals from 25 years to 40 years. Water will no longer belong to the public but will be a de facto privatization of our water resources.
- It takes a step backward by changing the Endangered Species Act (ESA) from current higher standards to 1994 standards. The older standards ignore current science that shows the decline and negative effect of the environment on our species.

HR 1837 is nothing more than an attempt at a water grab for his corporate sponsors, Westland Water District, Metropolitan

Water District, Kern County Land Company, and the Stewart Resnicks et.al. The best result for HR 1837 is that the bill dies in Senate committee. However, Feinstein is having meetings with the House and she has recently slipped language into a bill that benefits her major supporter, Stewart Resnick. The most probable course at this point is that HR1837 will be reissued in a more mild form.

We need to keep watch on this bill. This Republican House has tried to pass more anti-environmental legislation (over 190 bills) than any other group in our nation's history. It's interesting that the Nunes-McCarthy-Denham group that authored HR1837 have in the past claimed to be strongly pro-state's rights. However, when their corporate masters tell them to jump, they come out with the most anti-state's rights legislation we have ever seen from our California members in the House of Representatives. Last week I heard a speaker comment that Nunes and his group were rather liberal, but that is only with their use of honesty and the truth.

#### The Natural Resources and Water Committee Meeting in Sacramento

On March 13th, State Senator Fran Pavley held a meeting of the Natural Resources and Water Committee for a discussion of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and the Delta Plan at the state capitol. Restore the Delta asked those of us interested in stopping the attempt to build a peripheral canal attend and make our voices heard. As usual the only people on the agenda were Southern California Water Districts, Westlands Water District,, Department of Water Resources, and like groups who will benefit from a peripheral canal. Only 3 of the 9 members of the committee bothered to show.

The BDCP is undergoing its 5th revision after its many flaws have been pointed out despite the fact BDCP and the Delta Plan have been railroaded along without any input from any Delta residences, businesses, urban leaders, fisherman and farmers who have been excluded in this entire process. Many angry people attended the committee meeting to show Sen. Pavely their anger with this process and the BDCP. The room was filled to capacity, and a large number had to watch the proceedings in the hall on TV.

Many pro Delta groups attended, including Local Agencies of the North Delta (LAND), 11 North Delta Water Agencies, environmental and fishing groups, the mayor of Stockton, and citizens who will be negatively affected by a peripheral canal. After public input, the meeting was adjourned with the understanding that a new draft of the BDCP must be completed. The fight goes on.

#### Update on Suction Dredging

Last week I spoke with Bill Carnazzo (NCCFFF's representative on suction dredging) about the current status of the suction dredging issue. Bill said that late this week or early next litigation will be filed against DFG to prevent dredging under DFG's proposed regulation changes. DFG's lack of reasonable time for public comment (only 17 days) has

angered many groups and is causing an equally fast litigation to be filed. Many of the litigants in the last action will be involved in this one, including a Native American tribe from the Klamath River. One of the plaintiffs has found that DFG has not done any new analysis for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The judge that heard the last action and found in our favor will preside in this case. Hopefully that's good news.

Also, Bill told me that he had gone fishing on a tributary of the American River several weeks ago and a helicopter flew over him and landed a short distance away. Gear had been left. And as he drove up to check things out, two men got into the helicopter and left leaving one man on the ground with the gear. There was a car nearby and when Bill asked the fellow what he was doing the man said he didn't know what his friends were up to, he was "just there to help them." When Bill told him the gear looked like suction dredging equipment, the man told him he really didn't know what it was used for. But when Bill told the man suction dredging was illegal, the man insisted it was now legal because DFG had come out with new regulations. In the following few minutes Bill told the fellow the proposed regulations had yet to be changed that what they were doing was illegal under state law and that they had illegally landed a helicopter in a National Forest which is under federal law. He got the car's license number and contacted the US Forest Service. The USFS was very angry with the news and left to check the situation out. It will be interesting to hear the outcome.

Ron Forbes, Conservation Chair

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## Salmon in the classroom by Joe Balderston

What do salmon eat? How big do they get? What do they do when they go to the ocean? When is recess? What does a fish say when he swims into a wall?

These and many other questions were answered over the course of our salmon unit starting in January with the delivery of eggs. Fifty eggs were brought to the classroom, shown to the students, then placed into an aquarium. The temperature was kept at a steady 50 degrees Fahrenheit thanks to the chiller purchased with funds from the Delta Fly Fishers club.

Students took turns checking the temperature each day. They also learned to test the water for safe nitrate levels and changed the water as needed. Excitement developed as the eggs hatched into alevin: "Ooh, they look like part egg, part fish". The alevin hid in the river cobbles in the aquarium and liked the dark. The next stage in their growth was the most exciting: each time the insulating cover was pulled off little fish scattered from front and center of the tank to find a place to hide. The students gasped with surprise as the babies went in all directions at once. "They're so fast!" Another student who broke his usual silence said, "Dude! It looks like fireworks, like, that was cool!"

The family day at the river was March 3. We met at the park near the hatchery and students posed for a photo before releasing each salmon fry. Most kids took off their shoes to wade into the 50 degree water. Some families ate picnic lunches, some headed off to the Jackson area, some went home, but most visited the hatchery. The raceways held millions of fry. Clouds of young fish cleared away as the shadow of the students passed by.

As far as I know, there are two schools in Stockton raising salmon in the classroom under supervision from the Delta Fly Fishers. This was our fourth year at Hazelton and we are at 98% survival rate.



## Back on the Yuba

Friday, March 2, I awoke at 2 a.m. For those of you in your 70's you know this experience. I finally got up at 4 a.m. as we were scheduled to meet our guide for the day, Keith Kaneko, in Marysville at 6:30 a.m.

Going out to the truck at 5 a.m., Sallye and I noticed what has not been a frequent event over the past few years - dense fog. We could not see the house directly across the street. The drive to highway 16 usually takes all of 14 minutes. This morning it lasted 34 minutes. Sallye attempted to call Keith to advise we would likely be late. It was then she found only a portion of his cell number was captured in her cell address book.

The fog cleared at Rancho Murieta. The traffic was light and we were only a few minutes late.

Keith took us onto private property leased out to one realtor who allows access via an annual membership fee. When Sallye began getting her wading gear out, she discovered I had brought two pair of my wading boots, none of hers. She had to struggle helping me get into my stocking foot waders, finding the feet especially difficult. Only after putting on my boots and standing did I discover the wader shoulder straps were crossed in front of my chest. That's right. I had them on backward!

We finally launched about one half mile upstream of the UC Davis property across the river. The water clarity was only about 18 inches so we started indicator fishing with a Skwala Stonefly nymph above a San Juan Worm. This combination got absolutely no response. We then went to an orange Steelhead size egg with a green / yellow Sucker egg dropper. This was the ticket for the rest of the day.

We regularly had wild Rainbows and half pounder Steelhead with these flies on in what proved to be about an 8-mile float. The rainbows were not big shouldered like those on the Sacramento out of Redding, but they certainly fight hard and are so much better looking than hatchery fish.

We each ended the day with about 17 fish to the net and probably an equal number of early releases. I did land a Feather River Hatchery Steelhead hen that had lost her way and Sallye had one wild Rainbow within four feet of the boat that Keith and I agreed went 24-25 inches.

When we met Keith that morning, Sallye told him she was thinking of moving to Canada. You do not have to start fishing there until 10 a.m. At the end of the day she was reconsidering this move.

Finally, Sallye brought one hookup to the boat she claimed to be a wild Yuba River Rockfish. She got it on the Sucker egg. It weighted only one half pound. But she kept it.



## Fly of the Month Tying Sessions are Starting in March

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:

**March 28th – Gurgler and Dragon Fly Nymph –  
Instructor: Jerry Neuburger**

**April 4th – Building line systems with served loops  
Pyramid Lake Woolly Worm – Instructor:  
Jerry Neuburger**

**April 25th – Pyramid Lake Beetle, Pyramid Lake Tadpole  
Instructor: Jerry Neuburger**

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

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

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### Excellent Adventures

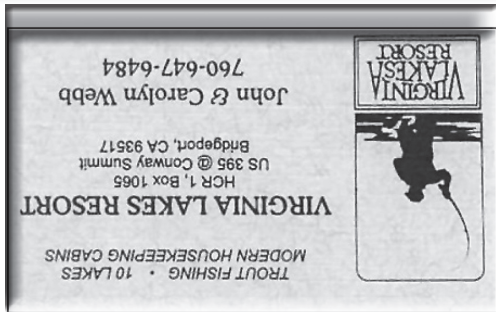
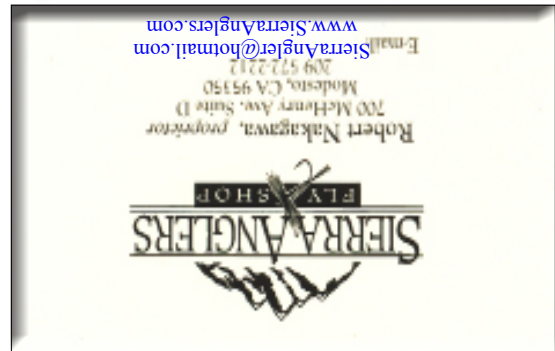
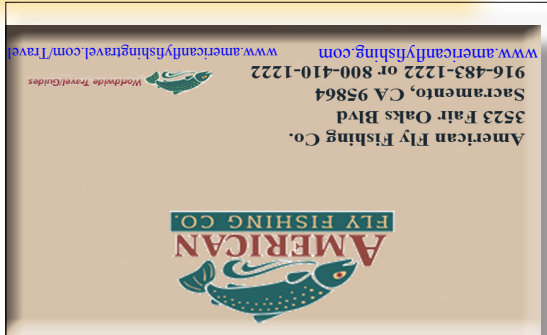
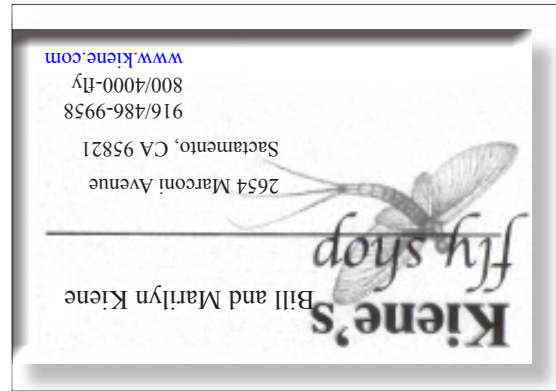
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