

December 2010

Delta Fly Fishers

Rx

Flyfishing

T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CADDIS BY RICHARD FRANK

Twas the night before Christmas when down by the stream
The full moon looked out on a chill winter scene.
A lone trout was sipping a midge in his brook,
Untroubled by worries of fishers with hooks.

Then from above a small sleigh did appear
Pulled by a brace of eight tiny reindeer.
It swerved of a sudden and down it did glide,
Settling its runners along the streamside.

The fat, jolly driver dove into his sled
And emerged with his three weight held high over head.
“Thank you my elves for this wand smooth as silk.
This break will be better than cookies and milk.”

So saying, he jumped from his sleigh with a chuckle,
Hiked up his boots and cinched up his belt buckle.
Santa meant business that cold winter's eve.
A fish he would catch - that you'd better believe.

Looking upstream and down, he spotted that trout,
Then he open his flybox and took something out -
“Size 32 midges are only for faddists
I'll go with my favorite tan reindeer caddis.”

So he cast out his line with a magical ease
And his fly floated down just as light as you please.
And it drifted drag free down the trout's feeding lane,
But the fish merely wiggled a fin of disdain.

“Oh Adams, oh Cahill, oh Sulphur, oh Pupa,
Oh Hopper, oh Coachman, oh Olive Matuka!
I've seen every fly in the book and the box.
I'm old and I'm wary and sly as a fox.

To catch me you'll need an unusual gift,
For a present this common no fin will I lift.”
Old Nick scratched his head for his time it grew short
The reindeer behind him did shuffle and snort.

He looked once again in his box for a fly
When a pattern compelling attracted his eye.
“The Rudolph!” he muttered and grinned ear to ear
“Far better to give than receive, so I hear.”

So he cast once again and his magic was true,
And the trout it looked up and knew not what to do.
“This fly has a body of bells don't you know,
And if that's not enough there's a shining red nose!

I know it's fraud and I know it's a fake,
But I can't help myself. It's a gift I must take!”
So he rose in swirl and captured that thing,
Flew off down the stream. Santa's reel it did sing.

“Ho!” shouted Santa, “You're making my day.
If the heavens were water, you'd be pulling my sleigh.”
So, Santa prevailed and released his great rival
First taking great care to ensure its survival.

He then mounted his sled and he flew out of sight
Shouting, “Merry Caddis to trout and to all a good night!”

DFF MENTOR PROGRAM

The Delta Fly Fishers Board of Directors, intent upon enhancing the existing Fishing Buddy Program, is proposing DFF adopt a Mentor Program which is proactive and broadly inclusive. The primary objective is, by sharing fly fishing skills and knowledge of existing DFF members with new members, this will assist new members in getting acquainted with existing members, with club activities and, generally speed the transition from new member to old friend.

The Board of Directors recognizes this will take considerable commitment from the existing membership and does encourage the active participation of current members. The following broad guidelines are thought to be necessary for this program.

- Every existing member willing to serve, as a Mentor will be asked to complete a skills/knowledge list that they will share with new members as requested. The Mentor Program Chairperson will maintain these documents.
- Every new member will be asked to complete a skills/knowledge request form, which the Mentor Program Chair will also maintain.
- The Mentor Program Chair will introduce any and all new members before the General Program begins and will make an effort to introduce the new members to DFF Officers and Board Members.
- Under consideration is the additional incentive for new members of some free raffle tickets.
- The Mentor Program Chair will follow up on matching a Mentor with a new member based on skills/knowledge sought and skills/knowledge available. The mentor and new member will work out a compatible schedule by which to transfer skills/knowledge. The Mentor Program Chair as needed can make reassessments.
- Examples of mentoring include such things as guiding a new member on local waters within a few months of assignment, accompany the new member to a local fly shop to assist with gear purchases, contact the new member a few days before each monthly meeting to remind the new member of the meeting and program, assisting with casting skills, how to tie useful knots and/or fly tying, sharing information regarding fly fishing destinations including basic travel tips and promoting new members to join DFF in its outings

Over time the Mentor Program may be extended to include existing members who want to learn new skills/knowledge.

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 @ repooc3@sbcglobal.net

Mail the form to:

Delta Fly Fishers

P.O. Box 77862

Stockton, CA 95207



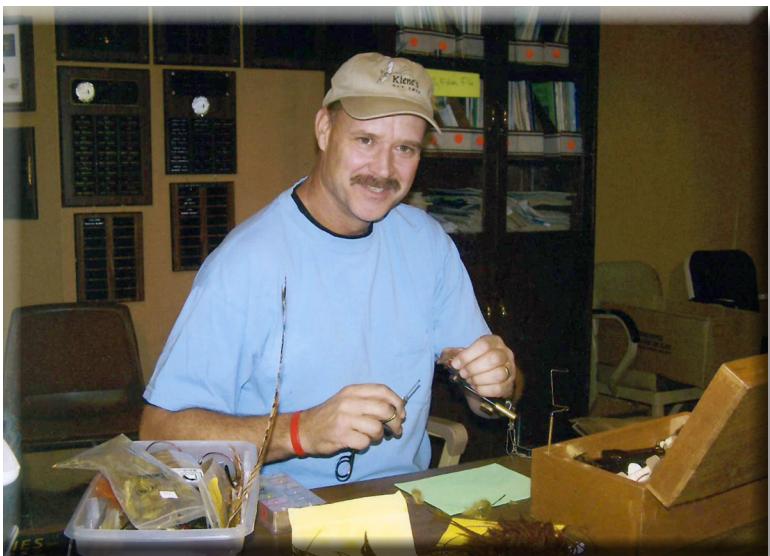
Robert Nakagawa, proprietor
700 McHenry Ave. Suite D
Modesto, CA 95350
(209) 572-2212
E-mail: SierraAngler@hotmail.com
www.SierraAnglers.com

Discount Pet Foods
“Great Place to Adopt and Shop”
“GREAT PET SHOP!”

1416 Country Club Blvd
Stockton, CA 95204
(209) 948-9491

1140 W Hammer Ln
Stockton, CA 95209
(209) 474-2195

Wednesday Night Fly Tying



Membership Form

Regular membership – \$30

Family membership – \$35

Senior (individuals 62 years or older) – \$25.00

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 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.



The weekly Wednesday evening fly casting sessions have ended but, will resume next Spring. But not all is lost. Meet Joe Balderston in the Nature Center, at Oak Grove Park, at 6:30 and do some fly tying. The exception is the 2nd Wednesday night when DFF has its monthly meeting.

Whether you are a novice and want tips on how to tie or an expert that wants an excuse to get out of the house, then come out for the camaraderie of other members. This is an excellent chance improve your fly tying and/or BS abilities. For more information contact Joe Balderston at 649-0291.

Membership

Bob Fujimura, Membership Chair

I want to thank those members who volunteered to switch their mail subscription of the monthly newsletter to email delivery. We were able to reduce our mail subscriptions from 60 to 32 and reduced our mailing and publishing costs proportionally. The email subscribers also enjoy colored and higher resolution version of these newsletters than the mailed version and they can receive them without the delays with printing and mailing.

Kudos to Steve Cooper and Bob Souza who presented a new members' orientation meeting in October. Several new members learned some basic instruction on starting equipment and knot tying.

The shorter day length has caused a seasonal break from our free Wednesday fly casting sessions but new members are welcome to come to fly tying sessions on these evenings. These sessions are also good opportunities to get to know the other club members and get the latest news of member's fishing trips.

Please welcome our newest member, Bill Repinski of Stockton, who joined at the Trout Bout.

We are encouraging all members to receive their newsletters by e-mail attachment or downloading them from our website to speed delivery and reduce circulation costs. If wish to receive your newsletters electronically, please contact Bob Fujimura by e-mail (deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or phone 339-0683.

If you need new or renewing membership forms, please download them from the DFF Membership website page at <http://www.deltaflyfishers.com/membership.html>.

Conservation

by Ron Forbes

The finest gift you can give to any fisherman is to put a good fish back and who knows if the fish you caught isn't someone else's gift to you? Lee Wolf

It looks like it's going to be a better year on the Mokelumne River this year as far the salmon-steelhead runs are concerned. East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) has laid down gravel beds for salmon spawning and has sent pulses of water downstream from Camanche to encourage the upstream migration of salmon and steelhead and to scour the gravel to provide better spawning beds for the fish. Some of the water pulses were around 2,500 cfs. As of November 26th, the water is moving at 800 cfs. Since early November I have made three trips to the hatchery to check out the runs.

Two years ago the salmon run was a disaster with just 396 salmon going through the hatchery. This year however, over 6,000 fish have passed Woodbridge and 3,577 fish have made it to the hatchery. From these fish over 5.76 million eggs have been harvested. These figures are accurate as of November 24th. William Smith, Hatchery Director for the Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG) told me they expect the week of Thanksgiving to the height of the run this year. As I walked down to the Mokelumne I saw small fish from 3-4 inches jumping. Smith explained that last year DFG kept some salmon eggs and has raised them in the hatchery. This month they have released 100,000 year old fingerlings into the Mokelumne. It's going to be interesting to see if this release will be able to make it thru the Delta and will be able to increase the number of salmon returns in the future.

The steelhead run doesn't look as good as it could be however. Last year about 60 steelhead were counted and this year the number could be better. As of mid-November only about 90 fish have been counted so far. By mid-December DFG should have an accurate count on how the runs have gone for 2010. When I can get accurate numbers I'll keep you posted.

The Propaganda Continues

This last month the Delta Fly Fishers were invited to attend the Modesto Fly Fishers meeting to hear Oakdale Irrigation District's general manager, Steven Knell, give his presentation "save the stan.com." His talk was on the alleged predation of the striped bass on native fish in the Stanislaus and in the Delta and Oakdale Irrigation Districts objections to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion. This is the suit in which Delta Fly Fishers intervened and won. His talk was the basically the same old misrepresentation for facts water districts usually use. (See last month's newsletter)

As most know this is just another ploy by water districts and wealthy agribusiness people like billionaire Stewart Resnick to divert attention from the real problem with our fisheries. That is, of course, the misuse of our Delta water by the State's Dept. of Water Resources by shipping our Delta's water to the southern San Joaquin Valley and the LA area. Knell's talk went on for over an hour and his comments were as you would expect. According to him the stripers and NMFS biological Opinion to protect the steelhead were the real cause

of the Deltas problems. Not once did he mention the misuse of the Delta water going south or the Delta pumps. Knell's presentation was typical of water districts misrepresentations of the truth. One of the most offensive parts of his talk was his misuse of facts regarding the states fisheries.

After the meeting he opened himself up to questions. Unfortunately, none of Modesto's FF questions pointed out his errors. He finally called on me and I ask him just where he got his facts? They were totally off base and inaccurate. Then I asked him if he had read any of Peter Moyle's research on the Delta or its fisheries. Moyle has written 180 peer-reviewed scientific papers and eight books. Knell said he didn't know of Peter Moyle and had not read any of Dr. Moyle's work. So I ask just how he could make a presentation on fisheries if he did know of or read one of the top fisheries biologist research in the state of California. And when I asked if he was familiar with Chuck Amour's research showing all species in the Delta are declining he admitted he hadn't read that research either. Again he was asked how he could make a presentation without knowing the basic neither facts of the Delta nor its fisheries. It was pointed out to Knell that in the Stripers and other fish thrived in the Delta until the 60's and 70's when the Delta pumps started sending our water south. Then their number went from 3 million fish to 600,000 and lower. No Comment on his part. Then it was pointed out that Moyle is of the opinion Striper predation (less than 9%) is not a major part of loss of our native fish and that he should read Moyle's work before he made other presentations. Again, no comment. But Mr. Knell wasn't happy.

When we go to meetings or presentations like Knell's, we need to stand up and take issue with those who misrepresent the facts or twist them for their self-serving purpose. At this point Restore the Delta and CSPA are doing most of the work for us and they need our help. We can help with letters to the editor in our local newspapers. Every bit helps.

On the Brighter Side

Several years ago I came across an internet site called: askaboutflyfishing.com. It's an internet radio site and I thought some of you might enjoy it. The show's host is D. Roger Maves and this week's broadcast live will be Dec. 1 at 7:00 MT. If you sign on via email they will notify you of the next show and guest speaker. The upcoming show is with Skip Morris talking about "Largemouth Bass and Bugs". The thing I like about the show is that you can browse the archive to hear shows you have missed or are interested in at a time that works for you. They have a wide variety of topics. They have over 90 people archived including some well known names like: Bran Chan, Kirk Deeter, Jay Murakoshi, Denny Rickards, Jim Teeny, Lani Waller and many more. There people all seem to be first class. You can send in questions via email and they will answer them live on the net. The show last from 1:15 hours to sometimes as long as 1:25 hours. The nice thing is that you can start a show, hear a few minutes then come back days or weeks later. Hope you enjoy it.

Ron Forbes
Conservation

December 8th Members Meeting

The December meeting will feature club members sharing their fly fishing experiences during 2010. Held Dec. 8th at J.R. Williams on Meadow Ave. 7 p.m. This always has been filled with interesting and diverse trips both local and abroad. We still have a few slots for 5 to 15 minute presentations. They need not be formal. Simply share the fun you've had and the secrets you've learned on the water, at the tying bench, hearing room(?), or simply meeting a fellow fly fisher person along the way.

Contacts: John Keagy, 369-5690 or Marty Kjelson, 477-9618

Lake Comanche



Mark Delabarre, Herman Spalinger and Ron Forbes before fishing Camanche Lake on November 12. We (including Bob Fujimura) fished the area near the North Shore boat ramp; Ron was the top fisher that day but everyone enjoyed the fair weather and good company.

Regarding Foam Spiders

By Clay Gill

Taken from the Alamo Fly Fishers Newsletter

My little Grandson told me "get another one Pap-py!"! He had been stripping in the fly line as we caught Perch at Canyon Lake. It was misting rain. As hot as it was,-it felt good to get wet. Storms were brewing and we were watching the horizon. We had three of our little guys out for a swim -and some Perch jerking. They love to go fishing. My grandson does not like to reel in the fish. He thinks it is cool to strip the fly line. So I hold the rod for him. He often sets the hook too hard.

The ammo that day was -the most "foolproof" fly you can employ for sure bet catching. It is the white foam spider. The fly is segmented two or three times. You Super Glue the body to the thread coated hook shank after cutting a slit in the bottom for hook positioning. There is something about the color white, and some-times black and yellow. The fly is pestered constantly as soon as it hit's the water. Fish can't leave it alone. I guess it does not belong on top of the water. We were getting pops and

bloops -non-stop, until a Bluegill got too close. They hit hard! With the barb bent down flat it is easy to remove the fish. Then you have another kid move up in line to catch another. This is what kids want. Catching,--not fishing, creates Monsters. I started the same way and will never be cured. Back then,-a colorful hard foam popper from Thompson's Liquor Stores was my bait. Half the store was sporting goods. It was a long time before I saw the connection between Whiskey and lures. It must have been good business? My fly rod was fiberglass with a simple Pfluger fly reel.

When you take these guys out to get started, remem-ber about one in five fish is a Bass. Larger Bass can put a big bend in a fly rod fast. If the kiddos panic it can yank the rod away. The girls scream loud when this happens. But they hang on fairly well. We have been lucky so far. No one has let go yet! But who could get mad?

And why is it -they need to see every fish. "Lemmie look at it"! They need to touch it and look at the eye. When fish flip the girls scream. I would rather do this than boat a Tarpon. Really-it is the best fishing I know of. Perch jerking is crazy fun. It is almost the only thing they never tire of. Kids just love any type of fish-ing.

I tried a small hard body popper with no legs but switched back to the white-leg/body foam Spider very quickly. The foam model was a small number 10! The Bass still liked it. The legs make it seem much larger lending tremendous action.

I need to tie more. And keep them in the cars. You never know where you might be able to fish. Perch are everywhere. A multi-piece five weight travel rod is easy to hide in your cars. More that once it saved the day with an opportunity.

If you have little guys and want to entertain them for hours,-it is easy. Jump on the internet and select a good "Foam Spider" recipe. Follow the instructions and put it on a 6-7 foot light leader. Tie it with a loop knot so it has life like action at the "hinge", and head out for Perch water. Just about anywhere is great. If you can see them in the water, you will catch them for sure. Always mash down the barbs!

What helped us was flooded brush at the edge of our lake. Recent rains have put several feet of water over brush that grew on dry shorelines over the summer. Most lake brush was packed with Perch. A cast to the edge and one twitch brought a strike. Many times they just pop it, and swirl around it. Jerking it away is a mistake. They will come right back. They compete for the bugs and are not bashful!

Simple and fun, kiddo's won't be bored! Large in re-wards, -the lowly Panfish is a mighty warrior for a three year old. Perch jerking is good for everybody. I know adults who downsize daily pressures for a few hours to re-center the soul catching Perch. I have done it myself many times. I catch myself thanking each fish as they return to the water.

Perch jerking is one of the really great things in life. In-expensive and highly effective, -it can probably best be described as, --"good medicine".

DFF Officers 2010

President

Stephen Johnson 209-887-9255

1st Vice President

(Open)

2nd Vice President

Herman Spalinger 209-477-3412

Secretary

Sallye Rollans 209-986-2267

Treasurer

Bruce Rollans 209-986-2267

Directors

Joe Balderston 209-649-0291

Charles Edwards 209-986-0391

Bob Fujimura 209-329-1692

Marty Kjelson 209-518-5476

Charlie Reames 209-369-6053

Mike Riley 209-483-9534

Sallye Rollans 209-986-2267

Herman Spalinger 209-477-3412

Larry Schmidt 209-482-8742

Delta Fly Fishers Official Club Merchandise for Sale

Help support your club by buying and using club merchandise.

| | |
|---|---------|
| Polo Shirt w/logo Now on Sale (Limited sizes available) | \$15.00 |
|---|---------|

| | |
|---|---------|
| Ball cap structured/unstructured (New item) | \$13.00 |
|---|---------|

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Lapel Pin | \$ 7.00 |
|-----------|---------|

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| License Plate Frames | \$ 3.00 |
|----------------------|---------|

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Official Coffee Mug | \$ 5.00 |
|---------------------|---------|

| | |
|--|---------|
| DVD Fishing How To Rentals (3 weeks max) | \$ 2.00 |
|--|---------|



Committees

Education

Joe Balderston 209-649-0291

Newsletter

Doug Ridgway 209-957-0170

Conservation/NCCFFF Member

Ron Forbes 209-368-5767

Historian/Property

Herman Spalinger 209-477-3412

Membership

Bob Fujimura 209-339-0683

Outings

Earl Summers 209-957-6756

Publicity

Charles Edwards 209-951-0391

Programs

Marty Kjelson 209-477-9618

John Keagy 209-369-5690

Raffles

Bill Laughlin 209-477-6644

Catfish Derby (June)

Earl Summers 209-957-6756

Trout Bout (November)

Charlie Reames 209-369-6053

Bob McMillan Trout Bout

(February)

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

Web Site

Harold Bacich hbtwm@sbcglobal.net

Fishing Mentor Program

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

SAVE MART MARKETS – S.H.A.R.E.S

DFF has joined with Save Mart Markets via the S.H.A.R.E.S. program. DFF earns 3% of most purchases made by customers using the card provided to DFF by Save Mart.

Since the last report about our SHARES participation, the membership has responded to the need. The donations from SHARES for the past two quarters totaled approximately \$484.00. Thank you membership. We have an additional 50 SHARES cards coming that will be distributed to new members, family and friends. Continue to shop Save Mart Markets! There is no additional cost to you. It merely gives 3% to DFF that otherwise would go to market profit.



Excellent Adventures

Al Smatsky

619 W. Pine Street

Lodi, CA 95240

(209) 368-9261

www.excellentadventures.org

Licensed and Bonded Guide

California License # 2427

Excellent Adventures is a

unique and complete fly

fishng travel business serving
your needs since 1994.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

A Fishing Nightmare

By Jim Gibson

From the St Joe River Valley Fly Fishers Newsletter

On Sept. 7-2010 we were on vacation from SW Michigan and it was the first day of a guided fly fishing trip. I was with my wife, fishing in the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River in Wyoming and we had just finished lunch. We were situated down in a rocky canyon that was a steep three stories below the ridge. The fish were rising, so I stepped into the river to approach a wade and slipped down into a drop of unexpected speed. When my feet came to rest, I then tried to bend my right knee and it locked into horrible pain. I forcefully extended it and the pain then relaxed. After a short rest, I then I tried to use the left leg to get up out of the hole I was in and then to my shock, it also locked up in pain exactly like the right. I then forced the left leg straight and the pain subsided. It was clear any bend in either leg beyond 3 or 4 degrees would result in huge pain and locked knee. After several minutes of reviewing options with my wife and the guide, who was 68 years old and with a bad back, it was clear we were far out of cell phone range in need of help in Grizzly and Rattle Snake country. At 63 years old, I was, without a doubt, in a very ugly fix.

The option of waiting for the guide to go back toward town into cell phone range and return with help would have taken around 3 or more hours. It was getting late. So after forcing myself out of the river using only my arms, pushing in a backward direction while dragging my rear end with extended legs pulling behind, out of the river. I then looked up at the ridge and assessed the situation. I felt I could possibly make it up whole way. As I could not see where I was going, I asked the guide and my wife to point out the best way up as I was moving backward. They would also have to clear the way behind me and help me at times shifting my legs. The guide's pickup was at the top of the ridge and I could ride back to the hospital in the back of the pickup. It would be slow, but faster than they could get back to us with a helicopter or something to lift me out of the canyon.

The guide was skeptical, but I felt I could make it. It took us an hour to reach the top. Fortunately, I have good upper body strength and we did not encounter any Rattle Snakes. We reached the Cody Wyoming Hospital around 6 PM.

I cannot say enough good things about how well I was treated at Cody Hospital by all I encountered. After X rays and a MRI it was determined that I had a Bilateral Quadriceps tendon rupture and that immediate surgery would be recommended. I had torn the tendons of both legs connecting the quadriceps to the patella. The most common cause of a simultaneous bilateral quadriceps tendon rupture appears to be a sudden, violent contraction of the quadriceps mechanism with the knees slightly flexed and the feet in a fixed position.

I had a choice of first trying to go back to Michigan, braced up and in great pain. I would have had to be heavily doped up I assume. I would then have to try to line up surgery in either Kalamazoo or South Bend. The second choice would be having it done there in Cody immediately and going home for the Post Op. I chose the Cody route and it seems to have been the right choice. The surgery was done at 3PM on Wed. Sept. 8, a day

after the event. I was kept there until Sunday morning Sept 12. We left at 9 AM and drove 23 hrs, straight though, back home. My son assisted with the drive and was able to get extended leave to do it. I have lined up South Bend Orthopedic to do the Post Op and have an appointment Friday Sept 17 to have the staples removed. So begins the long 9 to 12 month road back to recovery. My son and his new wife caught over 60 nice trout on the trip. I am sure I would have as well had I stepped in a different spot. I hope we can return in a year or so and try again.

Casting Tip for TBFFC: 11

By Pat Damico

Taken from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

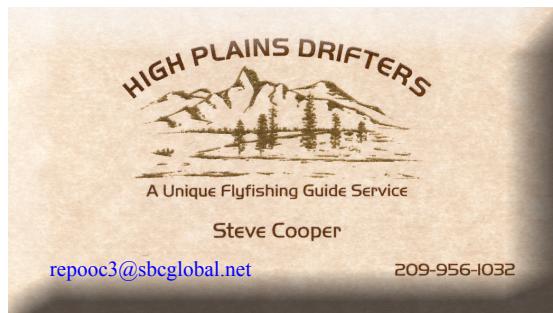
Why does my line kick at the end of a cast? I was asked his question recently by an excellent caster from our club who practices frequently, which is why he casts so well. He was using a 3 wt rod and as his cast lengthened the end of his line did not straighten very well. In discussing the problem, I asked what kind of leader he was using and he said he did not have a leader or fly on the end of his line. Bruce Richard in his excellent book Modern Fly Lines has the following on pg. 70: "It should be mentioned that the tapered leaders tied to the end of fly lines continue the dissipation of casting energy..... Lines are designed to be cast with leaders. A properly designed line will have just the right amount of energy left at the end of a cast to turn over the leader and deliver the fly. If a line is cast without a leader, it will "kick" and be difficult to cast." A properly designed leader and "fly" will help when you are out lawn casting as much as it will when in a fishing situation.



Here's another one! And to think we're using the same thing and you haven't had a bite...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Every Wed (except meeting nights) | Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton | WEDNESDAY EVENING TYING Contact: Joe Balderston 649-0291 or Jim Rich 477-6404 |
| Every 2nd Wed (Except July & Aug) 7:00 PM | John R Williams School Stockton | Membership Meeting Contact Marty Kjelson 477-9618 John Keagy 369-5690 |
| Every 3rd Wed (Except July) 7:00 PM | Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton | Board Meeting All Members Welcome |
| Wednesday December 8 | John R Williams School Stockton | Rivers of a Lost Coast Marty Kjelson 477-9618 - John Keagy 369-5690 |
| Wednesday December 15 | Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton | Board Meeting All Members Welcome |
| Saturday December 18 | Rancho Seco | December Outing Bill Laughlin - 477-6644 |



What Has The FFF Done For Me?

By Skip Hosfield

This is a question we often hear among club members when they are approached to join the Federation. I suppose it is an attitude to be expected in an age when fly fishing has expanded far beyond anything imagined by those of us who helped to found this international fraternity of fly fisher's. Speaking as one who served many years in membership development, at both the regional and national level, I shall try to provide a response to this question.

Anyone who was not already a fly fisherman in 1965 when the FFF was founded cannot really know the nature of the world of fly fishing at that time. I have been a fly fisherman all my life. My father was a fly fisherman and I learned it from him, as most people did then. I moved to Oregon in 1958 and I never met another local fly fisherman until the McKenzie Flyfishers was started in 1964.

There were obviously lots of them around, but they didn't advertise or proselytize. Unless one had a relative or friend who was a fly fisherman, chances are there was no opportunity to learn. Prior to the founding of the McKenzie Flyfishers there was only one fly fishing club in Oregon – the Flyfishers Club of Oregon. Unless you are a member of the Portland business or professional community you have little chance to enjoy the fellowship of other fly fisherman.

Those of us who were fly fishing in 1964 were such a small part of the sport fishing world that we did not even exist in the eyes of those who made our laws and managed our angling resources. There were no magazines devoted to fly fishing. There were very few books written about fly fishing. You had to be living in a major city in order to have access to a fly fishing shop. If you were a fly tier, you were probably self-taught from basic instructions in one of the three or four fly fishing books in print at the time. And you had to order your materials from catalog descriptions. The really accomplished fly tiers were rare, and most of those were tying professionally full or part-time, and typically they jealously guarded their methods.

Fly rods and tackle in general had changed very little for fifty years. After World War II fiberglass rods were being manufactured but that technology was in its infancy. The big tackle boom was in spinning rods and reels which originated in Europe. Fly fishing was such a small specialized market that it comprised a very small part of the production of the major fishing tackle manufacturers.

All this began to change in 1965. The FFF was founded for the purpose of getting fly fishing clubs linked together in common purpose to promote fly fishing as a favored method of angling and to give fly fishermen a unified voice in the management of our angling resources. Its leaders adopted Lee Wulff's maxim that, "A good game fish is too valuable to be caught only once." The FFF waged the fight to establish the principle of catch-and-release.

Another purpose of the FFF was to publish a magazine devoted entirely to fly fishing. No publisher was willing to risk a publishing venture on a market presumed to be so small. With the publication of *The Flyfisher* in 1968 we had the first

magazine exclusively for fly fishing. After the FFF had shown what the potential market could become, commercial fly fishing magazines began to appear.

When the McKenzie Flyfishers organized the original Conclave of Flyfishers in 1965 they established the paradigm for all FFF conclaves which have followed. It would be based on education, information sharing and outreach. It would finally shatter the shell of exclusivity which surrounded this sport in the public mind. The most famous and revered anglers in America would come to these annual gatherings and freely give their time and knowledge. The fly tying demonstrations at FFF conclaves soon attracted tiers from everywhere. Tiers which had been working in isolation for many years were soon coming into contact with one another and sharing methods and ideas. This initiated a fly tying renaissance which continues to this day.

From the nucleus of a dozen or so clubs represented at the first conclave, FFF members have gone out and organized many hundreds of fly fishing clubs throughout the United States, Canada and many other countries throughout the world. The growth of FFF during the 1970s brought forth a corresponding growth in the fly tackle industry bringing an exponential increase in the availability and quality of fly fishing tackle of all description. This growth has been paralleled in the publishing industry which now churns out more magazines, books and videos than anyone could have imagined forty years ago.

Anyone engaged in fly fishing today has benefited in many ways from what the FFF has done and continues to do. The availability of high quality and relatively inexpensive equipment in an astonishing range of choice would not be possible without the growth of the sport which the FFF has fostered. Your fly fishing club would most probably not exist if not for the FFF. The proliferation of fly fishing shows is mostly the result of FFF activity to promote the sport and extend knowledge. Anyone who has attended the Northwest Fly Tyers Expo has the FFF to thank for the experience.

If you fish in Oregon, you can thank the FFF for the fact that efforts to eliminate all regulations restricting certain waters to fly fishing were defeated by the Oregon Council, FFF. If you enjoy the improved fishing on catch-and-release waters, you owe it to the FFF. The fact that fly fishing is now taken quite seriously by the ODFW is the result of efforts by members of the Oregon Council.

In conclusion, when asked by someone what the FFF does for him, turn the question around and ask him what he is prepared to do to continue the work of those who have gone before him, and who created the improved climate for the sport he enjoys today. The very least one should do is to join the organization and thereby help to build a strong membership base which will enable the FFF to remain a strong force in conserving, restoring and educating through fly fishing.

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