

August 2008

Delta Fly Fishers

Rx

Flyfishing

President's Message by Herman Spalinger

August, 2008

As I write this message, I hear via the “grapevine” – convenient term for the Lodi area – several of you have been on fishing trips far and wide and even out of the country in Mexico. Our December “member’s night” should have some real good fishing exploits to present for the rest of us. Start planning ahead now for a little story about your trip this year to present to the club. There is no criterion of professionalism here since even passing around printed photos of a trip while describing it to the club works too. Of course slides or a Power Point presentation are accepted as well. Let’s have a little light-hearted fun for our December meeting. Remember too, our October meeting is pot luck night. Stay tuned for the ‘alphabet soup’ choices for that dinner. Hey, how about bringing some unused or older fishing items to swap that night, rods, reels, line, flies, nets or whatever.

Now that I’ve set you up for my next topic, our August 13th meeting at Oak Grove Nature Center will have me as your speaker. Somewhere in the past, someone thought it would be a good idea if the president gave a talk on one of his, or her, trips or tips about fly fishing. I’m glad it’s in August where traditionally we don’t get a huge turnout. Now there’s a challenge. My topic will be fishing the Owyhee River in the southeast corner of Oregon in the Mountain Time Zone portion of our good old US of A. Steve & Nate Cooper planned a stop at the Owyhee River during the first week of June so Bill Laughlin, Marty Kjelson and myself decided to tag along. As you remember, Steve has given us a “class” on fishing the Owyhee before. It turned out the weather held pretty well for us with the wind staying away most of the time. The Owyhee holds some tremendous brown trout since the water coming out below the Owyhee Reservoir is pretty constant in the low 50’s. Come on out to the Nature Center to find out how our trip turned out.

In case you’ve been in the backyard barbecuing and haven’t heard, our club is the host club for NCCFFF’s Festival of Fly Fishing set in Lodi on the 10th and 11th of October. Your DFF volunteers of Dan McDaniel, Jerry Neuburger, Charlie Edwards, Steve Cooper, Dustin Rocksvold (president of the Amador Fly Fishers), Eric Sherar (of the Federation) and myself have been working diligently planning and preparing the event which is being held at the Hutchins Street Square. By the end of August we should have a very good handle on how many more of you members will be needed to help us in the tasks necessary to make this a successful event. We won’t be able to get into HSS until 6:00 a.m. Friday morning to set up the pipe and drape system. This sets each of the 44 booths apart for the exhibitors to use for their merchandise display. We anticipate we’ll need all the help we can get during that time as the exhibitors will no doubt be arriving by 7:30 or before eager to set up and they’ll need to be directed on where to set up. We have two exhibit halls at HSS and a theater down the hall displaying the raffle, silent auction items, etc. Dan and Bruce are going to need help in that department. This is going to be a hectic time so we’re going to need as many of you able-bodied-wader-toting bodies we can get. Jerry will also need volunteers for his registration desk as folk’s stream in to either pick up their pre-registration packet or pay to play. Bill Laughlin and Jerry will be cooking chili, sausage, etc, on Tony Ott’s borrowed trailered barbecue for a Friday night’s chili and sausage feed. Saturday evening will be a catered table-clothed dinner with live and silent auction items emceed by Ben Byng of the Tracy club. Bob Souza already has some volunteers to run our booth advertising our club and its activities but he could use more. NCCFFF of course will have a booth, as well as the Tracy club and a few more.

Please keep some of these items in mind where you’d like to help so when we pass out a sign-up sheet in September we’ll know how many more fishers we’ll need from the other clubs. The newly formed Stanislaus fly club has also volunteered some help, and I’m sure once word gets out several members of other clubs in our area will join in. Let’s show the Federation we can put on a very successful event for them.

Herman

Membership Form

Regular membership – \$25*

Family Membership – \$30*

62 years or older – \$20.00*

*New members please add \$5.00 Initiation Fee

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

Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862, Stockton, CA 95207

Check one:

New membership _____ Renew membership _____

Regular Membership:

One year \$30.00 _____

Senior (62+) \$25.00 _____

Family Membership:

One year \$35.00 _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ - _____

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E-Mail Address _____

I would like to be on the _____ committee

Please renew your membership, if you have not done so. If you are not sure, check the mailing label for your current status. If there is any questions or problems please contact: Bob Souza at 209-607-6604 or e-mail at suzasbs@clearwire.net.

Fishing Buddy Request

NAME _____

DATE _____

PHONE CONTACTS: (1) _____

(2) _____

The best time to contact me is _____

My E-mail address is: _____

I WOULD LIKE A FISHING BUDDY 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 Buddy Committee:

Bob Souza at 209-607-6604 or suzasbs@clearwire.net.

Grady Lee at 951-3623 or gmississippikid@aol.com

Mail the form to: Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862, Stockton, CA 95207



Even A Blind Squirrel Finds A Nut Once In A While

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

On occasion, ok, on more than many occasions I've asked myself why some patterns work better than others, and if you have done a reasonable amount of reading about bugs that trout dine on, or spent a reasonable amount of time on the water, you will understand that trout are fickle. Trout will feast on filet mignon on the bottom, but if you toss in a cheeseburger, they will only look at it and continue their feeding. The only reason they will switch their feeding at that particular moment would be that the new bug resembles something "alive". This time of year things start to get "old-hat" as far as what the trout will take, so you have to be more attuned to your surroundings, not only the bugs, the weather, the moon phases, and water temperature being the most important. To get a "take" downsize your flies and make them appear more alive. It's kind of like looking at a small McDonald's burger vs. a Bob's Big Boy; which one would you eat?

Weather Conditions

Eastern Sierra visibility is better than glass, and mornings are running in the low to mid 50's, with afternoon highs around 74 to 79 degrees. Some thunderstorms have occurred the last couple weeks but have temporarily subsided, but will probably resume should the upper elevations start to heat up again. Traffic mid-week has been down, but picks back up on the weekends.

Legislation

AB7 had a codicil to its original bill added by Dave Cogdill for CalTrout I'm told, and you can check on its status via the Internet, but it looks like most of the changes were to relieve DFG from mandatory dates and poundage along with the removal and addition of a few "may", "and", "possible" which I found not to the benefit of the general angler. You can go to the Senate web page and look under SB1262 for the text and compare it to AB7 text, you'll end up shaking your head, I'd rather be on the water than looking into this. Most important is that as long as fish are stocked, the decline of native and backcountry trout will have a chance.

News:

The Mud Snail's "companion invasive", the Quagga mussel, that is creating havoc all over the US requiring marinas, public and private to do inspections on all watercraft and equipment, will probably not decrease the number of mussels unless the inspection is mandatory. Some marinas are stepping up and doing inspections especially if it is their water storage facility.

LOWER OWENS – River is running high and the drifting hasn't been sensational, so try some Barr's trico emergers, spinner-fall patterns fished dry fly style.

ROCK CREEK LAKE – Has been good, and fish are taking burgundy woolly buggers, olive leeches and the Rock Creek special (a blue-gray woolly body with grizzly hackle and no tail), and some large streamers. Mosquito Flats is fishable with small dries seeing lots of rises in the calmer side water.

CROWLEY LAKE – Woohoo, Daphnia has departed and McGee Bay is getting hot. Zebras are doing it in early morning from Red/Black then Purple, then Gray/Black Optimidge midday,

sizes 16 and 18's. Damsels are surface "hot" with slow short strip/twitch and slow sinking lines, call Crowley Lake marina or the Trout Fly for current patterns.

CONVICT LAKE – Always produces nicely on large woolly buggers in black and olive #6 or 8, and their "Marvel"; be sure and ask at the store what color is working. Some standard emergers and/or midges for top water near the south bank where the party boats hang. Flashy woolly buggers will get some great action. Of course you can always try some nice large dries near the southwest corner to see if any hawks will react.

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN – Fishing on Lake Mary and Twin Lakes has been excellent with tons of midges early in the am and again in the evening. Mid morning is seeing a good hatch of callibaetis, and damselflies along the weed beds. Streamers have also done well on George and Mary, so give 'em all a try.

HOT CREEK – Is clear and perfect. Try tricos and midges in the am, and switch to caddis mid morning then should you get lucky with some cloud cover switch to dries. Hoppers, ants, and caddis will get you into fish. Please remember to stay out of the water due to the fragile condition of the stream and avoid spreading mud snails.

SAN JOAQUIN – Water is slowing down and with good clarity, so try #10 micro stones, #16 copper john and #14 Stimulators, and AP nymph's size 12. Also, try some large mayfly patterns and don't forget the super DEET.

JUNE LOOP – June, Silver and Gull have all been doing fairly well with Woolly buggers near the weedy areas, also try Hornbergs, Doc's Twin Lakes special in brown or olive, and some mini leeches.

VIRGINIA LAKES – Has been good for tubers and waders using red throat Matuka, dark rusty/rusty woolly buggers with side flash. Scuds are very active along with midges by the thousands. The gnats are thick everywhere so maybe some mosquito netting to walk the trails. Try small Grey Hackle Yellow, mosquitoes and Grey Hackle Peacock in #18-20. Emergers are working and will get red hot as the temp continue to increase. Dragging streamers always works, but not as much fun. Bear sightings are constant and there seem to be 2 making their nightly rounds.

EAST WALKER – Flow currently is at 69cfs and the mosquitoes are still in search of a good hot meal, so bring plenty of bug juice. Try some nymphs mid day, PT flashback, Copper Johns, Micro-Mays, Zebras and maybe a Poopah.

WEST WALKER – Water is at 71cfs, a two fly rig with large attractor, as indicator and midge like under, crystal or flashback Zug as the bottom fly is still working. Work the curves and flat water since it is so low.

NOTE: A lot of these waters are constantly fished and the trout have seen it all, so try smaller flies and match the profile closer with better coloration.

See you on the water! CJ

CONSERVATION

by Ron Forbes

In early July the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has taken steps to put the Delta smelt on the “endangered” species list. Many people in the general public say they see no reason to be concerned about a fish that is only 2 to 3 inches in length. At its largest it can reach the length of 5 inches and will only live for 1 or 2 years. Its life is spent in brackish water and feeds on zooplankton. So what’s the big deal? For those who understand the Delta, it has been long realized that the smelt is a good index to judge the health of the water quality in our delta. It is our “canary in the coal mine”. If the canary dies, the air isn’t fit for humans to breath. If the Delta Smelt dies, the water in the Delta is in serious trouble in supporting life. This includes life from the zooplankton to the top of the food chain ... like salmon, steelhead and stripers.

At one time the smelt were the most common fish in the Delta. They are now rare. A year ago I was at a Congressional hearing and listened to a Dr. BJ miller give a talk to the members present claiming that the smelt’s food source was the cause of its demise not the fact that Southern California’s water constant pumping from the Delta has anything to do with the problem. Rep. George Miller pointed out that BJ Miller works for a water district that pumps our water south. His degree is not in water management but physics. His report was a gross piece of self-serving garbage. We find that water districts, the Dept. of Water Resources and Dept of Fish and Game have changed science for the benefit of S. California water needs and really don’t care what happens to the Delta.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service is asking scientists to submit facts about the smelt in 60 days that the smelt may become extinct in the Delta

The San Joaquin River Recovery

After 18 years of constant fighting the San Joaquin River is to be restored. It’s to be a historic first in river recovery in the US. The San Joaquin will be restored from Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River.

Many of us are pleased at the plan to restore the salmon run. This is proving to be a long process with constant political problems tossed in. At first I contacted Rep. Jerry McNery’s office to get information on how the recovery program is going. Rep. McNery is being poorly served by his Stockton staff. They are of no help as a source of information.

After talking with people in DWR and DFG, I was invited to join the San Joaquin River Recovery Program and the Fisheries Management Work Group. At this point things are not moving ahead. For the project to go forward, Congress must vote on water funding issues.

Part of the restoration plan depends on federal money. At this point the bill is stalled and will probably not come to a vote until after the election. When ? No one has any idea. We are looking at another long delay.

However, there is a schedule for flow releases.

2009: Oct 1 - Nov 20

2010: Feb 1 - Dec1

2011 & 2012: May 1 assuming in-channel construction has begun. May 1-Sept 1: release flows to the Chowchilla Bifurcation structure to get information on water loss

2013: Jan 1-Jan 31: Full restoration to start no later than Jan 1, 2014

Will the schedule be accurate, probably not. However the restoration does offer NCCFFF and DFF a chance to make an impact of the restoration of the fisheries management on the San Joaquin. More about that later.

FFF Staff Activities and Program Updates

Gregg Whitley of Ripon, CA successfully completed the requirement of the Cuttcatch program. Project Cuttcatch encourages fly fishers to document memories of the cutthroat trout subspecies they have caught and released, like a bird enthusiast recording sightings of a rare bird. Members of FFF who successfully catch four subspecies of cutthroat trout are eligible for the Cuttcatch Award. Some of the subspecies occupy a very small range and they can only be found in small remote drainages – so tracking down these amazing fish is an adventure unto itself. The award is part of the Project Cuttcatch, a Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) program that promotes appreciation of our native fish species. Many of North America’s subspecies of cutthroat trout are facing pressures that may lead to their disappearance. Learning to value these fish in their native ranges is a critical first step towards conservation and recovery. Information about the program requirements can be found on the FFF website.

Boat Blue Update

Did you know that a recent court ruling about pollution being dumped from commercial ship ballast water will also require all recreational boats to get permits by September, 2008—despite the fact that 99% of recreational boats do not have ballast tanks? Fortunately, there is simple, commonsense legislation in Congress that would solve this problem for recreational boaters. Senators Barbara Boxer (D-California) and Bill Nelson (D-Florida) and Representatives Steve LaTourette (R-Ohio) and Candice Miller (R-Michigan) have introduced the “Clean Boating Act of 2008.” The Clean Boating Act permanently and fully restores the regulation that has existed for 35 years distinguishing between recreational boats and land-based industrial facilities and ocean-going commercial ships, cruise ships and supertankers, preventing EPA’s new regulation on boaters while also protecting the environment. The FFF has been part of a coalition working to pass the Clean Boating Act. If you would like to learn more about this important issue visit www.boatblue.org

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Trout Bout (November)

Charlie Reames 209 - 369-6053

Bob McMillan Memorial Trout Bout**(February)**

Steve Cooper 209 - 956-1032

Web Site

David Coon 209 - 239-9936

Fishing Buddy Program

Grady Lee 209 - 951-3623

Bob Souza 209 - 478-8344

Ron Petitt 209 - 931-2997

Help support your club by buying and using club merchandise.

Polo Shirt w/club logo sale \$26.00

Ball Cap \$11.50

Club Patch \$5.00

Lapel Pin \$7.00

Lic. Plate Frames \$3.00

Official coffee mug \$5.00

Also the club has a video library

Videotape Rentals \$2.00 Per Video

See Jacob Loyko 468-2664 for info on merchandise and videos at all the meetings.

August 13
August Board Meeting**August 20**

May Newsletter

**The deadline for the August issue
is August 25th.**

2008 Bridgeport Outing

September 19, 20, 21, 2008



It's that time again to make plans for the annual family outing to the Eastern Sierra which is always well attended and offers a wide range of fishing opportunities. 20 to 50 fish days have been common for a lot of DFF members in the past.

This year's dates, for the Bridgeport outing, will be September 19th, 20th and 21st. Grady Lee has volunteered to be this year's Fishmeister. Look for more info at a later date. Headquarters for the DFF will be Robinson Creek Campground (take Twin Lakes Road east out of Bridgeport for about 10 miles and look for the sign for the campground). There will be a potluck barbecue at Bob Bradley's trailer Saturday night. Cocktails at 6pm and dinner will be around 7. Bring a dish or snacks to share, your entree to barbecue, along with the beverage of your choice.

Directions: Getting to Bridgeport takes about 4 ½ hours by car or longer by RV. Hwy 88 to 395 is the best RV route. By car Hwy 108 over Sonora pass to 395 is a bit quicker. Don't try this route with an RV.

Information: Grady Lee 209-951-3623

Renewal Notice

Annual Dues

It is that time of year again, when your annual dues become payable to keep your membership in Delta Fly Fishers current. Dues are payable in August and become delinquent in October. If not paid by November 31st, we must drop you from our membership roster.

It is my sincere hope that you continue your membership in our club. We have an exciting list of upcoming activities and outings for 2008- 2009 which I am sure you would like to participate in.

Dues are \$35 per year for the entire family. Regular membership is \$30 per year; Seniors (62 & over) pay \$25 per year. You will find the membership form below. Check renewal box and mail in with check. Please make your check payable to: Delta Fly Fishers.

If you have any questions, contact our membership chairman. Bob Souza at 478-8344 or e-mail at suzasbs@clearwire.net.

Respectfully, Delta Fly Fishers Membership Chair

Bob Souza

_____ please detach and send with check _____

Membership Form - Family Membership is: \$35.00 ,Regular Membership \$30.00, or \$25.00 for 62 years or older. Dues are for one year September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009. Please fill out, then mail to: DFF Membership c/o Bob Souza 8452 Mason Dr. Stockton, CA 95209.

Family Renewal _____ Regular Renewal _____ Senior Renewal _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ - _____ Cell (____) _____ - _____

Phone: Work (____) _____ - _____ E-Mail Address _____

I would like to receive newsletter via e-mail (check here _____)

Please renew your membership, if you have not done so. If you are not sure, check the mailing label for your current status. If you have any questions or problems please contact: Bob Souza at 209-607-6604 or e-mail at suzasbs@clearwire.net.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Every Wed (except meeting nights) | Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton | FLY CASTING Contact: Jim Rich 477-6404 Rick Greene 477-1488 |
| 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 August 13 | Oak Grove Park Stockton | Membership Meeting The President's Annual Program |
| Wednesday August 20 | Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton | Board Meeting All Members Welcome |
| September 19th, 20th and 21st | Bridgeport, CA | Monthly Outing Bridgeport, CA |
| October 10-12 | Hutchin's Street Square Lodi, CA | NCC/FFF Conclave Festival of Fly Fishing |



HIGH PLAINS, LOW PLAINS AND NO PLAINS

By Bruce Rollans

Sallye and I departed early June 20 for our three-week journey through parts of the Northwest and Canada. Three days later we were literally high plains drifters, floating the Grey Reef section of the North Platte River South of Casper, Wyoming. The plan was to stay in the boat, on this river, whether fishing from a skiff or drift boat. Land policy in Wyoming prohibits trespass even in the water flowing over private property and public property is hard to come by in this area of the country.

Two days before we did the first of our two floats, the State of Nebraska called for an increase in flows for Nebraska irrigators. This jumped the water up from 1,200 cfs to 2600 cfs. Good for Nebraska farmers, but bad for fly-fishing on the river. The water surge flooded this section of the river with a moss-like growth, which served to foul flies under the indicator every 25 seconds.

Sallye and I did manage to land some nice, deep-bodied rainbow to 20 inches, but it was not a great experience. The second day improved with less moss and more fish to the boat. Both floats involved using small plastic balls as indicators, an upscale version of the party balloons common to Southern Oregon. Our top fly was always a gray pine squirrel leech, size 14 and the dropper a 7mm pale green plastic bead representing the spawn of suckers and carp. Both worked equally well.

We traveled west through the Wind River Indian Reservation, the tourist maze of Jackson, into Southeast Idaho. Here we did two floats on the South Fork, Snake River. Upon arrival we discovered Palisades Reservoir to be full with water coming off the bottom into the South Fork and Henry's Fork. The stone fly hatch that should have started 10 days earlier was not underway. This did not keep the fish from taking what we offered: Pat's Rubber Legs, a stone fly nymph created by our guide, Pat Bennett and a San Juan Worm. We regularly landed cutthroat to 19" on the upper river during our first day's float, mostly on the nymph. The second day we did a lower section of the river and brought a lot of browns to the boat. I was told the brown in this river are a strain originally from Yugoslavia, which account for their less brilliant colors than those originating in Germany. The browns preferred the worm. We also learned a fisherman, named Cheney, fishes this river occasionally. We were fortunate enough not to be on the river at the same time as his multi-boat entourage.

After a day fishing with a friend on the Fire Hole in Yellowstone and an overnight stay with more friends in Bozeman, Montana, we moved across the border in Southeast British Columbia to Fernie, our fishing headquarters over the past 12 years. Wow! Canada has sure gotten expensive since we first started fishing this area. I can still recall the Canadian dollar being exchanged for \$.57. Now the two dollars are virtually par.

Our initial plan was to do a walk and wade on Michelle Creek, Sallye's favorite, but water was high and there were no bugs. Instead we started with a walk and wade on the Wigwam River. This river has its headwaters in Montana and is reportedly the most pollution free water in North America. While we caught several nice cutthroats, it was a tough fishery due to run off. Next we did a float on the Elk River landing several cutthroats to 3 lbs. Everything on the Elk was dry fly fishing, but with flies large enough to resemble Leo's bass poppers. Nice thing about dry fly fishing on the Elk is you do not start fishing until around 10:30 a.m.

For our last outing in British Columbia we targeted bull trout near the mouth of the Elk River that drains into Lake Koochanusa. The bulls (char) are starting to move up river and the resident population will eventual go into the Wigwam River where they breed. We used heavy steamers made by Montana Fly and 350 grain shooting heads to cast into the rocks along the river's edge. I was able to land four bulls up to 7+ lbs. Typical fish story; photos were lost somewhere along the line, but I really did have them 7 days ago.

For further information regarding guides, gear, accommodations and restaurants, please feel free to contact me using your membership roster.



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