

April 2008

Delta Fly Fishers

Rx
Flyfishing

April, 2008

President's Message by Herman Spalinger

Now is the time to keep in mind our upcoming Kelsey Bass Ranch outing set for Saturday, April 5th; get your rod and flies/poppers ready for some action. Al Smatsky is the contact person at 368-9261 for a reservation to attend this event. DFF will have the exclusive use of the lake and Al will prepare a tremendous barbecue lunch. I will be looking forward to seeing a lot of you there

April 12-13th is the date set for an outing to Pyramid Lake in Nevada. Larry Mettler is the fishmeister for this trip, so let him know at our next regular meeting if you're planning to attend. Accommodations will be at Sparks, Nevada, for the weekend with early morning drives to the lake for those great cutthroats. As a side note, don't forget Cabela's has just opened a store around Sparks so take your winnings at the crap table and visit their store. It's great eye candy with a lot of fishing stuff to purchase.

I'm sure by now, we've all heard of Earth Day. It's being held at Victory Park and our club is going to have a booth set up, to display our activities for those folks who are looking to try out fly fishing as a sport. We'll be looking for volunteers to run the booth for this all-day event. This might be a good time to wear some of our new T-shirts that are now in the design stage and will be displayed at our next regular meeting on Wednesday, the 9th. Dean Watson has been working on a new design for our logo that was approved by the board last meeting. We hope to have a few sample T-shirts to display for the meeting. Since our old stock of patches is running short, the board felt it was a good time to go for a redesign. I'm sure you'll all be impressed with the design.

While I'm on the subject of our next meeting, it WILL NOT be held at J.R. Williams School since that is the week for their spring break. Instead we will be meeting at the FIRST NAZARENE CHURCH, 915 Rosemarie Lane just off Pershing and north of UOP's campus. Marty & John have lined up a good speaker for the evening.

I would also mention we are in the process of forming a new committee called the Life Membership Committee. This committee will be comprised of five long-standing members of our club chosen by the president and approved by the Board. Once the committee has been approved by the Board, they will then meet and pick a chairman to set the criteria for election of a member who during the year may be presented to them as a nominee. Any member of this club may nominate any other member they feel worthy of the prestigious Lifetime Member award. The committee will meet toward the end of the year to review any nominee's qualifications presented to them as to how that person or persons meet the criteria set forth by them. Only one member may be selected for the award each year by the committee. If there is no member submitted to the committee during the year then there will be no award presented for that year. It was decided that no one person should be responsible for selecting a member for this award as has been done in years past.

Some of you may have heard of a support and educational program for breast cancer survivors called the Casting for Recovery. They are sponsoring two weekend retreats at the Clearwater Lodge in Northern California, one in August and one in September this year. This connects women, of all ages and stages of breast cancer, with an all expense paid fly fishing weekend. This is a nationwide program, headquartered in Vermont, with a Northern California chapter located in Santa Rosa. They have asked our club for a donation to support their weekend retreats for the women who they pick to attend. The Board decided to donate all the proceeds from our fly rod raffle to be held at our June barbecue to their organization. We feel it is a very worthy cause and are asking you to help support them as well by buying as many raffle tickets as you can toward the fly rod that will be up for raffle in June. It's a great rod.

In the meantime keep those lines tight and your fly in the water.

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 \$25.00 _____ Two years \$50.00 _____

Family Membership:

One year \$30.00 _____ Two years \$60.00 _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ - _____

Cell (____) _____ - _____

Work (____) _____ - _____

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

Eastern Sierra Report

By CJ Webb

Bridgeport Rez is starting to thaw, and the water that flows into the East Walker River (225cfs) is grass level and flooding in sections of the meadow, and around the bridge as you go into Bridgeport. The river is high right now. It's been fairly nice during the day, and the evenings are not bitterly cold. Higher elevations (8138') where I live it's still winter, but it's beautiful and windy.

The West Walker is (165cfs) up slightly and the banks are almost clear of snow and ice, and as the temp increases the runoff will start mid afternoon and continue for a few hours until the evening cools it all down again.

DFG gave the Mono County Board of Supervisors a prospectus as what to expect for 2008, it's not bleak, and it could prove better than 2007. Final word should be out in a few weeks after the Department looks over their suspected budget.

Tim Alpers sold his ranch near Upper O to the owners of the old Arcularius Ranch. He has moved his operation onto the Conway Ranch and has some great looking fish out there now. They did manage to keep them all alive with the two 4 foot snow falls we had this winter. The work will resume on the ranch when the night temperatures stabilize.

cj

Wednesday Evening Fly Casting

It's that time of the year! The days are getting longer signaling the start of the Wednesday Evening fly casting at Oak Grove Park. Jim Rich and Rick Greene will be there to help members and the public, to learn how to or refine their Casting techniques. They will be there the 1st, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of each month starting now through the end of summer.



Salt Springs Valley Reservoir

Saturday March 22 DFF had its trip to Salt Springs Reservoir. Approximately 20 members showed up to sunny blue skies, warm weather and just a slight breeze. Unfortunately we were just a little early and the bass bite hadn't started in earnest yet. Most of the members either caught just a couple or nothing at all. Except for Joe Balderson! He claimed to have caught 40 bass. Joe then told us his secret. He used a plastic worm on a spinning rod.



Welcome to the Delta Spin Fishers Club!



CONSERVATION

By Ron Forbes

CONSERVATION

On March 14th of this year the Federal Fishery Management Council (PFMC) has declared an emergency closure of the salmon season. The closure will include both sport and commercial fishing. At this point the entire 2008 season, with the possible exception of the Klamath Management waters will be closed. The 2007 returning fall-run was estimated to be about 88,000 fish. This is down from 800,000 fish returning in 2002.

According to PFMC, the latest modeling shows only 59,000 salmon can be expected to return to the Central Valley Rivers this year. This will be less than half of the spawning escapement flood which numbers between 122,000 to 180,000 fish. The spawning escapement flood numbers has been used by PFMC for several decades.

Peter Dygert, who is a fisheries biologist for the National Marine Fisheries, claims to hold out some hope for the in-river fishery this summer and fall but at this point things look grim. To put things on a historical note, this will be the first time we have had a total salmon closer since commercial salmon fishing began in San Francisco Bay and our Delta in 1848.

The president of Pro-Troll Fishing Products, Dick Pool, says the economic devastation caused by the salmon collapse will be huge and as president of the American Sport Fishing Association, has asked both the State and Federal governments to take short and long term actions to restore the Sacramento River fall Chinook salmon run.

The collapse of the salmon run also will also bring California more economic hardship. There are 2.4 million sport fishermen in the State of California. Those fishermen bring 2.4 billion in retail sales to the state every year. This generates an economic impact of 4.9 billion on an yearly basis. It also generates 1.3 billion in salaries and wages. It

is estimated that about 43,000 jobs will be lost in California. As you may have seen, sport retailers are declining. Guides and those who operate charters will have no business. There will also be a huge drop-off in restaurant trade in areas that are known for their fishing, marine services and the less need for lodges. It has also been thought that boat sales will be off.

There are two reasons given for the decline of the salmon. The first is the abnormal water conditions seen in the ocean. Some relate this to global warming. The normal seasonal upwellings of cold nutrient rich waters have become less than predictable. So the food chain is not as it has been. Less food -less fish

However, the water users in the state want to blame the whole problem on the ocean and not look at the fact that they have increased the flow of water south by at least 20%. And they are so inclined as not to change their water flow practices which have lead to the destruction of the Delta. However they now want a new canal that will provide them with an increase at least 40% more water from the Sacramento River to the Southern California. It never ends with them. They want more water for the South without any concern on the effect this will imposed on the environment.

Davis Lake

This afternoon I called Randy Kelly, DFG and Project Manager for Davis Lake (3/24/08). I ask him if there was any news on the treatment of Davis Lake to kill the Northern Pike. At this point, Davis is still frozen over. However, he told me ice fishermen are taking trout in the lake in the 3 lbs. range. At this point no pike have been found. Mr. Kelly also told me that when the thaw occurs that 2000 lbs of 5-6 lbs. trout will be planted. This will be in addition to 1000 lbs of 10 lbs plus fish. Sounds good!

Good Fishing,

Ron Forbes

FFF Conservation Updates

Contact Leah Elwell for additional information on conservation issues at conserve@fedflyfishers.org

Announcements:

Reminder – Mark you calendar and make your travel plans. This summer the Conclave and National Fly Fishing Show will be held in Whitefish Montana July 23-27. On Wednesday July 23 from 9-12 the Conservation Committee will hold their annual business meeting. Following at 1 pm will be the Fish Forum which will feature short presentations on timely conservation topics. All are welcome to attend Fish Forum.

Conservation Club Idea - Need an idea for a spring outing? Consider a spring clean up on your local water or fishing access and combine it with a day of fishing after the work is done.

Every year tons of monofilament line ends up as trash in our oceans, rivers and lakes. Monofilament can tangle on plants and animals harming wildlife and causing an unsightly mess. J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge received a conservation grant from the FFF to help prevent damage to fish and wildlife from monofilament. The Refuge and the FFF created signs to inform anglers and the public about monofilament. In February, the signs were displayed at highly visible fishing access points at the Refuge. Many states have monofilament recycling programs that use discarded line to make new fishing tackle products. To find out how to create a monofilament recycling program in your area and learn more go to: <http://fishinglinerecycling.org/aboutmrrp.htm>

The FFF wants to know what activities are happening in your Club or Council. You are encouraged to relay conservation related projects and images to the Conservation Coordinator.

Conservation Committee Activities:

Steelhead Committee is busy making changes to the Osprey pages on the FFF website. Subscriptions to universities are now available. If you would like your library to carry the Osprey, please contact the Conservation Coordinator. The current issue of the Osprey can be viewed online as well as the full 20 year archive of issues. <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4393>

DFF Officers 2008**President**

Herman Spalinger 209 - 477-3412

1st Vice President

Charles Edwards 209 - 951-0391

2nd Vice President

(Open)

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Dean Watson 209 - 474-9776

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Bruce Rollans 209 - 274-0448

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Joe Balderston 209 - 474-8515

Steve Cooper 209 - 956-1032

Ron Forbes 209 - 368-5767

Harvey Hamlow 209 - 467-8370

Marty Kjelson 209 - 477-9618

Bill Laughlin 209 - 477-6644

Doug Ridgway 209 - 957-0170

Earl Summers 209 - 957-6756

Mike Sansone 209 - 951-8189

Committees**Education**

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Newsletter

Doug Ridgway 209 - 957-0170

Conservation & NCCFFF Member

Ron Forbes 209 - 368-5767

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Earl Summers 209 - 957-6756

Historian

Dean Watson 209 - 474-9776

Membership

Bob Souza 209 - 478-8344

Outings

Marty Kjelson 209 - 477-9618

Earl Summers 209 - 957-6756

Publicity

Grady Lee 209 - 951-3623

Programs

Marty Kjelson 209-477-9618

John Keagy 209-369-5690

Property

Jacob Layko 209 - 468-2664

Raffles

Bill Laughlin 209 - 477-6644

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 Pettitt 209 - 931-2997

Help support your club by buying and using club merchandise.

Polo Shirt w/club logo sale	\$26.00
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Ball Cap	\$11.50
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Club Patch	\$5.00
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Lapel Pin	\$7.00
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Lic. Plate Frames	\$3.00
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Official coffee mug	\$5.00
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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.

April 9

April Board Meeting

April 16

May Newsletter

The deadline for the May issue is April 12th.

The Annual Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing April 5, 2008

It's that time of the year. The days are getting longer, the weather is getting warmer and the bass are hungry! Join the Delta Fly Fishers on their annual trip to the Kelsey Bass Ranch Pond on Saturday April 5th.

Those attending can either meet at the Kelsey Bass Ranch or havw breakfast at Jenny's Family Restaurant. Turn off Highway 99 on Hatch Road, back over the freeway and right turn at first stop light. Al thinks they open at 7:00 am on Saturday. He is not sure if he will be joining you there but he will see you at Kelsey's.

The outing includes lunch, cooked by Al. For directions or more information contact Al at (209) 368-9261. For more information on the Kelsey Bass Ranch, look at Al's Excellent Adventures web site at <http://www.excellentadventures.org/>



PHOTO BY:
LEO GUTTERRES

Salmon in the Classroom Or How to Catch and Release 35 Salmon in One Day Without Leaving California!

Hazelton Elementary students and families met at the Mokelumne River Saturday, March 8 to release 35 salmon fry. The eggs were delivered to their classroom in January, hatched into alevin in February and then were released at Van Assen park near the hatchery.

It was a beautiful, sunny day as 30 students met with club members Sallye and Bruce Rollins and our fearless president Herman Spalinger. The students took turns releasing individual salmon and trying to see where they went. Many were amazed at their camouflage in the clear water: "He's hiding right there!" said 5th grader Miranda Abrescy, pointing to the fish in 4" of clear water on the sand bottom.

Some super-sleuth students scooped a serious selection of insect samples from the stream. One probable member of the limnophilidae family was the biggest this author has ever seen on this side of the Oregon border. This caddis would best be imitated with a cased caddis pattern tied on a size 8 hook! Another species of intrigue was what looked like a March Brown adult (about a 10 or 12). At least 2 different mayfly nymphs were collected, observed with microscopes and released. Also collected were large damsel nymphs, big aquatic snails, nematodes and planaria.

Herman the almighty seemed to enjoy helping many of the children learn to cast a fly rod set up with a pointless fly. He also noticed peculiar surface activity 30 minutes after the fry were released...

After lunch the group visited the hatchery which turned out to be a highlight for most students. Holding tanks had salmon fry, juvenile steelhead (up to about 12 inches) and approximately 20 "adult" Steelhead trout waiting to be processed. Some may have been up to 5 pounds and several looked very beat up. The most exciting part of the hatchery was feeding the steelhead and observing salmon fry with birth defects. "There's a two-headed fish! There's a two-headed fish!" students were shouting as others came running. "Walk, Please!" called their teacher while demonstrating Olympic-style speed walking.

This program has been around for many years and was made possible through the efforts of the Delta Fly Fishers, the Department of Fish and Game, the Hall family, the California Aquarium Program, the Salmon in the Classroom Program, Discount Pet Foods on the corner of Country Club Blvd. and Pershing Avenue and the extremely bright students of Hazelton's Academic Center for the Talented magnet program, grades 4, 5, and 6 and their parents.



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
April 5	Kelsey Ranch	Annual Bass Fishing Trip Al Smatshy - 368-9261
Wednesday April 9	FIRST NAZARENE CHURCH 915 Rosemarie Lane Stockton	Membership Meeting Craig Nielsen - Dry flies & fast water fishing in & around the Shasta area
Wednesday April 16	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	Board Meeting All Members Welcome
April 18 - 20	The Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club - San Francisco	Jimmy Green International SPEY-O-RAMA & Fly Casting Festival
May 10	White Pines Lake	Annual One Fly Contest
May 30	Buckley Cove - Ladd's Marina Stockton	Fly Fishing Only Bass Tournament
May or June	Davis Lake	Monthly Outing

Jimmy Green International SPEY-O-RAMA & Fly Casting Festival

Friday April 18 - Sunday April 20, 2008 - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

The Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club with Mel Krieger will be presenting the Jimmy Green International Spey-O-Rama & Fly Casting Festival April 18th, 19th, and 20th, 2008 at the world renown casting ponds located in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. GGACC is devoted to introducing everyone to fly casting and angling at their historical club and facility. The event is open to the public and admittance is free. You can get more information at <http://www.speyorama.com/>.

The event will center on Spey casting competitions and single hand and two-hand casting demonstrations by fly casting experts. There are three ways to cast a fly line with the traditional single-handed rod; the roll cast, the overhead cast, and the Spey cast. The Spey cast originated and was developed in Scotland and is most often used with two handed fly rods.

Local, domestic and International casting masters will be offering free demonstrations and clinics each day. Premium Fly-Fishing rod and reel manufacturers will have their products available for you to use to hone your skills.

Some Exhibitors confirmed so far are: CND, Anderson Custom Rods, Hardy, Cortland, ECHO, Orvis, AirFlo, Riverwatch Bamboo Fly Rods, G Loomis, Rio, Beulah Fly Rods, and Hatch Outdoors, Inc. Many more will be exhibiting.

Competitors and fly fishing experts will include the likes of: Nobuo Nodera, Tak Shimosawa, Ian Gordon, Steve Rajeff, Tim Rajeff, Stener Skogmo, Kjell Ove Grimsmo, Hiroshi Okada, Andrew Murray, Simon Gawesworth, Mike Kinney, Amy & John Hazel, Mariusz Wroblewski, Tyler Kushnir, Mel Krieger, Jeff Putnam, Gary Anderson, Mike Kinney, Simon Hsieh, Frank Chen, Brian Styskal, Kateri Clay and Donna O'Sullivan.

Craig Nielsen Delta Fly Fisher's April Speaker



The Delta Fly Fisher's speaker for March will be Craig Nielsen. Craig is a Northern California native and has been chasing trout with a fly rod for over 40 years. He and his wife Jerri run "Shasta Trout", a guide service located in Mount Shasta, California. They guide and host trips to the McCloud River, Lower Sacramento River, Upper Sacramento River, Klamath River, Hat Creek, Fall River, Pit River, Rogue River, Umpqua, Williamson and a host of still waters close to Shasta area.

Craig is an FFF certified casting instructor and taught at the Mel Krieger casting school. He holds a Teaching Credential and a Master's degree from Chico State where he has worked as an Instructor, Administrator and Counselor. Craig has been a featured guide with The Fly Shop, Leland, Flywater, Ted Fay, Dunsmuir Fly Fishing Co., and Clearwater House.

His presentation will focus on dry flies and fast water fishing in and around the Shasta area.

Information: Marty Kjelson 477-9618 or John Keagy 369-5690

The Bass-n-Fly Challenge May 30, 2008

Bass-n-Fly, along with the Stockton Bass Club, is sponsoring the first ever California Delta fly fishing only bass tournament on Friday, May 30, 2008. The tournament will stage at, and leave from, Buckley Cove/Ladd's Marina at 6:00 am and the weigh in will be at 2:00 pm.

More information can be found at <http://www.bassnfly.com/Home.html> or from the Stockton Bass Club, Contact David Sanchez 518-9299 or Rick Soriano 406-5562. Entries can be dropped off at The Outdoor Sportsman on March Lane.

Zack Thurman 11:00am
Tim Fox's Fly Tying 1:00 pm
Mike Mercer's Fly Tying 3:00 pm
Justin Miller's Fly Tying 5:00 pm

FLY TYING DEMONSTRATIONS

Join us April 25th for information on local fishing and equipment along with free food and sodas. Come join the fun! It's finally time to tangle with our finned friends again.

- Featuring**
- Free Food 1am-5:30pm
 - Fly Tying Demonstrations
 - Fly Fishing Industry Reps
 - Local Knowledge
 - DFG Representative

The Fly Shop in Redding, California is excited more than ever to announce the beginning of another spectacular trout season. The Fly Shops Trout Opening Day party here in beautiful Northern California is something you won't want to miss. Whether you're a seasoned veteran or just a beginner, you need to be here! If free food, great advice, and good people appeal to you, then The Fly Shop is the place to be to kick off the celebrations. Our knowledgeable staff will be on hand to answer any questions and will point you in the right direction with the right equipment.

Dear Fellow Anglers:

Celebrate the Beginning of Another Spectacular Season

Trout Opening Day Party at The Fly Shop
Friday, April 25th, 2008



Delta Fly Fishers

Rx Flyfishing Newsletter

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