

February 2007

Delta Fly Fishers

Rx
Flyfishing

President's Message by Herman Spalinger

President's Message

We are still looking for a vice-president! The same members seem to step forward time and time again to do their share of club work, but those same members have all put their time into the club and it's now time for some other members to come forward. I know the Board would welcome some fresh new ideas entering the officer ranks to help keep this club moving forward. This club is now in its 30th year, and we can look to another 30 good years or more but that won't happen if we can't get new volunteers stepping forward from the membership. I would invite any of you who are interested in getting involved in putting in a little time as a vice-president to come to one of our Board meetings and see how we operate. We have a great bunch of Board members who make running this club quite a bit easier from my perspective. Also, if you have any gripes or concerns you would like to address, please come to a Board meeting and be heard.

On another note, I attended the San Mateo sportsman show with Steve Cooper this last Friday and we were both dismayed by the lack of participation from the fly shops, fly casting events or fly tiers whose group has dwindled almost in half from the two previous years. I've heard from the "grapevine" that the fly shops are not having that many customers come through their doors, and some shops are having a hard time staying in business. Another possible reason for the lack of participants in the event was due to the increased fees for setting up a booth that a local fly shop owner mentioned. Please take the opportunity to support the fly shops that support our club by advertising in our newsletter and who give the club good discounts on our raffle prizes such as Kiene's and The American Fly Shop in Sacramento and also the one in Modesto, Sierra Anglers. Mention you're a member of the Delta Fly Fishers and you might get a discount.

In case some of you missed it, there was a recent article published in the Northwest Fly Fishing magazine's January/February issue concerning what's happening at Lake Davis just north of Portola. The article was titled Killing Lake Davis Pike written by Terry W. Sheely. As of the writing of this article, there is great concern that the pike which are destroying the trout in the lake are poised to spill over the dam and spread downstream through the Feather River and perhaps even into the Sacramento Delta. DFG's office of communication deems this a top priority for this coming summer. They have joined with a local committee in Portola called the Lake Davis Steering Committee to work out details on eradicating the pike population. For two years after the 1997 rotenone pike eradication their records revealed no pike were found in the lake according to Steve Martarano supervisor of the DFG's office of communication. DFG is presently supporting a plan calling for removal of all fish by draining the 48,000 acre-feet of water, treating the lake thoroughly with rotenone then restocking it with rainbow and brown trout. What's scary is DFG has been threatened by some individuals stating they will just restock the lake with pike after any treatment. I have personally enjoyed fishing that lake and would certainly not like to see this happen. If you're interested in reading the page-and-a-half article, pick up a copy of the magazine and turn to page 20 and 21. Let's all hope this fishery fairly close to our neighborhood remains a good trout impoundment in the future, and if any of you have some more recent information than this article I mention, you might pass it on to the editor of our newsletter.

Okay, let's keep our flies at the ready when that big one comes swimming by.

Herman

Membership Form

Membership Form - Regular membership is: \$25 and a Family Membership is: \$30.00 or \$20.00 for 62 years or older. New members please add \$5.00 one time new member initiation. Dues are for one year September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007. Please fill out then mail to: Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862, Stockton, CA 95207

Check one: New membership _____ Renew membership _____

Regular Membership for one year \$25.00 _____ Two years \$50.00 _____

Family Membership for one year \$30.00 _____ Two years \$60.00 _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Phone: 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:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Casting | <input type="checkbox"/> Fly Tying | <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Knot Tying |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Rod Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Selecting a Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel | <input type="checkbox"/> Entomology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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

An Old Man's Birthday Gets Exciting

Sallye took me steelhead fishing for my birthday January 10th and it proved both exciting and memorable. Keith Kaneko put his new Hyde drift boat in the water on the American River at Sailor Bar at 7 a.m. Using 7-weight gear, we began fishing just off the rocky shoreline up river from the put in and I was hooked up on my first cast. After 15 minutes I was having photos taken of a 30-inch wild steelhead buck. This proved to be my only fish for the day, but that was all right with me. Sallye finally lost her steelhead magnate; she had six half pounders for the day.

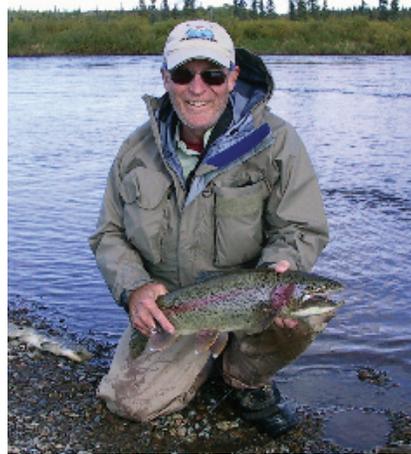
Adding to the morning's excitement was a police river pursuit involving our guide. We had anchored just downstream of the sunrise walking bridge to extend our leaders when we began hearing emergency vehicles on both sides of the river. We next saw these vehicles crossing back and forth on the Sunrise Blvd. Bridge. This was followed shortly by a sheriff's helicopter circling the river over that bridge. We continued to wonder what was taking place as the helicopter moved slowly down river. Suddenly police officers were on both sides of the river. Several motioned us over to the South bank asking if they could use the boat. It turned out that a wanted fugitive had been pursued in a stolen recreational vehicle down to the river when he abandoned the vehicle and sought to escape by jumping into the river. No only did he jump into 47 degree water, he did so nude, except for a pair of swim fins. I have no idea where these came from.

Anyway, the officers wanting Keith's boat finally realized they had no idea how to operate it. This ended by Keith hauling the three officers across the river where he was able to block the fugitive's swim down river until a fire rescue jet boat arrived and the nude was apprehended. As the photo shows, all on the drift boat had a good time.

Sallye told me she had her eyes closed during the actual apprehension. This still does not explain the binoculars around her neck.



Tis The Season For Big Trout/Steelhead



Dan and Al's Excellent Alaskan Adventure



Who is this Delta Fly Fisher? Grady guessed it is Jim Rich. With that hat I am thinking Steve Cooper.



Bruce's American River Steelhead Trout



Steve and Nate Cooper With A Nice Trout

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(Open)

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Fishing Buddy

Bob Souza 209 - 478-8344

Grady Lee 209 - 951-3623

Ron Pettit 209 - 931-2997

Delta Fly Fishers Official Club Merchandise For Sale

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 Bob Bradley 209-369-4048 for info on merchandise

Membership Meetings

January 10 - Randy Doughty- Tight Connection- Trinity and Sacramento River Steelhead.

February 3 - Annual Dinner

March 14th - Ralph Wood -Yuba/Truckee River Trout fishing.

January Board Meeting

January 17

Free Fly Tying

Fly Tying will be held at Oak Grove Park every Wednesday except meeting nights. Information: Jim Rich 209 477-6404

March Newsletter

The deadline for the March issue is February 25th.

Conservation - By Ron Forbes

Despite recent speeches to the contrary, the Bush Administration continues to try to bypass environmental laws and seeks to restrict all public input on proposed projects. The latest issue is that the U.S. Forest Service wants to amend federal laws to allow any State to release fish poisons (piscicides) within the National Forest System. This includes all streams, rivers and lakes. Any State could poison any waterway, without first obtaining the knowledge of the effects that an environmental analysis would provide. Also under the proposal, no public input would be allowed. They could also build new roads and water barriers without concern for any environmental issues (i.e. spawning beds etc). USFS claims their changes are merely "internal housekeeping" issues and should not require environmental analysis under the Environmental Policy Act. This proposal could have a huge impact nationwide despite what the USFS claims. One can only imagine the impact of 50 different State governments' interpretation of what they could do under these new regulations.

There is a new wrinkle in the on going fight for the removal of the four dams on the Klamath River. The dam's 50 years licenses are up and need to be renewed. These dams, owned by PacifiCorp, are used for hydroelectric power and not for flood control. They produce 150 megawatts of power which provides enough power for 70,000 customers, an area the size of Lodi and a small surrounding area. The dams involved are Iron Gate, JC Boyle, Copco#1 and Copco#2. All are seeking a new license. Years of negotiation with Scottish Power, the former owners of PacifiCorp, are no longer valid as PacifiCorp a Portland, Oregon company, was recently acquired by MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company, which is owned by Warren Buffet's Berkshire Hathaway, Inc. The first of the dams went up almost 100 years ago and blocked over 250 miles of prime steelhead and salmon spawning habitat. Groups including Indian tribes, environmental, commercial and sport fishing groups have been fighting to have these dams removed for years. It seems before they can get a new license, Pacific Corp, will have to bring the dams up to current environmental standards including placing fish ladders to restore the loss of the spawning habitat. Some cost analysis show that it may be cheaper to remove the dams that to bring them up to today's standards. Analysis of the increase in the commercial salmon and other sport fishing income would greatly increase the local economy and more than offset the loss of power income. Any increase in the cost will make it even more attractive for PacifiCorp's to remove these dams.

The new wrinkle is that the Klamath Riverkeepers (an affiliate of Waterkeeper Alliance) has filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue. The suit will be under the Clean Water Act. Both the California Dept. of Fish and Game and PacifiCorp will be defendants. PacifiCorp owns a hatchery at Iron Gate dam and DFG operates the hatchery. The problem is that the hatchery regularly discharges fish parts and excrement in the Klamath that surpass the Clean Water Act requirements and have failed to report these discharges.

These discharges have fed algae blooms which are associated with parasites that have contributed to the increasing loss of the salmon population. These parasites causes gill rot. The low flows of the Klamath, causing increased water temperatures into the 70's, and resulting increase of the parasites have caused the huge loss of returning salmon. The result was a cut back of the commercial season and the drastic loss of income for the salmon fleet. The usual season brings in about \$800 million. This season will probably produce less than \$200 million. Both the governors of Oregon and Washington have met to discuss the removal of the dams. The Clean Water Act provides fines of \$325,000 per day. Groups involved would rather see the money go to Klamath habitat restoration rather than the federal government. It will be interesting to see if this is the straw that breaks the camel's back.

Tight loops,
Ron Forbes

The Rancho Seco Fishing Contest

Ron Forbes has set the date for the Rancho Seco fishing contest with the California Fly Fishers United of Sacramento for March 3rd. Ron has read some of the insults from said club at our membership meetings. Rules for the contest are still pending. A lunch will be served with a heavy dose of humble pie for the losers or possibly heavy helpings of Mississippi tri-tip or caviar with some road kill as a side dish. Here is an excerpt from an e-mail between members of CFFU. (Said e-mail was intercepted and decoded by a member of the DFFBI aka Delta Fly Fishers Bureau of Intelligence) "I am with you 100%!!!!!! We will nail their (I assume the reference is to the honorable DFF) slimy butts to the wall. Or sink their Styrofoam? Electrical tape float tubes.....which as you know are only kept afloat by the tremendous amount of hot air expelled by operator of said "crafts". Power bait? They should aspire to such heights.....no that is one step above their current talents....."

Dear fellow members how can we allow such to insults to continue to sully the honorable name of the DFF? I know we can respond with much more intelligent insults. Please send any and all to me and I will forward same to Ron Forbes, who I am sure will make sure that any messages are "intercepted" by the CFFU Bureau of Intelligence (what an oxymoron).

Grady

One Fly Contest

The Calaveras Club has set the date for the One Fly Contest on May 5th. Circle that date on your calendars. We have a great time with these guys and they serve a great lunch. More on this as the time gets closer.

On A Sad Note

On Saturday January 19 Jack Gordon passed away at the age of 91. Jack was one of our founding members and as Leo Gutterres put it, "He was one of the 60 year OLD GUYS and I was one of the young whipper snappers in my late 30's. Guess what, its been 30 years so who is one of the OLD GUYS now."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Every Wed (except meeting nights)	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	FLY TYING Contact: Jim Rich 477-6404
Every 2nd Wed (except July & Aug) 7:00 PM	John R Williams School Stockton	Membership Meeting Contact Steve Cooper 956-1032
Every 3rd Wed (except July) 7:00 PM	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	Board Meeting All Members Welcome
February 3	Oak Grove Park Stockton	Bob McMillan Memorial Trout Bout
February 3	Stockton Inn 4219 E Waterloo Rd.	The DFF Annual Banquet will be held at the Stockton Inn.
February 14	John R Williams School Stockton	There Is No Meeting This Month
February 21	Oak Grove Park Stockton	Board of Director's Meeting
February 23-25	Alameda County Fair Grounds Pleasanton	Fly Fishing Show
February 24	Alameda County Fair Grounds Pleasanton	NCCFFF's Annual Hall of Fame Dinner
March 3rd	Rancho Seco Recreational Area	Rancho Seco fishing contest with the California Fly Fishers United of Sacramento
March 14th	John R. Williams School Stockton	Ralph Wood C&R Guide Service-Yuba/Truckee River Trout Fishing.
May 5th	White Pines Lake	One Fly Contest With The Calaveras Club

Peacock Backed Woolly Buggers

By Mike Hogue

One of the most effective flies I have ever used and developed is the peacock backed woolly bugger. About 10 years ago I developed the peacock backed bugger while fishing on the White River in Arkansas. At the time, I was in search of the perfect woolly bugger and was looking for a way to improve the standard pattern which worked so well in the Sculpin rich tail waters. I have used this pattern with great success where ever I have fished. With this single fly I have caught trophy browns, rainbows, cutthroats, salmon, bass and panfish. The fly can be used as a crawfish imitation, Sculpin pattern and for large aquatic insects such as crane fly larva or hellgrammites.

My influences for this fly came from 2 sources: Ed Story's Crackle Back and Dave Whitlock's Flash-a-Bugger. Ed Story is the owner of Feathercraft in St. Louis, MO. Over the years that Ed has been in business, he has touted this pattern as one of the best to fish. The Crackle Back is tied with a furnace hackle, various shades of dubbing and peacock herl pulled across the back of the fly. Whitlock's Flash-a-Bugger had Flashabou in the tail, a peacock back and was tied on up eye salmon hooks.

When I was developing my pattern, I thought about these 2 flies and used ideas from each. The Crackle Back has typically been tied in smaller sizes and is often fished as a dry. It lacked a tail and the action I was seeking but I did like the different colors and contrast of that the hackle and peacock provided. The Flash-a-Bugger was tied on a salmon hook and most often was tied in white to imitate minnows which I didn't much care for. I did like the flash used in the tail and also the differences in the colors.

After several experiments, this fly evolved. With the large numbers of fish in the White, I fished many patterns and this particular one was chosen by the fish as their favorite. It takes the best ideas from both of these flies and the new combination is very effective. I like that it can be fished as many sorts of patterns and that it imitate both Sculpin and crawfish.

Pattern: Mike's Peacock Backed Woolly Bugger

Hook: Mustad 9672, Targus 5263 sizes 4-10

Thread: 6/0 Black

Tail: Bronze Flashabou over Strung Marabou or Woolly Bugger Marabou

Body: Variegated Medium Olive and Black Chenille

Rib: Oval Tinsel

Hackle: Olive dyed grizzly

Bead: 5/32" Gold Bead (size 8) , increase or decrease size for different hooks.

Locating Materials:

When I first discovered variegated chenille I went crazy tying every combination of colors I could find. This material is created by the Danville Chenille Company to have alternating bands of colors. I found that the Olive/Black is one of my favorites. For hackle I use wide webby saddle hackle. I prefer to use grizzly that is dyed olive and I look for feathers which are Christmas tree shaped and taper to a point. Soft feathers that contain a great deal of web give the fly great action. I also prefer using woolly bugger marabou which has a very life like quality to it. In a pinch, strung blood marabou can also be used as a substitute. For either types of marabou I look for material which has little or no stem and clean ends with no broken tips. Avoid marabou with ratty, broken ends or marabou which has tat stems.

Most hackle growers such as Whiting, Ewing or Keough offer dyed grizzly saddles. Some growers such as Ewing offer bleached grizzly dyed olive for a really interesting effect. Variegated chenille, Bugger Marabou and Bronze Flashabou are available from Hareline Dubbin or Wapsi Dealers. If you are unable to locate these specific materials, you may substitute standard olive chenille and omit the Flashabou.

Tying Steps:

- 1) Slip the gold bead over the hook. The larger hole should face the rear of the hook. If you have trouble sliding the hook over the point, smash the barb down.
- 2) Start thread and created a thread base. Tie in the tail such that the length of the tail is equal to the hook shank. Next select and clip the Flashabou to length. Use 7-10 strands of material, making it twice as long as the tail. Fold it in half and tie it in on top of the marabou, equal to the length of the tail. The small loop keeps the material from slipping and locks it down tight.
- 3) Select 4-5 peacock herls. I use eyed peacock sticks and pull the herl off the stem, leaving the rough edges exposed. Fold the herl in half and tie on top of the hook shank. If you make the herl a bit long than the tail, it will be easier to separate and fold when finishing the body.
- 3) Select a saddle hackle that is wide, webby and tapered to a point. Stroke the fibers of the fly down and tie the feather in by the tip. Tie in the rib.
- 4) Advance thread forward to the eye. Lay the chenille parallel to the hook shank and tie down, moving thread to the back of the hook. By tying the chenille in the front, it will make the body more even and consistent.
- 5) Move thread back to the eye of the hook. Wrap chenille forward and tie off. Wrap rib forward in even oval turns and tie off. Wrap hackle forward and tie off.
- 6) Run your finger over the top of the hackle, pulling and folding it to the sides. Pull herl over the back, compressing hackle and tie off at the behind the bead. Whip finish and that's it. This fly is a bit more complicated than the standard types of patterns. If done neatly, this will make a very attractive pattern that is beautiful and fishes very well.

Mike Hogue, Badger Creek Fly Tying, 622 W. Dryden Road, Freeville, NY 13068,

Mike@eflytyer.com, 607-347-4946, www.eflytyer.com

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