



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

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February 2018

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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Calendar

February 14—General Membership Meeting, John R. Williams School

February 17—Stanislaus River Drift, Knight's Ferry Park, Mike NicholSEN, Fishmiester

February 21—DFF Board Meeting, Oak Grove Park

February 23/24—Pyramid Lake Outing, meeting location TBA, Amy Terra, Fishmiester

March 3—Bob McMillan Trout Bout, Oak Grove Park

March 11—Fly Casting day II, Lodi Lake

March 14—General Membership Meeting, John R. Williams School

March 18—Consumnes River Preserve Outing, Bill Beckett, Fishmiester

March 21, DFF Board Meeting, Oak Grove Park

March 23-25—Pyramid Lake Outing, Jerry Neuburger, Fishmiester

From the President's desk... (or pram or van or camper)

Wow, the installation dinner was a blast!!!

If you're one of those people who did not come to the club's installation dinner, you missed out! While the crowd, at a little over 70 people, was smaller than years past, the night was a really fun time, with good friends, good food, lots of awards and a large variety of raffle and silent auction prizes with a total value of over \$5,000.

Of course the highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards. Chris Shutes of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance was presented with a \$1,000 check to continue CSPA's efforts to protect California's waterways and fisheries. Barbara Parilla from Restore the Delta, did not attend due to the flu but the club awarded RTD the Good Stewardship Award and a check for \$1,000.

EBMUD was represented by Michelle Workman who gave a short talk on EBMUD's outstanding efforts to maintain a vibrant Chinook salmon and steelhead fishery. With close to 19,000 salmon and 450 steelhead returning this year. The club gave her and EBMUD a rousing ovation for their efforts.

The awards started with the Incomplete Angler Award. Ron Forbes, last year's recipient, was again nominated, and brought a quart of gasoline to burn the fat lipped catfish carving if he won it for a second time. To ease his mind, he was informed that he was not in contention for the award this year but, as a "consolation prize," he was given a personal plaque to take home for his winning the award for 2017.

Grady Lee, "The Shadow," presented this year's award to Jim Rich and Larry Schmidt. Jim and Larry went delta fishing on Jim's boat on a frigid winter's day. Jim found some half frozen water in a bucket on board and went to throw it overboard without looking where and in doing so,

doused his fishing buddy. A bad way to start the day.

The next award, the President's Club Service Award is usually presented to the club member who has done the most to move the club forward during the year. However, this year, there were five people that the president felt deserved the award. Jason Stapleton for his five years as service as Treasurer, John and Karen Keagy for John's work as webmaster, their work together heading up numerous trout bouts, and Karen's multiyear efforts as club recording secretary. Larry Schmidt was awarded the plaque for his efforts in setting up the club pavilions and cooking lunches at various club outings and events and Ron Forbes was given the award for his many years of efforts as the club's Conservation Chair.

The big award of the night, the Fly Fisher of the Year, was presented to Bob Fujimura. Bob for his nine years as Membership Chair, an incredible job maintaining the club's Face book page, quietly mentors new members, turning them from newbies to proficient fly fishers without fanfare, leading club outings and taking responsibility for the club's rod building classes.

The raffle and silent auctions went well with donations from Larry Mettler—Mettler Family Vineyards, Mark DeLaBarre, Bill Beckett, Headwaters Kayaks, Al Smatsky, Excellent Adventures, Leo Gutterres, Joe Balderston, CJ Webb, Virginia Lakes Resort, Sportsman's Warehouse, Scott Sugimoto, On the Riffle Guide Service, Jason Stapleton, Larry Lee, L3 Rods, and Jerry Neuburger.

Sam Thompson won the big Grand Prize of the evening, a Redington complete switch rod outfit, and Larry Schmidt won yet another pontoon boat.

It was a really GREAT EVENING!



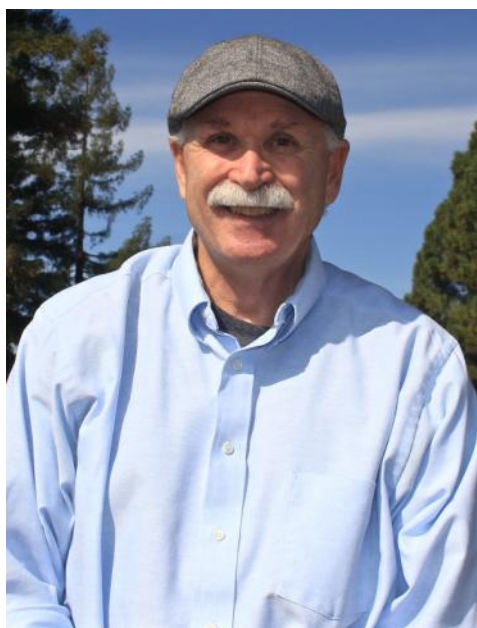
Nationally known Ken Hanley to speak on outdoor photography at club's February meeting

Take images that have impact! Make your pictures more engaging. With a few solid tips and easy techniques anyone can improve their image quality. It's never been easier to get into photography especially with cell phones and "point-n-shoot" cameras. Sharing your experiences through visual media is a celebrated part of the fly fishing legacy. Ken's background in art and design is the basis for his approach to creating interesting imagery.

Ken's been a fly fishing ambassador since the early 70's. As a guide and instructor, he's worked with thousands of students in the field.

He's the author of seven fly fishing books. He also writes and photographs for both international and regional publications in the outdoor industry. In addition, his outreach to audiences includes videos celebrating both saltwater & freshwater adventures.

Ken's extensive field experience spans the globe; from the highest peaks in Tibet and the Himalaya, to the remote wilderness regions of Asia, New Zealand, Mexico, Europe, and North America.



He's on Pro Staff with the following sponsors; SAGE Instructor, SIMMS, RIO Products Intl, Dai-ichi, Renzetti, Dr. Slick, Hatch, and Patagonia

He's still stokin' the fire with his long time commitment to the Adventure Industry and environmental education.

The meeting will be held at the John R. Williams School, Meadow Avenue, Stockton on February 14. Doors open at 6:30, meeting starts at 7. Public welcome.

A float down the Stan with Mike Nicholzen the February 17th outing

Saturday, February 17, 7:00 AM

Put in: Knights ferry day use (kiosk parking \$5 bucks)

take out: horseshoe bend park

This outing will take place if the flows are stabilized below 600 cfs. right now the flows are 435 cfs (prime) I will keep a watchful eye to determine if the river will

be safely navigable for the date of the club outing. If the river flows rise over 600 cfs on and or around the outing date the outing will be cancelled in advance. This float is limited to 10 anglers to productively fish the river. I recommend anglers to be proficient in safely navigating their fishing vessel. We float on a buddy system no angler left behind.

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Vessels: pontoon boat, kayak, pram, river canoe

gear recommendations: 9-10 ft 4-7 wt rods. floating, intermediate, sink tip lines
style: streamer, dry dropper, indicator, tight lining, chance of dry fly with BWO and midge hatches

flies: wooly buggers, leaches, matukas, alevin, pt nymphs, hares ears, micro may-fly, lightening bugs, rainbow warriors, red headed step child, zebra midges, copper johns, panty droppers, brassies, egg patterns. Bring your confidence fly box!

Necessities: Life vest, sunglasses, your favorite hat, drinking water, sack lunch, waterproof camera, cell phone.

Fishing this outing we will be stopping and wade fishing runs with the opportunity to fish the deeper slow water from your vessel. Allow for a full day on the water and to exit the river at approximately 3:00 pm. roughly 4.5-5 mile float.



Sign ups will be at the next general club meeting.

For more information contact Mike via text messaging on his cell phone.

First of two outing to Pyramid set for February 23-24, Amy Terra's first go around as fishmiester

Standing on a ladder and fishing? It sounds strange but if it's Pyramid Lake, it's the thing to do. Pyramid Lake, tucked away in the hills 35 miles north of Reno on the Paiute Indian Reservation is a "different kind of fishery." The alkaline lake holds some of the largest and most ancient fish in North America, and these fish do get BIG. Fish over 29 pounds are caught on fly fishing gear every year and with the re-introduction of the original strain of Lahontan Cutthroat trout, expectations for a fish exceeding 40 pounds is not a fantasy.

The most common way of fishing the lake is by taking out a six foot ladder, setting it up in waist high water on the sand bottom, climbing the ladder and either fishing streamers in the form of wooly buggers and beetles on a quick sinking line or hanging #8 bead head chironomids a few inches off the bottom on an indicator

To fish the lake you'll need the following; seven or eight weight rod, Type IV to VI line for streamers, floating line for



chironomids, #10 fluorocarbon leader, a selection of #6-8 wooly buggers and balanced leaches (black is a popular color) a selection of #6-10 chironomids in red, wine, black, brown, with white or brass beads, a ladder, waders, boots or flats boots, hat, protective glasses, and layers of clothing to keep you warm in temperatures that could be in the low 40's to low 70's.

You'll also need a tribal fishing license, not a Nevada F&G license. The licenses can be [purchased on-line](#) for a day, multiple days or the season.

Some anglers are using pontoon boats or small prams as an alternative to a ladder,

rowing out to the fishing line, and dropping an anchor, fore and aft.

Camping is allowed at most beaches along the lake front and there is a full service RV Park at [Crosby's Lodge](#), Sutcliffe. The lodge also features room, a great restaurant, fun bar with a happy hour, and a store with basic foodstuffs and, most important, a well stocked fly box.

Because of the chance of weather closing Hwy. 80, it is recommended that you sign up for this outing with Amy so she can let you know of last minute cancellations. She'll cover these details and more at the February meeting.

The club has four new advertisers!

The club picked up four new advertisers through their donations to the club's installation dinner raffle and auction.

L3 Rods—Larry Lee

Larry donated one of his custom 7 weight rods for the silent auction. His rods are prized by many local anglers and he will build a rod to your specifications at a reasonable price or you can buy one of his own creations.

Metter Family Vineyards—Larry Mettler

Larry has been contributing to our raffles for many years and usually supplies a bottle or two for the guest speaker's dinner. A formal acknowledgement of his generosity is over-

due.

On the Riffle Guide Service—Scott Sugimoto

Scott attended our dinner as a guest of Gil Parker and donated TWO guided trips on the lower Sac for a total value of \$900. The bids on these trips accounted for 20% of the income from the night's silent auction and raffle.

Sportsman's Warehouse

Open since August of 2017, Stockton finally has a real place to shop for fly fishing gear including a giant row of fly tying supplies and materials. The well stocked store has committed to quarterly donations in excess of \$100 or \$400 for the year. Their contribution

to the installation dinner raffle of a folding wading stick and Rio line were well sought after.

The four join our long time advertisers:

Excellent Adventures—Al Smatsky

Headwaters Kayaks—Bill Beckett

SaveMart Markets Shares Program

Virginia Lakes Resort—CJ Webb

These businesses are an important part of the club's being able to provide a quality program throughout the year. Please give them your support. They'll treat both you and the club right.

Mark your calendars, Sunday, March 11, 9:00am

Get ready for Casting Day II, this time an "on the water" experience!

We heard a lot of, "Let's do it again!" at last year's first Casting Day so we've set up another day of fly flinging practice and competitive events, this time, "on the water!"

We've moved the event to Lodi Lake where we will be able to take advantage of the water and wading to enhance the casting experience and help with the instruction, especially where water loading is part of the casting technique

The date set for the event is Sunday, March 11th, with casting instruction from nine to noon, lunch from noon till one and then the Casting Olympics from one to whenever.

This year we're asking participants to bring their own equipment both double and single handed rods and we'll have stations set up for different learning and equipment evaluating activities.

In addition to basic casting with a dry line, the day will include instruction on special casts such as bounce casts, reach casts, and cross body casts. Instruction on the casting of both spey and switch rods will be available to those who have brought their equipment. Another station will have examples of a balanced casting

outfit, and outfits that are underlined and overlined and a chance to cast each. Other stations will be set up to teach twisted leader building, serving loops in fly lines using fly tying tools and knot tying.

While not a sure thing, the club hopes to have some guest instructors from one of the larger local clubs to help in the day's instruction for both double and single handed casting.

A club furnished lunch will take place around noon and will include some special treats.

After lunch, we'll hold our second Casting Olympics, a four event competition with enough chance involved as well as skill to make everyone eligible to win a prize. While we may have some events the same or similar to last year's, there's no guarantee that you'll recognize an event from the past.

Of course, the competition would not be complete without prizes and we'll have a complete five weight outfit for the winner, and choice of rod or reel and line for second, the remaining item for third.

The event does have some costs involved since the lunch and prizes as well as possible instructor fees have to be considered

so we're asking for a registration fee of \$20 per member for the day, including all instruction, lunch, and the Casting Olympics competition.

Because the event is in the early spring, we may run into weather problems. A chance of sprinkles will not cancel but a real gully washer or near hurricane will cause a reschedule or cancelling of the event.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

8:30—9:00 Registration (\$20) coffee and donuts.

9:00—12:00 Casting clinics on:
Basic Casting using member's rods
Two handed rods—Spey and switch
Specialty Casting, Reach, bounce, roll, Belgian, cross body.

Workshops on:
Twisted Leaders
Served loops fly line ends
The no-nail nail knot and the Open loop knot
Balanced outfits

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00 –2:30 Casting Olympics

2:30 Awards Ceremony

The 2018 outings schedule. Something for everyone and a lot more!

Here's the list of planned outings for the year. We've changed our philosophy about maximizing attendance in favor of offering a large variety of experiences featuring different types of fly fishing and fishing different waters.

The list is fluid and as the year progresses, we may add a few or cancel a few. However, some of you need to do some long range planning and if that's the case, hopefully this list will be of help.

February 17, Stanislaus drift - Mike Nicholson

February 23, 24- Pyramid Lake - Amy Terra

March 3, Bob McMillan Trout Bout

March 11, Casting Day II- Al Smatsky/ Bill Beckett/ Amy Terra/ Dena Mason/ Jerry Neuberger

March 18, Consumes River Preserve for bluegill and small bass - Bill Beckett.

March 23, 24, 25 - Pyramid - Jerry Neuberger

April 21, Kelsey Bass Ranch- Al Smatsky

April 22, Village West Marina for largemouth bass - Bill Beckett

April 28, Beardsley After bay - Mike Nicholson

May 5, One Fly Contest, White Pines Lake- Bob Fujimura

May 20-23, South Fork Reservoir, Nevada - Bob Fujimura

May 26, American River, Shad - Jerry Neuberger/Al Smatsky

June 2, Catfish Derby

June 10, Georgiana Slough Fishing Access for smallmouth and spotted bass - Bill Beckett

June 13, DFF Barbecue

July 15, Steamboat landing for smallmouth bass - Bill Beckett

August 12, Russo's Marina for baby stripers and largemouth bass - Bill Beckett

September 7, 8, 9 Heenan Lake/Carson

River/Indian Creek Res. - Jerry Neuberger

September 16, Arrowhead Marina for stripers, smallmouth and spotted bass - Bill Beckett

September 17-23, Bridgeport - Don Gillett

October 7, Paradise Point for largemouth bass and stripers - Bill Beckett

October 12, 13 Lower Sac - Charlie Reames

October 26, 27, 28 Heenan Lake/Carson River/Indian Creek Res - Jerry Neuberger

October 21, Trout at Coffee Creek in the Trinity Alps - Bill Beckett

November 3, Paradise Point, Stripers - Jerry Neuberger

November 10, Trout Bout

November 18, Stillwater South, launch out of the pebble beach country club- Bill Beckett

December 8, Fly Tying Saturday - Al Smatsky

Conservation by Ron Forbes

Once Again, California Puts a Fox in Charge of Guarding Our Hen Houses

"Fishing is much more than fish. It is the great occasion when we get to return to the fine simplicity of our ancestors."

... Herbert Hoover

Organizations opposed to Gov. Brown's Twin Tunnels have filed motions to stay the project. The counties of Sacramento and San Joaquin, along with the cities of Stockton and Antioch, and agencies from the North Delta have filed an action for a 90-day period to investigate illegal "ex parte" meetings between the State Water Resources Control Board (SWB) and the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR). Alex Breitler, of the Stockton Record, pointed out that "ex parte" rules exist to guarantee transparency in a decision making process. However, in 2015, secret meetings between the DWR and the SWB were held without the presence of those opposed to the Tunnel Project being present or notified.

Bill Jennings, the Executive Director of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) noted, "This is an egregious violation of due process. The hear-

ing staff and hearing officers are absolutely prohibited from any private communications with any involved parties. This is a quasi-judicial proceeding. This is big. How would you feel if you were being prosecuted by the District Attorney, and halfway through the trial you realized that the judge's legal staff was in communication almost daily with the prosecutor?"

In a recent Dan Bacher article, he quoted Save the California Delta Alliance's attorney Michael Brodsky. Brodsky asserts that steps have to be taken to correct this issue. He recommends the "disqualification of the hearing team members and replacement with an administrative law judge". He also wants the "removal of flow criteria from the evidentiary hearing and including it in the Bay Delta Water Quality Plan update, or dismissal of the petition."

A SWB attorney, Nicole Kuenzi, noted that the meetings did occur, but claimed only staff was present to review the tunnels environmental impact report with no SWB members present. She concludes

that, "there is no evidence that any ex parte communication with a State Water Board member occurred." What is wrong with this picture? The SWB's staff has closed door meetings with the DWR and then keeps the contents of their meetings from the SWB members? Highly improbable, but that is what she is asking us to believe.

The current WaterFix hearings have been closed from January 18th to February 2nd to investigate the claims against the DWR and SWB. Those who filed these motions asked for an independent judge to rule on the case. The SWB was to be an independent agency, free to make water decisions that reflect the best interests of all Californians, not special interest groups. However, Gov. Brown has appointed all of the SWB board members. Now two of those members will decide if the SWB is guilty of illegal acts. There is something seriously wrong with this picture.

The organizations who filed this action feel that the "ex parte" communications

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"violate Constitutional due process requirements, California law, rules of the board itself, and other ethical guidelines that apply in such proceedings and irrevocably taint the WaterFix hearings."

And the Incestuous Relationship Between the DWR and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Goes on

To say the management of the DWR borders on being catastrophic is an under-

spillway would be \$200 million. Then it was "over" 400 million. Next it was to top out at \$500 million. Then \$675 million. On Sunday, January 28th, DWR announced the present cost of the spillway fix is \$870 million. However, the project is not completed. The DWR continues to be an agency operating in total chaos.

DWR's directors and key personal are not fired, they "retire". After the last director's "retirement", Gov. Brown appointed a new director. In mid-January, Karla

Nemeth, a former employee of California's Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and supporter of the Twin Tunnels project, has been appointed Director of the DWR. However, red flags are flying. It seems Nemeth is married to an Executive Strategist who works for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). Also during her time with CNRA

she was on MWD's payroll. One of her chief duties as Director of the DWR is to oversee the State Water Project (SWP). Does this present a major conflict of interest? Yes! Her appointment by Gov. Brown raises serious ethical questions. Was her appointment illegal? Probably not. Was it ethical? No! We know that MWD is a chief economic and political player in S. California's attempted water grab of the Delta's water. Will she make her decision based on what is best for the Delta and the people of all California?

Probably not. Gov. Brown only appoints those who never oppose him. Nemeth's salary is \$194,000 and her husband's salary with the MWD is listed at \$211,723.

Trump's Attempt's at a Major Water Grab from the Delta

Last December

Donald Trump announced his plan to fulfill a campaign promise to South San Joaquin Valley corporate farms to increase water supplies from the Delta. The Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has filed a notice of intent to file an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The water would be diverted south through the federal Central Valley Project (CVP).

Three meetings were scheduled for oral or written comments. The first was held in Los Banos and the second in Sacramento. Chico will host the third meeting. The first meeting was held at the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and the second was held at the federal building on 650 Capital Mall. I did not attend the first meeting but attended the second on Tuesday, Jan.23. Both meetings were two hours in length. As expected, the Los Banos meeting was filled with Westlands Water District farmers decrying their need for more water and complaining how the lack of water was hurting their crops. They neglected to say during the 5-year drought, cities faced severe water conservation restrictions while the farmers did not. They also neglected to say that during the drought their crops were at record or near record levels. They also did not mention they planted thousands of acres of new almond crops during the historic drought.

I attended the second meeting in Sacramento representing the Delta Fly Fishers (DFF) and Restore the Delta (RTD). At our December Board of Directors meeting, I explained Trump's proposed water grab from the Delta to take more water from both the state and federal water projects. The board voted unanimously to oppose the Trump proposal.

RTD asked me arrive one hour before the meeting started to protest the USBR's plan. More than 30 people were there from Native America groups, environmental organizations and sport and commercial fisheries. Noah Oppenheim, representing the commercial fishermen, angrily commented, "The government wants to suck our lifeblood dry." He was upset that a decade ago there were 10,000 commercial fishermen in California. Now only 700 exist. If we lose this water, the commercial fishing industry will be non-existent, with the loss of thousands of jobs and their supporting business. A decade ago, the fishing industry was a \$1.4 million asset for the state. Not anymore.



The repairs to the Oroville Dam spillway continue. It's an expensive fix to a poorly engineered dam.

statement. Their recent flawed judgments on the Lake Oroville's spillway disaster has given rise to law suits against California that will cost us hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars. Their opaque and illegal actions in the Delta continue to seriously jeopardize its water quality, fisheries, agriculture, business, and environment. The list of flawed and illegal activities is long. A recent article in the Sacramento Bee reported a new cost of the Oroville's spillway. Initially the director of DWR claimed reconstruction of the



Karla Nemeth being sworn in as a director of DWR

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After attending state and federal meetings for a number of years it has become obvious many of the meetings are not intended to receive input to make intelligent choices, but are held because law requires them. The federal or state project then moves ahead regardless of overwhelming objections. This was one of those meetings. The federal building in Sacramento is huge and eight stories tall. It houses hundreds of workers. However, on the day of the meeting, only one security line was available. The meeting was only to be 2 hours long from 2-4pm. I was in line 30 minutes before the meeting was to start and had cleared the security check 20 minutes after the meeting was to begin. Over 30 people were behind me waiting for clearance. The USBR delayed the meeting for about 40 minutes to allow more people to enter. Then two USGS employees discussed the meeting's protocol for over 20 minutes. The public input statements started with less than an hour left for speakers. I was told that the meeting's length would not be extended and

would conclude at 4pm. We were given 3 minutes to present our comments. In checking with a clerk, I was to be the 17th presenter. A quick math check showed it would be impossible present Delta Fly Fisher's objections at the meeting.

When I objected that the proposed "Revision of Coordinated Long-Term Operation the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project and Related Facilities" public input would be less than 3 hours, I was handed a "Comment Card" to express our objections. I mailed the "Comment Card" and got a "Proof of Mailing Receipt." Next, I e-mailed Katrina Harrison, Project Manager, with our objections. The Trump scheme will continue to have us, as taxpayers, subsidize corporate South Valley agri-

business. If Trump succeeds with this project in the Delta, all we have been fighting for will be lost with devastating effects on our local economy and environment. The USBR EIS will probably take 18 months to complete. This is another MUST WIN for us to preserve the Delta.



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2 column inches each newsletter issue for the year for \$400, six months \$200, quarter \$100, one month \$40. The ad may include artwork and will link to the advertiser's web-site.

Additional column inches of ad space may be purchased at \$200 for the year, \$100 for six months, \$50 for a quarter year, \$20 per month.

Included:

A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

Permission to post specials and other advertising on the [club's Face book page](#), 2 per month.

For additional information please phone or e-mail [Jerry Neuburger](#), Editor 209-369-5752



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