



# Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

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Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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## Calendar

- August 8, GM Meeting, Oak Grove Park, 7:00pm
- August 10, FlyDay Night Tying, House of Coffees, Lodi, 5:00pm—8:00pm
- August 12, Russo's, Bethel Island, 7:00am. Bill Beckett Fishmiester
- August 15, BOD Meeting, Oak Grove Park, 6:30pm
- September 7, 8, 9 Heenan Lake Outing
- September 12, GM Meeting, John R. Williams School
- September 14, House of Coffees, Open Tie Fly Tying
- September 17-23 Bridgeport Outing
- September 26, BOD Meeting, Oak Grove Park



The image pictured is of a:

1. Mayfly nymph
2. Stonefly nymph
3. Caddis nymph
4. Damselfly nymph

Answer at bottom of page 6

The prez sez...

## Are you ready for a super fall?



I'm back...

My summer tour took me over 3,700 miles from California through Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Alberta, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and finally back to California, a total of 60 days on the road. While I had planned to fish a good portion of the way, it just didn't work out. I did manage three days at Wild Horse Reservoir in Nevada at the start of the trip but nothing after.

We had hoped that we would drive all the way to the Arctic Circle north of Fairbanks and be there in time for the summer solstice but it quickly became obvious that, at the speed we were traveling, 60 days would just not be enough time to make what would have been an 8,000 round trip.

We spent the majority of our time in Alberta province, crossing into Canada at Sweetgrass, Montana and traveling to Calgary. Then a big circle to Banff, the Columbia Ice Fields, Jasper, Edmonton, Red Deer, Drumheller and back to Calgary for the Stampede before heading west to Vancouver.

We spent a lot of time in the Canadian Rockies, and while they don't have the height of their southern neighbors, they are spectacular, especially the Columbia Ice Field Parkway between Banff and Jasper National Parks. If anyone is really interested, here is the link to an on line [photo album](#),

We had a great time, as to Alaska, hmmm, maybe some day, and maybe a more direct route. But Canada was fun and well worth the time.

And about the coming fall...

Spring is a great time of year and a respite from the long winter but if I were to pick my favorite time of the fishing calendar, it would be the fall. So many things are happening, In the delta, the largemouth are fattening up before the cold weather comes. While the bite is basically a early morning and evening affair, the fish are more than willing most days. At the same time, the stripers are returning, filling the delta with juveniles first and the larger fish as the water cools.

If you're wired on trout, the fall is a fantastic time, the smaller fish of spring have gained inches and girth gorging themselves throughout the summer. If you're a stream angler, water levels are low enough to make wading easy, if you prefer lakes, the high alpine waters are extra fun in the mornings and evenings.

As the fall cools the water, the steelhead start moving up the rivers, a prize for any serious fly fisher. Whether you want to fish the local Mokelumne and American Rivers, or want to head north to some of the more famous steelhead waters, the fish will be returning, following the salmon runs.

Of course, to take advantage of this time of year, one has to lift him or herself off the couch, string up the rod and get on the water. To make it easier, the club has some great fall outings to lure members, Bill Beckett will be leading some delta outings, I have two outings to Heenan Lake and Don Gillett will head up the annual Bridgeport trip.

It's magic time.

# Want some tips on leaders, lines and knots, come to the August “President’s” meeting

Today’s fly lines and leaders are pricy but with just a little effort, you can save lots of money and have some versatile and cost effective ways to increase your ability to fish different types of water.

The pres will demonstrate and show how to save some serious cash by building various sinking lines by starting with a worn floating line and adding shooting heads and even cutting them in half to multiply the amount of useful line life.

Another skill covered will be the building of a twisted leader. The prez learned the skill from charter member Leo Guterres and has found the leaders superior when used with a large fly such as a bass popper and a floating line.

The last item to be demonstrated is an open loop knot for tying on streamer flies, allowing them to move more freely at the end of a leader. The prez learned the knot from Denny Rickards years ago and it has served him well with many big fish brought to net without a leader break at the fly.

Of course the meeting will have the usual announcements and other necessary club business as well as a small raffle.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 8th, at the Nature Center, Oak Grove Park with a start time of 7:00pm.

And if anyone is interested, he’ll talk about his summer odyssey through the Alberta province in Canada and return trip down the west coast.

## Come join the club for a fun day on the Delta, Sunday, August 12th

Join Bill Beckett to explore another watercraft-friendly Delta fishing location. This time, it is Frank’s Tract and a great location for baby striped bass and bigger largemouth bass.

Meet at the launch ramp at Russo’s, Marina, Bethel Island at 7:00am or, if you really want to target largemouth topwater, be on the water at day break. Much of the water fished, Piper Slough, is isolated from the main tract by a

sea wall but openings are close by to some prime water just outside for additional opportunities. Seven or eight weight rods are recommended with floating lines and bass poppers for topwater, and quick sinking lines with #2 to 1/0 chartreuse/white Clousers for those looking for some early fall stripers. Lunch after at the Porthole Restaurant nearby. Open to all DFF members

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# Want to catch some really large Lahontan cutthroat trout in a more conventional setting (and closer) than Pyramid Lake? Then come to the Heenan Lake Outing, September 7, 8, 9.

Yes, Pyramid Lahontan Cutthroat trout get huge, with fish approaching 25 pounds possible. Well, Heenan Lake, near Markleeville doesn't have fish that big but a 28 inch fish is not unheard of and fish of 24 inches are not unusual.

Heenan Lake is operated by the California Department of Fish and Game as a brood stock lake for this ancient species of trout and is off limits most of the year. However, during the months of September and October, DFW opens the lake on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays for catch and release fishing.

The 230 acre lake is on Highway 89, 130 miles from Stockton, on the west side of Monitor Pass. Although a few anglers fish the lake from the shore, (if you're ambitious you can walk around the entire lake) most fish it from float tubes, pontoon boats, prams or kayaks. A rough 60 yard dirt road goes down to the lake from the parking lot, allowing the launching heavier pontoon boats, prams and kayaks. Only human and electric motor powered craft are allowed on the lake.

The lake is located at close to 7,200 feet and can be a problem, especially afternoon winds. However, most days you can fish the lake from when the gates open, a half hour before sunrise, until the gates close, a half hour after sunset.

Fishing tactics include streamers and fishing chironomids and other small nymphs under an indicator using a five weight rod and floating, intermediate and #2 sinking lines. Since the lake is

only 21 feet deep at its deepest part, almost all areas in the lake hold fish. While the lake fishes well all day, early mornings, as soon as the gates open, are prime with fish rings covering the lake.

The hot fly of the day can vary but anglers should be able to get into fish using #10-12 prinznymphs, olive, light olive, cinnamon, brown, and black woolly buggers and leaches for streamers. Best flies for under an indicator are #12-16 PTs, AP nymphs, copper johns, and chironomids, especially red and wine. Using a hand twist strip with the nymphs can also be effective when fished on a slow sinking line or a floating line with a long flouro leader.

Jerry Neuberger will be fishmiester for the outing and will be camping at the Centerville Flats Campground, a free dry USFS campground with a single set of vault toilets located on Hwy 4, about 4 miles south of its intersection with Hwy. 89. If you want more refined facilities, the [Carson River RV Resort](#) is close by and you can make reservations. Unfortunately, another Forest Service campground, the Markleeville Campground, closes on September 7th. Other campgrounds are located north of Markleeville or south on Hwy. 4.

If enough people decide to attend, we can arrange for a Saturday night pot luck. Again, this is dry camping. No water is available at the campsite and there is no camp host. Other fishing opportunities are available close by, the West and East Carson Rivers.

Interactive map, use the links to find out more information on this unique fishery

Markleeville Campground This campground is closed

Markleeville

Carson River Resort [Click here for a link to their website](#)

Alpine State Hwy

Steve Schalla's "Fly Fishing the Sierras" Heenan Lake page

Loope

Heenan Lake

Centerville Flat Campground [Click here for a link to the USFS website](#)

[Click here for a link to the DFW Heenan Lake website and a link to a PDF article on the area.](#)

Fly Fishers of Davis Presents Heenan Lake Adventure October 2016 / October 2017

## WILL THE STATE WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD FINALLY MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE?

Fly fishermen are born honest, but they get over it.

... Ed Zern

Last month the Delta Fly Fishers and 57 other groups adamantly opposed to Gov. Brown's proposed tunnel project sent a letter to the State Water Quality Control Board (SWB). The purpose of the letter is to urge the SWB to adopt higher water quality standards for the inflow from the San Joaquin River into the Delta. The request also proposes that the SWB update Phase 1 of their proposals, and make the water quality standards much stronger in Phase 2. The letter requested:

1. Lower outflows from the Delta,
2. An increase to inflows from the Sacramento basin and flows through the Delta channels.

In previous conservation newsletters, it was noted that the best science available (from the SWB board itself, both state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, independent scientific organizations, and all of the Delta groups) is in agreement that 50-60% of the spring-winter runoff must flow through the Delta if we are to save our salmon and decimated fisheries. However, on July 6th of this year, the SWB only proposed a 30%-50% flow increase from the three tributaries of the San Joaquin River. Despite scientific evidence to the contrary, the SWB suggests only increasing the flows 40%. Given the fact that the SWB itself, and reputable scientific groups, acknowledge that at present the Delta must have 66% to 75% from the spring-winter runoff to prevent the downward spiral of our salmon. Due to the dire straits of our salmon and other fisheries, the Delta fish are facing extinction. Why is the SWB advocating a policy that guarantees the inevitable loss of the Delta's fisheries and its' \$1.4 billion fishing industry? Extinction is irreversible!

The overwhelming scientific evidence of the SWB's actions concerning the Delta's water flow's is scientifically, economically, and morally wrong. It is time for the SWB to increase the Delta's flows. If they do not, the Delta will continue on its downward path to ruin. The SWB will make their decision during the third week

in August.

### THE LARGEST DAM REMOVAL PROJECT IN AMERICA MAY FINALLY HAPPEN

When you become involved in fish and water conservation issues, you realize that nothing happens quickly. Dan McDaniels involved me as a director with the former Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (NCCFFF) on their conservation

and steelhead committees. When Dan was president of NCCFFF, he appointed Dr. Mark Rockwell as the conservation chair. Rockwell was an outstanding conservation chair and was successfully involved in a wide variety of topics. He was on a committee that was proposing the removal of the four lower dams on the Klamath River.

At each conservation report meeting, Mark would tell us of issue after issue that continued to delay any positive actions on the Klamath's dam removals. Problems involving the ranchers, farmers, state and federal agencies, recreational interests, fishing interests, environmental interests, and tribal concerns constantly delayed the project. I was with NCCFFF for just over 12 years when Rockwell, McDaniels and I left the organization. Still very little progress on the Klamath project had been achieved. Now, after two decades, the lower four Klamath dams may finally be removed and the steelhead and salmon runs may be restored.

The Klamath River begins in the high desert of Oregon and travels 257 miles to the Pacific ocean in California. It is the second largest river in California and has three major tributaries including the Trinity River. The four dams scheduled for removal are: Iron Gate, Copco1, Copco2, and the J.C. Boyle. Malfeasance in managing the four dams' water by the Bureau of Reclamation (BR) has caused several major fish kills and major toxic blue-green algae health issues on the Klamath. The Klamath has indigenous pathogens that will kill the fish. Two parasites that are major problems are a protozoan (*Ichthyophthirius multifiliis*) and a bacteria



that causes gill rot (columnar). Also blue-green algae and its toxins are harmful to both humans and animals. These toxins are absorbed through the skin. When the blue-green algae is present, people are warned to avoid all swimming and boating activities and to avoid eating fish from the river. Even though the pathogens and algae are indigenous to the Klamath, they can easily be avoided. If the river's water is kept moving and is maintained at its usual low temperature, the pathogens and toxins are not an issue. However, the BR has held water flows back for corporate agricultural interests despite the devastation it has caused on the Klamath's salmon population. In 2002 the BR was responsible for the largest salmon die-off on the West Coast's history with the loss of well-over 63,000 salmon.

Finally, the removal project has taken a major step forward. During the last week of June, the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRNC) released a 2,300 page document on the required four major steps to complete the project. The steps include how the reservoirs are to be lowered, how the dams will be removed, how the removed materials will be disposed, and how the formerly inundated land will be restored. Next, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and independent consultants will make what they consider necessary revisions. If no major problems arise, the removal of the dams will start in 2021. The first dam built on the Klamath was the Copco 1 in 1918. The construction of Copco 1 ended the third biggest run of salmon on the West Coast. The removal of these four dams will reestablish 400 miles of the

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Klamath and its tributaries to prime spawning habitat for salmon and steelhead. It is the largest dam removal project ever attempted in America.

This project has taken a very long time. The first meeting of the stakeholders, of the most recent attempt for removal, took place in the early 2000's when PacifiCorp, the dam owners, were engaged in an attempt to relicense the four dams. The FERC was beginning it's 50 year relicensing process when Klamath River's Native American tribes went to Scotland for meetings with Scottish Power who owns PacifiCorp. Several years passed and Scottish Power sold PacifiCorp to Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Energy (BHE). The process then moved back to the U.S. and the discussions became confrontational. A decade passed and new requirements, including additions of removal of toxic algae blooms, fish passage, and increasing water quality put the cost of getting a new license well over \$400 million. The dams had only been used to generate hydropower and



not for water supply or flood control. With the new FERC requirements the generation of hydropower from the dams was no longer profitable.

The BHE entered into an agreement with the stakeholders known as the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA). Next, the removal project was added to a larger plan known as the Klamath Basin Restoration Act (KBRA). The KBRA included other issues such as the water management in the upper Klamath basin. In 2015, the plan failed

when Congress would not authorize the project. In 2016, project cost issues again resurfaced. It was finally agreed PacifiCorp ratepayers will pay \$200 million and \$250 million will come from California's Proposition 1.

Hopefully, the dam removals and reestablishment of 400 miles of prime spawning habitat will move forward in 2021 as promised. The largest dam removal project ever attempted in America is bound to present problems never previously encountered. Some of the unknowns will be the nature of the soil under the old impoundments and how is that soil going to move downstream? What is going to happen to the current salmon, steelhead and trout populations? How do we minimize their mortality? There are concerns about a possible flood risk 18 miles below Iron Gate Dam. This year will mark exactly one century since Klamath River salmon, steelhead, and trout lost their historic spawning grounds. Of course there will be problems. But the removal of the Klamath River's lower four Dams is the right thing to do.

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