



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

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Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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New directors, dues and Salmon in the classroom



New Directors

The club's BOD could use a transfusion. We're one director short and Karen Keagy is filling the role of Secretary and director right now. Some new blood, especially one of the newer members, would be a great asset to the board in helping the club steer its way forward into the second decade of the century. Elections take place in December so there is still time to see what you'd be getting into if you volunteer. Come to the November BOD meeting, 6:30pm at the Oak Grove Park Nature Center, November 21, (Thanksgiving Eve) and sit through a board meeting. Our club is all volunteers and has a long history of both fly fishing and community involvement. Let's keep it going.

Dues

If you're like me, you are rather casual about paying your dues. I didn't pay mine until the beginning of this month, although they were due August 1st. One of the main reasons, a poor ex-

cuse, was that I had to write a check, something I almost never do now with plastic and online banking. Well, the DFF have come of age. Some of you have received on-line invoices. You can now pay your dues with a credit or debit card by responding to that invoice. If you overlooked the invoice, you can also pay by going to the clubs home page on the web, paging down to the membership area on the right and clicking on the appropriate membership level. Bringing your membership up to date really helps with the club's record keeping. <https://deltaflyfishers.com/>

Salmon in the Classroom

The DFF have been involved with the Salmon in the Classroom for many years. Currently we support over 15 tanks in various classrooms and make an effort to add to the number every year. This multi disciplinary program is one of the best in educating students about the environment and the fragility of our natural resources. While the club has earmarked \$1,500 for this year's effort, school district budget shortages further restrict additional funding. You can help by contributing to the program through our club on line. [Go to the Salmon in the Classroom](#) link on the club's website. A donation of any size is appreciated and is fully tax deductible. You will be emailed a receipt for your tax records.

Calendar

November 4, Paradise Point Outing, 7:30 am.

November 9 Flyday night tying, House of Coffees, Lodi, 5pm

November 14 . GM meeting, John RI Williams School

November 21 BOD meeting, Nature Cener, Oak Grove Park, 6;30pm

November 28, Fly of the Month, Oak Grove Paark, 6:30.

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“If Texas means a lot of red Fish, I sure wanna go!” Well the song went something like that... And that brings us to November’s speaker on Red Fish in Louisiana and Texas

When did your “Ah ha” moment occur? Craig Gittings’ occurred on a Boy Scout pack trip in the Sierra. His interest in fishing was in decline. Ultra-light spin gear coupled with a Metz or Panther Martin lure was his last hope until one of the dads on the trip was standing in the Upper San Joaquin catching trout on dries, a stimulator of all things, with fairly consistent success. The light came on and never went out. His first fly rod did not last long as it was donated at the parking lot below the Highway 20 Bridge on the Yuba River from a drive off after a long day of fishing. Rule #1, never leave your gear on top of your vehicle. It was a hard habit to break. After



his second fly rod separation (refer to rule # 1), it was thought that perhaps fly rod building would help with the immediate loss and cut down on replacement costs. Even that did not work. It has been a few years since those early days. The time and distance traveled pursuing a variety of species have developed fond memories of companions, if not guides, that have been both influential and antidotal

Redfish along the gulf coast provide intriguing opportunities. If you want larger redfish, head for the Louisiana marsh. If you want to sight fish in clear water, target the flats adjacent to the intercoastal waterway in Texas. There are a few elements involved. A guide can only do so much providing the opportunity by getting you close enough to cast. Once the fish is spotted and called out by the guide, you as the angler must be able to translate position and distance and only then actually spot, follow and target the feeding fish. Your cast not only has to be on target, the

retrieve must be immediate to touch down and impart life in order to elicit a response. If you enjoy targeting tailing bonefish, finning and tailing redfish is just the ticket in Texas. One guide advised casting to carp for a season and come back ready to fish for redfish. If you cannot do that, try targeting a moving Frisbee, he added. I believe he forgot to say add wind in the practice regimen. These

destinations get you out where there is really no competition for these fish and they readily will attack a fly when properly presented.

In addition to Craig’s presentation, the club will hold its monthly raffle, with yet another complete fly rod, reel and line as top prize. The other prizes will focus on fly tying with capes, thread, hooks and other fly tying items making up the bulk of the prizes.

And of course, Bill Beckett will furnish coffee,, soft drinks and snacks. Make sure to put a buck or two in the donation jar.

The monthly program will be held on Wednesday, November 14, at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Avenue, Stockton. Doors open at 6:30, meeting starts at 7pm. The meeting is open to the public.

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Karen Keagy
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Dena Mason
Tim Costello
Mike Nicholson

Committees

- Beginner’s Fly Tying
Tim Costello
 - Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)
John and Karen Keagy
 - Catfish Derby (June)
Chair needed
 - Conservation/Restore the Delta
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 - Fly Tying/Fishing Mentor Program
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Bob Fujimura 209-339-0683
 - Trout Bout (November)
Charlie Reames
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Amy Terra
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Stockton, CA 95207-7862

A repeat try for a delta outing at Paradise Point Marina this December 4th, and yes, there is a free lunch!

High winds closed down the previous attempt; for a delta outing and so we've put it on the books again, this time for November 4th.

The action starts as early as members want, with the tail end of an outgoing tide. Areas that normally hold fish are Bishop /Cut just south of the bridge on Eight Mile Road and both the south and north channels of Disappointment Slough. Fish a quick sinking line and a chartreuse over white clouser and work from deeper water towards the banks for some striper takes. A seven ore eight weight rod is recommended.

Jerry Neuburger will hold a quick on the water seminar at 7am on the store patio for those fishing for stripers for the first time. The seminar will include passing out a few of Jerry's favorite fly, a chartreuse over white Clouser.

The tide will be at the tail end of the outgoing during early morning with slack tide around 10am. An incoming will finish out the morning hours but flows will

not strengthen until after noon. The minor flow makes the date ideal for fishing from a pontoon boat, kayak, pram or canoe. If you want to participate but don't have a suitable craft, contact Bill Beckett, fishmiester for the event, to rent a sit on kayak. [\(209\) 224-8367](tel:2092248367)

The club treasurer, Jeanette Neuburger has volunteered to bring a fried chicken, potato salad, drinks and cookies lunch to the patio of the Paradise Point marina as a club benefit shortly after noon.

The marina charges \$15 for a trailer boat launch, \$8 for a kayak or pontoon boat.



This is a perfect opportunity to on your Delta Challenge certificate.

This outing is scheduled before the next General Membership meeting so Jerry asks that you let him know if you're going to attend for lunch purposes. You can contact him by e-mail, (preferred) gneuburg@gmail.com or on his cell 327-5993.

This year's Trout Bout is scheduled for November 17th.

The club president seems to have a problem with dates. At the October club potluck, he announced the San Joaquin County P&R Trout Bout as taking place on November 3rd. WRONG!!

The event is actually scheduled, as the headline says, November 17th. While the SJP&R is the principal agency putting on the event at Oak Grove park, the DFF plays an important role in the event, operating the snack bar and weighing in the participant's fish.

Charlie Reames is the head honcho for this event and will arrive about 5:30 in the morning at the county corp yard at the east end of the park. He'll need help loading up the cooking equipment, and various items for the event. The main gate to the park will be closed and those helping

need to enter through the corp yard gate which will be open. Meet at the club's storage shed at the southeast corner of the corp yard.

If 5:30 is too early for you, we can use your help at the snack bar from 8am on (the boat house at the west end of the lake). We need at least a half dozen people to help prepare food, basically, hot dogs, chili and nachos, donuts and chips and drinks, coffee, hot chocolate and canned drinks. We'll need another four to man the electric carts to take the products out to the hungry and thirsty fishers. Plan to arrive early since there will be a line of cars waiting to enter the park. Usually Walt Kotecki and Ed Sill, long time members of the club, handle the fish weigh ins, hopefully these two veterans will be there.

The event also is an opportunity for the club to advertize itself and we normally do this with a bank of fly tiers sitting at the tables next to the food service. If you're a tier, bring your gear.

New Members, this is a really good time for you to get to know other club members better. The monthly meetings do not allow for a lot of interaction between members, these events are just the opposite. It's not all work, and in fact it's a lot of fun. Lots of talk about fishing holes, flies, techniques, and plans. It's a good place to hook up with a more experienced member for some on the water instruction. To make the day work we need our member participation. We'll have some additional information and a sign up sheet at the November general meeting.

If you haven't already paid, YOUR DUES are PAST DUE. Please pay by the e-mailed invoice, or go to the club's website and use the following link and scroll down to the bottom of the page. <https://deltaflyfishers.com/membership>

New members, we're thinking of you!

By Jerry Neuburger

It's been over 33 years since I caught my first fish on a fly rod yet I still remember the exact moments as if it was yesterday. It took three outings to Van Assen Park on the Moke before it happened (my wife caught a bat with a dry fly on the second outing and I remember that as well).

Had I been a member of the Delta Fly Fishers, the learning curve would, most likely, have been shortened. Shortening the learning curve was a major subject at the club's last board meeting. Much of the input due to two new members, Mike Dempewolf and Nancy Baker, being present.

A series of suggested programs and seminars were suggested most of them able to be produced in house by our more veteran members. Some of the items suggested were:

- Rod, reel and line selection
- Assembling your fly rod, reel, line and leader.
- Fishing knots and tools
- Entomology, classroom and in stream

- Casting instruction
- On the water seminars on:
 - Wading equipment and safety
 - Reading the water
 - Indicator fishing
 - Dry fly fishing
 - Swinging flies
 - Lake fishing
- Beginning fly tying

We're going to try to meet all those demands but we need help from both our older veteran members as instructors and mentors and, especially from our new members. New members? Yes, we need you to speak up, let us know what you want and need to be a better fly fisher.

And please DON'T think you are being too "needy" by wanting a little help. I think most of our veterans feel pretty much the same as I do. I've caught thousands and thousands of fish over the last 33 years. While I still enjoy fishing for myself, some of my biggest thrills are watching "newbies" catch their first fish on a fly rod. Watching their confidence

and skills build.

I offer our VP Amy Terra as an example. I answered Amy's request to the club for someone to take her fly fishing for the first time. We went out on the delta in my skiff and Amy ended the day with 37 fish landed, a mixture of stripers and largemouth. I still remember the look on her face when she hooked about a four pound striper and didn't know what to do with a fish that pulled so hard, She just held the line tight and, luckily, didn't break off the fish before bringing it to the boat. That was three years ago. She and I still fish together and she now regularly out fishes me.

How can you "newbies" help? First of all, speak up! Tell us what you need. Second, when some of the suggested seminars and programs are offered, show up and PARTICIPATE. Don't be a wall flower.

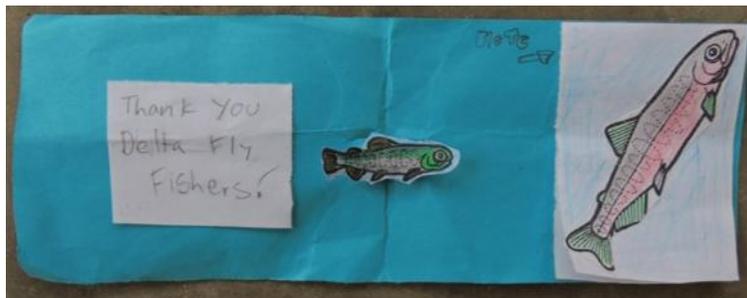
If just two new members at a board meeting can move us to look hard at where we are at and make plans to move ahead, imagine what we can do with the participation of all of those who want to become better fly fishers.

And admit it, fly fishers are the nicest people!

Help a kid learn about fish, conservation, ecology, the circle of life, and the great Chinook salmon migrations of the west coast. Support Salmon in the Classroom

Our club has been committed to the Salmon in the Classroom program in local school districts ever since the projects were first introduced and has paid for and helped install numerous systems in classrooms over the years. Early attempts required the use of an old refrigerator, its door propped partly open, with the fish tank kept inside, as a means to keep the water cool enough for egg incubation. Today's systems are much more efficient and much less bulky. The basic elements, fish tank, filter, water chiller, some small amount of gravel and clean water, cost about \$250 per classroom. This year, the club has committed to a donation of \$1,500 dollars to equip six more classrooms in the Lodi and Stockton

USDs. And, the club is grateful for another \$150 donated so far by members of the club and those just wanting to help.



School district funding for the programs is non-existent because of budget squeezes, with the districts only able to provide the teacher training to certify them for the project through the Depart-

ment of Fish and Wildlife. We have more teachers and classrooms than we do funds. Each tank should last about five years or more, meaning that every \$250 results in about 125-150 students given an opportunity to participate in this great program.

The club has set up a donation page on the club website and a donation button on the club's Facebook page. Any and all donations are welcome and because we are a 501c3 corporation, your contribution

is tax deductible as a charitable contribution. To donate to this great cause, go to [Salmon in the Classroom](#) on the club website to donate.

The kids thank you.

Fly day Night tying is continuing... A fun way to spend a few hours, and a beer to boot...

Fly day (Ok, so it's really Friday!) night tying will continue through the winter months at the House of Coffee, corner of Ham and Lockeford in Lodi, It's only one Friday a month, the second Friday on the calendar.

Members bring their tying materials and tie their own patterns or copy another

tier's pattern. It's very casual and low key. Some members have been known to show up without their materials and just chat and have a draft specialty beer. In either case, it's just another way to get to know your fellow fly fishers, chat about fishing, flies and maybe even line up a fishing day with a new buddy. New members, don't feel shy, we can't

get to know you and you can't get to know us if we don't get to spend some face to face time. And what could be a better way than sitting around and chatting, tying flies, eating snacks and having a soda or a beer. The next scheduled meeting will take place on November 9th from 5 to 7pm. Hope to see you there.

Come tie Jerry's Clouser on November 28th. It's a really ugly garish thing that has only one redeeming value, IT CATCHES FISH!

Most flies make some attempt to mimic nature in some fashion, color, size, shape. More than a few of Bob Clouser's original designs, if tied thin, represented the sand eels of the Atlantic. Tied more fully, they represented the various bait fish that are the fodder of marine predators.

While Jerry's Clouser follows the general shape of a fully tied Clouser, its general appearance has little in the likeness of any fish seen in delta waters. With a barbell of real eyes, white fish hair belly, a fluorescent red chenille collar and a wing made up of pearl flashabou and chartreuse fish hair,, it's not something you would pick out of a fly tray if you were shopping for delta flies. It has one saving grace, it fits the old Delta saying, 'If its

not chartreuse, it ain't no use."

Actually, another benefit is that it is easy and quick to tie. No tiny hooks and #8 thread here. Instead, hooks from 1/0 to 3/0 and flat waxed thread that you don't have to worry about breaking.

While most fly tying requires some experience, the large size of this fly and its lack of complication, should allow for some one that has some hand to eye coordination to tie this fly with little previous experience.

The five dollar tying fee will pay for enough materials to tie from three to five flies. If you don't have your own tools,

kits are available for the evening.

The session starts at 6:30 at the Nature Center at Oak Grove Park, November 28th. If everything goes well, we should be finished with the evening by 8:00 or shortly after.

Hope to see you there.



Ron Forbes on Conservation

Can fish swim in a dry river? Only in California!

"Never leave fish to find fish."

... Moses 1200 BC

REVISITING THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT (SJRRP)

About a decade ago I wrote a conservation article for the newsletter regarding the contentious 18 year legal battle to reestablish the San Joaquin River (SJR). The use of Friant Dam is central to the issues involving the SJR. The history of building Friant Dam and its use abounds

with state and federal lies, half-truths, and outright illegal acts. The dam was built during the tenure of governor Earl Warren in 1949. Later, under the direction Governor Pat Brown, and the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), Friant Dam was used only for the state's pro-agricultural, anti-environmental purposes. Marc Reisner's book, Cadillac Desert, details how Pat Brown was manipulated by his political cronies and the USBR violated both state and federal laws during the construction of Friant Dam. The fish ladders required to be included in the dam's construction were ignored by the USBR and never built. Building the dam without the these lad-

ders and the state and federal pro-agricultural, anti-environment attitude served as a death warrant for the river's salmon populations. Reisner's book is an excellent source for understanding the state and federal duplicity in water management.

Despite the near-heroic attempts of the then California Dept. of Fish and Game, the West Coast's second largest population of spring-run Chinook salmon was lost. Pre-dam, the spring run Chinook salmon population numbered 500,000 salmon annually. Also a 60 mile section of the river below the dam was left bone-dry and its water was diverted for agricul-

(Continued on page 6)



The San Joaquin River before restoration. A dry river bed, hard for salmon to migrate in. Photo via KQED TV.

(Continued from page 5)

tural use during the summers. The SJR's fish and environment had been totally devastated. Finally, after years of fighting and haggling, a law suit was filed for the reestablish the SJR's fish and environment. The suit drug on for 18 years until the federal judge had enough. He informed all parties of the suit they had six months to resolve their differences. If they did not, he would issue a ruling and no one would be pleased with his decision. The suit was settled within 6 months. The San Joaquin River Restoration Project (SJRP) was born. The SJR is 366 miles long and California's second longest river. In the suit's settlement both the environmentalists and the federal government agreed to restore the 150 mile section of the SJR below Friant dam with year round water flows and to restore the spring-run Chinook salmon population and other fish. There are two goals stipulated in the San Joaquin River Settlement agreement. First, Restoration: "To restore and maintain fish populations in good condition in the main stream of the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam

to the confluence of the Merced River, including the naturally reproducing and self-sustaining populations of salmon and other fish." And second: "To reduce or avoid adverse water supply impacts on the Friant Diversion long-term contractors that may result from the Interim Flows and Restoration flows provided for in the Settlement."

Almost a decade has passed since project was started. The SJRRP is one of the most challenging, ambitious river restoration projects ever attempted in America. Forward progress of the project has been painfully slow. For the first two and one half years I, and others from pro- environment and pro-fisheries groups attended the meetings of the SJRRP's Technical Committee every two months at Stanislaus State University. However, the meeting location was then changed to Visalia. Many interested groups no longer attended the meetings given the travel distance. My driving distance to the meeting was approximately 120 miles round trip to Stanislaus State meetings.. With the change of the meeting location

to Visalia, my driving distance would be about 365 miles. Another federal pattern seems to be emerging.

Late last month, FISHBIO and CBS TV published articles on the current status of the project. Finally, after 10 years of constant struggles, the first documented chinook spawning run has occurred. It has taken more than 60 years for this to happen. Also the USBR now says the SJR will continually flow year round by the end of this October. This will be the first time in 60 years that the SJR has not gone bone-dry for 60 miles below the dam each summer. Both facts are major events. But the project has a long way to go to reaching a successful completion. Initially it was thought the project would be finished by 2012. Now federal authorities expect the project to be completed in 2022. Doug Obegi, the Natural Resources Defense Council attorney that headed the lawsuit for the environmentalists said, "I think we all had hoped we would be further along. Restoring the state's second longest river was

(Continued on page 7)



Where there's water, there's hope. Photo via KQED TV

(Continued from page 6)

never to be a cakewalk. It hasn't been."

A major decision had to be made on what existing fish were to be the source of broodstock to reinitiate the San Joaquin River's spring-run Chinook population. Adults for this new spring-run salmon population were to be used from existing hatchery fish and bred at a new hatchery called the Salmon Conservation and Research Facility (SCARF) located near Friant Dam. The choice was made to use spring-run Chinook from the Feather River Fish Hatchery. This was not a good choice because the Feather River fish have been, without intention, inbred with fall-run Chinook salmon over time. They are genetically similar to fall-run salmon. Genetic broodstock managers identify individual donors to family groups to now keep inbreeding sources to a minimum and use genotyping of all hatchery parents. Up to 200,000 juvenile fish have been released for the past several years.

Biologists are waiting for the first returning spring-run fish to arrive at the Restoration Area. An interim hatchery (SCAFR) at the base of the dam has, for the first time (spring of 2018), been the only source for spring-run salmon released into the San Joaquin River. Tracking devices are showing that the fish have successfully migrated out of the Restoration Area and through the Delta. Survival rates

through the from the release point to the ocean have a cumulative rate of 3-6 %. This is encouraging since the fall-run Chinook rate is 1-6%. For the last three years hatchery broodstock has been released in the SJR. In 2017, 13 redds were found that were constructed by SJP salmon. This makes the first time since

1950 that spring-run chinook salmon have spawned in the San Joaquin River. This is a major achievement!

Reestablishing the spring-run Chinook salmon population on the San Joaquin River and the rivers' environment has many major hurdles to overcome. But the outlook is encouraging. Political opposition continues and will be ongoing. The San Joaquin River is listed as one of America's most endangered rivers. In the late 1940's the river was host to an annual return of 500,000 spring-run Chinook salmon. Several short years later these salmon had become extinct. Hopefully, despite our man-made environmental problems and self-serving greed and political issues we can return the salmon to their home water.

Ron Forbes

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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:

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

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