



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

May 8, GM meeting, J.R. Williams School

May 10, FlyDay Night Tying, House of Coffees

May 11, The One Fly Contest, Arnold

May 15, BOD meeting, Oak Grove Park

May 18, Outing, Indian Creek Res.

May 22, Fly of the Month, Oak Grove Park

June 1, Catfish Derby, Oak Grove Park

June 12, DFF Barbecue, Oak Grove Park

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Seeking absolution...



April was not a good month for me. It seemed that Murphy's Law followed me throughout the month, especially on the Kelsey Bass Ranch outing.

After fishing out of my pram for about two hours, I noticed that it was sitting very low in the water. I opened one of the storage hatches that gives access to a space between the inner and outer hull liners and found it had water in the bottom. Bad sign! I motored back to the dock, put the boat on its trailer and pulled the hatch and locker. I found that the space between the two hulls was half full of water. My fishing for the day was finished.

I hung around for lunch, took my camera out of its waterproof box and sat down at one of the tables. Lunch was yet another fabulous affair, cooked by Al, our gourmet chef. After lunch, I thought I'd head home, went to the van, and found the doors locked. I searched my pockets... no keys. My keys were stuck in the ignition, clearly visible by looking through the van's rolled up windows.

I called my wife on a borrowed cell phone, (mine was locked in the van) and had her drive towards Turlock with a spare key. Meanwhile, Amy Terra gave me a ride back to highway 99. We met up at the Keyes Rd. overpass and after a drive back to Kelsey, the van was open and the world was right again.

Later in the month I repaired the crack I found in the pram's outer hull so at least that is fixed. It received a new paint job as well and an application of its CF numbers and a name, "Addiction" on both sides of the stern quarters.

Then, I totally spaced on the Fly of the Month tying session. I was sitting in my office, playing on the X-Box when I re-

ceived a call from Charlie Reames, asking where I was. Oophs! Charlie suggested I just cancel the event since only a few people had showed up. I sheepishly agreed.

So, three screw ups, all in the same month. Now that would put me in contention for the Incomplete Angler's award. However, I am already a double recipient of that esteemed trophy. And, since I am openly confessing my discretions rather than attempting to conceal them, I believe that absolves me. At least I hope so.

Now a recap of the good things coming this month. For those that like cold water fishing, it's a time to celebrate since most Sierra waters, both stream and lake, opened on the last weekend in April. The club will celebrate that event on the 11th with our participation in the One Fly Contest, a friendly competition between our club and the Calaveras Fly Fishers. We were big winners last year with Jean Fujimura taking home the metal.

The American River is flowing way too high for a shad outing so we've set up an outing at Indian Creek Reservoir near Markleeville. It has BLM campground with sites available for reservations through Recreation.Gov.

We have a great resource about this year's Sierra trout outlook speaking at this month's membership meeting. Jon Baiocchi, a respected guide and angler and son of staunch conservationist, Bob Baiocchi. The meeting is on the calendar for May 8th.

And of course, Fly Day Night tying at the House of Coffee, on the 10th, (I'm tying some easy parachute mayfly patterns) and the Fly of the Month on the 22nd. This time I'll look at my calendar and remember to turn off the x-box. See you there.

Get the latest info on this year's Sierra Trout fishing from one of the experts

Jon Baiocchi of Baiocchi's Troutfitters will speak on High Water Nymphing and the state of the Sierra Trout Fishery at our May General Membership meeting.

For May's meeting we welcome back master guide Jon Baiocchi of Baiocchi's Troutfitters. Jon has been fly fishing and tying flies since 1972, and is a California licensed fly fishing guide, published author, and is a featured writer, with numerous articles published in California Fly Fisher, Fly Fishermen, Sierra Fisherman and Northwest Fly Fishing. He's also an educator, innovative tier, and an award winning public speaker giving fly fishing presentations to clubs, expos, and trade shows across the state of California, and Nevada. Jon serves on the Truckee Trout Unlimited Board of Directors, and volunteers his time with the South Yuba River Citizens League and to Tahoe Truckee Fly Fisher's Cliff Frazier Memorial, a fly fishing program for kids. Born in San Jose, Ca in 1965, his Dad moved the entire family to Paradise, Ca in 1967



to be closer to prime fly fishing venues, and to raise his family in the spectacular forests of Northern California. Jon's Dad, Bob Baiocchi, was inducted into the Federation of Fly Fishers Hall of Fame in 1999 for his peerless conservation work, and was a major influence in helping Jon hone his fly fishing skills at a very young age. After finishing high school, Jon opted out of college to pursue a career as a professional snowboarder, competing at a national level, starring in feature movies, and working with manufacturers in their research and development programs. After his career ended in 1993, Jon focused entirely on fly fishing, conservation, and learning even more of the intricate details of his home waters.

Jon now owns and operates Baiocchi's Troutfitters guide service In Northern California where he has been guiding for the last 22 years. He has a reputation as a very hard working guide that's been trained by some of fly fishing's best

known anglers and guides, both past and present. His enthusiasm for the sport is contagious, and combined with his simple approach to teaching gives students the skills needed to be successful on all types of water. Moved by all things flora and fauna his passion for such is never ending. Sharing the knowledge with others is of the greatest importance to him now, and too see others progress, and reach the next level in fly fishing fulfills his life. It's the legacy his father left him, and a cherished tradition that Jon will continue in his honor. His locations for guiding include Lake Davis, the Wild & Scenic Middle Fork Feather River, Frenchman's Reservoir, the North Fork Yuba River, The Big & Little Truckee Rivers, The Lower Yuba River, and many secluded creeks in Eastern Plumas County.

Jon's philosophy on fly fishing is to keep it simple, be confident in your presentation, and have fun.

Jon has an all new PowerPoint program that was especially created for numerous fly clubs looking for a more technical program on fishing during the spring runoff in the Sierra, and other weather related periods of big water. "High Water Tactics" entails a look into the causes of high water, safety, turbidity and trout, water to target, tight line nymphing, fishing streamers, fighting large trout, equipment, and flies. Beautiful images and new detailed animated slides provide the audience with clear and concise information for future endeavors on the water while fishing during extreme conditions. This will be a program you do not want to miss

The meeting will take place at the John R. Williams School, Wednesday, May 8th, with a start time of 7pm. The meeting is open to the public.

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May's Raffle includes a float tube and a complete five weight outfit. June's is going to be even better.

Another great raffle is scheduled for the May meeting and an even better one for the June barbecue.

The May raffle will feature a complete five weight outfit, a pair of almost new Field and Stream wading boots, size 11, and a beginner's float tube as well as a

number of smaller items.

The June barbecue raffle is going to blow you away. It features a \$450.00 FishCat float tube, a full 5 weight outfit, a pair of neoprene boot foot waders, a pair of Redington wading boots and a beautiful wooden boxed set of tying tools and vice,

as well as a number of smaller items.

Of course you can't win anything if you don't buy some tickets. Your ticket purchase goes to keep the club running on a first rate basis. Great speakers, lots of activities, and a bunch of fun thrown in.

See you this Wednesday.

The last FlyDay Night Tie for the spring will take place on May 10th. Come learn how to tie an easy, "foam post" parachute fly.

With summer only about 45 days away, we're getting close to our club going dark for two months. Club activities usually stop from the date of the June barbecue until the first general membership meeting of the fall, which takes place in Au-

gust. The FlyDay Night tying series will end as well with the last scheduled night, this coming Friday, May 10th. The session runs from 5pm till a little past 7. The session is an open tying event, tie what you want. However, as an added incen-

tive to attend, Jerry Neuburger will show how to tie an easy foam post mayfly dry fly. He'll have some materials available so others may try their hands.

The May 18th outing, yet another change... It started out as shad on the American, morphed into trout at Beardsley Afterbay and has ended up as a weekend at Indian Creek Reservoir near Markleeville

As of this writing, the American is flowing at 7,200 CFS, the flow and depth of water would make it very hard to connect with any schools of shad. Beardsley Afterbay is not much better off. Heavy releases from Beardsley Lake produce a strong current in this restricted take fishery, wearing out a float tuber's legs in a short time.

So, where to fish? Looking at DFW's planting schedule, a promising location popped up. Indian Creek Reservoir, a few miles east of Markleeville off Highway 89 is fishing well and a DFW fish plant is scheduled for the week of the 11th through the 18th. The lake is 118 miles from Stockton, about a 2 hour drive.

The lake has a very nice BLM campground with 32 sites, some for tent only, and others for RVs. Reservations can be made for the sites, 31 of the 32 are reservable through recreation.gov. Sites vary in price from \$14 to \$32 per night. Since it is a federal agency, Interagency and Golden Age passes may be used, cutting camping fees in half. As of May 6, about a third of the RV sites and over half the

tent sites were still available.

None of the sites have water, electric or waste hook-ups but water and community toilets are available and centrally located in the campground. The lake also has a boat ramp for launching trailered boats.

Fishing reports have been favorable with ratings of good to excellent with Rainbow trout of over 8 pounds landed and Lahontan Cutthroat of over 4 pounds. The hot fly for fly fishers has been reported to be a chartreuse woolly bugger.

Jerry Neuburger has volunteered to be fishmeister for this outing and has reservations for Space 29 for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. A sign up will be available at the

monthly meeting.



Because the instructor screwed up and missed last month..

The May Fly of the Month... This month we'll do two

And no fee this month!

The first fly we'll tie, the Grey Goose Midge, is a proven lake and stream pattern and one that a tier can build on with a number of variations. The challenge in tying this fly is the size, the largest a 16, the smallest (that I tie) a 20.



After mastering the basic technique. Tiers can add beads, change the dubbing to thread or flashabou, use single and double wire ribbing, add a tail shuck or some emerger fibers at the head.

The second fly is the Pheasant Tail Variant dry fly. This fly is the final fly in the FFI Bronze series of flies.

The class will be taught at the Nature Center, Oak Grove Park, on May , with a start time of 6:30. Materials will be available to tie both patterns. Tying fees are waived for this session. Open tying is encouraged as well as the patterns shown.



Conservation by Ron Forbes

The San Joaquin River Restoration Project takes a major step forward

"I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought with 30 years of good science we could address those problems. But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy. And to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that."

... Gus Speth

The San Joaquin River Restoration Project (SJRRP) announced during the month of April, five adult spring-run adult Chinook salmon have returned to the river's Restoration Area. This is the first time in nearly 70 years juvenile spring-run salmon have left the Restoration Area of the San Joaquin River (SJR) and returned as adults! In April, five adults were cap-

tured. Donald Portz, Project Manager, is very excited with the return of the spring-run Chinook. He commented, "This is monumental for the Program. It's a clear indication of the possibility for these fish to make it out of the system as juveniles and return as adults in order to spawn." From the Restoration Area to the Pacific Ocean is a journey of almost 370 miles. For juvenile fish to be released and return, major problems with the SJR had to be addressed and solved. The spring-run Chinook life cycle is 2-5 years.

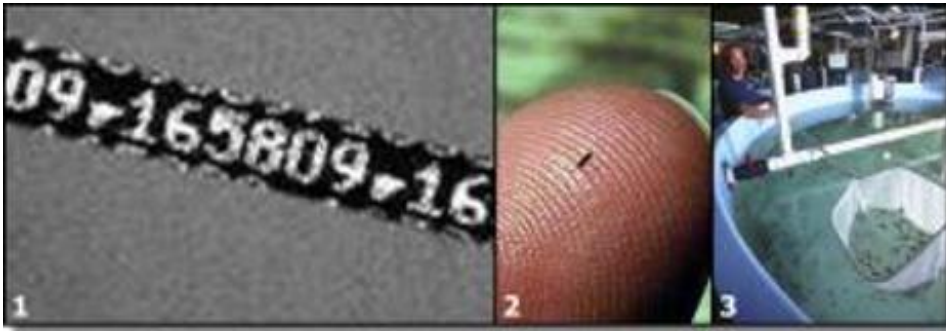
SJRRP biologists knew immediately the fish captured were from a California hatchery since their adipose fins were removed. Unfortunately, one of the five fish died after capture. Biologists were able to recover a coded wire tag that was placed in the Chinook's snout. With the coded tag they were able to confirm that the fish was one of the over 38,000 spring-run Chinook released from the Restora-



The first spring run Chinook salmon to return to the San Joaquin River in over 65 years.

tion Area in March 2017. Biologists will now be able to produce broodstock from the SJR. Initially, fertilized spring-run Chinook eggs were taken from the Feather River hatchery to the Restoration Area where they matured for 6 months and then released.

Before Friant Dam was completed in 1942, spring-run Chinook salmon were the dominant salmon in the San Joaquin River. An average run numbered from 200,000 to 1/2 million



Wire tag implants help to track the hatchery smolts throughout their life cycle.

fish. They were also the southernmost population of Chinook salmon in the state. The US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) was in charge of the Friant Dam construction. Plans called for the construction of fish ladders. Under USBR direction the ladders were not built. USBR's egregious act destroyed the Chinook's spawning habitat. Despite three years of heroic work by California's then Dept. of Fish and Game, the largest population of spring-run Chinook salmon in the state became extinct.

Friant Dam construction started in the late 1930's and was to be the centerpiece of the federal Central Valley Project (CVP). The dam forms Millerton Lake about 15 miles north of Fresno. The primary purpose is to provide water for agriculture. It is also to provide hydroelectric power, flood control, and municipal water supply.

The dam continues to have several negative environmental impacts. Farmers divert most of the river's water for irrigation during the summer causing approximately 60 miles of the river to run dry. The loss of water causes a negative impact in large section of the river's marshes and habitat. It has also seriously damaged the fisheries and destroyed the spring-run Chinook salmon population. Since there is no flowing water in a 60 mile section of the river for months at a time, toxic concentrations of herbicides and pesticides have developed causing pollution problems that harm the aquatic species.

Attempts to restore the San Joaquin River have been, and will always be,

contentious. The SJRRP exists because of a lawsuit that resulted in the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement (SJRRS). A short bit of history. In early 2006, I was having coffee with Bill Jennings (Executive Director of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) and was informed the lawsuit to settle the SJR problems was being settled. The suit had been plodding on and on for 18 years. Almost a generation in length. Finally the federal judge became angry with both the defendants and plaintiffs and told them they had 6 months to settle the suit or he would and neither side would be pleased with the results. The suit was settled in six months. The SJRRS is based on

two main goals. The first is Restoration: "To restore and maintain the fish populations in 'good condition' in the main stream below Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River, including naturally reproducing and self-sustaining populations of salmon and other fish." The second goal is Water Management: "To reduce or avoid adverse water supply impacts to all the Friant Division long-term contractors that may result from the Interim Flows and Restoration Flows provided for in the Settlement." The agreement was signed in September 2006.

Almost 13 years have passed since the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement was signed. The challenges involved in restoring the San Joaquin River are enormous. Each of the river's five reaches present unique and difficult problems. The political maneuvering will continue. However, despite all the obstacles, five spring-run salmon Chinook salmon have returned for the first time in almost 70 years! The river can be restored!



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