

The Fisherman's Line

January Meeting, Tuesday January 31st,
7:30pm @ Holmes Jr. High
Steve Karr and Mike Copithorne Present:
“Fly Fishing Putah Creek”

Steve Karr and Mike Copithorne will share this program on fishing Putah Creek. Mike will talk about the equipment, flies and techniques that work well in catching fish – often large ones – in Putah Creek. He will also show a video of several large fish being brought to net, and he will present the types of water and access points. Steve will talk about conservation efforts by Putah Creek Trout.



Mike Copithorne has been a professional athlete, worked in fly fishing retail, been published in fly fishing print, and traveled with friends and clients, fly rod in hand, over the last 22 years. He is a good source of information on destinations, casting, and fly fishing techniques. He's at home on the water whether it is on a coastal Steelhead river, in the jungle or a local farm pond in the Napa Valley. He has fished Putah Creek for several years and now guides Putah Creek as a principal in Off the Hook Fly Fishing Guiding Service, based in Napa.

Mike grew up near the base of Mt Lassen in Northern California outside of Redding. He found himself drawn to fly fishing at the early age of 11. Over the years his love of and obsession with fly fishing as well as the friendships it has brought have grown. His drive to catch new species has led him to travel the globe in search of new fly fishing targets.

Steve Karr has been a fly fisherman for over 40 years; he has been fishing Putah Creek for the past 15 years and has witnessed much of the decline in the trout fishery. He joined Putah Creek Trout during its first year (2007) when it was still just a small group of concerned fishermen and women hoping to bring the Creek back to its Trophy Trout status. In 2009 the group achieved 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. In 2009, it coordinated with the Department of Fish and Game in achieving a year-round barbless artificial only, zero take, catch-and-release regulation. This move was precipitated by the lawsuit against DFG that halted hatchery fish planting in Putah Creek. Post regulation change, there has been a continuing improvement in the wild trout population and in fishing success from the first year of the change. PCT is currently assisting the Heritage and Wild Trout Program in evaluating the Creek for inclusion in the Wild Trout designated waters of the state.



Annual Dinner Tickets

Friends,

There will be tickets available for the annual dinner (\$30 each) at the next club meeting. After purchasing your dinner ticket(s) you might also want to pre-purchase raffle tickets. We are trying to be more flexible this year and permit people to pre-purchase whatever quantity of raffle tickets they want. I know this can be a bit confusing. "How," might you ask, "am I supposed to know how many raffle tickets I'm gonna' want?" That's where ticket sales committee comes into play. You just hand us your wallet and we can tell just by the expression on your face AND the amount of cash we see in your wallet precisely how many raffle tickets you're gonna' need on the night of the event. Don't feel quite right with this procedure? Don't worry; we're doing it for future generations. Remember, too, that we'll have a vegetarian option this year for those who don't want meat.

John Reynolds

Be sure to get your 2012 license before heading to the stream or lake!



And send in your 2011 Steelhead card to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Fishing/Monitoring/SHRC/>




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Watch this space for news of the next raffle board!



The Prez Sez

By Gene Gantt

Be sure to make this month's general meeting to learn about the health of our own Putah Creek. We got rain this week and I am hearing reports from many of the Northern California guides at last week's ISE show at CalExpo how they believe things are going to really pick up and soon. So, if you have time get out fishing and dress warm!

Remember, our annual FFD dinner is coming! If you have items you want to donate to the dinner, please bring them to this month's meeting and get it to one of the board members. Thanks for helping the FFD. This is where we get most of the money we use to support many of the conservation groups and others like Casting for Recovery. Speaking of Casting for Recovery, Peg and Jill for CFR will be there to receive some much need equipment for the retreats being donated by FFD.

The dinner date is Feb. 18, 2012 and you can also get your dinner tickets at this meeting or at the door.

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Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule has been tentatively set for the next few months. Note that all our meetings will be at Holmes Jr. High School. Next month is the annual picnic, so look for the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter. Be sure to thank the program chair, Donn Erickson, the next time you see him for continuing to find high quality program speakers.

Fly Fishers of Davis 2011-12 Meeting Schedule			
MONTH	SPEAKER	DATE	TOPIC
February	Annual Dinner	February 18	Food, Fun, Raffle!
March	Charlie Bisharat	March 27	Topwater Fishing for Stripers on the Delta
April	Michael Leach	April 24	Fishing Yellowstone
May	John Squires	May 22	Do-it-yourself Alaska
June	Annual Picnic	June 26	Food, Fun, Addled Angler Award

*Except where noted, all meetings will take place at Holmes Jr. High School

Intermediate Fly Tying Classes - Wednesdays February 2012



Intermediate fly tying classes will begin on Wednesday February 1, and continue on February 8, 15 and 22. The Intermediate Class will cover construction of more involved patterns that utilize more advanced techniques. A \$15 materials fee for each class covers the cost of materials and handouts. The Fly Fishers of Davis Club can provide vises, bobbins, and other tools for the class; however, if you have your own tools bring them along. Classes will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Viticulture Field Headquarters near the University Airport. Signups will begin at the November meeting. Signup sheets will also be available at the December meeting. Those interested in the Intermediate class can register at the January meeting as well. You may also contact Bob Zasoski at (530) 753-2241 or email rjzasoski@sbcglobal.net. Participants will receive a map to the Viticulture Field House and tying instructions by email.



Attention Fly Fishers of Davis!

We are proud to announce the finest, most exciting item ever to be auctioned off at our annual dinner.

ORVIS

Helios 10' 4 wt* and Mirage LA II Reel Complete Outfit

Retail value is over \$1300.00, and bidding will start at \$400.00



If you've ever wanted to own the very finest, ultimate nymphing rod — then your opportunity is almost at hand. Whether you're interested in any style of nymphing or simply casting dries, this remarkable combo could be yours! Plan now, club-members, and raid the cookie jar if you have to. We'll see you at the dinner!

Stay tuned for more news soon about additional exciting items!

**The 10-foot rod offers an extra foot of reach for precise nymphing or greater mending capability with dries. In highly technical waters where the fish are picky and presentations need to be precise and absolute, the Helios 104-4 stands out as the best line control rod ever designed. The 10-foot rod is also the weapon of choice for float tubers and pontoon anglers, providing the extra length to keep the back cast up off the water. If you're looking for a rod to give you that extra edge, the Helios 104-4 offers the lightest most powerful rod in its class. It is a specialty rod, but one that is proving more and more popular with anglers looking for that little something extra in presentation.*

CONSERVATION UPDATE

By Lowell Ashbaugh

Conservation Mailing List Want to keep up on conservation issues between newsletters? Join the FFD Conservation email list at <http://www2.dcn.org/mailman/listinfo/ffd-conservation>.

Feinstein helps water districts Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein quietly used a \$915 billion spending bill to accomplish a long-standing and, in some circles, controversial goal of easing Central Valley water sales.

With one sentence, the 1,221-page bill signed Saturday by President Barack Obama helps the Westlands Water District and privately owned Kern Water Bank, among others, buy more from irrigation districts served by the federal Central Valley Project.

With a second sentence, the bill orders a study designed to streamline water sales, including those from north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to south of the Delta.

BDCP Plan Review An independent panel of scientists recently issued a report on its review of the Effects Analysis component of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), and found it lacking. The panel consisted of seven scientists not otherwise affiliated with the BDCP. The major finding is that the Effects Analysis does not yet provide the “big picture” necessary to evaluate how the effects of complex hydrodynamic, geophysical and ecological changes in the Bay-Delta are going to be synthetically analyzed as a system to ensure conservation and management of covered species, and that ecological processes of the Bay-Delta will be preserved and enhanced under future operations. The report contains 11 recommendations, including

- the goal of Effects Analysis needs to be clearly defined,
- the fundamental currency of the Effects Analysis should be species population viability, and
- the framework should use all available best science and describe why other current science was excluded and provide justification for the exclusion.

The complete report is at http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/BDCP_Effects_Analysis_Review_Panel_Report_FINAL.pdf.

House called anti-environmental A report released by Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Los Angeles, Rep. Howard Berman, D-Van Nuys and Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., says the current session of Congress has been the most anti-environmental in the history of the nation.

The House has averaged more than one anti-environmental vote for every day it has been in session during 2011, according to the group Earthjustice.

Martin Hayden, Earthjustice vice president of policy and legislation, says “Under the leadership of Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., the House has voted 191 times to weaken or obliterate environmental protections.”

Among other environmental attacks, the House of Representatives is trying to keep portions of the San Joaquin River dry.

The “Energy and Water” appropriations bill passed by the House in July permanently rescinded all funding for the San Joaquin River restoration agreement.

Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Modesto amended the bill to prohibit the National Marine Fisheries Service from using funds to restore the San Joaquin River and reintroduce the California Central Valley Spring Run Chinook salmon.

Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash., amended the bill to block the Army Corps of Engineers from implementing and enforcing a shoreline management plan developed to protect salmon.

Both amendments were adopted, leaving much of the river to be siphoned off for irrigation. Portions of it are now bone dry during years with little rain. Until a court order last year forcing release of additional water from behind Friant Dam, about 60 miles of the river were no more than a dry riverbed.

Ironically, Senator Diane Feinstein (see above) supported restoration of the San Joaquin River and touted the restoration agreement as one of her accomplishments when it was approved.

From the NCCFFF

Forest to vineyard conversion opposed The NCCFFF signed on to a coalition letter to protect the Gualala River against the largest single massive forest-to-vineyard conversion (Preservation Ranch, 1,600+ acres and 90 miles of road network), in northern Sonoma County...the bigger neighbor (20,000 acre ownership) of the Codorniu/Artesa conversion project.

After a summer of cascading national media coverage of redwood forest/vineyard conversion triggered by an earlier letter (Associated Press, L.A. Times, and many others; all links at www.gualalariver.org), followed by an international on-line petition with over 90,000 signatures at Change.org, Friends of Gualala River is directly appealing to CalPERS, the principal funder of Preservation Ranch, to withdraw the project completely. CalPERS fired the Preservation Ranch project creator and manager, Premier Pacific Vineyards (PPV) this fall, shortly after the peak of our media wave. CalPERS, the state retirement system, now directly controls the fate of the project. We think with your help we can convince them it's in the best interest of the state's retirees to disinvest from this huge financial and environmental liability. They plan to announce their replacement for PPV after the New Year, and the (confidential draft) letter asks them to instruct the new management to shut it down and pull out.

From Cindy Charles, Co-VP, NCCFFF:

Alameda Creek Barrier Removal Project

NCCFFF has been involved in advocating the removal of a concrete weir in Alameda Creek that blocks steelhead passage. The structure, which is cracked, is owned by the San Francisco PUC. They finally did another survey of the structure earlier this fall. Last year was a very high water year and they were unable to survey it until the water levels dropped. About two years ago, they had a consultant study the structure and estimate the cost of removing it (it was once used in conjunction with a long standing USGS gauge; however, that can be moved and the weir is no longer necessary). The SFPUC decided to keep an eye on the structure by surveying it now and then. They want to check to see if the structure has cracked further and if it is

close to falling apart or if it has moved downstream. While the survey work has been done, it has not yet been interpreted so the SFPUC representative is supposed to get back to me with the determination. There's no doubt that the structure has gotten worse so we'll have to see the status. We may then need to ramp up pressure on the SFPUC to finally remove it for good.

Regarding other barriers on Alameda Creek agencies are completing design work on the new fish ladders for the BART weir and upper rubber dam - construction on the BART weir fish ladder could begin as early as next year and is scheduled for completion in 2013; the upper rubber dam fish ladder for 2014.

Merced River Relicensing Merced Irrigation District recently filed their Draft License Application (DLA) for renewing the New Exchequer Dam (the dam that blocks salmon and steelhead from reaching their historical spawning grounds near and in Yosemite National Park). The resource agencies (DFG, NMFS, F&WS and State Water Board) and the Conservation Groups coalition, including NCCFFF, filed comments and we are now at the start of Year Three of this process. The Conservation Coalition includes The Merced River Conservation Committee, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Trout Unlimited, Golden West Women Flyfishers, Friends of the River, American Rivers and NCCFFF. To see all the comments submitted, you can go to the FERC elibrary and look up project # P-2179.

In its Draft License Application, Merced ID proposes to continue operating the project for the next 50 years with no changes in generation facilities, no changes to physical facilities to better accomplish downstream water quality and temperature objectives, and no changes in resource management measures (recreational facilities around the project). Merced ID proposes to operate the project as it has operated for the past 10 years, with no changes in existing minimum flow release conditions. Merced ID acknowledges that the four pending anadromous fish related studies might significantly alter past operating conditions for the project and then they will formally amend its proposal regarding minimum flow releases. There

is also an important limestone salamander study-a species affected by the McClure Reservoir which is part of the project).

In the analysis of project effects on listed species, MID concludes that the project will not have "adverse impacts" on CV steelhead and critical habitat and CV fall-/late fall-Chinook salmon. The Conservation Groups urged the Commission to order MID to complete a revised Biological Assessment for CV steelhead and critical habitat and also order a revised Alternative Essential Fish Habitat Assessment for CV fall-/ late fall-run Chinook salmon. Although CV spring-run Chinook salmon and their critical habitat are not currently found in the Merced River, their likely presence in the foreseeable future will require their consideration (i.e., a Biological Assessment and Agency consultation) in the new permit. The Conservation groups commented to FERC that these assessments should be completed by the Licensee *after* development of minimum Project-controlled streamflows which include incorporation of information from ongoing studies ordered by the Commission and SWRCB (State Water Board).

The Conservation Groups and agencies also stated that the final license application should analyze actions that address channel armoring, gravel augmentation, and spawning gravel maintenance to improve Chinook salmon and steelhead habitat (which is a big problem in this river).

The DLA also states that the Crocker-Huffman Diversion Dam "represents the lowest downstream barrier to fish and is not part of the Project." Thus "fish passage issues as related to the Project offer no additional incremental effect." Conservation Groups strongly disputed this argument. The Commission has broad jurisdiction and authority to issue a new license which integrates and protects all beneficial uses of waterways and their resources, including fish and wildlife resources. Merced ID has been directed to operate an existing fish ladder at Crocker-Huffman Diversion Dam by both federal and state fish and wildlife agencies with authority over anadromous fish resources. (NMFS recently filed a letter with FERC sent to

MID saying they are investigating whether unauthorized "take" of threatened Central Valley (CV) steelhead is occurring on an annual or seasonal basis downstream of the Crocker-Huffman Dam on the Merced River. Take is defined as: "...harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The term "harm" has been defined by NMFS to mean "An act which actually kills or injures fish or wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat modification or degradation which actually kills or injures fish or wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, spawning, rearing, migrating. This would be a violation of the Endangered Species Act.

The DLA presents a placeholder for future stream flows, based on recent historic project operations. These existing stream flows are greatly inadequate. In developing stream flow recommendations for the new license, Conservation Groups will consider in particular: a) fall pulse flows to attract immigrating adult anadromous fish, b) high late winter and spring flows to provide rearing habitat and floodplain inundation, immigration and outmigration of juvenile anadromous fish, c) spring pulse flows for outmigration of juvenile anadromous fish, and d) summer flows that provide thermally suitable habitat for juvenile rearing of *O.mykiss*. Conservation Groups are not making specific flow recommendations at this time pending the results of anadromous fish studies and pending modeling analysis.

Bottom line, Merced Irrigation District has been extremely contentious and uncooperative in incorporating fish studies or any kind of improvement of conditions for salmon and steelhead or even recreational facilities (trails on the BLM land adjacent to the project). It has taken strong efforts by the Conservation Groups and Resource Agencies to push for change; however, we are all working together to gain critical changes in license (30-50 year term) conditions.

Protect our groundwater now

Powerful Southern California interests want to make use of it

By Nora Todenhagen

This article was published in the Chico News & Review on [12.29.11](#).

It rained last year; it may rain this year, but the health of the Tuscan and other Northern California aquifers depends not only on rain, but also on the actions of the state and federal governments driven by powerful corporate farmers and developers to the south.

The federal government and a water authority south of the Delta are preparing an environmental review to transfer up to 600,000 acre-feet of groundwater *each year* over 10 years to the western San Joaquin Valley. That's more groundwater than Chico would use in 200 years. There is also a bill in the House of Representatives that would guarantee industrial farms in desert lands water *no matter how dry the year*.

The state government is just as dangerous. Two proposals, the Delta Stewardship Council's Plan and the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan, seek to do the impossible: protect the Delta and export massive amounts of water to Southern California. They've promised more water than there is. Here is how a staff geologist of the state Department of Water Resources, Carl Hauge, wants to solve the problem. In September of this year at the state Water Commission he made these points on a slide:

Under the heading "Full Aquifers in Sacramento Valley," he listed five steps in the process of making use of our groundwater:

- one, "export surface water";
- two, "irrigate local land with groundwater—called groundwater substitution";
- three, "aquifers are emptied";
- four, "recharge with future surface water";
- five, "may affect existing surface water rights."

Taken together, these government programs represent a massive transfer of wealth from the family farms of Northern California to the corporate interests to the south. Emptying the aquifers would kill the oaks and dry the creeks with all their fish and wildlife. Think of Bidwell Park looking like the Owens Valley with a trickle of water in the creek, no fish, and the land without vegetation. Years of litigation there have failed to put that water back. Like the Owens Valley, our region could suffer economic depression and environmental blight.

What should you do? Get and keep informed. The AquAlliance website at www.aqualliance.net has information on and links to these government proposals. Make sure your representatives—city, county, state and federal—are protecting your groundwater. Consider joining AquAlliance, the only organization dedicated to the groundwater of the Sacramento Hydrologic Region.

We can work together by using our voices and using the law to demand that our interests be protected.



The author is a retired Chico State lecturer who serves on the board of directors of AquAlliance. She lives in Chico.

Interior Issues Draft Overview Report on Klamath Dam Removal Studies

Draft overview captures potential economic, environmental opportunities;

Public comment on draft sought by February 5, 2012

Washington, DC – The Interior Department today published a draft report summarizing two years of scientific and technical studies conducted to help inform the Secretary of the Interior on a forthcoming decision on whether to remove four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River, per the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA) of 2010. The comprehensive draft report, entitled *Klamath Dam Removal Overview Report for the Secretary of the Interior: an Assessment of Science and Technical Information (Overview Report)*, and each individual study conducted on the environmental and economic impacts of the potential dam removal, is available at www.KlamathRestoration.gov.

The draft report presents in plain language a summary of dozens of peer-reviewed reports that have been prepared by the federal government and made public as part of the effort to fill important data gaps prior to a Secretarial Determination. Many of the findings – in disciplines including economics, engineering, biology, water quality, recreation and real estate – were [first published in September](#).

“The science and analyses presented in these reports are vital to making an informed and sound decision on the Klamath River dam removal,” said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. “As we work toward strengthening the health and economic prosperity of all that depends on the Klamath – including our watersheds, fisheries, and forests - I encourage members of the public to offer their input on this draft overview report and perspectives on the opportunity that lies ahead.”

The Interior Department today also released an updated Economics and Tribal Summary Technical Report and the *Klamath River Basin Restoration Nonuse Value Survey Final Report*. The Economics and Tribal Summary Report provides an assessment of the economic benefits and costs of dam removal. The *Nonuse Value Survey Final Report* provides estimates of one important component of the economic benefits, nonuse values.

The economic reports analyzed in the draft *Overview Report* find that dam removal and implementation of the *related watershed-wide restoration program* provide an opportunity to bring significant additional jobs to the region and strengthen local economies in the Klamath Basin for reasons that include improved fish populations; additional recreational and commercial fishing opportunities; and increased agricultural output due to more certainty in water deliveries.

A summary of the key conclusions from the scientific and technical reports is available [here](#).

As part of its commitment to openness, transparency and scientific integrity, the Interior Department is arranging for a scientific peer review of the draft *Overview Report* by a six-member independent panel. In addition, the Department is encouraging the public to review and offer technical comments on the draft report for the peer reviewers to consider during their deliberations.

The peer reviewers were selected based on their expertise to review the technical information contained in the draft report, including engineering, fisheries biology, stream restoration, geomorphology, stream ecology, hydrology, water quality, natural resource economics, and anthropology/tribal history. Atkins North America, a firm with a specialty in overseeing scientific peer reviews, will facilitate the deliberations of the peer review panel and will assist them in the preparation of their report of peer review comments.

The final *Overview Report*, and the dozens of reports it summarizes, along with the final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report on Klamath River dam removal, will help inform the Secretarial Determination, which is expected later this spring.

Additional information is available at www.KlamathRestoration.gov.

The public comment period on the Klamath *Overview Report* is open from January 24 through February 5, 2012. Comments received after this date will not be considered by the peer reviewers. Public comments should be emailed to: ksdor@atkinsglobal.com, or mailed to:

Atkins North America, Inc
% Tamara Mayer
7406 Fullerton St., Suite 350
Jacksonville, FL 32256

New Pay to Play Venues

By Cary Boyden

This is the first of a periodic column I plan to write relative to the Club's fee trips, now exclusively run in conjunction with The Fly Shop. The first matter I want to cover is the April trip, which because of the annual dinner and the need to collect checks well ahead of time, is best signed up for at the January meeting. If past is prologue, this trip is very productive, and there are currently numerous openings. Hopefully we can fill most of these in January.

The next matter relates to 2 trips which are new and which will be either for one or two days depending on interest. The first is set for May 19 at Steiner Lake in Redding which has numerous bass in the 5-8 pound range and offers supposedly excellent topwater action. This trip will be limited to 6 members, and if interest dictates will cover two days with a cabin available for overnights. The second is to Rock Creek Lake which contains a number of large trout. This is set for the second weekend in September (one or two days depending on interest) and will be \$100 per day. If two days, camping facilities and a cabin are available.

Both of these trips, along with Luk Lake (one or two days and November 30 and December 1), will be discussed at the January meeting in more detail



Rock Creek Lake



Rock Creek Brown Trout



Steiner Lake Bass...



...and another!

Book of the Month

By Jim Luschwitz

“Blue Lines: A Fishing Life”

By Tom Reed

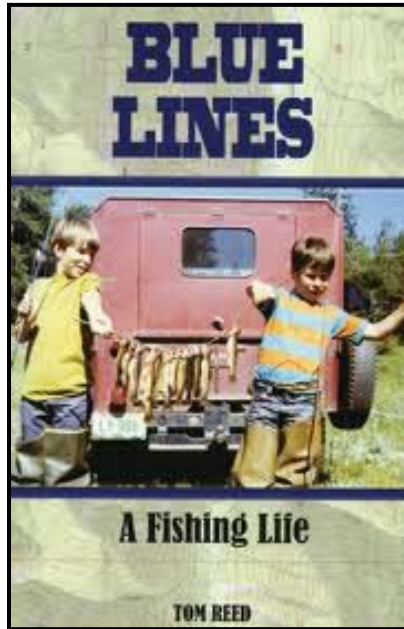
Blue Lines is about fishing small streams in the Rocky Mountain West. It follows one man's life from Colorado childhood streams to Montana high country creeks. Blue Lines is filled with superbly told fishing stories, and it shows us fishing as a healer, fishing as common ground between adversaries, and fishing as a way to escape the travails of the mundane.

The curved blue lines on a topographic map guide veteran fisherman Tom Reed, who prefers angling in the small streams that wander through a landscape. While there's plenty of glory to be found in yanking trophies out of a big river, Reed says shallower and narrower courses provide more challenges. The fish are wariar, streamside foliage lurks to grab your hand-tied fly, and the fish are generally pan size. “Small streams ... call you home, call you to the heart, to the source,” he writes.

There's a different Zen to small-stream fishing and the author acquired the

addiction early in life, growing up in a Colorado family of fisherfolk. The call of the trout stream is strong for the afflicted, causing them to cast all reason aside. They drop out of college, embark on lengthy journeys, drive down dusty roads in unreliable vehicles and subsist on stale food – all for the chance to match wits with an aquatic creature, who would like nothing more than to abscond with a newly purchased \$5 fly. There's an art and grace to fly-fishing done well, and the author takes us on several journeys to illustrate this point. Drive the back roads of Colorado, Wyoming and Montana, and join the author as he scrambles down steep embankments and spends hours contentedly casting for elusive trout in clear cold streams.

This is not a how-to book, but there are plenty of useful pieces of advice among the pages. Lessons in geography and local fishing history slip into the dialogue as well.



How to become a member of the Fly Fishers of Davis

Dues for adults and families are \$30/year. Student rate is \$15/year. The monthly newsletter is distributed by e-mail only. Please be sure to provide a valid e-mail address so that we can get the newsletter to you in Adobe Acrobat format. You can bring the application to the club meetings, which are held at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month. For more information, contact: [John Reynolds](mailto:John.Reynolds@dcn.org) , 530-753-2682 or <mailto:jreyn@dcn.org> – **Membership Chair**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone () _____

Occupation _____ e-mail: _____

Fly fishing interest and experience: _____

Our club is only as great as its members, so please **circle one or more** of the following areas where you could share your expertise.

Annual Picnic, Annual Dinner, Guest Speakers, Putah Creek Cleanup, Membership, Budget, Conservation, Newsletter, Communications, Outings, Marketing, Youth Programs, Salmon in the Classroom, Education.

Please also **circle** if you would like to **teach, assist, or attend** any of our classes in **Rod building, Fly Tying, or Casting.**

For insurance reasons, you must be a current club member to attend any of our outings

January 2012 Trinity River Steelhead Report

“Life Happens to Those Who Show Up”

By John Imsdahl

His wife would drive him from their Connecticut home on Tuesday morning just before 9 a.m. to the local train station. He would board the train for its one hour trip before connecting with another almost two hour train ride to New York City. He would arrive at Grand Central Station just about noon to take the bus to JFK airport. He would then board a delayed flight at 5:30 p.m. to San Francisco. From SFO he would board a BART train to the Powell Station where he would board a Cable Car to his Russian Hill triplex.

The next day member Arthur Chu would drive down the hill to Chinatown, after performing a banking chore, purchase homemade pot stickers, dumplings and sauces from a local restaurant. Arthur would then drive to Cary Boyden's house for the 3 ½ hour drive to Lewiston.

For all of his travel and effort Arthur would be rewarded with “Romeo and Juliet”. Romeo would be a nearly 34” native buck steelhead on the first day, while on the second day he would fight and net Juliet who was at least thirty inches and a very sweet hen that I witness him fight for over twenty minutes according to my watch.

Brian Bechtold would board a Southwest flight from Kansas City, Kansas on Tuesday. Yes, this native Missourian now lives in Kansas and he would leave behind his new love and girlfriend Mollie as well as his old pal “Snickers”, his loyal eleven year old chocolate lab. He would fly to Sacramento where he would also arrive at Cary's house for the “journey” to Lewiston. By all accounts Brian would be rewarded with the most steelhead for both days having caught possibly as many as six or more over the two day period. I have not seen Brian smile so much in very long time. I guess a lot of that smile comes from having Mollie as a girlfriend, but some was also being around us again and catching the most fish.

While Dave Yarborough would travel from Napa, and Mike Miranda would travel from Burlingame, the rest of us, Adney Bowker, Jon Knapp, John Eisele, Sam Chamberlin, Cary Boyden, Jim Luschwitz, Warren Caldwell and I would begin our journey from El Macero, Davis or Vacaville. So, while all of the members that “showed up” at this year's Trinity River outing traveled the highways to Lewiston, CA, there were a few of us that traveled a lot further distance.

The outing always begins with a cocktail party in one of the Lewiston Motel rooms that is usually filled with food. In addition to Arthur's Chinatown delicacies, Warren brought summer venison sausage, Adney an assortment of cheeses, salmon and crackers, Dave brought prawns, everyone brought wine and someone even brought a box of See's candy.

Dinner choices were made and so we all ate at the “new” Lewiston Hotel Restaurant Thursday night, breakfasts were at the Mountain Valley Grill, with Friday night's dinner having the group split up between Weaverville's La Grange and the local Mountain Valley Grill. On the way home most of us stopped and ate a final meal together at “Nancy's” in Willows.

The Fly Shop's guides were all superb as usual. Cary has always put a lot of effort into pairing fishing partners and guides and he did another excellent job this outing. Matt, Ross, Lonnie, Ernie, Larry, Bryan and Popeye all pushed us through about 8 miles of river each day, fed us well at lunch, changed flies and most importantly put us into runs with fish. As a result, indicators went down and each of us had an opportunity to net those elusive winter run steelhead.

Life does happen to those who show up and in this case lots of steelhead and half pounders and the fellowship of our members.



Brian with #4



Arthur Chu with a large Trinity Steelhead

More on the Trinity Steelhead trip

Photos by Brian Bechtold and Arthur Chu



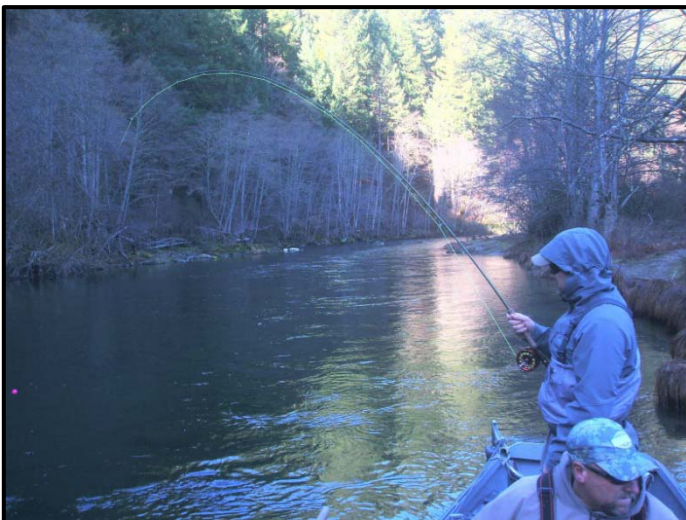
Cary playing a steelie...



...and bringing it in!



There are some nice Browns in the Trinity, too!



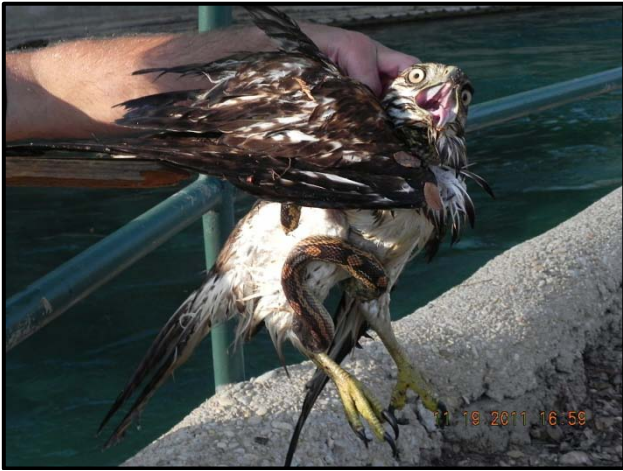
Mike Miranda with a fish on



And the river is beautiful

Just Another Day on the Snake River

Sent by John Legakis, who received it from a friend in Idaho



This has to be the weirdest thing that ever floated by me on the Snake River. They were stuck together in death lock, each wanting to kill the other first. My guess is that the falcon snatched up the tasty snake, and it somehow got its tail around the falcon's neck, strangling it in midair causing both of them to crash into the river. They are both alive and well, considering.



I think a few more minutes and the snake would have won. The tail was actually tied in a knot around the neck, and getting tighter by the second. I got the snake untied, and well, as you can see, they both made it. This is another one of those stories you tell, and are always acknowledged with "yeah, right!" Well, here's the proof. Neither of them bit me or scratched me; the snake didn't want to stop biting the falcon's leg, and only let go after I had untied everything else.



I got the water out of the falcon's lungs with birdie inversion technique, and stayed with him until he was almost dried off in the sun, and flying a little. Ball of snake and falcon, that is the weirdest thing I have pulled out of the water so far!

----- Outings Report -----

This is my last column as outings coordinator, as it is time for new blood and fortunately Dana Hooper has graciously agreed to assume the role. There has been one outing, to the Trinity, since the last report as to which John Imsdahl has written another great report (I believe) so I will not do my usual far less informative recap. Also I will not discuss upcoming outings as I will cover several of the ones I will continue to manage in a new periodic column I am initiating dealing with the Club's pay to play outings (can anybody suggest a catchy title?). I will still also coordinate the various non-fee trips I have traditionally done like Baum Lake, shad, and Lake Davis.

It has for me been an unmitigated pleasure to watch the number, diversity and quality of trips expand over the years and the related increase in Club members participating both as attendees and fishmeisters. I know I leave the trip organization function in good hands and now turn over the remainder of this column to Dana. –Cary Boyden

If you have any ideas you wish to put forward and organize into Club outings please contact any Club Board member.

Fly Fishers of Davis Outings Schedule (updated for most of 2012!)

EVENT	FISH	DATES	FISHMEISTER		Comments/Fees
Trinity	Steelhead	January 5-6	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	\$ 320 + tip
Amador	Trout	Jan/Feb			Day use fee
Yuba River Float	Trout	Jan/Feb	Chris Berardi	530-759-1968	Depends on flows and may be reset
Baum Lake	Trout	Mar 1-4	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	
Redding Sacramento	Trout	April 13 and/or 14			\$ per day + tip
Pyramid	Cutthroat	April	Jon Knapp	530-756-9056	
Hat Creek	Trout		Dana Hooper	530-758-1991	FF 101
Sacramento River	Shad	May 25	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	
Payne Ranch	Smallies	June 2	John Reynolds	530-753-2682	
McCloud River	Trout	May/June	Gene Gantt	707-451-3262	
Lake Davis	Trout	June 7-10	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	Camping this year may still be an issue
Lake Almanor	Trout	June	Chris Berardi	530-759-1968	iffy
Heritage Trout	Trout	July	Phil Reedy	530-902-2504	Northern California; search for Heritage Trout
Yuba	Trout	May 5	Sam Yee	916-505-7722	
Yuba	Trout		Sam Yee	916-505-7733	
Fuller Lake	Trout	June/July	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722	Date depends on winter snow
Lewiston	Trout	July 13-15	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	
Trinity/Coffee Creek	Trout	July 19-22	Paul Berliner	530-753-3886	An easy wading FF-101 trip
Old Fogies	Trout	August	Bob Brodberg	530-756-9071	Moderate backpacking
Kennedy Meadows	Trout	September 6-9	Paul Berliner	530-753-3886	An easy wading FF-101 trip
Lake Davis	Trout	September 20-23	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	
Payne Ranch	Smallies	October 13	John Reynolds	530-753-2682	
Redding Sacramento	Trout Steelhead	October 19 and/or 20			\$ per day + tip

Officers, Directors and Committees

President:	Gene Gantt	707-590-3446
Vice President	Donn Erickson	707-451-3262
Treasurer	Bob Brodberg	530-756-9071
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DIRECTORS		
2011	Jack Norlyn	530-758-2980
	Dick Bellows	530-668-7981
2012	Chris Berardi	530-759-1968
	Paul Berliner	530-753-3886
2013	Jim Luschwitz	510-387-8145
	Dana Hooper	530-758-1991
COMMITTEES		
Outings	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826
Conservation	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722
Membership	John Reynolds	530-753-2682
Newsletter	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722
NCCFFF	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722
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Hospitality	Reed Enos	530-756-2331
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Fly Tying	Bob Zasoski	530-753-2241
Picnic Chair		
Youth Programs	Adney Bowker	530-758-2674
Video Library	John Reynolds	530-753-2682

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