

Fly Fishers of Davis<http://www.FlyFishersofDavis.org>

Volume 43 Issue 2

T h e F i s h e r m a n ' s L i n e

**January Meeting, Tuesday February 24th, 2015
7:30pm @ Harper Jr. High School
The Fly Fishers of Davis Presents:
“Fly Fishing the 50 / 80 Gap”**



This month the Fly Fishers of Davis will hear from Tayler Wells who will discuss the almost pristine wilderness in between highway 50 and 80 and the fly fishing opportunities on the upper forks of the American, namely the South Fork, Middle Fork and North Fork. Each of these rivers have their own special quirks and more tributaries than one could thoroughly fish in a lifetime.

Tayler was raised in the shadow of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and spent his youth accompanying his father to a variety of California's many outdoor opportunities. He began his pursuit of fly fishing at age 13 and has not looked back. Once he purchased his first car, the pastime of fishing turned into a life style that has taken hold, and yet to let go. His love of fishing and the natural world led him to complete a degree in Environmental Science from CSU Sacramento, and he uses this knowledge to impart a deeper understanding of the natural world to all that he has an opportunity to spend it with. He has guided for various outfitters and lodges, spending 4 seasons in Western Alaska, and lure of the fall season in Northern California, primarily on the Middle Klamath. No matter where his travels have taken him, Gold Country and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada will always have roots for him. The Forks of the American River are his stomping grounds and true home, and he appreciates having to earn the opportunity to catch wild trout as the canyons make necessary. A gifted fly tier, Tayler has numerous commercial patterns available by top manufacturers. He enjoys fishing with anyone, especially his new wife and herding dog Kit.

THE PREZ SEZ

By Dana Hooper

For those of you that were very inspired by last months presentation on Pyramid Lake like me, I took a trip up there and had a great experience catching Lohanton Cuthroats on of course the famous Pyramid Beetle. We thank Jay Clark for an awe inspiring presentation on some really big trout.

Rain or Shine FFD Annual Dinner March 7 at Lillard Hall at West Plain Field Station is getting closer and don't forget to purchase your tickets at this months meeting or at the door. Doors open at 5:30 and bring your billfold for we have lots of great items for silent auction, live auction and of course raffle items that circle the room. For you first timers that attend the Annual Dinner please ask for your First Timers Raffle ticket at no cost you have a chance to win a 1 hour casting lesson with Jeff Putnam and many more items.

Last but not least don't forget your Annual Dues.

Thanks
Dana Hooper



"It's fun Charlie, ya nibble on his leader knots;
drives 'em crazy!"

ANNUAL DINNER DONATIONS

Donations to the Annual raffle are welcome and will be gladly accepted. Practice your tying a favorite fly and donate a dozen for the raffle. Ask any board member for assistance if you have items to donate. And they don't have to be related to fishing! We hope to have many non-fishing raffle items for this year's dinner.



Items recently added as Annual Dinner High Roller Prizes

ANNUAL DINNER RAFFLE TICKET FAQs



1. **Q. How much are raffle tickets and how are they used?**
 A. Raffle tickets are \$1/ticket. Each of your raffle tickets have the same number. You place raffle tickets in **Raffle Buckets** next to items that you would like to win or in the **General Raffle Drawing**. At the end of the night 1 raffle ticket per bucket item will be drawn as well as dozens of General Raffle drawings.

2. **Q. What is a High Roller Ticket?**
 A. For each 100 raffle tickets you purchase, you will be given one High Roller Ticket. This ticket needs to go in the **High Roller Bucket**. A ticket will be drawn from the High Roller Bucket for each item designated as a High Roller Item.

3. **Q. What is a First Timer Ticket?**
 A. Guests new to the Annual Dinner will be given a FREE First Timer ticket. This ticket needs to go in the **First Timer's Bucket**. A ticket will be drawn from the First Times Bucket for items designated as First Timer's items.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The meeting schedule has been tentatively set for the next few months. Kurt Arens is the program chair - let him know if you like the program speakers or if you have ideas for one.

Fly Fishers of Davis 2014 Meeting Schedule			
MONTH	SPEAKER	DATE	TOPIC
March	Tim Fox	March 24, 2015	Fly Tying
April	Dan LeCount	April 28, 2015	Streamer Tactics for Trout
May	Dax Messett	May 26, 2015	Nomad Angler
June	Annual Club Picnic		
July	Ron Rabun	July 28, 2015	Nymphing Tech. on Upper Sacramento
September	TBD	September 29, 2015	TBD
October	Mike Costello	October 27, 2015	Delta Stripers

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

CALL FOR DUES!

By Paul Berliner

Hi everyone! As your club Treasurer, here's a gentle reminder to send in your dues for 2015. Dues for adults and families are \$30/year, and the student rate is \$15/year.

Because of your support, our membership continues to grow! Your dues help to fund almost all club activities — including our superb array of guest speakers, outings, the annual picnic, fly casting and fly tying clinics, our amazing FFD 101 classes, Salmon in the Classroom, and best of all, our contributions to numerous outreach, education and conservation organizations.

Please bring a check (made out to Fly Fishers of Davis) or cash to the next club meeting. You can present this either to me or Lyn Hooper at the Membership Table. As an alternative, you can mail your check to Fly Fishers of Davis, P.O. Box 525, Davis, CA 95617.

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support!

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Fly Fishing 101 & 201 Classes

By Dana Hooper

Class	Date	Topic
3	Wed, Feb. 25, 2015	Techniques and Rigging
4	Wed, March 4, 2015	Reading Water and Locating Fish
5	Wed, March 11, 2015	Indicator Techniques and Review
6	Wed, March 18, 2015	Bass/Striper fishing on the Delta
7	Wed, March 25, 2015	Streamer Fishing Techniques

email Dana Hooper at trouthookup1@gmail.com or 916-343-9732 for more information



CONSERVATION REPORT

By Lowell Ashbaugh

Conservation Mailing List Want to keep up on conservation issues in between newsletters? Join the FFD Conservation email list at

<http://www2.dcn.org/mailman/listinfo/ffd-conservation>.

There's a crisis brewing in California's fisheries. The Delta Smelt is on the verge of extinction, American River steelhead populations have collapsed to record lows, and the endangered winter run of Sacramento River Chinook salmon is in real danger of being lost forever. The drought is causing part of the problem, but mismanagement of reservoirs has contributed greatly. As I reported here a year ago, north state reservoirs were drained over a year ago to send 800,000 acre-feet of water south, leaving too little water to maintain flows and low temperatures for the fish in the Sacramento and American Rivers. As a result Shasta Lake, Lake Oroville, and Folsom Lake reached record low levels before the recent rains. As Dan Bacher puts it, "This water was shipped to fill the Kern Water Bank and Southern California reservoirs, as well as to supply water to corporate agribusiness interests in the Westlands Water District and oil companies conducting fracking and steam injection operations in Kern County. Little carryover storage in the reservoirs, particularly in Folsom, was left in 2014 as the drought continued. Folsom Reservoir reached a record low of 17 percent of capacity in January 2014, due to mismanagement by the state and federal governments."

American River steelhead returns to the Nimbus hatchery hit a record low this year. Despite the closure of the upper reach of the American to fishing late last year, a move requested and endorsed by the NCCFFF to protect wild steelhead (and required by the low water levels in Folsom Lake), it appears these iconic fish are in even worse shape this year. As of December 29, only 10 steelhead had returned to the Nimbus fish hatchery. Normally, there would be hundreds, if not thousands, of steelhead returning to the hatchery at that time. As we heard at last month's club meeting, there are no steelhead eggs available this year for the popular Classroom Aquarium Education Program (aka Trout in the Classroom).

Furthermore, endangered winter-run salmon have now experienced two years of poor reproductive success. Elevated water temperatures in the upper Sacramento River last summer and fall resulted in extremely high mortality (estimated at 95 percent) of brood year 2014 winter-run egg and fry. CDFW believes that the 2014 winter run of naturally spawning fish also may have collapsed. Because of this, the hatcheries are currently raising approximately 600,000 juvenile winter-run salmon for release – three times the normal number. A second year of poor reproduction of wild fish could spell the end of the run.

This brings us to recent actions. On January 23, 2015, the California Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation filed a Temporary Urgency Change Petition to lower the minimum flow requirements for water flowing through the delta. The stated justification for the petition was based on low water storage in upstream reservoirs and the need to reserve water to maintain low water temperatures later in the season. The salinity levels in the delta would go up, though, with the lower flows. The TUCP would be in effect for 180 days.

On February 3 the CDWR partially approved and partially denied the petition with an order that makes the following temporary modifications to D-1641 requirements during February and March:

- Modifies minimum monthly Delta outflows to 4,000 cfs;
- Modifies minimum monthly San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis to 500 cfs;
- Allows the Delta Cross Channel Gates to be opened consistent with triggers to protect fish species;
- Adds export constraints to allow exports of 1,500 cfs when Delta outflows are below 7,100 cfs regardless of DCC Gate status and allows exports up to D-1641 limits when Delta outflows are above 7,100 cfs and the DCC Gates are closed.

So what does this mean? Decision 1641, or D-1641, was adopted by the SWRCB on December 29, 1999 and revised on March 15, 2000. It is the implementation plan for the 1995 Bay-Delta Plan, with respect to the operation of water projects within the Delta watershed. D-1641 includes water right permit terms and conditions to implement water quality objectives to protect Municipal and Industrial (M&I) beneficial uses in the Delta, as well as water quality objectives to protect Fish and Wildlife beneficial uses.

D-1641 contains flow and water quality objectives that must be measured at various compliance monitoring stations throughout the Delta.

Notably, the February 3 Order constrains exports from the Delta to 1,500 cfs when Delta outflows are below 7,100 cfs. The TUCP had requested an intermediate export pumping level of 3,500 cfs when outflows were between 5,500 and 7,100 cfs. That part of the petition was denied.

The immediate fallout from the denial of the intermediate export request was a letter from Senator Dianne Feinstein and six other members of congress requesting that the Director of the State Water Resources Control Board, Felicia Marcus, reconsider the Order and approve the entire petition.

It's not clear what the next step will be, but I'll have a report at the club meeting. A workshop on this matter is planned for February 18, 2015. At the workshop, the State Water Board will receive public comment and input on the January 15, 2015 Drought Contingency Plan, the TUCP request, the February 3 Order, and any potential future TUCP requests. The Board will not take formal action at the workshop, but may provide further direction regarding the TUCP and this Order. I plan to be at the workshop.

Delta Drought Barriers

Last month, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) submitted an application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seeking a programmatic permit to allow the installation of temporary, emergency drought barriers across three channels in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The temporary rock barriers would be installed only in the event of drought conditions so severe that physical salinity control structures are needed to conserve water in upstream reservoirs for health and safety and critical environmental purposes.

Breaking news Restore the Delta reported that the Westlands Water District is organizing busloads of farm

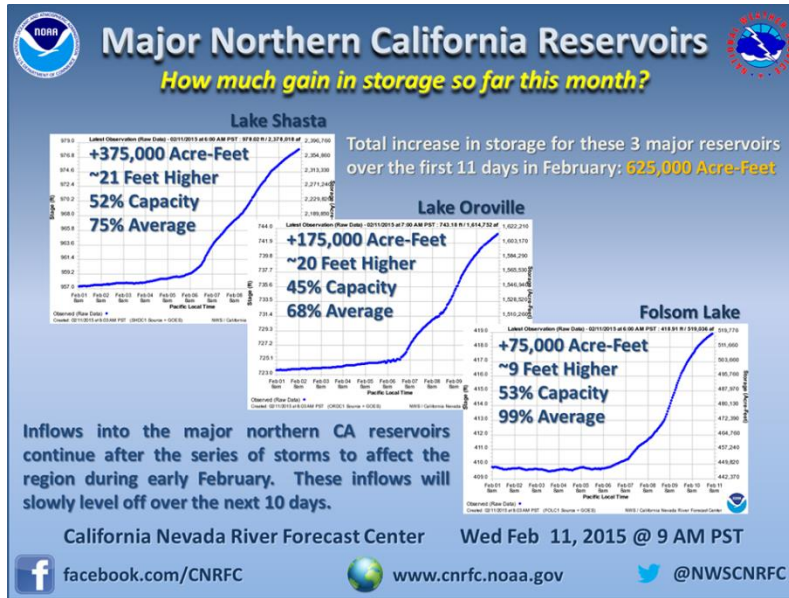
workers and farmers to attend the State Water Resources Control Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2015. They intend to demand that the State Water Resources Control Board abandons the few protections left in place to stop over pumping of the Delta during the drought.

It is important that the State Water Resources Control Board understand that the commercial salmon, Delta farming, and Bay-Delta recreational economies worth many billions of dollars annually are at stake if the estuary collapses.

We must tell them while the current standards (which are called D1641) have never been fully adequate for the health of the estuary, but setting them aside so that three of California's 58

counties can have any and all water during this prolonged drought is wrong.

I'll close with this graph of the recent gains in water storage in the north state due to this year's rains. Storage is improving, but without snow to provide more water, it probably won't last long.



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Capt. Toby Uppinghouse

FFD Outing: January Trinity

Photos by Jim Luschwitz

The annual Club January trip to the Trinity seemed to carry forward the Luk Lake experience. The 8 members all caught at least one steelhead, but there were no catches like in years past. A surprising number of half pounders were in the mix, but certainly the catching of those fish was not the aim of this outing. One interesting sidelight was that on day 1 of the 2 day trip, those in boats piloted by the famous duo of Lonnie and Ernie were out fished rather soundly by those in the boats guided by the Kennedy brothers. What is not clear is whether it was the guides or the fishermen.



Dennis Rolston with a big Brown caught on the Trinity with Guide Greg Kennedy



Adney Bowker with a nice Trinity canyon Steelhead on first day



Jim Luschwitz with a good one on day two at Junction City

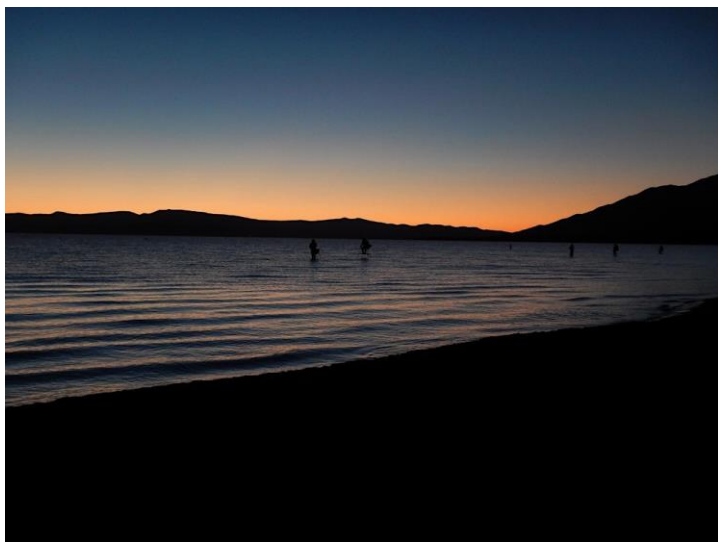
FFD Travels: Mid Winter Pyramid Lake

Story by Cary Boyden Photos by Jim Luschwitz

On January 22 and 23 the 5 Club members Ron Hedrick, Bill Cox, Jim Luschwitz, Bob Zasoski and I went to Pyramid. As the pictures below attest, we did catch some nice fish. The numbers were, however, not great except in comparison to the catches of some members who have fished the lake in mid winter in the last few years. All the fish were taken on some form of midge, most on an Albino tied on a Daiichi 1760 size 12. Stripping surprisingly was not effective for us. The trip also once again showed the old refrain about being here yesterday, as on the 22nd the fishing had been really productive between 11 and 3 (Ron and Bill started about 3 and the rest of us did not arrive until 4:30). It was interesting that all the bigger fish were Pilots, and the percentage of Pilots caught approached 50%, certainly a higher percent than generally observed previously. This clearly bodes well for the future landing of double digit fish.

It should be noted that it was cold in the mornings even when the afternoon temperature approached 60. Late afternoons were ok until dark. Any member thinking of a trip to the lake between mid December and March 1 should be prepared for freezing fingers even with warm gloves and should dress very warmly (March is not that much warmer but is certainly more pleasant). The water temperature was in the 40s suggesting limiting wading to reaching the ladder or neoprene waders.

That said, by mid March the temperatures should be better, and then the annual spawning runs begin. If past is prologue, this is the optimum time to hit the lake, particularly on windy days which tend to draw in large numbers of fish. Last year most in this same group had 10-25 fish days at that time of year on days when there was a stiff breeze.



On the ladder at dawn



Ron Hedrick with the biggest fish of the trip

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Jim Luschwitz with a very nice Summit



Cary Boyden with a big Pilot

FFD Travels: Panama

Photo by Lowell Gossell

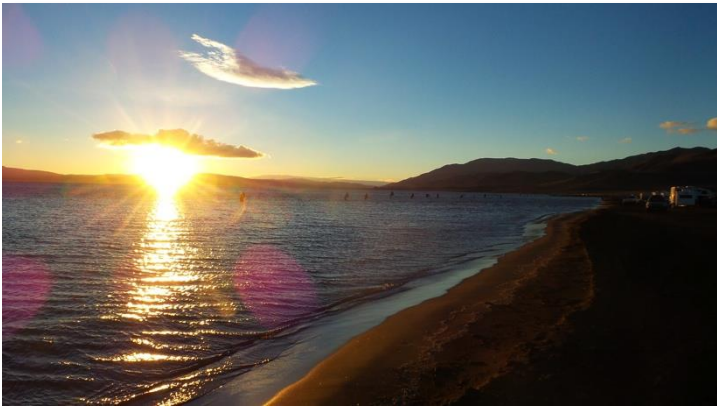


Lowell Gossell caught 100+ of these beauties. Mostly on top water

FFD Travels: Mid Winter Pyramid Lake- A Newbie Perspective

Story and Pictures by Tom Robinson

Like many other fishing trips in recent years, our maiden trip to Pyramid Lake was on the verge of being canceled due to inclement weather, but Dana Hooper and Tom Robinson were not going to let the Pyramid Lake veteran, Chris Berardi, deny them their “right of passage” no matter what the circumstances... after all, they spent the week finding and customizing their ladders and just saw the Jay Clark presentation at the Club Meeting. [\[Thursday Morning Text From Chris B:\] 30 – 40 mph winds and a fishing derby at pyramid this weekend. Should be fun! Plan B? Nope!](#) Dana and Tom were determined, but with the winds now becoming 75 mph gusts and a stolen catalytic converter from our vehicle the morning of our departure, maybe these were signs to stay put in Davis? We convinced Chris to go anyways and we ventured to Crosbys Lodge where we stayed the next two nights. Over the next two days, we braved winds in excess of 40 mph, pelting rain, rough “seas”, as well as Crosby’s Karaoke and chili cheese dogs, and managed to land 20+ trout using wooly buggers and popcorn beetles. The weekend was LEGEN... wait for it ... DARY!



Sunrise at North Nets... everyone is already here.



Tom’s Ladder “The Crow’s Nest”... Luckily he had a buoy for when it blew over



Dana Hooper and Chris Berardi waiting for first grab of the morning



Dana with the first Lahontan Cutthroat of the weekend



Dressed for success



Chris Berardi and Tom Robinson with a double



Dana is on FIRE! Another nice trout.



Tom Robinson with a nice cutthroat

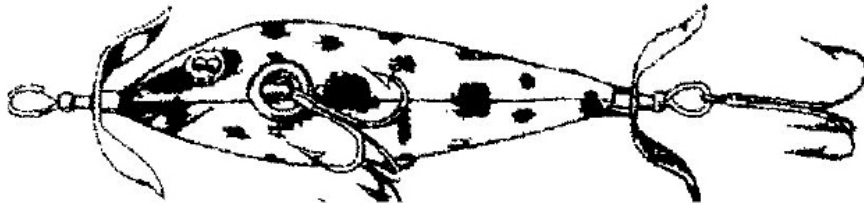


Too windy for ladders that day!



He wasn't smiling an hour later!

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Book of the Month

By Jim Luschwitz

“A Fly Fishing Guide to Rocky Mountain National Park”

By Steve Schweitzer

FLY ANGLERS are blessed with a cornucopia of books on pretty much everything related to their sport. Perhaps the most abundant genre of fly fishing literature is the destination guide. Chances are good that you own one or two of these books, and the chances are also good that even if you've been lucky enough to own some of the better ones, you still had to go elsewhere for information on preparing to fish a particular destination. If so, you're a lot like Colorado angler Steve Schweitzer.

Schweitzer, a respected figure in the fly fishing retail and conservation industry for over 20 years, had the same not-quite-complete knowledge about fishing the lakes and streams in Rocky Mountain National Park. With the help of dozens of friends and colleagues, the book quickly evolved from an idea, to a project, to a labor-of-love, to sometimes an overwhelming goal, which covers 155 stream, river and lake fishing destinations inside the Park.

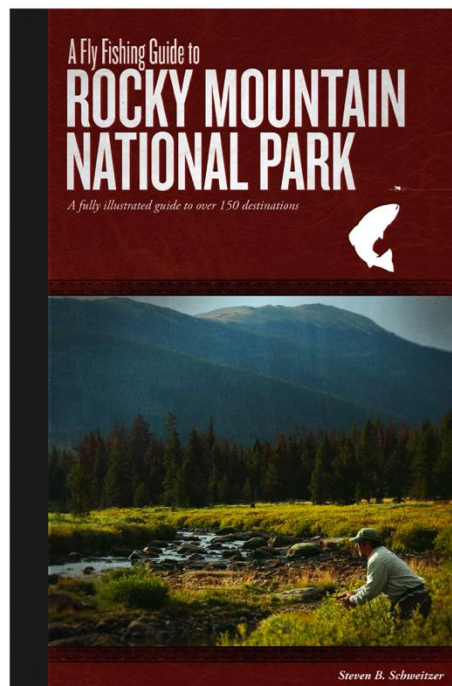
Schweitzer covers every aspect of fishing the park. From its history and geography to background information on the Park's

visitor statistics; to trail and road information; to entrance fees and regulations; to an in-depth section devoted to hiking the Park, which is followed by an overview of Park hazards and a first aid primer.

Next, Schweitzer covers guidelines on essential fly fishing gear and offers a rundown on how to approach various weather conditions and water types. He goes over each of the Park's five major species of trout, outlining how to identify them, where to find them, and how to present a fly to their liking.

And then he gets into the meat and potatoes of the book, the guide, itself. Schweitzer breaks the Park into eight zones. Each zone has its own section of the book devoted to it, where Schweitzer tells the reader about each trail in the zone and the water bodies you'll find

along the way. Each trail's grade is shown, so anglers can easily distinguish those that are easy or difficult. Schweitzer shows which fish species are present, and has included a section devoted to fly patterns, including over 100 recipes with the reader, each of which is accompanied by a photo of the finished pattern.





UTINGS FFD

2015 - 2016

<u>Trip 2015</u>	<u>Fish</u>		<u>Dates</u>	<u>Fishmeister</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Baum Lake	Trout		March 11 - 15	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	
Lower Sac Float	Trout	Guide	April 8 - 11	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	\$170/day (check only) + tip
Pyramid	Trout		April	Jon Knapp	530-756-9056	
Putah Creek	Trout		April	Steve Karr		sk60@putahcreektrout.org
Manzanita Lake Trip	Trout	Float	April 17 - 19	Chris Berardi		Camping
Hat Creek	Trout		May 15 - 17	Dana Hooper	916-343-9732	Fly 101 Camping
Delta Bass N Fly Tournament	Delta Bass	Boat	May 2	Dana Hooper	916-343-9732	Boater pair with non boater
Sac River Shad	Shad		May 22	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	
Payne Ranch	Smallies		May	John Reynolds	530-753-2682	Day trip
Lake Davis	Trout		June 4 - 7	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	Camping
Lower Yuba UCD Property	Trout		June 13	Dana Hooper	916-343-9732	
Fuller Lake	Trout		June / July	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722	Day trip
Lewiston Lake	Trout		July 7 - 11	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	Camping
Old Fogeys Trip	Trout		August	Bob Brodberg	530-756-9071	Backpacking
McCloud River	Trout		June/July	Gene Gnatt	707-451-3262	Camping
Payne Ranch	Smallies		TBA	John Reynolds	530-753-2682	Day trip
Lake Davis	Trout		Sept 17-20	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	Camping
Lower Sac Float	Trout		TBA	Dana Hooper	916-343-9732	\$170 / day (check only) + tip
Trinity Trip (Fall) 2014	Steelhead		November 2 - 3	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	\$170 / day (check only) + tip
Striper Fest 2015	Stripers		November 2 - 3	Dana Hooper	916-343-9732	Boater pair with non boater
<u>Trip 2016</u>	<u>Fish</u>		<u>Dates</u>	<u>Fishmeister</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Luk Lake	Trouth/Bass		TBA	Dana Hooper	916-343-9732	\$120/day (check only) + Rentals
Trinity 2016	Steelhead		TBA	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	\$340 + tip

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Vice President	Paul Berliner	530-753-3886
Treasurer	Paul Berliner	530-753-3886
Secretary	Tom Robinson	530-304-0305
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2015	Dave Yarborough	707-252-8279
	Tom Robinson	530-304-0305
2016	Phil Reedy	530-297-7535
	Eric Kapucinski	916-984-6438
2017	Fred Bryner	530-756-4883
	Dan Kathan	415-713-8952
	Rick Wallinder	916-505-5329
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Conservation	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722
Membership	Lyn Hooper	530-753-2682
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NCCFFF	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722
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Hospitality	Fred Bryner	530-756-4883
Raffle Chair	Phil Reedy	530-297-7535
Fly Tying	Bob Zasoski	530-753-2241
Picnic Chair		
Youth Programs	Adney Bowker	530-758-2674
Video Library	Dave Yarborough	707-252-8279

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The Fly Fishers of Davis (FFD) is a non-Profit 501.C.4 charitable organization dedicated to the education, participation, conservation and enhancement of fly fishing. Annual associate membership is \$30 beginning with each calendar year. FFD meets monthly except for the months of July & August. Regular monthly meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except for December and February. December meetings are held the second Tuesday to accommodate holiday schedules. February hosts the Annual Dinner meeting which is scheduled in the latter part of the month based [upon](#) facility arrangements.

FFD is an affiliate club of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), an international nonprofit organization, and its Northern California Council (NCCFFF) affiliate.

Meetings and membership are opened to the public.

The Fly Fishers of Davis provide equal opportunity membership without discrimination on sex, race, origin, age or religious orientation.

E-Newsletter Policy

Our policy is to deliver the e-newsletter via email OR you may download it from the FFD website at: <http://www.flyfishersofdavis.org/news1.shtml>

Be sure if you signed up for the \$30 annual membership that you get your email address to Lyn Hooper at membership@flyfishersofdavis.org. This will assure that you get an email notification of the newsletter. Each month, except June & August the e-newsletter will be posted to the above site and emailed about 1 week before the meeting. You will need Acrobat Reader <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> to view the PDF format.

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Fly Fishers of Davis
PO Box 525
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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. Drop this form (and a check) in the mail to Fly Fishers of Davis, P.O. Box 525, Davis, CA 95617. Or 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: Lyn Hooper at membership@flyfishersofdavis.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