

Prez Says from Bill Rains

I want to take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks to all of the effort put in by individuals in making our Annual Dinner a roaring success. The raffle and auction offered a number of high quality fly fishing items including fishing reels, fishing rods and flies tied by members of the club. Steve Orwell kept us all in stitches with his inciteful comments on the appropriateness of various raffle winners. There is considerable amazement about the number of indicators (from now on known as Knappacators) won by John Knapp. We owe a special thanks to Bill Kiene and his crew for their exceptional generosity, including a float boat that was the grand prize for the evening. Jim and Cynthia White served up their delicious faire and a number of individuals pitched in to make the evening the success it was. I want to give special thanks to Reed Enos. He was the primary organizer of the raffle and auction items, taking inventory, making labels and organizing the donated items in such a way that the event was smooth and efficient. Also thanks go to Ron for the program, the ticket takers and sellers and to Mark's wife Marie for keeping the liquid refreshments flowing. This activity and its success depends on many dedicated volunteers and I, along with the club greatly appreciate your time and effort.

**2001 DUES ARE PAYABLE
PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES OF \$25 EITHER
AT THE MEETINGS, OR BY MAIL, POBOX
525, DAVIS, 95617**

**If unpaid after the April Meeting, you will be
placed on the inactive list and newsletter
discontinued.**

Editor's Note

Good News: you're receiving the newsletter early. Apology: we had an early deadline this month so all submission may have not made it in this issue since I'm off to fish in Costa Rica. Bad news, you all are not with me.

Conservation Desk with Lowell Ashbaugh

By the time this newsletter reaches you, I'll have spent another day with Conservation Chairs of about a dozen Northern California clubs discussing our roles and how to be most effective in preserving fisheries. I've sent two Conservation Alerts to the email distribution list I'm maintaining. If you'd like to have a voice in policy decisions that affect our fishing, please email me at:

ashbaugh@crocker.ucdavis.edu

and I'll add you to the list. I won't flood you with emails; you'll probably get less than one a month. The first Conservation Alerts was on hydroelectric power relicensing. On January 18 I testified at a meeting of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in a public meeting regarding the FERC's mandate to investigate ways to reduce the time it takes to relicense hydroelectric power plants. My message to the FERC was to make sure the process remained inclusive and considered the needs of fish. I also recommended that the term of the licenses be reduced from 50 years to 15 years, so that they can be updated in a more timely manner while still allowing generators suitable time for planning.

The second alert concerned flows on the Yuba River. The State Water Resources Control Board decided last fall to provide higher flows on the Yuba River to protect threatened salmon and steelhead runs. In response to the California power crisis Governor Davis, among others, pressured the Board to revisit its decision. On February 16 the Board revised its decision to allow lower flows during critical times for the salmon and steelhead. The lower flows are to preserve water for hydroelectric generation during the summer.

This is a summary of my oral comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on January 18, 2001 regarding Section 603 of the Energy Act of 2000, wherein the commission is preparing a comprehensive review of policies, procedures, and regulations for the licensing of hydroelectric projects to determine how to reduce the cost and time of obtaining a license.

“Hello, my name is Lowell Ashbaugh. I am an associate research ecologist with the University of California at Davis, where I do air pollution research. I am also a member of the Fly Fishers of Davis, a fishing club with approximately 100 members. I enjoy fishing, and almost every stream and river in California is affected in some way by a dam. Nearly all the waters described in California Blue Ribbon Trout Streams, by Bill Sunderland and Dale Lackey, are affected by dams.

My training is in ecology, how connections affect life on earth. Every action we take has effects. Some are beneficial, others are not. It’s important to understand the big picture and all the effects we can identify. For this reason, I urge FERC to maintain a comprehensive view of hydroelectric generation as it examines the relicensing process. Don’t focus narrowly simply to speed the process. Section 603 directs FERC “to determine how to reduce the cost and time of obtaining a license.” It does not direct FERC to shortcut input from affected stakeholders, and it would be a mistake for FERC to do so.

Hydroelectric facilities are intended to improve our quality of life by providing clean electric power. In fact, hydroelectric power is often touted as renewable, green, environmentally benign energy. In many cases, this is true. In fact, though, if operated improperly a hydroelectric facility can destroy its environment. I brought a couple of books with me today. I’d like to read a paragraph from the Flyfisher’s Guide to Northern California, by Seth Norman. These words were written by Seth Norman.

“In 1963 Trinity River became just another river dammed. Despite Congress’ insistence that the river be managed to “do no harm” to the legendary anadromous fishery, and despite specific instructions directing the Secretary of the Interior “to adopt appropriate measures to insure the preservation and propagation of fish and wildlife,” the real power in play, the Bureau of Reclamation, diverted the “surplus” water they saw as “wasting” to sea.

“Trinity’s fishery collapsed almost immediately. Sport and commercial operations were devastated, canneries

closed, hotels, restaurants, and guides all lost business. The Bureau’s promises of protection and Congress’ statutory provision were safely ignored while the Department of Interior stood by.”

This environmental destruction may have been recently mitigated with Secretary of Interior Babbitt’s Record of Decision to increase Trinity River flows. We’ll be watching to see if this is the case. I can tell you that our fishing club has for many years visited the Trinity River for an annual outing. This year we are considering an alternative location due to the poor fishing.

A few miles to the east of Trinity Dam is Shasta Dam. This dam, without question, provides numerous benefits, including hydroelectric power, flood protection, irrigation water, and recreational opportunities. It’s also managed now, along with Keswick Dam downstream, to maintain one of the best fisheries in the state in downtown Redding. Make no mistake, there are also detrimental effects of Shasta Dam. The McCloud River, one of the Blue Ribbon trout streams mentioned in the book, once had runs of salmon and steelhead. These fish now can not make it past Shasta Dam. But it’s clear that a major dam can be managed in consideration of the whole environment, including public trust values.

The objective of Section 603 is to determine how to reduce the time and cost of obtaining a license. It’s not sufficient to just reduce them. FERC must also structure the process such that all stakeholders can participate and so that sound science is used to set licensing conditions. I recommend that FERC incorporate the following into its recommendations to Congress:

- 1. Establish full funding for agencies that are affected by the relicensing process*
- 2. Provide a mechanism for public participation by those who lack resources to hire technical advisors and other assistance.*
- 3. While shortening the time and cost of relicensing, also shorten the term of the licenses to 15 years. Social change takes place much too quickly for a 50-year license. A 15-year license allows the generators a sufficiently long time for planning, while allowing public protection of natural resources. Also, a shortened process*

for relicensing should sharply reduce or eliminate the need for annual licenses.

These steps will help ensure that the process of relicensing considers all effects on the environment of hydroelectric."

[Lowell this is some great work at promoting the well being of our NorCal angling. Thanks on the behalf of the membership. Members, now do your part and write letters and make contacts to help out.]

FLY TYING CLASSES

Begin March 28th

Bob Z will be conducting his annual fly tying sessions starting March 28th and continuing for 8 weeks. Beginner classes will start the 28th and go the first 4 sessions. Advanced patterns will follow. Please call Bob, 753-2241 to confirm location, or sign up at the meeting. If no beginners sign up, then Advanced will start on the 28th. Location Tentatively set at the UCD Viticulture Lab.

FLY PATTERN OF THE MONTH

The Davis Bugger



The Davis bugger is a reduced version of a woolly bugger. It is an easy tie that goes together rapidly, fishes well and has been very effective at Davis Lake and elsewhere. A chocolate brown version has been especially good. This is truly a 3-5 minute fly. Like the woolly bugger it is a suggestive fly and may can be tied in a number of color combinations to imitate damsel nymphs (olive or olive and tan mix), dragon fly nymphs (olive), leeches (black, brown), or hellgramites (black).

Davis Bugger:

Thread: 6-0 or 8-0 in the color of the body.

Hook: Wet fly – 1 or 2 X long. Mustad 9671, 9672, Tiemco 3202, 5364, 200R, 209.

Size: 10 - 14.

Tail: Tuft of marabou plumes in color to mach the body. About 1.25 to 1.5 times the shank length. Sparse.

Body: Ostrich herl

Rib: A single strand of pearlescent krystal flash wound in the same direction as the ostrich.

Tying Instructions: Debarb the hook and mount in the vice. Attach the tying thread to the shank at the midpoint and wrap towards the tail. When the thread is even with the hook point, stop and attach the tail material. Lay the tail material on the inboard side of the hook shank. As you wrap clockwise the tail material will rotate up onto the top of the hook shank. Maintain the material on the top of the shank by pushing with your index finger and wrap backwards to a point slightly past the end of the barb. Since the tail is long, it is important to wrap the material well down the shank. This will lessen wrapping of the tail material around the hook bend when you cast. Tie in a single strand of Krystal flash and the ostrich herl body material. Short herl or larger flies may require 2 or 3 herl flues. Attach the base of the herl after trimming a short portion from the base to eliminate the broad quill section that has short fibers. Wrap the herl clockwise around the shank but do not overlap the wraps. Tying in the base allows you to hold the herl with out having to disrupt the fibers as they will point in the direction your fingers move as the herl gets shorter. At the head of the fly tie off the ostrich herl and wrap the krystal flash forward working it through the ostrich herl. If you maintain the same spiral spacing for both the krystal flash and ostrich herl, little of the ostrich will be trapped under the ribbing. The fly should have a definite banding of herl and krystal flash. Tie off the krystal flash and whip finish the head. As an option, you can wrap the head rear 2/3 of the head with the krystal flash. Cement the head. This tie is rather delicate and designed to be sparse. The tail should not be full and will undulate well in the water sparsely tied. Krystal flash tied into the tail inhibits movement of the tail. If you must add flash, add a short bunch of krystal flash to support the tail. The pattern can be tied on heavy wire hooks or weighted with wire. Fish the fly on a dry or intermediate sinking line with a definite pause between strips.

Hope your fly will catch a monster trout that lives to favor another angler.

ANNUAL DINNER DONERS

The Annual Dinner's success is directly attributable to the donations of these fine businesses as well our members. Thanks to all that participated this year and please look forward to sharing continued angling success throughout the year.

Please acknowledge these gracious contributors with your patronage.

Donors contributing \$150 or more are highlighted.

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TECH TIP: Floatant Philosophies

by Ron Rabun

Whether you are new to fishing or an old pro, the seemingly limitless choices of floatant selection and application can make an angler's head spin. Perhaps preference for floatant type and application is not unlike preference for wine or art: it's a matter of personal taste. Nonetheless, I do believe that a few guiding principals can help clear the mind at the floatant counter. So I will try to pass on what I have gleaned from my experience with a myriad of flies and the dressings and techniques designed to keep them afloat.

First, some flies don't need floatant or dressing. These are flies that use foam body, balsa, plastic, and CDC. (You don't want to use chemicals on CDC since they break down the oils that float the fly.) Use a drying pad to squeeze moisture out of a CDC. You can find effective drying pads on the market now. One is even an organic mushroom.

Many silicon and oil-based products can be used for dressing a fly prior to fishing and for reconditioning it after a workout. A few familiar paste-like products include, Gink, Goop, Poo-Goo, and Bug Float. I like to look for a high silicon and low petroleum content. I use these products sparingly since the substance eventually traps water inside the fly material.

I do like to use these products on my leader, however, because they help with line drift and line pickup for the next cast. For stream application, I twist a small eye screw into the bottom of the floatant container and tie it to my vest with old fly line. This way, the container hangs up side down, which keeps the paste at the mouth of the container so you don't have to shake it or squeeze hard when you're juggling things out on the water.

Other products contain a type of desiccant to soak up moisture. Desiccant products are only fair since they attempt to extract moisture, but don't add to the floatation properties. The more effective product of this type contains desiccant *and* silicon for redressing the fly. Familiar brands include Loon,

Shimizaki, Dry-Ur-Fly, Dry Shake, and Mucilin. These combined products are an excellent alternative to paste floatants. Because they are a bit pricey—\$6-8 per container—you may want to decant a small amount into an empty film canister. That way, if you drop your floatant in the water you don't lose your whole supply.

With liquid silicon products, such as Loon, Water-Shed, Orvis spray, Cortland spray, Mucilin liquid, you dip or spray the fly and allow it to dry to achieve buoyancy. I really like these treatments, especially the clear liquids that come in a small jar or container. You can either treat flies days before fishing or while on the stream. These you can break up into separate containers also.

Once you've given the fly shop your thirty bucks and your floatant is either hanging on your vest or stuffed in a pocket, what happens next on the stream or lake? Especially in heavy broken water, you will find an initial treatment of liquid silicon and powder very effective. Slight pasting of the deer hair or hackle can help too. (However, pasting of the body usually results in a fly sinking sooner.)

Initially, your fly should skip or skitter on the surface before settling down a bit. If the fly sinks, lift the rod and leader to bring the fly back above the surface. When this technique begins to fail, redress with both silicon liquid and powder. (Pasting is not recommended because it can trap any moisture left in the fly and render unusable in a short time.) PH 3: "Many silicon and oil-based products can be used for dressing a fly prior to fishing and for reconditioning it after a workout.". After landing a fish, clean the fly in the water before redressing or you will trap the fish oils in the fly. Eventually, the fly may not accept any more floatant. Then is the time to get a fresh fly—and another fish!

CLUB CALENDAR

----- OUTINGS -----

Cary Boyden, Chairman

Pardee II was a culinary success followed by mediocre fishing. One last shot on area lakes will be the trip to Camanche on the 18th. Guide Jon Knapp will hopefully prove his prowess and we will have another option for the future. We have a tentative Kelsey trip for the 28th of April to go with the Redding and Pyramid trips in April. The Redding trip ended up with 14 signed up, an increase from last year's 12. The year's entire tentative schedule is:

TRIP	FISH	FISHMEISTER	DATE	Fee
Redding - Sac River	Trout	Cary Boyden 916-753-3826	March	(guided/private waters) Full \$127.50
Kelsey Bass Ranch	Bass	Cary Boyden 916-753-3826	April	\$ 50
Pyramid	Cutthroat	Jon Knapp 916-756-9056	April	
Upper Putah Smorgi	Bass, Trout	John Reynolds 916-753-2682	May	
Feather/Sac Rivers	Shad	Cary Boyden 916-753-3826	June 2	
Davis Lake	Trout	Cary Boyden 916-753-3826	June 9-10	
Macumber/Manzanita	Trout	Cary Boyden 916-753-3826	July 14-15	
Sierra Backpack	Trout	John Forsyth 916-750-1192	August	
Pleasant Valley Creek	Trout	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	August	\$ 60
Putah Creek	Trout	John Reynolds/John Forsyth 753-2682 916-750-1192	Various	
Upper Klamath	Steelhead	Jim Wirth 530-662-5388	Sept	
Upper Sac River	Trout	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	Oct 13 th	
Delta	Stripers	Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149	Oct	
Pyramid Lake	Cutthroat	Jon Knapp 916-756-9056	Nov	
Sugar Creek Ranch	Trout	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	Tent June 30 th	\$130
Lake Amador	Trout	Cary Boyden 916-753-3826	Dec 2	

----- 2001 MEETING DATES & PROGRAMS -----

March 27 th	Fly Fishing Nevada	Richard Dickerson
April 24 th	Mongolia	Gary Eblen, American Fly Fishing
May 29 th	Argentina	Don Childress
June 26 th	TBA	
July 31 st	Annual Picnic at City Park near Davis Art Center 6pm.	
August 15 th - 19 th	Yolo Fair Booth – Woodland (no regular meeting this month)	
September 25 th	TBA	
October 30 th	TBA	
November 27 th	TBA	
December 11th	TBA	

Officers, Directors and Committees

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President:	Bill Rains	530-756-5521
Vice President	John Forsyth	530-750-1192
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	Bob Pearcy	530-756-0932
2003	John Hodgson	530-756-8095
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Programs	Ron Rabun	800-359-3746
Programs	Reed Enos	530-756-2331
Raffle Chair	(vacant)	707-446-2671
Fly Tying	Bob Zasoski	530-753-2241
Picnic Chair	Jim Humphrey	707-678-2149.
Youth	Jim White	530-756-3105.
Video Library	John Forsyth	530-750-1192

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The Fly Fishers of Davis (FFD) is a non-Profit 501.C.3 charitable organization dedicated to the education, participation, conservation and enhancement of fly fishing. Annual associate membership is \$25 beginning with each calendar year. FFD meets monthly except for the month of August. Regular monthly meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except for December and January. December meetings are held the second Tuesday to accommodate holiday schedules. January hosts the Annual Dinner meeting which is scheduled in the latter part of the month based upon facilities 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 provides equal opportunity membership without discrimination on sex, race, origin, age or religious orientation.

**Fly Fishers of Davis
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