

Prez Says from Bill Rains

I have just returned from a fishing trip to Alaska. The fishing was great and the experience was unforgettable. We spent much of our time fishing in bays with a very close resemblance to the fiords of the Scandinavian countries. There were steep sided mountains with hanging valleys and waterfalls flowing into rivers with a very short distance to the bay. The silver salmon congregate at the mouth of these rivers and are blocked by the waterfalls with no place to migrate. This is an artificial situation developed by a highly successful cooperative program between the Alaska State Fisheries agency and the private fishing industry. The silvers are trapped, eggs stripped and transported up to a lake, which is the headwaters of the river and it's waterfall. The eggs are raised to a proper size and released back into the bay. Three years later they return to the bay and are harvested by both the commercial fishing industry and the sports fishers. I am describing this program because it is a very successful example of cooperation between the private sector and the public sector. The commercial fishers pay into a fund based on their catch. The money is used by the state fisheries agency and the commercial fishing industry to manage the program with an eye to production and conservation. It is a win-win situation with both the private and public sector benefiting from an intelligent, innovative program focused on conserving an essential resource for multiple users. Let's hope that other such cooperative efforts can be developed in other states.

– Bill

Check out Cary Boyden's Report on the OUTINGS PAGE..

SIGN UP FOR THE e-NEWSLETTER.

Send your email to the editor at ronrabun@snowcrest.net.

Are there such things as fly rod gods (FRG's) ?

It may seem like an odd question, but I think so. Here's how I know. When we last communicated, I mentioned that had built my first rod, a 6 wt. four piece number using a Pacific Bay blank. As you recall, I was going to use in to fish in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Well, I did that, but it was the Wisconsin part of the trip where I invoked the wrath of the FRGs. So I had great time fishing for walleyes in Wisconsin – actually caught about 20 or so in the three days and kept (and ate) four of them - perhaps gaining the attention of the FRGs.

But that wasn't my worst sin. We switched to fishing for muskies, always a challenge and a little dicey with a light fly rod. Anyway, we were trolling at relatively high speeds in the Wisconsin River - using various flies with no results.

So here comes the cardinal sin. I switched to a - ahem – Rapalla - actually it was a No. 7, floating perch model if you must know. So we're trolling along again at a relatively high speed (an accepted practice - you can't let these skulking pea brained muskies see too much of the bait in the murky water) and BAM. Big strike. I set the hook hard and broke the rod off - right at the butt section. The strike was a tree stump. My rod was history, and I even lost the Rapalla to boot.

But there's good news. Pacific Bay has agreed to replace the section and it's winging its way from Washington to me at this very moment – hopefully to arrive before I arrive before I leave on Saturday for fishing the Gallatin and Yellowstone rivers in Montana - rivers I have been assured have no tree stumps. So here's my advice - don't fish Rapallas with a fly - or the fly rod gods will gitcha.

Tom Martens

[Thanks for the submission. ED.]

From the CONSERVATION DESK

By Lowell Ashbaugh

California Wild Heritage Campaign: In the last session, Barbara Boxer introduced Senate Bill S2535, the California Wild Heritage Act of 2002. The bill would add 22 Wild and Scenic Rivers and designate 2.7 million acres as wilderness in California. Two rivers near us are Cache Creek in Yolo, Lake, and Colusa Counties and Black Butte River in Mendocino and Glenn Counties. Black Butte River is an important spawning tributary of the Middle Eel River for Chinook salmon and steelhead and is a wild trout fishery.

Most of the current wilderness in California is at high elevation. The acreage proposed for addition is mostly at lower elevation, and much of it is covered with timber resources. Many of the proposed additions are adjacent to existing wilderness, though, or protect existing Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The bill needs support of both California senators to be heard by the full Senate. Senator Feinstein will probably sign onto the bill, but she will also probably request some changes for her support, especially in northern California counties where there is strong distrust of federal government. Trinity County and Shasta County supervisors oppose the bill. Senator Feinstein is a strong supporter of local government. She must have the support of individual constituents to support the bill with minimal deletions of wilderness acreage.

The bill may come up for a hearing in September before the Subcommittee on Energy and Natural Resources. Senator Feinstein sits on the committee so now is the time to seek her support. NCCFFF is circulating a petition requesting her support. Please come to the club meeting and sign it.

Update on PG&E Bankruptcy: The Conservation Update from NCCFFF (see below) has good news for anglers regarding the PG&E bankruptcy. Unfortunately, this case took another twist the other day. Most of PG&E's creditors now support PG&E's plan for reorganization; it calls for a spin-off of the utility's assets to unregulated subsidiaries, paving the way for possible closure to public access. The assets include Hat Creek and the Pit River, some of the best fly fishing streams in northern California. The CPUC plan would retain these assets under public regulation and would ensure continued public access. Fortunately, a small group of creditors supports the CPUC plan so the matter now goes to court for a decision. Don't hold your breath, though. Bankruptcy court gives most protection to creditors and little to public trust values.

Pike in Alaska: Northern Pike, the same fish that threatens Lake Davis, has been decimating salmon in Alaska. It was introduced to Bulchitna Lake in south-central Alaska about 50 years ago. In the 1980s flooding spread them to streams covering an area the size of

Indiana. It may be too late now to eradicate them, and the salmon population is in decline in the affected watersheds. Read the news below to see why you should support NCCFFF, your advocate for fishing!

Conservation News from NCCFFF

Surprise turn of events in PGE bankruptcy proceeding: Anglers and others who enjoy access to rivers bordered by PG&E land should be highly interested in the current bankruptcy proceeding. PG&E has put forward a recovery plan that would exempt it from controls previously exercised by the Public Utilities Commission. In a surprise move, the CPUC recently revealed that it had convinced PG&E's creditors to back its reorganization plan over PG&E's own affiliate spin-off plan. The spin-off plan would give PG&E far greater control over how assets, including land, are managed. The battle is far from over, however.

Future of Martis Lake in the balance: NCCFFF submitted comment letters during two phases of preparation of the Draft EIR for the Martis Valley Community Plan. This EIR will guide future development in the valley. In our letters we highlighted the importance of this lake that was completely overlooked in the first phase of the EIR. This is particularly troubling since Martis Lake was the first lake given special status under California Department of Fish and Game's Wild Trout Management Program, and has been managed under this program for over 2 decades. It is one of only four lakes in California with this designation.

Some anglers believe that the condition of Martis Lake is already declining, with algae growth being one indicator. The pending land development in the valley is a serious concern. We received direct acknowledgment of our concerns and the importance of the lake from the Placer County Board of Supervisors, but how they will respond in the official document remains to be seen.

Thanks to Richard Anderson of California Fly Fisher for his personal advocacy on this issue.

Pit River: In August, additional studies were conducted on the Pit River with data collected at various flow rates. The flow studies are very important for anglers because we are particularly interested in how various flow rates affect the maximum daily temperatures in the river. At the current minimum flow of 150 cfs, temperatures in excess of 70 degrees are common in Pit 4 and Pit 5 during the summer. Anglers were involved in assessment of "fishability" at various flows. No official results have been released, but anecdotal information indicates that the river was very fishable at 250 cfs, a flow that could result in lower maximum temperatures. It is also important that the license requires "flushing" flows during seasons when high water would normally occur. The tests will provide important data to determine the timing and magnitude of the flows required. Of

course, the higher flows also permitted the evaluation of the potential for recreational boating. It is worth noting that at this point, much of the push for boating studies on the Pit is coming from the State Water Resources Control Board staff.

In light of the concerns regarding summer boating flows on trout streams, NCCFFF has been in dialogue with the angling groups involved in the license processes to determine how it can be most effective in ensuring that our valued trout fisheries are improved and not compromised as FERC licenses are renewed.

Steelhead Card program renewed: The state legislature passed a bill reauthorizing the Steelhead Trout Catch Report-Restoration Card program. The card has already provided over \$1.5 million in revenue for steelhead monitoring, restoration and education throughout California, from removal of Monkey Creek Dam on the Smith River, to monitoring endangered populations in Southern California's Santa Clara River. Projects have been completed on the Smith, Klamath, Trinity, Mad, Eel, Navarro Garcia, Russian, Sacramento, San Lorenzo, Pajaro, Carmel, Big Sur, Santa Ynez, Ventura and Santa Clara Rivers. In the past anglers have questioned why only some of the cards are collected. This bill requires that the data from all cards be collected and evaluated. Assemblymember Virginia Strom-Martin (D- Duncan Mills) sponsored the bill with strong support from Cal Trout and the cooperation of California Department of Fish and Game.

Trinity River trial pending: Implementation of the Record of Decision (ROD) for restoration of the Trinity River remains bogged down in litigation brought by agricultural water users and a handful of public utilities. The presiding judge ordered further environmental analysis that will likely take years to complete, despite the fact that the ROD was based on over 20 years of study. So far the Interior Department has gone on record saying they will defend the ROD, though given the environmental track record of the current administration, there is concern about the vigor of the defense.

The water diverter's view was probably best expressed by an attorney for Westlands Water District who said "More water isn't always better for fish", arguing that the restoration might be accomplished by mechanical improvements to the river channel. A member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, another litigant, commented that "20 years of incomplete review doesn't make a good decision". More reviews and more study mean more water to diverters and agricultural interests and less for fish recovery.

Fish and Game Commission lists Coho under state ESA: The Fish and Game Commission voted to designate Coho salmon between San Francisco and Punta Gorda in Humboldt County as endangered, and those north of Punta Gorda as threatened. Coho salmon south of San Francisco Bay have been on the state's

endangered species list since 1995. The federal government has listed them as threatened in the Central Valley since 1996 and in Northern California since 1997. NCCFFF had submitted a letter to the Commission urging protection of the Coho through the listing. While the listing was an important step, it fell short of the plan put forward by a coalition of environmental groups which called for immediate state action to protect Coho habitat, including maintaining tree cover along breeding streams. The board directed groups on both sides of the issue to begin working together on a recovery plan for the fish in 90 days.

Wild Steelhead Committee (from Norm Ploss): The NCCFFF Steelhead Committee arranged a meeting with DFG [Region 3] Central Coast Regional Director Rob Floerke to highlight concerns about steelhead recovery, review recovery status, and discuss potential action to remove stream barriers. A September meeting has been scheduled with DFG biologists to discuss stream barrier removal. In addition, the committee is working with DFG to develop educational materials on steelhead.

Fishing Report

Sierra Backpacking Trip

John Forsyth

The annual backpacking trip to Fremont Lake in the Emigrant Wilderness happened on August 10-12. John Forsyth, John Hodgson, Mark Tebbutt, Mark Kubik, and Greg Mehl, enjoyed beautiful weather, great fishing, and even beer, wine, and other beverages.

We are definitely getting older, and maybe wiser. We had two mules from Leavitt Meadows Pack Station haul most of our stuff in on Friday. Mark Tebbutt proved either more manly, or hard-headed, carrying most of a full pack in on his back despite the mules!

Fremont Lake was excellent for rainbows from 13 to 16 inches. There was a lot of surface activity. A well placed Calibaetis or midge would usually take a cruising trout. We probably caught as many or more on surface patterns as the traditional Woolly Buggers below. The West Fork and the West Walker was very low, but still produced great action for rainbows and brook trout to 13 inches. Overall it was another great trip. It's tough to think of going someplace else, but next year rumors have it the trip is a weeklong adventure to Benson Lake in the Yosemite or Yellowstone backcountry.



2060 A Harbison Drive, Vacaville California 95687
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Tie the Pattern of the Month for a chance to win a \$25 Gift Certificate for American Fly Fishing Company. The patterns submitted will be judged by our esteemed fly tying chairman and selected evaluators. Judging criteria are the pattern tied most closely to the Fly of the Month instructions, fly construction skills and best representation of the pattern. Judges decision will be final. Patterns will be assigned a number and judged anonymously. When you arrive at the meeting, sign in and place a numbered tag on your pattern. Submitters are not eligible to judge.

Thanks to Gary Eblen for this sponsorship.

This Month's Pattern
Orange Caddis Stimulator Dry Fly

Get ready for the upcoming October Caddis hatch. These large bushy dry flies provide an abundance of trout food during late October and early November. Many of NorCal's freestone streams have October Caddis.

Tie your variation of an Orange Caddis Stimulator. The basic formula for the pattern will be to tie it in a Size 8 and it must be orange. Many fly tying books have the Stimulator or a Kaufman's Stimulator, which provides the base tying formula. Even just a large orange version of an Elk Hair Caddis is highly functional. You may want to add a little krystal flash for effect. Also, a tuft of light-bright poly or the white-tipped squirrel provides for visibility in the low light conditions of late fall.

The judging will be based upon on pattern representation for fishing the October Caddis hatch and quality of tie.

Trip Report
Fishing with Don Childress

Ron Rabun

I ended up taking the Labor Day holiday week off and headed to Bainbridge to visit my kids then went to Sand Point to do some fishing with Don Childress.

At Bainbridge on Tuesday morning, I got the opportunity to tour the Sage Plant. Paul Johnson gave me a detailed 1-hour tour. What an operation. I figure there are at least 150 steps in the construction process of the blank to the finished shipped product to your local fly shop. All manufacturing processes except for reel seats are done at Bainbridge. Sage Rods are 100% USA

manufactured product. Sage has around 120 employees and manufactures over 60,000 rods annually.

We went to the Missouri River in Craig, Montana and fished 2 half and one day. We were fishing the peak fo the Trico hatch but saw few Tricos because of a weather change. Mostly, "Psuedos" (Infrequens) in size 22 and a mayfly a #20 Lime Trude. I landed around a dozen fish with the largest a Brown measuring 21 inch length x 11 inch girth). It was a good 20 minute battle on 5x flourocarbon. The smallest fish was a Rainbow 18 inches. Don got one Rainbow around 20 inches and also landed more than a dozen fish. We lost a bunch more.

The most importantly, size 18's or smaller, and 5-6x tippets make landing large fish much more difficult. I coined a new phrase, "TO LITTLE FLY FOR TO MUCH LIP". The fish on the Missouri are 17 inches plus overall with some monsters in the 8-12 range. Also noteworthy, they have 7,000 fish per mile on a river similar to the Sac in Redding. Although it takes along drive to get there to the "MO", it is a worthy fly fishery.



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CLUB CALENDAR

----- 2002/2003 MEETING DATES & PROGRAMS -----

All meetings are held at 7:30 p.m., Davis Waste Removal Meeting Room, 2727 2nd Street, Davis (east of Sudwerks) unless otherwise noted.

- 2002**
- September 24th Four Seasons of the American River by Dave Howard
 - October 29th Bonefishing Los Roques, Venezuela by Shane Kohlbeck, Fly Shop Redding
 - November 26th Tentative: Amazon River by Ron English family. (2003 Officers and Director Nominations)
 - December 17th Home Grown Slide Show / Election of 2003 Officers and Directors

- 2003** (plan for these tentatively scheduled dates)
- January 28th TBA
 - February 22nd (Saturday) Annual Dinner TBA
 - March 25th TBA
 - April 29th TBA
 - May 27th TBA

Have a program recommendation, contact Ron Rabun at 1-800-FLY-FSHN

----- OUTINGS -----

Fortunately the passage of several months has dimmed the disappointment of the Almanor outing. The magnificence of a beautiful hex hatch was met by a resounding absence of fish in the 75 degree water. Several fish were caught in other parts of the lake but the trip will not be repeated soon, or at least in the same timeslot. It may be time to return to Lewiston. Unfortunately, the Pleasant Valley trip was cancelled due to the lack of the receipt of the minimum number of anglers by the posted pay-up date. Davis Lake: The water is in the mid 60s and the fish are in the shallows. Jim Humphrey and Cary Boyden landed about 20 during the afternoon of the 13th, mostly on size 12 blood midges under indicators (i.e. bobber fishing in the Knapp Thesaurus). The fishing is likely to remain good as long as the weather remains tolerable and even beyond for the masocistic among the group.

With September the pace again quickens. A half-pounder outing at the end of the month is followed shortly by the Upper Sac trip. The first combined steelhead/trout outing in the Redding area is set for the 19th of October. Those who signed up will have been contacted before this reaches you. Then Jim Humphrey will lead the annual striper quest, with another Sugar Creek venture in November in conjunction with Ron's day of indescribable sorrow (ie the end of trout season on the Upper Sac). The cycle is scheduled to begin again in early December with a renewed infusion of grease and hopefully many well rounded finned Cutt-bows at Amador.

The Striper Outing is tentatively set for the first weekend in November at Russo's. More details at the September meeting and in the next newsletter

Cary Boyden, Chairman, 503-753-3826

OUTING SCHEDULE (tentative dates)

TRIP	FISH	DATES	FISHMEISTER	Comments/Fees
Backpacking/Trout	Trout	July/August	John Forsyth 530-750-1192	
British Columbia	Silver Salmon	August	John Forsyth / Ron Rabun	\$\$\$, 5-7 day trip/lodge
Pleasant Valley/	Trout	August/Sept	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	\$70 w/ lunch Limit 12
Klamath/Half Pounders	Steelhead	Early Sept	Jim Wirth 530-662-5388	# jet boats spots limited
Upper Sac/Mcloud Rivers	Trout	September 28	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	
Delta/Striper	Stripped Bass	October/Nov	Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149	
Sugar Creek Ranch	Trout	November 16	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	\$130pp w/lunch. Limit 8 6 of 8 slots available.

Officers, Directors and Committees

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Vice President	John Forsyth	530-750-1192
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	Bob Pearcy	530-756-0932
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	Tom Vail	
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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 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.

Fly Fishers of Davis
PO Box 525
Davis, CA 95617