

## **Prez Says....by John Forsyth**

Welcome back from the summer hiatus. Hopefully everyone has some adventures to share at the September meeting. I'll start with mine. This year I went to Yellowstone with six others. We arrived just in time to hear the east side of Yellowstone Lake was closed due to wild fires. We had planned a three-day stay in the far southeast arm, so that was disconcerting. Luckily ours was the last site not closed. Three canoes and one kayak paddled ten miles from our drop site to the campsite. The wind started to come up just as we decided to cut a large bay, not good headwork. We made it, but everyone was a little tense as the gathering chop lapped at the gunnels. After that the lake was pretty calm, but the fishing was very slow. We only managed a few large cutthroats. We had better luck tubing a backcountry lake a few miles away. Though the water was thick with algae, we started catching unbelievable huge cutthroat. The average size was 18 to 22 inches. These were very thick, and strong fish. The biggest was probably 25 inches and several leviathans over 4 lb. were released. No one had ever seen such fish in a backcountry lake, especially for cutthroats (outside Pyramid Lake)! Yellowstone is a wild place, literally. Wolves were heard most nights, moose, elk, deer, coyotes, bison, and both bald and golden eagles were seen. Just a few hundred yards up the trail to a small lake filled with 10 cuts, the rather large prints of a grizzly bear were clearly evident. This is not California. The next part of the trip was a backpacking segment up Slough Creek. The night before we fished the Yellowstone River and managed to finally fool some of the risers on a grey spinner. As we readied our packs at the trailhead, the horse packers heading in warned us of grizzly sightings over the last few days. With bear spray in pocket we headed in. The water was very low, and several fishermen were along the stream. Even when we got to our campsite, 8 miles in, there was an angler right across the stream! Oh, well. That evening we sampled the creek. It was not near as good as previous trips have proven. Still we had fun releasing cutthroat to 17 inches. All on small dries. The next day 3 of us headed downstream, while one other went on a mission to climb a peak. After catching a 12-incher on my second cast, I heard gravel crunching. I looked upstream to Mark, but he was standing still. Hmmm. More crunching, I don't like this. As I peered downstream, a dark shape moved from around a bend. I was already reeling in as I waved to Mark. "Let's get out of here". Just then the bear climbed up on the bank about a hundred yards away and looked at us. By this time we were heading away from the stream towards the tree-lined hills. This is a huge meadow, and we were very exposed. The bear was bounding along at a fast clip, and it was unclear if he was heading just upstream or at us. Finally we made the trees, and the bear was moving upstream fast. We were relieved to see him disappear around the corner. We went back and fished up near our campsite over the next four hours. When we went back to camp, we were stunned to see all three tents and their contents had been destroyed. Our packs were knocked around, but the food bags hung high on the bear pole were secure. After a few pictures, we quickly packed up, as we couldn't spend the night as planned. John, the lone climber, was not back though. As we contemplated our next move, Greg stiffened. About 50 yards away the bear was spotted walking upstream! He disappeared around some willows, and we grabbed everything and quickly left. Three of us walked through the trees to the open meadow and down the trail about 500 yards. There we waited. Finally, John showed up about 45 minutes later. He figured out what happened. That night we stayed in West Yellowstone and with a day to burn decided to try Hebgen Lake the next day. The report at the fly shop was good for gulpers until the wind kicked up. It was 7:30am and already windy. With no other plan we tried the Madison arm. Not sure where to go we went to the resort, and as I started walking through the campground, I saw a man tying flies. To my amazement, none other than Bob Zasoski turned to answer my greeting. He and other FFD members had been there for the week. The report was slow, and we confirmed this with a skunking. The next day I gazed down on Yellowstone Lake from 30,000 feet and wondered what was to happen to marauding grizzly. We reported the incident to authorities. I spoke with a biologist when I got back to Davis. They had closed the upper meadows on Slough Creek and were trying to trap the bear.

# Old Fogies Outing Report



Apple Pie the catch of the trip.

The First Annual Old Fogies Backpacking Trip on August 8,9,10 was enjoyed by club members John Reynolds, Bob Beverlin and his son Clark, Adney Bowker, Hank Gillium, Jim White and Fogiemeister Tom Burton.

The weather was perfect(warmish)and the hiking easy(sorta). The camp site had an elevated view of Silver King Valley overlooking the confluence of Silver King Creek and East Carson River. This is the site of an old, long abandoned town of Splinterville, Alpine County.



Far from the highways and crowds.

The fishing was good for some and outstanding for others. John Reynolds dusted off his almost forgotten dry fly skills and seemed to have a fish on with almost every cast. Bob Beverlin fished from daylight to dark each day and reported a very respectful catch from both streams. Adney and Jim battled it out for top rod each day and Jim edged

him out giving credit to his favorite fly the "Wilma Jean".



Fogies on the trail.

With out question the evenings around camp were as worth the hike. Top honors goes to Hank Gillium and Jim White whose stories, some of which cannot be repeated, kept us entertained for 3 days.



Blazing Saddles or Not?

The criteria for claiming Old Fogieness and thereby eligible for the trip next year is: "If You Have Hair It Must Be Grey". Those members that met at the secret café on the way home enjoyed lunch very much.

The OF trip will be offered again next year in August.

Tom Burton

[Editor's Note:

Beyond the gray Definition for: "OLD FOGIE" Derived from "fogy" - aged, grizzled, wiser, limp, dull; over the hill, behind the times, over-conservative, slow; old timer, fuddy-duddy, old poop, relic, "pops" , stick-in-the -mud, fossil, stodgy, and viagrarian.

Next month "young whippersnapper" defined.]

## Monthly Fly Tying Contest

Sponsored by

### American Fly Fishing Company

3523 Fair Oaks Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95864

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[www.americanfly.com](http://www.americanfly.com)

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

### FLYING BLACK ANT

Size 12 – Tyler's Choice Recipe



## FREE HACKLE

Whiting Farms has generously donated over 200 various capes and saddles. There are a wide variety of feathers for different fly tying needs. Some are placed in the raffle, some are for sale for a modest price, but most are being given away. Please take a look at these feathers and take advantage of this great opportunity. They will be available at the monthly meetings this fall, but then many will be thrown away due to storage considerations.

## STRIPER OUTING

Sat, Sept. 25th

Jim Humphrey has the Striper Outing planned for October 25th, a Saturday. It is the same day as the Dan Blanton Striperfest and we can join their BBQ at 4:00 p.m. and benefit the NCCFFF striped bass program at the same time. BBQ is \$20.00 at 4:00 p.m. We will meet early for breakfast at the Bethel Island cafe and launch the boats at the Sugar Barge Marina on Bethel Island after breakfast. Fish until about 3:30 p.m. and join the BBQ at the Sugar Barge. High Tide is at 6:30 a.m. and Low Tide at 1:00 p.m. Contact Jim at 707-678-2149.

## DFG Heritage Trout Challenge

Dear Native Trout Enthusiast

The California Fish and Game Commission and the Department of Fish and Game invite you to "take the California Heritage Trout Challenge". To access the Heritage Trout Challenge information click on "Freshwater Fishing" to find the links. This portion of the website is in the process of being "revamped" and will have new features in the coming weeks. We hope this information will be helpful to you and we look forward to receiving your completed Challenge application.

Regards,

Dave Lentz, Project Leader, Heritage and Wild Trout Project, California Department of Fish and Game Fisheries Programs Branch  
1812 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
916 445-3773 office



***“Take the  
California  
Heritage Trout  
Challenge”***

By catching six different forms of California

native trout from their historic drainages and photographing these fish you can receive a colorful, personalized certificate featuring the art of renowned fish illustrator Joseph Tomelleri. Your certificate will show six full-color images representing the trout you caught, along with their dates and locations. It is sized to fit in a standard 16 x 20 inch matted frame.

*coastal rainbow trout  
Eagle Lake rainbow trout  
McCloud River redband trout  
Goose Lake redband trout  
Warner Lakes redband trout  
Kern River rainbow trout  
California golden trout  
Little Kern golden trout  
coastal cutthroat trout  
Lahontan cutthroat trout  
Paiute cutthroat trout*

## **From the CONSERVATION DESK**

By Lowell Ashbaugh, Conservation Chair

**Upper Sac Derailment.** – See NCCFFF



Recent Union Pacific train derailment on the Upper Sacramento River, located what is known as the "Small Curve" one-half mile upstream of the Mossbrae Falls trestle.

**Lake Davis.** The Northern Pike population in Lake Davis continues to explode. The DFG has taken tens of thousands of pike out of the lake in the past few years, but the population is increasing, not decreasing. They are now working with local groups to come up with new ideas to eradicate the pike, and have considered draining the lake and poisoning the remaining water. Perhaps they should consider rerouting the UP railroad and letting them handle it...

**Secret meeting on Delta water exports.** The following letter to the editor of the San Joaquin Record was published on August 27, 2003. The meeting referred to in the letter has been denounced by others who have been involved in California water issues as a bold grab for water by selfish southern California interests. It has direct bearing on striper fishing in the delta and on salmon reproduction and survival.

**BAY-DELTA PROGRAM / DELTA EXPORT PROPOSAL**

By State Sen. Michael Machado, D-Linden

Until the joint state-federal CALFED Bay-Delta Program makes good its promise to improve Delta water quality and reliability - specifically Stockton's dissolved-oxygen problem - no additional water should move south of the Delta.

Recently, operators of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project - along with contractors south of the Delta - met in Napa to develop a plan to coordinate operations and increase water exports from the Delta. Interestingly, the meeting didn't include representatives of the Delta, environmentalists or anyone else outside their small circle. Their goal is to increase the current rate at the Tracy pumping plant - from 6,680 cubic feet per second to 8,500 cfs, moving an additional 100,000 acre-feet a year in normal years (170,000 acre-feet in wet years).

All of this was contemplated when the state and federal agencies signed the CALFED Record of Decision three

years ago. However, that decision also addressed improving Delta water quality, increasing water supply and solving the dissolved-oxygen problem that has plagued the deep water channel in Stockton. The principle that everyone should work together to better the Delta was fundamental to moving forward on the CALFED decision.

The Delta is essential to meeting California's water needs. Part of the ability to meet these needs will require increasing water exports. Central Valley Project and State Water Project operators are mistaken when they infer they can move forward on increasing exports without first showing real progress on improving the Delta. Results are what is important to the Delta. Not plans. Until we start seeing tangible improvements in Delta water quality and reliability, these operators shouldn't expect to see improvements in their ability to export more water.

The Record of Decision was based on the concept, "we all get better together." As chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources and one who also represents the Delta, I intend to make sure that idea is more than just a slogan.

### **Conservation News from NCCFFF**

The following commentary came from Rob Ferroggiaro, one of those working hard to preserve the rivers. Are you outraged by the fact that we are once again looking at news photos of rail cars that have derailed and fallen into the Upper Sacramento River?

Is it inconceivable to you that after the disaster of 1991, there have been multiple derailments on the Upper Sac corridor - at least five in the last three years? (This doesn't count several other near misses.)

Our Federal Railroad Administration has been completely ineffective. Potential action by the CPUC has been, at least temporarily, thwarted by a lawsuit brought by the railroad. It is time for our elected officials to step up and fix a system of oversight that is obviously broken. Here are some things you can do to help make this happen.

1. For sure, write letters to key elected officials, starting with our US Senators, who could do something about this if they so chose. (Contact info for key elected officials is included at the end of this message)
2. Call their offices and express your opinion to the appropriate staff person.
3. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper
4. Forward this message, or your personal version, to other individuals, newsletter editors, or organizational leaders.

When you make your contact, you can:

- Express outrage that the system of government oversight has allowed these continued derailments to occur.
- Ask for the personal involvement of our elected officials to protect this natural resource and the public health.
- Ask for a reply which outlines what they plan to do.
- If you'd like to include more detail, you can borrow from the letter which I sent to Senators Boxer and Feinstein and others on behalf of

NCCFFF. A copy of this letter appears below.

I had a chance to see the derailment site last week, and to view video of the wreckage removal (thanks to Curtis Knight of Cal Trout who lives in the local area). The news photos don't do this justice. Write a letter or two. Help pass the word.

Rob Ferroggiaro

Vice President, Conservation

Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers

August 27, 2003

Senator Dianne Feinstein

United States Senate

331 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

VIA Fax

Re: Upper Sacramento River Train Derailments

Dear Senator Feinstein,

I am writing on behalf of the Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (NCCFFF) to urge you to take action to protect the Upper Sacramento River from another disaster.

NCCFFF represents approximately 25 angling clubs and thousand of individual fly fishers. Our members are often found vacationing and fishing on the Sacramento River between Dunsmuir and Lake Shasta. A number of our members own or rent property in the area. Many of us personally experienced the consequences of the disastrous Cantara train derailment and toxic spill in 1991 that destroyed the aquatic life in the river and devastated the local economy.

At the end of July of this year, local residents and visitors alike were stunned when, once again, a major derailment occurred. It is unimaginable that after the 1991 Cantara disaster, we would wake up in August of 2003 to see news photos showing rail cars in the Sacramento River. It was only due to chance that a major disaster was averted, as a tanker near the point of derailment was filled with hydrochloric acid. This was just the latest in a series of derailments in the area that have occurred since 1991. At least five additional derailments have occurred within the last three years. Other "near misses" have been reported locally.

The most recent near disaster is clear evidence that the current regulatory process is broken. No other transportation mode would be allowed to operate with repeated, major incidents that so seriously threaten natural resources and public safety. The Federal Railroad Administration has failed to act to eliminate this patently hazardous situation. While the railroad has made some physical improvements such as track replacement, they have failed to make the significant operating and technical changes required to operate safely on a system that was originally engineered in the 1800's.

I urge you to make this issue a priority for your staff, and to exert your personal leadership to secure meaningful corrective action. There are a number of obvious opportunity areas, including the following:

- Upgrade of inspection and maintenance: The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) should press for state-of-the-art procedures and technology for maintenance of track and rolling equipment. A number of the recent high-risk derailments have

been attributed to easily preventable defects.

- Increased oversight and enforcement by the FRA: For example, twelve years after the disastrous Cantara spill, the railroad is free to decide for itself the make-up, powering, weight, speed, and handling of trains moving through the canyon.
- Implement known solutions: For example, the risk of "string line" derailments, such as occurred at Cantara in 1991 and again last month, can be reduced dramatically by the use of pusher engines at the rear of the train. UP is not using pusher engines in the Sacramento River canyon, and no regulatory agency has the will and authority to make this happen.
- Clarify the state's role in regulating local hazards: We ask that you and other members of the California delegation work to insure that the CPUC has the necessary authority to regulate serious local hazards such as the Upper Sacramento River corridor.

Clearly, this situation calls for your personal involvement and leadership. A significant intervention is required to protect the river from being destroyed again, and to protect human lives and health.

Our members would appreciate a reply to this letter outlining your plans on this issue.

Sincerely,

Robert N. Ferroggiaro

Vice President, Conservation NCCFFF

9270 Oak Leaf Way Granite Bay, CA 95746

Contact information for key elected officials:

**Senator Barbara Boxer**

United States Senate

112 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

(916) 448-2563 fax

**Senator Dianne Feinstein**

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

331 Hart Senate Office Building

(202) 228-3954 fax

**Congressman Mike Thompson**

House of Representatives

119 Cannon House Office Bldg

Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-4335 fax

**Congressman Wally Herger**

House of Representatives

2268 Rayburn House Office Building,

Washington, DC 20515

State Senators and Assembly Members:

**Senator Sam Aanestad**

State Capitol

Room 3056

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa**

State Capitol

Room 4177

Sacramento, CA 95814

-----OUTINGS-----

.Cary Boyden, Chairman, 530-753-3826

In addition to the Lewiston trip the club has had several other successful outings. The OFBP is reported on elsewhere. Great turnout and very pleasant for all present. And the resurrection of an early season half pounder trip to the Klamath certainly exceeded expectations. All present caught fish. Approximately 8 adults were landed with about as many long distance released or broken off. The total landed count for the 5 members, including half pounders, probably approached 60. If next year's run is remotely close to the last two years, another outing will be planned and hopefully prove as successful.

Signups will recommence at the September meeting. These should include the Upper Sac, stripers, Amador, perhaps Pyramid and the Fly Shop Trinity outing on January 15, 2004.

**2003 OUTING SCHEDULE (tentative dates)**

TRIP	FISH	DATES	FISHMEISTER	Comments/Fees
Klamath	Half Pounders	October	Jim Wirth 530-662-5388	
Redding/Sacramento	Trout/stlhd	October 11	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	132.50 plus tip
Delta	Stripers	October 5th	Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149	
Upper Sac	Trout	Friday, November 14th	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	
Sugar Creek	Trout	Sat. Nov. 15	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	\$130 incl lunch.
Pyramid	Cutthroat	November	Jon Knapp	

**Upper Sac Outing and Sugar Creek Ranch – November 14-15:** Again we will combine these two outings. Choose to participate in either one or both. Friday, we will fish the river for the tail end of the October Caddis hatch. Saturday, we will again fish Sugar Creek Ranch for rainbows between 3-6 pounds with potential exceeding 10 pounds. SCR access fee is \$130 including lunch. Sign-up at the meeting or contact Ron at 800-FLY-FSHN.

**Los Roques Bonefish School with The Fly Shop – March 2004:** Following the presentation by Shane Kohlbeck, we received an announcement that TFS will be having Bonefish School in Los Roques. Anyone interested in a Los Roques trip should let Ron Rabun know because we can organize our own trip or take advantage of the TFS School. Optionally, we could also organize a group for Christmas Island as an alternative.

**COSTA RICA SAILFISH – February 2004:** Anyone interested in doing a week trip to Costa Rica's Golfe Dolce for Sailfish, Roosterfish and other salt species. Ron Rabun is looking for two other anglers who want to share in a cooperative expenses trip.

----- **2003 MEETING DATES, PROGRAMS and Events** -----

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

**2003**

(plan for these tentatively scheduled dates)

September 30<sup>th</sup>  
October 28<sup>th</sup>  
November 25<sup>th</sup>

**HOME GROWN CLINIC, 7:30 pm.**  
**RUSSIA, Wil Blair for The Fly Shop Redding**  
TBA

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

## Officers, Directors and Committees

President:	John Forsyth	530-750-1192
Vice President	Reed Enos	530-756-2331
Treasurer	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722
Secretary	Bob Pearcy	530-756-0932
<b>DIRECTORS</b>		
2003	John Hodgson	530-756-8095
	Jerry Pollock	916-682-7798
2004	Tom Burton	707-678-3850
	Tom Vail	530-662-0733
2005	Adney Bowker	530-758-2674
	Dennis Rolston	530-758-5135
<b>COMMITTEES</b>		
Outings	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826
Conservation	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722
Membership	John Reynolds	530-753-2682
Newsletter	Ron Rabun	800-359-3746
NCCFFF	Dave Driscoll	707-446-2671
Programs	Ron Rabun	800-359-3746
Refreshments	Jon Knapp	530-756-9056
Raffle Chair	John Forsyth	530-750-1192
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  
P. O. Box 525  
Davis, California, 95617

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.

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Our e-newsletter policy is to deliver the e-newsletter via email OR for you to download it from the FFD website, <http://www.cal.net/flyfish/>. Be sure if you signed up for the \$25 annual membership you get your email address to 'ronrabun@snowcrest.net'. This will assure you get an email notification for the newsletter. OR, every month the e-version of the newsletter will be posted no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month for download. (except for August). You will need the free Adobe Reader, latest version 5.0, ([www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) to view the PDF format. e reader at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). If you receive the paper version, you can also get the e-version notification by sending your email to Ron

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