

## Prez Says....by John Forsyth

We live in interesting times. Who would have imagined we would be saying governor Schwarzenegger, at least so soon? However, it appears (at the time of this writing) that the Chicago Cubs or the Boston Red Sox have a chance of winning the World Series too, so I guess anything is possible. I wonder how this will bode for our fisheries? Not well I suspect. When the dollars are in short supply, the environment gets the short straw. The biggest threat will be to the water supplies. Right now there is good momentum to rethink the costs and benefits of dams and proper use of water. (See the conservation reports Lowell has been providing) That big slurping sound from the south will no doubt increase. In a pro-business environment the pressure to secure water rights for industry and housing will overwhelm any environmental argument much like the Terminator in the first movie, laying waste to an entire police station. But, maybe the Arnold will be the benevolent, even emotionally sensitive Terminator of the second movie, taking into account the true costs of water manipulation. I didn't see the third Terminator yet, but I doubt it showed the cyborg waving a fly rod, so I don't have high hopes he will be persuaded by the kind of lobbies that would support our fisheries. I suspect it will be more like Conan the Barbarian; pillage and plunder. Although he may have a softer side such as in Kindergarden Kop and support our wishes when he hears about the good work we do with the fish in the classroom projects. He does claim to be very pro-child (as if someone would say otherwise?). My cynical side feels it will be like Twins, and Arnold will be about as effective as Gray Davis, despite all the rhetoric. We live in interesting times.

## ----- 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>	<b>HOME GROWN CLINIC, 7:30 pm.</b>
October 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>RUSSIA, Wil Blair for The Fly Shop Redding</b>
November 25 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Home Grown Slide Show – Member Presentations

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



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## Fly of the Month Ron's Krystal Maggie October Caddis Emerger



Probably the ugliest fly you will fish on the Upper Sac. The Krystal Maggie October Caddis Emerger provides tremendous success during the October Caddis hatch. Is it a dry fly or a nymph? Answer: Almost both..... Bottom line; It works, I mean it REALLY works.

The Maggie originated in the Ted Fay era as an October Caddis emerger imitation. According to Joe Kimsey of Dunsmuir, he developed this pattern in the 60's as part of the Bomber style flies originated by Ted Towendollie, Ted Fay and Joe Kimsey for wet fly fishing on the Upper Sacramento and Klamath Rivers. Over the past 28 years, Ron Rabun has fished the Upper Sacramento and created several original variations of these Bomber style flies. Two highly successful patterns used during the fall October Caddis hatch are Ron's Cree Spentwing Bomber and Ron's Krystal Maggie.

Ron's Krystal Maggie is a variation of the Joe Kimsey Maggie in a few distinct ways. The application of Krystal Hair, use of uncut deerhair tail and wing, and weighting to create neutral buoyancy. This helps to suspend the fly and simulate the caddis emergers wing release from it's shuck during emergence of this "rocketing" sedge. This fly is either fished on the point or dropper depending on the stage of the hatch. During the early hatch, Ron prefers to use a Peeking Stick Caddis on the point and a Krystal Maggie on the dropper. This provides coverage for emergers from the bottom through the mid water column. Normal 2-3 size BB split shot. As the emergence progresses, Ron likes to put the Maggie on the point with a Flash Back Hare's Ear, 16 on the dropper using only one or two split shot. This fishes the mid to top of the water column. The

Hare's Ear covers the smaller hatching caddis and mayflies.

### RECIPE

Hook: Size 8, Mustad 9674 or Tiemco 200R nymph hook.  
Thread: Orange 3/0 or 1/0  
Weighting: 4 wraps 4 amp fuse wire.  
Tail: 10 Deer Hairs and 3-4 Orange  
Krystal Hair.  
Body: Burlap strands and Orange Yarn  
Wing: 8-10 Orange Krystal Hairs and 10-15 Deer Hairs.  
Hackle: Brown or Cree Saddle.  
Head: Orange Thread.

Weight hook in middle of shank. Tie in thread. Assemble tailing intermingling the Krystal Hair with the Deer hair. Attach the tail that is abnormally long almost the same length as a normal caddis or stimulator wing. Tie in one Burlap strand with one strand of the orange yarn. Make one wrap behind the tail so the tail stands up slightly. Then wrap the yarn and burlap side by side to the 2/3rds point of the hold or just in front of the weighting. Tie off and cut yarn and burlap. Tie orange Krystal hairs for wing. Length to the tips just a bit shorter than touching the front of the tail. Next tie in the Deer wing the same length. Tie off and trim. Select dry fly quality hackle and tie in dry fly style. Finish head with the orange thread as a noticeable head. Whip finish and glue.

### Next Month's Pattern Clouser Minnow



**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.

## ***From the FFF Clubwire.....***

### **Capturing a Memory**

By Jeff Fox, Southern Oregon Fly Fishers

As fly fishermen we tend to pull out photos to prove our success rather than opening the door to the freezer. This is a great thing, the fish goes free to fight another day and we still have a memento of the day and the fish. These snapshots remind us of the place we have been and the fish we've caught. The photos can really put a damper on those great fishing tales though. I have many of these pictures as do most of you; I've seen them at club meetings and when visiting other fishers. I have noticed that most of the pictures suffer from the same few flaws that turn a potentially great photo into a simple snapshot. I'm not going to talk about f-stops, filters or fancy lenses; rather, I will focus on three things:

#### **SUBJECT, BACKGROUND & LIGHT.**

**SUBJECT:** What is the subject of your photo, the angler and fish or 80 odd feet of bleak brushy shoreline? Fill the frame with your subject. Most viewfinders have marked perimeters, so keep your subject inside the lines, just not way inside.

**BACKGROUND:** Try to control what is in the background. Nothing will ruin a photo more quickly than garbage or the dreaded porta-potty, likewise having a tree branch sticking out of your partner's ear or well, you get the picture. If you don't like the background, change your angle or move.

**LIGHT:** Lighting your subject properly can be the most difficult to accomplish. You are stuck with the ambient light of the moment, be that fog bound dawn to hot midsummer sunshine. Try to light the front of your subject, when this is not possible, use your flash to fill shadows and light the angler and fish. Partial shadowing caused by hats can completely black out an angler's face in an otherwise well lit photo; loose the hat, shoot from a higher angle, or use a flash to keep the happy angler in the picture. Use your flash in lower light conditions; it doesn't need to be dark. The light from the flash will replace color lost to an overcast day.

Whenever possible prepare for the photo before landing the fish. If this is not possible, have the angler start reviving the fish while you get the camera ready. Set the angler up, frame and focus the shot before having the fish removed from the water. When you are set have the angler lift the fish, fine tune the focus and trip the shutter. The fish will only be out of the water for 5-10 seconds then back in for revival and release.

### **TECHNIQUE - 3 Steps to Fresh Lines**

By Steve Schweitzer from On the Fly, the monthly newsletter of the Acadiana Flyrodders of Lafayette

It pays to clean your fly line after every 3-5 usages or when you've fished particularly muddy, dirty, weedy or mossy water. I just had to retire a fly line I purchased in 1997 and have used consistently for much of my fly fishing over the years. I estimate the line has seen over 150 outings. But I wouldn't have had such good luck with the line had I not taken care of it.

#### **How to Tell if a Fly Line Requires Cleaning**

It's not too difficult to tell if your line needs cleaning, look for these clues:

- \*You feel micro-grit on the line as you strip it in
- \*For floating line, the first 10 feet or few meters of line doesn't float any longer
- \*The line retains coil memory
- \*The line has small cracks
- \*The line feels brittle

If the latter two observations above are noticed, the bad news is that the line is on the last legs of life. The good news is a cleaning and re-invigoration of the line may add another season of use before you have to replace the line.

Cleaning materials are simple: Mild dish soap; Clean rag; Fly line dressing (discussion on this topic below); Line winder (optional)

#### **Fly Line Dressings**

Many different manufacturers produce and sell fly line dressings. So, don't be afraid to try any one of them. But, I have found over the years a particular product, not even designed for the fly fishing industry, works quite well in cleaning and dressing fly line. I like to use Rain-X windshield dressing. It is safe for plastics, as it clearly says on the bottle. Rain-X does a bang-up job of repelling water on windshields for months on end, so why wouldn't it work for fly lines? I have used Rain-X since 1996. Never had I had a fly line become brittle or "melt-away" as some fly fishers may warn you of. I'm a believer in its use. There may be other products on the market that work just as well. Just one word of caution: be sure the product is safe for plastics. If it doesn't say that, they don't even venture in trying it on fly lines. Products that are silicon based are your best bet. Silicon is fly line friendly. Fly lines are delicate, expensive strips of plastics and polymers that won't tolerate chemicals which can break down the coating, be careful in choosing alternate line dressings not intended for fly lines.

## **From the CONSERVATION DESK**

**By Lowell Ashbaugh, Conservation Chair**

Watch for this documentary about the Cantara Loop toxic spill:

### **“THE RIVER THAT NEVER WAS”**

**The Story of The Deadly Cantara Toxic Spill into the Sacramento River**

**Documentary Program to Premiere on PBS Station KVIE Channel 6, Sacramento**

**Thursday October 23rd: 8PM**

**Trinity River.** Tom Birmingham, Westlands General Manager, visited Trinity County early this month to propose a “compromise” plan that would take more water from the Trinity River than agreed upon in the Bureau of Reclamation’s Record of Decision three years ago. Westlands sued the Interior Department to prevent implementation of the plan shortly after it was filed. Westlands has also threatened to sue Trinity County over a project to raise bridges to make way for the river’s increased flows. Birmingham proposed to drop its plans to sue the county if their “compromise” plan is adopted. Oddly, Birmingham wrote letters to the Fresno Bee recently in which he claimed that virtually no Trinity River water is delivered to Westlands. Maybe I’m missing something here, but if Westlands receives little or no water from the Trinity, why is it threatening to sue the county over plans to increase river flows? And why does it want to reduce river flows beyond what was agreed on by all parties after 20 years of study?

**Yet another Klamath Fish Disaster.** There was another fish kill on the Klamath last month. Actually, the kill was at the Fall Creek Fish Hatchery when a water valve was turned off during a maintenance exercise at PacifiCorp's Iron Gate Dam.

About 70,000 yearling Chinook salmon and summer steelhead, descendents of the survivors of last year’s kill on the Klamath, died when their holding pond dried up. PacifiCorp is investigating how the water shut off and loss of 40,000 yearling fall Chinook and 30,000 yearling summer steelhead could occur. The water shutoff lasted only 40 minutes. According to the DFG the yearling 40,000 Chinook amount to 3.7 percent of the annual goal of more than 1 million Chinook reared each year, but 22 percent of the 180,000

Chinook held longer to reach yearling size, because yearlings generally have a higher survival rate than fingerlings.

The 30,000 summer steelhead lost amount to 15 percent of the annual goal of 200,000, which has not been met for several years says DFG.

### **Conservation News from NCCFFF**

NCCFFF was among several groups that submitted letters to the CPUC urging them to appeal the 9th circuit decision that overturned a lower court ruling and stripped the CPUC of any authority to further regulate rail activities in the Upper Sac canyon. This release presents a reasonably clear explanation of the suit and its ramifications.

### **PUC Appeals Decision Regarding Rail Safety of Cantara Loop to U.S. Supreme Court**

SAN FRANCISCO, September 15, 2003 -- The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) today appealed the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which ruled that the PUC doesn't have the authority to ensure railroad safety by deeming a rail site as a "local safety hazard".

In its appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, the PUC challenged the Ninth Circuit's determination that the PUC cannot deem the Cantara Loop, just north of Dunsmuir, CA, as a local safety hazard. The PUC says this ruling conflicts with the intent of Congress to allow the states to act in special circumstances, such as by declaring a specific portion of a railroad line as a local safety hazard. The PUC's appeal says that the Ninth Circuit's decision effectively abolishes all state laws designed to eliminate or reduce local safety hazards, and conflicts with both past Supreme Court precedent and the clear intent of Congress.

On June 17, 2003, the Ninth Circuit overturned the lower federal court's decision in *UP v. CPUC*, concerning the Cantara Loop. In 1976 and again in 1991, the Southern Pacific Transportation Co. (purchased by the Union Pacific Railroad Co.) derailed at the curve at Cantara Loop and spilled deadly toxics into the upper Sacramento River. All life in and adjacent to the river was destroyed in 1991 from the Cantara Loop to Shasta Lake. The PUC thoroughly investigated the derailment and toxic spill and found that its



cause was a dangerous weakening of Southern Pacific operating rules at the Cantara Loop. The California Legislature passed laws to designate certain areas on railroad lines in the state to be "local safety hazard" sites under the Federal Railroad Safety Act. The Commission determined that the half-mile curve at the Cantara Loop was one such local safety hazard site because 1) the railroad companies themselves considered the site to be operationally difficult requiring special operating rules; 2) it was located at the sharpest mainline curve in California and on a very steep grade; 3) it passed over a primary state water source; and 4) because it had an abnormally high incidence of accidents that statistically could not be random events. Unfortunately, the Ninth Circuit ruled that before states can deem a rail site a local safety hazard, they must show that the site is not capable of being regulated by Federal rules instead of state regulations. Although the Commission's decision to deem the Cantara Loop as a local safety hazard was determined based on both local and state safety concerns, it was impossible to show that the Federal Railroad Administration could not, had it ever chosen to, pass regulations like those of California.

On July 31, 2003, another accident occurred near the Cantara Loop when a Union Pacific freight train jumped the tracks and empty tank cars previously containing ammonium nitrate went into the river.

### **Coalition Supports PG&E Land Conservation Commitment in Proposed Bankruptcy Settlement Agreement**

BERKELEY, CA — A broad coalition of conservation groups, natural resource agencies, local governments, and industry associations have reached an agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) on a collaborative process to protect the utility's vast Sierra landholdings as part of a proposed settlement agreement to bring the utility out of bankruptcy. PG&E and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) staff announced the proposed bankruptcy settlement agreement earlier this summer. The CPUC is currently conducting hearings on the proposed settlement agreement, which includes a commitment to protect and enhance the utility's holdings of 140,000 acres of lands, primarily

located in the Sierra Nevada. The land conservation commitment provides that PG&E will either donate land to public agencies or conservation organizations, or retain the land and establish restrictive conservation easements, to protect public interest values and recreational access forever.

Today's agreement, submitted at hearing, resolves issues related to the governance and implementation of this system-wide land conservation commitment.

"Although the involved parties acknowledge our agreement today is limited to the lands issue raised by the proposed settlement agreement, we are very pleased such a broad array of interests could set aside old differences and forge such a robust and fair approach to lands management," said Steve Wald, Director of the California Hydropower Reform Coalition (CHRC), a coalition of river conservation and recreation organizations.

Steve Hall, Executive Director of the Association of California Water Agencies, said, "It is encouraging to see traditional adversaries come together and collaborate on this issue. This has been a positive experience for the water resource organizations of California."

"We thank all parties that support this agreement. We now look forward to rolling up our sleeves and getting to the business of collaboratively protecting and enhancing these lands," said Chuck Bonham, attorney for Trout Unlimited and co-counsel for the CHRC.

Testimony supporting the agreement and maps of PG&E landholdings can be found at:

<http://www.n-h-i.org/pgebankruptcy.html>

Today's agreement was signed by the following parties: Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Association of California Water Agencies, California Farm Bureau Federation, California Hydropower Reform Coalition, California Resources Agency, Office of Ratepayer Advocates, Regional Council of Rural Counties, State Water Resources Control Board, Tuolumne Utility District, U.S.

Department of Agriculture-Forest Service.

The stipulation was also signed by the following organizations: California Forestry Association, California Wilderness Coalition, Central Valley Regional Water Control Board, Mountain Meadows Conservancy, Natural

-----OUTINGS-----

.Cary Boyden, Chairman, 530-753-3826

**The Fly Shop Fall trip went off on the 11th without the large number of spawning salmon which marked last year's session. Nevertheless, a significant number of fish were landed in the upper regions of the river. Given last year's timing we will move the 2004 trip back to the following weekend.**

**The October meeting will have signups for the November trifacta of stripers on the 1st, Pyramid on the 8th and Ron's Upper Sac closing and Sugar Creek on the 14th and 15th, respectively. There will also be a signup for grease (Amador) on 12/7 with a rainout day of the 13th and the Fly Shop Trinity River steelie trip on Thursday, January 15. The reason for the weekday trip is to allow putting the knowledge hopefully gained to work the next day and avoid the weekend zoo characteristic of the particular stretch of water.**

**We will also probably have a signup for the Spring Redding guided trip on March 20. This is two weeks earlier than the last several years and reflects the universal advice of the Fly Shop guides that we should go earlier than we traditionally have.**

The Fly Shop Trinity outing is scheduled on January 15, 2004.

**2003 OUTING SCHEDULE (tentative dates)**

<u>TRIP</u>	<u>FISH</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>FISHMEISTER</u>	<u>Comments/Fees</u>
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	November 1st	Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149	
Pyramid	Cutthroat	November 8th	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	
Upper Sac	Trout	Friday, November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	
Sugar Creek	Trout	Sat. Nov. 15	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	\$130 incl lunch.

Resources Defense Council, **Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers**, The Pacific Forest Trust, Inc., Planning and Conservation League, Sierra Club California, Sierra Foothills Audubon Society, Sierra Nevada Alliance, Trust for Public Land, U.S. Department of Interior-Bureau of Land Management.

The California Hydropower Reform Coalition was formed by conservation, sport fishing, and river recreation organizations in 1997 to restore and enhance California rivers adversely affected by hydropower. The CHRC Steering Committee consists of American Rivers, American Whitewater, California Outdoors, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, California Trout, Foothill Conservancy, Friends of the River, Natural Heritage Institute, and Trout Unlimited.

**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.

Current Membership Statistics: Total 88

Regular=75, Life=13.

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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.

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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.