

Fly Fishers of Davis<http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/ffd/>

Volume 32 Issue 8

The Fisherman's Line

September 2004

Regular Meeting - Tuesday, September 28th, 7:30 P. M.

I think we could all agree that this years' annual picnic was fun for all. Thanks go out to our master chefs and to all who brought food a drink.

PROGRAM – North Coast Steelhead

This month's program will be Carlo Bongio from San Rafael talking on North Coast Steelhead. Carlo does guiding, teaching and clinics on various streams including Putah Creek.

BRING A FRIEND AND A FLY
To the September FFD Meeting

This coming meeting will be a great opportunity for everyone to bring a Fly to donate and dedicate to our new display collection which will soon serve to illustrate the many aspects of fly fishing as well as provide additional auction fodder. Come one and all; bring a guest and example of your favorite fly to donate to the display/raffle/auction collection.



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From the CONSERVATION DESK**By Lowell Ashbaugh**

I hope you all have had a chance to visit some of the state's rivers this summer. I haven't gone as much as I'd like, but I've gotten out a little bit. It's been a busy summer for conservation issues, with mostly good results. I thought I'd use this month's column to run down some of the issues on the state's rivers and let you know what's happened.

[Tremendous Victory for fish on the San Joaquin](#)

River. Before Friant Dam's completion, the San Joaquin River supported one of the most important salmon fisheries on the Pacific coast and the southernmost Chinook salmon run in North America. Today, virtually all the water upstream from the dam is diverted for irrigation, and two

sections of the river totaling 60 miles have completely dried up. Sixteen years ago the Natural Resources Defense Council and The Bay Institute filed suit against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to

restore flows.

In a supporting brief filed in federal court in early August, Delta farmers argued that more water should be released from Friant Dam, a 319-foot structure near Fresno that diverts almost all of the river's natural flow. The Westlands Water District has also filed an "area of origin" claim on the river, in an attempt to lock up water in case they lose the water they are currently taking from the Trinity River.

In late August, a federal judge in Sacramento settled the suit and ruled that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation illegally dried up the San Joaquin River. The ruling means that the bureau will have to release water from Friant Dam for the first time in 55 years, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

In his 41-page decision, U.S. District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton wrote that before the dam, "So many salmon migrated up the San Joaquin River during the spawning season that some people who lived near the present site of Friant Dam compared the noise to a waterfall. Some residents even said that they were kept awake nights by the myriad salmon heard nightly splashing over the sand bars in the River. ... A fisherman who lived downstream recalls that in the 1940s, the salmon were still 'so thick that we could have pitch-forked them. One almost could have walked across the River on the backs of salmon when they were running.'" It's hard for me to imagine that now.

Good News on the Trinity! As I mentioned last month, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed most of Judge Wanger's decisions regarding the Trinity River flows. The ruling paves the way to implement the ROD as filed just before President Clinton left office. The dam operators have already increased flows to comply with the new order. Look forward to better fishing on the Trinity as the ROD is fully implemented.

Klamath River. The news on the Klamath is not so good, but there's still hope. The conflict between the lower river users and the farming interests in the upper basin is ongoing. But in an interesting twist to this story, the Yurok Tribe in northern California made a pilgrimage to Scotland in an effort to remove a number of dams on the upper river. The current owner of the dams is PacifiCorp, whose corporate parent is Scottish Power. Scottish Power prides itself on being a "green" energy company.

The Yurok Tribe appealed to this stated corporate culture. Apparently, their visit was successful. The CEO of Scottish Power directed PacifiCorp to start negotiating with the tribes.

The tribe also has the backing of several studies that indicate tearing down the dams might be economically beneficial. California Trout, American Rivers, Trout Unlimited and the World Wildlife Fund asked experts to weigh the costs and benefits of taking down the dams, and what effects releasing huge amounts of sediments stored behind the dams might have on the ecosystem.

A study done by Dennis Gathard of G&G Associates in Seattle found that it would cost only \$40 million to tear down the four lowest dams. That's only twice the power company PacifiCorp's estimate of the annual cost of producing the electricity from the project.

Furthermore, Federal fisheries agencies could demand PacifiCorp provide passage for migrating salmon and steelhead to spawning grounds cut off by the dams. Depending on the means of moving the fish, that could cost \$150 million or more.

The dams are widely agreed to be a root cause of the decline of salmon and other fish in the watershed. The lowermost dam, Iron Gate, blocks access to more than 300 miles of spawning grounds upstream.

The six dams that are up for relicensing by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission produce 150 megawatts of power -- about 1 percent of that produced by PacifiCorp's parent company Scottish Power.

Shasta Lake. The Winnemem (McCloud River) Wintu Tribe held a "War Dance" at Shasta Dam, north of Redding, California, September 12th through September 16th. The tribe is alarmed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's proposal to raise the dam (part of the CalFed agreement) because they lost much of their homelands, and their salmon, when the dam was first constructed. "Any raising of the dam, even a few feet, will flood some of our last remaining sacred sites on the McCloud River," sites we still use today," says Caleen Sisk-Franco, Winnemem Spiritual and Tribal Leader. "Village sites, burial grounds, and ceremonial grounds will all be lost forever," she continued.

This action has implications for water issues elsewhere in California. The raising of Shasta Dam has been proposed as one way to store more water

for agricultural interest to replace water they will lose as it's sent down the rivers to benefit fish and improve river health. Stay tuned!

Conservation News from NCCFFF

The Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers is an active organization dedicated to conservation and promotion of fly fishing in our area. It's an organization worthy of your support and can benefit you in many ways as well. I'm using this space this month to promote the council's Annual Conclave. You can find all the registration materials and more information on the conclave at <http://www.nccfff.org/index.html>. Click on the Conclave link at the right-hand side of the page.

Annual Conclave in Redding The NCCFFF annual conclave, billed as a Festival of Fly Fishing, will be held in Redding this year. It's on Friday and Saturday, October 15 and 16, at the Redding Convention Center. Our club has a float trip scheduled on Saturday, but if you're not going on it, you might take the time to join the fun at the conclave. Or go on Friday if you're fishing on Saturday.

General Conclave Programs will cover a large variety of fly fishing and fly tying topics--all the way from fishing the Sacramento River to fishing in Russia. Fly tyers will be showing how to tie flies from the simple to the very complex. There will be over twenty tyers tying at all times. See the General Conclave Program link for tentatively scheduled programs.

Limited Enrollment Workshops will be held on Friday, October 15, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

A Friday Night Chili Feed will be held by the casting ponds beginning at 6 p.m. There will be salads, chili, bread, dessert, lemonade and coffee--cost \$8.

The Saturday Night Banquet will be held in the convention center starting at 6 p.m. with no host cocktails followed by the dinner at 7:00 p.m. A program will be presented that highlights the accomplishments of the NCCFFF conservation efforts and club programs for 2003. A great many items will be included in the silent auction, live auction and raffle.

Silent Auction and Raffle items are being collected

and there will be a large selection to choose from during the Conclave and at the Saturday night banquet.

Fly Tyers will be demonstrating many different tying techniques on a large variety of flies. The fly tying demonstrations will be held in three sessions taking place October 15 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be twenty to thirty tyers in each session. Refer to the fly tying link to see a current listing of tyers.

Fly Casting will be continuous throughout the conclave including limited enrollment workshops, demonstrations, hands-on instruction conducted at two casting ponds, on the lawns in front of the convention center and at the river's edge. In addition, there will be a casting tournament.

Kid's Corner will be located in the foyer of the convention center. There will be plenty of opportunity for the youth to learn about fly fishing and fly tying. They will be able to try their hands at fly tying and casting a fly rod to learn how to catch the first of many fish to be caught and released and find out about the equipment to use and the places that fish live.

For accommodations look to the link to <http://www.Shastacascade.org> website. They show the multitude of activities in the area along with many fine hotels, motels, B&Bs, R. V. parks and campgrounds.

Registration can be accomplished by completing and mailing a registration form on a conclave flyer or from a copy of the form included in this website. The cost for both days is \$15 (NCCFFF affiliated clubs will have access to special packages). A single day admission is \$10 and can be purchased at the door. The limited enrollment workshops on Friday are \$20 for one session or \$30 for both the morning and afternoon sessions. Workshops will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Detailed descriptions of the workshops can be found on the "limited enrollment workshop" page of this website. The enrollment form can be downloaded for completion.

Volunteers, we need your help. The NCCFFF annual Conclave would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of many volunteers. If you would like to pitch in and help refer to the Want to Help link and let us know.

Silver Hilton - Fly of the Month



As fall approaches, thoughts of steelhead and salmon can not be far behind. The Sliver Hilton is a classic steelhead and salmon pattern that has been around for a long time. I have always thought of it as a Klamath River pattern, but it is also used on steelhead and salmon streams world wide. The Silver Hilton is relatively easy to tie and an effective pattern.

Hook:	Tiemco 7999, or 7989 or similar salmon fly hook size 2- 10.	Rib:	Silver tinsel
Thread:	Black	Wings:	Grizzly Hackle tips
Tail:	Mallard Flank	Hackle:	Grizzly or mallard.
Body:	Black dubbing or chenille		

Tying Instruction: Tie in the mallard flank tail and attach the chenille and silver tinsel. Advance the tying thread to the wing position and wrap the chenille to the wing position and tie it off. Spiral the silver tinsel forward and tie it off at the wing position as well. Attach two grizzly hackle tips that extend just beyond the end of the hook and tie them in with the curved side facing inward. This results in the wings curving outward. Wrap a few turns of grizzly hackle for the collar and form a neat thread head. Whip finish and cement the head. Since steelhead flies receive such a beating, use at least two coats of head cement.

Since this fly has been around for a while, here are several variations. One variation, originated by Dave McNeese, is the green butt Silver Hilton. In this pattern the tail is pintail barbs and a tag of flat silver tinsel is applied behind the tail. A butt of florescent green stretch nylon is used along with a black wool body. The body is ribbed with oval silver tinsel and the hackle is pintail, mallard or a similar feather tied long and sparse as in spey flies. The green butt version is reported to out fish the original pattern when the sun is off the water.

Yarns O'Plenty

OLD FOGEY BACKING TRIP 2004

By Tom Burton



Here Tom & Lowell demonstrate adherence to local fire restrictions and catch and release philosophy

Carson Ice-berg Wilderness Area. 9 FFD clubsters led by Fogeymiester Tom Burton spent 3 days and 2 nights in beautiful downtown Splinterville. Attending were Lowell Ashbaugh, Adney Bowker, Gene Gantt, Jim White, Rollie Simons, John Imsdahl, Arlen Feldman and Jack Norlyn.

Accommodations were more than comfortable with almost everyone having a tent. The daytime weather was warm to toasty and nights were perfect for sleeping. Gourmet meals prepared by chef Mountain House received rave reviews from all in camp. Lowell provided trout snacks one evening due to a seriously injured rainbow. Jim White augmented chef House's evening meal with some tasty non-native trout that was prepared by Gene Gantt using his secret Sage Brush recipe. Tom Burton even ate some and he doesn't like fish.

The old fogies had another great outing in the

The fishing was great again this year with "High Rod" honors still being argued by Jim White, Adney Bowker and John Imsdahl. Jim shared his "Wilma Jean" with anyone brave enough to try her. Until this trip Jim has not fished any fly except Wilma for over 20 years. He did fish with another fly out of necessity but that is another story and you will have to ask him the details. John Imsdahl fished the East Carson at Dumont's Meadows and had about a one-mile section of the river all to himself. He said he never saw another person nor did he see any human footprints all afternoon. He said it was one of the best and most productive fishing days in years.

The hike out was very warm; however everyone reached the trailhead in a reasonable state of consciousness. Everyone at the end of the hike enjoyed cold libations. The obligatory stop at Hope Valley Resort for lunch and some of Joyce's homemade pie was again one of the highlights of the outing.

The Old Fogie's backpacking trip will be on August 5, 6 and 7 in 2005. Look for a sign-up sheet in the spring.

OLD FOGIES BACKPACKING TRIP

By John Imsdahl



This is a story about 9 Old Fogies who went backpacking in the Sierras, near Markleyville, and shared laughter, stories, catching lots of fish, and eating a few of them. This is also a story about an eighteen year old fly named Wilma Jean, bamboo rods and Butte Meadows, Cassiopeia and the Gin drinking, chain smoking fly fisherman with the same W for a cattle brand, stories about the

Vaquero Valley and stream rebuilding, wood working and gold prospecting, the old days at UC Berkeley and East Vallejo, building cabins near Yosemite, and who could ever forget, whimsical Wendy, the burger waitress.

As soon as we arrived and set up the base camp, most grabbed their poles and went in 3 different directions. I noticed Rollie going straight out to a place John Reynolds had mentioned, and about forty-five degrees to the right went Jack and Adney. I decided to go a few more degrees to the right of Jack and Adney and work my way back toward where Rollie had gone. When I arrived at the stream, it was low; about 3 inches, and quite frankly, I was not catching or seeing anything until I happened upon Jack and Adney. By this time Adney was only on his fifth fish of about eighteen he would later catch the first night. Despite his tall slender frame, he can crouch down to the size of any bush along the bank and he works his line with speed and poise. Once I saw Adney's technique and how spooky the fish could be, I started catching fish. Finally, Lowell brought back a beautiful Rainbow that everyone participated in eating around that night's campfire.

The first night was a scene right out of Mel Brooks' *Blazing Saddles*. Here we had the nine Old Fogies gathered around the "kitchen", "saddle sore" from the walk, each one letting out a little "yelp" as they ascended or descended to, and from, the log seat, and well, as the bodies relaxed there was that *wind*. It was here that Jim & Arlen, having wisely brung "snake bite kits", but in the absence of such critters, brought out the Scotch and Jack Daniels for all to enjoy. And, of course, we had Lowell's wonderful tasting trout. About this time I learned about Cassiopeia, the W shaped stars that first appear on horizon, a whole host of other star formations, and the endless trail of satellites.

The next day, Tom, Adney, Gene, Arlen and myself, went off to Dumont Meadows. At a rest, Gene went over the river and started hitting on some nice sized browns. A little further down the trail, the guys dropped me off on the other end of a U shaped bend that Gene had just fished, and after a few pointers from Adney and Tom, I went fishing. The others went further up the river to try their skills. There is just no way to describe the next five

hours of fishing other than to say that I did not know such places existed in California. Browns hit hard, just like Steelhead, and there was a new one at each new hole. The first day, the rainbows were hitting everything *on* the water, today, the browns were hitting everything *just below* the surface.

The success and fun of this trip all began with our leader, Tom Burton, inviting us over to his house to discuss the trip. Despite his best efforts, and display tables of what the essentials really were, there still remained a few of us who brought too much, or did not bring enough. Tom took very good care of us during the entire trip, constantly counting heads, making sure everyone was accounted for, so much so that I wondered sometimes if he could relax enough to have a good time. No sooner had we arrived at our base camp, Tom dropped his backpack, and went back up the trail to ensure that all would arrive safely. Furthermore, noticing I was cold the first night, he gave me a hooded jacket to wear to stay warm. He is the reason the trip was fun and safe, and at the

end, he topped it off with cold beer waiting for us at the trailhead. The other EIGHT cannot thank him enough.

We concluded our trip with a hamburger at little resort along the highway. Here we found tie died shirted Waitress Wendy, the whimsical waitress in the "sky", full of energy, going in all directions. Your first impression of Wendy is "what drug is she on", but with her, it is all natural.

So, in the end, I was the new guy, who just having joined FFD in May, and not knowing anyone, was wondering how I would be greeted. I was honored and privileged to have such a great time with some really fine fly fishing pals, and delighted to be accepted amongst them. At the end, Jim White honored me by giving me his Wilma Jean, in which she proudly holds an honored spot in my vest. So, with the deepest THANK YOU, thank you Tom, Jim, Jack, Adney, Arlen, Gene, Lowell, Rollie for a great fly fishing trip. If you missed it, you missed a lot. -----

No Payne, no gain!

It's time to gear up for another trek into them dusty hills for the season's last chance to chase down smallmouth bass. We're shooting for Oct. 9th, that's a Saturday, and praying for some cooperative weather. In order to insure that everyone has a good and safe day I am asking everyone to contribute a little something to the effort:

Bob Beverlin:	snake bite kit	John Forsyth:	tourniquet
Tom Burton:	needle-nosed fang extractors	John Hodgson:	hacksaw
Dennis Ralston:	anti-venom kit		

I will provide a prayer book. You'll need to bring a fish pole, floating line and maybe a camo line. If you're an animal (read: John Hodgson) consider bringing a float tube. Last fall Bob Beverlin and I did well with big, bushy, deer hair bugs, Stimulators, Tarantulas, Hoppers, October caddis for the floater and wooly buggers for the camo line. Look for a sign-up sheet at this month's meeting for this official "family values" event.)

John Reynolds

----- **OUTINGS and PROGRAM CALENDAR for 2004** -----

OUTINGS

Since last press time there have been two outings. The first was the annual Lewiston trip which involved the usual absolutely top notch socializing with perhaps the best dinner in some time (except for the red wine which was not potable). From the fishing viewpoint it was borderline unbelievable. Big fish (Reed and Hump landing monsters in the 10 pound class and Sarge having a ldr on one in the same class range and with most who fished the lake taking multiple 2-5 pounders); and many with the count well in excess of 200. Both the river and the lake produced. It was far and away the best fishing on that outing ever.

The second trip was the sporadically held Klamath River half pounder outing. Initially 12 members signed up but by departure time the tally was down to 4. Whenever that happens, those who are left have to wonder whether those who are not going are foresighted or simply of too little faith. In this case it all depends on one's perspective. We were short on large adults this year with John Daniels the only one taking a 20 incher and Warren Caldwell right behind with several about 19. However, for classic half pounder fishing this was about as good as it gets these days with over 80 netted by the group in the 2 and 1/2 days we fished. And the weather, the river, the boating and the food were also about as good as it gets.

Any discussion of the trip would be deficient without a mea culpa. In the recent article about the shad trip I good naturedly pointed out that an unnamed member had managed to land the smallest shad in club outing memory. That record fell absolutely as the author caught three in the Klamath which might have totaled 7 inches laid tail to head. The fly was the always trustworthy brindle bug, although it is doubtful there are any lessons to be learned when next spring rolls around.

At the September meeting there will be signups for several Fall trips. Also for those going on the Fly Shop trip on the 16th of October, please send me the checks for \$140 per head payable to The Fly Shop. My address is 819 Falcon Avenue, Davis 95616.

Cary Boyden, Chairman, 530-753-3826

2004 OUTING SCHEDULE (tentative dates)

<u>TRIP</u>	<u>FISH</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>FISHMEISTER</u>	<u>Notes/Fees</u>
Pleasant Valley	Trout	September	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	Fee TBD
Payne in the Ranch	Bass	October 9 th	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	
Redding/Sacramento	Trout/steelhead	October 16 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$140.00 plus tip
Delta	Stripers	October	Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149	
Upper Sac	Trout	November	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	
Sugar Creek	Trout	November	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	\$130
Pyramid	Cutthroat	November	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	
Old Fogies	Trout	Aug 5,6,7 '05	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	

PROGRAM CALENDAR

The program calendar is being updated for the Fall/Winter Schedule.

Officers, Directors and Committees

President:	John Forsyth	530-750-1192
Vice President	Reed Enos	530-756-2331

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