

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

Volume 32 Issue 11

**The Fisherman's Line****Regular Meeting - Tuesday, November 30th, 7:30 P. M.****“Trinity and Sacramento River Steelhead”****By Chris Parsons**Of  
**The Fly Shop  
Redding, CA****Prez Says**

By John Forsyth

I had a great time at the striper outing last month with many thanks to fishmeister, Jim Humphreys. Twelve fishermen got the morning started right with breakfast at Dawson's in Dixon. We were fortunate to have a perfect day, warm with almost no wind. We launched out of Pirate's Liar with one balky motor, but it wouldn't stop us. The fishing was somewhat spotty. However, most of the groups were hooking several very small fish. I was lucky to have Jim as my skipper. The Delta is a maze of cuts and channels. One could literally get lost without too much trouble. Jim knows the water and we fished many spots that usually produce. We had a slow day until we hit Frank's Tract later in the afternoon. Jim caught a 5 and a 10 pounder along a popular cut. The big fish was 30 inches long and beautiful. I found out later that Reed Enos and John Reynolds had also caught some nice fish there earlier in the morning. Cast after cast for me with no fish to show except for a couple small grabs. It didn't matter, though. I thoroughly enjoyed being out on the Delta. Despite being within easy site of Mt. Diablo and all the surrounding madness, it is a quality experience out there. The bird life itself is worth the trip. Jim is an excellent striper fisherman and good company. With the chance for a variety of fish and even some monsters, one never knows what might happen. In fact if you need to know how to get a 220 pounder in the boat, just ask us.



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*fly shop*

2654 Marconi Avenue  
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Toll Free: 800/4000-FLY  
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## **From the CONSERVATION DESK**

**By Lowell Ashbaugh**

I attended the NCCFFF Conservation Network meeting last Saturday, this month's column will report on the activities we discussed. The Network is a group of Conservation Chairs of fly fishing clubs throughout Northern California. We meet twice a year to review conservation issues and set an agenda for NCCFFF action. There is also a significant contribution to conservation activities by some local clubs.

**American River salmon** We dodged a big bullet this fall on the American River. I went to the Salmon Festival in October, and there were no salmon coming into the hatchery because the river was too warm. To make matters worse, the water behind Nimbus and Folsom dams was also too warm because the cold water had already been released to serve other users. Fortunately, the rains we got a couple of weeks ago cooled the river by 10° and the salmon moved in. Now there is a need to monitor the river and possibly mount some fry rescue efforts if the level goes down and exposes redds. The rescue work would require moving gravel and rocks to save the fish.

**Environmental Water Caucus** This group of about 25 organizations has focused its efforts on limiting water exports from Northern California. This is a mammoth effort that will require vigilant oversight and dogged pursuit on a number of fronts. We thought the peripheral canal was killed years ago, but its backers have just become more skillful at hiding it. There are numerous plans in the works now to ship water south covertly. See below for more.

**CalFed bill** I mentioned this last month. The CalFed process began with good intentions to allocate water intelligently for all users, including fish. It has now almost gotten to the point that it is not worth the support of fishing and conservation groups. The intense water users have gotten their way at almost every step to water down (!) the bill's protections for fish. One proposal that has been "streamlined" is to raise Shasta Dam by 7 feet. This would allow more water to flow south in the few years when there is sufficient rainfall to fill it (about 1 in 35), and would destroy more of the Upper Sacramento River.

**San Luis Reservoir** The nation's prime striped bass fishery is at San Luis Reservoir. You can see a picture of the record fish at <http://www.stripers247.com/landlockedrecordstriper.htm> (it's really big - 67 lb. 8 oz!). The fish are landlocked, and the reservoir is currently operated (and in fact is required to operate) in a manner that preserves the fish. The reservoir holds 2.1 million acre-feet of water, but is drawn down to about 450,000 AF in summer. It has to be kept no lower than that level to preserve water quality for the Santa Clara Valley water district that uses it for drinking. Now the southern water users (Metropolitan and Westlands Water Districts) are proposing to draw down the reservoir to 79,000 AF in summer (and make it a mudhole). The water would be replaced by

pumping more water south out of the delta during the time it is needed by salmon and steelhead.

**Upper Sacramento Rail Safety** Union Pacific railroad has an abysmal record on derailments. Not just on the upper Sacramento River, but all over the country. In the past six months there have been six derailments in Texas that have resulted in four deaths. The California Public Utilities Commission sued UP in an attempt to improve rail safety in California, but the suit was tossed out on the grounds that rail safety is a federal issue, not a state one. Now there is an effort to mobilize state and local governments to change federal law to make rail safety a higher priority. It's apparent UP will not make it so on its own.

**Butte Creek** The spring salmon run on Battle Creek is the largest remaining in California. PG&E has operated dams and diversions on the creek, though that has killed up to 80% of the spawning salmon. NCCFFF has signed on as a co-plaintiff in a suit that has apparently prompted PG&E to change the operating mode. We want to insure it stays fish-friendly.

**Battle Creek** This creek holds prime habitat for winter run salmon, but PG&E has about 12 dams that block salmon from using it. There has been an effort to remove the lowest 5-8 dams to restore the salmon run. So far there has been agreement to remove five dams. Removal of eight dams would restore far more habitat but PG&E is reluctant to do it. Cost is a factor; the original estimate to remove the dams was ~\$15M, but is now at \$70M.

**Paiute Cutthroat Trout** The historical habitat of the Paiute Cutthroat Trout is in Silver King Creek upstream of two waterfalls that succeeded in isolating them. Introduction of rainbows and browns has threatened them, though, and a recent effort to restore them was blocked in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour by a lawsuit. DFG intended to remove them, poison the stream, and then replace them last summer. Crews were already in the field to start the work when it was called off.

**New Zealand Mud Snails** These critters have sparked a lot of research right here in California after they were discovered in Putah Creek. Surprisingly, even though they have been in Montana and Idaho for years (and even in Hot Creek with no notice to anglers), no one really knows what makes them tick. Thanks to diligent efforts by Ken Davis, Gary Flanagan, and Dave Ford, among others, some scientific studies have been started to learn how to kill them and prevent their spread. Watch for more information on treatment of boots and waders – the work is almost complete and ready for publication.

**Golden Trout** California's State Fish is in danger of being lost to predation and hybridization. Orvis, California DFG, USFS, USFWS, Cal Trout, and Trout Unlimited are collaborating on a project to restore them. Read about it at <http://www.orvis.com/intro.asp?subject=793&bhpc=1>. You can also volunteer to work on it at <http://www.caltrout.org/specialprojects/goldentroutproj.html>.



## **ANOTHER GREAT OUTING**

**By Tom Burton**

Cary Boyden did it again! The October outing on the Lower Sacramento River was the scene of the best fall fishing anyone could have wished for, and Cary deserves credit for setting it all up. The weather was perfect, the water was perfect and the catching was outstanding.

The outing started with a potluck dinner Friday night at a great campsite on the river in Red Bluff. We had breakfast Saturday morning at the Snack Box on the corner of Main and Ash in Red Bluff. The restaurant is in an old Victorian house and at first glance one might think it too fancy for a bunch of fishermen. Once inside though, it's casual and comfortable and just right. The service was quick and pleasant and the food was great. Even our very discerning café critic approved. Cary indicated he would be willing to return.

Approximately ten FFD club members arrived at the Fly Shop around 8:00 and joined approximately 30 other clients in the pandemonium I can only liken to a swarm of mating caddis flies. Guides and clients buzzing around the shop trying to find each other and then darting in and out to buy the latest "killer" flies. You know, the flies your guide says are the only ones catching fish this week. Everyone trying to use the restroom at the last minute adds to the confusion (thank God for room freshener). If you have been there you know what I mean. The last minute realization that another stamp is needed to fish anadromous waters makes you think getting out of the fly shop and on the river will take all morning. It is a fun ritual though, and I wouldn't miss it.

John Reynolds and I hooked up with our guide, Greg Dean, who has been with the Fly Shop for about 3 months. We put in at Bonnyview and were instantly into fish. We floated and fished all day stopping only a couple of times to stretch our legs and to take one 30-minute break for lunch.

At take-out we tallied our catch and conservatively estimated that John and I boated around 50 very strong Sacramento River rainbow trout. We also estimated that we hooked and lost approximately 40 more. It had to be one of the best days ever on the river. The fish ranged in size from 12" to 18". Most seem to be about 14" to 16". Smaller than other years but you can't beat the numbers.

Greg Dean is young and strong enough to row his boat up a waterfall. He is tireless and would probably stay out until midnight if you wanted. Greg was an independent guide on the river for several years before joining the staff at the Fly Shop this year. I highly recommend you book a trip with him and enjoy some great fishing.

Club members who have never been on the Lower Sacramento River outing with Cary are missing a great time.

Try to make the next one. You won't be sorry

**2005 Nominations**

Each year in December the Club elects an officer slate for the succeeding year and two new directors to serve three year terms. The Club has a nominating committee for these purposes and its slate is published in the newsletter before the December meeting and announced at the November meeting. This year the slate is as follows:

President -- Bob Pearcy VP & Treasurer -- Lowell Ashbaugh  
 Secretary -- Tom Burton New directors -- Gene Gantt and Joel Salinas.

**----- OUTINGS and PROGRAM CALENDAR for 2005 -----**

**Outings Update**

Since last month the only outing was the Striper trip. This year's venture was far more successful and is reported on elsewhere (I hope). Signups for the November meeting will be for Pyramid on 12/4, Amador on 12/11 (note date change with the postponement of the Putah Creek cleanup), the Feather on 1/8 and the Fly Shop trip on March 19.

<u>TRIP</u>	<u>FISH</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>FISHMEISTER</u>	<u>Comments/Fees</u>
Pyramid	Cutthroat	Dec 4 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup>	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	
Amador/Trout	Trout	Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	12/12 rainout
Feather River	Steelhead	Jan	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Trinity	Steelhead	Jan 13 <sup>th</sup> 14 <sup>th</sup>	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$140.00 plus tip
Low Elevation Lake	Trout	Feb	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Redding Sacramento	Trout	Mar 19 <sup>th</sup>	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$140.00 plus tip
Iron Canyon	Trout	Mar/Apr	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Pyramid	Cutthroat	Apr	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	
Payne's Ranch	Bass	Apr	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	
Shad	Shad	May	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Yamsi Ranch	Trout	Jun	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	\$100 rod per day
Davis Lake	Trout	Jun	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Lewiston	Trout	Jul	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Backpacking YS	Trout	Aug	John Forsyth 530-750-1192	
Backpacking OF	Trout	Aug	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	
Klamath	Half Pounders	Sep	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Redding/Sacramento	Trout/steelhead	Oct	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$140.00 plus tip
Delta	Stripers	Oct	Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149	



Honest, I haven't even tipped the guide yet!



No, really, I mean it! It just jumped on board!

## 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	Bob Beverlin	530-753-6805
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 (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.

#### E-Newsletter Policy

Our e-newsletter policy is to deliver the e-newsletter via email OR for you to download it from the FFD website at:  
<http://www.dcn.davis.us/go/ffd/>.

Be sure if you signed up for the \$25 annual membership that you get your email address to [Bob Beverlin](mailto:Bob.Beverlin@ucdavis.edu) at <mailto:rcbeverlin@ucdavis.edu>. This will assure that you get an email notification of the newsletter. Each month, except August, the e-newsletter will be posted to the above site and emailed about 1 week before the meeting. You will need Acrobat Reader <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> to view the PDF format. If you receive the paper version, you can also get the e-version notification by sending your email to "[the bobber](mailto:thebobber)".

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## This Just in:

American River: There are a couple of known isolation pools on the American River where salmon and steelhead become stranded during low water after a period of high flows. They can be rescued, but it requires digging a channel from the river to the isolated pool. Heavy equipment (a Bobcat) can be used for the initial work, but it can't be used in the water. The final break has to be made by hand. If you'd like to help out, given about a month's notice, let me know at [ashbaugh@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ashbaugh@ucdavis.edu) or at (530) 758-6722. I have more information I can send anyone who wants it.

**Fly Fishers of Davis**  
**PO Box 525**  
**Davis, CA 95617-0525**