

The Fisherman's Line



Next Regular Monthly Meeting is Tuesday November 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30!

10 Essentials for Steelhead

By [Keith Kaneko](#)



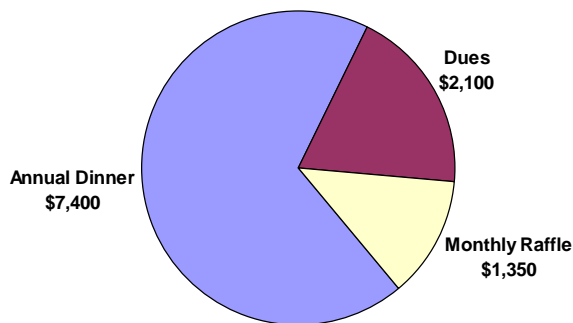
Our speaker for November is Keith Kaneko, local guide, fly fishing destination travel agent, and steelhead fanatic. Keith has guided for several years on the Northern California waters of the Feather, American, Yuba, and Delta for shad, stripers and steelhead. He is recognized as a top guide in these waters and is one of the most reliable guides I know of for regularly landing nice sized steelhead on difficult local waters such as the American. A self-described refugee from 'corporate America,' Keith established his own fly fishing travel business, Angling On the Fly, a couple of years ago, and has been spending much of his time helping clients book travel to faraway destinations, as well as constantly scouting new fly fishing opportunities overseas. His office is conveniently located in the back of Kiene's Fly Shop, and you have undoubtedly run into Keith at the shop because he frequently helps at the front counter. Keith has chased steelheads from Alaska, to British Columbia, to waters right in our own backyard. His presentation will focus on what he considers the "essentials" for catching steelhead in any water in which you can find them. Be sure you do not miss Keith's discussion of the fundamentals of steelhead fishing.

(Vice) Prez Says

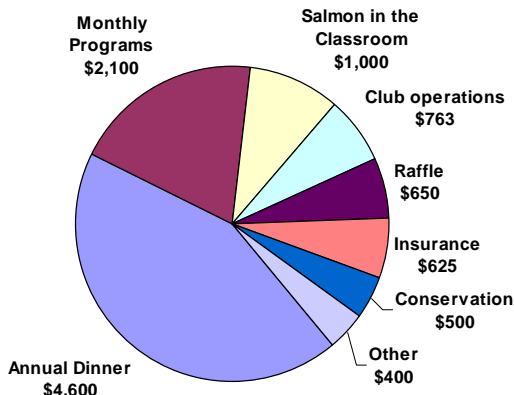
Tom Burton, Gene Gantt, and I met recently to review last year's income and expenses and to come up with a budget for next year. The result is shown below. Your club has three primary sources of income (plus an occasional donation). The annual dinner, coming up in February, is the biggest source of income for the year. Keep that in mind as you purchase raffle tickets! It also is the biggest expense, so it's very important to know how many of you are coming. One of us will be calling you as the dinner draws near to get a head count. Until a few years ago, all the dues income was used to print and mail the newsletter. That expense has been reduced to a very small amount (now included in "Club Operations") by sending this newsletter by email. The monthly raffle brings in the rest of our income for the year. On the expense side, our budget for monthly speakers now closely matches the dues income. We budget for continued and expanding support of Salmon-in-the-Classroom and for conservation organizations. We've budgeted funds this year under "Club Operations" in case we need to rent a meeting room, but we hope to put most of that money to good use in some other conservation issue if we can find a room for free. The remaining expenses are for insurance, purchasing items for the monthly raffle, and a small amount for unexpected expenses. Let me know if you have any questions about the budget.

FFD Budget 2007

Income



Expenses



## **From the CONSERVATION DESK**

**By Lowell Ashbaugh**

**Salmon in the Classroom** Adney Bowker, Jim Wirth, and several other club members delivered salmon eggs to classrooms in Davis, West Sacramento, Dixon, Winters, and Woodland in early November. We learned afterward that several other club members tried to reach us to volunteer their services, but sent emails to the club listserve instead of to Adney or me. We didn't see those messages until it was too late. There will be another egg delivery for steelhead in February, so please try to help out then!

**Klamath River** There seems to be some progress on the removal of dams from the Klamath River to allow fish passage and improve water quality. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is now considering re-licensing the dams to PacifiCorp, so time is of the essence. Humboldt County supervisors voted unanimously this month in favor of removing four of the Klamath River's dams. Removal of Iron Gate, Copco 1 and 2, and JC Boyle would open 350 miles of potential spawning grounds for salmon.

The economics of dam removal may work out. PacifiCorp recently lost an administrative hearing challenging federal fisheries agencies' orders to build expensive fish ladders over the dams, making their operation more expensive. PacifiCorp had proposed trapping fish and trucking them around the dams. That would not address the water quality issues, though. California Coastal Conservancy studies have found few toxins in sediment trapped behind the dams, so their removal would not make the river worse. And a bond measure just passed by voters holds millions of dollars that could be used for restoring the Klamath. Stay tuned for more...

**Chum salmon found in the Trinity** A chum salmon was found in the Willow Creek weir on the Trinity River this month. This species hasn't been seen in decades on the Trinity. Here's a picture (check out the teeth!):



**New Zealand Mud Snails** The 5th Conference on New Zealand Mud Snail in the Western USA will be held in the summer of 2007 at UC Davis. Proposed dates are the last week of June (26-28), or the middle of August. Conference organizers want to know if you are interested in attending, and if you would only be able to attend on certain dates. Please go to the New Zealand Mud Snail website, <http://www.esg.montana.edu/aim/mollusca/nzms/>, for more information.

## **FROM THE RAFFLE CHAIR**

Earlier in this newsletter you saw our club budget and you will note from the annual budget that our club earns money from only three sources: Dues, monthly raffle and the annual dinner. While we have voted to increase the monthly budget for the raffle, your donations help make the raffle more enjoyable while creating a "Schedule A" deduction for you.

Please, look through your fly fishing video or CD library, your books, flies, reels, rods, line or other equipment, and if you see something you no longer use or want, donate it to the club. Just bring your donation to the next meeting and I will gladly take it and use it at our raffle. If you tie flies, please bring me 3 to 6 flies and we will raffle those too.

On behalf of all of us, thank you for your support. - Gorgeous casts - [John Imsdahl](#)

## **And now a word from our Sponsors**

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### 2006 Angler/Wildlife Desk Calendars Club gets \$5 Donation with Purchase



Again the calendars are available from Ron Rabun at a discounted cost of \$20 including sales tax over the normal retail price of \$22.95+tax. For every Calendar sold, the Club will receive a \$5 donation. These are GREAT for everyday use, desk viewing or angler's gifts. Calendar is view by the week and includes Moon Phases, Angler Quotes and Photos from fly fishing's best photographers such as Cathy Beck and Dusan Smetana. Sign up at November meeting to reserve a calendar. Calendars will be delivered at the December meeting. Or call Ron at 800-FLY-FSHN.



### How to become a member of the Fly Fishers of Davis

Membership in the FFD requires an annual donation of \$25 for an adult/family and \$15 for individual youth/student members. Annual dues are \$25. At this rate you MUST provide an e-mail address and will receive the monthly newsletter as a PDF. If you do not have internet access and want a printed copy of the newsletter mailed to you dues is \$35. You can bring the application to the club meetings, which are held at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month in the conference room at DWR, 2727 2nd St. in Davis). For more information, contact: [John Reynolds](mailto:John.Reynolds@ffdc.org) , 530-753-2682 or [jren@dcn.org](mailto:jren@dcn.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Davis, CA. 95616 - Phone (530) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Fly fishing interest and experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Our club is only as great as its members, so please **circle one or more** of the following areas where you could share your expertise.

**Annual Picnic, Annual Dinner, Guest Speakers, Putah Creek Cleanup, Membership, Budget, Conservation, Newsletter, Communications, Outings, Marketing, Youth Programs, Salmon in the Classroom, Education.**

Please also **circle** if you would like to **teach, assist, or attend** any of our classes in **Rod building, Fly Tying, or Casting.**

**For insurance reasons, you must be a current club member to attend any of our outings**

## Fly of the Month

### Lightning Bug

### Tying Instructions



I was introduced to the by Lightning Bug by Don Childress while we were on the Deschutes River in Oregon. This is an attractor nymph that both he and Chris Miller a guide from Livingston MT find very productive. Some time spent on the internet suggests that this pattern has been quite productive and is gaining popularity. As with all productive flies, the pattern has several variations. Larry Graham of Kirkland, Washington developed the pattern in the early 1990s. In small sizes the Lightning Bug seems to work for picky fish. It is very popular on the upper Missouri. In larger sizes, it can be fished as the upper fly with a smaller nymph as the dropper. Some also suggest that it works well for steelhead in larger sizes. In essence, this fly is a bead head, flashback pheasant tail nymph with a pearlescent Mylar or flashabou body and it is a relatively easy fly to tie.

#### Pattern

**Hook:** Mustad 3906 or equivalent #12-20

**Head:** Gold, silver or tungsten bead.

**Thread:** olive 8/0

**Tail:** Pheasant tail fibers

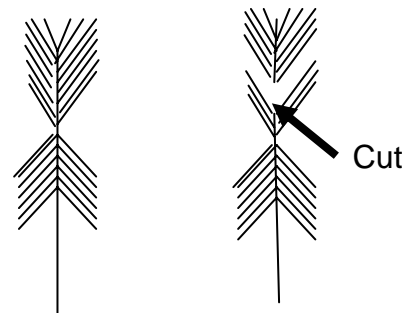
**Body:** Pearlescent Mylar or flashabou

**Rib:** Fine copper wire

**Thorax:** Peacock herl

**Hackle:** Hen

Pinch down the barb and thread on a bead for the head. On this fly do not over size the bead. Tie in the thread near the thorax position and tie in 3-6 pheasant tail fiber for a tail. Wrap the fibers down and work the thread to the tail position. Attach a length of fine copper wire and bring the thread to just behind the bead. Tie in a length of pearlescent Mylar tinsel or flashabou. Wrap the tinsel to the tail position and back to thorax. It's easier to wrap the body if the shank smooth. Wrapping the shank with tying thread helps to make the underbody smooth before you wrap the tinsel. Tie off the tinsel and leave a tag end for use as a covert (wing case). Make the thorax from a single peacock herl and tie it off just behind the bead. Prepare a small grizzly hen neck feather as the hackle. Pull the fibers near the tip back while leaving the terminal ½ inch of fibers pointing down the shaft. Cut the distal ¼ inch of the feather shaft off leaving a "V- shaped section as shown in the cartoon below. This is the same technique that is used for the hackle on a Copper John pattern.



Place the feather on top of the thorax with the fiber ends point toward the tail. Tie down the feather; pull the Mylar over the thorax and between the "V" of hackle. Tie off the Mylar, whip finish the fly behind the bead and cement the thread wraps.

Variations in this fly include using silver holographic tinsel for the body, various shades of tinsel – purple seems to work well. Pheasant rump fibers have been used for the hackle. The fly can be weighted and it looks good tied on a scud hook. The picture shown above is lightning bug tied on a size 14 Tiemco 2488 hook with a tungsten bead. Color of the bead head also varies on different versions of this fly.

## Sugar Creek Ranch

Fishing was fairly tough this Fall but several beautiful fish were caught all three days--it was a bit too close to the spawn. The nymphs under the indicator did not work well nor did the multicolored leeches or woolly buggers. Most rainbows and steelhead were taken by stripping back a nymph or on 10/12 brown top water. Daybreak was super active on the surface. As before, the middle ponds were the most productive. Big fish probably went about 20 inches. Darwyn definitely did best with his secret dark 1-1/2" minnow with a dark 2 inch leech-like tail nymph. The lodge was great--we kept well fed and comfortable; the weather was great; the Fall colors couldn't have been better; and of course the fellowship with fellow fisher people was the highlight. I look forward to doing this again in the spring. - [Donn Erickson](#)



## SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM UPDATE

Club members recently delivered salmon eggs to 18 teachers for the fall Salmon in the Classroom program. Schools in Davis, Woodland, West Sacramento, Dixon, Fairfield, and Winters are participating this fall.

Following our Club policy to gradually expand our support of the Salmon in the Classroom program, we sponsored 3 new teachers for the required in-service training provided by the Department of Fish and Game at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery in October. We followed that by supplying new aquariums, chillers, and accessories to those teachers. Thanks again go to Jim Wirth who spearheads and coordinates this effort, supported by Adney Bowker providing new setups.

As always, volunteers are welcome. We are looking ahead now to steelhead eggs being delivered sometime in late January or early February, 2007, so please let [Adney Bowker](#) know if you are interested in helping with set-ups or egg delivery.

Our apologies to those members who responded to Lowell Ashbaugh's request for help in delivering eggs November 8, but who were not contacted with the necessary information. We will endeavor to do better, and let everyone know where and when.

### Nice Steelie Brian



Here is a picture of the 5 lb (guide's estimate) Steelhead I caught on the October lower Sacramento float trip. - [Brian Bechtold](#)

### And Late but not Least A Klamath-Trinity Success Story

August 30<sup>th</sup> found members Cary Boyden, Bobber Beverlin, Warren Caldwell, Steve Sherman, Jim Wright and Donn Erickson on the Klamath River, on the Yurok Indian Reservation near Orrick after a 7 hour drive. The 3 jet boats in-tow were soon on the water and speeding us to the old fishing holes. Alas, the steelhead were not very cooperative, so we did the usual: enjoyed our campsite right on the edge of the water, watched the beautiful panorama before us, told stories, ate great food prepared on-site and drank some pretty good margaritas. Then it was off to sleep in the campers to dream about tomorrow.

The river had changed dramatically since last year and the fishing Thursday and Friday was slow, though we did get into a few schools of half-pounders, which were great fun on 4 and 5 wt rods. We used fast and medium sink-tips swinging mainly silver Hiltons and brindles in 8-10. We also did some nymph fishing under an indicator and even some topwater. Again, alas, fishing was slow and we packed up camp and drove to Lewiston (River Oaks Resort) to try our luck on the Trinity.

The Trinity was HOT and everyone caught lots of fish. We got into the fish right by camp, below the bridge and near the hatchery. Where the pipe comes out of the hatchery the fish were stacked up with 30 visible at a time. This time we swung 10-12 green or brown wooly buggers with sink-tips, 16-18 bead-head nymphs under indicators, and even top water. All fish were 11-14 inch rainbows except a half pounder caught by Steve, a 14 inch brown Donn caught and another nice brown Cary landed.

Cary was again the catch-champ and owes his fortune to jigging the line on the swing, keeping on the move, and just a heck of a lot of experience, which he generously shared. The August Klamath/Trinity trip was another successful and wonderful FFD expedition.

- [Donn Erickson](#)

### Would you fish with these old FOGIES?



### Our heads were in the McClouds







## ----- Outings Report -----

There have been several trips since the last meeting, hopefully each of which is separately reported on elsewhere in this edition. And coming up are the Putah Cleanup and Amador's breakfast extravaganza. Early reports indicate there will be a large supply of fish with rounded tails only recently released from their raising pens to chase. Perhaps we will have some bigger catches than in recent times. For members thinking of going to Amador who have not been before, there is a fee to fish and launch and something that floats is necessary. Also do not expect pristine conditions. All that being said, the breakfast gathering is always a great deal of fun and the fish can be both large (up to 6-7 pounds) and good fighters.

Signups continue for the first several months of 2007 at upcoming meetings. The Feather January steelie trip is contingent on better conditions than have prevailed the last few years. A new trip, Baum Lake is slated for February after the annual dinner. The actual timing will be weather dependent. This trip involves camping and will also require something that floats. No gas engines are allowed, but the ramp is large enough easily to accommodate a pram, drift boat or 12-16 foot runabout propelled by an electric trolling motor. The usual trout flies like buggers work, but the greatest success seems to be with small midge patterns (16 on down), with candy canes having been my favorite. The fish tend to be 12-16 inches, both bows and browns, but there are some very large holdovers that occasionally show up. We had a trip there last year for the first time, and it was definitely a place all of us wanted to try again.

- [Cary Boyden](#)

### New Members Corner

Please welcome our newest members [Earl Booth](#), [Ron & Sara Ringen](#) & [Jim Lawson](#) who joined at our last club meeting.

### 2007 OUTING SCHEDULE (tentative dates)

TRIP	FISH	DATES	FISHMEISTER	Comments/Fees
Delta	Stripers	Nov 4 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Jim Humphrey</a> 707-678-2149	
Pyramid	Cutthroat	Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Jon Knapp</a> 530-756-9056	
Putah Creek clean-up	Garbage	Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">John Reynolds</a> 530-753-2682	WOW! FREE FOOD!
Amador/Trout	Trout	Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<a href="#">Cary Boyden</a> 530-753-3826	12 <sup>th</sup> or 16 <sup>th</sup> (rainout dates)
Upper Klamath	Steelhead	Dec 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Cary Boyden</a> 530-753-3826	\$150 plus tip
Feather River	Steelhead	Jan	<a href="#">Cary Boyden</a> 530-753-3826	
Trinity	Steelhead	Jan 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Cary Boyden</a> 530-753-3826	\$150-160 plus tip
Baum Lake	Trout	Feb	<a href="#">Cary Boyden</a> 530-753-3826	
Redding Sacramento	Trout	Mar 17 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Cary Boyden</a> 530-753-3826	\$150-160 plus tip
Iron Canyon	Trout	Apr	<a href="#">Cary Boyden</a> 530-753-3826	
Pyramid	Cutthroat	Apr	<a href="#">Jon Knapp</a> 530-756-9056	
Payne's Ranch	Bass	May	<a href="#">John Reynolds</a> 530-753-2682	
McCloud	Trout	May	<a href="#">Gene Gantt</a> 707-451-3262	
Shad	Shad	May	<a href="#">Cary Boyden</a> 530-753-3826	
Frenchman Lake	Trout	Jun	<a href="#">Cary Boyden</a> 530-753-3826	
Fuller Lake	Trout	Jun	<a href="#">John Daniels</a> 530-750-3511	
Lewiston	Trout	Jul	<a href="#">Cary Boyden</a> 530-753-3826	
Backpacking OF	Trout	Aug 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Tom Burton</a> 707-678-3850	
Sierra Lake	Trout	Aug	<a href="#">Tom Burton</a> 707-678-3850	
Backpacking	Trout	Aug/Sep	<a href="#">Tom Burton</a> 707-678-3850	
Klamath	Half Pounders	Aug/Sep	<a href="#">Cary Boyden</a> 530-753-3826	
McCloud	Trout	Sep	<a href="#">Gene Gantt</a> 707-451-3262	
Klamath	Half Pounders	Oct	<a href="#">Cary Boyden</a> 530-753-3826	
Payne's Ranch	Bass	Oct	<a href="#">John Reynolds</a> 530-753-2682	
Redding/Sacramento	Trout & Steelhead	Oct	<a href="#">Cary Boyden</a> 530-753-3826	\$150-160 plus tip
Delta	Stripers	Oct/Nov	<a href="#">Jim Humphrey</a> 707-678-2149	
Pyramid	Cutthroat	Nov/Dec	<a href="#">Jon Knapp</a> 530-756-9056	

**Officers, Directors and Committees**

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Secretary	<a href="#">Bob Beverlin</a>	530-753-6805
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Picnic Chair	<a href="#">John Forsyth</a>	530-750-1192.
Video Library	<a href="#">John Reynolds</a>	530-753-2682

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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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Our policy is to deliver the e-newsletter via email OR you may download it from the FFD website at: <http://www.dcn.davis.ca.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](#)".

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