

The Fisherman's Line

Our next meeting is at 7:30 on Tuesday May 28th

**Fly Fishing the Truckee/Tahoe Area and Beyond
By Rob Anderson**



For May, Rob Anderson of the Reno Fly Shop will present a discussion of fly fishing destinations in the Truckee/Tahoe area. Rob will focus on the traditional fly fishing waters of his area, as well as some of the often overlooked gems of Nevada. He is also planning on discussing the excellent fishing available on the Reno Fly Shop's private waters in Nevada as well as California, including some new opportunities that will be available for the first time in 2007.

Rob has been with the Reno Fly Shop for more than eight years and is well known for his knowledge of the regional waters. A guide and a talented fly tier, Rob is probably best known for his excellent program on Pyramid Lake which he has presented at numerous clubs, including the FFD, as well as regional shows such as the International Sportsmen's Exposition in Sacramento, and the Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton/San Rafael. Undoubtedly this program will appeal to those new to fly fishing the Truckee/Tahoe region, as well as those who know the area well.

Prez Says

At Kiene's Fly Fishing Expo last month several people came up to our booth asking about programs for kids. That's something I've thought about for several years now. Our kid's programs have declined a bit ever since Jim White retired and moved north. We certainly welcome kids in the club (parents, too) and offer a number of programs they could take part in. We teach fly tying and rod building, and hold a casting clinic every spring (just a couple of weeks ago, in fact). But there's more we could do and I'd like to find people to help. If you're interested, please let me know! - [Lowell Ashbaugh](#)

And now a few words from our Sponsors



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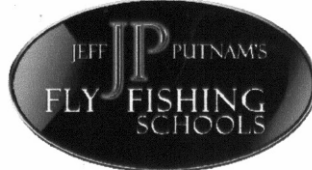
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Membership

Please welcome our new and returning members: Dana Hooper, Larry Stark, John Goss, Kurt Arens, and Wes Yates. - [John Reynolds](#)

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](#) , 530-753-2682 or jreyn@dcn.org – **Membership Chair**

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

From the CONSERVATION DESK

By [Lowell Ashbaugh](#)

Klamath Tribal leaders confront Buffett Members of California's three largest Indian Tribes and allies from commercial fishing and conservation groups demonstrated last month at the Berkshire Hathaway shareholder meeting, known as the Woodstock of Capitalism. The group is demanding the removal of four Klamath Dams owned by Berkshire subsidiary PacifiCorp. Two members of the coalition asked questions directly to Buffett and his partner Charles Munger before a crowd of 27,000 shareholders. In response the normally polished Buffett fumbled through papers to read a written response. Instead of taking responsibility for his company's actions, Buffett stated that regulators such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission would decide the issue. Buffett declined to acknowledge that the Tribes are seeking a negotiated settlement with the company as is common in dam relicensing proceedings. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the California Energy Commission have reported that dam removal is cheaper than relicensing even if the energy lost is replaced by other carbon neutral energy sources.

In a separate action, American Indian and commercial fishing interests filed suit against Pacificorp alleging its operation of the dams warms water and accentuates toxic algae blooms, which have crushed the river's fisheries and pose a serious threat to public health.

Delta Pumping Permit Endangered The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is supposed to protect endangered species, ignored information that showed the Delta smelt population crashed to its lowest level before approving a plan to increase water pumping out of the Delta. By disregarding that information, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed farms and cities across the state to take water that was needed to help prevent the fish from going extinct, environmentalists contend. As I reported last month, Judge Oliver Wanger ruled that the State Water Project is operating illegally because it lacks smelt and salmon permits required under the state's endangered species law.

Opponents of pumping appeared to gain ground with this latest charge in their attempt to overturn a critically important permit that allows massive water-delivery projects near Tracy to operate, even though the pumps kill endangered smelt. In a separate lawsuit, they also are challenging a permit to kill salmon.

Lawyers for state and federal water agencies contend the permit is valid and should be upheld. The state's plan to avert the shutdown is to get a determination from the state Department of Fish and Game that the federal endangered species permits are sufficient. But Fish and Game officials, who have said it will be difficult to endorse the federal permits because of widely acknowledged flaws, will have an even harder time if the federal permit is struck down.

Pumping questioned State water officials inquired four years ago about getting approval to kill imperiled fish at the massive water pumps near Tracy, according to internal government e-

mails obtained by the Contra Costa Times. The department, which insists it has the legal authority it needs, nevertheless was making inquiries about getting a state endorsement as early as 2003, indicating that officials knew there was a possibility they could run afoul of the California Endangered Species Act.

Truckee River Action Needed Trent Pridemore sent the following appeal for help. I forwarded it to the FFD Conservation email list for action. If you'd like a copy of the letter, go to <http://www2.dcn.org/mailman/listinfo/ffd-conservation> to join the group. I promise you won't get a lot of mail – just a few important notices each month.

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Angle:

Tahoe Truckee Fly Fishers and Gold Country Fly Fishers as well as the Northern California Council of Fly Fishing Clubs and concerned citizens of Nevada and Placer Counties worked hard for protective angling regulations instituted this year on the Truckee River below the town of Truckee. We felt that we considered all anglers, while accomplishing our goal of protecting large spawning fish. We simplified angling regulations for all from the town of Truckee to the Nevada State line.

Opposition has risen that wants to overturn these new regulations. Help us support this decision by California Fish and Game and the California Fish and Game Commission. Please download a copy of the Word Attachment letter supporting their decision. Snail or e-mail Mail as many copies as possible directly to The Commission. The hearings are the first week in June. Act Now. Forward this material as wide and far as possible to anglers who understand the need for protection. Take it to your clubs, show it to your friends. Stand up for what is right for the resource! Be a Power!

You can use my letter and add a line or two in longhand as a personal matter. This is not a fly fishing issue. It is a way of giving needed protection to a fish population that is receiving increasing pressure from all directions. Please give us the support we need in our back yard. I need thousands of letters!!! E-mails to California Fish and Commission work also: www.fgc@fgc.ca.gov. I'm working the street corners, the grocery store tables and the neighbors on this one. Stand up for your sport!!!! Addresses Follow:

<http://www.fgc@fgc.ca.gov>, California Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

For The Fish,

Trent R. Pridemore

California Game Wardens Foundation I've reported before that the California Department of Fish and Game is suffering from a chronic shortage of wardens. The state now has fewer wardens than it had decades ago, even though the population of the state has grown dramatically. Two major reasons for this are low pay and dangerous working conditions. The Pacific Coast Flyrodders have raised over \$2000 to support the California Game Wardens Foundation. Go to <http://www.californiagamewardensfoundation.org/> to learn all

about CGWF. I'll report on more ways you can help protect California's fish and game resources in future columns.

Fish stocking under review A Sacramento Superior Court Judge ordered the Department of Fish and Game to review the environmental effects of stocking rainbow trout in the state's lakes and rivers. The review may result in reducing or eliminating stocking in some waters, in particular those areas that have suffered population drops in sensitive native fish and amphibians. DFG has argued its fish stocking program is exempt from environmental review – this ruling counters that view.

Conservation News From FFF

Many of you wonder what the Federation of Fly Fishers does for us. On behalf of its member clubs, including the Fly Fishers of Davis, here's a sampling of what they've been doing on the conservation front recently. Visit <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/> to learn more.

Positions & Letters:

- Provided testimony in support of Montana Legislation regarding stream access at bridge points.
- Submitted letter to senators to protect the Wild and Scenic Rogue River, Oregon with the purchase of a historic private in holding with an appropriation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- Submitted comments to the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Upper Yellowstone Special Area Management Plan (SAMP). This is the first time the Corps has written a SAMP for a water body in Montana, and the first time the Corps has written a SAMP for a river anywhere in the United States. It could dictate national projects in the future.
- Submitted letter to members of Congress and the US Forest Service on the development a land management plan for the Tongass National Forest in Alaska that protects the remaining road-free areas in the Tongass, maintains current environmental and regulatory safeguards, and sustainable timber program using the existing road system.
- Participated in advertisement addressing charge that opponents to the Pebble Mine proposal in Alaska were Un-Alaskan and Un-American.
- Joined sign on letter submitted to members Congress urging the support of comprehensive legislation to fight the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species.
- Joined sign on letter submitted to grassroots coalitions in Wyoming that protect the WY Range and work for

responsible energy development.

- Submitted comments to the Bureau of Land Management on the Montana Statewide Oil and Gas Environmental Impact Statement and Amendment of the Powder River and Billing Resource Management Plans.

Conservation Committee Activities:

- Held Conservation Committee meeting April 12th to determine grant recipients. Reviewed two proposals and funds for "Trout in the Classroom" in California and "Hydrodynamics of trout and habitat study" in New York were recommended by the committee.

Staff Activities and Program Updates:

- Secured an additional internship position for the FFF for the summer of 2007. This marketing intern will help promote conservation, conclave and education.
- Submitted one grant proposal to fund coastal conservation programs.
- Finalized new freshwater Catch and Release brochure to be available in July 2007.
- Provided editorial review on the "rough guide" to didymo field identification for the EPA.
- Joined the advisory committee for the MT Legislative Sportsman's Caucus.
- Converted and created conservation materials for the new FFF site.
- Contacted 35 fly fishing magazines and 12 industry leaders in fly fishing equipment to take a partner pledge in the Clean Angling and Boating Pledge campaigns.
- Participated in numerous conference calls as part of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Fish, Wildlife and Energy working group, Endangered Species Coalition, and Sportsmen for Energy Issues.

Legal Affairs:

Monday April 9th - The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the Bush Administration's salmon plan for dam operations on the Columbia and Snake rivers. The appellate court upheld a lower court ruling that the plan was illegal because is filed to comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This decision should compel the federal agencies to look at all recovery options – including removing dams. The Federation of Fly Fishers is a plaintiff in this case.

Fly of the Month

By [Bob Zasoski](#)



The Pheasant Tail Soft Hackle # 14

Soft Hackle flies have been around for a long time and they continue to be a very effective fly, as a recent club outing to Baum Lake will testify. The soft hackle fly is tied to imitate insects changing from a larva or pupa to a winged adult. Most soft hackle patterns are easy to tie. Different hook weights will allow you to fish this fly deeper or in the surface film.

Hook: Heavy, standard or light wire in standard lengths. Size 10-18.

Thread: To match body, black, brown or tan in this case, 6/0 or 8/0.

Tail: none (optional few pheasant tail fibers)

Body: Pheasant tail fibers

Rib: copper wire

Thorax: Dark dubbing, or peacock herl.

Hackle: Partridge flank.

Tying Instructions:

Debarb the hook and start the thread near the tail position. Tie in a length of copper wire followed by pheasant tail fibers. Tie in the pheasant tail fibers by the tips. Wrap a body with the pheasant tail fibers about 2/3 the way up the shank. Rib the body by counter wrapping the wire in even segments up to the 2/3 point. At the 2/3 point, dub a thorax leaving sufficient room to tie in and wrap a hackle plus a thread head. The partridge hackle should be sparse. Striping one side of the feather will produce a sparser fly. Tie in the tip first and wind the hackle forward. Finish the head with half hitches or a whip finish and apply head cement.

A variation in color can be achieved by using dyed pheasant tail. Bleached pheasant tail results in a lighter colored body. Hen hackle is an alternative soft hackle. The hackle feather can be tied in by the tip and wound as described above or the hackle can be tied in by the stem base and wound by grasping the tip. Stroking the hackle fibers with the scissors to fold them back before wrapping will help control the fibers. Often, the fibers on packaged partridge or grouse hackle are too long for small flies. If you plan on tying smaller soft hackle flies, it

pays to invest in a whole neck. Alternatively, you can tie in and wind the hackle at about the half-way point of the shank. Pull the fibers forward over the eye tie and tie them down with a few wraps of thread. Be sure the fibers are distributed around the shank. Now, tie the fly as usual and fold the hackle back over the fly and tie it down as the last step. You could also apply the hackle as a beard and/ or distribute the fiber around the shank.

Variations for the pheasant tail soft hackle



Version II –Plus ostrich thorax

Hook: Heavy, standard or light wire in standard lengths. Size 10-18.

Thread: To match body, 6/0 or 8/0.

Tail: Pheasant tail fibers

Body: Pheasant tail fibers wrapped.

Rib: copper wire

Thorax: Ostrich herl over dubbed thorax

Hackle: Partridge or hen hackle



Version III – deep water version

Hook: Heavy wire in standard lengths. Size 10-18.

Thread: To match body, 6/0 or 8/0.

Body: Pheasant tail

Rib: Copper wire

Thorax: glass or metal bead sized for the hook.

Hackle: Partridge or hen hackle

Whales Hog Media Attention while Smelt Perish

Two wayward whales in the Delta have dominated media attention over the past couple of weeks, while the fate of the Delta Smelt has been ignored by all, including state and federal agencies responsible for protecting them. The whales' journey is insignificant in the larger ecological sense, but the Smelt are a harbinger of the fate of the Delta. Virtually no media have paid any attention to the plight of the Delta while they've devoted pages and pages to the whales. This is simply inexcusable! I've lifted the following from Hank Shaw's blog at recordnet.com. - [Lowell Ashbaugh](#)

Water Wars: Adios, smelt

(From Hank Shaw's blog)

The state Department of Fish & Game just released their latest [Delta smelt survey](#) and the results are depressing: The scientists found the little fish in only six places (out of 36) and found no more than seven in any one place (actually they found no more than an average of 7.49 in three tries) To put this in perspective, the average results from the May test from 2000-2006 found smelt in 20 places for an average of 173 fish. This is a staggering, possibly fatal drop in population.

Here are the full results:

2000 - 23 places, highest reading 175.16
2001 - 18 places, 342.62
2002 - 17 places, 91.83
2003 - 24 places, 32.98
2004 - 15 places, 123.82
2005 - 26 places, 106.12
2006 - 21 places, 341.92
2007 - 6 places, 7.49

Why does this matter? Well, Delta smelt are viewed as the best indicator of the environmental health of the estuary as a whole. Population levels of striped bass and king salmon are also declining. But it's even bigger than that. Smelt populations are the subject of a lawsuit surrounding the gigantic water pumps outside Tracy that supply water from the Delta to 25 million Californians. The plaintiff argues that the smelt's near-extinction are the fault of these pumps, and indeed, their crash coincides with increased pumping. The state argues that the pumps are only one reason for the decline. Both are probably right, but to what extent remains to be seen.

Bottom line: This smelt survey is so scary it could spark emergency action, which could translate into less water for Southern California -- in a dry year.

----- Outings Report -----

Reflecting the cancellation of the Payne ranch and Pyramid trips, there are no new outings to discuss this month. Signups for the May meeting will again focus on the October Sac trip as June will be, practically speaking, the last time to register for that trip. Moving to intervening trips: for those who will go shad fishing, we will meet at the usual locale of the Big 5 lot and have dinner afterwards. Road 48 is the likely destination, depending on the results of pre-fishing earlier in the week. Members signing up will be contacted early in the week to confirm plans and attendance.

The Davis trip may actually be ok based on early reports and thus not require or suggest side trips to Frenchman. This should be the last year of Pike Lake (knock on wood), and in 2008 we hopefully will be back to spectacular explosions on the surface of hordes of trout chasing "swimmers," as damsel nymphs are called. Also in June John Daniels will be hosting a Fuller Lake trip, which typically results in many fish if not necessarily large ones. And we are all reserved for Poison Oak Hollow (River Oaks Resort camping area for those who did not experience the reason for the nickname) starting Thursday, July 12 (not the 15th as once noted on the website). Signups are as usual strong for this trip, but there is plenty of space available for interested members. Usually this is the best combination of fishing and socializing we have with pot lucks both Thursday and Friday and a group dinner Saturday at the hotel. - [Cary Boyden](#)

2007 OUTING SCHEDULE (tentative dates)

| TRIP | FISH | DATES | FISHMEISTER | Comments/Fees |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Trinity | Steelhead | Jan 8 th - 9 th | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | \$150 + tip (per day) |
| Baum Lake | Trout | Mar 2 nd - 4 th | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | |
| Redding Sacramento | Trout | Mar 17 th | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | \$150 + tip |
| Iron Canyon | Trout | Mar 30 th - Apr 1 st | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | |
| Payne Ranch - (overnight) | Bass | Apr 30 th - May 1 st | Donn Erickson 707-718-7724 | CANCELLED - Low H2O |
| Shad | Shad | May 25 th | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | |
| Payne Ranch | Bass | May 26 th | John Reynolds 530-753-2682 | CANCELLED - Low H2O |
| Frenchman Lake | Trout | Jun 1 st - 3 rd | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | |
| McCloud | Trout | June 8 th - 10 th | Gene Gantt 707-451-3262 | |
| Loreto, Baja, Mexico | Dorado / Sailfish | Jun 24 th - 28 th | Donn Erickson 707-718-7724 | \$90 down by Feb 15 th |
| Fuller Lake | Trout | Jun 30 th | John Daniels 530-750-3511 | |
| Lewiston | Trout | Jul 12 th - 15 th | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | |
| Annual Picnic | Stories | Jul 31 st | Lowell Ashbaugh 530-758-6722 | |
| Old Fogies - Backpack | Trout | Aug 10 th - 12 th | Tom Burton 707-678-3850 | |
| Sierra Lake - Backpack | Trout | Aug 18 th | Tom Burton 707-678-3850 | |
| High Country - Backpack | Trout | Aug 22 nd - 25 th | Tom Burton 707-678-3850 | |
| Klamath | Half Pounders | Aug 29 th - Sep 1 st | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | Limited Space |
| Payne Ranch | Bass | Sep 22 nd | John Reynolds 530-753-2682 | CANCELLED - No H2O |
| McCloud | Trout | Sep 28 th - 30 th | Gene Gantt 707-451-3262 | |
| Klamath | Half Pounders | Oct 5 th - 7 th | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | Very Tentative |
| Redding/Sacramento | Trout & Steelhead | Oct 13 th | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | \$150 + tip |
| Delta | Stripers | Oct/Nov | Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149 | |
| Trinity - or - Klamath | Steelhead | Nov 29 th - 30 th | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | \$150 + tip (per day) |
| Pyramid | Cutthroat | Nov/Dec | Jon Knapp 530-756-9056 | |

Officers, Directors and Committees

| | | |
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| President: | Lowell Ashbaugh | 530-758-6722 |
| Vice President | Tom Burton | 707-678-3850 |
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| | Jeremy Kidwell | 408-507-8338 |
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| | Donn Erickson | 707-718-7724 |
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| Youth Programs | Adney Bowker | 530-758-2674 |
| Video Library | John Reynolds | 530-753-2682 |

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 The Fly Fishers of Davis
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The Fly Fishers of Davis (FFD) is a non-Profit 501.C.4 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 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:rcbeverlin@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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