

Fly Fishers of Davis<http://www.FlyFishersofDavis.org>

Volume 52 Issue 7

The Fisherman's Line

**July Meeting, Tuesday July 25, 2023
7:30 pm @ Stonegate Country Club
Captain Jason Thatcher presents:
Fly Fishing The "Other" Lower Sac**

This month, Tuesday July 25, 2023, the Fly Fishers of Davis will hear from Captain Jason Thatcher, who will discuss Fly Fishing the "other" Lower Sac. Most anglers who are familiar with fishing the lower Sac immediately think of the iconic sundial bridge, the fly shop, and Redding. What many anglers are unaware of is that there are many more miles of river below Anderson and Redding that hold populations of trout and steelhead.



The scenery is better, the traffic is reduced (or more accurately non-existent), and the fishing is GOOD. There is life below Redding!



Jason Thatcher is a full-time river guide with the River Pursuit Guide Service out of Red Bluff, CA. Jason is a retired Deputy Sheriff and is on the Board of Directors of Norcal Guides and Sportman's Association. Jason is the Founder and President of Blue Line Outdoors and has had his guide license since 2002. Jason is also a USCG licensed Captain.



THE PREZ SEZ

Howdy Y'all,

I have it on good authority that the annual picnic was a huge success. I was not there because I was chasing tarpon and other finned critters willing to play. We had a great trip and I can attest that Florida in July is a veritable freezer. Oh wait that's Antarctica. Florida, where we were, was a bit steamy.

I will be absent this month as well. I will be on the club trip to the Umpqua for smallies. This is a real blast. I highly recommend for the future if you haven't been.

The fishing season seems to be racing by and just starting at the same time. It's the middle of July with several big trips in, and yet some of the places we fish in the sierras are still snowed in. The opportunities for the second half of the season are wide open.

Get out there and be about it. A day fishing is never a day wasted.

Andan Bailey



MEETING SCHEDULE

The meeting schedule has been tentatively set for the next few months. Peter Hawes is the program chair - let him know if you like the program speakers or if you have ideas for one at programs@flyfishersofdavis.org

| Fly Fishers of Davis 2023 Meeting Schedule | | | |
|--|----------------|---------|-------|
| MONTH | SPEAKER | DATE | TOPIC |
| July | Jason Thatcher | July 25 | Jason |

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DETAILS

Website Members: If you signed up for membership on the new FFD website, you will get an email in the late December/early January timeframe with your renewal details. No need to go to the website before that, so please wait for your renewal information email.

Website Non-members: If you're an FFD member, but you did not sign up on the website and you wish to renew your Membership, please stop by the membership table at our next in-person general meeting, and pay your dues with check, cash, or credit card for 2022. You can also send a renewal check to Fly Fishers of Davis, P.O. box 525, Davis, CA, 95617.

Note: our preferred method is for website non-members to become website members, by signing up on the website!

Dues for adults and families are still \$30/year, and the student rate is \$15/year. Your dues help to fund almost all club activities — including our superb array of guest speakers, outings, the annual picnic, fly casting and fly tying clinics, our amazing FFD 101 classes, Salmon in the Classroom, and best of all, our contributions to numerous outreach, education And conservation organizations.

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support!



Fly Fishers of Davis is now on Facebook! Like Us and Follow Us to get the Latest updates on Club Events and other News.

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CONSERVATION REPORT

By Lowell Ashbaugh

Conservation Mailing List Want to keep up on conservation issues in between newsletters? Join the FFD Conservation Google Group list. Click [here](#) for instructions on how to join, and search for “FFD-Conservation”. Or send an email to Ashbaugh.lowell@gmail.com with your request.

Note: If you’d like to try your hand at writing a conservation column, please let me know. I’d like to find someone to start taking over this role. I’ll help get you started.

The first of the Klamath Dams is out! The deconstruction of Copco No. 2, the smallest of the four hydroelectric dams being removed from the Klamath River, is nearly complete. Last month crews removed the gates, walkway, and two of the five bays down to the spillway. This work was done to direct waters around the dam, rather than



Photo courtesy Klamath River Renewal Corporation. Image copyright Swiftwater Productions.

over it, allowing construction crews to do work through the summer months.

“While this is just the first step, it certainly is an exciting moment,” said Mark Bransom, CEO of the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRRC). “Crews are making fast progress in these early stages of the project, and we are on track with our removal timeline.”

Crews placed around 10 feet of rock on either side of the dam in order to reach the gates and bays for deconstruction. Much of the Copco No. 2 infrastructure remains in place below this rock surface. Deconstruction of this dam will continue

through the summer, with final decommissioning and complete removal occurring sometime in September.

“We are pleased that we were able to make so much progress this week,” noted Dan Petersen, Kiewit’s Project Manager overseeing the removal of Copco No. 2 “But removing Copco No. 2 is still not a done deal. We expect to officially wrap up this phase of the dam removal project sometime in September.”

The other three dams, Iron Gate, Copco No. 1, and JC Boyle are expected to be removed next year, beginning with the drawdown of the reservoirs in January of 2024. Their incremental deconstruction will continue throughout the year, with construction



Photo courtesy Klamath River Renewal Corporation. Image copyright Swiftwater Productions.

activities expected to conclude sometime in late 2024.

Natural methods provide excellent conservation measures, as illustrated by a few recent observations. First, the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, or TERC, reported that the clarity of Lake Tahoe has increased to the best it’s been in about four decades, and attributed it to the

return of zooplankton (Daphnia and Bosmina) that graze on the phytoplankton that are a huge contributor to reduced clarity. The phytoplankton had increased due to the introduction of Mysis shrimp, which eat zooplankton, in the 1960s. In late 2021, the population of Mysis shrimp crashed, allowing the zooplankton population to increase. You can read more details at [Maven's Notebook](#).

Second, Central Valley salmon migrating toward the ocean once grew up in vast river floodplains. Today most of those floodplains are gone but the flood control bypasses on the Sacramento River can provide a useful substitute. We've heard from Trout Unlimited in the past about this effort to provide for salmon, and a recent study has shown the bypasses provide tremendous growth opportunities for salmon. There's an excellent story about it at [Maven's Notebook](#) (again). One of the important findings

is that about 30% of the young salmon reared in the flooded bypasses make to the ocean. In drought years, very few of the young salmon make it the sea, but the bypass provides protection and food so the fish grow quickly and can better escape predation.

Finally, Felicia Marcus, former director of the Department of Water Resources and currently the William C. Landreth Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's Water in the West Program, talked about how states could use nature to combat climate change. She recently conducted a study of nature-based solutions, such as restoring beaver habitat to enhance water supplies, reduce the severity of forest fires, and sequester carbon, in Colorado River Basin states. Results of this study, which has not been peer-reviewed, have been released as a report and briefs [published](#) on Water in the West. You can read the full story at [Maven's Notebook](#) (!). The takeaway is that nature-based solutions represent a largely untapped opportunity for state climate policy leaders to achieve multiple benefits for people and ecosystems while fortifying the fight against climate change.

Next month I hope to have permission from the authors to reprint an excellent commentary on the Delta Tunnels, and I'm trying to compile some comments on the Sites Reservoir. I'm working with a group of interested persons on protesting the Sites Reservoir, and I should be able to provide some good reasoning on why it is not a good idea.



FFD Events: 2023 FFD Annual Picnic

Photos by Tom Robinson and Bob Beverlin and Summary by Tom Robinson

It was another fabulous Fly Fishers of Davis Annual Picnic. The weather cooperated, we had a great turnout, and the main course and side dishes were wonderful. I heard plenty of summer plans and fish stories and the 2023 Addled Angler Award went to my good friend Son Chong. All in all it was a great evening with friends.









Sacramento, The Crest Theatre

Saturday, August 5th, 2:00 PM

FFD Travels: Rio Viento on the Sherman Island Levee

Photos and Summary by Bob Beverlin

Bobber's Excellent Adventure

As many FFD members know, I camp for a week at Rio Viento on the Sherman Island Levee. This was my fourth adventure. There were six fishermen signed up, some old, some new. My plan is to annually repeat this outing during the second or third week in July. A sign-up sheet, listing each day, will be available prior to each adventure on a first come basis.



We launched every day at 6am from the Sacramento County Park ramp at the end of the road, where camping is available. The winds, tides and temps were in our favor, but not always the case. I've included select comments and photos from club members below. Please enjoy. Bobber



Don't tie your hats down, boys - the wind will rip your head off! That's what I heard on my first sailing trip to go past Sherman Island. Torn sails, broken fittings, grown men cowering in terror. Many years later, the wind is still there, except now we go out in little boats and fish. I was privileged to venture out twice last week, with Bobber. He has a program where he takes out people who don't usually have an opportunity to fish this water. Luckily for me, he had an opening on Monday, and another on Saturday. Both days, we had good luck with the stripers. Out on Big Break, they have a wildly varying menu as to size - some grip'n'grin photo size, and some little guys that amaze you with their aggressiveness and strength. And even when it's slow, we see eagles, otters, our competitors the sea lions, and birds of all descriptions. And at the launch ramp, there are usually raccoons panhandling for a bit of your lunch. Here's the takeaway: if Bobber invites you to fish at Sherman, drop everything and go. Jim Lawson



On Wednesday July 12, 2023 Bobber decided to take me striper fishing. We launched "Tin Can V" at Sherman Lake Launch at 6am and crossed to the San Joaquin river side, passed under the Antioch Bridge and entered the Big Break. I should point out at this time that the weather was clear and the wind was between hurricane and much worse. We fished for the first hour without much luck until the tide changed. Bobber then positioned us facing us to cast into hurricane force winds as the boat drifted with the wind and tide. We were casting small green Clousers and started whacking them. They were small as seen in the pic but much fun. Bobber was high rod and was a better caster into the wind than I was. We decided to head back around 11:30 so Bobber set the throttle 100 knots per hr. and proceeded to soak me through all my clothes. If you have never striper fished with Bob I highly recommend you go with him. He sure knows how the catch stripers. I had an outstanding outing with him. Thank you Bobber. I should be dry by tomorrow. Tom Burton

A Delta Ride with the Bobber

As I drove down the levee road to the entrance of the boat launch, the wind was howling, and the wind surfers were having a great time, and the Sacramento River was as rough as it could be. Called the Bobber and he was at the ramp, and he said: "Let's go give it a try!" So we launched his boat and began going slowly through the rough water. It was still windy when we made it to "Big Break." We started fishing and the Bobber caught a nice striper right off. He caught several more while I was changing flies to find one that would work. He gave me one of his special flies, and I caught a few small stripers. A strange thing happened: The wind began to die down!! Never happens, Right!! Then the tide turned, and the bite was off!! So, we had a snack and waited for the tide to turn. When it did, we started catching fish!! Mostly little guys, but there were many times when we both had hookups at the same time, and several times we would both catch a fish for every cast!! After a dozen fish or more, we lost track of the numbers, as we were having a great time, pulling fish out of this good sized school in this area of the Big Break. So, we went back to the top and went through the school of fish again, and again, and again!! After about two hours, the bite went away, and we decided to call it a day. How many fish? I don't know, but we caught a lot!! Two pretty good sized fish decided that they wanted my fly, so I lost them and spent some time tying on new flies. When we got back to the dock, the wind surfers I talked to were unhappy because the wind had almost gone away.



Later, as I drove home I saw a lot of wind machines near Rio Vista, standing idle. Too bad for power generation, but great for fishing!! Jack Norlyn

Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International News

By Mark Rockwell, President, June 2023

Yuba Fest 2023 is Coming September 30th



Mark your Calendars!

It is with great pleasure I announce that the Northern California Council, FFI will be having **Yuba Fest on Saturday, September 30th** at Sycamore Ranch Park on the Lower Yuba River. It's the same location as last year, and it will be more fun!

We will be starting a bit earlier - 9 a.m. and running until 6:30 p.m. the agenda for the day includes:

- Great casting instruction by Russ Carpenter & Sarah Trenchel and their team from Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club. Fly Casting Skills instruction & testing will be done, as well as beginner & above teaching.
- Clay Hash will teach 2 courses - Fly Fishing 101 and how to fish the Lower Yuba River. Something for the beginner as well as seasoned angler.
- We'll have Gary Bard teaching fly fishing knots for kids and fishers.
- We'll have a rigging table to learn how to rig all the different set-ups for different fishing situations.
- Raffle & silent auction of great fly fishing equipment & flies
- Fly Fishing Learning Center - What makes rivers and fish tick!
- Several local guides will attend to answer questions and set up trips. Pick their brains on fishing and our rivers.
- Entomology By Ken Davis and Laurie Banks. We're hoping they will do a 1-2 hour presentation on bugs and their activities so it will be easier to catch the fish that feed on them.
- We'll have many conservation groups attending to both inform and talk about fishery restoration in our Northern California region

- We'll have some of the best fly tyers in our region to both demonstrate & teach
- Great BBQ lunch available as well as many types of drinks
- Women Connect will have a booth and we invite all clubs to have their women's groups attend. Anne-Marie Bakker & Penelope Gadd-Coster will host.

**Starting around 4 p.m. we'll have "The Gathering of the Clan!"
It's party Time!**

- **Live music**
- **Good food & drinks** (BYOB for alcohol)
- **Great social time** - meet fly fishers from all over our North State.
- **Talk about fishing** local and distant places and what works and doesn't
- **Have a really fun time together** with people who like what you like & do what you do.
- **Announce winners** of the auction & raffle

Our purpose is to bring fly fishers together just to spend some quality time talking about our sport, and the fun we have doing it. We'll finish in time to get home (if you don't stay over) at a decent hour.

Camping is available on site:

https://www.yuba.org/departments/community_development/parks_&_campground.php

It will be like no other event all year. Please plan to attend and support NCCFFI and fly fishing.



OUTINGS & EVENTS FFD

2023-2024

Proposed FFD Outings & Events

| <u>Trip 2023</u> | <u>Fish</u> | | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Fishmeister</u> | <u>Contact</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------|--------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Umpqua River | Smallmouth | Guide | July 24-28 | Gene Gantt | fishinggantt@comcast.net | Fee + Tip |
| Manzanita Lake Trip | Trout | | August | Dana Hooper | trouhookup1@gmail.com | Floatation Device / Camping |
| Lake Davis | Trout | Boat | TBD | Need Fishmeister | | Camping |
| Lewiston Lake | Trout | | TBD | Need Fishmeister | | Camping |
| Lower Sac Float (Fall) | Trout | Guide | TBD | Dana Hooper | trouhookup1@gmail.com | Fee + Tip |
| Delta Striper Fest 2023 | Stripers | Boat | TBD | Dana Hooper | trouhookup1@gmail.com | Boater pair with non boater |
| Luke Lake | Mult. Sp. | Boat | December | Dana Hooper | trouhookup1@gmail.com | Fee |
| <u>Trip 2024</u> | <u>Fish</u> | | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Fishmeister</u> | <u>Contact</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
| Pyramid Lake | Trout | | TBD | Dana Hooper | trouhookup1@gmail.com | Lodge/Hotel |
| Lower Yuba Walk Wade | Trout | | TBD Feb | Dana Hooper | trouhookup1@gmail.com | Day trip |
| Baum Lake | Trout | | TBD March | Dana Hooper | trouhookup1@gmail.com | |
| FFD Casting Clinic | | | TBD | Bob Zasoski | rjzasoski@sbcglobal.net | |
| Hat Creek 101 | Trout | | May TBD | Dana Hooper | trouhookup1@gmail.com | Camping |
| Lake Berryessa | Mult. Sp. | Boat | May TBD | Peter Hawes | hawsheatair@gmail.com | Boater pair with non boater |
| Putah Creek | Trout | | April/May | Son Chong | vsonkilchong@gmail.com | Day trip |
| Lake Berryessa | Mult. Sp. | Boat | May | Peter Hawes | hawsheatair@gmail.com | Boater pair with non boater |
| Delta Bass N Fly Tourn | Black Bass | Boat | TBD | Dana Hooper | trouhookup1@gmail.com | Boater pair with non boater |
| Lower Sac Float (Spring) | Trout | Guide | TBD | Dana Hooper | trouhookup1@gmail.com | Fee + Tip |
| Shad Sac or Feather River | Shad | Boat | May | Peter Hawes | hawsheatair@gmail.com | Boater pair with non boater |
| FFD Annual Picnic | | | June | | | |
| Fuller Lake | Trout | | TBD | Shawn DeArmond | dearmond@gmail.com | Floatation Device, Day trip |
| McCloud River | Trout | | TBD | Peter Hawes | hawsheatair@gmail.com | Camping |

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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. FFD meets monthly. Our regular monthly meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except for December, and other exceptions are noted in our newsletter. December meetings are held the second Tuesday to accommodate holiday schedules.

FFD is an affiliate club of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), an international nonprofit organization, and its Northern California Council (NCCFFF) affiliate. FFD 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

Each month, the e-newsletter will be posted to our website and emailed about one week before the meeting.

You may need to download Acrobat reader at:

<https://get.adobe.com/reader/> to view our PDF newsletter.

Members are urged to maintain their current email address and other important personal data by logging in, and visiting:

<https://flyfishersofdavis.org/account/>. This ensures accurate communication and notification of our monthly newsletter, which is also downloadable at:

<https://flyfishersofdavis.org/media/newsletters/>.

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

FFD collects annual dues for adults (\$30), students (\$15) and families (\$30). Family membership may include a spouse and children living with named member up to maximum age of 25. All family members will share one membership and username. Please be sure to provide a valid email address. For insurance reasons, you must be a current club member or registered family member to attend any of our fishing outings.

- **Membership Benefits:** For more information about the many benefits of FFD membership, please go to <https://flyfishersofdavis.org/about/membership-benefits/>
- **New Members ONLY:** To join FFD, please go to <https://flyfishersofdavis.org/memberships/>
- **Existing Members, Login and Dues Assistance:** email webmaster@flyfishersofdavis.org
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