



Promoting the Art, Recreation & Conservation of Fly Fishing Since 1975

President's Message

August 2010



By Steve Allen

Gold Country Fly Fishers August Meeting is our traditional potluck picnic in Condon Park on Aug. 3rd. No meeting-no raffle; just plenty of good food and time to acquaint ourselves with new members and continue our good Gold Country fellowship with all in attendance. Program Chairman and chief chef Trent Pridemore has all the details in his program report in this newsletter. Trent and his crew will be going all out to provide the best main course BBQ possible. Let's all respond with that old family recipe we make for special occasions just like this. We hope to see everyone at our picnic!

Our July Board of Directors Meeting was packed with lively discussion about many issues that affect our Club. We are working on revising our Bylaws, planning to do a better job of budgeting ahead for our community outreach programs, considering ways to reduce the impact of "no shows" at our Fishouts, and deciding on what watershed groups will get our support. All are always welcome at our BOD Meetings- we meet at 6PM.(before our regular monthly meeting) One can see what the Board is working on by reading Stan Sanderson's minutes in our newsletters.

This year's Christmas Party will be held in our meeting room at the Fairgrounds on December 4th. Vicki Valente will be heading up the effort again this year. This year-end event is a wonderful way to get into the Holiday spirit!! Thanks Vicki and Len and all others making this evening so enjoyable. Please get this date down on your calendar-Dec. 4th.

Our friends at Friends of The River and SYRCL recently obtained a court order finding the dams along The Lower Yuba to be the cause of declining Salmon populations in The Lower Yuba. Many think the problem is farther downstream in the Delta.

From 1994-2005 an average of 20,000 returning spawning Salmon successfully passed over Daguerre Point Dam. The problem is not the Dam, but the number of Salmon making it to the Dam.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
Meeting & Program Announcements	1
Programs	2
Salmon Fishing Season	2
Fishout Schedule	3
Fishout Report	4,5
Conservation Corner	6
Board Meeting Minutes	7
Fly Tying & Fly Casting	7
Miscellaneous Notices	8
Classified; Contacts	9
Website link	http://www.gcff.org

We all know that almost all Dams could be better in fish passage, and so could Daguerre; but let's see what the California Water Resources Control Board has to say.

On July 21, 2010, the Water Resources Control Board released a draft report identifying increased water flows needed to protect fisheries and water quality in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. This report was mandated by the California Legislature to "develop new flow criteria for the Delta ecosystem necessary to protect public trust resources". The report goes on to say "The dramatic increase in water diversions from the estuary in recent decades have sent fisheries and water quality into a downward spiral. Populations of Salmon, Steelhead, young Striped Bass, Delta and Longfin Smelt, Splittail, Threadfin and American Shad, and Sturgeon, as well as native zooplankton and phytoplankton that comprise the food web have COLLAPSED". This entire report is available from the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance: www.calsport.org

The North Yuba is in excellent shape right now. Read Ralph Wood's article (our website) on how and where to fish this magical River. Thanks Ralph! Allan Gere, Cassie, and I had a great time up there this week, and we even caught some nice Trout. Stay-Strong--- See You at the Picnic

Steve

MEETING & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our regular meeting place is unavailable this month. Instead, we are having our Annual Free BBQ and Pot Luck at Condon Park, located at Butler & Minnie Streets in Grass Valley. No Conservation or Board meeting will be held. See page 2 for pot luck assignments and details. The event starts at 6:00 PM. Pit crew to arrive at 5:00 PM.



By Trent Pridemore

Gold Country Fly Fishers Programs

August 3 is the date of our annual free BBQ and Pot Luck at Grass Valley's Condon Park! We lose our meeting room at the Fairgrounds this month because of the County Fair. Again, we are doing marinated (secret recipe) tri tips and chicken on genuine mesquite charcoal that will be paired with everybody's best POT LUCK DISHES! The event will start at 6:00 pm. I would like the Pit Crew to show up around 5:00 pm. Remember to sign up by calling or e-mailing me at least one full day before the event so that I know how much food to purchase. If your name falls alphabetically between A – D, bring an appetizer, E-P a salad/casserole and L-W a dessert. It's BYOB on beverages and utensils, plates, napkins and glasses.

As of press time, I have fifty members and guests signed up. If I don't hear from you before the morning of the 2nd, I'm buying for fifty! Last year we approached 100 attendees.

Our Fall Program Schedule starts on September 7 with featured speaker fly designer, author, famous guide and local boy, Hogan Brown. This should be very interesting as Hogan will be presenting his new Entomology Program. Remember...Hogan is also a school teacher so we should learn a lot. Fly names of note are Hogan's "Red Headed Stepchild" and the "Military Mayfly". Bring your notebook. Hogan has spoken and visited before and he fills the house.

For BBQ signups: e-mail or call:

Trentpridemore@dishmail.net

530-274-8770

Trent

Salmon Fishing Season to Reopen on Sacramento, American, and Feather Rivers

State and federal fisheries officials believe that king salmon runs returning to Sacramento Valley streams have recovered enough to allow limited fishing seasons on the Sacramento, Feather and American rivers. The opportunities start on the Feather River, where salmon fishing will be allowed beginning July 31. The runs collapsed to historic lows, and fishing was closed along the California and Oregon coasts and in all California rivers except the Klamath and Trinity. The Feather River season will run from July 31 to Aug. 31 -- unless a 1,000-fish quota is met before then -- from 1,000 feet below the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to the mouth. Salmon fishing on the American River will be allowed from Oct. 30 to Nov. 28 from the SMUD power line crossing the river at the lower end of Ancil Hoffman Park to the mouth.

The season on the Lower Sacramento River Zone will run Sept. 4 to Oct. 3 from the Highway 113 Bridge near Knights Landing to the Carquinez Bridge.

The Upper Sacramento River Zone season will run from Oct. 9 to Oct. 31 from the Deschutes Road Bridge near Anderson downstream to 500 feet above the Red Bluff Diversion Dam.

The Middle Sacramento River Zone season, targeting the late-fall salmon run, will occur Oct. 9 to Dec. 12 from 150 feet below the Red Bluff Diversion Dam to the Highway 113 Bridge.

Dennis Monax



Fishout Schedule for 2010

By Mike Williams

Date	Location	Fish	Fishmaster	Comments
August 13	Fuller Lake Family BBQ	Trout	Len Valente	This is our annual lake outing summer BBQ
August 21	Lower Yuba UC Davis	Trout	Mike Connor	(20 member limit)
September 9/10	Frenchman's Lake Lake as an option	Trout	Wayne Holloway	This will be a 2 night camp out, with Davis
September 25-30	Eastern Sierra	Trout	Dave Bear	Five night – six day outing in the Mammoth Lakes area, with room for 12 members in condos – others are encouraged to sign up even if they are providing their own lodging. Condo beds are all taken, but contact Dave Bear if you want to be on a waiting list in case of a cancellation.
October TBA	North Yuba River	Trout	Ralph Wood	(Another possible club BBQ)
October 7/8	Upper Sacramento River	Trout	Wayne Holloway	This will be held in the Dunsmuir area, with a two night stay)
October TBA	Lower Yuba River Dry Fly Clinic		Frank Rinella	
October 14/15	Caples Lake would be an overnight stay	Trout	Wayne Holloway	Caples Lake has lodge/cabins. This
November 5/6	Henderson Springs	Trout	Wayne Holloway	
December 18	Lower Yuba UC Davis	Trout	Mike Connor	This outing will be from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, all depending on the weather
December TBA	Trinity/Klamath River	Steelhead	Need Volunteer	



Zandi Holloway, shows husband Wayne how it really should be done on Klamath Lake



...while Wayne is still out searching for the "ideal" spot with his dog



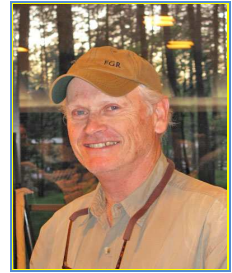
...finally gives up and turns to drinking after being out-fished by his wife!



By Mike Williams

Fishout Report

Note: Don Steffa assists Mike Williams with coordination of Fishouts



Don Steffa

For August we have 2 outings scheduled. Friday August 13, 2010 we'll have our Fuller Lake family fishout and BBQ. This outing will be hosted by Len Valente. By now you should have already signed up, but if not, see Len at the upcoming meeting, sign up and pay him any money owed for the BBQ.

On August 21, 2010 we have a Lower Yuba River UC Davis outing hosted by Mike Connor. Members will most likely meet at the Penn Valley Park and Ride around 3pm on Saturday, then head for the water and fish until dark. Around 6 pm Len Valente will do another one of his amazing BBQ's. Thanks Len, in advance. You always do a great job. Make sure that if you are signed up, pay Mike five dollars for the cost of the BBQ. Also, we will have the signup sheet out at the next meeting for any additional signups. We do get cancellations, so sign up in excess of the 20 member limit.

The August outing scheduled for Lake of the Woods has been postponed until a later date. Don Steffa will advise everyone when he can get away and lead this.

The Lower Yuba River has been fishing well lately. Despite the heat and the higher flows, 3200 CFS as of this writing, fishing has been good. I spoke with Frank Rinella and he reported that he, Norm Sauer and Dennis Carlsen did well recently, fishing above the Highway 20 bridge. These guys took good numbers of fish throughout the day using Hopper patterns. I've gotten similar reports from others, including Tom Page and Keith Scott also doing well using hopper patterns and the occasional dropper. Fishing dries with droppers, 1 or 2 fly rigs has been working well for both of these groups of fisherman. There have been reports that salmon are already showing in numbers and being counted by Fish and Game staff.

For September we have 2 more great fishouts scheduled. Refer to the schedule and get a hold of either Wayne Holloway or Dave Bear if you're interested.

If you haven't looked at the GCFF Website yet, you need to do that. Frank Rinella and others have been posting information regarding fishing the local waters. Reading this could be a big help and increase your success rate on the water. Take advantage of the current information and the fact that other members are willing to share information. It will make you a better fisherman. Go to the Website and follow the instructions to get on the Forum.

I hope that you have been getting out this summer and are taking advantage of the great fishing all over the Northern Sierras. We are.

Mike



Crane Prairie Reservoir (Oregon) holds some BIG Rainbows as Wayne Holloway can attest!



Wayne Holloway with a beautiful Rainbow from Klamath Lake

Lake Davis Fish-Camp-Out a Success, Sort of

On June 24 and 25, 2010, fifteen club members ventured to Lake Davis to try their luck and skills catching rainbow trout during the beginning of the lake's famous damsel fly hatch. It proved to be the best and worst of times. Fishmeister Norm Sauer went up a day early to secure a group of campsites at the Grizzly Campground, and most of those who attended camped in close proximity to each other. Most everyone caught fish on Thursday, the 24th. But, due to a cold and wet spring season, the damsel hatch was not yet in full swing. Yet, the fish were still taking damselfly nymph imitations, as well as callibaetis mayfly nymphs and wiggle-tail buggers. After a full day of fishing, all had fun eating camp foods, and sitting by the campfire telling and retelling stories and tall tales. However, the morning of the 25th greeting us campers with heavy rains and unforgiving skies thus putting a damper on what would have been another fine day of fly fishing in the Sierras.

Norm



Mary Crooks with a nice Lake Davis Rainbow



Tim Ackerman couldn't be happier with his Stripers from New Hogan Reservoir



Rex England shows us how to do it at Lake Davis



Ed Tom had some good fishing at Frenchman's after leaving rainy Lake Davis



Don Steffa with a beautiful Owyhee River Brown

Note: If you have photos from a recent trip, please email them to your Newsletter Editor, David Bear and I will be happy to include them in the next edition. Photos don't have to be of fish but should show what you enjoy about the whole fly fishing experience.



By Gery Anderson

Conservation Corner



Yuba River Court Case

For those members who have not seen the recent newspaper articles about a court decision that may help protect migrating steelhead and salmon in the Yuba River I summarize the court's findings:

The court ruled that the operations plan for the two federal dams on the Yuba River is inadequate to protect California's threatened salmon, steelhead and green sturgeon. The plan, known as a Biological Opinion, was re-written three times by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The case was initiated by the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) and Friends of the River. The case held in the United States District Court in Sacramento recently ruled that the current Biological Opinion issued by NMFS in 2007 was "arbitrary and capricious" in that it failed to adequately analyze numerous impacts on listed salmon species arising from two dams on the Yuba River.

"This is an important precedent setting victory for Yuba salmon and steelhead. The court has ruled that NMFS has failed to adequately consider a full range of impacts from dams and failed to require measures that address these impacts. Judge Karlton's decision is critical for protecting threatened salmon species," states Christopher Sproul, lead attorney for Environmental Advocates, who represented the citizens groups who initiated the legal action in December 2006.

The ruling addresses a wide range of impacts stemming from the operation of Daguerre Point Dam and Englebright Dam—two dams under the management of the US Army Corps of Engineers, and associated projects owned and operated by non-federal agencies. There are some who believe Daguerre Point Dam fish ladders impact upstream and downstream migration of salmonid species and Englebright Dam is a complete barrier to many miles of ancestral spawning habitat for steelhead and salmon.

South Yuba Clean Up Day

Every year in partnership with the California Coastal Commission's Cleanup Day, SYRCL along with GCFF and other organizations puts on a river clean up day. Our club has been and is an active participant. This year the event will take place on September 25, so mark your calendars. We meet on the Marysville side of the River at the Highway 20 Bridge.

This will be the thirteenth year of the state's largest volunteer event. With over half a million visitors each year to the South Yuba River alone, enormous amounts of litter are discarded. Our club has aided in the removal of an estimated total of 120,000 pounds of trash and recycled materials during that time. SYRCL reports that over 700 volunteers participated in 2009.

Gery



Minutes from the Gold Country Fly Fishers Board Meeting July 6th

By Stan Sanderson

In Attendance: Steve Allen Gary Smith Stan Sanderson
 Tim Ackerman Jim Coe
 Neal Brunckhorst Frank Rinella

Meeting called to order at 6PM

Secretary's Report (Stan S.) June BOD meeting minutes reviewed and approved

Treasurer's Report (Neal B.)

- Snacks: running a little in the hole. Suggested better donation signage needed
- Club received \$750 from FFF recently (for Trout in the Classroom program)
- Membership: 166 (all time high)
- Report approved

Old/Continuing Business

1. Sierra Nevada Alliance. Board discussed if Club should continue being a donating supporter of this umbrella organization who oversees a large area of watershed in our region. The Board approved continuing our support by a vote of 6-1.
2. Programs (Trent P.) Would like to have a large ticket one item raffle to help defer the cost of the August BBQ meeting
3. Fish out Policy. Club in need of a policy, especially over nighters, on sign-up and payment in regard to club fish outs. Members will sign up for a fish out then cancel at the last minute leaving the leader with money or supplies unpaid for or money out of their pocket. Board to address this issue at next meeting and develop a policy.

New Business

1. The Lower Yuba River Symposium. Was attended by several club members. The symposium was a very beneficial and informative event with experts in many fields discussing pertinent issues.
2. Fish outs. It was suggested and discussed if the larger attended fish outs should also have a "sub-leader"
3. Changes to Bylaws. Neal B and Mike C have made suggestions on bylaw revisions. These revisions were made in an effort to bring the bylaws more in line with what the club actually does. The Board will continue the revision of the bylaws.

Meeting adjourned 6:50PM

FLY TYING and FLY CASTING

Fly Tying: Wednesday August 11th 6:00 to 8:00 PM at 13837 Seven Cedars Dr. Grass Valley
 Call Sam before you come.

Fly of the month	Stimulator (orange)	Rib	furnace hackle counterwound with fine gold wire
Hook	TMC 200R size 10	Body	rusty orange haretron or antron
Thread	fluorescent orange	Wing	dark elk hair
	6/0 pre-waxed	Head	amber goat dubbing
Tail	dark elk hair	Hackle	grizzly hackle wrapped over head

Fly Casting:
 No fly casting this month



By Sam Higginbotham

Refreshment Report

No separate refreshments this month due to the barbecue

Vicki

Fishing Reports on the Web

Thanks to Terry Hobart our Club website is up and running well, we now have a forum site with current fishing reports. First go to our website GCFF.org then click on "Forum" then click Gold Country Fly Fishers then Fishing, you may now also go to "Fishing Reports" on the header then click "Time sensitive Fishing info on the forum" If you are new to the site at some point you may be asked to register with a user name and password, this is no big deal.

I have been posting very current river and lake fishing reports, these reports are full of good information, river conditions, flows, hatches and what flies the fish have been taking.

If you have been out fishing please feel free to share your report on the site, all the reports need not be about a great fishing day. We all need to hear that some areas are not fishing well and that you had a rough day. These reports are intended for the use of our friends in the club so please try to keep the information current and true.

Tight Lines
Frank Rinella
Sierra Guide Service

Fly Casting Competition

By Ace Emmerling

The ACA (American Casting Association) National Championship Tournament will be held at Lexington, Kentucky in early August. The National Tournament consists of twelve events, six plug and six fly events. Half of these are accuracy events and half are distance events. Steve Rajeff is the defending National All-Around champion. Many of our members know the name Steve Rajeff, some may not. Steve won his first National All-Around championship when he was sixteen years old. Steve is now either fifty one or fifty two years of age. In the intervening years he has lost the championship once and tied for first once. All the other years he has been our national champion. This is a history of dominance of his sport unmatched by any individual in any sport. I am one of not more than a handful of people who can claim to have defeated Steve Rajeff in a casting tournament. Here is the story: The event, called the Directors' Cup, took place a few years ago at the Casting ponds of the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. It is an annual event, and I have won it twice. At the tournament in question here, Steve really had little chance of beating me. As it turns out, I judged some of the events, and I tallied the results. Mine was the winning total. Just a coincidence, I assure you. The first prize for this event is a Hardy reel, so all the contestants tried their best.

When I announced the results to Steve, instead of showing disappointment in not having won, he told me "I'm happy for you". Did I neglect to say that it is a handicap event? Of course Steve receives no handicap. I cast better than my handicap, so my totals were over 100 per event. As I said, Steve had no chance of defeating me on that day.

I told this story at Steve's induction into the Northern California chapter of Federation of Fly Fishers Hall of Fame a few years back to demonstrate his high level of sportsmanship. Steve always makes himself available for words of encouragement and advice, if asked, for his fellow tournament casters.

Ace

Fly Exchange

No fly exchange this month

Raffle for August 2nd Meeting

No raffle due to barbecue

Vicki Valente

Gold Country Fly Fishers

P.O. Box 2988
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Officers and Board Members

President: Steve Allen

Vice President: Wayne Holloway

Secretary: Stan Sanderson

Treasurer: Neal Brunckhorst

Director: Frank Rinella

Director: Tim Ackerman

Director: Gary Smith

Director: Jim Coe

Past President: Mark Rockwell

Committees & Chairs

FFF: Mark Rockwell

Mentoring: Frank Rinella

Conservation: Gery Anderson & Mike Connor

Programs: Trent Pridemore

Fishouts: Mike Williams & Don Steffa

Raffle: Vicki Valente

Meeting Snacks: Vicki Valente

Library: Len Valente

Casting/Fly Tying: Sam Higginbotham

Webmaster: Terry Hobart

Newsletter: David Bear



Let's have a Fishout at Klamath Lake!

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Gold Country Fly Fishers

Purpose and Objectives

Support the “catch and release” ethic

To promote fly fishing for the recreation of members

Promote and support the conservation of our water and fisheries

Provide assistance to members in the skill and techniques of fly fishing

Publicize and promote fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying, and other related topics

To represent fly fishers through liaison with sports and conservation organizations

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.gcff.org

Gold Country Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 2988
Grass Valley, CA 94945

