

GOLD COUNTRY FLYFISHERS

December 2009

President's Message



By Mark Rockwell

As winter is upon us, and the days are shorter, I always think about winter fishing on our north coast rivers for steelhead. Of course, it is somewhat easy to forget that we have some pretty good steelhead fishing locally in the Feather, Yuba and American rivers. I've been hearing stories of fish hooked but never seen or landed right here in the Yuba. Certainly could be steelhead! I've also heard stories about great fishing on the Klamath, with many multiple fish days and sizeable fish. It is just sometimes hard to get out when it is cold and days are short or rainy.

My steelhead fishing started on the Klamath in 1978 with a guide I met at the San Mateo Sportsman's Exposition. I walked by a booth with a card table, two chairs, a bottle of Jack Daniels on the table, and a sign that said, "We fish steelhead. Let's talk." No one was there, and an aluminum drift boat was lying on the floor, so I came back about an hour later. When I returned Jeff Throgmorton was sitting in a chair and I introduced myself. He was an engaging fellow, and I booked a trip with him for January, and I've been fishing steelhead every year since. He moved to the Somes Bar area from Los Angeles and purchased a bar in town. Little did he know that tribal folks don't do well with liquor, and after a year of fights and stabbings, he turned to steelhead. From that, he built the Somes Bar Lodge a few years after we met, and his entire extended family eventually made it to the river.

I've always had a love for the Klamath River, both a beautiful and prolific fish river. Many of you may know, we are now on the verge of an agreement to remove four dams from the river – Iron Gate, Copco 1 & 2, and J.C. Boyle.

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In addition we will be reviewing for support a 50 year restoration document, called the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, designed to bring back the river's famous wild salmon and steelhead fisheries. I have represented the NCCFFF in these negotiations for the past 6 years, and am proud to be part of this settlement process. In December, environmental organizations, tribes and counties will be discussing the merits of the agreements leading to a final decision to support or not support by early January. It is our hope that the involved organizations will see fit to support the agreements, get the dams off the river, and restore the river habitats for the current wild fish in the river, and a new strain of spring Chinook to be re-introduced into the upper watersheds. Our club should be proud to be a member club of NCCFFF, as it is critically important to have a voice in issues like the Klamath Settlement.

This is my last President's message, and I want everyone to know that it has been a pleasure working on behalf of this club, and working with the dedicated members of the Board, our officers, and the many volunteers that make this club so great! It is the willingness to participate, help out, attend meetings, and be involved with each other that makes the GCFF such a great experience. Our new President, Steve Allen, and new board are excited and ready for 2010. **Hope to see you all at the Christmas party on December 12th! It will be great fun, and Rick Aeschliman is ready to give us a unique program we should love!**

Mark

MEETING & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be no regular meeting of the Gold Country Flyfishers in December. Instead, we will be having our annual **Christmas Dinner Celebration on Saturday December 12th** at the Senior Center in Nevada County Fairgrounds – Grass Valley starting at 5 PM. See details on page 3. Use Gate #2. The Board & Conservation meetings will also not be held in December.

Programs



By Trent Pridemore

Gold Country Flyfishers Programs

Upcoming Programs for the New Year:

We start in **January** with the return of noted photographer and entomologist, Ken Davis and a Power Point presentation. Ken's Bio and a synopsis are included in this month's newsletter. You will remember from several years ago that his images are spectacular. Don't miss this one and bring a guest!

February will see a diverse report by our Yuba County Water Authority. There will be general information on the resources, some that we don't know about, and a lot of material on the Lower Yuba River and Salmon issues. Read the synopsis in the next two newsletters.

March brings the long awaited Clinic Night that will feature tables with information on nymph rigging set ups, fly choices, lines and rod and reels. Concurrently we will have another mentor giving information on the hows and whys of leader purchase and usage...from the needle nail knot that connects a leader butt to your fly line all the way to the tippet at the end of your leader. This is how to get a fifteen or even twenty foot leader to turn over effortlessly. Our Yuba fish like it fine and far off with tail first heading downstream! We will also have fly tying tables featuring guest tiers working on local patterns. There will be a swap table...only good stuff allowed and free hamburgers for all. Let us know more on what you want for the Clinics!

April is Bass Time. Stay tuned for a program on Fly Fishing for Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spots. We will cover farm ponds, steep sided reservoirs, shallower impoundments, rivers and the Delta!

May's guest speaker is Al Smatsky of Al's Excellent Adventures. Al guides for Shad on the Yuba and Sacramento as well as adventures to Baja and beyond. Bring your notebooks and hope for a good water year.

On Another thought:

I find that an "Angling Wish List" for new places to visit in the New Years is a great help and an incentive for getting old bones to move. I make it up before New Year's Eve in place of ill kept resolutions. I add to the list as information comes in during the year. My goal is to check off at least half of the entries by the following Dec 31st. A Partial list follows. Add to it by e-mail: Trentpridemore@dishmail.net.

List follows: Antelope Reservoir out of the Genese Valley north of Lake Davis for trout and bass in May and June, Indian Valley,, Clear Lake for Crappie and Bass, Blue Lakes, Almanor, Round Valley for bass, Eagle, Capeles Lake, Blue Lakes, Klamath for Half Pounders, a return in fall to Crowley and the Owens River , Owyhee River, Billy Shaw Lake on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, more surf perch and halibut on the Santa Barbara Coast, Berryessa, Little Grass Valley when the wind doesn't blow, another try at Pyramid...especially if Wayne cooks a rack of lamb, Sardine and Packer lakes, Lake Valley Reservoir in spring after ice out and again in fall before the snow blows, Nyack Lake, Grouse Ridge, Smith River for Salmon on the fly and a return to Klamath Lake's Pelican Bay, Davis Lake in Oregon for bass and Diamond Lake north of Crater Lake National Park and a visit to Lake Mateos in Mexico. An overnighter at Steamboat on the North Umpqua last July just whetted my appetite.

Don't forget Stampede for Smallmouth and a few flings at the Delta. The Sacramento turning basin will be a close target for Stripers this winter. The American opens in January. A sleeper is Folsom at Rattlesnake Bar in the winter using threadfin shad patterns. Somehow I forgot Clementine this year. Donner's fishing well right now for close in Mackinaw. Try Tahoe in October off the points!

Think we can find a ten pounder somewhere? Even a carp or catfish?

Trent

Fishout Schedule



By Mike Williams

Schedule for 2009

Date	Location	Fishout	Leader
December 5	Lower Yuba River UC Davis Property	Trout	Mike Connor

Christmas Party Reminder

The Gold Country Flyfishers' Annual Christmas Dinner and Celebration will be held on **Saturday December 12th** at our regular meeting place, the **Senior Center at the Nevada County Fairgrounds**. All GCFF members and close family members are invited and encouraged to attend. Reservations are required (call Vickie Valente at 530-432-4982). Key additional items of information are:

- Opens for socializing: 5:00 PM (BYOB - wine and beer only)
- Pre-dinner entertainment by one of our own members
- Dinner : 7:00 PM
- Cost: \$10 per person; \$15 per couple
- Main Entrée: provided by GCFF funds
- Side dishes: Provided by attendees according to first letter of last name
 - A-F appetizer
 - G-K salad
 - L-R side dish for entrée
 - S-Z dessert
- Raffle of fantastic prizes donated by national/regional/local fly shops and vendors/manufacturers
- Silent auction for even more fantastic equipment and vacation trips



Fishout Report

By Mike Williams

Note: Thanks to Don Steffa for offering to assist Mike Williams with coordination of Fishouts. Mike can be contacted at (river-angler@att.net) and Don at (ez1flyfisher@hotmail.com)

November Fishouts

On Saturday, December 5, 2009, Mike Connor will host the fall opener on the Lower Yuba at the UC Davis property. We had a good sign up, about 25, and unfortunately can only allow 20 members to attend. Usually we get cancellations, so it may turn out that everyone that signed up can attend. Mike will contact you directly if this is the case. Fishing can be excellent on the upper river during December.

Everyone who attended the Henderson Springs outing in November had a great time. Thanks Wayne, you did a great job, and then some.

This is the time of year when we look back on all of this year's previous outings, and reflect. I'm thinking about what was good and bad, what worked and what didn't. We had good participation, both from members attending, and those volunteering to lead. Don Steffa and I are in the midst now of planning next years activities. For example, Don is going to lead an outing to the Green River. The Green River is located in the Northeast corner of Utah, and is outstanding tail water from Flaming Gorge Reservoir. We hope to have outings next year that satisfies everyones wishes. We'll have more on that a little later. I just want to say **Thank You** to everyone that made it a great year for the fishout program.

Recently, I had the opportunity to spend some time fishing the Lower Yuba with club member Tom Page. Tom is a local river guide that has good insight on the river. Tom has the knowledge and knows the techniques required to be successful fishing this water. I enjoyed fishing with Tom and know you will too. Contact him about floating the river. He is offering \$100 off on any float trip to club members. He can be reached at Foothill Fly Fishing Expeditions 913-3909.

Mike

Report on Henderson Springs Fishout on November 8-10 by Wayne Holloway

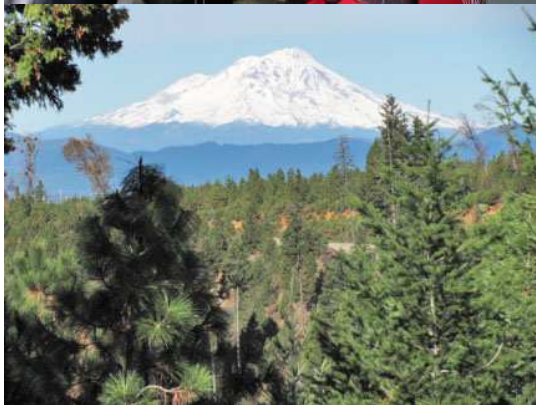
"This 500 acre fly fishing paradise is nestled in the remote Northern California wilderness...and offers some of the most exciting trophy trout fishing found anywhere!"

Well that's what the brochure says, but you really do have to fish it to believe it. I believe it! Thirteen of us traveled up into the southeast shadow of Mount Shasta near the Pit River to see for ourselves. All of us caught fish. Most of us caught BIG fish, and without the urge to exaggerate about their size. A trip to Henderson Springs really does let you practice your flyfishing skills on big fish. I had one fish on at Clear Lake, suffice it to say only for a moment, with a 6 weight rod I couldn't slow it down when it hit and ran, let alone turn it. It took a #16 Pheasant Tail. That little barbless hook didn't have a chance and gave out, thank god, before my line did. I never saw it, but watching that line race out gave me goose bumps. However, we do have the pictures to prove that fishermen better than I had the same experience and landed their behemoths. Also as a plus, we went not expecting to take big fish on dry flies, but to our surprise and delight, we did...Thanks to Frank Rinella's killer cicada.

There was something for everyone, great fishing, great food, great wine, even Monday night, big screen football... And wonderful camaraderie! Adding a personal touch, Mark and Maria Henderson were the perfect, gracious hosts joining us for dinner, wine tasting and storytelling. Mark told me later that our Club trip was the highlight of the season. The day after everyone left it started to rain, so we even had the perfect window to enjoy the spectacular mountain ranch in all its fall colors. Bottom line, we all had fun!

We're planning our next trip...Anyone interested?

Wayne



**Fishout photos
this month,
clockwise from
upper left:**

Neal Brunckhorst,
Trinity River
Steelhead;
Wayne Holloway,
Ed Tom, Tim
Ackerman,
Wayne again, with
Ed Tom's Pyramid
Lake Cutthroat;
Mt Shasta;
Isaac Reiswig;
Dave Bear.
All fish shown
were caught on
the Henderson
Springs Fishout
unless otherwise
indicated. Wow,
what a collection
of big fish!!

Conservation Corner

By Allan Gere



A REWARDING JOURNEY

It was four years ago when I took the Chairmanship of the Conservation Council. I had this desire to build a Conservation arm of the club that would work with local watershed organizations, a Council that would implement projects, and develop programs that encourage young people to respect their environment. This Council would encourage members to attend local public meetings and speak their mind on water issues, our club would have representation on regional agencies whose decisions affect fish and their habitat.

All the above is in place, and I am so proud of our nine Council members, who by example, have led the way for our projects and programs to succeed. Some of them are project heads, some have joined up with helping local watershed groups with field work and others represent our concerns at public mtgs.

When I have asked, they have served. We are involved in programs like the following: Yuba River Clean-up, Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge, Trout in the Classroom, Stream Monitoring, Trail Restoration, Barrier Removal, Mercury in Fish studies, lobbying for improved game warden working conditions, posting signs (mud snail invasion), lobbying successfully for no motors on the Lower Yuba,

Our club has representation at FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) mtgs, CABY (Consumness, American, Bear and Yuba River Consortium) Yuba-Bear Watershed, and the Nevada County Fish and Wildlife Commission(when calendar does not conflict with our mtgs..

I wish to acknowledge the following Conservation Council members for their time, energy, and devotion and the many club members who stepped up when called upon to assist in our club conservation projects. And a toast to the Board, our president, Mark Rockwell, and VP Steve Allen, who "walks the talk" for our fish. I send a special thank you to Frank Rinella, who tirelessly speaks so well for our challenged fishery at numerous agency meetings.

It has been a rewarding four years, and I look forward to working within our Conservation Council to be led by new chair, Gary Anderson and vice chair, Mike Connors. ... We will be in good hands.

Conservation Council Members

*Bob Alvares
Ace Emmerling
Dennis Monax
Ed Tom
Jim Richards*

*Rich Miller
Tim Ackerman
Rob Ferroggiaro
Don Hess*

Minutes from the Gold Country Flyfishers Board Meeting November 3, 2009

In Attendance: Mark Rockwell Barbara Driscoll
 Steve Allen Neal Brunckhorst
 Frank Rinella Gery Anderson
 Dave Bear Jim Coe
 Wayne Holloway Stan Sanderson

Meeting called to order at 6:00PM

Oct. 2009 BOD Mtg Minutes reviewed and approved

Treasurer's Report (Neal B) Budget as of Oct was reviewed and approved. Balance reported at \$5,919.58. Also reported that the cost of room for Xmas party to be \$450 and not \$600

Review of 2010 Club Officers:

Pres: Steve Allen
Vice Pres: Wayne Holloway
Treasurer: Neal Brunckhorst
Immediate Past Pres: Mark Rockwell
Secretary: Stan Sanderson
Board Members: Gery Anderson, Gary Smith, Jim Coe, Frank Rinella
Newsletter Chair: David Bear
Refreshment Chair: Vickie Valente
Conservation Chair: Gery Anderson
Conservation Chair: Mike Connor
Fishout Chair: Mike Williams

Christmas Party (Mark R) 12-12-09

- promotion (invitations have been sent out)
- entertainment: Rick Aeschliman
- raffle/silent auction (Neal B)
- club awards discussed
- final costs of dinner and need of 2 paid helpers for Vickie were discussed

Lower Yuba Access(Mark R)

- SYRCL/Western Aggregate/Yuba Outdoor Adventures have come to some sort of an agreement which could limit access to the Lower Yuba River
- The Board has decided to seek each entity's written plan to gain information and subsequently form a strategy as to how to proceed
- Frank Rinella has asked to be exempt from voting on all matters pertaining to this issue

Conservation Committee Organization

- The Board has decided to table this issue until the Jan 2010 meeting to give this matter proper attention

Meeting adjourned at 7:00PM

FLYTYING and FLYCASTING

By Sam Higginbotham

There will be no Flytying nor Flycasting training in December

Gold Country Flyfishers

P.O. Box 2988
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Officers and Board Members

President: Mark Rockwell
Vice President: Steve Allen
Secretary: Stan Sanderson
Treasurer: Neal Brunckhorst
Director: Frank Rinella
Director: Barbara Driscoll
Director: Gery Anderson
Director: David Bear
Past President: Mike Connor

Committees

FFF: Mark Rockwell
Mentoring: Frank Rinella
Conservation: Allan Gere
Programs: Trent Pridemore
Fishouts: Mike Williams & Don Steffa
Raffle: Tim Colbert
Library: Len Valente
Casting/Flytying: Sam Higginbotham
Webmaster: Terry Hobart
Newsletter: David Bear

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Gold Country Flyfishers

Purpose and Objectives

Support the “catch and release” ethic

To promote flyfishing 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 flyfishing

Publicize and promote flyfishing, flycasting, flytying, and other related topics

To represent flyfishers through liaison with sports and conservation organizations

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.gcff.org

Gold Country Flyfishers
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Grass Valley, CA 94945

