

November 2009

# Delta Fly Fishers

Rx

Flyfishing

December, 2009

**President's Message by Stephen Johnson (the top dog in camp)**

Well we made it past Black Friday, the world didn't stop spinning or Salmon didn't swim down Pacific Ave, what is this all about anyway...the media hype about all the shoppers and stores opening up at some un-Godly hour, for what? Geeze, I thought bait fisherman were off kilter.

Anyway, apologies to Mr. Ridgway...I thought this message was sent before I went out of town for Turkey Day...but upon my return I find Katie never hit the send button, damn mutt she has been holding this house hostage for a couple of months now...ask her to do one little thing and she gives you this "what's in it for me look".

Important meeting coming this month, (Dec 9th) and I hope most of you can make it. I'm sure by now you have received the letter mailed out by our Secretary (the leading fish catcher in the Rollin's hacienda) that explains we have one committee chairperson that needs to be filled...and nominations for the one Board of Director seat that is vacant and the esteem office of President and 1st Vice-President that need to be elected for next year. Now I know that many of you are sitting out there just wondering what it is that you can do to make this season stand out above the past. So here are a couple of things that YOU can do to help this Club become better.

1st – Become an officer of the Club. (We have a couple positions available)

2nd – Help on a committee (Christmas Banquet or Conservation)

You have a good group of officers that are working for you and the Club, trying to make it better, but we can't do it all by ourselves. WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!! If you know of someone that the Club might have as a speaker, let some of the officers know. Give us a name and number and a little of what they would speak about.

This is the first meeting so it is also an election night and there will may be a lot of campaigning going on for open Officers positions, so come with an open mind and vote (raise your hand). Remember that this Club is yours and only with your help will it grow.

Fishing reports from me and the four-footed fish finder...pretty slow. Last month's trip to Oregon saw some strange weather, only one afternoon of fishable skies so jumped on the 'ole mighty Rogue and chased Steelhead. 3 hook ups and 1 landed.

We did witness something sweet ...little fawn slipped in the river while horsing around and momma came running and jumped in and pushed her to shore saving the day.

Tried Striper fishing in the Delta twice last month...Nada, I have to seriously get some lessons on how to hold your mouth, my way ain't working.

Couple of new books on the desk right now...really interesting reading, "The North Umpqua Chronicles", by Patrick McRae. This is a secret Diary of the Year 2006 on the Umpqua River. Next I'm reading about "Tying Catskill-Style Dry Flies, by Mike Valla.....this is a must read for all interested in tying flies.

Katie you got anything you want to say? No I can't say that ...some of the older guys will kill me, yea I know we are all old guys so what. Ok, Ok put down my new boot. Seems she overheard a couple of pointing type dogs at the pheasant club the other day... conversation was about, my handler (owner) is better than your handler type thing and one little Springer walked by and spouted off, "I learned early that testosterone is the primary cause of stupidity."

Blame her...she repeats those rumors.

Hawk...(your Prez)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and may the stars align and direct all you cast for 2010.

Steve, Sandi and Katie

**Membership Form**

Regular membership – \$30\*

Family Membership – \$35\*

62 years or older – \$25.00\*

\*New members please add \$5.00 Initiation Fee

Dues are for one year, from September 1 to August 31 Please fill out then mail to:

Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862, Stockton, CA 95207

Check one:

New membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renew membership \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Membership:

One year \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Senior (62+) \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership:

One year \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be on the \_\_\_\_\_ committee

Please renew your membership, if you have not done so. If you are not sure, check the mailing label for your current status. If there is any questions or problems please contact: Bob Souza at 209-607-6604

or e-mail at [suzasbs@clearwire.net](mailto:suzasbs@clearwire.net).

**Fishing Mentor Request**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE CONTACTS: (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

The best time to contact me is \_\_\_\_\_

My E-mail address is: \_\_\_\_\_

**I WOULD LIKE A FISHING BUDDY TO HELP ME WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- Casting  Fly Tying  Attending Outings  Equipment
- Knot Tying  Float Tubing  Pontoon Boating
- Stream Fishing  Lake Fishing  Trout Fishing
- Steelhead Fishing  Shad Fishing  Bass Fishing
- Striper Fishing  Salt Water Fishing  Private Water Fishing
- Rod Building  Selecting a Guide  Travel
- Entomology  Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe what you would like help with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you need further information, please contact the Fishing Mentor Committee:

Bob Souza at 209-607-6604 or [suzasbs@clearwire.net](mailto:suzasbs@clearwire.net)

Grady Lee at 951-3623 or [gmississippikid@aol.com](mailto:gmississippikid@aol.com)

Mail the form to: Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862, Stockton, CA 95207

## DFF MENTOR PROGRAM

The Delta Fly Fishers Board of Directors, intent upon enhancing the existing Fishing Buddy Program, is proposing DFF adopt a Mentor Program which is proactive and broadly inclusive. The primary objective is, by sharing fly fishing skills and knowledge of existing DFF members with new members, this will assist new members in getting acquainted with existing members, with club activities and, generally speed the transition from new member to old friend.

The Board of Directors recognizes this will take considerable commitment from the existing membership and does encourage the active participation of current members. The following broad guidelines are thought to be necessary for this program.

- Every existing member willing to serve, as a Mentor will be asked to complete a skills/knowledge list that they will share with new members as requested. The Mentor Program Chairperson will maintain these documents.
- Every new member will be asked to complete a skills/knowledge request form, which the Mentor Program Chair will also maintain.
- The Mentor Program Chair will introduce any and all new members before the General Program begins and will make an effort to introduce the new members to DFF Officers and Board Members.
- Under consideration is the additional incentive for new members of some free raffle tickets.
- The Mentor Program Chair will follow up on matching a Mentor with a new member based on skills/knowledge sought and skills/knowledge available. The mentor and new member will work out a compatible schedule by which to transfer skills/knowledge. The Mentor Program Chair as needed can make reassignments.
- Examples of mentoring include such things as guiding a new member on local waters within a few months of assignment, accompany the new member to a local fly shop to assist with gear purchases, contact the new member a few days before each monthly meeting to remind the new member of the meeting and program, assisting with casting skills, how to tie useful knots and/or fly tying, sharing information regarding fly fishing destinations including basic travel tips and promoting new members to join DFF in its outings

Over time the Mentor Program may be extended to include existing members who want to learn new skills/knowledge.

## Lake Camanche Outing Saturday, December 12



Delta Fly Fishers will have an outing to Lake Camanche Sat Dec.12. Meet 8 am at the NORTH SHORE day use area, there is a peninsula next to the day use area that provides easy access for launching float tubes and pontoon boats. Early birds who want breakfast and fishing information for the area we will be fishing meet at the Country Cafe in Lockeford at 6:30 am. Information Earl Summers 957-6756

## Wednesday Night Fly Tying

The weekly Wednesday evening fly tying sessions have begun and will continue through the Spring, Summer and Fall. Meet at the Nature Center, in the Oak Grove Park, at 6:30. The exception is the 2nd Wednesday night when DFF has its monthly meeting.

Whether you are a novice and want tips on how to tie flies or an expert that wants an excuse to get out of the house, then come out for the camaraderie of other members. This is an excellent chance improve your fly Casting and/or BS abilities. For more information contact Joe Balderston at 649-0291 ([joesteelhead@aol.com](mailto:joesteelhead@aol.com)) or Jim Rich at 477-6404 ([jrich1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrich1@sbcglobal.net)).



Paul Correia  
Chase Chevrolet  
6441 Holman Road  
Stockton, Ca 95212  
209-475-6600

<http://www.chasechevrolet.com/>

## December General Meeting Elections and Member Presentations Wednesday December 9th

This month's program will be DFF's annual Member's Program Night at John R. William's School at 7pm. Delta Fly Fisher's members will have the opportunity to share some of their fishing trips over the past year. This need not be formal, just come and share what you've learned and enjoyed.

If you would like to give a short 10 - 15 minute presentation, then call Information: Marty Kjelson at 477-9618

We will also be holding elections for DFF's Board of Directors. There is currently one seat open on the Board. The Board will then elect the Club's officers. So if you would like to run for a position and make a difference in your Club, then come to this month's meeting and participate.



L3 Rods.com  
Larry Lee  
5645 St. Claire Way  
Citrus Heights, CA 95621

[www.l3rods.com](http://www.l3rods.com)  
[larrylee@l3rods.com](mailto:larrylee@l3rods.com)  
(916) 962-0616 O  
(916) 601-7853 C

## Oak Grove Parking

Jim Rich wants to inform DFF members that they will now need a DFF parking permit to display on your dash as the county sheriff's office will be writing tickets for non DFF members on Wednesday nights. Jim is going to print up placards or permits, so see Jim to get one. Information: 477-6404 or [jrich1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrich1@sbcglobal.net)



[www.SierraAnglers.com](http://www.SierraAnglers.com)  
ROBERT NAKAGWA, proprietor  
700 McHenry Ave. Suite D  
Modesto, CA 95350  
(209) 572-2212  
E-mail: [SierraAngler@hotmail.com](mailto:SierraAngler@hotmail.com)

## Conservation

by Ron Forbes

As you know our legislature has passed the water bills long sought by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. This package has the price tag of \$11.12 billion dollars and will eventually lead to a peripheral canal. Given the seriousness of this legislation and feeling the need to act, the members of Delta Fly Fishers Board of Directors voted to join Restore the Delta to help make our point of view better known. The election for the five bill package will be held November 2, 2010. Restore the Delta is grassroots organization that is committed to making "the Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta fishable, swimmable, drinkable, and farmable to the benefit of all California." The group is made up of business leaders, civic groups, community groups, farmers, union locals, fisherman, environmentalist and now the Delta Fly Fishers. One of the main goals of Restore the Delta is to reduce the water exports from the Delta going south and to restore and sustain the Delta's ecosystem.

Restore the Delta has been very active both in the media and in the Sacramento. They represent our point of view of the Delta well and make our points known to the public.

Their website is: [www.restorethedelta.org](http://www.restorethedelta.org)

In a recent report the State Treasurer's Office has shown that only about half of the \$20 billion in bonds voted since 2000 for water and levee improvement has been spent as of July, and now they want another 11.1 billion. The package is a mix of bills which will be a stepping stone for a peripheral canal. During the whole process those of who live near the Delta have been left out of any decision making process. Assembly-woman Alyson Huber who represents the 10th Assembly District introduced a bill which would require a nonpartisan fiscal analysis prior to a vote so we would know what a canal would cost, and what it would cost the water ratepayers. However her bill was killed without a public hearing.

One of the many disturbing parts of the water bill package is the pork barrel projects included to get the Assembly and Senate to pass this legislation. At a time when we are \$38 billion in debt and can't afford to pay our debts, the legislature has included almost \$2 billion of the \$11.1 billion of for their pet projects. Such as :

- \$100 million is included for the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Project. This is for watershed, bike trails, public access and recreation projects.
- \$20 million for the Baldwin Hills Conservancy to buy land to expand the small conservancy in the LA hills which is near the home of Assembly Speaker Karen Bass.
- \$1.05 billion for projects relating to water supply reliability projects. San Francisco Bay is to get \$132 million of the money, and LA is to get \$198 million. However, no specific projects were outlined in that part of bond.
- \$20 million for economic development in Siskiyou County.
- \$ 20 million for "water quality" for the New River which goes from Mexico into California.

And the list of pork goes on and on.

Bill Lockyer , the State Treasurer, says that if these bills pass, our

debt service in California will as much as 10% of our general fund by 2014-2015. At present it is about 5.7%

Governor Schwarzenegger and the Bond's sponsor, Senator Dave Cogdill both claim that this 5 bill package to be historic. The truth is that if the bill passes it will be a disaster for the Delta that we have known. I'm glad the Board has taken this stand by joining Restore the Delta. It shows that Delta Fly Fishers have a firm commitment to the environment and to our Delta.

### - Big Horn Youth Adventure 2010 -

The Big Horn River Alliance & FFF will be sponsoring and producing the Big Horn Youth Adventure 2010.

The dates for 2010 will be June 24 - 27 with a travel day before and after. This Adventure will include four days of guided fishing with experienced, professional Big Horn River guides and four two-hour sessions at the tying vise being taught by professional fly tiers. We are expanding the program to include more evening activities such as 'You-row-it Carp Tourney', Casting Games, Fly Tying Games and other activities.

All FFF clubs and councils are more than welcome to encourage applications from young fly fishers.

**APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS:** Any youth, male or female, ages 14 thru 18. All applicants must: 'KIND OF' know how to fly fish and 'KIND OF' know how to tie flies. We are seeking youngsters who want to experience the joy of a 'big time' fly fishing adventure and are willing to return home to mentor other young people and encourage others to take part in the great activity of fly fishing. All meals, lodging, airport shuttles and guides will be provided free of charge. Air transportation to Billings or transportation directly to Fort Smith must be secured by the participant's parents, guardian or fly fishing club.

For more information and applications please contact:

Frank Johnson  
11 Spring Creek Lane  
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801  
307-672-5164 or cell 307-752- 7083  
Email [bghrnkhkl@wavecom.net](mailto:bghrnkhkl@wavecom.net)

For more information visit the Big Horn River Alliance web site at: [www.bighornriveralliance.org](http://www.bighornriveralliance.org)

There is a complete report on the 2009 Adventure as well as many pictures, and comments from the kids and their parents. Thanks for your interest. [www.bighornriveralliance.org](http://www.bighornriveralliance.org)



American Fly Fishing Company  
3523 Fair Oaks Blvd. & Watt Ave.  
Sacramento, CA  
916-483-1222 or 800 410-1222  
[www.americanfly.com](http://www.americanfly.com)

## DFF Officers 2009

### President

Stephen Johnson 209-887-9255

### 1st Vice President

(Open)

### 2nd Vice President

Herman Spalinger 209-477-3412

(Temp)

### Secretary

Sallye Rollans 209-274-0448

### Treasurer

Bruce Rollans 209-274-0448

## Directors

Joe Balderston 209-649-0291

Charles Edwards 209-951-0391

Ron Forbes 209-368-5767

Marty Kjelson 209-477-9618

Bill Laughlin 209-477-6644

Doug Ridgway 209-957-0170

Sallye Rollans 209-274-0448

Larry Schmidt 209-948-3360

Earl Summers 209-957-6756

## Committees

### Education

Joe Balderston 209-649-0291

### Newsletter

Doug Ridgway 209-957-0170

### Conservation/NCCFFF Member

Ron Forbes 209-368-5767

### Historian/Property

Jim Grimes 209-367-4663

### Membership

Bob Souza 209-478-8344

### Outings

Earl Summers 209-957-6756

### Publicity

Grady Lee 209-951-3623

### Programs

Marty Kjelson 209-477-9618

John Keagy 209-369-5690

### Raffles

Bill Laughlin 209-477-6644

### Catfish Derby (June)

Earl Summers 209-957-6756

### Trout Bout (November)

Charlie Reames 209-369-6053

### Bob McMillan Trout Bout

#### (February)

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

### Web Site

David Coon 209-239-9936

### Fishing Buddy Program

Bob Souza 209-478-8344

Grady Lee 209-951-3623

Ron Pettitt 209-931-2997

## Delta Fly Fishers Official Club Merchandise For Sale

Help support your club by buying and using club merchandise.

Polo Shirt w/club logo sale \$26.00

Ball Cap \$11.50

Club Patch \$5.00

Lapel Pin \$7.00

Lic. Plate Frames \$3.00

Official coffee mug \$5.00

Also the club has a video library

Videotape Rentals \$2.00 Per Video

## Membership Meeting

December 9

**Board Meeting**

December 16

**January Newsletter**

The deadline for the

January issue is

December 25th

## Do You Want To Get Your DFF Newsletter Sooner?

DFF is working towards being able to send out DFF's Monthly Newsletter to our members electronically. By sending the Newsletter this way the DFF will be saving rising printing and postage costs that can then go towards our many programs. If you want to continue receiving the Newsletter by hard copy, (snail mail) there is no need to do anything.

If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email, send your email address to Bob Souza [suzasbs@clearwire.net](mailto:suzasbs@clearwire.net). Please put the following in Subject Field of your e-mail: Newsletter Email. Advise Bob of your full name and the email address you would like the magazine sent to.

This is strictly voluntary but you will be saving the Club money. also, since Bob emails out the newsletter before he takes it to the printer, you will receive it sooner.



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(209) 474-2195



## Winter Fishing!

By Bence 'Benny' Racz – Taken from the Boise Valley Fly Fishermen Newsletter

It's (almost) winter time now. One look in the morning over the foothills and Bogus Basin's whitecaps removes any doubt of that fact. Winter time brings on many thoughts, Fly tying, holidays, dark afternoons, football on TV and some fine fly fishing. That's right, trout fishing, winter steelhead fly fishing has been around a long time, and gets more popular every season. But the truth of the matter is trout fly fishing can be excellent, the crowds are down to non-existent, the scenery and wildlife are plentiful, even in town, and it makes those long days of early spring with rain and overflowing rivers more tolerable.

Winter fly fishing demands a little timing and planning on your part. One nice thing is, the weekends aren't crowded, so you really don't need to ask the boss for time off, to really get some peace and solitude. But other planning does need to be done. The first thing is checking your local regulations. Many, many places now offer year around trout or some good whitefish fly fishing. A good portion of this is probably catch and release, but that only helps in further reducing the crowds. By the way around February don't forget the WHITEFISH DERBY (By BOISE VALLEY FLY FISHERMAN, BVFF.com) on the SF of Boise river below Anderson Ranch Dam , north of Mountain Home. It has been held for over thirty years and does bring some crazy fisherman together. Keep your eyes on the local Newspaper Outdoor /Fishing section for date and more info.

Mild winter days, specifically afternoons, can provide some good fishing opportunities. If you go after Steelheads, you need to check for river levels, local shops may be able to provide more information not to mention internet forums. Three or four days of steady rain can really put the river at un-fishable levels. It is also "enjoyable" to fish in well below freezing temperatures. Even if you can dress warmly enough, the ice on the guides make casting nearly impossible, to avoid this use silicone spray or other lubricant (PAM) on your guides. Entering, and exiting the river can be extremely dangerous at this time of the year. Extreme care should be taken when wading in general, one slight misstep, can send you into the river, dangerous all year, this is multiplied by the cold air, and water temperatures in the winter. Also daylight is much less, making it more difficult to see the river bottom while wading. So step very cautiously. And always fish with a partner, and take a change of clothing with you even in town fishing.

OK, enough of the warnings, when to go is what we are after. I prefer a nice period of dry weather, with mild afternoons. I rarely fish in the early morning, in the winter, but if you can get a fogged over morning with nicely rising afternoon temperatures that reach in to the 33's, you have a day to hit the water!

What to wear: I use breathable waders and I actually have never been more comfortable while winter fishing. I layer underneath with two or three layers of thermal wear, including one layer of fleece pants. I can move much better than in neoprene's, and there is no clamminess to bring on chills. Socks are also important silk liners with thick winter socks work

for me. I have a roomier pair of wading boots specifically for winter to allow for the extra bulk. I also don't cinch my boots down too tight, as that seems to cut off circulation, nothing will ruin a fishing trip quicker than cold feet.

Many angler's wear fingerless fleece gloves, I like them , but if I can't keep them dry long enough , and I forget to bring an extra pair of gloves, I just tuck my free hand inside my waders by my chest. You can use hand warmers, and other object's, but sometimes its not worth the effort.

To me a hat is virtually as important as waders, and I layer shirts, remembering my vest will also provide "some warmth". Don't forget the inside, a nice hot thermos of coffee, has brought many a sigh of satisfaction.

Fishing: Winter trout fly fishing requires some adjustments. Plan on subsurface fishing primarily. The warm afternoons like I mentioned above will produce Blue Wing Olive hatches in many locations, and midges hatch year round as well. Some dry fly will work to imitate the occasional nymph that might come in the trout's path.. Streamers also make excellent winter flies. Don't forget that like trout, small fish and nymphs metabolism is slow as well, and they are apt to stick to the bottom, and out of the main current.

Winter fishing usually means clear water. Use lighter tippet than normal, because fish seem more easily spooked. Trout's metabolism makes them want to seek out pools near the bank that are warmed by the sun, so they are more vulnerable. I use strike indicators as well. Also remember that due to the slower metabolism, the fish will be sluggish. They often will bite gingerly. As trout may often go after several small insects in one mouthful.

They are not likely to chase food down as this will burn more calories then they will take in. Especially when fishing smaller patterns. While small pattern are very effective, in fact the first choice of many winter angler's, they need to be fished deep, and in front of the fish. Dead drifting nymphs is my first choice. If no luck I will try swinging streamers, second. I mend my line as soon as it hits the water, to ensure a drag free drift, and wait for the gentle take. Sometimes if it's that cold I let the fish do the setting.

Once landed the winter fish might need more that it's usual care before allowing it to swim free. Landing fish should be quicker do to their lower energy (and the very, very cold water), and then one must make sure the fish is 100% revived before it's release.



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The advertisement features a logo on the left showing a silhouette of a person fishing with a rod and reel. Below the logo is a small box with the text 'VIRGINIA LAKES RESORT'.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Wed (except meeting nights)	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	<b>WEDNESDAY EVENING TYING</b> Contact: Joe Balderston 649-0291 or Jim Rich 477-6404
Every 2nd Wed (except July & Aug) 7:00 PM	John R Williams School Stockton	<b>Membership Meeting</b> Contact Marty Kjelson 477-9618 John Keagy 369-5690
Every 3rd Wed (except July) 7:00 PM	Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton	<b>Board Meeting</b> All Members Welcome
Wednesday December 9	John R Williams School Stockton	<b>December General Meeting</b> Elections and Member's Presentations
Saturday December 12	North Shore, Lake Camanche	<b>Lake Camanche Outing</b> Contact - Earl Summers 957-6756
Wednesday December 16	Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton	<b>Board Meeting</b> All Members Welcome
Friday January 1	Van Assen Park Clements	<b>Annual Mokelumne River Outing</b> Contact - Earl Summers 957-6756 & Jim Rich 477-6404
Saturday January 30	Eagle Lodge 1492 Bourbon St, Stockton	<b>Annual Dinner</b> Food by Bill Laughlin and Steve Cooper
February, 2010	TBA	<b>February Outing</b>
Saturday, February 6	Oak Grove Park, Stockton	<b>Trout Bout</b>
March 27	TBA	<b>Largemouth Bass Outing</b>
Saturday April 3	Kelsey Bass Ranch Snelling, CA	<b>Annual Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing</b> Al Smatsky 368-9261
Saturday May 8	White Pines Lake, Arnold	<b>Annual One Fly Contest</b>
May, 2009	Salt Springs Reservoir	<b>May Outing</b>
Saturday, June 5	Oak Grove Park, Stockton	<b>Catfish Derby</b>
Wednesday, June 9	Oak Grove Park, Stockton	<b>Annual Club Barbeque</b>

## Swap and/or Trade

**Yamaha Outboard Motor 20 horsepower, 4 stroke long shaft electric start, electric tilt and tiller control. Under 10 hours 2006 model. Firm at \$2,000.00. Contact Bruce Rollans 209 274-0448.**

**I wish to trade either a 7/8 wt and/or 6 wt fly rod for either a 5 wt, 4 or 5 piece, travel rod or a large reel, to hold 7-10 wt line.  
Marty Kjelson - 477-9618**



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---

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800/4000-fly  
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## SAVE MART MARKETS – S.H.A.R.E.S

DFF has joined with Save Mart Markets via the S.H.A.R.E.S. program. DFF earns 3% of most purchases made by customers using the card provided to DFF by Save Mart.

In February we passed out close to 100 S.H.A.R.E.S. cards to DFF members. Many of you have been using them. Since late February we have earned approximately \$300. We have noticed a drop in usage this past month so we encourage you to shop Save Mart and use the card. There is no additional cost to you. It merely gives 3% to DFF that otherwise would go to market profit.

## Keep An Eye On It

By Clay Gill

Taken from the Alamo Fly Fishers Newsletter

Everybody says predator fish go for the head or eyes when they slash their quarry. You can see these feeding fish hack through terrified baitfish herding them as they hurl in at high speed. It is mutilation with reckless abandon. It made it popular to have big flashy eyes on most home made flies cast into this circumstance.

We all have seen this feed frenzy from time to time somewhere. But do those predators really have time to say, hey-lets hit that one in the head! I would like to think good looking realistic eyes on my flies produce better in that arena. But do they? The poor hapless wandering single minnow really gets the once over from a hiding predator. He is much observed prior to demise. Thousands jammed together create a riotous frenzy, and only luck may save them.

But, for a single baitfish fishing environment it may be true. The eyes have it. It seems certain the realistic or rattling eyes produce better on some fishing flies. It can pull out reluctant predators and light their feeding fire. Realistic flies get smacked quickly! And the noise factor makes it that much better.

Probably what is working better is the way fisherman use their offerings. With a realistic look and authenticity comes confidence. Pro Bass competitors call this “confidence bait”. It works better because they believe in it. Everyone has one of these. Maybe it just worked when another would not. But when you lean into it as you bite your bottom lip and focus like it can hear you thinking, --you are in tune.

There must be a billion ways to make good looking eyes on a popper or minnow imitation. The easy way is to purchase what looks good and experiment. Some say big black pupils make the eyes better. Other eyes are red and mean looking. There is the flashy stick-on type (pre-stamped), and they do the job also. Some people paint eyes before a clear coating. It looks real but is one dimensional.

Now which one do we place on homemade poppers to elicit a sure bet strike upon presentation? They are all good if you like them. You will fish it more, and that equates to what Dad

called “time on the water”. You pay your dues and eventually it goes well. Experimentation leads to a focus on what works--and when. Then stick with it, and make an effort to confirm your well founded beliefs. -You must believe!

One thing I have seen that seems to make a huge difference is the distinction between silent and rattle lures. I saw that for decades in Bass fishing clubs and on my own. That led to the evolution of my fly tying. There is a craft store waterproof glue-on “bubble” eye that has the 3-D look. More important it has a BB inside. On the strip, it sends out the clicking reverberation that fish sense with their lateral lines and I believe it can push a half hearted fish over the edge.

This rattle eye has become one of my favorite confidence flies. Older poppers having stick-on one dimensional eyes got retro-fitted long ago. They now sport these 3-D eyes in the appropriate proportionate size. It works, and I think doubled my strikes for sure! The larger eye has a pupil that moves inside and clicks if jerked.

They are called doll eyes and come in big jumbo packs. Just keep the super glue off the clear dome where the pupil or bb is housed. (From 1/8 inch to 1/2 inch diameter-you can get assorted sizes in a bulk pack). The glue will cloud up the transparency if it gets on the outside. Flatten a spot on the side of the popper with pliers if your model is still in the rough stage. The bottom of the plastic eye is flat. Hold for twenty seconds after one single drop of Super Glue. The epoxy coat is last after color finish, then the eyes. Favorites are, (1/8”) and (1/4”) - mostly for poppers.

You must believe in something when you fish. When you do -- it all comes together. After the results are in and you recap the day, I bet you will be fond of the results your realistic flies produce. Rattle eyes --can double your strikes on poppers. Like a great hunting dog- no mystery for sure, -fix not,--what isn't broke.

Summary: Enjoy your time on the water, have fun ,be safe, and if you too cold for winter fishing don't worry just come to our fishing meeting, fly tying or other programs where we can discuss about your experience.

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