



# Main Stream

Mission Peak Fly Anglers

PO Box 7263 • Fremont, CA 94537



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## December 2014 Club Meeting

**PLACE:** Silliman Community Activity Center  
6800 Mowry Avenue, Newark CA 94560  
510- 742-4400

**DATE:** **Wednesday, December 17th** (Note day and date)

**TIME:** 6:30 pm

**PROGRAM :** Movie and Swap Meet

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\*\*\*\*\* UPCOMING FUTURE EVENT \*\*\*\* *Annual Installation Dinner* on [January 24 th 2015](#)

### Upcoming Events

- Wed. Dec. 17 **MOVIE AND SWAP MEET** - 6:30 PM, Silliman Community Activity Center  
Thurs. Dec. 18 Veterans First Fly Fishing - VA Hospital, San Jose, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Fri. Dec. 19 Veterans First Fly Fishing - VA Hospital, Menlo Park, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
- Wed. Jan. 7 **BOARD MEETING** 7:00 PM Fremont Activity Center, 3375 Country Dr., Fremont  
Wed. Jan. 7 Veterans First Fly Fishing - VA Hospital, Livermore, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Wed. Jan. 7 Veterans First Fly Fishing - VA Palo Alto, 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM
- Fri. Jan. 9 Veterans First Fly Fishing - VA Hospital, Menlo Park, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM  
Sat. Jan. 10 **Club Breakfast:** At the Denny's in Hayward on Whipple - 9:00 AM
- Wed. Jan. 21 Veterans First Fly Fishing - VA Hospital, Livermore, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Wed. Jan. 21 Veterans First Fly Fishing - VA Palo Alto, 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM  
Wed. Jan. 21 ***Fly Tying Night*** 7:00 PM, Fremont Activity Center, 3375 Country Dr., Fremont
- Sat. Jan. 24 **Installation Dinner** - Swiss Park - 5911 Mowry Ave., Newark, CA 94560
- Wed. Jan. 28 **Club Meeting-** 6:30 PM, Silliman Community Activity Center
- Thurs. Jan. 29 Veterans First Fly Fishing - VA Hospital, San Jose, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Fri. Jan. 30 Veterans First Fly Fishing - VA Hospital, Menlo Park, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**\*\* (Check with Ken Brunskill to confirm the January Veterans Meetings) \*\***  
**(January dates for the Veterans are guesses by the Editor based on dates from previous months)**

**Mainstream** is the monthly newsletter of the Mission Peak Fly Anglers',  
P.O. Box. 7263, Fremont, California. 94537

## 2014 OFFICERS

President	<b>Dean Lewis</b>		Board Member	Ron Smith	1/2014
Vice President	Bruce Butler		Board Member	Jan Van Zandt	1/2015
Secretary	Craig Gittings		Board Member	Don Jower	1/2016
Treasurer	Stephen Culp		Board Member	Jerry Reynolds	1/2016
		Past President	Wayne Culp		
			<b><u>Chairpersons</u></b>		
Annual Dinner	<b>Open</b>		Conservation	Steve Schramm	
Distribution	Ray Gauthier		Editor	Ray Gauthier	
FFF Rep	Gene Kaczmarek		Fish-outs	<b>Open</b>	
Fly Casting	<b>Open</b>		Fly Tying	Mitch Matsumoto	
Fund Raising	Paul Tavres		Boy Scouts	Jeff Lorelli	
Video/Archivist	Ray Gauthier		Graphic Design	Ed Huff	
Library	Dave Heyes		Hospitality	Kay Heyes	
Programs	Ron Smith		Picnic	<b>Open</b>	
Video Library	Bill Mattson		Raffle Chairman	Dave Heyes	
Web Master	Ray Gauthier		Trout Bum Award	Craig Gittings	
Trout in the classroom	Ed Huff		Fukumoto Award	Mitch Matsumoto	
			Fly Fishing Volunteers	Ken Brunskill	

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**MPFA Web Site**    <http://www.missionpeakflyanglers.org>

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**E-mail address list**

The club is compiling an e-mail address list for the use of club members. If you want your address included or wish to have a copy of the list, send an e-mail to Craig Gittings.

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## Notice

**Members**

The Newsletter will be coming out on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Send your articles or information to the editor by the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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## President's Message

Members,

In all of my "active" years in MPFA, I have been on the Board in one way or another. I have done the newsletter, been a combined Secretary/Treasurer, run the raffles and/or have been involved with the many of the activities. I guess you get out of the club what you put into it. Many members don't put much in, so sometimes I wonder why they stick around.

With the lack of interest this year, in filling the various positions on the Board, I am beginning to wonder what is in the cards for the coming year and beyond. I haven't really minded being President, as I have had a good supporting cast. Without a supporting cast, one doesn't really have the ability to preside over an operational club. Just like with "Term Limits" for elected officials, my term as President should end and some new person with different ideas, plans, experience, etc., needs to direct the club in the next year or two. One can get stale and new blood is needed to put life back into the position. Many of the current Board Members and Committee Chairs could be in this position to want a change too.

In the past, we moved to the Silliman Center. Craig Gittings was responsible for finding the location. It has been a great spot, but it costs the club money. I was able to find the Fremont Arts Center, which we use for Board meetings and fly tying. There is a charge for this facility too.

Fred Gerace was able to get us Swiss Park for our Annual Dinner and we were again able to keep our meal charge at \$35.00 per person. Our previous two years were at Dino's in Castro Valley. They have been sold and are moving to a smaller location but we were already taxing the limit on the space available. Swiss Park has a very large room and we are encouraging you to bring your family and friends as we now have the room.

This year, Fred Gerace and Paul Tavers took on the job of getting raffles prizes for the dinner and doing a lot of the planning (they relieved Steven Culp that has done it for 10 years). Unfortunately, many members do not seem to understand that this is a fund raising event. We have a really big prize item for the first time in club history. Members should be standing in line to purchase tickets for a chance to win this kick boat. Fred says that he hears a lot of "I already have a kick boat and don't need another one". Those members are totally missing the point. As Fred put it so well when he sent me the following:

"I may be naïve but I would expect ALL of our Board members to buy at least \$30.00 worth of tickets – regardless of whether you already have one or six or don't need one. If you win – then sell the boat back to the Club for \$200.00 and we will raffle it again next year." This should apply for all the members. It is a fund raiser and all members should contribute to the cause by purchasing more than a couple of tickets.

Purchasing tickets helps us cover the cost of the kick boat as well as helps us pay the bills for the Silliman Center and the Fremont Arts Center with any profits we make on ticket sales. We can't do this if you don't purchase tickets. As he says, sell it back to the club for a nominal fee or give it to a friend. Either way, you have helped support the club.

I have gone to other clubs and noticed that when their members walk in, they hand \$20.00 to the guy selling raffle tickets without even knowing what is in the raffle. They understand that their \$20.00 helps keep the club operational.

The same is true of our raffles. How many of you look at our raffles, decide that you don't need anything there and don't purchase any tickets. Dave and Kaye spend lots of effort in running the monthly raffles. They also provide the coffee and cookies we enjoy. The club pays for this too. It is not free. If they are short in the collection cup, they get reimbursed for the difference.

Mission Peak Fly Anglers is "YOUR" club. EVERYONE needs to contribute time, money and energy to the support of the club. Those of us that have done it for years do it because we believe in the club, want to see it flourish and we get enjoyment from the programs, fish outs and other club activities.

We have tried other ideas the past couple of years. We held the annual picnic at a neat place on the way to Santa Cruz. This year we held it at the casting ponds. Comments were heard about it being too far to go, etc. If you get involved, you can have input into how the club operates and provide input on what you want to get out of the club and the activities. This will not happen unless you do more than come to the monthly meeting. You have to get involved.

It is your club. "STEP UP TO THE PLATE". Many of us have done it. We didn't know much either. We had jobs and still found time to give to the club. We learned as we went. Anyone can do it. You just have to decide to get involved. The future of the club is in your hands.

Dean Lewis  
President

## *Annual Trout Bum Award*

### **Starts Jan 1, 2014**

Awarded by MPFA Board of Directors at December board meeting

### **Requirements:**

Candidate must have fished 10 or more waters during the calendar year (no private pay to play waters). Waters may be tributaries of any river or lakes with the use of a fly only, and report to the club documented with photos during a regular meeting.

**Chairperson:** Craig Gittings

### **Veterans First Fly Fishing .....Attention Mission Peak Members      Veterans First Fly Fishing**

Who would like to join us and be part of helping our veterans through this worthwhile program?

What you might ask is involved? It can be as little as a group of us going out to Livermore and and/or Menlo Park once a month to teach fly casting and fly tying to our wounded veterans. It could go as far as accompanying a group of veterans on a fishing trip to be their 'gillie' and personal assistant on that trip.

I have made the initial contact at Livermore VA Nursing unit and there seems to be an interest, but I cannot do it alone.

I'd bet we can get funding help from the FFF, NCCFFF, the Elks Lodge, Kiwanis, VFW, and other service organizations, all we need to do is give a little of our own time to those who have given so much for us. If interested please contact me. Thanks.

Ken Brunskill

**BUDDING FLY FISHING WRITERS**

Here is your chance to gain some experience writing about your fabulous fly fishing trips to places near and far. The club newsletter is seriously lacking in members written and photographic accounts of our fishouts. Of course you may not think a trip to Putah Creek is worthy of such notoriety, but remember, many members have never been there and would welcome a description of how your fishout went. And, as for a trip to Alaska or Baja, a story of your adventure would be most appreciated. Send articles to the editor.

**NOTE FROM TREASURER, STEPHEN CULP** – Mission Peak Fly Angler’s patches and pins are available from Stephen at a nominal price. New members should have received either a pin or a patch when they joined; if not, call Stephen Culp.

**\*\*\*\*\* Election Results \*\*\*\*\***

President - Open  
Vice President - Bruce Butler  
Secretary - Fred Gerace  
Treasurer - Stephen Culp  
Director - Paul Tavers  
Director - Mitch Matsumoto

Carry over directors  
Don Jower  
Jerry Reynolds

## Mission Peak Fly Anglers Board agenda of December 3, 2014

### OLD BUSINESS

**Minutes:** Approve minutes of November 5, 2014

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

**Programs:** December meeting is movie/swap night..  
March speaker (Jim Cox) needs a place to stay

**Club Elections:** New officers for 2015

**Installation Dinner:** Where are we? Reservations, prizes, etc.

**Fish outs:** Next up is the UC Davis Property on the Yuba December 13.  
8 signed up to date

#### **Board Member Items:**

**Members:** There were only two voting members present (Dean Lewis and Don Jower) plus Secretary elect Fred Gerace.

No business could be conducted. There was much discussion about lack of interest in helping the club, by being an officer, and the lack of support by purchasing raffle tickets at meetings and for the dinner. Only a few have signed up at the time of the meeting.

The point being that the club depends on your support. If you win something that you have as a duplicate, it can always be sold back to the club for a nominal fee and / or given to another member. The sale of tickets, etc supports the activities you enjoy at the club meetings.

Dean Lewis,  
President.

## Fly of the Month



hook . . . #12 egg hook  
body . . . tapered thread wraps  
hackle . . . small grouse feather, tied spider (Tenkara) style

In October 2014, Ken Barker demonstrated tying a **Spider Fly**.

[Spider Fly Video](#)



## Monthly Programs

<b>Dated</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Program Title</b>
Dec. 17th	Movie and Swap Meet	Movies: "Kiss the Water" and/or "Only the River Knows"
Jan. 28th	To Be Announced	
Feb. 25th	To Be Announced	
Mar. 25th	To Be Announced	
April 22nd	To Be Announced	
May 27th	To Be Announced	
June 24th	To Be Announced	

### December Program

Movie and Swap Meet

**THE JOHN FUKUMOTO FLY TYING AWARD**

The criteria:

- Only current members of Mission Peak Fly Anglers are eligible.
- The fly must be presented and tied at a monthly fly tying session.
- Special consideration will be given to original patterns and unique variations of a standard pattern.
- The award cannot be won by an individual in consecutive years.
- Selection of each year’s winner will be made by the current Fly Tying Chairman and two club members of his choosing.

**Outstanding Video**

<b>Video No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Out Since</b>	<b>Borrower</b>
152	MPFA Fly Tying with Ed Huff	<b>5/28/14</b>	<b>Rich Choy</b>

**\*\*\*\* Video Library\*\*\*\***

MPFA Maintains a 200+ library for the benefit of its members and we need the help of every member to keep it available to the entire membership.

We ask that you check out a video (Honor System) and return it within 2-3 months. After the 2nd month, the librarian will send the borrower an e-mail or note reminding them that there is a video(s) checked out in their name.

After the 3rd month, the librarian and/or the secretary will send a note asking for the video or \$40 to cover the purchase of it's replacement. Thanks.

Your Video Librarian,  
Bill Mattson

**MISSION PEAK FLY ANGLERS**  
**2015 FISHOUT LIST (To Be Announced)**

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF FISH	FISHMASTER	COMMENTS
Jan				
<b>Feb</b>				
Feb - March				
March				
March - April				
March - April				
May				
May 15-16				
June – July				
July/Aug				
<b>Sept</b>				
<b>Sept 27-28</b>				
Sept/Oct				
Sept/Oct				
Sept/Oct				
Sept/Oct				
Oct				
Oct				
Nov				
Dec				

The above fishout calendar is tentative and subject to change. Always contact the fishmaster the week of the fishout to be notified of changes due to weather and unforeseen circumstances. Also check the newsletter for detailed information on fishing tackle, flies, directions and accommodations, as recommended by the fishmaster.

Note that only the fishouts shown in **BOLD** on this calendar are actually confirmed at this time; all others are tentative.

The actual dates of wintertime fishouts are highly dependent upon the weather conditions and will be confirmed by the fishmaster the week of the fishout.

Your ideas for fishout locations are always welcomed by the club. Phone Dean Lewis to volunteer as a fishmaster. The qualifications for a fishmaster are that you have a place in mind, know how to get there, and would welcome some fishing companions. That is it, so sign up now!

## Conservation News

by Steve Schramm

# Salmon Found On Mars!

It is that time of year when the American Geophysical Union holds its annual meeting in San Francisco. This year's event, being held December 15-19<sup>th</sup>, will feature considerable data from NASA's seventh Mars lander, *Curiosity*. As most of you probably already know, *Curiosity* touched down in Gale Crater, an L.A. Basin sized meteor impact crater that contains a 3.4 mile high mountain, Mt. Sharp, near its center.

Scientists chose the site in this 3.5 billion year old crater because reconnaissance surveys suggested the base of Mt. Sharp to be composed of layers of sedimentary rock indicating that the rock was deposited in the presence of water, presumably from rivers running down from the crater walls into what may have been given the footprint of Mt Sharp, an enormous lakebed. Since the mantra in the search for life beyond Earth is "follow the water", the essential ingredient for existence as we know it, what better place to look for evidence of life than to drive a robot up 2 billion years of erosion exposed Mars history and take rock samples.

The evidence collected thus far suggests that liquid water on Mars existed not only as short term flash flood events, but as long lasting lakes. The big picture is that a hydrological cycle, more Earth-like than previously known, and probably including rain and snow, existed on Mars.

What strikes me about this revelation are the long and gradual processes that dominate much of geology, processes that operate over hundreds of millions to billions of years, yet produce in small increments incredible change given long periods of time. Like hiking in the Sierra, slow and steady will always get you there. But what a slow and boring thing the deposition of layer after layer of rock must be, a Bill Murray-esque *Groundhog Day*, but with an almost imperceptible daily change occurring over eons, until *Voila!*, an amazing geological transformation.

Personally, I find the flash events more exciting. In *The Origin of Species*, Charles Darwin first described evolutionary change as occurring gradually. It wasn't until the late Harvard paleontologist Stephen J. Gould put forth the theory of punctuated equilibrium, the idea that evolutionary change in living populations could occur in saltational leaps over brief geologic time periods that the idea of "flash" events could occur in biological evolution was accepted. A good example, amongst thousands, is the rapid rise of mammals, which existed simultaneously for much of the dinosaurs' 135 million year rule on Earth, that is, before they were wiped out by the meteor that opened the door for "quick" evolution of mammals into the newly created vacancy.

Our own *War of the Worlds* fight over water for fish seems to me to parallel the geological and biological processes described. Much of the effort requires slow and steady effort, day after day, month after month, fighting the same battles over the same dams, the same diversions and the same rivers, with only small changes as yet another year passes. Occasionally, there are saltational leaps, flash events in conservation that move the markers of our efforts forward or back in one fell swoop. But that said, even the MPFA Action Alerts, flashes coming by email urging immediate action to influence this or that bureaucrat, on behalf of this or that fishery, are flashes at first, but then fade into white noise until only the truly sensational headline catches our attention, Salmon Found On Mars!

This is the time when the inevitable year end retrospectives start popping up in the media. I used to enjoy these looks back, and I still do, though less so than I used to. I think my enthusiasm started to wane when Dick Clark's Rocking New Year's Eve gave way to whatever it is Ryan Seacrest does. Dick Clark gave us American Bandstand, and Seacrest gave us

the Kardashians. I'll never forgive you Ryan. It's not that I'm not empathetic to Sir Mixalot, it's just I'm tired of the over exposure. I need an end to that end. And perhaps you Mr. Seacrest deserve a feeding there. Where's the CIA when you need them?

Looking back on conservation efforts at the end of 2014 I'm reminded of the following:

Back in January Governor Jerry Brown invoked emergency legislation that rescinded California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regulations as they pertain to water use in California meaning that minimum fishery and wildlife requirements were made irrelevant. Meanwhile, he made residential water conservation voluntary setting a 20% reduction goal that never got higher than 10%, and he continued to allow the planting of all the almond orchards you could with all the flood irrigation and groundwater pumping you want. Damn the speed bumps, full speed ahead!

Around the same time 21st District Representative David Valadao wasted no time in sponsoring House Bill, H.R. 3964, the *Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act*. This pernicious piece of legislation purported to protect native species in our waters by painting non-natives such as striped and largemouth bass as the culprit for the precipitous crash of salmonid populations in the State, rather than the continued sucking dry of the Delta teat in the midst of a prolonged drought. This is the same piece of dung legislation that Valadao would transform into HR5781 later this year and that Senator Dianne Feinstein was trying to reconcile with her own Senate version S2198 until anglers woke up and called BULLSHIT, and shut it down with letters, emails and calls to Washington D.C. last month, at which point Feinstein delayed it.

And while the end of the year is also the time that pundits make predictions for the New Year, I'm no pundit and I have no idea where the Dow Jones will find itself in 2015, or what the price of a gallon of gasoline will be, but I can guarantee that Dianne will readdress her bill when the Republican Congress takes effect in 2015. That's not a dig against Republicans, I've made no secret of the fact that I see each party as two sides of the same coin. To quote *The Who*,

" And the parting on the left,  
Is now parting on the right...

Then I'll get on my knees and pray,  
We don't get fooled again."

With the cover of a Republican majority Dianne will conveniently be able to feign opposition, like Gene Wilder beseeching bratty Mike Teavee in a deadpan voice to "Stop." "Don't." "Come back." before Mike zaps himself inside a television in *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. I feel pretty confident on this one and will take bets, gentlemen's and gentlewomen's of course, that Dianne will sell us down the river.

And instead of following through with a court order that would require a the Army Corps to truck salmon over Englebright and Daguerre Dams beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 on the Yuba River as well as to provide a permanent fix of the fish passage issues at these dams, the Army Corps argued that it doesn't have a authority to provide passage. They can build dams, levees and everything else under the sun, but no fish ladder? As a result the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) was required to develop a new biological opinion on the matter using no prior findings on the matter. At the rate and direction that NMFS has move, as you will see below, perhaps it should rename itself NERO and fiddle away as Rome burns.

It was also in early March that a state court of appeals found that Marin County's latest land-use plan adopted months before, failed to assess the effects of proposed development on the habitat of threatened species of coho salmon and steelhead trout particularly in San Geronimo Valley. This new plan had been adopted because the 2007 plan before it was also given an "F" by the court. Ultimately, the court ordered the county to conduct a new environmental study and invite more public comment. One for the good team! But there is some alarming news that you'll read further below.

And it was no April Fool's joke that on April 1<sup>st</sup> in the midst of a drought in the range of the sixth, seventh or eighth driest year on record, that State and Federal governments increased Delta pumping over 433% to purportedly to catch runoff from a late season storm. Never mind that rivers were already critically low. It seems Senator Dianne Feinstein and six San Joaquin Valley Congressmen sent a letter to Interior Secretary Jewell and Commerce Secretary Pritzker requesting more Delta water for San Joaquin Valley corporate agribusiness interests, claiming that water exports wouldn't harm endangered Central Valley Chinook salmon, Delta smelt and other fish species. No evidence to justify this claim, other than referring to an "exchange of emails" between state and federal officials was provided. Later the San Jose Mercury News would call out Senator Feinstein's *quid pro quo* when she released her revised Senate drought bill, S2198 the *Emergency Drought Relief Bill of 2014*, to do the bidding of Big Ag at the expense of the Delta.

On a positive note it was also in early April that Rio Tinto sold its 19% stake in Northern Dynasty Minerals which owns the mineral rights to develop Pebble Mine, thus diminishing the chances of the project moving forward with without a new source of funding. But again, you'll read of other developments further down.

And in May, Yvon Chouinard, fly fisherman, environmentalist and founder of Patagonia wrote his OpEd that appeared in the New York Times. He highlighted that of the over 80,000 dams in the United States, 26,000 are unsafe and pose significant safety hazards. Only about 1750 still produce power while the benefits of the rest for water use, flood control and electricity can now be met more effectively without continuing to choke entire watersheds. Chouinard was also responsible as executive producer for the release of the film documentary DamNation on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014. If you haven't seen it yet, I highly recommend that you check it out.

In June, CalTrout's screening of the Shane Anderson film, *Wild Reverence: The Wild Steelhead's Last Stand* premiered in Bay Area and documented the 90+% decline of historical wild steelhead stocks in the continental United States. And almost simultaneously, after the Army Corps waffled on its authority over the Englebright and Daguerre Point Dams, U.S. District Judge Morrison C. England subsequently instructed NMFS to issue a new BiOp with the stipulation that it not refer to any findings in its earlier 2102 BiOp that called for temporary trucking of salmonids and permanent fish passages. NMFS obediently complied and has basically thrown out all requirements for mitigation measures (now voluntary) as they relate to Englebright and Daguerre Point Dams. Is there any wonder there has been a 90+% decline in steelhead stocks in the U.S.?

Shortly thereafter in July Susan Ward's article in The Sacramento Bee, *Beautiful river, growing thirst, looming battle over the Eel River*, outlined the forthcoming battle over waters of the Eel when PG&E's Potter Valley Diversion Project comes up for FERC relicensing in 2022. Sonoma and Marin counties will still want the water even if the hydroelectric goes away, and if the water continues to go away we will lose the best chance to restore a blue ribbon wild salmon and steelhead fishery in what is the third largest watershed in California. The battle for water in the Eel is one we must win.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 you'll recall there was a "pond breach" at a mine tailing retention facility at the Mount Polley Mine in British Columbia that spilled 2.6 billion gallons of potentially toxic liquid and 1.3 billion gallons of contaminated sediment into the downstream watershed, and ultimately into British Columbia's Fraser River. This slurry entered adjacent Hazeltine Creek and ultimately entered Quesnel Lake. Presently, the turbidity in Quesnel Lake has been increasing since the end of October. Presumably, the lake is experiencing fall turnover and the suspended solids from the tailing pond are being brought to the surface. Despite sampling showing levels of organic solvents used in the mining process and heavy metals from the ore extraction being below acceptable levels in the samples taken from Quesnel Lake, read "diluted", the BC Environmental Division does not recommend drinking the turbid water from the lake. What the long term effect on fish will be, namely salmon and trout in Hazeltine Lake and Quesnel Lake, remains to be seen. For such a large spill the amount of information on the effects of the sediment and tailing byproducts on water, sediment and fish is scant. There is a lot of bureaucrat speak on the Canadian government's website as well as On Imperial Metals Corporation website, but few facts.

In September thoughts turned to the election and Proposition 1, the *Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014*. There was a bit of good news in September when on September 16<sup>th</sup> amid a record drought Jerry Brown signed a new California law that would limit groundwater pumping for the first time. That good news was tempered by the fact that the limits on pumping would not kick in until the 2020s.

Attention to Proposition 1 continued into October. But unfortunately, in November the \$7.5 billion dollar spending program was passed by the people of California. Governor Brown succeeded and did not let a good crisis, the drought, go to waste. At least at the end of November enough of the people of California contacted Senator Feinstein to get her to drop S2198 until next year.

There were also several MPFA Action Alerts calling for letters, emails and phone calls on some of the following conservation issues:

- To support wild steelhead management in Puget Sound
- To tell EBMUD to support additional Wild and Scenic Protection on the Mokelumne River
- To close the suction dredge mining loophole
- To raise awareness of The Bay Delta Conservation Plan's funding shortcomings
- To tell the Cal Water Board to create a healthy San Joaquin River
- To protect the Smith River from nickel mining
- To chastise NMFS for waving its 2009 biological restrictions on Delta pumping during low water periods
- To oppose Senator Feinstein's S2198
- To oppose Representative Valadao's HR 3964
- To oppose hatchery salmonid stocking in Oregon to the detriment of wild salmonids

All of which brings us to today and the last month of 2014. There are so many topics to address in quite a bit less than a geologic scale time. So here goes:

For the first 30 years the Clean Water Act was interpreted to protect to all of our Nations' waters. In 2001 the Supreme Court narrowed that interpretation leaving many smaller stream and wetlands unprotected. Earlier this year the EPA proposed changes to the rule in order to broaden its ability to protect water quality. Look for this proposal to stir up a hornet's nest of opposition in Washington DC in 2015. You can read more here [Protecting Small Streams and Wetlands Currently At-Risk](#).

At the American River Hatchery near Sacramento, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is installing water chillers at a cost of nearly \$1 million to ensure water at the hatchery doesn't become lethally warm for salmon. You can read more here [California drought prompting extraordinary measures to protect salmon](#). It's so much easier to protect habitat and flows in the first place.

And CalTrout completed removal of a fish barrier on the Eel River that you can read more about at [Bridge Creek — Not Your Usual Fish Passage Project](#). As mentioned in a previous newsletter, following the premier of Shane Anderson's *Wild Reverence* CalTrout spoke on the Eel River as one of the best opportunities to restore a wild salmon and steelhead fishery in California. Couple that with dive surveys this past October showing that chinook salmon returns on the Eel are relatively strong this year and there is hope that the Eel may have the critical mass to see CalTrout's vision as a reality. You can read more on the surveys here [Fall chinook salmon runs strong](#). I was in the area of Fortuna the third week of October when all the salmon were in the vicinity of the Ferndale Bridge, but that was when the weekend storm arrived and turned the Eel into an unfishable chocolaty mess. Not so good for my chance at fishing, but good for the fish.

And dovetailing with the film *DamNation*'s theme of raising our awareness of the problems dam pose to fisheries, you can read more about UC Davis' Center for Watershed Sciences systematic and science-based approach for evaluating and targeting California dams for potential enforcement pursuant to Section 5937 of California Fish and Game Code which explicitly requires dam owners to release enough flow "at all times" to keep fish "in good condition" here [Flagging problem dams for fish survival](#). Unfortunately, as we've seen throughout this year, when the power brokers don't like a law they ignore it, or eviscerate it. Hopefully we can do a better job of holding them to Section 5937 going forward, it is the law after all.

And some disappointing news relative to Pebble Mine, in a ruling issued recently in Anchorage, a federal judge ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to cease all work pertaining to its investigation of whether to block development of Alaska's controversial Pebble Mine. The order, dated December 4, clarified the terms of a preliminary injunction issued by the same judge, H. Russel Holland, Senior Judge for the US District Court in Alaska, on November 24. The Pebble Partnership contends the EPA violated the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which ensures advisory committees are objective and accessible to the public, while developing the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. The process in question, called 404(c), allows the EPA to restrict or prohibit projects that could have adverse effects on fishery areas. You can read more here [Judge Orders EPA to Halt All Work on Pebble Mine](#). As noted previously, one step forward, two steps back.

And continuing with the one step forward, two steps back do-over theme, the Red Flat Nickel Corporation, is still looking to prospect for nickel in the headwaters of the Smith after initially being rebuffed by our calls and letters. You can read more here [Mining company fights for permit to drill near famed river](#). Here we go again, again.

In news from the Gualala River the Native Fish Society submitted a letter to California Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission supporting increasing the low flow closure limit for Sonoma and Marin county streams. You can read it here [Low Flow Closure Regulation Changes](#). This meshes with growing support for proposed legislation to create new low flow closure regulations on the Russian River to avoid threats to fish and habitat during low flow periods like those experienced last winter. Read more at [New low-flow regs would close Russian River fishery automatically](#).



And in our own backyard, Marin County coho salmon and steelhead have been struggling. Yes, Marin has been ordered to modify its land use plan to do more to protect these populations, but with the drought and despite recent rains, it is a precarious situation for these fish that has become more critical than ever. You can read more here [Muir Woods coho salmon vanish, fanning fears of extinction](#).

How bad was/is the drought that's hurting our fisheries? Here's an interesting overview of the California drought in 2014. Check out this Earthjustice piece [Who gets the water and who gets hung out to dry?](#)

And to see the White House's opposition position to HR 5781, Valadao's House version of the *Emergency Drought Relief Bill of 2014* that Feinstein was trying to reconcile with her own S2198, you can read more here [Statement of Administration Policy](#). Apparently Governor Brown opposes HR 5781 as well. As I said, we will definitely be revisiting this legislation when the Congress changes in 2015. To refresh your memory and prepare yourself for the upcoming fight you can also read [Congressional Action Threatens Central Valley Salmon, Stripers and Bass](#). It details how we got to S2198 and HR 5781 and what the DC politicians are trying to steal for Big Ag. Oh this is fun reading.

Before I sign off for 2014 and wish everyone a Merry Christmas I would like to ask you all to take a moment and consider the wonderful contributions that were made to Mission Peak Fly Anglers by two of its dearest members that we lost this year, Bill Peakes and Calvin Chin. I miss you guys, but you're always with me in my heart, and especially when I'm on the water. God bless. And a Happy New Year.



## Annual Mission Peak Fly Anglers Awards & Officers Installation Dinner

<b>Swiss Park</b> <b>5911 Mowry Ave, Newark, CA 94560</b> <b>(510) 793-6272</b>	<b>Saturday, January 24, 2015</b> <b>5:00 – 6:00pm No Host Bar</b> <b>Check Raffle Items</b> <b>6:00pm Dinner</b>
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*Choice of: Tri-Tip, Salmon or Chicken (Pasta Primavera for non-meat guests)*  
*Complemented with mixed vegetables, roasted potatoes*  
*Coffee or tea and Desert*  
*Served as a Buffet*  
**\$35.00 per person**

----- MPFA Installation Dinner-----

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dinner Selection:** Tri-Tip: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken: \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon: \_\_\_\_\_ Pasta \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Dinners selected \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Checks to:**  
**Stephen Culp**

**Make All Checks Payable to: Mission Peak Fly Anglers**

----- MPFA 2015 Dues-----

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Wife's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FFF Member Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$40.00 per member/family**  
**\$35.00 for current member of FFF**  
**\$20.00 if under 18 or living more than 100**  
**miles radius from Fremont**





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