

The President's Message

The unusually warm weather of late for most part is a transitional phase away from the Vernal or Spring Equinox of not quite four weeks ago. Mid 80 degree weather along the coast brought out the crowds and they weren't at the malls. Central Park was packed, as was Highway 1 over at Half Moon Bay. The Sierra snow pack is melting as well and soon the opening of the closed during winter season mountain roads open a myriad of streams and lakes to the angler with the extra gas funds at his disposal. But the streams and rivers are still too cold for any increased activity of aquatic species to move about in a feeding frenzy making the lower elevation bass ponds a good bet this time of year. With the trout opener just around the corner, we anticipate an increased frequency in our fishing trips, but only if our better half is also in-sync with our seasonal changes. I am made aware that anything related to club activities is also considered time away even if it is not fishing and that my participation is bordering on obsessive behavior and no longer just a hobby. The American Museum of Fly Fishing's newest video, Why Fly Fishing has John Gierach during an interview saying, "What I like about fly fishing is its insidious nature." After my better half made her remarks about the increase in fishing trips and various club meetings marked out on the family calendar, I find myself agreeing with Gierach's statement of "its insidious nature". As I look around the club membership, I find that I am not alone when it comes to this obsession either. Is this a support group or what?

Ken Brunskill's Boy Scout Merit Badge group finished the second program with 16 individuals participating. It is hoped that the Kistler Ranch outing on May 17th will help the boys satisfy the final requirement. Gene Kaczmarek, who claims to feel more at home at the Adult Education Center now, is considering forwarding his mail there, is also finishing up his sixth week of Tuesday evenings leading the beginner fly tying class. Gene, in order to justify his change of address, has mentioned if anyone is interested in the third in series steelhead fly tying, which will be limited to five tiers, let either Gene, our fly tying chair, Master Fo or myself know ASAP. Sign up sheet will be at the next club meeting.

The surfperch outing had a good number of folks participating. Terry Henry now boasts a striper from the surf and Doug Fear has eliminated the skunk factor in the local salt with a barred perch. Wayne Culp set everyone else up for a great day by catching a very nice (did I say large?) barred perch early in the day. Shortly after that everything shut down and it became more of a cast and swim event for some. I leave out the names in order to protect the innocent swimmers. Master Fo was more into Catch and Release with the smaller surfperch that came to his hand. The cottonwoods down the street from my work have bloomed with their white puffs caught in the breeze signaling shad season is not far off. Any folks wishing to add their fish-outs to the list should contact Jeff Lorelli. And under "your direct involvement is proportional to what you get out of the club"; new club members Frank, Debbie and Don were spotted at Mel Kreiger's casting clinic at the Golden Gate Casting Club ponds. Frank and Debbie were also reported to be out at Quarry Lakes for Ken Brunskill's demonstration on how to hook and land bass. These folks are not wasting any time engaging this sport. Way to go, folks, just don't let it become an obsession and be overcome by its insidious nature, as Mr. Gierach and my better half would suggest.

It is sad to report what seemed like a permanent fixture, and a good friend, Doug Fear will be stepping down as the MPFA newsletter editor after this issue. On a high note, Doug's wife, Karen, will join the ranks of the retired folk this June and I use the term "retired folk" in a fond and envious way. Doug's club involvement coupled with fly fishing's insidious nature (there is that phrase again) has decided to curtail some of his activities so that they both can enjoy extended travels together. Doug has been a valuable asset as the club's newsletter editor, spontaneous raffle ticket seller, board member; not to mention his involvement with NCCFFF and duties as fly tying co-chair and on the board of directors - sure sounds like a full plate to me. Their travel plans are something that will prevent Doug from continuing as the newsletter editor. I personally want to thank Karen for allowing Doug to spend his leisure time as he transitioned into retirement with the likes of the Mission Peak Fly Anglers. He could have easily gotten himself into plenty of trouble while he waited patiently for you to join him in retirement. There is that incident with the training bra on my room's doorknob in Redding last October that sheds a little light on what pranks he is capable of doing. I'll let Doug talk himself out of this. May you both never tire of each other's company and that you get plenty of those extended trips under your belt as well as fully developing some of your own hobbies and/or passions to replace the time occupied with your career in education. Doug, thank you for your involvement and taking on the responsibility of the Newsletter Editor for as long as you did.

Malcolm Dunn has accepted the responsibility and duties of newsletter editor without enduring any arm-twisting. Malcolm, you have some mighty big shoes to fill.

President
Craig Gittings

Mission Peak Fly Anglers Minutes of April 2nd, 2008 Board Meeting

President Craig Gittings brought the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Present were VP Wayne Culp, Secretary Dean Lewis, Treasurer Bill Peakes, Board Members Ray Gauthier, Doug Fear, and past president Malcolm Dunn. Also present were Stephen Culp and Ken Brunskill.

Old Business:

Kistler Ranch, May 17th: Bill will send the reservation check for the club.

Rod Building: We don't seem to need another class for those that started the last one.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program – April 5 & 12: Ed and Ken built small holding racks for the club rods used in this class. There will be 12 boys and 3 men in the class. \$25.00 adults and \$10.00 per boy. This is a complete class on fly fishing from “starting out to catching and cooking a fish”.

New Business:

Treasures Report: We are solvent . We need to send money to Kistler Ranch and pay the dues to the organizations we support. Dean moved and Ray seconded that we contribute to the same organizations as last year – FFF, Cal Trout, Trout Unlimited, Arroya High School, Alameda Creek Alliance, CSPA and Nature Conservatory. Each will get \$60 except FFF which gets \$172. Motion carried.

Programs: The April meeting will have Ricky Mitchell on kayak fly fishing. Ricky may have a two day guided trip available in April. Ray Hutcherson will do a program on Guatemala in May. Be sure to contact Rich Lobrovich if planning to attend the dinner held prior to the meeting. He will also tell you where it will be held.

Fly Tying: Gordon Cordova from the Livermore Fly club with Gene Kaczmarek will present the program on April 10.

Meeting Format: The Board discussed the format of our meetings. It was decided that we will change the format. **1.** Sale of raffle tickets will begin before the meeting comes to order. **2.** There will be a short hello, recognize visitors, and introduce the guest speaker. **3.** The speaker will present their program. **4.** Raffle tickets will be sold after the speaker. **5.** Business meeting. **6.** Raffle.

Trout in the Classroom: Ken presented the Board with a financial accounting of the “Trout in the Classroom” program. The Board reviewed the report and accepted it. Ken is working on getting a \$5000.00 grant from NUMMI for the program.

Club VHS/DVD Library: Ken found that we have a number of duplicate VHS tapes and suggested that we use them as raffle prizes. Dean moved, Ray seconded and the motion carried that the duplicates be given to Dave Heyes for the raffle.

The Board also discussed new rules for borrowing the club VHS/DVDs.

1: The VHS/DVD should be returned after one month, i.e., check out in April, return in May.

2: If after 3 months, the VHS/DVD hasn't been returned, Ken will send the member an e-mail (or phone call) reminding them to return it.

3: If the VHS/DVD doesn't come back within the next month, the member will receive a Board letter asking that they return it.

4: If it hasn't been returned within the next month, the member will get a bill for \$40.00 from the Board.

Club Items: Dean requested Board input regarding distribution of the member roster and completion of the insurance waivers. The Board indicated that it was ok for the club roster to be sent to members, via e-mail, in a .pdf format. The Board also suggested that Bill and Dean get together and update the roster to 2008 paid members. Those paid members that haven't completed an insurance waiver would be either contacted (in person) by Dean or have the waiver e-mailed to them in a .pdf format.

John Fukumoto Award: It was suggested that Larry be reminded that we haven't made a decision on changes to the methods by which this award can be won. We need to do something soon.

Craig moved and Doug seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

**Respectively submitted
Dean Lewis, Secretary.**

April Club Meeting Program

This month the **Mission Peak Fly Anglers** will have as their guest speaker **Rickey Noel Mitchell**. His program will be

“Paddle and Flies” he'll discuss fly- fishing from a kayak and the many diverse opportunities that combing the two arts of fly-fishing and kayaking have to offer. You don't have to be an expert, with a reasonable amount of skill and knowledge the kayak is a craft you can paddle in all waters. In 2007 Rickey Noel Mitchell's second book **“The Orvis Guide to Personal Fishing Craft”** was published.

You can also find his work; critiques and images in various magazines such as **California fly Fisher, Paddler and Kayak Fisherman**. Home base is Fresno California. He can be reached at www.paddleandflies.com. A Fresno resident, Rickey teaches fly-fishing and fly-tying to students of all ages at Fresno Adult school and the summer enrichment program for children in Fresno Unified.

Kayak fly-fishing guide, professional tier, freelance writer, photographer and Author, Rickey Noel Mitchell, started out closed to twenty years ago with a fly rod and float tube exploring the lakes and rivers of Central California. After a year of or more fishing reservoirs and dealing with the float tubes limitations he moved up in the water level to a pontoon boat. The pontoon boat gave him the golden opportunity to explore and fish his all time favorite waters...rivers. However it didn't take long to learn...on open waters this inflatable craft was a wind toy and it lacked speed.

From the pontoon boat, Rickey moved up in the water level once again, this time a little higher, to a craft with a history as old as fly-fishing...the canoe. The canoe required learning skills, how to use a paddle, how to cast a fly rod without capsizing, most definitely skills worth learning. As a guide he found the canoe was an excellent craft for putting clients on fish, there would also be another self-discovery...he enjoyed paddling as much as fly-fishing. This age old craft was everything Rickey was looking for except...seaworthy.

Somewhere in the early 90's there was an article named Different Strokes in Outdoor Life Magazine call about an individual named Gary Sinkas. Mr. Sinkas was fishing up and the Florida Coast, catching everything from Marlins to Bull Sharks...out of a kayak.

Different Strokes inspired Rickey to buy a kayak and paddle a path to his own adventures. This was at a time when a few others were making their own self-discoveries of this age-old craft. Rickey however wanted to cast flies from a

kayak. The next few years were spent experimenting with paddling techniques, rigging, and different kayaks.

Please meet Rickey Noel Mitchell and Rich Lobrovich for dinner at Jack's Brew Pub at 5PM. Please call Rich for reservations, up to 4:30PM Wednesday April 23, 2008

Club Meeting Programs

DATE	SPEAKER	PROGRAM TITLE
4/23/08	RICKY MITCHELL	FLY FISHING FROM A KAYAK
5/28/08	RAY HUTCHERSON	GUATEMALA
6/25/08	MARK	SURF PERCH ???
7/23/08	CHUCK ROBBINS	CASTING AND PIZZA
8/27/08	????????????????	????????????????????????????????
9/24/08	????????????????	????????????????????????????????
10/22/08	????????????????	????????????????????????????????
11/19/08	BILL PEAKS	TROUT BUM PRESENTATION
12/24/08	NO MEETING	NO MEETING



MISSION PEAK FLY ANGLERS –2008 DUES PAYMENT FORM

Member Name: _____

Amount Enclosed @ \$40 per member-family/\$35 If you are a current member of FFF
\$20 per member under 18 or living outside a 100 mi radius

Amount \$ _____ *FFF Member Number* _____

PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL FORMS WITH CHECKS TO BILL PEAKES

Annual Trout Bum award

Starts Jan 1st, 2008

Awarded by MPFA Board of Directors at December board meeting

Requirements:

Candidates 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 domestic or international

Used fly fishing tackle only

Have fished for trout (**This is a Trout Bum Award**)

Have reported to the club and shown photos to the club at a regular meeting

This description to be affixed to the back side of the plaque

Chairperson: Ken Brunskill

2008 EVENTS
MISSION PEAK FLY ANGLERS

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF EVENT	CONTACT	COMMENTS
Apr. 23 th , 2008	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
May 7 th , 2008	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Board Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
May 8 th , 2008	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Fly Tying	August Abellar	7:00 pm (New Hours)
May 10 th , 2008	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
May 28 th , 2008	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
June 4 th , 2008	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Board Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
June 12 th , 2008	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Fly Tying	August Abellar	7:00 pm (New Hours)
June 14 th , 2008	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
June 25 th , 2008	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
July 2 th , 2008	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Board Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
July 10 th , 2008	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Fly Tying	August Abellar	7:00 pm (New Hours)
July 12 th , 2008	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
July 23 th , 2008	Silliman Community Activity Center	Pizza Night (casting night)	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
Aug. 6 th , 2008	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Board Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
Aug. 9 th , 2008	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
Aug. 14 th , 2008	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Fly Tying	August Abellar	7:00 pm (New Hours)
Aug. 27 th , 2008	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
Sept. 3 rd , 2008	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Board Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
Sept 11 th , 2008	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Fly Tying	August Abellar	7:00 pm (New Hours)
Sept. 13 th , 2008	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
Sept. 24 th , 2008	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
Oct. 1 st , 2008	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Board Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
Oct. 9 th , 2008	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Fly Tying	August Abellar	7:00 pm (New Hours)
Oct, 11 th , 2008	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
Oct. 22 nd , 2008	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm

2008 Fishout List

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF FISH	FISHMASTER	COMMENTS
April 21-22	Clear Lake	Bass, Crappie, Panfish	Calvin Chin	Edgewater Resort \$50 deposit needed by 3/15
May 17 th	Kistler Ranch	Bass and Panfish	Craig Gittings	\$25 gets you a great day of fishing, camaraderie, and an Italian sausage BBQ – Muy Bueno!
June 8	TBD	Shad	Craig Gittings	Float Trip with Al Smatsky Excellent Adventures 209-368-9261
June	American River	Shad	Ken Brunskill	Depending on River flows
June - July	Santa Cruz	Surf Perch	Craig Gittings	Leave Fremont at O'Dark 30
June	Manzanita Lake	Trout	Mark Kaharick	Potluck BBQ
July (late)	Mulege Baja Mexico	Dorado, Roosters, etc....	Craig Gittings	Al Smatsky Excellent Adventures - 2 spots available
Aug - Mid	Clark's Fork	Trout	Bill Peaks	Potluck BBQ
Aug 22-31	Alaska Kenai Peninsula	Trout, Salmon, Grayling	Craig Gittings	
Sept	Toulumne Meadows	Trout	Wayne Culp	Camp Out
Sept 26-28	McCloud River and Reservoir	Trout	Craig Gittings	Camp at Ash Camp or B&B in town of McCloud.
Oct 3-5	Eastern Sierra	Trout	Jeff Lorelli	June Lake Loop Area
Oct	Lake Alpine	Trout	August Abellar	
Nov	Trinity River	Steelhead		
Nov	American River	Steelhead		
Nov	Feather River	Steelhead		

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 Jeff Lorelli @ 510-505-0136 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

Larry Dennis, April 2008

There he stands, draped in more equipment than a telephone lineman, trying to outwit an organism with a brain no bigger than a breadcrumb, and getting licked in the process. ~Paul O'Neil, 1965

There's still no end in sight to California's water wars

Los Angeles Times – 4/3/08
George Skelton, LA Times columnist

By

SACRAMENTO — Fortunately, winter snowfall in the Sierra was average. So homes haven't flooded in the Central Valley. Neither is there a drought, at least caused by nature.

There is a court-caused drought, of sorts, because a federal judge is trying to protect a vanishing little fish, the smelt, from being sucked into and chomped up by giant water pumps in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Consequently, there's a 30% cut in deliveries of southbound water from Northern California.

But this is noticed primarily by San Joaquin Valley farmers.

So although it's fortunate that no swollen rivers have burst their banks or carwashes have been padlocked, it's also unfortunate in a way. Because public pressure is off politicians and water warriors to finally fix California's old, vulnerable plumbing system.

We're getting close to the 50th anniversary of the last time Sacramento achieved anything really significant regarding water development. In 1959, newly elected Gov. Pat Brown cajoled and coerced the Legislature -- and later the voters -- into enacting the then-controversial California Water Project.

That came only after killer floods had inundated Northern California four years earlier. It was the worst flooding in nearly a century. The main culprit was the Feather River, a major tributary of the Sacramento River.

The Feather flooded Yuba City and Marysville, killing more than 20 people and floating houses toward San Francisco Bay, 130 miles southwest.

"We must build now and ask questions later," declared state water director Harvey Banks, an exhortation he used in his many speeches selling the water project. The fish-chomping Delta pumping plant later was named after Banks.

Brown formed a coalition of flood-frightened northerners, parched valley farmers and thirsty southerners to build the huge Oroville Dam on the Feather River. He also built the California Aqueduct to deliver water south.

But Brown ran out of money for a third vital piece of the plan: a peripheral canal to funnel Sacramento River water around the fragile, brackish Delta and directly into the southbound aqueduct. Since then, the Delta fishery has tanked -- not just the tiny smelt, but popular salmon and striped bass.

After Brown, Gov. Ronald Reagan also fell short of money and delayed building the [canal](#). Jerry Brown persuaded the Legislature to reauthorize the big ditch, but an unlikely coalition of rich farmers and skittish environmentalists talked voters into repealing the legislation. Paradoxically, the farmers thought Brown had provided too many protections for the environment while the environmentalists believed he hadn't provided enough.

And that's pretty much where we are today -- except that when these facilities were built, California had 16 million people. Today there are 38 million.

We didn't know back then about global warming reducing the Sierra snowpack and melting it faster, threatening even worse droughts and floods and making water storage even more crucial. And the earthen levees of the Delta mixing bowl weren't crumbling as they are today.

But there still are the same water wars: north versus south. Environmentalists versus developers. Everybody versus farmers. Delta farmers versus valley farmers.

"This issue is more important to the long-term economic viability of California than any other issue, including budget reform," says Steve Merksamer, a political lawyer, former chief of staff to Gov. George Deukmejian and a key player in a recently aborted attempt to sponsor a water bond initiative for the November ballot. "Without water, people die. Forget growth. People will die.

"And the fact is, water is going to get extraordinarily expensive. People are complaining about gas. Wait until they start seeing their water bills. Everybody's talking about raising rates. . . . I'm not even talking about if, God forbid, there's a massive earthquake that craters the Delta."

Allan Zaremborg, president of the California Chamber of Commerce, who led the recent initiative effort, puts it simply: "The Delta is the heart of California's water-supply system. And if the Delta has a heart attack, we're not going to be able to deliver the water to the rest of the supply system."

The unsuccessful initiative attempt is the latest example of California's perpetual water gridlock. Frustrated with the Legislature's failure to strike a compromise, a coalition of business, agriculture, labor and water leaders drafted a \$11.7-billion bond measure. It would have paid for dams, underground storage, environmental and levee fixes, and established criteria for some version of a peripheral canal.

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) flew to Sacramento at Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's invitation to help broker the deal, but the coalition began falling apart. The Westlands Water District, representing valley farmers, balked because the proposal didn't guarantee a Delta fix. The environmental lobby objected to the dams and a possible canal. Both told Feinstein the measure wouldn't pass. She backed off. And the coalition, lacking broad, bipartisan support, gave up trying to qualify a measure for November.

Feinstein fired off a letter to state Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata (D-Oakland) and Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez (D-Los Angeles) declaring that she was "dismayed to learn that Democratic leadership in the state Legislature has refused to come to the table with the governor and Republican leadership to find a legislative solution to the water crisis."

Since then, there have been negotiations between Democratic Sen. Mike Machado, a water-savvy Stockton-area farmer, and the incoming Senate Republican leader, Dave Cogdill of Modesto. Both say they're making progress. But even so, the Assembly is showing little interest in water. And the Legislature seems mired in an awkward leadership transition. So it's looking like yet another year without progress.

"They could get it done," Feinstein told me, "if people would do what they're elected to do, which is to lead and solve problems, even if it's painful, and cut across special interests and do the right thing."

If history's any guide, they'll wait for the next deadly flood or drought. #

<http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-cap3apr03,1,5004053.column>



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