



Windknots

The monthly newsletter for the members and friends of the Diablo Valley Fly Fishermen Since 1969

December 2011

Next Monthly Club Meeting:

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Heather Farms Community Center

301 North San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Guests are welcome!

2010 Member of the Year: Kirby Elvin

Board Meeting: December 20th.

Sizzler Restaurant, 1353 Willow Pass Road, Concord

Dinner: 6:30 p.m. — Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Members are invited to attend.



Willy George with a 20 lb. Striper he caught November 15th in the Delta

Dorado on a Fly with Al Smatsky

Al Smatsky was encouraged over 35 years ago to purchase his first fly rod for a trip to the Yuba River for shad. From that point on, he was hooked for life. Since that time, he has been fly fishing from Alaska to South America in pursuit of most fresh and saltwater species.



Al has always been an avid traveler and planned trips to Alaska for himself and friends starting in the early 1980s. In 1989, he made his first bonefishing trip to Christmas Island. Since then he has been hooked on saltwater fly fishing. His belief is that a fishing trip should be more than just "fishing," it should be an experience; so, in 1994, he started his own business Excellent Adventures. The business specializes in hosted and unhosted fly fishing trips to affordable destinations from Alaska to South America. Over the years, hundreds of anglers have used Excellent Adventures for their travel plans. Al also guides on the American River for Shad and steelhead in Northern California.

Every year hundreds of anglers head to Baja California to fly fish for Dorado and while this program will detail fishing in and around Mulege, BCS, the information provided can be used to help all skill levels have a more enjoyable fishing experience south of the border. The program will cover preparing for your trip, basic equipment and flies, understanding the importance of bait fish, fishing techniques, fighting your catch, etc.

DIABLO VALLEY FLY FISHERMEN OFFICERS:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| President | David Lipscomb | 925-283-8865 |
| President Elect | Craig McMullen | 925-376-1795 |
| Secretary | Pat Konoske | 707-748-0214 |
| Treasurer | Wayne Hofer | 925-937-0739 |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010:

| | | |
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| Jan Horn | 2010-2011 | 510-207-5868 |
| Bill King | 2010-2011 | 925-837-8799 |
| John Edwards | 2011-2012 | 925-944-1762 |
| Jim Shively | 2011-2012 | 925-962-0562 |
| Rob Simpson | 2011-2012 | 925-736-3953 |
| Tom Seidman | 2010-2011 | 925-256-8818 |
| Ted Shapas | 2010-2011 | 925-330-1950 |
| Bill Vierra | 2011-2012 | 925-932-2096 |

PROGRAMS:

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| Membership | John Edwards | 925-944-1762 |
| Outings | Tom Seidman | 925-256-8818 |
| Youth Program | Alan Christian | 925-820-7288 |
| Golden Trout | Steve Hess | 925-691-5617 |
| DVD Rental | Tom Cundith | 925-932-0905 |
| | John Hernikl | 925-930-0635 |
| | Bernard Ringer | 925-457-9082 |
| | Carlos Bocanegra | 925-934-7652 |
| | Sev Marsted | 925-283-3099 |

CLASSES:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Casting | Willy George | 925-943-2211 |
| Fly Tying | Dave McCants | 925-228-1329 |
| Novice Seminar | Willy George | 925-943-2211 |

EVENTS:

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Programs | Bill King | 925-837-8799 |
| Crab Feed | Charles Wright | 925-254-3001 |
| Annual Auction | Bill King | 925-837-8799 |
| BBQ Dinner | Charles Wright | 925-254-3001 |
| Refreshments | Karen Kaiser | 925-682-9085 |
| Merchandise | Jay Carson | 925-939-9594 |
| | John Shaw | 925-938-7231 |
| Raffle | Bill Vierra | 925-932-2096 |
| | Satoshi Iwahashi | 925-937-7240 |
| Badges | John Edwards | 925-944-1762 |
| Golden Trout Award | Steve Hess | 925-691-5617 |
| Proj Healing Waters | Mike Johnson | 925-692-0150 |

REPRESENTATIVES:

| | | |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| NCC/FFF | Gerry Ng | 925-829-4974 |
| Conservation | Ted Shapas | 925-820-7943 |
| Trout in Class Room | Gerry Ng | 925-829-4974 |

WINDKNOTS:

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Editor | Ivan Lee | 925-680-0139 |
| Co-Editor | Bob McEwan | 925-376-8752 |
| Circulation | Stan Graham | 925-228-9517 |

CONTACT US ON THE WEB AT:

www.diablovalleyflyfish.org

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Webmaster | Pat Konoske | 707-748-0214 |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|

DVFF is defined as a 501(c)(7) per IRS rules

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By the number of great fishing reports we had last week at our club meeting, it looks like a lot of people were "on board" with the idea that some of the best fishing (at least in 2011) comes at the end of the year – keep the reports coming. It has truly been another stupendous year for the club and you, as a member, have many things to be proud of:

- **Education.** The club's goal of teaching and educating members continues to thrive. I will not mention all the great opportunities available to learn – but just take a quick review of this year's *Windknots* and you'll get the idea – casting, tying, entomology, programs, etc.
- **Financially.** While much of the world seems to be in a monetary funk, DVFF had one of its best years thanks to the generosity of its membership at our auction and other events. Suffice to say we are on a very sound financial footing.
- **Membership.** Because we offer a real adventure for a bargain price, we have been able to maintain our membership at the 350+ level.
- **Conservation.** Please refer to this month's Conservation Article to see where we met and exceeded our goals for helping conserve our great fisheries. That includes our support of the UC Davis grad students – and we know what great research they do from our last club meeting.
- **Veterans.** As a new Project Healing Waters (PHW) affiliated club in 2011, DVFF now supports the Martinez VA hospital on a regular basis. Plans are already in the works for taking vets on a couple of outings in 2012.
- **Trout in the Classroom.** How about the DVFF record of delivering trout (and a few steelhead) eggs to over 30 classrooms!
- **Media.** We have two primary media for delivering information to club members - *Windknots* and our DVFF website. Both seem to get better and better. A prime example is the new (and to be regular) fly tying column "Dave's Tying Loft" by **Dave McCants**.



I hope everyone has had a chance to renew their membership for 2012, and to sign up for the 2012 **Crab Feed and Installation Dinner on January 21, 2012 at the Civic Community Center in Walnut Creek (doors open at 6:30 P.m.)**. As always it promises to be a grand evening.



We wish you and your families all the best for a happy and safe holiday season, and a healthy and “gone fishing” 2012. Thanks for all your support and for making this such a stellar year for the club.



*Keep Learning!
David Lipscomb,
DVFF President*

“Passions for fly-fishing run so high that friendships made on the water seldom wane, even after both parties have been separated by years and miles.”



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WELCOME NEW DVFF MEMBERS!

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Natalie Glavinovich | Vincent D'alo |
| Kathleen Thickett-Smith | Donna Brandstrom |
| Jerry Osborn | Michael Meneghetti |
| Eric Smith | John Tincu |

Last Printed Windknots!

This is the last issue of *Windknots* that will be mailed out. Starting in January 2012, *Windknots* will go to **full online distribution for ALL members**. So be sure to signed up to receive the e-mail notice by going to the DVFF website (www.diabloflyfish.org).

Don't Have Internet Access?

For any member that does not have a way to veiw or download *Windknots* from the website, a printed issue will be mail to them.

Contact Stan Graham, Circulation, 925-228-9517

2011 OUTINGS-TRIPS-SEMINARS

If you are interested in being a Fishmaster, please contact Tom Seidman at (925) 256-8818.

To participate in an Outing, one must be a DVFF member with signed Liability Waiver on file.

| Date | Trip (species) | Fishmaster |
|-------------|-----------------------|--|
| Feb 5 | Yuba River TR/ST | Bob Meadowcoft (925) 631-0194 |
| Mar 8-11 | Pyramid Lake TR | Larry Griffis (925) 947-4914 |
| Apr 30 | Kistler Ranch BA | George Willis (925) 676-6690 |
| May 7-8 | Baum Lake TR | Dennis Gregg (510) 537-0311 |
| May 14 | Kelsey Bass Ranch | Bill King (925) 837-8799 |
| June 4 | Shasta Lake TR | Bill King (925) 837-8799 |
| June 15-19 | McCloud River TR | Marc Ericksen (415) 362-1214 |
| July 7-10 | Manzanita Lake TR | John Edwards (925) 944-1762 |
| July 16-17 | Upper Sac Seminar TR | John Barry (707) 246-6831 Alan Christian (925) 820-7288 |
| Sept 1-4 | Fall River TR | David Lipscomb |
| Sep 22-25 | East Slope Sierra TR* | Pat Konoske (707) 334-6849 |
| Nov 2-7 | McCloud River TR | Marc Ericksen (415) 362-1214 |

* Outing full; waiting list available.

TR = trout, ST = steelhead, BA = bass, TBD = to be determined

Space is limited on many outings. Please sign up only if you are reasonably certain that you will attend. If you discover later that you are not going to attend, scratch your name off the list or contact the outings chairman or fishmaster. This way, a maximum number of members can attend each outing.

Annual Crab Feed and Installation Dinner

Saturday, January 21, 2012

There will be a raffle with Great Prizes!

Have you heard? Experts are saying that this may be the best crab season in years! Start your tasting engines for crab by joining us at the annual Crab Feed and Installation Dinner to be held on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 6:00 P.M. It will again be held at the Civic Park Community Center in Walnut Creek.

Tickets at \$30 per person are currently on sale and will be available until the day of the event. Children under 12 are free. We recommend that you purchase tickets early to avoid disappointment

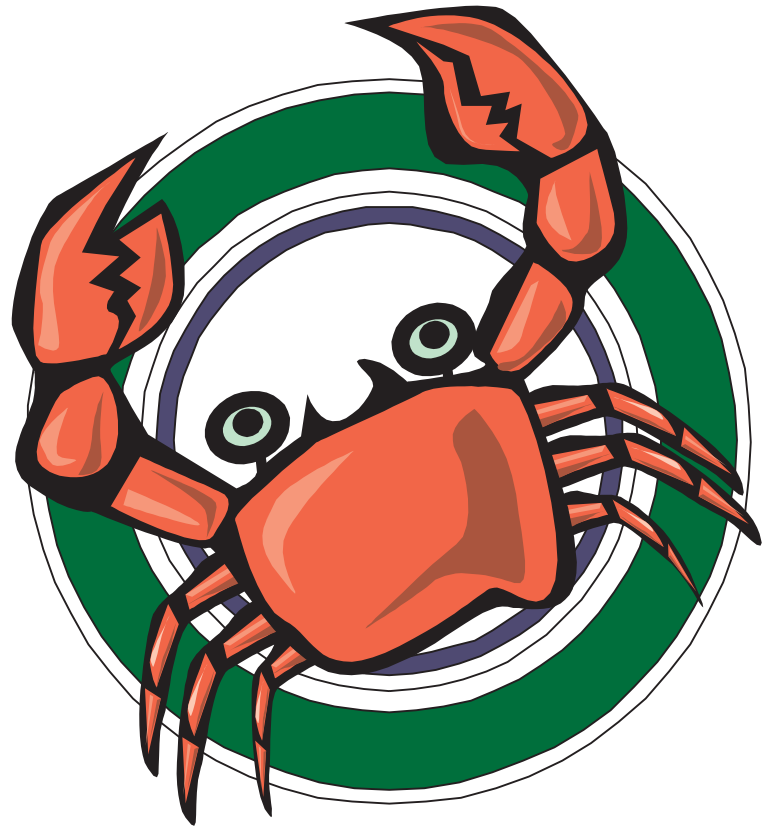
Back by popular request is the alternative Prime Rib entree for those allergic to crab. Please note your Prime Rib request on the membership renewal form or call Charlie Wright at 925-254-3001 by January 18, 2012.

\$30 per person will buy you the same fabulous menu that you have enjoyed in the past; crab, pasta, salad, garlic bread, beverages, dessert, and coffee. Beer and wine will be available.

Along with the dues renewal packet you have received six raffle tickets you can buy for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Fill in your ticket stubs, detach and mail in with your renewal form. You do not have to attend the Crab Feed to win.

The installation of the new Board is held this special evening as well as award presentations to club members who have volunteered their time for the club. Any questions or if you wish to help at this event, please call or email. See you there!

**Charles Wright, 925-254-3001
charlie@appmateng.com**



Northern California
Lower Sac - Trinity - Fall River
Pit - Hat - McCloud - Upper Sac

Southern Oregon
Upper Rogue - Lower Rogue
Applegate - North Umpqua



Andrew Harris
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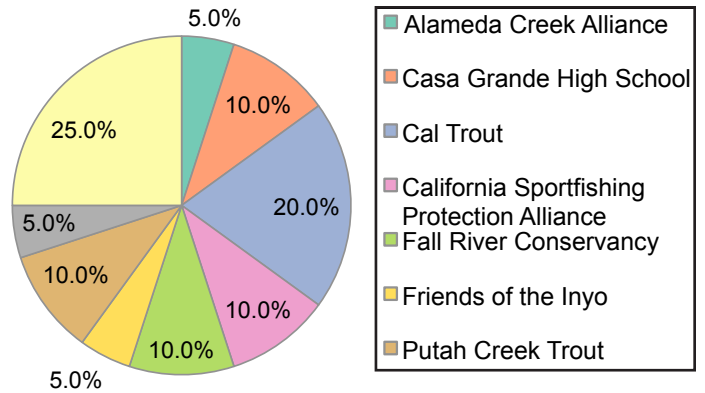
| 2012 Crab Feed Raffle Prizes | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1st Prize | Sage ZXL 9' 6 wt. Fly Rod |
| 2nd Prize | Guided Trip of choice with the Fly Shop |
| 3rd Prize | Winston Ascent 9' 4 wt. Fly Rod |
| 4th Prize | Rainbow Trout Steel Fabrication |
| 5th Prize | Redington RS4 9' 6 wt. Fly Rod |
| 6th Prize | Smith Optics Venture Sun Glasses |
| 7th Prize | Redington Rise 5/6 Fly Reel |
| 8th Prize | G. Loomis Venture 7 Fly Reel |
| 9th Prize | C & F Design Waterproof Fly Box |
| 10th Prize | \$50 Gift Certificate for Leland's |
| 11th Prize | \$50 Gift Certificate for Fish First |
| 12th Prize | \$50 Gift Certificate for Creative Sports |
| 13th Prize | \$25 Cabela's Gift Card |
| 14th Prize | \$25 Cabela's Gift Card |
| 15th Prize | \$25 Cabela's Gift Card |

Conservation Corner

DVFF Conservation Donations for 2011: In this season for giving, DVFF used some of the funds we raised during the past year to help a select group of worthy conservation organizations. We examined candidate roles and the extent their programs and projects impacted California sport fisheries. Your board is happy to announce the final selection.

Included again this year are donations to a UC Davis graduate student in aquatic biology, via the BobWisecarver Scholarship, Casa Grande High School's United Anglers Program, California Trout, Alameda Creek Alliance, California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance, Fall River Conservancy, Putah Creek Trout, Friends of the Inyo, and Project Healing Waters. Please contact me or any board member if you have questions or need further information about these donations.

At the November club meeting, we were fortunate to have two visitors from UC Davis: Lisa Thompson,



who heads up the school's Center for Aquatic Biology and Aquaculture (CABA), and Bruce Hammock, this past year's Bob Wisecarver Scholarship recipient. Via slide shows, Lisa told us about current CABA research and shared insights on the Delta's striper fishery, while Bruce explained his doctoral research on why and when mayfly nymphs drift downstream (and sometimes become fish food) in Sierra streams. If you missed these talks and want to know more, please let me know.

Ted Shapas, 925-330-1950, shapas@comcast.net

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Dave's Tying Loft: Transpara Ant

This issue we will tie a rather simple but effective fly based on an older Umpqua Feather Merchants pattern on which I have reversed the body sections, smaller red in front, larger black body section in back.

Fishing tip: A wet fly and only fished subsurface either as one of several nymphs or as a dropper off of a dry fly with 18 inches of tippet. In the spring or summer, if you see fish sipping near or under trees, and don't see any emergers or flies of color on the water of any type, give this fly a try and you may be pleasantly surprised!

Special tying note: Leave barb on hook so you get the proper sense of proportions, pinch barb off only after you have tied whole fly!

Hook: Nymph 1XL 1XH, size 14/16 (TMC 3761 preferred)

Body Middle and Back: Black thread (size A silk or Uni 6/0)

Body Front End: Red thread (size A silk or Uni 6/0)

Hackle: Whiting Farms, Black dry fly 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 times the gap.

Step 1: Body Middle -Tie in black thread at 1/3 point of hook shank and tie back to point of hook,

Step 2: Body Back End - Continue tying to back of barb and make five more wraps down bend of hook, then bring thread in tight wraps back to one wrap short of the point of the hook, then back to bend again stopping one wrap short of the previous ending wrap. Continue this back and forth process until you have a rounded shape and then whip finish with 3-4 turns of thread in the middle of the rounded shape and trim off, see Photo 1, to get some idea of what the middle and back body sections will look like).

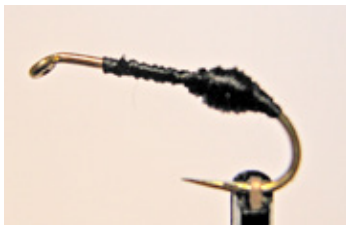


Photo 1



Photo 2

Step 3: Body Front End - Tie in the red thread with four wraps of thread and trim butt section off, see Photo 2. Continue wraps to butt up against the black middle of body, then wrap back and forth as you did in Step two, to form an egg shaped body section, but make this one slightly smaller than the body section at the back of the body. Once front body section is formed, make a 3-4

turn whip finish in the center of the body and trim the thread off as close to the body as possible. See photo 2, for the an example of what the front section of the fly should look like in relation to the rest of the fly.

Step 4: Coat the entire body of the fly with either 5 coats of head cement, two coats of Sally Hansen's hard as nails (clear) or similar clear very hard nail polish, or one coat of 5 minute epoxy. See Photo 3. Other tiers/fishing friends have asked me how I get such shiny body sections, and it is simple - I only tie a dozen of each fly at a time and take my time to let each coating of cement or nail polish dry before putting on the next coat (although this fly is simple it takes time to make multiple coats of the cement and each time it needs to dry!). Additionally, when putting on future coats, I hold the fly upside down to insure the thickest part of the body section is on top of the fly.



Photo 3



Photo 4

Key Note: Allow the body sections of the fly to dry completely before backing the fly or the rounded body sections will be disfigured or the cut hackle will stick to the body sections and also disfigure them.

Step 5: Photo 4, once the body sections are dry, attach the hackle dry fly style at the front of the back black body section and make three to four turns of hackle, tie off, whip finish and trim off hackle butt section and thread and apply head cement to the whip finish.

Step 6: Trim the hackles off the top area and bottom area "v style" so that the hackles are only sticking out the sides of the fly (when you look at it side view - Photo 4). Photo 5 shows a top view of the fly for comparison to a side view.



Photo 5

Note: If the body still looks a little rough and not smooth and shiny, coat it one last time to improve the shine (only the rounded front and back body sections)

Mystery Solved: Weigh unmarked fly lines at this months meeting

Do you have unmarked fly lines or shooting heads and don't know how much they weigh or what line size they are? I will bring an accurate digital scale that reads in "grains" to the December 13th DVFF Club meeting to weigh your "mystery" lines. I'll have my new scale, a tape measure, an ASTM line weight chart, and labels so that you can once again organize your lines. The "line weighing station" will be set up at 6:30 P.m. that evening so come early and be sure to make a note to bring your lines to the next Club meeting.

Willy George, Certified FFF Casting Instructor



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Fly Tying Expo Coming to Redding, February 18th & 19th

The Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers (STFF) in conjunction with The Fly Shop, the Northern California Council of the Fly Fishing Federation (NCCFFF) and Redding's Turtle Bay Exploration Park are sponsoring a Fly Tying Expo. This event will be at the Turtle Bay Exploration Park, 840 Sundial Bridge Drive, Redding, California, as part of a three month-long exhibit titled "Fly Fishing, The Art of Deception." It will run from January 28th to April 15th and will feature fly fishing and tying equipment as far back as the 1800's, along with displays of the latest fly fishing equipment. Some of the items will be coming from the Federation of Fly Fishers National Museum in Livingston, Montana.

During the Expo, tyers from northern California and Oregon will be featured. There will be morning (10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) and afternoon (1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.) tying sessions both days. The Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers annual banquet is Saturday, February 18th in Redding at the Win River Casino. There will be plenty of raffle prizes, a silent auction and live auction all mixed in with a lot of fun. The cost is \$40. For more information on the STFF website, www.shastatrinity-flyfishers.org, the Turtle Bay Exploration Park website, www.turtlebay.org, and the NCCFFF website www.nccff.org. Questions, contact Dick Recchia, rdservices@frontiernet.net or Dick Johnson, rwj530@hotmail.com.



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WINDKNOTS DEADLINE

Items for the *Windknots* must be received by the Friday following the Board Meeting to be included in the next newsletter. Send to:

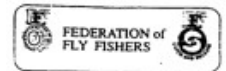
Ivan Lee, editor: 925-680-0139

ivan@leeadvertising.com

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Affiliations



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Diablo Valley Fly Fishermen
Post Office Box 4988
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Address Correction Requested

MEMBER'S ADS

FOR SALE — Youth Gear

Simm's vest size XS: \$30

Cabela's size 4 uninsulated waders (inseam 20-23", chest 31-34"): \$30

Cabela's size 4 3.5mm neoprene waders (inseam 21-24", chest 29-33"): \$40

Jim Clark, 925-945-7076

jim@theclarkranch.com

FOR SALE — Boat

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Steve Hess 925-691-5617

hessfam@sbcglobal.net

FOR SALE - Simms Waders

Simms G3 Guide Stockingfoot Waders, Size L (9-11 foot)

Never used. \$300

Delores Palmquist 925-938-8266
dr.palmquist@comcast.net

DUCK FEATHERS, WILL TRADE

Mallard, sprig, teal gadwall, Widgeon, Spoonbill, Snow and Speckle goose feathers (a few wood duck).

Only payment is to let me have some flies for my fishing habit.

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TMorehouse@gmail.com

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Bob Algieri 925-866-2161