



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	2
Conservation	2
Back Country Travel	3
Outings Report	4
Fly's from Jerry's Bench	4
2006 Calendar of Events	6
Merced River Restoration	6
Bulletin Board	7

Special Points of Interest:

March

General Meeting:
Thursday 23

April

Annual Banquet:
Saturday 22

October

Team USA Trials

*Renew Your
Membership*

*Check the
Bulletin board!*

Thursday, March 23
Mike Kaul
Western Wyoming
Outstanding Waters!

Mike Kaul is from Pinedale Wyoming, which is located at the foot of the Wind River Mountains and the Bridger Wilderness. This area produces the headwaters of a multitude of outstanding trout streams to include the renowned Green and New Fork Rivers. Mike has taken every opportunity in the past 40 some years to chase these wily trout with a fly rod. Starting under the tutelage of his grandfather at age 8, Mike studied and practiced the fly fishing craft with great zeal. He introduced fly fishing to many individuals of all ages and background over the years and enjoys working with beginners who want to learn the art of fly casting and fly fishing. Mike, a Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructor, conducts a fly fishing school and does wade fish guiding during the fishing season in the Pinedale area. In the off season, Mike presents slide shows on fly fishing and conducts casting clinics.

The water Mike discusses includes some of the best fishing that you will ever find in the West. Mike will also tie some flies from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Come and enjoy.

John Cameron, our Rod Building Chair, is holding a how-to session during our skills building hour, from 6PM - 7PM. This will be a preliminary meeting for us to see how it works so that we can sign up for a day long session to build our own rods. This is sure to be interesting, so be sure to come early!

Attention Club Members: We are going to have our First Annual Blindfolded Woolly Bugger Fly Tying Contest at this month's club meeting. You will be blindfolded and have 10 minutes to tie a woolly bugger. All fly tying materials will be provided. Entry fee will be \$ 2.00 per fly. You may enter as many times as you want that night.

When your fly is done, it will be placed in a film canister and given a number. Judging will be done by the fly club's board members. The top five flies will be placed in a shadow box and auctioned off at this year's club banquet. We will give away some great prizes for the top six flies, so please participate.

Start practicing, and come to the meeting ready to tie! Fred Ramirez (779-9501)
(See Page 5 For Prizes)

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Mike Telford

The members that attended our last meeting heard one of the best programs ever presented. Lloyd Carter and his friends kept all of us fascinated with a narrative on the history, events, and the future of California water wars.

A couple of things stood out that needs to be contemplated. 1) As the population of California continues to grow water issues will become increasingly contentious. 2) As one of the panel guests stated "if you are subsidizing a crop then you have too much of it." I have never thought that it made good economic sense to subsidize a crop with subsidized water and this statement simplified my thoughts. A substantial portion of Millerton Lake's water is shipped into Kern County and into the "troughs" of large corporate farms. Some of these farms are spin offs or subsidiaries of some of the world's largest oil companies. For an interesting look at who is receiving these subsidies check out the two links for websites on this issue.

1) <http://www.ewg.org/farm/> (searchable by state and county)

2) <http://www.ewg.org/reports/CAWaterTakings/part3.php>

Someday soon, we need to get together with all of the other conservation/environmental groups in Fresno and present a unified front on the water issues affecting the Central Valley.

Finally, as part of the process of going electronic we still need to produce a written Fly Dope for those who prefer a hard copy. We are in need of a volunteer or two that have the time to fold, label, and mail these copies. Ultimately, I estimate the number of papers handled will be fewer than 50 copies. If you are interested, contact myself; or the editor Stephen Neal.

Conservation Corner

Jayne Ferrante, Conservation

This is my first official report since becoming Conservation Chair. We have several things going on.

Please take a moment and either email or regular mail a letter to Jimmie Morales in favor of **proposed changes in the DFG regulations for Edison Lake**. We are asking them to consider changing these for two weeks only, during the Brown Trout spawning season. This occurs October 1 through the close of the season on the 15th. We are asking that during this time restrictions should include artificial lures and flies with a single barb-less hook, a two fish limit in the lake and a zero limit in Mono and Cold Creek. There are several people that EVERY YEAR go up and snag the spawning trout with treble hooks. They kill much more than their limit. We are also looking at the costs of putting in some signage about this on the lake. This incredible fishery that used to produce 15 pounders regularly has been greatly affected by this gluttony and waste. Jimmie's email is sierraflyfisher@sierratel.com. Mention that you have seen the changes in the fishery and are in favor of adjusting the regulations to the above stated.

KRWA & KRCD are putting a huge amount of boulders and structure into the **Lower Kings** this year. I am working on getting a summary of all the work to be done with future year projections from them so that we can publish this next month. We will also get an article together detailing the different strains of fish to be stocked into the river. I must confess that I am staining at my learning curve to understand the **history of the Lower Kings**. It struck me odd that as involved as I've been in the club that I haven't yet been exposed to a real summary of what has gone on and what is happening now. As I uncover this from talking to folks, I will attempt to write up the details so that we can pass this history on. All I have done is hear a snippet here and there, so if anyone is willing to write up a timeline and some details, and has some corroborating materials I would greatly appreciate seeing it.

We will be needing volunteers to help finish the laser cross sections of **Big Meadow** in April so that we can finish the final restoration design.

(Continued on Page 3)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Terry Henry the Hydrologist from Sequoia National Forest will train & supervise us. We are utilizing a newer approach that initially began being developed by Luna Leopold and Dave Rosgen, and has been refined by Jim Wilcox, our consultant on the project. This approach is called **Geomorphology**. This approach doesn't use artificial structures that are man made. It puts the earth back to the way it would normally be, and allows the stream to 'restore' itself. We are expecting big results within just a year or two after the restoration. We are currently checking our water table wells (peizometers) by cross country skiing in each month to take the readings. Should be fun this next month with all the snow coming down as I write this!!!

Let me know if you have any good ideas on projects for the year. I'm hoping to get some folks interested in a Kings River Clean up later this year. Jayne Ferrante

Back Country Travel**Stephen Neal**

Not every journey reaches its intended destination. Cy and I were headed to Peaceful Valley, a journey we have made together since 1987. While Peaceful Valley does not appear on Yosemite back country maps, it does exist and like Jimmy Buffet's "One Particular Harbor" it is a refuge, a place of healing, personal growth and one heck of a nice place to fly fish. On Cy's first trip to Peaceful valley, at the age of seven, the first thing he did when we reached camp was to grab my fishing rod, leaving me the job of setting up camp. For him as with me it was love at first sight and when leave time comes, we are already planning our return trip.

But this year, our plan changed mid storm, we packed up that second morning expecting rain. The afternoon before as we hiked we had felt the air become heavy and cool. That evening, looking South from our 9,500 foot vantage point, we watched a major storm front move in and anticipated rain during the night, but the storm held off. The rain commenced with our first steps out of our overnight camp. Snow caught us less than a mile later; it fell straight down in big wet fluffy flakes, our world shrunk to less than 100 feet in any direction. Looking for a place to make camp and ride out the storm became our action plan.

Setting up camp was not an instant decision, it takes time to set up and tear down a good campsite and while our gear was packed it was dry; once you set up a tent it is going to get wet while it keeps you dry. Once we found a likely camp site we stood back under a clump of dripping damp firs and watched the snow come down while we made up our minds to go on or stay. Stay won out, so the next 24 hours was spent in the tent as the world outside our tent walls turned from silent fluffy white to a loud liquid downpour, a lot more rain than the weatherman had predicted.

Now 24 hours stuck in a two man tent may seem onerous to some but compared to a previous High Sierra stay of 58 hours straight in a tent, this was easy time. I would like to say that we spent the time in contemplative thought and discussion but Cy slept for most of the time making up for work schedule sleep deficit. I sat or more to the truth I hunched over a jacket with a frayed seam with needle and thread doing some timely repair work. While my fingers were busy sewing my thoughts were on schedule changes, new trails and route planning. The thought of crossing over the 10,500 foot pass in a storm, or getting stuck on the other side 35 miles from Yosemite Valley and a

3 hour drive to retrieve the truck once we reached Yosemite Valley was not comforting. That night we were granted a muted and subdued light show. Thunder and lightning came from miles away and the heavy clouds and thick steadily falling rain muted the light show. Instead of the usual sharp contrast of electric clarity our light show was like whispered moonlight, giving muted shape to our tented surroundings.

Being of a solitary nature, I have avoided the lakes off the Fernandez trail preferring to cut straight across to reach the passes into Yosemite, and a more people free zone. But Mother Nature had intervened and it was time to explore the Fernandez trail area and the Madera Creek watershed. The morning broke cloudy and cool further confirming our decision not to enter Yosemite this year and to explore new country. We dried out what we could under cool wet conditions and packed up. On every backpacking trip, for me there is an adjustment period, the first morning out you feel strong hitting the trail the pack doesn't fit just right but it is manageable, after the first lunch break my body is saying "what is it that you are actually asking me to do" and by the time I reach the first night's camp it is saying, "you've got to be kidding". This usually lasts for about two to three days before my body and my pack adjust to each other. But then it happens, or at least so far it has always happened, I'm walking down the trail and I know that everything has come together the pack feels right my body feels right and the trail feels right and I know that this is what I should be doing.

That moment came while walking down the new trail, the clouds began to dissipate, and the sun came out. Shortly after our trail lunch we reached Madera Creek. A stream full of trout called for a fishing break, the fishing and photo opportunities seduced us into spending the night. Besides it was a nice place to dry wet equipment. While Cy strolled, intent on framing the perfect camera shot, I unpacked my rod and set up for the perfect catch. Or at least in my own mind I set up for the perfect catch. I'm still a novice at fly fishing so my dreams are still ahead of my abilities. Stream fish are extremely wary and these were no exception. I had to stand back from the bank and hide in the willows and lodge pole pine boughs. With a little practice I could cast under the tree limbs and over the willows. The effort was worth it as I landed my first fish; it was an 8 inch Brook Trout.

(continued page 5)

OUTINGS REPORT

Don Shuda

Mike Telford will be sponsoring an outing on March 25th, at Yosemite Lakes (near Coarsegold). Fishing starts at 9:00 am and we'll go until about 3:00 pm. We'll be going after the huge Crappie that inhabit a small lake on the property and releasing all Bluegill. If the catching is as good as last year, we might talk Fred Ramirez into frying up another great shore lunch. We will also cook up a couple Dutch oven dishes just in case. Any side dish or desert you can bring will be appreciated by everyone. This lake is usually fished by float tube, but we have also done well at times off the bank. Sink lines and minnow patterns have always done the best. If you need directions to Yosemite Lakes call either Mike or myself.

Fly's From Jerry's Bench

Jerry Hopewell

Hook	8 - 16
Thread	Grey or black
Tail	Grey dyed coastal deer hair
Body	Blue grey rabbit under fur or muskrat
Wing	Two bunches of grey dyed coastal deer hair
Hackle	Dark blue dun genetic saddle or neck hackle

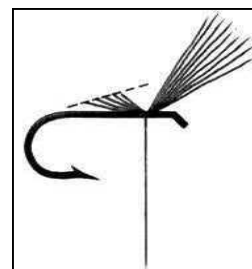


Dark Grey Wulff

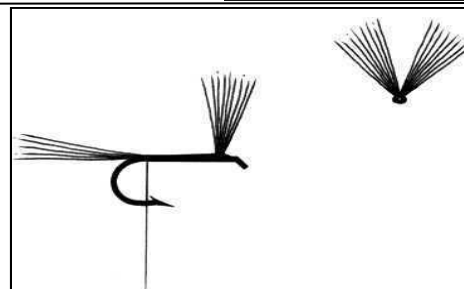


Bucktail of the same color may be used as a replacement of grey dyed coastal deer hair.

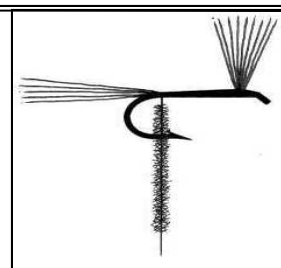
1. Take a bunch of grey dyed coastal deer hair and insert into a hair stacker; don't use too larger bunch as it will make the body too fat. Gauge the amount of hair you need for the wings by taking some hair, (enough for a single wing) and lay it up against the hook-shank; wing thickness is personal preference so when you are happy double the amount to get the second wing. When you have the required amount of hair, tie the bunch on top of the hook with the natural tips facing over the eye of the hook as one bunch. Making sure that the wing length is the same as the shack of the hook - from eye to bend



2. Take the thread up the front of the wing, build up a cone of silk that will be enough to push the wings upright. When this is done, use a dubbing needle too divide the bunch into two; then put diagonal turns of thread between the wings to permanently divide them. If preferred, a couple of turns of silk around the base of each wing will bunch the hair a little closer. Take the silk back to the bend of the hook and tie in the small bunch of grey dyed coastal deer hair and tie in any waste hair behind the



3. Dub the blue grey rabbit under fur onto the silk. Wax tying silk, apply small amounts of dubbing too waxed thread, twisting between thumb and forefinger, making sure you twist the dubbing and thread 'one way only'.

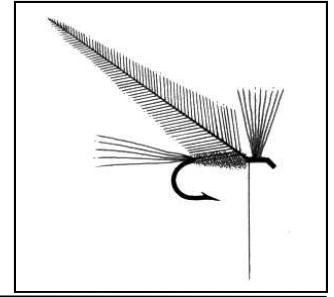


(Continued Page 5)

Fly Dope

(Continued from page 4)

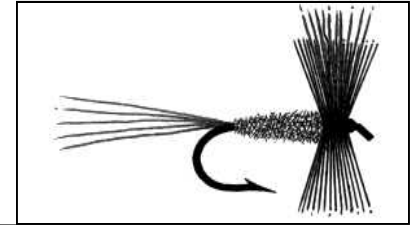
4 Wrap the dubbed thread closely up the body but not heavily. Keeping the body nice and slim, keep it to the rear two thirds of the hook shank. Tie in the hackle and take the silk up to the head. Hackle length of one and a half times the gape of the hook. If necessary tie in two hackles together, if one hackle doesn't look enough to fill the areas around the wings



5 Wrap the hackle in close turns - feathers to touch- making a dense hackle both behind and in front of the wings. Tie the hackle off at the eye and trim waste, build a head, tie off trim up. Varnish head to finish.

Once the fly is finished, it should look similar to this.

This fly provided by Fly Box their site is: <http://www.flybox.info/public/>



(continued from page 3)

Its colors made me catch my breath, it was in its full spawning display, bright yellow-gold belly and the red dots on its sides seemed to glow. Seen from above, they were just a dark shape against the stream bed, nature's camouflage. But once out of the water they really did glow. I spent the next couple of hours pursuing these beautiful creatures, each catch was as wonderful as the last. Once they were released, their beauty disappeared as if by magic. It is nature's way of saying, "I will reward you but you must work for it".

The next morning we packed up and headed for Flat Lake, not an imposing name but a delightful find when we got there. Flat Lake is not very deep, with a flat bottom, probably where it gets its name. The water was warm for the 9,500 foot elevation and the Rainbow Trout were big and fat. The first one Cy caught was 15 1/2 inches. When we first approached the lake, it did not appear to have any fish. But after setting up camp we took a closer look and soon both of us had our fishing rods out and rigged. The fish made slow circles as they approached the bank feeding in the shallow water. They did not seem to mind our presence but were only willing to take a perfect presented fly. Cy was making good presentations and caught three fish very quickly. I on the other hand could do nothing right; I had a bad case of trout fever. I was over casting trying to push the line onto the water and when I pulled my line out of the water my retrieve was too fast, causing a popping sound scaring the fish. I fished until it got too cold to stand in the shade or in the water and never caught a fish.

While fishing we were entertained by hundreds of mating blue dragon flies as they crossed and re-crossed the lake. The dragon flies as they approached were silent but up close you could hear the thruuuuum of their rapidly beating wings but when they hit the shore sedges with their wings, the thruuuuum turned to thruuack, thruuack. The mating aerobics of attached dragon flies on the wing gave us a closer look at the wondrous circle of life. That night we built our first campfire and swapped tales until 11:00 PM. For Cy and me these trips are when we can really talk and no subject is off limits. My son and I are very close; we hike and work well together. We are now at this time of our lives separated by time and distance but when we are together it is like we were never apart, we take up from where we

left off. We bonded when he was first born, My wife did all the real work and like a typical male I get to crow, but I did deliver him or more correctly I caught him, cut the cord, cleaned him up and gave him back to his Mom to nurse; and when he was sick he would sleep on my chest. I am listed as the attending physician on his birth certificate, so I do have some right to crow about him being my son.

The next day was spent exploring the surrounding country, Rainbow Lake was just North East of us so we decided to hike up there and have lunch. This turned out to be the home of the Sierra Submarine fish. After circumnavigating the lake we sat down and ate our lunch watching these big Rainbow trout slowly circle in their feeding territory. The King of the lake or at least he appeared to be the King as he had the choicest feeding area kept our attention as he masterfully fed himself on the delicacies that came with-in his sphere of influence. With no wasted motion he covered his area slowly swimming at about 5 feet of depth until something caught his eye then he would rise close his moth on the prize and sink again with out causing a ripple on the water surface. His command of his area became apparent when another trout swam into his feeding area. He gracefully glided over to the other fish swam to its side and guided it back out of his territory. He definitely made us wish we had brought our rods, but this time we were meant to just watch and learn.

From Rainbow Lake we hiked north and down to Monument Lakes. Another trout heaven, but a place that would have been misery to man; he would have been eaten alive in the spring and early summer months as it was a mosquito breeding ground. The lake looked too inviting to Cy, and he could not resist. He was soon briskly swimming to shore after a high quick jump into its blue green embrace.

After he dressed we returned to Flat Lake and we soon had our Rods rigged and we were again pursuing Rainbow dreams, that day the rod and I connected and my casts were long and smooth and the California Mosquito floated down to the water surface enticing the feeding fish into taking my offering. And when he did, he rewarded my casting efforts further by fighting and jumping out of the water, he made me work to bring him into shore. I measured him and then released his 15 inches of rainbow beauty back into the circle of life thanking him for taking my fly. Some of life's best rewards come from unintended destinations.

2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

Outing: Saturday 11th Pyramid Lake

Fly Tying Class: Mar. 18 PARACHUTE ADAMS DRY FLY

Contact Jerry Hopewell

General Meeting: Thursday 23rd Mike Kaul, Western Wyoming
Rivers,
Pinedale Wyoming

March 25th - Yosemite Lakes. (Tentative due to Weather)

March 25, 26 - Sportsman Show, Fresno Fair Grounds

April

Fly Casting: Woodward Park April 5, 12, 19, 26 6 PM till Dark

Banquet: Saturday April 22

Outing: Hume Lake Saturday April 29 (Tentative)

May

Outing: May 27th - Little Pinnoche Res. (Tad Wheeler)



Prizes: Blind –Folded Wooly Bugger Tying Contest

- 1st Rio New Nymph Line WF 4F – WF7 F.
- 2nd Rio MainStream Floating Fly Line WF4F- WF7F.
- 3rd Three spools of Rio Fluoroflex Plus 100% Fluorocarbon tippet.
- 4th Whiting Hebert Pro Grade Rooster Cape.
- 5th Whiting Hebert ½ Bronze Grade Rooster Cape with Hen Saddle.
- 6th Dave Whitlock SLF Dubbing dispenser of 12 Colors

Merced River Restoration Efforts

This letter was sent to Jimmie Morales, who has passed it along to us. Any folks interested in helping on the Upper Merced, please send Michael an email.

I am a retired Department of Fish and Game toxicologist (2001). Last year, I volunteered to act as a consultant to the Upper Merced River Watershed Council (UMRWC). As you may know, the purpose of this group is to provide a central focus for all agencies, individuals, land owners, etc. to provide communication and hopefully cooperation amongst the diverse group of "stakeholders". There is a similar group from Merced which is looking at the lower River (below New Exchequer Dam). I am also a very dedicated fly fisherman, and chase trout all over the world just for the experience. I look at (and fish) the upper Merced River, and sometimes wonder why it doesn't have large numbers of large trout, like some of the other California (Montana, New Zealand) streams, although there are some very great opportunities to fool trout on the Merced.....

One of the activities that the UMRWC is interested in is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) re-licensing for the Merced River dams. You undoubtedly have heard of these activities going on in the Klamath, Feather, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Rivers. The FERC licenses for the 3 Merced River Dams (New Exchequer, McSwain, and Merced Falls) have to be re-licensed by 2/2014. Unlike the original license granted in 1964, there were little or no environmental impact regulations (no CEQA, no NEPA). The district made agreements with DFG for flows and diversions. Times have changed dramatically over the past 40 years...now the proponents need to consider the impacts (and mitigation) of their diversions and operations. They have essentially 7 years to do the necessary studies to develop protection, mitigation & enhancement measures (PM&Es) and have them agreed to by stakeholder groups (governmental agencies, users, fishing organizations, etc.). As an organization we have not yet clearly identified a strategy of how we will have input in the process.

If this project appeals to you, and you could help us out, I would be very appreciative. Your knowledge of the river and skills of knowing trout waters would be an asset to our efforts.

Please let me know if you are interested. **Michael Martin** smithandmartin@sti.net

BULLETIN BOARD

Help us out on the Lower Kings!!

LOWER KINGS RIVER ANGLER SURVEY FORM

There's a new web page in town and among its other features is an angler's survey form for fishing the lower Kings River.

The web page is <http://www.kingsriverfisheries.org>. Under the Navigation menu on the left hand side is an entry titled "Angler Survey". Click on the item, fill in the blanks and submit. The results will be transmitted to the Department of Fish and Game.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP??

There are still a number of club members that need to send in their membership form and dues. As per our by-laws, the deadline for all membership renewals was February 15th. If you haven't paid your dues, **THIS WILL BE THE LAST FLY DOPE YOU RECEIVE.**

Please take a few minutes to complete the form available within this Fly Dope so you remain on the Fly Dope and E-mail mailing lists. If you have paid, but have not received your new membership card, one will be sent to you shortly.

The 2006 club roster will be enclosed in the April Fly Dope. Now is a perfect time to notify me if have had a recent e-mail change, a change in your mailing address, or have gotten a new phone number. Call me at 299-2845, or e-mail me at Mandydad@sbcglobal.net with the updated information.

Fly Fishing Team USA Trials Sat & Sun Oct, 28 & 29

Our Mission:

Fly Fishers for Conservation (FFC) was organized in 1961 by a group of devoted Fly Fishers deeply concerned with the preservation of trout and all game fish, their environment, and the quality of fishing. Our club has maintained two goals since this time:

To foster and promote the sport of angling with artificial flies

To protect, conserve, and increase our angling resources.



FFFC Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Fees are due February 1, each year.
 Pro-Rate: Pay for months remaining until January 30 including current month at 1/12 annual rate.
 * Add initiation fee, \$10.
 One newsletter per household.

- Regular Membership \$36
- Senior Membership \$24 (over age 65)
- Spousal Member \$12
- Jr. Member \$6 (Under 18)
- Lifetime Member \$500
- Shoulder Patch \$5
- CSUF Scholarship Donation \$ _____
- Conservation Donation \$ _____

**Make Check payable to FFFC.
 Mail to 100 E. Sierra, PMB 3310, Fresno, CA 93710**

Initiation fee \$ 10.00

Total: \$ _____

Office use only: Amount _____ Check/Cash _____ Date _____ Input _____ Initial _____

FLY DOPE
FLY FISHERS FOR CONSERVATION
 100 E. Sierra, PMB 3310
 Fresno, CA 93710

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Fly Fishers For Conservation

**2006
 Slate**

Board Officers and Committee Members

Meetings held at:

Fresno Sportsman's Club
 10645 N. Lanes Road
 Fresno, CA 93720

**4th Thursday of every
 Month**
6 PM Skills Training
7 PM Program



McKenzie Cup Winner
 1989

Officers

President	Mike Telford	(559) 349-3874	mtelford@sti.net
1st Vice President	Fred Ramirez	323-5319, 779-9501cell	woollybuggerfred@aol.com
2nd Vice President	Roger Miller	(559) 226-4351	rogfly1@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Bob Papazian	(559) 434-6544	bobpapazian@cvip.net
Secretary	Jim DeSwarte	(559) 324-0869	jimdes2@hotmail.com
Conservation	Jayne Ferrante	(559) 446-1505	jayne@ferrantefinancial.com
Editor	Stephen Neal	(559) 251-7216	wsneal@starband.net
Membership	Scott West	(559) 299-2845	mandydad@sbcglobal.net

Committee Chairs

Social Director	Jeff Trafican	(559) 299-0591	jatraf@yahoo.com
Fly Casting	Dan Busby	(559) 433-1651	DAN.THEFLYFISHER@earthlink.net
Rod Building	John Cameron	(559) 896-6919	cam5j@aol.com
Fly Tying	Jerry Hopewell	(559) 638-5282	fluestang@comcast.net
Outings	Don Shuda	(559) 299-2026	dnjshuda@aol.com
Education Director	Bill Bruce	(559) 299-6615	bbruce@cvip.net
Communication	Pete Tampone	(559) 229-9024	peter.tampone@sbcglobal.net
Fair	Mits Kozuki	(559) 646-3020	no email
Director at Large	Paul Prespare	(559) 435-5347	utcspvp@aol.com
Director at Large	Phil Davis	(559) 347-9551	softhackel@yahoo.com
Director at Large	Jim Clark	(559) 322-1685	jamesclark@inreach.com
Director at Large	Kevin Wren	(559) 439-0608	kevinw@calwestrain.com

Fly Fishers for Conservation 2006 Annual Banquet

Saturday, April 22, 2006

Fresno County Sportsmen's Club
10645 Lanes Road
Fresno, California

Doors Open at 5:00 pm

Dinner at 7:00 pm

Silent and Live Auctions

Fly Fishing General Raffle + Special Ticket Raffle***

Women's Raffle

Special Bucket Raffles

Must be present to win

Buffet Dinner

(Iggy's back by popular demand)

Tri-Tip or Lemon Chicken

***Early Bird Special**
(With dinner reservation only)
110 raffle tickets + 2 special tickets***

Early bird deadline is April 1, 2006

# _____	Banquet Tickets @ \$25.00ea	\$ _____
# _____	Raffle tickets @ \$1.00 ea	\$ _____
# _____	50 Tickets + 1 Special @ \$50.00	\$ _____
# _____	100 Tickets + 2 Special @ \$100.00	\$ _____
# _____	*Early Bird Special 1 Dinner \$125.00	\$ _____
# _____	*Early Bird Special 2 Dinners \$150.00	\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Tickets will be held at door for you

Reservation Deadline is April 10, 2006

For reservations or more information please contact Roger @ (559) 226-4351 or Bob @ (559) 434-6544

Make checks payable to "FFFC Mail to Bob Papazian 565 E. Everglade, Fresno, CA 93720

FFFC is anon-profit 501 c (3) organization. Your donations are tax deductible to extent allowed by law.