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**Special Points of Interest:**

*May*

**Little Panoche  
Outing**

*June*

**Shad Outing**

*October*

**Team USA Trials**

*Check the  
Bulletin board!*

**Thursday, May 25**

**Al Smatsky**

**Shad Fishing in the Central Valley**

The Shad are Coming, the shad are coming. Well maybe they are not coming because they are already here but this months issue of Fly Dope is full of information on Shad. Our Speaker this month is Al Smatsky owner operator of Excellent Adventures, Lodi, CA. Al started fly fishing over 35 years ago when he was introduced to shad fly fishing. He is a life member of Delta Fly Fishers, past President and member of the board of Directors for 25 years. He started Excellent Adventures 11 years ago to give anglers a different option on travel and fly fishing trips. He guides locally for shad and Steelhead.

His program will be on shad fishing in the Central Valley. He will discuss some locations to fish but will primarily focus on teaching some basics so that you will become more successful on your own. Come to listen, learn and enjoy.

**Distribution of our Monthly Fly  
Dope is about to Change.**

The Board has received several request to take the Fly Dope electronic. Starting next month (June) those of you whom have e-mail address will receive the news letter in your electronic mail box. Those of you with out connections to the World Wide Web will still continue to receive the news letter via U.S. Mail.

When you receive the Fly Dope via e-mail it will be in color as well as more timely. Typical time delay between publication and delivery is about 7 days, so the sooner you get the easier it is to plan for club activities.

We are doing this to keep more of our dues and fund raising funds going towards our conservation efforts. Those of you with e-mail accounts who do not wish to receive the Fly Dope by e-mail need to contact Stephen Neal at (559) 251-7216 or wsneal@starband.net.

Enjoy!

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Mike Telford

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank all of the members and guests who dug deep into their pockets and purchased raffle tickets, silent auction and live auction items in support of the club and our conservation projects. Despite a slightly lower turnout, the banquet net was close to last year's and the money raised will be put to good use in the coming year. As many of you know the club honored Kevin Ridge (Founders Award) and Kevin Wren (Conservation Award) for their years of selfless service and dedication to the club.

Perhaps it was due to this year's record rains and cabin fever: the Hume Lake outing was attended by a near record number of members. Lots of fish, good-natured ribbing, and of course lies, were enjoyed by those attending. Reflecting back over the years of my club involvement I think outings have been the major factor in my getting to know so many fine people. I have become a better fisherman as a result of my attendance and my life has been enriched by all of those that I have fished with. Those who haven't been to an outing are missing out on perhaps the primary reason for being in the club...a chance to fish with fine fishers and fine individuals.

The upcoming Shad outing will be an excellent opportunity to participate in an outing. The Millerton Lake shad are one of the few land locked populations in the world and access to catch them is reasonably good. Pound for pound these fish fight like the baby tarpon that some people compare them to. I hope to see you there.

## Outing Report

Don Shuda

Our next outing will be to The Little Panoche Reservoir on May 27th. If you have never been there, Little Panoche is situated almost directly west of Mendota and about two miles west of I-5. Tad Wheeler has sponsored this outing for several years now, and he puts on one heck of a fish fry shore lunch with the catch of the day. If you have time to put together a side dish, salad or desert, bring it along - If not, come anyway because there is always plenty of food. The target will be pan fish (red ear, crappie, etc), and all bass are to be released. Most of us use a light rod (3,4 or 5 wt), a sinking type line and wet flies to include minnow patterns. Fishing from shore is very difficult, and a float tube is ideal. People have used pontoon boats, but launching is very difficult unless you have a way to pack it to the other end of the dam. The place we normally launch by the parking area is very steep. Be sure to bring your own drinks, eating utensils and sun screen.

The outing to Hume Lake went very well. The weather and scenery were great and everyone caught fish. In fact, we caught many fish. The largest was caught by Jim DeSwarte, and as you can see by the picture it went about 22". About twenty-five members attended to include some of our newest. We encourage all new members to join us on these outings, and guarantee you will meet some good people and have fun. So do your best to join us on May 27th.



# AMERICAN SHAD

## A Unique Fishery in Fresno's Backyard

By Bob Papazian

I remember it like it was yesterday- my first encounter with an American Shad. It was at "Squaw's Leap" on the San Joaquin River, pretty close to where our annual Shad outings are now, Nicknamed "Baby Tarpon" - a 19" San Joaquin River American Shad



Since I was old enough to drive a car, and through my late twenties the San Joaquin River above Millerton was what I considered my "home water"- a tremendous Rainbow Trout fishery. The Rainbows shared the river with the ever present Squawfish, Suckers, & monster Crawdad's. The trout were more than holding their own. At that time the majority of the water from Kerkoff Reservoir came back into the San Joaquin about three miles further upstream than where it does now- at Kerkoff I powerhouse. That three mile section between Kerkoff I & Millerton Lake was the "trout water". When the flows settled to between 400-1000 cfs, it rivaled the fishing above Mammoth Pool for big healthy trout. The best part was- no one fished it. When the Kerkoff II powerhouse was

built in the early 1980's, the three mile trout section became a trickle of warm water before meeting up with the Kerkoff II tunnel at the upper end of Millerton Lake. That was the end of the trout fishery & the start of a pretty good Smallmouth fishery- but that's another story. Sorry for the digression.

I'm a little fuzzy on what year- 1978 or '79 I think. I was wading my favorite stretch about a mile upstream from where the Kerkoff II powerhouse is now. I made a cast, watched the line swing, & then froze in horror at the sight of dozens of strange looking fish milling about at the tail of the pool- twenty feet from where I stood. It made my skin crawl but I spent the next 30 minutes knee deep in the river trying (in vain) to catch those ugly looking fish. Somewhere about the 50<sup>th</sup> cast I decided to yell for my buddy to come over & see what was in the river. Neither one of us knew what the hell they were or how they got there, nor did we catch one lousy fish. Our learning curve was lengthily. Shad don't bite on the dead drift or very often on the swing, & they prefer hot pink, chartreuse, or orange to anything natural looking. At 25 years old & with no patience for finicky fish, you can imagine how long it took to get anywhere near an honest grab. On our second trip that next week we finally managed to find a fly or two that struck some interest & when we left a fly hanging in the current by mistake & caught a fish- the game was on. Pound for pound they are as hard fighting as any fish there is and it's easy to see why they are related to Tarpon.



**Robert Stearns with a nice Shad, caught at last year's club outing**

**(Continued on Pg. 4)**



## American Shad

Continued from Pg. 3

I don't consider myself a "Shad Guy" or a "Bass Guy" either. I'd much rather stick to the cold water fish. But there's something about these Shad that just get under your skin. After the demise of my favorite trout water, I sort of wanted to puke when someone mentioned "Squaws Leap". We moved away from Fresno for a few years & it was in the early 1990's when I thought about giving the Shad a try again. My two sons were in grade school. We rigged up some spinning gear with cast-a-bubbles and a pink curly tail jig and set out for the "Leap" (it's called San Joaquin River Gorge now). We caught countless feisty 15"-20" Shad that day & have been going ever since. It's with fly rods now but I must confess the pink curly tail crappie jigs still out-fish the flies we tie.



**Four Shad Flies & a Pink Curly Tail Jig**

Please come out & join us on **Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>** for this year's club outing for Shad on the San Joaquin. Fly fishing can be a solitary, soul searching, awe inspiring experience, but that's not what our Shad Outing is all about. This is one of the few times we can load up the river with fishermen, enjoy the camaraderie, & cast 'til your arm falls off- sometimes never moving five feet. When the timing is right, the fish just keep on coming! Call Bob Papazian for details (559)307-4601.

**Directions to the Shad Outing:** From Auberry, go thru town & turn left just past the Elementary School. The sign will say "to North Fork". Continue for about two miles & turn left at the "San Joaquin River Gorge" sign. Continue until the road dead ends at the Kerkoff II Powerhouse (about 10 miles). We'll meet here at **9AM** & walk down together. If you get there late, it's just a ten minute walk down the paved PG &E road from the parking lot to the river. You can't miss us. We'll all have a fish on!



**A Special Thank You, to our Donors who make it possible to Continue supporting our Conservation efforts on behalf of Fly Fishing.**

## Banquet Update

**Roger Miller**

And another banquet is over, my last, for awhile anyway. This was a fairly successful banquet but it needs new fresh blood (mine is getting old and tired), and yes this time I mean it when I say not next year.

Anyway I would like to thank all the people that helped out on the banquet committee, and those that weren't but helped out anyway. If it hadn't been for Bob Papazian we wouldn't have had a banquet at all this year. It was only because of him that I was able to stay in the game this year. Thanks to our other stalwarts on the committee Kevin Wren and Jeff Trafican who put in time and effort and put up with me and my blither. I would also like to thank my lovely wife Sandra, who I told last year that she would not have to do another one of these, and then volunteered her anyway.

Below is a list, in no particular order, of the people and companies that donated time, effort, goods or discounts that helped us make this banquet a success. The money raised allows us to continue our work for the fish.

Rajeff Sports	Sierra Trading Post
Maui Jim Sunglasses	Cortland Line Co.
Orvis Co.	Hexigraph Rods.
Patagonia	Peggy Papazian
Arroyo High School Fly Fishers	Jerry Pantaleo
Cable Car Sun Glasses	Sugar Creek Ranch
Big Sky Carvers	Wayne Thompson
Frank Rodriguez	Neal Pultz
Hank George	Oasis Fly Tying Benches
Jack Dennis	Whiting Farms
T & T Rods	Gilmore Reels
Scott Rod Co.	Angler Sport Group
Larry Naney	Anglers Book Supply
Julie McGuinness	Stackpole Books
Bob McParland	Richardson Chest Fly Box Co.
Frank Amoto Publications	Chota Outdoor Gear
Fly Logic	Ty-Rite
No Nonsense Fly Fishing Guide books	Stream Stalker Publishing
Lynn West	Liz Zemke
Fred Ramirez	Kern River Golden Trout Resort
Phil Davis	Paul Prespare
Mag Eyes	The Creek Company
Jim Teeny	Salt Water Fly Fishing
Aqua Design	BT's Fly Fishing Products

I'm sure I left off a few names or companies and for that I truly apologize. Again, thank you for all of your efforts.

Roger Miller  
2<sup>nd</sup> V/P

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## Conservation Corner

Jayne Ferrante

There is much going on in Big Meadow! The snow is melting like mad, bears are stomping around, and it is a sight to behold up there! I recently went backcountry skiing up at the meadow with Larry & Juliet Paglia. Larry has been skiing in with John Cameron and a friend Walt to test the water level in our Peizo-meters installed in the meadow. This will be added to the data we've been collecting through the study Fresno State did. We will be installing a data logger and pressure transducer which measure and record stream flow in mid June. A big thanks goes to KRCD who bought this sophisticated equipment for us to use.

June 24 is the date we have scheduled to go up to the meadow and do some surveying with lasers. There are a few reaches that need to be mapped out that we haven't included in our materials so far. Jim Wilcox will be up there at that time as well. It will probably be muddy, with mosquitoes, so the faint of heart should stay home. We need about 10 folks to help us work. Terry Henry the Hydrologist from Sequoia National Forest will be supervising us.

We also should be holding a two day class that weekend. This will be on stream restoration, with Jim Wilcox teaching. The methodology he uses is referred to as Hydro morphology. He uses as little man made structures to make changes in the meadow as possible, allowing the meadow's natural processes to take over the healing going on. He learned this from Luna Leopold and Dave Rosgen, the folks to invent it. Jim has been doing this for over 15 years in Plumas County, and has done more on ground work in this area than anyone. Let me know if you are interested in attending.

### Team USA Update

Early this year our board voted to run the Western Regional Trials for Fly Fishing Team USA here again this year. We committed to them at that time. So, the last weekend in October get ready for some more fun!!

I need to get some committee chairs designated in the next month, with a meeting for us to outline our plan of attack. Hopefully with one under our belt it will be a little easier this year. At our meeting we will go over the different areas of responsibility. These are: River & Lake Beat design, Banquet Auction, Conservation Expo, Transportation, Lunches/Breakfast/drinks, Sponsorship development, Press Release/Media, Monitor training, T-Shirts, and finally, reservations & communication.

Please email me if you have a genuine interest and can put the time in. Jayne16@comcast.net

## Fly's From Jerry's Bench

Jerry Hopewell

IRA LINGREN'S Black and Yellow nymph:

Hook: Mustad 3906B 10-16  
 Thread: Black  
 Tail: Black hackle fibers body length  
 Rib: Gold wire wrapped through body and thorax "counter wrap"  
 Body: Yellow marabou fibers use 3-4 from the end of the plume  
 Thorax: Peacock herl  
 Hackle: Black to size of hook 2-3 turns and clipped top and bottom



**Black and Yellow Nymph**



(Continued Next Page)



## Fly's From Jerry's Bench

(Continued from page 6)

### Tying Instructions

Start the tying thread at the middle of the hook shank.

Make a thread base; tie in the tail and the gold wire.

Tie in the tips of the yellow marabou fibers at the base of the tail.

Wind the marabou fibers to the middle of the hook shank and secure, they are very fragile!

Tie in the tips of the peacock herl at the midpoint of the hook.

Wrap the tying thread forward making a thread base making sure to leave room to finish the fly!

At that point, tie in the hackle stem and force the butt backward, trim and take the tying thread back forward to the base of the hackle.

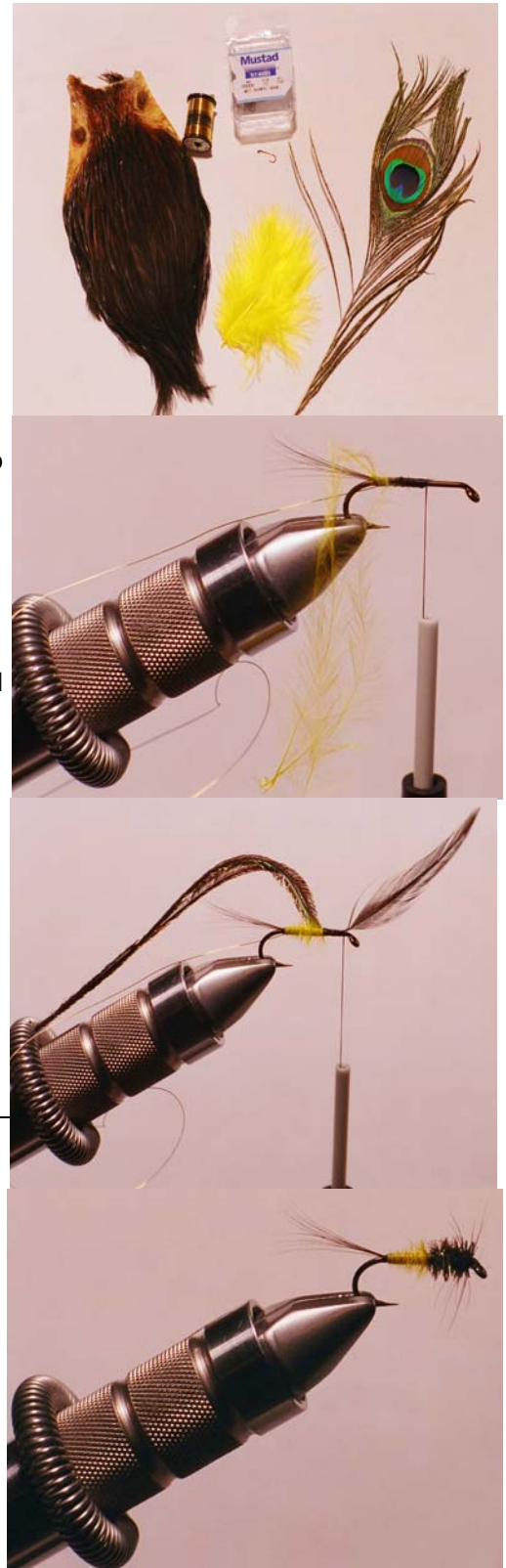
Wrap the peacock herl forward to the base of the hackle feather and secure with the tying thread.

Counter wrap the Gold wire forward through the marabou fibers, continue through the peacock herl and secure the wire with the tying thread, bread or cut the excess.

Wrap the hackle 2-3 turns, secure with the tying thread and cut excess.

Make a small tapered head and finish with head cement.

Trim the top and bottom of the hackle and you are finished.



Dan and a few participants in our Fly Casting Classes

## 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### May

Handicap Fishing Derby: May 13, Sportsman Club 8-12PM Volunteers needed (Paul Prespare)  
Outing: May 27<sup>th</sup> – Little Panoche Res. (Tad Wheeler)

### June

Shad Outing: June 4 & 5 (Bob Papazian)

### July

Portal Fore Bay Outing: Mid July (Don Shuda)

### August

Courtwright Res. Outing (Date TBA)

### September

Wishon Res. Outing (Date TBA)

### October

Fly Fishing Team USA Trials: October 28 & 29 (Jayne Ferrante)

Cedar Grove Outing (Date TBA)

Upper Kings River Outing (Date TBA)

### November

San Luis Res. (Date TBA)

## HUME LAKE ON THE FLY

STEPHEN NEAL

The morning broke with Spring freshness my bags were packed and setting by the back door; Kevin, Roger and Blaine were due at any minute to pick me up for the ride to Hume Lake. What I thought had been good planning on my part soon went south when my visiting grandsons need for grandfather time was greater than being on time time, so instead of being ready to go when they got here I was deep in backyard rough housing with my shadows. A darn nice start to a beautiful day.

Well we made it to the lake on time even with the grandson delay. On the way up we kidded Kevin about christening his new pontoon boat since we did not have Champaign we suggested \_\_\_\_\_ on it but Kevin declined. The boat shook off the effrontery of not being christened and Kevin caught around 25 trout. On the way home he complained about all those fish leaving his fingers abraded when he removed the hook, we were not very sympathetic.

I did well myself, catching around 10 fish. As I have never fished from a float tube before this was an all new experience, lucky for me I had attended Jay Fair's presentation last year on lake fishing and I purchased several of his wiggle tail flies. The olive wiggle tail worked the best as I caught nine of my 10 fish on the fly. It worked just as he said it would. You cast it out then slowly strip it back and when the fish hits you stop and let it sink the trout usually comes back and then takes the fly.

Now catching those fish was really due to the efforts of our club members. Our morning launch did not go with out a hitch. Blaine stepped on the seat of Rogers float tube ripping it out leaving the tube unusable, he was stuck with shore fishing. My waders sprung a major seam leak soaking my pants so instead of setting low and dry I was lower and very wet. I made it through the morning fish but there was no way to make it through the afternoon but then the club came to the rescue. Eddie happened to have a extra pair of wader that he was willing to sell, Jim DeSwarte was using Bob Papazian's extra pontoon boat so he lent me his float —

**(Continued next pg.)**



## HUME (CONTINUED FORM PG. 8)

- tube and I lent Kevin's float tube to Blaine and we were soon back on the water.

I must say that my nine fish afternoon was due entirely to the Fresno Fly Fishers for Conservation and for that Gentleman ( I use the term loosely we are just fish bums in disguise) I am grateful. As Mike Telford mentioned in his message one of the true benefits of this club is fishing with its members.

See you at our next outing.

## 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 Sur-

### Handicap Children Fishing Derby

On the Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, The Sportsman Club sponsors a fishing derby for handicap children. The derby starts at 8 Am and runs until noon. Volunteers are needed to cast, bait hooks, retrieve and to enjoy kids as the catch fish. For more information contact Paul Prespare at 435-5347 or utcspvp@aol.com

## 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**  
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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**

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