August 2001

Vol. IX No. 7

**** Statement of Purpose ****

The purpose of this organization is to foster and promote the sport of angling with artificial flies; to teach and share knowledge and techniques involved in fly fishing; to organize and lead outings; and to promote and support the conservation of fisheries.

**** MEETINGS and CLUB INFORMATION ****

Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the month

OUR NEXT MEETING: August 14: Casting on the lawn from 6-7:p.m. Business and program at 7:00. The program will be presented by Leo Gutierrez from the Delta Fly Fishers. The subject is *Fishing for Tarpon.*

Note! We meet in **Room S-6**. About the middle of the east side of the building.

***** 2001 MEMBERSHIP DUES *****

Dues are $20.00, $10.00 for spouse, $30 for families, and $8.00 for students. New members, be sure to ask for a club patch when you pay your 2001 dues. Additional patches can be purchased from Bruce Rollans for $5.00 each. Make checks, for dues and patches, payable to Amador Flyfishers.

You may mail dues to:

AMADOR FLYFISHERS
P.O. BOX 935
SUTTER CREEK, CA 95685

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to sincerely thank Bob Souza for his dry fly presentation at our July 10 General Meeting and his follow-up demonstration on the Mokelumne River on July 14. Bob's informative and patient style of instruction was interesting and beneficial to all who attended. We learned a new knot at the Tuesday meeting and two of the seven Saturday workshop attendees had never fished dry flies before and truly appreciated Bob working individually with them.

I need to finalize sign-ups for the Eagle Lake Outing at or before our August meeting. I will rent a house to stay in on the nights of Oct. 19, 20. When we arrive in the early morning of the 19th, we can go directly to the house to unload, change, and prepare for that day of fishing. We can prepare food at the house and there is an excellent restaurant just a minute away. Fishing will be on foot and with float-tubes. After George Cecchetti gives his presentation on angling for steelhead in our local rivers at our September meeting, we can discuss partner fishing on the American and Mokelumne Rivers.

Bill

*** CALENDAR ***

Tuesday, August 14: Next meeting of Amador Fly Fishers. At 6:p.m. we have **casting on the lawn.** The general meeting at 7:p.m. Leo

Tuesday, August 21: Director's meeting at 6:30p.m. Round Table Pizza, Martel. All interested members are welcome to participate.

Saturday, September 15: AFF No-host fish-out at Heenan Lake.

September 22: Free fishing day. Also "The Double Haul in the Fall" at Crowley Lake.

September 28-30: NCCFFF Conclave 2001, at North Lake Tahoe, CA

October 19-21: AFF outing at Eagle Lake.

General Information and Happenings

Your editor hasn't been spending much time at the computer during the past five weeks. Most of my time has been spent "rehabing" my new left knee which I acquired June 27th. Because I can't sit at my computer with my foot elevated, computer work was one of the things that has caused me some discomfort if I did it for more than a short period. However, I am progressing nicely and with lots of good input from the Board and a fine response to my request for summer fishing reports from the AFF members with email addresses, I think we have the makings of an August newsletter.

An interesting sidelight to my knee replacement is the fact that my surgeon is an avid fly fisherman. On Thursday, June 28th, the day after my surgery, Dr. George Batten came to do a post op check. After pointing out that the surgery went very well and that we had done the right thing to operate, he informed me that his car was packed, and he and his two teenage daughters, ages 16 and 13, were heading for the Mammoth area. They would spend the rest of the week fly fishing the East Fork of the Walker and Crowley Lake. I would be attended by one of his colleagues. Fortunately , my five days in the hospital did not have any crisis episodes. Physical Therapy, P-T, also referred to as pain and torture, occupied most of my waking moments. When I saw the good doctor a week later, he said that the fishing was great, he, and his daughters, caught a number of nice 16 inch browns in the Walker. Although a sore neck kept Dr. Batten from fishing Crowley, his daughters enjoyed a great day. They had approximately 30 fish on and landed 10.

The guide for the group was a Mammoth Lakes guide named Tom April. Dr. Batten said he has been their guide for ten years and taught his daughters to fly fish. Obviously he did it very well. He certainly seems like someone to remember if

you head to that area to fish. Dr. Batten was not aware of the "The Double Haul in the Fall", but related one episode in late fall right at the end of duck season. He and Mr. April stopped to take a few casts at the inlet to Crowley from the Owens River and shotgun pellets were flying all over the place. They were using rigs for the streams they had been fishing. They had a run of hook-ups with very large fish that they never saw before they were broken off. The fish just hit the fly and kept right on going. Maybe we all better take Dennis up on his next invitation to fish Crowley.

Annual AFF Dinner: Thanks to the effort of your board, with a special acknowledgment to Bruce and Sallye Rollans and Bill DeWalt, it appears most of the pieces (we still have the raffle items to get) are in place for our annual dinner. This dinner will take place on December 9th and will be held at Teresa's in Jackson. We will use the banquet room behind the main restaurant. It is an excellent layout with plenty of room for both the dinner and the program. As of right now, The dinner will cost $23.50 and the choice will be either rib-eye steak or chicken. Of course, there will be the typical courses of an Italian dinner at Teresa's.

The speaker will be Mike Costello. The program will be on local fishing. He will be presenting new and updated material, including slides, on our local waters: the Delta, the Mokelumne, Stanislaus, Sacramento, and American Rivers, some other venues as well. He will feature trout, stripers, shad and steelhead. Mike has a web site at www.fishtrips.net that is really very good. It features some very nicely written articles on fly fishing and is an attractive set of pages. Bill DeWalt informs me that he came across as very enthusiastic about speaking at our Dinner.

On his web site Mike introduces himself this way. "My name is Mike Costello, owner and guide of Pacific Adventures. I have spent my life pursuing fish with a fly rod. I enjoy catching fish as well as teaching others the magic and mystery of fly fishing. In fact, I have spent eleven years and over 1800 days teaching others the sport that I love. From ages eight to eighty, I have seen the smile on the face and gleam in the eye when one experiences the joy of fly fishing. At Pacific Adventures, our goal is not only for you to catch fish, but also for you to experience the many wonders the sport of fly fishing has to offer."

There will be more details in the months to come, but mark your **December 9th** on your calendars right now, because it is going to be a great party and you don't want to miss it.

Casting on the lawn accuracy training and competition: Dennis informed your editor that the competition aspect of casting on the lawn never really got off the ground. However, the casting sessions will continue with the emphasis on casting nice tight loops.

MEETINGS

Since this newsletter is a kind of "get back in harness" issue and I didn't make the meetings in question, there will be no recap of individual meetings. That will resume next month.

From the comments, it is obvious that the programs in June and July were outstanding. The only think lacking was a good turnout.

The financial status remain pretty much what it was in June. There was no reported income or expenses reported for July and the AFF checking account currently stands at $762. 84.

It is obvious from comments the past few months that AFF members would like to see some more member lead outings. In response, the Board is proposing the following fall schedule:

There will be a no-host fish-out at Heenan Lake on Saturday, September 15. Interested members and friends should meet at the lake anytime in the morning between sunup and whenever. A good idea would be to carpool and perhaps those wanting to car pool can get together at the September 11 AFF Meeting to make arrangements.

We would also like to get people fishing the American in September, October, and November for steelhead and stripers.

Bill is interested in setting up a series of one day, no host, partner type outings on the Delta in November to fish for stripers.

Bill is leading an outing to Eagle Lake, October 19-21. Bill needs to get an indication of who is signing up at the August meeting.

Dennis Larson is going to the "Double Haul in the Fall" at Crowley on Saturday, September 22. He has arranged for a LARGE room at the Mono Sierra Lodge for Friday and Saturday night. Dinner Friday night will be at the restaurant at Convict Lake. According to Dennis, they have "Great steaks and, to die for, prawns! Dennis already has three sign-ups (only Bill DeWalt from AFF). However, I get the impression there is room for more. So you might want to consider checking with Dennis. Your editor is making a swift recovery but September might be a bit soon. Next year for sure.

Program schedule for the rest of the year:

September: George Cecchetti from the Reel Fly Shop in Lodi will present *Local Summer Steelhead Fishing.*

October: AFF Slide Show.

November: Richard Hunt will discuss *Antique Vices for Fly Tying* (or perhaps it is the vices of antique fly tiers).

December: Annual Dinner at Teresa's

Fishing Reports:

Those of you with email know I sent out a request for summer fishing reports for this newsletter. Sort of a "How I spent my summer vacation " for AFF. Well, as you can see, there was a fine response.

Pete Bunting reports the Clark fork of the Stanislaus was very good. Camping facilities were primitive, no showers. The water was clear. Light color flies seemed to do well, and those willing to hike about a mile beyond the end of the road did very well. Pete reported he was heading to the north country and he hoped to have more information at the August meeting.

Peter Fessenden reports that his wife Sandy caught 14,15 and 16 inch browns from the shore at Caples in early June. "beautiful fish, especially the larger, what a fighter!"

Dennis Larson filed this report: Ron Calvert (Granite Bay Flyfishers) and I went Wednesday, July 25 to Dark Lake and caught three fish each. I picked up one 15 inch German Brown on a type II sinking line and a beaded black rubber leg (size 8) and another on a light creme and tan/brown damsel nymph using a floating line. I also picked up a Tiger Trout, 11" using a light green (size 14) scud made out of light green beads with a lightly picked out translucent material as an overbody. The Tiger Trout was caught on a floating line.

Ken Brown reports that he went to Fall River spring creek during the 4th of July week. He did very well using small pheasant tail nymphs, elk hair caddis and hex dry flies.

Randy Baxter, as you might expect, has had an active summer and files this report:

In late June, a friend and I fished a day on Blue Creek, a tributary to the Mokelumne River. The creek is accessible from a logging road east of West Point. From the bridge, we took all day to work pocket water and pools upstream for about 2.5 miles, also stopping to view the last of the wildflowers and the aquatic insect life in the flat water stretches. We waded "wet" through sometime difficult stretches of boulders or bedrock, but the day was warm and most casts made from a shoreline vantage point. The stream is loaded with 4-8" wild rainbows that were very willing as long as they didn't see us first. A mixture of aquatic and terrestrial insects (tan and gray caddis adults, little yellow stonefly adults, house flies, large ants, and a few grass hoppers) were active and brought fish to the surface through most of the day. We had success with #14 parachute Adams and dark brown ants and #16 yellow stimulator (yellow stonefly), but I'm sure other flies would work as well. If you go, wear wading shoes with good felt, ankle support and soles to protect your feet; a couple of ibuprofen at the beginning and end of the day might also help.

On July 4, rather than swill beer, I hiked in to the upper Truckee River from Hwy 88 a mile or so west of Carson Pass. This section of the Truckee in Meiss Meadows has been reclaimed from the introduced brook trout and replanted with

Lahontan cutthroat which are now reproducing on their own. This reach is also part of California Dept. of Fish and Game's Heritage Trout program and as such has some special regulations: Season July 1 - September 30, limit 0 trout,

using artificial lures with single barbless hooks. The hike in from Hwy 88 meets and follows the Pacific Crest Trail for two to three miles over a ridge in excess of 8,700 feet elevation before crossing the Truckee. The hike is moderately difficult due to high elevation and the elevation gain and loss, but trails are good and easy to follow. Again, the fish are easy as long as they don't see you and spook. The upper section involves stalking locations rather than fish (fish present aren't always visible) and target shooting among the willows. For this reason, 4x tippets or heavier should be used so you can pull an occasional fly from a branch instead of disturbing the water by walking over to unhook it. Farther down, the Truckee spills into a shallow lake, which is supposed to hold larger fish (12-14" range). I did not take time to explore this area, concentrating instead on the hundred yards downstream of the trail crossing. This area was loaded with beautifully colored, 6-9" cutthroat holding under overhanging willows and along banks. The clear water and the bright cutthroat colors provide a great pay-off for a stealth approach and short casts. My #14 dark brown ant provided constant action during the hour and a half I had to fish (I didn't kill myself to get up early or stay late), so I didn't try anything else. You won't need to wade this area, but wading shoes and light waders might be useful for fishing the lake area. Also bring a water proof parka for afternoon thunder showers and a camera for pictures of the wildflower and the cutthroat. Good luck.

Bruce Rollans reported on the trip he and Sallye took to Baja:

Loreto, B.C.S. was unusually cool upon our arrival, 94 degrees and 49% humidity. We stayed at the Hotel Oasis which is a very comfortable facility right on the beach with kitchen, bar, and fish cleaning facilities. The rooms were air conditioned (I think more like refrigerated) and the food was excellent. We got our fishing boats (19 ft. "pangas") each morning at 6 a.m. on the beach about 150 yards from our room. Fishing was fantastic the first day for us, then mediocre the next two days. Some of the people in our group came upon as many as a dozen sailfish floating on the surface sunning themselves and managed to hook several. Only got one to the boat. Sallye and I looked for Dorado exclusively. I did land a 40 lbs. bull dorado, no thanks to the reel I was using at the time. I planned to use this specific reel as a backup to the other two reels we had on board, but inadvertently picked it up and got a big fish on it. Like the last time in Baja, it let me down. The reel came loose from the reel foot and it took an hour to bring this fish to the boat using a JC rod and my hand. Sallye did a great job of originally hooking the fish and subsequently keeping the line out of the way, feeding me line when the fish decided to run. (what I want to know about is the quality of the margaritas….e*d)*

Errata:

Your editor has doing quite a bit of reading during the past few weeks. I finally sat down and read my latest issue of the *California Fly Fisher* from cover to cover. Previously, I am afraid, I glanced at the issues as they arrived and then set them aside. If there is an more interesting and informative periodical on fly fishing on the market I sure want to hear about it. The writing and topics are absolutely great. I even purchased a couple of books from Amazon.com based on the book reviews. I guess this is an assessment many of you have already made but I want to recommend it highly to any AFF member who has not been exposed to the *California Fly Fisher*.

The Amador Flyfishers wish to gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the following sponsors and encourage you to think of them when considering your fly fishing needs.

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Teton Fly Reels Inc. 924 Church Hill Road San Andreas, CA 95249 209/754-4709 800/831-0855 Fax 209/ 754-4716	**The Reel Fly Shop** 720 S Cherokee Ln. #B Lodi. CA 95240 209/365-7335	**Rivers End Guide Service** Bill Adelman P.O. Box 1094, Richmond, CA 94802 510/ 232-9991 Salmon, shad, strippers steelhead, bass, trout

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Send newsletter input to
Larry L. Shaw
1015 Riesling Dr.
Pleasanton, CA 94566

REMEMBER 2ND TUESDAY
NEXT MEETING, August 14

Amador Flyfishers
1015 Riesling Dr.
Pleasanton, CA 94566