

## NEWSLETTER FOR CLUB PRESIDENTS #2

### Introduction

This is the second quarterly newsletter for the presidents of NCCFFF affiliated clubs. The quarter has been busy, what with our Festival of Fly Fishing in Redding. This year's Festival included a meeting of club presidents (or their designees) attending the event (more on that later).

### A Giant Thanks...

To the Diablo Valley Fly Fishermen and Granite Bay Flycasters for their recent donations to the NCC. The funds will be put to work on equipment for presentations. We have an excellent conservation presentation and are developing others, but we have had to bum or rent equipment to put on presentations. The NCC's mission involves raising funds through the Festival of Fly Fishing and the Hall of Fame events, then applying the funds raised to conservation and educational activities. So we have skimmed on spending to support the Council itself. These grants from the two clubs will let us purchase things for presentations, an important part of communications these days (one picture=1000 words). Thanks again to Mt. Diablo and Granite Bay for their generosity!

### Festival of Fly Fishing

The Festival generated enough funds to keep the Council operating for another year. The two Redding clubs, Shasta-Trinity Flyfishers and the Shasta Mayflies, were instrumental in making the event a success. The Council's board consists of 32 officers and directors dispersed throughout Northern California and Nevada. The clubs, as organized entities in a reasonably concise geographical area, are key to making things happen, whether it is the Festival, or the 14 clubs that turned out volunteers to test ways to counter the spread of the New Zealand Mud Snail.

As the Council has no office and no employees, we have minimal overhead. The vast majority of the funds we generate are applied to our conservation and education activities. The club conservation projects grant program discussed below is an example.

### Presidents Meeting

Eight clubs were represented at the club presidents meeting during the Festival of Fly Fishing. Although we had only an hour together, there were good ideas exchanged. Ron Cordes, Chairman of the Board of the Federation, addressed plans for the FFF of the future. Don Moura, Chair of the NCC Club Support Committee, passed out and discussed a survey intended to identify areas where the Council could best aid the clubs.

The discussions revealed one misunderstanding. When the FFF was founded, it was an organization of clubs. As the FFF matured, the emphasis shifted to individual members, and Council directors were elected "at large." Officially, it still is that way, **BUT** it has been the practice in the NCCFFF to solicit annual NCC board nominations from the presidents of all affiliated clubs.

We will make sure that happens this year. Right now, the board's members are from only 19 of the 32 affiliated clubs. We would like to see all clubs represented on the Board. So club presidents should be thinking about nominees for next year's NCCFFF board. The board member from your club acts as a two-way conduit, passing your concerns to the Council, and informing your club about what the Council is doing.

### **Club Presidents Survey**

During the club presidents meeting at the Festival, we passed out a survey to those present. The intent of the survey is to determine what the Council could do to make life easier for the clubs. The survey results will guide us in helping you.

There are two ways those of you who have not already received the survey can get it. One, we could mail a copy to you with a return envelope provided, or two, we could e-mail the survey to you and you could e-mail the completed form back to Don Moura (his e-mail address is on the survey form, a Word document). If those of you that want the survey mailed to you would provide me (DaveF17965@aol.com) your physical snail-mail address, we will get the surveys in the mail.

For those wanting to do it via e-mail, we will e-mail the survey to you. You can then fill it out on your computer (Word needed) and e-mail it back to Don. I will send the form to everyone on the list serve a couple days after this comes out. You may want to discuss the survey with your board, so we are asking that the survey be returned to us by Jan 30, 2007. We will then release the results via this club prez list serve and start determining how the NCC can best accomplish what the survey reflects. We are shooting to start implementation in our 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (the NCC year is June 1-May 31)

Thanks for your help in doing this.

### **A Victory**

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) just agreed to raised river flows for the South Fork of the American and feeder streams in the Crystal Basin recreational area. A coalition of government and NGOs had been negotiating unsuccessfully with the SMUD staff for increased flows for fishing and other water recreation for nearly five years. Year-round flows in the system will be increased by 10-30% on streams affected by the SMUD system. Additionally, spring increases in flows will be made to simulate the pre-dam snowmelt runoff. It is also expected to help in keeping lakes in the area (Loon, Union Valley, Icehouse) filled to higher levels. The agreement still requires approval of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and may prove a bit difficult, as a FERC deadline was missed because of the last minute negotiations. But a FERC license stays in place for 50 years, so it's now or not for another half century.

CSPA asked for the help of the NCCFFF and others in appealing to the SMUD Board of Directors. We approached two clubs, CFFU and Granite Bay, asking their help. So the NCC, CFFU and Granite Bay all ended up presenting to the SMUD Board, along with allies like Friends of the River and others.

The two Sacramento area clubs carry clout with SMUD because many of their members are also SMUD ratepayers. And, since SMUD is a municipal utility, these ratepayers vote in electing the SMUD Board. This shows that clubs can help make a real difference in our fishing future. So the NCC thanks CFFU and Granite Bay for their help. And CSPA gets a big thanks for making this happen.

### **Club Conservation Project Grants**

We have posted information and forms for club conservation grants on the NCC's web site (<http://www.nccfff.org/>). Applying is a straightforward process. Grant requests are reviewed by the NCC conservation committee, prioritized in order of benefit to the fisheries and fly fishing, and then funded as far down the list as possible. Please take full advantage of this.

### **Use the List-Serve**

Don't hesitate to use this list-serve ([clubpres@nccfff.org](mailto:clubpres@nccfff.org)) to communicate ideas, concerns or requests for support (i.e.-- conservation project, announcements of annual dinners, other fund raisers for your club, etc.) with the other affiliated clubs of the NCCFFF.

### **Speaking of Fund Raisers**

Our second fund raising event of the year is the Northern California Council's Hall of Fame dinner and raffle on Feb 24, 2007, at the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. It is held in conjunction with "The Fly Fishing Show", which is moving from San Rafael to Pleasanton this year. The HOF dinner will be held on the fairgrounds, just a few steps from the buildings where the show is held. Details of the event and the honoree selection will be announced shortly. Check the NCC web site for updates.

### **Check Your Club's 501(c)(3) Status**

Recently a NCC director working on finding grant sources received a reply from a contact that the NCC was not listed as a 501(c)(3) with the IRS. This caused quite a bit of digging through documents, the end result being that we found we were OK. However, this delayed by over a month sending out donation thank you letters to individuals and businesses that gave items to our Festival of Fly Fishing. But it was far better to delay and be sure we gave donors the right information than to have their tax return challenged by the IRS!!!

Many clubs are also 501(c)(3), so it's a good idea to check your status at least once a year to be sure there are no glitches. You can call the IRS at: (877) 829-5500, Ext 1, to verify your status.

### **Internet Voting**

The Council is in the process of updating our bylaws, and a question of "internet voting" came up. Because the NCC Board members are spread throughout NorCal (making long distance phoning expensive), and the Board meets four times a year, we use Internet voting a lot. So we want to include it in the by-law revision.

The FFF legal council thinks Internet votes are proper, but the process should be clearly defined. They suggested that someone be designated to record all Internet votes, and then post the results on-line, showing who voted and how they voted. This posting should be left up for two days or more before being accepted as final.

While clubs tend to be geographically concentrated and meet more frequently, there may be times when Internet voting might be helpful. The FFF suggestion sounds like a good process.

### **Club Changes**

It is the time of the year when many (but not all) clubs install their new officers and directors. If you are leaving as your club's president, could you please provide me the name and addresses (physical and e-mail) of your replacement? Thanks for your help in this.

*Dave Ford*

President, NCCFFF