

**Peninsula Fly Fishers Fishout  
Upper Sacramento River with Ron Hart  
Saturday, September 17, 2005**

**Fishmaster:** Rodney Chun; ph: 650-344-3898; web\_rod@yahoo.com

**Highlights:** This fishout starts with a morning demonstration clinic taught by local Upper Sac guide and icon, Ron Hart. After lunch we will continue fishing the river, and, if there is a consensus, we will visit (in my opinion) the most beautiful spot in Northern California, Mossbrae Falls.

**Fees:** Tuition for the class is \$20 per person payable at the clinic or give to Rodney. Please make checks payable to the Peninsula Fly Fishers. Lots of space is still available!!

**Schedule:** Meet at the Dunsmuir City Park at 9:00 AM sharp for Ron's on-water class.

**Directions:** *Dunsmuir*

1. From San Francisco, take Interstate 80 to Interstate 505 (exit is in Vacaville).
2. North on 505 to Interstate 5 (32 miles).
3. North on Interstate 5 to Redding (125 miles).
4. Continue north on I5 to Dunsmuir (another 54 miles).

*Dunsmuir City Park*

1. Heading north on I5 from Redding, take the second (of three) Dunsmuir exits, "Central Dunsmuir." It is exit #730.
2. At the end of the exit ramp, turn left on Dunsmuir Ave., which will cross under I5 and head north parallel to the Interstate.
3. Continue north for 1/2 mile on Dunsmuir Ave, crossing a huge bridge that spans the river, which crosses from the west side of the highway to the east side here. On your left look for a large sign in a parking lot. Made of dark wood slats it says, "Welcome Dunsmuir City Park; Botanical Gardens; River Access." There is a large steam locomotive displayed on the edge of this parking lot too, and a second big yellow sign picturing a hummingbird that repeats the message on the wood sign.
4. Turn left and proceed all the way *through* the parking area. At the far edge is a small road that looks like a driveway. It winds along a tennis court and makes a couple of hairpin turns as it descends to the riverbank and the town park. At the bottom there is plenty of parking, picnic tables, swings, and bathrooms. Park anywhere you can find space and look for the group.

**Class:** The class will be an on-water demonstration, which means that we will be on the river, but the class participants will not be fishing. Topic that Ron will cover include: stream entomology, water reading, rigging, casting technique, drag free drifts, hook set, playing, and finally landing and releasing fish.

**Sat Lunch:** Originally I was planning to organize a potluck lunch but because of the variability in the participant list (many have committed to attending only to drop out), I am switching to a bring-your-own-lunch scheme. There are ample picnic tables at the City Park and it is quite pleasant there. Dunsmuir itself features a

number of grocery stores that sell sandwiches if you want to buy instead of bringing.

**Equipment:** The Upper Sac is a freestone stream, which means that during the heat of the day, the primary technique is nymphing with standard 4 to 6 weight floating lines for rainbows and browns. At the Ted Faye fly shop in downtown Dunsmuir they always tell customers to use an "LBS" fly. LBS stands for "Little Black Stuff." One of my favorite LBS flies is the Dark Lord nymph, a variant of a prince nymph invented by our teacher, Ron Hart. Another fly that I've had luck with on the lower part of the Upper Sac is Mike McGuire's Herl Brush Soft Hackle. Instructions are available in the fly tying section of the PFF website. Other useful flies include:

*Nymphs (#14 to #18):* pheasant tail, hare's ear, golden stonefly, fox pupah, micro mayfly, prince nymph, dark lord nymph, copper johns, red midge nymphs.

*Drys (#8 to #18):* adams, parachute adams, elk hair caddis, orange stimulators, e/c caddis.

*Streamers (#8 to #14):* wooley buggers, muddler minnows.

#### **Accommodations :**

There's a large choice of accommodations in the area, ranging from motels, bed and breakfasts, to camping. Here are a few non-fancy places that I have either first-hand knowledge of, or have heard good things about. Mike McGuire and I will be staying at the Cave Springs Resort which is very close to the Dunsmuir City Park.

##### *Dunsmuir*

Cave Springs Resort, 4727 Dunsmuir Avenue

Travelodge Motel, 5400 Dunsmuir Avenue

##### *Mt. Shasta City(7 miles north on I5)*

Finlandia Motel, 1612 South Mt. Shasta Blvd. (back rooms are newer).

Mt. Shasta Inn & Suites, 710 South Mt. Shasta Blvd.

##### *Castle Crags State Park (5.5 miles south on I5)*

Standard car camping with access to flush toilets and showers. I believe the nightly fee is currently running \$15 per site.

**More Info:** The Dunsmuir Chamber of Commerce has a very nice website with events, accommodations, and directions: <http://www.dunsmuir.com/>  
The Dunsmuir town website: <http://ci.dunsmuir.ca.us/n/cod/>  
Recent fishing reports: <http://www.dunsmuirrodcompany.com/river.html>

For fishing the best detailed map for the area is the Streamtime *Upper Sacramento River Map*. This map provides very good directions to all the access points on the river, including a small paragraph describing the condition you will find there. It is available at nearly all the fly shops in Redding and Dunsmuir.