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fishstories.....

FISHING THE LOWER SACRAMENTO RIVER

by Jim Gronski, Treasurer HSFC

After it spent a winter behind the barn, I brought the 5th wheel RV out in front of my shop to get it ready for a shake-down cruise. Since Linda's broken ankle shut down our travel plans last year, we're going to make up for it by taking a trip up the Oregon coast this June for some kick-back and fishing. Although I'm not sure you can officially kick-back when retired. Our first stop on the coast will be Brookings, Oregon and the Chetco River. I had some success on the Chetco a couple of years ago. Redding, California is about half way to Brookings, so we'll overnight there in June. We decided to take our shake-down trip to Redding this April to checkout the campgrounds and give me my first opportunity to fish the Lower Sacramento River.

Our destination was JGW Resort about 5 miles south of downtown Redding on the Lower Sacramento River. The trip was 285 miles going to Sacramento on highway 50 and north on I-5. Our trip home revealed that it's about 35 miles shorter if you go through Susanville. JGW Resort is a very clean place with beautiful river frontage. After we checked out a couple of other campgrounds we decided to stay at JGW in June. The river at the campground was about 150' wide with what others called flat water, kind of like the water down stream of the bridge at Rosaschi, only wider and faster. On a river walk that evening, while trying to keep Ben and Gus out of the river, I did notice a few fish rising. No one was wading or shore fishing, but a drift boat would pass every 10 minutes or so. They appeared to be nymphing as well as drifting dry flies. I didn't see a hook up. Not a good sign for a fly fisherman with my experience on a piece of water I've never seen before.

The next day, Linda and I headed to The Fly Shop in Redding to get pointed in the right direction. The Fly Shop is located on a frontage road off the I-5. It was not as large as I expected, but nevertheless was very well stocked with top quality gear. What was surprising was that there must have been 15 employees in that little shop! Half of them were on the phone selling everything from a Sage rod, or a local float trip, to a fishing trip to Russia. Linda and I were immediately attended to by a guide that left his post at the rod/reel refurbishment station. He was very informative about the Lower Sac. He even had hand made maps of the nearest fishing locations. After buying some fly-du-jour, we were off.

I dropped Linda and the dogs off at the campground and headed out to the first of three recommended spots. Spot one was in the middle of the visitor/convention center. I parked where I was instructed behind the auditorium and next to the rodeo grounds. The lot was pretty empty, but I figured hey, it was 11:00 on a Tuesday morning. I geared up and headed to the river. What my helpful guide failed to mention was the flow I would be encountering. Holy Cow! That river was roaring! No one was on the water. I then knew why the parking lot was so empty. I have a wife, two dogs, and several bartenders dependent on me. I passed on spot one.

Since I was totally dry, I drove to spot two in my waders and boots. Spot two was not too far from the campground. I parked at the prescribed turn out and headed down a trail bordered for several hundred yards by 7 foot tall raspberry bushes. If you met a bear coming from the other direction, you had two choices, fight him or run like hell back to the truck. There was no off trail exit. Those bushes are that nasty. The trail was pretty flat and about as long as the walk to the East Walker from the cattle guard. At the river, I spotted two other fishermen in waist deep water working a pool at the end of a riffle. Man, that water was fast. As I made my way out, I discovered one thing immediately. I need boots with studs! Every rock was the slimiest I have ever encountered! The fact that my wading boots are too wide for my feet didn't help either. I nevertheless made my way out to mid riffle. I'll bet people crawling out of train wrecks move faster than I was. As I was trying to find a secure spot to stand, I looked over and saw that the two other fishermen were moving downstream. I decided to move into their vacated position. After what seemed like an eternity to get there, I tied on a nymph and a handful of spit shot and had a go. Getting use to the speed of the water took some time but eventually I was finally able to cast, mend and get somewhat of a dead drift before the river took over. That drift didn't last too long either.

It seemed like I was making a cast every 2 seconds. I didn't have any hits, at least none that I detected. At that water speed, I figured that trout would have to hit with the force of a dump truck for me to notice. Then when I thought things couldn't get any worse, the wind came up and it started raining.

I decided to save spot three for next time. It rained that evening and night, the forecast was not much different for the next day. We decided to head for home. So if you ask me, "Did you ever fish the Lower Sac?" my answer would be--- I did, just not very well. But I'll have another chance in June.

April Fish Out Results– Pyramid Lake

by Liz Weirauch, Fish Master HSFC

According to Mike Phillips our timing for fishing Pyramid could not of been better. On Thursday water temperature at Pyramid dropped into the mid-40's and the fish moved out. By Sunday morning the temperature was 48 and moved up to 53 by noon bringing the fish back into the shallows. A large group of members from well seasoned to downright beginners joined together to take a whack at the spawning Lahontan Cutthroats. Let me share a few highlights from our successful fish out. Fish on the first cast to Ms. Claire Bauer (I wonder if she is hiding that Peter Bauer mojo). This quote from Barry Jobe, "I used the same thing yesterday and nothing, but during the fish out look at all these fish." Ernie and Jack got the distinction for traveling the furthest coming from the Sacramento area. People born under the sign of Aquarius tripped and tasted the alkaline waters of Pyramid, Ken and Liz. Stray dogs can break fly rods according to Steve Perry. "This is the biggest trout I have ever caught and I have to pick my girlfriend up at the airport right after this cast, no this cast, no this cast..." stated new club member, Nick York. Mike Phillips and Dan Sedergren caught the most fish at 17 (didn't they do that last year too) with Mike catching the largest cutthroat weighting eight pounds and measuring 28". Dan netted the fish for him, but because his net was too small it jumped out and had to be fought a second time!

All-in-all most everyone caught fish and some very nice ones. Thanks to all who came out; it was a great time!

May Fish Out– Upper Twin Lake– May 31

by Liz Weirauch, Fish Master HSFC

We had the fish out originally scheduled on May 24 during Memorial Day weekend! So we have changed it to May 31. We will Meet at the grassy area near the docks of Upper Twin Lakes at 9 A.M. Bring your float tube, rent a boat (call and reserve it in advance), or you can fish from the shore in waders. Bring a dry line and or intermediate sink line with you. Around this time of year we are finding that buggers (brown, black, olive, and yellow tails), blood midges, zebra midges, princes, damsel flies, and zug bugs do well. The club will provide brats and buns. If you would like to bring a dish to pass, please do so. If you are going to attend please let us know at the club meeting or email into the website, so we have a count for those brats. It would be great to have as many people at this fish out as the last one!

May General Meeting– May 20

by Mike Phillips, Editor HSFC

At this time we are waiting for our next speaker to confirm. You can check our website, your email, or Liz at the fly shop several days before the meeting to find out who our next interesting speaker will be May 20. Don't forget to bring some money for our raffle. See you there!

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Mike Phillips	Newsletter Editor	775-265-4610

TENTATIVE FISH OUT SCHEDULE FOR 2009

Feb. 22	Sunday	Hinkson Slough
March 29	Sunday	Rosaschi Ranch
April 26	Sunday	Pyramid Lake
May 31	Sunday	Upper Twin Lake
June 28	Sunday	Frenchmen's Reservoir
July 26	Sunday	West Walker River
August 23	Sunday	Spoooner Lake
Sept. 27	Sunday	Heenan Lake
Oct. 25	Sunday	Owens or East Carson River
Nov. 15	Sunday	Indian Creek Reservoir

The Internet Fly Fisherman

by Dan (Grizzly Wulff) Sedergren, Vice President HSFC

May 2009 –

This month's site is for those of you who are interested in the art of fly tying. The site is the the FlyTyingForum at <http://www.flytyingforum.com/>. This is a site for both the new and the experienced tier and contains a tying database of more than 6,000 patterns as well as tying videos, discussion forums, and articles. One of the neat aspects of this site is a database of fly patterns by materials. So check them out.

This month's Blog site of interest is Reno Trout NV, written by Brian J. Brian focuses on fishing and other fun stuff in the Reno/Northern Nevada/Sierra area. Check him out at <http://renotroutenvy.blogspot.com/>.

Pictures from our Pyramid Fish Out

text by Mike Phillips, Editor HSFC



Jim Gronski nets a nice cut by the now famous rocks off of the Pelican Point area.



Mike Kingston enjoying the gentle breezes of Pyramid with a fish in hand.



Claire "first cast" Bauer catching a nice cut.



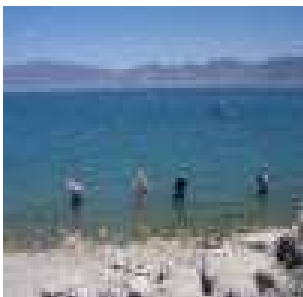
Peter Bauer with another fish what's new!



A couple of stream buddies, Steve Pery and Peter Bauer, catching some cuts.



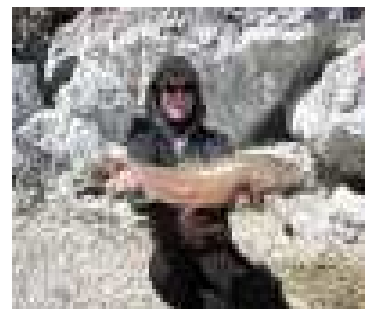
Don Weirauch above water and with a fish.



The four amigos fish again!



Barry Jobe with a nice fish.



Mike Phillips's big fish of the day!

Eastern Sierra Fishing Report

by CJ Webb. Virginia Lakes Resort

Remember to check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water as to limits, size, and gear.

ROCK CREEK road is open to the pack station, some water showing at both inlet and outlet.

HOT CREEK – Road is clear and so is the water. Breezy afternoons (always) so try some midges and if you are not getting takes, try some Trio Spinners #22-24, also San Juan worms, birds nest, and zebra midges #18-20 should get tugs. Please stay out of the water to prevent the spread of New Zealand mud snails.

CROWLEY Water is between 42-48 degrees and fish are spread out with no weeds. Lake is filling slowly and it was a fair to good opener, if you like crowds.

UPPER OWENS has been fair to good, but if you put your “trout-brain” in high gear it will suggest using midges #18-20, or small nymphs 16-18 or the ever beguiling San Juan Worm, you’ll get some nice fish in the 20 inch range. Use a 2 fly rig and don’t be a “slow-set” like me. The section from the fish monument downstream to Crowley Lake opens is now open.

CONVICT was also stocked with some heavyweights at the end of last season and should provided some great angling on opening.

MAMMOTH BASIN Twin Lakes has some water showing at both the inlet and outlet with a couple anglers trying to teach worms proper diving techniques, and should have stayed inside to watch the Lakers “dunking”, it was a lot warmer.

SAN JOAQUIN ROAD plowing will not start until May 10th as usual, due to the number of skiers taking advantage of the great snow on the Mountain and has said they will try and stay open until the 15th depending on conditions. Check with Forest Service in Mammoth Lakes for an exact opening date.

JUNE LAKE loop road opened 4.5.9, and June Lake marina cage culture program released some great cutthroats for the opener. Tubing will be a means to an end for trout on your 4X. Opening Derby had a full house as I drove down to Grant to recheck the level. Campgrounds were partially filled.

GULL LAKE is also ice free and produced some nice rod benders for the opener. Lots of 2 to 4 lb. trout.

SILVER LAKE also ice free and had a had a great showing for the worm crowd, and some tubers/pontoons got their licks in. The campground at the resort and across the street was almost at capacity.

GRANT LAKE is ice free and being fed at the west end by Rush Creek running through it. There are lots of fish in the stream. Rod was next to spare tire but flies were in the truck.

LUNDY Lake is ice free and road is open, with resort opening Memorial weekend. Edison is trying finish the repair work on the dam, but the report states they may keep it on the low side for the duration of the trout season until the work is complete.

VIRGINIA LAKES- The road was plowed to Trumbull Campground entrance on the 9th and the resort opens the 21st of May. The ice on Little Virginia is 34” and should hold for about 14 plus days unless father “Sol” beats it down. While walking all over Big Virginia talking to the ice fishermen my left leg decided to find a hole that had been covered over during the morning storm snow and that measurement is 36”. Geez that water was cold.

EAST WALKER flow as of this writing is 66cfs, and was 125cfs on March 26th ‘08. Loads of bugs with the warmer weather and this could prove to be the hot spot once the run-off starts. Joe at Performance Anglers took some Reno fly gals out a couple weeks ago and they did sensational, nothing big, but lots of fish. Try some Buggers under a Type II near the dam, or a tiger midge or pheasant tail behind a Stimulator #12 or 14 on the river. Big browns were returned to water.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR water is low and a bit off color and filling. Looks like the boat launching will be at the “bathtub” again. Water has been stocked with sub-catchable DFG bows recently and literally a ton of big fish last fall. Some Alpers were also added for more excitement. The Bridgeport Fish Enhancement Foundation stocked catchable brown trout last fall and they will also be showing a nose on your 4X tippet.

WEST WALKER flow was 658cfs on 23rd and currently is 385cfs (418 in ‘08) making the flats the best places to try your luck. Try some nice attractors over San Juan worms around curves and flats. Water is off color and a definite **Class V**.

SONORA PASS road crew is in about 4 miles.

KIRMAN – Report said water is primed and ready.

MONITOR PASS opened April 17.

See you on the water, CJ 9.4

Important Membership Survey Coming Soon by Dan Sedergren ,Vice President HSFC

Coming in June, the High Sierra Fly Casters Member Survey

In order to gain feedback from you the members, we will be conducting a short survey during the month of June. This is your opportunity to tell the Board what you think about HSFC and what you would like to see us involved in. The survey will be available on-line, should only take a few minutes to complete, and respondents will have an opportunity to win a gift certificate to Angler's Edge. Paper copies of the survey will be available at the June picnic for those who don't have internet access. For those of you, who wish to remain anonymous, simply put "Anonymous" in the box that asks for your name. Anonymous respondents will not be entered in the drawing for the gift certificate.

Thanks,
Dan

A Great Artist Among Us

by Mike Phillips, Editor HSFC

Liz "The Snow Artist" Weirrauch created this beautiful rainbow trout snow art in front of her fly shop after a pretty good snowfall in early March. Unfortunately, there was no room in the newsletter until this month to show it off. Remember this when the 80 and 90 degree temperatures start hitting the valley. Nice job, Liz.



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Upcoming HSFC Events

HSFC General Meeting	May 20
May Fish Out at Upper Twin Lake	May 31

General meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. on the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Carson Valley Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Lane in Gardnerville.

The HSFC Board meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at The Angler's Edge, 1506 U.S. Hwy. 395 N. in Gardnerville.
 HSFC members are welcome to attend.

We welcome contributions, quotes, jokes, stories and articles to *fishstories*.....

Please send to: Mike Phillips, 887 Marion Way, Gardnerville, NV, 89460 or mikephillips61@charter.net