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fishstories.....

READING FISHING OR FISHING READING by Bob Taormina, HSFC Member

I guess the first thing that comes to mind is stream reading, walking stealthily well back from the edge looking for the undercut banks, the boulders with holding water, the pockets, the occasional rattlesnake, and the shady overhangs.

Once the spot is chosen then we read the bug life. Are there any hatches, does it look like emergers or nymphs, are they rising to ghosts, or do you just have to pound 'em up?

After this, we read the current. Where can the fly be placed so it doesn't go hurtling downstream creating a wake like a battleship? How can the fly be cast across three simultaneous currents to provide even a 6 inch drag free float in the eddy on the other side?

That's the field exercise, and then comes the technical stuff, like reading the new issues of the magazines for new sure fire tactics, killer patterns, or new gear. Or, if you want to get really heavy duty there's the massive two volume edition of Trout by Ernie Schwiebert, or his lighter work, Matching the Hatch. After the technical there's the tactical, like Ed Koch's Fishing the Midge or the many works by Gary Borger. Once this is done, maybe it's time for a bit of history, such as Isaac Walton's The Compleat Angler or Paul Schullery's American Flyfishing or many other fine, interesting works.

So, if you've just finished Trout or The Compleat Angler you're probably ready for little light stuff (actually, if you've just read Trout you are ready for a lot of light stuff). Fortunately for us fisherpersons there's plenty of that around. There's the contemporary John Geirach and the old timer Sparse Grey Hackle and between the two of them they cover the humorous side of fly fishing from today back to the Golden Age of the Catskills. There are many others, Ed Zern for instance, who have made some marvelous contributions to fishing humor. The good ones know enough about the sport to make a connection and produce genuine humor, like making a size 6 stimulator in the ear lobe sound funny.

I like Geirach for his modern day settings and Sparse for mixing humor and, for me, nostalgia for the Catskills. But, if you like belly laughs, try Patrick McManus. A few years ago my daughter, Amy, gave me I Fish; Therefore, I Am and Other Observations. McManus writes about fishing, camping, hunting, and other outdoor activities, and he has an extraordinary talent (like Garrison Keilor) for taking the absolutely ordinary and creating a hilarious event. Let me give you an example. This is from the chapter entitled "A Fine and Pleasant Misery", in which he describes sitting around the campfire.

"The smoke from the campfire always blew directly in the eyes of the campers, regardless of the wind direction. No one minded much, since it prevented you from seeing what you were eating. If a bite of food showed no signs of struggle, you considered this a reasonable indication that it came from the cook pot and was not something just passing through".

The book is full of humor like this, so if you like humor that borders on slapstick this is a good bet. But, let me warn you, before you start it, make sure your bladder is empty.

May Fish Out Results– Upper Twin Lake

by Liz Weirauch, Fish Master HSFC

Twenty-one (21, yes, 21 !) fisherpeople showed up to bask in the glorious waters of Upper Twin Lakes on the 31st of May. This year, a lot of our fish outs have been cursed by weather by the fishing gods, just seeing if we can prove our worthiness. Once again, we persevered and stayed until the first close lightning and snow falling above our heads in the high country. Fish were cooperative on hare's ears, and other patterns. FishMaster's congratulations to member Steve Dexter who pulled the largest, an 18" brown. On the eating side of our club, thank you to those who brought some great dishes to share along with some great brauts. We had a great and enjoyable time. We hope that each fish out is as enjoyable as this one was.

June Fish Out– Frenchmen's Reservoir– June 28

by Liz Weirauch, Fish Master HSFC

Another still water fishery for this month. It is recommended that you bring your float tube or other inflatable device (Mr.President, please, please get your SS Titanic fixed). Bring an intermediate sink or a full sink along with a dry line. We're not sure if we'll have some top action. A few years ago when the club did Frenchman's, zebra midges were the fare; I'd go the same way with a prince or zug bug drop, or PT. We hope to find out what they actually want a bit closer to the date. We'll be meeting across the way from Turkey, it's on the back side of the reservoir with a nice little bay. Maps will be available at the monthly meeting, the picnic. We'll meet at the lake at 9 A.M., it's about an 1hour and 45 minute drive. You single fishermen, think about carpooling. We'll get a count of participants at the meeting also, and if you can't make the meeting and think you might attend, call me, 782-4734, so we know about how many hot dogs to bring.

Fishing Joke of the Month– Bad Fishing Day

sent by Don Stockman, HSFC member

Saturday morning I got up early, dressed quietly, made my lunch, grabbed the dog, slipped quietly into the garage to hook up the boat up to the truck, and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour.

The wind was blowing 50 mph. I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad throughout the day. I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed. There I cuddled up to my wife's back, now with a different anticipation, and whispered, "The weather out there is terrible."

My loving wife of 20 years replied, "Can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in this mess?"

I still don't know to this day if she was joking, but I've stopped fishing.

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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

YOUR HFSC BOARD MEMBERS INVITE YOU TO OUR ANNUAL PICNIC WEDNESDAY JUNE 17

by Liz Weirauch, Fish Master HSFC

This is one of the times of the year for our club members to sit back, relax, and yack with one another. It's especially nice for the newer members to trade stories with some of our seasoned vets. The club provides the main course with great BBQing done by own member Todd Wilcks of Hew Ewe BBQ. The picnic is at Minden Park, in downtown Minden, starting at 6 P.M. This picnic replaces our usual general membership meeting at the Carson Valley Methodist Church. Everyone should bring a dish to pass; the list of what to bring is below. Also, please bring a beverage to enjoy if you don't like beer or soda, which will be provided by the club, and bring a lawn chair too.

This year we will be having some casting demo's and also a fun little casting competition involving distance and accuracy. Lined out rods will be provided by The Angler's Edge, so there'll be an even playing field. Another item that has been a tradition for our club will be the annual drawing for a 50% paid visit to Pleasant Valley Creek. The club pays half of your rate for one day. Ten members will be drawn. The rules are: (1) enter only if you're available for the date that the creek has been reserved, (2) no transferring the winning ticket to another person, the winner must go, (3) if you won last year, even if you didn't go, you cannot enter this year, and (4) winner pays 50% of the daily rate, in advance of the reserved date. Good luck to all those who enter to fish this great water!

For dishes to pass:

Last names begins with please bring-

A-D desert

E-H fruit salad

I-L pasta, rice or potato salad

M-P green salad with dressing

Q-T beans (baked or salad form)

U-Z chips and dip or veggies and dip or deviled eggs

The Internet Fly Fisherman

by Dan (Grizzly Wulff) Sedergren, Vice President HSFC

June 2009 –

This month's site is brand new, having premiered on the web the first of June. The site is called Fly Fishing Reports and Conditions and can be found at <http://www.orvis.com/intro.aspx?subject=5879&newwindow=1&bhcp=1>. Sponsored by Orvis, the site currently has reports and/or conditions for both freshwater and saltwater locations, by state. The promise is that each reporting site will be updated weekly, and new reporting sites will be added as local guides/shops begin to add reports. I really like the format they use and suggest you check them out.

This month's Blog site of interest is Fly Talk from Field and Stream; lots of good articles covering fresh and saltwater. Check them out at <http://www.fieldandstream.com/blogs/flytalk>

Important Reminder- Complete Your Survey Before June is Over!

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 is 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.

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 has been doing fairly well on large, of course, wooly buggers in dark purple, black or burgundy, still waiting to hear about the upper road.

HOT CREEK - Breezy afternoons with flows around 90-94cfs Midges in the afternoon, BWO mid-day, and caddis by afternoon on warmer days and the dry fly action is nil, and if you are not getting takes, try some WD-40 in olive or black, #16 Zebra or Pheasant Tails or olive or grey Scuds #14-16, olive fox pupa #16, or Parachute Adams size 16-20. Please stay out of the water to prevent the spread of New Zealand mud snails.

CROWLEY - Water temperature is the only thing that will bring fish to net. A thermometer will help locate the optimum temperature for feeding trout (46-50 degrees). Water is clear with only some sediment in the north arm. North area access has been restricted. According to the "master caster", use the 5 minute move, if no fish after 5, move. Check with the store for exact areas as they constantly change. Clear water with Optimidges probably around 11-13 feet, but test the waters.

UPPER OWENS is flowing at about 90cfs and a little off color and very cold. Nymphing will see action with Optimidge #16-18 all colors, WD-40 black or grey, #16-18 Pheasant Tails, and Copper John in 16-18, and my personal favorite, the Zug Bug #16. Feeding fish are voracious between 11am and 4pm. Some dry action on Elk Hair Caddis in olive, and #18 Stimulators, Parachute Adams #18, and also Docs Twin Lake special in olive, black or brown. Doc Randall's ashes are to be spread in early June. He invented the Twin Lakes special.

CONVICT was stocked and good numbers of trout are coming to the surface reviewing your techniques so you better have your best ready if you want to see the best. Again, try some dark wooly buggers; spruce flies even some small streamers on the southwest corner. If you can use weighted flies, metal on their heads, propellers on their noses, then a gummy minnow might not be a bad choice. MAMMOTH BASIN Twin Lakes has been doing fair to good with dark wooly buggers by the inlets and on the west side of the first section. Lakers are still on their drive and need to lift their heels when attempting free throws. Maybe Orlando has a chance.

SAN JOAQUIN ROAD plowing started May 10th as usual, so check with Forest Service in Mammoth Lakes for an exact opening date. 760.924.5500

JUNE LAKE - June Lake marina cage culture program released is still releasing some great cutthroats, and Tubing has been producing some nice trout. Don't underestimate your observation as to bugs, purchase a thermometer and drop your sinking line or sink tip to the optimum temp for feeding.

GULL LAKE produced some nice rod benders on Hornbergs, Matukas and spruce flies, it's like free throw, every time you throw your line a trout hits the net, if he's Kobe.

SILVER LAKE has been doing the best near the weedy areas on both the East and south ends on large streamers, Hornbergs and Olive Elk Hair Caddis near the weeds at the north end toward Rush Creek.

GRANT LAKE is ice free and being fed at the west end by Rush Creek and more water is starting to come down and a lot of fish in the stream are moving into the lake.

LUNDY opened Memorial weekend and got some nice Alpers with a few hitting the Pistol Pete's (wooly buggers style). Edison is still doing repair work on the dam, but reports state it may be on the low side the duration of the trout season unless something happens.

VIRGINIA LAKES- The roads are all clear, and the lower creek campground is open at both ends. Fishing has been sensational during this siege of summer storms both in Big Virginia and Little Virginia. Some nice fish have been taking buggers near the inlet and some midges at the outlet. DFG planted both lakes last week along with Alpers in both lakes, and Little Virginia got a load of browns from the Bridgeport Fish Enhancement Foundation. Dark Wooly buggers (BH) black, dark rust, purple or brown have been chewed up and not much action on the surface as the water temp is around 48 degrees. Mosquitoes are heavy, bring the "juice".

EAST WALKER flow is at 150cfs. Gourmet bugs have turned the fishing into the hottest place around if you know how to handle yourself in the flow. Weather took a bit of a change with summer thunderstorms washing a lot of bugs into the water. The Beatis hatch is caput, and Caddis may start to crank if the weather holds. Midges and stones are still on the menu so try some Stimulators #14, Parachute Caddis #16, #18 Zebras, Black Beauties, FB Pheasant Tail, Rock Worm #16-18 in dirty olive, or Hare's Ear in 14-16.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR water is low but rising slowly with water temp around 50-52. 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 will be getting more in the near future. Try Hornbergs #10, Punk Perch #10, Zebra, Tiger, Black Beauty or Optimidge in dark grey #16-18.

WEST WALKER flow is 708cfs and a definite Class III. Only place to fish is at the south end near the first bridge and don't forget the bungee cord and attach an improved clinch knot to your SUV or maybe something larger, like the bridge.

PASSES are open but subject to storm closures so check before you make the trip.

See you on the water. CJ 9.5

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