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fishstories.....

SHANGRI-LA

by Nate Johnston, HSFC President



Shan gri-la *n.* 1. a paradise on earth. 2. an area whose name or location is unknown or kept secret.

From a young age I was fascinated with maps. My grandma would save them out of her National Geographics for me and I'd sit for hours looking at them, dreaming of places I'd go when "I got big". Not much has changed since then.

A busy spring with long hours at work and the moody Alaska like weather had me in a funk and contemplating why I haven't fished much this spring, and bingo....get out the maps. Some therapy was needed.

For the eight years Kel and I lived in the Truckee Meadows, we spent most of our weekends down here camping and fishing at Carson Pass, Ebbett's Pass, Sonora Pass, Bridgeport area, and further points south. Now all those escape to places are in my back yard. The maps we have are crowded with notes from those days....."beautiful small brookies, 7/12/05".....and I continue to add notes....."lots of bear sign, no fish". Another blue spot on the map checked off the list of possibles.

The appendix in Ralph Cutter's Sierra Trout Guide was and still is my bible, and the Sunday sermon usually found us at some alpine lake seeking that Shangri-la with large brookies. Sometimes it paid off.....other times we didn't speak for days. Like four years ago when I bought a map program for the home PC. We planned a weekend on the backside of Tamarack Lake and hiked into Raymond Lake for the day to try our hand at some goldens. I had downloaded aerial views and looked at the area in the program's 3-D mode and brilliantly deduced that we could shave miles off the hike by going

cross country and up and over a saddle that dropped right into Raymond. It was July and hot even at the upper elevations. An hour into the hike we came to a creek that had cut through the earth for thousands of years and left itself 40 feet below us with steep, slippery slopes. I found a deer trail and slid down to the creek. I turned around to either catch Kel or watch her take a digger. She was looking at me with her mouth open and pointing at me....."What?!", I said.....and then I heard something. She was trying to process what a little brown dog was doing behind me up here. I turned around just in time to see the whites of his eyes and watch a spring bear cub scramble up the slope behind me. After the adrenaline rush subsided, we continued on. Four hours, four miles and over 2000 vertical feet later, we were whooped, sitting on the saw tooth ridge above Raymond. Kel had quit speaking hours ago and the only way we were getting down to Raymond was to sprout wings and jump off the cliffs we were perched on. I thought about it. It was a long, painful and quiet hike back to the truck. On the drive home from work now, I can look down at that jagged saw tooth ridge and laugh. Don't ask Kel what she does.

Not all trips fail though....the odds are bound to catch up sometime. Like last spring, I took a friend into a beaver pond I hadn't been to since high school when I used to spend summers backpacking in the Hoover Wilderness. I didn't catch anything that day, but my buddy did.....17" brookie and a couple more like him the following week. We heard a "story" later that CDF&G had gillnetted it a couple years earlier and killed a 13 pound brown then gave it to the campground host miles downstream. Still, the vision of those shadows cruising the shallows, next to the weeds, still hangs in the back of my mind pushing me for more.....another place like this. If there's one like this there has to be another place like this, right?

In May my brother and I hit the Monitor Range in Nevada. We were scouting for the upcoming archery season. Out came the maps again. Looking for springs on Google Earth I found a canyon that looked like it had beaver ponds. Sure enough, they were there. It killed me to drive by and see fish rising, especially since it was on the Nevada fishable waters map from NDOW. But we were on a mission, and I filed it away for a future fishing trip. Did I mention no one was in that canyon the whole weekend?

I think, for me, it's the planning and research that builds on the dream of Shangri-la. I've hiked into many of these little unnamed blue spots on the map these past three years dreaming of another secret place loaded with wild mountain fish. I love checking them off the list and adding more notes to the maps. All have been beautiful, quiet, and frequented by animals, not man. Just the way I like it. And sometimes you walk up, scan the water, and lookthere's a rise!



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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	Spooner 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

July 2009 – .

This month's column contains a bonus for those of you interested in float tubes and/or pontoons as well as our regular web site and blog site reviews.

Let's get started with this month's web site, The Fish Sniffer. This site is an on-line version of a bi-weekly magazine covering fishing in the West. While not a dedicated fly fishing site, it does have lots of information available for those of us who do fly fish in the West. In addition to articles related to fly fishing, fishing reports, and other articles of interest, I find their link to fishing maps for lakes and streams in and around California to be a real nice feature. Just click on the "features" link in the menu and then select "fishing maps" from the drop down menu. Check them out at <http://www.fishsniffer.com/>

This month's Blog site is the Tippetsandleader's Blog. In addition to some fine articles published regularly in the typical blog style, this site has a wealth of information links covering everything from boats and pontoons to fishing with kids, fly casting, conservation, entomology, and knots. Check them out at <http://tippetsandleaders.wordpress.com/>

Two sites I've recently come across dealing with float tubes and pontoons have a lot of good information about how to modify your 'toon and tube to make them more versatile. The first site is Bass-n-Tube; click on "photos" on the menu on the left and then on "kickboat and float tube rigging. They're at <http://www.bass-n-tubes.com/index.html>. The second site is a watercraft forum on the Southeast Fly Fishing Forum; lots of good threads to read. Find them at <http://www.southeastflyfishingforum.com/forum/watercraft-f66.html>

HSFC Members Survey

by Dan (Grizzly Wulff) Sedergren, Vice President HSFC

The end of June saw the completion of our 2009 HSFC Members Survey. Thirty-eight percent of our active members took part which in terms of survey responses is considered to be outstanding. The board now has the results and we are looking at incorporating your input and comments in future club activities. Thanks again to all of you who took the time to respond.

The winner of the participants drawing for a \$25.00 gift certificate from Angler's Edge is Jack Kowalski.

July Meeting Presentation

by Dan (Grizzly Wulff) Sedergren, Vice President HSFC

Two of the topics that drew a large number of responses under the survey question of "presentations you would be interested in at the general meetings", were techniques and stillwater fly fishing. So this month our club VP, Dan Sedergren, will be giving a presentation on "Demystifying the Mystery of Stillwaters." If you want to catch big fish, then you've got to fish where big fish live, and that's in stillwaters, and if you've ever stood on the edge of a lake and wondered, "What do I do now", then this is a presentation you don't want to miss. Dan will be covering the lakes, the gear, the flies, and the techniques needed to be successful on our local lakes.

CASTING FOR RECOVERY

by Jim Norton, Education HSFC

Another great outing for the courageous ladies of Casting for Recovery. The club's sixth annual participation was again highly successful, with a terrific time had by all. Due to water conditions, we were unable to use Pleasant Valley, but the West Carson in Hope Valley was in better shape. Alpine County Fish & Game thoughtfully dropped by a load of Heenan Lake cutthroats for the ladies to help stock (we suspect one of our Alpine County members had something to do with it). Some were hooked and a few actually landed, but the excitement level was, to say the least, awfully high. Slightly inclement weather did nothing to diminish the experience.

In keeping with our reputation as an eating club, Sorensen's again provided an excellent lunch in their intimate dining room, where the morning's fish stories were exchanged, interpreted, and augmented. Both Ann Proffitt and Ilene Hirsch of CFR are very grateful for our continuing support. "We can always count on the High Sierra Fly Casters, and please extend our thanks to the entire club", said Ann.

Sincere thanks to the following club members who participated: Liz Weirauch, Mickey Kraithe, Steve Perry, Dean Padgett, Mike Phillips, Dan Sedergren, Bob Haynes, Russ Wickwire, and Judy Warren-Wickwire.

And just a reminder, Reel Kids is coming up on July 12. Interested persons can call me at 265-3121 (home) or 782-2277 (work, sort of).

Eastern Sierra Fishing Report

by CJ Webb. Virginia Lakes Resort

Due to a very busy schedule CJ was unable to send us her Eastern Sierra Fishing Report. You can however go to her website and get some current information. The site is Virginalakesresort.com

JUNE FISH OUT RESULTS

by Nate Johnston, HSFC President

Here's another place we need to take the trailers to in October or November. I'd never been to Frenchmans before. Showing up a little foggy Sunday morning after a big birthday bash on Red Rock Saturday night, I was pleasantly surprised with what I was seeing through the cobwebs of my aching head. Sadly, there was only Janet, Steve, Curt and I there.....what do you think?.....I think the psychology of driving to Frenchmans vs. driving to Twin Lakes, more or less the same distance, differs greatly. Anyway, I saw my first ever Hexagenia's coming off....big yellow mayflies that look like they ought to be in a Dr. Seuss story because they're so big. Callebaetis were in numbers also, but the damsels were in force. I had one climb up on my tube, so I put on a green dumbbell eyed one on that I tie at home. Watching a weed bed "reef" 100 yards offshore, I kept seeing fish slash at the surface. Sometimes on top of the weeds or just barely on the downwind side. Tossing my fly I landed three that I thought were much bigger than the 13-16" they were in reality. I say October or November because that's when the jet skis and ski boats won't be buzzing all over the place. The noise was irritating as was their wakes when they finally got to you. When I got there at 9:30 A.M., Curt was in the bay to the south of the parking lot and fish were rising everywhere. He said some were "pigs". We all left at noon to head home. And believe me, I'd rather drive six hours in middle-of-nowhere Highway 50 than drive that hour and a half through Reno and Carson. That's my report, and I'm stickin' to it.

July Fish Out– West Walker River– July 26

by Liz Weirauch, HSFC Fish Master

Normally, when fishouts happen in the month of July, there isn't a very large turnout... well, that just means more room for those who show up (consequently more fish?) The HSFC will be fishing the West Walker River, during the infamous "How Big is Big? Derby" sponsored by the town of Walker & Mono county. What fun!

Plenty of fish are stocked and all over the river. We'll meet for some fabulous pancakes at the Meadow Cliff Lodge (if you've not had them, you've got to try them, no host) at 7:30 - 8 A.M., and then we'd like to meet at the Day Use area by 8:45 A.M. From there we can spread out to the many locations along the river. Then we'll meet back at Day Use area and have some hot dogs at noon. Right now for flies: para-madam X, stimulator, hopper patterns, ants, ad-ams. Nymphs would be PT's, stones, hare's ears, and small disco or caddis pupa's (16 or 18). Buggers do work well down there, Pete's Yellow crystal bugger, olive, black or brown or muddlers. At this month's meeting, we'll get a show of hands for a hotdog count, and if you're not at the meeting and will be attending this fishout, please email Liz.w@theanglersedge.com or 782-4734, so we can make sure there's a dog for you!

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Upcoming HSFC Events

- HSFC General Meeting July 15
- July Fish Out at West Walker River July 26

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