



Since 1991

## *fishstories.....*

### **My New Year's Resolution: I will not kill myself in the pursuit of fish ( tone of this article is almost deadly serious with some attempted humor)**

by Mike Phillips, HSFC Newsletter Editor

As we contemplate a new year , I am reminded of a resolution I made three years ago. I resolved to never allow my sometimes out of control love of fishing to put me in a life threatening situation again. I would have been much better off if I had made this resolution decades before, but better late than never I figure. You see, in counting back over my near death experiences, I total three. That's three too many. It was only my last encounter with the grim reaper that brought me to my senses. Part of the decision was the realization that hey you can't catch fish when you are dead. I thought a review of my experiences might be instructional for our members, especially the younger ones.

#### **Hit by Lightning**

This shocking experience did not result in a resolution right away, but it would have done the trick for most rational people. I was fishing for bass and trout in my aluminum boat/lightning attractor in the Ruby Marshes with my two kids when it happened. The boat was equipped with oars and a cheap (read that as slow) electric trolling motor in the early morning. The skies were cloudy (good for fishing), but nothing that looked too threatening. I hadn't listened to the weather report the day before. (I now own a weather radio that I use faithfully, and I have weather.com on my favorites list in my computer). I talked to a few old timers around the launch area, and they didn't seemed concerned. But now that I think about it I never saw them get in the water. Maybe they were part of the local crowd that likes to cut the competition down on one of their favorite fishing spots, so they encourage people to go out in dangerous situations. We rowed and motored out to one of our favorite spots we had discovered in the three previous years of fishing there. It took about 45 minute winding through the four to ten feet high reed paths. The kids and I just started fishing when an ominous bunch of dark clouds just popped over the mountain range south of the marshes. Lightning could be seen from those dark clods, so we decided then and there to head to the launch area. Unfortunately, we had about 30 minutes of travel time to get to the safety of my truck. I rowed and instructed my son to steer the electric motor. My daughter sat in the front. The storm moved in quickly dumping a lot of moisture with numerous lighting strikes. We saw and heard a massive lighting strike in the water about 50 yards from us! It was loud, fiery, and one of the most frightening sights I have ever seen in my life! From this monstrous bolt came waves of smaller bolts of lightning. These bolts came in waves and were heading right towards us. I felt my hair raise then I was hit in the head and shoulder by these smaller bolts. My two kids were each hit in the head. It was a painful and terrifying experience. I checked with both my kids who were naturally upset and crying but not burned. I checked myself and seemed okay as well. We had all survived! I reassured them we would be all right, but that we needed to continue to the truck. Unfortunately, not far from our boat one fisherman from Reno wasn't so lucky. He and a partner decided to take their chances by parking their boat in some tall reeds and wait out the storm. When one of them stood up to put on a rain jacket, he was hit in the back of the head

by a strike and died instantly. When we returned to my truck I took a picture of the storm as it passed to remind me of this brush with death. I did resolve to never put my kids into a threatening situation. It's one thing to do something risky by yourself and another to involve others. Also, I am careful when thunder storms are around. I head to my truck if there is time; if not, I find the lowest spot I can and lay on the ground until it passes.

### **Canada– Tree or water: take your pick**

Never schedule a fishing trip to a lake where the trees around it have burned the previous year. I did one year, and it almost killed me. Fortunately, I didn't take my kids on this trip. A friend and I booked this trip to a walleye/pike fishery. It was an oblong shaped lake about ten miles long and 1/2 mile wide. We fished it from a boat with a nice ten horse motor. We had been fishing with a guide for the first two days, so we decided to try it on our own and save some money on the third day. For some reason we were not told about the high wind weather forecast for that third day. We found ourselves about five miles east of our cabin on the lake with our boat when the winds kicked up. Unfortunately, the winds were blowing westerly the full length of the lake. The water got rough quickly, so we stopped our easterly trek and carefully turned west into the wind and waves. The waves seemed to get bigger and bigger as we struggled west. I clearly remember the wave that almost capsized us. It was huge, and it hit the boat straight on. I was in the back of the boat steering when the wave hit. The water hit my chest so hard that it knocked the wind out of me. It also hit with such force that the water went up my nose and into my mouth. We immediately turned on the swell of the next wave and headed to the shore. We felt pretty safe once we got onto firm ground, until the swaying trees started to fall! With the majority of trees dead from the fire the previous year and the wind blowing hard the trees started to fall in a random manner around us. We figured it wouldn't take long before one would fall on us. So we had to decide which was the safer move. We chose the boat. We front weighted the boat with rocks, our equipment and my fishing partner while keeping an eye on the falling trees before heading out to the lake. With the added weight, a slight decrease in the wind, and the right angle into the waves we made it back to camp, wet but safe.

### **Heart Attack**

I had made my reservation of this 3 1/2 day August trip for my first tuna trip in January of 2007, so I had months to work myself up dreaming about how awesome it would be in Mexico. I had heard through friends that tuna are one of the best fighting fish to hook. I also talked my son into flying from New York City to San Diego to join me. We hadn't fished together for over twelve years! My wife, as usual, had asked me to complete several projects before I left. It's like some women think we might kill ourselves on such trips, so they need to get as much out of us as possible. In my case, with my past encounters with death this make some sense. One of the projects was to paint the interior of our two story 2,400 square foot house. I worked for weeks on the house. Naturally, it took longer than I thought, and I wanted to finish before my trip. Well I pushed myself pretty hard to finish. I was done late afternoon the day before I was scheduled to drive down to San Diego. My wife threw in a last minute request to mow the lawn, and that's when my first warning of a heart attack came and went without me recognizing it. As I was finishing the mowing with my push mower, my legs all of a sudden felt like lead and my chest felt uncomfortable. I decided to just lie down on the lawn for a few minutes, and it passed. I thought I just had pushed myself too hard the past few weeks, and I would feel better with some rest. The

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Jim Gronski	Treasurer	775-265-7124
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Mike Turnipseed		775-782-4254
Don Stockman	Fund Raising	775-265-7164
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Mike Phillips	Newsletter Editor	775-265-4610

#### **TENTATIVE FISH OUT SCHEDULE FOR 2010**

<b>Feb. TBA</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Hinkson Slough</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Other fish out spots</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>are unknown at this</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>time</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
<b>July</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
<b>August</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
<b>Sept.</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
<b>Oct.</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
<b>Nov.</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	

next day I drove to San Diego and picked up my son. I told him about my “weird” event of the day before as we drove to the pier to catch our boat for our 3 1/2 day trip to Mexico. Our boat was scheduled to leave at 7 P.M. with loading an hour before. We arrived at the pier around 4 P.M. As I was carrying all our luggage from the car to the pier I felt a tremendous pressure on my chest, but no other pain. No other classic symptoms that you read about when you are having a heart attack. I rationalized it was just overwork and being anxious about the trip. My son noticed a paleness to my skin and asked what was wrong. I told him what I had thought. He suggested we cancel the trip. I reminded him it was a \$2,000 nonrefundable trip we were on and that I would be fine with some rest. I wasn’t about to give up my dream of catching a lot of tuna. He walked away and called his mom, my wife, to talk some sense into me. She gave me an ear full and pleaded with me not to go. That still didn’t change my mind. I was hoping I would feel better before we had to load our stuff, so I tried lying down for awhile: it didn’t seem to work. In fact, the pressure seemed to get worse. I decided a visit to the captain about a refund. If he would refund the trip I would listen to my son and wife; if not, I would go on the trip. I remember stumbling onto the boat, finding the captain, and pleading my case. He told me the 2K was nonrefundable, but that he would give me and my son a free trip next summer. What a guy! My wife, the captain, and my son saved my life that day. At the hospital I learned I had a complete blockage of my right coronary artery. They did a balloon procedure and implanted a stent the next day. If I would of taken that boat I probably would of died or badly damaged my heart. My friends like to say I went to San Diego to catch the big one but instead got the big one. It was finally then that I resolved to never allow my love of fishing to threaten my life.

PS My son and I returned the next year, the captain honored his promise, and we had a hell of a great fishing trip. It was the fishing trip I had always dreamed of, and I was healthy enough to enjoy it.

## **Membership Renewal is Here**

**by Mike Phillips, HSFC Newsletter Editor**

We have included in this newsletter a membership renewal form. Simply fill it out (print it out first if you received it via email), make out a check, and send it to the address listed on the form. Dues for an individual or family are \$30 for the year. If you want to save the price of a stamp you can bring the form and check to our January general membership meeting. Those of you who selected email delivery of our newsletter this past year have helped the club save on newsletter mailing expenses. Please consider this form of delivery again and indicate it on the form. Those of you who used the postal system reconsider email delivery if you have high speed download capacity. If you do not have a high speed download capacity we will gladly mail you a newsletter. If you renew or join before January 31st your name will be entered into a prize drawing that will be held at our February general meeting. There will be three gift certificates given out: one for \$100 at Angler’s Edge, another for \$75 for Angler’s Edge, and a third one for \$25 at Liar’s Market. You do not have to be present to win.

## **HSFC Annual Dinner Slide Show**

**by Liz Weirauch, HSFC Member**

Just a quick reminder, to start getting those pictures ready. We will be needing them soon! Copy pictures from this past year onto a disk and get it to Liz at the fly shop. Remember to write up some details to help Liz in the captioning process. If you can not transfer your pictures to a disk remember you can send them to Mike Kingston at Bar-rykings@msn.com.

## **Book Review– Utah’s Green River: A Fly Fisher’s Guide to the Flaming Gorge Tailwater**

**Author Dennis Breer**

**by Mike Phillips, HSFC Newsletter Editor**

With some members of our club thinking about a group trip to the Green River in Utah in late March I thought it would be appropriate to order and read a book on the Green. Breer’s book was published in 1998 and was recommended reading on several of the web sites I visited. Breer was a well respected guide and fly tier who has fished the Green since 1975. He started his own guide service there in 1987. Unfortunately, he accidentally killed himself at his home on November 11, 2008. ( With no disrespect intended, I was glad to see his love of fishing didn’t result in his death). His book can be purchased by going on Amazon.com. It ranges in price from \$19.95-\$11.95 for a new one to \$9.53 for a used one. His book is an excellent, practical guide to fishing this body of water. The part of the Green River the club is interested in fishing is in Utah and comes out of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir. It consists of a 32 mile stretch that ends at the

Colorado state line. Conservative fish counts estimate 3,000 to 9,000 fish per mile. The highest historical count I came across was 20,000 fish per mile in the A section, wow!! Breer and others divide the river into three sections: A, B, and C. The A section is the first and is known as the aquarium because it is so clear and has the most fish. It attracts the most fisherman because of its large fish count. With its clarity a fisherman will find himself casting to sighted fish a lot of the time. This section is 7.2 miles long. Section B is nine miles long, while section C is 11 miles. These last two sections don't contain as many fish, but the fish tend to be a little bigger. While rainbows tend to dominate section A, brown trout are more numerous in these sections. Breer is very detailed in the information he gives on each section. He discusses fish population, major landmarks and pools, aquatic insects, hatch schedules, and nymph and dry fly fishing techniques for wading and floating. He also gives specific directions on how to access each section by foot or pontoon boat. Finally, he breaks down the different fishing seasons in each section of the river. He discusses fishing equipment and clothing, water quality, flows, water temperature, trout location, and what forms of food that predominate at that particular point in time. He matches each season with the specific size and color of nymphs and dries to use. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who wishes to fish the Green, one of the best tailwater fisheries in the western United States.

## **Club Trip to the Green River in Utah** by Dan (Grizzly Wulff) Sedergren, HSFC President

The Green River in Utah below Flaming Gorge Reservoir is one of the best trout rivers in the lower 48 states. The "A" section which extends from the base of the dam downstream for seven miles through Red Canyon to "Little Hole", is known as the "Aquarium" because of its crystal clear water and a fish population of Rainbows, Browns, and Cutthroat that approaches 14,000 fish per mile. A trail system follows the river for the entire 7 miles as well as an additional 3 miles below "Little Hole" for those who want to "walk and wade". In addition to guided float trips, the upper river is suitable for floating in a pontoon for experienced people, and pontoon rentals are locally available.

As several club members have expressed an interest in doing the Green River, planning is currently underway for a trip the end of March 2010; the dates are the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>. These dates were established to take advantage of winter specials that end 31 March.

The following is a tentative cost breakdown that takes advantage of the "Winter Fishing Special" available from Flaming Gorge Lodge.

Utah non-resident 7-day license - \$32.00  
Utah 7-day Use Fee pass required for all people using the river - \$15.00

The "Winter Fishing Special" which includes one night's lodging, a 4 to 6 hour guided float trip, and lunch for 2 people – base cost is \$375.00, or \$187.50 per person. This rate is for a 2 bed motel style room. Additional night's lodging is \$99.00 per night or \$49.50 per person. Total cost for one day's guided fishing and 3 nights lodging per person is \$286.50. Price does not include additional meals and tips for the guide and any flies the guide provides, and taxes.

A second option is for a suite which includes a full kitchen. Base price for the guided trip and one night's lodging is \$415.00, or \$207.50 per person. Additional nights are \$129.00 per night or \$64.50 per person. Total cost for one day's guided fishing and 3 nights lodging per person is \$336.50.

There is a third option, but it would take some coordination. There is 1 group suite that sleeps six people. The daily rate is \$149.00 or \$25.00 per person per night. The guide fee for 2 people would be \$348.00. Assuming six people for 1 day guided fishing and 3 nights lodging per person - \$250.00. Price does not include guide tips, cost of flies used and taxes.

Twin Creek Flies in Dutch John has Dave Scadden two man fishing pontoon boats for rent at \$75.00 per day. They also offer shuttle service to the dam and pick up at Little Hole at an additional cost.

(article continued on page 6 under Green River Trip)



## High Sierra Fly Casters Membership Application New and Renewing Members

(If you are renewing and none of your information has changed just put your name down)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Delivery:	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Are you a beginning fly fisher?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
What kind of fly fishing do you enjoy?	<input type="checkbox"/> Streams	<input type="checkbox"/> Lakes <input type="checkbox"/> Both
Are you a new or renewing member?	<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewing

Dues are \$30.00 per year for an individual or family  
Individual membership for ages 16 and younger is \$10.00  
The membership period is January 1 - December 31

**Membership dues are due by January 31**

High Sierra Fly Casters is an affiliate club of the Federation of Fly Fishers

Please mail your completed application to:

**High Sierra Fly Casters  
PO Box 3121  
Gardnerville, NV 89410**

For more information about Club benefits and outings, please join us at our monthly General Meeting held on the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Rd., Gardnerville.

Name badges are available. Please see a Membership Committee member at the next General Meeting

( Green River Trip continued from page four)

Travel – driving distance from Gardnerville to Flaming Gorge via I-80 to Rock Springs WY and then to Flaming Gorge is approximately 790 miles. From Gardnerville via I-80 to Fort Bridger and then to Flaming Gorge is approximately 760 miles. Currently Delta Airlines offers non-stop service from Reno to Salt Lake for \$200.00 round trip. There is a 6:25 am flight that gets to Salt Lake at 9:00 am, and a return flight from Salt Lake at 9:43 pm that gets to Reno at 10:15.

Thrifty Car Rental in Salt Lake offers a Jeep Grand Cherokee with unlimited mileage for approximately \$80.00 per day. Mileage to Flaming Gorge from Salt Lake is 212 miles via Fort Bridger, and 245 miles via Rock Springs. Driving time is approximately 4 hours.

Sign-ups for the trip will be taken at the January meeting, and all people who want to go must commit by January 22<sup>nd</sup> in order for us to ensure we can get the March dates.

## **January Meeting Presentation**

**by Dan (Grizzly Wulff) Sedergren, HSFC President**

In order to stir your interest and to provide additional information for those who may want to join us on the Green River in March, I will be doing a presentation on fishing the Green River below Flaming Gorge Reservoir in the early spring. Come and learn about the river, the fish, the tackle, and the techniques for fishing this world class destination. The meeting will be at 7:00 P.M. on January 20th at the Carson Valley Methodist Church 1375 Centerville Lane in Gardnerville.

## **The Internet Fly Fisherman**

**by Dan (Grizzly Wulff) Sedergren, HSFC President**

**January 2010 –**

Welcome to the New Year, and some new web sites for you to peruse at your leisure. This month's site, The Ecological Angler, was developed and is currently maintained by Michael Carl - an angler and self-taught biologist and ecologist. He covers Northern and Central California on both sides of the Sierra and his site contains lots of great information pertaining to habitat, species, entomology, and fly patterns. Well worth your time to give the site a look @ <http://www.ecoangler.com/index.html>

This month's Blog site comes to us from Gig Harbor, Washington and it's called "Native Trout Fly Fishing." The blog is all about fly fishing for native trout. It covers trip reports, fishing tactics, conservation, the latest news about native trout species and much more. Check Gary out @ <http://nativetrouflyfishing.blogspot.com/>

## **Fundraising Help Needed**

**by Roger Arthur, HSFC Membership Chairman**

Although we are a few months away from our annual fund raiser and banquet March 13, 2010, we need to be thinking about writing letters to companies asking for donations to help fund our many on-going projects. We are also asking our club members to check and see if they have any "white elephants" in their fishing closets that they would be willing to donate to the club to be used for fund raising purposes. Furthermore, if any of you know of someone or a company that you feel that would be willing to make a donation of products or services for our annual fund raising banquet please let us know.

We could really use some help with this fund raiser, so anyone interested in helping on the March banquet please contact one of the following: Roger Authur 265-2825; Don Stockman 265-2825; or Liz Weirauch 782-4734.

### **Important reminder to our members:**

- 1. Your Nevada fishing license is good until the end of February of 2010, so you do not need to purchase one until March 1st.**
- 2. Your California license unfortunately expired at the end of December, so you need to take out a loan and buy a new one.**

## OH CHRISTMAS TREE

by Mike Kingston, HSFC Member and President Emeritus

As most of you know our club was invited to enter a Christmas tree in the Museum Christmas tree contest. Liz Wierauch came up with the idea of making a tree of fly rods and tying oversized flies as ornaments... That should be pretty easy, right? So Liz began to round up a few of us that supposedly know how to tie flies. There was Norm Williams, Dan Sedergren, Bob Taormina, Jack Kowalski, Kurt Zeilenga, Linda Gronski, Julie Shoush, Ron Buell, me, and of course Liz. Okay now all we have to do is tie about 100 to 150 flies about 4 to 5 inches long. After a couple of weeks of swearing and laughing, and many cut up coat hangers, which we used for hooks, the mission was accomplished. In the mean time, Liz had rounded up 25 fly rods from the members, and Bob Taormina had built a base. So off we went on a cold Thursday morning in December to set up our tree.

Did we test our design before hand, of course not, what could go wrong? Our design was based on using 9 foot rods, it so happens that some of us, me included, can't tell 8 ½ feet from 9 feet so we were several rods short, Don Stockman to the rescue, home he went and came back with an armful of 9' rods. With Don Wierauch on the ladder we figured how to get the thing to stand upright without looking like the leaning tower of Pisa. Three hours later we were finished and the tree looked, shall I say, unique.

The way the contest works is in front of each tree is a voting can and each vote is a quarter with the proceeds going to the museum. I think there were about 20 trees entered by different groups. I also learned that the annual battle is of course political. The Republican women and the Democratic women go at it every year. That being said we finished third. There was about 50 cents difference between second and third. I hung around the day we removed our tree to watch them count the money. The Republican women were first. Their can contained 3 \$20.00 bills and change totaling around \$95.00 The Democratic women's can contained 2 \$20.00 dollar bills and change totaling around \$61.00 don't those ladies know it is illegal to stuff the ballot box? Our tree totaled around \$60.00 all in change and a few dollar bills. In other words if you took the 20 dollar bills out of the Republican and Democratic cans and just counted the actual votes for the trees instead of for a political party, we would have won by a rather large margin. The ladies at the museum said they had more comments about our tree than any other tree. This year our tree was in of the small rooms that was quite dark, next year they said we will be in the main room and they are quite excited about our chances for next year, so am I.

I want to thank all the members who helped on this project if I have forgotten to mention your name forgive me, as my memory isn't what it used to be. As for me, when we first started the project I had my doubts, I was very, very wrong. Join us next year it was a lot of fun.



Here we see some of our members tying the club's Christmas Tree Flies. You can see there is a lot of talent there.



Here is our award winning club Christmas Tree!



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