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fishstories.....

A Matter of Balance

by **Jim Gronski, HSFC Treasurer**

Because I felt I needed to take better care of myself, I recently added a new fly rod to my arsenal. (Now I have three plus a spare 5wt). I wanted a rod that would enable me to cast a great distance while wading in still water, think Pyramid Lake and Indian Creek Reservoir. It would also be used while float tubing. As Dan instructed us, the longer the cast, the longer the fly is in the fish zone. After thinking about my requirements and the size of fish I would likely encounter, I decided on a fast action, ten foot, 6 weight rod from St Croix Rods. I purchased their newly redesigned Imperial series from Don and Liz at The Angler's Edge.

After loading my reel with floating WF6 line, I took that big stick out for some lawn casting. Wow! Smooth, long distance casts with little effort. That baby really shot line. After a while, I decided to check the balance of my new outfit. To my surprise, it was very top heavy. For me, I expect an outfit to be in balance when, with about 3 feet of line out the tip, the rod will balance at the index finger with my hand at normal casting position on the grip. It was so tip heavy that the balance point was on the blank, three inches above the grip.

After discussing this imbalance with Don, we decided that that extra foot of rod length was probably the major factor. He suggested I determine how much weight it would take to put it in balance. I bent a paper clip over the fighting butt and began adding flat washers. It took 3.25 oz of weight!!! The total rod weight is only 4.1 oz.

I took a 3.25 ounce hunk of metal and my new outfit back to the Angler's Edge. Don and I each made a few casts. I seemed to feel more stress on my index finger. Don liked the tip-heavy feel. We then taped the metal hunk to the rod fighting butt and cast some more. We both felt the weight increase while casting. Don thought it felt more like an 8 or 9 weight. He then suggested trying a device called the "Adjustable Reel Arm" by Ross Reels. This Aluminum, L-shaped device weighs less than an ounce, and mounts to the rod in the reel seat position. The reel is then mounted to the device. The end result is that the reel located much further back on the rod than in its normal position. In my case, the outfit was in balance with the edge of the reel even with the back of the fighting butt. Don and I continued casting both with and without the device. Much to my surprise, Don and I experienced no difference in casting distance, shape of loops, or anything else with or without the device.

I'm going to continue playing around with this balance thing to see if consistent distance and accuracy are affected. I'll need to set up a more scientific protocol however. In my case, I don't think that just adding 3.25 ounces of weight to put the outfit in balance is the permanent answer. The overall weight would be just too much to handle all day, but it may work for my experiment. Also, I suspect that casting all day with an out of balance outfit would lead to fatigue. I'll see if that's true. In the meantime, check out the balance of your outfit and see what you think.

April General Meeting Presentation

by Dan Grizzly Wulff Sedergren, HSFC President

Our speaker for the April 21st meeting will be Victor Babbitt from Tahoe Fly Fishing Outfitters in South Lake Tahoe. He has fished the Lake Tahoe area for a long, long time. He presented about six years ago to the club and was well received. He discussed the East Carson in California, the Upper Truckee River, the Bridgeport area, and of course streams around Lake Tahoe. This time around Victor will be talking about fly fishing in the Tahoe Basin as well as taking questions on any subjects we'd like information on. He is an excellent fly fisherman with a wealth of information. With California fishing around the corner, he is a timely speaker to have visit us.

The meeting starts at 7:00 P.M. It will be held at the Carson Valley Methodist Church 1375 Centerville Lane in Gardnerville. Do not forget to bring some money for the raffle.

The Internet Fly Fisherman

by Mike Phillips, HSFC Newsletter Editor

This month's web site is Fish Eye Soup. I discovered it about eight years ago. What caught my attention the first time I visited was the top ten list of hot fishing spots in the U.S. that they keep up-to-date. Once you review the list you can click on the spots to get a description of the action and contact numbers. The top public spot listed on April 5th was Clark Canyon Reservoir in Montana. I guess it's ice out time and the fish are pretty hungry. One can also click on fishing reports by state. California usually has a lot of reports. A travel center exists on this site to help plan fishing trips to new spots. Finally, a series of articles on fly fishing by category is available. There were 403 articles when I last checked. To get to this web site just type in fisheyesoup.com.

March Fish Out Results– Rosaschi Ranch

by Mike Phillips, HSFC Newsletter Editor

Well approximately eight members of the club showed up at the East Walker River on the Rosaschi Ranch on March 28th (Liz and Don Weirauch, Jerry Johnson, Howard Brown, Jim Norton, Wayne Porter, Kurt Zeilenga, and Mike Turnipseed). They had a nice breakfast at Rosie's and looked forward to the beautiful day ahead of them, since the weather was going to be awesome, sometimes a rarity on our fish outs. Unfortunately, the flows had been turned up the night before by 70 cfs. The flow went from 160 to 230 and the river turned into a muddy mess. This of course is not a good thing for river fishing. The color reminded several members of the warm, delicious coffee they had an hour before. But our members true to their love of fishing and dislike of yard work decided to stay and fish. One of our new members, Jerry Johnson, showed up and was given some great pointers and shown some good spots to fish by Don and Liz Weirauch. Another member, Wayne Porter, was taken aside by one of our excellent river fly fisherman and board member, Jim Norton, and shown some good stuff about fishing the Rosaschi. Even though fish were not caught according to my sources (well if Peter Bauer was there at least one would have been caught), our veteran members had fun and our newer members learned some good stuff.

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Dan Sedergren	President	775-265-2767
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Jim Gronski	Treasurer	775-790-3750
Unfilled	Recording Secretary	

2010 HSFC Board of Directors

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Mike Matuska	Conservation	775-884-0394
Jim Norton	Education	775-265-3121
Ken Baldwin	Webmaster	775-849-3920

At Large

Ron & Linda Sanstrom		775-782-1152
Mike Turnipseed		775-782-4254
Don Stockman	Fund Raising	775-265-7164
Unfilled	Fish Master	
Mike Phillips	Newsletter Editor	775-265-4610

TENTATIVE FISH OUT SCHEDULE FOR 2010

Feb. 21	Sunday	Hinkson Slough
March 28	Sunday	Rosachi Ranch
April 25	Sunday	Pyramid Lake
May	Sunday	Truckee River
June	Sunday	Twin Lakes
July	Sunday	TBA
August	Sunday	TBA
Sept.	Sunday	TBA
Oct.	Sunday	TBA
Nov.	Sunday	TBA

April Fish Out– Pyramid Lake

by Mike Phillips, HSFC Newsletter Editor

Our fish out at Pyramid Lake is scheduled for April 25 . Pyramid has been fishing well since early March and hopefully will fish well for us on Sunday. A good number of our members have been fishing it on a regular basis including myself. (See pictures below of some recent fish). Our fish master for this trip will be yours truly, Mike Phillips . Plan on meeting by the rocks southwest of the boat launch at Pelican Point at 9:30 A.M. If you want to arrive early like me, you can start fishing one hour before sunrise. We have fished this area as a club the last three years and have done well. Ladders are not necessary there, but a pair of waders and some boots are needed. Expect there to be a number of fishermen at this spot, since it can fish real well. However, with the California opener occurring at the same time the number of fishermen should be reduced by half. The major method used to catch fish this time of year is strike indicator, floating line, and midges. I use a 8wt rod just in case I hook big red, but 6 or 7wt rods will do. A 2X or 3X leader about five to six feet with a 2X or 3X fluorocarbon tippet would be appropriate. I like to use two midges sizes 8,10, and 12 about 12 to 18” apart. The bottom midge should be a few inches off the lake bottom, so you will have to experiment with your indicator location. Ask people around you for advice on setting the indicator when you find a spot to fish. Midge size and color can vary at Pyramid, but most of us find zebra, purple haze, and red midges do the trick. See Liz and Don at the fly shop for help in selecting the right midges. Bring your own lunch and a camera.



Peter Bauer has been fishing Pyramid a lot lately and as always catches a good number of fish. These were caught just recently at the rocks by Pelican Point.



I have been having a lot of success too by the rocks using an indicator approach. I just finished fishing for two days, and it pays to go early and start fishing 40 minutes before the sun comes up. You can fish Pelican Point throwing buggers (black or white) or the rocks using indicators before sunrise and do well this time of year. The evening also is a good time to fish. If you have some decent cloud cover and/or a decent wind (5 to 12 mph) you can sometimes catch good numbers all day long.

A Big Thank You from the HSFC!!

by **Jim Gronski, HSFC Treasurer**

The High Sierra Fly Casters would like to thank the following club members who helped with our Fund Raising Annual Dinner.

Ron and Linda Sandstrom for their help in writing the Donation and Thank You letters. Don Stockman for the initial mailing of our Donation Letter.

Cy and Bob Haynes, Nate Johnston and Bob Rittenhouse for soliciting local businesses.

Peter Bauer, Jack Kowlaski, Dan Sedergren and Kurt Zeilenga for offering guide trips.

Peter Bauer, Joe Bania, Chuck Cummings, Mike Matuski, Mike Phillips, Dan Sedergren and Norm Williams who tied flies for our raffle table.

Joe Bania, Ron Bankofier, Ed Brannon, Linda Gronski, Cy Haynes, Barry Jobe, Bob Macias, Stephan Perry, Linda Sandstrom, Mike Turnipseed and Liz and Don Weirauch who donated merchandise, services and funds.

Linda Gronski, Gerry Myers and Liz Weirauch who set up and ran the silent auction table.

Mike Phillips and Julie Shoush who ran the 50/50 raffle. Mike Phillips wanted me to mention that because of Julie's effort the club doubled the amount we usually earn from this raffle. Awesome Julie!

Ken Baldwin, Bob Macias and Jim Norton who kept us well supplied with liquid refreshments.

Gini Cummings who did a terrific job as our raffle ticket sales gal.

Bob Taormina, our Master of Ceremonies, who kept things running smoothly at the dinner.

Jim Gronski our Treasurer, who kept all of our funds safe and secure.

Another thank you to Linda Sandstrom for playing the piano during our dinner.

Liz Weirauch and her assistant Mike Kingston for compiling photos and music for the video presentation.

Thanks Again to all of the afore mentioned club members who, by their time and efforts made this Fund Raising Dinner a success.

HSFC Web Site Email Subscriptions

by **Ken Baldwin, HSFC Web Master**

If you haven't done so already, please take a few moments to subscribe to our Web site's new and improved email updates. It's fast and easy. Just point your browser at <http://www.hsfc.us> and scroll down to the bottom of the page. Enter your first name, last name, email address and click the 'Subscribe' button. Within just a few minutes, you'll receive a confirmation email. Open the email and click the confirmation link, and you're done - it's that easy! I'm retiring the current subscription system list by the end of April. If you have any questions or problems, please shoot an email to me at ken@kbaldwin.net. Thanks!

Fly Fishing Derby in Indian Creek Reservoir

The Indian Creek Reservoir Run-off Rally Fishing Derby is scheduled from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M., Sunday, April 18th at the reservoir. The entry fee is \$35 or \$30 if signed up by Saturday. Prizes include \$150 for the heaviest fish and \$150 for the longest. Single, barbless artificial flies or lures only for the contest. Part of the proceeds benefit the Alpine County fish stocking program and the Douglas County School District. If you want further information call Jay Hart at 775-230-4172 or the Angler's Edge at 775-782-4734. The HSFC Board would encourage members to attend and fish. Remember you need a California fishing license.

Snapshot Day May 22

by Jenny Hatch, Caltrout

What: Snapshot day is a water quality monitoring event for citizens who care about the Tahoe and Truckee River watersheds.

Why: Learn about your local watersheds and collect data that provides a "snapshot" in time of water quality and stream conditions.

How: Citizen monitoring teams led by water resource personnel will field-test streams for dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH, and temperature; collect water sample for laboratory analysis and conduct visual habitat assessments.

When: May 22, 9 A.M. to 12 P.M.

For further information on this event call Jenny Hatch at 530-541-3495. You may also want to visit these two web sites: www.tahoestreammonitoring.org and <http://www.tiims.org/Citizens-Gateway-Monitoring.aspx>



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Upcoming HSFC Events

HSFC General Meeting	April 21
Fish Out at Pyramid Lake	April 25

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