



Rx Fly Fishing!

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Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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Calendar

May 7—One Fly Contest , White Pines Lake, Arnold

May 11—General Membership meeting, John R. Williams School

May 18—BOD Meeting, Oak Grove Park Nature Center

May 21—Beardsley Afterbay outing

May 25—Fly of the Month, Oak Grove Park Nature Center

June 4—Catfish Derby, Oak Grove Park

June 8—40th Anniversary Club Barbecue, Oak Grove Park

**May Fly of the Month
tying session
Wednesday, May
25th, 6:30pm. Oak
Grove Park
Nature Center.**

The president says:

Boy did I get myself into something...

Isn't it funny how grandiose plans sometimes never quite turn out like the original idea. Still, seemingly a great idea can be the inspiration for action and participation. Take me for instance, my favorite subject is me, I joined our club a little more than four years ago when I retired, the idea was to take up fly fishing. I had been a worm canner all my life, and was convinced that fly fishing was the avenue to bigger fish. I had accumulated some fly gear over the years, and thought why not?

My wife and I attended a General Meeting at JR Williams, and reluctantly, I began to blindly feel my way through the maze of questions in my mind about what I needed, how do I start, and can I really afford all the equipment needed. Given my dexterity and sense of balance, coupled with an incredible amount insecure confidence, I knew I had the right stuff to really screw up and embarrass myself. In my first full year, that was brought to fruition when I qualified for Incomplete Angler of the Year, twice!

Still I trudge on, like a Sherpa carrying gear in the Himalayas! Served on the DFF Board of Directors, within the first year, learned a lot from some very gracious and

May's program, Delta Bass blasting with a fly rod

Veteran fly fishers Ben Byng and Steve Potter will take you out on the Delta fishing for largemouth bass blue collar style. Getting down and dirty in the wide open rivers and/or back end sloughs and mud holes is the name of the game. They will pass on some tips and clues to locating structure and hiding spots. Using current/tides to fish during the high percentage times with

generous people, like Bob and Jean Fujimura, Jim Rich, Steve Von Berg, Marty Kjelson (Marty recruited me for the board, something I'll never forgive him for) and was a mentor to me, Larry Schmidt, and Charlie Reams, both in denial about who might be the better fisherman.

Charlie dreams of three things, how to make a better beer, how to get on the water and fly fish, and I can't tell you the third thing! All terrific people, in love with fly fishing and trying to Pay it Forward. Now I am the proud President of Delta Fly Fishers. I am no more than a beginning intermediate fly fisherman, who has come to love fly fishing, am beginning to understand, the hatch, reading the water, rigging, etc. So what the hell am I talking about I am talking about involvement, it's never too late, being a participant vs. a bystander. Make a plan, work the plan, what could it hurt? It might add to your life You too, can be an Incomplete Angler of the Year. I need a Vice President and we need a replacement for Jerry on the newsletter? Come see me, I promise you I will be glad to see you.

Fished Pinecrest Lake this week, and two of us, caught seven nice stockers each, 14

the right flies can put you on some fish.

Steve Potter's been tying bass bugs and trout flies ever since receiving that first fly tying kit. He has demonstrated his tying skills in Oregon, Idaho, Montana and California at Federation of Fly Fishing events. Steve has also tied at

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the International Sportsman's Expositions in Pleasanton, San Mateo, and Sacramento, California. The Fly Fishing Shows in San Rafael and Pleasanton, California have featured Steve as one of their tiers.

Fishing has been in Ben Byng's blood since he was a young boy. His grand-

father took him on many journeys from the Great Lakes to the Florida Keys. His father took him on summertime trips to Eastern Idaho for remote small stream fishing and high mountain adventures. These experiences have armed Ben with lessons that would follow him into fly-fishing. Having the California Delta in his backyard, Ben has spent many

hours jamming in his boat through this 1200-mile waterway looking for Striped Bass. This is his fly-fishing wintertime playground.

Please join us from some good old boys fun and jokes as well. The meeting will take place at 7:00pm on May 11th at the John R Williams School in Stockton. Bring a friend. The public is invited.

May 21st outing is to Beardsley After bay

Beardsley after bay outing is scheduled for May 21st Mike Nicholson will be fishmeister on this outing. It is within striking distance for a day outing that's why we put it on the schedule. The water is coming over the spillway which hasn't happened in

years and it really gets the bugs churning and fish become more aggressive and less spooky. Caddis, BWO, carpenter ants, damsel flies should be popping by the 21st. The scenery can't be beat and it's a great float tube, pontoon

boat, kayak, pram fishery. The middle fork of the Stanislaus flows out of the after bay and is another option that holds trophy sized browns and rainbows if someone wants to walk 'n' wade)

June outing changed to Lake Almanor after several disappointing years at Lake Davis

After some really bust fishig at Lake Davis the last few years, the club has moved the big spring outing to **Lake Almanor on June 23-26**. Club member, **Cliff Hoover**, has volunteered to co-lead this outing along with veteran member Jerry Neuburger. Cliff is very familiar with the lake and its

campgrounds, This would be the club's first outing to Almanor, and it could be very exciting. From mid June through early July the large hex (2") mayflies are hatching in the late afternoon into the night!!! The lake is heavily planted and contains a good population of wild trout both rainbows and browns as well as a feisty

smallmouth bass population

Numerous campgrounds, RV parks, and lodges surround the lake. The full information on the outing including camping spots, hatch charts and a map will be included in the June newsletter.

The county's annual Catfish Derby at Oak Grove Park to take place Saturday, June 4th. Your participation is greatly needed.

The Delta Fly Fishers have been a part of the county's two trout bouts and the June Catfish Derby for almost as long as the club's existence. Our participation is our way of thanking the county for the use of the Nature Center rent free. Every year volunteers from the club man the registration booth, help weigh fish, present awards and sell drinks and snacks

to the many participants, a good number of whom are junior fishers.

In the past the club had a stalwart crew of old timers that turned out like clock work to keep these events running like a fine machine. Unfortunately time has taken its toll of these great and generous members. It's time for a new set of

members to take up where these old members left off. Things start early with the first group of helpers needed at 5:30. The remainder of the crew shows up later, around 7:30 to 8:00am.

John and Karen Keagy have volunteered to head up this event. Please sign up to work at the May general meeting.

We're having a birthday party

June Barbecue will mark club's 40th anniversary

In 1976 a few guys from Stockton and Lodi got together to form the Delta Fly Fishermen. (Ladies, please forgive the chauvinistic name, it was 40 years ago!) Gerald Ford was president. The country celebrated its 200th birthday, Apple Computer was formed, the Summer Olympics took place in Innsbruck Austria, gasoline was 59 cents a gallon, a moderately priced house sold for under \$19,000, a new car cost \$3,200.

Fly rods were made out of fiberglass or bamboo. Pontoon boats were unheard of. The delta was still healthy and full of salmon, and striped bass and everyone chomped at the bit, waiting for the spring arrival of American Shad on the Sac, American

and Feather rivers.

All those things have passed but the Delta Fly Fishermen, now Delta Fly Fishers, live on.

Lets make this June's barbecue a special event, birthday cake and all. In addition to the usual activities, some special events and special guests are planned. Of course, the main fare will be the fabulous dishes provided by the club members as well as the club furnished steaks.

Mark the date, June 8th. And remember, the evening starts early, 6:00pm instead of 7:00 with the venue being the group barbecue and picnic area next to the Oak Grove Park Boat House.

Conservation by Ron Forbes

Westlands has learned how to turn water into gold. Run it through a tunnel!

If you fish the wrong fly long and hard enough, sooner or later it will become the right fly.

John Gierach

Two years into the current drought, I commented to my wife that one positive thing about the drought was that people will finally start to look at the state's water problems and finally realize how poorly our water is being managed causing our fisheries to be decimated. People are more aware of these issues today but are becoming overwhelmed by the number of problems and the complexity of these issues. Several months ago, I commented that this year will be pivotal in deciding if the California Water Fix moves forward or will be discarded. This month, rather than following my usual format, I want to list some of the issues we are facing and the complexities involved.

In January of this year, a number of environmental groups requested information from the US Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) concerning violations of funding for the Twin Tunnels Project. The project was to be funded by federal water contractors (such as Westlands Water District (WWD) and not by the state or the federal government. It has been discovered that \$89.6 million has been billed to the federal taxpayers and not to Westlands and other federal water contractors as required by law. This is in spite of the fact that the BoR has not conducted the required feasibility studies and there has been no authorization from Congress. Carole Krieger, Executive Director of the California Water Impact Network, says, "The largest irrigation district in the nation which receives

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\$100's of \$ millions in taxpayer subsidies, Westlands Water District wants the nation not only to give them a permanent water contract for free with virtually no strings to how they will contain their toxic groundwater pollution, now we find they have been gaming their responsibility to pay off these expensive tunnels to export even more water to these toxic lands." It makes no sense. This funding is now under investigation by the Inspector General of the Dept. of the Interior. The BoR response letter raises major questions for our State Auditor, Elaine Howle. They are: 1) how have Westlands and other federal contractors not paid their state required money while state contractors have. 2) Are the Central Valley Contractors paying their 50% for the Tunnel and Environmental Review? Evidently, the BoR letter shows the American taxpayers are presently illegally footing Westlands bill. Finally, 3) how are Westlands and other federal contractors getting around Non-compliance State Law Water Code Section 85089? Why is there no legal enforcement?

The attack on our striped bass population continues. Without any public notice or input, the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) has begun a controversial action that will relocate striped bass from Clifton Court Forebay and relocate them to Bethany Reservoir. Stafford Lehr, of the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), said this is a pilot project so that "the public will have a chance to fish for them." Bethany Reservoir State Park is popular for water sports and fishing located at the northern terminus of the California Aqueduct. Bill Jennings of the California Sport-fishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) calls this another scheme by CDWF to wipe out the stripers. He commented that rather than moving the stripers, "How about actually providing fish screens at Delta pumping facilities, as the CalFed Record of Deci-

sion promised 16 years ago? Apparently the current massacre of striped bass at the pumps is not enough for them." The state and federal demonization of the stripers is not founded in science, but both the both governments are using pseudo-science to try to justify their ulterior motives. Dr. Peter Moyle and Dr. David Ostrich, both well-known scientists, have repeatedly shown the state and federal governments' flaws in their attacks of the striped bass. Both scientists continue to be ignored. Both Sen. Feinstein and Rep. Kevin McCarthy, in secret, closed-door meetings have met with the Secretary of the Interior and made political decisions to change the Dept. of Interior's position on protecting the striped bass. In next months' newsletter, I will discuss their decision in more detail.

Several months ago, I brought up the "sweetheart deal" between Westlands Water District (WWD) and the BoR regarding WWD non-payment of money owed the federal government for building the California Water Project (CWP). When BoR negotiated the loan with WWD, no interest rate was charged, no payment plan was scheduled, and there were no penalties attached for non-payment. The loan was granted in the mid-1960's. In today's dollars, the original \$375 million loan would be approximately \$ 3 trillion dollars. The Westlands farmers, who borrowed the money, were to pay the cost of CWP's construction so the taxpayers would be repaid for the project loan. For over 50 years, Westlands farmers have been dishonest and never attempted to repay their obligation. They are wealthy deadbeats. Instead of repayment, they have offered a deal to BoR. They propose to clean up the toxic water drainage problems their farming has caused with selenium, boron, herbicides, pesticides ect. Again, the BoR has accepted their offer but has imposed no restrictions, no timeframe

for completion, or penalties for non-performance. This "sweetheart deal" was kept from the public view in closed-door sessions. However, recently Rep. Jared Huffman has brought the issue to public's attention for review. He and nine other members of the House are questioning the deal. Huffman commented, "We need to know that Westlands didn't get a sweetheart deal and that the federal government is working to protect America's financial and environmental interest." Let us hope they can put an end to another Westlands scam.

Wetlands dishonesty is ongoing. In 2012, they sought to float a \$ 77 million bond and had agreed to maintain a debt service coverage ratio of 1.25 for the bond. However, they did not have the money to meet this obligation. Instead, they used "extraordinary accounting transactions" and what they laughingly called "Enron accounting" to lie to potential investors that they "met or exceeded the 1.25 ratio for each of the 5 previous years. However, the Security Exchange Commission (SEC) discovered the fraudulent accounting scam and fined Westlands \$125,000, their CEO Tom Birmingham \$50,000, and his assistant \$20,000. It is hard to understand why the SEC filed civil rather than criminal charges since Birmingham, his assistant and Westlands knowingly defrauded potential investors. Wetlands was to be one of the major sources income for California's Water Fix (about 40 to 50% of the project). Patrica Schifferle, the director of the Pacific Advocates said, "the legal action taken today against Westlands raises serious questions about the wisdom of relying on this large federal contractor to finance about half of Gov. Brown's delta water export tunnels." Now it appears that Westlands does not have money to finance the project. This is a major problem for Gov Brown and the pro tunnel groups. It is now evi-

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dent that some of the other groups involved are already trying to pass this financial burden from the water contractors to the taxpayers and property owners. The SEC's action against Westlands may turn out to be a major nail in the twin tunnels coffin.

In March and April, those of us with whom, live in or adjacent to the Delta became aware of the water grab that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metro) is trying to pull by buying four Delta islands and tracts. This attempt is similar to what they did in the Owens Valley. They have paid the Swiss owners \$175 million for these islands/tracts. On April 14th, however, the Central Delta Water Agency, Contra Costa and San Joaquin Counties, the Planning and Conservation League and the Food and Water Watch have filed suit against Metro. Metro has filed a Notice of Exemption under the California Quality Act by claiming the purchase was for the restoration of the Delta's habitat. Jeff Kightlinger of Metro, had previously told the media that the purchase was to help the building of Gov. Brown's Twin Tunnels by helping reduce the eminent domain issues and have a location for construction dirt. The dirt will be the same volume as six large Egyptian pyramids. Restore the Delta is

calling for Metro's board to reverse their previous vote. Barbara Barrigan Parilla pointed out that the tunnel project has neither been approved nor financed. If Metro loses this suit, they will never be able to get their money back but will still be required to maintain the levees at their ratepayer's expense. Metro has already paid close to \$100 million on the tunnel project but is still not close to a final plan nor do they know who will pay for the project.

El Nino has brought snow and rain to California this year and has helped with the drought. Now some water pundits are talking about the possibility of La Nina and a fifth year of drought for the state. Unfortunately, there seems to be little change in California's water management policies. They continue to serve the needs of special interest groups at the expense of our environment and especially our fisheries. Last year, Gov. Brown imposed water use restriction on the state's urban water users and the media was filled in on how we were, or were not, complying with those restrictions. However, there was very little media coverage about the largest users of water: corporate agriculture. Dan Bacher of the Fish Sniffer has written an excellent blog about the state's and Gov. Brown's misuse of water. Urban users

were required to cut water use by 25%. Brown never forced agriculture, which uses 80% of California's water, to comply with any restrictions. The Brown administration should have banned the planting of new permanent crops and use annual crops instead. They did not. Almonds are water-intensive and should never be planted in arid and semi-arid locations such as the South San Joaquin Valley. Almonds in the south valley require twice as much water as required in the north. At the beginning of the drought, there were 870,000 acres of almonds in production. During the drought, that acreage has increased by 240,000 acres. There are now 1.1 million acres of water-intensive almonds being produced in the South San Joaquin Valley. At a State Water Board meeting early this year, Mexican farm workers asked for, and received, 280,000 acre-feet of water for "health and human services" which the water board granted. They never would say how that water was used, but it should be noted that since last year over 60,000 new acres of almonds have been planted. In the fourth year of the drought, the SWB committed an additional 180,000 AF for the almond crop. In the last ten years Stewart Resnick, the billionaire fruit tree grower, has become the largest fruit tree producer

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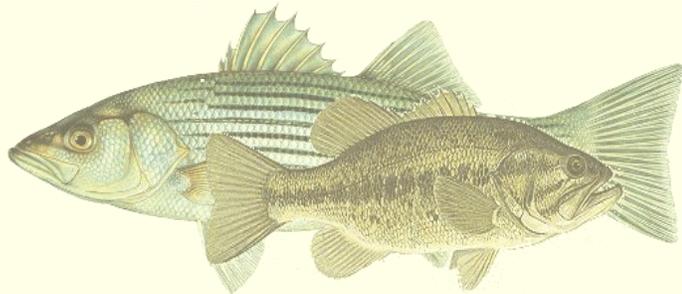
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in the world. During that time he has bragged that his nut acreage that increased 118% for pistachios, 47% for almonds, and 30% for walnuts. Also during this time, he bought subsidized Delta water and resold that water for huge profits while our fisheries face

extinction. So much for Jerry Brown's water conservation agenda.

I was naive to think the drought would force California to make changes in our water policies. The only thing that will make Gov.

Brown, and greedy corporate agriculture, change is a multitude of lawsuits against them.

Ron Forbes
Conservation Chair

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Watch for Deer Migration - STAY ALERT!

Opening Weekend April 25, 2015

It seems as though this has been the longest summer on record, starting April 2012! The mildest winter since 1977 produced only 6 snow-storms with two horrific wind-storms and the 2nd worse drought since 1977. March spoiled us with mild temperatures and garden-planting fever, then early April produced a couple snow storms and disappointed my Daffy's, but they survived. Mid April warmed up giving everyone a false sense of security that opening weekend would be warm and spring like. But another storm spanked the Sierra with 8 inches of snow in the wee hours of the morning of the 25th, covering the dark areas of thin ice on Big Virginia. Fortunately the ice had pulled away from shore enough to discourage the bravest ice fishermen. The winds kept most of the anglers away or inside enjoying their favorite sports. Eastern Sierra weather is always unpredictable, and Mother Nature never fails to constantly remind us she is in control!

News -

The latest legislation and the first hearing for the Sport-fishing Stimulus Act of 2015 (SB 345; Berryhill, R-Twain Harte), is set for Tuesday April 28th in Sacramento.

It is believed that fishing's economic impact is threatened by an unprecedented decline in participation that is due, in part, to one of the costliest annual fishing licenses in the nation not being valid for a full year from the date of purchase according to Marko Mlikotin, Executive Director for the California Sport-fishing League (CSL). He also states that "California needs to abandon its existing licenses program and remove barriers to participation by making recreational fish-

ing more affordable. In doing so, jobs will be created and communities will grow stronger."

DFW reports 2015 stocking will be down by 40% due to budgetary problems within the department through the legislature. As previously reported, the size of trout to be stocked this summer were has changed to 2 to a pound instead of the original 4 to a pound. Stocking will probably be done every other week but that could also change. The normal trout production year was 4 million pounds of trout, and 2014 saw 3.28 million pounds, and 2015 will see 1.6 million pounds meaning many waters may not get planted but if they do, they will be drastically cut from prior years. Stafford Lehr, Chief of Fisheries stated they need to "find" \$2 million that could be allocated to the hundreds of thousands of fishermen in California that buy licenses. But obviously, "someone" in the Department doesn't see that as important.

All Mono County waters were heavily stocked prior to the trout opener by DWF and Desert Springs out of southern Oregon.

CalTrans will be working on US395 along Mono Lake starting May 4th to improve safety for the traveling public by minimizing rocks falling from the steep adjacent slopes. The project also includes a plant establishment program on the six slopes involved to reduce erosion, establish healthy soil, and promote successful revegetation. Be prepared for daily lane closures with delays no longer than 20 minutes Monday thru Thursday from 5am to 8pm and Fridays 6am to 3pm with flaggers and a pilot car. But starting May 12th, there could be one hour delays but notices will be posted when the dates are determined.

My annual scouting was good but lake testing was minimal due to rotator cuff surgery and looking forward to using a

rod in mid May when the shoulder has a lot more strength.

Remember to check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water concerning limits, size, and other restrictions.

ROCK CREEK LAKE is ice free, but no report on angler success. Mosquito flats road is plowed to parking area. Resort scheduled to open by Memorial weekend. Creek flow has been around 32cfs as of the 24th.

CROWLEY water level is rising faster now with present elevation of the lake at 6763.7 ft. versus 6781 at the spillway. Because of the excellent food source in the 5280-acre reservoir, the hatches have been good so expect fish to be larger on the average and in the feeding mode. A lot of these fish are from previous years or are wild fish produced in Crowley's tributary waters. Fish are spread out but decent in most areas with higher water temps. The fish are also at various depths, 25 ft of water suspended at 16 ft at Stormy Flats so adjust to fit the depth. Watch for a second Crowley Cam at the Fish Camp boat ramp soon with streaming video.

UPPER OWENS is poor and the water cleared some and now back to normal. Try some large flashy patterns. Dries working are Parachute Adams, Stimulator #16, Elk Hair Caddis #16-18, and Brook's Hot Creek Caddis #18. Nymphs: Zebra midge #18-20, red copper John, #14-18, Prince nymph #14-18, red San Juan worm #12, flashback hares ear #14-18, flashback pheasant tail #16, Black Bead Bird's nest #14, Nitro Caddis #14, and Nori's Caddis Pupa Green #16-1. Streamers: Perfection Perch, Punk Perch, Sculpin Patterns, Meat Whistle, black and purple Woolly Buggers.

CONVICT LAKE was heavily stocked and reports were good but mostly on bait. Trophy trout were stocked for their Derby, with good reports. Try the inlet and outlets and keep your line tight should a "Desert Springs Beauty" cruise the area. Try some Woolly Buggers in black, olive or purple and if you have any with rubber legs, tie 'em on and be prepared. It's been a long dry winter and they are easily entertained. Use just enough line to drift by their nose BUT don't overcast.

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HOT CREEK flume is at 18cfs and water is clear, but will produce when the temps are at their peak. Knowing how to throw a good drift to get into fish is essential. Some caddis in the afternoons with baetis in the am but not a lot of rises and this always changes as the weather warms up. Trout are mostly taking small mayflies with good numbers just no size. Dries: Parachute Adams size 20, Extended body blue winged olive 20-22 and Griffith's Gnats. Nymphs taking fish are WD-40 #20-22 Grey RS2 emergers, #18-20, Tungsten Psycho 18-20, olive Micro-mayflies #18, Zebra Midge 20-22, and Frostbite Midge 20-22. Streamers - no go.

MAMMOTH BASIN road crew cleared the basin and all lakes are thawed. Basin was stocked by DFW for the opener and they will be getting 15,000 pounds in the Lakes Basin by the Town this summer.

SAN JOAQUIN flow is low at 52cfs with normal around 200cfs. Road to Agnew Meadows, Devils Postpile, Rainbow Falls and Reds Meadow is projected to open by May 19th.

JUNE LAKE loop has been open since March 14th. The June Lake cage culture program did not raise fish this past winter but it is still holding Kamloop Rainbows for DFW due to water issues at Junction Reservoir. Wind also pummeled the loop and not many boats attempted the conditions. Reports were dark streamers using quick action near weedy areas by the west end of the lake (as always) also near the south shore. There are a lot of deer moving into in the area, so stay alert and avoid wrecking your trip.

GULL LAKE iced out in early March and was stocked for the opener. Gary put in some really nice trophies for the opener so bring your best streamers, buggers and a dropper near the reeds. Check in at the shop and see what's hot.

SILVER LAKE also iced out mid March and was stocked last Monday by DFW and 400 pounds of large rainbows from Desert Springs of Oregon averaging 5pounds. Fishing was good overall according to non-fly anglers. My choice would be to hit the smaller areas of the inlet and outlet for browns cruising for larger morsels to whet their appetites. Lake is only about 11" down.

RUSH CREEK: Flows above Grant Lake are up to 60cfs and 33cfs below. No report on fly action.

GRANT LAKE is extremely low and anticipating some run-off, but there's still a lot of water to fish, try the south shore (drive) or the inlet (park and walk) for trophy's cruising for smaller fish. Check with Ernie's or the Grant Lake Marina for current info.

LUNDY LAKE is ice free and down due to low snow pack and the road is open all the way to the back-canyon restroom. The lake

has come up one foot similar to 2014 and Edison is letting the lake rise to meet water requirements for the area. The resort will open around mid June from the latest report. You can hit the ponds for some great dry fly action or the inlet on the mountain side of the resort. These are always a good option to blow-out conditions but it is muddy. DFW didn't plant due to the possibility of the truck getting stuck and no one around to assist.

VIRGINIA LAKES ROAD has been open all winter to Rand Road due to the lack of snow. The County plowed and cleared the parking area at Big Virginia on the 17th.

BIG VIRGINIA has a lot of water showing at the outlet and 10-14 feet of water along the entire east shore with more at the inlet and the entire lake is dark. The ice will break down fast due to the warm weather of March and early April. It's the density of the ice, not the thickness. No one was on the ice for the opener. Smart!

LITTLE VIRGINIA thawed on the April 11th. Weather was cloudy and cool most of the week prior to the opener with night temperatures between the high 20's to low 30's. Only a few braved the conditions early morning, but a few tubers hit the water late Saturday afternoon and two anglers reported 30 fish C&R but they didn't want to say what they used. The bugs out (very small and dark), were definitely midges but possibly a hungry mosquito on the hunt. Sunday saw about 15-18 anglers on and off all day, with about 9 tubers mostly using flies but not a lot of success until late afternoon.

TRUMBLE LAKE has been ice free since April 9th and snow around the lake was gone until the storm early am on the 25th. A few small snow patches remain throughout the campground. No one fished it on opening day due to the weather. Saw a couple hatches earlier in the week and trout were rising so small dries would have been my choice, small black midges, Griffith's Gnat, green body mosquito size 18 or even a parachute Adams size 18. A few anglers showed on Sunday but not much luck even on bait.

EAST WALKER flow continues to hover around 20cfs with good reports of high count fish days. I managed to scout the area and found a bounty of bugs before the cold snap. Reports say some really nice fish up to 24" were landed on both the CA and NV sides of the river. Best spot is below the bridge on the CA side. Don't give up on the Miracle Mile it can be unpredictable and productive as well. Low clear water is the current norm so fish are skittish; tread softly to avoid spooking them prior to tossing a fly. Try woolly buggers, double bunnies, flashback emerger, WD-40, white Zebra midge, Rainbow Warrior, Micro-mayflies, stimulators, rubber leg stimulator and Chubby Chernobyl.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR and the

feeder creeks are very low but fairly clear. Lake has been stocked and DFW bows were ready for some action. Also, an unexpected load of catchable browns appeared out of nowhere. The Rez fished fairly well from boats and shore but mostly on bait. Conditions will improve after the low-pressure moves out. Tube the drop-offs with Hornbergs, leeches and perch patterns. Also try Callibaetis nymphs, broken back midges, and flashback pheasant tails for good action. The Rez will fish well early in the season and hopefully get more water from run-off depending on what comes out of the canyons into the confluence. There is a small boat launch/courtesy dock near the dam that will get you on the water. Check with Jeff at the marina for flies, boat rentals and current fishing info.

WEST WALKER flow is 160cfs but it's early, it will get higher as the temps increase this week. Look for great action the entire length of the "West" into town. DFW stocked some nice fish, but no report if North County Chamber put in some Desert Springs fatties, but I'm sure they did. Flows have been a bit inconsistent but without the huge run-off numbers as in the past. The town will also be hosting two big Derby's this summer. Check their website for details (Northern Mono County Chamber of Commerce). No report due to weather.

KIRMAN LAKE - Reports from yesterday that the weather was nasty and anglers that fished were soaked and frozen with only a few caught on streamers. The weather is going to be great for the next week, so probably try Seal Buggers, Matukas or Mini Leeches with an AP emerger or soft hackle dropper.

TIOGA PASS ~ is still currently closed from Crane Flat to the Mono County line on the pass. The Mono County side has been cleared to the pass but currently closed due to recent storm. Saddlebag, Tioga and Ellery all remain frozen and/or inaccessible.

Please note: Tioga Pass will be undergoing a resurfacing project that is in progress from Crane Flat to White Wolf and is scheduled to conclude in November 2015. Once the road opens for the season, expect 15-60 minute delays depending on the time of day. Work will be 24 hours a day beginning Sunday at 11pm through Friday at 4:30pm. Big Oak Flat road tunnels will also have delays. Check their website for specific times. If you can't locate it email me at (vlresort@wildblue.net) and I'll send you the schedule.

SONORA PASS - Opened April 17th (subject to storm closure) and closed currently due to storm but will reopen tomorrow.

MONITOR PASS opened on March 7th (subject to storm closure) but has been closed off and on for storms may reopen in 2 days.

See you on the water, CJ

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