



# Rx Fly Fishing!

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Stockton, California

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## Swap meet and October Potluck on this month's schedule

By Steve VonBerg

Our **October 14th** general meeting will be the **annual club potluck** at John R Williams School. There will also be a **swap meet** prior to dinner. The swap will begin at 6:30PM, with dinner being served at 7:00PM. Members are asked to bring something to share:

A to C: bread and butter

D to J: hot or cold veggies

K to N: salads

O to Sh: desserts

Si to Z: main dishes (casseroles, pastas, meat dishes, etc.)

Bruce and Sallye Rollans will be leading the club outing on October 17 and 18 to the Lower Sacramento River. If you are going, please contact Bruce at [mbrsmr36@gmail.com](mailto:mbrsmr36@gmail.com).

## Calendar

October 14, Annual Potluck

October 17-18, Lower Sac Outing

October 21, DFF Board Meeting

November 11--General meeting (vote on BOD)**This is a school holiday (will JRW be available?)**

\*November 15--Sugar Barge (boats required?) (Jerry)

November 18--BOD (elect club officers)

November 21--Trout Bout

November 26--Thanksgiving Day

## President's Message, October Newsletter

9-25-15

Ok, as we enter the fourth quarter of our year, fall is officially here on the calendar without cool days so far. In fact, I have really had my fill of the 100 plus temp days. We have been spoiled in the previous drought years with mild summers, but this one is closer to a normal summer in our valley town. Hopefully, normal means that we also get a healthy and rainy winter, because I am not really sure what another drought year would bring? Devastation from multiple fires, with some so close that friends needed help

with evacuations, and rivers and reservoirs so low that fisheries are stressed to their max. It is time to think good thoughts and expect the water we so desperately need to be provided in one super winter. It is going to happen.

I trust everyone got their lines wet this summer. If not, what the hell, why not? Letting things of importance get between you and your fly rod is letting a disconnect happen. Getting yourself on the water is making you a more effective person particularly with those things of importance. Do it for you, and for those you love. Connecting with nature is profoundly connected to the importance of life. It is my contention if when we connect with nature we become better at connecting with people and the world we live in! Just one man's opinion! Some of us are facing

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# FISHING CAN WEAR OUT OLD MEN AND WOMEN



brought several nice stripers to the boat.

After getting gas at Antioch Harbor and doing lunch, we went back to Sherman Lake. Sallye and I traded places giving her the more stable casting platform at the stern. With a now incoming tide and the skill of our Captain, we began bringing more stripers to the boat with several doubles.

By 4:10 p.m. Sallye and I both hollered uncle. We were tired and ready to head back. Sallye and I made one last cast and both hooked up. In total we landed 51 stripers; 26 of them legal size. In one of those “you should have been here yesterday” fish stories. Mike told us he fished his clients at the same two locations the previous day and they had 167 stripers to the boat; 98 of them legal size. That was his second best day in the Delta as the numbers.

By Bruce Rollans  
Sallye and I fly fished two locations today in the California Delta with long time guide Mike Costello. I am of the opinion that getting old is making fly fishing more tiring. After the one hour drive from the boat shed to home I sat down in a comfortable chair with a small cocktail and almost immediately fell asleep.

As usual, we went out in search of striped bass. I think Mike can smell them. He is also a meticulous keeper of records; noting not only that he caught fish, but how many, where, what size, what tide, wind speed and date. This practice goes back at least for the 16 years we have fished with him. Today was no exception.

We left Tower Park Marina west of Lodi at 8:30 a.m. traveling 45 minutes west on the San Joaquin River to a location of shallow weed beds half way between the entrance channel to

Eddo’s Harbor RV Park and the Antioch Bridge.

Using Air Flow high density type 7 sinking lines we began casting colorful Clouser type flies of all artificial materials into water six to eight feet deep. Repeatedly we were landing stripers. The wind was a constant 17 mph which really interferes with long casts.

At 10:30 a.m. we moved on west to a large body of water just south of Sherman Island known as Sherman Lake. The tide was still dropping and Mike kept a close eye on the gulls and terns. We changed to Air Flow Intermediate type 3 lines. Fish were chasing bait. Before the tide went slack we



## President's Message

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very serious moments in our lives and no way am I trying to minimize those life challenges.

The club has been given the resignation of John Highsmith, our Vice President. He is not leaving the club but is forced to give it up due to the demand of his employment. I personally am sad to lose him, but I want all of us to say thanks John, for all he's contributed to the Delta Fly Fishers. Believe me when I say he has done a lot. He has been an important spoke in our wheel. We could all

benefit from a dose of his can-do spirit. I want to thank him publicly, for all he has done to help me and this club. That being said we have an opening for VP. It is a non voting position on the board, but plays a vital role in the overall running of this organization. If interested please contact myself or any of the members on the Board of Directors.

We will be formulating a tentative Outings schedule for 2016. We are always looking for fishmeisters which sounds more official than it actually requires. It just means on an outing of your designation, you

will be the lead person on the outing and try and help the club in one of its events. Very Simple stuff. If interested contact Mike Nicholson, Dena Mason, or myself, we are the designated Outing Schedule committee.

Be sure and check in with Bruce and Sallye Rollans for the October outing to the Sacramento River out of Redding. Last year, I had the largest trout on, in my entire life on for about ten minutes. I know the one that got away, ha ha ... I lost him because he straightened my hook. My point is, this water is

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## October, 2015 Lower Sacramento River DFF Outing

By Bruce Rollans

Delta Fly Fishers, Inc. members looking for large, wild rainbows on a scenic float need to get ready for the DFF October Outing on the Lower Sacramento River at Redding, California. This will take place Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18, 2015.

Note the trophies landed by Bruce and Sallye Rollans. You can access these big shouldered beauties up to 24 inches. If you have done this float before, you know everyone on the water has an opportunity for a great experience.

Those not familiar with this water are strongly advised to hire a guide. While



This includes flies, tackle, equipment and lunch.

If you want to use your own equipment, plan on a 6 wt. medium action rod about 9 ft. and one of the indicator lines from such companies as Rio or Scientific Anglers.



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there are a number of independent local guides, they are usually booked far in advance of our October outing as this is when salmon are in the water and trout are feeding on eggs.

The best source for guides is The Fly Shop in Redding at 800 669 3174. If you want to book a guide DO IT NOW! Do not wait. The current rate at The Fly Shop is \$500 per day for one or two anglers (if two you simple split the fee).

There is amply lodging available in and around Redding. Bruce recommends the following: Best Western Plus Twin View Inn just off Interstate 5 on Twin View Blvd at the north end of town; Best Western Plus Hilltop on Hilltop Drive east of the interstate; Hampton Inn and Suites on Larkspur Lane just off Cypress east of the interstate, Hilton Garden Inn on just of Bechelli Lane west of the interstate at the south edge of town or the Oxford Suites on Hilltop Drive. Charlie Reames may be a god source of information about RV/camp grounds. The AAA travel guide is a good source of information about these and other locations in the area. For more information on lodging contact Fish Meister Bruce Rollans at 209 781 6408 or at [mbrsmr36@gmail.com](mailto:mbrsmr36@gmail.com)

The past couple of years those participating in this outing have met for dinner on Saturday night at The Olive Garden Restaurant. If you want to enjoy the association of fellow members over dinner, contact Bruce Rollans to add your name to the dinner list.

### DeltaStrippers.Com

Catch and release fly fishing for stripers and large mouth bass on the San Joaquin Delta



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## President's Message

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one of the most productive fisheries in the state. It is catch and release for everyone. The fish are healthy and beautiful, consider a guide. Try the FLY SHOP in Redding, You can go down this river in a pontoon but not a float tube. Historically, the current is approximately 3600 cfs at this time of year but may be less due to the drought.. BE SAFE FIRST before doing anything else and do not get on this river without wearing a floatation jacket. Whether your wading or floating, a floatation de-

vice is a must have. If wading please use a wading staff. At 3600 cfs this river will take you down very quickly. If your considering this outing talk to other members in the club on how to fish it! Check in with the Rollans.

Lastly, we have our new hats in! And they are selling fast. Get your order in. \$15.00 per hat or two for \$28. See John Keagy. They have our new logo, are functional

and look really sharp. See Charlie R. wearing his, he's never looked that good.

## Westlands and Metropolitan WD are at it again

*The great thing about fly fishing is that we a always learning.*

--- Theodore Gorden

Several months ago Elise and I decided to take a trip across America retracing what is left of the historic Route 66. It was a wonderful experience and we learned much about our country and its people. Because of preparation for the trip, time constraints, and many issues that required our attention, I e-mailed Jerry Neuberger that it was not going to be possible to put together a conservation article for the September newsletter. Much happened politically and environmentally during September that has a direct effect on our fisheries. Unfortunately none of these issues are positive.

In 2013 I learned that secret, closed door negotiations had stated between the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and Westlands Water District (WWD) to resolve a decades old issue of BOR's lack of

responsibility in providing drainage within Westlands farmland and other issues. The lack of proper drainage in the past has caused a huge problem with toxic chemicals, especially selenium, and led to the Kesterson Wildlife Disaster. WWD filed suit against the BOR. A multiplicity of issues clouded the settlement of this dispute. It is egregious that the farmers of Westlands have never paid for the building of the federal Central Valley Project. The loan from the federal government to build the Central Valley Project was \$365 million. However, the government gave the loan interest free and with no penalties for non-payment. Westlands farmers have been operating their farms since the 1960 at the expense of the American taxpayer. The unpaid loan of 365 million dollars in 1960 represents a loss to American taxpayers of 2.78 trillion 2015 dollars. The public continues to be taken advantage of by the Westlands corporate farmers. Westlands has always

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been a contentious group when dealing with any proposed settlements and to enrich themselves at the American taxpayers expense.

Recently the Obama administration's Dept. of Justice (DOJ) and Dept. of Interior (DOI) announced that they had reached an agreement with Westlands. It is a done deal, negotiated in secret, without any input from those who will be adversely affected. Once again those affected with water issues in northern California, the Delta, and our representatives have been excluded from a decision that has a direct negative effect on our lives. The agreement now goes before congress for approval.

The terms of the proposed agreement are outlandish for the State of California and the American taxpayer. The settlement document has not been made public by the DOJ, but some of our federal legislators have been provided with information concerning parts of the proposed agreement. They include:

1) WWD's will receive total forgiveness of their outstanding \$365 million debt that they have reneged on paying for 50 plus years. In other words, the Central Valley Project was free for the farmers even though they promised to pay for the project. **THIS \$365 DEBT WILL BE ADDED TO THE FEDERAL DEFICIT.**

2) In return, WWD will assume the responsibility of cleaning up the toxicity their irrigation of the farmland has caused. It is unclear if this is all 300,000 toxic acres involved or just 100,000

acres of the initial problem. To date, no required timeline for clean-up has been set, no penalties have been attached for non-performance of the required clean up, nor how they will perform the clean up or what standards must be met. Given WWD's lack of required standards and their past dishonorable performances, it is unlikely the clean up will occur. It looks as if we are giving them another free ride at the taxpayers expense.

3) Westlands will be required to not farm the 100,000 acres of toxic farmland. It should be noted Westlands planed to stop farming that land in any event. However now they will be compensated for the land at our expense. Unfortunately the settlement does not include the additional 200,000 toxic, unfarmable acres involved.

4) Westlands will continue receive 75% of the water for the retired 100,000 acres even though the land isn't farmed. Another major water subsidy at our expense!

5) Another outrageous water gift is that WWD will not be required to reapply for water contracts but will receive water with permanent entitlements at a lower cost without acreage limits. Several environmental groups noted, "these terms will lead to ever-increasing water deficits for California's communities, economy, and the environment."

This "Sweetheart Deal" is another repugnant gift to California's already wealthy corporate farmers. With federal and state subsidies, Westlands farmers receive between \$24-110 million annually. These continuing "gifts" will not

only hurt our economy and environment, it will drive a nail in our Delta's coffin and further destroy our fisheries. It is another welfare gift for some of the wealthiest among us.

The Obama Administration's DOI and DOJ have ignored advice from both the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Geological Service and are also in violation several statutes of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Environmental Protection Act. The Administration has turned their backs to those of us in the state both environmentally and economically, and helped to assure the destruction the Delta and its fisheries. All this to enrich a privileged few. This agreement must have the approval of both Houses of Congress before it can be implemented. Hopefully Congress will reject this federal and state giveaway.

### **Shades of Owens Valley**

Recently it was learned the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC) has met in a secret, closed-door session with the Delta Wetlands Properties, a group that owns four islands in the Delta. Those islands are: Webb Tract, Bacon Tract, Holland Tract, and Bouldin Island. In what appears to be an attempt to secure water rights and land for Gov. Jerry Brown's Twin Tunnels Project, MWDSC has once again started dealing as they did historically in underhandedly securing water rights from the Owens Valley. Many in the Delta are, of course suspicious, of MWDSC's motives with good reason. The

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Delta Wetlands Project is a public-private group based in Illinois. Originally their intent was to breach the levees on both Bacon Island and Webb's Tract during wet years and storing and later selling 215,000 acre-feet of water. Bouldin Island and Holland Tract were to be converted to wildlife restoration and habitat including wetlands.

These closed door meetings raise red flags and could result in another "water grab" attempt by MWDSC. Two of the islands, Bouldin and Bacon, are in the proposed path of the Twin Tunnels Project. This attempt at another water and land grab MWDSC needs to be watched closely. We don't want another Owens Valley in the Delta.

## Another Problem For Hatchery Trout

Early this month over 155,000 trout at American River Hatchery were lost due to suffocation when "gunk" was released by the Bureau of Reclamation in a clogged pipe that had been used in dredging. That pipe had not been cleared in several years. Bill Cox, the hatchery manager for California's Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDW&W) said, "The unexpected die-off could mean that anglers have a tougher time finding fish to catch next year, since the 4-inch sub-species Eagle Lake trout were to be released when they grew larger.

Cox was worried that with our continuing 4-year drought, and already existing low inventory of

fish, meeting the state's obligations for plantable trout may not be possible. Along with the loss of 155,000 Eagle Lake trout, Cox said hundreds of other trout were killed in the incident. With drought problems, warmer water temperatures and the quarantine of 3 million trout at two other hatcheries to prevent a spread of whirling disease, the hatcheries are facing major problems.

In 2008, CDF&W stocked 4.3 million pounds of trout. Last year California sold 1.78 million licenses, but only planted 1.6 million pounds of trout. Instead of the usual 1/2 pound fish, this years plants are only going to be half that size. The 2016 season doesn't look promising.

Ron Forbes  
Conservation Chair

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## Delta the focus of November 15th outing

By Jerry Neuburger

Let's rip some striper lips! The club's delta outing has been moved from January to November and from Discovery Bay to the Sugar Barge at Bethel Island. Another major change this year is that boats will be used instead of personal water craft.

Club members who own suitable boats are being asked to take at least one club member aboard for the day and if especially generous, take two and rotate fishing.

While these volunteers will take up some of the slack, additional boats are for rent at the Sugar Barge for reasonable prices.

The Sugar Barge has three 15 foot aluminum boats for rent at \$110 for eight hours and two Triumph Bay Boats for \$220 for eight hours.

The aluminum boats are equipped with motors and life jackets. Those wishing to rent should consider bringing a transom mount trolling motor, battery and a

Buddy II fish finder. If three people rent the boat, two can fish while one operates the trolling motor/fish finder. A similar crew is recommended for the Triumph Bay boats but since they are fully equipped, all that the crew needs to bring is their fishing equipment.

Jerry will conduct an on shore seminar along with rough maps suggesting where to fish will be held on the levee at 7:30am. The seminar will be a refresher on flies, presentations and retrieves necessary to be successful on the water.

### Suggested gear:

Subsurface

Eight weight rod, Scientific Angler T-14 line, with head cut down to 27 feet, 5 foot 20 pound fluorocarbon leader, a half dozen chartreuse/white, black/white, gray/white 2/0 clousers.

Topwater

Eight weight rod with floating line one to two weights above rod rating. Nine foot

twisted leader with 20 pound tippet. A variety of white, white/chartreuse gurglers and Ron Dong Crease flies.

The Sugar Barge boats can be reserved and it's suggested that if you plan to go on this outing, that you make your reservations as early as possible.

### Recommended gear for 15 foot aluminum boat rental.

Transom mount trolling motor and battery (really makes fishing easier)

Buddy II gunnel mount fish finder (not necessary but it's nice to know how deep the bottom is.)

A net large enough to handle a 15 pound fish.

A net is all the additional gear suggested if renting the Triumph Bay Boat.

### Call for boat reservations:

Sugar Barge RV Resort and Marina

800-799-4100

<http://sugarbarge.com/>

# Eastern Sierra Focus

by C.J. Webb

Organizing my fly boxes has been a migraine for a couple decades due to the many areas I fish on the Eastern Sierra. I'm determined this winter to come up with some sort of organization to my flies. A main storage fly system that holds all the fly containers then each smaller container will either be set up by type, i.e., surface flies broken down, sub-surface broken into several categories; streamers, wet flies, emergers, flies people have given me, flies that I want to tie and try, flies that I never tied and/or copied. This is where it becomes difficult. I can't seem to get rid of anything and my fly tying area has taken over 1/4 of the back bedroom and I'm thinking maybe I need to reduce the size of the bed for storage. If accomplished, it will be just shy of becoming the 8th wonder of the world. Good grief!, I'm getting depressed just thinking about it. If anyone would like to share their system of fly storage, I would be grateful in hearing your method. [vlre-sort@wildblue.net](mailto:vlre-sort@wildblue.net)

News:

## 2015 Fly Fishing Faire -

### Bishop Tri-County Fairgrounds October 16-18

This is the only On-The-Water Fly Fishing Faire in the Western States. They have classes to interest and educate anyone from introductory to advanced. You can learn about fly tying, casting and specific on-stream techniques. Brought to you by the Southwest Council, International Federation of Fly Fishers. All proceeds to benefit outreach, conservation and education programs throughout Southern California and Southern Nevada, for more information go to: [faire-info@southwestcouncilfff.org](mailto:faire-info@southwestcouncilfff.org)

### Tuolumne Meadows Gas Station and Mountain Shop Permanently Closed

The Tuolumne Meadows Gas Station, Mountain Shop and Mountaineering School closed on Sunday, September 13th. Please note that this was the last season for the Tuolumne Meadows Gas Station and Mountain Shop due to the implementation of the Tuolumne River Plan. The underground tanks and dispensing system at the station will be removed this fall, with the building scheduled for

removal during the summer of 2016. The closest fueling services to Tuolumne Meadows will be at Crane Flat (40 miles, Hwy 120/Tioga Pass West) and Lee Vining (20 miles, Hwy 120/Tioga Pass East). Please inform visitors and associates of this change in services.

**CDFW News** - DFW reports that Camp Meeker water district is releasing water to save the Coho salmon. A western Sonoma County Water district is releasing water from its facility to help save fish in an important Sonoma County watershed during the critical drought period into Upper Dutch Bill Creek, a tributary to the Russian river, for the benefit of summer-rearing Coho salmon and steelhead. This is the first voluntary flow augmentation project to be implemented and the third to be implemented within the four tributaries subject to emergency regulations for the Protection of Specific Fisheries. The Voluntary Drought Initiative (VDI) program was initiated jointly by the CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the National Fisheries Service (NMFS) to address stream flow concerns associated with the California drought. In March of this year, CDFW began asking rural land owners again to sign agreements to voluntarily reduce water demand in four critical watersheds that include Dutch Bill, Green Valley, Mark West and Mill creeks. So far 40 land owners have partnered with CDFW. Since the releases began, Dutch Bill Creek is flowing better than it has for the last two months and dissolved oxygen and temperature conditions are expected to keep juvenile Coho salmon alive until the winter rains arrive.

### Feather River Hatchery Fish Ladder opens 9/14

The fish ladder at Feather River Hatchery in Oroville opened September 14, signaling the start of the spawning season on the river. Hatchery workers opened the gates at 8am and it took more than 3 million spring-run eggs and 12 million fall-run eggs over the next two months in order to produce Chinook salmon for 2016 spring release.

Visitors can observe the salmon through the viewing windows and from the observation deck located at the base of the fish barrier dam.

There are eight state-run salmon and steelhead hatcheries (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Hatcheries>), all of which will participate in the salmon

spawning effort. Those hatcheries, along with federally run hatcheries, will be responsible for the release of 40 million juvenile salmon into California waters. These massive spawning efforts were put in place over the last 50 years to offset fish losses caused by dams that block salmon from historic spawning habitat. Once the young salmon reach 2 to 4 inches in length, 100 percent of the spring-run stock and 25 percent of the fall-run stock will be adipose fin clipped and implanted with coded wire tags prior to release. CDFW biologists use the information from the tags to chart the survival, catch and return rates of the fish.

### Mt. Shasta Hatchery Whirling Disease

#### Confined to Small Group of Fish

Results from comprehensive testing show the disease parasite is confined to a smaller group of fish than originally assumed and as a result DFW will lift quarantine and resume operations at the Hatcher.

CDFW had placed 3 million rainbow and brown trout under quarantine out of concern that trout transferred from Darrah Springs Hatchery to Mt. Shasta Hatchery may have encountered environmental conditions that would allow the whirling disease parasite to complete its lifecycle at that location. The whirling disease parasite is naturally present in some streams and rivers in California and hatchery outbreaks are unusual as there have been none in northern California for two decades. The disposal of infected hatchery-raised trout is a necessary precaution to protect wild trout and salmon and to prevent the spread of disease to non-infected state waters where the fish typically would be planted.

Testing at Darrah Springs Hatchery is still in progress, and the quarantine is still in effect. CDFW pathologists routinely inspect each of the 13 state-run trout hatcheries which raise approximately 10 million trout for California anglers statewide, as well as the nine hatcheries that raise over 31 million young salmon and steelhead

### American River Hatchery Suffers Fish Die-Off

The Department is working to keep hundreds of thousands of trout alive at the American River Hatchery after warm water temperatures killed approximately

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155,000 trout on September 8th.

A chiller that cools water at the hatchery about 18 miles east of Sacramento unexpectedly failed Tuesday, and warm temperatures killed most of the Eagle Lake species of trout being raised at the hatchery. The exact cause of the failure of the hatchery equipment is unclear and under investigation. Hatchery staff is working to get at least one chiller working again, which could drop the current water temperature of 70 degrees F by 5 degrees which is enough to help sustain the remaining trout in the hatchery. Loss estimates as of September 9th by species:

155,00 of the 199,313 (78%) of Eagle Lake Trout

300 of the 61,839 (0.5%) of Shasta trout

Five of the 230,000 Lahontan cutthroat trout

Though this fish kill means that likely DFW will not be able to stock streams and lakes at an ideal level in the Sacramento region next year; all trout at the hatchery were not lost. The Department will seek ways to supplement the trout produced at its hatcheries to increase angling opportunities in 2016.

CalTrans had reported the completion of the "Rock-Fall" on US Highway 395 August 12th along Mono Lake's west shore to improve safety for the traveling public by minimizing rocks falling from the steep adjacent slopes. Apparently there will be more construction required in spring/summer 2016.

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

**ROCK CREEK LAKE** road has been paved and work continues on the bridges with time delays only running 15-20 minutes but they will be working on Saturdays. Crews are working to get the job completed by the end of the season. Fishing may have picked up a little bit over the last few days, but no big changes. Jim King hasn't taken a water temp since Saturday, when it was still 63 F. He said he trolled for about an hour one evening last week, not much action then went up to the Hidden Lakes on Sunday, right when the rain came in, did pretty well with flies on the brookies. Actually the upper lakes have been fishing well for the wild trout, Rock Creek Lake is less consistent for the

stockers. One of our cabin customers pulled out a 4 lb 13 oz rainbow yesterday from shore, and others are catching some of the tagged DFW fish.

**CROWLEY LAKE** - The water is still very clear, and has dropped into the low 60's. The lower water temperature means the fish usually don't get active till later in the morning. There is no need to get out at 7:00 am when the gates open. We have been having pretty good bug hatches each morning around 9:00. The best areas are still in tight to the weed beds over in McGee. Usually in around 12 feet of water. Start out with Copper Tigers or Albino Barons on the bottom. I have been having better results with a Shaft or Super Fly on top, rather than a perch pattern. Switch up to Shafts and Super Flies on the bottom, once the bugs start hatching. The other place that has been good is up in the North Arm, off of Green Banks Bay in 15 to 17 feet of water using the same flies.

**UPPER OWENS** conditions are poor with flow at 43cfs. No sightings of big fish as of yet. Loads of small fish up higher taking dries. Water levels have been very consistent for the last week. Flows remain low; but very fishable. Dry/dropper techniques are the way to go here. Conditions remain good with a few larger fish moving up from Crowley. A few nice cutts & browns in the deeper holes. The sections up from Benton Crossing are much better. You can get into a few decent browns on caddis, and last generation BWO adults at times. Some larger browns hitting crystal leeches fished with a sink tip in the deepest pools. Stimulators, hi-vis caddis, & natural caddis are good calls for dry flies. Try a tandem nymph rig in the deeper pools using an assassin, FB PT, or crystal leech as the upper-put an egg, or smaller Assassin as the dropper. Flows are low here (40cfs) with aquatic weeds an issue in the lower sections below the Benton Crossing Bridge.

McGee Creek proper has some small browns and a few decent rainbows. Dry dropper rigs, & nymphing with FB PTs, Assassins, & olive crystal caddis below an Under-cator, or hi-vis caddis or hi-vis para BWO will work.

**CONVICT LAKE** is stocked by the resort and reports have been fair to good, but again due to the weather conditions it can be up and down, so fish deep with a full sink and a weighted fly. Try the inlet, outlets, south shore and hangman's for the

best action. Dry Flies: Adams, Female Adams, Cutter's Caddis, Elk Hair Caddis, Stimulators, Black/Red Ants, Sierra Bright Dot, Royal Coachman and Hoppers. Streamers: Woolly Bugger (black, brown, olive, or green), Matuka (black, brown, olive), Hornberg, and Muddler Minnows. Wet Flies (Nymphs): Prince Nymph, Flashback Pheasant Tail, Hare's Ear, Zebra Midge (red and black), Copper John (red and copper) and San Juan Worm (brown or red). The list is fairly standard most of the summer. The Ambush at the Lake Fishing Derby runs September 7th - November 15th. Don't miss out on a chance to win \$6,000 in Resort Prizes! The Morrison Bonus Cash Weekend will be October 30th - November 1st. \$2000 in cash prizes!

**HOT CREEK** flow is at 11cfs, 13 less than a month ago. Note: Flows include water from the springs, not just the gauging station. You need to run short drifts to hook fish and not weeds. Very low water so don't be afraid to take off that indicator and throw your favorite hopper in a seam. Some good caddis & mayfly activity currently. Dark bodied, or natural colors for the caddis bodies are the hatch. Light olive to gray Mays. Keep them well dressed to ride high in the foam. Pheasant tails, & birds nest patterns are best for nymphs. Small parachute midge; or mayfly patterns used with a 10 foot leader are best for surface presentations when the fish are on the midges/or clusters. There are a few sections that can be fished with a dry dropper nymph rig. The hoppers are now present. A stimulator is a good profile for them. Use these in the wind, as the terrestrials get blown off the banks, & the trout hunt for them along the shoreline. Try a hi-vis caddis pattern, it works well. Dead drifted broken back zebras, small gillies, scuds, flashback PTs, or assassin birds nest bead heads in #18 are good calls for the dropper. Size 18 or smaller crystal olive caddis larva or zebra midges are good calls as droppers. Caddis are everywhere, so keep them riding high in the foam. For nymphs try Nori's caddis pupa #18, Fox's Caddis Poopah #18, Buck skin #18, grey RS2 18-20, zebra midge 20-22, WD40 20-22, and flashback black beauty 20-22. Forget streamers, too weedy. This is a year around fishery with special regs. in place.

**MAMMOTH BASIN** - Water is clear and cool with night temps hovering around the mid-40's. Trout are holding in

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the southeast side of Mary at the drop off. Try Callibaetis, stimulators, foam hoppers, royal wulffs. Nymphs: Prince size 14, Red Copper John 14, Zebra 16, damsel's and Callibaetis nymphs. Streamers: Black or olive wooly buggers and Rickard's seal buggers olive with rust.

**SAN JOAQUIN** - Mornings are cool and the fish will be lethargic until the sun warms the rocks around noon. Flows are super low here. Locating water over a foot is difficult. The trout will hit surface imitations in the #14-18 range. Look for shady areas along the banks deeper than a foot. Make upstream presentations, staying on the tails of the fish. Try hi-vis para mayflies, Stimulators, and hi-vis caddis patterns as a point fly. Tie a two foot dropper off the hook bend and add a blue winged olive or natural caddis adult. Dry/dry tandems are effective and can really help you see your imitations in riffle water, or shadows. Try para Adams #22, Beetles, Fat Alberts, Stimulator #16, Rubber leg stimulator, and yellow humpy. Nymphs: Prince #20, Flashback PT#20, Hare's Ear and olive Bird's Nest #20.

**JUNE LAKE** - The water temp seems to be the same as most lakes above 7000 feet so use a fast sinking line and run your streamers down around 20 or 30 feet with buggers and leech patterns with soft hackle droppers, hare's ear, prince nymphs and Zug bugs should bring up some fish if you get your fly deep enough.

**GULL LAKE** - No report but check in at the shop and/or Ernie's Tackle to see what's hot. It can be good one day and off the next. With the cooler air temperature things might start heating up as far as the catch rate. Always fish the west end reeds by the rock as fish like to feed where there's safety.

**SILVER LAKE:** The Big Boys are starting to show up as they had a number of very nice Rainbows come in from both Silver Lake and Grant Lake this past week. The fishing is still most productive down deep in the water but they are starting to see some better action near the surface. It is no surprise on what has been doing the best but some good fall hatches in the bug cycles as the colors of the bugs are turning darker and bigger so stick with an Olive Matuka, Rainbow Matuka and Green Wooly Buggers if you can get them deep. DFW dumped in their load of catchable Rainbows which helps to keep the action moving along.

If you are a Fall Color Peepers are starting to show some nice signs of Yellows in the higher country at about the 9,000 ft. level and that should start to lower in the next couple weeks and hopefully will hit all at once

**RUSH CREEK:** Current flow is around 12cfs and clear so if you plan to fish it the water is "skinny" and you better be invisible as some of them are stacked up high by Silver Lake for cool comfort. Dries: Try Adams, Parachute Adams #16-20, Elk Hair Caddis #14-18, Stimulators #12-18 and Griffith Gnat #18. Nymphs: Pheasant Tail #14-18, Copper John #14-18, Prince Nymph #16-18, Zebra Midge #18-22 and Micro Mayfly #14-20. Don't bother with streamers as the water is too low.

**GRANT LAKE** is extremely low but still a lot of water to fish on the east side so 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. Big fish are coming out, check Western Outdoor news for last week's hawg.

**LUNDY LAKE** has risen slightly improving the fishing overall. The resort closed on the 15th as usual. County trophy program hit on the 27th of August and tubing is great using buggers, black, brown, dark olive, Rickard's seal-bugger, stillwater water nymph in rust/olive along with Prince nymphs, Zug bugs, olive bird's nest and the rubber legged flashback Prince, my trophy special fly and the Pistol Pete in olive/black.

#### **LITTLE VIRGINIA, BIG VIRGINIA & TRUMBLE LAKE**

Water levels are great and STILL holding pretty close to normal. Big Virginia is down about 4" so bring watercraft and use the boat ramp (no gas motors). Delta Fly Fishers of Stockton hit the lakes this past week and did their usual thing with John H. taking the honors but Don G. didn't bring his in for the weigh-in and we don't know who got the "big" fish for the week. Most of the club ties so they used a variety of their personal "go to" flies and tried a few of mine. A steady fly has not been the norm this past month, and everyone has been switching up and trying everything starting with black beetles and ants size 14, burgundy/olive seal buggers, olive cone-head leeches, soft hackles and prince nymphs flashbacks. Spotty dry fly action early am and late evening if there's a ripple on the water, with the exception of the 2nd week in September, we had the

most amazing caddis hatch, more like a "burning fly" meeting. We've had mayflies, dragonflies, midges, moths, ants and hoppers when the air temp warms so bring it all including mini leeches, Matukas, soft hackles and Zug bugs. Fishing has been up and down throughout the county, but when it's on, it's really ON! Trophies are still coming out of both lakes, at least one or two a day. Don't forget the midges and emergers, very important items (VPI). Trumble Lake has been off and on and the rainbows seem to be the main fare and not as many brook trout have shown their fins to take a peek at anyone's fly. Trumble campground will close on the 6th of October, and we will close on or around the 13th at 5pm.

**GREEN CREEK** has been the same since the last report and water levels are dropping with a slightly lower outflow from all the lakes above. The meandering creek above the "D" pond has a lot of small browns that are moving up to the area I call the "big pond" on the south side of the valley as you head west to the campground. They are taking cover under the willows and undercut banks to keep from getting sunburned. Use your best "sneak" approach to get close enough for a precision cast above their nose. Tie on a small barbless terrestrial for some fun.

**EAST WALKER** - Not much has changed on the river this past week, the temps are holding and the flows are around 20cfs. Please take care when releasing fish and stick around to assure their safe return to the water. There is still relatively little angler traffic but the anglers who are going down there are doing pretty well. We also have started getting some good reports on streamers along with the usual small midge patterns along with caddis nymphs. The stretch below the bridge seems to be producing good numbers of browns in the 10 to 15 inch range with a few around 17 or 18 inches. The Mile section is still producing some nice rainbows but not too many browns. Patterns to try: zuddlers, moal leeches, jj special, sculpzilla, Fox's Poopah, z-wing caddis, zebra midge, dark lord, flashback emerger and miracle nymph. Check with the Marina or Ken's Sporting Goods for the water conditions prior to your trip.

**BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR** - Check with Ken's Sporting Good and Jeff Wenger at the marina for flies, boat rentals and current fishing info. Running at

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20cfs. Bypass and seek fish elsewhere. This fishery is open year around with special regulations in place.

**TWIN LAKES** - They're still picking up some really nice fish from the Twins lately with some of them tipping the scale at around 7 or 8 pounds. There have been a few fly anglers doing pretty well on some rainbows up to around 8.5 pounds

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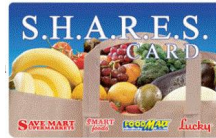
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stripping streamers from tubes, simi seal leeches, mini leeches, seal buggers and Matukas are the ticket there. The Kokanee are still spawning so don't forget to bring some orange and red flies.

**WEST WALKER** - Flows are low here; but this location is running better than most of the freestone creeks in the Sierra. Dry dropper rigs are my choice for fooling the trout in the deeper pools and runs.



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I like a Stimulator, hi-vis para BWO, or hi-vis caddis as the upper fly and hang a crystal tiger midge, Assassin, or flash back PT about 2-3 feet off the dry. Pikel Meadows is a fun spot to fish with plenty of area to fish. Winds can make it tough, so get on the water early. Also try above the main bridge WEST where the south water meets the west water heading north. The little canyon is a lot of fun, nothing big, but plenty of them and you might just get lucky a find a holding hold with a tundra trout.

See you on the water, CJ  
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