

## Rx

## Fly Fishing

### President's Message by Marty Kjelson

Greetings my fellow fly fishers,

I think fall is coming - but slowly! Even our daytime temps on the east side were warm, and only a few patches of yellow in the aspens. Hopefully the fish know to start their fall migrations upstream and to the Delta so we can feel their tug!



Well, we had a nice trip to the Bridgeport area and a few ventured south to Convict Lake, Lake Crowley, and the Owens R. area. Fishing was mostly good and the fellowship super - as always. We had over 20 folks at the BBQ Saturday evening which is great. Many new adventures which hopefully will be shared with all of us via various media, ie this newsletter, our web

page, and Facebook. I'm particularly interested to hear how John, Jason and Charlie found Kirman Lake for brookies and also from the Fujimuras and new member Steve at the upper San Joaquin, and also how the early-bird gang Jim, Bill, Earl and Larry did at the Virginia lakes area. I did hear Earl, as usual, caught some very big fish. He also has some photos of a family of black bears at lower Virginia. A bear visited our camp several nights and discovered some of our members - I'm sure real "greenhorns" in the "camping thing" - were found to be vulnerable to his habits of eating food left out and car windows not closed.

Jerry gave Herm and I a lesson on Upper Twin using an orange scud. Don showed a few rookies how to use the Red Rider, though he shouldn't quit his day job to become a guide as the rookies didn't catch much ??? I had a good morning on the East Walker, as did Charlie one evening, but flows were very low at 100cfs. "Rookie" Gil showed us how to do it there landing a 16" brown on an old classic black gnat, size 12. Herm, Charlie, Ed Smith and Jerry tackled Crowley and caught some good ones, though one of them lost a huge one. That is not unusual there. Not many reports from the Upper Owens or Hot creek. Enough on the trip.

I was disappointed to have to return home early due to high altitude issues but I am eager to return hopefully without the need of an O2 bottle. For now I'll enjoy the Valley and Delta. As I mentioned last month, we need to look after one another. I thank Ed Smith for guiding me over Sonora pass to make sure I got home alright. Also thanks to my trailer buddy and longtime partner Herman Spalinger, who has looked after me numerous times. We are fortunate to have good, caring friends in our club that makes it so special.



I recently found a neat, inexpensive book called "[The Little Red Book of Flyfishing](#)". It has 250 great hints on various subjects. I recommend it! If any of you come across some good books, articles on flyfishing and related subjects, share them with us so we can learn and enjoy too.

We are looking forward to our Potluck on October 10<sup>th</sup> where we will view the recent film "[Over Troubled Waters](#)" dealing with Delta water issues. (See details as to who it is suggested to bring what food on the next page).

Our first event in October will be the [Steelhead festival](#) at UOP on Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup>. Ron Forbes has done a lot of work on this and it will prove to be a very good thing. Please pass the word along. Offer to help if possible. There won't be any power/phone lines to complicate the casting demos. Thank goodness!

Speaking of Steelhead, [Al Smatsky will lead us to the Feather River on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October](#) to feel the tug of these great fish. He will also show us how to tie steelhead flies on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Also, reports are that we have more Stripers coming into the Delta, and pretty soon we may see some salmon in the Mokelumne side of the Delta which may fall for a fly to help us in pursuit of our [Delta Challenge](#). Just watch the regs as to where one can fish!

Thanks to all who helped in the [Mokelumne River cleanup](#) earlier this month. We found some trash along the banks but overall it was pretty clean. I think Jerry and Al took a boat down river and likely found more trash there. We did see a hatch coming off about 10:00am that some fish were working. I expect they were midges. Joe and John brought their rods to fish early but found it tough. Thanks again to all who helped.

As I mentioned last month, we are now looking for volunteers to serve as Officers and Directors of our club during 2013. Please consider it seriously and give one of us a call. You won't be disappointed!

Finally, "One's first fish on a fly". I spoke with Earl Summers and he recalled having a great experience with noted mentor and "guide" Larry Schmidt on the Kelsey Ranch pond. He used -what else - but a Red Ryder to catch an awesome black bass. Well, it was awesome to Earl, though he said it was small. I understand the wind was blowing a gale, his flippers were caught in the weeds, and his new pontoon boat nearly tipped over yet he hung in there and actually landed the fish. Larry had the gaff out but didn't use it. I will be contacting each of you to tell your tale of your first fish on a fly, so be ready. Embellishments to the story are allowed!

Have a great October. Marty

## October's Events

October 7 - [Steelhead Festival - University of the Pacific](#)  
(See Ron Forbe's Conservation Report Page 5)

October 10 - [General Membership Meeting](#)  
Club potluck –

October 12 - Foothill Conservancy Benefit: [Laurie Lewis and the Right Hands](#)

October 17 - DFF Board Meeting

October 24 - [Fly of the Month Tying Session](#)  
Feather River flies: Steelhead patterns  
Instructor: Jerry Neuburger

October 27 - [Feather River Steelhead Clinic](#)  
Fish Meister: Al Smatsky

## November's Events

November 3 - Striperfest Sugar Barge, Bethel Isl.  
[www.danblanton.com](http://www.danblanton.com)

November 14 - General Membership Meeting

November 17 - Striper outing, Paradise Point Marina

November 21 - DFF Board Meeting

## December's Events

December 1 - NCCFFF Board Meeting

December 12 - General Membership Meeting  
Members Program Night

December 15 - Striper Outing, O'Neill Forebay.  
Details To be Announced

December 19 - DFF Board Meeting

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## [Stockton's Second Annual Steelhead Festival](#)

Sunday, October 7th, Friends of the Lower Calaveras River and Delta Fly Fishers will co-host the Steelhead Festival. This year's festival will be held on the University of the Pacific Campus at the DeRosa Center between 11:00AM and 4:00PM. The event will be free to the public again this year. (See more detail in Ron Forbe's Conservation Report.) Volunteers should arrive for setup at 8:00AM for our four booths at the DeRosa Center. Please wear anything you have with our Delta Fly Fishers, Inc. logo on it, a hat, shirt, T-shirt, or tattoo. Two films will be shown during the event in the Janet Leigh Theater starting at 12:00 noon.

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The Newsletter is now clickable. Thanks to a change in programs, Rx Fly Fishing can be your direct link to the entire world wide web. See something you'd like to follow, just click on the blue link and you'll be there!

## A thank you to the Mokelumne Cleanup Volunteers from Bill Ferraro

Dear Volunteers:

Thank you so much for giving your time to today to cleanup in and around the Lower Mokelumne River watershed. Let's see, a beautiful day, a gorgeous river, good people with good attitudes, and a decent meal. Hell, we could have been home mowing lawns and doing chores.

We'll let you know how much stuff we pulled off the shoreline and from the river in a few days. Meanwhile, I hope all of you felt good about today's event and I hope you will join us next year.

Special thanks to Dave Johnson from EBMUD who organizes this event all the way from Electra Road through Pardee and Camanche Reservoirs down to the Woodbridge Irrigation Dam. Thanks to sponsors and supporters: California Waste Recovery Systems, EBMUD, Lockeford Meat Service, Camanche Recreation Co., SJ County Parks, Mokelumne River Outfitters, Delta Fly Fishers, Frank & Sharon Densmore, Jackson Rancheria, Jackson Signs, & George Reed, Inc. for the T-Shirts.

*Bill Ferraro*

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## [October 24, 2012 - 6:30pm Fly of the Month Tying Session at Oak Grove Park in the Nature Center](#)

Feather River flies: egg pattern, rubber legs  
Instructor: Jerry Neuburger

A materials fee of \$3.00 will be charged for each session. The sessions are limited to 10 tiers. RSVP via the club's [Facebook Events page](#) preferred.

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## [October 27, 2012 - Feather River Steelhead Outing Location: Oroville Wildlife Area](#)

Time: 6:45 am, (sunrise 7:22 am)

We will be fishing the Oroville Wildlife Recreation Area, located a few miles south of the city of Oroville CA.

**Location and access:** On the east (Hwy. 70) side of the river an unimproved road with two access points will be found. Print the [attached map](#) and look for the two gold stars marking the access points, the north access off Pacific Heights Road and the south access directly off Hwy. 70. On the west side of the river, the Vance Avenue access (marked with a star) will take you to an unimproved road that runs from the Thermalito Afterbay Outlet to Palm Avenue (marked with a star). Along both sides of the river, you will be able to access many good steelhead runs.

If water levels on the river are high, we will be fishing the low flow section. The access



that runs from the Thermalito Afterbay Outlet to Palm Avenue (marked with a star). Along both sides of the river you will be able to access many good steelhead runs.

If water levels on the river are high, we will be fishing the low flow section. The access point for this area is off of Oro Dam Boulevard (Hwy. 162). Again, see the star on the [attached map](#) on Hwy. 162 just to the left of its intersection with Hwy. 70.

Rendezvous location and start time: We will have a rendezvous location at the start of the outing to be determined when closer to the outing date. The location will depend on the current flows. The rendezvous location will be posted on the website, on the club's Facebook page or you can drop by the Wednesday night fly tying session at Oak Grove Park on the 24th for the latest info and more detailed instructions. I'll give my cell phone out at the G meeting and at the fly tying session for those that might need last-minute instructions finding the meeting location.

NOTE the early start time, 6:45am. Steelhead fish best early in the day.

It is an easy drive from the Stockton area but allow at least 2 hours. We do recommend carpooling.

**Details:** The Feather River typically has a very good steelhead run beginning in September and continuing through December. It is quite possible to fish for steelhead on the Feather River until March. Most of the steelhead will be in the 3 to 7 pound range but there are steelhead in excess of 10 pounds in the system. Because of the river's popularity, it can be very crowded.

During the fall, the steelhead will be sitting behind the salmon beds waiting for their next meal. Egg pattern type flies are an excellent choice for this time of the year. When the salmon leave the system, the steelhead will be feeding on caddis and mayflies.

Fly Rod – 6-8 wt. 9' or longer.

Lines - Primarily Floating line

Leader, Tippet, Indicators – 9' 2X, extra tippet 1x to 3x, your favorite type indicator, split shot BB, B, 3/0.

Flies – Glo bugs in peachy pink, champagne, orange size 6 & 8; prince, hare's ear type nymphs size 10-14.



*A good selection*

(You can find some tying instructions on the website by visiting the club's [December 2011 Fly of the Month](#) page or, even better, attending Al's Fly of the Month tying session, Wednesday, October 24th at 6:30, Oak Grove Park.)

Waders – a must, dress appropriately for the conditions.

For those that would like to make a weekend of it, here is

Camping and RV Parks: A number of RV parks are located in the Oroville area. In looking online at RV Parks Review the best bargain for the money appears to be:

[River Reflections RV Park and Resort](#), located off Hwy. 70 between the north and south access roads to the river. Rates: \$25 tent, \$35-45 RV, \$95 for cabin (sleeps 5-6). AAA and AARP discounts. No internet or cable available.

A second but equal choice would be:

[River One RV Park](#) located on Oroville Dam Blvd, (Hwy. 162) just west of the river. Rates: \$35 RV. No discounts listed. No internet. Basic cable.

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## What to bring to the October 10th potluck!

Yes, this year, dinner and a movie!

A-D Main Coarse;

E-G Dinner rolls, bread;

H-K Salads;

L-N Desserts;

O-R Cold drinks, ice, cups;

S-Z Hot veggie plate.

The potluck will be held at the [John R. Williams School](#), where we hold our regular general membership meetings. Traditionally, this meeting has started a little earlier, 6:30pm rather than the 7:00pm starting time.

An added bonus this year will be the viewing of "[Over Troubled Waters](#)," the 45-minute documentary on the plight of the Delta produced by the folks at *Restore the Delta* narrated by Ed Begley Jr.

Please plan to stick around and watch this important movie about the assault on our local fisheries by those more interested in greed and profit rather than the environment and the Public Trust.

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## MEMBERSHIP by *Bob Fujimura*

One month into the new membership year and about 54 % of our current members have renewed their memberships. *The Board of Directors and Committee Chairs greatly appreciate and thank these member's support by promptly paying their duties.* If you haven't done so already, please take the time to mail your dues to either Bob Fujimura at PO Box 1562, Lodi, CA 95241-1562 or Treasurer John Keagy at the next club meeting or activity. No renewal form is necessary if your contact information or your membership status has not change in the last year. Annual dues are: Regular Individual = \$30, Family = \$35 and

## MEMBERSHIP (Continued)

membership status has not changed in the last year. Annual dues are: Regular Individual = \$30, Family = \$35 and Senior Individual = \$25.

If you need any renewal or new membership forms, you can download them from our [Internet web site](#). If you have any questions about your membership renewal, please contact me by [e-mail](#) or by phone at 339-0683. Hope to see you all at the next club event or out on the water.



## New Member Highlights

By Bob Fujimura

One of our newest members is Steve Specht of Lodi. Steve is a recently retired captain of the Stockton Fire Department and is an avid outdoor sports enthusiast. Steve just joined the club last month and participated in our recent Bridgeport/Crowley Lake outing. Here is a photo of Steve's first catch of a wild trout using a dry fly from the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River. He made it look easy for his first time and was very proud of his accomplishment.



## Bob Fujimura, Rick Greene, and Larry Schmidt earn their Delta Challenge Certificates



Rick Green is presented his Delta Challenge certificate by Bob Fujimura.

September - Stockton, CA -- Three more Delta Fly Fishers were presented Delta Challenge Certificates at the club's September membership meeting. They join Joe Balderston and Jim Rich, previous certificate holders, on the Delta Challenge Honor Roll.

The Delta Challenge is an award sponsored by the Delta Fly Fishers and can be earned by any angler willing to take the time and learn the skills to catch six different species of fish within the boundaries of the delta on a fly. More information on the Delta Challenge, including a boundary map, brochure and application, can be found on this website under the [Delta Challenge](#) tab.



Larry Schmidt receives his certificate from President Marty Kjelson.

Marty Kjelson presents Bob Fujimura with his Delta Challenge certificate.

## CONSERVATION

*"There's more B.S. in fly fishing than there is in a Kansas feedlot."*

----- Lefty Kreh

## From non-issue to major issue in one day ...



By Ron Forbes  
Conservation Chair

Two months ago I got a telephone call from my son as he was driving home from work. Mark lives in Los Angeles and the freeway had turned into a parking lot. To pass the time he turned on the radio to listen to a popular talk show whose host was interviewing an official from LA's Metropolitan Water District. The topic was why LA and the other cities in the southland need to support the building of the peripheral canal/tunnels. As the conversation went on, the host inquired how much this project would cost and how much more water LA would be getting from the project. The district official didn't answer the question and evaded a direct answer. When the show's host pinned him down he finally admitted the southland will not be getting an increase in the amount of water it receives. After the interview was over the phone board lit up. People were furious that it will cost them \$17 billion (not including debt service) for no gain in the amount of water received. What really enraged them was that the south San Joaquin Valley corporate agribusiness giants would be getting 75% of the water but will only pay for 25% of the project.

For most of my son's life I have been telling him of the serious issues we have in the Delta. Since he has moved to LA, he, like many others in Southern California, have no interest in what is happening in the Delta or with California's water issues. It's a non-issue with them. However, because of that talk show and others, water issues have gone from being a non-issue to a major issue in southern California. When I told my son that his water bills will double or triple for the next two-three generations if a tunnel is built, he was very upset. Actually, Westlands et.al.

produce less than 1/2 of 1% of California's economy but will put the southern Californians in debt for at least two generations. The only economic gain will be for the south valley's corporate agribusiness profit margin at, once again, the expense of the population of the state. This is a just another example of the south valley's corporate agribusiness greed. They want to again make money at someone else's expense.

In reading about the issues of a peripheral canal/tunnel and talking with people like Bill Jennings, and reading a recent article by Jennings in the Capitol Weekly, I have begun to realize that a canal/tunnel has huge mountains to climb before it can be started. Some of the problems the project faces are: water rights ownership, serious right-of-way emanate domain issues, damage to the Delta's infrastructure (especially for cities like Stockton), violation of California's Clean Water Act, the failure of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, catastrophic violations of the Environmental Protection Act, the loss of our \$1.3 billion per year salmon industry - and the list goes on.

However, nothing should surprise us when dealing with Gov. Brown and the present group of politicians in Sacramento. In the middle of August, Gov. Brown and his contemporaries "suspended" the Brown Act for three years. The Brown Act was put into law to require transparency in state, county, and local governments including school boards. It was designed so decision-making groups were open to public scrutiny. Under the Brown Act, these agencies must post an agenda no less than 72 hours prior to a meeting. The public must be allowed to comment and to have access to all documents. Under Brown's suspension, the legislature can put items on an agenda without public notice, discuss the issues without public input, vote on the issues, and not have to provide public access to documents. All of these procedures can now be behind closed doors without any public access. Even though the state has not funded the Brown Act for three years, it claims this is a way to save money. It is in fact just another way for Gov. Brown and other legislators to hide behind closed doors. One can only imagine what Brown and his contemporaries will try to slip by us without our knowledge. Fortunately, however, several groups are seeking injunctions to declare Brown's action unconstitutional.

### [Stockton's Second Annual Steelhead Festival](#)

On Sunday, October 7th, Friends of the Lower Calaveras River and Delta Fly Fishers will co-host the Steelhead Festival. This year's festival will be held on the University of the Pacific Campus at the DeRosa Center between 11AM and 4PM. The event will be free to the public again this year.

This year's event includes:

- Live music. The Conservation Film Festival:
- Environmental/Conservation/Fisheries booths.
- Restore the Delta's film "[Over Troubled Water](#)" and another, "[Rivers of A Lost Coast](#)"
- Fly Casting-Fly Tying Demonstrations.

- Fine Arts Clear Cut Nation
- A 5K Run
- The Foothill Conservancy's Mokelumne River Wild and Scenic Status
- Children's Arts and Crafts
- KVIE's Salmon Restoration Video
- A Live Trout Tank
- Food by Bon Appetit
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The films will start at 12:00 in the Janet Leigh Theater

The Delta Fly Fishers will host four booths this year. One booth will host information on who we are and what we do as a club, a video loop, pictures of past outings and membership applications. The second booth will be co-hosted by Herm Spalinger carving fish and information on our Delta Challenge (hopefully with Challenge winners present with their awards to answer questions). The third table will be demonstrations of fly tying, and the fourth will demonstrate boxes showing different types of flies. Jim Rich and Rick Greene have again volunteered to host the fly casting/teaching demonstrations. Last year their demonstrations were a hit and the best attended attraction at the festival.

Last year we received a lot of positive feed-back for our participation in the Steelhead Festival. This year, because of the location at UOP, our image can be enhanced. To let people know who we are, all members are being asked to wear clothing, hats, vest etc. with the Delta Fly Fishers logo. They were well-noticed at last year's festival and we got a lot of very positive comments.

If you haven't already signed up to help, please call me at 209-368-5768. The more volunteers the better! Setup will be at 8:00 Sunday morning at the De Rosa Center. UOP is furnishing the tables and chairs but we need to bring awnings if we want them.

Let's have another outstanding festival this year. It's our club's chance to shine!

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### *Eastern Sierra Focus*

By CJ Webb

I plan my fishing day around insect activity and fish all stages of the mayfly, which is the predominant hatch at high elevation lakes in the Western US, the Blue Wing Olive Mayfly, a common early season hatch and common name for a great number of mayfly species. On any stream anytime there is a need to carry some type of BWOs in your fly box. In general, the dun has a medium to dark gray (blue dun)



tail and wings and an olive to olive brown body. The nymph has a rusty brown to dark brown body (cowdung nymph) with matching tails and legs. The spinners range across from medium to dark rusty brown or olive with clear or light gray wings. Common hook sizes range from 14-18, but can run as tiny as size 26 - that's tiny for these eyes - but you know I will do it to catch those elusive backcountry beauties. Did several back country lakes with huge brooks.

#### Weather Conditions

Slight thunderstorms hit the Sierra late August after two weeks of mild temperatures, and cold-catching symptoms hit many of us during the weather change. Aspens got hit and they are turning yellow from 9500 feet down to 8100 feet and will be going into full yellow within days. Warm weather has been a mainstay in the Sierra this summer, and reports of an El Nino for this winter. Paiute "sign" predicts that we are in for a good winter. Aspens will change radically and it's been windy.

#### Legislation - SB 1148

The California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision (CFWSV) developed the Strategic Vision with the final document rendering SB 1148 which is approximately 40 pages with 6 revisions and it has many key issues including implicit price deflator for hunting and fishing licenses, setting base fees for licenses and MLPA regulation and also boosting the dollars from HIFF (AB 7-2005) for the wild and heritage trout programs giving them priority over the hatchery programs. These "tag-along bills" are not all good for the well-being of the general angling public. **If this passes, everyone will be scratching their head and wondering what happened.**

More info available at [www.vision.ca.gov](http://www.vision.ca.gov) or [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201120120SB1148](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201120120SB1148) (get the final "6 times revised" copy)

ROCK CREEK LAKE has been good, and fish are hitting a variety of wooly buggers and Loebergs with an olive bird's nest as the dropper, also Crystal Humpy #16, and Taylor's Fat Albert #14. Mosquito Flats is low but running clear with mostly small trout but great fun. Heart Lake has a big brown cruising.

CROWLEY LAKE continues to drop at about 6 inches/day, but fishing is still good. Water temps on the bottom are colder away from inlets improving fishing in a wider area. Water is clearer than it was and fish are holding in about 7-9 feet up Green Banks, Six Bays and Leighton. Indicators will improve your bite but stripping is the best. Try extended body BWO as callibaetis imitation among weeds near Owens mouth. Nymphs: try bright red blood worms or albino Barons. Try Copper Tiger Big or Beaded Red/black Optimidge mid-morning and beaded Gray/Black Optimidge w/green flashback 316 or Shaft emerger large in bright sun overhead. Try Ultimate Damsel, Jensen's Callibaetis as top fly. Streamers working it are Rickard's AP emerger, small punk perch rust or olive, Doc's TL Special in cinnamon #12 early.

UPPER OWENS water conditions are around 64cfs. Mud

snails are everywhere so clean all your gear with care and help prevent the spread. Nymphing with attractors and a fair amount of weight is the best method. Try Stimulators, Para Caddis #18, Elk hair Caddis #16-18, Missing Link (Mercer's) and Griffith's Gnats in #20. Nymphs working are olive bird's nest, zebra midge #16-18, copper zebra midge Tungsten Zebra midge #18-20, reddish/brown San Juan worm and Prince #14-18

CONVICT LAKE has been producing well with Alpers taking wooly buggers in black and burgundy #6 or 8 off their best.

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN water is clear with cooling and overnight lows in the upper 30s. Fishing has been great since the temperatures have lowered; watch for fish at inlets and outlets actively feeding. Patterns working are Griffith's Gnat #20-22, parachute Adams #20, Brook's sprout midge #20-22, and flying ant's sizes 16 to 18. Nymphs: Black zebra midge #20-22, Copper John #16-18, Olive Bird's nest #18, Hare's Ear, Pheasant Tail and Callibaetis nymphs. Streamers: Doc Randol's Twin Lakes Special in black or olive size 10-12, Rickard's seal bugger, and olive Matukas; Trail your streamers with a nymph (bird's nest, hare's ear or pheasant tail).

HOT CREEK – Water and fishing conditions are good with a 16cfs. DRAG FREE drift is essential or take lessons. The Hopper window is shorter due to the temps but a nice evening Caddis hatch and they'll be easy to see, just watch for bugs with SOS flags trying to stay afloat. Try small dry parachutes, CDC Trico, Profile Baetis, Brook's HC Caddis, Para Kicking Hopper, Fat Albert #10 and Chernobyl Ant. Still some Tricos early and this could change with the cooler temperatures. New Zealand Mud Snails are still around so it's imperative that fly fishers help prevent the spread by NOT WADING in Hot Creek.

SAN JOAQUIN – Water bottomed out at 12cfs and is clear and cold. There are a lot of wild fish and holdovers concentrated in pools so do a bit of walking and catch some nice wild trout. Flies working are Royal Wulff #14-18, Stimulator's #14-16, Yellow humpy #16-18, Chernobyl Ant #12, parachute Adams #16, and Elk hair caddis #16-18. Nymphs are sizes 18-20, copper John (red and green), BH copper micro mayfly, prince nymph and bird's nest. Streamers, black Twin lakes special #10, #10 Crystal bugger, slump buster olive/brown #10-12 and Muddler Minnow #10-12. **Shuttle may or may not be running.**

JUNE LOOP – has been doing great on black, and olive woolies, grey ghosts, and spruce flies. Also, Silver Lake has been stocking Alpers so try some top water dries near Rush Creek for best results. Give rush Creek a shot just off the north loop road.

LUNDY LAKE has been great but some tapering since the lake level has dropped due to demand on water elsewhere.

VIRGINIA LAKES has been good most of the summer Twin Lakes specials, olive crystal buggers with emerging caddis. Emerging midges are working very well under any peacock body streamer. Use Tentwing

Caddis size 14, grey Hackle Peacock, and Para-Adams #14-16. As the temps return to last week's, the flying ants and hoppers will take some nice natives. Blue damsels returned early today and are cruising the tops of the willows around the lake. Rickard's AP emerger, seal buggers, Hornbergs, and Cowdung are all taking hits like a pro.

**EAST WALKER** – Current flow is **123cfs** but fluctuating daily (cubic foot per second) and is fishing fairly well. Nymphing has been the best producer but there is still some hot dry fly action as well. Patterns to try are Rainbow Warrior, Copper John, Flashback emerger, Zebra midge BH swimming caddis, wooly bugger, Para Adams and E/C Caddis. Water temp is in the mid to high 60's depending on the time of day. Evening temps are dropping nicely as the sun goes down keeping the browns comfortable. Trico spinner #20-22, Organza Trico #20-22, Griffiths Gnat 318-20, Yellow Humpy 318, Brook's CDC Baetis Emerger #20-22, spent Partridge Caddis #18, Para olive caddis #18, and Taylor's Fat Albert #10-12. Take care in handling trout when returning them to the water. They deserve the best.

**WEST WALKER** – Water is thin 27cfs, and catching is good only in pools. Try a large attractor/indicator and tiger, crystal or flashback Zug as the bottom fly (dry-dropper). Terrestrials are still around so try black ants, and hoppers with a dirty brown outer body. Hoppers are small so don't try and hit the fish a gargantuan leggy "thing". Be slight in your presentation and have a lot of fun and stealth is the word!

See you on the water! CJ (12.9)

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### The Bridgeport/Mammoth Outing: nothing left but the memories

September 24, 2012, Convict Lake, CA --The year's biggest and longest outing is almost in the books. It started sometime around Sunday, September 16th with Don Gillett and friend Sam arriving at Robinson Creek campground. The two were soon joined by other DFF members, the numbers swelling as the week went on, reaching over two dozen at the Saturday night barbecue and potluck. One member, Cal Fujimura, Bob's brother came all the way from San Diego just to join the fun.

Fishing was typical of the Eastern Sierras at this time of year with some days being dynamite and others giving up just a few fish per rod. Upper and Lower Twin Lakes, Robinson Creek, Upper and Lower Virginia, Kirman, and the East



Walker were all worked over by new and veteran club members. Jason Stapleton, John Highsmith and Charlie Reames hiked into Kirmin and were rewarded with brook trout to 18 inches. President Marty, Bob Fujimura and brother Calvin fished the East Walker and landed some

trophy browns. The rest of the crew were content to commute between the four lakes, Upper and Lower Twin and Upper and Lower Virginia, catching lots of fish some days and being snubbed by some temperamental fish on others. Jim Rich was giving lessons at Upper Twin to those who had forgotten how to strip properly for trout, correcting one person in particular who was using a delta striper strip, just a little too quick for the Sierras.

When Saturday rolled around everyone got ready for the big barbecue and pot luck. If one were to peek into the different camps one could see chefs at work, each preparing some special dish, and not just the standard bean casserole, some, like Jim Rich reached back to some southern roots and prepared fried Okra while others, like the editor, chose the easy route and made a simple dish like macaroni salad.

As the sun dropped below the horizon the four portable barbecues were fired up and various cuts of meat thrown on. All except for one person, unnamed, who burned two veggie patties. The rest

of the crew seared chicken breasts, pork chops, T-bones and various sausages. The after dinner treats included a to die for chocolate cake baked by Don Gillett's friend Sam, that doubled as a birthday cake for Earl Summers, who's birthday was that night and Don Gillett's whose birthday was the following day. Both were well over 21!



Sunday was pull out day for most of the group but a smaller contingent headed down to Mammoth Lakes to fish those legendary waters. The plan was to meet at Brown's Upper



Owens Campground but when the author arrived Sunday about noon he found the store closed and only one employee. The employee stated that the owner had decided to close up a week early since business was slow. Even though it was explained that at least four other campers were coming, it was to no avail, the employee said his boss was not

around and he was told that this Sunday was his last day on the job. He was shutting everything down for the winter.

Wow, what a monkey wrench! I drove back out to the intersection of the access road to the campground and waited until others in the club showed up. Herman Spalinger, Ed Smith and Charlie Reames arrived shortly and plans were quickly changed to camp at the [Forest Service Campground at Convict Lake](#), three miles away. Actually, after seeing the facilities at Brown's Upper Owens Campground, the group figured they weren't missing much. After setting up camp, the four headed to the Upper Owens to fish. The wind was howling but Charlie Reames found a way to catch a couple of small browns.

The next morning the crew decided to give Crowley a try, with no real concrete information on where to fish or what patterns to use. Using a map of the lake, the four headed off on dirt roads to a point on the west side, finding enough hard ground to drive close to the water. Jerry and Charlie caught fish, Herman LDRed a few and Ed Smith stuck a really big fish while kayaking but lost it after a series of jumps. The best part of the the experience was that the "hot" fly was the fly that was tied in Joe Balderston's fly tying class, [Doc's Twin Lake Special](#).

In the mean time, Bob and Jean Fujimura headed down to Mammoth with new member Steve Specht on Monday morning. Not finding the rest of the crew, they fished Rush Creek and went into Mammoth for lodging with Steve setting up in the Mammoth Lakes RV Park.

For a little more of what happened on the outing read, ["Strange Encounters of the Fly Fishing Kind"](#), a description of an encounter I had on Tuesday morning. Most of the crew headed home Tuesday morning, while Bob, Jean and Steve were staying around to fish one or two more days. If you want to know the final details, you'll have to ask them for, "The rest of the story."

—o0o—

### Land of the Giant Brookies

By Jason Stapleton

It was still dark when I heard John rustling around in the tent, getting ready for the day's fishing adventure. I wasn't surprised it was still dark, as it was 4:45am, but the darkness didn't make it any easier to crawl out of my warm sleeping bag. I didn't want to get up, but I still had some packing to do and we didn't want to keep Charlie waiting. Besides, we were headed for Kirman Lake, the land of the giant brook trout. So I rolled out of my bag, threw on a jacket and got started.

At 6:00am we met Charlie at the Shell station in Bridgeport and headed north on Hwy 395. It only took about 30 minutes to reach the trailhead off Hwy 108 and in no time we were each loaded down and ready to hike. We knew that reaching Kirman Lake required a 3 mile hike with an elevation gain of about 500ft, and because 95% of the lake is thick with reeds and tules, we were going to need float tubes to fish it effectively. We each had a different method of transporting our tubes; mine was tightly folded and stuffed into a large backpack with my pump, fins and waders. John was wearing his tube as a backpack, fully inflated with his gear strapped to the outside. Charlie had chosen to strap all his equipment to a hand truck and pull it behind him as he walked.

Our first obstacle was two barbed wire fences. John and I crawled over the orange access ladders, helped Charlie pass his hand truck through the fence and then walked towards a large herd of cattle. The cows were kicking up quite a dust storm and mooing insistently, apparently believing we were there to feed them. Maybe Charlie's hand truck looked like a bale of alfalfa.

Once we left the cows behind we walked briskly, enjoying the cool air and scenery in the early morning light, excited to reach the lake and see if what we had read was true.

Since the trail is really an access road, the hiking was fairly



easy and after an hour and fifteen minutes and one good sized hill we reached Kirman and got our first look at the lake. There were quite a few American Coots paddling around, quacking and diving for food. Each dive and splash caused me to whip my head

around, stare at the lake and wonder: Coot or Fish? While gearing up, it became apparent that some of the splashes were fish feeding on the surface, although we couldn't tell what they were eating.

Just like normal, John was on the water first, looking to cash in on our bet and earn 25 cents for catching the first fish of the day. While Charlie was still getting ready, I hit the water and began working the south shore with a small black wooly bugger, while John made his way along the east shore. Although I was on the water before John could catch a fish, it wasn't long until I heard the all too familiar "Here we go!" and looked over to see John's rod bent towards the water. Ten minutes on the water and one "I'm gonna need a bigger net" from John and we had our first fish, a nice fat 15" Brook Trout. Or at least that's what John says, he was quite a distance away and I couldn't really see anything..... it could have been a small duck for all I know.

Just before Charlie got on the water, I had a solid take and set the hook on something that felt good sized. The take wasn't a "bump-bump-bump"; it was "WHAM" and fish on! I'd like to say that hooked the fish with a well-executed strip set, but it happened so quickly

I don't remember anything other than my fly rod going "bendo" and letting out a quiet "Woo Hoo!" under my breath..... after all, there was no need to alert John and Charlie until I had the fish safely in my net.

After a solid fight, I got the fish to the surface and discovered two things; these fish really don't like the sight of a net, and John was correct that a larger net would have indeed been handy. I finally netted my football shaped prize, and thought: "There's so much food here the fish can't grow quickly enough to keep up with their food intake..... they just get fatter".

It had only been fifteen minutes and John and I had both caught nice fish and Charlie was hollering from the bank that we should "save some fish for him". Based on our start, we were looking forward to an amazing day of fishing.

I quickly caught another 16" beauty, but as often happens, the fishing slowed considerably and only one other fish was caught by lunchtime.

After lunch, while kicking out from shore I looked over the side of my tube and noticed a



school of 10-15 good sized fish, not four feet below me, milling around over a bare patch of lake bottom. They saw me and began to scatter but it was too late, they had given it away and I knew for sure there were more than four fish in the lake. But what were they doing and why wouldn't they bite? Brook trout spawn in the fall and don't always need moving water; did they have romance on their mind? Did we catch our first fish just because it was morning and now the fish had run for the depths? Some fish were still feeding on top, but not consistently, and we never did get a take from the surface. I changed lines several times; floating/intermediate/floating/intermediate, and flies many more times than that. Several more hours passed and I hadn't had so much as a bump. Nothing for John or Charlie either. Discouraged, but not beaten, we kicked around the lake fishing, hoping for a turn around and enjoying the scenery.



Around 2:30 or 3:00, some clouds moved in and a slight breeze kicked up. At the same time, John switched flies and tied on a black "Sparkle Johnny" streamer that he had fished earlier in the day. Once again, I heard "Here we go!" and John

was hooked into another fish. After a couple more fish a very short span, I too switched flies to something similar to John's.....Game On!

By the time we quit fishing at 4:00pm, I had caught a total of six fish, all 15" to 16" long and thick! The bite had definitely picked up, although we're not exactly sure why. Had the clouds and breeze given the fish enough cover to be confident about coming out and feed? Was it the approach of evening? If I had stayed with the olive Wooly Bugger I was fishing would I have still caught fish, or was it the "Sparkle Johnny"? Maybe it was a combination of everything. I suppose one key to our success was that we continued to try different things. But more importantly, we just kept fishing until things turned around.

The fishing had definitely gotten better and I could have kept at it for a couple more hours, but we still had to pack up and hike 3 miles back to the trailhead, so I reluctantly kicked into shore, casting and fishing the whole way. Once on shore we packed our gear, changed our clothes and hit the trail. The hike out was



uneventful except for a juvenile rattlesnake that we saw on the trail. The walk out was a bit easier since it was downhill, but we were tired and seemed longer than it really was. I distracted myself with the scenery and looking at the clouds and rain we could see in the distance and before I knew it, we were back at the car. It had been a sweaty hike in, so after a quick stop at camp we drove down to use the pay showers before coming back to cook dinner by headlamp in the dark. Bacon-Jalapeno-Cheeseburgers

never tasted so good! After dinner we regaled our fellow DFF'ers with fantastical tales about "The Land of the Giant Brookies" before flopping into the tent, exhausted but happy.



Overall, we had a fantastic trip, despite the slow fishing during the middle of the day. I can neither confirm, nor deny that John caught more fish than I did. I am also unable to confirm exactly how many fish Charlie caught, or that one of John's fish was 17" long. As I said before, it's a good sized lake and I couldn't always see what they were doing. However, I can tell you this much: I'm looking forward to fishing Kirman again next year during the DFF Bridgeport trip, provided I can wait that long. Who's with me?!?!

—o0o—



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