

Delta Fly Fishers

June 2010

Rx

Flyfishing

President's Message by Stephen Johnson (the top dog in camp)

June, 2010

Man what a month does for my attitude. Remember last month's trip to Oregon, rain, rain and more rain. Well this last week same damn thing rain and sleet...only difference I fished anyway. Stoneflies hatch in the rain, Stoneflies fly in the rain and trout eat Stoneflies in the rain...so we went and man did we catch fish. On Monday Dave Roberts and I floated the Rogue...60+ fish between us, averaging 14 to 18 inches. Tuesday was even better, we waded several sections on the Rogue as the flows are down to 1800cfs... perfect, 90 some odd rainbow and wild native cutthroats some as large as 21 inches, no wind, just right for 4 and 5wt bamboo rods.... sweeeeeeet.

Stopped at the upper Sac on the way home and the late season rains have pretty much blown the 'ole girl out, going to be awhile before its fishable.

Big club Barbeque coming, June 9th at Oak Grove Park. Club supplies the steaks and we (members) bring the rest. See list at bottom of page for what you're supposed to bring. Bill Laughlin again has put together a great raffle so come one, come all we are going to have some fun and eat some fabulous food.

Also next week is our catfish derby at Oak Grove...June 5th, if you can lend a hand come on out...watching the kid's fish is always a lot of fun.

Damn mutts been in my books and magazines again and has a couple of suggestions for you. First from a friend and bamboo rod maker Robert Nunley one of the funniest books I have ever read..."The Snake Rod" a collection of TRUE stories about Bob and his friends, Second Inventing Montana by Ted Leesom.

Also Kate wants to share some new information she is particularly happy about...ISE cancels San Mateo Expo, so local fly shop fires up own fly fishing show: <http://bit.ly/8ZIBHY> #

Ok, it's done and up and running...Delta Fly Fishers new web site...check it out and PLEASE offer any suggestion for additions and deletions you can. Our new web master has several things to change (he expected to), but had to get the site up and running so it can be find tuned...so any input you have for YOUR site would be appreciated. Thanks Harold, nice work.

Hope to see ya at the Catfish Derby and the cookout...if not, maybe on a river.

Barbeque list: A-D Salads, E-G Deserts, H-K Hot or Cold Vegetable Dish, L-N Cold Drinks, O-R Hot Main dish (casseroles, etc.), S-Z bread and or dinner Rolls and Butter.

Stephen Johnson and Kate (the four footed fish finder and snake charmer)

DFF MENTOR PROGRAM

The Delta Fly Fishers Board of Directors, intent upon enhancing the existing Fishing Buddy Program, is proposing DFF adopt a Mentor Program which is proactive and broadly inclusive. The primary objective is, by sharing fly fishing skills and knowledge of existing DFF members with new members, this will assist new members in getting acquainted with existing members, with club activities and, generally speed the transition from new member to old friend.

The Board of Directors recognizes this will take considerable commitment from the existing membership and does encourage the active participation of current members. The following broad guidelines are thought to be necessary for this program.

- Every existing member willing to serve, as a Mentor will be asked to complete a skills/knowledge list that they will share with new members as requested. The Mentor Program Chairperson will maintain these documents.
- Every new member will be asked to complete a skills/knowledge request form, which the Mentor Program Chair will also maintain.
- The Mentor Program Chair will introduce any and all new members before the General Program begins and will make an effort to introduce the new members to DFF Officers and Board Members.
- Under consideration is the additional incentive for new members of some free raffle tickets.
- The Mentor Program Chair will follow up on matching a Mentor with a new member based on skills/knowledge sought and skills/knowledge available. The mentor and new member will work out a compatible schedule by which to transfer skills/knowledge. The Mentor Program Chair as needed can make reassignments.
- Examples of mentoring include such things as guiding a new member on local waters within a few months of assignment, accompany the new member to a local fly shop to assist with gear purchases, contact the new member a few days before each monthly meeting to remind the new member of the meeting and program, assisting with casting skills, how to tie useful knots and/or fly tying, sharing information regarding fly fishing destinations including basic travel tips and promoting new members to join DFF in its outings

Over time the Mentor Program may be extended to include existing members who want to learn new skills/knowledge.

Fishing Mentor Request	
NAME	_____
DATE	_____
PHONE CONTACTS: (1)	_____
(2)	_____
The best time to contact me is	_____
My E-mail address is:	_____
I WOULD LIKE A FISHING MENTOR TO HELP ME WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Casting	<input type="checkbox"/> Fly Tying
<input type="checkbox"/> Attending Outings	<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment
<input type="checkbox"/> Knot Tying	<input type="checkbox"/> Float Tubing
<input type="checkbox"/> Pontoon Boating	<input type="checkbox"/> Stream Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Trout Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Steelhead Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Shad Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Bass Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Striper Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Salt Water Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Water Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Rod Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Selecting a Guide
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Entomology
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	_____
Please describe what you would like help with _____	
If you need further information, please contact the Fishing Mentor Chairman:	
Steve Cooper, 956-1032 or e-mail @ repuoc3@sbcglobal.net	
Mail the form to:	
Delta Fly Fishers	
P.O. Box 77862	
Stockton, CA 95207	



Robert Nakagawa, proprietor
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Wednesday Night Casting & Fly Tying



The weekly Wednesday evening fly casting sessions will continue through the Spring, Summer and Fall. Meet at the Nature Center, in the Oak Grove Park, at 6:30. The exception is the 2nd Wednesday night when DFF has its monthly meeting.

Whether you are a novice and want tips on how to cast or an expert that wants an excuse to get out of the house, then come out for the camaraderie of other members. This is an excellent chance improve your fly Casting and/or BS abilities. For more information contact Jim Rich at 477-6404.

There also will be opportunities for fly tying. For more information contact Joe Balderston at 474-8515.

Membership Form

Regular membership – \$30*

Family Membership – \$35*

62 years or older – \$25.00*

*New members please add \$5.00 Initiation Fee

Dues are for one year, from September 1 to August 31 Please fill out then mail to:

Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862, Stockton, CA 95207

Check one:

New membership _____ Renew membership _____

Regular Membership:

One year \$30.00 _____

Senior (62+) \$25.00 _____

Family Membership:

One year \$35.00 _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ - _____

Cell (____) _____ - _____

Work (____) _____ - _____

E-Mail Address _____

I would like to be on the _____ committee

Please renew your membership, if you have not done so. If you are not sure, check the mailing label for your current status. If there is any questions or problems please contact: Bob Fujimura at 209-948-7097 or e-mail at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com.

Membership

It is almost that time of year again, the most important time of the year. Not the opening of trout season. But, it's almost time to pay your annual membership dues. DFF relies on your dues as a major portion of its operating budget. So save DFF some money and use the Dues form and send your hard earned money to Bob Fujimura at Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862, Stockton, CA 95207

Also we would like to welcome our newest members:

Richard Abood
Daniel Carbajal
Clifford Chow
Dena Mason
John Trede
Romeo Cuerpo
Mike Lescisin
Dave Read
Peter Tax

If you are new to fly fishing, or would just like to increase your expertise, use the DFF Mentor Program. DFF has several very talented and knowledgeable members that would just love to help you.

Again welcome to the Delta Fly Fishers!



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Citrus Heights, CA 95621

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(916) 962-0616 O
(916) 601-7853 C

Conservation

by Ron Forbes

U.S. District Judge Oliver Wanger has lifted Federal pumping limits in the south San Joaquin Valley for corporate agribusiness at the expense of salmon and the Delta environment. These salmon are now migrating out to sea from the Sacramento River's fall run. There will be far less water for the salmon at a critical time in their migration but more water for Westland and other water agencies. What this means is that water agencies will take more water for the next 3 weeks than they would have under previous rulings. And just at a critical time for the salmon migration. Wanger struck down a ruling that limited pumping to the end of May and another ruling that restricted pumping till June 15th.

In an article in the Contra Costa Times it was noted that Judge Wanger invalidated the Delta pumping permits in 2007 and 2008 saying the Delta pumps operated even when they killed endangered fish. However on May 25th he ruled that the permits contained "insufficient scientific justification for the limits it placed on Delta pumps." The Natural Resources Defense Council's (NRDC) attorney commented that Wanger's decision has put us in the same position that got us into the problem in the first place. That puts it in perspective. Unfortunately Wanger is expected to rule on the permit to protect the Delta smelt in the near future. It will be interesting to see how he decides that case.

The water groups said that the federal agencies didn't do an analysis of alternatives to restrictions under the Environmental Policy Act. Although this type of review is not usually done, Wanger said that in this case an analysis was required to balance protection of endangered fish with economic need. If Wanger continues that line of thinking in his court so much for the Environmental Species Act. It will be dead. Given his logic those with the most money will win and the endangered species will lose. We will lose two salmon runs, Green sturgeon, our Steelhead and Killer whales. One has to be concerned about Judge Wanger's logic.

This week has been interesting in the ongoing Water Wars. Monday, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's budget proposal included \$1.8 billion from the \$11.1 billion water bond yet to be voted on. In other words it's in the budget even though the State may never get the money. Even Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto) who helped the governor railroad the bill through the legislature to get it on the ballot is perplexed by Schwarzenegger's strange move. His concern is shared by those on both side of the aisle. Sen. Lois Wolk (D-Davis) has referred to the governor's move as an incredible gimmick. Simitian and Wolk are on opposite sides of the fence on Delta issues but agree on this issue. Hopefully the bond won't pass and if it doesn't the governor's ploy will seriously hurt the general fund. Simitian worries that the money would be spent even though there would be no bond money to pay for it.

As you may recall, several months ago I briefly discussed why the water bond package would be a disaster. There are some good parts to the bill but unfortunately too many bad parts. The bill would be a disaster in many ways to our Delta. It also contains \$2 billion in pure pork for our legislatures. The pork

was included just to get some in the legislature to support the package. This week several articles on the water bond were reported in the San Francisco Chronicle. One that really was an eye opener was about the water bond package. It didn't talk about the water issues pro or con. It talked about the bond as an economic disaster and why we should defeat it. These are some of the problems facing us. The bond is \$11.1 billion, but with California's poor credit rating its will ultimately cost us \$22 billion when high interest rates are included. The Governor has said that our budget deficit will be \$41.8 billion the end of the budget year. As a State we owe \$8.8 billion in short-term loans due June of this year. At this point California now has the lowest credit rating of any state in the Union. According to the California Legislative Analysis Office (LAO) our debit service will be 9% of the general fund by the end of 2014-2015. The state's Treasurer has estimated it to be 10% during that period. In the month of October 2009 the LAO said that as a state we have \$66.5 billion in outstanding general fund debt and have over \$64 billion in unissued general fund bonds.

Given the fact we can't educated our children, provide needed services, maintain the state's infrastructure or maintain and protect our environment, why would we want incur even more debt. To pay out 9 or 10% of the state's income in debit service is inexcusable, yet we will have to make those payments. Given the State of California's economy, you wonder where the Governor and Legislature's heads are on this issue. They are both totally irresponsible. These economic facts alone make a strong argument against passing Schwarzenegger's water bond. We simply can't afford it.

There is one bright spot this month. Our own Jerry Neuberger has started his own website. He calls the site, California Fisheries Network. The e-mail for the site is CalFish.net. There is much to like about California Fisheries Network. There is an Action Alert section with draws attention what's happening at this moment. I seem to have a problem deleting e-mails about articles that I should have kept for reference. However with the site's Archive's section that isn't a problem now. If you need sites such as other fly fishing clubs, Restore the Delta, Cal Trout etc. you can find them in Non Government section. All for our elected officials are listed in the Government Section. That is very helpful.

However the best part of CFN is the huge amount of data the site presents. The information is not only listed but somehow listed within minutes or a few hours after an event takes place. It's a delight to go to a site that isn't weeks or months out of date. If you want to be up on what going on in with fisheries issues this is the go-to site. Jerry's knowledge and background on issues that concern us is outstanding and his site reflects that knowledge and depth. Check it out.

Ron Forbes

**2010 Catfish Derby
June 5
Oak Grove Park**



The annual Catfish Derby at Oak Grove Park will be held June 5 and Chairman Earl Summers wants to remind members that he will need your help to make this a successful event. For new members this is an event sponsored by the County and run by the Delta Fly Fishers.

DFF again will be helping out and selling hot dogs, donuts, coffee and soda. The chairperson for this event is Earl Summers, 957-6756, and he needs a lot of help.

**2010 Delta Fly Fishers B.B.Q.
Wednesday June 9th at 6:00pm
Oak Grove Regional Park**



Delta Fly Fishers Annual BBQ dinner is scheduled for Wednesday June 9th at 6:00pm at Oak Grove Park. Where else can you enjoy a wonderful steak dinner hosted by the Club and prepared by some of our top chefs? Side dishes and desserts provided by members, wives and guests. Weather permitting Glen Bockmon has generously offered a crate of his fresh picked cherries.

Following this great dinner we will dazzle you with raffle prizes that will include Rods, Reels, Fly Line, Fly Fishing Gear, Books, Flies, Gift Certificates and Fly Fishing Art. A lot of quality prizes will be available, producing many happy winners. You may be one of them, so mark your calendars and be sure to join us it's going to be a fun night.

Barbeque list: A-D Salads, E-G Deserts, H-K Hot or Cold Vegetable Dish, L-N Cold Drinks, O-R Hot Main dish (casseroles, etc.), S-Z bread and or dinner Rolls and Butter.

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(209) 474-2195

DFF Officers 2010

President

Stephen Johnson 209-887-9255

1st Vice President

(Open)

2nd Vice President

Herman Spalinger 209-477-3412

Secretary

Sallye Rollans 209-274-0448

Treasurer

Bruce Rollans 209-274-0448

Delta Fly Fishers Official Club Merchandise For Sale

Help support your club by buying and using club merchandise.

Polo Shirt w/club logo sale \$26.00

Ball Cap \$11.50

Club Patch \$5.00

Lapel Pin \$7.00

Lic. Plate Frames \$3.00

Official coffee mug \$5.00

Also the club has a video library

Videotape Rentals \$2.00 Per Video

Membership Meeting

May 14

Board Meeting

May 21

February Newsletter

The deadline for the

June issue is

May 25th

Directors

Joe Balderston 209-649-0291

Charles Edwards 209-951-0391

Ron Forbes 209-368-5767

Marty Kjelson 209-477-9618

Bill Laughlin 209-477-6644

Mike Riley 209-

Sallye Rollans 209-274-0448

Larry Schmidt 209-948-3360

Earl Summers 209-957-6756

Committees

Education

Joe Balderston 209-649-0291

Newsletter

Doug Ridgway 209-957-0170

Conservation/NCCFFF Member

Ron Forbes 209-368-5767

Historian/Property

Herman Spalinger 209-477-3412

Membership

Bob Fujimura 209-948-7097

Outings

Earl Summers 209-957-6756

Publicity

Grady Lee 209-951-3623

Programs

Marty Kjelson 209-477-9618

John Keagy 209-369-5690

Raffles

Bill Laughlin 209-477-6644

Catfish Derby (June)

Earl Summers 209-957-6756

Trout Bout (November)

Charlie Reames 209-369-6053

Bob McMillan Trout Bout

(February)

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

Web Site

David Coon 209-239-9936

Fishing Mentor Program

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

DFF June Outing



DFF's June Lassen trip is being canceled due to cold water and snow. Marty Kjelson, Herman Spalinger and Bob Fujimura are planning some short trips close to home the week of June 2-5. If anyone interested, call one of them, all are welcome.



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National Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave Education, Inspiration, Celebration

The 2010 National Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave—EDUCATION, INSPIRATION, CELEBRATION - [West Yellowstone Montana](#) here we come! Planning is on track and you can expect to get the best Fly Fishing Fair the FFF and West Yellowstone has offered yet. Some special activities going on will include a 1 ½ day [women's program](#) on August 26 & 27 with some outstanding instructors at the spectacular [Bar-N-Ranch](#) and we have a one day [youth camp](#) scheduled for Saturday August 28.

Fly Fishing Fair Registration will open May 24, 2010 at 9am MST. Check the [website](#) for information on workshops which will be posted by the end of April for review. See our website for all other activity information and be sure to check back often for the most up to date information.

Don't forget to plan to attend the [live auction](#) on Friday August 27. We will have a preview from 6:00-7:30 with great appetizers, a cash bar along with a raffle drawing and some silent auction items. To attend the preview, purchase your ticket for \$15.00 when you register or get your ticket on-site at the show on the 24 or 25. There is no fee to attend the live auction so just show up at 7:30 sharp to bid on great fly fishing trips, beautiful fly plates, flies, and exceptional art to the finest gear we are sure to have items for everyone who pursues a fly fishing lifestyle.

The 2010 Fly Fishing Fair will be a great opportunity for fun, fishing, and learning together come celebrate with us - don't miss it!

Swap and/or Trade

St. Croix AFT 9010 "Avid" 9' 10# 3 pc rod.
Saltwater backup rod. Used once. \$120.00

Scott STS 1090/3 Saltwater 9' 10# 3 pc rod.
Good saltwater backup rod. Never used. \$175.00

Tuxedo Custom Rods RXF9'11#.
Good backup saltwater big game rod, Never used. \$100.00

Contact Bruce Rollans 209 274-0448.

SAVE MART MARKETS – S.H.A.R.E.S

DFF has joined with Save Mart Markets via the S.H.A.R.E.S. program. DFF earns 3% of most purchases made by customers using the card provided to DFF by Save Mart.

Since the last report about our SHARES participation, the membership has responded to the need. The donations from SHARES for the past two quarters totaled approximately \$484.00. Thank you membership. We have an additional 50 SHARES cards coming that will be distributed to new members, family and friends. Continue to shop Save Mart Markets! There is no additional cost to you. It merely gives 3% to DFF that otherwise would go to market profit.



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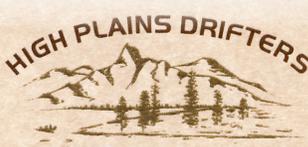
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Wed (except meeting nights)	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	WEDNESDAY EVENING TYING Contact: Joe Balderston 649-0291 or Jim Rich 477-6404
Every 2nd Wed (except July & Aug) 7:00 PM	John R Williams School Stockton	Membership Meeting Contact Marty Kjelson 477-9618 John Keagy 369-5690
Every 3rd Wed (except July) 7:00 PM	Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton	Board Meeting All Members Welcome
Saturday, June 5	Oak Grove Park, Stockton	Catfish Derby Earl Summers 957-6756
Wednesday, June 9	Oak Grove Park, Stockton	Annual Club Barbeque
Wednesday, June 16	Oak Grove Park, Stockton	Board Meeting All Members Welcome
Fri/Sun June 18-20	Davis Lake Portola, CA	June Outing
Saturday July 10	Spicer Res., Union Res. or N. Stanislaus River	July Outing
Sunday - Saturday July 11-18	Owens Valley - Mammoth Lakes	July Outing Marty Kjelson 477-9618
August TBA	Upper Sacramento River McCloud River & Dunsmuir Area	August Outing - Steve Johnson - 887-9255
Friday-Sunday September 17-19	2010 Bridgeport Eastern Sierra Outing	Earl Summers 957-6756
Wednesday October 13	John R. Williams School	2010 DFF Annual Pot Luck Marty Kjelson 477-9618 - John Keagy 369-5690
Saturday October 16	Lake Alpine	October Outing Earl Summers - 957-6756
Saturday November 6	Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta	The Delta for Stripers Earl Summers - 957-6756
Saturday November 20	Oak Grove Park, Stockton	2010 Stockton Parks and Recreation Trout Bout Charlie Reames - 369-6053
Saturday December 18	Rancho Seco	December Outing Bill Laughlin - 411-6644

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Fishing Tip:

Charles Jardine and I think alike as far as dry fly tactics on still water. He believes that you should visualize your world as a triangle or fan, NOT a railroad track. Positioning yourself to take full advantage to cover more area (the fan) and target your prey can be best done in a boat; of course you can also use a high-sitting pontoon and have a similar vantage point. If anchored, I believe that the bow gives the advantage to cast downwind to trout in their feeding zone, and mentally mapping each cast as you would on a stream by clock positions starting at noon and working toward 3 pm. Each cast would or could vary in distance so as not to spook other trout in the immediate area. If drifting, "lifting your fly line from one position and return fire without any dalliance", a repositioned cast in one smooth angular change of direction. The trick is to always maintain tension on the line and loading the rod throughout the entire cast. Smoothness! Ok, this may sound a bit hairy, but with practice in the local park you can perfect this move and also provide entertainment to all onlookers. It will soon become second nature, and your fishing success should soar.

Legislation:

Regardless of DFG's current lawsuit headache, waters will be stocked as normal throughout the season, and all have been cleared for planting except one, and that one should hit the list in about 6 weeks or sooner. I wonder what will be the next hurdle for DFG.

Weather Report:

The weather has been in winter mode since opening weekend with temperatures on a constant rollercoaster. Never trust Mother Nature, come prepared with seasonal clothing and probably bring a lion's share of D E E T, as reports predict the arrival of summer with a vengeance.

Fishing Report:

Remember to check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water if you are unsure of limits, size, etc.

ROCK CREEK – The road is clear and the lake is 10% ice free but unsafe for ice fishing. Resort opens this weekend. Stream still has a lot of snow at the upper reaches with all lakes still wearing their winter gear.

HOT CREEK – Water is good and somewhat clear, and temperatures are perfect for bugs. Flashback PT #18-20, San Juan worms, tiny zebra midges, black or olive WD 40's #20-22, flashback optimidge #18, gray or flashy scuds anytime, and Caddis Sparkle Pupa #18 should get tugs. The breezy afternoons always prevail so come prepared for everything. Please stay out of the water to prevent the spread of the New Zealand mud snail.

CROWLEY – Clear and getting much warmer. DFG recently put in a load of 10" Coleman rainbows which are hanging in Whiskey Bay and North Landing Bay. Reports are to fish the same depth from 12 ft to 20 ft depending on time of day and use anything but streamers. Try red/black opti-tiger or optimidge. **MAMMOTH BASIN** – Projected opening of Lake Mary Road is May 29th. Mary, Mamie and George are frozen, and not safe for ice fishing. Twin Lakes is 50% ice free.

SAN JOAQUIN ROAD – It should be open by the 18th of June unless the heat cranks starting early June.

JUNE LAKE – June Lake marina cage culture program has been releasing trout this month. Tubing has been good near the reeds now that the water is warmer and a lot of nice fish are being taken on Matukas, olive spruce flies and olive wooly buggers. It's been the best spot for the past week.

SILVER LAKE – Most of the action is on the shore as the water is still fairly cold and if you dress appropriately you might be a big surprise near the weeds.

RUSH CREEK – Probably your best bet, but temperatures might make it a bit tough, but if you have patience and work it, you'll see some nice browns.

GRANT LAKE – Boaters are doing the best on the south shore and around the south end of Alligator point with olive Matukas, olive wooly buggers and some rainbow Hornbergs. Water is still cool but should start to warm in the next week according to the forecast.

TIOGA PASS – More County equipment was taken in two weeks ago and they have plowed all the way through but are waiting for the avalanche issue to be lifted.

LUNDY – Road is open, and resorts opened the 27th of May. Water is low due to one last major repair on the dam. You'll have a captive audience with the low water but wear an extra warm under-layer if you get in the water.

VIRGINIALAKES – Road is open to Big Virginia Lake parking lot and ice is still fishable on both Big and Little Virginias, but I would think twice before going out on Trumbull Lake as it is always the first to go. Bait or rubber flies with a jigging motion is your only choice until more water opens up. Still snowing lightly as of the 27th 11 pm, but any accumulation will disappear in the morning.

EAST WALKER – Flows hit the 192 mark, and weighted nymphs are your best bet, so use any mayfly imitation, prince, and WD 40's or Zebra midges over a crystal tiger midge.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR – Water is fair and a bit off color due to light run-off. Season started off slow but those willing to endure the breezy conditions found great results near Buckeye Bay.

WEST WALKER – Flows are 393cfs and the conditions are good for flat pocket water, but it will get higher in the next couple weeks when night temperatures really start to crank. Use the same strategy in getting your bugs down to the bottom; they are getting gorged with food so your best skills are needed to entice them to your offering.

SONORA PASS – No concrete date, but hoping for the 29th.

MONITOR PASS – Was closed due to weather but had been open previously.

See you on the water, CJ (10.5)



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Pontoon Boat Safety Tips

By John Peterson – Taken from the Granite Bay Flycasters Newsletter

Drifting in a pontoon boat can be an enjoyable experience; follow these common sense rules & these simple reminders will go a long way in keeping you out of trouble on the river, which can be a lot different from floating on still water lakes.

1. Learn to read the water. The real secret to successful drifting is to let the natural flow of the river do the work. Use it to your advantage!
2. Safety is always a concern. A personal life vest is mandatory on most waters. Caution: some states/ivers do not allow inflatable life vests. Vests should always be worn in rough/unknown water or windy conditions. It is a good idea to tie down your oars as they can easily be pushed out of the oar-locks if struck by an object. A spare oar is not a bad idea. I always tie a loose 10 foot line between the bow-stern pontoon rings which can be used to tie down when exiting/tethering the boat or otherwise can be grabbed easily if needed in an emergency. I usually carry a hand pump as air pressures change during the day. A patch kit is optional, but I always carry a Leatherman-type tool in my side pouch.
3. Anchors are another issue. They should always be used when the boat is beached. Scope out at least 8 feet of rope regardless of water depth. I have chased several boats down river when anchored too tightly. Anchors can be used midstream, in mild flowing water. Always deploy the anchor when the boat is facing straight down stream; if the boat is angled, a pontoon can dig in or otherwise tip you over. Take care when anchoring in very fast water. My motto: "If not sure, don't anchor". Caution: Anchors do get caught in rocks & may not be retrievable; cutting the rope & abandoning the anchor may be the only option.
4. What to do about rods? Tie them down or tether if in unknown or questionable water. I personally do not care for vertical rod holders as I have seen many rods lost when pulled out by overhead branches. My preference is to lay/string my rod lengthwise along the pontoon. A plastic case, rope loops or shock type cord all work well. Remember to pay attention to what is above & below you when floating down a river. Banging into obstacles in the river or on the bank can expose rod tips to breakage.
5. While drifting down river it is common to get into shallow water, to graze the bottom, hit a rock or bank. The pontoons normally are rugged enough to withstand most impacts. Always face down river & let the natural current do the work. The key is to keep away from sharp objects! Watch out for sticks, sharp rocks & overhead sweepers
6. (trees or branches hanging over the water). Keep your feet on the pegs, out of the water when drifting or they may get caught & pull you out of the boat. I do not use fins on moving water for similar reasons.
7. Reading the water is important. As the river flows you will encounter fast, slow, shallow & deep water. Water will form a natural "V" indicating the channel, follow through the "V" where practical. An inverted "V" indicates a submerged object, pass to one side or the other. When there is a bend in the river the deeper channel is usually towards the outside bank.
8. When faced with an obstruction or anything else you want to avoid ? point the boat towards the object & row away from it. Short, shallow, strong strokes work well for adjusting boat direction. Many times the object creates a "bow wave" which may help by pushing you away from the obstruction. In very swift water flow however, the current can carry you directly into the object. There is usually a depression after passing an object midstream & you may be drawn back towards the obstacle (back eddy).
9. It is common to encounter small waterfalls (drops) along the river & many times we become overly concerned when faced with the dilemma "find a way around or go over". If there is no other easy option, face them, take on straight forward & normally the boat will porpoise straight through.
10. Hydraulics are similar to depressions except they are created by object(s) under water & not always visible. Hydraulics can be scary, they are rough, can bounce you around, spin, or otherwise hold you in place for what seems like an incredible length of time. Rowing either forward or backward will help stabilize/control the boat & eventually will carry you out/through the rough water.
11. Holding the oars down into the water can assist in aiding the current to carry you down stream & stabilize the boat. A hard upstream wind can halt your progress & even push you backwards. Just holding the oars submerged in the water can be more effective than rowing, assists in offsetting the wind influence & can keep you moving down stream.
12. If you fall into the water, don't panic, roll onto your back & face down stream so your legs will protect you from objects. Pull backwards with both hands & eventually you will get to shore.