



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

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June/July 2019

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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Calendar

June 1, Catfish Derby, Oak Grove Park

June 12, DFF BBQ, Oak Grove Park

June 13-16, Burney Area Outing

June 14, FlyDay Night Tying, Lodi

June 19, BOD meeting, Oak Grove Park

June 21, Open Casting Practice, Legion Park, Lodi

June 22 or 23, Possible Delta LMB Outing, location TBA

Summer stuff



Yesterday I worked the annual Bass 'n Fly Tournament and came away with two observations. The first is that out of the almost eighty anglers signed up, not a single female was registered as a competitor. Our club has six very active lady anglers and hopefully more on the way. Maybe our club can remedy that aberration next year, especially since the tournament features a kayak division, allowing for single angler entrees. The single contestant this year deserves some competition, especially since his catch for the first day was one fish, under three pounds.

The second observation about the event involves one of our own. Brian Pultz, DFF member and part of the Delta Bass Bugs operation, is in the lead of the event, ahead of his competition by almost two pounds. Let's hope he joins Ron Forbes, our conservation chair and winner of the annual One Fly Contest. Fingers crossed.

The DFF Summer Schedule

As most of you know, the club's summer schedule is a little skimpier than the spring and fall programs. It's hard to fit in everyone's summer plans and still maintain decent attendance at club events. Because of that, the club does not hold a general membership meeting, fly of the month session or board meeting in July. Nor does it publish a July newsletter.

However, thanks to Misses. Amy and Dena, the **FlyDay Night** tying sessions at the House of Coffee, second Friday of the month, from 5pm to 7:30pm, will continue as well as the **Practice Casting** sessions at Legion Park, Lodi, the fourth Friday of the month, again from 5pm to 7:30pm.

For those that don't mind getting up before the sun, the club will hold a delta outing each month, with a start time of 15 minutes

before sunrise, timed to work with the delta tide schedules, allowing for decent top water LMB fishing (and maybe some practice for next year's Bass 'n Fly.)

Just to make sure that you keep informed on the latest schedules, we'll be sending out email reminders.

June Events

Catfish Derby, June 1st

If everything works out, you'll be receiving this newsletter on Friday, May 31st. The night before the SJPR and DFF sponsored Catfish Derby at Oak Grove Park. It takes about a dozen DFFers to make this event work. Charlie Reames was going to head up this event but has a graduation to attend. Karen Keagy has stepped in to take over, and we really need to give her the support necessary to make this event a success. New members, this is a great way for you to become involved with fellow fly fishers and get to know other club members. We need volunteers to work the food booth from about 7:30am until 1pm.

The DFF Barbecue, June 12th

Come join your fellow fly fishers for a great barbecue and raffle at Oak Grove Park on June 12th. The club provides the rib eye or New York steaks, members provide the side dishes and desserts. Come early this year (5:30) and bring a fly rod so you can try your hand at the casting practice events set up by Amy and Dena. Don't forget to bring your own plates and utensils.

The Burney Area Outing, June 13-16th

Fish Hat Creek, the Fall River, the Pit River and Baum Lake with Fishmiester Jerry. If you need more information, email him at gneuburg@gmail.com.

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SAVE MART SUPERMARKETS

The Delta Fly Fishers are proud to participate in the Save Mart Shares program. Each purchase, once signed up, nets the club 3% of your purchase. To sign up, go to the [SaveMart website](#) and fill in the appropriate boxes.

[Save Mart Store Locator](#)

The SJP&R Catfish Derby takes place this Saturday, June 1, Come lend a hand.

Volunteers are needed to make this event a success for both the club and our benefactor, the San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation Department. SJP&R gives us use of the Oak Grove Park Nature Center for board meetings and other skill sessions throughout the year at no cost, the use of the Boat House pavilion for our barbecue and allows us to operate the snack bar at the county's three fishing derby, all at no charge. They do this because they believe that our club gives back to the community. To make that happen, we need a group of volunteers to work the food service at the park Boat House and man the golf carts, selling food and beverages to the fishing public.

The club's effort has been largely headed up by the Keagys' and Charlie Reames. We need new blood to step in where these

people have led. At the most, the effort takes a part of two days time. Day one, shopping for the necessary items to supply the event and the second day, working the event itself.

No, it's not fly fishing but it is giving back to our community, making the Lodi/Stockton area a better place to live and, at the same time, introducing kids into the fishing experience, taking them away from their X-Boxes and cell phones.

To help at this year's event, please show up at the Oak Park Boat House by 7:30am. Plan to work the event until about 1:30pm. When entering the park, tell the person in the booth that you're part of the Delta Fly Fishers work party.

I'll see you there.

The steaks have been ordered... Start working on that appetite for the DFF Barbecue

Date and time: June 12, 5:30 – 8:00pm

Location: Boat House Pavilion, Oak Grove Park

Activities:

Casting Practice 5:30—6:30pm

Barbecue: 6:30– 7:15pm

Program: 7:15—7:40pm

MegaRaffle: 7:40—8:00'pm

We've improved perfection this year. And that's only because we have some very ambitious and energetic folks helping to make this June barbecue the best ever.

The event starts at 5:30 with a practice casting course set up by Amy and Dena. The course is intended to increase accuracy and distance skills and maybe include a few trick casts to help with on the water presentations. Bring a rod or rods and give the course a try Whether you're a newbie or an old grizzled veteran, you'll get something out of it.

The next activity, the barbecue itself, barely needs an explanation. Families

bring a side dish according to the food schedule and the club provides the 10oz. Ribeye or New York steaks. Master Chef Al Smatsky, added by assistants Larry Summers and Leo Gutterres, will cook your steak to perfection, Expect to eat some dessert since the dessert line is always treat for the eye and taste buds. Don't forget to bring your own plates and utensils.

This year's food assignments are: A-D desserts, F-R side dishes, S-Z salads.

The club provides the steaks, soft drinks and hot dogs for the kiddies.

A brief program will follow the barbecue, outlining the club's planned summer activities as well as a short presentation by Sam Sedillio, from Trout Unlimited.

The evening will end with a mega raffle with the total number of items exceeding a thousand dollars in value. Some of the greater prizes are a FishCat float tube valued at over \$450. a Cabela's five weight rod along with a reel and line, a pair of neoprene boot foot waters, a pair of Redington wading boots, a wooden fly tying kit from Sportsman's Warehouse and a number of smaller items.

DFE Officers



President
[Jerry Neuburger](#) 209-327-5993

Vice President
Amy Terra

Secretary
Karen Keagy

Treasurer
Jeanette Neuburger

Directors
Ron Forbes 209-368-5767
Larry Schmidt 209-482-8742

Sam Thompson
Gary Tecklenburg
Thomas Mason
Dena Mason
Nancy Baker
Mike Dempewolf
Randy Baxter

Committees

Beginner's Fly Tying
Amy Terra

Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)
John and Karen Keagy

Catfish Derby (June)
Chair needed

Conservation/Restore the Delta
Ron Forbes 209-368-5767

Education/Outreach
Dena Mason

Fly Tying/Fishing Mentor Program
Neuburger/Terra/Mason

Membership
Dena Mason

Monthly Raffles
Jerry Neuburger

Outings
(Volunteer needed)

Programs
Al Smatsky 209-368-9261
Bob Sousa 209-368-2683

Property/Historian
John Keagy

Publicity
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Rod Building
Bob Fujimura 209-339-0683

Trout Bout (November)
Charlie Reames

Webmaster
Amy Terra

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An editorial correction: Yes there will be Fly Day Night Tying sessions and Practice Casting throughout the summer

Let's face it, this publication is not the New York Times and doesn't have a slew of fact checkers to review every article for veracity. Therefore, it's no surprise that the editor got it wrong last month when he said there would be no FlyDay Night Tying sessions or Casting Practice during the summer. After publication, he was informed that, YES, these two programs will continue, thanks to Misses

Amy and Dena, two bundles of boundless energy.

The FlyDay Night tying sessions for June and July will take place at the House of Coffee on June 14th from 5pm to 7:30pm and July 12th, same location and hours.

The Practice Casting Sessions will take place at Legion Park, Hutchins and Vine, Lodi, on June 28th and July 26th, same hours as the FlyDay night tying sessions,

5:00 to 7:30. If you're not familiar with the park, the casting sessions are at the back of the park at the northwest corner, barely visible from Hutchins.

Both the fly tying and casting sessions allow for DFF members to share some of their summer fishing experiences while honing their off the water fly fishing skills.

Hope to see you there.

A June 13-16, outing to California's trout heaven, Hat Creek, the Fall River, the Pit River, Burney Creek and Baum Lake

The Burney, Johnson Park, Fall River Mills area of California is unique in that it has three trophy trout waters and two generously stocked put and take fisheries all within a 25 mile radius.

It's been a few years since the club has visited this area but with the collapse of Lake Davis, the club has sought a new venue for its late spring trout outing. This area fills the bill in five different and unique fishing opportunities.

Hat Creek offers the wild trout angler opportunities to fish both a freestone stream at Powerhouse #3 and the technical expertise needed for delicate presentations at its spring creek like conditions at the Carbondale and lower sections.

If freestone streams and pocket water are a lure, then no better opportunities than the rough and tumble Pit River present themselves as public water. This water is a challenge for even the most athletic anglers and offers big brown and rainbow trout to those that can pry open its secrets.

For a much more relaxed experience, the Fall River offers the kayaker, canoer, pram boater, or pontoon angler an opportunity to fish a true spring creek, a rare opportunity in the western Sierras. This wild trout fishery is known for its prolific mayfly hatches, tricos, beatis and infre-quense in that order in the morning and hex hatches in the evenings. Anglers wanting to fish this water need some type of craft able to move upstream against a gentle current since almost no shore access is available.

Two put and take fisheries also have major potential, the first Burney Creek, a mid sized stream that flows through McArthur State Park, and Baum Lake, a well stocked dammed up portion of Hat Creek located about a mile from the PG&E campground in Cassel, just outside Johnson Park. While not wild trout, these fish can be both easy and challenging,

depending on hatches and weather. Baum Lake can be negotiated by float tube, pontoon boat, or any hand powered or electric powered craft. No gasoline engines.

Camping accommodations can be found at McArthur state park although only a few sites are open for more than one night. The other possible camping site is the PG&E campground at Cassel. About six sites were open at the time of this writing @ \$21 per night. A number of hotels are available in Burney, some with kitchenettes. Burney also has a well stocked Safeway, full service grocery store.

Fishing information and supplies are available either by stopping at the Fly Shop in Redding on the way up or at Burney Sporting Goods.

If you're interested in attending this outing, contact Jerry Neuburger, either by email which he's pretty good at replying to, gneuburg@gmail.com, or calling him



The Fall River, May 2017, Mount Shasta in the background. Photo by Jerry Neuburger

on his cell, 327-5993. He's terrible at responding to left call back messages so his email is the best bet. He's booked for campsite 14 at the Cassel campground from June 13th through June 23rd. Leave a note somewhere near the door to his little trailer if he's out fishing.

A top notch opportunity for topwater Delta LMB fishing exists the weekend of June 22, 23, but we need a Fishmiester?

The tide tables reveal a great opportunity for some weekend top water LMB fishing on the weekend of Saturday, June 22, and especially Sunday, June 23. The high tide for those dates is in the early morning with low tide following at about 10:30am.

However, to make the day a success, an angler should be ON THE WATER and fishing by 5:30am. That's just after sunrise. LMB hate bright light and the sun will climb rapidly into the summer sky. The bite will shut down early, probably about 9am and the "trough" between the rocky bank and the ever present weed line will collapse about the same time, causing the fish to move away from the wall and deeper in the water column.

Suggested launch locations for these dates include Tower Park, Paradise Point and King Island Marina. All of these areas have plenty of rip wrap to fish and are capable of launching small craft as well as full sided trailer boats. Fees for the

launches vary with trailered boats at \$15 to \$25 and hand carried craft usually half the cost.

A seven weight rod, with an oversized floating line, twisted #20 leader and tippet, with a foam, balsa or hair bug tied on is bound to bring up plenty of fish. As the sun rises higher into the sky, anglers should concentrate their efforts on water that has some shadows extending over it, either levees on the south east sides of the sloughs or water shaded by shrubs and trees. Prime holding water can be where bunches of tules intersect the rock walls, drainage pipes, partially sunken debris and trees and points of rock



A friend, David Lee, with a typical Delta LMB. Photo by Jerry Neuburger

with good water flow passing. Usually it's all over by 9am so get out early.

Conservation by Ron Forbes, *winner of the 2019 One Fly Contest*

Planting the seed: Stockton's Environmental Transformation

"To go fishing is a chance to wash one's soul with pure air, with the rush of a brook, or the shimmer of sun on blue water. It brings the meekness and inspiration from the decency of nature, charity toward tackle-makers, patience toward fish, a mockery of profits and egos, a quieting of hate, a rejoicing that you do not have to decide a darn thing until next week. It is a discipline in the equality of men - for all men [and women, ed.] are equal before fish."

... Herbert Hoover

The Delta Fly Fishers have a long-standing commitment to our fisheries and the environment. Because of our reputation and commitment, we were invited, by Restore the Delta (RTD), to be part of California's Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA) and Restore the Delta's (RTD) first Environmental Transformation Program held at the Stockton Memorial Civic Auditorium on April 29th. The purpose of the event was to

demonstrate the role of CEPA's Earth Justice Task Force, Stockton's environmental revitalization efforts, and to distribute information from over 40 federal, state and local agencies.

Our club was one of 40 federal, state, and local organizations chosen to participate and demonstrate our local activities. The event covered 4 major areas of concern in the Stockton area.

These included:

- 1) Strategies in place to protect us from water and air pollution, solid waste pollution, pesticides, and hazardous waste.
- 2) Ways to address neighborhood health issues, unsafe drinking water, illegal dumping problems, and asthma problems.
- 3) Existing programs in ways to protect the environment and families and



Club Education and Outreach Chair, Dena Mason with her Salmon in the Classroom Display. Photo by Ron Forbes

neighbors.

- 4) Current opportunities for our youth to learn about transforming Stockton into a thriving equitable community.

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The program started at 5:00 and concluded at 9:00. From 5 to 6:30 organizations presented their material to the public. At 6:30 short comments were made by 13 state and local agencies. Stockton's mayor, Michael Tubbs, started the speakers with welcoming remarks and briefly described some of the issues underway and others needing action locally. The agencies making comments after Mayor Tubbs were impressive. Jared Blumenfeld, head of CEPA, along with the Asst. Secretary of Natural Resources were headliners. Fortunately, their comments were instructive but brief.

Our club was honored to be among those chosen to be part of the Environmental Transformation program. Of the 40 groups participating, we were the only recreational group present. We were selected because of our history protecting our fisheries, the environment, and work to protect and enhance the Delta.

One of the things I enjoy about our club is the involvement of many of our members. I want to thank the club members who graciously volunteered and helped make our presentations successful. We were invited to be part of the program with less than a month's time to prepare. Restore the Delta suggested that we demonstrate casting, fly tying and present our program on Fish in the Classroom. Everyone who was asked to help stepped forward and did their usual great jobs. Joe Balderston and Jerry Neuburger were our fly tiers. Jim Rich and Larry Schmidt volunteered to demonstrate casting. Dena Mason and Thomas Mason set-up Dena's

program on Fish in the Classroom and answered questions about the program. Once again Charlie Reames stepped forward to help at the booth and answer questions. My wife and I spent time at our booth and working with RTD.

Despite good planning and execution, a glitch arose. I arrived 2 hours early to lay out an area for casting. Stockton's Civic Auditorium has hosted basketball games over the years so we were not concerned about the needed height. Much to my dismay, however, someone decided to suspend a canopy from the ceiling. Jim Rich is an inventive caster. Yet despite all of his creative casting techniques, he decided a 12 ft. ceiling was not adequate to demonstrate casting a 9 ft. fly rod. Larry Schmidt, however, would not give up, and once again caught his fly line in the ceiling! The last time this occurred was at the Steelhead Festival and it was shown on TV. It took nearly 30 minutes to retrieve the line from the canopy. Fortunately, we were able to do so just before the speaker's program began. And yes, the Shadow is aware of the situation!



Casting master, Larry Schmidt along with Charlie Reames and Thomas Mason at the DFF booth. Photo by Ron Forbes

Our participation in Stockton's Environmental Transformation was well received and we had positive public exposure. Our foot is now in the door. We need to participate in more events like this. The Delta Fly Fishers are moving in a good direction.

Editor: Ron didn't mention that he, along with our president, Jerry Neuburger, is working with the multitude of agencies threading their way through the rules and permits necessary to introduce Chinook salmon into the Mokelumne at their historic spawning grounds, above Pardee Dam. It will be some years yet before it occurs if at all but if and when it does, it will be time to celebrate yet another environmental victory.

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

STAY ALERT DEER MIGRATION - Mule deer are starting to migrate to their summer grounds at lower elevations and crossing the roads. This seasonal event causes accidents and death, so please vigilant and watch out for deer browsing on shrubs near or along the roadside.

Weather Conditions – The weather was great and pounded the snow until around the 16th then dumped about 5 inches of snow on Conway Summit with more at higher elevations. Going into the 8th straight day of snow/rain/wind and Friday

brought a break and then it continued through Memorial weekend and more expected mid-week with a high pressure building off the coast. Free-range skiers have taken over the area since both Tioga and Sonora passes are not open. But even the number of skiers have diminished with the consistent unpleasant weather that "Mother" has seen fit to provide.

Fishing Tip: Tom Rosenbauer's 8 Tips To Becoming a Better Fly Fisher:

1. Observe everything. Look around every time you catch a fish and figure out

why it was there and why it ate at that particular time. Look at the sun angle, the surrounding terrain, current threads in rivers, or highways on the flats.

2. Tie flies. I don't think anyone can be truly on top of their game until they understand how a fly is constructed and what it's supposed to do in the water.

3. Tie your own leaders. In fresh or salt, knowing how to modify a leader to make it behave better is best understood if you have tied a bunch of knotted leaders first. Even if you are starting with a commer-

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cial knotless leader, you will eventually need to modify it.

4. Improve your casting. No matter how good you think your casting is, it is not good enough. Take a lesson from someone who is a better caster than you. Don't be too proud.

5. Don't be an asshole on the water. In rivers, give people as much room as you possibly can, even if you end up in water you don't really like. In the salt, find your own school or your own flat. Someone else got there first. Get over it.

6. Delight in every fish you catch- no matter how small. If you can't get excited about an 8-inch brook trout, you don't really get it.

7. Don't sweat it. The fishing will never be as good as you anticipate. The weather sucks? You didn't catch a fish as big as you thought? You are just setting yourself up for a deficit of confidence—and fun.

8. Stop being so serious. Never take your fishing or yourself too seriously. You are just a tool with a silly pole playing with fish. How stupid is that?

News:

CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

2020 Proposed Fishing Regulations

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland/Trout-Plan/Regulation-Simplification>

Please watch for any announcements when The Department will schedule more meetings after they compile all the public input via letters and e-mails.

Legislative News:

AB1387 - Assemblymember Jim wood of Santa Rosa authored Assembly Bill 1387 that will transition California's calendar-based fishing license to one that is valid a full 365 days from the date of purchase. The bill, sponsored by the California Sportfishing League (CSL), is co-authored by Assemblymember James Gallagher of Yuba City and a bipartisan group of 12 other legislators.

If passed, it will:

1. replaces the current calendar-based system for a fishing license that is valid a full 12 months from the date of purchase and with payment of that fee equal to 130% of the fees for issuance of resident or nonresident calendar-year

sport fishing licenses, as applicable.

Note: As I understand it, this is only for the first year to recover any loss of license revenue for converting from calendar to 12 consecutive months, i.e., a \$48+ license would be \$58 plus change.

2. The Department shall provide applicants the option to sign up for automatic renewal by automatic credit card or debit card payment or electronic funds transfer.

If passed, the 365-day license will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2021. It was referred on April 9th with a 14-0 vote and sent to Appropriations and heard on 04/24/19 and amended 5/20 as above and sent back to the Approp. Comm. for a 3rd reading, and is now on the Assembly floor for 80 members to vote on it. Go to: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1387

If you read the amended bill and believe this is beneficial to all concerned, one or the other, please contact your local Assemblyman and provide support.

CDFW 'Buy a Stamp' to help a Game Warden

Officials at the CDFW are urging anglers to contribute to a Warden Stamp Program that helps game wardens and the enforcement of fish-and-wildlife laws. According to the CDFW, purchase of the \$5 stamp will "procure vital equipment, protective gear, and training for wildlife officers and enhance the department's K-9 Program." Information on how to make a donation is

available at: www.wildlife.ca.gov/wardenstamp

CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

The June 12-13, 2019 meeting agenda for the California Fish and Game Commission is now available at <http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=169143&inline>

Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Stocking

Updated trout releases will be on their web-site (<http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FishPlants/>) or call their specific region (Inland Deserts 855.887.1275)

CDFW has an updated free downloadable app for

Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations application at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/regulations>. It tracks your current GPS location and will tell you the regulations of the water where you are standing and regulations for waters within a designated area or approximately a five-mile radius. Take a look, it's very handy.

TIDBIT'S - What's Hot in Angling Maps & Apps

FISHIDY - New location-based app and online community that features interactive mapping technology, data-rich fishing maps, and social networking to help you identify the most productive water and navigate straight to local hot spots. The latest release incorporates a strengthened map-based user experience, downloadable maps for offline use, and a fishing insight feature that delivers all of

the knowledge necessary to make smart fishing decisions. Download the FREE Fishidy mobile app to learn more. Great APP!!

C-MAP - Anglers looking for inland fishing detail should check out the new **Precision Contour HD** charts. These charts combine data from professional lake surveys, C-MAP Genesis Social Maps and traditional lake maps to deliver extremely detailed statewide fishing maps. Already available for Alabama and Tennessee, the Precision Contour HD

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chart for North Carolina is slated for a July release. C-Map Genesis is the most powerful lake and coastal mapping system on earth. Catch more and bigger fish with angler contributed Social Map data. Go to <https://www.genesismaps.com/>

DEEPER (fish finder) / **LAKEBOOK** is an angler's personal journal for mastering his fishing. Every scan and depth map anglers create with their Deeper fish finder is automatically saved to Lakebook and accessible from any device. It can mark points of interest, take pictures, write notes in the Deeper app and see them grouped together by water-body and location in Lakebook. For a more detailed analysis, anglers can drill in on a certain point on their map to see associated scans, GPS coordinates, and depth measurements.

AT THE BENCH: New materials

Alpaca wool processed and dyed means washing or scouring, which is very aggressive and thorough to remove grease, dirt and the rest (burrs, muck, stones, dust, sticks, seeds, etc.) Processing wool can include treatment with strong acids and alkalis - ending up with a roll of dry, off-white fiber ready for dyeing and/or spinning. Vicuna dubbing contains no contaminants, no bits of organic stuff, no grease, and the color is obviously regular. Alpaca is long, two or three times the length of typical sheep's wool, up to six inches. It's fine and smooth, and softer than most type of sheep's wool.

The mix is good and well prepared using simple hand-stacking to blend two or more colors. This is a good seal substitute; in fact it handles and ties pretty much like seal. It's a good choice!

Veniard Razzle Dazzle Chenille

This is just a small cactus chenille a twisted core which traps bright, flashy fibers perpendicular to the core. It ties like Fritz Chenille. Scrape the fibers from a short length at one end, tie in and trap the bare core, wrap the chenille around the hook and try to sweep the fibers tailwards as you wrap, then trap down the core and cut off. The size suggests smaller hooks, maybe size 10-14 depending on what you want. It's tough, simple and inexpensive at \$2.50/package at Veniard.

Fishing Report

LOWER OWENS is at **275.3cfs** as of 5/28.

The flows have been holding steady for a couple of weeks now and the fishing has responded. Hatches are getting stronger and the fish are hungry. Midges are the ticket early with crane-flies midmorning. Midday are caddis and mayfly hatches. Stoneflies start around noon. The only catch is that the most productive times are not consistent from day to day. Not a whole lot of surface activity. Recommended **DRIES**: Griffith's Gnat #20, Extended Body BWO #20-22, Para Adams #18-20, Elk Hair Caddis #16-20, Parachute Caddis #16-18, Brooks Sprout baetis #18-22, and Yellow and tan Stimulators #14-16 **NYMPH**: Zebra Midge #18-20, Baetis B/H #18-20, Barr's Uncased Caddis #14-16, Tungsten Caddis #14-18, Birds Nest Olive or Natural #12-16, Stonefly nymphs - #14-16, Barr's Flashback BWO #18-22, Kingrey's Cold Turkey Baetis #18-22, and Chamois Caddis #14-18. **STREAMERS**: Big and ugly, seriously. Pick your favorite large streamer and chuck it everywhere. You will catch fewer fish but there's a chance to catch much larger fish this way.

ROCK CREEK LAKE -

The road is currently plowed to the Lake and the resort is open. The lake is about 50% ice free and lots of snow in the area. The road to Mosquito Flat will melt out naturally and it may be a few weeks before that happens.

UPPER OWENS - Flows are at **72cfs** as of 5/28. Water Conditions: Fair. The Upper Owens River has been fishing fairly well for the most part and it hasn't changed much. The flows have dropped slightly since last week and it will probably stay that way until it warms up. Midges have been hatching in the morning followed by Baetis and caddis hatching mid day through the early afternoon. Small streamers have still been a shop favorite for the Upper Owens River. But indicator rigs with midge, Baetis, and or caddis imitations have been the most consistent as far as numbers.

Recommended Flies: **DRIES**: Stimulator #16, Extended Body BWO #16, Elk Hair Caddis #16-18, Parachute Adams #16-20. **NYMPHS**: #12-16 Bead Head Prince Nymph, #16-18 Pheasant Tail, Flashback Hares Ear #14-16, Olive birds nest #14-16, zebra midge #18-22, Jujube baetis #18-

22, Splitcase BWO #18-22, Olive WD-40 (standard or flashy) #18-22. **STREAMERS**: Meat Whistle, D's Hoover Mover, Tan Sculpzilla, Olive or Black Woolly Bugger, Olive Slumbuster, Olive Baby Gongga, Olive Double Gongga. A sink tip or full sink type 3 is recommended; otherwise add some split shot to help your bug get down in the water column.

CROWLEY LAKE - Conditions and hatches are fair to good. With the weather systems of the last 8 days, the water temperatures have dropped back down into the lower 50's. With the weather pattern of the last week I've heard good reports from last Monday and Tuesday but nothing for the last 2 days. The fish still seem to be in the same locations so we'll just have to see what happens. The fish have moved into shallower water (10'-13') but you'll also find them all the way out to 25' with 16'-18' the most productive. They are getting more concentrated although they're still moving around so don't be too impatient. I saw the first of the mayflies this week so don't be afraid to try some #16-18 mayfly nymphs late morning. The perch are already moving towards the shallow water to spawn, 9'to12'. The best areas seem to be both sides of Sandy Point all the way up to Green Banks and out to Christmas Bay. The south end seems to be a lot slower but worth exploring. **Recommended Flies**: Copper Clown, Albino Baron in grey or black. Also the larger blood midges have started showing up in the north end.

HOT CREEK - Water condition is good. The meter says 41cfs as of 5/23, these flows are at Mammoth Creek, Hot Creek flows out of the hatchery are constant and at **62.8cfs** as of 5/28, Hot Creek is still fishing very well. Hatches have been fairly minimal but fish have been ready and willing to eat a variety of subsurface imitations such as midges, Baetis, scuds, and caddis. All of these imitations have been successful at producing fish. With the weather staying cooler, the flows have dropped quite a bit, but with all the precipitation that could change soon.

DRIES: Parachute Adams #16-20, Griffith's Gnat #18-20, High Vis Hatch-matcher #18-20, Brooks Sprout Baetis #18-22, Parachute Extended Body BWO #18-22. **NYMPHS**: Flash back Tungsten Black Beauty #18-22, Tailwater Tiny Olive #18-20, Micro Mayfly Olive #20-

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24, Tungsten Psycho #16-20, Radiation Baetis 18-22, Olive Scuds #16-18, WD40 #18-22, Zebra Midge #18-22. **STREAMERS:** Slumbuster Olive, Crystal Bugger, Olive Bopp leech.

CONVICT LAKE – Marvel wet flies are perfect for catching the big ones in the lake. The best way to use the fly is to thread your line through a 1 1/2 in. plastic bubble and a swivel large enough not to be pulled through the bubble. Attach a 5 to 6 ft. leader to the swivel using 4 to 6 lb. test line. Tie your fly to the leader and fill the bubble completely with water. Cast your fly out into the water. The bubble will sink about 3 inches per second. Reel the fly in slowly with a twitch from time to time. Strike any unusual pull or drag as fish sometimes bite softly. Marvel flies are available to purchase in the general store.

Derby Details - Round-Up at the Lake Derby is going strong. Quite a few fishermen have already caught their 14" fish and are in the drawing for resort prizes worth up to \$6000. There is still plenty of time to enter. The entry fee of \$15 includes a 2019 pin and a 14" ruler. The store staff look forward to signing you up. Round-Up Derby t-shirts are for sale in the store and online. We have a limited number of them, so grab one before we run out!

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN –

The road to Lakes basin is still **CLOSED** for the winter but you can call the **Visitor Center Info (760) 924-5500 for an update.**

SAN JOAQUIN – Currently the river is running at **311cfs as of 5/28** but the river access is closed; call **Visitor Center Info (760) 924-5500 for updates.**

JUNE LOOP – No report for June or Gull, but I would stay with streamers and work them deep and cruise the weedy areas where there are slight drop-off, you just might catch a large trout cruising surface water near the shoreline.

Silver Lake - A few float tubers were out this past week using Olive Matukas and had some very good luck with streamers. It looks like another up and down week of weather but summer is in sight and we can only hope for warmer consistent days.

Grant Lake has been producing some nice brown trout but not many fly anglers on the water due to off and on wind. Try streamers along the shoreline and work using long pulls with short bursts. It is the warmest lake in the loop at 53 degrees, so the action is going to be better on the surface. **Rush Creek** is rushing. High water can be precarious so maybe wearing waders and using a staff to situation yourself in a good spot and move 12 inches at a time without casting over the same area repeatedly.

LUNDY LAKE – Water level is rising and should reach capacity in a couple weeks, also the resort is open from 8am to 3pm daily but not much news as to anglers on the water other than shore fishermen tossing bait or lures. The road is clear all the way to the restroom with a couple of muddy spots near the trailhead. Ponds look great (a little low) with a few bugs on the surface and a quick toss of a black midge got tugs and a good look at small brookies.

VIRGINIA LAKES – Finally the sun!

Road to the parking lot of Big Virginia is open and had some traffic on the ice dunking, jigging, and enjoying the skiers on the mountain. All fish taken were on bait or jigs and nothing of any size. The ice on the Virginias is starting to show blue here and there when it's not snowing so it shouldn't be long before the heat kicks in and more water becomes available to anglers, maybe 2 weeks plus for Big Virginia and Trumble Lake (maybe 10 days) will thaw first then Little Virginia in about 12 days and I'm taking bets, anyone interested? Caution is the word while the ice is melting and covered with fresh snow making it unsafe. Send me your best guess for all 3 or your choice and I'll put your name in my personal drawing for a surprise. E-mail me and pick a lake and a date at vlresort@wildblue.net

(subject: "Lake Thaw Drawing").

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR –

Bridgeport has had some really good days and some more difficult days this week, on the good days, when the wind didn't keep most of the

anglers off the water. There has also been some decent action stripping streamers like Seal Buggers, Matukas and Wooly Buggers.

KEN'S SPORTING GOODS - Accident - Ken's has had a bit of a set-back yesterday, there was an accident and a pick-up truck drove through the front of the gift shop side of the store May 6th. Thankfully no one was injured; including the driver, however there is extensive damage to the store. We are thankful the driver was not injured and we hold absolutely no ill will towards him.

May 26, 2019 - The structural engineer has finished up the plans for a temporary fix to the front of the gift shop and as of Friday we have secured the building permit from Mono County. Our contractor is going to start the fix on Tuesday so we hope to have the gift shop portion of Ken's open for business by next weekend! After this temporary shoring fix gets us up and running we will work on getting the engineering done for the permanent fix which will likely happen this fall. Hopefully next week we will be able to get rid of those orange cones out front!!

EAST WALKER – The flows on the East have been bumped up to about **256cfs as of 5/28**. The gauge might be damaged as the visual gauge on the river shows a cfs that is 100-50 cfs different than the online flow rates. Fishing Conditions and Hatches: fair to good. With the weather being the way it has been, hatches have been fairly minimal. Your best shot at success is to fish subsurface. Both streamers and nymph rigs have been the most consistent. We have been having the most success with small Baetis and midge imitations both from size 16 to 20. There are tons of caddis in the water, so it wouldn't be a bad idea a try some caddis larva imitations as well. The most pro-

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ductive area is the upper mile between the dam and the bridge as this water is a bit more angler friendly than the lower stretch. There seems to have been an increase in streamer action with the higher flow and for nymphing you should be able to size up a size or two on your bugs, 14's, 16's and 18's instead of just 18's and 20's. Also try patterns with a bit of flash are always a good choice. As far as streamers go we have been using larger articulated patterns such as the Double Dirty Hippy or Double Gongga. **RECOMMENDED DRIES:** Big flies to get fish to come up and eat them. Stimulator #8, Parawolf Purple #10, Chernobyl Ant #6-16, #20-22 dark mayfly patterns. **NYMPHS:** Copper Zebra #16-22, BH Prince Nymphs #12-16, Olive Birds Nest #10-16, Caddis Larva #10-18, Stonefly Nymphs #6-10, Hogan's S&M #16-20, Pocket Water Baetis #18-20, black Two-bit Hooker #18-20, Kingrey's Cold Turkey Baetis #18-22, rubber leg stonefly #8-12. **STREAMERS:** Meat Whistle #2, D's Hoover Mover Rust #4, Hornbergs #10-12, White Wooly buggers #10-14, and Orange Jawbreaker #10. Additional patterns to try are Sculpzilla, Double Bunny, Moal leech, Zuddler, Hell Razor Craw, Prince, Pheasant Tail, Rainbow Warrior, Rainbow Assassin, Wd-40, Flashback Emerger, San Juan worm, Squirmy

Wormy, Silver Streak

TWIN LAKES BRIDGEPORT

Not many fly anglers up there lately but typically this is a good time to fish the inlets with streamers like Twin Lakes Specials, Seal Buggers and Matukas with a soft hackle or Zug Bug dropper.

HONEYWELL POND – The pond didn't see any anglers this week mainly due to the weather and also have been getting a significant amount of wind lately. With the colder weather the weed growth should have slowed down so things should be good as long as the wind lies down. Give Ken's a call if you want to make a reservation out there!

SCEIRINE RANCH - There hasn't been anyone on the ranch this past week, it should be fishing pretty much like the California and Rosachi sections of the East Walker. As stated above the flows make things more difficult but not impossible. Report from Ken's in Bridgeport.

KIRMAN LAKE –Jim R. talked to a couple guys who made the trek up to Kirman this week, they weren't able to catch any fish but they did say there were some cutts up in the spring channel attempting to spawn, or maybe just hanging out up there. That's good news that there are some fish still in there. They didn't see any brookies up there but they probably wouldn't be in there this time of the year anyway. Hopefully Kirman will start getting back on track for the future.

WEST WALKER – Still no reports lately, but I've seen a few people fishing where the flow is soft and easier to fish. Water is dirty and running high at **612cfs**

as of 5/28. With the colder weather the snow melt has slowed down the flow but the water is still pretty cold and the action has been fairly slow so far. The weather has been crazy but when it warms up again the flows will increase and once the run-off is done things should improve greatly.

SONORA PASS - Crews are working on the road and no completion date set. There is only a small section of road that has not been plowed, but with the additional snow over the last 8 days it may take additional time to get it cleared. A young woman that just did that portion of the PCT provided this update.

BODIE ROAD - Open
Monitor Pass - Currently open but subject to storm closure.

TIOGA PASS - Crews are working on the road and currently at the Entrance Gate and a tentative completion date has been set for early to mid-June.



See you on the water and keep 'em wet. CJ 19/5

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