



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

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Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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April/May Calendar

May 17 American River Shad Outing

May 18-23 Eastern Sierra Outing

June 6 Bob Baiocchi seminar, Lake Davis

June 26-28 Lake Almanor Outing

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“Life is what happens to us while we are making other plans.” - Allen Saunders



Boy has life happened to us these last few weeks! When we last gathered together I had no idea that in just a few days our lives and plans would be shifted so dramatically. The club has gone from a full and diverse calendar to canceling activity after activity. Locations of meetings have been closed and much of society has quieted at home. It is my genuine hope that all of you are weathering this unprecedented time with health and the ability to meet your family's needs.

I want to take a moment to thank everyone that has reached out to fellow club members. I received numerous messages and phone calls from people seeking contact numbers for those they wanted to touch base with to make sure everyone was okay. So many people continuing to reach out to our club membership outside of fishing just demonstrates why this club is special- the amazing people.

Some are even getting out to fish. Reports from the Delta indicate fishing is good although many boat ramps are closed. Private lakes continue to provide access although crowding has been a concern. I have heard of fishermen venturing out to waters and fishing successfully while maintaining social distancing. Locally, many waterways are closed and counties are limiting outside visitors. Trout season opening has been delayed in Alpine, Mono and Inyo counties. It is unclear when and how access to waterways will open up this summer. People have successfully been fishing the Lower Sacramento, Yuba, Feather and American Rivers. There have been reports of shad moving up the system too. We were able to hold our Kelsey Bass

Ranch outing with respect for social distancing. This was a good test of the waters for these times as club leadership discusses how we will move forward providing support for fly fishing while maximizing your health and safety.

In an effort to keep our club membership safe, club leaders have been discussing outing and activity options. At this point, we encourage membership to look at their own health and risk factors and the societal guidelines put forth by state and federal agencies and determine their personal course of action. As for the club, we are erring on the side of caution and canceling meetings and social gatherings of 10 or more people until the president's meeting in August. If there is an outing that allows for social distancing within current state and federal guidelines, we will continue that outing without communal food or social interactions. Some outings we will keep on the calendar and make final decisions as the date approaches to allow us to make timely decisions. We will do our best to make sure all decisions are communicated through email, website updates and FaceBook posts. Be on the lookout for information! It is so strange to suggest this as the social interaction of the club is such an integral part of our time together but the reality is that each of you is too important for us to risk your safety and well being.

I hope that you are all able to safely get out and fish and I look forward to seeing everyone in August. We will be planning a time for us to get together and reconnect. Can't wait to see all of you!

Amy

The Shad are here and this May 17th outing is a go. It's limited to the first ten sign ups due to social distancing. Call or e-mail Al to sign up

Yes, the shad have arrived!! My early season spot is always Verona, where the Feather River dumps into the Sacramento River. There is a good boat ramp right there and the fish are just a short distance away. You need a boat, pram or other fishing platform to fish this area. You do not necessarily need a gas engine; with the low flows a good electric motor will push you up river far enough to get in the slot.



Fish water that is around 6 feet deep with a moderate flow. In no time you will be into your early season shad.

As for the American River; with the below average snowpack this year you can expect to see a moderate flow on the AR. This is good for us fly fishermen since it opens up lots of fishing locations that we have not been able to fish if previous years due to high water conditions. I also expect to see pulse flows for downstream irrigation water; one day the water will start ratcheting up to 1800 cfs (estimate) then drop back to 1250 cfs, (estimate) a few days later or next week it will do the same. These are hard fishing conditions, shad like a stable flow regardless of how high or low. Hope I'm wrong, because in a few weeks or sooner it will be SHAD TIME on the AR!

Note: Al and Jerry Neuburger fished the American at Gristmill on May 3rd and were rewarded with just under a dozen fish between them. And some of these were big, hard pulling females, not the little pre season bucks that lead the schools up river. Flows were at 1,600, and very fishable.

Outing instructions:

Due to the social distancing policy still in place I encourage all attendee

to follow the State or County guidelines.

Gristmill Park, Rancho Cordova

1:00 pm till ??.

Come early, bring your lunch and enjoy a little quiet time on the AR before the clinic.

We will assemble in the parking area where each student's equipment will be checked and suggestions will be made, if needed. At 1 pm we will converge on the river for a short session on reading the water, stream etiquette, roll casting and the basic cast, fly selection, fly lines. We will also cover the relationship of sink rate to water flow and stream conditions. Then it's your turn to assault the river and the shad. I will work with each and every one of you throughout the day and will be happy to answer all of your questions and concerns. Our goal is that by the end of the evening, you will feel confident that you understand the basics of shad fishing on the American River.

Class is limited to **10 anglers!!**

Please RSVP me as soon as possible. Fishmeister Al Smatsky 209-368-9261

DFF Officers



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- Vice President
Dena Mason
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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
- Refreshments
Mike Dempewolf
- Rod Building
Bob Fujimura 209-339-0683
- Trout Bout (November)
Charlie Reames
- Webmaster
Amy Terra

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Lake Almanor Outing, June 26-28 is still on the books. Bob and Jean Fujimura hosting. Make your reservations early since campgrounds fill up.

Each late June, Bob and Jean Fujimura have enjoyed the amazing Hex hatch on this classic large trout lake under the guidance of local guide Lance Gray for the last several years. Subject to the lifting of State and local lockdown restrictions, Bob and Jean would like to invite other club members

pants. If you are planning to camp near the lake, the USFS Lake Almanor North or South campgrounds are the most convenient location and economical option. According to Recreation.gov, these USFS will open in late May and camp sites are available for the outing period.



to experience this sight and fishing for the large rainbow and brown trout that feed on the largest mayflies in North American. Fishing the Hex hatch is an evening fishing event on Lake Almanor - however, the hosts will share other daytime fishing locations nearby.

Participants will need 9-10', 6-7 wt single handed fly rods with sinking and intermediate lines for stripping Hex, wooly bugger, or PT nymph patterns. 5-6 wt rods with floating lines are recommended for sight casting with Hex emerger or dun patterns. Float tube or a personal watercraft, headlamp, a personal floatation device and other water safety items are required for all partici-

PG&E Rocky Point Campground has more developed camp sites and near some popular fishing locations. Motels, bed and breakfast lodges, and short-term rentals are also available in Chester and other nearby communities. Try to make your reservations ASAP since the lake is extremely popular during the weekends and it can be difficult to find camping sites on drop-in basis until you come well before the weekend.

This outing has no club outing fee. Subject to interest and social distancing restrictions, we will have an early picnic dinner at a designated location on Saturday afternoon. Other expenses will in-

clude campground or motel lodging fees, Hex and other stillwater flies, all meals, ground transport to and from Lake Almanor and to other local destinations, and fishing license. A valid DFF liability waiver on file is also required for participation.

Participants should have a basic knowledge of stillwater fly fishing from a personal watercraft. The outing is aimed toward intermediate skill level fishers who have never experienced fishing a Hex hatch. Contact Bob Fujimura at (209) 329-1692 or deltaflyfishers@gmail.com if wish to participate or for more information on this outing.



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Al Smatsky, Proprietor

619 W. Pine Street, Lodi, CA 95240
(209) 368-9261, (209) 601-0819 cell 1/14

We were supposed to fish the One Fly. With COVID 19, that's out but we can help a future environmental college student. Pledge your \$25 One Fly fee towards a scholarship

There's still time. Use our online links to contribute what you would have used as your registration fee for the One Fly to help the Calaveras Club send an aspiring student to college.

Here's some information from Mike Walker, President of the Calaveras Fly Fishers.

"I just wanted to formally express my sincere appreciation to each of you for your generous donation to the John Di Dio Memorial Scholarship fund

(sponsored by Calaveras Fly Fishers). This year's recipient is a very deserving young lady, Olivia Louise Lilly. She excelled scholastically and athletically at Bret Harte High School. This year due to COVID concerns the presentation will be made by video. As you know we were forced to cancel our fund raiser for the scholarship and your donation will help us continue this very worthwhile charitable event.

Thank You for your selflessness!"

You can give by going online and click-

ing on the following links:

[\\$5](#) - [\\$10](#) - [\\$25](#)

(You will automatically be sent a tax deductible receipt) As an additional incentive, the club will match your donation.

The deadline for your contribution is May 12th.

Two spots still open for the Jon Baiocchi on the water seminar, June 6th at Lake Davis \$150 for a full day's guided fishing at Lake Davis under Jon's direction. Six students maximum

This is a golden opportunity for those of you who attended Jon's December workshop to put into practice some of the things that Jon shared during the day. This outing is limited to 6 participants. Cost is \$150 per angler. Fee is only refundable if the outing is canceled. You can transfer it to another angler if you are unable to attend. Make your reservation by clicking this link [June 6 Outing to Lake Davis](#) or by contacting club treasurer, [Jerry Neuburger](#), 209-327-5993. 2 openings left for the June outing! **Cutoff date is Monday, June 1.** **If this outing does not sell out, it will be canceled. Since this outing is with a professional guide, it is open to both club members and the public.**



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The masked conservationist and other ramblings

The fun comes, I think, as it does with just about any other act of skill, when you are properly challenged when you are fascinated by what is difficult. I guess I fish not because it's easy, but because it's not.

Nick Lyons

Given the current Stay and Home situation we find ourself's dealing with, most of us are looking for ways to keep busy and be creative. In last month's Conservation article I decided to change the format somewhat. Currently, almost all fisheries and Delta issues are negative and I want to lighten things up a bit. As I commented last month, I have decided to add subjects that have little to do with conservation but are helpful or of interest to the club. Hopefully, those of you who listened to "Ask About Fly Fishing" found its' speakers interesting and helpful.

This month we are on a totally different track. The papers and TV have had report after report that safety equipment is desperately needed. My wife and several of her friends decided to make masks. They, and others, made dozens of masks and gave them to our local hospital in Lodi.

That started me thinking. I have a run of the mill N95 mask. Wouldn't it be great to have a special mask just for fishing? My wife has no intention of making one for



me but relented to the point of giving me a video so I could do it myself. I watched the video but still struggled with the mask. [Here is the video:](#) Watch it! You will enjoy it. It is a little over 4 minutes in length.

California Files Suit To Prevent Trump's Attempt At A Water Grab

About a year ago I attended a meeting at Sacramento's Federal Building represent-

ing our club along with Restore the Delta (RTD). The Trump administration was trying to justify a major California water grab. The Trump Administration is attempting to divert water via the Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP) to incorporate farms in the Central Valley. This action will destroy the Delta along with its fisheries and agriculture. Anyone who is familiar with water issues in the state of California understands we have been embroiled in vicious water battles for over 150 years. This attempt to divert more water to politically well connected corporate agriculture violates a number of state and federal laws. The Trump Administration (TA) feels it can fast track the president's intentions with the swipe of his pen. It doesn't work that way.

State Attorney General (AG) Xavier Bacerra originally filed suit against the federal government in February of this year and updated the suit on April 22. In an article by Dan Bacher, investigative reporter, the AG was quoted saying a preliminary injunction is needed to stop "immediate and irreversible harm" to our ecosystem and the endangered Delta's fish population. As you recall the TA fired all legitimate project scientists

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2 column inches each newsletter issue for the year for \$400 or in-kind goods and services, six months \$200, quarter \$100, one month \$40. The ad may include artwork and will link to the advertiser's website.

Additional column inches of ad space may be purchased at \$200 for the year, \$100 for six months, \$50 for a quarter year, \$20 per month.

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working for the Bureau of Reclamation (BR) and replaced them with unqualified, pro-Trump people.

The AG noted that the altered biological opinion will cause "imminent and irreparable harm to the species protected under California's Endangered Species Act. The Trump Administration is endangering California's ecosystem and depleting irreplaceable natural resources. As we speak, some of California's most endangered species are being pushed closer to extinction - and there is no way to turn back the clock once the damage is done. We are fighting to prevent the Trump Administration's blatant disregard for science and the law before it permanently alters California's environmental landscape."

In the state's lawsuit filed on February 22, Bacerra admonished the TA for adopting "scientifically deficient biological opinions that enable additional exports from the San Joaquin Delta without providing adequate safeguards for endangered species. "He also noted that the TA's action violates both state and federal laws including both the state and federal Endangered Species Acts.

As was to be expected, the Trump Administration has responded to our Attorney General's suit. Brenda Burman, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner, was very upset with California's filing for a preliminary injunction. She argued, "At no time in modern history has the state of California taken such ill-founded actions to directly hurt more than 25 million Californians by unnecessarily jeopardizing their water supply. Now, more than ever, it is critical that water is reliably delivered to Americans, and we are taking actions to do that."

This is an incredible comment. In two



California Attorney General Xavier Becerra. Stock photo

sentences she gives us five blatant mis-statements.

1] California's Delta is essential for 25 million people. However, this water will be diverted for wealthy agribusiness farmers only.

NOT 25 million Californians.

2) If this water is diverted, it will jeopardize the water supply of others outside corporate agribusiness.

3) This is not an ill-founded action. It does provide more water for the wealthy. It won't protect all Californians and our Delta.

4) Yes, it is critical for water to be reliably delivered to all California. Not just to a privileged few.

5) The only thing their action will do is to increase the wealth of privileged farmers in the San Joaquin Valley.

Our club has long supported Restore the Delta (RTD) and it's environmental and fisheries policies. Barbara Barrigan-Parilla, Executive Director, is pleased with the AG's current actions. She commented, "We are grateful to California Attorney General Xavier Becerra for his continued work to protect the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary from extreme pumping. Delta species deserve protection - and the health of the Delta

people is tied to the proper management and health of the estuary. "What a great way to honor the legacy of environmental law enforcement since the first earth day 50 years ago."

Now that California has filed legal action against the Trump Administration's action, an immediate-fast action implementation

of their proposed policy will not happen. That is good. However, environmental

challenges to the Delta are on-going. For 8 years we fought Gov. Brown's attempts to build the Twin Tunnels. Because of the hard work of many pro-environment groups, they will not be built.

Now, under Gov. Gavin Newsom, a single tunnel is being proposed. Although many flaws of a single tunnel have been exposed, special interests continue to push for its construction. They want the water, and want us, the taxpayers, to pay for it

At one point Gov. Newsom spoke of a unified, comprehensive water plan for our states' 39 million people. We have never had one. Now he has diverted to the single tunnel project. Newsom now looks only to the needs of an elite special few, not the needs of the entire state. Dan Bacher explains the reason. Governor Newsom has received over 3/4 of million dollars in donations from agribusiness interests. Actually, \$755,198 to be exact. Recently you will remember the Delta Fly Fishers were involved in a fishery dispute with the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta (CSD) owned by Stewart and Lynda Resnick. The Resnicks gave \$116,800 of that amount. This is what we are up against.

Ron Forbes

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb - April 2020

STAY ALERT DEER MIGRATION

CalTrans and the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife urge drivers to be alert during the start of deer migration into their summer environment. Points to consider when traveling. 1) Be extra alert when driving near areas wildlife frequent, streams, rivers and reduce speed so you can react safely. 2) Pay extra attention during the morning and evening when wildlife are often most active. 3)

If you see an animal on or near the road know that another may be following. 4) Don't litter, trash odors attract animals to roadways. 5) Pay attention to road shoulders and watch for movement or reflecting eyes. Slow down and honk your horn if you see an animal on or near the road.

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Weather Conditions - Spring storms

Winter in the high country hung on by finger nails with scattered spring showers and a dusting of snow at the upper elevations. The Sierra motto is if you don't like the weathers just wait 10 minutes and it will change. The regular opening weekend that was postponed to June 1st was beautiful and anglers would have been happy with the conditions. Not many times do you get that kind of weather at high elevations for that weekend.

Most lakes above 8500 foot elevation still wear a neckline of ice with some open water around the edges, inlets and outlets. Stay alert and stay safe.

Fly-Fishing Apps

"Fish Head Nervous Water Apps LLC, \$6.99, iPhone, Android"

Not only the best app for steelhead rivers, but surf, and also helpful in most any trout-fishing situation around the country. It has a river directory with flows and where and when to find the best windows of action. It's handy when you're actually packing to go fishing; it's quick, organized with the most pertinent information available.

Yampa411 (High Bar Digital, \$6.99, iPhone, Android)

Yampa411 provides seriously specific details for a single fishery. The app was developed by a Colorado fly fisher Ben Russell who put a lot of time and effort into seeing that every detail is accurate and relevant. If you fish Colorado or plan to this might be the best guide around.

Orvis Fly Fishing Green Mountain digital, FREE, iPhone, Android - This is the grand-daddy of fly-fishing apps that is packed with tons of general interest fly-fishing news, advice, discussion, and entertainment you'll never be able to digest it all. It has Tom Rosenbauer's podcasts; casting videos for every stream, flats, or surf situation; knot-tying instruction; fishing reports; up-to-date news feeds; fly pattern descriptions and recommendations with built-in links so you can buy flies you're interested in. It's sort of geared toward beginners, but its solid information and we could all use a little tune-up now and again. --Loren Elliott

"The Pocket Fisherman by Magic Mobile"

This app will help you find out more about the specific species of fish, as well as regulations and records of 49 Continental states regarding fishing in their deep waters. The app also comes with a GPS map that tracks

the nearest tackle shops and marinas. You can easily identify the fish by either searching for its name or looking at the gallery of fish images. It's the most comprehensive fisherman app so far as it comes with a summary of each type of fish, description of appearance, weight, natural habitat, and its average length.

Legislative News:

March 6, 2020 - The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) released its Statewide R3 Implementation Strategy. Notably, the Strategy reverses past DFW objections to a 365 day fishing and hunting license option as well as an auto-renewal option, now endorsing it, improving the chances for the eventual passage of Assembly Bill 1387.

R3 stands for Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation. R3 plans are meant to bolster falling fishing and hunting participation rates. License and permit sales are fundamental to wildlife management, critical sources of funding for the DFW.

This development has supporters of a 365-day license cautiously optimistic. As the sponsor of Assembly Bill 1387 (Wood), the California Sportfishing League could not be more pleased that the Department has unveiled an R3 Plan that recommends a 365-day fishing license," Said Marko Mlikotin, executive director of the CSL. "This achievement sends a strong signal to the California State Legislature that there is a real plan to reform the state's antiquated and costly licensing program, and this was accomplished with the hard work of many fine hunting and angler organizations.

The DFW R3 Strategy documents lay out several Department priorities. Among them, it seeks to shift license pricing and product mix authority from the Legislature to the California Fish and Game Commission by 2023, a move many fishing and hunting advocates favor in hopes it will improve license marketing and rationalize price-setting.

"Finally, there is a real plan to make the great outdoors even more accessible to future generations of Californians."

CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

A comprehensive evaluation of the sport fishing regulations is underway. CDFW has worked to develop a process to revise sport fishing regulations guided by five tenets:

1. Maintain or increase angling opportunity;
2. Improve regulatory consistency across waters;
3. Align sport fishing regulations with CDFW's current fisheries management goals and objectives;
4. Reduce complexity and confusion; and

5. Protect the resources.

CDFW is scheduled to submit the final regulatory package to the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) in June 2020. The FGC will consider the proposed regulations and take public input at its meetings in June, August, and October of 2020. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Notice Hearing: June 24-25, Santa Ana
- Discussion Hearing: August 19-20, Fortuna
- Adoption Hearing: October 14-15, Oakland

The 45-day formal public comment period will begin soon after the Notice Hearing, around July 1. Additional information will be placed on this page as it becomes available. Visit the [FGC website](https://fgc.ca.gov/) to follow meeting dates and agendas (https://fgc.ca.gov/)

Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): Fish Planting Schedule - Dear California Anglers,

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has removed the Fish Plant Schedule from their website in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 by preventing public crowding at water bodies. Fishing is still open and CDFW will continue stocking trout at locations where social distancing by anglers and physical distancing of Hatchery Staff can be maintained. All Fishing in the City stocking events have been canceled through April 30th. We ask that members of the public avoid interacting with Hatchery Staff while fish are being stocked, and to please continue to implement social distancing. PLEASE NOTE: Local CDFW offices will not have access to the Fish Plant Schedule. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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

Feather River Salmon Evacuation pays dividends

Oroville - In February 2017, damage to the Oroville Dam's spillways prompted the evacuation of more than 180,000 people living downstream along the Feather River. The raging muddy waters also triggered an emergency decision to relocate millions of young salmon from the Feather River Hatchery to the Thermalito Annex Hatchery to be raised and held until river water conditions improved.

Most, if not all, of the young salmon would have otherwise died when mud from

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the raging river overwhelmed the hatchery waters.

About 2 million spring-run Chinook and 5 million fall-run Chinook were evacuated during the two-day floor event. Those fish survived and were later released to the wild - helping fuel a record-class salmon harvest in the ocean two years later.

Last year, most of the rescued salmon had matured in the ocean and were ready for their migration home to the Feather River. Their survival helped power strong ocean fisheries with one of the largest commercial catches in decades. According to data collected by the DFW, approximately 272,000 salmon were harvested in the commercial fishery along with a catch of 88,500 in the recreation ocean fishery, while returns to the Feather River basin exceeded 70,000 in 2019.

On March 20, 2017, the first salmon to be released after the evacuation were 1 million state and federally listed threatened spring-run Chinook salmon. They were released successfully into the Feather River. In all, a total of 2 million spring-run Chinook and 5 million fall-run Chinook were released.

Their work did not go unnoticed. Team members received a letter of appreciation from then Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom, and were later presented with the DFW Director's "Team Award" for their ingenuity and dedicated work to save the salmon and steel-head eggs.

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.

Phase-Out of Printed Regulations Books

As part of a broader effort by the department to go paperless, CDFW is in the process of transitioning to online regulations books and will be decreasing the number of printed books shipped to license agents and CDFW offices in 2019 and beyond. The cost to print and ship regulations books is significant, and money saved will be put toward fish and wildlife conservation. This year's booklets will also be returning to the smaller, mostly black-and-white format.

CDFW's License Sales Office - CDFW's new License Sales Office in Fairfield will open to the public Friday, June 15 at 8 a.m. Licenses can also be purchased anytime online (www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales)

The new address is 2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100, Fairfield, CA 94534, (707) 428-2002.

AT THE BENCH

Will return in May - So keep your fingers nimble and tying.

Fishing Report

Open Waters thru May 31st - Mono, Invo, Alpine

Below is the link that provides exact waters that are currently open. <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=178544&inline>

All waters currently open to trout fishing will remain open. All of these waters have a reduced bag limit of 2 trout and a possession limit of 4 trout, except the Owens River from Pleasant Valley Dam downstream to the footbridge at the lower end of Pleasant Valley Campground. Has a 0 bag limit and only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.

The Owens River, Section 7.50(b)(134)(E) From footbridge at lower end of Pleasant Valley Campground east (downstream) 3.3 miles along Chalk Bluffs Road to the red-wood sport fishing regulations sign, is currently open to fishing with a 0 bag limit. **LOWER OWENS** Few reports as guides and locals are not getting out much. Flow is <http://wsoweb.ladwp.com/Aqueduct/realtime/norealtime.htm> LADWP has closed access to the Owens River Gorge and the climber's parking lots on Chalk Bluff Road.

Recommended Flies: DRIES: Large dry with #22-26 midge emergers and adults, Hi-Vis Baetis #16-20, Stimulator #6-10. NYMPH: Pheasant Tail #14-22, Hares Ear #16-22, Zebra Midge #18-22, Olive Hot Spot Jig #18, Barr's Flashback BWO #16-18, Jigged hares ear #12, B/H Prince #10-14. STREAMERS: Woolly Bugger Olive & Black #10-12, Mini Sculpin Olive & Black #10-12.

ROCK CREEK LAKE - Trout season opens June 1, 2020.

UPPER OWENS – Flow is 67cfs as of 4/28 above the Confluence. Fishing conditions are good - Very few reports as guides and locals are not getting out much. DRIES: Stimulator #16-18, Griffiths Gnat #20-24, Para Adams #20-24, Para Extended Body BWO #20-22, Elk Hair Caddis #18-20, Brook's Sprout Baetis #18-22. NYMPHS: Barr's Uncased Caddis #14-16, Zebra Midge #18-22, WD-40 black #18-24, Prince Nymph #12-16, Red Copper John #14-16, San Juan Worm #12-14, Egg Patterns #12-16, Pheasant Tail #18-22, Tungsten Peacock #14-18, Tungsten Jig Baetis #18-20, STREAMERS: Shock Collar Leech #10,

Woolly Bugger White, Olive & Brown #6-14

CROWLEY LAKE – The lake is really full now. DWP has not taken the level down.

Trout season opens June 1, 2020.

HOT CREEK - Fair to Good, showing 22cfs as of 4/28.

Very few reports as the guides and locals are not getting out much. DRIES: Stimulators #16-18, R.P. Emerger #22, Real Midge #24, Stillborn Midge #20-22, Extended Body BWO #16-20, CDC Baetis Dun #20-24. NYMPHS: Bottom Roller Physco #10-14, T Midge #24, Zebra Midge #18-22, Grey/Olive Scud #16-18, Medallion Midge #22-24, Harrou's Surface Emerger Brown/Olive #16-18, Tungsten Physco Baetis #18-20, Tailwater Scud Tungsten #14-18. STREAMERS: BH Bopp Leech Olive & Brown #12-16, Woolly Bugger Olive & Brown #12-10

CONVICT LAKE – Trout season opens June 1, 2020

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN SAN JOAQUIN

Trout opener starts June 1, 2020

JUNE LOOP - Trout season opens June 1, 2020.

All lakes thawed early March.

LUNDY LAKE – Trout opener starts June 1, 2020

Lake thawed in early March.

VIRGINIA LAKES – Trout season opens June 1, 2020

Still frozen with a small amount of water at the outlet. All lakes are frozen but have a lot of dark bluish spots.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR - Trout season opens June 1, 2020. The Res is full and will be lowered anticipating run-off especially with the amount of rain and snow that's been hitting the high country during late March and April.

EAST WALKER – The order for postponement states that waters that are open now will remain open but with regular winter regulations to remain in effect, this means that the East Walker and the winter section of the West Walker will still be open for catch and release, artificial barbless hooks.

The East Walker is running at about 576 cfs 4/28 and the flows have been going up and down this past week but it hasn't hurt the fishing much. Not too many reports from the river lately but the ones reported have been pretty good. There has started to be a little bit of streamer action and even a fish caught here and there on dries but it remains mainly nymphing. The weather is getting warmer so it's good to be out there a little earlier than during the winter and there has been some good action late in the evening as well.

Patterns to try: WD-40, rainbow warrior, scud, top secret midge, Psycho Prince, soft

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hackle, Squirmy Wormy, San Juan worm, Zebra Midge, Red-headed Stepchild, Silver Streak, Flashback Emerger, Zuddler, Moal leech, Seal Bugger, Sculpzilla, Chubby Chernobyl, Stimulator, BWO, Blue Dun, Parachute Adams.

HONEYWELL POND - We haven't had anyone on the pond lately but it should be pretty good out there. The Ranch has an aquaculture license to operate so it is not affected by the trout opener delay.

SCAIRINE RANCH - The ranch has been very good lately and is starting to get booked up earlier than normal so if you want to spend some time down there be sure to call ahead of time to see if there's any room on the calendar. They're still hitting some stoneflies on the ranch as well as most of the usual nymphs and midges. Courtesy of Ken's Sporting Goods

TIOGA PASS closed from Crane Flat to 4 miles east of the US 395 (County has plowed to the Gate and waiting for the Park Service to plow their side.

KIRMAN LAKE - Trout season opens June 1, 2020.

WEST WALKER - Trout season is open with a Zero bag limit catch and release. River is running at 576cfs as of 5/28 with flat water just below the bridge for about half a mile starting at the BRIDGE with a lot of rough water then flat water near Chris Flat campground. I drove along the river on the 23rd and saw only two anglers trying their luck. With all the rain, snow and light hail this past week the West is again high and dirty right now it looks like Chocolate Mousse. The Sierra District general regulations (5 fish limit/10 in possession) will be in affect Starting June 1st.

Check with Inyo National Forest for road and trail closures in Mammoth Lakes, White Mountains, Buttermilk and Mt. Whitney.

Tioga Pass (SR 120 West) Closed

Roads that are currently open:

SR 120 East from Mono Lake to Benton is open (watch out for deer and wild horses!)

Burcham Flat road

Green Creek road

Dunderberg Meadows road (almost done)

Roads currently closed:

SR 270 to Bodie State Historic Park

Reds Meadow road to Devils Postpile

Aurora Canyon road to Masonic to Bodie

2020 CalTrans Road construction

Olancha-Cartago 4-lane project update US 395

Caltrans is in the final stages of design and right-of-way acquisition for the project which will upgrade 12.6 miles of the current two-lane highway to a four-lane access-controlled expressway. The new alignment will begin four miles south of Olancha to four miles north of Cartago and will close the gap between the existing four-lane sections to the north and the south. The new expressway will feature wider shoulders, a class-III bike route, a non-motorized multi-use undercrossing, and intersection improvements that will benefit pedestrian and bicycle mobility.

Some preconstruction activities beginning soon include utility verification and relocation, vegetation removal and/or relocation, staking the new alignment, installing desert tortoise exclusion fence, and other preliminary items. This \$83 million-dollar project is jointly funded by Inyo, Mono counties' Transportation Commissions, Kern County of Governments, and Caltrans with State Transportation Improvement Program funds and a tentative completion date of late 2023.

Entertainment for the house-bound weary!

A match made in Heaven by Peter Holtet

A few years ago, I had a female colleague who had been through a rather messy divorce, but now she was getting back on her feet, and she was trying to find a new man. She told me she had been on the Internet, which had brought her a sorry collection of geeks, pervs and spongers. She asked me what to do.

She was a fine looking woman with a nice personality, but I already have a wife and I am very attached to her--there is a bag limit of one, as everyone knows. I told her that I thought that she should join a fishing club. She looked at me with disbelief, saying that I must be joking.

"Not at all", I answered. "Where else would you meet a nice selection of eligible men in a safe environment. Most of them will be divorced, but that shouldn't bother you at all." "I don't even know how to fish", she said, her disbelief lessening.

"That will be the least of your problems. The guys in the club will be falling over each other to help you."

"But everybody knows what fishing

guys are like. They're smelly, they're away all the time, and they have one-track minds. What would I want with someone like that?"

"Well, there is no getting away from the smell, but you can get used to it. Besides, it helps to keep off the competition. As for being away, you can go with him or at least you'll know where he is, and if you cannot provide him with an alternative track from time to time, you don't know how to strut your stuff." I could see that she was starting to get interested.

"How will I know which one to choose? In waders all men look more or less the same."

"There are a couple things to look for and also some to walk away from. Go on a weekend trip with the boys. You want to look for the guy who does the cooking. And if he also brings a clean sheet and a toothbrush, he's the one you want. The guy who only brings one messy fly box and always has to borrow things that he should have thought to bring himself is the sort you want to steer clear of."

"How will I know if he is a keeper?" she asked, now definitely into the jargon.

"There is no legal minimum size and no closed season, so you'll just have to listen to your heart. However, don't forget to use your brain and your past experience. I have to warn you that catch-and-release is generally frowned upon in a club context."

"Will I have to pretend to love fishing?"

"No, my dear. You will never have to pretend. And no woman ever has to ask, 'does my bum look big in these waders?' The question is completely superfluous."

"I'll think it over. Thanks for the advice."

However, shortly afterwards she left for another job and I lost touch with her. I can't conceal that I was curious as to how she had got on, but since we had no mutual acquaintances, I might never have known, had I not run into her on the corner of some secret coast line, fishing rod in hand, dressed in her full

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fish-fighting regalia. She was on her own. We chatted about the fishing for a few minutes, as I would have done with any other angler on a chance meeting, but eventually I couldn't help myself any longer and I blurted out, "How did you make

out? Did you take my advice? Did you manage to snag a man you were after?"

"Oh yes", she sighed, looking at the horizon, "snagged the chairman of the fishing club. A lovely man he was. And not too smelly. He taught me how to make a reversed snake-roll-cast. He cooked like a chef at a Michelin star restaurant. So sad, really; I had to let him go in the end. He was taking up far too much of the time I wanted to spend fishing."

Note: I can only sympathize with her, too many waters and not enough time to fish them all, husbands do require a little time, darn it! You just don't get a good one without the other. cj

See you on the water; keep 'em wet CJ 20/4



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