

GOLD COUNTRY FLYFISHERS

August 2009

President's Message



By Mark Rockwell

As this past week of heat has reminded me that summer can be a test, it also reminds me of why we love California. We are able to travel "up-slope" to cooler climates and fish in the high Sierra streams that are so much fun. I hope everyone is getting a chance to have fun in these local places, and gets relief from the heat of the low lands.

As many of you know, I have been working on conservation issues in California for nearly 6 years now. I've been fortunate to have worked for both the Federation of Fly Fishers and the Endangered Species Coalition. As such, I've been able to experience much of what has been happening to fisheries here in California, and specifically been witness to serious declines to anadromous fisheries like salmon and steelhead. In 2004 when the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was being challenged by members of Congress, I realized that the ESA was our last great hope to re-establish our salmon fisheries. It took a major effort by many environmental groups and more than a year to defeat the challenge in Congress and until April 2009 to beat back all the challenges that came from the past administration in Washington.

Well, I am happy to report that there is a new wind blowing from Washington these days, and it appears it could be helpful to our fisheries. In 2004 two biological opinions were issued on Delta fish – Smelt and Salmon – and both were not based on science, as the ESA requires.

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In 2007 and 2008 the federal courts found these opinions to be arbitrary and capricious, and illegal – requiring the wildlife agencies to do them again. In late 2008 and May 2009, the new Delta Smelt and Salmon BiOps have been released, and finally they are jeopardy opinions, meaning that the water agencies cannot proceed as planned. Both opinions require protections of the fishery, and significant change for the Delta and our rivers.

My 6 years of experience has been that the wildlife agencies had been intimidated by special interests and political meddling from Washington. After the past 8 months and new leadership, it is now obvious that the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service are finally free to follow their scientists, and issue opinions that are in the best interest of the species of fish facing extinction. Both have made bold recommendations for change, calling for reduced water diversion, getting salmon and steelhead beyond dams like Shasta and Folsom and forcing changes that powerful groups don't want to make. It may be more difficult for water agencies to get all they want, but it is a change that our fisheries and wildlife have been long overdue to receive. Perhaps in the years ahead we will actually have the salmon season open again!

Mark Rockwell

Meeting & Program Announcements

In lieu of a meeting this month, there will be a free Gold Country Flyfishers potluck barbecue on **Tuesday August 4th, 6 PM**, at **Condon Park BBQ Pavilion** in Grass Valley. There will be no board or Conservation meeting this month. See page 2 for details, including your potluck assignment.

Program: Barbecue for members and guests

Programs



By Trent Pridemore

Gold Country Flyfishers Programs

Upcoming Programs:

August:

Tuesday, August 4th brings our free Summer Barbecue to Condon Park Barbecue Pavilion at 6:00pm. I and volunteers Ed Tom, Don Liljeblad, Len Valente, Norm Sauer, Don Hess and Mark Rockwell will be cooking over genuine Texas mesquite. Featured specialties are Basque marinated chicken thighs and 24 hour Tri Tips. Volunteers should be there by five.

This is a Pot Luck and you are to bring your own plates, napkins, knives and forks and beverages of choice. The pavilion has concrete tables under a roof and a faucet and nearby bathroom. Bring a tablecloth...even a candelabrum, like at a Raiders tailgate and don't forget your dish: A-G is an appetizer, H-Q a salad or side dish, R-Z dessert. If you really have a special dish out of category...bring it! There will be lots of yummy choices.

Casting games will be immediately adjacent to the pavilion. Bring a rod if you are so inclined and bring your wallet for a one ticket high value item raffle.

Please e-mail me if you are coming and include whether you will bring a guest, partner, spouse or good and great friend.

September:

We start our fall season with noted angling author and lecturer Ken Hanley for a presentation on Eastern Canadian Fishing. Ken is a vibrant speaker who will make you want to head for the lake after the meeting... that night! Don't miss this one!

We are working on a Steelhead program for the fall.

Trent

Trentpridemore@dishmail.net



Float-tubers on Crowley Lake (site of our upcoming September fishout)



Another shot of Crowley Lake

Fishout Schedule



By Mike Williams

Schedule for 2009

Date	Location	Fishout	Leader
August 21	Lakes Basin Sardine Lake	Trout	MikeWilliams
August 29	Lower Yuba River UC Davis Property	Trout	Mike Connor
September 11	Boca Reservoir	Trout	Rex England
September 18	Frenchmans Reservoir	Trout	Wayne Holloway
September 22 23 24	Eastern Sierra	Trout	Dave Bear
October TBA	Lower Yuba River Nymphing Clinic	Trout	Frank Rinella
October TBA	North Yuba River	Trout	Ralph Wood
November TBA	Feather River	Steelhead	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
December 5	Lower Yuba River UC Davis Property	Trout	Mike Connor



Some of our members at the Lake Davis fishout



Ace Emmerling, with a nice rainbow from Lake Davis, caught from the shore

Fishout Report

By Mike Williams

June Fishouts



Note: Thanks to Don Steffa for offering to assist Mike Williams with coordination of Fishouts. Mike can be contacted at 530-265-3589 (river-angler@att.net) and Don at 272-3518 (ez1flyfisher@hotmail.com)

I want to take this opportunity to thank those individuals who helped out this past month with our Lower Yuba dry fly clinic. By all accounts, it was a successful outing with participation of both members wanting to learn, and those that instructed. Thank you Frank Rinella for putting this together, and instructors Sam Higginbotham, Ace Emmerling, Mike Connor, Ed Tom, Ralph Wood, Norm Sauer, Don Steffa, Don Liljebblad and Steve Allen. Your willingness to share your knowledge is greatly appreciated.

On July 17, 2009 we had our Milton Lake outing. We had a large number of members sign up and unfortunately had to limit the number of members who attended. It was a good day with lots of small fish caught. Right now Milton Lake is running in the low 40's in the morning, warming somewhat in the afternoons. With the cold influx of water from Jackson Meadows, hatches are at a minimum with the fish feeding on small midges. Most of the fish we caught that day were on the Blood Midge and small #16 dark Pheasant Tails. The bite was fairly consistent catching both Browns and some Rainbows. Larger fish were seen cruising, but with the water as clear as it was, the fish were spooked. Members got to learn and apply the technique of using a 2 fly set-up that consisted of a dry or emerger with a midge dropper. Thanks Norm Sauer for teaching that technique.

Because of the number of members signing up for our outings, we are finding ourselves having to limit the amount of people on the different waters. We are doing this to avoid overcrowding the water. Overcrowding is not good for the fishery, or the people who use it. We will continue to try and find locations where everyone can attend when possible. When we have fishouts with more signups than we can handle, we will try and have a second outing. Those who missed out on the recent Milton Lake outing will be contacted (e-mailed) for a followup opportunity later this month.

Don Steffa and I are going to try and put some Saturday outings together for those of you that work weekdays. Please contact Don or myself if you are interested in attending one of these. We could use volunteers to lead these events.

I will lead a float tube group to Lakes Basin, Sardine Lake, on August 21st. If you are interested and want to sign up, you can call or e-mail me at 530-265-3589, river-angler@att.net

On August 29th Mike Connor will host a limited number of members (20) to fish the Lower Yuba at the U. C. property. We will meet at the Penn Valley Park and Ride at 4pm that day for evening fishing. If you would like to attend, you should e-mail or call Mike at jmconnor@ucdavis.edu 432-3236. We will limit the signup list to 25, and with cancellations, 20 will be allowed to attend.

We will have signup sheets for both of these events available at the upcoming August meeting..

Mike

Knot Tying

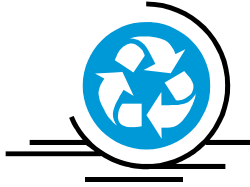
How are your skills in tying knots for fly fishing? If you're still working on them or are a beginner, here are a couple of good websites that provide directions for tying some of the most commonly used fly fishing knots:

Orvis.com/orvis_assets/files/index.html

Killrovs.com/knots/knots.html

Conservation Corner

By Allan Gere



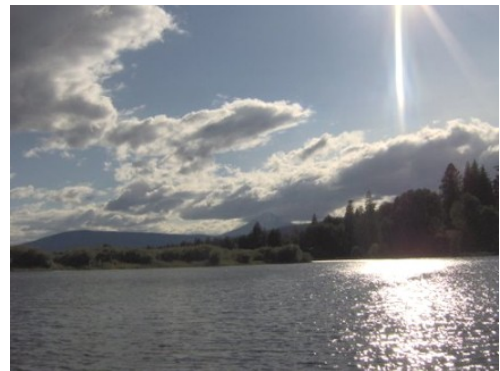
(No information to report this month)

Tahoe Truckee Fly Fishers Annual Summer BBQ

We have been invited to join the Tahoe Truckee Fly Fishers at their Summer BBQ on August 8, 2009 noon to 4:00 PM at the Truckee River Regional Park. If you would like to go, contact TTFF at 530-587-7110 or dlass@tu.org. Cost is \$10 if you call by July 26. They will have food, drinks, fly fishing instruction, a class on aquatic insects, a casting competition, and an opportunity to check out some new gear from the leading manufacturers in the industry. You will even have a chance to do some fishing in the Truckee River, so bring your gear.



Milton Lake scenery



John Kusanovich took this photo at Klamath Lake, where he reports that every trout he caught was over 4 lbs, and one was 10 lbs.

Minutes from Gold Country Flyfishers Board Meeting July 7, 2009:

In Attendance: Mark Rockwell Mike Connor
 Barbara Driscoll David Bear
 Neal Brunckhorst Gery Anderson
 Stephen Allen Trent Pridemore
 Frank Rinella Stan Sanderson

- Meeting called to order at 6:00PM
- June 2009 meeting minutes reviewed and approved
- Treasurer's Report (Neal B.) Budget as of June 2009 reviewed and approved. Neal also reviewed the latest financial report. He also presented a proposed expense/income report for the remainder of fiscal year 2009.
- Club hats (Neal B.). Presented and approved by Board to be put up to sale to membership.
- Discussion of August BBQ meeting. Food, activities, raffle and the reserving of the park were all discussed.
- Member Survey (Mark R.)
 - Main points 1) One more yearly social event seems to be of interest to the membership
 - 2) More casting casting/fly tying instruction requested
 - 3) A multi-day lodging/fishing trip to an exotic location was of interest
- Discussion of Christmas Party....
 - 1) Possible location options (need to reserve location soon)
 - 2) Full dinner vs. hors d' oeuvres
 - 3) Date-2 options Friday Dec. 11 or Saturday Dec. 12
 - 4) More socializing requested- will provide round tables and possibly start earlier
 - 5) To check if Vickie available for catering services
- Request to make full roster and Buddy Program lists available to whole membership.
- Meeting adjourned 7:00PM

FLYTYING and FLYCASTING

By Sam Higginbotham

There will be no fly tying classes or fly casting sessions until October

Gold Country Flyfishers

P.O. Box 2988
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Officers and Board Members

President: Mark Rockwell

Vice President: Steve Allen

Secretary: Stan Sanderson

Treasurer: Neal Brunckhorst

Director: Frank Rinella

Director: Barbara Driscoll

Director: Gery Anderson

Director: David Bear

Past President: Mike Connor

Committees

FFF: Mark Rockwell

Mentoring: Frank Rinella

Conservation: Allan Gere

Programs: Trent Pridemore

Fishouts: Mike Williams & Don Steffa

Raffle: Tim Colbert

Library: Len Valente

Casting/Flytying: Sam Higginbotham

Webmaster: Terry Hobart

Newsletter: David Bear

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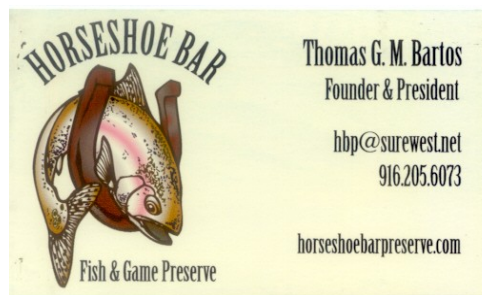
Gene McCallister

(530) 346-2782

acclaimsigns@hughes.net



*Ed Tom's catch at Henry's Lake,
Idaho*



Gold Country Flyfishers

Purpose and Objectives

Support the “catch and release” ethic

To promote flyfishing for the recreation of members

Promote and support the conservation of our water and fisheries

Provide assistance to members in the skill and techniques of flyfishing

Publicize and promote flyfishing, flycasting, flytying, and other related topics

To represent flyfishers through liaison with sports and conservation organizations

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.gcff.org

Gold Country Flyfishers
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