

Prez Says... from John Reynolds

Fair Times.....

I'm not sure I'm sorry to see summer coming to an end. All it seems to be is endless hot weather. The one bright spot this past month was manning the club's booth at the county fair.

I never cease to be amazed at the specimens that stroll by the booth. I don't know if it's my attitude and behavior problem or what, but why is it that fully 75% of the people who pause at our booth look like they were just released from the county jail? What with the tatoos, body rings, facial hair, tobacco stains, bullet holes, knife wounds, missing limbs.....AND THOSE ARE THE WOMEN! So I asked my good buddies Kurt and Carl from Cache Creek Monuments in Woodland and they agreed. They won't even go the fair at night.....way too scary.

On a more technical note, I think I may have stumbled onto to the ultimate Okie float tube anchor. I lost a real anchor on the bottom of Putah Creek this past summer and couldn't bring myself to spend another \$15 to replace it so I took an old soup can, filled it with some lead fishing weights from Big 5, added some Ready-Mix concrete and an eye bolt and Voila.....Okie Anchor. When I get enough of these cornie ideas together I'm thinking about marketing them under the label:

Custom Research Angling Products -- -- -- Get it?

Back to Lake Solano and Putah Creek, throughout August it was fishing OK, not great, lots of fish flouncing around on the surface around dusk. Reed Enos, Bob Z. and myself made it out 3 or 4 times. In early September it seem to pick up noticeably. Lowell had well over 7 hookups and Bob Z. manage to catch a 20" hog somewhere below Pyramid Rock. (ask Bob about his dragon-fly pattern). It should remain good throughout October. As always there are a few risks involved; 1) getting into the water from the bank (ask Lowell about the proper technique) and 2) stepping on a turd! (remember, this IS Putah Creek)

Nuff said?

JR

(Editor's note: above printed as submitted. To save John a visit from Mary the 300 pound biker with the nose ring

and tatoos who was talking about tying 'para-duns', the fair mailing list collected will be sent to next month.)

Special Fall Outing to Pleasant Valley Creek Preserve - Report

FFD members ventured to PVCP and were treated to fantastic small stream trout fishing. Jim Crouse, Preserve Guide gave us an orientation on the some three miles of stream and pointed out the best spots. This saved us time in locating the best water. With eleven anglers we had to spread out some, but, found the fish cooperative after a thirty minute rest from another anglers approach. Adney Bowker, Bill Carnazzo and myself were accompanied to the upper Preserve by Jim. My first hookup was a 22 incher on a 20 Micro Mayfly Nymph. After a minute or two of battle the fish came unbuttoned. Same hole, I hooked three more fish in the next 10 casts. Over my Talk-About a voice proclaimed, "just landed one 18 plus", Bill proclaimed from the big log hole just upstream. With the water a little off color early in the day, nymphing seemed most productive. As we moved downstream we ran into Adney and he have landed three fish on a dry fly in the 16 to 19 class. Bob Percy, Jim Ferguson, Tom Vail and Lowell Ashbaugh began in the middle section. Jim found success with both dries and nymphs. Bob Percy landed several midclass trout. Tom, who had fished the Creek for many years and before the preserve, found several spots with numerous trophy size fish and landed them in the 20 inch class. Lowell started right at the guide hut and hooked 18 and 20 inchers without moving more 50 yards from the lunch chest. Cal Kado and Bill Schnathorst started at the lower part of the Preserve and began with hookups on 18 inch fish. All this before lunch.

As the afternoon progressed, the hatches became more prolific. The evening brought on a really good dun hatch. Grasshoppers were around but only a few fish were game for them. The hot pattern seemed to be a Black Ant, or anything Ant, although there didn't appear to be too many around

or on the water. Ants seem to disappear from fly boxes like wallets at a Pik-Pocket convention. In the afternoon and evening, the water seemed to clear. In many of the spots held several good size trout could be spotted. Many times a quiet upstream cast would easily entice a strike. Several anglers stayed until dusk getting in those last hookups.

This outing has annual potential with the quality of the fishing at Pleasant Valley Creek Preserve. The overall consensus yielded that everyone caught more than a dozen and some upwards of 25 Brown or Rainbows combined with several fish in the 16 to 20 inch class. A \$55 club group outing fee including lunch makes this a real bonus as a private water destination.

Although Bill and I ended stayed at the J. Marklee Toll Station, the accommodations at Grover Hot Springs was considered excellent for camping. Another place to stay is the Carson River Resort which is located on the East Carson just outside Markleeville in Hope Valley. We considered fishing the Carson but found there were more anglers than rocks or fish in the river.

Jim Crouse guides on the Preserve several days a week.. He noted that the normal all day access fee is \$80 per person, however, you can get a morning guide with access from him for under \$200. This is a great deal and you find the hot spots and patterns. Contact Jim at Alpine Fly Fishing, 530-542-0759.

We also ventured up to Henan Lake at the top of Monitor Pass just 20 minutes from Markleeville. The flotilla of tubes, pontoon boats and prams really wasn't too bad. The gatekeeper indicated that 108 anglers on Saturday had landed 170 plus fish. I fished for about 3 hours with three hookups and landing one Cutthroat at 24 inches. That seemed to be about the going rate. Henan is open on weekends to October 1st. **RR**

OUTINGS - Cary Boyden

Since the last newsletter the club has had several outings. The annual Lewiston trip sans fishmeister who finally fell under the surgeon's knife for that long necessary new hip was its usual artistic success but unfortunately also followed the last several years experiences of being light on the fishing success. With a great deal of regret it appears that a new venue is called for the mid-summer outing. Most likely based on several hunches confirmed by Andy Burke the trip will be a Manzaneta/Macumber combo.

Also, on the weekend of the 9th the Pleasant Valley outing was held. Presumably the editor has a report elsewhere on this trip which occurred subsequent to the submission of this update.

Finally, John Reynolds has been hosting the Thursday evening jaunts to Putah [Lake Solano]. These get togethers have provided increasing success to attendees and will continue at least through mid-October.

Coming up in the near-term are:

- Upper Klamath over the last weekend of the month [early reports indicate a good half powder run]
- Upper Sac October 7th - see article.
- Stripers trip on the last weekend of October [more from Jim on this next month]

UPPER SAC OUTING - October 7th

The October 7th weekend, we again make our annual trek to the Upper Sacramento River in Dunsmuir. Here's a good chance to learn or hone those nymphing skills. Ron hold the traditional clinic meeting at 8:30 am, Dunsmuir City Park. A sign up will be at the meeting or contact Ron Rabun, 800-FLY-FSHN. Interest will also be taken on Dinner at Café Maddalena (worth it alone). A good place to camp is Railroad Park Resort.

Raffle Board will close at the September Meeting - Be sure to get your spots to win one of the three rod or reel items.

Sierra Backpack Outing from John Forsyth

On August 11th four FFD members strapped on backpacks including float tubes, fins, and waders and hiked into Fremont Lake near the eastern edge of the Emigrant Wilderness.

The seven mile trail out of Leavitt Meadows started hot and dusty through arid sagebrush bordering the West Walker River. At the two mile mark we passed Roosevelt and Lane lakes, along with about 15 to 20 other hikers who were resting along the shore. Despite the possibility of crowds, there was only one other group at Fremont Lake when we arrived after about 4 ½ hours of sweaty hiking. This lake can easily accommodate lots of people as large areas for horse pack groups were evident on the west side of the lake. We launched three tubes that evening and managed to land about 20 rainbows from 10 to 13 inches. They fought surprisingly hard and were in good condition.

The next morning John Hodgson bushwacked down to Hidden Lake and coaxed a 17-incher to take a damselfly nymph before snapping him off. Mark Tebbutt, Scott Kubik, and myself kicked around the lake and pulled out a few more, but the fishing had slowed. That afternoon John and I hiked down to the West fork of the West Walker and were happy to find a good amount of water flowing. We figured on a few 6 to 8-inchers, but I was surprised to see a beautiful 12 inch rainbow intercept my Andy Burk Caddis Emerger on the first cast. We scrapped up a box canyon for about a mile and had a wonderful time catching willing fish. Most were 8 to 10 inches, but John did land a chunky 15-incher

in a plunge pool. I don't think these fish see many fishermen where we were. At times I thought we were going to need ropes to get out of the canyon. That evening we again floated the lake and Mark stayed out well into the darkness as the near-full moon came over the ridge to the east. He had multiple fish until one of unknown size broke him off on a violent take! Monster, weak knot, or John Reynold's sun dried tippet? You be the judge. We survived another scorcher on the way out, and as usual the trail seemed to never end.

Overall it was a great trip. The only disappointment was I forgot the syrup and couldn't make pancakes for breakfast. Oatmeal again. **JF**

Halloween Meeting? Keep your eye out on the meeting date for October. We are looking at changing it to Wednesday, November 1st instead of Halloween Tuesday. Check the next newsletter.

OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM Joe Warren on Alaska

Our program presenter for the October Meeting is past member and old friend Joe Warren speaking on his Alaska experiences. As many members remember, Joe began with FFD as a fisheries student at UCD and was integral in conducting the Putah Creek Study proving wild trout populations existed there. Joe presently lives in Southern Washington state, works for US Fisheries Service, has Jo Jo's guide service and has published two fly popular tying books. Don't miss this one and keep your eye on the final date.

NCCFFF: Website: www.nccfff.org

Notes of interest from August 2000 Meeting.

**Conclave At Kings Beach Community Center
September 29-30 October 1, 2000
Dan Blanton featured presenter.**

Hall of Fame - March 3rd 2001 Fort Mason Center
Next meeting
Dec 2, 1999, Angler's Lodge, San Francisco CA.

Conservation

Nevada - Mike Matuska updated the current situation at Knot Creek Reservoir, and the LCT recovery program. Matuska reported to the board that Knot Creek Reservoir has suffered a fish kill due to the hot weather, and that the reservoir is now considered sterile. Matuska will keep the board updated on how the council can be involved in the restoration of this trophy fishing reservoir. Matuska also updated the board on the complex issues related to Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) restoration.

SB1540 - Izmirian reported on SB1540 to the board and asked that directors be ready to take emergency action on this bill to catalog the list of useless dams better removed than left standing.

Striper Committee - Izmirian reported on the Striper Committee for Doug Lovell. The striper committee would like the Council to accept donations from striper fundraisers, and apply them to striper issues.

CALFED - Izmirian reported that CALFED has published its record of decision on the EIS/EIR. Izmirian noted that his fear is that the record of decision makes promises to increase water delivery to San Joaquin and increase water release for fish. Izmirian notes that many believe the only way to do this
it to increase surface storage by building more

storage facilities. Izmirian also discussed two bills in the legislature. One bill by Assemblyman Michael Machado, D-Stockton, would have set up an 11-member governing board to oversee the CALFED. The other Byron Sherer's bill, (SB1540) would catalogue dams in California for their usefulness.

Post meeting note: Machado's bill was defeated in the legislature by one vote. Another bill by state Sen. Jim Costa, D-Fresno, would have provided \$125 million to help buy water rights to restore runs of endangered fish in the delta and surrounding rivers. It died without a vote in the Senate after Republicans used roll-call votes to run out the clock.

CSPA Report

Baiocchi thanked the board of directors for fund raising efforts by the Northern California Council. Baiocchi reported on his efforts on the Russian River, protection of coho and steelhead, the Potter Valley project, and PG&E. Baiocchi described efforts between Friends of Eel River and CSPA to decommission Potter Valley, which would result in more water for the Eel and less transferred to the Russian. Baiocchi discussed problems on the Salinas River below Salinas Dam, which has no mandatory flow requirements from the dam to protect threatened steelhead. This issue has gone to litigation, and the court has made a decision to have fishery studies on the river. Baiocchi reported on issues with the Santa Ynez and with the .Navarro River. Baiocchi estimates 130 illegal diverters on the Navarro which cause stress on fish habitat. Baiocchi also indicated that the Cantera Trustee Council decided to fund the Cantera Loop Bridge with a pedestrian walk in spite of the fact that the people of Dunsmuir were against installation because fly anglers would use it.