

Prez Says from John Reynolds

What with the holiday season upon us it's only natural to start thinking of a whole new list of fishing widgets to submit to the wife. I think I've come up with a potential winner.

As some of you know, I went on a road trip with my brother this past September that included such venues as John Day, Ruby Valley and Jarbidge Wilderness. We dirt camped one night in what turned out to be mosquito country. While rummaging around in his box of camping gear my brother pulled out a can of generic bug spray with some obscure brand name like "Family Country" or "Family Value..." or something along those lines. The manufacturer of the product was obviously trying to establish some kind of brand name recognition so the type face on the brand name was promoted at the expense of the word "Insect". Since it was impossible to read the complete label without rotating the can, at arm's length it appeared to be a can of:

Family... Insect **Repellent**

We both agreed that this product was gonna' make someone very rich, maybe even win a Nobel Peace Prize. I can see people buying this stuff by the case for the holiday hump.

On a more serious note it's time to start thinking about the Annual Dinner. We'll be looking for people to help out with the usual tasks like ticket stamping, raffle organizing and such. This year we will also provide anyone willing to donate a dozen or more flies to the raffle with a free club fly box. Ron Rabun has lined up what should prove to be a most entertaining speaker in Seth Norman. I'm really looking forward to this years doings.

See you at the next meeting.

JR

ANNUAL DINNER

SETH NORMAN
and tales about fishing
BORA BORA TO ALASKA
Saturday, January 20th

PROGRAM: Seth Norman, Author, Journalist and rabid Fly Fisher will present his unique program that provides a contrast between fishing for warm water species of the southern pacific and fishing Alaska for trout, steelhead and salmon. Anyone, who had read his works including *Meandering of a Fly Fisher* or articles in the *California Fly Fisher*, will attest that Seth has a wonderful grasp of the descriptive English language as it relates to our mutual endeavor of travel and angling with the fly.

There will also be an afternoon program, related to fly fishing Baja.

LOCATION AND TIME: The Dinner will be held at the Davis Veterans Memorial building located in the Davis Park on Fourteenth Street. Cost will be \$30 per person including the afternoon program. If your interested in only the afternoon program and not the dinner, then a \$10 donation is requested. No Host beer and wine begins at 6PM with Dinner at 7 PM.

FANTASTIC FOOD: Again, the Whites will be catering the dinner. Your dinner choices are: Salmon, Beef or Cornish Hen. Please select one entree with reservation or purchase of dinner ticket. As usual, salad and selection of side dishes will be included. Delisssshhhhhh!

DRAWING/AUCTION: Bill Rains and Reed Enos are compiling another fabulous selection of auction, drawing and bucket items. Look for a list of the premium items in the special January edition of the newsletter.

As always, we ask that you bring your **PERSONAL DONATIONS** to the dinner which will be logged in and presented in the drawing.

FLY SELECTIONS are being requested from members. Any member committing to donating a dozen or more flies will be provided a club fly box for presentation of your selection. Either tie or present a selection of your favorite patterns. This is one of the most rewarding aspects of the dinner since you share your sole through the donation. Pick up your box at the Nov-Dec mtgs.

BRING A FRIEND: Our annual dinner is a great way to invite friends interested in fly fishing and an enjoyable evening. Even for the none angler, the program, meal and drawings will be entertaining.

Every dinner ticket purchased before January 10th, will receive an entry in the **EARLY BIRD Drawing** for a Fly Rod. Sign up or purchase tickets at the November or December meeting. You can mail your checks made payable to: Fly Fishers of Davis, PO Box 525, Davis, 95617.

You can contact John Reynolds for more information and to reserve tickets. 530-753-2682

2001 DUES ARE PAYABLE BEGINNING JANUARY 1ST.

**PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES OF \$25 EITHER
AT THE MEETINGS, ANNUAL DINNER OR BY
MAIL, POBOX 525, DAVIS, 95617**

Two dinner tickets and annual dues amounts to \$85 so make it easy; write one check covering both.

----- OUTINGS ----- PYRAMID LAKE

Fishmeister: Jon Knapp

December 8-9-10

The Pyramid outing fishout and clinic will be held Saturday December 9th. If you are planning to go, we will be meeting at the Pyramid Lake store at 9am. You can obtain your license there, as well as snacks and drinks for the day at the store at the located at the entrance to the Reservation. Daily or season licenses are available. The season license covers the whole winter and spring so you can cover several of these cult trips. If you are coming up Friday evening, Jon & Sarge will be staying at the Nugget and we can discuss strategies at the Tiki Bar after 8pm.

Gear requirements: 9 foot, 6/7/8 wt. Outfits with Type I - II -or III sinking line or shooting head. Leader 5-7 foot 1 or 2x tippet. (flourocarbon is good too). Flies: Woolly Buggers, Bright Orange, Flouresent Green/Yellow, White/Black Hackle, Half white/black, black/green, black orange, orange/white, sizes 6 and 4 streamer hooks plus other secrets of Jon and Sarge.

Traditionally, this has been what you may call an "Cult Outing". Pyramid is a cult fishery meaning that the pursuit of these Cutthroat Trout is a deliberate and patient endeavor. There's times when a blizzard and 15-20 mile an hour wind produced fish in excess of 10 pounds. Members of any experience can take advantage of this unique fishery and unique world class western trout fishing experience. Sarge and Jon promise to keep you smiling. Contact Jon at 756-5096.

PUTAH CREEK Clean-UP

Saturday, December 2nd

Come out and help with this annual cleanup. The annual "pamper patrol" will meet at the Putah Creek Café at 8AM or locate participants along the creek near the middle and upper accesses. A usual the Club will be providing Dogs and drinks for lunch. Bring your rod since fishing in the afternoon should be good if you have any energy left. Contact John Reynolds for more info.

PUTAH CREEK

December 16th

Fishmeister: John Forsyth 750-1192.

Putah's has been fishing fantastic. FFD will hold an outing to Putah Creek on Saturday, December 16, 2000. Come out and enjoy the pristine banks (after the successful clean-up on December 2nd) of our "home" water. We will meet at the Putah Creek Café at 7:30AM. Get there early and enjoy breakfast. Putah Creek is back in its old form, and tales of many large fish being caught are true! Beginners and the usual experts are welcome. Bring your nymphing setup, wading staff, and cold-weather gear if needed. Sign up at the November or December meetings or call John Forsyth, 750-1192.

Sugar Creek Ranch Report

Jon Knapp, Bob Percy and Ron Rabun on Saturday, November 15th, journeyed that hour drive from Dunsmuir to sample the big bows of Sugar Creek Ranch. Pulling into the North Pond (not to be mistaken with Northstar Pond) we found three anglers and owner Mike Kalpin. After discussing the days agenda, potential fly selections and coordination for fishing the different ponds with Mike, we headed to Middle Pond. Knapp already rigged with a size 20 Adams and 5x tippet, he headed to a little gravel spit and casted to a dozen of the hundred plus trout visible to us from the car.

PLLOOOSHHH! Knapp proclaimed, "there he is", and the battle with a 4 pound plus Rainbow ensued. John landed this one and went on hooking several others on 5x and 6x. Bob headed to the other side of the pond and casted his 20 BWO with 6x tippet and broke a couple off. Finally, Bob was hooking and landing 3 to 5 pounders over the next two hours. Meanwhile, my 18 Krystal BWO Parachute was working with 6x and I battled several fish with my Light Line 389.

Around 12:30, we headed back to the North Pond to chase the bruisers there. The North Pond holds the largest fish at SGR. John was especially interested in catching a fish larger than his pets at the Williamson. John was hooking fish on a little nymph stripped slowly. Bob went to a sinking line and Woolly Bugger and I followed suit with an Orange WB. I hooked a nice 6 pounder on it. Fishing by the inlet, I switched to a Pettis Yarn Bead Egg pattern (found in Joe's Bead Patterns book) using Rio 2x flouorocarbon tippet. 6 casts yielded 5 spunky male Rainbows. Egg fishing got to me and I had to switch They are hanging around the inlet preparing to spawn in December and January.

John proclaimed, "let's go to the South Pond". So we did. Fish were rising on midges by the channel and Bob nailed one on his first cast. A nice 6 pounder. After landing the fish, the others seemed to be a bit tougher. After about 40 minutes, I talked them in to going back to the North. I usually like to end the day there because it always seems to produce in the evening at dark.

Well it finally happened. Knapp tosses his 20 Adams in the current by the inlet, and BOOM a huge gulp as John's Adam's Apple hits the bottom of his throat. Yes, a 10 pounder had grabbed the fly on 5x and the battle ensued. Bob came running with a camera and I with the net. After about 10

minutes and several long runs, a beautiful Scott River Rainbow/Steelhead strain trout was posing for its photo. Oh Yes, Knapp behind it with a big SE grin on his mug.

Well the fishing day ended and we headed back to Dunsmuir to make our reservation time at Café Maddalenna. The end to a perfect fishing day with some red wine and Marcos. We had to listen to John tell the story of his 10 pound trout to the young woman with dreadlocks at the next table. He always talks about his big trout.

According to Bob, we should make this an annual outing and plan for an April or May venture to Sugar Creek Ranch again.

Ron Rabun

**Northern California Council
Federation of Fly Fishers
Conservation Update
November 19, 2000
Trinity River Flows - Interior Department
Announces Decision**

(AP) SACRAMENTO -- Water flowing out of the Trinity River to California's agricultural Central Valley would be reduced sharply under a long-awaited federal plan unveiled Friday that is likely to have a sharp impact on farming and electrical power. The plan also means that about 26 percent more water may be retained in the Trinity to protect fish and wildlife and sustain the economies of local Indian tribes -- something the Indians have sought for two generations. The report by the U.S. Interior Department follows years of study of the Trinity, a river little known outside Northern California but one that is critical to California's water picture. The river, which flows from the Trinity Alps region west to join the Klamath River just inland from the northern coast, supplies about a fourth of the Central Valley Project's electrical power and perhaps a seventh of its water. The Interior Department's announcement contained several alternatives for dealing with the Trinity, which has been the focus of a tug of war between environmentalists and farm interests for nearly 50 years.

Conservationists believe as much water as possible needs to be kept in the river to protect wildlife. Growers want water from the river for their crops, and they say the farm economy would be crippled if the flow is reduced. Federal waterworks built in the early 1960s at Lewiston diverted water to the Central Valley. The alternatives listed Friday range from doing nothing to completely cutting off water from the river to the east and south. In the end, the department said its "preferred alternative" was a rough split: 48 percent of the water to be kept up north, and 52 percent allowed to flow south.

Currently, about three-fourths of the Trinity's water is diverted to the south. Before 1992, as much as 90 percent was taken. "This alternative is definitely a good step in the right direction, but we were hoping for more," said Tina Andolina of the Friends of the Trinity. "But to ensure that this new water actually improves the fisheries, you have to get funding for it. Who's going to pay for it? Trinity County can't pay for it. The Interior Department can't pay for it. Funding for the Trinity's restoration has actually decreased over the past few years." Gerald Meral of the Planning and Conservation League agreed. "We're going to 'up' the flow in the river, and that is better than not going up. But it's probably not enough to restore the fishery," Meral said.

Growers were critical of the Trinity alternative, noting that even now they don't receive sufficient water through the Central Valley Project. Some utility districts also have been critical, and the Northern California Power Association, which includes electrical utilities, opposes reducing the Trinity's flows into the Central Valley amid fears it could boost the cost of power. In the Westlands Water District near Fresno, the largest agricultural water district in the nation, the preferred alternative did not come as a surprise. "It's going to be difficult to make up that water," said Tom Birmingham, Westlands' general manager. "This is just one action taken by the Department of Interior that will further reduce the amount of water available to agricultural contractors through the CVP." "We are already in a water 'crunch,' and this is going to make the water supply crisis even worse," added Birmingham, whose district is seeking to obtain water from the nearby San Joaquin River to protect its supplies.

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From the FFF Club Wire

==--==--*THE TIER'S CORNER*--==--

BEADHEADS AND WEIGHT COMPARISONS

Beadhead flies took the U.S. fly fishing world by storm a few years ago. A high number of fly fishermen were introduced to them by guides in the Rocky Mountain states and they in turn carried them home while singing their praises. All sorts of reasons were given for their success, some valid and some almost ludicrous (I say 'almost' because in fishing one should always leave themselves a little slack).

Anyway let's back up and look at the picture a little closer. First beadheads are not all that new. European and Japanese fly fishermen have been using them for a few hundred years. The U.S. fly fishermen were just way behind the times. I have in my collection about a dozen Japanese flies my uncle brought home from Japan at the end of WW II. They are very small, tied on gut snells and each is finished off with a very small gold bead head. The head may be made of lacquer but it has the appearance of a gold bead. And the reason that so many fishermen were introduced to beadheads by their Rocky Mountain guides was that they could put their clients into more fish. In the fast waters of those mountain areas the flies got down to where the fish were holding. Ergo, more fish and more happy clients.

The guides being no dummies had learned a new trick from their visitors from overseas. Of course a number of the guides and more than a few outdoor writers tried to add a bit of glamour and mystic to the bead head fly. You know, like, "the bead represents the air bubble that the insect carries down in the water with him", or "the flash of the bead triggers the strike". Balderdash!, but more socially acceptable to high minded fly fishers than to explain it as a fancy brass sinker on the head of the fly. But things are changing; now it seems that everyone is using strike indicators, aka, bobbers, and split shot in a multitude of sizes to fish a nymph like we used to fish worms and salmon eggs as kids. The special skill of drifting an unweighted wet fly or nymph through a run and being in touch with it to the point you sense a take almost without feel or sight takes years of dedicated practice. I fear that it is fast becoming a lost art. The modern angler who fishes only once or twice a year doesn't have the time to develop this touch so we bait fish with a fly.

Back to bead heads, I have a love-hate relationship with them. I don't find them pretty, they are not fun to tie, they are more

difficult to cast, but on the other hand they are so effective. Even my heavy weighted flies couldn't match them in certain waters, which bothered me. My powder scale provided the answer. A bare Mustad #9671, number 12 weighted 0.8 grains. The same hook with ten wraps of .015 lead wire weighed only 1.2 grains, and with ten wraps of .020 wire an even 2.0 grains total. So each wrap of .020 lead wire was equal to .12 grains, [(2.0- 0.8)/10]. Note: Changing to a hook with a larger diameter shank will significantly change the weight per wrap.

Then I started weighing beads. The following table shows the results of my scales:

Bead Size Ave. Equiv. wraps of .020 lead wire on #12 hook --

1/16	0.7 grains	5.8 wraps
1/16	soldered	1.12 grains 9.3 wraps
1/8	1.27 grains	10.5 wraps
1/8	soldered	2.44 grains 20.3 wraps
5/32	2.86 grains	23 wraps
5/32	soldered	3.91 grains 32.6 wraps

Next I checked some other weights. (grains/wraps)

1/8"	lead eyes = 3.0 / 25
5/32"	lead eyes = 6.47 / 54
3/16"	lead eyes = 11.68 / 97.3
7/32"	Dazl eyes* = 14.7 / 122.5
1/8"	bead chain = 2.24 / 18
3/16"	bead chain = 6.8 / 57

Of course one would never use these larger weights on a size 12 hook and if one went to a larger hook they would most likely increase the wire diameter, but it does make the point that there are more effective ways to put weight on your flies than lead wire if you need to dredge the bottom. *(A brass dumbbell eye by Spirit River inc.) This little experiment really opened my eyes. I had always assumed that 5 or 6 wraps of .020 wire under the thorax of my nymphs was the equivalent of a 5/32" bead at the head. Twenty-three wraps is just about the maximum one can put on a size 12, #9671 hook and 32 wraps would mean a double layer, a real pain with .020 wire. Am I going to quit using wire? Of course not! One does not always want their fly to sink like an anchor. But in very fast water it looks like bead heads and lead barbell eyes are the answer. Make your own opinions on the bead chain eyes.

Two things I always disliked about tying bead heads was the way the bead always covered part of the eye and I never felt that the bead was securely anchored to the hook shank. The recommended practice of forcing a few wraps of lead wire

into the rear of the bead never worked too well for me. I solved both of these problems as well as adding more weight by soldering the bead to the hook. The process was simple. After putting the bead on the hook, place the eye of the hook in your vice jaws. Rotate the jaws so the hook shank is vertical and apply the solder iron (mine is an inexpensive pencil type 40 watt iron) to the bead. Using the thinnest rosin core solder you can find, feed it into the expanded hole at the back of the bead. Stop when the hole is full and let the solder set up before moving. I was worried at first that I would over heat the vise jaws so I used my old Thompson vise. Nothing to worry about, the jaws didn't even get warm but watch out for those beads, they can really retain the heat. It is really quite a quick process once you get the hang of it.

Next I tried to solder some bead chain eyes on some Mustad #3407 hooks in preparation for tying some Crazy Charlies. My efforts met with very limited success. If any of you readers can solve this problem I would like to hear about it. Now it is time to go tie some bead head Prince Nymphs.
(by Jim Cramer of the Russian River Flycasters of Santa Rosa, CA for the FFF ClubWire Email NewsWire)

Soldering Bead Chain Eyes as discussed in Jim Cramer's article

In the current issue of Federation of Fly Fisher's ClubWire News Service, Jim Cramer writes about the difficulty of soldering bead chain eyes to a hook (as compared with the apparent ease of soldering on a brass bead head). One possibility. The molten solder is not able to "wet" the surfaces to be joined. That is what flux does--makes the metals susceptible to being wet by the solder; which is why solder will "flow" into a copper tubing joint when wire solder is applied at only one point on the circumference of the coupling.

The beads and connecting wire links (or perhaps the hook itself) either may be made of stainless steel or are chrome plated. Stainless steel requires very aggressive flux to solder--rosin core won't touch it, or will, e.g. no-korrode, zinc chloride/grease plumbing flux usually used for copper tubing. There are special fluxes for soldering stainless steels, but they are pretty aggressive acids. Try a roofing/sheet metal supply house for such, as stainless steel sheet is used as flashings and is soldered on the job.

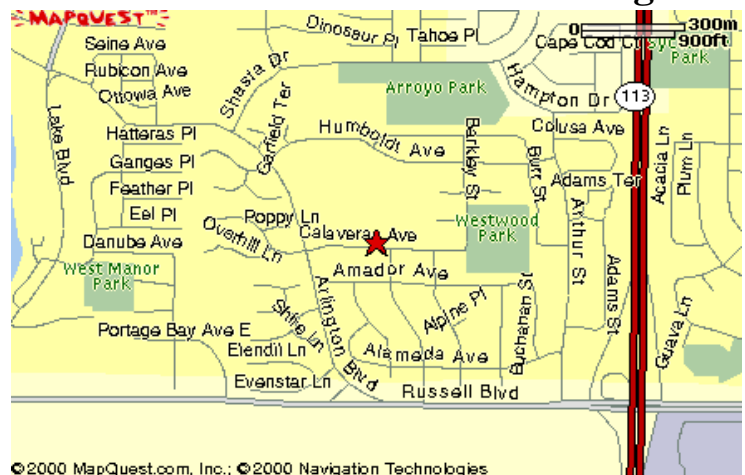
Chrome plated materials are impossible to soft solder (i.e. with lead-tin or silver-tin plumbing solder) at all. And don't bother to think about "hard" or "silver" soldering, which is

actually brazing. The melting points of these hard solders are so high that the "temper" of the hook wire will be destroyed and the wire will either be soft as a noodle or very brittle and easily broken. The reason the type of material may not matter in the case of the bead head on the hook shank is because the solder may be acting only as a mechanical "wedge" or plug to hold the bead in place and may not actually or necessarily "wet" the materials being joined.

Arthur Tasker (Metallurgical Engineer, Cornell '61)

[Editor's Note: I am assuming FFD readership likes these outside articles. Although, I would prefer more member generated articles on fly patterns or techniques. Please feel free to submit your works via email.]

November Meeting Map New location Emerson Junior High .



December Meeting Map for School District Board Room

