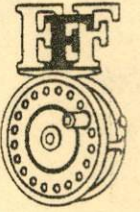




The Fisherman's Line



The Federation of Fly Fishermen
The Northern California Council

Volume 14, Issue 3 - March 1985

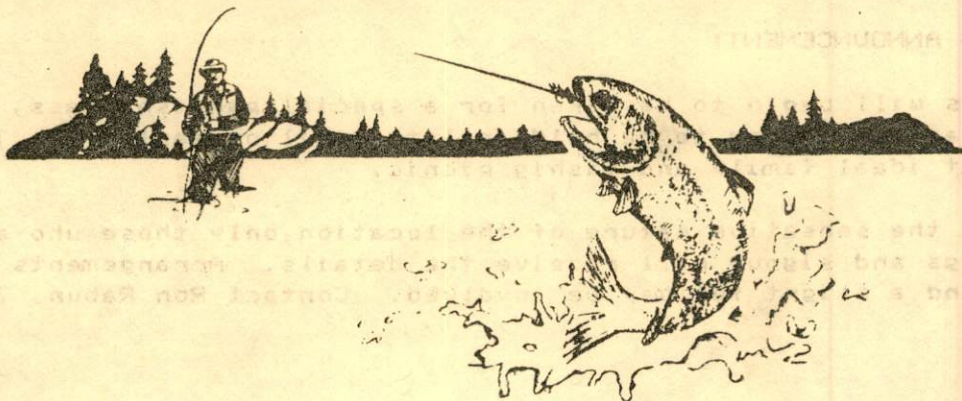
Next Meeting: March 26, 1985
West Davis Intermediate School
1207 Sycamore Lane
7:30 PM

Program: Bring a Friend Night

This is a first time event for our club. The program's purpose is to introduce both new and used fly fishermen to the activities of FFD. Short programs will show some of the different locations favored for club outings as well as the successful techniques to use. Fly tying demonstrations will be given before and after the meeting. Mike Harding will present a float tubing program and show his latest line of Mountain Traders equipment.

FFD Calendar of Events:

- March 26, Regular Meeting - Bring a Friend Night
- March 30, Rancho Seco Trout Clinic (A Glowing Experience)
Ron Rabun. Fishmeister
- April 6, "Day of Fly Fishing", Stockton (see article)
- April 13-14, Pyramid Lake Outing - Sarge Reynolds and Cal
Kado, Fishmeisters
- April 23, Board Meeting, Ed Bernet's
24 Bliss Street, Woodland
- April 30, Regular Meeting - Program by Yerza's Rod Manufacturing
- May 21, Board Meeting
- May 28, Regular Meeting - Shad, by Joe Shirshak



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

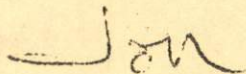
We will be having another spring outing to Pyramid Lake this year, to be held April 13-14. It seems like just the other day when I was up there. Actually, I was. Saturday morning Sarge and I met Dave Morrison of the Truckee Fly Fishers to try our luck on the lake. No sooner had I entered the water than I knew something didn't feel quite right. In fact, I had to head for shore before making more than a couple of casts. You guessed it--I had sprung a leak. This is very frustrating, as you can imagine.

So, I sat on the beach watching Sarge and Dave fish while I dried out. It turns out that several other people I know have had the same problem with these waders, including Dave. This is the Ranger boot foot wader--don't buy them, they are made of poor materials and seem to self destruct upon entering the water! Another friend of mine, Doug Puwal, bought a pair last fall for duck hunting and has since gone through 4 pairs. Doug says he has become buddies with the management at Rangers from their frequent communications. They keep sending him new waders and each time they fall apart after about the second or third time in the water. Dave Morrison had the same problem with his. The second or third time out fishing and they start to fall apart. And for the price they get for these things, they should last several seasons!

At any rate, you probably get the drift that my day didn't exactly get off to a great start. To add insult to injury, Dave caught and released a nice 5 pounder while I was on the beach watching. But, thanks to the everpresent wind at Pyramid, I was able to give it another shot, albeit in shallow water, that afternoon. The gods must have pitied me, for I was able to catch a couple of fish before we quit for the day.

As it worked out, none of us got skunked! This is amazing considering my past luck at Pyramid. This makes me 2 for 2 this season-- dare I try my luck a third time?? The fishing has definitely picked up at Pyramid the last couple of years. So don't miss out on the action in April!

Tight Lines,



OUTING ANNOUNCEMENT:

Signups will begin to be taken for a special panfish, bass, lunch and wine tasting outing to be held in late April or early May. This may be that ideal family and fishing picnic.

Due to the sensitive nature of the location only those who attend the meetings and signup will receive the details. Arrangements are being made and a slight fee may be involved. Contact Ron Rabun, 758-5103.

BRING A FRIEND OUTING - RANCHO SECO PARK (March 30)

Fishmeister: Ron Rabun, 758-5103

In conjunction with this month's program, we will have an outing and practical clinic for beginner's and not so beginner's at Rancho Seco Park. I and other FFD members will be on hand to provide casting instruction and tips on techniques and gear for those interested. A signup will be taken at the meeting or call me if you didn't get a chance to signup.

Plan to arrive around 11 A.M. and meet in the grassy area on the south side, look for my VW Camper. There is an entrance fee per vehicle and a special fishing fee may still be in effect. The County of Sacramento planted catchable trout this winter and the fee is to support that program. There are no special fishing regulations so bait and flies of your choice may be used.

Directions: Take Hwy 99 south from Sacramento to the Rancho Seco Park Turnoff. Turnoff heads east, follow the signs, to the Park. Also, you should bring your lunch and refreshments.

OTHER LOCAL SPOTS TO CONSIDER:

Arden Ponds: Trout, Bass and Bluegill are plentiful now. Some half-pounders are taking flies in the river adjacent to the Pond. Directions: Take Hwy 80 Business to Cal Expo, get on Arden Way and drive to the end, Arden Bar and Pond. Alternatively, take Hwy to Watt Avenue, north to Fair Oaks and to ArdenWay, east to Arden Pond. Either way its at the end of Arden Way.

White Slough Park (Stockton): Panfish and Bass should be starting to take. Bait and flies are allowed. Directions: Take Hwy 5 south from Sacramento to Hwy 12. Turn off go east under Hwy 5 and turn south on Secondary which again goes under Hwy 5 and to White Slough Park.

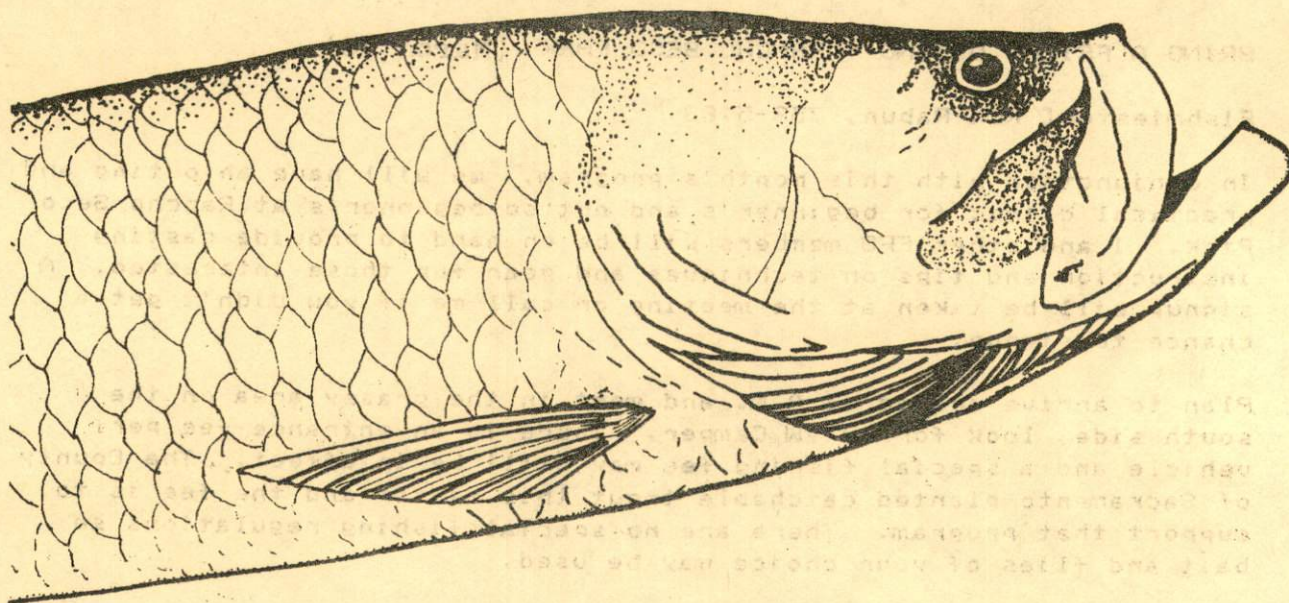
Putah Creek: Trout are plentiful and stocking will be starting soon. However, float-tubes are recommended in the lake. Caddis imitations in sizes 14 and 16 on light tippet is recommended.

Cache Creek (Capay): Smallmouth Bass are plentiful in Cach Creek and fishing pressure is very light. With spring weather warming you may wish to consider venturing north on Hwy 16 from Capay upstream.

Raffle Prizes

This month's raffle will include a creel, two 50% discounts on River Systems' products, West's Best Flies (a book), leaders stream thermometer, fly line, and flies.

NAME THAT FISH CONTEST



Yes fans, it's once again time for the one-a-decade Name That Fish Contest! The first prize is a subscription to the Fisherman's Line. Club members may qualify if they have paid their 1985 dues. Non-members may furnish \$15 with their contest entry.

The response from the Where'd That Fish Come From Contest held several months ago was completely unexpected and overwhelming. I had no idea that so many of you read "PG&E Progress", the newsletter that arrives with your PG&E bill. Although most of you called, many contest entries arrived by mail. This time, instead of wasting postage or calling me at 3 AM, I will take only in-person answers. The first person who hands me \$15 and tells me the the name of this fish once I am inside the meeting room, wins 1st place. Additional prizes will be awarded, but an additional \$5 will be charged after the winner is recognized.

Remember--no phone calls or letters this time!

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	Gene Pedersen	Rt. 2, Box 463, Woodland, CA 95695	666-1053

Nymph Fishing: The "Match the Water" Techniques

The message of this article is that a truly good fisherman will change his techniques according to the water conditions. Al Kyte describes how to fish 5 different situations:

(1) Wide, shallow, moderately flowing riffles: the "down and across swing." This is the easiest stream section to fish. Turbulence reduces the need for careful approach and delicate presentation. The general method is an angled upstream cast. Line is drawn in as the rod tip follows the swing of the drifting nymph. A 7½ or 9' 3X or 4X tapered leader is used. Nos. 10-14 hares ear nymphs are typically successful here.

(2) Heavy, wide, fast moving runs: the "cast up and fish down" method. Here the water is too rapid and choppy to allow the nymph to get to the bottom using the above technique. Changes needed are more of an upstream cast, a sinking line, short, stout leaders, sparsely dressed and/or weighted flies, and a weighted leader. Any of these factors help to get the nymph down and a 1X tippet and heavier rod can manage a fish in faster water. A weighted No. 4 to 6 stonefly nymph presents a more visible meal. The larger nymph also tempts the fish to expend the burst of energy needed for the capture. Rather than stripping line rapidly, raising the rod high as the fly passes may offer more control over slack.

(3) Short pools of cascading runs: a "short line" method. The general technique here is to wade and fish upstream and make short casts that allow the nymph to sink rapidly and flow through these brief runs. A 6' leader suffices. Cast repeatedly into feeding lanes and try to let the nymph drift into slower water where fish are holding. Frequently only the leader is in the water. The rod is held high and any pause in the movement of the leader is suspect. A strike indicator is useful here. Tie a short piece of yarn onto the leader. A couple turns of lead around the leader helps move the nymph down and control slack. Nos. 12-18 nymphs are needed here.

(4) Long, narrow, slow moving pools: an upstream, "far and fine" method. Since the fish's visibility is acute, long delicate casts with long leaders and fine tippets are needed. Completing the cast with a lower follow-through of the rod tip will tend to straighten the line and reduce slack at the beginning of the drift. Greasing the butt section of the leader with fly floatant will allow it to float and created less slack because of currents. A strike indicator may be useful here also.

(5) The fast, narrow chute: a "rod ahead" method. A large split shot is attached to the tippet to really get the nymph down. Use 8-10' of leader with a heavy tippet for the big fish in these areas. A large diameter floating line is needed to keep the line floating so that only the leader is under water. By leading the nymph with a low rod tip and stripping line to prevent slack, the line can be kept fairly horizontal and the split shot and nymph will have less chance of hanging up.

Commentary: These techniques have obvious value. To use them though, not only must you be willing to use a variety of nymph sizes, but you must also have a variety of lines, leaders, and tippet material that you are willing to change as you move along a stream. It is likely this extra effort might land some beauties that have been mis-fished for years.

TRUCKEE RIVER ELECTROSHOCKING PROJECT
SEPTEMBER 1984

LOWER SECTION

SPECIES	NUMBER	AVERAGE SIZE (INCHES)	RANGE (INCHES)
Rainbow Trout	72	6.8"	2.8"-13.5"
Brown Trout	35	7.2"	4.1"-14.1"
Mt. Whitefish	34	8.7"	4.3"-13.6"
Brook Trout	1	3.5"	3.5"
Sculpin	72	2.3	1.5"- 3.9"
Tahoe Sucker	2	1.9"	1.8"- 2.0"
TOTAL	216		

UPPER SECTION

SPECIES	NUMBER	AVERAGE SIZE (INCHES)	RANGE (INCHES)
Rainbow Trout	43	7.6"	3.1"-12.6"
Brown Trout	30	9.9"	3.8"-15.3"
Mt. Whitefish	101	8.6"	4.2"-14.3"
Sculpin	100	3.2"	1.9"- 4.1"
Tahoe Sucker	1	8.9"	8.9"
TOTAL	275		

Do not let the average size fool you. The upper section had a lot of young-of-the-year trout that brought the average size down. Adult rainbow trout averaged 10.01 inches in the upper section and 9.06 inches in the lower. Brown trout averaged 9.90 inches in the upper section and 10.11 inches in the lower.

Source: State of Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Truckee River Flyfishers



A VISIT WITH ALAN RUGER OF

PYRAMID LAKE FISHERIES

(From Truckee River Fly Fishers)

A number of questions have surfaced recently at club meetings regarding the management of Pyramid Lake's Lahontan cutthroat by Indians as compared with the state's management prior to 1976. As part of the research for a future article, I interviewed Alan Ruger at his office in Sutcliffe on Friday, November 2. Alan's official title is "Director of Operations" for Pyramid Lake Fisheries. (Incidentally, the P.L.I.T.E. label is no longer valid. As far as the fisheries arm is concerned, the chartered entity is now known as Pyramid Lake Fisheries.)

At past meetings, several of you have voiced rather vocal opinions about the quality of the fisheries' management at the lake. I recall the adjectives "irrational, shoddy, and stupid" being mentioned, plus a few not worth repeating. But I also recall that a few pertinent questions were raised for which no one had adequate answers. The following, a brief summary of that interview, should help to answer some of those questions.

But very briefly, I would like to interject some of impressions of Alan Ruger and the operations I observed. As far as I could tell, the Pyramid Lake fishery is in the hands of an intelligent, experienced, candid, and quite rational manager. Ruger's association with Pyramid began in 1977 when he was hired on a two-year contract to study fish disease and water quality at the lake's Dunn hatchery in Sutcliffe. He was re-hired in 1981 as the Director of Operations. Today he is in charge of three trout hatcheries and one cui-ui hatchery. The facilities I saw were spotless, well-maintained, and free of disease. To me, the claims of irrational and shoddy management are groundless.

Here are some of the questions that have surfaced during the past few club meetings:

1) Why was the fishing permit raised from \$12 to \$25 this year?

Ruger claims several factors justify the increase, although it was a tribal decision and not through the fisheries office directly. The most critical factor is that, unlike the state, the tribe has no other source of resource management funds. The state receives money earmarked directly for wildlife management from two sources - licenses and fees, and a tax on sporting goods known as the Wallop/Breaux fund. The tribe is not eligible for these funds. However, the money from the fishing permits goes into the tribe's general fund, and not all of it is used to support management of the lake. Ironically, the funding for the hatcheries comes from the Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. A part of the increase in fees will go toward improving facilities at the lake and to pay for the lake's two game wardens. Ruger also notes that a Nevada fishing license is not required to fish at Pyramid Lake. (But if you're serious enough to fish Pyramid in the winter, you probably have a Nevada license anyway, right?)

2) Why doesn't the tribe "exploit" its position by providing better docks, campgrounds, and other services, thereby productively generating more income?

This, according to Ruger, is a volatile issue among tribe members, with

vocal supporters on both sides of the argument. They are quite aware of the lake's potential, but overall they are not nearly as progressive as our culture might be in the same situation. Also, he says the tribe has been hurt in the past by promoters and developers with grand ideas. They have become very cautious. However, they are open to development ideas.

3) What has happened to the cutthroat fishery since the tribe took over management from the state in 1976?

Creel censuses since 1977 have shown a steady trend upward in the numbers and size of fish, and a steady trend downward in the number of hours required to catch a keeper. In fact, Ruger claims the hours statistic is now about one-half what the state claimed during the big-fish years of the early 70's. Creel checks since October 1 of this year have shown that the average so far is about eight hours per keeper, down from a 14-hour average just last year.

Certainly these stats have been bolstered by the high water of recent years, but Ruger offers some other numbers in support of the tribe's management. In 1978 and 1979, they noticed ripe adult fish milling around the hatchery's outlet near Sutcliffe. Raceways were built in 1981 to collect the fish and utilize their eggs. During the first year, 6,000 adult fish returned to the hatchery to spawn. In 1982, the numbers swelled to 11,000, and over 24,000 returned in 1983. 1984 was a bit of a disaster because most of the raceways were underwater. The pumping station had to be moved and a new raceway was built during the spawning season. They still managed to collect 6,600 adults in the chaos, and they retained three million eggs (enough to sustain the cycle). The hatchery is now self-supporting - it receives all of its eggs from the lake's returning fish, and it is putting more fish into the lake than ever before.

Ruger is also conducting some very progressive research to improve the strain through selective breeding. The program actually began a few years ago with two primary goals: 1) to use eggs only from fish that matured in the lake, and 2) to use more of those fish which statistically provide the most and healthiest offspring.

Several prominent geneticists support the theory that the healthiest and most genetically superior offspring will come from fish that mature in the lake. Hence the desire to create a self-sustaining fishery, rather than use fish from Summit or Marlette Lakes. This part of the goal has been accomplished.

Part two of this program, to determine the superior fish from the returnees, is now underway through extensive tagging and observation. This will be an ongoing program which should provide exciting results in the future.

4) Rut is more necessarily better? The fish being raised now are pure Lahontan cutthroats. Aren't these actually an inferior strain compared to the "cuttbows" of the early 70's?

Indeed, one of the tribe's primary goals is to create a fishery of Lahontan cutthroats only, along with the other fish that evolved there: the cui-ui, Tahoe sucker, and tui-chub (the Sacramento perch is the only introduced fish that has thrived.) Ruger admits it is partly a decision of aesthetics. Pyramid's fishery is unique. While the Lahontan cutthroat is one of the few fish capable of withstanding the lake's high alkaline content, it does not survive well in other environments where it must compete with

other species, such as rainbow, brown, and brook trout. They claim the Lahontan cutthroat should be preserved, and there is no better environment than at Pyramid Lake.

Although Ruger admits that the cuttbows are probably better fighters than the Lahontan cutthroats, he claims that the cuttbows are inferior survivors in Pyramid Lake. They disappear after the first or second generation. Overall, more and bigger fish will be the result of their efforts to restore the Lahontans.

5) So what happens during the dry water years of the future? Won't we see a repeat of the decline of the mid-and-late 70's?

Ruger says no for one very important reason: they are now more established and better prepared than ever before to create a self-sustaining fishery capable of withstanding dry years. (Historically, the Lahontans withstood drastic droughts with virtually no impact on fish populations. It wasn't until Derby Dam made the Truckee impassable during dry years that the cutthroat became vulnerable to weather changes.) Certainly the resulting higher alkaline and salinity levels make less than ideal conditions, but cutthroat raised in Pyramid (unlike the introduced cuttbows) will be more capable of tolerating water changes.

The hatchery is open for tours daily from 9-11 and 1-3. Call 359-2234 for an appointment. I encourage anyone interested in the Pyramid Lake issue to take the time to meet Alan Ruger and visit the tribe's facilities. You will see why there is ample reason for optimism concerning the lake and its fishery.

Terry Dove

Not Lost and Forgotten (Yet)

It stresses me to list the following members who have yet to pay their 1985 dues. Since many are active stalwarts of the club, I am assuming that this matter has slipped their minds and that dues will be forthcoming. If you truly intend to terminate your membership and receive no more newsletters (gasp), we hope that you found another great hobby to take our place. It would be sad if your job or some mundane activity forced you away.

Dick Anderson	Steve Hutcheson	Jerry Nishimoto	John Salido
John Anderson	Les Jang	Daniel Putler	Randall Smith
Dick Asay	Debbie Nelson	Vince Quilici	Molly Snyder
Tim Coughlin	Tod Neubauer	Bill Reavley	Peter Suhr
Phil Heine	Jim Nicholes	Ben Robertson	Corky Vyverberg

If I have erred (as I did with Steve Carlson and John Menke last month), please give me a call.

Stan

Expand Your Horizons II

Many of you missed the Sportsmen's Exposition at San Mateo last week. Here's your second chance to gain more fishing knowledge and improve various techniques. The Delta Fly Fishermen are hosting their fourth annual "Day of Fly Fishing" in Stockton on April 6. The event will be held at Oak Grove Park, which is north of Stockton on Eight Mile Road just off I-5. There is no fee for guests, but there is a park fee of \$2 per carload--senior citizens are free.

A full day is planned with fly tying, casting lessons and demonstrations, films and slide shows, and exhibits by tackle dealers. Food will be available at reasonable prices and this is a great place to have a picnic. Also, there are catfish and pan fish in the extensive areas of water if you have kids that want to fish. I think you'll be impressed with this event and the active group that puts it on.

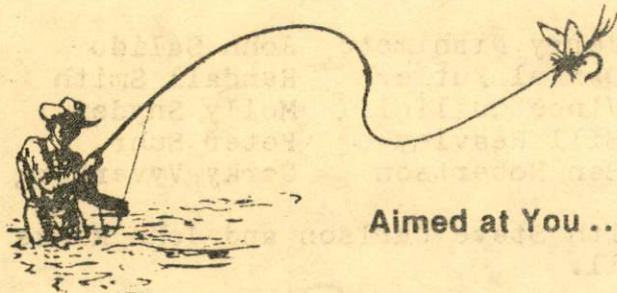
Sign up at the meeting for car pools or give me a call at 756-5881.

Stan

FLY FISHERS OF DAVIS
P. O. BOX 525
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95617



Bring a friend!



Aimed at You ...

Steve Ohrwall
2807 Catalina Dr.
Davis, CA 95616