

*Santa Cruz
Fly Fishermen
est. 1977*



*to promote, educate
and enjoy the sport
of fly fishing*

Monthly Newsletter

www.santaacruzflyfishermen.org

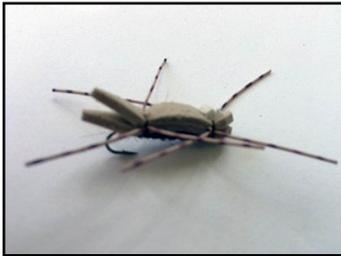
JUNE

2016

FLY TYING CLASS

Date: June 8th
Time: Open - 6:45 pm
Class - 7:00 pm
Place: Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos

Tan Foam Hopper with Rubber Legs
Instructor: Petar Ilic



This is a Hopper imitation particularly successful in the fall. Fished close to a river or stream bank, it represents a large meal for a hungry trout. Please bring tan or brown 6/0 thread, your vise, lights, tools, magnification and glasses as needed. All materials are provided, as well as expert instructions, helpful assistance and demonstration.

Beginners always welcome. Some equipment is available for beginners. Please sign up at the June 1st club meeting, or call Petar at 421-1752, so adequate materials can be prepared for those attending the class. If you sign up, and later find out you will be unable to attend, please do the instructor a courtesy and let him know.

MONTHLY RAFFLE

June Swoon

By New Monthly Raffle Director Jeff Goyert

George Pike, our former Monthly Raffle Director, has respectfully resigned, in order to concentrate his efforts on his new position, that of Annual Raffle Director. We are very grateful to George for providing us with great raffle prizes. The monthly raffle is often one of the primary reasons that people attend the club meetings, and we appreciate George's efforts on the club's behalf.

Moving on, we're coming into a great fishing season, spring runoff should bring good flows for river fishing, and the lakes are sure to hold plenty of fish to catch. That said, wouldn't you like to show those fish some new gear? Buy some raffle tickets at the June club meeting, and you could win one or more of the following prizes:

1. Cabela's RLS+ 9 foot 4 piece 5 weight rod with case.
2. Lamson Konic 1.5 reel II with protective bag and Lamson sticker.
3. Three Tie-Fast line clippers with fish counters.

CLUB MEETING

Date: Wednesday, June 1st
Time: Open - 6:45PM
Meeting - 7:00 PM
Place: Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos

Fly Fishing the South American Jungle
Member Speaker: Michael DiCiano



The presentation will be about a one-month trip that Sam Bishop and I took to South America. We started in Brazil, fishing the World Famous Auga Lodge for one week. Then we traveled cross country by bus to Guyana where we went into the Amazon Jungle 120 miles by small boat. We fished for the Arapaima gigas, the largest scaled freshwater fish in the world. We also fished for Piranha, Red tail Catfish, Payara (vampire fish), Needle Jaw fish and lots of other fish. We spent 17 days sleeping in hammocks and living in the jungle. Will talk about native customs and the way they live.

This promises to be a memorable and exciting presentation, and you will be very glad you attended this meeting, so mark it on your calendar now, and plan to be in the audience for this one!

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President's Line

Mystery Fish Continued

By President Jim Black



Last President's Message, I said the Shad is a Mystery Fish. So while it may have some as yet unknown migratory patterns, it is the East Coast or Hickory Shad, which was transported to and placed into San Francisco Bay years ago. The Shad then began to multiply and spread and began its migratory patterns, which takes them to our coastal rivers from April through July to spawn. Shad free spawns, unlike the Salmon, who prepare beds or Redds to deposit their eggs, and it is a hardy fish.

However, it is not so much of a mystery to a number of SCFF Fishermen, who are currently fishing various rivers for the returning Shad, including me. It is one of my favorite fish to catch as they usually school and finding the schools is the first and main problem. When caught, they never quit wiggling, twisting and fighting. In my opinion, Shad resemble Tarpon with their forked tails and silver bodies. In the Yuba River, which is shallower and clearer than say the Lower Sacramento, I have seen large schools of Shad, located downriver, off points where the current sweeps around the point.

Now all we need a few photos to prove they can be caught!!

Reel News

* Youth Outdoor Day-Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

The 2016 Youth Day **has been postponed** due to several budgetary and logistical reasons. As this comes at such late notice, I want to ensure you that I am doing everything possible to secure a date for the next event. I have been working with administration in elementary and middle schools throughout the county and we are planning to make the Monterey Bay Youth Outdoor Day larger and more improved. We are planning to make MBYOD a two day event, Friday will be the "school field trip day", and Saturday will be open to the public, as well as for students to return with their families. Involving our local schools will greatly increase our attendance and help spread the word further about our event. While the May 2016 youth day is officially postponed, plans are already taking place to make the next MBYOD the best yet!

I would like to personally thank you for your generous participation and we look forward to seeing you at our next event!

-Elyse Destout

* Open Dates at the Tsuniah Lodge, BC - Eric Brebner

We have a slow week from June 25 to July 2nd. I'm passing this along to past customers and I thought I'd pass it on to you as well.

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Basically it is 50% off our regular rate including the charter in from Vancouver. So for a one-week stay including your return flight to Vancouver it is \$1180 per person. Maybe you and friends need a mid summer break. The weather and fishing at that time of year is perfect. There are six seats available on a first-come first-serve basis.

* Fly tying supplies at Anglers Choice

Currently you will find their fly tying materials in baskets. They have reorganized that part of their store and are trying to decide what they will be doing in the future. When you go by, let them know your needs.

Bait for Thought

Volunteerism and Paying It Forward

By Publisher Pat Steele

Our recent cross promotion event with the River St. Patagonia outlet made me realize how vital volunteerism is, especially when it concerns conservation and the preservation of natural resources. It is a constant, sometimes seemingly futile struggle, with the corporate interests of water, oil, natural gas and other assets pitted against the ecological interests of conservationists, environmentally conscious outdoor sportsmen and women, and it often feels most of our energy as part of the ecological side of the struggle is spent preventing the other side from destroying that which we value.

As a member of the Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen, it also often feels to me that our organization has become stagnant. Our club is composed largely of retired, older folks who just want to go out and enjoy fly fishing, and in so doing, enjoy the outdoors, clean rivers and lakes, beautiful forests, and untouched, scenic landscapes. We often don't take into account the work it takes to ensure those rivers and lakes stay clean, the forests are not stripped by lumber interests, and the scenic landscapes are not strip-mined.

I was encouraged by the number of energetic young people at the Patagonia event, some of them were with the California Watershed Council, some were from Trout Unlimited, and some others were from the San Lorenzo River Alliance, and I found myself wishing I could bottle their "fire" and make everyone in the Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen drink some of it.

We need to ask ourselves why that same group of young, fired-up people aren't joining the Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen. Is the public perception of us that of a bunch of "old fuddy-duddies"? Does our talk not match our walk? Do we appear to be a group of people who just want to fly fish, and not work diligently to ensure that our grandchildren have a place outdoors to enjoy?

I know there are younger people in our club, they show up from time to time at our meetings, watch presentations and take part in the monthly raffle, but as for volunteering on our club's board, we older board members aren't seeing many of them step up, and I think we need to ask ourselves what it is about us that is off-putting to recruiting members, and specifically, younger members who want to pitch in and serve on the board.

I am one of those old fuddy-duddies who has been on the club board for over twenty years, volunteering as the club's newsletter publisher and I am so very grateful for the opportunity to work at a job I love. I am also grateful for those young volunteers with the conservation groups I met at the Patagonia event. We should all applaud them for their work in ensuring that we have places to enjoy unspoiled waters and natural beauty, and we all need to work together to our mutual benefit.

2016 Board of Directors

They Work for You

Officers

President	Jim Black	688-8174
Vice President	Milana Rawson	583-9370
Treasurer	Jim Tolonen	475-8859
Secretary	Roy Gunter	809-0316

Committee Heads

Raffle Coordinator	George Pike	423-2956
Membership	Jim Black	688-8174
Fishouts	John Cook	688-1561
Programs	Dennis Davie	427-2626
	Pablo Grabiell	562-652-3771
Conservation	Barry Burt	688-0187
News Editor	Kirk Mathew	724-6811
Webmaster	Pat Steele	476-0648
Fly Tying Master	Elaine Cook	688-1561
Annual Raffle	George Pike	423-2956
	John Steele	476-0648
Annual Benefit Coordinator	Petar Ilic	475-0268
Facilities Coordinator	Steven Rawson	583-9370
Video Librarian	Mike DiCiano	688-1682

Members at Large

Kathy Powers 728-4130 Steve Rudzinski 462-4532

Board Meeting: The board meeting is usually held on the third Wednesday of the month at the home of John and Pat Steele, 331 Cabrillo Ave., Santa Cruz, at 7 PM. Club members will be notified of any changes of meeting dates and locations. Club members are all welcome and need to submit any agenda items to the President ahead of time

News: Members are encouraged to contribute news items. Submit copy to the editor, Kirk Mathew, 724-5611, k4mathew@sbcglobal.net. Please see calendar for the deadline each month.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar

Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.doi.gov/index.html>

Senator Dianne Feinstein

1 Post St., #2450; <http://feinstein.senate.gov/public>
San Francisco, CA 94104

Senator Barbara Boxer

1700 Montgomery St., #204; boxer@senate.gov
San Francisco, CA 94111

Anna Eschoo, 14th District Congresswoman

698 Emerson St.; annagram@mail.house.gov
Palo Alto, CA 94301 (650) 323-2984

Sam Farr, 17th District U.S. Representative

1216 Longworth Blvd.; samfarr@hr.house.gov
Washington, D.C. 20515 - (202) 255-2861 or 429-1976

Governor Jerry Brown

Capitol Bldg., 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-<http://gov.ca.gov/home.php>

Mike Honda, 15th District Congressman

1999 S. Bascom Ave., Suite 815, Campbell, CA 95008
(408) 558-8085; FAX (408) 558-8086
<http://honda.house.gov/>

Senator Bill Monning

701 Ocean St., #318-A, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 425-0401; <http://sd17.senate.ca.gov>



Fishout Schedule

2016

Date	Location	Target Species	Fishmaster
TBA	Sierra backpacking	Trout	Dennis Davie - (831) 566-7447
June 4	Palm Beach	Surf Fishout	Sam Bishop - (831) 476-6451
July 9	Rio Del Mar Beach	Surf Fishout	Sam Bishop - (831) 476-6451
July 9-15	Green River. UT	Trout	John Steele - (831) 476-0648
Aug. 6-11	Loreto Baja Sur	Dorado, saltwater species	Rich Hughett - (831) 757-5709
Aug. 6	Manresa Beach	Surf Fishout	Sam Bishop - (831) 476-6451
Sept. 10	Palm Beach	Surf Fishout	Sam Bishop - (831) 476-6451
TBA	O'Neill Forebay	Striped bass	Jim Hall - (831) 713-6835
Sept. 24-Oct. 1	Mammoth Lakes-wk.1	Trout	John Cook - (831) 688-1561
Oct. 1-Oct. 8	Mammoth Lakes-wk.2	Trout	John Cook - (831) 688-1561
Oct. 8.	Rio Del Mar Beach	Surf Fishout	Sam Bishop - (831) 476-6451

* Some dates are tentative. You must be a paid-up member of Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen to participate in these fishouts. For more information and to sign up for outings, contact the fishmasters, look for handouts at the club meetings and write ups in the newsletter. Some fishouts require advanced planning and payment. Please don't ask fishmasters for refunds if you have signed up, paid, and later find out you are unable to attend the fishout. Fees paid ahead are not refundable, unless someone else takes your place.

Schoolin' Up

June Tune-Up

During the months we have Daylight Savings Time, and it's still light enough in the evenings, the club holds casting practice in the Aptos Grange parking lot before the club meetings, starting at 5:30 PM. It's a good way to tune up your stroke, with other, more experienced casters available to help you out, and if you're a rank beginner, get some basic instruction. There are rods, reels and line available for your use, and you're welcome to bring your own, but please bear in mind that we're casting on asphalt, and it can be rough on fly line, so bring some old line you won't mind scuffing up.

Catchy Releases

CDFW Rescue Efforts Save Listed Salmon, Steelhead and Sturgeon *From California Fish and Wildlife*

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) biologists have rescued hundreds of fish - including dozens of endangered and threatened salmon, steelhead and sturgeon - that were stranded in Sacramento Valley bypasses after recent heavy rains.

The fish - including endangered Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon, threatened Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon, threatened Central Valley steelhead and a threatened green sturgeon - were trapped in Fremont and Tisdale Weirs, flood control structures off the Sacramento River, when flood waters receded after mid-March rainstorms.

Rescue efforts began in late March, concluding in mid-April. Seventeen CDFW staff participated in the rescue efforts at the weirs, using beach seines, a sturgeon hoop net, dip nets and crowder racks to capture fish trapped within each weir apron.

The bulk of the rescued fish were salmon, with biologists capturing and tagging 41 adults and 160 juveniles. Based on length-at-date, the young salmon are believed to be a mixture of spring-run and fall-run fish. Staff also rescued one oversized adult green sturgeon, a massive female white sturgeon and hundreds of other fish, including Sacramento sucker, Sacramento pikeminnow, Sacramento splittail, striped bass, smallmouth bass, bluegill and redear sunfish. All of the fish were moved back to the Sacramento River and released.

DNA tests are currently underway on a sampling of the fish rescued. Results will verify biologists' field assessments that the adult salmon include winter-run and spring-run Chinook.

"We know these areas are prime stranding sites, so we keep them on our radar each year," said Colin Purdy, CDFW Senior Environmental Scientist. "Rescuing state and federally listed species is a priority - particularly the adult fish, because they contribute to future generations. But all of the fish we pull out of

the weir are transported back to the river for release."

Biologists also used special tracking equipment in an effort to document the behavior and survival of the rescued fish. The green sturgeon, an adult male stranded in the Fremont Weir apron, was tagged with a surgically implanted acoustic tag on March 29 before being released into the Sacramento River. It

was subsequently tracked on real-time acoustic receivers heading upstream toward its likely spawning grounds near Red Bluff. The white sturgeon, a post-spawn female, was rescued from the Tisdale Weir on March 31. It was also given an acoustic tag and was subsequently tracked heading downstream.

Four adult Chinook salmon rescued on April 8 have since been detected moving upstream by real-time acoustic receivers.

All juvenile steelhead rescued were implanted with passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags. Staff from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission oversaw their care and release as part of CDFW's Central Valley Steelhead Monitoring Program.

CDFW has a team of scientists who monitor locations along the Sacramento River where fish tend to enter the Yolo and Sutter bypasses during high flows and become

stranded once flows subside. Initial surveys of the fish stranded in water behind Fremont Weir documented four sturgeon. Only two of these were recovered during rescue efforts. CDFW is seeking information regarding possible illegal harvest or take of these two oversized sturgeon.

If you have information about this or any other fish and wildlife violation, please dial the toll-free CalTIP number, 1 888 334-CALTIP (888 334-2258), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone with a cell phone may send an anonymous tip to CDFW by texting "CAL TIP", followed by a space and the message, to 847411 (tip411).



Mt. Shasta Hatchery "Kids' Fishing Days" Canceled Indefinitely

From California Fish and Wildlife

April 29, 2016

Due to an outbreak of Whirling Disease last year, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will be canceling the popular "Kids' Fishing Days" at the Mt. Shasta Hatchery indefinitely. The hatchery typically hosted several such events each summer.

"It's unfortunate that we have to cancel an event that's been held annually since 1992," said Neil Manji, CDFW Northern Region Manager. "However, we need to continue our careful decontamination process at Mt. Shasta in order to ensure the long-term health of the fish there."

A separate "Kids' Fishing Day" is still scheduled for Saturday, May 14 at Grace Lake in Shingletown. Similar events were held in March and April in Redding and Bend.

Whirling disease is caused by *Myxobolus cerebralis*, a protozoan parasite that destroys cartilage in the vertebral column of trout and salmon. It is fatal or disfiguring to infected trout and salmon but does not affect humans. Fish infected with whirling

disease are safe for human consumption.

Whirling disease was found in three CDFW hatcheries in 2015 and has been contained with hatchery operations resuming in all three. CDFW pathologists routinely inspect each of the 13 state-run trout hatcheries which raise approximately 10 million trout for California anglers statewide, as well as the nine hatcheries that raise over 31 million young salmon and steelhead.



GEARING UP

June Surf Fishout

Fishmaster: Steve Rawson

Saturday June 4th, meet Steve Rawson, a seasoned surf fly fisherman at 0545 am. Destination is Palm Beach, aka Pajaro Dunes. Take West Walker Street, Watsonville all the way until it ends in a sand dune. Parking is outside the State Beach.

The perch are biting and so are the Stripers (Striped Bass). Use two hooks (or three) with a Clouser or other Stripper Fly at the end is suggested.

Green River Fishout

Fishmaster: John Steele – 476-0648

The Green River Fishout is scheduled for July 9th through July 15th in 2016. This river is a tailwater of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir Dam, situated in the northeast corner of Utah. It carves its way through a spectacular red rock canyon, and is the home of a healthy number of large brown and rainbow trout. It is rare to catch one under 16 inches, and not uncommon to catch several over 20 inches. You can walk a well-maintained trail along the river and bank fish, and/or book a guide to drift the river. The Trout Creek Flies and On The Fly guides are all very competent, excellent teachers, and provide all your terminal tackle, plus a

delicious riverside lunch.

John has reserved rooms at Trout Creek Flies Lodge. Trout Creek has an on-site restaurant, reportedly a very good one, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, so we will stay with TCF, which is closer to the river.

Now that we have lodging arrangements firmed up, please let John know ASAP if you intend to come on this fishout. The guide schedule is pretty much fleshed out as well, so if you haven't already told John you are coming, arrangements for a guide will be up to you.

Loreto Fly Fishing Trip- August 6-11

Fishmaster: Rich Hughett 831-757-5709

Experience a new HIGH! Fish for Dorado, and many other saltwater fish, including bonito, roosterfish, yellowtail, and sailfish, on a fly! Join the group going to Loreto in Baja from Saturday, August 6th through Thursday, July 11th. This trip includes:

* Four nights at the new Hotel La Mision, on the waterfront, next to the Loreto Harbor

* Three days of fishing on 22-foot Super Pangas

* Ground transfers and fishing licenses

It does not include meals, because there are some nice restaurants (a lot of fresh seafood!) in town, or if you prefer, eat at the hotel, where they will also cook your catch.

The cost for everything but meals and airfare is \$730.00 per person (double occupancy).

The fishing day starts around 6:00 AM and we usually get back to the harbor between 1:30 and 2:00 PM. Spend the rest of the afternoon fishing from the beach, having a cool drink in the pool, exploring Loreto, or just sitting around telling some tall fish stories. And, you will have many exciting moments on the Sea of Cortez to talk about.

Rich Hughett will meet with those going prior to the trip to discuss which rods, reels and flies to bring, the various types of fish in the Loreto area, and to answer questions.

Interested? Please contact Rich Hughett, 831-757-5709, for all the details. We will need to book airline flights*, rooms and pangas as soon as possible.

* Southwest Airlines from San Jose and Alaska Airlines from Los Angeles to Loreto.

Mammoth Lakes Fishout - Sept. 24th-Oct 1st & Oct. 1st-8th

Fishmaster: John Cook - 688-1561

This fishout will take place over two consecutive one-week periods, Sept. 24th through Oct. 1st, and Oct. 1st-8th. As of this date, there are only three places left, which are all in the second week.

Location: Mammoth Lakes is on the eastern side of the Sierras, six to seven hours' drive from Santa Cruz. There are many lakes and streams in the area for us to fish. We will be staying in condominiums in the town of Mammoth Lakes.

Cost: \$310 per person per week. This covers seven nights' lodging with three meals per day.

Meal Preparation: Each person will be assigned to a group for

a Kitchen Day. The group will set out breakfast and lunch foods, store unused food, prepare the evening meal, and clean up on the day designated.

Sign Up: Send me the money to secure a spot. Mail your check, made out to John Cook, to P.O. Box 2822, Aptos, CA 95001-2822. The fishmaster will maintain a waiting list for each week. If space for you becomes available, you will be notified by telephone. Don't miss out. Since there is no call-in date, plan your trip soon, sign up, and send your check to John!

Unused Funds: Any funds received but not spent on the fishout will be used for prizes for our annual fund raiser.

GONE FISHING

A Fly Fishing Adventure

By Michael DiCiano

Just a short note about Fly Fishing at Roostercomb. Having never been there, my preconceived ideas were not up to the Adventure. We began at Casa de Fruita at 7:45 am. I knew that we would be driving through part of Henry Coe State Park but was not prepared for how long a drive it really was. You travel on a two lane dirt road, then through a gate onto private property where the road goes from two lanes to a one lane Jeep

trail that follows the creek bed, crossing the river countless times, then up a grade until you get to the Ranch. This part of the trip takes around 1 hour and 15 minutes. It is a beautiful trip. The scenery is awesome. The hills are covered with big Blue Oaks and lots of wild flowers down in the canyons. The trip just getting there is an outing in itself.

cont'd. on p. 6...

...Gone Fishing-cont'd. from p. 5

Once at the Ranch, there are many buildings along with the Ranch House. The Ranch house was built in 1928. It is two stories with all the conveniences: kitchen with a big gas stove, bathroom with shower, lots of hot water, although I was warned about taking a shower when someone is using water in the kitchen. It was never an issue. Meals are wonderful, you bring something to barbecue, put it on a large grill and Scott, the owner takes care of it for you. Everyone else brings food to share. Cecilia takes care of all the assignments of food. She did a great job. All meals are well organized.

For me, the BEST part on this trip this year, was the unusual weather. It had rained the day before we got there. It also rained two inches on Friday, with showers all day long on Saturday. This made for all the jeep trails leading to the ponds much more of an adventure. With lots of clay and soft spots many of the roads were very slick. Scott told us what ponds we could drive to, then he loaded some people into his ATV, with a trailer to put all our gear in and took us out to the ponds. Scott left and then returned later to pick us up. BUT, I was LUCKY! He had another ATV, and being that I was an old dirt bike rider he gave it to me so I could take Elaine and all our gear to what ever pond we wanted to fish. I was like a kid in a candy store. I always picked the farthest pond I could. It could take a one hour ride to get to the those ponds. That is one hour of slipping and sliding down the roads, it was a blast. Scott told me of a short cut that he had recently cut in the hillside, that went from one pond to another. Instead of going out one canyon and back

up another, this trail went up and over the hill, this was great, it went straight up a rocky hillside then along the spine of the ridge. I was having a blast. When we finally got to the other pond, a 1/2 hour later, I asked Elaine how she liked that ride. She looked over at me and said she had her eyes closed for most of it. Needless to say, we did not go back down that way. I was very lucky to have Elaine there as my navigator, she knew jeep trail systems well and we never got lost.

Now I never really knew how big this ranch was. I knew it had twelve ponds that we could fish. They ranged in size, but we always decided ahead of time who was fishing where. The smallest pond could easily fish two people in a float tube and the largest could handle many people. On the first day we fished a pond where I landed eight fish, all in the 14 to 16 inch range. I thought this was going to be the norm, but it turned out that was my best day for any fish of size. The rest of the trip I caught lots of fish, 15 to 20 per day, but very few of any size. Because of the weather, I fished subsurface a lot of the time.

All in all, it was a great fun fishing trip. The ranch is something that all people should experience if they can. Not just the fishing, but being out in the foothills. I never realized how much water there is stored in all these little ponds throughout the mountains. There is a continuous stream of wildlife you see, as you are driving around or while you are fishing, all you have to do is stop and take a look around. I recommend this trip to everyone, young and old. Under normal weather conditions any high clearance 4 wheel drive vehicle will do fine. Hope you can all enjoy this place while we still have it available to us. Good Fishing!

Contemplating Roostercomb II, 2016

By Susan Labiste

Roostercomb II is my first fishout with SCFF. Bass and scrappy bluegill are promised - so is a 4WD dirt ranch road and an early start to beat the beginning of what turned out to be two days of rain and the mud and high water that goes with it. Never mind the rollercoaster hills with the side-slipping mud and swollen creeks at the bottom of every canyon, or the insanity of being dropped off at a remote lake to fish all day in pouring rain trying to make the popper out-pop the rain, or the equally insane fish that obligingly took the lure.

The thing that you can't miss but might not be mentioned is the beauty of this place and the way history seems closer to the present than it ought to be. The way the land seems unchanged.

The ranch house is crammed with memorabilia - old memorabilia - jaw traps, antique bottles, a WWII grenade, wild west art- and farther back, before the ranch or the war-from before the adobe bricks of the bunkhouse said to be made by Joaquin Murriet there on the table by the wall are a series of Indian artifacts stone mortars, pestles and a metate.

Outside, driving through the ranch, the surrounding hills were mostly blue oak savanna, lush with grass and wildflowers. Though the perennial grasses of old California have been replaced with mostly non-native annuals, the land appeared much as it might have been 100, 200 or 300 years ago. It invited the imagination to speculate about how this land was used by its original inhabitants. I found myself window-shopping for edible and useful plants. I can't help it. Knowing a bit of ethnobotany changes the way you look at a landscape.

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The wood of chamise is so durable and dense that it makes an excellent arrow foreshaft capable of taking small game without a stone point. The manzanita now blooming will provide summer fruit perfect for a beverage not unlike lemonade. We pass a group of grey pines whose massive cones hide large edible pine nuts that also can be strung as lustrous brown beads. I see a profusion of wild edible bulbs- harvest brodiaea, globe lilies, mariposa lilies. Miner's lettuce is offering salad. Near the crest of a hill I spot a scrubby stand of mountain mahogany, a favored plant for making digging sticks. It has an extremely dense wood with purple heartwood and roots that make red dye.

In the creek there is willow for baskets, datisca for medicine and seep-willow for friction-fire. Here and there is cattail with its starchy tubers, celery-like stalk, and long, fibrous leaves perfect for quickly-made rope or basketry. The elderberry bush is blooming and in summer will be bent double with ripening fruit. I spot milkweed not yet blooming. It will provide silken fiber for high quality cordage in the fall. We see quail, many mourning doves, deer, rabbits. Everywhere is food, tools, and medicine. Though most of us have forgotten how to use this bounty, we know on an instinctual level, and we recognize this landscape as beautiful. It makes me smile. It feels good to be a bit of history moving through time.

Gone Fishing - Cont'd. on p. 7...

First visit to Roostercomb ranch, April 2016 by Gianna Holle

No one could prepare you for the beauty and serenity that awaited you at Roostercomb ranch. After over an hour of driving over gravel, mud, rocks, and streams (there were 31 water crossings), and over 19 miles you arrived at the ranch. This private 6,000 acre ranch had 11 fishing ponds and views of the valley that exceeded my expectations. The views of the valley were breathtaking and the sounds of nature surrounded you. At one time I thought I was being serenaded by bullfrogs, and yes they really make the sound of a bull. Each pond had its own character and fishing nuances.

To reach the ponds, a 4-wheel drive car was required. We drove up steep hills, over rocks, and sometimes streams. The Harvey pond was currently inaccessible with a regular 4WD car so an ATV was needed. The owner of the ranch took a few of us to the lake via ATV and the ride itself was memorable.

Since there were so many fishing locations, our group paired off and fished in different locations. We were on the ponds by noon. Each evening we gathered around for dinner and talked about our day's activities and shared our fishing stories. The evening social time was just an added benefit of the trip. We used this time to visit, review our knot tying, and talk about other things besides fishing. Some ponds fished better than others. Everyone caught fish, large mouth bass. The sleeping accommodations were the guest house and bunk house. Walking in the guest house was like walking back in time nearly 100 years ago. Each room in the guest house was unique, I stayed in the Candy

Stripe Room, which was on the second floor, a screened in porch with two double beds. It was delightful, as we could feel the cool breeze at night, hear the animals (bull frogs, crickets, and coyotes) during the night. The stars were stunning to view as there was no light pollution around.

We were welcomed guests by Scott Wilkinson and he was there to help us out in any way. Scott prepared some unique cowboy meals, which he shared with our group. He made corn with chilies, moose cream cheese stuffed chilies, and barrel chicken. I enjoyed the fishing as much as I enjoyed being out in the nature. I could have easily spent my time lying in the hammock by the pond(s), sitting on the porch and watching the animals, bird watch, star gaze, a perfect location to just relax. The lack of wi-fi, cell phone, or internet on made this place even more special.

Thanks to Cecilia and Richard Stipes for arranging this trip for our group, Steve Rawson who let me ride shotgun and drove me endless miles over tough terrain and stayed out longer than he had wanted, Dan Eaton who tied and shared some awesome flies that the bass liked too, Elaine and Mark for tolerating my snoring, Elaine Cook and Mr. Bill being the best breakfast morning team, and The Foyfamily ; it was fun seeing their kids share our passion. Last but not least, Scott Wilkinson and his cowboy crew for their generous hospitality. It was a great trip, good fishing, sharing of knowledge, making new friends, bonding with old friends, good food and cold beer. Roostercomb, don't change a thing and I hope to see you again.

Rod Tips

Five Tips for Landing Big Fish in High Water From <http://troutsflyfishing.com>

I'm sure we all know what it feels like to hook a large fish and have him point his head downstream and run with no intentions of stopping, and sure enough he eventually snaps off and you lose your whole rig. I don't know about you but it's not a good feeling, and on top of it all you usually lose your flies which is the equivalent to just taking five bucks out of your wallet and tossing it in the river. I will admit this has happened to me more than once this year already, but I have also landed and netted some big fish that should've been lost. Here are the five tips to help you land big fish in high water this spring.

Fish with a partner- Fishing with a partner is the number one tip and is absolutely necessary when trying to land big fish, especially with the fast current working against you. The odds of being able to get a fish within arms reach is very low when the fish can turn his head downstream and make up 20 feet in a matter of seconds. Having your fishing partner downstream of you with a net will allow you to swing the fish right or left towards the net instead of trying to pull the fish upstream towards you which is nearly impossible in high flows.

Use biggest tippet size possible- High water, in most cases, also means off color water. The more off color the water is the larger tippet size you can use, which also means more power when fighting fish. Just because you usually fish 5x or 6x at a river

doesn't not mean you have to when the river is in full runoff. Those fish are more concerned with eating and survival than looking at what size tippet you have on. I have not tied on tippet smaller than 4x this spring.

Long handled net- If you do not have one I would highly suggest buying one, Fishpond and Rising both make some of the best long handled fly fishing nets that we sell here in the shop. I have



seen many fish get landed that wouldn't have if the netter did not have that extra reach.

Don't be afraid to run- You want to keep the fish as close to you as possible, preferably even with you or above you and try and keep the fish from the middle, but if he wants to go there let him run, don't try and put the brakes on. If the fish makes a big run downstream you will need to chase him downstream, because reeling him all the way back up to you is a great way to lose fish. While you are chasing the

fish down make sure you are reeling in the slack you are making up to keep tension, and also try and get the fish back over to the bank that you are on.

Be aware of your drag- If that fish makes a big run downstream go ahead and loosen the drag up a bit until you get him back in control then tighten it back down, this will put less pressure on the fish during situations where break offs are more prone to happen.

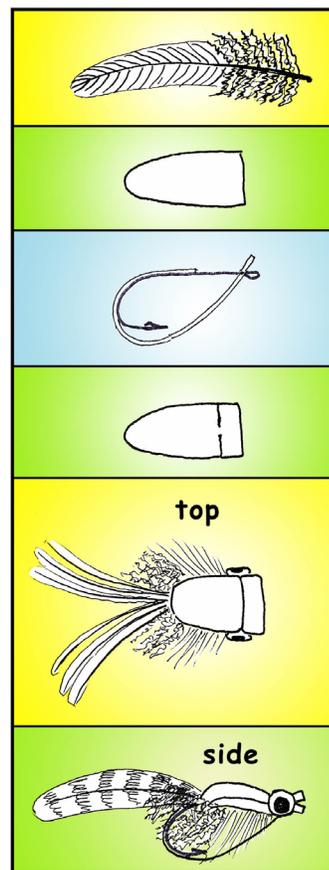
FLY OF THE MONTH

Buggy Eyes Froggy - Submitted by Elaine Cook

It's bass time again, and there is nothing more fun than inciting them with top water flies. This froggy pattern makes lots of commotion that gets Mr. Bass's attention.

Hook: Gamakatsu NS black size 4 OR Mustad 34007 size 4
Thread: Olive monocord or other sturdy thread
Weed Guard: (optional) 10lb. hard Mason leader
Legs: Olive grizzly hen hackle
Over body: 2mm green closed cell foam
Under body: Olive strung hackl
Eyes: Doll eyes

1. Crimp body.
2. Attach thread behind eye. Make touching wraps to above hook point, then back to mid-shank.
3. Using 3" piece of hard Mason, position on top of shank, tip where thread hangs, remainder to the rear. Tie in place with touching wraps to halfway around the bend.
4. Select 3 leg feathers that are about 2 3/4" to 3" long from one side of cape. (see diagram) Cut off butt ends so feathers are 2" long. Some webbed barbs at the butt ends are fine. Stack and position butt ends on side of shank so that the curve of the feathers flare out and down. Tie in place on one side of shank. Select 3 feathers from the other side of cape and repeat as above on other side of shank. Wrap there back to above hook point.
5. Cut strip of foam 1/2" wide, then in 1 1/8" lengths. Shape. (see diagram) Stack 2 pieces. Position on top of shank, rounded tip forward and 1/8" in front of hook point. Tie snugly in place from hook point to front of foam. Apply Super Glue.
6. Select two 5" - 6" long strung hackle feathers. Cut off stiff butt ends. You will need 7" - 8" combined length to use. Some webbed barbs at butt ends are important. Tie in at front of foam. Advance thread forward to one eye length behind eye. Wrap hackle forward. Tie off, cut excess.
7. With wet fingers, stroke barbs back and to sides off top of shank. Bring Hard Mason forward forming a loop. Make 5 - 6 snug thread wraps. Pull on leader to adjust. (see diagram) Cut close. Apply Super Glue.
8. Bring foam forward and mark on side where thread hangs. Cut foam from both sides leaving small uncut space in center. (see diagram) Bring foam forward and tie in place between cuts. Half hitch under foam behind eye. Cut thread.
9. Apply Super Glue to foam cuts and half hitches.
10. Cut forward foam to match up edges.
11. Super Glue one doll eye to each side of foam.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Salmon Wellington- [From https://www.buzzfeed.com](https://www.buzzfeed.com)

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons butter	2 cloves garlic, chopped
1/2 medium onion, chopped	5 ounces spinach
1 teaspoon salt (for spinach)	1 teaspoon pepper (for spinach)
1/3 cup breadcrumbs	4 ounces cream cheese
1/4 cup Parmesan, shredded	2 tablespoons dill, chopped
1 sheet puff pastry, softened to room temp.	1 salmon fillet
1 teaspoon salt (for salmon)	1 teaspoon pepper (for salmon)
1 egg, beaten	

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 415 degrees F.

In a pan over medium heat, melt butter, add garlic and onions and cook until transparent. Add the spinach, salt and pepper, cooking until spinach is wilted.

Add the breadcrumbs, cream cheese, parmesan and dill, stirring until mixture is evenly combined. Remove from heat and set aside.

On a cutting board, smooth out the sheet of puff pastry. Place the salmon in the middle of the pastry and season both sides with salt and pepper. Place several spoonfuls of the spinach mixture on top of the salmon, smoothing it out so that it does not spill over the sides.

Fold the edges of the puff pastry over the salmon and spinach, starting with the longer sides and the shorter ends. Trim any excess pastry from the ends, then fold the ends on top. Flip the puff pastry-wrapped salmon over and transfer to a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.

Brush the beaten egg on the top and sides of the pastry.

Score the top of the pastry with a knife, cutting shallow diagonal lines to create a crosshatch pattern. Brush the top again with the egg wash. Bake for 20-25 minutes, until pastry is golden brown. Slice, then serve!



JUNE 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Club Meeting 7:00 PM Aptos Grange	2	3	4 New Moon ● Surf Fishout Palm Beach
5	6	7	8 Fly Tying Class-7 PM Aptos Grange	9	10	11
12 First Qtr. ☾	13	14	15 Board Meeting 7:00 PM Steele home	16	17	18
19 Newsletter Deadline	20 Full Moon ○	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Last Qtr. ☾	28	29	30		

JULY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 New Moon ● Independence Day	5	6 Club Meeting 7:00 PM Aptos Grange	7	8	9 Surf Fishout Rio Del Mar <hr/> Green River Fishout ←
10 _____	11 First Qtr. ☾ _____ Green	12 _____ River Fishout	13 Fly Tying Class-7 PM Aptos Grange	14 _____	15 _____	16 _____ →
17	18	19	20 Full Moon ○ Board Meeting 7:00 PM Steele home	21	22 _____ Loreto Baja ←	23 _____ Sur Fishout
24 Newsletter Deadline	25 Loreto Baja	26 Last Qtr. ☾ _____ Sur Fishout →	27	28	29	30
31						

LifeLines

Seven Tips for Safe Wading From <http://troutsflyfishing.com>

Here are a few tips that I recommend you put to use while we wait patiently for the water to recede and clear. Several of these tips are applicable year round, however when the conditions on the river are less than ideal they are especially important to keep in mind. Embrace the “high and dirty” and make it happen!

1. Know Before You Go- This may seem like a no brainer, but if you’re planning to take the river on during less than ideal conditions, I recommend going to a river you’re already comfortable fishing and even more importantly, are familiar with. This is especially true if you’re new to fly fishing. By going to a river you’ve got experience on, then you most likely already know the easy spots to cross it. The “easy spots” will always be the easy spots regardless of flows, so this should help you wade with greater confidence since you most likely won’t be able to see the bottom- which I will add can be slightly intimidating if you haven’t done this before. Learning this skill in an area you’re already comfortable with will make the process much easier.

2. Wear Your Wading Belt- I mention this because I see a lot of people not doing so and the primary reason is one that has caused me to go sans-belt countless times. Our hip packs! Wearing both a hip pack and a wading belt isn’t always the most comfortable option however when the river is roaring, I want every ounce of protection I can get to ensure my waders don’t instantly fill with water should I take a dip. The old saying “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” is definitely true here. No matter what type of pack/vest you wear, make sure the wading belt is nice and snug.

3. Take A Wading Staff- The best fly fishing wading staffs continue to get better, more reliable and easier to use. Most of them also include a neoprene sheath that attaches perfectly to your wading belt, keeping it out of the way until it’s time to be put to use. I would especially recommend using one if you’re fishing a river that you know will require crossing. Aside from offering stability when crossing a river, wading staffs also work great this time of year to simply check the depth of water along the bank where you’re attempting to step in. Keep in mind, if the river you’re fishing only has 10 inches of visibility, the bank along the edge is going to look the exact same whether 11 inches or 4 feet deep! Like I always say, I’d rather have it and not need it, than need it and not have it.

4. Keep It Sideways- These next three tips are definitely applicable year round, however right now will especially make your

wading life that much easier. The sideways reference from this tip is referring to your body position in the river. Standing sideways in the river will allow you to maintain much more control and stability. Avoid facing straight up or straight down river at all costs. I’ve seen it countless times- even during low flows- where a wading angler (or perhaps client) turns around to tell myself/ another member of the group something while crossing the river, and has their leg instantly swept out by the current. While this



may not always result in taking a spill, it can definitely happen much quicker than you think. Add in the fact that some rivers are flowing with 10 times (or more) the amount of water we typically fish them at and you can see how important proper body position can be when wading.

5. Be Studly - No, this doesn’t mean go tromping into the biggest rapid you can find, just to try to impress your fishing buddies. We’re talking foot traction here. Pick up a set of wading boot studs to accessorize the bottom

of your wading boots. It will make sure you can get the grip you need on the rocks when the water is pushing hard on your legs.

6. Lead With Your Downriver Foot- Here is another easy one that is applicable year round and can make all the difference between staying upright and going for a swim. As you cross the river, always feel your way across the streambed with your downriver foot. Plant your downriver foot firmly and then slowly slide your upriver foot forward until it’s even with your downriver foot. Once the upriver foot has found a firm hold, repeat the process of feeling your way forward with your downriver foot. Unless you’re wading through very shallow water, having your upriver foot overtake your downriver foot throughout the crossing will never be the most stable way wade in swift, off-color water.

7. Use Your Angles- My final tip is another one that is certainly applicable year round- particularly when wading through swift and/or deep water. Never attempt to cross directly across the river. Taking your crossing at an angle will make things much, much easier. The important thing to remember here is that assessing your exit location is just as important as your entry location. If you’re new to wading, keep in mind that the deeper/swifter the water—the greater angle you’ll likely need to take to cross. As a general rule, a 45 degree angle is a good starting point for planning your crossing. If the river turns out to be easier to wade than you had anticipated then you won’t end up needing to use this steep of an angle obviously. The biggest theme here is that I’d rather give myself a little extra cushion for the crossing than find myself standing mid-river, realizing I’d underestimated the current, and wondering how I’m going to get across.



Fishy Tales

* Pyramid Lake, April 10-14 -Al Montello, Lloyd Dyer, Ed Marcillac, Gil Santos

My friend Al, from Newburyport Mass, loves to fish Pyramid Lake. He and his brother Skip show up ever year for the club's annual March fishout. Hearing that I was going back in early April, he couldn't resist the urge to join me. Flying from Boston to San Francisco he arranged for his buddy Lloyd, who lives in the Bay Area to pick him up at the airport and join us on our fishing trip.

They decided to drive to the lake and fish that afternoon. Ed and I arrived the next day. Meeting them at the North Nets, they said fishing was slow, only three fish landed. After some discussion, I suggested to checkout South Nets and Pelican beach, fishing was also slow at those locations.

Arriving back at North Nets, Al says look at that "nervous water". Looking, I see dorsal fins "it's fish!" Grabbing our rods standing literally at water's edge we could see schools of fish milling around swimming back and fort. The males had milt erections and were bumping against females, apparently in their spawning cycle. Casting our lines no more than twenty feet we instantly hook up. Ed and Lloyd hearing us yell, got off their ladders joined in. Within a few minutes, no one was on ladders,

every fishermen was standing on the beach casting out from shore. Looking left or right you could see bent rods. This went on for about an hour and half when it finally subsided. The four of us stood there with big smiles commenting on the experience.

Groups of fishermen were discussing what they witnessed, one could hear snippets of their conversation, I made five casts and caught five fish. Three ladies came up to us, excited, asking if we seen a fly rod in the water. The three of them had fish on and wanting a picture, one of them reaching for her camera, laid the rod down on the sand. You guessed it, a fish swam off with rod and reel. I never heard if she ever found the rod.

Our club members have been fishing Pyramid Lake annually since 1989, observed many situations, from great fishing days to no fish days, bitter cold, rod and reels freezing up, wind so harsh you could not get off a cast, big waves knocking fishermen off ladders, falling in the water from slipping on slick clay or tripping over the big tires, vehicles getting stuck in the sand, and Otter and Alligator Awards for the victims. Our beloved deceased member and fly tying master Manny Gutierrez, had a spiritual connection with Pyramid. He often talked about the spirits, who would visit him in his dreams, showing him a fly he should tie and how to fish it. The mystique of this special place goes on captivating fishermen.- *Gil Santos*

FIN FLUTTER



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