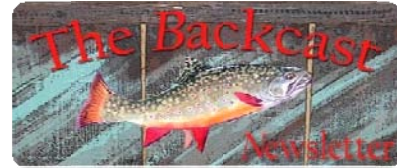


The LADYBUGS Fly-Fishing Club
Shingle Springs, CA

February 2009



Yep, it is cold out there, but the fly fishing can be terrific...

Fishing Report

American River Some Steelhead in the system but the fishing is poor to fair

Lower Sacramento River. Fishing is good to very good. Fishing is fair to good above Red Bluff and very good from Red Bluff to Chico

Baum Lake Is fishing fair to good.

Yuba River Lower Fishing is fair to good. Indicator with egg and small nymph is consistently catching fish. Streamers as well. New rain will muddy things up for a bit.

Russian River- Steelhead in the lower river but not eager to grab anything. Incoming storms should help bring them up the river. Nymphing with a beadhead nymph followed by an egg pattern will hook fish from the mouth of Dry Creek, Wohler Bridge, and near Guerneville. These steelhead will also take a swung flies. Swinging bosses, comets, and silver hiltens on a 200-400 grain sinking line will hook fish in deeper water.

The Spirit of My Fly



You have to believe in the fly you choose to fish with. And you must fish it correctly Here are some ideas of what I want out of the fly I am going to fish with.

I prefer flies that look alive, natural and most of all catch fish. The alive and natural will give you the catch. Then I consider how I fish any given fly, choosing the right fly put together with the right materials is, for me, a real key to success in fly fishing. Extremely buggy, impressionistic nymph designs are far more appealing to fish than realistic yet static and stiff fly patterns. Just a couple of weeks ago I talked to my friend and expert still water fisherman, Denny Rickards and almost verbatim he believes that the movement and angulations of the fly are key to being successful. How the fly moves through the water is very important to the fly fisherman.

Using natural furs like rabbit, hare's mask, and squirrel work well because they produce bodies that undulate in the current or in the lake as you strip in line. Soft hackle collars and palmered hackle will imitate legs, wings, and antennae and also increase movement within the fly. To see this at home just take a fly tie it to some tippet, fill your sink with water and then move the fly through the water with small but distinct movements and you can see if that fly looks alive and that the materials it is made up of actually move in the water.

To make material move, sometimes I dead drift the flies and at other times I actively manipulate them which enhances them in the currents. How I may manipulate the fly all depends on water conditions, stream, creek or lake, insects and the different life stages and how and if the fish are feeding. If you fish your fly correctly and the flies come to life in front of a fish you will be have a definite increase in your catch numbers.. Even if the fish are not actively feeding, this tactic can and will trigger an "induced strike" or involuntary reaction. Fish are most always hungry but not always eating. So do your best and try to make your fly act like fish food!



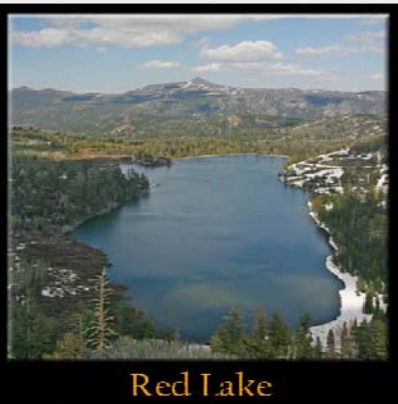
California Winter Fishing

Winter fishing in California can be an exercise of extremes. One January day you may be wearing shirt sleeves and sun block on the lower Sac and fishing little Blue-winged Olive imitations under strike indicators, and the next day you may be wearing an impossible number of layers to ward off blowing snow while you strip leech imitations through a small lake with sinking lines. This diversity offers something for everyone.

The point is, winter can still offer us great fly fishing. All we have to do is get out there and then deal with whatever Mother Nature gives us.



The Kiosk at Heenan Lake



Red Lake



Heenan & Red Lake

This is what has prompted me to write this....

I have a good friend Judy who is very active in the fly fishing community in Alpine County as she lives there and is a fine fly fisher.

I'm working on Sierra Nevada Conservancy proposal (thanks to you) and see that they encourage letters of support groups. So could you either write a letter or speak with the 1-2 fly fishing clubs that use Heenan Lake and Red Lake, for them to write a letter indicating that you support the project (of interpretive panels) and also the new addition of a docent program at each lake? The docent program would serve 4 purposes (below). I'd like to have a small release out through their newsletter(s) to help recruit volunteers.

Volunteers would monitor the use of the panels. This is a supplemental way to measure their benefit to see if visitors are even reading them. Second, volunteers would monitor the use of the site to see if less inappropriate behavior is going on, tied to the effectiveness of the panel; like less waste left, less illegal motor boating and mountain biking and camping. Performance (effectiveness of panels) needs to be measured, as per the grant, and this monitoring is the best way I came up with. Volunteers would also be on hand to deal with select safety issues and have a radio to call for help if there's an incident that merits. We would put volunteers through first aid training.

Each volunteer would staff site, in pairs, on one half day a month for approx June-Oct, with focus on weekends.

The grant programs frozen as its based on bond funds, but they are hopeful it will be reactivated, and so are taking applications, due in 2 weeks, so why not try. This would be for one additional panel at red lake and 2 more at Heenan.

I have the brand new drafts at office but was rushing on this grant yesterday so didn't look or forward copies to you and others, but will do so very soon. I'm home sick today but should be in after the holiday tomorrow. Bruce Forman

As most of you know these two lakes are owned by the California Department of Fish & Game. It appears that they have some funds to do some things at these lakes. As many of us know Heenan Lake is only open for a short time each year where Red Lake is open from the time it thaws out till it freezes again. They are thinking of doing a Kiosk (which we suggested several years ago and offered to do much of the work on. It was too expensive and nothing was ever done about this. Now Red Lake will receive much more pressure until Caples Lake gets a substantial amount of water so it can be planted again.

Many problems exist at Red Lake that doesn't exist at Heenan. Water craft is one thing, such as Jet Skis and other motor boats. I have met with a couple of F & G biologist at Red lake and have discussed this problem. Pretty much they agreed, gas boats should not be on Red Lake, but they also see that an older group likes to fish there with such easy access and they don't want to hurt that relationship. Heck they own the lake let us get verbal on this matter and email F & G your thoughts and feelings about such events. This lake is too small for gas powered boats. It is a float tube bank fishery.

They also want to do a small Kiosk at Red Lake and make changes to the one at Heenan. I think this too is a great ideal. Communication with the public who use these facilities is important. If they have the funds and only need help to do this I am sure some of you will be more than happy to lend a hand. With that said, can you tell me if you would help out with this? Would you also write to fish and game about the gas boats?

Other issues at Red Lake are, speeding boats that means going over 5MPH. That is the current limit on speed. Human waste mostly from campers and there is no camping allowed. Signs go up and people take them down. The waste problem is getting pretty bad. Too many fish are taken per person. If we pay attention it is easy to see this happening on a daily basis. Once guy last year, when I asked him why he had 15 fish, he said 15 was the limit. It is our responsibility as honest fishermen to help if only by sending an email or letter to express your concerns and solutions to those that can make a real difference.

Thanks so much.....

“Let us all help in keeping our environment healthy and safe for years to come”

He believed that he just did it because he could.

I know there has been three Deputy Sheriff's schooled in the fish and game fishing codes and they do walk the lakes and rivers. But that is only a small band aide that won't have much influence on any of this. There was a time that all fishermen took pride in the sport. The abided by the rules and the environment prospered. Today the whole thing is a mess. Each individual does what he or she feels like, no matter the rules or regulations.

Heenan is open with many people fishing there but they do have people working there that check the lake everyday all day.

I don't have the answers I just know this is a great opportunity for us and others like us to make our thoughts known to fish and game and the local board of Supervisors who also have a say in what goes on in their County.

We must be supportive and keep a positive attitude if we are going to move forward.

Here is the web site for the Board of Supervisors of Alpine County

http://www.alpinecountyca.gov/board_supervisors/contact_board_supervisors

It is our responsibility as honest fishermen to help if only by sending an email or letter to express your concerns and solutions to those that can make a real difference.

Thanks so much.....

"Let us all help in keeping our environment healthy and safe for years to come"

NEXT CLUB MEETING

February 17, 2009 @ 7PM

**We meet at the Samurai Sushi
House**

Off Hazel and Folsom Blvd.

We meet in the private room in the back



Club Dues

Our dues are coming due as of March first.

We have some great fish outs coming and other fun events like our now famous Trout Camp.

Single membership \$25-

Couples membership \$35-

Pay at our meeting or just mail in your check.

The Fly Fishing Film Tour

We were a prim location for the first two years of this event. This year they will not be coming to Sacramento. They will be in Modesto March 3rd. Other California cities to have the event are; Oxnard, Fresno and Santa Cruz.

I was shocked to see they have left Sacramento off their tour. You would think we would be a hub with fly fishing in every direction.

This is a great event and they do have great films. Check their web site if you ever want to purchase one of their great films.

I may go to this on in Modesto. If anyone wants to go with me give let me know.

In fact we will be featuring one of their films at this month's meeting. The Hatch, fly fishing The Black Canyon.....Very cool and informative film

Here is their web site:

<http://www.flyfishingfilmtour.com/>



2009 Club Fish Outs and Activities



January None

February 28th - *Lake New Melones or Rancho Seco, weather permitting.*

March 21 - *Casting instructions on the American River*

April 18th - *Kiene's fly Shop Expo* April 25th *opening day... Yuba River below the highway 20 bridge.*

May

June 19,20,21 *Lake Davis camping Fly Fishing trip*

July

August

September

October 3,4,5,6 *Trout Camp Fly Fishing for Golden Trout*

October *Henderson Springs*

November

December



~Remember, Fly Tying Wed. nights in Cameron Park~

Join Our Call Out Fly Fishing List

Our call out list is this, if someone is going fishing they can look at the list and call someone to go with them. This is a great way to not fish alone and possibly get to fish areas you have not fished before.

Many new members have learned to float tube through this call out list.