



SANTA CLARITA CASTING TIMES

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CONSERVATION NEWS:

Hikin', Fishin', an' Helpin' on the Kern

The California Department of Fish and Game is once again sponsoring its summer Golden Trout Volunteer Work Trip program. This year, there is an opportunity for four volunteers to help with monitoring the trout population by electrofishing at the Templeton Barrier on the South Fork of the Kern River and in Strawberry Creek. Volunteers will help with surveys and with brown trout removal in an effort to reduce the numbers of non-native trout in the golden trout's habitat. The dates are Friday, September 11 through Wednesday, September 16.

Volunteers will join with Fish and Game personnel to backpack seven miles to Strawberry Meadow from an altitude of 7,950 feet to 8,570 feet. The expectation is that backpackers will carry 45-pound packs with all their own food for the first day (mules will provide group food and equipment), and personal and fishing gear. The per-person cost is \$80. To submit your request to volunteer, please go to www.californiagoldentroutrout.org and look for the "South Fork Kern River and Strawberry Creek Brown Trout Monitoring" project. <<

Streamside Etiquette

By Guy Manning

Ultimately fly fishing is something of a reclusive sport. Of course, going fishing with our buddies is often much of the attraction for the trips we take, but it still comes down to the lone individual involved with his or her own thoughts. It is, therefore, fitting that the rules of streamside etiquette reinforce the solitary quality of our sport. These rules exist as a principle of common courtesy and respect between human beings and as a means of protecting the solitude each of us attempts to obtain when we are on the stream. Here are some precepts to consider when you are looking for your bit of solitude:

1. The first person to be fishing any particular water in effect owns that feature from head to tail. Never cast into a stretch of water that is already being fished without first asking permission;

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President's Message

By Connie Bullock

Pitching in at Piru

There was a healthy turnout for the Piru Creek cleanup on June 28. In attendance was the U.S. Forest Service, Friends of the River, Community Hiking Club of Santa Clarita, Southwest Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers, Sierra Pacific Fly Fishing Club, and the Santa Clarita Casting Club. Anglers and hikers met at Frenchman's Flats bright and early and banded together to clean up the area and remove dams built across the stream. We knew we were in for a hot one when it was almost 85 at 8:30 in the morning.

Carolyn Atchison of Friends of the River pulled the group together to not only do clean-up and dam busting, but to also join in a celebration of Piru Creek becoming a National Wild and Scenic River. The protection extends a quarter of a mile on each side of the river giving the area plenty of room to grow and recover. Bob Blount, the new District Ranger for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was in attendance and discussed the forthcoming management program being established to address other issues at Piru Creek. I mentioned that signage might be helpful to remind people that "If it's carried in, it should be carried out."

Santa Clarita Casting Club had seven members in attendance: Dick Harris, Tom and Cathy Maynor, Thomas Crock, Jr., Thomas Crock, Sr., (who are almost members), Connie Bullock, and Gary Pintar.

As we were going through the area doing the clean-up, I was truly surprised at how clean it was compared to the last couple of times we did this. In some of the discussions around the celebration cake, we learned that Gary Pintar and members from Sierra Pacific Fly Fishing Club go to the area every third Saturday of the month to do some clean-up. Their efforts definitely showed and I just wanted to thank Gary for his dedication and caring for this lovely pristine area that is in our club's backyard.

We also learned that Diane Erskin-Hellrigel, President of the Community Hiking Club, has seven

clean-ups scheduled each month for different areas throughout Santa Clarita. With people like Gary and Diane, we can only improve our environment. This should be an inspiration to all who can to get out and help keep our grounds clean.

These outings take some extra effort but are so worth it; so I hope you join in sometime in the future. Clubs, camaraderie, conservation, and clean-up: what a great combination. <<



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Streamside Etiquette

2. The person fishing upstream has the right of way and should be given a wide berth by the person fishing downstream. The ideal action in this situation is for the downstream angler to get out of the water well above the upstream angler (leaving a generous amount of unfished water for the upstream angler) and quietly go around to a spot downstream of the upstream angler;

3. When near other anglers, you must wade as quietly as possible and make every attempt to pass a sufficient distance from the angler and his or her trout. Try to wear something that blends in with the natural surroundings. White or highly reflective colors will stand out and could put fish down;

4. When tubing, do not forget to watch out for the shore angler. Getting too close to the people fishing from shore is considered an invasion of their water. It can also be dangerous if you get hit with a misguided weight, hook, or lure;

5. As for socializing on the stream: anyone may or may not talk to another angler if they so wish. It is not considered rude to greet another angler or ask how fishing is going. It is also not considered rude to pass by without a word. What is considered rude is to engage the other person in a long-winded bragging fest. In most cases, the other angler would really rather fish; and

6. Never litter. Try to leave the stream cleaner than when you arrived. <<



Let's Face It—Crowley Can Be Moody

By Bill Creitz

From my experience, Crowley Lake has two distinct faces early in the fishing season: first, its happy face—not too crowded, the fish are hungry and not too educated, the water temperature is perfect, there is no algae, the water is fairly clear, and the scenery is great with those mountain peaks still showcasing their snowy wraps; second, the lake's sad face—where the water is a bit too cold, which then affects the chironomid emergence, which affects the trout population's willingness to eat.

The sad face of Crowley Lake is what my dad and I experienced on our June 16 trip. Despite perfect weather—which included no wind—and a fair hatch from the resident chironomids, we were able to connect with only three rainbows between 14 and 16 inches and two sluggish perch between nine and 10 inches; a mediocre day by Crowley standards.

An afternoon consolation visit to Mammoth Creek where it passes under Highway 395 proved about as productive. My dad and I coaxed a 10-inch rainbow and two eight-inch browns to the net from seams near the center of the meadow creek using a size 14 bead head pheasant tail nymph trailing a beige San Juan Worm. The set-your-watch-by-it afternoon wind abruptly ended our success. While the water was running high—right up to the bank's edge—and the visibility was low, there were definitely some hungry, willing trout to be taken by an angler with some time and patience.

What with the passage of time and some warmer water, Crowley Lake's happy face should be the one you encounter in July. And, believe me, those hungry trout will be waiting—I should know; I left a bunch of them for you. <<

Project Healing Waters – Vets, Volunteers, and Victory

By Carole Katz

Whether casting a fly line or tying a fly, we all get frustrated because we feel it's not happening properly, that we are uncoordinated, or that we just don't get it. Imagine wanting to do these same things and not having the physical ability to do them.

A joint project initiated by Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Fly Fishers was started in 2005 with wounded military personnel from Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Medical Center that teaches fly tying and casting. The project helps veterans develop fine motor skills that will help them do many other things with their prostheses.

Currently, in Southern California, there are operational programs at the Long Beach Veterans Administration Hospital involving the Long Beach Casting Club, at Camp Pendleton involving the San Diego Fly Fishers, at the San Fernando Valley Veterans Administration Hospital involving the Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers, and at the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration Hospital involving the Wilderness Fly Fishers. Another program should begin soon at the Barstow Veterans Administration Hospital sponsored by the Hi-Desert Fly Fishers. A few of these are still in the patients recruitment phase, which can be difficult depending upon the level of involvement of hospital staff.

At Long Beach, where we've been operational for more than two years, we had eight disabled veterans participate in a national rod building contest. One of our vets won third place in a special category for those with serious arm disabilities, and our vets took first and second place in the "able bodied" category. For prizes, they were able to choose from national destination fishing trips. One winner is going to Alaska, another to Montana, and yet another to Maine--all expenses paid. We took a group of nine veterans to Bishop, California in April where everyone caught fish; some caught a lot of fish. We have been holding casting classes for the last three months, and have just started a new series of rod building and fly tying

classes. One of our paraplegics, an excellent caster, is now helping us teach others.

A film maker has approached the club about making a documentary. His focus will likely be on Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. in Veterans Administration hospitals to present a different point of view. Filming will be predominantly in the Los Angeles area.

Author Richard Alden Bean has written an article about Project Healing Waters' efforts in California that should be in the next issue of *California Fly Fisher* magazine.

Nationally, 2008 was a great year for this project. We have grown to 65 programs, with more in the start-up phase. This is in comparison to the 15 programs we had just 17 months ago. Past participants are now returning as volunteers in many parts of the country. Examples include our National Program Manager and the Southern Regional Coordinator, both of whom were wounded in Iraq.

Fundraising for 2009 has already exceeded expectations, with \$107,000 from this year's Mossy Creek Invitational and \$100,000 from the Two Fly Tournament, which were held in Virginia. Both of these figures are up 33 percent as compared to last year. Military commissaries worldwide have a fundraiser going on during June and July in which a percentage of sales goes to Project Healing Waters; this is expected to bring in another \$100,000. Donations are being used to support local programs, in addition to funding headquarters expenses and national destination trips. As an example, at the Long Beach Veterans Administration Hospital, our trip to Bishop was reimbursed by the national organization, as was the cost of purchasing rod building and fly tying kits for those enrolled in the upcoming classes.

Any club interested in starting a Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program can contact me for more information at 714-731-6044 or at Katzhogan@cox.net. This could be a great way to help your community and the military veterans who have given so much for us. <<

Bone Fishing in Hawaii – Waves, Wahines, and Wooly Buggers

By Aran Dokovna

What does one do while on a family vacation in Hawaii on the island of Oahu? Go fishing, what else? While in Hawaii, I followed up on Michael Schweit's lead for a fly fishing guide to seek out those elusive bone fish. "Louie the Fish" was the guide I wanted to use, but with an already-full appointment book, his son, Joachin, was available.

We proceeded to Kawaikui Park Beach where the water was tepid, the blue sky punctuated with broken clouds (direct sunlight is the best for spotting bone fish), and the tide low. Add to that the fact that the sandwiches were from the local gas station rather than the bamboo and banana leaves-covered roadside shack that we were expecting, and you have bone fishing Oahu style.

We did find bone fish alright, but they were fussy eaters. Of the 25 to 30 fish we spotted, I had only two takes and no hookups. Most fish refused my fly while others spooked at my great casting skills. The fish would almost swim up to you then run—was it my Simms Hawaiian-style floral print fishing shirt or were the fish just shy?

From what I could tell, the Hawaiian bone fish are typically fatter than those I've seen in Ascension Bay. And they seem to thrive in the shallow, sandy flats on the southeast corner of Oahu only.

While no fishing license was required for bone fishing, you do need one for—get this—trout, small-mouth bass, and peacock bass that are inland.

On your next vacation to Oahu, give Louie the Fish a call at 808-741-5622 or contact him by e-mail at www.louiethefish.com. Louie's second career is designing bone objects de art. Check him out. I surely will on my next trip. <<

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Casting Clinic	July 12
Monthly Club Meeting	July 15
FFF Southwest Council Meeting	July 25
Casting Clinic	July 26
Board Meeting	August 4
Casting Clinic	August 9
Monthly Meeting	August 19
Casting Clinic	August 23

"Famous Fishermen's Favorite Flies"

"It's hard to imagine venturing out to any trout water without Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ears and Dave Whitlock's Fox Squirrel Nymphs lined up in rows in my fly box. Like any of the best searching flies, they work so well because they are roughly the shape and colors of a wide variety of natural food forms."

Dave Hughes

"The Parachute Adams, with its visible white wing, natural gray body color, and smoke of mixed hackle, looks like a lot of things in nature that trout make a living eating. It is one of the best searching dry flies you can carry and is a critical fly for your minimal list of patterns...it will catch trout on smooth and rough waters, when they are selective and when they are not."

Dave Hughes

Field & Stream once polled its writers: "If you could fish with just one fly, which would it be?" "This [Olive Hairwing Dun] was mine."

Dave Hughes

The Artful Angler
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2008: October 18-19 and 24-26 (Women's Clinic)
November 1-2 and 8-9 (Advanced Nymphing class)
December 6-7 and 13-14

2009: January 10-11 and 17-18
February 1/31-2/1 and 7-8
March 6-8 (Women's Clinic) and 14-15

Classes are limited to 6 students only, so reserve your spot early! For reservation, tuition and other information call Joe Libeu 310-749-6771 (jlsfpfa@ix.netcom.com) or Kathy Kim 714-290-6930 (kksfpfa@yahoo.com)

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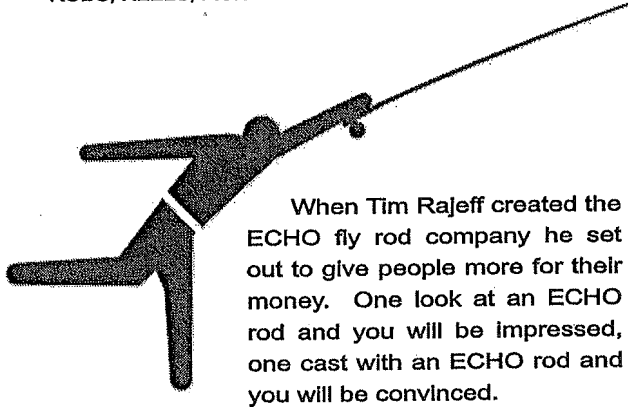
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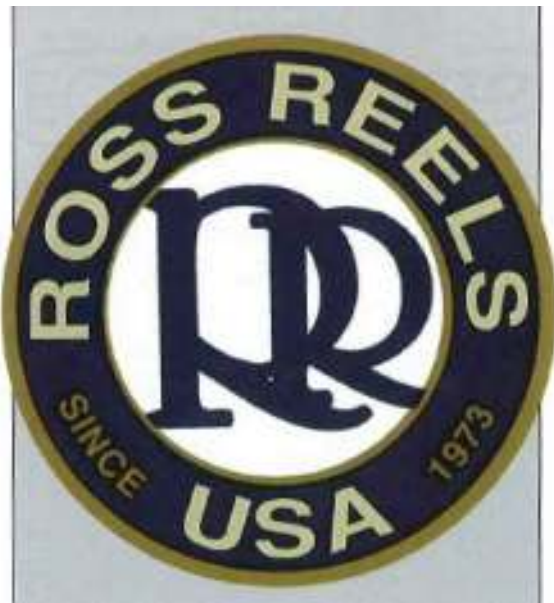
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