



Since 1991

## *fishstories.....*

### **Ruined for Life**

**by Nate Johnston, HSFC President**

Opening day of fishing season was a day away, and I had been practicing my casting into a bucket for weeks. Occasionally I used my border collie, Shep, a target. Morning came and my Dad and I were in Wilson Canyon looking at a muddy and swollen river. We bumped into Mr. Crawford, the jeweler in town, and he asked if I wanted to try his new spinning rod. Definitely, and with much care I tossed the small red and silver Kastmaster towards the rock wall opposite us and BAM! My first fish.....a 20+ inch rainbow....ruined for life at 5 years old.

I still get that feeling 35 years later. That overriding excitement with a big fish.....when I forget to measure it and have to look at the photo to guess how big it was long after I released it.

I left Mason Valley when I was 17 and for the next 20 years searched for "home".....I got divorced, bumped my head many times on life's lessons and did more and learned more than this space allows to tell.....living in Mexico during the winter and commercial fishing in Alaska the other three seasons. San Juan Island, Washington was a good base for years as were brief stints in Texas, Florida, and Montana.

Ironically, two+ years ago I bought my first home in the valley I was born in, and now I can't imagine wanting to be anywhere else. Outside of Alaska, this state has the most freedom of movement to offer with its public land and vast wide open spaces.....and nothing compares to the eastern Sierra.

I've been excited about the position of president because of my love for this area and other reasons.....to share my passion for stillwaters, to explain the evolution of my own fly tying (remember the fish don't read what we do), to better our relationship with NDOW and help our local NV/CA wardens.....really, just to give back what this beautiful sport, pastime, hobby, and obsession has given to me.

I look forward to learning more and making more friends in the club this year. Also, for everyone to meet the best fiancé of 11 years a guy could ask for, my Kelly, who knows what fishing is, what it means to me, and what it does for my sanity.

Happy New Year. Spring fishing is on the way.

Nate Johnston

### **January General Meeting**

Our first general meeting of the new year will be held Wednesday, January 21 at 7:00 P.M. at the Carson Valley Methodist Church in Gardnerville. Vern Krahn will be our speaker. Vern works for the Carson City Department of Parks and Recreation. He will be talking about the Clear Creek fishing pond and several Carson River projects. Remember to bring some money to purchase some tickets for our fly fishing equipment drawing.

### **February Fish Out– Hinkson Slough– Sunday Feb. 22 by Liz Weirauch, HSFC Fish**

Go out to your garage and check your float tube for leaks! Our first fish out is scheduled for Hinkson Slough on Feb. 22! We've been doing this water for a few years now, right after the opener (Feb. 13th), and we hope that we can get information for that one week after the opener to find out what they are biting. Recommended equipment: 4-5 weight rods, full, sink, or intermediate

line. Flies: zebra midge, blood midge, Hinkson Slew, brown or purple buggers, prince nymphs or zug bugs. We'll find out closer to the date exactly what they are taking. Bring a camera too. Each year out there we've seen osprey, golden and bald eagles, so good photo opportunities abound.

We'll meet at Dini's Restaurant at 8:00 A.M. for a no-host breakfast. Dini's is located in the casino in downtown Yerington. We'll let Mr. Sun warm-up the area a bit and hopefully be out at the slough by 9:30 A.M.

If you have any question, we'll discuss the fish out at the January and February meetings, or you can call Liz at 782-4734.

A note: Hinkson Slough is a good place to bring kids to fish from shore.

## THE ZUG BUG

by **KURT ZEILENGAA**, a HSFC current member

While Zug Bug was designed to imitate a caddis fly nymph, it is a good general purpose wet fly pattern. The fly is named after its creator, Cliff Zug. There are a number of variants of this pattern, a popular one being the Bead Head Zug Bug (or BH Zug). Fish them on a dead drift near the bottom with an indicator. Might be something to try in Hinkson Slough!

### Zug Bug Recipe

Hook: 1X long nymph, size 10-16

Weight: lead wrap under body (or, for a BH Zug, a brass bead head)

Thread: Black (8/0 or 6/0, pre-waxed)

Tail: Peacock swords (or herl)

Body: Peacock herl

Ribbing: flat narrow silver tinsel (or silver wire) Wing case: duck flank feather, tied flat over body, cut square, 1/2 of body length

Collar: sparse brown hackle

## 2009 Membership Dues Deadline – January 31

Once again, it's time to remind y'all that annual club membership dues need to be paid by January 31, 2009. Just like last year, every new and renewing member who pays their dues by January 31 will be entered in a drawing to win a **\$200 gift certificate** at The Angler's Edge. Simply complete the enclosed membership application and choose one of three convenient payment methods: 1) Mail your application and check (make sure it's postmarked by January 31) to PO Box 3121, Gardnerville, NV, 89410; 2) Bring your completed application and payment to the January General Meeting; or 3) drop your application and payment off at The Angler's Edge. The gift certificate drawing will be held at the February General Meeting.

### 2009 HSFC Officers

Nate Johnston	President	775-265-6269
Dan Sedergren	Vice President	775-265-2767
Jim Gronski	Treasurer	775-265-7124
Gini Cummings	Recording Secretary	775-265-1991

### 2008 HSFC Board of Directors

Roger Arthur	Membership	775-265-2825
Mike Matuska	Conservation	775-884-0394
Jim Norton	Education	775-265-3121
Ken Baldwin	Webmaster	775-849-3920
Mike Phillips	Newsletter Editor	775-265-4610

### At Large

Ron & Linda Sanstrom		775-782-1152
Mike Turnipseed		775-782-4254
Don Stockman	Fund Raising	775-265-7164
Liz Weirauch	Fish Master	775-782-4734

### TENTATIVE FISH OUT SCHEDULE FOR 2009

<b>Feb. 22</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Hinkson Slough</b>
<b>March 29</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Pyramid Lake</b>
<b>April 26</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Rosaschi Ranch</b>
<b>May 24</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Upper Twin Lake</b>
<b>June 28</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fenchmen's Reservoir</b>
<b>July 26</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>West Walker River</b>
<b>August 23</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Spooner Lake</b>
<b>Sept. 27</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Heenan Lake</b>
<b>Oct. 25</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Owens or East Carson River</b>
<b>Nov. 15</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Indian Creek Reservoir</b>

## WINTERIZING YOUR FLY FISHING STUFF

by Mike Phillips, HSFC Editor

At this time of the year when there is not a lot of fishing going on it can be a good idea to go through your fly fishing stuff and “winterize” it. This can include checking yourself out. Here is a list that can assist you:

1. Recalling all your slips and falls on various streams, lakes, and rivers go to a chiropractor and get adjusted!
2. Go through your various fly boxes and remove all the flies that you must have tied while drinking too much beer or wine and redo them. I get a single sided razor blade and cut all the material off the hook saving the hook and bead .
3. When all those fly boxes are on your desk reorganize them for the 100th time but this time come up with a better way to organize them! (Then call me if you come up with an idea that really works).
4. Get out all your fly reels and fully loosen the drags removing all stress from the components.
5. Remove the spool from the reel and rinse both with warm water, wipe dry, let air dry, and store away.
6. Remove your fly lines and clean with a commercial cleaner.
7. Take your clean fly line and wrap it around an object with a larger diameter than your reel (coffee can for example) to help get rid of the line memory imparted from your spool. Store it away until fishing time starts up again.
8. Another good idea for care of many fly lines is to stretch them out before your first trip. Find a smooth object (pole) loop the line around it with the end in your hand and walk backwards. After walking a few feet pull on the line stretch- it continuing until you come to the end of your fly line.
9. With all of your fly line out check your knot with your backing. If it looks worn retie it.
10. With your rods rise and dry them with luke warm water. Clean the reel seat and make sure you remove any junk from ring threads using warm water and a rag.
11. Wipe down the cork handle with mild soap. Using a fine grit steel wool pad can clean up some stubborn spots.
12. Check your guides on your rod using Q-tips. Move the Q-tip on the inside of the guides if some cotton comes off you might have a problem that needs attention.
13. Rinse your waders off, let dry, and store inside out handing in a cool dark closet. Don't hang them up in your sunny garage or fold them up and put them in a box. If you need to put them away in a bag or box roll them up instead.
14. Go through your fly vest emptying all the pockets and storage areas then throw it into the wash. Once clean and dry see if you can come up with a better way to put your stuff back.
15. Finally think about joining a gym to get yourself into good fishing shape because baby we ain't getting any younger.

## Save the Date– HSFC Annual Fund Raising Dinner– March 14, 2009

Our 2009 Annual Fund Raising Dinner will be held March 14 at the C.V.I.C. Hall in Minden, so please mark your calendars accordingly. More information will be given as the date approaches. This is our only fund raiser of the year, and it is important to get as many people to attend and donate as we can. Speaking of donations, we all know what a tough economic situation many of us find ourselves. Recognizing this we expect it to be tougher to get businesses and various organizations to donate to our club. There may be a time when a business or organization requests our membership list as part of a donation agreement. With donations hard to come by, it makes sense from the Board of Director's point of view to provide such a list if it means the difference in getting or not getting a donation. If you are opposed to the release of your information let us know, and we will see if we can withhold that information.



## High Sierra Fly Casters Membership Application New and Renewing Members

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Delivery:  U.S. Mail  Email

Are you a beginning fly fisher?  Yes  No

What kind of fly fishing do you enjoy?  Streams  Lakes  Both

Are you a new or renewing member?  New  Renewing

Dues are \$30.00 per year for an individual or family  
Individual membership for ages 16 and younger is \$10.00  
The membership period is January 1 - December 31

**Membership dues are due by January 31**

High Sierra Fly Casters is an affiliate club of the Federation of Fly Fishers

Please mail your completed application to:

**High Sierra Fly Casters  
PO Box 3121  
Gardnerville, NV 89410**

For more information about Club benefits and outings, please join us at our monthly General Meeting held on the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Rd., Gardnerville.

Name badges are available. Please see a Membership Committee member at the next General Meeting.

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