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Fly Fishing & the Internet

by Dan (Grizzly Wulff) Sedergren, HSFC VP

The Internet is a marvelous place providing access to a wealth of information about almost any subject you can imagine. For those of us who fly fish, it gives us access to literally hundreds of sites devoted to our favorite pastime. Interested in old or new fly patterns; there are sites that provide detailed tying instructions. Want to try your hand at tying your own tapered leaders; there are sites that give detailed formulas and instructions. Want some help with your casting, tying knots, fishing wet flies; it's all there.

Unless you're an old retired dude (or dudett) like me with lots of time on your hands, you probably don't have the time, or inclination to search out all the good sites, so to help you, I've compiled a list of sites that might be of interest to you.

Fly Anglers On Line (FAOL) – This site operated by Jim and Deanna Birkholm, (aka. J Castwell and Ladyfisher), of Poulsbo WA bills itself as *The Fly Fishing Enthusiast's Weekly Magazine*. The site is updated each Sunday night and includes fly fishing related articles, a fly of the week, a variety of bulleting boards, a chat room, a features section, a section devoted to fly fishing basics, a fly tying section with several hundred patterns and recipes, and even a fly fishing humor section called the "Lighter Side." Unlike some of the bulletin boards on the net where people sometimes get down right nasty, FAOL maintains a very "civilized" community. Registration is not required to access the site, although if you want to participate on the boards or in the chat room you will need to register. There is no cost to belong, and signing up won't expose you to a bunch of unwanted spam. Check them out at: <http://www.flyanglersonline.com/>

Fly Fisherman Bulletin Board on InterMedia's Outdoors Forums – This site was started by Ross Purnell, editor of Fly Fisherman Magazine. This is a bulleting board style site with a variety of forums including location specific forums. There is a Southwest forum that covers California, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico. There are also forums devoted to Spey Casting, Rod Building, Fly Tying, Saltwater Fly Fishing and Stillwater Fly Fishing. This board is not as "civilized" as FAOL and occasionally the folks get a little fiery with their comments. The Main forum on this board is a good place to keep up-to-date on what's going on in the Fly Fishing World. Check them out at: <http://outdoorsbest.zeroforum.com/zeromain?id=8>

MidCurrent – This site provides fly fishing tips, fly fishing gear advice, videos, interviews, and the best in fly fishing writing. They describe themselves as "experienced anglers, guides and authors who enjoy sharing the excitement of fly fishing." On their site and in their weekly newsletter, they cover fishing flies, fly fishing rods, fly fishing reels, fly lines, trips, books, videos, techniques, and strategies. And they provide the only fly fishing news that is updated daily 365 days a year. The site contains a wealth of information and is worth a look. Check them out at: <http://www.midcurrent.com/default.aspx>

The Global Fly Fisher (GFF) – This site was started in late 1994 by Steve Schweitzer from Colorado, and Martin Joergensen of Denmark. Steve is now the marketing director for Tom Whiting at Whiting Farms, but is still active with GFF. This is a very eclectic site that covers fly fishing in the US and overseas. A real gem on this site is an excel spreadsheet program called LeaderCalc that Steve developed for calculating classic and contemporary leaders – and designing your own formulas for knotted leaders. Check them out at: <http://globalflyfisher.com/>

California on the Fly – This site is designed as a California Fly Fishing directory categorized with hundreds of websites. Click on a category on the left side and links to other sites and articles are displayed. Check them out at: <http://californiaonthefly.info/index.htm>

Northern California Fly Fishing Board – This site contains a bulletin board devoted mostly to items of interest in Northern California as well as articles. There's a good article on tying Tim Fox's Caddis Poopah adapted for steelhead fishing. I've used this pattern on the Trinity and it's a "killer". Check them out at: http://www.ncffb.org/joomla_1.0.12/

Troutnut.com – This site contains some of the best photographic images of insects that I've ever seen. There are currently more than 3500 photos of some 700+ insects that trout eat along with detailed hatching behavior and soon to be added identification keys. Check them out at: <http://www.troutnut.com/>

Steve Ojai's Home Page – This site is dedicated to the fly fishermen who fish the Sierra Nevada Region of California to assist in locating the necessary information to locate sites to fish, what flies to choose, and how to tie them. There's a great map section with links to descriptions of various trout waters. For each water there is a list of recommended flies and a link from each fly to its tying instructions. Check this out at: <http://members.tripod.com/stevenojai/homepage.htm>

The Classic Fly Rod Forum – This forum began as Clark's Classic Bamboo Rod Forum, founded by Clark Davis for all who share a passion for classic rods. This is a great site for those interested in bamboo rods. Check it out at: <http://clarksclassicflyrodforum.yuku.com/directory>

This article will be continued next month when Dan gives us even more helpful web sites. This is enough to make you buy a computer.

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

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 intermediateline. 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 February meeting, or you can call Liz at 782-4734.

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

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Liz Weirauch	Fish Master	775-782-4734
Mike Phillips	Newsletter Editor	775-265-4610

TENTATIVE FISH OUT SCHEDULE FOR 2009

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

Some Background on Hinkson Slough

by Mike Phillips, HSFC Editor

Hinkson Slough is located in the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area. This management area is situated in north Mason Valley in Lyon County, seven miles north of Yerington. The state purchased this area in 1955 for waterfowl management and wetland development. When the wetland was developed, ponds and sloughs were created which allowed for largemouth bass and catfish to be planted. Then in 1990 Mason Valley Hatchery was built, and this brought with it a constant supply of quality water. The availability of this water led to an expansion of fisheries at Mason Valley. Hinkson Slough was one of these. Hinkson Slough is approximately 26 acres in size. It is a series of canals and open water surrounded by a road to the north and cattails in the other directions. Hinkson is primarily a put and take fishery that includes rainbows, browns, cutbows, carp, and largemouth (black) bass. There are times when trophy sized trout are planted there. In 2007 the creel census showed anglers averaged 1.74 fish per hour and 12.6 fish per day. The catch consisted of 449 rainbow trout, that ranged between 10 and 15.9 inches, and three largemouth bass. Early spring is the best time to catch trout, while late spring and summer are the best time to catch bass. The Nevada Trophy Book for the Mason Valley Area has these trophy entries: an 8-pound 4-ounce largemouth bass, an 18-pound catfish, and a 5-pound 5-ounce rainbow trout. In 2008 Hinkson was planted with 1,500 9-inch trout in the spring and another 1,500 in the fall. The regulations at Hinkson are as follows: season opens the second Saturday in February and closes September 30, the limit is 2 trout that need to be at least 16 inches long, and 15 warmwater gamefish of which not more than 2 may be black bass. The minimum size for trout is 16 inches. Also, *it is unlawful to possess black bass between 11 and 14 inches total length*. Artificial lures can only be used at the Slough. Fishing hours are anytime during the day or the night.

2009 Membership Dues Deadline – January 31

Once again, it's time to remind y'all that annual club membership dues needed to be paid by January 31, 2009 to qualify for our prize drawing. Just like last year, every new and renewing member who paid their dues by January 31 will be entered in a drawing to win a **\$200 gift certificate** at The Angler's Edge. Unfortunately, time has expired on this offer. But hey still get your dues paid and receive our club newsletter this month. Simply complete the enclosed membership application in your January newsletter or show up at our February general meeting and choose one of three convenient payment methods: 1) Mail your application and check to PO Box 3121, Gardnerville, NV, 89410; 2) Bring your completed application and payment to the February 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. You do not have to be present to win.

February General Meeting– February 18

Our presenter for the February meeting at 7:00 P.M. will be one of our longtime members Mike "Smallmouth" Matuska. Mike led a weekend fish out to the Sacramento Delta in September of last year. He even threw a fly tying party the week before the trip, so all of us would be equipped with the right flies. We fished for smallmouth and largemouth from pontoon boats. All of us got into fish. Some even caught stripers. A number of us camped Friday through Sunday. Mike is going to talk about that trip. He will also be talking about flies to use, equipment, technique, and when and where to fish. Our trip last year was a success, and we are hoping to go again sometime this year. Such a trip would be good for novice fisherpersons, and those who like to catch bass. It would also be fun for those who just like to camp and socialize. Many in the fishing community believe that smallmouth bass are equal to if not better than trout to catch on a fly rod, so don't miss this presentation.

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. Ticket prices remain unchanged at \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. You can purchase tickets in advance at the Angler's Edge or our February meeting. Cocktails start at 5:30 P.M. and dinner at 7:00 P.M. The food should be excellent like it was last year, since we have the same caterer. As usual there will be a silent auction, 50/50 drawing, and a really good grand prize. This dinner is our **BIG** fund raiser for the year. In fact, it is our only fund raiser. The funds we raise and your dues cover the cost of all the things we do this year. We plan on continuing our involvement with adults and children struggling with cancer through Reel Recovery and Casting for Recovery, so please make it a point to come and bring some friends.

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Upcoming HSFC Events

HSFC General Meeting	February 18
February Fish Out at Hinkson Slough	February 22

General meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. on the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Carson Valley Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Lane in Gardnerville.

The HSFC Board meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at The Angler's Edge, 1506 U.S. Hwy. 395 N. in Gardnerville.
HSFC members are welcome to attend.

We welcome contributions, quotes, jokes, stories and articles to *fishstories*.....

Please send to: Mike Phillips, 887 Marion Way, Gardnerville, NV, 89460 or mikephillips61@charter.net