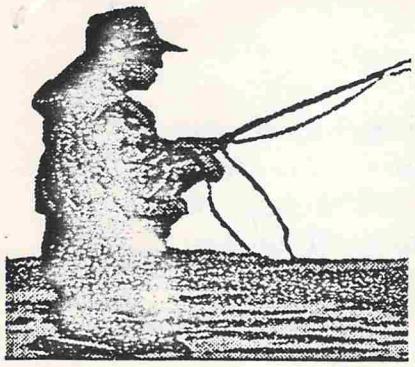


The Conejo Valley Flyfisher

June 1991

HOT CREEK SHOWDOWN

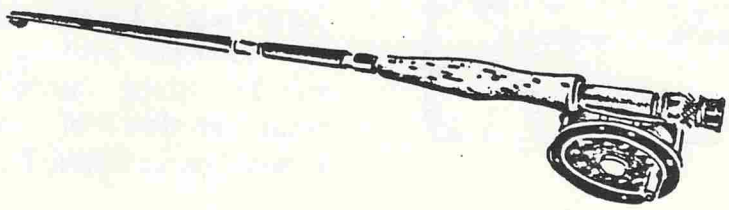
Many club members call Hot Creek one of the most magnificent streams to fish in the West. Others call it less complementary names such as "finicky", "complex", or just plain "tough". What's been your track record on this small and scenic Sierra stream? Have you been able to successfully and consistently crack the combination?

Regardless of your past Hot Creek record, you will definitely not want to miss our June guest speaker, **MAS OKUI**. Mas is sometimes better known as the "Father of Hot Creek". Ever since Mas first fished this highly productive stream forty years ago, he has taken upon himself to master this water. His exclusive fishing theories, patterns, and strategies will all be presented in what will prove to be an educational and entertaining evening.

Don't forget the fly tying session that starts at 6:00 p.m. Mas will feature his proven Hot Creek patterns.

Bring a friend

Date: June 11th
Location: Oaks Mall Community Room (Next to MacDonalds)
Time: 7:30 p.m. - Fly tying at 6:00 p.m.



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The purpose of the CVFF is to cultivate and advance the art, science and sport of fly fishing as a sporting and enjoyable method of angling and a way of fishing consistent with the preservation and use of game fish resources, to promote conservation of recreational resources, to facilitate and improve the knowledge of fly fishing, to elevate the standard of integrity, honor and courtesy of anglers and to cherish the spirit of fellowship among anglers everywhere.

FIN CLIPPING AT FISH SPRINGS

If you have ever wanted to catch several thousand trout in a single day then, June 15th is the day to be at Fish Springs Fish Hatchery. Located several miles south of Big Pine, Fish Springs has been the starting point for a three year study of trout in Crowley Lake. Each summer for the last three years, nearly a quarter of a million fingerlings have had one or more fins removed for identification purposes. These marked trout are stocked in Crowley to determine which species will restore this fishing mecca to its grand stature.

If you wish to participate, meet at the Hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m. There will be a short introduction to the leaders, followed by instruction on the clipping of fins.

This project is a chance to return a little to the sport we all enjoy. If you are going to be in the area, drop by and participate. Later that afternoon and evening, I will be fishing the wild trout section of the Lower Owens River. This fishery comes alive after sundown in the summertime. I hope to see you there. If you have any questions you can contact Tom Robison at (805)496-9371.

A Reminder

Just a reminder to bring in the 2 dozen flies that Bob Kieling asked us to tie. These flies will serve a dual purpose. They will help the CVFF raise needed money to bring in dynamic fly fishing speakers. Second, they will be used in the raffle at the South West FFF conclave next year. Please bring em' in if you got em'.

When Dave Whitlock joins us in September, we will have a Partridge Bamboo fly rod for raffle. Tickets will go for $1.00 a piece. The rod is not quite done, but will be ready for its new owner by September. (The slower I put them together, the slower they fall apart).

Owens River Gorge
A Big Break

Reprint from the Mammoth Flyrodders

By now most of you have heard about the March 5th pressure blowout of a Department of Water and Power penstock between Crowley Lake and Pleasant Valley Reservoir. The blowout triggered the collapse of a thousand feet of pipe. Initially, water from the ruptured pipe ran in the dry gorge gully. Fears of reestablishing a fishery in Owens River Gorge led the DWP to divert the water seepage into Lower Rock Creek by way of another dry gully. This diversion flooded the pastures in Round Valley because the old gully channel couldn't handle the sudden gush of water.

This diversion did not go unnoticed. An irate Department of Fish and Game immediately claimed the silt from the dry gully was endangering downstream fish eggs and fish larvae in violation of DFG codes. DFG officials soon began pressuring the DWP to re-water the Owens River Gorge. Mono County officials were not as patient. It was obvious the diversion of water from the penstock was fouling Lower rock Creek. Mono County District Attorney, Stan Eller, was directed to file suit against the Los Department of Water and Power to re-water the Owens River Dry Gorge.

A number of alleged violations of DFG codes by the DWP were also noted in the suit. It has been alleged that the DWP used a wire mesh screen in the Owens river gorge to keep fish out, thereby preventing a fishery from being re-established. This was an obvious violation of Department of Fish and Game codes. Compliance with DFG demands for removal of the wire screen were followed by DWP's diversion of water from the Gorge into Lower Rock Creek. Heavy equipment, including bulldozers and a backhoe, were apparently utilized by the Los Angeles DWP to alter water courses leading into Lower Rock Creek, thereby altering the flow of Rock Creek itself.

As of this writing, the DWP is utilizing a temporary open flume to move water down to the Pleasant Valley power plant. The suit is finally demanding the Department of Water and Power re-establish and maintain an appropriate fishery similar to that which existed before any waters were diverted years ago. Many organizations, including the Flyrodders, are closely monitoring the progress of this case. We believe many legal precedents set by the Rush Creek court decision and the battle with the Nevada farmers for water in the Bridgeport Reservoir will help our cause.

Current Fish and Game Code reads: *The owner of any dam shall allow sufficient water to pass through a fishway... to keep in good condition any fish that may be planted or exist below the dam.* This code section applies to anyone obtaining a license after 1950. Our sources note the DWP had been operating their dam nearly 20 years before getting a license in the early 70's. You can bet the DWP is desperately trying to find a way out of this predicament. We're looking forward to seeing the Gorge once again become a trophy brown trout fishery. Bottom line: *the pipeline break was a break for fish!*

Late Breaking News

Following a series of meetings, the DFG and the DWP announced that water will begin flowing in the Gorge again. Interim flows will be set a sixteen cubic per second pending further study by a "technical committee". Water will be restored to the dry gulch by the end of this month.

LARRY (805) 373-6974

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Memorial Day Emergers

Mike Weigand

For the third year in a row, Mas Okui asked me to join him for the three day Memorial Day weekend on Hot Creek Ranch. For the third year I accepted his offer. How could I pass up a chance to fish Hot Creek with someone who has been showing people how for thirty years? But, at the last minute, Mas came down with the flu and couldn't make it, so George Chapman (Conservation chairman for the Sierra Pacific Flyfishers) and I went.

Besides being very active in everything from conservation to twisting arms for float tubing on local lakes, George is a very active and innovative fly tyer. I took trout on two of the variation he tied for while up at the ranch.

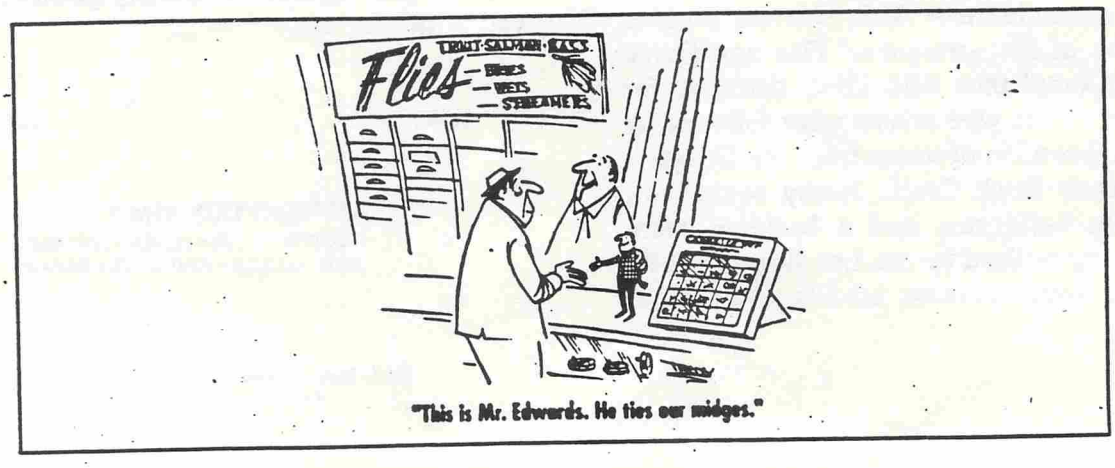
The weather was fair, some afternoon clouds on Saturday, cool, and not much wind. You know what that means, the flag on the Ranch flag pole wasn't torn off! At least we didn't have the snow like last year. Whether the full moon did something to the hatches, I don't know for sure, but they were backwards.

Saturday morning I got up early to do some nymph fishing in the public section. The hatches on the Ranch shouldn't be till mid-morning or later. soon after rigging for nymphs, I noticed a few fish working the surface. Being a dry fly nut, I switched to a size 20 grey emerger Mas showed me last year. I lost count of the number I caught and released in a 20 yard stretch of water. After lunch and trying a few more flies, I fished the Ranch water, walking down from the cabins, fishing the bends and slicks with a size 14 Royal Trude. Careful stalking and casting from my knees, I was able to take 6 before the second bridge. What a day!

Just to see if I could do it again, I went to the same stretch on Sunday morning. For the first time, I wrote down the time and size of each fish the same emerger fooled. Between 7:37 and 9:40 I had 10 takes in addition to the 12 I landed, up to a 17 1/2" rainbow. For some reason, the midges were producing more action in the gorge than on the Ranch.

While I may have caught more fish in the gorge than on the Ranch this year, it is usually just the opposite. Fishing Hot Creek Ranch is a true privilege. The limited number of guest allows you to fish to rising trout without someone putting them down. And, the hatches are usually fantastic. Lucky me, I get to go there again next month!

Yes, I will show you how to tie the emerger I was using.



"This is Mr. Edwards. He ties our midges."

SURF FISHING WITH A FLY ROD

Equipment needed:

1. Rod - 9 foot with 7,8 or 9 wt line
2. Reel - Inexpensive; if it costs more than $35.00 you are paying too much
3. Line - Traditional method is using a lead core line, with Cobra running line . Shooting heads of various lengths and density can be employed. Jim Teeny T 200 and T 300 lines can also be effective. I prefer Cortland 444 20 ft. sink tip.
4. Stripping basket can be made using a small waste paper basket. Cut slits along the side for a belt. You might want to drill a few holes on the bottom of the basket for drainage.
5. Leader - a few feet of 8 to 10 lb test leader material. I use a palamar knot for attaching flies.
6. Small box for flies.
7. Wading - You can either wade wet or use chest high waders with a safety belt.
8. Extra clothing and a towel.
9. High and low tide tables.
   Your fishing date is governed by the tides. Look for tides ranging from 3 ft to 4.5 feet. You want to fish the incoming side of the high tide. Start fishing at the low tide.

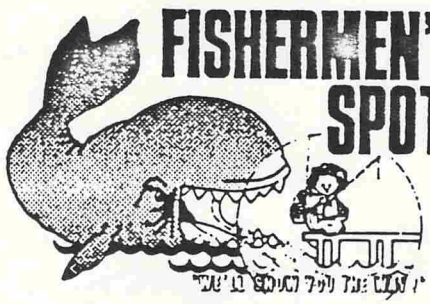
Example
February 26, 1988

26th Friday - Sunrise 6:35am Sunset 5:52pm

12:38p	-0.1	11:53p	2.7	4:48a	4.9	7:48p	3.6
(noon hour)		Low Tide			High Tide		

On this date my plan was to fish from 12:38 pm to 7:48 pm. From 12:00 to 2:00 I hooked into 6 barred perch. Then the wind blew me out.

10. You might want to store your personal gear in a plastic bag, for protection against wetness.
11. Hat and sunglasses to protect your face and eyes from glare and flying hooks.



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