

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

July 2010

www.gbflycasters.org

President's Message

by Mike Howes, GBF President

Two years ago I became GBF's President. Time has gone by quickly. At the last general meeting I handed over the reins to our new President, Dennis Baker. I truly enjoyed my two terms—the club practically runs itself. I would like to THANK all the chairs and leaders of the various facets of our club. It is these members that make our club as great as it is. I would also like to welcome the new members to the Board: Henry Sandigo, VP of Conservation; Eric Palmer, Three Year Director; and Tony Fabian, Director at Large. These members were nominated because of their active interest in the club. Bringing fresh faces/ideas to Board meetings opens opportunities to be explored, adding new dynamics to the club. I will not be fading away because I am still on the Board serving as "Past President." I look forward to the next years being able to be an integral part of the club, and enjoying its overall success. THANKS to all the members for supporting the club.

Mike Kaul will be hosting his annual Virginia Lakes fishout on July 8-11th. This fishout is for the novice and experienced fly fishing person. Camping will be at the Trumbull campsite. The website (www.gbflycasters.org) under "fishouts" has a list of what to bring, including what flies work.

Bill Carnazzo will be doing his Nymphing Clinic on the upper Yuba River July 10th. This is a must for all novice fly fishing persons. Bill's knowledge and ability to teach are instrumental in learning the art of fly fishing. Bill will be instructing on how to "nymph fish" using an in-line indicator. There is a limit of 20 participants; at the last meeting there were 16 signed up. To check availability of openings, please contact Bill Carnazzo, bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net or Art Livingston, artlivingston@comcast.net.

I bid farewell to my presidency, and look forward to enjoying the club in a different capacity. Thank you for your support over the last two years.

Life is reel
Mike

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Rick Radoff Receives FFF Casting Instructor Certification

Long-time member and Past President, Rick Radoff, was recently awarded the FFF's Casting Instructor Certification. Rick completed comprehensive oral and written tests that addressed casting mechanics such as tailing loops, double hauling, and the elements of the casting stroke – rod load, arc, pause, speed, rotation, and rod path, as well as effective techniques for teaching casting.

Also completed, a grueling one-and-a-half-hour physical performance evaluation that included tests for casting accuracy, distance, and demonstration of a variety of different casts. At all times, Rick not only had to accomplish the task, but show good and relaxed form as well.

Long known as one of the club's adept casters, Rick has many distance casting trophies under his belt, and his attendance and valuable assistance at the club's casting clinics has always been a given.

. . . John Hogg



J U L Y 2 0 1 0

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6. 7:00 PM Conservation Committee Meeting	7.	8. Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM	9. Virginia Lakes Fishout 8th - 11th	10. South Fork Kings River Fishout 9th - 11th
11. Virginia Lakes Fishout, 8th-11th → South Fork Kings River Fishout, 9th-11th →	12.	13.	14.	15. 7:00 PM Board Meeting	16.	17.
18.	19. Fly Tying Jam 6:30 PM	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.

Monthly Program



Rick Radoff with a beautiful New Zealand rainbow

Rick and Fran Radoff spent a month in 2008 traveling around New Zealand and fishing both the North and South Islands. They will be sharing their experiences with us. The program will have many photos of the beautiful scenery they encountered along with many pictures of fish caught. Come join us for a view of an angler's dream where the trout are huge and the streams are crystal clear.



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Downstream Fly Fishing Day



Jack Ramos teaching casting.



John Pellegrin with hands-on fly tying.

10 GBF members participated in the Downstream Fly Fishing Day. This is a day for children and young adults with Down Syndrome to experience the excitement of fly fishing. There were four areas set up; casting, fish painting, fly tying, and fishing. Volunteers were at each station helping the kids with the task at hand. A lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, and roast beef sandwiches was served. The weather cooperated and everyone, including the volunteers, had smiles on their faces. It was a great experience.

GBF was one of the sponsors for the event by donating \$250. Our club logo was on the t-shirts that were distributed to the participants.

A few days after the event I asked two of the GBF volunteers what they thought of the day; they both said that they cannot stop talking about it. It was an incredible day. I guess I will not have any trouble finding volunteers for next year.

. . .Mike Howes



Jerry Devlin with a young angler.



Paul Egan helping out.

WARMWATER 101 - Fly Lines

In my opinion, and others I have talked to, the greatest advancement in fly fishing is not the new rods but fly lines. When I first started fly fishing, my grandfather had a horse hair fly line on a spool. I tried it once and then tried to figure out why anyone would fish with this line. Right after World War II, the nylon lines came out and this is about the time I started fly fishing.

Fly lines come in various weights from #1 to #15. The larger the number, the heavier the lines. The weight is based on the first 30 ft. of line not counting the level tip. The line and the fly rod should be balanced to complement each other. The rod will be marked with what weight line the rod was designed for. Many fishermen overload their floating lines by 1 or 2 line weights. Scientific Angler (SA) and Rio are now making their floating lines a ½ line weight over. For fishing for bass we will use rod/line combinations of 6, 7, 8, and 9 weight.

Continued on Page 4

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Warmwater 101 - Continued from Page 3

Level lines have no place in bass fishing. They are unable to turn over a bass fly. Double taper are in the same class. For bass fishing we need lines that are heavier in the tip. The best lines we want to use are listed as bass or saltwater taper. For Stripers I use a shooting head line for longer casts.

The first line I would buy would be a floating line. Nothing is more exciting than watching a bass explode out of the water after a floating fly. To this line I will use a 7-9 ft tapered leader. I will quite often use this line with a sinking fly. With this system the fly will sink down close to the bottom. With the line floating on the top and the fly down deep, the retrieve will make the fly start to rise and will fall again when the retrieve is stopped. This jigging action is very effective.

The next line would be a sinking tip. These lines have a tip that will sink 12-15 ft. depending on the weight of the line. This line is excellent to use not only on sinking flies but on flies that float or dive. This is my favorite line for using deer head divers.

The third line would be a full sinking line. This line comes in various sink rates from 1 to 5. On the sinking tip and full sink, I use the fastest sink rate available. This line is great at taking large flies deep where the larger bass are. I will use a 3-4 ft straight mono fishing line as the leader. Bass are not leader shy. With this line I also like floating flies. With the line sinking to the bottom and the floating fly just above the weeds this can be the most effective way to catch big bass. This line is also great for slowly moving a bottom bouncing fly along the bottom..

Whole books have been written on fly lines and we could go on forever. Hopefully this will get you started.

. . . Pete Peterson

Virginia Lakes Fishout — July 8 - 11

Once again GBF is headed over the Sierras to beautiful Virginia Lakes. Located off Highway 395 and not too far from the town of Bridgeport, these small natural lakes are true Sierra Gems. Several high granite peaks tower over these pristine lakes. Both Virginia Lakes and Trumbull Lake are accessible by vehicle (elevation 9700'), but if you want a treat, take a short hike up the trail to a walk-in lake that contains Golden Trout.

The fishing is usually excellent all day long (mostly on subsurface flies) with 20 fish mornings common. A short hike up the trail brings you to a couple of lakes filled with Brookies that readily take dry flies. This fish out is perfect for beginning anglers (there will be lots of folks there willing to help you and extra equipment can be arranged for), and experienced flyfishers alike who love beautiful scenery and fantastic fishing. A short drive from the campground will bring you to many fly-fishing venues like the East Walker, Green Creek, Twin Lakes, Robinson Creek, Mammoth Lakes, Bodie, and Bridgeport Reservoir, to name a few.

The area boasts a nice campground at Trumbull Lake. Space can be limited and larger RV's may need to camp in an area just down the road. If you do plan on going, please call me at (530) 677-8022 so I can get an idea of how many campsites I need to secure.

Denny Welch Attorney at Law

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Michael Kaul, Fishout Leader
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Knot Tying Workshop



Eleven members attended the GBF knot tying workshop that was held Tuesday, June 15th, at the clubhouse. Useful knots, from hook to reel arbor were addressed, including the improved clinch knot, surgeon's knot, perfection loop, blood knot, nail knot, all-bright knot and arbor knot. Everyone agreed it was a good way to tie up an evening.

. . . John Hogg

Conservation Corner

Our June conservation committee meeting had 6 in attendance (besides me). Thank you to Mike Howes, Tony Fabian, John Carroz, Mike Laing, Henry Sandigo, and Harry Schoonbaert for their time and continued commitment to the conservation committee. Remember, attendance at the committee meetings counts toward your total volunteer hours for the year.

At the general meeting in June, our new VP of Conservation, Henry Sandigo, was voted into office. Congrats to Henry! I want to personally thank each and every one of you that has supported me through-out the last two and a half years and for allowing me the opportunity to serve our magnificent club. This has not always been an easy job, but it has been a highly rewarding one. I only hope that you will continue your support of the conservation committee and its activities under Henry's lead as well. I won't be out of the picture entirely, as I will be serving at the Northern California level as a director of NCCFFF, with a specific focus on conservation.

SPECIAL PROJECTS/MEETINGS/EVENTS—

HSU Student Presentation at June General Meeting: If you missed the June general meeting, you missed a fantastic presentation from the latest HSU recipient of our Dr. Robert B Morton GBF Fellowship, Matthew Peterson. His research on the decline of the Trinity River half-pounder was absolutely fascinating and the crowd had plenty of questions for him. After the meeting, Matthew shared with me that he and his wife are seriously considering joining our club as well. Although they live in near Chico, they are down in the Sacramento area frequently for work. Matthew is currently working for UC Davis.

Sagehen Entomology Clinic— Saturday/Sunday, June 12th – 13th: A HUGE thank you to Drake Johnson and Bob Brown for leading and cooking for this event. There will be a separate article re-capping this event in next month's Leader.

Red Sesbania Removal: Saturday, June 19th — 7 of us met at 8 am for this continued project. Thank you John Carroz, Tony Fabian, Mel Odemar, Eric Palmer, Kim Lloyd (w/Bruce, our favorite conservation pup!), and Henry Sandigo for your participation. We worked for three hours in the fairly mild weather. We split up into pairs for max efficiency and so those who were new to the project could be shown the ropes by the veterans. Mel & Eric and Tony & John each found one adult plant over 3 feet tall, but other than that, we mostly pulled plants 1-12 inches tall. This is a fantastic improvement from where this area was last year at this time! We enjoyed a relaxing lunch of sub sandwiches, chips and oatmeal cookies when we were finished.

Middle Fork American FERC relicensing meeting(s) —

Bill Carnazzo, Tony Fabian, Mel Odemar and Tom Bartos continue to attend these meetings 2-3 days/week. As reported by Bill Carnazzo to NCCFF:

On May 27th we had another of our series of flow discussions (negotiations, sort of), again focusing on the bypass reaches. I believe that we are getting quite close to consensus on the small bypass reaches (N. and S. Forks Long Canyon Creek; Duncan Creek). On the "larger" bypass reaches we still have a few issues. I think we are close on the Middle Fork reaches below French Meadows and Interbay, but there remain a few tricky issues on the Rubicon. I discuss those issues below. The intent is to wind up bypass reach negotiations on or before June 14th. We also had our MFA working group meeting this last Thursday (June 3), the first half of which was a very informative primer on how the model operates; the second half was our regular working group meeting. Our next flow meeting will be on Monday, June 7th. One very positive development is that Chris Shutes has been able to find some time in his busy schedule to join us. His expertise is invaluable. At some point I am going to kidnap him and take him fishing up-canyon.



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Our discussions began with the consultant's report on the results of modeling scenarios 9 and 10. Scenario 9 was a revised agency run, showing changes to their bypass reach flow ideas. Scenario 10 was our (i.e., the Foothill Angler Group's) proposal for the entire bypass reaches. The bottom line was that the agencies adopted our numbers

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Conservation Corner - Continued from Page 5

for all reaches except for the MFA below French Meadows, and for certain times of the year in the Rubicon. On the latter stream, we had somewhat lower flows during the spawning time frame and higher flows during the summer months. I will explain the reasons for our flow numbers later. The power generation loss metric for runs 9 and 10 was interesting. The agency scenario produces a total loss of 6.26%, taking into account water supply issues at buildout and a "betterment" at Hell Hole Res; our scenario resulted in a slightly higher generation loss, or 7.09%. The reason for the difference is in the timing of the flows; i.e., the higher flows that we included for the summer cost more to the system than the spawning time frame water. The "betterment" mentioned above is an addition of a 6' gate structure on the HH spillway; Andy Fecko indicated that PCWA will be including this as part of the project description for the FERC license and for the NEPA/CEQA process. When more details become available on this betterment, I will provide the information to everyone. Runs 9 and 10 were modeled using the new UARP South Rubicon flows (apparently not including pulse flows due to some uncertainty on that issue); runs prior to 9 and 10 did not take the revised S. Fork flows into account.

There are some adverse effects on boat ramp availability on both FM and HH lakes in critically dry years, attributable to runs 9 and 10. However, it appeared to me when the consultant presented this issue that the incremental impacts attributable to runs 9 and 10 are marginal at worst because there are problems in those years in any event. Also, we have been told repeatedly that even if the concrete ramp is entirely out of the water, launch is still possible from the dirt road extending beyond the bottom of the ramp.

The consultant stated that for the Rubicon, in general, run 10 (our scenario) produced more wetted perimeter in the winter, somewhat reduced spawning-time water (see above), and more adult habitat during the RBT rearing/growth period. Regarding temperature effects of runs 9 and 10 (here is where the trout/frog tension occurs), the consultant's opinions are: (i) the revised S. Fork flows will lower Rubicon temperature for some distance downstream of the confluence, but it is uncertain at this point as to how much cooling will occur; (ii) in CD years, the run 10 (our) flows will push the existing flow temperature downstream 5 or 6 miles (good for fish; possibly bad for frogs); (iii) temperatures above 22 degrees Celsius affect trout growth and sustainability adversely, and can be lethal; temperatures below 22 are better, but as the temperature decreases significantly, growth will slow due to metabolism changes and availability of food.

The main issue on the Rubicon will be "fish vs. frogs;" i.e., to the extent that more flow is provided by higher instream flow releases, in combination with the potentially cooler water generated by S. Fork flows from the UARP, the warmer water habitat for frog spawning and rearing will be lessened and pushed downstream. The consultant estimated that our run 10 flows would push the frog water line downstream about 5 miles. We are happy with our flow regime, and are going to try to stick to it.

Regarding pulse flows in the Rubicon, the problem with the infrastructure at Hell Hole is not yet solved, and it looks as though a fix that would remove restrictions on the amount that can be released would, in PCWA's words, cost in the "tens of millions." We have no way at present of judging the veracity of that claim. What they are going to do for now is to go to model run pulses at 180-300 cfs, take into account downstream accretion, and then measure the effects on the metrics (initiation of gravel motion, boating, angling, etc.).

The June 3 MFA working group afternoon meeting was devoted to issues relating to the peaking reach. We focused mainly on some proposed measures to increase RBT and Brown Trout spawning activity and habitat. Among those measures are rewatering the horseshoe; re-watering the side channel at Grey Eagle; creation of a fish enhancement facility to raise stream-bred (Middle Fork) trout, to be located on the Horseshoe Bar property; and increasing flows in the side section below Oxbow Dam. The group is generally in agreement with all of these, but there is concern regarding permission from the Horseshoe Bar ownership. I have talked with Tom on this, and he is going to pursue making it clear on the record.

UC Davis Hardhead Temp Study – Lisa Thompson of UCD Davis reports that they now have 85 specimen collected to date, but still need more. Stay tuned for another fish-out for these finicky creatures in the near future.

Notice will be sent out to those on the Emergency Fish Rescue/Volunteer Survey Team, so if you haven't signed up for that, please email me at Tggr514@yahoo.com to be put on the list.

DWR Telemetry materials study on Striped Bass – Paul and I have been asked to assist in capturing specimen for a CA Dept of Water Resources study to 1.) Determine if differences exist between suture materials, and overall



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Conservation Corner - Continued from Page 6

suture performance, 2.) Determine if difference exist between incision healing rates and suture materials, and 3.) Determine the best suture material to close incisions in sub-adult striped bass inhabiting the San Francisco Estuary. Actual date of collection is still TBD, but should be sometime in June/July. Thank you to Bill Templin for bringing this project to us.

CURRENT LEGISLATION—

There is nothing new to report at this time. BUT, for the most up-to-date news on California's fisheries, you can visit the California Fisheries Network online at www.calfish.net. This site was created back in April, and is maintained by local delta guide Jerry Neuburger, former webmaster for CSPA, and replaces the CSPA newsletter that was sent out up until last fall. I have found it to be a tremendous resource for the latest news from any agency that you can possibly imagine.

NEXT MEETING—

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 6th at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at Round Table Pizza in Fair Oaks ([4400 San Juan Avenue](#)). Please come meet and welcome your new VP of Conservation, Henry Sandigo!

Fly Tyer's Corner

by Bill Carnazzo

Bill's Hexagenia Dun (Adult)

Last month we learned two important tying techniques: (a) creating an extended body with foam; and (b) creating a "dubbing brush" for a pull-over style fly. Hopefully, you have practiced at least the first of those two techniques, because you will need to create a foam extended body in order to tie the Hexagenia Dun that is the subject of this article. We will use the "dubbing brush" technique for another pattern in a future article.

Several years ago I had the privilege of visiting Labrador to fish for the giant Brook Trout that inhabit many of the lakes of that province, and about which Lee Wulff wrote many years ago. In some circles, Lee has been credited with "discovering" this area and its fishery. The goal of our trip was to be there during the Hexagenia hatch—and, as luck would have it, we hit it perfectly. We arrived at our destination—Lake Marie—in a rainstorm. Our float plane landed, and we disembarked at the lodge. Dinner was served and it was time to "wader up" and climb into the boats. Despite the rain and wind, the Hex hatch occurred right on time—just before dark. Big Brookies slashed the surface all around us, and multiple hookups was the watchword. From there the hatch just got better each day; there were even bugs on the water during the day, constantly being eaten by cruising trout. The highest-producing fly for that trip, for our entire group, was one I created for the trip and which is quite similar to this month's pattern.

I have also fished Hex hatches at Lake Natomas, the Fall River, and most recently at Henderson Springs, where a group of GBF members caught a large number of very big trout on Hex patterns in the last hour before dark. For me, the best pattern was Bill's Hexagenia Adult, the fly featured here. As I mentioned above, it is similar to the pattern that has been such a success in Labrador.

So, let's get started—those big trout are out there waiting for the Hex's to hatch.

MATERIAL LIST

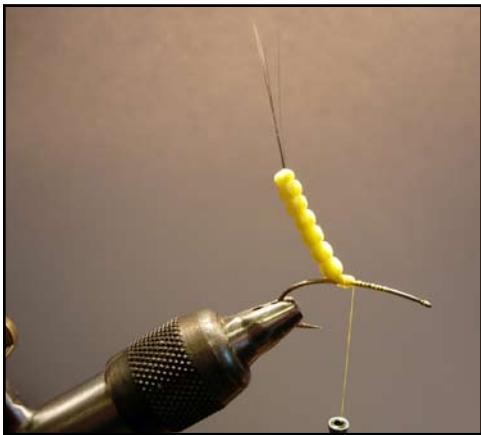
Hook:	TMC 2302, or Daiichi 1260, size 6
Thread:	Pale yellow 8/0
Extended Body:	Pale yellow 2mm cloased cell foam
Tail:	2-4 dun colored microfibbers
Wing:	Pale yellow deer hair
Hackle:	Stiff dun neck hackle
Abdomen and Thorax:	Pale yellow synthetic dubbing

Tying Instructions

- Follow the instructions in the June Leader for creating a foam extended body.

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 7



Steps 1 - 5

2. Once you've created the extended body, insert a large needle into the back end of the extended body and allow it to remain there. This will cause the foam to "relax" so the hole does not disappear once the needle is removed.

3. Cut 2-4 microfibbers from the synthetic "skin" to which they are attached. Remove the needle from the foam and immediately stick all of the microfibbers, butt end first, into the hole. Place a tiny drop of super glue at the point where the microfibbers enter the foam body.

4. Debarb the hook and place it in the vise. Tie the thread onto the hook and run it back to the point of the hook.

5. Using the "stub" that you left on your extended body, attach the body to the hook right above the hook point. Tie the foam stub down securely.

6. Move the thread forward to the front 1/3 spot on the shank, and there tie in a bunch of yellow deer hair with the tips pointing out over the hook eye. This will be the wing and the post for the hackle. Complete the post as you would any post for a parachute style dry fly. The post/wing should be the length of the hook shank. Place a drop of super glue at the base of the wing.

7. Return the thread to where the extended body was tied in (i.e., above the hook point). Create a dubbing loop, fill it with the pale yellow dubbing, and return the thread to the rear of the wing base.

8. Dub a robust abdomen, stopping at the rear of the wing base.

9. Tie in a high quality dun colored neck hackle with long, stiff barbules, immediately behind the wing base, locking it down securely with the thread.

10. Using a dubbing loop, dub a robust thorax around the area below the deer hair wing, and forward to just behind the hook eye.

11. Grab the tip of the hackle and wind it up the post 2 or 3 times in wide wraps, and then make close wraps down the post, making sure each wrap is beneath the previous one. There are a lot of opinions about whether to wind the hackle clockwise or counter-clockwise; just pick one method and master it. Tie the hackle off just behind the eye, trim it, and whip finish.

12. Apply a drop of super glue to the post at the top of the hackle winds, and another to the fly's head. Admire your handiwork, and . . .



Step 6



Steps 11 - 12 and completed fly



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See ya on the creek.

Fishing Spring Snowmelt Peaks, South Fork Kings River
June 4th - 6th
(but we'll be back on July 9 to 11, 2010 for a second try)



Photo 1: South Fork Kings River, June 5, 2010

We hadn't planned on fishing the peak of the snowmelt runoff—in fact, I usually try to avoid it, but we had a river clean-up planned on June 5, so we were committed to that date months ago. As it turned out, we were there just as it was peaking, and the sights and sounds were amazing. Photo 1 shows one of our favorite viewpoints taken on Friday, June 5, 2010

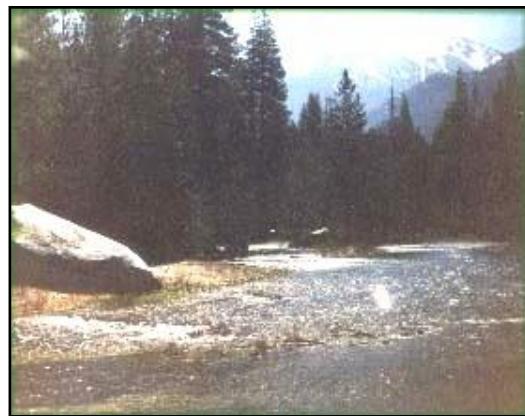


Photo 2: South Fork Kings River, April, 1975(?)

and compared to one at the same point during more typical pre-snowmelt peak in about April 1975.

The Dream Flows web site, shows modeled flows for many of the streams that whitewater rafters and kayakers like to run, anglers like to fish, and others just like to visit. The chart below (Figure 1) shows that the S.F. Kings River peaked this year on June 6 and 7, 2010. <http://www.dreamflows.com/graphs/mon.455.php>

The Dream Flows chart on the next page (Figure 2) (<http://www.dreamflows.com/graphs/yir.455.php>) shows the model estimated flows of the S.F. Kings River for 2010 to date, and for the prior 2 years (2008 and 2009). These flows tell the story about what an increase we have had in the snowpack in the Sierras this past winter compared to the previous 2 years, plus what can happen when you get an abrupt increase in air temperatures when you have an above normal snow pack. Our snowmelt runoff peak in 2010 is later than we've experienced lately, and about twice as high.

So, what does all of this have to do with catching trout? Well, most people report that a river in the condition like we observed this year (see Photos 3 and 4 on the next page) is "blown out" by high flows.

However, when you drive

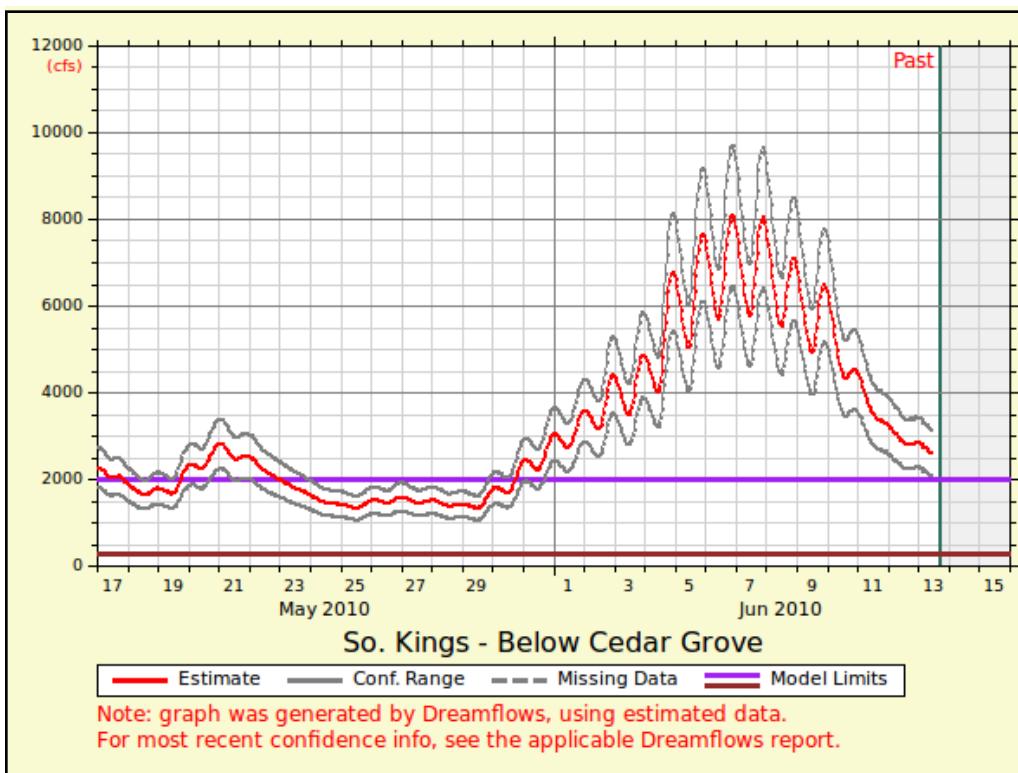
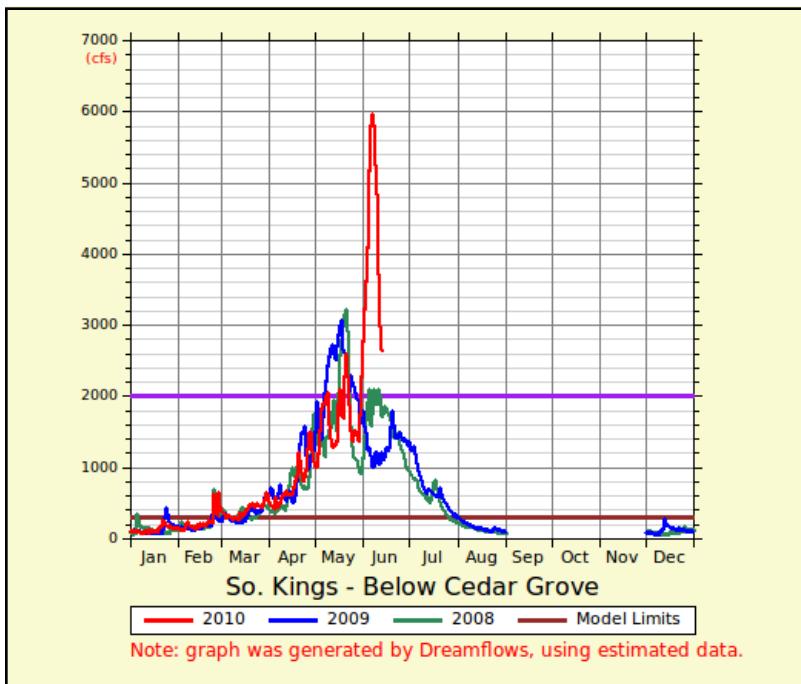


Figure 1

Continued on Page 10

Fishing Spring Snowmelt Peaks - Continued from Page 9



5 hours to get to your favorite fishing spot you don't really want to stand around and count the trees as they pass by you. So what does a wise angler do in this case? If you apply a little "scientific reasoning," or maybe just observe the river flows, or if you look at Figure 1 closely, you'll note that the flows typically bottom out about noon. Logically, you would note that in the middle of the afternoon, when the air temperatures are at their peak, the snow melt is also at its peak. Consequently,



Photo 3: S.F. Kings River below Boyden Cavern, June 6, 2010

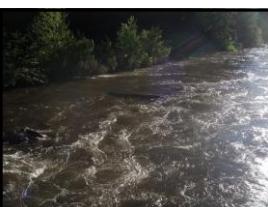


Photo 4: S.F. Kings River below first bridge entering Cedar Grove, June 5, 2010

if you happened to be up stargazing about midnight,



Photo 5: 14-inch Brown Trout

or if you were just awakened by the sound of cannon fire (actually big rocks banging against each other as they roll down the river in flood stage) you might notice that the river was at its peak for the day. So, when would you try to be down on the river trying to find a bit of clear water and a few hungry fish? That's right, a couple of hours before and after noon time, which is just what we did, and we had some luck (see Photo 5).

In case you're interested, we are already preparing for return trips to Kings Canyon (each with a Saturday morning clean-up and "fish outs") on July 9 to 11, and September 17 to 19. If you are interested in reserving a spot, contact Bill at wetemplin@att.net or 916-601-9954.

For more photos from this trip and prior trips to Kings Canyon you can visit Bill's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?id=1491835751&aid=2031008>

Reprinted from the Backcountry Fly Fishing Association, Orlando, FL

Written by Mike Adamson – President

"I just cost that kid a perfect game". (Jim Joyce, MLB umpire)
"Nobody's perfect". (Armando Gallaraga, pitcher Detroit Tigers)

Last night I learned a lesson from a kid half my age as one of the most intriguing baseball stories of the year unfolded. You probably saw it too. A chance for a perfect game. Two outs in the bottom of the ninth. A ground ball to the first baseman with the pitcher covering the bag. Clearly the final out, but the ump calls him safe. It may go down as the worst call in the history of baseball.

I felt bad for the pitcher and the injustice of the situation. It's almost impossible to be perfect, but he was. And yet the chance to make history was stolen from him by someone else's imperfection. But I felt almost as bad for the ump who made the call. By the time he knew he was wrong he couldn't make it right. Both men probably had a sleepless night.

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What I remember most this morning is not the game. What I remember is the study in integrity that followed as both pitcher and ump commented on the game. First the ump acknowledged his imperfection and owned up to it. Without trying to whitewash or make excuses he showed genuine remorse for something he couldn't change. There wasn't an ounce of "yes--but" in his answers. He just "manned up" and I was impressed. His response will define him as much as the bad call.

The kid's response was even more impressive. While bearing the brunt of a decision that had to hurt deeply he offered a gracious, forgiving answer. "We're all human". "He feels worse than I do". "Nobody's perfect". "We all make mistakes". In the midst of what had to be deep disappointment at a wrong done to him by another person, he offered a chance to save face. Without overlooking the mistake he set the tone for the rest of the nation to respond with grace, understanding and forgiveness. That's a kid with a great head on his shoulders. That's a man who has the capacity to take the long view. He may be 25 years younger than me but he sure set an example for me last night.

So what does all this have to do with fly fishing. Our whole sport is a combination of the quest for perfection AND the reality of experiencing imperfection more often than not. Lots of things draw me to my flyrod and one of them is the difficulty in making the "perfect" cast. Yet, more times than I'd like to admit I've pushed the final forecast too hard in the heat of the moment or the last backcast slips through my fingers and the fly lands 180 degrees from where I intended. On one hand we keep honing the mechanics and shooting for the sky. On the other we learn to live, and to forgive, in the midst of lots of things going wrong.

The combination of pursuing perfection and being comfortable with and forgiving imperfection is flyfishing in a nutshell. And at least for me it's a great metaphor for life. Shoot for the sky. Own the mistakes. Go easy on yourself and on others. Make adjustments and keep shooting for the sky. Move on to the next fish, the next cast, and the next scenario.

So as I head out tomorrow morning with fly rod in hand I'll practice what was modeled for me last night in a baseball game. Pursue perfection unabashedly. And when my mistakes or more importantly, when someone else's mistakes cost me the opportunity for perfection...let reality and grace coexist.

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* See our website for more information

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The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

Granite Bay Flycasters

4120 Douglas Blvd. #306-356

Granite Bay, CA 95746-5936

Granite Bay Flycasters

Mission: The organization is dedicated to conservation of fish habitat, advancement of the art of Fly Fishing, and good sportsmanship.

Meetings: General club meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Granite Bay Activities Center on the shores of Folsom Lake. For directions, check www.gbflycasters.org, or call Mike Howes at 916-863-6795.

Doors open between 6:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. for socializing and fly tying demonstrations. The business portion of the meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. The main program gets underway after a short refreshment break and usually involves a guest speaker and slide show, or other presentation. All meetings are open to the public and visitors are encouraged to attend.

Membership: Applications are available on-line at www.gbflycasters.org and at general meetings. Single membership: \$30; Family memberships: \$35; and youth (under 18): \$10. There is also an \$8 name badge charge for all new members. Membership is prorated throughout the year. For membership information, call Jerry Devlin at 530-878-8934, or visit the website at www.gbflycasters.org.

The Leader: To send articles, photos, ads and other materials, please e-mail to: Frank Stolten at fstolten@comcast.net. Please put **GBF Leader** in the subject line. Deadline for materials is the 15th of each month.

Please notify if address change

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President - **Dennis Baker**

916-580-7639 baker707@aol.com
VP Membership - **Jerry Devlin**
530-878-8934 wndycty3@aol.com
VP Conservation - **Henry Sandigo**
916-434-7792 hsandigo@mac.com
Secretary - **Mel Odemar**
916-961-4435 4thebirds1@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer - **John Hogg**
916-663-2051 johnhogg@sbcglobal.net

Directors:

Through June, 2013 - **Taylor Yates**
916-608-4560 tdyatesfolsom@sbcglobal.net
Through June, 2013 - **Eric Palmer**
916-987-1359 ejpalmer@pacbell.net
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916-966-3471 tapetey@sbcglobal.net
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530-268-8160 lgoodell@aol.com
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530-677-5250 itor@pacbell.net
Director at Large - **Tony Fabian**
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Past President - **Mike Howes**
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