

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Fishing tip:

Charles Jardine and I think alike as far as dry fly tactics on still water. He believes that you should visualize your world as a triangle or fan, NOT a railroad track. Positioning yourself to take full advantage to cover more area (the fan) and target your prey can be best done in a boat; of course you can also use a high-sitting pontoon and have a similar vantage point. If anchored, I believe that the bow gives the advantage to cast downwind to trout in their feeding zone, and mentally mapping each cast as you would on a stream by clock positions starting at noon and working toward 3 pm. Each cast would or could vary in distance so as not to spook other trout in the immediate area. If drifting, “lifting your fly line from one position and return fire without any dalliance”, a repositioned cast in one smooth angular change of direction. The trick is to always maintain tension on the line and loading the rod throughout the entire cast. Smoothness! Ok, this may sound a bit hairy, but with practice in the local park you can perfect this move and also provide entertainment to all onlookers. It will soon become second nature, and your fishing success should soar.

Legislation

Regardless of DFG’s current lawsuit headache, waters will be stocked as normal throughout the season, and all have been cleared for planting except one, and that one should hit the list in about 6 weeks or sooner. I wonder what will be the next hurdle for DFG.

Weather Report:

The weather has been in winter mode since opening weekend with temperatures on a constant rollercoaster. Never trust Mother Nature, come prepared with seasonal clothing and probably bring a lion’s share of D E E T, as reports predict the arrival of summer with a vengeance.

Fishing Report:

Remember to check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water if you are unsure of limits, size, etc.

ROCK CREEK road is clear and the lake is 10% ice free but unsafe for ice fishing. Resort opens this weekend. Stream still has a lot of snow at the upper reaches with all lakes still wearing their winter gear.

HOT CREEK – water is good and somewhat clear, and temperatures are perfect for bugs. Flashback PT #18-20, San Juan worms, tiny zebra midges, black or olive WD 40’s #20-22, flashback optimidge #18, gray or flashy scuds anytime, and Caddis Sparkle Pupa #18 should get tugs. The breezy afternoons always prevail so come prepared for everything. Please stay out of the water to prevent the spread of the New Zealand mud snail.

CROWLEY clear and getting much warmer. DFG recently put in a load of 10” Coleman rainbows which are hanging in Whiskey Bay and North Landing Bay. Reports are to fish the same depth from 12 ft to 20 ft depending on time of day and use anything but streamers. Try red/black opti-tiger or optimidge.

MAMMOTH BASIN projected opening of Lake Mary Road is May 29th. Mary, Mamie and George are frozen, and not safe for ice fishing. Twin Lakes is 50% ice free.

SAN JOAQUIN ROAD should be open by the 18th of June unless the heat cranks starting early June.

JUNE LAKE ~ June Lake marina cage culture program has been releasing trout this month. Tubing has been good near the reeds now that the water is warmer and a lot of nice fish are being taken on Matukas, olive spruce flies and olive wooly buggers. It’s been the best spot for the past week.

SILVER LAKE ~ Most of the action is on the shore as the water is still fairly cold and if you dress appropriately you might be a big surprise near the weeds.

RUSH CREEK is probably your best bet, but temperatures might make it a bit tough, but if you have patience and work it, you’ll see some nice browns.

GRANT LAKE – Boaters are doing the best on the south shore and around the south end of Alligator point with olive Matukas, olive wooly buggers and some rainbow Hornbergs. Water is still cool but should start to warm in the next week according to the forecast.

TIOGA PASS ~ More County equipment was taken in two weeks ago and they have plowed all the way through but are waiting for the avalanche issue to be lifted.

LUNDY ~ Road is open, and resorts opened the 27th of May. Water is low due to one last major repair on the dam. You’ll have a captive audience with the low water but wear an extra warm under-layer if you get in the water.

VIRGINIA LAKES road is open to Big Virginia Lake parking lot and ice is still fishable on both Big and Little Virginias, but I would think twice before going out on Trumbull Lake as it is always the first to go. Bait or rubber flies with a jigging motion is your only choice until more water opens up.

Still snowing lightly as of the 27th 11 pm, but any accumulation will disappear in the morning.

EAST WALKER flows hit the 192 mark, and weighted nymphs are your best bet, so use any mayfly imitation, prince, and WD 40’s or Zebra midges over a crystal tiger midge. BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR water is fair and a bit off color due to light run-off. Season started off slow but those willing to endure the breezy conditions found great results near Buckeye Bay.

WEST WALKER flows are 393cfs and the conditions are good for flat pocket water, but it will get higher in the next couple weeks when night temperatures really start to crank. Use the same strategy in getting your bugs down to the bottom; they are getting gorged with food so your best skills are needed to entice them to your offering.

SONORA PASS – no concrete date, but hoping for the 29th. MONITOR PASS was closed due to weather but had been open previously.

See you on the water, CJ (10.5)