



The Fly Line

March 2011

President's Message – March 2011

Next month we have a great opportunity to tune up your casting before trout season opens. Our club has the use of the gymnasium at the El Dorado County Office of Education off Green Valley Road. We plan on offering the opportunity to have your casting videotaped by a professional and put on a DVD you can take home. In May we are looking to be on the river, possibly up by Ice House looking at early season bugs. We have a tentative plan for a float tube session for the June meeting.

So lots of stuff going on. In addition to the club activities, April 4th is the ground breaking for the Finnon lake restoration. I haven't checked, but usually Kienes has a big to-do the weekend before opening day.

Hangtown Fly Fishers is starting its 5th year and this is membership renewal time. Your dues go to support the web site, pay for speakers and events like the booth at the El Dorado County Sportsman Expo. Please complete and mail in the renewal form printed elsewhere in the newsletter or get one from the web site. (I'll get a separate page up on the web site – Jeff)

It looks like we are off to a great year. Got comments, questions or concerns, E-mail me at president@hangtownflyfishers.org

Tight Lines

Karl



Dave Angelo at Pyramid Lake

ALL I CAN SAY TO THE KIDS IS IF YOU'VE A PROBLEM IN FISHING OR LIFE, IF YOU TALK TO AN OLDER PERSON, YOU'RE GONNA END UP ALRIGHT, BECAUSE NINE TIMES OUT OF 10, THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH THE SAME THING.

[Rex Hunt](#)

"Three-fourths of the Earth's surface is water, and one-fourth is land. It is quite clear that the good Lord intended us to spend triple the amount of time fishing as taking care of the lawn." - Chuck Clark

March Fishing Report

Because of the weather, not much fishing has been going on and even less catching. The only fish reported was from Dave Angelo's trip to S. California where he caught a halibut and a shark.





Just something to remind us that it will eventually warm up and stop raining...

"Catch and Release fishing is a lot like golf. You don't have to eat the ball to have a good time."

How To Be Successful On Early Season Lakes

Some of the best trout fishing of the year can occur right after ice-out on local lakes. In the early season when the water in most local lakes is still cold fishing can be very productive if you have the right tackle and techniques. Everything is still moving slow and fish usually feed near the bottom.



Trout that have been living under ice for a couple of months have forgotten about humans and can be very naive. These trout are often hard bodied chromers that pull hard. Since the water is very cold, trout and the various organisms they feed on are living in slow motion. Often the trick is to move your fly very slowly across the bottom. To accomplish this your boat (pontoon boat, or float tube) must be stationary. This is easy to do on calm days. You simply sit in one place and retrieve your fly slowly. On windy days your boat must be anchored or the wind will move your boat much too quickly, and you won't be able to work your fly slowly enough. A selection of sinking lines is very helpful to get your fly to work the bottom at various depths. A lake usually warms the shallow water around the edges of a lake first. A slow sinking line will fish your fly slowly if the water is from four to six feet deep. Sometimes trout move into water that is less than two feet deep. A floating line or a line with a clear tip is excellent for shallow water. Flies of various weights also help adjust the depth of your presentation. Fly Boxes well stocked with



different sizes and weights of **Midges and Chironomids** is essential for fishing lakes nearly any time of year, but can be even more important early in the season. Midges seem to have a natural antifreeze and can be very active when the water is barely above freezing. Fish feed on these prolific insects at all depths. Trailing your midge pupa off a deep sunk slow moving wooly bugger



can pay big rewards. Strikes can be very light. Your line needs to be free of slack to maximize the "feel" of the bite. For early season fishing, its hard to beat **Leeches and Wooly Buggers**. Many colors work, but if you aren't getting strikes change to a different color or a different size. A sleeper color for early in the year is peacock & green. Speaking of green, Cal Coal, one of the most



renowned lake fishers of recent history, said that the only fly you need for lakes any time of year is "inch-long & green". No doubt this simplistic approach has merits, but we have seen times when 3/4" inch long and green worked even better. One of these periods is early in the year when trout are feeding heavily on immature damselfly nymphs. The nymphs are normally very light-colored olive-gold.

CLUB STUFF

2011 OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT AND TREASURER – KARL WEILAND

VP MEETINGS – LEW ARCHULETTA

VP OUTINGS – DAVE ANGELO

NEWSLETTER & WEB SITE – [JEFF NAGEL](#)

If you want your pictures or stories in the newsletter or on the web site - email Jeff Nagel – click on my name & type in your message.