

## Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

### **Fishing Tip: Minimize-simplify-organize!**

*The size and variety of flies within most fly boxes can boggle even the sanest. I've seen some amazing SA waterproof boxes this summer, and the organizational skills of these fly boxes were amazing. I have an alter ego that suggests every possible unknown fly is needed so I have become a collector of sorts, but what I carry into the back country is about the size of a pack of cigarettes which is jammed full of what I always use, the same 5 flies in different colors for top water and the same 2 flies for sub-surface. I spend way too much time pouring over old fishing books looking for that perfect fly so I can simplify and organize my "toys" to come up with that one fly that not only is fast to tie, but inexpensive, works 85% of the time, and you don't care how many you lose. The fly is black and tied with 2 items, it is similar to the English version of the Black Gnat but with soft fibers for the swept back wing as in a Caddis, and a minimal black angora wool body that is picked out toward the throat to resemble legs. Most of the hook is showing as the body is very short. It only has one HUGE drawback; it is tied on a size 22 hook which works the best. Also, I wear bifocals and utilize a second magnifier, and this tiny little item that swings out from the right edge of my specs so I can tie off the head, all the while using my left hand to keep the pussy-cat away from my feathers and only one eye is looking at the fly while the other is watching the kitty. After the flies are tied and the kitty is snoozing in my lap, I'm thinking as I pet her long silky fur, hmmm. Another possible material, but first let's get this fly to work on a larger hook. I'll call in the R&D squad.*

### **Weather:**

Summer continues to bring great weather to the Eastern Sierra with a few patches of Aspens turning yellow meaning we are in for a good freeze within the next 10 days. It's that time of year.

**News** – Plan ahead--purchase your fishing license at your local tackle store and avoid the \$3 surcharge. More wardens are on the beat this summer and checking licenses.

**Legislation** – News still pending and will report when available.

### **Fishing Report:**

Always check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water as to limits, size, and gear.

**ROCK CREEK** Try small mosquitoes, olive and black woolies, Hornberg's (bugs are still bad up there). Subsurface with Type IV and seal buggers.

**HOT CREEK** – Water conditions are great and stay in the wide channels and lengthen your leaders, lots of "goop" to snag up on. Hoppers are the best bet in the afternoon, try small mayfly and midge patterns for the am hatch. Important to keep the drag off your drifts, your casting to trout with a 4.5 GPA.

*Please stay out of the water and help prevent the spread of New Zealand mud snails.*

**CROWLEY LAKE** water temps are running between 53 to 70F (slightly higher than my last report). Check for the perfect temp of 57 with your thermometers. Massive weed beds will surface soon. Fish are moving all around look for dinner. DFG stocked browns earlier this spring due to the excellent conditions, and continue to stock with all the large fish chasing small Gorton's Fish Sticks. It's like a circus down there. Big fish are spread out from the mouth of McGee out to 20 feet of water all along the old channel and big browns off the channel cruising the weed beds for tartar sauce for their dinner. It's similar to bobbing for apples without the water. Nymphs: #16 red/black early, then go to Gray/Black Optimidges, Ultimate Damsel, and Jansens Calibaetis. Dries: BWO extended body, or a dry-dropper, too much sub surface action for them to be interested in top water. Streamers: Stillwater Hares, Punk Perch, Doc's Twin lake Special black/olive #10, Hornberg #10, Olive Matuka #10 and Ultimate Damsel.

**UPPER OWENS** flows are at 79cfs above the Hot Creek confluence but down a bit from last week and starting to pick up. Dries working are #20 Para Adams, #16 Goddard Caddis, #16 Tan Elk Hair Caddis and #10 hoppers. Nymphs working are Zebra's and San Juan Worms. Streamers working are black/olive buggers, Hornbergs, and BH leeches.

**OWENS RIVER GORGE** flow is a permanent 45cfs required by LADWP. Water is clear and cold. Stinging nettles have their pickers out so swear leg protection and don't forget the water. Bring your arsenal of top water favorites like yellow humpy's #18, rubber leg stimulator, and Green Copper John #18 and #16 Western Coachman.

**CONVICT** reports good fishing using mostly black, or burgundy woolies, and Olive Hornbergs size 8. Of course the Pistol Pete is not a question, just the answer.

**MAMMOTH** – Water has warmed up and thunderstorms were in the forecast, but only a few sprinkles hit the Sierra. This time of summer the weather can change at a moments notice. Try Doc's Twin Lake Specials Black/olive/brown #10, Black and Olive Wolly buggers #8, Olive Matuka #8. Also tie one Callibaetis Nymphs #16, BH Prince nymphs #14 or a yummy yellow Stimulator #16.

**SAN JOAQUIN** is running clear and slightly warmer and has had some nice hatches. Try some Humpy's, Royal Wulff's, hoppers, large ants, copper John red/green #18, and bead head Prince Nymph #18 and BH Yellow Sally #14.

**JUNE LAKE** reports good fishing on large streamers, the uglier the better, fish near the west end near weedy spots and don't spook the cutts. Drop your type IV sink and dip and strip working in lanes. Try different types of Hornberg's Spruce flies or some other "older" type wet flies. Have you heard of an Alexandra?

**GULL LAKE** – Hawgs apparently are still stocked from Alpers trophy pond, so get up here and catch a nice trophy trout. Tie on dark streamers, woolies, Hornbergs, anything big and dark. It's all good.

**SILVER LAKE** level is still high and fishing near the bank looking for some slow weedy areas with a dry for a surprise, if your technique is up to it. Afternoon flies are standard dries like parachutes, umbrellas, or anything that will stay afloat and look tasty, maybe even give some Para-Duns or PMD's might get some tugs.

**GRANT LAKE** - Water is cold and clear, and still full with good reports on fishing. Check with the marina for the best area and flies, it has been inconsistent.

**LUNDY LAKE** reports good fishing at the west end on dark olive, purple Wooly buggers #8, also Rainbow Hornbergs, Spruce-fly (if you can find any) and Pistol Pete's out near the inlet and along the south shore.

**VIRGINIA LAKES** has done the best with the BH olive woolly bugger, Rickard's Stillwater nymph, olive bird's nest, partridge and yellow soft hackles, and for the evening hatch, mosquitoes, Griffith's Gnats, and Grey Hackle Yellow (trimmed). Enhancement Alpers arrived along with DFG's 500 pounds and the game was on with Alpers coming out daily.

Backcountry waters (Blue Lake, Cooney and Frogs) are producing on black ants, Griffith's Gnats, Adams, and small hoppers.

**EAST WALKER** flow as of this writing is 324cfs, and fishing reports are good. Water is constantly improving, but fishing is pretty good especially in the am and pm but make sure and keep your fly clean between casts as the weeds are around. Try Stimulator #16, Elk hair Caddis, Fat Albert #12, Brooks PMD #16-18, hoppers, ants, foam beetles and damsels. Nymphs: Tan Nitro Caddis #16 Barr's Trico Emerger #18-22, Medallion Midge #20-22 and don't forget the mouse patterns in the late pm. Also drag out the Black Wooly Buggers and leeches #8.

**BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR** is doing great and water temps are warming. Try BH flashback pleasant tails #14-16, #18-20 zebra midges, San Juan Worms, and #16 Callibaetis nymph. Just about any wooly bugger should work.

**WEST WALKER** flow is 166cfs and the best fishing will be around and north of the bridge in the flat water. Still off color, but they are down there, so try some small midges, San Juan worms, hare's ear (BH), or Mayfly Micro midge. Hoppers are active, so get out the beasties and give 'em a toss.

See you on the water, CJ 118.26