



Main Stream

Mission Peak Fly Anglers

PO Box 7263 • Fremont, CA 94537



May 2006

Club Meeting

PLACE: Silliman Community Activity Center
6800 Mowry Avenue, Newark CA 94560
(510) 742-4400

DATE: Wednesday, May 24th, 2006

TIME: 7:00 PM (Social hour begins at 6:30 PM)(**New hours for meeting**)

COMING EVENTS

- Tues. May 8th FLY TYING - 7:30 PM Loc same as Club Meeting
Fly Tying on 2nd Tues of the month from now on
- Sat. May 13th CLUB BREAKFAST : At the Denny's in Hayward on Whipple – 9:00 AM
- Wed. May 24th CLUB MEETING 7:00 PM “New Time”
Silliman Community Activity Center, 6800 Mowry Avenue, Newark CA 94560
- Wed, June 7th BOARD MEETING 7:30 PM – Doug Fear
- Sat. June 10th CLUB BREAKFAST : At the Denny's in Hayward on Whipple – 9:00 AM
- Tues. June 13th FLY TYING - 7:30 PM Loc same as Club Meeting
Fly Tying on 2nd Tues of the month from now on
- Wed. June 28th CLUB MEETING 7:00 PM “New Time”
Silliman Community Activity Center, 6800 Mowry Avenue, Newark CA 94560
- Wed, July 5th BOARD MEETING 7:30 PM – Malcolm Dunn
-

April MPFA Club Meeting

April Club Meeting Summary

Submitted by Dave Heyes

President Malcolm Dunn was absent, Craig Gittings officiated.
A report was made that club member Bob Hendricks was recovering nicely from knee surgery. Dean Lewis provided a Get Well card for members to sign.
Conservation Chairman Larry Dennis reported that the vote on the Peripheral Canal died in committee – a vote was made to not vote. This is considered a very minor but important victory in the ongoing battle to restore the Delta.
Craig Gittings reported that surf perch and salmon have been reported close to shore along the beaches.
Gene Kaczmarek reported that the Federation of Fly Fishers national Conclave will be held July 26th to 29th in Bozeman, Montana. There will be events before and after the Conclave. Gene also reported on the forthcoming fishout to the Deschutes River on September 10th to 16th near Madras, Oregon. Seven members are signed up and there is still room for one more person – call Gene if interested.
Manzanita Lake fishout – still need to confirm dates with fishmaster Mark Kaharick.
Shad fishing this year – predictions are that water levels may be too high to wade this year until August.
Kistler Ranch fishout will be held on April 29th.

The speaker was Jerry Kustich of Twin Bridges, Montana. Jerry is a new author with two books under his belt - he had copies to purchase, which he signed. (His first book was “At the River’s Edge” and the second “A Wisp in the Wind”). Jerry illustrated his talk with 35mm slides.
Jerry says that he woke up one day in Bullalo, NY and decided that he wanted to spend the rest of his life fishing. He moved to Montana in 1983, and went to work for the

May MPFA Board Meeting

May Board Meeting Summary

Submitted by Dave Heyes

The meeting was held at the home of Wayne Culp.
Vice President Craig Gittings opened the meeting and presided for the first ½ hour until President, Malcolm Dunn arrived and took over. Eight club officers, board members or club members were present, including Malcolm Dunn, Craig Gittings, Bill Peakes, Dave Heyes, Wayne Culp, Doug Fear, Steve Culp and Terry Henry.
The payment for liability insurance for the club was mailed – the extra premium for terrorism insurance was not paid.
The club is negotiating with the City of Fremont to hold a fly fishing class at Central Park.
Steve Culp indicated that letters of thanks had been sent to all companies that donated raffle prizes for last January’s Banquet.
Dave Heyes reported that a letter was sent to the Elk’s club, thanking them for their generous \$500 donation to the “Trout in the Classroom” program.
Bill Peakes gave the Treasurers report – the club is solvent.
A discussion was held regarding which raffle prizes to order from the Hook and Hackle Company.
Terry Henry reported that the club purchased a new DVD on Czech nymphing.
There was a general discussion of past and future fishouts.
The meeting was adjourned.

Host: Doug Fear

Date: June 7th @ 7:30 pm

Place:

New Annual Award

Annual Trout Bum award

Starts Jan 1st, 2006

Awarded by MPFA Board of Directors at December board meeting

Requirements:

Candidates must:

Have fished 10 or more waters during the calendar year (**no private pay to play waters**)

Waters may be tributaries of any river or lakes domestic or international

Used fly fishing tackle only

Have fished for trout (**This is a Trout Bum Award**)

Have reported to the club and shown photos to the club at a regular meeting


This description to be affixed to the back side of the plaque

Chairperson: Ken Brunskill

2006 EVENTS

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF EVENT	CONTACT	COMMENTS
May 9 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Fly Tying	Mitch Matsumoto	7:30 pm
May 13 th , 2006	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
May 24 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Malcolm Dunn	7:00 pm (New Hours)
June 7 th , 2006	Bill Peakes House	Board Meeting	Doug Fear	7:30 pm
June 10 th , 2006	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
June 13 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Fly Tying	Mitch Matsumoto	7:30 pm
June 28 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Malcolm Dunn	7:00 pm (New Hours)
July 5 th , 2006	Malcolm House	Board Meeting	Malcolm Dunn	7:30 pm
July 8 th , 2006	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
July 11 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Fly Tying	Mitch Matsumoto	7:30 pm
July 26 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Malcolm Dunn	7:00 pm (New Hours)
Aug 2 nd , 2006	Dave Heyes House	Board Meeting	Dave Heyes	7:30 pm
Aug 8 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Fly Tying	Mitch Matsumoto	7:30 pm
Aug 12 th , 2006	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
Aug 23 rd , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Malcolm Dunn	7:00 pm (New Hours)
Sept 6 th , 2006	TBD	Board Meeting	TBDs	7:30 pm
Sept 9 th , 2006	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
Sept 12 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Fly Tying	Mitch Matsumoto	7:30 pm
Sept 16 th , 2006	Garin Park, Hayward	Club Picnic	Malcolm Dunn	11:00 AM

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MISSION PEAK FLY ANGLERS
2006 FISHOUT LIST

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF FISH	FISHMASTER	COMMENTS
May				
June 10, 2006	Manresa Beach – Santa Cruz	<i>Surf Perch</i>	Craig Gittings	Leave Fremont at O-Dark Thirty
June	American River	<i>Shad</i>	Ken Brunskill	
June 17th & 18th	Manzanita Lake	<i>Trout</i>	Mark Kaharick	Potluck BBQ
June - July	TBD	<i>Shad</i>		
Aug				
Sept 9th, 10th	Clark's Fork	<i>Trout</i>	Bill Peaks	Potluck BBQ
Sept	Feather River	<i>Salmon</i>	August Abellar	
Sept				
Oct	Yellowstone	<i>Trout</i>	Gene Kaczmarek	
Oct	Eastern Sierra	<i>Trout</i>	Jeff Lorelli	
Oct	American River	<i>Salmon</i>	Calvin Chin	
Nov				
Dec				

The above fishout calendar is tentative and subject to change. Always contact the fishmaster the week of the fishout to be notified of changes due to weather and unforeseen circumstances. Also, check the newsletter for detailed information on fishing tackle, flies, directions and accommodations, as recommended by the fishmaster.

Note that only the fishouts shown in **BOLD** on this calendar are actually confirmed at this time; all others are tentative.

The actual dates of wintertime fishouts are highly dependent upon the weather conditions and will be confirmed by the fishmaster the week of the fishout. Your ideas for fishout locations are always welcomed by the club. The qualifications for a fishmaster are that you have a place in mind, know how to get there, and would welcome some fishing companions. That is it, so sign up now!

Pyramid Lake Fish Report

If you want to fish and are willing to keep options open there are a lot of opportunities in the Mission Peak club to get out on the water.

At the club Breakfast Saturday April 8th, several of us got to talking about how the winter blah's were setting in and a Pyramid trip was brought up. George Bouvoine suggested that depending on how his bad back was doing he might go up the later part of the following week. I said by all means I'm in if you go! Ed Huff picked up on that thread and contacted his brother Bill and Mitch Matsumoto so a trip began to gel by Monday evening, Tuesday evening at flytying George decided his back was not shaping up and backed out. Ed said we have had three in my truck before so if you want join Mitch and I, that would be OK. Needless to say I was in!

Wednesday morning April 12th at 5:00 AM Ken was packing gear into Ed's truck and at 5:30 AM we were packing Mitch's gear and were on our way shortly after passing through Donner Pass and right after the chain requirement had been dropped, at 10:30 AM Ed & Bill Huff, Bruce Arnold, and Mitch and I were geared up and on the water at Pyramid Lake. Ed's, prediction of increasing onshore winds up to 15 MPH were right on the money! In our kick boats we used 10# anchors and fished in 3½ ft of water, all but Mitch got fish (Yes, even Mitch has bad days). Most of the fish were in the 20"-23" range taking the usual Buggers, Popcorn Beetle (Thank you John Fukumoto!). By 6:30 PM we had enough and hauled out. Mitch claimed he was even getting a bit queasy, so I guess it really was choppy! After dinner we retired in the luxurious accommodations at Motel 6, (3 to room) with me in a sleeping bag on a cot.

Thursday morning we were on the lake by 9:15 AM where we looked to Ed for the forecast: His sage weather prediction of "light winds", temperature in the high 60's to low 70's for the day, proved to be right on target!

It could not be said we "hammered them" but every one but Ed had a better than 10 fish day. I got my biggest ever on Pyramid at 26"+, Mitch and Ed caught fish of equal or better size as the photos show and the weather was outstanding! Bruce & I kicked the full length of the South Nets and did not do any better than Ed, Bill & Mitch who stayed down near the put in area. I'd say the guys on the ladders did as well or better than we did, albeit with mostly smaller fish.

Friday morning it was just Ed, Mitch and I, Bill and Bruce had to head back to Napa, again Ed's weather report was right on! Variable blustery winds! We had onshore, offshore, North and South winds from a breeze to small whitecaps. The fishing was a repeat of Thursday except I caught a Panfish as well as Lahontan Cutthroat. Yep, a Panfish. If you doubt that check out Terry Barron's "Guide to Fly Fishing Pyramid Lake" a book worthwhile owning if you are planning to fish Pyramid! (Ask him what it was.)

Back home listening to the reports of the weather, we lucked out one more time with good weather. As the reports proved: With 3ft of snow and high winds over the weekend in the Sierra's.

Ken Brunskill

Pictures from the Pyramid Lake trip



Ken & Mitch at Pyramid



Ed



Mitch



Kens Friend

Pictures from the Kistler Ranch trip



Green Highlander & Variations



A bit of history ... The 'Green Highlander', a mixed wing fly, was designed during the latter part of the 19th century by a certain Mr. Grant from Wester, Elchies. It is one of the few green classic salmon flies. For some reason or other green flies never became particularly popular in Great Britain. Nowadays, however, green flies and especially the 'Green Highlander' are the favorites on many salmon rivers.

List of materials

Tag: Silver tinsel and yellow floss.

Tail: A topping and barred summer duck.

Butt: Black ostrich herl.

Body: First quarter: Golden Yellow floss.

Remainder: Bright green seal's fur or floss silk.

Ribs: Oval silver tinsel.

Hackle: A grass-green cock's hackle.

Throat: A yellow cock's hackle.

Wings: Mixed golden pheasant tippets in strands, married sections of yellow, orange, and green turkey, Florican Bustard, peacock wing and golden pheasant tail.

Outside of this: married sections of teal and barred summer duck.

Narrow sections of brown mallard over and a topping.

Sides: Jungle cock.

Cheeks: Indian crow. Horns: Blue and yellow Macaw.

Head: Black

INVITATION TO A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Gayla Walden is planning a 60th Birthday Celebration Party for Mike on Saturday, June 10 near their home in Chowchilla. Mike is aware of the plans so it will not be a surprise party, but he is not aware of the extent of the plans.

Conservation News

By
Larry Dennis, May 2006

A country worth fighting for is a country worth preserving. Brig. Gen. Lenhart, USMC

The following article is excerpted from the May 2006 issue of *Field & Stream*. Even though it is written with a bias towards hunting, the effects on fishing are just as profound. Have these attempts at 'paving paradise to put up parking lots' had any impact on our energy crisis? Any person with a functioning brain knows the answer. It has, however, had an impact on the bottom line of the energy extractors.

The Killing Fields

Unchecked energy development is ruining our public hunting grounds

by Hal Herring, *Field & Stream Magazine*, May 2006

Alan Lackey has been an elk and mule deer guide in the high country of New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains for over 21 years. When he is not pulling a pack string into the mountains, he's a ranch manager in Roy, New Mexico. Before that, he owned the Chevrolet dealership in Raton, where he also served as the president of the Chamber of Commerce. By his own description, he is a deeply conservative person.

Like huge numbers of sportsmen across the American West, however, Lackey is quick to tell you that there is nothing conservative about the pace or scale of energy development on public lands in the region. "This is a giveaway of public resources at the cost of every other value we hold," he says. "Oil and gas production has been elevated to the primary use of our public lands, even when the local people say no to it. The whole plan is like burning down your house to stay warm for one night."

Lackey is referring to the potential energy development of the Valle Vidal (Spanish for "The Valley of Life") in the Carson National Forest of northern New Mexico. It is a 100,000-acre expanse of wild country that starts with open grasslands at around 8,000 feet, runs to parklands threaded by snowmelt-fed trout streams and huge stands of aspens, and reaches into the high timber country and beyond to snowfields and high peaks. It is home—both winter range and calving ground—to New Mexico's largest elk herd, said to be about 2,500 animals. The valley is targeted for as many as 500 coal-bed methane wells.

"If you were going to create a perfect elk country, the Valle Vidal would be it," says Lackey. "There is no way to replace it if we let it be destroyed."

It's largely a myth that public lands are restricted from development on a massive scale. Of all federal lands, 88 percent are open to oil and gas exploration. Until recently, much of that land was ignored because energy prices were too low to make it worth developing. That has changed, as anybody who pays a heating bill can tell you.

The rapid giveaway of energy-extraction rights has resulted in an unprecedented amount of drilling up and down the Rocky

Mountain West, much of it on public hunting land. Many thousands of wells are planned or already in operation, as well as thousands of miles of roads and pipelines to service them. Here's a look at five regions that have been targeted for such energy development, and its potential impact:

Powder River Basin, Montana & Wyoming

Austere and unpopulated, the Powder River Basin is targeted for as many as 82,000 natural gas and coal-bed methane wells. Full development of the area will mean the construction of at least 26,000 miles of new roads and 53,000 miles of pipelines to transport the gas.

Development here is focused on coal-bed methane. A producer must first free the gas by pumping out the groundwater that traps it in seams of coal. Federal officials from the Bureau of Land Management estimate that around 4 trillion gallons of water will be pumped out of those seams during the course of exploiting the methane. Since much of the water contains a high level of salts and other minerals, what will happen to it next is a subject of controversy. Currently the water is held in temporary ponds, thousands of which already dot the landscape.

The pumping will lower the water table in the region by 600 to 800 feet, with unknown results (though ranchers' water wells dried up in other areas where pumping took place). The effect of so much industrial activity on the area's herds of pronghorn and mule deer, and on the increasingly rare sage grouse, is unknown.

Piceance Basin, Colorado

To oil and gas producers, the area around Meeker, Colorado, is known as the Piceance Basin. Hunters, especially the estimated 40,000 elk and mule deer hunters who travel to the area every fall, know the Piceance (pronounced PEA-yonce) as the home territory of the nation's largest elk herd.

The Bureau of Land Management is working on a plan for 13,000 new gas wells in this famous hunting country, along with the networks of roads to service them. "All that infrastructure has an impact," says Vern Rholi, a BLM supervisor for the local White River Field Office. "All you used to have was an old two-track road out there. Now you've got a big gravel road with traffic on it."

Roan Plateau, Colorado

Moving south to the juniper deserts and high mesa country around Rifle, Colorado, energy development is in a kind of frenzy, with grids of roads and well pads being dug into the winter ranges of the Porcupine Creek elk herd, and along the flatlands falling away to the Rio Grande River.

On top of the Roan Plateau, a 9,000-foot oddity walled with 3,500-foot cliffs, the land is pure Colorado high country—trophy mule deer in the aspens, bugling elk, spruce-shaded creeks that hold the Colorado cutthroat trout. Energy companies have 72,000 acres of public land under lease here, with 335 coal-bed methane wells planned for the upper plateau, and another 1,652 for the lower section.

Keith Goddard, who operates Magnum Outfitters, guiding big-game and lion hunters on the Roan, says that the drilling would put him out of business, in addition to destroying one of the country's most unique places. "This is my heritage," he says, "and they have no right to take that away." Goddard is already worried about the effects of the drilling in the low elevations. "They say they will release their plan for the Roan Plateau, but they're already drilling. It's time to draw the line."

Wildlife officials in Colorado readily admit that they have little idea of how the energy boom is affecting wildlife. State agencies lack the power to change policy on federal lands. John Ellenberger, a retired big-game manager for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, told a reporter from the Denver Post in January, "When you start increasing drilling activity to the level we see today, there's going to be displacement; there's going to be indirect loss and direct loss. What's it going to look like in the end? Well, that's the \$64,000 question, isn't it?"

Green River Valley, Wyoming

Biologists here are answering that very question. Studies released this winter show that energy development around Pinedale has resulted in a 46 percent decline in mule deer on the critical winter range known as the Pinedale Anticline (locally called "the Mesa"), where as many as 6,000 deer once wintered. There are 516 miles of new roads constructed on the anticline, with half the fields developed. A total of 3,100 wells are proposed south of Pinedale, with 1,065 wells currently in operation.

In an ongoing study that has been in place for four years—funded in large part by the energy industry—biologist Hall Sawyer tracked deer as roads and equipment spread through their winter range. "It is kind of ironic that industry is funding its own impact studies on big game," Sawyer said in an interview during the second year of the study, "but they know that

we have to find out what we can expect, because we are just seeing the tip of the iceberg of energy development here.”

The energy companies operating on the anticline were supposed to have been bound by restrictions to protect wildlife during the winter, but the local BLM office granted exemptions in eight out of 10 requests. The same office granted every one of the requests made by industry to exempt them from regulations designed to protect sage grouse and their leks, which are used during mating rituals every year. Not surprisingly, the most recent study found that the sage grouse were disappearing. At the current rate of decline, the study says, local populations of the gamebird will be extinct within 19 years.

All that drilling in the winter range is taking a toll on the Green River’s pronghorn antelope herd, too. After more than two years of development, the BLM reported that 11,000 vehicle trips onto the anticline were made during December 2005. A new study of pronghorns using the winter range on the anticline was released in January 2006, but it was difficult to draw conclusions from it. The pronghorns collared for the study had all disappeared.

Those animals were part of the herd, at least 500 strong, that migrates from the Yellowstone country through the Green River Valley and down into the Red Desert, the longest mammal migration in the continental United States. The Red Desert—also home to the largest desert elk herd in the world—could have as many as 20,000 wells, including a new pipeline project to be built at Wamsutter.

Decisions in D.C.

Federal land managers in the Forest Service and the BLM are, in many cases, trying their best to balance the energy boom with the other uses of the lands. “I honestly believe that we could develop these resources responsibly,” said a staffer in the Pinedale office who asked not to be named, “but we have to be allowed to do our jobs. Right now the decisions about development in our area are made in Washington, D.C., not here.”

By law, the BLM is required to manage public lands for both energy development and wildlife. What are they doing to protect habitat during this massive drilling initiative? “BLM consults with state and federal fish and wildlife officials and requires a site visit for every permit issued,” says BLM director Kathleen Clarke. “Wildlife biologists will work with companies to identify areas where there are concerns in order to minimize the number of permit applications that are submitted with wildlife impacts.” Clarke notes that biologists attend on-site meetings with the operator at proposed drilling and access points to identify wildlife issues and to make recommendations to reduce wildlife or habitat impacts. They consult with the state game and fish agency concerning species of state interest.

Clarke says that the BLM is faced with a unique situation in the Pinedale area. “World-class mineral resources are found beneath world-class wildlife habitat. Finding the balance between providing domestic sources of natural gas and minimizing or mitigating impacts to other natural resources will continue to pose a challenge.”

For veteran BLM biologist Steven Belinda, who was assigned to the Pinedale office two years ago, the disappointment of working as what he terms a “biostitute”—simply rubber-stamping energy development on the public lands—ruined his dream job in the famed country of the Upper Green River, the home of elk and grizzlies, antelope and wolverines. Belinda quit the BLM in February to take a job with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. He told a reporter for the Washington Post that he had spent all but 1 percent of his time in the BLM office working on drilling permits.

“If we continue this trend of keeping biologists in the office and preventing them from doing substantive work,” said Belinda, “there is a train wreck coming for wildlife.”

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