



SALINAS VALLEY FLY FISHERS

April 2014

FLY TIMES

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"President's Message"

Tracy "Decoy" da Silva

Well folks, its official, spring has sprung. The seeds are sprouting, and the bees are buzzing. Well, around my place anyway, but to hell with all the vegetables in the garden, what about the fish in the rivers? The California "general" trout season starts at the end of this month. I say "general" because those die hard anglers, like us, know that there are plenty of pre-season options. Shhh!! don't tell everyone, but you could go out right now and fish the Merced, the Lower Yuba, the Truckee, and many others, just do your homework folks! You'll be amazed at the water you can have all to yourself because most people don't know any better. Precisely why this months outing should be on your list of things to do. The Merced River is this months destination April 11-13th. I've been watching the rain reports and river flows, and as long as it doesn't rain cats & dogs the day before we get there, I think the river could be in fantastic shape. Why not sore lip them fish before everyone pours in a few weeks, right? Call Indian Flats Campground and get your reservation in as soon as possible

and let them know your with SVFF so they can keep our group together. I

Heard some good news yesterday from a co-worker. According to his son, last weekend, Los Padres reservoir was spilling over, not pouring over like crazy, but the spillway does have water flowing out. Good for the reservoir, and great for the River. Is anyone planning to go for opening weekend (April 25-26th)? Might actually be worth the hike now.

We have some exciting new outing destinations planned for this year, Eastern Sierra (May), Yuba (June), Kennedy Lake (TBD),as well as some old favorites like the Kings, Lower Sac, Pyramid, and Tuolumne. Be sure to come to our General Meetings, and watch your email for the newsletter and updates, so you can pick your trips and start preparing early.

If you need any help with directions or suggestions on what to bring to the Merced outing next weekend, drop me a line, I'll share a few spots, and some of my favorite flies. If your lucky, or maybe if you just bring my brand of beer. Or you could check out "Tackle Tips" on page 2. t'll next time..see you on the water Tracy

Brent Dawson at April Meeting

This month we'll be taking a long hard look at the early season possibilities on the Merced River. In addition Brent Dawson from War Path Flies will be on seen for insight about fly tying and whatever else he has to entertain us with. Join us at 6:00 if you want to have dinner. The program will start at 7:00. You can look forward to a dynamite raffle and the usual equal parts of conversation, comradry and interesting fishing tidbits. Be sure to take a look at the sign-up sheets ed.

What's going on in the world of fly fishing and tying?



Fly of the Month

Soft Hackle Pheasant Tail

Hook: Tiemco 3769 (2x heavy wet fly hook)
size 10-18

Thread 140 Denier, 6/0 for #12 hook

Tail: Pheasant Tail Fibers

Rib: Fine Copper Wire

Abdomen: Pheasant Tail Fibers

Thorax: Peacock Herl

Hackle: Partridge or Hen Back Feathers



Soft Hackle Flies

Learning to give flies movement will make you a much better angler. Using patterns that have a lot of natural motion, such as soft-hackle wet flies, is one of the best ways to do this. Soft hackles are some of the easiest trout flies to tie, and when fished with extra movement, such as swung or stripped like streamers, they produce lifelike, pulsating motion that triggers fish into striking. Trout are like any other fish, and when presented with a fleeing prey, they rarely pass it up. Soft hackles have a very long history of catching fish. Before the dry fly came along, all fly fishing entailed fishing wet flies and soft hackle "spiders". Spiders originated in Scotland, Northern England, and Italy more than three centuries ago. Early anglers fished these patterns downstream with rods measuring more than 10 feet long. This style of fishing still works in practically every type of trout water, from stream riffles to still waters, but you do not have to use an ultra-long fly rod, nor do you have to fish exclusively downstream. Today, a "soft hackle" refers to almost any nymph tied with a collar of hackle such as hen or partridge. This month's Fly the Soft Hackle Pheasant Tail, takes one of the best fishing nymphs and adapts it to the soft hackle style. It can be successfully fished dead drift style, on the swing or by combining the two styles. ed.

Merced River Tackle Tips

The Merced River has Rainbow, Brown Trout, Smallmouth Bass and even Striped Bass within the lower reaches near Lake McClure. Caddis are prevalent on the Merced. Relevant to this month's outing, Blue Wing Olive and Baetis Mayfly and Golden Stones are evident this time of year. Large Stoneflies also emerge during April and May, so this could be a rare opportunity since most years the water conditions make it difficult, at best, to fish during the large Stone Fly hatches. Some of the best water on the Merced for trout is where the South Fork meets the main river and continuing upstream to about the Park Boundary. Foresta Bridge marks the lower boundary of the Wild Trout section of the river (continued page 4)

Salinas Valley Flyfishers2014 Outing Schedule and Programs**

April 9th.	General meeting	Landing Zone @ the airport	Featuring Brent Dawson	Tracy daSilva	229-9568
April 11th-13th.	Outing	Merced River	Trout	Tracy DaSilva	229-9568
April 16th.	Fly Tying	Airport Board room	Featuring "Tying Tips"	Rick McCombs	385-4778
April	Possible Outing	Monterey Bay Sunset Beach	Surf Perch	Scott Naylor	214-3870
May 4th (Sunday)	Special fly tying session	Room	Casting for Recovery	Jay Jefferson	809-0290
May 14th.	General meeting	Landing Zone @ the airport	TBA	Tracy daSilva	229-9568
May 17th.	Possible Outing	Kirman Lake Carson River	Brook Trout Rainbow	Rick McCombs	385-4778
June 7-8th.	Possible Outing	Davis lake Indian Creek	Trout	Rick McCombs	385-4778

Kirman Lake is a small back-country lake off of Highway 108 to the North of Bridgeport. It's about a 3 mile hike or mountain bike ride down a dirt road to the lake. Kirman has special regulations which are: artificial flies or lures only, barbless hooks, 2 fish limit with a 16" minimum. The most productive way to fish Kirman is generally from a float tube or kayak as most of the lake is surrounded by tules or cattails, without a watercraft of some kind it can be tough to get beyond the cattails to fish. Kirman is on our tentative outing list for the middle of next month. It's a bit a hike in and it's at altitude, so let's all give it some thought and see who's interested.

For all the latest info. in what's happening in the wide world of fishing, go to:
salinasvalleyflyfishers.org

Special thanks to **Geoff Malloway** for his ongoing support of the Salinas Valley Fly Fishers and for his many efforts on behalf of stream habitat and the preservation of the fish that we all seek to catch. Next time you're out his way, stop by and say hi .If Geoff doesn't have exactly what you're looking for in stock he'll be happy to order it. Geoff can also help you outing with you casting.

Geoff Malloway
Central Coast Fly Fishing
7172 Carmel Valley Rd.
Carmel, CA (626-6586)

(*Merced continued*) which is open year-round. It's catch and release only for Rainbows and a limit of 5 Brown Trout, which are fairly rare, with single barbless hooks. Most years we'd be getting into the white water rafting season right now, which usually finishes up around the end of June. . Our best guess at flows for the outing are in the 350-500 cfs range and hoping for the lower end of this range. We should have a better idea at the Wednesday night meeting. The Merced can provide great dry fly fishing and the fish tend to be opportunistic and willing to take a variety of attractor patterns. Consolidated hatches that call on anglers to "match the hatch" are fairly rare. As for dry fly patterns, you might bring along: Elk Hair Caddis (12-16), Parachute and standard Adams (14-16), Stimulators (10-12), and Quiggle's Cripple (12-16), By the way, cripples and emergers can be dynamite on the Merced. Chances are that you'll catch more fish on nymphs and the standards like the: P.T., Bird's Nest, Prince Nymph and maybe a large black Stonefly, just in case should fit the bill. Oh, also our fly of the month, the Soft Hackle Pheasant Tail could be a super fly for this outing.

If you haven't fished the Merced, be advised that it can be a bit challenging to wade, mostly because of the prevalence of its slippery basketball sized boulders, Studs and staffs are advised. It usually fishes as pocket water and getting a good drag-free drift can be the task. Most of the time short casts with a 7 1/2 foot 5x leader will serve you well. Do your best to keep most of your line off the water in the small pockets. Fish seem to love to sit at the tail outs of the small pools and swipe at your fly just as it goes over the falls into the next pool. While I almost always use a 9 foot, 3 weight rod, a 4 or 5 weight will probably be more to the liking of most anglers, especially if the wind comes up or if the water is high. As for where the hot fishing spots are, ask any of the members who fish it regularly and you'll get a different answer from everyone of them. For me personally, I like fishing above the Foresta Bridge My three favorite spots to hit are: the Sewer Hole, If you park on the northwest side of the river across the street from sewer treatment plant, you can't miss it. Next is Abbie Loop. You enter Abbie Road from the southeast side of the river about 2 mile upstream from Foresta bridge. There's a nice place to park under the tree. You can fish up stream all the way to where the river goes under the highway then walk back down to your car, but it will take you half a day to fish this whole stretch. Last on the list is the Satellite Dish Run. Continuing upstream to just before you get to El Portal, if you keep your eyes peeled you'll see some cable company's satellite dishes on you right. A hundred yards or so down stream you'll find some good parking. There some nice deep runs and pockets in here that can provide some very nice fishing.

Accomadations are a bit limited Most everyone will be staying at Indian Flat Campground

9988 Highway 140, El Portal, CA 95318

Phone: 209-379-2339 Fax: 209-379-2275

reservations@indianflatrvpark.com

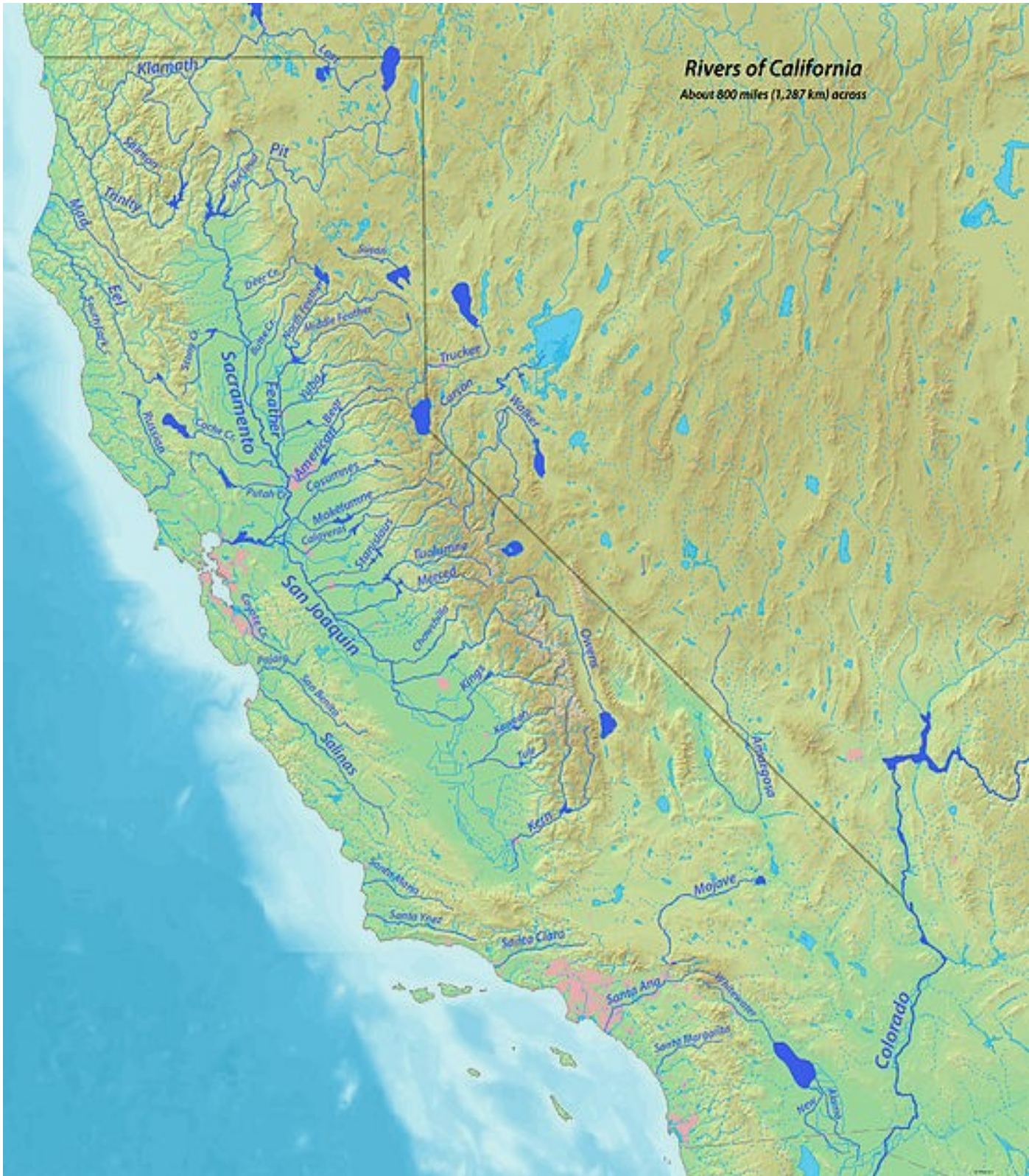
Prices for RVs vary from \$37-\$42 / night. The tent camping and area for parking for camper shell camping is separated from the RV parking which makes it a bit inconvenient to join in on the evening festivities. I suggest that those in the camper shell crowd talk with the R.V.ers about sharing the cost and paying the \$5 second vehicle fee so everyone can be in the same area. Also be sure to mention SFVV when you call.....

Notice

We are sorry to inform you that due to events beyond our control there will be no segment of Chuckie's Poetry Corner this month. Apparently after several week in the harsh environs of the Southern California desert. Chuckie became incoherent and had to be forcible removed by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's SWAT team. We did receive his monthly submission Post marked from the county psych. ward, but all that it said was: GOLD, GOLD, GOLD, GOLD, Stay tuned for next month's Poetry Corner when Chuckie will say: FISH, FISH, FISH.....ed.



River of California



*Merced River
April 11th.-13th.*

*Contact:
Tracy or Jay*

**April 9th.
General meeting
Dinner @ 6:00
Meeting @ 7:00**

**Fly Tying
Wedn. April 16th.
Airport board room
6:00 p.m.**

**Board of Directors
Meeting
at the Landing Zone
April 23rd. 6:00**

Salinas Valley Fly Fishers

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"All You Need to Know"

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