



Kaweah Flyfishers



Visalia, Ca

May 2011

Newsletter



Do you like to catch BIG BASS!!! or Trout
Kelsey Outing May 27 28 29, 30



Kaweah Fly Fishers will once again take over Kelsey Bass Ranch for the Memorial Day weekend. The ranch is located between Snelling and Lake McSwain. It is \$100/rod/day to fish Saturday and/or Sunday. You may dry camp Friday through Sunday night. This year I intend to feed participants Saturday and Sunday for all meals. Donations to Kaweah Fly Fishers will be accepted for food. Members, their guests and friends from other clubs are welcome to try some solid quality bass fishing.

There is no alcohol allowed on the Lake and life vests must be worn for night fishing. You can fish from the bank, float tube, canoe or even launch a full on bass boat. I enjoy the quiet beauty of what the Valley may have looked like in years gone by.

If you plan to go, please let me know so I can plan chow. It is fine to pay there or bring a check to Mark Bonar, KFF treasurer, at our meeting or send it to our mailbox (Kaweah Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 3704, Visalia, CA 93278) . I hope you can make it even for a day. We had a great turnout last year and everyone had a fine time.

Contact Mark Cave at mdcave@sbcglobal.net



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Holey moley, April is almost gone!

Wish time had gone this fast when I was enjoying the pleasures of MCRD San Diego.

How high has the Kings River been? This last Tuesday the release for Trout in the Classroom was called off. Water was up to the level of the grass. Don't know when the flows will drop; with the snow pack we've got, I wouldn't bet on anytime soon.

Kelsey is coming up; get your reservations and checks into the club. The address is at the back of this newsletter. Mark the checks for Kelsey.

We have at least one big-ticket item for the live Auction at the Fund Raiser in September, three days and nights at Clearwater Lodge for two with a \$100 certificate towards one guide day. Offer will be good through the end of the 2012 season.

Wayne

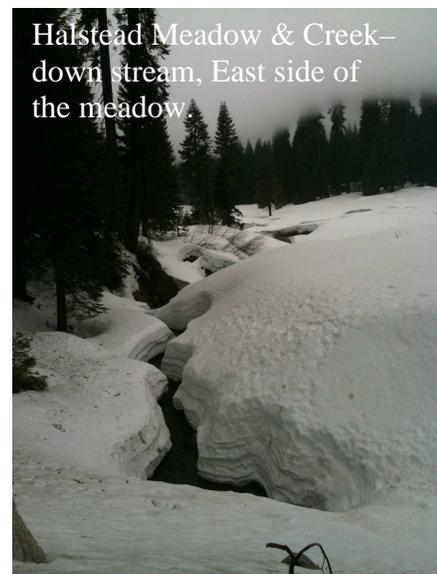
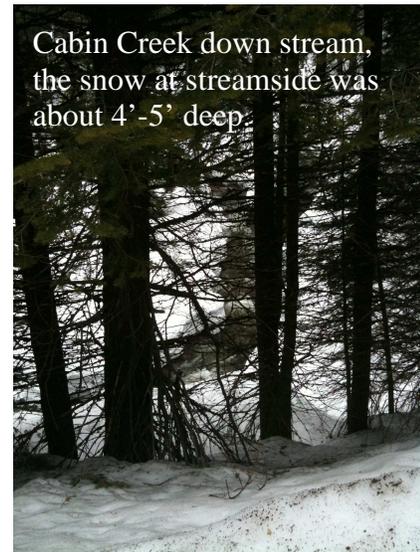
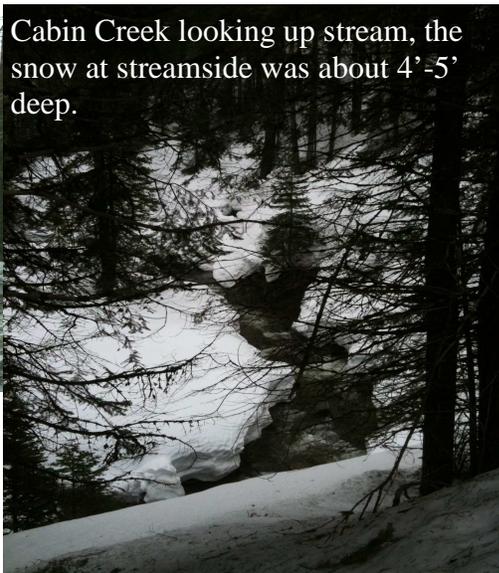


While we were on our trip to Pyramid Lake, NV. Mike fished with the regular group at Pyramid Lake, NV. Mike caught about 15 cutthroats that weighed about 2-5 lbs ea. Here's a few photos of some of his fish plus one of Mike and Brent. They had a great time but when a strong wind came up, as it sometimes does, several fishermen got knocked off their ladders from wave action, including Mike. But hey got back up the fishing ladders and kept fishing. He didn't get the real big one this year like last year, but they were sure pretty fish. Of course, he released them all back. Mike Gutsch



A couple of weeks ago I took a drive up to the Sequoia/Kings Canyon Parks to see the condition of the streams and how much snow was still up there.

I looked at Cabin Creek, Stoney Creek, Halstead Meadow, Clover Creek and the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, here are some pictures I took. At this time there was still a lot of snow and the creeks were just starting the spring snow melt, of course since then the weather has been a lot warmer and the snow melt is in full melt. All the pictures were taken from the Grants Highway, the snow was too deep to get any closer. Rick Hartley

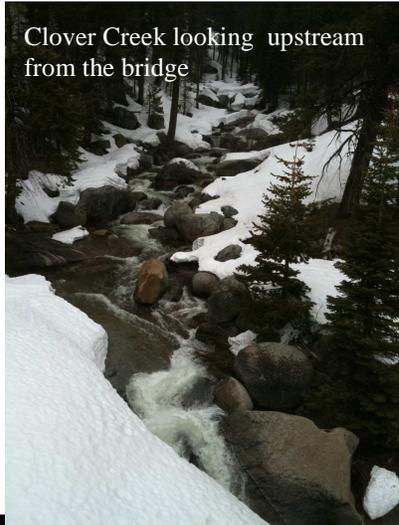




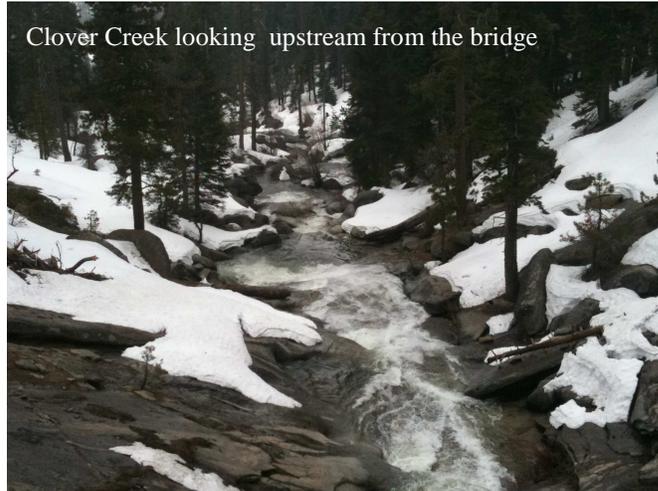
Stoney Creek looking down stream



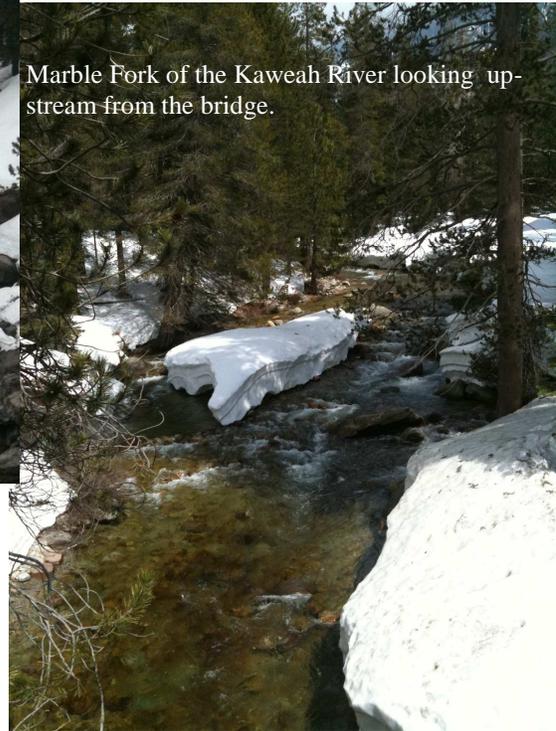
Stoney Creek looking up stream



Clover Creek looking upstream from the bridge



Clover Creek looking upstream from the bridge



Marble Fork of the Kaweah River looking upstream from the bridge.



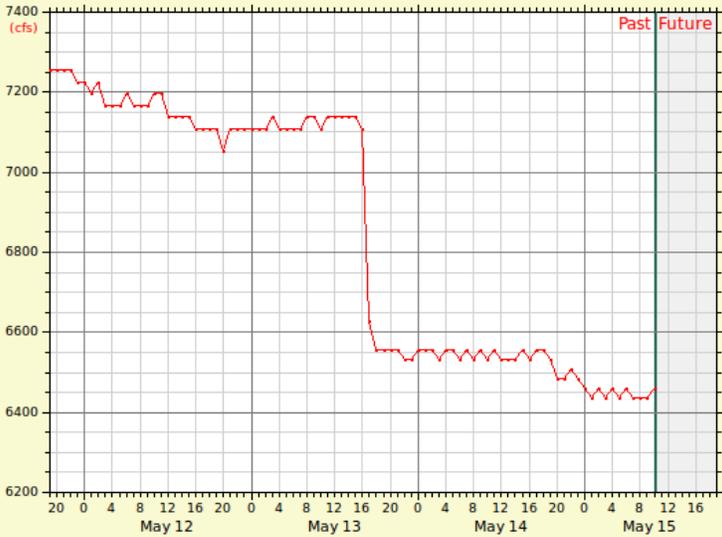
Marble Fork of the Kaweah River looking stream from the bridge



Marble Fork of the Kaweah River North of the parking lot at Lodge Pole

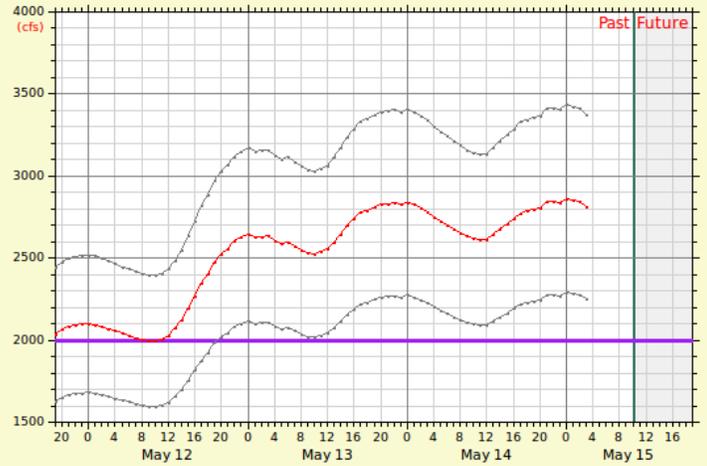
With the snow pack at 177% the snow melt will be longer than usual and the rivers and streams are going to be hazardous for a while, so be careful!!

NO FLOW DATA AS OF 5-15-2011 FOR THE IN-FLOW INTO PINE FLAT DAM .



Kings - Rel Pine Flat Lake

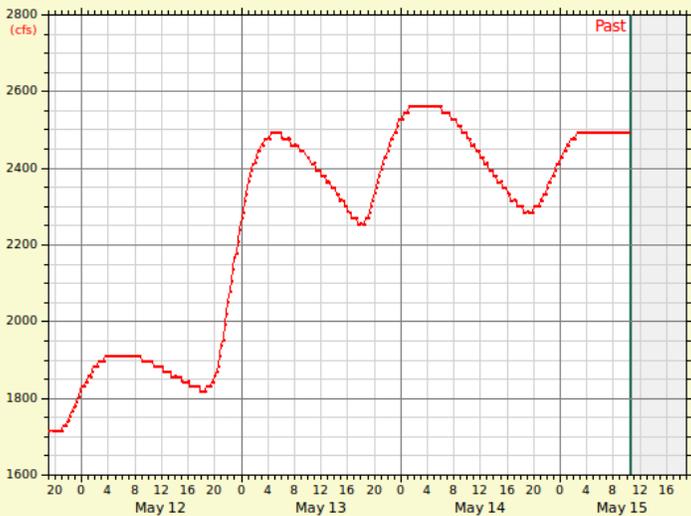
Note: graph was generated by Dreamflows, using Corps of Engineers gauge data.



So. Kings - Below Cedar Grove

— Estimate — Conf. Range - - - Missing Data — Hi Model Limit

Note: graph was generated by Dreamflows, using estimated data.
For most recent confidence info, see the applicable Dreamflows report.



Kaweah - At Three Rivers

Note: graph was generated by Dreamflows, using Corps of Engineers gauge data.



Kaweah - Inflow Terminus Res

Note: graph was generated by Dreamflows, using Corps of Engineers gauge data.



CLEARWATER LODGE

Kaweaha Flyfishing Club Annual Banquet , September 24, 2011

"3 nights Lodging and \$100.00 Coupon for guided fishing at Clearwater Lodge for 2" FREE Accommodations for two people at the Clearwater Lodge in Fall River Mills, California for three days and three nights with a \$100.00 coupon towards a Guide Day.

Clearwater Lodge is located on the Pit River close to great fishing on the Fall River, Hat Creek, Pit River, Spring creeks and the McCloud River. This offer includes lodging and meals only. Guide services are available for \$400 per day for up to two people. Shore lunches are provided on the river every day with the guide. Offer valid throughout 2011 subject to availability.

This "3 nights Lodging and \$100.00 coupon towards guided fishing at Clearwater Lodge for 2" donation has no exchange value, nor is it transferable and is only valid for accommodations at The Lodge and cannot be used or associated with the Orvis Rod package or any other discount package being offered by Clearwater Lodge.

This offer can be extended for additional days at the option of the winning bidder Estimated Total Value: \$2000.00 for lodging for three days, \$100.00 coupon towards guided fishing, plus lodging tax, alcohol and gratuities.

Donor: Clearwater Lodge
Contact Information

Michael Forster
Michael@clearwaterlodge.com
Owner Clearwater Lodge
P.O. Box 920
24500 Pit One Powerhouse Road
Fall Mills, CA 96028
Tel: 888-600-5451,
530-336-5005
www.clearwaterlodge.com

WADING SAFETY

Well another great fishing season has started and at this time of the year the spring run-off is going strong. In about 3 weeks some parts of rivers will start to be fishable and the wading will start. But even when the spring flush has finished and the rivers and streams return to normal flows, wading safety is still important for everyone. So I went on-line and got some really great information from various sites on wading safety and edited them for this article.

If there is any doubt about your ability to safely cross in the location you choose, don't try it. **Safety always comes first!** This is the most important river wading safety tip you can find. Crossing rivers and waterways, especially those with cold water and swiftly flowing current, can be very challenging and dangerous for even the most experienced fishermen or fishermen. However, if you decide to cross the river ahead of you by wading, here are some practical guidelines for you.



- ⇒ Study the river or stream before crossing.
- ⇒ Walk along the edge and look for the best possible place to cross.
- ⇒ Never enter the water unless there is no other way of getting across.
- ⇒ Choose a crossing point carefully. Look for wide, shallow areas with sand, gravel or cobble bottoms, which are usually safest.
- ⇒ Do not swim or wade through deep water at low temperatures; it could prove fatal.
- ⇒ While river wading, use a wading stick, even if it's a tree branch.
- ⇒ Never try to cross a small river or creek after a heavy rain. Avoid river wading even if it looks safe. Flash floods can happen in seconds. Wait for the water to go down or find another route.

Find the right spot:

Look for a slow-flowing, obstruction-free section. Wide, relatively straight sections are generally shallower and slower than narrow areas with sharp bends. Check the opposite bank to make sure it will be easy to climb out. Try to avoid river wading across swift-water areas that reach above your knee, getting a foot stuck, or sliding off the rocks. Shifting gravel or sand can be a real hazard in strong current. Never underestimate the power of running water. ALWAYS use a wading stick to aid balance.

Face upstream and slide feet along the bottom. By facing upstream, or at least up-current, you'll be able to read the current as well as prevent the force of the water from buckling your legs at the knees. Don't stride; shuffle sideways, using the stick to test for depth, trying each foothold before using it. Always have at least two points of contact: both feet or a foot and the staff. Plant your staff; move your feet; stop. Plant the staff again and move your feet again. Keep your body sideways to the current. Your profile surface area is greatly reduced by standing sideways giving the current less force on you. Facing directly upstream or downstream exposes you to the full force of the water and can make it difficult to maintain your balance. Feel along with each foot and find a secure spot before you commit your weight to it - don't cross your legs as you turn; with crossed legs, you become unstable and may have difficulty reestablishing a safe stance.

Riffles and smooth shallow runs can be good places to . Pocketwater can be good for wading and crossing because of the many eddies of slack water behind the boulders, but you should be careful in your foot placement because the boulders can entrap your foot, and the widely varying currents between cross a stream. Pools are usually deep and sometimes silty. The tailouts are often broad and shallow, easier to cross the pockets can make wading difficult. Don't wade in rapids that have high current velocities.

The bottom material will have an effect on wading. You can get bogged down in mud and silt, sand can wash out from beneath your feet in fast water. Gravel is a good surface on which to wade and cobbles offer a good stable wading surface. Boulders offer current relief, but they also pose the danger of foot entrapment. A boot can slide in between rocks easily and then become lodged with the foot in it. Use your wading staff as a lever to move the rocks to free your foot.

Cross with a partner:

Having a partner to hold onto for support and visa-versa is a great way to wade across a river; I have done this many times myself. Each holding the other's belt for balance is a smart way to go. You just have to be sure to work together while wading across to the other side. Two anglers wading and working together can move in water a single angler would find impossible. With two people, the strongest and largest person should take the upstream side.



Wading Gear

Coated nylon, Neoprene waders, rubberized fabric, or breathable waders present a real risk of filling with water and making it difficult to move once you are immersed unless you are wearing a properly adjusted wader belt. A good wader belt should be a fundamental part of your wading equipment and should be put on whenever you wear your waders. Make it part of your routine.

You should wear your belt around your waist in moderate water and cinch it high on your chest when you wade into deeper water. This allows you to trap as much air as possible and prevent your waders from filling if you wade over the top.

If you fall into the river and get swept away, spread your arms to keep your head above water and point your legs downstream so that you can push off rocks as you drift. A wading belt tight around your chest will slow the rate at which your waders fill with water. Waders full of water become heavy and make it difficult to move. Water pressure will squeeze the air out of the waders but will not keep water from entering them.

The right footwear is as important as your choice of waders. At the very least, you should wear felt-soled wading shoes. The felt will grip slippery rocks as you wade, giving you good traction. Stream cleats and felt soles with studs, are essential on some difficult-to-wade streams. Try to match the wading boot sole type to the conditions you encounter most often.

The Wading Staff:

A wading staff is the most useful tool an angler can have on freestone waters. A staff isn't necessary in small streams, spring creeks, and shallow waters, but in a rocky freestone river, where depth and current velocities are factors, it provides safety and the difference between fishing success and failure.

You should carry a solid staff that will not come apart under any circumstances and will bear your full weight when you lean on it to prevent a fall. Use your wading staff for support and to probe the water before you step. Keep the staff connected to your vest so you don't lose it.

Choose a wading staff that reaches from the ground to your armpit when you are standing up straight. It will help you stay upright in the river and probe ahead for underwater hazards.

In The Water

The deeper the water, the more buoyant you will become and the less traction you will have. There is a point of no return when you are at the mercy of the current, even if your feet are still touching bottom. Learn to anticipate this point and to stop before you reach it.

If you find yourself swept off your feet, don't risk your life for the sake of a rod or any other tackle. Your recovery will be considerably easier with both hands free. Give thought to what you'll do if you suddenly find yourself floating in fast water at your wading point. *Plan an escape route.* Look for the places where you might get into an eddy. Look for those obstacles that might trap you or injure you. The chances of another person being able to help you are slim. Things happen too fast in moving water. You must be mentally prepared to rescue yourself.

Swimming directly across the current often results in being swept farther downstream, and trying to swim upstream will tire you quickly. The 45-degree position is ideal because it moves you away from the hazard and toward the bank. This technique will allow you to get into slower water quickly. When drifting, you should resist the temptation to keep feeling for the bottom with your feet as you float because you will sink and extend your time in the water; this can sap your strength and slow your reactions. It's important to get out of the water as fast as possible, but don't be in a hurry to stand up. Get into the slow water first.

If you want to cross a river, proceed on a slight downstream angle wherever possible so you don't have to fight the current as well as the irregularity of the bottom. When fishing upstream, walk the bank or wade in the slow currents along the side and use eddies created by rocks in the current to ease your passage and conserve your energy.

Wading is a foundation skill of fly fishing. It is perhaps the only hazard the sport presents. Like most skills, the more accomplished you become, the more success you will enjoy.

Rick Hartley

END

FISH TALES

The Trick to Ice Fishing

Billy Bob and Jethro decide to go ice fishing. After arriving at the lake early in the morning, they cut two holes in the lake and drop their lines in the water. After fishing for a few hours, Billy Bob has caught dozens of fish while Jethro hasn't even gotten a bite.

Jethro asks, "Billy Bob, what's your secret?"

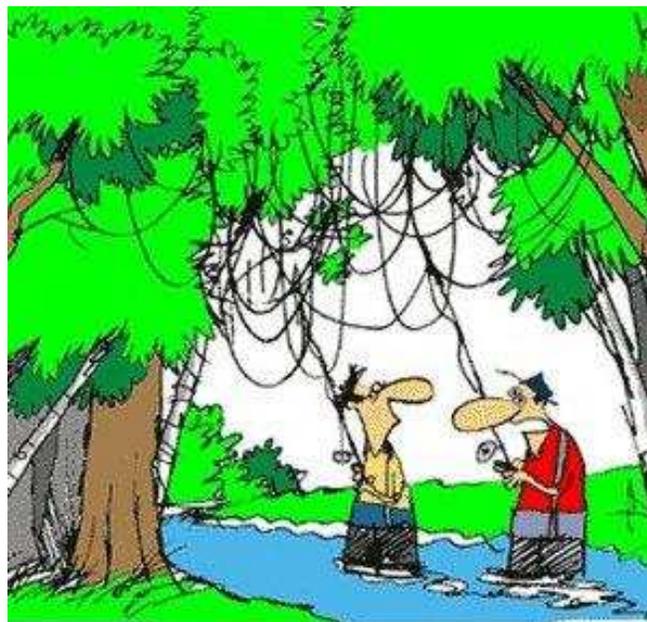
Billy Bob answers, "Mmu motta meep da mmrms mrm."

Jethro asks, "What did you say?"

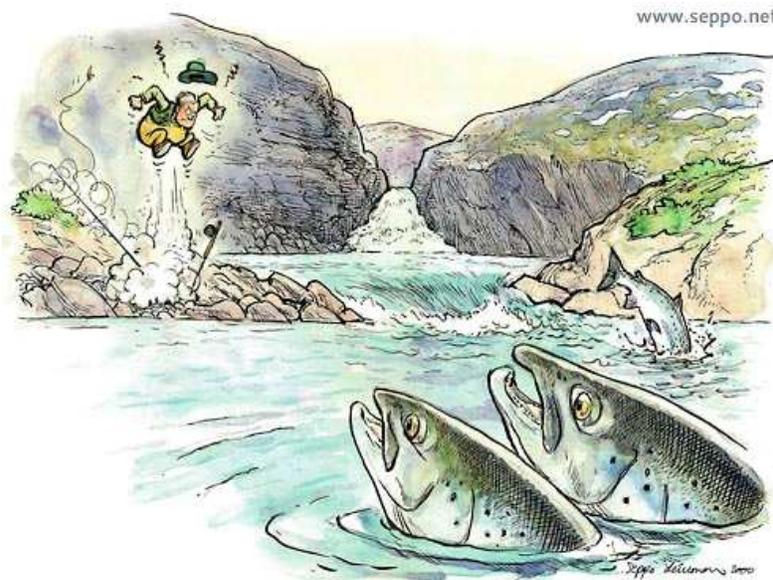
Billy Bob answers, "Mmu motta meep da mmrms mrm."

Jethro again asks, "What?"

Billy Bob *spits into his hand* and says, "You gotta keep the worms warm!"



Where did you say that casting school was? Visalia, Ca?



— IT IS AMAZING HOW HIGH THEY CAN JUMP!

Last week while we were on our trip to Pyramid Lake, NV Mike fished with his regular group. Mike caught about 15 cutthroats between 2-5 lbs each. Here's pics of some of his fish plus one of Mike and Brent. They had had a great time until the wind came up and several flyfishermen got knocked off their ladders from a wave, including Mike. They got back up and kept fishing. He didn't get the real big one this year like last year, but they were sure pretty fish. Of course, he released them all back.

Mike Gutsch



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For other Calendar Dates
 Visit the Clubs web-site at www.kaweahflyfishers.org

DAY	DATE	EVENT	INFORMATION
Wed	May 18 th	Kaweah Flyfishers Casting Classes	Plaza Park pond 's west bank—Kaweah Fly Fishers' Casting Classes Learn to handle a fly rod at the Kaweah Fly Fishers' Casting Class held each Wednesday evening from 6:00-7:00pm at Plaza Park pond 's west bank. Equipment is available for student's use at the site. There are several instructors to help you get started, move from beginner to intermediate or analyze your casting strengths and/or weaknesses. Get help with problems or learn from the very beginning. Contact Mark Cave at 559- 623-5338 mdcave@sbcglobal.net
Tuesday	May 24	Fly Tying with Don Lieb 7:00 – 9:00 4520 W Cypress Ave, Visalia. (corner Linwood St) Quail Park Retirement Village	Fly to tie, MadamX rubber leg Tying instructor Don Lieb has material and tools or better yet bring your own. We usually give Don a couple of bucks each as he pays for the hooks and material himself.
Wed	May 25	Kaweah Flyfishers Casting Classes	Plaza Park pond 's west bank—Kaweah Fly Fishers' Casting Classes Learn to handle a fly rod at the Kaweah Fly Fishers' Casting Class held each Wednesday evening from 6:00-7:00pm at Plaza Park pond 's west bank. Equipment is available for student's use at the site. There are several instructors to help you get started, move from beginner to intermediate or analyze your casting strengths and/or weaknesses. Get help with problems or learn from the very beginning. Contact Mark Cave at 559- 623-5338 mdcave@sbcglobal.net
Fri.— Mon- day	May 27 th - 30 th	Kaweah Flyfishers annual Kelsey Lake Fish out	See Page 1 for more information. Contact person Contact Mark Cave at 559- 623-5338 mdcave@sbcglobal.net
Wed	Jun 1 st	Kaweah Flyfishers Casting Classes	Plaza Park pond 's west bank—Kaweah Fly Fishers' Casting Classes Learn to handle a fly rod at the Kaweah Fly Fishers' Casting Class held each Wednesday evening from 6:00-7:00pm at Plaza Park pond 's west bank. Equipment is available for student's use at the site. There are several instructors to help you get started, move from beginner to intermediate or analyze your casting strengths and/or weaknesses. Get help with problems or learn from the very beginning. Contact Mark Cave at 559- 623-5338 mdcave@sbcglobal.net
Friday	June 1 st	Kaweah Flyfisher's Monthly Club Meeting 6:30-7:30, fly tying with Don Lieb before the meeting.	LifeStyle Center, 5105 Cypress, Visalia, 6:30– 7:30pm, Fly tying before meeting - Don Lieb is going to have a presentation on the foothills and mountain wild flowers, we all see them on the river so no you will know what they are,
Monday	April 4 th	Kaweah Flyfisher's Monthly Board Meeting 7:00-9:00pm, LifeStyle Center, 5105 Cypress, Visalia	

Fly Tying with Don Lieb - Fly to Tie- the Royal Wulff. Quail Park Retirement Village (cross street– Linwood Street- Tying instructor Don Lieb has material and tools or better yet bring your own. We usually give Don a couple of bucks each as he pays for the hooks and material himself.



Kaweah Flyfishers

Post Office Box 3704
Visalia, California 93278

We are proud to be affiliated with these organizations:

CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE

FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS, Southwest Council

CALIFORNIA TROUT

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

TROUT UNLIMITED

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NEWSLETTER: Rick Hartley.....	559- 5859-1435	rhartley@dinuba.ca.gov

Submitting Newsletter Articles

Articles must be received by the 20th of the month for the following month's edition. A heads-up even before then is greatly appreciated. E-mail information or article to: rhartley@dinuba.ca.gov

WEB SITE <http://www.kaweahflyfishers.org>

Newsletter Editor: Rick Hartley

rhartley@dinuba.ca.gov

Subscription Price is included in all classes of membership.

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