



# Main Stream

Mission Peak Fly Anglers

PO Box 7263 • Fremont, CA 94537



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**August 2007**

## **Club Meeting**

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

**DATE: Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007**

**TIME: 7:00 PM (Social hour begins at 6:30 PM)**

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**COMING EVENTS**

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Wed. Aug 22<sup>nd</sup></b>   | <b>CLUB MEETING 7:00 PM</b><br>Silliman Community Activity Center, 6800 Mowry Avenue, Newark CA 94560   |
| <b>Wed. Sept 5<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>BOARD MEETING 7:30 PM – Fremont Adult School Main Office</b>   |
| <b>Sat. Sept 8<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>CLUB BREAKFAST: At the Denny’s in Hayward on Whipple – 9:00 AM</b>   |
| <b>Tues. Sept 11<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>FLY TYING - 7:30 PM Loc same as Club Meeting</b>   |
| <b>Wed. Sept 26<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>CLUB MEETING 7:00 PM (Casting with Floyd Dean &amp; Pizza Night)</b><br>Silliman Community Activity Center, 6800 Mowry Avenue, Newark CA 94560 |
| <b>Wed, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup></b>    | <b>BOARD MEETING 7:30 PM – Fremont Adult School Main Office</b>   |
| <b>Tues. Oct 9<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>FLY TYING - 7:30 PM Loc same as Club Meeting</b>   |
| <b>Sat. Oct 13<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>CLUB BREAKFAST: At the Denny’s in Hayward on Whipple – 9:00 AM</b>   |



## The President's Message

“Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.”

Henry David Thoreau

Fishing with friends is a pleasure to be savored and enjoyed without creating a competitive nature surrounding the day spent on the water. I have enough trouble without making it competitive as well. Yes, I admit to being on the short end on the fish count, perhaps even exuded a noticeable “eu de skunk” wafting in the air in my immediate vicinity. I know Jeff Lorelli has even included my struggles in at least one of his fish reports. Whistler Ranch immediately comes to mind and I can recall the frustration derived from constant fish rejection plenty of other times as well. It always boils down to solving a puzzle. Most of the time the puzzle can be solved with just a little observation of your surroundings. What were those fish feeding on anyway and more times than not just locating rising or feeding fish? After all, what I thought that was really needed was just a tug on the other end of my line to make my day. I have even come around to uttering August's other mantra of, “I only need to catch just one fish.” That's it, why set the bar so high? I'll save the exuberant “Yee Haws!” for August signaling his joy of a piscatorial response that had been enticed by his even humbler offering.

I recall that my original desire to join this club was based solely on learning how to ply this craft- hopefully by osmosis alone. A place where like minded folks gathered and perhaps even learned from those more noble in the group whom had garnered enough experience or at least appeared to know what they were doing on a particular day on the water. It was even a better experience if they gave me just a peek at their knowledge base by suggesting a certain fly or location of feeding fish. The tips and shared techniques were always appreciated, especially if it resulted in a grab- a definite signal that I was on the right track under the mantra of “I only need just one fish.” When asked, all have been more than ready to explain what they were doing that added to their success on the water that particular day. But someone had to initiate contact of the mentor by first asking. Perhaps, if and when given the opportunity to mimic a successful comrade on the water always opened a glimpse to that individual's inner character. But most of all, it is the lasting remembrance of sharing the time, information and/or technique that was derived specific to that day that I am grateful for. It is never about the competition, that is, unless you consider your prey target, the fish, as the competition. Even then, does the fish actually know? I doubt it.

Craig Gittings



## Mission Peak Fly Anglers Minutes of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 Board Meeting

President Craig Gittings brought the meeting to order at 7:35. Present were VP Wayne Culp, Secretary Dean Lewis, Treasurer Bill Peakes, Board Members Ray Gauthier, Lyndin Nickerson, Larry Dennis, Fund Raising Chairman Steve Culp, and Room Monitor Harold Whitmore.

**Trout In the Classroom:** Larry Dennis discussed a proposed meeting on August 8. Web site not up yet for the program. Applications were to be taken by web applications. Golden West Flyfishers backed out of the program. They were covering the schools in San Leandro. Ethan Rotman (Fish and Game) was supposed to get back with the number of schools in San Leandro after his vacation. He wants us to take them over.

**Club picnic:** Malcolm is getting the food. Head count – Bill has 20 paid, one kid plus Malcolm and Ernie. It costs \$5.00 to get in and park at Quarry Lakes Park. August and Wayne are going to bring awnings. We will be holding the annual “find your own material fly tying contest”.

**Casting Class:** Craig would like to set up a formal casting class at the casting ponds. He needs to find an instructor. Floyd Dean gave a masterful demonstration at the last club meeting.

**Programs:** Rich has Dave Hayes (third time is a charm) for the next program.

**Treasurer Report:** We are solvent with no outstanding bills.

**FFF Fly Rod Kits Rods:** The first kits are here. We may need some additional supplies like thread, glue, etc. Now the question is where to hold the class. We will hold it later in the year (winter). We need to make additional orders of kits for the other members that may be interested.

**Conservation:** Senator Diane Feinstein is trying to broker a deal to give 1,000,000 acre feet of water to Westlands Water District. Westlands has never paid a nickel of the \$500,000,000 project that is in place but wants to sue for failure to fully complete the project (drain water). The plan would be to forgo any lawsuit if the government would give them the water.

**“John Fukumoto Memorial Fly Tying Award”:** Larry Dennis presented a proposal for an award in honor of John. The award would be given to the member presenting the most innovative fly or variation on a standard or classic pattern. The criteria would be as follows:

1. Only current members of MPFA are eligible.
2. The fly must be presented and tied at a monthly fly tying session.
3. The award cannot be won by an individual in consecutive years.
4. Selection of each year’s winner will be by a committee comprised of the Fly Tying Chairman and two at-large members of his choosing. Dean moved that this proposal be presented to the membership and Ray seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Two capes bought and paid for by John and will be given to Joe Abinanti to give to John’s wife.

**Donation:** Steve indicated he wished to donate \$\$\$ to the club to offset a free trip he won to Mexico but \$200 of the donation must go to a direct use for something the club needs to fund. He gave check for \$200 to “Trout in the Classroom”.

Craig moved Dean and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed and we adjourned at 8:52pm.

Respectively submitted

Dean Lewis, Secretary.

## August Club Meeting Program

**Mission Peak Fly Anglers AUGUST 2007 Guest Speakers will be Dave Heyes and August Abellar of the MPFA. The title of their program will be "Peacock Bass on the Amazon River".**

Our trip began by taking a morning flight from Oakland Airport to Los Angeles International, then on to Lima, Peru where we caught about 3 hours sleep in a hotel; then on to Iquitos where we arrived in the late morning. A long tough flight indeed.

Iquitos (pronounced E'kee tos) is a bustling city of nearly 500,000 that can only be reached by air or boat - it is reported to be the largest city in the world without road access. The most common form of travel within the city is by motorcycle taxi with a covered bench seat for three, and they commonly dodge in and out of traffic. Iquitos is located 2,300 miles upstream from where the Amazon River discharges into the Atlantic Ocean. We departed Iquitos that afternoon on the M.V. Arca, a 75 foot shallow draft river boat and proceeded upstream on the Amazon river, which is perhaps 3/4 mile wide. The river drops 2 inches per mile and flows 6 to 7 miles per hour.

We traveled most of the night, past the confluence of the Rio Ucayali, into the Rio Marañon where we stopped to fish in the morning. Due to the rivers meandering and cutting into the soft silty clay sediments, most of the river banks are high, steep and unstable, with small landslides undermining trees, depositing trees and soil into the river, which carries everything downstream.

The fishing was done in oxbow lakes, which are abandoned river channels cut off from the main river with sometimes a small outlet to the main river. The sediment laden river water is locally called white water (actually a milky brown color) while the water in the oxbow lakes is called black water (clean water, but stained dark with less than 1 foot of visibility due to tannin). Much to August's and my amazement the aluminum skiffs had to be hauled up and over a 15 to 20 foot high nearly vertical river bank. A trail was bushwhacked with machetes, then they had to drag the skiffs up to 1/4 mile to the oxbow lake, where we fished. When I first saw what the crew had to do to transport the boats I doubted that it could be done by available manpower. It took a Herculean effort and we were both totally impressed that the crew was able to successfully launch the boats in the lake.

We only fished the mornings from about 6:30 to 10:00 AM and again in the evenings from about 5:00 PM to 8 or 9 PM. During the hot mid-day, with the sun directly overhead, we visited native villages located along the banks of the river or motored upstream to a new oxbow lake, and relaxed around the outside bar, or in a hammock. Our fishing guide was Angel (pronounced Ann' hel) while Pappa operated the outboard motor on our 16' skiff. There were 13 crew and 8 passengers on the Arca so we were treated quite well. Our traveling companions were a congenial bunch and fun to travel with; Mike from San Antonio, Texas, having taken the trip 6 times and Gary from San Jose, California 8 times. Surprisingly, the heat was not all that bad, even at mid-day, usually in the low 90's and 70% humidity. I've had hotter days in east Texas. I was told that the weather is usually hotter at this time of the year and that the relatively cool weather may have been a reason that the fishing was a little slow. Mosquitoes were not a major problem either, although I always wore buzz-off clothing and insect repellent. Had very few bites

The first couple days of fishing were not very productive. We had several savage attacks on our bass poppers but were not able to keep them on the line. On the third and fourth days, after motoring upstream into the Rio Tigre, we did much better, with each of us catching five good-sized Peacock Bass while each losing another 5 each after a good fight, when they either threw the hook or wrapped it around a snag. Most of our fishing and all of the catching was with red, or red and white bass poppers, although we did try different colored poppers, streamers and divers. Much to our disappointment, we did not catch any piranha, although I am told that they do not put up a very good fight: they are tasty though. Peacock bass are powerful fighters and an absolutely beautiful fish with vivid green and yellow colors.

We motored upstream a total of 300 miles before turning back at mid-afternoon on the last day. The trip down-river is much faster. The most impressive thing about the trip is the enormity of the Amazon jungle which seems endless. Although we traveled 300 miles upstream, our route is little more than a dot on the map. The trip was booked through Howard McKinney of Fishabout in Los Gatos and the arrangements went smoothly. Would we go back. You bet!

**Please meet Dave Heyes, August Abellar and Rich Lobrovich at JACK'S BREWING COMPANY for dinner at 5 PM. Please call Rich for reservations.  
Thanks Rich Lob**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>PROGRAM TITLE</b>
<b>4/25/07</b>	<b>JIMMIE MORALES</b>	<b>WEST SLOPE SIERRA RIVERS</b>
<b>5/23/07</b>	<b>RANDY WIBERG</b>	<b>CHILE PATAGONIA</b>
<b>6/27/07</b>	<b>CHRISTY MCGUIRE</b>	<b>GOLDEN TROUT</b>
<b>7/25/07</b>	<b>FLOYD DEAN</b>	<b>CASTING PIZZA</b>
<b>8/22/07</b>	<b>DAVE &amp; AUGUST</b>	<b>PEACOCK BASS AMAZON</b>
<b>9/26/07</b>	<b>STEVE COOPER</b>	<b>SMALLMOUTH BASS GRAND RONDE</b>
<b>10/24/07</b>	<b>BOB LASKODI</b>	<b>ALASKA</b>
<b>11/28/07</b>	<b>BEN BYNG</b>	<b>BAJA ON A FLY</b>
<b>12/26/07</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>	

## Annual Trout Bum award

**Starts** Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

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

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## 2007 EVENTS

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF EVENT	CONTACT	COMMENTS
Aug 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2007	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm (New Hours )
Sept 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Board Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:30 pm
Sept 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
Sept 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Silliman Community Activity Center	Fly Tying	August Abellar	7:30 pm
Sept 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm (New Hours )
Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Board Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:30 pm
Oct 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Silliman Community Activity Center	Fly Tying	August Abellar	7:30 pm
Oct 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
Oct 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm (New Hours )
Nov 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Board Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:30 pm
Nov 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
Nov 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Silliman Community Activity Center	Fly Tying	August Abellar	7:30 pm
Nov 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm (New Hours )
Dec 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Board Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:30 pm
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Silliman Community Activity Center	Fly Tying	August Abellar	7:30 pm
Dec 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	"NO MEETING"	Monthly Club Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm (New Hours )

## Rod Raffle

**Bill Peakes has built a G Loomis, 7ft 6in, 4wt, IMX to be raffled off**

**Check it out at the next club meeting  
And  
Buy your tickets**

**MISSION PEAK FLY ANGLERS  
2007 FISHOUT LIST**

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF FISH	FISHMASTER	COMMENTS
Sept 8 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup>	Clark's Fork	Trout	Bill Peakes	Potluck BBQ
Sept 21 <sup>st</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Toulumne Meadows	Trout	Wayne Culp	Camp Out
Sept 28-30	McCloud River and Reservoir	Trout	Craig Gittings	Camp at Ash Camp or B&B in town of McCloud.
Oct 5-7	Eastern Sierra - Bridgeport Area	Trout	Jeff Lorelli	Staying at the Meadowcliff Lodge in Coleville
Oct 12-14	Alpine Lake	Trout	August Abellar	
Nov	Trinity Rive	Steelhead		
Nov	American River	Steelhead		
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. Phone Jeff Lorelli to volunteer as a fishmaster. 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!



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# *Conservation News*

By

Larry Dennis, August 2007

Captain Eddie Rickenbacker penned these seven principles that all outdoorsmen should abide by. They are as true today as they were in 1950.

1. Game law violators are thieves – treat them accordingly.
2. Teach beginners their obligations as well as their pleasures a field.
3. Spend as much time improving habitat as you do harvesting fish and game.
4. Do your part to broaden farmer-sportsman co-operation.
5. Be an active member of a constructive sportsmen's club.
6. Demand sound conservation legislation.
7. Let maximum sport, rather than the kill, be your own guide in outfitting yourself.

## **Exploring an amphibian epidemic UC team believes deadly fungus may be killing frogs, toads, salamanders in Sierra**

**San Francisco Chronicle – 8/7/07**

**By David Perlman, Chronicle Science Editor**

For decades, the mass disappearance of frogs and other amphibians from the High Sierra has puzzled biologists, fishermen, hikers and even motorists from the city who pause by roadside streams and lakeshores in vain attempts to glimpse whatever's there.

The creatures are vanishing all over the world, too - a major environmental disaster, as a UC science team calls it - and now it appears that sexual reproduction in a single fungus species that produces hardy, long-lived spores may be primarily to blame.

Dead bodies of countless species of frogs, toads and salamanders have been found on every continent except Antarctica (where amphibians don't exist), and the California scientists have zeroed in on a remote group of lakes and streams on the eastern side of the Sierra where they have watched as red-legged and yellow-legged frogs and Yosemite toads become extinct throughout the study area.

Voracious hatchery trout introduced into the mountain lakes have been blamed in the past for eating the tadpoles of the vanishing frogs; so have pollutants like pesticides and toxic dust clouding up over the Sierra from the Central Valley. Now there's evidence that climate change too could be involved, possibly raising temperatures, and solar ultraviolet radiation has also been implicated.

But a new report published today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences focuses on the population genetics of the widely known frog-killing chytrid fungus with the forbidding name of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and the manner in which it reproduces and infects the amphibians.

Tough, long-lasting disease-causing spores created as the fungi reproduce may well be a major cause of the widespread amphibian die-offs, says the report.

The gene study at UC Berkeley was led by Jess Morgan, a postdoctoral researcher who worked in the microbial biology lab of Professor John Taylor before she returned to her native Australia, where she is now at the government's animal research institute at Moorooka near Brisbane.

Among the major Sierra study's other scientists are biologists Vance Vredenburg of UC Berkeley and Roland Knapp of UC Santa Barbara's Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory in Mammoth Lakes - both of whom have spent years studying the fish and amphibians in nearly 10,000 of the High Sierra's most remote lakes and streams.

Taylor is a leading expert on the deadly fungi, and he noted that his studies with Morgan are the first to examine just how they reproduce. They may most often clone themselves, Taylor said, in which case there would be no genetic change within the species. But they may also reproduce sexually and produce the tough spores that could live for a decade before exploding to spread the fungal genes throughout the nearby environment.

"We haven't found the spores yet," Taylor said, "but we can't reject the possibility that in fact they do form - but their basic biology is still so poorly known that we can't be sure."

Most fungi, he said, produce spores by the millions and even by the billions, and the frog-killing fungi may well be no exception.

Knapp, in a phone call from his lab at Mammoth Lakes, conceded that he has failed to find any evidence so far of fungus spores in hatchery fish, and he is now seeking the spores in nearby waters. "The story gets more and more complex," he said.

In an e-mail from her lab in Australia, Morgan said: "Our results suggest that the fungus is a recently introduced pest to the Sierra Nevada, but that it is now adapting at a local scale. At some sites the equivalent of fungal sex is evident and sex may result in resistant spores, providing a mechanism for rapid disease spread and fungal persistence. If resistant, long-lived spores exist, then global control of the pathogen may be greatly complicated."

In another message to UC Berkeley she added: "If, in fact, this fungus produced resistant spores, people could be unwittingly transferring this pathogen around the world from dirt on our shoes or car tires, but spores could also hitchhike on the feathers of birds for quick transport across mountain ranges."

Global control of the killer is badly needed. Only a year ago, 50 of the world's leading experts on amphibians, including David and Marvalee Wake of UC Berkeley, warned that nearly a third of the 5,743 known amphibian species around the world are now threatened, with perhaps 122 of them already extinct since 1980.

The scientists blamed the deadly infectious disease caused by the same fungus that Morgan, Taylor and their team are studying, as well as land-use changes in many nations, commercial over-exploitation and global climate change that may encourage the spread of the fungus.

Also last year, another international team of amphibian experts headed by A. Alan Pounds at the Tropical Science Center in Costa Rica reported in the journal *Nature* that the Central American region was seeing the mass extinction of harlequin frogs and golden toads due to the same chytrid fungus. The fungus, they said, is growing most widely as temperatures rise in the Costa Rican highlands, and they concluded that "large-scale warming is a key factor in the disappearance (of the amphibians)."

"If it's global warming that's involved in the fungus spread," said Taylor, "then, wow!"#

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/08/07/MNV5RCGO21.DTL>

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