

GPF – Burney Falls Trip - May 31 (Monday) – June 2 (Wednesday), 2021

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GPF is doing OUTINGS in 2021!

The GPF club is scheduling outings this year and Burney Falls is one of the regular highlights of our calendar. Fishing and being outdoors is a great way to get some recreation while maintaining personal safety and distance. The following describes our modified trip to Burney Falls – May 31 – June 2, 2021.

GPF COVID Protocols for Outings

See “Grizzly Peak Fly Fishers Club Covid-19 Protocols for Outings” below.

Highlights of COVID Protocols for Outings in 2021

- Lodging is on your own – see suggestions
- Fishing – can be in same area but not close together
- Meals – no group meals – on your own
- Vaccinated – persons that are vaccinated and with consent by the people in the group, GPF allows for sharing car, lodging, fishing, and meals together.

LODGING

Camping – McArthur Burney Falls Memorial State Park

I (Eric Larson) have a reservation for campsite #57 which I will be using. I do not have the vaccine yet, so I cannot share the site. As of this posting (March 25), there are 4 other camp sites for the same dates. I chose these odd dates because the campground is booked for weekends through the entire summer. May 31 is Memorial Day, so that saves one vacation day if you are still working. You can make a camping reservation, or stay at one of the motels in Burney, CA which is about 10 miles from Burney Falls campground. Each person or vaccinated group is responsible for their making, and paying for, their own accommodations.

I will be fishing Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. We can meet at the campground by arrangement and discuss fishing locations for the day. We can go to the same area, and we can share a refreshment at the end of the day. I welcome fishing together in the same area. Hat Creek, Pitt River, and Burney Creek allow spreading out people very easily.

Dates: May 30 – June 2, Monday and Tuesday nights (dates Eric will be camping). You are welcome to make your own camping arrangements.

Location: McArthur-Burney Falls Campground (530-335-2777)

Reservations: [https://www.parks.ca.gov/McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park](https://www.parks.ca.gov/McArthur-Burney%20Falls%20Memorial%20State%20Park)

Directions: Take HWY 80 east to 505 North, to 5 North, to 299 East. The park is northeast of Redding, six miles north of Highway 299 on Highway 89 near Burney, CA. Elev. 3100'. 4.5 hrs. from Berkeley.

NO Potluck dinner - sorry. Let's meet for refreshments at the campground or in Burney.

Motels, etc

There are several motels and inns in Burney, CA – 10 miles from Burney Falls Campground. Fishing is around the intersection of Hwy 89 and Hwy 299.

Each person or family group is responsible for their own accommodations.

Google “Burney, CA lodging”, or start with [<https://www.burneychamber.com/lodging-camping>]

Grizzly Peak Fly Fishers Club
Covid-19 Protocols for Outings

These rules are in effect for any outings sponsored by the Grizzly Peak Fly Fishers Club
From February 1, 2021 until further notice.

STAY HOME if, on the day before or the day of the outing, you have:

- Any *one* of the following symptoms:
 - Shortness of Breath (unusual shortness of breath if you are, say, asthmatic and shortness of breath is an ordinary condition).
 - New or worsening dry cough.
 - Fever.
 - Flu-like symptoms (e.g. lethargy, body aches; unusual lethargy or aches if you are, say, old, and lethargy or arthritis is an ordinary condition).
 - Vomiting.
 - Diarrhea.
 - Loss of sense of smell or taste.
- Any *two* of the following symptoms:
 - Mild unusual lethargy or body aches.
 - Cough.
 - Rash.
 - Sore Throat.
 - Open Sore.

STAY HOME if within the past ten days:

- You have been in close contact with anyone who has Covid-19 or was suffering from typical Covid-19 symptoms.
- You or anyone with whom you have been, within the past 10 days, in close contact has, within the 14 days prior to your close contact, been on a cruise ship, travelled internationally or visited an area with a known communicable disease outbreak.

If you have previously registered for the outing, please notify the fishmaster that you will not be attending.

Rules of the Outing:

- The fishmaster is also the Covid safety officer. Please obey his or her instructions.
- Travel to the outing in your own vehicle. Vehicles may be shared only by people within the same family or who live together.
- Each person or family group must plan for, obtain, pay for, and stay in their own campsite or hotel room. The Club will not be responsible for accommodations.

- There will be no communal meals nor shared food. Each person is responsible for supplying their own food and drink.
- Always stay at least six feet away from others whenever possible.
- Wear a mask when within ten feet of others, even if only briefly. Bandanas, buffs, and neck gaiters are not sufficient masks. Wear N95 or surgical masks or cloth masks with at least two layers of cloth.
- Every person must carry hand sanitizer and use it after touching any surface also touched by others. Sanitize any shared restroom after you use it.
- Do not share fishing gear or equipment. Bring your own rods and flies. If you need help with flies or other equipment, contact the fishmaster or go to Fish First in advance of the trip so that you may acquire what you need.
- Any communal gatherings (campfires, briefings, fish stories) shall nevertheless be at least six feet apart from each other, with every person wearing a mask. No singing or wind instruments are permitted.
- Bring your own chair and table so that you have a place to eat and conduct other affairs apart from others.
- Every participant must promise, in writing, to comply with these rules and provide that written promise to the fishmaster.

I, the undersigned, promise to abide by these rules, and I understand that compliance with these rules is a condition to my participation in any outing sponsored by the Grizzly Peak Fly Fishers Club.

Dated: _____

Signature

Printed

**Here is the fishing information for the Burney Falls area.
Hat Creek, Pitt River, Burney Creek, and more.**

MAPS, BOOKS, ETC

<http://www.burneychamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/burney.jpg> shows a Burney Area fishing guide map in slightly too low resolution. The classic maps of Dwayne Hight are available at

<http://www.fishsniffer.com/maps/>, in particular, (Upper) Hat Creek, Baum Lake, and Britton Lake.

<http://www.burney-falls.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Burney-falls-campground-map.gif>. Pit River slightly annotated topo http://www.ecoangler.com/habitat/Pit_River/images/Pit_River_PowerDam3.JPG. "Flyfisher's Guide to Northern California", Seth Norman, Wilderness Adventures Press. <http://caltrout.org/tag/pit-river-flows/> gives an extensive and excellent discussion of the Pit water management plan.

REPORTS AND ONLINE GUIDES

<http://perfectflystore.com/whatacreek.html> gives a really fine description of the Hat Creek fishery and current conditions. See also <http://www.flyfishingconnection.com/cahatcreek.html> and <http://www.theflyshop.com/adventures/hatacreek.html>.

WATERS AND FLOWS

http://www.dreamflows.com/flows.php?page=real&zone=canv&form=norm&mark=All#California_Sacramento_Valley, Below Pit 3 Dam, http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/getAll?sens_num=20, Pit R (PR4), (Upper) Hat Cr (HCB), for current flows.)

Burney Creek

- **below Falls** -- Wild Trout regs. Falls View path. Huge pool below Falls, riffles and flats downstream to Lake Britton. Much more water than above Falls!
- **above Falls** -- District regs. Upper campground footbridge. Pocket water and riffles. Entirely spring fed; absolutely clear, peters out remarkably soon upstream.

Hat Creek

- **below Hwy 299** -- Wild Trout regs. Dirt road to north 200 m west of Hwy 299 Bridge. Riffles and flats down to fish barrier pool above Lake Britton. This and next one are the stretches that made Hat Creek famous.
- **below #2 Powerhouse** -- Wild Trout regs. Powerhouse road south off Hwy 299 0.5 mi. west of Hat Creek Bridge. Powerhouse pool and riffles, then (hard, to fish) spring creek flats to the bridge. Lots of fishers line up along the prime slot below the last riffle.
- **below #1 Powerhouse and Baum Lake** -- Cassel Road south off Hwy 299 east of Hwy 89 junction. Follow signs to Fish Hatchery. Pool and riffles below powerhouse down to the lake. Fish the lake from shore or float tube.
- **Cassel** -- Road to Cassel. Public access in town and a little upstream, with paved path on west bank. Lots of bait fishers, but often good dry fly fishing in the evening.
- **Upper Creek** -- Off Hwy 89. Private land in the flats above Cassel, but public access on Federal Land further upstream. Numerous Forest Service campgrounds. The creek is rather small here.

Pit River

- Wild Trout regs. Clark Creek Road west off Hwy 89 south of the Falls Campground, to Lake Britton Dam. Cross the dam (Powerhouse #3) and take Forest Route 37N06. This section of the Pit River is a tailwater flowing out of Lake Britton, known for being one of the best fisheries in the state, but is **very tough to wade**. It was hard to wade in the past when flows were steady around 150cfs. New negotiation from PG&E have increased the flows to 280- 350cfs! This is not water for novices. The river has a dense population of well-fed native rainbows. Flow information at http://cdec.water.ca.gov/dynamicapp/staMeta?station_id=P35

Lost Creek

- South on Hwy 89 10 mi past Hwy 299, left onto Wilcox Rd. A tiny, pretty flat, stream ending in a pond above a

small dam. Mostly tiny fish, but nice.

Rock Creek

- Access as the Pit River. This very small stream enters the Pit from the north 2 mi below Lake Britton. Follow FR37N06 to where it crosses the creek. Fish the bridge pool or up or downstream from there, or drive up the dirt road to the east of the stream. Pockets, pools and riffles.

Fall River

- Hwy 299 east. A whole trip of its own.

HATCHES & SPECIALS See, eg, <http://www.flyshack.com/HatchChart.aspx?RiverID=2003>, "Fly Fisher's Guide to Northern California, S. Norman, pp 47-8. See also "R's SHORT GUIDE to Feeding Trout". **There should be lots of activity! Plan on fishing until you can't see what you're doing.**

If Salmonfly hatch is on, they crawl out of the water usually at night or low light conditions to hatch. Fish the Salmonfly nymphs near the banks.

There are lots of other insects including Green sedges, Spotted sedges, both caddisflies.

There are good Pale Morning dun hatches.

OCTOBER CADDIS LARVAE! (*Dicosmoecus*). Uncased larvae are unusually prone to behavioral drift during the daytime in June and July, peaking around 4 PM (big **cream Buckskin Caddis**).

SPOTTED SEDGE (*Hydropsyche*, net-spinning caddis, **10-15mm**, also LITTLE SISTER SEDGE, *Cheumatopsyche*, a **bit smaller**, but otherwise similar). Shallow, moderate to fast riffles and runs in most trout streams, large populations in plankton-rich waters (like Hat Creek!). Pherates emerge late PM *en masse* (**yellow, tan, brown Sparkle Caddis, EC Caddis**). Before emerging, *Hydropsychidae* pherates drift along the bottom or just under the surface, sometimes for hours. They then take unusually long to struggle out through the film. Adults oviposit late PM on the bottom in riffles or runs by diving, or possibly on the surface by dipping (**olive Deer Hair Caddis, Lead Wing Coachman, Missing Link**).

LITTLE WESTERN WEEDY-WATER SEDGE (*Amiocentrus*, long, slender, round-section tapered plant-material cased caddis, **8-10mm**). Large populations in weedy, plankton-rich slow to moderate runs. Available as pherates emerge PM to late PM often *en masse* after long drift and slow pushing through the surface film (**green Emergent Sparkle Caddis, EC Caddis**), and as adults oviposit late PM on the surface or by diving or crawling below (**dark green Deer Hair Caddis, Lead Wing Coachman, Missing Link**).

PALE MORNING DUN (*Ephemerella*, smooth crawler, **7-9mm**). Nymphs live among rocks and debris in riffles, runs and flats that have moderate water flows. Nymphs are available if they come free any time of the day, during concentrated behavioral drift in the evenings, and during heightened activity, including swimming, before a hatch (**tiny light olive brown Bird's Nest**). The nymphs, like many other *Ephemerellidae*, sometimes engage in up and down "practice runs" exposing the them to trout during extended pre-hatch periods. During emergence, fish the nymph as a dropper below a cripple (**pale yellow to olive tan Shucked Cripple**), whose husk makes it a bit more supporting, and useful in its own right. The duns are classic surface emergers with long sedate floats in optimal weather (**pale yellow to olive tan parachute dun**). Duns have been reported to emerge subsurface in faster flows. Despite name, hatches any time the weather is temperate. Spinners return to the water within 2 days of emergence. Females often, but not always, drop their eggs from the air above the stream, preferably into riffles. Some females end up on the water with egg sacs still attached. These females are often active and far from spent. True spent spinners usually cause the most feeding activity (**brownish red spinner, eg Trusty Rusty**). Though often seen in the late PM, mid-AM spinner falls have achieved legendary status at many locations.

WESTERN GREEN DRAKE (*Drunella*, horny squat crawler, *D. grandis*, **11-15mm**, *D. Flavilinea*, "FLAV", **7-9mm**). Nymphs inhabit medium to fast water, but spring creeks (eg. Hat Creek) as well. Behavior generally like PMD. Imitate nymph (**medium to dark brown, olive Hare's Ear, Mercer's Poxback Green Drake**). Emergence occurs when the air is temperate, in slow water adjacent faster nymphal habitat. The duns often emerge subsurface (within 12") as well surface. This is given testimony by the frequent success of wet emerger imitations (**bright green Soft-Hackles**). *Ephemerellidae* are classic surface emergers with long sedate floats in optimal weather (**bright Green Drake Natural Dun**), but the large *Drunella* take an exceptionally long time to get airborne once they break through

the surface, and they may make several clumsy attempts. Good hatches can last several hours. The spinner fall may be at night, but if you see it, imitate (**Trusty Rusty**).

LITTLE WESTERN IRON BLUE QUILL (*Acentrella turbida*, tiny swimmer mayfly, **4-5mm**). In almost all trout streams, but especially in cold, unpolluted, alkaline waters. They inhabit almost every microhabitat in the stream except for silt beds, gravel and vegetation are especially suitable. Near constant availability, both as fast-swimming nymphs (**Pheasant Tail Nymph**) and as surface emergers (PTN as dropper, **Quigley Cripple, parachute dun, in olive, with blue-gray wings**). During emergence, nymphs may drift just under the surface for a while before breaking through. They have trouble escaping their shucks in the film, taking a long time and often becoming stuck in the process. Those which do escape may ride the water for quite a distance before taking flight. Dismal weather invites the best hatches of Baetis mayflies; look for them on overcast, rainy days, as long as the water temperature is above 40°F. Timing the return of these mayflies as spinners after they hatch is difficult; some may come back within a few hours, while others take a few days. *Baetis* females are among the only mayflies to lay their eggs underwater. The females land near the water after mating and crawl down to lay rows of eggs on the downstream side of rocks, sticks, and other objects. They may slip loose during the process or let go after they finish, and wet fly imitations (**dun winged, olive Soft-hackle**) are effective during this time.

Starting - TINY WESTERN OLIVE (*Apobaetis futillis*). For us, same as LITTLE WESTERN IRON BLUE QUILL above.

Starting - TRICO (*Tricorythodes*, crawler, **3-6mm**). Cool clean streams with slow to medium flow, best in alkaline spring creeks, over silty bottoms. Nymphs become available during emergence. They are terrible swimmers and are extremely vulnerable as they swim up to the surface (**tiny dark WD-40, w/wo bead**). Males emerge at night, females (**tiny Cripples, Klinkhammers, olive abdomen, dark brown thorax**) in the early, AM, but as late as noon in cool weather (water temperature 52-56 F). Mating spinners gather in very tight swarms rather than roaming the full width of the river. The gravid females return to lay their eggs within minutes or hours of emerging. Spinner falls (**Ellis Triple Wing, Polywing Trico Spinner**) may provide the best Trico fishing. In general, it is very important to get the hook size right. With such tiny insects, being off by a single size makes the imitation look like a freak! When fishing dries, microdrag is a serious problem. Avoid it by using short casts and keeping most of the line off the water.

Starting - LITTLE YELLOW SALLY (*Isoperla*, **7-16mm**). Like Golden Stone (see below). Imitate nymph (**Mercer's Little Yellow Stonefly Nymph**) and adult (**Clark's Little Yellow Stonefly**).

Ending - GOLDEN STONE (*Calineuria*, **25-40mm**). Rocky riffles and runs of small to large streams with moderate to fast currents. Naturals are yellow with dark brown vermiculations. When the water warms in the spring, mature nymphs migrate toward shore, where they crawl out at night and emerge as adults. During migration, fish the banks with slow, shoreward swings (**black AP Nymphs, Kaufmann's Black Stone, big Rubberlegs Nymph**). Adults mate in stream-side vegetation. They become available again when they wriggle on the surface during oviposition, and when spent (**yellow, poss. peacock Stimulator, Madame X**).

Probably done - SALMON FLY (*Pteronarcys*, **30-60mm!**).

MIDGE (*Chironomid*, **3-8mm** in temperate latitudes). Available all year in nearly all waters, but most important in fertile spring creeks where the current is so slow that it's efficient for trout to surface feed on very tiny insects. Larvae that inhabit oxygen-poor water contain hemoglobin, which makes them red; these are "bloodworms". The other midges are usually habitat colored. Pherates (**black, olive, gray, tan, poss. red, Zebra Midge, WD-40**) frequently emerge *en masse*. Pherates rise to the surface and slowly struggle to pass the back of the thorax through the surface film while the rest of the body dangles vertically below (**Klinkhammer**). The thorax skin breaks open and the adult emerges onto the surface (**Griffith's Gnat**). Sometimes on streams midges emerge so densely that they clump up (**Cluster Midge**). Midge pherates account for much of the mystifying midsummer spring creek action on evenings when no bugs seem to be in the air or on the water, yet trout are rising everywhere and ignoring one's flies. Despite the tiny size of midges, trout can be very selective to size and color. Remember that a difference of a single hook size in the tiny sizes is a very large percentage difference and very noticeable by the trout.

RESIDENT BUGS If no hatch-related fishing is working, you can try imitating residents, or just exciting the trout.

Big stoneflies have multiyear life cycles, so *pteronarcys* and *calineuria* nymphs in all sizes up to, and possibly including, terminal will be resident in the riffles.

The larvae of the hatching caddis families will be pupating or gone --don't bother with them

Swimmer mayflies are always available, and **crawlers** drift, sometimes inadvertently, and sometimes behaviorally in great numbers, especially in low light. **Clingers** essentially never lose their grip, so if no behavioral drift, forget them.

Tiny fish in tiny streams eat anything and will always come to the surface, so dead-drift the standard dries (**Elk-Hair Caddis, Parachute or Catskill Adams**).

Finally, keep the classical subsurface searching patterns in mind (**Prince, Zug Bug, Bird's Nest, and Pheasant Tail nymphs, olive**, dead-drifted under an indicator, **black Wooley Buggers**, swung).

REGULATIONS

Sierra District Rules

April 26 - November 15, 5 per day, 10 in possession.

Special Regulations

(28.5) **Burney Creek** (Shasta Co.). From Burney Creek Falls downstream to Lake Britton.

Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Maximum size limit: 14 inches total length. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. 2 trout.

(74) **Hat Creek** (Shasta Co.) from Lake Britton upstream to Baum Lake, exclusive of the concrete Hat No. 2 intake canal between Baum Lake and the Hat No. 2 Powerhouse.

Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Minimum size limit: 18 inches total length. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. Aquatic invertebrates of the orders Plecoptera (stoneflies), Ephemeroptera (mayflies) and Trichoptera (caddisflies) may not be taken or possessed. 2 trout.

(75) **Hat Creek No. 1 and Cassel Forebays** (Shasta Co.). Those portions of Hat Creek known as No. 1 Forebay and Cassel Forebay.

Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. 5 per day 10 in possession

(141) **Pit River** (Shasta Co.).

(A) From Pit No. 3 (Britton Dam) downstream to the outlet of the Pit No. 3 Powerhouse.

Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Minimum size limit: 18 inches total length. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. 2 fish.

Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in Apr. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. 0 trout.

(B) Pit River, from Pit No. 3 Powerhouse downstream to Pit No. 7 dam.

Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. 5 trout.

Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in Apr. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. 0 trout.

(C) From Pit No. 7 dam downstream to Shasta Lake.

All year. 5 trout.

(67) **Fall River** (Shasta Co.).

(A) Fall River from its origin at Thousand Springs downstream to the mouth of the Tule River and including Spring Creek and excluding all other tributaries.

Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Maximum size limit: 14 inches total length. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. 2 trout.

Updated March 25, 2021.

Much of this is recycled from previous Burney trips, thanks Rich!