



# TOIYABE'S TROPHY TROUT TRAPEZOID

**DON VACHINI**

**E**verywhere around me, signs of late-spring exploded. The slopes of the towering peak hunched above were blotched with massive snow fields framed in verdant emerald stands of cottonwood, aspen and willow. Meltage concealed beneath these white blankets fed the gurgling freestone creek at my feet while a duet of Clarke's Nutcrackers harshly scolded me from the safety of a pine snag.

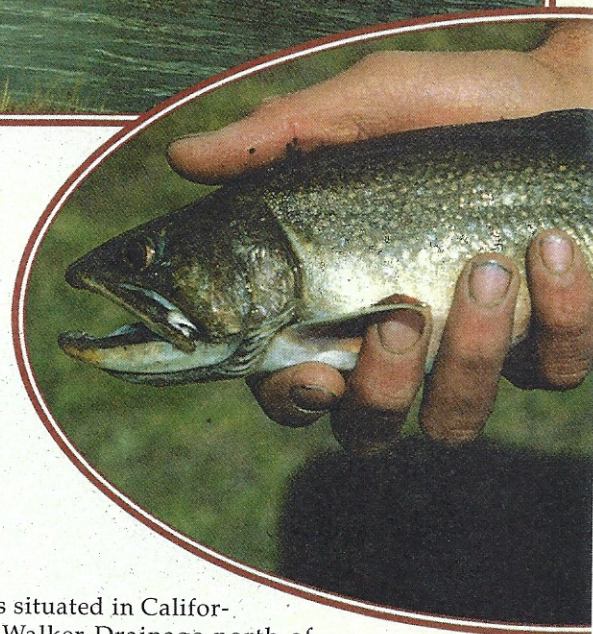
Casting my plug as far as I could into the lake, letting it sink and slowly retrieving over the deep-azure channel forged by the briskly entering tributary brought no response. Cast and retrieve, cast and retrieve. Five minutes, 10, 15...then, while firmly enraptured in the lively surroundings, my rod was almost jolted from my hands and four-pound line adamantly protested against my drag in screeching bursts. Initially choosing to stay deep, the unseen adversary made several rigid direction changes, as witnessed by my heavily bowing rod tip, then abruptly changed tactics. Violently erupting skyward amid a fine sheen of glimmering spray, the silvery missile attained its freedom as my plug sailed back toward me. "Nice rainbow," I muttered to my son, Jason, standing a few yards away.

"Too bad," he replied. "Looked around three pounds from here!" he said, smiling sympathetically.

Jason and I were on a four day mini-backpacking excursion, intent on sampling a concentration of highly-productive mid-ele-

vation lakes situated in California's West Walker Drainage north of Bridgeport. Indeed, the quintet of lakes we'd be testing on this early July trip sit within a few miles of each other in the Toiyabe National Forest and hold a reputation for some better than average rainbow, cutthroat and brook trout. This particular national forest, which is scattered about over portions of eastern California and west central and southern Nevada, is made up of over 3.9 million acres. The specific sector we were in, officially known as the Bridgeport District, contains approximately one million acres, generally lying west of Highway 395 along the California-Nevada border. Bounded by Stanislaus and Inyo National forests, Yosemite National Park and the Hoover Wilderness, this area supports 30 lakes and over 100 miles of stream amid extensive stands of Jeffrey, lodgepole and white pine plus a bountiful share of white fir and rolling, high desert sage. Ice and snowmelt from this quadrant of the Sierra Nevada mountains produces most of the water for the Walker River system. Headwater arteri-

**DURING EARLY SPRING AND LATE FALL, KIRMAN BROOKIES ARE VULNERABLE FROM EITHER FLOAT TUBE OR SHORE. INSET: A MUSCULAR 15" BROOKIE FROM ROOSEVELT SHOWS SIGNS OF RAPID GROWTH. RIGHT: THE EARLY SEASON SHORE LINE AT KIRMAN LAKE OFTEN PROVES PRODUCTIVE.**



oles collect snowmelt from basins in and near the Hoover Wilderness which drains through Leavitt Meadows enroute towards Highway 108, then Highway 395, finally coursing into Nevada and, eventually terminating in Walker Lake.

Five extremely productive and extraordinary lakes, unofficially referred to as the "trophy trapezoid," are nestled around the 7,000 foot elevation. We were convinced to sample these lakes due equally to a quirk in nature and to the efforts of friend Brad Beckering, a fishing guide residing in Mammoth Lakes. The winter of '95 produced a 200 percent snowpack throughout the Eastern Sierra, potentially enshrouding most waters above 9,000 feet and denying access to the real backcountry until at least late fall, later in some instances. Since these lakes had thawed by late-June, Beckering felt the timing was just about perfect. "By now, their fisheries should be completely turned on," he confided. "And, with four of the lakes sitting within two miles of each other, you can base camp and explore to find the hottest lake," he mentioned. "I can almost assure you that you won't be disappointed."

Leaving the Leavitt Meadows campsite during the chill of dawn, we crossed the narrow footbridge then opted for a short cut. Ascending the hogback ridge, we paralleled the lengthy West Walker Trail while traversing steadily upward. After scarcely more than an hour, we overlooked Poore

Lake, our first target water, re-adjusted our backpacks and descended a faint game trail through sage and chaparral. We set up camp at the edge of a small stand of conifers and hardwoods adjacent to the feeder emanating steadily from the bowels of the hulking prominence.

Since it was now approaching 9 a.m., we decided to scout, plot and sample the deep, western side of this 100-acre, man-made impoundment which is famous for both husky brook and Kamloops. Extremely steep, the rocky hillside plummeted directly into the lake to a depth of over 50 feet, its drop-off line plainly characterized by varying shades of darkening

blue. Although we could distinguish forms of large, cruising fish, the bank was heavily inclined and unstable and several times we spooked large trout merely by dislodging debris from unsteady footholds. Finally locating a slightly firmer section of shoreline, we opted for ultra-light spinning gear and deepwater tactics. With barely enough room to stand, Jason began casting over an especially dark shelf, allowing his spoon to sink and settle for 10 to 15 seconds before retrieving. As he imparted movement, the brassy spoon flashed a plainly visible beacon through the shadows. Moments after reciprocating on a tug, his rod buggy-whipped in combat and black- and white-edged fins flared in the ebony depths. The gallant battler flashed, bored and rolled repeatedly but eventually ran out of tricks and was subsequently netted. Carefully freeing the stocky, rosette-speckled 14-inches brookie which filled his hand, Jason's ear to ear grin related the whole story.

Another clone was released before enduring the midday sulk during which we continued scouting with no further action. However, Beckering's initial advice proved prophetic when evening arrived as the shallow area along the lake's eastern edge along our camp came alive with cruising trout, splashing and slurping amid a prolific caddis hatch. Since most fish were with-

*(Continued on page 58)*

**"A CLUSTER OF  
MID-ELEVATION LAKES  
TUCKED IN THIS NATIONAL  
FOREST VECTORED  
ALONG SIDE THE HOOVER  
WILDERNESS AND  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL  
PARK, PRODUCE SOME  
OUTSIZED TROUT."**



## Toiyabe's Trophy Trout Trapezoid

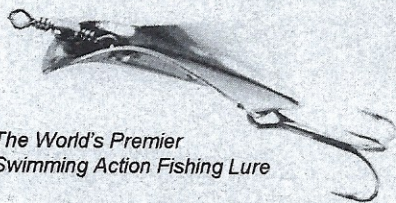
(Continued from page 55)

in 20 feet of shore, our 5-weight fly outfits and dry Elk Hair Caddis and Renegade patterns were a perfect match. The darker it got, the more relaxed their sense of caution seemed to be. A rotund 15-inch rainbow, taken in almost total darkness, crowned the eventful, six-fish day as effectively as our cranberry tea nightcap.

During the next morning's pre-breakfast session, I briefly tied into an airborne Kamloops which managed to kick-start my heart with a brief spurt of adrenaline then, just as swiftly, dash my spirits. An

### METFLY IS BACK !!!

"The best trout catcher I've ever used on rivers..."  
Tom Stienstra in his book, *California Camping, the Complete Guide*



The World's Premier  
Swimming Action Fishing Lure

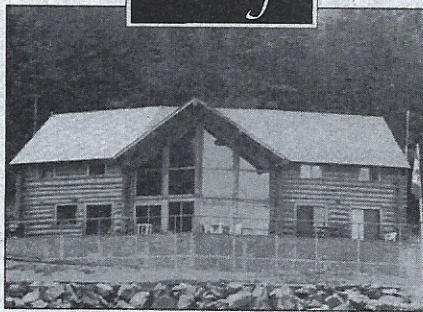
- Runs deep without additional weight even when pulled across or against current
- A great lake lure for trolling or bank casting

Metfly Fishing Lures: 2010-B Inglis Way  
Roseville, CA 95678 (916) 367-4844

Limited  
'96  
Dates!

EAGLE  
POINTE  
Lodge

Unequaled  
Sport!



Fishing on B.C.'s North Coast  
TROPHY HALIBUT  
TYEE CHINOOK  
GIANT COHO

12 Guest Capacity—Total Package Rate:

3 Nights, 4 Days—\$1575 US \$

4 Nights, 5 Days—\$1895 US \$

GOURMET DINING—FRESH CRAB EVERY DAY

OPEN JUNE THRU SEPTEMBER

EAGLE POINTE LODGE

P.O. Box 24184, Seattle, WA 98134

Phone/Fax: (206) 241-6291

Toll Free US or Canada

1-800-726-5810

OR: P.O. Box 135, Prince Rupert, BC Canada V8J 3P4

May thru September (604) 624-0825

hour later, we made our way up a narrow, shemise-lined arroyo to rejoin the forested main trail and continue our journey. With all the fun poked at many so-called "secret lakes," the one located astride the trail a few hundred yards above Poore really is secret! Slightly over 20 acres, this circular-shaped, natural body of water contains a sparse population of wary brook and rainbow. On this particular trip, we spent over an hour crisscrossing a rather steep shoal line where, a few weeks prior to our visit, Beckering landed a whopping 19-inch Kamloops. In his words, the bulky trout "fought like a true champion!"

We experienced but one timid strike before calling it quits. Trudging a mile further up the trail, the gently sloping forested ridgelines of the surrounding granitic batholith belied the harshness of this vast drainage. While the West Walker below roared high and roily with the constituency of chocolate milk, both Roosevelt and Lane appeared as tiny jewels set in an emerald ring, crystal clear and vibrant, peaceful and serene. Happily for us as we skirted both to our base camp at Lane, they were also dotted with concentric rings—a true sign of trout!

Overflowing from the upper lake, a small connecting creek spills down into Roosevelt. Although there were no surface feeders, the locale just looked "trouty," especially where the moving water swirled through a narrow, gouged out hole. Flickering a short cast into the moving water, I "walked" my Woolly Bugger along the bottom, ticked it through the depression and let it settle in the channel before retrieving and re-casting. On my third presentation, something gently nudged it, and I gingerly tightened the line with a rapid wrist

twist. Although the thumping sensation was weighty, the trout shook its head methodically, seemingly fighting in slow motion. Gently removing the fly, a slender, bronze-caste body lightly garnished with black dots and trademark flaming orange mandibles firmly identified it as a Lahontan cutthroat, the only trout indigenous to this drainage. Long renowned for possessing the greatest growth potential of any cutthroat, they have recently been re-introduced back into this drainage by the DFG adding yet another pleasant angling aspect.

In addition to a limited population of this gullible cutt subspecies, these tiny, 30-acre lakes sitting in tandem also support *Salvelinus fontinalis*. However, with deep portions near their centers approaching 30 feet surrounded by notable shallows, their residents proved considerably wary during daylight hours. We did, however, find a few which let down their guard a bit during the day's first and last light. Duped on small brassy spinners with red garnishing, the trio we landed were moderately-girthed with small heads—typical for well-nourished brook trout. Ranging between 11 and 13 inches, they struck with fearsome intensity. Beckering, too, knows much larger specimens exist here, his personal best being a three pounder from Roosevelt earlier in the season.

Deliberating on our evening's plan of action, we were enjoying a freeze-dried meal just outside our tent. Glancing up from his plate, Jason stopped conversing and slowly pointed over my shoulder. A medium-sized black bear, maybe 30 yards away, was nonchalantly eyeballing our food bag hung high in a tree. As we both stood up and shouted, the adolescent bruiser rushed off into the dense conifers, and we saw it no more. Rising early the next morning, we found our food cache intact. Numerous paw prints adorning the soft earth beneath our food tree, however, attested that we had been visited again during the night.

While these lakes surrender their trout grudgingly, Beckering feels it is Kirman, the fifth lake in the neighborhood, which "separates the men from the boys." Sitting in a bowl-like depression and surrounded by open, sage covered hills, this 70-acre, reed-enclosed lake located a little over two miles northeast of Poore, is probably the state's quintessential brookie water. The only "trapezoid water" governed by special regulations (barbless hooks, no bait and 16-inch minimum size), it benefits from an extremely explosive gammarus population. Char here consistently fall into the 14 to 16 inch, three to six pound range with fish up to eight pounds showing on occasion. However, their growth rate is so phenomenal that their girth is commonly proportional to their length, explaining

## Oregon Fishing Club



### Private Access to:

-18 River Properties

-12 Ponds -8 Camp Sites  
in Northwest Oregon

### Other Services Include:

- Fishing Report Hotline

- Fishing Clinics-Detailed Maps

- Pro-Staff Team-Video Library

- Discount Alaska Trips

- Newsletters - & More!

For Info Call (541) 967-8301

OFC, 648 Bain SE, Albany, OR 97321

why they are referred to as "air brushed footballs!"

According to Beckering, Kirman residents literally swim through thick concentrations of shrimp, virtually consuming all in their path. Despite their voracious eating habits he notes that they are exceedingly difficult to fool, primarily because there is so much food. Since this tiny crustacean is so plentiful, their imitations are not always that effective because they blend in so well with the naturals. "While some anglers find using larger scud patterns in sizes 8-10 to be more effective, others feel brightly colored attractor patterns are more noticeable," he notes.

While a float tube seems the only feasible way to consistently score on this lake, exceptions occur during early May when trout metabolism comes to life right after ice-out and again in late October when fish attempt to spawn in structure near shore. Son, Chris, and I experienced the latter on a fall afternoon two seasons ago when we accidentally intercepted a school of 30 or more finning back and forth among the bankline reeds where a lengthy drop-off parallels the stalky growth. We were able to cast our shiny spoons through a small opening and right among the mass, which continually slashed at the "intruder lures" in an attempt to protect their mating rituals. Each savage strike was followed by an immediate dash into the tall weeds, most

probably in a freedom seeking venture, although it also appeared to me that they were trying to ram the unwanted "guest" into the tangled mass, much like a defensive end vehemently drives an opposing quarterback into the ground.

During the 40 or so minutes they remained within casting range, hooking fish was noticeable easy—getting them to shore was a chore. Of the trio we actually landed, rosette-pocked blue halos and squiggly vermiculations attested to brook status while bulbous bodies, grossly overflowed our palms. It seemed to me that each "football" could have been put to use by the NFL!

### Why So Big?

The trout in these lakes are undoubtedly exceptional for the normally-harsh Eastern Sierra escarpment which commonly provides pan-sized trout. Unlike most high-elevation backcountry water where growing seasons are short, productivity is low and specimens tend to overpopulate and stunt. Beckering hints that this quintet of fisheries is quite different. "Quite simply put, growing conditions in these waters are conducive to producing hefty trout."

While higher lakes in the region are granitic-rimmed, pot-hole types with limited fertility, the trapezoid waters seem to enjoy a more lucrative productivity from a nutrient standpoint. As a variety of miner-

## ATTENTION:TROUT & KOKANEE FISHERMEN!!!



**CRIPPLURE**



**HUM DINGER**

**CRIPPLURE & HUM DINGER** with their specially designed ring chamber emits low frequency vibrations that attracts fish and creates strikes. The **CRIPPLURE** has a wobbling, rolling action that closely imitates the movements of a crippled baitfish. While the **HUM DINGER** has a hyper fluttering action that more closely imitates the action of a fleeing baitfish. Both lures work great casting or trolling for most gamefish.

### SPECIAL OFFER!

#### ORDER NOW!

Order now and receive 3 • 1/4 oz. **CRIPPLURES** and 3 • 1/8 oz. **HUM DINGERS** in a variety of fish catching colors for:

**\$12.00 Plus \$2 Shipping**

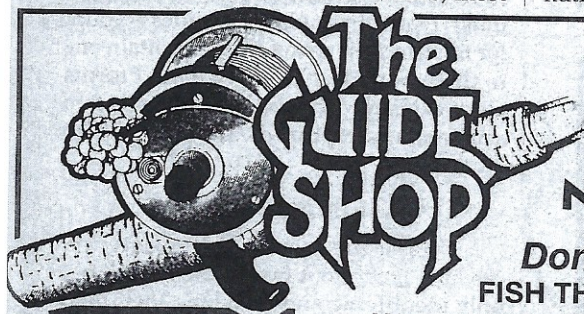
Send check or money order to:



**SHASTA Tackle Co.**

(916) 275-CAST

P.O. Box 488, Bella Vista, CA 96008



# THE GUIDE SHOP

## GATEWAY TO NORTH COAST FISHING

*Don't Miss Out on Fall Chinook!*  
FISH THE NESTUCCA AND TILLAMOOK BAY  
Have a Great Time with Doug Wilhite or Jim Amick!

### HUGE SELECTION OF G. LOOMIS RODS!

**G. Loomis**

WHERE TECHNOLOGY AND PERFORMANCE MEET

- Spinning Rods • Fly Rods
- Casting Rods • Steelhead & Salmon Rods

Call for information about special savings of up to 50% on demo and discontinued rods!

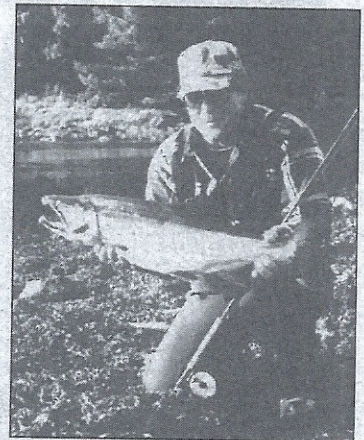
### EGGS FOR FALL FISHING

Top quality eggs—hand selected silver & chinook eggs, processed within 8 hours of collection. Raw, Uncured, or Flash Frozen—Wet or Dry Pac Cured.

Call The Guide Shop for availability of complete line of EGG PRODUCTS



Get your **FREE GUIDE SHOP CATALOG** today—North Coast Products at **GREAT prices!**



Book a Trip with Super Guide Doug Wilhite!

Reserve The **HAPPY HOLLOW HOUSE**, a Riverfront Vacation Home.

Rent by the Day or Week

Ask about our special **COMBO** prices for lodging and guiding

INFORMATION AND FISHING REPORT: 1-503-842-FISH

## THE GUIDE SHOP

12140 HIGHWAY 6, TILLAMOOK, OREGON 97141

FAX: 1-503-842-FISX

RESERVATIONS AND ORDERS ONLY: 1-800-24-FISH'N



**Gully Whompers®**

**PREMIUM FISH BAITS**

**GUARANTEED TO CATCH A FISH\* OR YOUR MONEY BACK!**

*\* If you are dissatisfied with GULLY WHOMPERS® for any reason, the purchase price will be cheerfully refunded.*

Available at complete sporting goods retailers. If unavailable in your area, please call or write:  
**KENDACO P.O. Box 182 Astoria, OR USA 97103 1-800-224-8287**

als erode into these lakes, their aquatic growth potential is greatly enhanced and, consequently, they harbor a solid insect food base. In addition to caddisflies, mayflies and midges, several other airborne or terrestrials such as beetles, flying ants and grasshoppers also are blown into the waters from the nearby wooded environment or lower elevations.

While trout can live on the smorgasbord that includes the various life stages of aquatic critters plus leeches and snails, they literally prosper on significant other tangibles below the surface. Anywhere big fish waters are found in the Sierra, they are usually loaded with scuds or freshwater shrimp, and these are no exceptions. Since these high-caloric crustaceans are most active during periods of low light or cloudy skies, trapezoid trout can easily dine on them pretty much all day long, whether in the shallows or fringes of the depths.

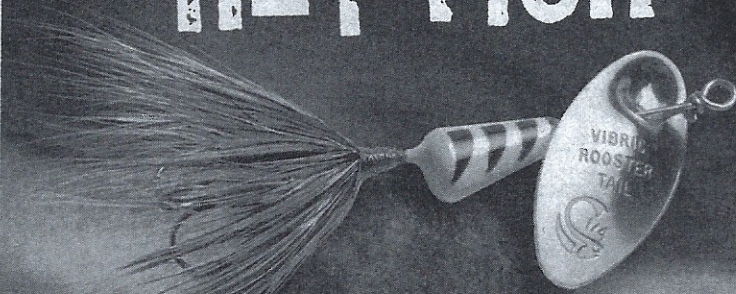
The presence of baitfish too, is a good indicator of rapid growth. Poore, Secret, Roosevelt and Lane lakes all contain fair to large numbers of Lahontan redbreasted suckers which serve as an additional forage base for contributing additional heft. Though not possessing baitfish, Kirman benefits from an incredibly dense population of scuds, and its weedy shoreline is home to other protein rich life forms such as snails. In fact, there is no doubt in Beckering's mind, that both scuds and resides account for the reason so many residents attain one to three pounds. "These two food forms alone explain why stealthy survivors often approach five pounds and above," he beams.

#### Best Lures and Flies

One of the secrets to consistently catching hefty trout from these lakes is not only identifying and matching their food forms but presenting them in as natural a manner as possible. Fly rodders will find nymphs such as Prince, Bird's Nest, AP, Pheasant Tail, Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear, Bead Head, Zug Bug and leech patterns (sizes 12-16) switched deep and slow to be effective on all lakes at various times. Dry Caddis, Cahill, Callibaetis and Adams patterns (sizes 14-16) are often successful at dusk when hatches seem most active while Marabou Muddler with red and gold dressing, white Woolly Bugger, Matuka, Zonker, Johnson's Minnow and Pond Smelt (sizes 4-8), stripped in foot-long jerks, work their magic as baitfish-resembling streamers. Hopper, Flying Ant and Ladybug are perfect terrestrial imitations while orange, olive and green Scud are effective gammarus impostors.

Productive spinners include brassy, yellow-bodied Panther Martin and Vibrax, silvery-bladed Mepps Aglia, Swiss Blinker and Sep's Pro Secret, Flashy Wob-L-Rite,

**HEY FISH!**



**The Vibric Rooster Tail®**

Want to get a fish's attention?  
 Try a Vibric Rooster Tail. It's unique spinning action screams for attention, sending out noisy underwater vibrations that fish just can't ignore!

**Warden's®**

Yakima Bait Co., P.O. Box 310 Granger, WA 98932

Thomas Buoyant, Needlefish, Krocodile, Z-Rays, Crippures and Humdinger spoons, doctored with fluorescent stripes, work best while retrieved slowly along the bottom, while small, silvery Flatfish, yellow Bingo Bugs and Rebel or Rapala plugs in silver or rainbow finish do their best to replicate bite-sized Lahontan reidsides, one of the more sought after food sources for portly residents.

### Locating Productive Structures

Beckering, who fishes these lakes religiously, firmly believes that trout can be found in or near optimal water conditions—namely proper temperatures, sufficient oxygen and abundant food supplies.

Since it is common knowledge that most trout actively feed and grow the

**KIRMAN, THE FIFTH LAKE  
IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD,  
"SEPARATES THE MEN  
FROM THE BOYS."**

quickest in water between 58 and 64 degrees, Beckering advises finding the thermal belt closest to the 60 degree mark. "The best fishing in Toiyabe waters routinely occurs around this magic temperature!"

Identifying proper structure is another key to locating a particular lake's trout. It is a known fact that certain areas are more

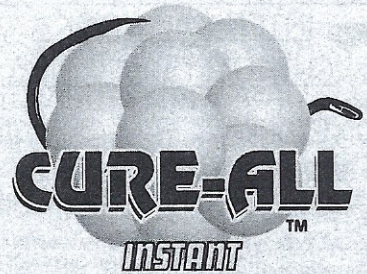
likely to hold fish than others. Underwater points, rock piles, steep banks, shoals or gravel bars, springs and submerged weedbeds are primary structural hotspots. Here, protected by deeper water, trout patrol in and out of the shallows in search of easy pickings and are somewhat susceptible to deeply running spoons, spinners or fast sinking streamers.

Big bruisers can also be found in or near inlets and outlets where the moving current not only provides food but oxygen as well. These fish also seek springs, especially during the heat of mid-summer. Shooting forth life-saving jets of cold, oxygenated water from beneath the lake, these spots are often taken over by the larger fish especially in a diminishing environment. Bubbles on the surface or open spots in the middle of weed growth are good indicators of underwater artisans.

The littoral zone (that which allows light to penetrate to the bottom) provides the most feasible stretch on these lakes while the shoals from littoral to deeper water are also prime locales. Fish here often cruise from one local to another, depending on the time of day, moving to deep or shallow water as needed. "On these lakes, it is common to find the seemingly fishless shallows of mid-day explode with rise forms at dusk or signs of baitfish being surrounded." Beckering confides.

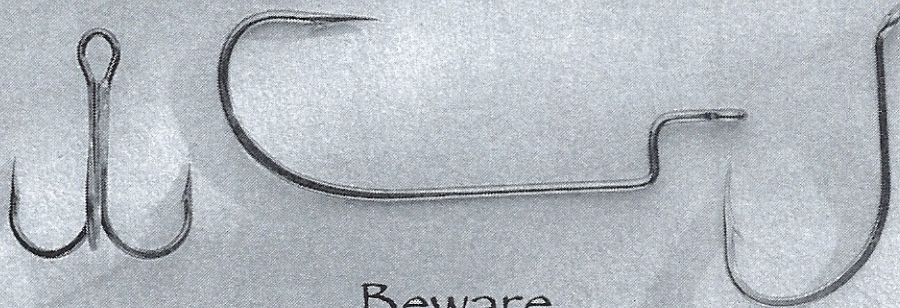
Depending on the time of year,

**ONE SECRET  
YOU WISH  
YOUR BUDDIES  
WOULDN'T KEEP  
TO THEMSELVES**



**CURE-ALL™  
INSTANT  
EGG CURE**  
**FOR ALL TYPES OF SINGLE  
AND SKEIN ROE**

For information on where you can buy CURE-ALL, call toll free, 1-800-224-8287



## Beware. Might be Illegal in Some States

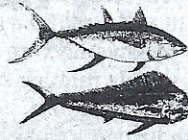
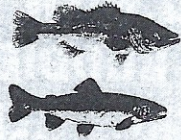
These finely crafted weapons of steel are wickedly sharpened by hundreds of diamond stones to perfection. The cold, ultra-strong steel can pierce flesh with the slightest touch and is near impossible to remove by shaking violently. Use only during fishing conditions in which you desperately want to catch more fish.

VMC Cone Cuts —  
superior strength, ultra sharp,  
probably illegal.



© Copyright 1993, VMC Hooks • 1901 Oakcrest Ave., 10 • St Paul, MN 55113

*If you like to fish  
you'll love this place.*  
**Outfitters For All Types of Fishing**

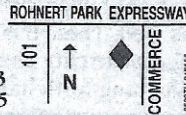


**Fishing Tackle Superstore**  
We have the largest selection of Steelhead  
and Salmon tackle in Northern California.

5,000 sq. ft. of  
fishing gear

Staffed by  
experienced  
anglers.

**OUTDOOR PRO SHOP, INC.** Bus: 707/588-8033  
6315 Commerce Boulevard • Rohnert Park, CA 94928 Fax: 707/588-8035



**INTERIOR ALASKA  
CUSTOM BUILT RODS**

CUSTOM BUILT RODS/ACCESSORIES AS WELL AS ROD BUILDING PARTS. OVER 21 PLUS YEARS OF EXPERIENCE. GUIDING FOR BOTH STEELHEAD AND SALMON IN FOUR STATES AS WELL AS ONTARIO, CANADA.

**ROD BLANKS** - SAGE, G. LOOMIS, CEDAR RODS, ORVIS, ETC.  
**REELS** - S.T.H., ROSS, BILLY PATE, VALENTINE ETC.  
**ACCESSORIES** - CUSTOM FIT WADERS, CUSTOM TIED FLIES, VESTS, T-SHIRTS, ETC.

**ROD BLDG. PARTS** - SAGE, G. LOOMIS, CEDAR RODS, STRUBLE, FLEX COAT, FUJI GUIDES, PAC. BAY GUIDES AND PARTS, FOUR PLUS CORK GRIPS AND RINGS, ETC.

**GUIDING** - FOR STEELHEAD AND SALMON IN ALASKA, MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN, MICHIGAN AND ONTARIO, CANADA.

SEND \$3.00 FOR CATALOG TO COVER COST OF SHIPPING. REFUNDABLE WITH YOUR FIRST ORDER.

**CONTACT** - CEDRIC A. KNUCKEY - OWNER/BUILDER  
6399 CAHILL AVE. E., DEPT. 5  
INVER GROVE HEIGHTS, MINNESOTA 55076  
1-812-455-5583 OR 1-800-455-5593  
LIFETIME WARRANTY ON ALL CUSTOM BUILT RODS...

VANCOUVER ISLAND. OFFERS  
STEELHEADERS MORE DIVERSE  
OPPORTUNITIES THAN ANY OTHER  
PLACE ON EARTH.

**DRIFTBOAT  
RENTALS**

Stamp, Sproat, Somass Rivers

FORGET THE HASSELS, SAVE TIME AND EFFORT!  
**(604) 723-4212**

**Duroboat**  
Continues to Produce  
**"HAPPY CUSTOMERS!"**

Visit one of the following dealers and get on board!

Still the—  
**World's  
Finest Aluminum  
Fishing Boats!**

**All-In-One Boating**  
Bremerton, WA  
**Auburn Sports & Marine**  
Auburn, WA  
**Rason Marine Products**  
Centralia, WA  
**Island Marine & Sports**  
Oak Harbor, WA  
**Yeager's Sporting Goods & Marine**  
Bellingham, WA  
**Marine Surplus, Inc.**  
Woodinville, WA  
For Other Dealers Call:

**Duroboat**  
**(206) 682-2953**

**FISHERMEN!**  
**IF**  
YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR

- ✓ intimate surroundings
- ✓ superior angling
- ✓ old fashioned hospitality
- ✓ and first class guiding
- ✓ in an exclusive
- ✓ fly in wilderness area
- ✓ in northern B.C.

FLY FISHING FOR

- WILD STEELHEAD
- CHINOOK SALMON &
- RAINBOW TROUT

Write for 20 page mailout to:

**Nass Headwaters  
Guiding & Outfitting**  
P O Box 544  
Smithers, B.C.  
VOJ 2N0  
Phone: (604) 847-5011

FOR

*"Seven days of satisfaction  
for the fly rodder's soul"*

spawning attempts also help pinpoint concentrations of fish. During the spring, small runs of Kamloops rainbows attempt to propagate in Poore tributaries while later in the season both brookies and cutts attempt to ascend the Roosevelt-Lane connector stream when conditions permit. The amorous trout are slightly more vulnerable during these periods.

Most lakes have pockets where the prevailing wind blows insects. The leeward side of a cove or small bay can provide a smorgasbord for these hungry denizens and also is a productive spot for anglers. Often this buggy flotilla appears like a scum-line on the surface.

**Productive Techniques  
and Tactics**

Lahontan reddsides are a main food source at Poore and Secret. According to Beckering, pudgy trout commonly feed on these suckers early and late in the day when they chase them away from the shelves and corral them in the shallows. Anglers working the shallow edge of the lake during these time periods have the best windows of opportunity. Multi-colored Marabou Muddler streamers with some gold and red dressing probably best imitates this baitfish. However, imitating the non-insect sub-aquatic food forms such as leeches and even trout fry likewise meets with success. Baitfish imitations should be white or shiny although brown and yellows have proven effective too. Tying patterns with wool instead of deer hair allows them to soak up water and sink faster. Long hooks in sizes 8-10 are about the right size.

I have found tiny, minnow-imitating plugs to be very effective, especially when retrieved parallel to the shoreline. On many occasions, the slashing ambush comes from deep water. Apparently they seem to prefer thin bodied plugs because slim bodies are easier to swallow and less likely to lodge in a predator's throat. Since they are difficult to cast, I use ultra-light spinning tackle and the lightest gossamer line possible for the conditions. Four-pound test is my consistent favorite on these waters.

At Kirman, float tube trolling a scud or leech pattern back and forth a few yards outside the reed-line is often very effective. Since this tiny crustacean is photophobic, try working the imitation from lighter to darker structure.

The shoreline shallows provide an abundant food source for the lake's cruising trout. Since it is difficult to catch fish blind casting, I find it best to search for a specific target on the surface. Polaroid glasses come in handy not only for locating fish but structure as well. Most obvious signs are swirls that break the calm surface. First, I try to determine the specific direc-

tion of the fish. Casting well ahead, I let the fly settle, counting 5 to 10 seconds before twitching. I try not to strike a fish by rearing back hard on the rod, instead lightly flicking my wrist swiftly. If I happen to miss the fish, the short movement of the fly doesn't alarm it and chances of another take are increased.

### Wind Casting on Lakes

Backcountry weather can be fickle—one moment sunny and calm, the next cool and windy. It seems that wherever trophy trout exist, they are protected in part by forceful winds whipping among the open causeways. Storms or afternoon gales can wreak havoc with light lines and feathery casts. Whether flinging flies, bait or hardware, these forces must be reckoned with, often necessitating special gear or tactics. Not only are the target fish impossible to spot but presenting an offering can often be an effort in futility.

While many anglers shun fishing on a windy day, those already on site can usually find a way to cope and succeed. In some instances, just finding a section of protected water will suffice while on other occasions I have found it more advantageous to cast across rather than into the teeth of the wind. Roll casts, too, tend to keep the line low and less affected by gusts.

While bait or hardware users can simply add a tad more weight to their offer-

ings and still gain the necessary distance needed to be effective, fly tossers will need to be properly equipped to wind cast. As a matter of organization, whenever back-packing, I always carry at least two sets of lines. Most modern graphite rods possess the necessary backbone to beat the wind, especially when matched with a weight-forward line, shortened leader and streamlined fly pattern. I have found that in extremely strong gusts, a sinking tip or shooting taper works even better as the extra weight on the end of the line helps gain the needed distance and gets the fly to turn over. Wet flies with little resistance are definitely a must. Personally, I have used weighted nymphs very effectively and since the breezes ruffle the surface, I don't worry too much about sloppy casts.

In certain situations, anglers can actually benefit from howling zephyrs. Tailwinds can actually add distance to many casts. Whether making a high backcast or a roll cast, simply let the jetstream catch your line and carry it for you.

Maintaining a proper balance between food, number and sizes, these lakes are obviously well suited for trophy management. While visiting four of them, we managed to land a total of 17 trout during our four day stay plus a half-dozen "long line releases." With the exception of one 11-inch "dink," all averaged between 13 and 16 inches and ranged up to 1 1/2



**HOT COLORS!**

**Fluorescents!  
Night Glo! Day Glo!  
Pearl & Top Coat!**

**All the paint you'll ever need to fix your old lures or to make your best lures look like YOU want them to!**

*Paint and be fishing in just a few minutes with colors that are working TODAY!!*

email: [dicknite@dicknite.seanet.com](mailto:dicknite@dicknite.seanet.com)

**Dick Nite Spoons, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2561  
Lynnwood, WA 98036**

# Introducing Mor-Tac™

**Pen Tac™ let you off the hook?  
Hook-up with Mor-Tac.**

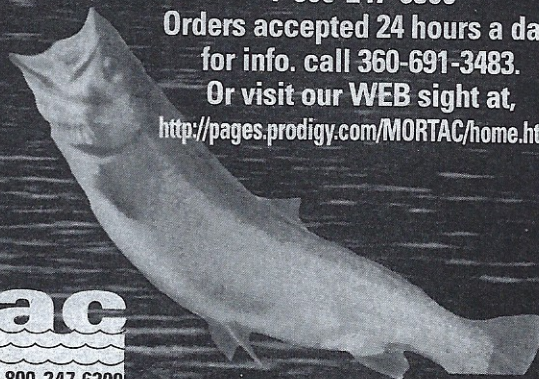
Mor-Tac is here to replace the void that Pen Tac™ left. We offer superior lure components equal to and improved from what has been previously offered. With our components you can make lures for under a dollar. Brand names could cost you up to twice as much. We do not use nickel or chrome in our process. Our lure finishes including genuine silver, and 24K gold plating, polished and unfinished brass, and black oxide. Also NEW hammered texture on spoons and French blades. These components are absolutely the best. We guarantee them, details in our catalog.

**Mor-Tac**

P.O. Box 479 Granite Falls, WA 98252 1-800-247-6300

Call for our catalog today.  
1-800-247-6300

Orders accepted 24 hours a day.  
for info. call 360-691-3483.  
Or visit our WEB sight at,  
<http://pages.prodigy.com/MORTAC/home.html>





# FREE!

Shipping w/First Order

Sample Product Lines:  
 Fly Tying Vices - \$9.99 to \$299.99  
 Imitation Spawn (all colors, shapes and sizes) - \$0.69 to \$2.99  
 Spinners (Arctic, Mepps, Panther-Martin, Rooster Tail, Blue Fox, Squid, Betsie River Special) - \$1.39 to \$3.99  
 Ande Premium Line,  
 1/8 lb. Spools - \$5.19 to \$6.29  
 2 lb. Radiant Bait Cure - \$5.99  
 1 lb. Bulk Split Shot, round and removable - \$2.89 to \$3.99  
 Yarn Flies - \$0.39  
 Aquaseal - \$4.59  
 Egg & Fly Hooks (Gamakatsu, Owner, Tiemco, Daiichi, Partridge, Dai-riki, Fang, Mustad, Eagle Claw)



The Backcast Fly Shop  
 1675 US 31  
 PO Box 377  
 Benzonia, MI 49616



For More Information  
 or to place an order  
 call toll-free 1-800-717-5222  
 Ask for our free brochure.



## Castaway

### FRESH WATER GUIDE SERVICE

Driftboat for Fall Chinook, Coho and Winter Steelhead on Vancouver Island's #1 river system, the Stamp and Somass Rivers

#### Fall Chinook—Coho

Starting August 20 — October 30

#### Winter Steelhead

Starting December 1 — April 15

### NOW BOOKING SALTWATER CHARTERS

Trips available to West Coast Streams for Prime Wild Steelhead

Lake fish for Rainbows, Cutthroat & Brown Trout

River sightseeing

Jess Cowan

Port Alberni, B.C.

Phone: (604) 723-0620

Contact our Web Address: <http://port.island.net/~castaway/>

• Licensed and Insured •

**BOOK NOW FOR BEST TIMES!!**

pounds. In addition, much larger specimens were consistently observed. Beckering feels that a catch rate of one fish every four to five hours would be considered very good. "Even armed with a tactical arsenal, these 'college graduates' are capable of outwitting even the most sophisticated efforts."

Although trout densities remain stable, Beckering confides that "a non-consumptive mentality goes a long way toward helping to protect potentially fragile populations!"

Descending the dusty trail toward our car, Jason and I appeared to be on the edge-line of varying scenic dimensions. Broad slithers of afternoon sunlight filtered through an opaque sky as a thunderstorm loomed above us. To our left, vistas of forested backcountry, expansive Leavitt Meadows and the raging West Walker, while our right revealed a blue-gray carpet of exposed, high sage desert, an arid contrast in landscapes. However, despite this national forest's apparent harshness, we were fully convinced that the quintet of stillwater fisheries we had just visited offer some of the most challenging yet rewarding trout fishing found anywhere in the state. For adventuresome anglers willing to either strap on a day pack and hike a short distance or shoulder a backpack with sleeping bag for an extended visit, Toiyabe's trophy brook, cutthroat and Kamloops can provide the penultimate, backcountry rendezvous!

## Backcountry Options

### West Walker Backcountry

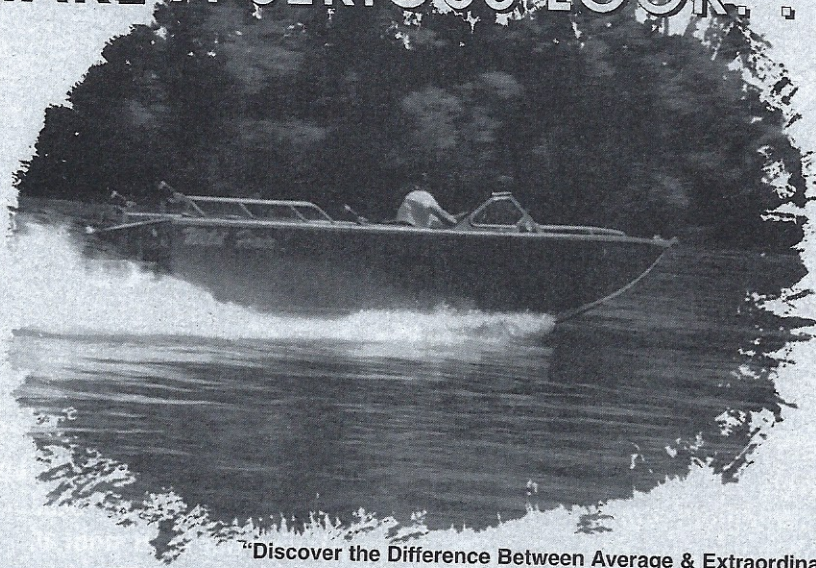
The lower West Walker trail is actually a loop trail to include Poore, Lane, Secret and Roosevelt and can easily be completed in a day's time with minimal fishing time at each site. However, the pathway continues climbing, eventually leading to the river's headwaters approximately eight miles distant. Though considered an easy to moderate climb, it does take time. In a normal summer, we would have continued up the trail to bypass Fremont, Chain of Lakes and the Long lakes to meet the Pacific Crest Trail along the West Fork or, as an alternate route, we could have followed the main river bank and skirt Cascade Creek which eventually intersects the PCT in the vicinity of a series of "Ladies Names" lakes to include Bonnie, Stella, Harriet, Cora, Ruth and Helen. Just over Dorothy Lake Pass sits its namesake lake (which is reputed to hold golden trout) as well as Yosemite National Park.

Yet another travel possibility is to head toward Upper Piate Meadows and ascend to Tower Lake and Creek. Goldens are found here and in Mary Lake, just over the unmarked "way" between Saurian Crest and Tower Peak. Also containing

(Continued on page 70)

Before You Settle For Anything Else—

# TAKE A SERIOUS LOOK.



"Discover the Difference Between Average & Extraordinary"



The One Name That Has  
 Built An Unparalleled  
 Reputation.

DEALERS  
 The Guide Shop • Tillamook, OR  
 Bill's Custom Rods • Kennewick, WA

## 1-800-939-WILD



### Custom Built Aluminum Boats

18230 SW Pacific Hwy., Tualatin, OR 97062  
 (503) 691-0495

# GRANDE RONDE STEELHEAD



*When you're serious about Fly Fishing Steelhead!*

**NOW BOOKING:  
September and October Trips,  
Grande Ronde River**

## DENNIS DICKSON, FLY FISHING GUIDE

24122 115th Avenue N.E.; Arlington, WA 98223  
(360) 435-6499

World Wide Web: <http://www.everett.net/users/dickson>

## Toiyabe's Trophy Trout Trapezoid

(Continued from page 64)

*Oncorhynchus aqua-bonita*, Anna Lake sits along a remote ridgeline above Burt Canyon.

### Hoover Wilderness Lakes

Bisecting the northern sector of the Toiyabe National Forest and acting as an eastern boundary to Yosemite National Park in its southern sections, the Hoover Wilderness offers an additional array of backcountry angling options, many of

**WHEN CONFRONTED BY A BEAR, BE ASSERTIVE AND TRY TO SCARE THE BEAR OFF. STAND TALL, WAVE ARMS AND SHOUT. HOWEVER, WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, BE PREPARED TO GIVE UP YOUR FOOD FOR SAFETY'S SAKE.**

which pleasantly fall into the day hike category.

In 1931, chief forester R.Y. Stewart designated 20,540 acres as a primitive area, placing restrictions on activities within to protect its wild character. In 1954, it was expanded to its present size of 47,930 acres and was designated the Hoover Wild Area. With the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act, the Hoover became one of the first wildernesses in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Adjoining the Hoover are 72,000 acres of national forest lands currently being considered for future addition to this wilderness, many of them in the Toiyabe.

Remote interior lakes such as Frog, Bergona, Cascade, Cooney, Gilman, Glacier, Hoover, O'Dell, Steelhead, Shamrock, Summit and West lakes not only sit amid Swiss Alp-like splendor but possess early season angling for rainbows and brook in the 6 to 12 inch range. Meeting with better than average conditions, Green, East, Barney, Crown and Peeler lakes house fair populations of notable brookies (occasionally up to three pounds) and are well worth the effort to reach them.

There are nine popular jumping off points to wilderness points of interest. Most common drive-to trailheads are at the Virginia lakes, Twin Lakes Bridgeport, Lundy Lake and at Saddlebag Lakes near Tioga Pass.

### Bear Facts

The timbered area in and around Yosemite National Park to include the Hoover Wilderness and the Toiyabe National Forest, contain a thriving black bear population. As more and more people

### WADERS NOT NEEDED

Great on Hot Summer Days  
Sit High & Dry  
Warmer in the Winter

### FLIP DOWN SWIVEL SEAT

360 Degree Turn - Fish the river banks without turning the boat

### STORAGE COOLER

Room for a week of camping

### ELECTRIC MOTOR MOUNT

Great on lakes and slow water

### STEELHEADER FOR THE SERIOUS FISHERMAN

Steel Galvanize Whitewater Break Down Frame  
Small enough to store in closet • Transport in Car • or Airplane



Manufacturer always recommends life jacket.

### SKOOKUM PRODUCTS

19304 NE 198th St. Woodinville, WA 98072

206-869-2009 PH/FAX



### 8 FT WHITewater TUBES

Fit in cooler when deflated  
Halkey Robert Valves.

### STANDING PLATFORM

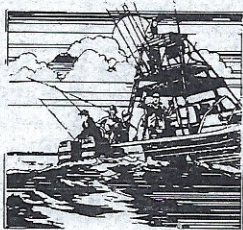
Non-Skid - Supports 500 lbs.  
Removable

### 5/8" & 1/2" OAR LOCK TOWER

Carlisle Oars & Oarlocks

### MADE FOR RIVER FISHING

You will feel safe in this craft tested on Skykomish-Skagit-Stilly-Klamath-Deschutes-Truckee-Yakima



## L&L Tackle & Kasper's Coastal River Adventures

### Rentals

Crabbing Gear  
Surf Rods  
Trout Poles

Fresh Bait!

Free Fishing Information  
Full Service Repairs  
Friendly Personal Service

6334 S. Hwy 101  
Lincoln City OR 97367  
Phone (541) 996 - 6062

Large Selection  
Rods & Reels  
New & Used

- ▶ Open 7 Days A Week At 5:00 am
- ▶ River & Ocean Charters Year Around
- ▶ Lamiglas Rods & Specialized Equipment
- ▶ Featuring Pro Guide Mike Kasper

encroach upon their territory, the chances for meetings increase. California's black bear is indeed an intriguing critter. Perfectly happy to dine on an array of grasses, flowers and other vegetation they also forage on berries, nuts, termites, ants and mice, taking in as many as 3,000 calories a day prior to winter. While most tend to be shy and reclusive, they are also opportunists, taking advantage of what is available. Much to the concern of backcountry travelers, an increasing number of these mammals have adapted their natural foraging habits to linger around frequently used backcountry campsites because of the ease in obtaining human food.

Bears become more aggressive once they recognize the physical frailties of humans and their inability to defend their food. They have a great sense of smell and can identify food by sight. Problem bears are rarely fatal, but they can become dangerous nuisances, destroying or damaging gear in their effort to obtain easy nourishment.

Fortunately there are solutions. Among these are proper food storage. Nothing is bear proof, but people can protect their backcountry larder from a clever Sierra bruin. The easiest method is to hang your food from a tree limb. First, select a tree limb approximately 20 feet off the ground that is small enough to prevent

**FOR ADVENTURESOME ANGLERS WILLING TO EITHER STRAP ON A DAY PACK AND HIKE A SHORT DISTANCE OR SHOULDER A BACKPACK...TOIYABE'S TROPHY BROOK, CUTTHROAT AND KAMLOOPS CAN PROVIDE THE PENULTIMATE, BACK-COUNTRY RENDEZVOUS!**

supporting a bear but sturdy enough to hold your food bags. Balance a pair of food bags. Using a rope, toss one end of the rope over the limb, approximately 10 feet from the trunk, and tie one bag to it. Hoist that bag all the way to the limb then tie the second bag as far up the limb as possible, leaving a loop on the rope. Flip the second bag to a position next to the first, approximately five feet below the limb and 10 to 15 feet off the ground. To retrieve, hook the loop with a long stick and pull. Most of the time, this works to perfection. However, "educated" bears beat the system by climbing the tree and breaking the branch that supports the food bags.

Bear resistant canisters are cylinders made of PVC with a specially designed lid resembling a "child-proof" medicine bottle cap. There are no corners on these contain-

ers and since bears have no opposable thumbs, they often get frustrated and leave. Simply fill the canister with food, close the lid and relax. The only real drawback is their three pound, five ounce weight, but the security they provide is worth a few pounds.

When confronted by a bear, be assertive and try to scare the bear off. Stand tall, wave arms and shout. However, when push comes to shove, be prepared to give up your food for safety's sake.

### Lodging, Meals, Etc.

Campgrounds are plentiful throughout the Bridgeport District. Most are available on a first come served basis. For those desiring a motel, several choices exist:

**Best Western Ruby Inn** (619) 932-7241

**Bridgeport Inn** (619) 932-7380

**Silver Maple** (619) 932-7383

**Walker River Lodge** (619) 932-7021

**Virginia Creek Settlement** (619) 932-7780

**Willow Springs** (619) 932-7725

For those wishing a quick burger or meal for the road, the Jolly Kone (619) 932-7555 or the Burger Barn (619) 932-7775 are hard to beat while the Virginia Creek Settlement and the Sportsmen's Inn (619) 932-7020 are a pair of the best sit down establishments in the area.

For an additional list of services, contact **Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce** at (619) 932-7500.

The following horse packers service much of the Toiyabe and Hoover backcountry:

**Leavitt Meadows Pack Station**  
(619) 495-2257

**Little Antelope Pack Station**  
(619) 495-2443

**Virginia Creek Pack Station**  
(619) 937-0326

For current angling information on Trophy Trapezoid, contact either Brad Beckering; P.O. Box 3461; Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 or Rick Rockel (619) 932-7707.

### Going High Tech—Information by Computer

To get the latest information on the Bridgeport District, call the Toiyabe National Forest Bulletin Board System. While on this BBS, you will be able to check the weather, current campground, road and trail conditions, or download maps and other forest information from the comfort of your home. If you can't find the information, leave a message and it will be answered usually within 24 hours.

To utilize this BBS, you will need a computer with a modem. The number is (619) 932-1234. Set your communications to: Data Bits: 8; Parity: none; Stop Bits: 1; 14,400 bps or slower. If there are questions about the BBS call (619) 932-7070 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. □

## Why Are Sawyer Oars Preferred?

*Tough Light Responsive*

The First Choice of True Professionals World Wide!

**Sawyer**  
PADDLES & OARS

**PROVEN BEST BY PERFORMANCE**  
For Over 25 Years

### LIGHTWEIGHT

- ☆ We make the lightest whitewater-proven drift boat oars available. Some claim to be 40% lighter. *Don't believe it!*
- ☆ 9' Sawyer S/P Oars, 6-7 lbs.; Sawyer Spruce Oars, 5 lbs.

### HYDRODYNAMIC BLADES

- ☆ Thin, Hydrodynamic Contoured Blades
- ☆ Flex, feel and control that others can only try to copy
- ☆ Ash edged w/epoxy metal mesh tip reinforcement
- ☆ Best blade available proven performance

### DURABILITY

- ☆ Solid fir laminate offers proven long term performance and takes incredible abuse year after year
- ☆ No thin wall/egg shell strength as found in many synthetic, fiberglass, aluminum, or graphite-reinforced shafts

### BEST DRIFT BOAT OAR AVAILABLE

- ☆ Unequaled response the feel, flex, and resilience found only in wood
- ☆ Finest air-dried select Douglas Fir
- ☆ Laminated for strength
- ☆ Tapered shafts for better balance, feel, and control
- ☆ Contoured Sawyer grip foam cover available

### GUARANTEED

- ☆ Sawyer's reputation is unsurpassed
- ☆ We stand behind our product
- ☆ Ask the professionals

**Sawyer**  
PADDLES & OARS

299 Rogue River Parkway  
Talent, Oregon 97540

(503) 535-3606

Fax: (503) 535-3621

Call Us For A Dealer Near You!