

North Forty
By: Bob Bryant (coptrainer@tds.net)

If you've seen the Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department or Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Department trucks out and about in the evening you may be wondering what's going on. Well, due to the very high fire danger this summer both departments have begun regular illegal campfire patrols in the North Forty area. Two members of each department partner up and patrol the area for illegal campfires and other fire dangers. Since beginning this patrol several illegal fires have been found and extinguished. The impetus for this patrol was the report of and response to several fires that had flared up after unknown persons made fires in the ballpark area. The fires appeared to have been from the night before and flared up the next day when the wind began to blow. As you may be aware, it was a fire very similar to this that flared up at Lake Tahoe and destroyed numerous homes. We don't want a fire like that here!

I'm not much for interviewing folks. In fact, the subject of this portion of the North Forty doesn't even know I'm writing about him.

Bernie Berkowitz, for the two of you who don't know, owns the Jaktri Market along with his wife Marsha. Having purchased the market from Jerry and Judy Meyer, Bernie began working hard to make the market his own and serve the residents of Trinity Center. Although Bernie relies on the tourist season to make or break the year, he is acutely aware of the importance of the locals and his need and desire to offer his services to them.

However, Bernie's contribution to the community goes way beyond trying to sell his goods to the locals. Bernie quietly contributes to the community in many ways. As a member of the Lions Club, Bernie gives his time by helping out at most Lions functions, the most demanding being twice a week at the Lions Bingo night at KOA. Bernie can be found there setting up, calling numbers and cleaning up afterward. Now, on Friday nights, Bernie is doing karaoke at KOA not only for the campground guests but also for many locals who come to enjoy the music and singing.

Besides his time, Bernie, through the Jaktri Market, donates food and supplies for many of the events that occur during the year. The sad part is that the one of Bernie's true loves is fishing and despite living right on Swift Creek and a stone's throw from Trinity Lake, Bernie seldom gets to go fishing because he's so busy. I had the pleasure of taking Bernie out on my boat a few weeks ago and we spent the evening fishing the lake. It was a fun evening for us both and we even got into a few fish. Thanks Bernie

Speaking of fishing, the bass are still being caught. You have to work a little harder to find them but they are there. I'm finding bass in about 30 feet of water and have had some luck with a black and blue football head jig with a brown or green worm trailer. I'm still getting fish late in the evening on top water poppers. Last week I was fishing near the cliffs across from Trinity Center. I was working the bank with a white buzz bait searching for fish when I saw a fish following the lure. It reminded me of Jaws. This was a BIG largemouth swimming right behind the lure and just below the surface. Just as the lure approached the boat the fish took a quick swipe at it but missed the hook. I stayed there for the next ten minutes trying to entice that fish with a dozen other lures but he wasn't going to have anything to do with me or my lures. Too bad I missed him but good thing he's still there for someone else, or maybe me, to catch.

Dick Eyman reports that someone brought in a big Brown Trout last week. The lucky fisherman was trolling in the river channel at the north end of the lake and caught this trout that Dick described as being at least 24 inches long. Dick couldn't, or wouldn't, tell me what they

used to catch this trout other than “a spinner.” Funny, isn’t it, how we describe bass in pounds and trout in inches. Sorry, just an aside. By the way, another aside, if you see Dick ask him about the black eye he was seen sporting at dinner Monday night. There are several stories he tells about how he received his injury and he tells each story with enough conviction, detail and vagueness that nobody seems to know what the truth really is. Let’s compare notes later.

The Back Country Horseman’s Association is conducting another fish plant this Thursday and Friday. About 50 riders with about 100 horses and mules will be packing approximately 40,000 fingerlings to 16 lakes in the Trinity Wilderness. Brook Trout is the trout of choice for these plants because the Brook Trout reproduce better in the still waters of the Trinity Wilderness. This yearly trek is accomplished by the Shasta-Trinity chapter of the BCHA.

If you have an activity, story or information for the North Forty, you can send it to Betty, Bill, Ann or me at the following e-mail addresses. My address is at the top of this article. Betty can be reached at bettyeyman@tds.net. Ann’s address is flyael@tds.net and Bill’s address is wolfwolf@tds.net.