

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

As I write this column, Ann and I are sitting in our motor home, in my cousin's driveway, in Manchester Iowa. We've covered eight states in the past two weeks and are having a blast seeing the U.S.A. Francie Epperson is taking her Coffee Creek Elementary School class on our trip by following along with our trip Blog. Hi Francie and kids!

I have a fishing report this week, but its not for Trinity Lake. Fishing the Yellowstone River below Yellowstone Lake has been tough. About the only way to get one of the beautiful Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout is to drive slowly along the river, stopping where you can, and looking for a feeding fish. Then you wade into the river and cast to that fish. Being the impatient sort, I just parked, waded into the river, and started casting. No, I didn't catch anything.

Fishing the Madison River, in Yellowstone Park, was a different story. The Brown Trout were rising and taking a white Elk Hair Caddis. Fun fish! Not very big, but plentiful. And, what a beautiful place to wet a line. You do have to be careful though, Bison, Coyote, Black Bear and Grizzly Bear can ruin your day in a hurry here if you're not.

However, Mark (see below) reports he is catching Bass on Trinity Lake using Yamamoto grubs and Yamamoto baby bass senkos. He's fishing in 10 feet of water but is going to be moving to deeper water with jigs to try to get bigger fish. Good luck Mark!

Remember Dick Hamilton's retirement party on September 22. You should have bought your tickets by now. It's my understanding there are people flying in from out of the area to attend this event and it should be a blast. I'm sorry I'm going to miss this. Dick, thank you for your lifetime of commitment to the fire department and the community. Enjoy your retirement.

Last Sunday was a special day at the Coffee Creek Community Church. Milt and Diane McConnell are moving from our area. We're sorry to see them go. There was a celebration of their having been among us and the church membership showed their appreciation for all Milt and Diane did for the church and community. I'm sure there was plenty of laughter, smiles and tears as Milt and Diane prepare to leave us. Grass Valley is getting a couple of very special people.

Word gets around the country pretty fast, even in Iowa. It seems Roger and Sue Chatterton have a visitor who is quite the fisherman. Last Sunday he went out to fish our lake and made an interesting discovery. In a cove just south of the Trinity Center ramp, Sue's Nephew Mark, discovered an eagle floundering in the water. He called Roger and Sue who tried to get help for the eagle. Unfortunately, Fish and Game warden Cindy had been kicked by a horse and the Fish and Game wardens were all busy getting her our of the wilderness. So, Sue and Roger grabbed a dog crate, fire helmets with face shields and blankets and responded to the ramp where they met Mark and the eagle. With the help of Linda Abercrombie and Linda Cunningham the eagle was packaged for transport to the Wildlife Refuge in Lewiston. Hot packs were applied to the cold, lethargic eagle during transport by the two Lindas.

Roger checked on the status of the eagle on Monday and received a positive report on its condition. Good news and good work by all. It's nice to know the CCVFD and TCVFD folks are willing to apply their EMT skills to our glorious wildlife as well as our human residents.

Betty, I hope you're feeling better. Please, BE CAREFUL and don't play with fire.