

## New area allows for 250 bricks

A new area adjacent to the Veterans Memorial at the Veterans Affairs Sonora medical clinic has been opened and VVA-391 is able to receive donations for another 250 memorial bricks.

"Because the demand for these memorial bricks and pavers has been so great, we put our heads together and located a spot between the front door and the Memorial that will hold more bricks. I like to call it the Veterans Memorial Garden," said Frank Smart, chair of the Memorial Committee. The committee has set November 30 as the deadline for the remainder of the bricks.

The VVA-391 began offering the bricks several months ago and as of October 29 they surpassed their goal of 720. Three members of the committee met with the contractor, Mark Patterson of California Gold Development to discuss placing the bricks at the Memorial site when an adjacent areas next to the site was considered. "Originally, we were going to have a walkway with the bricks from the main entrance, but the area was filled in for planters. It is this area that allows for another 250 bricks," said Smart.

The Veterans Memorial honors all veterans from all services and the Merchant Marines from all of the nation's wars. "We have bricks representing veterans from all over the nation including Missouri, New Hampshire, Texas, Pennsylvania, Washington, Wisconsin, and more," Smart added.

A 4x8 brick donation is \$50 and an 8x8 paver is \$100. They also have available for \$10, a Certificate of Honor which carries a replica of the brick.

## Pardee Lake

# Record Smallmouth caught

By Marvin Mitchum

Pardee Lake is located 30 miles southeast of Sacramento - just 15 minutes below the gold country town of Jackson, California. The region is rich in history from the mining days of the Gold Rush.

The state record smallmouth was caught on Pardee on July 3, 2007; weighing in at 9.8 lb, thrashing the previous record of 9.1 lbs set in 1976. On March 4, 2007, an 8.9 lb smallmouth was taken, leaving most people to consider that there are more records to be made.

On March 22, 2007, a largemouth bass was weighed in at 13.4 lbs for a new lake record.

I have been chasing smallmouth bass for years by means of a fly rod. These record fish coming out of Pardee have got me excited! I spent a day exploring and found the Mokelumne River section of the lake a perfect smallmouth habitat. Smallmouth bass have a preference for the rocky humps, shoals and points close to deep water for protection. Set up shallow and work out deeper until you find the fish.

Spring brings lush green color to the rolling hills around the lake. The beauty will dare us to take note of these record fish.

Smallmouth will start to spawn at water temps of 59-65 degrees, and will be most content at water temps of 65-75 degrees.



My choice of rod is a good quality, moderate to fast, seven or eight weight rod. Leaders should be short and heavy to keep them down in the zone.

Smallmouth bass will favor crayfish and minnows. Streamers are a sure thing. Have a decent fly assortment of Woolly Buggers size 6; Hornbergs size 6, and Clouse Minnows 2/0. A Lefty Deceiver 2/0 is another good fly to use. Give it a try and I am sure you won't be disappointed.

If you're like me; for any number of reasons, you will choose to return. Whether you're in pursuit of record smallmouth or an overall sense of adventure; Pardee Lake offers a great angling experience.

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