

Newsletter

April 2009

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Up to date news:

Want the latest and most up to date information? Don't forget the club's web site.
<http://www.ecpowellflyfishers.com/> Just copy the address and insert it into your address block and you're on the way. It's filled with the latest of what's going on and when and where to go along with lots of good and timely information.

Calendar of Events

- Apr 7 Board Meeting, St. James of Jerusalem Church, 556 George Washington Blvd., Yuba City, 7:30 PM
- Apr 11 UCD Yuba River Fish Out
- Apr 14 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
Program: **Ron Speroni**
- Apr 18 Pyramid Lake Fish Out
- Apr 21 Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM
- May 12 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM



President's Corner

Spring has arrived, and with it, the urge to get out and fish. With two fish outs scheduled in April, and three tentative in May, the opportunity is there. Sat. April 11th is the date for the trip to the U.C. Davis property on the Yuba River. Flows as high as 7000 cfs in Feb. have dropped by mid March, and the river is again fishing well. The following Sat., April 18th, is the new date for the Pyramid trip with Brandan Trehal. See Brandan's article on Pyramid below. There is still time to sign up for either trip. Contact Brandan at (775) 852-6951, or me at (530) 639-0739. I must have your name by April 8th so I can get you on the list. The university requires all anglers to have a written pass. If there is a chance that you might go, get your name to me, so I can you a pass. By the way, those who signed up at the meeting don't have to do so again – I've got you covered.

As you know, we have replaced the mailed newsletter with an electronic one. A flyer was created to replace the paper copies that we distributed in various locations as a means of advertising the club. Copies have gone to Johnson's Bait, Longs Drugs, Union Lumber, several local fly shops, Collins Lake and Sportsman's Warehouse. Any ideas on other locations would be helpful.

Don Voight is asking for overdue library books, videos or DVDs to be returned. He is looking into putting the VHS tapes onto discs, and needs an accurate count. He has also had requests for items that have been out for some time. Please bring back anything you have, so others can use them.

I recently came across a website dedicated to tying flies of all kinds. Check it out, if you like, as it is full of information. Hopefully you all have high speed internet, unlike me, and can get the most of it. The website is www.flytingforum.com. Jeff Lingenfelter

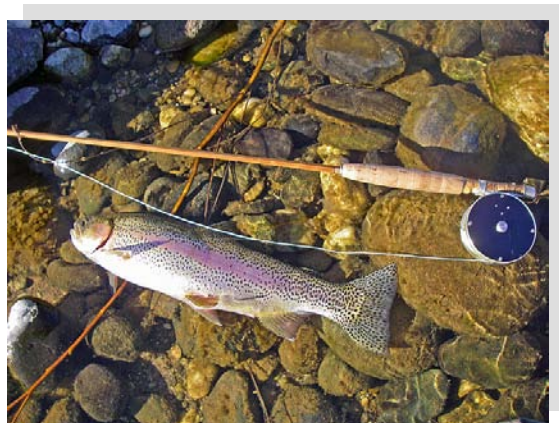
April Program

Ron Speroni grew up in Burney Falls, California, where he and his father fished Hat Creek River. Ron made a career of fly-fishing after realizing the challenge and excitement in putting others into fish. Ron's patient and easy going attitude makes for a fun day of fly-fishing. He guides rivers and streams all over Northern California, and is a native to the Yuba River for Trout and Steelhead, American River for Steelhead and Stripers, Sacramento River, Feather River, and specializes on Hat Creek. His brings to the sport 19-years of guiding experience as well as on-stream clinics and casting instruction. Ron now lives in Rocklin, California, with his son Ryan who he also passed on the family tradition and art of fly-fishing. Ron's program will be on the lower Yuba River.

Yuba Fishing Report

The fish out on the U.C. Davis property affords members an opportunity to fish parts of the Yuba that are otherwise somewhat difficult to access. Decent trails from the parking area and reasonable flows allow anglers to reach spots on both sides of about 1 mile of river. After a desperately needed month of substantial rainfall, which took the river out of play for a while, the flows have receded and the Yuba is beginning to fish well again. While still a little cloudy, visibility is improving and, reports are, that the fish are starting to respond.

Currently, in mid-March, flows are about 800 cfs, which makes for fairly easy wading. Early April should see similar flows and continued clearing of the water. Most people now are fishing two flies under an indicator, with a large pattern for weight and visibility, and a smaller fly dropped about 12" below that. The smaller fly has accounted for most of the action. Good patterns have been San Juan Worms, Girdle Bugs and other large dark stones in sizes 6 and 8 for the trailer. Other good flies include





Black A.P.s, size 12 or 14, Fox Poopahs in green or brown, size 12-16, and golden stone nymphs in size 8-16. Use beadheads when tying your nymphs for additional weight and flash.

Hatch activity has been sparse, but should improve as March gives way to April. The PMD hatch should be well underway by the time of the fish out and there may some March Browns remaining. Yellow Sally stoneflies make their appearance around this time of year and their imitations deserve a spot in your box. Tail outs, which are providing good indicator action in March, should also be productive for dry and emerger patterns in April. Parachute and thorax style dries are effective for me, sometimes

trailing an emerger or small unweighted nymph. I like Andy Burk's HBI in size 16 as a dropper in this setup.

Don Voight has volunteered to cook for us. He will have Polish dogs and fixings and the rest of us need to bring chips or a salad of some sort to share. Also bring your own drinks and water, as it can get warm even in early April. Make sure to let me know if you are coming so I can get you a pass. Jeff

2009 Proposed Fish Outs

Date	Location	Fishmeister	Phone
April 11	UCD – Yuba River	Jeff Lingenfelter	639-0739
April 18	Pyramid Lake	Brandan Trehal	775-852-6951
May	Fuller Lake	John O'Shea	673-4014
May	Green River, Utah	Pete Gilb	671-3982
May	Local Shad	??	
June 6	North Fork Yuba	Jeff Lingenfelter	639-0739
June	Caribou	??	
June 17-21	Hereford Ranch	Ed Weatherly	755-0864
July 6-12	Upper Klamath Lake	Larry Ingram	673-4965
August			
September	Klamath/Trinity Rivers	Bob Long	916-362-5593
Oct 25-Nov 1	Eagle Lake	Bob Harik	671-7805
Nov	Delta Stripers	??	
Nov 29-Dec 5	Trinity River Steelhead	Larry Ingram	673-4965

Bob Harik has made most of the reservations and arrangements for the Eagle Lake fish out in October. He asks if there is anyone planning to go who would be able to be the fishmeister as he may not be able to attend. Please let him know if you can help.

Club Pictures

The Board of Directors and the Club Officers decided to do without a speaker at the November 13th Banquet. Instead, they decided to have more of a social evening and to have photos of all of us in various fishing situations. So.....start taking pictures. Whether they are of someone holding a fish, someone fishing or just nice scenery, take the shot. Then, afterwards, send them to Bob Long (randslong@comcast.net) and me (flyfisher16@comcast.net) and we'll see to it that your pictures (at least some of them) will make it into the newsletter and onto the screen at the banquet.

I have included some Do's and Don'ts to keep in mind when taking pictures. Thanks.

Larry Ingram, Banquet Honcho

Photo Ideas

Recently I have been asked to take care of some photos and get them onto the club's website. As I sample many of these I find that there are many common mistakes that distract from the fish and the photo as a whole. So, I thought I'd mention a few things that will help in taking quality photos for you and the club.

Do:

Face into the Sun
Remove your Sun glasses
Tip your hat back so that we can see your smiling face
Try to get a fly rod or reel into the photo
Try to hold the fish across the photo, not at an angle
Try to keep the fish straight, not with a bend in it. If it wiggles, try it again

Do Not:

Extend your fish towards the camera to make it look larger
Have the Sun at your back
Hook flies into your cork handle-it may look good but it ruins the handle
Take a photo of a fish with blood running down its side

Remember; you are preserving a fish that just might turn out to be the biggest fish you will ever catch. Make the most of it and follow these few reminders. Larry

Baum Lake Fish Out



January 29th, three club members met at Perko's Cafe at 6:30 AM to go fishing on Baum Lake. They were Pete Gilb the Fishmeister, Denis and John Davis.

It was a clear cool morning that made for a nice drive. After a stop for breakfast in Red Bluff it was off to Burney CA. and check in at the Green Gables motel. Then it was off to the lake with much anticipation.

When we arrived at the lake, the parking lot was full and so was the lake. After we were fishing for a short time we met up with Bob Harik and Clyde Wyatt. They had been fishing on the Trinity and drove over to join

us. Thursday was real slow do to the fact most of the good fishing areas were occupied with other fishermen.

Friday was much better. John and I arrived early to get a good location. It was cold and the fog was on the surface of the water. In a short time my pontoon turned white with frost and the eyes of my rod froze shut. Soon, however, the sun began to warm us and we were fishing once again. We were using 5 and 6x leaders which were 9-feet long. I had been using gray bead head Midge size 20 that I purchased at the fly shop in Burney with good results. I also used red, green and Copper Johns size 16 with fair results. Bob Harik had luck with a gray and black Midge.



Most all fish I saw caught were on small size 16 to 22 gray or dark flies .I hooked into a large fish using a green copper John that straightened out my hook. A short time later a very large trout swam by Clyde and me. Was that the bad boy that straightened out my hook? Not everyone caught fish on this trip but we sure had a good time. Thanks Pete for setting this trip up. Denis Davis

Home Waters

Living in the desert—by definition—immediately limits the amount of water available to a fisherman, but we make the most of what we have. After a couple of decades fishing the Truckee River as many as 150 days in a year, I thought I knew what there was to be known about its bugs, its fish, even a little bit about me. Sliding in to the water with a pre-rigged rod and catching fish left me with a feeling of smug complacency, and more significantly, a sense of comfort with where I was and what I was doing. I dared even consider myself a good fisherman on my home water.

There was a time when the Truckee was named the Salmon Trout River due to the size of the spawning cutts from Pyramid Lake. Those fish are long extinct, killed by a dam and replaced by introduced species carried by rail men or on the backs of burros. These populations have been bolstered by continuous replenishment stocking by various agents and have created a fishery where one could count on finding fish throughout the year. Occasionally a snapshot would appear in a local paper, or on the wall of a sporting retailer, of a football-shaped rainbow or brown weighing in the double digits, slumped between the outstretched hands of a proud angler. Most were on their way home as a trophy. Some still sported a nightcrawler or spinner dangling from their jaw. These fish were an oddity. Not something one could count on catching even once in a lifetime, particularly not with feather or fly. In college, I dabbled in trying to target these larger fish. We would venture out after dark to a spot fished regularly enough by day to provide comfort even when lit only by a half-moon and toss deer hair mice into the oil slick swirls behind boulders that led to a flat, black runout pool under a bridge. I only got one take and the explosion of sound and water in that half-second filled me with a rush that was equal parts adrenaline and fear. As the shakes set in, the night seemed darker, the air was colder, and we called it a night. I never saw that fish, but I began to see my home water in a new way.



Somehow between wavering stages of fishing ‘intent’ (to catch lots of fish, to catch big fish, and finally to catch lots of big fish), I settled into a routine that involved travel for the latter and ignored the idea of landing anything larger than I could comfortably palm or retrieve entirely off of the reel at home. Then during a slow day working at the Reno Fly Shop, I wandered in to stare at the pictures of giants that adorn the doors of any establishment where anglers are apt to spend more time talking about fishing than actually doing it. In those photos were a good number of heavy trout bearing the grotesque misshaping that occurs when fish challenge the norms of proportion

assigned by anglers accustomed only to holding juveniles at most a pound or two. There were rainbows with sagging white stomachs and browns with gnarled, kipped mandibles, broad, notched beaks, and yawning pectoral fins better suited for flight than swimming. Somewhere in my awe, I noticed that many of the pictures were not yet yellowed by the fluorescent lights. More intriguing still, they were taken on the Truckee River. And these fish were being held by one person.

My first actual meeting with Arlo Townsend occurred shortly thereafter. I would be lying if I described it as a chance encounter (his schedule was posted there in the trophy hall). He was polite and unassuming; not at all the boastful or swaggering giant that existed in my mind. Many months would



pass before we actually spent a day together on the water. Arlo has a simple philosophy with regard to catching big trout: You have to fish for them. As fly fishermen, we tend to focus intently on what is happening right now. We match the hatch with cool efficiency, drifting perfect imitations, even planning our days on the water to correspond with what is coming off at a given time. How many five-pound fish do you suppose are caught on #22 midges? Sure, it happens. But how many have YOU caught? There are countless proud photos gracing the covers and pages of periodicals dedicated to convincing anglers that with the latest in lines,

rods, or flies they too can conjure these elusive prizes on every cast, or at least every other. Arlo reminded me that big fish eat big things, and the first fly he showed me convinced me that I was definitely playing the wrong game.

My typical Truckee box is loaded top to bottom with standard dry- and nymphing- fare designed to imitate every life stage of every caddis, stone, and mayfly, along with a variety of terrestrials known to our river. But only a handful of these flies have ever collected the surprise 'big' grab. Arlo presented me instead with a concoction that looked for all the world like fewer parts of the chicken had NOT been used than had, and pieces of several of its barnyard contemporaries had been added on just for effect. I was certain that it had been designed more with surrender in mind than feeding. What I failed to mention was that as I arrived, Arlo was releasing a 20-inch brown, his second of the day. Twenty-inch are just an appetizer, as he has claimed numerous fish measured in pounds not inches, and he catches more of these fish than any other ten fisherman I know.

So what is the secret? I would not pretend to claim that I have all of the answers, and I am actively trying to avoid ringing the same dinner bell as those glossy periodicals. I offer the following as keys to increasing your odds of taking large fish.

Big fish eat big things. This year, I have focused solely on fishing large streamers and buggers on the Truckee, and have been rewarded with an average fish of nearly 18 inches. And those are tape measure inches, not *wow-what-a-monster-I'll-bet-he-goes-18* inches. Fish grow by taking in more energy they expend, and big fish have mastered this process. A large, predatory brown might occasionally participate in the hatch, but my experience has shown me that they are just feeding as a matter of habit; an aperitif before hunting and stalking substantial prey at night (see below). Crawfish, sculpins, even mice and voles comprise the vast majority of their caloric intake, and never underestimate how big a food item can be. I once took a 21" cutthroat at Pyramid Lake that had a nine-inch fish in its gullet. There is more energy in a grasshopper than in a callibaetis. By extension, there is even more in a crawfish or mouse. I once read that 10% of a steelhead's diet consists of birds!



Big fish are nocturnal or cuspidal. Fish feel safer in low light conditions. Most of us already know that browns—especially BIG browns—hunt at night. Why would we regularly expect to catch them at midday? Tailor your fishing habits to those of your quarry. Fish will venture out from secretive locations at night and may remain there until the sky is light enough for predators such as bear, birds, and humans to be active. Fishing at night (where legal) can pay big rewards, but it takes some getting used to. Make no mistake: Casting a heavy fly on a short leader in the darkness is tough under ideal conditions. Wading over rough cobble is downright dangerous. Familiarize yourself with the places you want to fish by day. Learn the currents and know where a cast will go once it touches the water. Fish are well adapted to stalking and tackling prey at night. Have you ever wondered how rises continue during a caddis hatch well after you are able to see your fly on the water? Hold a fly above your head the next evening you are on the water later than seems reasonable. Notice how the river is a swirl of darkness, yet the rod, fly, even your tippet can be seen against the darkening sky. Silhouettes are important to night fishing, and should be a primary factor guiding your fly selection. Big and black are good general rules. The byproduct of this is that large flies push a great deal of water, further stimulating fish through their lateral lines. Night fishing will similarly require you to heighten and rely upon your other senses. Bring a headlamp, wading staff, and extra leader. You will likely lose a lot of gear. If local laws (or common sense) prevent you from fishing at night, try to focus on the last hour before sunrise or after sunset. These can be magic times on the water, and chances are, there will not be another angler on the water (we nut jobs prefer to keep to ourselves). Or, take a quick trip over the hill. Nevada's waters, like our casinos, are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



An aggressively stripped fly will result in aggressive strikes. The last time I fished with Arlo, I spotted for him from a bridge as he stripped a large, black, bunny streamer over a rainbow of immense size (5-7 pounds, by pure estimate). The fly streaked across the river in heaving jerks, three to four feet at a time. He answered that even in waters hovering just above 40 degrees; you cannot out-strip a big fish on the take. Lefty Kreh has illustrated in a number of articles that even lethargic, suspended fish can be induced into biting out of territorialism. I am still cautious in my deliveries, opting not to plunk a heavy streamer too near my target, but even that approach has been

lauded as successful in the drawing the attention of watchful hunters.

Big trout live in the best water. Trout are the apex predator in most ecosystems where they live. They lead an existence at the top of the aquatic food chain. They will seek deep water, or water that has ready access to troughs or sheltered depressions, venturing into shallows to hunt or even sun themselves when temperatures are low. But fish are still prey to many land animals. Even fish of appalling size have learned responses from their early stages of life spent as vulnerable, flighty critters, and retain the instinct to flee. Look for cut banks, logs, or even depressions of just a few inches from the surrounding areas. These will be the preferred haunts for fish, and the biggest fish take the best spots. Spend your time covering these areas. Fish may move many miles in a day, or they may habitually occupy a favored spot. The bottom line is fish the fishiest spots, and fish them thoroughly. Avoid becoming bogged down. Most large fish that I have caught have struck in the first two or three casts.

Spend time on the water. This almost seems too obvious to be worthy of mention, but all too often I hear people talking about fishing instead of doing it. The biggest offenders talk 5:1 over casting. Needless to say, these guys don't catch as many fish as those who can reverse this ratio. My grandfather once told me that the only fly he could guarantee would never catch a fish was the one that never hit the water. Put in your hours. Even a poor fisherman will eventually put the odds in his favor simply by fishing. Reading all of the literature in the world will not make you a better fisherman until you put it into practice. Practice only happens on the water. Never once has a fish come to a fly shop asking to be caught.

Hire a guide. Few of us can hope to master any body of water, and only the luckiest among us will spend the time water that a professional guide will. For years I resisted hiring a guide. I loathed the very idea of ‘paying to fish’. What I realize now is that I am paying for coaching and knowledge. For my money, there is no finer source of either of these on the Truckee River—especially with regard to putting us mere mortals on big fish—than Arlo Townsend. Arlo has since left the Reno Fly Shop and struck out on his own. In all fairness of disclosure, he is a friend of mine, but don’t take my word for it. Check out his website, www.arloflyfishingservices.com. Take the time to ogle the giant fish of the Truckee and some of our other fisheries. His rates are posted there, and you can book a trip by clicking the email link at the bottom of the page. Arlo is a licensed guide in Nevada and California, and don’t be surprised to see that a number of the photos on his site were taken at night.

Equipment: While every river is different, the equipment used to chase down ‘biggens’ is surprisingly similar. Use a big rod. A stout 6-7 weight rod is essential, not only for playing big fish, but heaving big flies. An angler should carry a selection of large weighted- and unweighted- buggers in blacks, browns, oranges and olives. I also am a big fan of sculpin imitations. These should be broad, heavy, and tied as large as #2. Standard streamers are fine, but I like a mix of rabbit strips and lots of marabou. These both push water and provide a tantalizing wiggle. A trophy box would not be complete without a handful of crawfish and a mouse or two. Arlo typically uses a floating line with a long leader (to allow him to switch quickly between swinging and nymphing), but I use shooting heads or sink tip lines to get deep and a short, stout tippet. I find that my rigs have a four- to five- foot section of 2X (approximately 10-pound), followed by a one- to two- foot tippet of 3X (approximately 8-pound). I have found a marked increase in the number of takes I get when I attach the fly using a non-slip mono loop knot. The added movement of the fly has proven to be a deal maker. Check your leader frequently. Murphy’s Law guarantees that a tippet abraded by hang-ups in trees (I tend not to venture out as far from shore at night) and rocks as flies swing near the bottom will result in a hookup with a beast that you will never land. Cast flies directly across current, or quartering downstream. Strip retrieve and try to present the fly in broadside profile to the trout. Don’t worry about a belly in your line. Grabs are aggressive, and there will be absolutely no doubt in your mind when to set your hook. These are not the gentle sips of a fish rising to emergers. Fish almost always set themselves, but if you miss, don’t despair. I have been able to hook excited fish on a follow-up cast.



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Brandan

Spey Class

As I read all of the many Fly Fishing magazines that I come across, I find that Spey Casting and fishing is the biggest new thing to come to fly fishing in years. True, its been around for many years but has really only become well known in the past ten or so years. I see folks with these two handed rods catching fish from 20+ pound Steelhead in British Columbia to Shad in our local rivers. I recall going to the fly shop in Seattle where we purchased Sage blanks some 18 years ago. Wielding a rod that was 15 feet in length seemed far more than I could handle and so wrote it off to a sport that I didn’t need to try.

Well things change and so I recently decided that a Spey rod just might be what I needed to reach that spot on the other side of the river that my single handed rod just wouldn’t. So, I started talking to those that possessed that mystical long fly rod. I even went as far as asking to cast one of those things. It was a bit intimidating swinging a rod that regularly exceeded 12 or 13 feet. But, I found that with a bit of instruction, I could cast the thing pretty far (a good instructor is always helpful).

As part of our continuing education program, we have acquired Jeff Putnam, an accomplished Spey instructor, to present a program on the same at our May meeting. In addition to the meeting, Jeff has agreed to put on a half-day clinic on the water for all that are interested. Jeff did this before for our

club and it was a huge success. The date has yet to be set but will be done if enough are interested in attending the class. Jeff normally has equipment for those of us that do not have Spey equipment to use.

If you are interested, let Larry Ingram 673-4965 or flyfisher16@comcast.net know. The cost will be \$50 for the half day.

Fishing Pyramid Lake

I am often reminded just how spoiled those of us who regularly fish Pyramid Lake can be. A five-pound trout to nearly any angler on the planet is the trophy of a lifetime. Here, however, the fish is quickly unhooked and released in hopes of landing a BIG one. This is no fish tale.

Following the late Pleistocene, a great lake covered nearly 9,000 square miles of the Western United States, spanning from the Sierras in the West to the Wasatch peaks in the East, and from Southern Oregon south nearly to modern-day Tonopah, Nevada. In this rich aquatic environment, unique strains of fish evolved including trout of massive proportions. Today, only two bodies remain; Pyramid and Walker lakes.

Made salty by the concentration of alkaloids distributed throughout the evaporating ancient lake, both of these lakes offer two of the few remaining populations of *Salmo clarki henshawi*, or Lahontan Cutthroat trout.



As spring approaches and the days lengthen, the water warms and trout begin to form spawning schools. Announced first by the arrival of solitary males, groups of fish emerge from the deep steps of the lake to encroach on the shallow waters to feed and await hens. These groups range in size from a dozen or more fish to many hundreds or even thousands. And while it is true that the lake is full of fish, a well-informed angler knows that there are three or four major areas where the fish can be consistently found and caught.

For those who have never fished Pyramid Lake, a bit of a history and geology is a crucial starting point. The lake itself is roughly 33 miles long and 18 miles wide. It is a terminal lake, meaning that water flows in from Lake Tahoe via the Truckee River, but it does not flow out, as is typical of most bodies of water. The result of this size and mix of fresh and alkali waters is a unique marine environment typified by dynamic currents (akin to ocean tides), thermal stratification (warm and cold bodies of different densities and salinity of water within the lake itself), and highly variable weather. The lake is over 320 feet deep at its deepest point, and deepens in a series of pronounced drop-offs followed by flat plains that stretch for many hundreds of yards or in some cases, only a few feet. These steps, and the rocky points that dissect them, are the keys to finding fish. Additionally, fresh water seeps into the lake through fissures in the bedrock. These springs also vary in temperature, as is evidenced by the coral-like tufa rock that is visible nearly everywhere. It was deposited over time by hot, mineral-rich springs, and continues to be exposed as the lake recedes. The most famous of these features is the Pyramid, looming nearly 400 feet above the Eastern shore.

One need not be an expert angler to locate or catch large fish in this lake. Last year, creel censuses reported that nearly 7% of the total catch exceeded 27 inches, or 4-5 pounds. The fish grow large on abundant forage species such as the tui chub—a common fixture in this and other Great Basin lakes—damsel, and dragonfly nymphs, and midges that can be found in areas where fluctuating surface levels have submerged sandy flats interspersed with brush. Imitating the rough size, shape, or activity of these critters is the first step toward landing a trophy. It should be noted, however, that

these are not finicky feeders, particularly during the spring. Most anglers use shooting heads on 6-8 weight rods with a 6-8 foot leader, onto which a wooly bugger is tied with a foam-bodied tadpole dropper. While most fish are caught on black buggers with a red tail, this can be attributed to the fact that this is the most common fly fished on the lake. I have found that steelhead flies (or buggers tied in bright steelhead colors) can be just as effective, if not more so. As a result of the step drop-offs, many anglers will fish from ladders, elevating themselves for a longer cast, and removing their bodies from the often frigid water. Fish will often lurk and ambush just beyond the drop-off, sometimes following stripped flies literally to the rod tip before biting. While anglers who can heave a long cast into deep water tend to catch more fish, I offer these words of caution; fish will just as frequently move through the shallow water *behind* these anglers.

(Be sure to fish the drop-offs as indicated by this change in water color.)

As water temperatures climb into the high 40's and low 50's, insect activity increases, and fish will move into correspondingly shallow water. Under these circumstances, an equally effective tactic can be to fish midges or other nymphs under an indicator. *These are not your daddy's midges.* Nevada is blessed with super-sized chironimids that can be imitated on scud hooks as large as size 6. These need not be overly complicated flies. A black or red body ribbed with wire and topped with a bead will suffice. The angler using this method has two distinct advantages that are worth describing. First, I have watched from dunes or bluffs as anglers heaved shooting heads out over passing schools only to watch those schools divide as they are spooked by the movement overhead and the dark shooting head sinking past them. Additionally, winds can play havoc with fly fishers. With the indicator method, casting is minimized and allows the fly to be presented and waiting for cruising fish. A WF line with 8-10 feet of leader is usually sufficient. I like a two-fly rig.



I have been fishing Pyramid Lake for years, but have only recently begun to catch fish reliably. Whereas I used to be good for two fish every time (regardless of whether the people around me caught 20...or none), I have been averaging 20-30 fish per outing, and at least one fish over five pounds. In the spring of 2004, the recent lake record was caught by a fly fisherman from shore. The fish reportedly weighed nearly 25 pounds and was released. While that number may be shocking, the world record was caught in this lake in 1925, and weighed a whopping 41 pounds.



The lake exists entirely on tribal land, so a Nevada fishing license is not required; however, all anglers must have a valid fishing permit issued by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT). They are \$10/day (seasonal permits may be purchased, but the PLPT has not updated the fees on their website. They have increased significantly over the last few years. The last seasonal permit I purchased was \$75). Additionally, the PLPT has changed many of its fishing regulations to include the slot limit (two fish may be kept from 17-20" nose to tail fork length, or over 24". Only one fish may be kept over 24") for those who wish to take fish. Also, fishing is closed from Sutcliffe to the nets area from March 15-May 16. Only barbless hooks may be used, and it is illegal to fish within 500 feet of a boat dock (this includes the famous

rocks at Pelican Point). Please review all regulations at the following link; http://www.plpt.nsn.us/rangers/htmls/hunt_fish.html. Limited facilities are available on the

reservation, but warm food and drinks are near-at-hand (depending on where one chooses to fish) at either Sutcliffe or Nixon. A map of the lake can be found at the following link; <http://www.plpt.nsn.us/rangers/htmls/pyrlake2.html>.

What to Bring

The weather at Pyramid is highly unpredictable. Pleasant, sunny mornings can give way to blistering wind and horizontal snow with white-cap waves over four feet, or vice-versa. Come prepared with hat, gloves, warm waders (7mm neoprene or breathables with heavy fleece undergarments), glasses and sunblock. There are no trees at the lake, so relief from the wind is found by relocating to a cove or area where it blows from your back. I compensate for this by casting heavy rods (typically a 7wt). Bring a floating line and a shooting head. Fish are not typically leader-shy, and I typically terminate at 6-8 lb. Wooly buggers in a variety of colors, some flashy, some plain, are a must. Tadpoles are easy to tie, or can be purchased from the Reno Fly Shop or either of the two stores located on Tribal land. I also always carry several sizes of black or red BH midges (#12-6)(such as the following pattern), and indicators.



Hook: TMC 2499SPBL #10 or 12 (or any curved scud hook in #18-6)

Bead: 2.3mm Tungsten (or as appropriate)

Thread: 6/0 or 8/0 Black

Body: Black Holographic Tinsel (any color can be used)

Rib: Small red and copper wire (again, any color can be used)



1. Slide bead onto hook.
 2. Back-wrap thread to lock bead on shank.
 3. Tie on two strands of copper wire and wind thread well into bend of hook.
 4. Attach tinsel by its tip and wrap thread forward to bead.
 5. Wrap tinsel forward covering body. Tie off at bead and clip excess.
 6. Rib body with both strands of wire simultaneously.
 7. Tie off wire and break excess at thread wraps.
 8. Build a reverse-tapering head to secure loose ends and reinforce behind bead.
 9. Whip finish and cement.
 10. (Optional, but recommended) Coat fly with Softex or other material. Allow to dry and repeat.
- Cutthroat are VERY toothy critters, and this will allow more than one fish to be caught on the fly before it is completely destroyed!

The Fish Out

I would propose that club members wishing to take part in the April fish out meet at Crosby's Lodge in Sutcliffe at 7:00 am on Saturday, April 18th for permits. We can determine a good course of action for the day and get the early risers started. I will return to Crosby's to meet any stragglers at 9:00 am. Crosby's has rooms available and contact information can be found at the following link: <http://www.crosbylodge.com/>. Reasonable rooms can also be reserved at any of the area casinos. Pyramid Lake is approximately 45 miles North of Reno, so plan your drive accordingly. The lake is primitive in most regards. 4WD is not an absolute must, but I recommend it if it is available, as roads are rough and most beaches deep and sandy.

Driving Directions

From Yuba City, take I-80 East to Reno. Turn left at exit 18 (NV-445/Pyramid Hwy) and head North approximately 33 miles. Turn right onto Sutcliffe Drive, and follow the road as it curves left for about

0.5 miles. Crosby's is on the left, and is the only (open) commercial establishment on the road. Trust me; you cannot miss it.

Final Notes

The Reno Fly Shop does an excellent job of keeping anglers updated with current fishing conditions and information about the lake. Call them at (775) 825-3474, or visit their website at <http://www.renoflyshop.com/fishingreport.html>. Also, while there have been many excellent articles written about fishing Pyramid Lake, but one of the best was written for the Fish Sniffer by Dr. Lee A. Weber of the Biology Department at UNR. It can be read here: <http://www.fishsniffer.com/guest/041104pyramidtechnique.html>. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly at (775) 852-6951. I hope to see you soon. Brandan

From the Fly Fishing Specialties Pyramid Lake Web Report 01/09/09: *"Olive martini's and Bloody Mary's are great flies to try and in a glass can make the slower fishing seem not so bad."* Always sounds advice!

Trinity River Steelhead Update

Several (5 and 6) of us went back to the Trinity during a couple of different weeks in the month of January. We kept hearing of recent rains and how the fish should be moving up river.

Well, although we tried our best, the end results were usually the same: very few fish. The days that we experienced last year were not to be seen this year. One has to remember that last year was a 1 in 50 year event and the normal year (1 to 2 fish days) has returned. The river continues to support fish, albeit

few and in gin clear water. Add to that the fact that last year's remembrance has hoards of fishermen throwing every fly ever tied at the remaining fish. And then we add the water temperature (41 degrees) to the equation and unless you happen to hit the fish in the nose, the catching rates went way down. One of the crew (Mike McFarlane) asked when we might go on a "catching" trip rather than a fishing trip. Point well taken!



I don't want to put the whammy on the Trinity as there are lots of fish, larger than we often encounter but one simply needs to put in the time and you'll be rewarded. With recent rains the water temps will and volume will raise, water color will change and this should provoke more fish to get hungry and start hitting more flies. Go for it and let me know how you do. Larry Ingram

Something to Look Forward To

A few days ago a friend, who is a retired California Game Warden, and I discussed the new restrictions of the planting of rainbow trout in some California waters. He has learned that it was not Cal Trout that initiated the suite but a conservation group out of Oregon. Cal Trout jumped on the wagon to give the initiative support. He feels there is a good possibility this could have a far reaching effect. He feels it is more about introduced species than it is about the Yellow and Red-legged frogs in California or the problems associated with putting hatchery trout in waters that have pure strains of native trout. There is thinking in some circles that introducing a non-resident species is wrong whether it competes with a native species or not.

Stop and think about all of the introduced species that we have in California: Stripped Bass, Shad, and Brown Trout to name a few of the fish. In the area of game birds we have Ring Neck Pheasants and Chukars and wild turkeys.

I asked him if he thought if the animal rights groups were behind this effort. He had attempted to learn more about the Oregon group (who's name I have forgotten) and what the objectives of the group are. He could only learn names of its officers and some addresses so he couldn't answer that question.

We know that there are some very powerful Animal Rights Groups that would like to stop all fishing and hunting. There are also some anti-firearm groups that get into the act here and there. They are inclined to sneak through the back door and get legislation passed that restricts the activities of hunters and fishermen. The Mountain Lion issue here in California is a good example. That was an emotional issue and was not based on the science of good game management.

One of his thoughts is that this could lead to closing down Licensed Hunting Clubs where Pheasants, Chukars, and Bob White Quail are released for hunting. All three are introduce species. This could turn out to be nothing more than the rambling thoughts of a fellow who spent nearly thirty years of being a game warden and seeing how California Fish and Game has almost been eliminated as an effective law enforcement agency. He is very leery of the alternative motives of some of the so-called conservation groups.

I have offered almost no facts but it does indicate that we need to watchful of who is proposing what legislation and what the motives of the groups that are active in the background. Ed Hobbs

Video Fishing Knots

My name is Morten and I am an active angler from Denmark. I recently created a website (in English) with video tutorials for tying many different fishing knots.

The site is called videofishingknots.com and the goal is to create a comprehensive collection of video tutorials teaching how to tie fishing knots. I have done 55 instruction videos so far and the collection is still growing. Not too many people know the site since it is quite new. I am hoping to draw some attention to the site by writing to fishing clubs like yours.

I think that most anglers will find the instruction videos helpful and it is a great resource if you want to learn new fishing knots. You can also ad comments to the knots and discuss how and when to use them.

The site is a hobby project and all the videos are completely free. If you like the site I will be very thankful if you will help me spread the word to other anglers.

It will also be a great help if you can post a link to my site on your website. If you do post a link then please use the words "fishing knots" in the link. This will help search engines understand what the website is about. If you have a newsletter you could also consider including a link there.

I hope you like my site: <http://videofishingknots.com>

Tight lines and best regards

Morten Kjems

Beginning Fly Fishing Class

Beginning Fly Fishing Class Ages 10 + with; under 14 to be accompanied by an adult. Future anglers will learn the basic fundamentals of casting, knot tying, functions of the fly rod line and reel and how they differ from spinning equipment. Class will also focus on conservation of all fisheries and good fishing ethics. Classroom instruction with materials included. Two Saturday hands-on field trips included and instructed by certified staff.

April 16 -May 9th Thursday 7-9 P.M.

Saturday May 2nd at Kingwood Park 9:00 A.M. -Noon Casting

Saturday May 9 at Location to be announced 7:00 A.M. till mid afternoon.

Fee \$25.00 (nonresident \$30.00)

Sign up at Yuba City Parks and Recreation office at 1300 Franklin Road, Yuba City. That location is in the South West Cr. of Franklin Road and Hwy. 99, next door to IHOP. For more information call Parks & Recreation Dept. (530) 822-4655 Or Ed Hobbs (530) 673-4374.

The instructors are all volunteers with an interest in furthering the sport of fly fishing.

If club members know of family members or friends that would like to investigate the sport of fly fishing, please suggest that they sign up. This is as economical of a introductory class available anywhere.
Ed Hobbs

Newsletter Contributions

A special thanks this month to first-time contributors to the newsletter, Denis Davis and Brandan Trehal. Its articles and photos like yours that help make our newsletter both interesting and informative and, as a result, we look forward to more from you in the future. Jeff

***** CLUB OFFICERS *****

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