

# Newsletter

August 2011

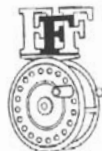
# 318

## 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

- Sep 6 Board Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM
- Sep 13 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
- Sep 20 Fly Tying, Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
- Oct 11 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM



## President's Corner

Well, the waters are finally starting to come down to the point where we are going to have some good fishing on the local rivers and streams. Now I've been told that a person (probably not me) fishing a lake has a better chance of catching a lot of fish than a person (probably me) fishing a stream and this is most likely so but for some unknown reason, I like the moving water. Maybe it has to do with the time when I spent a sub-freezing morning in early spring at Prosser Lake with only a pair of Red Ball Jets and cotton socks on my feet. Standing in one place and being told to stay still was a challenge indeed for an eight year old. It's funny the things we remember from our youth.

I just returned from Hat Creek this afternoon after spending four days getting schooled by the fish and one day of actually catching fish. Even though I didn't catch fish the first three days, it was o.k. because I met a family with a young boy that had been talking about nothing but catching a fish for the last month. His father had taken him around to some of the places where he caught fish when he was a youth but to no avail on this trip so many years later. His father asked me if this was the fly-fishing only section and I immediately assured him that it was but he could see that I couldn't keep a straight face and responded that's o.k. because my ten year old is going to start chucking salmon eggs in that hole anyway and with that we both had a good laugh. I showed the boy where to cast and how much weight to use as well as keeping the slack out of his line while watching his drift. I walked around to the other side of the "Hole" and engaged in the learning process of how fish refused to take anything on the surface possibly due to the two dozen flying predators circling around like vultures. Two hatches were going on at the same time and yet the fish refused to feed on the surface. All I saw was the swirls and when I pulled the fly under in the middle of the drift I would sometimes get a bump. When I dreamed of this time on the water there were fish rising to my dry flies but my bubble soon popped and by the end of the evening I realized that a tapered mono leader and floatant wasn't the hot setup. To make matters worse, the boy across the way took pity on me and offered me some of the fish that he and his mom and dad had caught. They had been up there for three days and now he finally had a smile on his face which erased all my frustration. His dad thanked me over and over and the boy showed me pictures of the fish on his iPod or some kind of electronic device which I know nothing about. Their trip back to Santa Clara that evening would be both long and pleasant.

That night sitting by the campfire with a nice bottle of Merlot and one of Cardenas finest cigars, I came to the realization that a fluorocarbon leader with an emerger pattern should all but guarantee success. I had the tippet material in my bag but the flies required a trip into town to see Vaughn. It all sounded so easy except the fly shop was closed on Mondays. I'll just put some of that stuff in my bag that they call "sink" on that dry fly and that should do the trick. Wrong again. That evening spawned even more frustration without the ten year old to console me. I watched the fish almost at my feet come up and grab the fly only to spit it out immediately. They knew that the imposter looked close but it didn't feel the same in their mouth. Back to the campfire for another cigar and more Merlot! Half a bottle or so convinced me that my previous plan had been sound and that I needed to go back to Vaughn's for the proper fly indeed. Sure enough, with some careful investigation there was the exact emerger pattern in the right color and size, imagine that! Maybe this evening would be different, that there was hope without having to seek the wisdom of Mr. Mondavi. I was in serious trouble because the wife was starting to doubt my abilities as a fisherman which meant that the purchase of that new fly shop 4-wt. and Gary Borger reel was totally unnecessary. NO PRESSURE you understand! The set-up was like I planned in front of the campfire with the stepped down fluorocarbon leader to the emerger pattern cast upstream into the current and allowed to drift in the surface film. Six fish brought to hand on the first six casts brought frowns from the family on the other side of the pool and after about eighteen or so fish I figured I better at least show these people how to drift their salmon eggs with a couple of split-shot. They soon started catching fish and all was forgiven, lucky for me as I don't often catch fish like that unless I have someone next to me like Larry. Now all I have to do is convince my wife how that new fly rod made all the difference in the world. You know it's true, Dear.

On the subject of this fly rod from The Fly Shop, it is affordable even to a working stiff like me. Walt took me out for some Bluegill and we ended up catching almost a dozen Squaw Fish which really put this 4 wt. to the test. I don't think this is what Mike Mercer had in mind for this rod when he endorsed it but it performed flawlessly. The high end fly rods are sweet and I have a couple of them but when there is a budget to deal with you need not suffer as there are a lot of rods in this price range that are better than we might want to admit to. I have fished with Sage, Scott, G. Loomis, T.F.O., The Fly Shop, and even a Diawa and an Okuma. There is a place for all of these rods and usually it's in my right hand. Take the time to go fishing, take a friend and don't forget to share the knowledge. Craig

**Yuba City Parks and Recreation**  
**Introduction to Fly Fishing Scheduled for September 2011**

Hi Fellows, as we approach the last week of July we have finally made some head way with the 2011 Fly Fishing Seminar offered by Yuba City Parks and Recreation. We have a pool of 10 volunteers from E.C. Powell Fly Fishers that we will be utilizing to provide the class room and fly casting instruction. Then concluding with one day on the water and hopefully reeling in some fish. We have a wonderful group of talented guys that will be presenting everything from the basics of fly fishing to some advanced techniques, reading water, fly casting, entomology and knots etc. At the time of this writing the fine details are being worked out. We will be in the middle of prime fishing season in September with members coming and going on fish outs, and other business, so we are working on schedules, the who and what's to be determined. The following flyer has not gone to press and is subject to a few changes, like a contact phone number at Parks and Recreation for more Information. It does however contain the primary information needed for these classes. You're previewing it before anyone outside the club has a chance to. This will be the first time this class will be held at the Aquatic Park off C street adjacent to the fairgrounds in Yuba City. It looks like we will have everything we need from class rooms to a place to practice swing fly lines over water, all in the same place. The classes are open to the gen public with class size set at a minimum of five and maximum of thirty participants at this time. If you have an interest in taking these classes we should have the phone numbers etc. worked out by last week in July and printing new flyers thereafter. Otherwise call or e-mail me for updates. We will also be running Public service advisory's through KUBA radio and the Appeal Democrat. The next Parks and Rec publication won't be out till September 23 so it won't be of any help for information on these classes. My phone- 742 4552 or e-mail [kenpep@cwnet.com](mailto:kenpep@cwnet.com). As always the Board and Officer are available to address any questions or needs regarding this or other business.

Hope your all enjoying the summer and having a great fishing season. Be sure to mark your calendars for September 13<sup>th</sup> 2011 our next EC Powell general meeting, hope to see you all there. Thanks, Ken Mackey

**Dues Reminder for 2011**

In case you forgotten we are still waiting to receive your late 2011 Dues. Send them in today it would be much appreciated. Single \$25.00, Family \$30.00, Student \$10.00

EC Powell Fly Fishers	or	EC Powell Fly Fishers
c/o Ken Mackey		c/o Ken Mackey
Po Box 1135		Po Box 8157
Yuba City CA		Loma Rica CA
95992		95901

**32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Banquet**

This is just a reminder that the banquet is coming up November 12<sup>th</sup> and it's never too soon to start planning for the big night.

As in recent past banquets, we have decided that rather than have a speaker, we will instead use the monies on better raffle prizes. Each year we have had close to 200+ general raffle, silent auction and target raffle items ranging from Sage fly rods to reels to pontoon boats to, you name it. Additionally, we have lots of items for those that do not fish but choose to join us on this special night.

The Banquet Committee will be asking you to help with your donations of flies and other items. Annually we receive offers from manufacturers of fly equipment for discounts of up to 50% off any of their products. This is a great opportunity for you to provide an item that we might otherwise not purchase.

Ticket sales will be from Officers, Board Members and at Johnson's Bait, Tackle and Fly Shop. An "Early Bird" drawing will be held based upon those who purchase their tickets NLT the October general meeting. This helps us in planning the number of meals and offers you a chance at \$40-50 worth of free tickets the night of the dinner.

Thanks,  
Your banquet committee:  
Larry Ingram, Craig Renke, Jeff Lingenfelter, Ken Mackey and Denis Davis

## Fly Fishing Stillwaters

This subject is too vast to cover in one article, so this will be the first of a series of articles.

This article is not meant to be a book review, but there is one book that is so good on the subject, I feel it deserves mentioning. The book is "Lake Fly-Fishing Manifesto," by Mike Croft, published by Frank Amato Publications.

This is how I got started in stillwater fly fishing for Trout. Back around 1985 I decided I wanted to get into fly fishing for trout. My wife and I bought a used 19-foot camp trailer and took 2 weeks vacation, around the first of July. We took the trailer to a P.G.& E campground on Butt Lake. I was undecided as to whether I would fish the lake or the streams, so I took my meager supply of fly-fishing and tying equipment along. The only fly rod I had was a Fenwick, fiberglass, 5-weight, equipped with a floating double tapered line, because someone told me that is what I needed for trout.

Well as luck would have it 'The Shasta Trinity Fly Club' was on one of their week-long fish outs for the first part of our stay.

After seeing about a dozen members from this Club taking huge trout from Butt Lake the decision was easy, it would be stillwater, there was only one problem; I didn't have the knowledge or equipment to catch these Butt Lake trout. There was only one solution; I had to make friends. I explained my predicament to one of their members and was informed that they had members leaving and arriving on almost a daily basis and that if I needed anything it could be brought up from The Fly Shop in Redding; needless to say I took them up on the offer.

After receiving the necessary items, I tied up some Gold Ribbed Hare's Ears, rigged a tapered leader with a 6X Tippet, placed a strike indicator about 8 feet up and proceeded to catch those Butt Lake trout, or more accurately, break them off. I had never fished anything as light as 6X before. I spent the second week learning how to land those big Butt Lake trout. The trip turned out to be a roaring success, thanks to the 'The Shasta Trinity Fly Club, and I have been hooked on stillwater ever since.

This brings up the question, "Why fish stillwater"?

First: The trout are usually much larger as trout in streams burn up a lot of energy fighting currents; in stillwater all those calories can go into growth.

Second: Streams can be blown out by high water in spring and low in fall, stillwater is usually fishable year round.

Third: Larger groups can successfully fish stillwater, on most streams only one or two can fish together.

Fourth: Stillwater is safer and less strenuous; it does not require difficult wading. Also, most stillwater is more easily accessed, not requiring hikes in and out of steep canyons.

Fifth: You don't have to learn all those fancy casts to get that drag free drift. The basic over-hand cast will suffice in most stillwater situations. You Do need to learn how to make a little Longer Cast. Casts in the 40 to 60 foot range may be necessary because you can't get as close to your fish.

Sixth: Streams are getting overcrowded so by fishing stillwaters you can get away from the crowds.

Seventh: In stillwater the fish are generally confined to the body of water, where in streams and rivers fish can migrate for greater distances.

Lets look at some of the disadvantages of fishing stillwater.

First: Lakes are harder to read; in a stream you have a good idea where fish are located and which direction they are facing, but there are things you can look for in stillwater to improve your odds of finding fish. This will be covered in a later article.

Second: Streams usually have noisier broken water that masks your approach and casting errors. In stillwater your approach and casts must be stealthier to avoid spooking your quarry.

Third: In streams you can get closer to the fish, allowing you to make shorter more accurate casts.

Because it was mentioned at the beginning of this article, I will cover one stillwater presentation, the others will be covered in a later article. The presentation is [Fishing under a Strike Indicator](#).

The first thing you need is a floating line, I prefer a weight forward, but a double taper will work just fine. Next comes the leader, I prefer a leader about 12-feet long. I usually buy a 9-foot tapered leader and add a 3-foot tippet section. Back in 1985 when I first started using this system all we had was monofilament tippet material. Sometimes it was necessary to drop down to 6X tippet in order to get the takes, because of its visibility. Since then I have been introduced to fluorocarbon. I have been able to take fish on 3X fluorocarbon under conditions that require 6X mono. This greatly improves your chances of landing a big fish. I don't like a complete leader made of fluorocarbon as it is stiff and hard to straighten. A word of advice here: Don't use a friction-type leader straightener on fluorocarbon; the heat will make it a kinky mess. So here is my Leader formula, tie a monofilament 9-foot tapered leader, tapered to 2 or 3X to your Fly Line, attach 3 feet of 3 or 4X fluorocarbon to this giving you a 12-foot Leader. For attaching the Tippet, I used to use a double surgeons knot, but I have had this knot slip free, I NOW use a triple surgeons knot and so far this knot has held. I usually attach my fly with a non-slip mono loop; this gives the fly more freedom of movement. Now attach your strike indicator up the leader a distance equal to the depth you wish to present your fly. A word of caution here, I have found that with a distance of 8 feet or less between the fly and strike Indicator my hookups are fairly consistent, but going more than 8 feet between fly and Indicator dramatically decreases my hookup to take ratio, I believe the reason for this is that by the time you see and react to the take the fish is already expelling the fly.

Now that we have our system together all that remains is presenting it to the fish. Remember this system is prone to tangles so cast it with an open loop. While on the subject of tangles I will mention a technique I use to make sure my leader has not tangled. I add a little weight to my fly so that it will make a small, visible, blip on the water when it lands. When I cast I can see the strike indicator land on the water and I watch for that small blip of the fly landing beyond the strike indicator. The distance between the first and second blip should be the distance between the fly and strike indicator. If I don't see that second blip it has probably tangled, so retrieve your line and check it. If you continue to cast with a tangle you will end up with a birds-nest you can't get out.

We have our fly in the water, now we have to wait for it to sink to the depth we have selected. I have had takes during the drop but they are rare. When the fly gets to the bottom of its drop you will probably see a slight movement of the strike indicator, this is not a take so try to ignore it, but from now on consider any movement at all a take and instantly set the hook. If you use this system long enough you will develop a sixth sense, I have set and hooked fish and could not tell you afterward what I saw in regard to strike indicator movement.

There is one big drawback to this system, once you have completed your cast you must keep your eye on that strike indicator constantly, I don't know how but the fish know when you look away and that is when it will take. Because of this many people do not like this method and I will get into other methods when we get to the article on presentations. Like this method or not, it is a very simple, effective, way to take trout from stillwater, during my brief career as a Fishing Guide I had people with no fly fishing experience, catching trout within an hour or two using this method, and using only a roll cast. So buy some strike indicators and [Go Catch Fish](#).  
Walt Alexander

## Vacation Trip

Fishing the month of June for has been the best of the year for me. First my brother from Orange Ca. went Montana with me; we fished the Beaver and the Big Hole Rivers with a guide for 5 days. It rained, snowed and we had hail, wind, and about 8 hours of sun.

Fishing for Browns and Rainbows under an indicator on the Beaver using #18 pink or green, what I think were Hairs Ears, I caught my first big Bow (approx. 24", 9 lb's). What a great fish! I also learned what the San Juan Shuffle is – you shuffle your feet in the middle of the stream and kick up eatables the fish like; my guide was ready to ring some necks. Later I learned it's illegal in some states and not ethical to most fishermen. Learn something all the time. After fishing the Beaver for 3 days we headed out to the Big Hole River where again we fished under an indicator and this time using a #10 streamer with a # 12 San Juan Worm as the dropper. The water was so high we had to fish about 10' from the bank to keep out the trees and grass.



We hooked lots of Browns and some Bows, including some double hookups. My brother, Steve, landed the biggest Brown the guide ever had in his boat (26' around and 10/11 lb.s). What a great way to spend time with your brother! A week later I was off to Canada to a place about 150 miles north of Vancouver. The North King Lodge is a floating lodge with docking at the front door. After checking in we are assigned a 18' boat for you and one other person. The boat is equipped with a VHS and GPS, and all the fishing gear. The 3 meals a day were great and the service was excellent. I caught 5 kings, 4 halibut, 4 lings and other bottom fish. I also took home the prize money for the biggest king (Tye). I'll soon be fishing Bridgeport (Twin Lakes), Lake Almanor, the rivers of Yellowstone and the Bitterroot.

I wish you all well and hope to see you on the water soon.

Pete Gilb

P.S. I would like to say Jim Tanner is looking, but that would be a stretch. It's great to see him up and smiling!

### \*\*\*\*\* CLUB OFFICERS \*\*\*\*\*

#### Officers:

President: Craig Renke 695-1850  
V Presidents: Ken Mackey 742-4552  
Secretary: Alex Reyno 923-2294  
Treasurer: Doug Fujii 790-7027

#### Board of Directors:

Walt Alexander (1) 846-4284  
Chuck Stewart (2) 674-5987  
Walt Zukas \*(1) 674-0491  
Ian Skarshaug (2) 449-0995  
Jim Tanner \*(1) 673-5137  
Pete Gilb \*(1) 671-3982  
\* Past Presidents

#### Committees:

Newsletter: Bob Long\* 916-362-5593  
Programs: Jeff Lingenfelter\* 639-0739  
Raffles: Denis Davis & Alex Reyno  
Membership: Ken Mackey 742-4552  
Fly Tying: Jeff Lingenfelter 639-0739  
Conservation: Jim Fujii\* 673-2700  
and Doug Fujii 790-7027  
Historian: Walt Zukas \* 674-0491  
Refreshments: Fred Mowrey 671-4754  
Fish Outs: Walt Zukas \* 674-0491  
Librarian: Don Voigt\* 674-1260  
Salmon/Steelhead Education Program:  
Kathy and Greg Payne\*

**E C Powell**

*Yuba Sutter*

**Fly Fishers**

[ECPowellFlyFishers.com](http://ECPowellFlyFishers.com)

## INTRODUCTION TO FLY FISHING

**Ages:**

12 & up (anyone under 16 must enroll with their parent/guardian)

**Fee:**

\$25(\$30 non-resident)

**Time:**

6:30 – 8:30 pm unless otherwise noted

**Class dates:**

September 1st , September 7th, September 15th , September 17th (*Time TBA*),  
September 22nd & September 24th (*Trip location and times to be determined*)

**Location:**

Gauche Aquatic Park MP Room

**Registration Taken At:**

Yuba City Recreation Department  
1202 Civic Center Blvd or 421 C Street

