

Newsletter

February 2010

301

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

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Jan 30 | Yuba River (UC Davis property) Fish Out |
| Feb 2 | Board Meeting, Marysville Library, 7 PM |
| Feb 9 | General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM
Program: John Gantner |
| Feb 16 | Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM |
| Feb 20 | Fish Out – Thermalito Afterbay |
| Feb 26-28 | The Fly Fishing Show, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton |
| Mar 9 | General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM |
| Apr 17 | Kiene's Fly Shop Expo |



President's Corner

Hi everyone, I hope everyone is ready to fish. With my first meeting behind me I hope I've left the jitters behind too. Our first meeting went reasonably well give our speaker could not make it. But with that our members gave a lot of input as to what they hope for the club, so with that I think we're off to a great start. We signed three new members, and received 16 suggestions relative to new or old places to fish. In the first 2-months we will have had 4 to 5 club fish outs and many of the members have gotten together to fish outside of that. That's what makes this club so much fun! AND THAT'S JUST THE START! Pete Gilb

February Program

John Gantner has been fly fishing for about 40 years and fly tying almost as long. He has had over 50 articles published in fly fishing magazines. He does demonstration fly tying at various venues including the FFF national



conclaves and The Fly Fishing Show. He has been presenting his "Bugology" program to fly clubs for a couple years. He is not a professional entomologist, and presents his program as an angler and for anglers. John lives in Redding with his wife, Maggie and dog Riley. He is a long time member of Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers.



John's program, Bugology, is a series of aquatic insect photos of both moving and stillwater insects as well as flies to imitate them. John will explain how the incorporation of different materials and features into patterns can create triggers that may cause trout to take. John will also have many of his patterns on display at the meeting.

2010 Proposed Fish Outs

Date	Location	Fishmeister	Phone
20 February	Thermalito Afterbay	Walt Zukas	674-0491
27 March	Kelsey Bass Ranch	Larry Ingram	673-4965
August	Alaska (see below)	Larry Ingram	673-4965

Kelsey Bass Ranch Fish Out - March 27, 2010

Have you ever wanted to do some Bass, Bluegill and Catfish fishing but didn't have access to Beale or any of the areas of the Bypass? Well, here's your chance.

Kelsey is a private 120 acre lake stocked full of Black Bass, Bluegill and Catfish, and its all catch and release. The distinct possibility of a 30 or 40 fish day is very likely. The record Bass is 12 lbs.

This will be our 3rd year in a row for those that want to ante up the \$100 to gain access to the lake. We have the lake all day on March 27th, a Saturday. We usually fish until lunch, take a break then back at it until about 5 PM when we load up the prams, canoes and anything else that floats and start stalking the shores with Bass Poppers. The Bass go nuts!! Jim Fujii even caught one off of the boat ramp last year.

We have several already signed up but we still have room for more. If you're interested, contact Larry Ingram at 530 673-4965, 530 300-1841 or email at: flyfisher16@comcast.net

Web site for Kelsey: <http://www.excellentadventures.org/excellent%20adventures/index3.htm>

February Fish Out Thermalito Afterbay

Saturday February 20, 2010

We will leave from Perko's Parking lot Yuba City at 0700 and arrive at the Wilbur Ave boat ramp about 0730. February is always a difficult month to find a location close by that isn't frozen due to its elevation or blown out due to high water. I fished the Afterbay in Oroville 3-4 times last winter when most other lakes were frozen or the water level was too low for most of my favorite spots. I caught steelhead on all but one outing.

The Thermalito Afterbay provides a safe alternative for those interested in quietly pursuing a variety of species including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, channel catfish, and crappie and add landlocked steelhead to the list of species one can catch at the lake. The action this time of the year is on the landlocked steelhead and trout.

Bait fisherman are finding solid landlocked steelhead action while using minnows and night crawlers behind flashers or an array of minnow imitation lures. "The key is locating the fish, since the steelhead are chasing small minnows on the reservoir. These are beautiful fish that fight really hard, the fish are in the 2 to 6 pound range.

I have had my success using a Chartreuse Ghost, Dick's Special (bright orange), Red and White, and Gray Ghost, trolling streamers size 4-10, 6-8x long. I fish a 5 or 6 weight intermediate line, with 8'-12' fluorocarbon in the 6- 8 lb. range with a loop knot to the fly. I troll using large flies or anchor off points or off of the old channel and cast into the deeper water off the drop offs using smaller streamers size 10 or 12, 6X long. There are some modern day versions of these flies in the book titled "Flies for Trout by Dick Stewart & Farrow Allen" on pages 106-119. The club might have this book in its lending library. These flies look difficult to tie but after you know a few tricks they are relatively easy. Carrie Stevens, who originated many of these patterns, didn't use a fly tying vice and tied them by hand.



Most people troll at 4 to 5 feet deep at a speed of 1.2 to 1.5 mph. There are two trolling paths like that in the Afterbay. The first is from the cove at Wilbur boat ramp straight down the deep water channel to the rock wall. The second area is along the rock wall from the Highway 162 Bridge down to just above the release gates.

Trout also emigrate from Thermalito Forebay into the Afterbay. The DFG plants about 12,000 pounds of catchable rainbows per year in the Forebay. The Afterbay is a big lake, with a water surface area of 4,300 acres and operating storage of 57,040 acre-feet of water when full. The lake hosts largemouth and spotted bass, as well as channel catfish, bluegill and crappie, but is largely overlooked because of the close proximity of more popular spots such as Lake Oroville and the Feather River.

If you have any questions you can call me most evenings after 1900 at 530-674-0491 or at itszuke@comcast.net.

Alaskan Rainbows

If you'd like to tie into a 30+'' rainbow, consider joining Pete and I this coming August when we travel to the Last Frontier in search of the "big ones." Fishing is sight fishing for the rainbows that fatten themselves up all summer long eating decaying salmon. The Rainbows follow the Sockeye salmon into the Copper River, southwest of Anchorage, and eat the salmon as they have done for hundreds of years.

The trip takes you by plane from Anchorage to Iliamna where you change to a float plane for a short 20 minute





flight to the lodge. Once there, we fish everyday with a guide for these big brutes. If you have any doubts about the size of the rainbows in Alaska just ask Bob Harik.

The cost of the trip, less the airfare to Anchorage is: about \$650 round trip from Anchorage to the lodge, then \$400 to \$450 per day, depending upon how many go. The daily cost includes everything (food, guides, room, drinks, everything). Sound a bit pricy? We pay \$360 to \$400 per day for a guide around here and then you add the cost of room, food and this turns out to be a really good deal. We can stay as many days as you like but we are thinking of 4-5 days.

Web site: <http://copperonthefly.com>

Just copy and paste into Google.

If you're interested, contact Pete Gilb or Larry Ingram for more details.

Features To Consider When Selecting A Fly Reel

By John Berry – Taken from the Mid South Fly Fishers Newsletter

As I have written before, the fly reel is just a fly line storage device until you hook a big fish. Then it quickly becomes the most important piece of gear you own. When you go to a fly shop or look in a catalog there are literally dozens of choices. They vary widely in price, come in a variety of colors and shapes and all make some pretty impressive claims. Which one do you buy?

There are a lot of different types of reels. We all remember Grand Pa's automatic reel. It was really pretty cool. It had a strong spring in it that could wind in any excess line pretty quickly. They are just too heavy, have a limited capacity to carry backing and have no effective working drag system.

I have a multiplier reel. If you turn the crank one full revolution the spool turns one and a half times. This feature allows me to get control over slack line very quickly. I bought it over twenty five years ago after attending a Dave Whitlock seminar on fly fishing for bass where he mentioned one. I have never fished with it. It is too heavy and I just do not need to gather up slack that quickly.

I have an anti reverse reel. This reel allows line to come off the reel without turning the crank on the side of the reel. It was designed for fishing in saltwater where strong fish can take long runs. If you were to place an errant finger in the wrong place, you could easily break a digit. I have never fished with this reel either. It is too heavy and was ridiculously expensive.

Then there is the single action reel. You turn the crank one time and the spool makes one revolution. It is simple to use and reliable. This is the one that I use for all of my fishing.

There are two basic drag systems for fly reels, spring and pawl and disc drags. The spring and pawl is basic nineteenth century technology. It is basically a ratchet system that prevents the spool from freewheeling on long runs. They have been around forever and are easy to maintain and do a great job. The disc drag is a technological breakthrough. It is just like the brake system on your car. They can be adjusted to put just the right amount of tension on the fly line. I am a traditionalist, in that, I mostly fish reels with spring and pawl drag systems.

Cheap reels are stamped from sheet metal. They are flimsy and unreliable. Moderately priced reels are made from cast aluminum. It is an inexpensive material and is reasonably strong and reliable.

The high dollar reels are lathe turned from a solid block of aluminum. This not only makes them stronger but ensures that they will run true at high revolutions per minute (rpms).

Most reels come with interchangeable spools. The spool is the part of the reel that holds the fly line. If you have interchangeable spools you can buy multiple fly lines and put each one on a different spool. This allows you to easily

change from a floating line to a sink tip or a full sinking line. You should have a five weight line and a six weight line on separate spools. This would allow you to use the same reel on two or more different rods. I have spare spools for most of my reels.

The current trend in fly reels is to manufacture them with larger arbors. The arbor is the hub on the spool. If you have a larger arbor you can crank in more line with a single revolution of the spool. There are mid arbor and large arbors.

The simple fact is that they are significantly heavier than a reel with a conventionally sized arbor. Over the last few years fly rods have become lighter and at the same time fly reels have become heavier and heavier. It is not just the large arbors that have added weight. The switch to disc drag systems from spring and pawl drag systems has also increased the weight of these reels.

I have never understood the allure of the large or mid arbor reels. Their increased weight does not balance as well as that of conventionally sized reels. I have never been in a situation where I had so much slack line out that I wished that I had a larger arbor to crank in the slack quicker. It is a cure for a problem that I do not experience. I would rather fish with a lighter reel.

When choosing a reel pay particular attention to their capacity. What sizes of line will they hold and with how much backing? Backing is the thin Dacron line that is attached between the reel spool and the fly line. It acts as an insurance policy in case a fish takes a long run (longer than the fly line). I want a reel that will hold the line I am buying it for and one hundred yards of backing.

Whatever you choose, have the fly shop install the backing and fly line for you. This will make everything easier. If you are going to use your reel in salt water make sure that it is designed for that purpose. Many of the high priced reels on the market are not designed to survive the abuse of salt water. At the same time, there are several moderately priced reels that function well in salt water.

Take a bit of time when you choose a reel and make sure that it compliments your rod and your fishing style. It will help you become a better fly fisher.

Is Your Fly Pattern More Important Than How You Present It?

By Pat Damico – Taken from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers Club Newsletter

A book that should be in every saltwater fly fisherman's library is, "Fisherman's Coast," by Aaron J. Adams, Ph.D. Described as, "An angler's guide to marine warm-water gamefish and their habits," this book has been a revelation on how to fish different fly patterns. The author spends a lot of time discussing different types of prey found in every type of shallow saltwater environment. Color and size, as well as movements are presented in detail. Aaron's most recent book, "Fly Fisherman's Guide to Saltwater Prey," continues his quest and not only describes and contains photos of prey, but has detailed tying instructions and patterns that closely duplicate each life form.

Freshwater trout fishermen frequently wear a wool patch on their vests to dry fly patterns used that day. Did you ever notice that the most successful fisherman usually only have a couple flies present, while others may have a dozen or more? What does this tell us? Can we apply this information to improve our saltwater success? Could it be that the way a fly is presented is more important than the pattern itself? If you "match the hatch," exactly, why aren't you having as much success as you should? Think about how many times your beautiful fly improved as fish after fish destroyed the fly until only half of it was left.

With crabs, for instance, most fisherman fish a good pattern ineffectively. When discussing snook, the author reveals that stomach contents in colder weather show a very high number of crab parts. This finding was reinforced when our Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club had an outing close to Cockroach bay. Dressed for a cold windy morning with water temperatures below sixty degrees, we were all wading and fly fishing except for one person nearby who was using live shrimp with spinning tackle. During the first fifteen minutes, he caught two redfish and a snook casting into a deeper hole and just letting his bait sit on the bottom. None of us fly fishing had a strike. I switched to a weighted crab pattern and with a sinking tip line cast into the deepest part of the water in front of me. After waiting until I was sure the fly was on the bottom, I made short, one inch slow strips. My third cast stopped abruptly, almost like being snagged, and

when I strip set the hook, I felt some head shaking. I thought I had a redfish on because the fish just, “Bulldogged,” along the bottom. When he tired and came to the surface, much to my surprise, it was a decent snook. I told my companions what I was using, and continues to fish. Soon, another snook took my bottom-hugging crab pattern. After releasing the fish, I again shouted, “Put on a crab pattern!” Two more larger snook were later released. Every fish caught that morning fell to the same technique. Others fishing the same pattern were not fishing slow or deep enough to duplicate natural bait. Instead of changing to multiple patterns, presentation was the key.

Our spin fishing friends who use a DOA shrimp successfully follow my friend Capt. Mel’s advice, “If you think you are fishing it too slow, slow it down even more.” This will tell you how to fish shrimp patterns.

Size and color of these patterns should not be underestimated. Use a shrimp or crab pattern that closely matches the bottom you are fishing.

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

Officers:

President: Pete Gilb 671-3982
V Presidents: Craig Renke 695-1850
Secretary: Alex Reyno 923-2294
Treasurer: Doug Fujii 790-7027

Board of Directors:

Walt Alexander 846-4284
Tim Wright 301-4869
Walt Zukas * 674-0491
Jeff Lingenfelter *
Jim Tanner * 673-5137
Craig Renke 695-1850

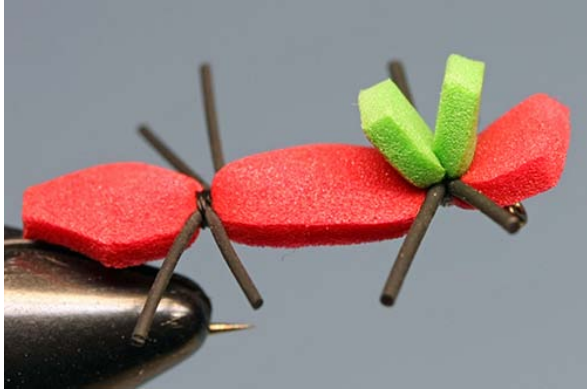
* Past Presidents

Committees:

Newsletter: Bob Long* 916-362-5593
Programs: Larry Ingram** 673-4965
Raffles: Denis Davis & Alex Reyno
Membership: Tim Wright & Pete Gilb
Fly Tying: Jeff Lingenfelter 639-0739
Conservation: Jim Fujii* 673-2700
and Doug Fujii 790-7027
Historian: Ed Hobbs** 673-4374
Refreshments: Fred Mowrey 671-4754
Fish Outs: Walt Zukas * 674-0491
Librarian: Don Voigt* 674-1260
Salmon/Steelhead Education Program:
Kathy and Greg Payne*

My Favorite Foam Flies

By Bob Long



Your 2010 dues are due now and delinquent on April 13, 2010

Use this form to renew your membership or join the club:

Join the E.C. Powell Fly Fishers! Renew your current membership today!!

Fill in the form below and bring it to the next meeting or mail it to the club's address:

PO Box 1135 Yuba City, CA 95992

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Home: _____ Work: _____

Occupation: _____

email address: _____

Fly Fishing Experience: Beginner _____ Intermediate _____ Advanced _____

Fishing interests: _____

Projects & Activities that you'd like to see the club become involved
in: _____

Renewal: _____ New membership: _____ yes _____ no _____

Dues: Single \$25 Family \$30 Junior \$ 15

Amount paid: _____