

# Newsletter

February 2012

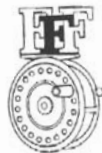
# 323

## 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

- Feb 7 Board Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM
- Feb 14 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM  
Program: **Andrew Harris (see Page 10)**
- Feb 21 Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
- Feb 25-26 Baum Lake Fish Out
- Mar 13 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM



## President's Corner

I would like to take a few moments to thank everyone that attended our general meeting on Jan. 10th where last year's President, Craig Renke, staying true to his giving nature surprised four of our long time members with embroidered Simms fishing shirts. The recipients, Fred Mowery, Alex Reyno, Jim Fujii, and Doug Fujii, all of who for years have been and continue to be active in service to our club. Craig also surprised Larry Ingram with a Past Presidents Hat. I had the pleasure of presenting Craig with a beautiful Shadow Box made by Jim Fujii, decorated with colorful hand tied fly's, donated by our club members. In Craig's words; "That's the best one I've ever seen." Thanks Craig, for the great year from all of us.

It's hard within the community of our club to say thanks to just one person when there is so many who contribute and continue to do so. The multipurpose room at Lindcrest School we use for meetings and fly tying is another wonderful gift. Bill Zeller who is retired from the school system and a member for years, has been, and is instrumental keeping the doors open for our club functions at no cost. If you were to inquire about the use of the MPR as I did when renewing our annual calendar, you would discover that it normally goes for \$300.00 a day or \$60.00 an hour, 2 hour minimum. I acknowledge and salute all of you, for your love of the sport and devotion to our club, and its members.

### Bob Long Presentation

If you were at the Jan. meeting you shared in Bob Long's presentation of his and Joe Bradley's November/December 2011 trip to New Zealand. Thank you, Bob, for the very entertaining evening; it was fun to be transported half-way around the world and experience it with you.

### EC Powell Newsletter

At the last club meeting you heard me mention that Bob Long has given us his official notice that he is in his last year of doing our Newsletter. Since that meeting I have been in contact with many of you about what we want to do concerning this challenge. I have at this time nothing new to report from the feedback, except that everyone wants the newsletter intact. Through the survey we heard from you as to what you would like to see in content, we are working to that end, but, I'm feeling some urgency here. We only have ten more newsletters. Please, we need feedback, ideas and talent. You know who the officers and the board members are; your input would be much appreciated, let us hear from you.

### Ed Hobb's Introduction to Fly Fishing classes

Heads up, on Jan. 24th Parks and Recreation will start taking sign-ups for the April class. See the poster at the end of the Newsletter for more information. It's my understanding that there are already five to ten people on the waiting list. We were only three weeks into signups last August and the class was filled to capacity, thirty spots. Parks and Rec. have printed 20,000 program brochures to be distributed this quarter to the general public and they should come out the 4th week of Jan. If you or anyone you know is interested in the class get the word out, the forecast is that it will fill quickly. For the cost of \$30.00 you receive, 4 two hour evening classes, 1 Saturday four hour casting class, certified fly casting instruction, and a fish out. Great fun and fellowship don't wait too long.

### Fishing

I haven't had a chance to go out this year to date, but Looking at the Yuba River flow charts at, [American fly fishing.com](http://Americanflyfishing.com) the flows are between 750 to 850 cfs (Low) and it's safe to say will be staying this way until we are impacted with weather. I know the hatches should be going strong, and with these water levels its comfortable wading. Be careful of the cold water and hypothermia, stiffness comes quickly, more so to us geezer types. The fish are there, and if you are not taking advantage of this wonderful time, you are missing out.

Be safe don't forget to mail in those steelhead cards, looking forward to seeing you at the next fly tying session or meeting.

God Bless, your humble Pres. Ken Mackey

## Dues and Memberships 2012

We have a changing of the guard in this department, Mr. Ed Hobbs our new vice president will be the go to guy for the coming year. As always paying by check is the easiest for us in the department. If you make the extra effort to get that payment to the Membership chairman personally, (the Vice President), that is the best assurance and least time consuming for updating your file. If we have a check from you, I like to copy it to your form completing the process of your file.

So bottom Line, deal directly with the membership chairman if you can, one on one, easiest for member info updates and best service. If mailing "Attention Mr. Ed Hobbs, Memberships", his personal address preferred, or next mail to the club mail box. The less people involved the easiest for him and you. Don't forget your personal information, Name, address, phone, and of course your e-mail. Keep them current and very legible when filling out forms. So we are still taking payments at the meetings and also the officers and board can and will assist in that effort.

All dues are due in January and here's the layout:

Make Checks Payable to: EC Powell Fly Fishers 2012 Due's

Single Membership: \$25.00

Family Membership: \$30.00

Student Membership: \$10.00 for the year.

There isn't a better deal around and at the time of this writing almost half the club is already on board with 2012 due's paid. Good job!

Address for Mailing Memberships

Preferred

EC Powell Fly Fishers C/o

Mr. Ed Hobbs Memberships

853 Taber Ave.

Yuba City Ca. 95991

Or Secondary

EC Powell Fly Fishers c/o

Mr. Ed Hobbs Memberships

Po box 1135

Yuba City Ca. 95992

### February through May Fish Outs 2012

February Fish Out Saturday and Sunday February 25-26, 2012. Baum Lake in Burney CA

You will need a float tube, pram or pontoon boat and dress for winter weather. Tackle 3-5 wt rod, floating line, long leaders, midge patterns and other small flies in dark brown and olive worked best last year. We normally stay at the Green Gables Motel and the number for reservations is 530-335-3300 the rates are around \$80 per night and if two share a room for 2 nights that would help for those willing to share a room. I Snore so unless you do too, I would not be a good choice to share a room, unless you have some really good ear protection! Some will probably go up Friday night to get an early start on Saturday. I have an email from Jim Schilling, one of our past Presidents, who lives by Lake McCumber and he reports Baum is fishing very well at this time but McCumber is not real good with low water so hopefully we will have some rain before March for our fish out.

We currently have 11 signups for this trip. You can sign up for this at the February General Meeting or call me.

Steel Head on the Mad River February Eureka Ca. Mike McFarlane is planning a trip to the Mad around the Stupor Bowl weekend. More news to follow.

March Fish Out is Lake McCumber on Saturday March 24, 2012, currently 11 sign ups.

Lake McCumber has rainbow and brown trout, and although they don't generally grow large (average fish are 10-14 inches) they are plentiful and often respond aggressively to flies. McCumber's rainbow and brown trout will readily eat streamers fished on intermediate lines, or nymphs and midge pupae suspended under small indicators. If I was only able to have 4 flies in my fly box to fish this lake they would be a bead head Olive Stillwater nymph, black leech, size 14 or 16 Pheasant Tail Nymph and a red Copper John size 14 or 16. I would bring two rods in the 3-4 or 5 wt categories, one with a floating line and one with an intermediate line. It is impossible to fish from shore so a pram that doesn't leak or float tube is required. It is a two hour drive from Yuba City or maybe a little longer depending on the driver. There will be a sign up sheet at the general meetings in 2012 or you can e-mail me at itszuke@comcast.net or call 530-674-0491 if you want to come or need to ride with someone. This 85-acre reservoir is on the North Fork of Battle Creek west of Lassen National Park. It is popular with fly fishers attracted to the wild brown trout fishery. Only boats powered by electric motors are allowed on the lake.

April Fish Out Saturday May 12

The Fish out at the UC Sierra Field Station was changed from April to May due to an annual event the Field Station has on that day. We will have another location for April in the February newsletter. Walt Zukas

### Past Gas

Well, the upper portion of the Yuba above Parks Bar bridge is finally open again and this year I am not going to wait for the water to get too high before venturing out and once again being humiliated by all these fish that are smarter than me. I don't know if it's the challenge of catching a fish or just a social gathering of sorts where we can tell all of our stories again or maybe come up with a new one to share. Whatever the reason, it just feels right to be out on the river with old friends looking for bugs and the promise of fish to rise afterwards. It's like having one foot in the past and the other searching for footing in the future.

This last year as your fearful leader has been memorable and now I am looking at some of the simpler pleasures in life like spending a week on the Madison for another dry fly event that will challenge me and make me laugh out-loud at the same time. How do we really define who we really are? , is it by what we have already done or what we are doing now or even our plans for the future? I think that it has to do with the fact that we are actually doing something and not just talking about it which is a trap that I fell into too much this last year and missed some grand opportunities.

But back to the Yuba before I digress to a state of self pity and forget about the hatches that were coming off which were midges, p.m.d.s, and a large mayfly that some described as a March Brown in size and color. Sometimes this gets all too complicated for me and I have to sit down and have a cigar and just stare at the sky to figure it all out and my parents said that nothing would come of all my day-dreaming when I was young, take that Mom!

The point that I am really trying to make is that the time to fish the Yuba is now because when the rain finally comes probably in late January or February, the flows will go up and you will be sitting around like I was this year lamenting my situation. My only question now is whether or not anybody has tried Midge patterns out there because some of these mini-micro-mayfly patterns are getting pretty close to something that LOOKS like a midge. Maybe midge is some lowly form of insect and looked down upon like carp and I still haven't been indoctrinated into the proper perspective of the noble fly-fisherman. But I say that the mighty midge should not be over looked and be trodden upon but lifted up (dry fly) or maybe be put down with a glass bead once in a while just to show that we as fly-fisherman are open minded . Yes I say, up with the midge and maybe there are some left-wing liberal trout in the river that can be hooked for the cause. I think it's time to look at the clouds again and have a cigar. Craig (Has Been)

### Fly Tyers Bench – Golden Stonefly's

By Gene Rea – Taken from the Pikes Peak Flyfishers Newsletter

With the advent of winter upon us I got to thinking; what are some of my favorite winter patterns to prospect for hungry trout. One of my favorites is the Golden Stonefly Nymph, but what is a Golden Stonefly you might ask? Well, allow me to enlighten you.

Stonefly is the common name for the order *Plecoptera*. The sizes of these insects range from 6 mm to 50 mm in length (excluding antennae and tail filaments) Golden Stoneflies usually don't exceed 38 mm but are the most abundant of all large stonefly species in the West and most preferred by trout. Stoneflies are usually identifiable by their two tail filaments, paired claws on each of the six thoracic legs, and two distinctive wing pads on their second and third thoracic appendages.

Golden Stones thrive in both unregulated freestone streams and in tail waters below deep bottom-release dams, so they are more common on more waters than the bigger Salmon flies.

Golden Stoneflies are roughly the same size as Skwalas (17-23 mm). The nymphs are a speckled yellow brown and the adults range in color from a rich golden brown to dark brown, with lighter tones around the legs and on the underbelly. They could be easily confused with Skwalas if it weren't for hatch timing. Skwalas are early spring stoneflies, while Golden Stones are summer species, most prevalent in the month following the Fourth of July.

As a result of the multiyear life cycles of the larger stonefly species, several different year classes live in the stream at any given time, and stonefly nymphs remain plentiful year-round, even after the adults have emerged. Since the trout see and eat nymphs all year, Western anglers should be prepared to fish them at all times—not just near peak hatch periods.

Nymphs are large and live in riffles and rocky, boulder areas with moderate to fast current. They often lose their grip and are taken all year by trout. An appropriate pattern dead-drifted near the bottom is effective. Choose your imitation carefully, however. Many fly shops sell a golden stonefly nymph that is golden in color, but the actual nymph is mottled shades of tan, black, and brown. However, when golden stonefly nymph molt, the new instar can briefly be a much brighter color. It's possible that trout key in on that brighter shade, which would explain why an imitation works when it seems to be unlike the color of the vast majority of the natural insects.

Golden Stonefly nymphs are important foods for trout on most Western watersheds through the entire year. In the weeks preceding the hatch, focus your efforts on the fast, rocky holding water near the banks. Barr's Tungstones, Barr's Tung Teasers, Pat's Rubber Legs (brown/orange), Beadhead Hare's-ear Nymphs, and Mercer's Golden Biot Stones (#8-10) are a few of the more popular Golden Stonefly nymph imitations.

Don't rule out fishing stonefly nymphs in January, basing your decision simply on the time of year, or because you don't see any. Throughout the winter months, tumbling ice chunks frequently dislodge stonefly nymphs from the substrate, creating a feeding frenzy.

During emergence, stoneflies migrate toward the river's edge and crawl from the water onto streamside rocks, willows, grass, and trees to hatch into adults. You'll see evidence of this process in the form of their empty exoskeletons clinging to bridge abutments and boulders along the river.

Because the hatch occurs on land, stonefly nymphs transitioning to adults ("emergers") are not available to trout during the emerging process. But the heavy concentration of nymphs along the stream banks during the migrating process increases their availability at certain times of the year. Nymphing along the river's edge is highly productive during these migration periods.

Not surprisingly, adult stoneflies look similar to the nymphs, with the exception of the two pairs of veined, folded wings—two forewings and two hind wings—over their backs. Unlike mayflies and caddis flies, stoneflies do not produce mating swarms or spinner falls. Instead, they mate on land. Male and female stoneflies locate one another by drumming or tapping their abdomens on branches, tree trunks, and rocks. The male initiates one rhythmic pattern, which is subsequently answered by a female. Each species has its own unique drumming pattern.

Adult stoneflies consume fluid foods, and as a result sometimes live between one and three weeks before they find a mate. After they mate successfully, females fly over the water and drag their abdomens on the surface to deposit their eggs, but other than that, stoneflies rarely fly. They crawl to find and meet their mates.

The good news is that stoneflies are clumsy. They are easily dislodged by wind, and once airborne, they are poor fliers. They often end up in the water, where they flutter, creep, and clamber toward the shore, or drift aimlessly. If they aren't eaten, they often drown and are washed downstream to be eaten submerged, as nymphs would.

The best dry-fly fishing occurs in the afternoon, when the adults come back to the water to deposit their eggs. The trout key on these egg-laying flights, and anglers can generally catch fish on the surface throughout the course of the day. Yellow and olive Stimulators, Rogue Foam Stoneflies (golden), and Amy's Ants (olive) in #8-10 are excellent imposters.

## **The Pros and Cons of Introducing Your Wife to Fly Fishing**

By John Berry

Let me begin this article by saying that the smartest thing that I ever did was to introduce my wife, Lori Sloas, to fly fishing. We were not married at the time but it was the beginning of the most rewarding period in my life. As with any decision, there are many aspects to be considered. I am writing this from my point of view but it would be as effective from a woman's. If you are not married, the same points apply to introducing a significant other to the quiet sport.

Sharing the same interests has a positive effect on any relationship. A day spent fishing together on a trout stream definitely qualifies as quality time. Being outside on a crisp fall day catching fish on a clear trout stream is my idea of fun. My favorite part of the day is after I have caught all of the fish that I require and I sit on a log watching Lori fish with my yellow lab, Ellie, by my side. When she hooks a good one, Ellie jumps into the stream and helps her land it, while I take pictures.

Since I began fishing with Lori I have noticed that I eat much better on fishing trips than I used to. The days of eating a can of beanie weenies cold from the can are over. Now there is a nice picnic lunch or a trip to a local restaurant. The same goes for your accommodations when on a fishing road trip. I used to camp or just sleep in the back of my ancient Volvo. Now we stay at a nice clean room in a nearby motel or better yet a quaint bed and breakfast.

The whole travel thing is better. Family vacations can now become fishing trips. Lori and I love to travel to Montana for some serious fishing. A trip to visit my grandchildren in Decatur, Georgia includes a side trip to the Smoky Mountains to fish for native brook trout. Lori and I were married in a tiny chapel on a trout stream in the Smokies.

There are of course disadvantages. My wife and I live in different time zones. I am an early bird. I naturally wake up at 5:00 AM and am as cheerful as a bird. That, of course, requires that I go to bed at a reasonable hour. Lori, on the other hand, is a night owl. She stays up reading every night and prefers to sleep in. She also likes to take a shower and do her hair before hitting the stream. As a result, we don't generally arrive at the river before noon. If conditions dictate, she will go earlier but that is generally not her first option.

Another disadvantage is that she frequently out fishes me. Lori is an intense angler and approaches any fishing trip as serious business. I have found that the days catch for each of us depends on which water we individually get to fish and of course there is luck. It is always a pleasure to fish with someone that knows what they are doing.

Her casting ability has surpassed mine. I have been teaching fly casting for over twenty years but my skills have leveled out. I am a competent caster but Lori keeps working at improving her cast. Last week at the Southern Council Conclave she had a casting class with John Wilson who is a Master Certified Casting Instructor. I was tying flies at the time, a skill that Lori has no interest in. She does however like the fact that I tie. This supplies her with flies to fish with. She will also buy flies. As a fly tier, this drives me crazy. I'm standing there thinking about how easy that particular fly would be to tie and she is thinking about how pretty it is.

If you are thinking that if your wife takes up fly fishing, you can give her all of your old fishing gear and buy yourself some new stuff, you are dead wrong. She doesn't want your old stuff. She wants new gear. If you take the time and money to shop with her and make sure that she gets the proper equipment for her to be comfortable and achieve success, you will come out much better in the long run. If you are thinking about getting yourself a new rod, you might as well buy two of them.

When I weigh all of the pros and cons of involving Lori in fly fishing I think it was the best thing that ever happened to me. My best days are spent on a trout stream with her.

## Color Shifts in Water

By examining the properties of water and color we can come up with some conclusions that can assist in buying or tying our flies based on how fish perceive colors.

The first thing water does is obvious. Just by getting our fly wet we are going to change its color, but if we don't get them wet we are not going to catch very many fish. Wetting a fly usually makes it appear darker. For this reason I tend to tie my flies in lighter colors: tan instead of brown, light olive instead of dark olive and so forth. There are two other reasons why using lighter colored flies may be beneficial. One reason is that most things in nature are lighter in color on the bottom than the top. Most tyers tend to duplicate the top color but the fish likely only see the bottom. The second reason is that most organisms that trout eat go through molts. Most insects go through 20 to 30 molts during their larval or nymphal stage. When they shed their exoskeleton, they are very light in color until they grow a new exoskeleton. Losing their natural camouflage causes them to be very highly visible. The trout might key in on this fact.

Let's look at how colors are lost or altered as we go down in depth. This is well documented by divers. In order to understand this we must look at the properties of color. To begin with color is a function of light; if there is no light everything appears black. "What Fish See" by Colin J. Kageyama is a good book on this subject. It is written by a doctor of optometry and tends to get a little technical. Here is my interpretation on what Dr. Kageyama has to say about colors (incidentally this book deals mainly with steelhead and I would recommend it to all steelhead fishers).

Colors are reproduced by wavelengths of light. The color wavelengths are measured in nanometers (nm), one billionth of a meter. The color spectrum runs from blue to red. Each color has its own wavelength. Blue has a wavelength of about 400 nm and red has a wavelength of about 700 nm falling between these to remain true, that present. If it is not, that color



will shift to another color. Water filters out the color the longest one, red. As we go are progressively filtered out color, black. The last color to be

wavelengths beginning with deeper the other wavelengths until we have an absence of lost is blue.

These color shifts are a function of light penetration. There are many factors that will determine to what depth light will penetrate. The first is water clarity—how much suspended matter is in the water. Second is water surface, a smooth surface allows more penetration than a broken surface. Third is atmospheric condition, rain, snow, fog, clouds, etc. Fourth is the angle the sun strikes the water. The greatest penetration occurs when the sun is directly overhead or is striking the water at a right angle.

Let's consider a color's brightness. In order for a color to stay true it must absorb all the other colors and reflect its color. So we can look at a color as a reflector making it bright, but if we lose a color wavelength that color will not reflect and becomes dull. A fluorescent color, however, will remain true to color as long as it is struck by light with a color of a shorter wavelength. You may have noticed black and white are not mentioned in the color spectrum. Black absorbs all of the colors and white reflects all of the colors.

Contrast is also important to consider. There is an article in the "California Fly Fisher" magazine by Ralph and Lisa Cutter which discusses how tying flies with contrasting colors will make them light up like a "neon light" as they pass in and out of the shadows of a fish's underwater world.

After examining all of the previous facts, maybe we can come to some conclusions in the construction of our flies that will catch us more fish. After all isn't that the name of the game, if you were just out there for casting practice you would not have to waste your time reading this article.

In "What Fish See," Dr. Kageyama states that the eyes of a trout, in fresh water, contain a chemical that makes the eye sensitive to the color red. This makes the color red very visible to the trout. The first thing we can do is take advantage of the trout's sensitivity to the color red. Red, however, is the first color lost and this can happen in just a few feet of water. Now if we tie a hot spot on our fly with fluorescent red thread, as discussed by Aaron Jasper in the summer "Fly Tyer" magazine, the color red would remain true throughout the color spectrum because red has the longest wavelength and would always be struck by light with a shorter wavelength.

One thing that keeps jumping out is visibility. If we make our flies more visible they will catch more fish. One thing for sure, fish are not going to eat our fly if it does not see it. My favorite stillwater fly is Denny Rickard's Stillwater Nymph in burnt orange and olive. I normally fish it with an intermediate line and I do quite well. But I noticed that if I had to go deep the fly did not seem to work as well. At first I thought it was just the mood of the fish, but decided as I went down in the water column this fly had a color shift and was not visible. With this in mind I still fish my Stillwater Nymph in about the top six feet of water but if I have to go deeper I switch to a purple or burgundy woolly bugger. The woolly bugger will remain visible to a much greater depth. This system is still a work in progress, but so far it seems to be paying off.

This brings up the question, what makes a fly more visible? If a fly reflects light it will become more visible. What color is most reflective? White must reflect all wavelengths so in my mind this makes white the most reflective. White will not remain white as it drops down through the water column but it will still be reflecting what light there is. I spend a lot of time fishing for largemouth bass and panfish in stained water. Stained water will accelerate color shifts. I started tying my flies in white for these fish and noticed a significant increase in my catch rate. White also gives a good contrast with any other color. According to Ralph and Lisa Cutter, as mentioned previously, this lights a fly up. This may explain why a Prince Nymph with its peacock body and white wings has been so successful for so many years.

It may also be advantageous to put numerous colors into our flies since fish respond to what they are looking for and ignore anything else. Perhaps fish will see the color they are looking for. Ralph Cutter calls this "selective discrimination." This may explain why fish will eat an organism with a hook sticking out of its butt, as this is not normal in nature.

Hopefully I have not confused you and I have gotten you to think about how the properties of color in water are important concepts in fly fishing. This is a relatively new area for me and there is still a lot of room for experimentation and application.

Walt Alexander

### **Upper Klamath Lake July 8-13, 2012**

Fisherpersons go through stages in their fishing careers. First off, they want to catch fish. Then, they want to catch lots of fish. Then, they want to catch big fish and of course, then, they want to catch plenty of big fish. This trip offers the chance to catch some really big fish and several a day. Many of us have had 10+ fish a day with some of the fish going as large as 15 lbs.

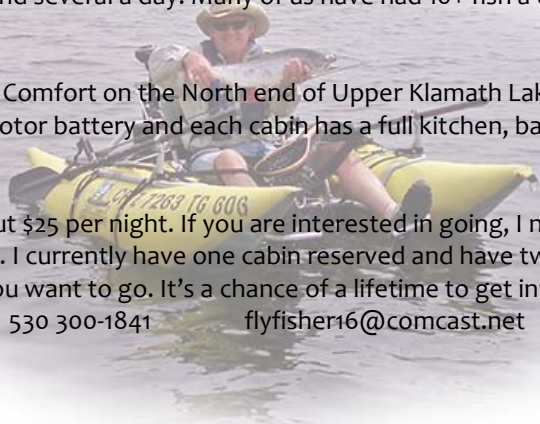
We stay in one of two cabins at Point Comfort on the North end of Upper Klamath Lake. We have dock access, electrical hook ups for charging your trolling motor battery and each cabin has a full kitchen, bath and sleeps three to four people in comfort.

The cost of for each person runs about \$25 per night. If you are interested in going, I need to hear from you ASAP so that we can reserve the second cabin. I currently have one cabin reserved and have two openings for that cabin. So, think it over and let me know if you want to go. It's a chance of a lifetime to get into some really big fish (Trout).

Larry Ingram

530 300-1841

flyfisher16@comcast.net



## Pyramid Lake

Each year about this time I start thinking and planning to fish this great lake. The earlier months of the year (Oct-Feb) you're pretty much resigned to casting shooting heads from atop a ladder. Then when the fly has sunk to the bottom, a slow strip often brings on the strikes. The fish are aggressive but the strikes are fewer than in the months of March and April.

In the March / April time of year, the fish come in from the depths and cruise back and forth within 20 -30 yards from shore. They want to spawn. We cast floating lines with an indicator and two chironomids beneath the indicator. It's relatively simple and like fishing with worms as a kid, you simply watch the "bobber" and when it disappears, you set the hook. What could be easier? Just ask Bob Bradberry. And fish to 12+ pounds are caught on most of our trips.

So, we have trips planned each week from March 27<sup>th</sup> to April 26<sup>th</sup>. We go up for three days and share the cost of the room amongst those that are there. It normally runs around \$70 per person for the two nights total. Food is additional but someone usually prepares dinner at least one of the nights. Breakfast and lunch are on your own.

To reiterate the dates:

March 27-29

April 3-5

April 9-11

April 17-19

April 24-26

These will fill up quickly so give me a call as soon as you can. Please have an alternate date in case your desired date is booked up. I ask for a \$50 deposit for each week that you plan to fish with us.

Larry Ingram

(530) 300-1841

[Flyfisher16@comcast.net](mailto:Flyfisher16@comcast.net)

## Trinity River Steelhead 2011

Each year for the past 5 or 6, we have taken on the Trinity in pursuit of steelhead. This year 16 of the club's finest fished it in late November (Nov 27<sup>th</sup>-Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>). The big difference this year was that we got fish. No, not as many as 2007 when one member landed 30+ fish in one day, but with only one exception, everyone caught fish.

The Trinity has long been known for its Steelhead, not large by comparison to other North Coast rivers, but fish to 10+ lbs. are nothing to be scoffed at. With numerous areas that provide easy wading access, everyone has a good chance of sticking a fish or two each day. Rods in the 6 and 7 wt. class handle these fish just fine.

Flies that seemed to do the trick included the ever popular, Golden Stone, Psycho Nymphs and just about anything in your Steelhead fly box. Size did seem to matter this year with lots of fish caught on size 12 and smaller. Perhaps this was due to the fact that the river was lower than past years with flows around 300 CFS. As is always the case, more rain and higher flows means more fish in the river.

Several of our fishing partners fished down river near Hoopa and got into lots of fish, many the half-pounder size. Fish in the upper stretches of the river went in the 4-10 lb. range.

We plan to return to the Trinity the last week in November 2012 so, mark your calendar. We have room for lots of folks and the river, though it has changed, still offers many places to fish.

### More Steelhead?

Many are planning a trip to the Mad River in early February (Super Bowl weekend). For this trip you'll need heavier gear (7 wt rods with shooting heads) but the fish are larger and you have easy access to the river. This river fishes well when it's dirty so don't let a little rain run you off.

Larry Ingram

## Membership

The Club meeting of January 9<sup>th</sup> was eventful with twenty one members paying their 2012 membership dues. We thank you. Provided I have counted correctly that brings our paid membership to sixty one. I wish to encourage those of you old members who haven't paid their 2012 dues please do.

Be sure and welcome new member, Craig Barrick, formally of Sunnyvale now residing in Orville. Craig indicated that he is interested in learning to fish the low flow section of the Feather below the Green Bridge. Craig's phone number is (408) 666-8272 so those of you who do fish that area give Craig a call and share your knowledge of that area with him.

We also have a junior member for the first time in years. Thanks to Denis Davis he brought Skylar Oster to the club meeting and he joined as a junior member. You might remember Skylar he was helping out at the raffle table during the meeting. Welcome Skylar, you are in good hands with Denis. Ed Hobbs

## February Program

Our speaker for February will be **Andrew Harris**. Andrew's presentation features the best fisheries in the Feather River Country, including the North and Middle Forks of the Feather River, the Bucks Lake area, the Lakes Basin, and Lake Davis. Andrew will discuss these venues and techniques used to fish this area.

Andrew Harris lives in Red Bluff, California and has been guiding in northern California since 1997. Andrew is part-owner of Confluence Outfitters and his guide destinations include the Lower Sac, Trinity River, Fall River, Pit River, Hat Creek, McCloud, Upper Sac, and Battle Creek. He has also guided extensively on the Lower Feather and Lower Yuba Rivers. Andrew is the author of "Plumas National Forest Trout Fishing Guide" and is a frequent contributor to California Fly Fisher magazine.

This should be a "must attend" program for all of you in the Club that have been asking for information on where and how to fish waters within 100 miles. We hope to see you there.

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

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Kathy and Greg Payne\*

## Fly of the Month

This month I will be starting a series called “Fly of the Month” where I select an old tried and proven fly in which I will try to give you a little history and how to present it.

My first fly will be the Gold-Ribbed Hare’s Ear for several reasons. First I’ve caught a ton of trout on it, second it’s a simple pattern to tie (basically requiring only 3 ingredients), third its is very dupable (I have caught 30 or 40 trout on one pattern), fourth it can be tied to represent numerous food items trout eat, and fifth it is very near and dear to my heart. It was the first nymph pattern I learned to tie about 30 years ago and I still tie, fish and catch a lot of trout on it.

I have not been able to determine when the first Gold-Ribbed Hare’s Ear was tied and by whom, but I do know it dates back well over 50 years. It has been copied by many tiers, the knock-offs are so numerous I don’t have room to list them. In my opinion when people start copying a fly, that fly must have a lot going for it.

I think originally the Gold-Ribbed Hare’s Ear had a small gold tinsel rib, but I tie mine with a gold wire. I also sometimes use copper or silver wire and I have seen versions tied with krystal flash, so I guess you can use about anything you want for the rib.

The original was tied with a tail of guard hare from a hare’s mask, but many have substituted hackle barbs from pheasants, hen necks, partridge, grouse, duck and probably some materials I can’t recall.

I originally used a hare’s mask to tie my Gold-Ribbed Hare’s Ears and still do most of the time, but I have also used hare’s ear dubbing and rabbit zonker strips, they all worked.

For the wing case I originally used pheasant tail feathers, but have used turkey tail feathers when I have them. The turkey can be hard to find and a little on the pricey side.

If I want this fly weighted I wrap lead or lead substitute wire in the thorax area, just make sure you leave plenty of room between the weighting wire and the hook eye to tie off the wing case and make a neat thread head.

You can imitate any one of the 4 mayfly groups by changing the hook style. Because I normally fish Stillwater and find this fly to be a very good imitation of the Callibeatis Mayfly, I tie it on a 3x long hook to imitate this swimmer mayfly nymph. If you want to imitate the clinger or crawler mayfly nymphs, just use shorter shanked hooks.

Here is my original version of the Gold-Ribbed Hare’s Ear that I was shown how to tie by members of the Trinity Shasta Fly Club on an outing to Butte Lake about 30 years ago.

### Gold-Ribbed Hare’s Ear

Hook: Tiemco 200R size 12 to 16  
Thread: Tan Ultra 70 Denier  
Weight: 6 Turns of 0.020” lead wire or lead substitute  
Tail: Guard hair from hare’s mask  
Rib: Small gold wire  
Body: Fur from hare’s mask  
Wingcase: Pheasant tail feather  
Thorax: Fur from hare’s mask with guard hair picked out for legs

1. Debarb hook and place in vise. If weighted wrap wire on front portion of hook shank.



2. Start thread and lock weight into place, wrap back to rear of hook shank.



3. Tie in tail and wrap thread forward to weighting wire.



4. Tie in rib wrap thread back to rear of hook shank



5. Twist dubbing onto thread and wrap forward to just slightly over 1/2 of the hook shank.



6. Spiral wrap rib forward in 5 or 6 turns, tie off and clip excess.



7. Tie in wingcase and wrap thread back over body slightly.



8. Dub and wrap thorax.



9. Fold wingcase forward, tie down and clip excess. Make head and whip finish



10. Using bobbin pick dubbing out in thorax area for legs



I will be demonstrating how to tie this fly in this February's fly tying class. I hope to make this series a fly that I will be tying in the fly tying class that month, hope to see you there.

Walt Alexander

**Sponsored By:**  
**Yuba City Parks and Recreation**  
**Presented By:**  
**EC Powell Yuba Sutter Fly Fishers**

# **ED Hobb's** **INTRODUCTION TO FLY FISHING**

**Ages:**

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

**Fee:**

\$30(\$35 non-resident)

**Time:**

6:00 – 8:00 pm unless otherwise noted

**Class dates:**

Thursdays: April 5th, April 12th, April 19th & April 26th

Saturdays: April 28th (8 am – Noon) &

May 5th (*Trip location and times to be determined*)

**Location:**

Gauche Aquatic Park MP Room

**Registration Taken At:**

Yuba City Recreation Department

1201 Civic Center Blvd or 421 C Street or [www.yubacity.net](http://www.yubacity.net)

**For more information Call 822-4650**

