

Newsletter

July 2011

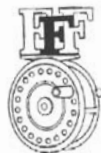
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Up-to-Date News:

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

- Jul 5 Board Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM
- Jul 23 Yuba River Fish Out at the UCD Field Station
- Aug 2 Board Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM
- Sep 6 Board Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM
- Sep 13 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM



President's Corner

Mirror, Mirror on the wall, will the rising waters ever fall? The North Fork of the Yuba's waters are swirling and white, the snow capped mountains are still cold at night. The North Fork of the Feather generators hum, now here comes the warming sun. The shad have come, that's what I hear, schooled up somewhere below Daguerre. The Shad won't move because the waters too cold, will the water warm up before I'm too old? Low flow Steelhead have come and gone, maybe I should just go outside and mow the lawn. Jim is home and what a relief, some people it is beyond belief. We will talk for sure maybe even tie some flies, it's fun to see what a person at the banquet buys. He will help me tie some flies here at home, now all I need is a small stream to roam. My new four-weight sits in the corner all pretty and shiny, maybe I can find a place to wade without landing on my hiney. Oh Mirror Mirror on the wall, would Montana be better after all?

I know that there are members out there finding places to fish like Lake Davis and Manzanita Lake with good results so it really isn't as dreary as it might seem sometimes. I think Jim Tanner is going to be ready to go fishing before the water on the Yuba comes down below 2000 cfs. Should we start a pool? Larry put a bug in my ear (caddis or midge I'm not sure) about us starting to tie flies for the banquet and I'm already thinking about a new pattern for me to tie. I would like to encourage you all to take lots of pictures this summer to share at the banquet and even send a disc to Bob for the newsletter. A fish story is always better with a picture, and best of all is when the experience is shared with a friend. We need to remember to keep in touch with each other this summer. Has anyone tried sink-tips or a sinking line in this high water? Are the fish down deep or along the edges in the timber? Just a thought. We have a lot of technology at our fingertips with all the websites such as Calif-Flyfishing.com and if you really want to know more about the North Fork of the Yuba, go to Bill Carnazzo's website. The information is out there and all we have to do is wet our line. Be safe, take a friend, take pictures and enjoy the moment. Craig

ECPFF Yuba River Fish Out Update

We have one more fish out this summer and will be at the U.C. Davis Field Station on Saturday July 23, 2011. Don Voigt will cook his delicious delectable dogs and Ed Hobbs will assist. We initially thought about starting in the morning as usual but there was a suggestion at the June board meeting to start in the afternoon and fish till dark.

There is usually a great evening Caddis hatch. Here are the people who are currently signed up; Jeff Lingenfelter, Walt Zukas, Ken Mackey, Fred Mowrey, Craig Renke, Ed Brown, Mark Iwanaga, Alex Reyno, Ed Hobbs, Spring Cooper, Terry Malone, Vinton Farley, Mike Ream, Chuck Stewart, Denis Davis, Don Voigt and Jim Tanner.

If anyone else wants to go please contact me by July 17, 2011 we need to submit the names for the day pass by July 18.

Please let me know what you prefer and I'll let everyone what the majority wants to do.

I'll update everyone on the water conditions a week prior to the fish out.

I went to Gold Lake yesterday 6/19/2011 but it was still frozen so I dropped over the hill into Portola and went to Davis Lake. I caught two nice rainbows near some submerged brush as the Damsels were starting to emerge and then the wind came up and the fish stopped biting. With the warm weather the Damsel action should be good over the next couple of weeks.

Jim Tanner asked me to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers and will personally extend his thanks to all when he sees you; he hopes to make the July Fish Out.

For the July Fish Out you can let me know your preference by calling 674-0491 or itszuke@comcast.net.

Good Fishing!

Walt

New Member

EC Powell Fly Fishers Club would like to welcome a new Member for the month of June:

Randy Gushiken
Gridley California

Randy, is a long time resident of the Yuba City/Gridley area. He's a Health Care Professional, RVN (Registered Vocational Nurse) Supervisor working in the Yuba Sutter area hospitals. While the rest of us are on summer break Randy is neck deep in the trenches, getten'er done. Thanks Randy, for your commitment and management skills so crucial in keeping the big wheels turning.

The membership and officers of E.C. Powell Fly Fishers club are honored to have you as our newest member. Hoping your busy schedule works out so we can have you on the water soon.

Mr. Jim Tanner. Praise be to our Lord and Savior Jesus, your home and on the road to recovery. I lift you and Mandy up in prayerful thanksgiving and the continued success of your recovery. Hope to see you soon. Ken Mackey

Dues Reminder

As July is approaching we still have a number (20) of those who have not paid you're your 2011 Dues. Come on guys it's almost July, for crying out loud. You're not a bona fided member of E.C. Powell Fly Fishers club till your bona fided, and to accomplish that you simply have to pay your dues. Plus its makes the big Khuanna happier along with showing respect for the rest of us that have paid. So I expect to hear from you soon, especially you that told me a month ago you were going to get it done. There are club rules that apply to fish outs and events, and to be under that E.C. Powell umbrella you have to be a current paid member. Other wise you need to sign wavers among other things to participate in functions as a non member. Dues are due in December and late in January. So take five minutes out of tying that fly and mail me a check. I know, the memory goes before beauty but I still love you all. Don't make me call you mom.

Send checks and money orders to:

E.C. Powell Fly Fishers Club
c/o Ken Mackey
PO Box 815 Loma Rica Ca. 95901

Questions?-My e-mail kenpep@cwnet.com or call me at 530 742 4552

Some final News Thoughts

We still don't have anything going on with the Parks and Recreation fly fishing seminar, it's stalled. There might be some possibilities through Fish and Game. Stand by, more to follow.

School is out and many of you are heading out or have already gone on vacation. I want to send you into the month of July with *a be safe* and enjoy your time, whatever your doing. Before the hot weather set in around the 5th of June the Yuba River here by Loma Rica was running around 7,500 cfs, (cubic feet a second) now its tipping the scales at 10,500 cfs as I read it on the flow charts today. Safe wading is around 800 to 1200 cfs. So be aware of the conditions your about to enter or step into. The drift boats look like speed boats going by. Walt Z. has already canceled our Shad fish out set for the 25th of June because of these conditions. He will update future fish outs as needed. It was reported that we have had over 800 inches of snow fall this past winter and spring. All the dams are maxed out, accommodating the run off. King Salmon Run/season is coming up in July, not sure how it will be affected by these high water conditions. Be careful out there; don't want any of my brothers and sisters taking any unnecessary swims.

My family in Northern Idaho around Lewiston is still running the heaters in the day time with tons of water coming down the Snake and Clearwater Rivers. What Rapids? Hope Pete is taking cold weather clothes with him.

As we wished all the mothers a Happy Mothers Day we also now wish all the Fathers a belated *Happy Fathers Day* as well. Have a wonderful July and summer season.

Best wishes to our President, Craig, on the 18th of June for another win at the drag races in Sacramento. If he gets this one, he will on his way to Las Vegas for the finals. Good luck Craig!

I want to take a second and thank all of our E.C Powell membership and team who have taken the time to go fishing, make the articles and put them into and deliver the news letter. Our Fish mister' and master fly tyers, treasurer, board, cookies and coffee team and raffle gang, that make up our wonderful E.C. Powell family, you are the Greatest, *Thank You.*

We will be holding our regularly scheduled board meetings through the vacation months, so check in with one of us if you have questions or business to address. We welcome your input and, or articles you might like to submit for consideration in the monthly news letter. Fun fact or fiction, you decide. For your article submission you could be the next Grand Prize Winner with an all expenses paid, over night trip for two, to the fabulous and scenic Timbuctoo on the breaks over looking the River Yuba. A *Chateau' Delight*, if interested apply with in. God Bless and have good one.

Thanks Ken Mackey

Hat Creek Hereford Ranch Fish Out

Only 3 members showed up, Myself, Don Voigt and Ed Weatherly. I fished Baum Lake and caught in the neighborhood of 50 to 60 fish, a few of them quite large. A couple of my fish were around the 5 pound mark. Most of my fish and all of the Big ones were caught stripping a Stillwater Nymph on an intermediate line. Don fished with me on Baum Lake, I don't know what Ed did. Those that did not attend missed a Great Trip.

Walt Alexander

Subsurface Bluegill

Last month my article was about catching Bluegill on the surface, unfortunately we can not always get them to come up to the surface, this is especially true of the larger ones, so let's go down after them.

It has been my experience that the small and mid-sized Bluegill tend to school by age group, but the larger ones become loners and hang out in a little deeper water. The first thing we have to do in order to catch a number of large Bluegill is cover a lot of water and go deeper. Bluegills are ambush feeders, in other words they don't chase their prey for any distance, they hide in heavy cover and ambush anything that gets close enough to them. Sometimes this has to be very close, in other words the closer the better. If we make a normal cast, close to cover, the tight line will pull the fly away from the cover as it sinks. To overcome this problem I make a slack line cast, I aim past my target but just before the line straightens I pull back on the fly rod causing the leader to land in a pile, this allows the fly to sink straight down, keeping the fly close to the cover where hopefully a large Bluegill is hiding out waiting to ambush something. This technique works best with a weighted fly that we will get to later.

The slack line cast solves one problem but creates another, it is almost impossible to feel a take with all that slack line on the water, so you have to drop your rod tip low and watch your leader very closely for any sign of a take. The low rod tip allows you to take up a lot of slack in a hurry for the hook set. After the fly sinks to the length of the leader start your retrieve.

Retrieve the fly very slowly with short strips and a lot of pauses. The pauses are a very important part of your retrieve; I believe them to be the most important part. Remember Bluegill do not chase their food, they just kind of sneak up and suck it in after thoroughly scrutinizing it. The pause allows the fish to catch up with the fly and keeps the fly down into the strike zone. Many times the Bluegill will suck the fly in during the pause and on the next strip you will be pleasantly surprised by feeling the weight of the fish.

The slack line presentation is performed with a floating line, but during low light conditions the larger Bluegill will move up into the shallow water to feed. It is at these times that the sinking lines come into play. I prefer the intermediate line. I use an unweighted Fly, cast in as close as I can to the bank or cover, allow the fly to sink for five to ten seconds, and then retrieve as I did on the slack line cast. When using a sinking line I stick my rod tip six to twelve inches under the

water, and pointed straight at the Fly, to maintain direct contact with the Fly. My set is first a strip set then raising the rod.

FLIES: First the flies should have a lot of built in action. This is accomplished by using soft materials such as Marabou, Rabbit Fur, Soft Hackle, and Rubber Legs. My favorite is rubber leg material; Bluegills seem to love rubber legs. I tie most of my subsurface Flies on size eight or ten hooks, because I expect to catch a few Largemouths. A typical evening foray to my favorite Bluegill water usually consists of a mixed bag of approximately thirty fish; of these there are usually five or six Largemouth, a half dozen Redears, and sometimes a few Crappie. As I stated in my previous article I have landed Largemouth Bass approaching six pounds on a size ten hook.

My number one subsurface fly is the Woolly Worm. I tie it in many colors but have found that white with a Grizzly Hackle to be the most productive. I normally tie it with no tail, but sometimes a short red tail seems to be just the ticket. I usually tie it unweighted and present it with an intermediate line as previously described.



In their book “Bluegill Fly Fishing and Flies,” by Terry and Roxanne Wilson, there is a fly called Bully’s BlueGill Spider. They go into great detail on how to tie and fish this Fly. They recommend using a Mustad 94840 (standard dry fly hook),



size 8 – 12, wrapping lead wire on the back half of the hook shank so the Fly slowly sinks hook point first. They claim they designed the Fly to sink at about a forty-five degree angle at a speed of about four inches per second. They claim the angle and sink rate are important. I have never measured the angle and sink rate of my Bully Bluegill Spiders, but I use three to five turns of 0.20 inch lead wire and they seem to work just fine, in fact, this fly is rapidly becoming my number one fly for taking Bluegill subsurface. I use Chenille for the Body and Small or Medium Round Rubber Legs for the hackle. This is an excellent fly for the slack line, vertical drop presentation. Terry and Roxanne Wilson recommend tying this fly in white, yellow, chartreuse, olive, brown, black, and hot

pink. Sometimes I try to match the color of the rubber leg material to the body, but most often I just use white rubber leg material. I tie most of my Bully Bluegill Spiders in white or black. (Tying instructions and a video can be found on a website; www.flyfishohio.com/Bullys_Spider.htm or www.warmwaterflyfisher.com/flymonth/FOTM032002.htm)

In his book “The Art of Tying the Bass Fly” by Skip Morris, there is a pattern he calls the SMP. The book states that SMP is an acronym for Skip Morris Panfish. This is a weighted fly designed like the Clouser Deep Minnow, which makes the fly fish with the hook point up. This is a good fly to present with a slack line, vertical, presentation as well as with a sinking line too fish it deep. Weight this fly with either chain bead or barbell eyes depending on how deep you want to fish it. The body of the fly is thread with gold or silver oval tinsel. I do not find this body to be very durable; the tinsel either breaks or unravels after removing it from a few fish using forceps. I, therefore, normally tie this fly with a dubbed body. This last year or so I have been using Ice Dub for my bodies with positive results, I particularly like Peacock Ice Dub. The wing can be either marabou or rabbit fur. The marabou can be tied longer for a little more action but the rabbit fur is more durable.



I read an article, which I think was in a California Fly Fisher Magazine, that was written by Ralph Cutter regarding colors in our flies. I have been unable to find this article again, but as I recall the article stated the flies with contrasting colors light up like a neon light as they travel through the shadows of the underwater world. He believes that is why the Prince Nymph with its dark body and white wings has been so successful. With this in mind I have been tying my SMP's with a Peacock Ice Dub Body and a white wing and so far it looks very promising.

One last thought on fly construction: I read somewhere that fish have a much higher sense of smell than dogs. I have seen Bluegill hang within inches of a fly for up to ten seconds before either taking the fly or refusing it, maybe they are smelling the fly. With this in mind I have eliminated head cement on most of my flies. I finish off the fly with a double whip finish and they hold up just fine.

These two articles should get you started into fly fishing for Bluegill, so tie up a few of these flies, find you a pond with Bluegill, and go harass them. Hopefully, you will find them as enjoyable as I do. Walt Alexander

Water Safety In and Out of the Boat

Part 2

By
Chuck Stewart

Years ago, while fish up at Parks Bar Bridge with Alex we shared the river with the Nevada County swift water rescue unit. During their training we watched and talked to them. It was interesting watching them work together and learning how to approach and evade river obstacles.

If you happen to fall while wading in swift water point your legs downstream and float on your back. You need to use your arms like oars and backstroke and ferry towards the shore at a 45 degree angle. With your legs pointed downstream so you can see rocks and use your legs to push off and steer around the rocks. By not keeping your feet up, your foot may get trapped in a rock and flip you over and place you face down in the river. Obstacles such as fallen trees or a pile of drift wood in the river are known as strainers. If you see these obstacles approaching you need to turn and face downstream and swim at an angle around it, if you can. If not, swim at it and lunge over it or on top of it. **DO NOT GO UNDER IT!!**

Hopefully with good wading practices you won't have to use the above information.

Before you head out to the river take a look at the weather conditions and river flows (if available). Be aware that weather conditions miles away can affect the stream you're fishing on.

When you get to the river or stream one of the first things you look at is how swift the current is, and after that scan it for possible drop offs or holes and the best place to cross. Also, be aware of the shoreline it is often slippery and maybe unstable. If you question whether or not you can make it across by looking at the water, don't even try. Wading should always be done facing in an upstream direction even though it is more physically demanding. Once in the river and crossing you need to work with the current instead of fighting it. You can also reduce the current's pull on you when in deep water by turning sideways, facing the bank, rather than standing broadside. This creates less surface area for the current to catch your legs than if you face it head-on. If you are pushed further downstream from your intended exit point, and no hazards or obstacles are present who cares? Take your time and don't panic. Work with the water, rather than trying to "fight" it and you'll be much better off. You should only wade downstream when you are very familiar with the riverbed because often the current can carry you into deeper water than what you are prepared for. At times you have to wade in water that's quite high from spring run-off and/or rain. When you have to cross high water, use a wading stick or staff. An old ski pole works well. A heavy stick will also work, too. A wading stick will give you extra support while making it across high water. If wading with a staff, lean on the staff as if it were a third leg. A wading staff can also help you test the depth of the stream before taking your next step. As I mentioned in Part 1 of this article have a whistle on a zinger. If you fall you might not be seen in the water but you can be heard and direct people to you with the whistle.

Always have a foot on the bottom. This sounds simple, but it's still important. You always want to have contact with the bottom. Have a solid foot hold, before taking the next step. If the water is over the top of your feet, don't pick up

your feet. Instead, raise your feet up just a little and shuffle along the bottom. Getting in a hurry causes a lot of people to slip and fall while wading. Take your time; the fish will still be there.

Last but not least you need good shoes to handle uneven creek bottoms. Wear felt soles. This keeps your feet from slipping off rocks. While felt-soled wade boots have been popular for years, newer vibram soles are said to reduce the concerns about invasive plants and New Zealand mud snails in our streams. If you are fishing in very rocky rivers with quick currents, even felt soled shoes may not be enough to provide rock-solid footing. When fly fishing these types of rivers, cleats and river talons are recommended. River talons and cleats fit around a standard wading shoe. These spikes provide secure footing while wading. While this is overkill for most rivers, for those anglers who will be fishing in very rocky, fast moving water these river talons can be useful.

One important factor if you're wading in the rivers - Never fish alone.

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

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