

Newsletter

June 2009

293

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

- Jun 6 Fish Out on North Fork of the Yuba
- June 17-21 Hereford Ranch Fish Out
- July 6-12 Klamath Lake Fish Out
- Sep 8 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM



President's Corner

Preparations for the November Banquet are well underway. As you are aware, we are planning a photo presentation this year as opposed to hiring a speaker. Therefore, we need photos. If you have some old favorites as well as pics of your latest outings, send them to Larry Ingram and Bob Long. Take a camera along when you fish and get some shots. Fish photos, scenery shots and group photos will all work. Larry can use them for the presentation and Bob needs stuff for the newsletter. Also, banquet related, we request that the members donate flies for raffle items. You can tie them yourself or buy them if you prefer. A half dozen or dozen trout flies, shad flies, or any other type of flies would be great. If you want to send striper patterns, two or three would be good. This is a somewhat early notice I know, but I would like to start collecting them at the Sept. meeting. Be sure to put your name on the container.

Recently, several club members volunteered at the third annual Downstream Fly Fishing Day. This was an event to introduce young people with Downs Syndrome to the sport of fly fishing. Members from ECPFF as well as several other clubs, taught the kids to cast, tie flies and catch fish. I think all 20 or so of the students caught fish, and had an enjoyable experience. If you have a chance to help at next years' event, consider signing up. The members who were present all seemed to have a good time as well.

After two years of not enough water, the shad have made it to the Yuba River. Reports are that fish are being caught from Simpson Lane up to the dam, with good numbers from the stretch behind the Marysville Dump. The access at the end of Hallwood Blvd. has also started to produce. If you can, try to get out one evening and give it a shot. Don't forget your camera.
Jeff Lingenfelter

2009 Proposed Fish Outs

Date	Location	Fishmeister	Phone
June 6	North Fork Yuba	Jeff Lingenfelter	639-0739
June	Caribou	??	
June 17-21	Hereford Ranch	Ed Weatherly	755-0864
July 6-12	Upper Klamath Lake	Larry Ingram	673-4965
August			
September 18-20	Klamath/Trinity Rivers	Bob Long	916-362-5593
Oct 25-Nov 1	Eagle Lake	Bob Harik	671-7805
Nov	Delta Stripers	??	
Nov 29-Dec 5	Trinity River Steelhead	Larry Ingram	673-4965

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

Downstream

Today (4/24/09) several of the club members went to Browns Valley to help out young adults who have Downs Syndrome. It required us to pair up with kids and teach them everything from basic casting to fly tying to actually casting a fly into a pond that had recently been planted with trout. The kids were divided up into groups of 5 or 6 and they would go from one station to another, learning a bit about fly fishing.

The program was supported by EC Powell Fly Fishers, Granite Bay Fly Casters and others from around the Sacramento area. To say it was fun for all was an understatement. I can't begin to tell you how heartwarming it was to see these kids doing what we take for granted but to see them catch their first fish.



The last photo shows the excitement that one of the girls exhibited. If you are asked to help out next year, please jump



at the chance to do so. You will come away with a feeling of being special by helping some very special people. By the way, the program is called “Downstream.”

Those that were there were Jim Fujii, Bob Harik, John O’Shea, Ed Hobbs, Jeff Lingenfelter, Ed Holland, Walt Alexander, Jack MacFarlane and Larry Ingram. Larry Ingram

Beginning Fly Fishing Class

The final session of the Beginning Fly Fishing Class was held on the North Fork of the Feather River just above where it joins the East Branch of the Feather River. Because of many reasons there were only two class members, Ian Skarshaug and Jeff Pierceall attending. They were supported by Tim Wright, Ed Holland and I. The weather was near perfect and the stream was a little high but clear and very fishable. Ed Holland being a better nymph fisherman than I explained to the fellows how to set up for nymph fishing and demonstrated the method that he uses. I believe we all caught a few typical Rainbows of that stream. I doubt if any were over ten inches in length.

The previous Saturday if you will remember was a rainy day and the day scheduled for the casting clinic led by Mike Ream. In spite of the rain six of the class members showed up plus one that failed to see us in the park. That little group stood in the light rain for two hours and learned the basic fundamentals of fly casting under Mike’s guidance. Mike and I were both pleased at how well they progressed.



Earlier evening classes included an introduction to fly fishing equipment and many of the accessories that are necessary. Another complete evening class was dictated to knot tying. The Thursday before the Saturday casting clinic Mike explained the basic functions of a fly rod and line combination and we checked the student’s rod and line combinations to see that they were correctly balanced.

The final evening meeting was highlighted by Tony Buzolich making a digital presentation on local fly fishing areas where trophy sized trout are a possibility. Tony also made the class aware of big game fishing with a fly rod and showed the type of rods, reels and lines necessary for that type of fly fishing. There was a discussion on trout holding water and some of the types and different fly patterns that work well in the local streams.



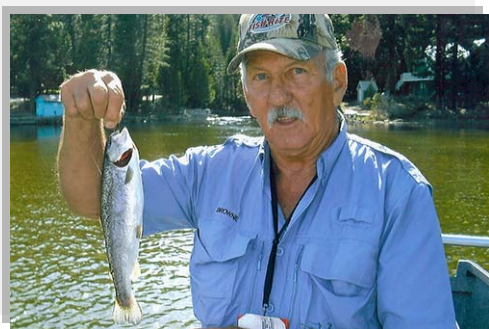
Tony was only one of many E.C. Powell Fly Fishers that made contributions to the class. Jack Stormer did an excellent job of teaching knot tying; Tim Wright was at all of the meeting and outings taking pictures, Jim Fujii helped out with the knot tying along with Denis Davis and Ed Holland. Jeff Lingenfelter explained the use of the fishing vest along with fanny packs, fly boxes and many of the accessories that go along with fly fishing.

Bob Boucke the owner of Johnsons Bait and Tackle offered class members a special price consideration when they bought fly fishing equipment. My thanks, to Bob for supporting the class and the E.C. Powell Fly Fishers.

I want to thank club members for their contributions to the class. I had asked for help and got it. Also if I have failed to mentioning anyone else participated in the classes thanks to you also. Ed Hobbs

Fuller Lake Fish Out

May 15, 2009



The directions to the lake were passed out at the May meeting to those who signed up. The plan was to meet at the lake around 8:30 on Friday morning. The lake is located off Highway 20 about 20 miles northeast of Grass Valley.

I arrived first, unloaded my Western pram and was joined shortly by Pete Gilb with a pontoon boat. Ed Brown and Walt Alexander arrived with a drift boat shortly followed by Mike McFarlane. Fuller Lake is a small lake fed by tunnel from Bowman Lake. The water can be cold. The surface temperature at 8:30 was 50 degrees, ten

feet down, it was 42 degrees. Hearing this, Mike opted out for warmer water.

We crossed the lake to the northeast side where the creek comes in spent most of the morning without a pull. Time for lunch and a regroup! Walt had caught a few and Pete and I caught a couple each.

After lunch, and dessert provided by Cathy O'Shea, we tried again with limited success. I left for home about 2:30 ---BIG MISTAKE!!!!!! Walt, Ed and Pete kept fishing. The following letter from Ed Brown tells "The Rest of the Story!"



5/15/00 A letter to the Fishmeister: John O'Shea

Thanks for the great trip to Fuller Lake. After you left things really began to happen. Pete Gilb spotted a bunch of trout rising in the old creek bed so Walt Anderson and I moved the drift boat over to the area Pete had indicated and "WOW", there were so many trout rising to a feeding frenzy we couldn't fish as fast as we could haul them to the net. Walt no longer searched for a fly pattern that worked, these fish were taking everything we threw at them. At times all three of us had fish on at the same time. Fish were biting so fast we were getting giddy. After three hours of this we were getting pretty tired and I am sure we caught some of these trout two or three times. Most of the trout were running up to 10 inches. I am enclosing the Sheep Creek Special fly you loaned me, it is pretty beat up, but I am sure you may catch a few more trout on it. Thanks again: Ed Brown, Walt Anderson, Pete Gilb



PS: We caught 50+ trout EACH!!!!

So far as the appropriate tackle and bait goes, the winning combination once the bite was on was a floating line with a 12-foot leader tapered to a 5X tippet. The flies were a mixture of #14-16 PT's, #20 red and black Zebra Midge, #12 Sheep Creek Special and #14 Prince Nymphs. It helped to have a small shot on, HOWEVER, from 4 PM on the fish took anything and everything. John O'Shea

Exaggeration – It's No Lie!

By Clay Gill - Taken from the Alamo Fly Fishers Club Newsletter

The Bill of Rights had an extra page that was lost. There was an amendment intending the virtual and basic right for all fishermen to exaggerate. Not lie,-- just exaggerate. It is all fishermen's basic fundamental right to expand fishing stories. For centuries loyal fishing fans have honed the fine art of embellishment recounting their day outdoors. It takes time, skill, and practice to develop this prowess. All it takes is a little imagination and you too can conjure up some adventure.

I remember the great masters of olden days. By a campfire they could spin marvelous tales. You could almost smell the salt air and feel the fish slime on your hands. The truly great story tellers could conjure up a depiction so real and exciting that it was like a dream, and you were part of that dream. A large fish became behemoth and slight risk became grave danger. Calm weather evolved to life threatening proportions and each saga was a tale of Moby Dick. Electric excitement was thick in the air! You hear the drag scream-the line stretch! --You were on the edge of the seat!

I have been fortunate enough to have known some of these tale spinners and they all have one thing in common. It is the ability to stretch truth and common story telling to immense and outlandish dimensions. The ability to make the listener believe this concoction is a badge of validation for those who practice the art. It is even more fun under the stars by campfires.

You are truly good when young and old fall spell to the fiction, -take the bait and run. The one thing you must never do is admit the stretch. Captivated the recipient must look into your eyes and know it really happened. No wavering on facts. It happened, --you should have been there!

Now you know the best victim for a culprit of this inclination is the fledging fisherman interested in catching large fish but not sure what a monumental fishing battle might be like. They are gullible enough to have been fishing, but not yet pulled out of the boat by tight drag and monster fish. The refined skill to remove all doubt and make the audience believe the story teller is a polished product. You graduate with honors as they believe you hands down. It really happened!

A four pound Bass becomes seven, and surely the fish jumped dozens of times. Probably just a product of wishful thinking, a story is the by-product of an expanded imagination and propensity to stretch the limits of truth. All in fun, it is not a lie! It becomes the exciting adventure that brings so many back for more. As common as sunshine, fish tales are the grass roots of a post-fishing assembly to recount the adventures of the day. It is a chance to do it all again-vicariously.

People love a story. Accurate or not, a good story is worth a million bucks. You gotta love it! We all love to lean into a good tale spellbound and immersed in a saga so monumental and captivating you hope it never ends! That is really fun!

Who wants to sit by a camp fire silently watching it burn out. How can you waste it without a great story or tale. Kids need to learn to imagine. That is why it is ok to exaggerate. It really is good to teach them to dream and expound. Some day they will be in your shoes. A young sportsman will be enchanted by the amazing and embellished saga of the day. He may develop his own ability to enthrall others. That is how it starts and expands. They know the truth.

Truth and justice is the American way. But colorful outlandish fishing stories are an inalienable right. Everyone deserves the chance to tumble into an outrageous story of Academy Award proportions. A fishing story so outlandish it might spawn dreams or nightmares. Who needs mediocrity. People want to hear tall tales. Just ask them. You know it when they ask Pappy for more, --when it is way past bedtime! Nobody is sleepy and they say just one more story-please!

So-once upon a time, next time you have a young captive audience of fisher persons and a nice fire under the full moon, seize the moment. Remember the first rule of story telling. Never--ever--admit the stretch. Deny it to your death! That is the true mark of a professional. Fishing stories--must be so much larger than life! You know the magic is working. You see it in their eyes!

Blarney!-it matters not the quantity, quality or style of our travels. What really matters is we had big fun along the way. Should I give up this Fibber McGee role for Lent, spinning Loch Ness tales to our youth, -I think not! They depend on me! I'll just slight a little Irish Whiskey a few weeks.

The kids will take these tall tales to the sleeping bags to re-run them over in their dreams. And this, --is where it all comes true! Just watch and see. They always come back for more. It keeps the expeditions very much alive and jumping! These little guys and gals deserve this! Life is too short not to! Top of the day to you all!

Fishing Stressed Waters

By Kevin Hutchinson - Taken from the Alamo Fly Fishers Club Newsletter

Here in central Texas, it's that magic time of year. The Trout are still active on the lower Guadalupe, the White Bass are running and Black Bass are coming on strong. What could be better? Rain, rain could be better! As of March 1st the Hill Country area is 24" below the normal rain fall for the area. This leads to much lower flows and stressed water. With this stressed water naturally comes stressed fish, not to mention stressed fishing guides. The latter group is usually beyond help, so let's concentrate on the former.

In an effort to be the responsible anglers we all strive to be, we need to educate ourselves before we head down to (what's left of) the river. Once we understand the stresses that fish are now under, we can adjust our fishing techniques to do as little harm as possible during these fragile times.

First let's look at the environmental stresses that the fish are under. With lower water levels, slower flows and the unseasonably warm weather we have been having, the water temperatures are on the rise. This is good news for the Black Bass, but a problem for the Whites and Trout. These fish are much more affected by higher temperatures so they will naturally seek out deeper, cooler, pools. You know the ones; the only deep spots left in the river. Along with higher water temperatures comes lower dissolved oxygen levels. Warmer, slower moving water will hold less oxygen adding to the double whammy we are experiencing now. Once again, the fish seek deeper hide-outs.

Another environmental factor we are now seeing is simply that the rivers have shrunk: there is less water area for the fish to hide and those deep pools come into play again. Fish will always hold riffles, but as water levels drop those disappear and again, we are left with those alluring deep pools.

This tendency to seek out the only deep water left is their downfall. Look for the deep pools and you can bet your last Zebra Midge that the fish will be there. The problem is that EVERYONE can find the fish now. These fish will be assaulted with Velveeta, Power Bait and even our impeccably tied flies. The question we need to ask is, “what cost to the fish?” The answer is obvious: these fish are at risk and should be hooked, landed and released as quickly as possible. Holes should be fished but not *over fished*. Catch a fish or two and move along. That’s easy to say but much harder to do. I understand that, but taking the long view will help protect the fishery.

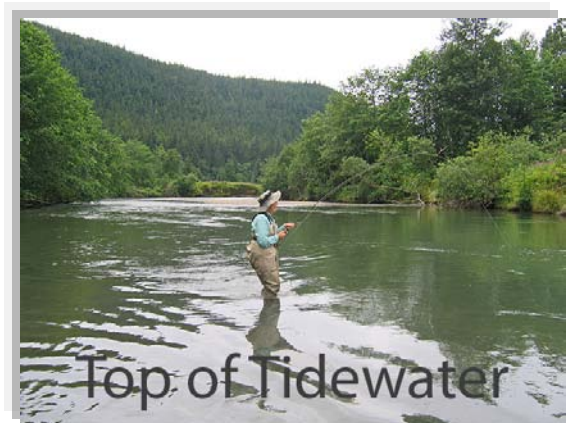
So where does all this lead? Right back to what your parents told you all those years ago...”No one ever said life is fair!” Although fly fishers, as a group, are much more responsible anglers, we have to take the initiative and *not* catch fish, at least not as many fish as we *can* catch. We need to wade and float with an eye towards protecting habitat and most of all we need to lessen the stress on these fish in any way we can. That might be using larger tippets and not breaking fish off as frequently. It might mean leaving a hole when you’re sure there’s *one more* fish in there, or it might just be as simple as ending your fishing day early.

All are hard choices, but this drought will pass and we will all be happy that the fish have survived to fight another day. I have never been one for “delayed gratification”, but in this case I am willing to sit on the tailgate of my pick-up with a Moon Pie and a cold RC Cola and watch the river flow by.

Fly Fishing for Pink Salmon

Last summer my wife, Sherian, and I made our third such trip to the Juneau area of Alaska to fish for Pink (Humpies) salmon on the beaches, inlets and estuaries off the road system. Taken in these salt environments, the pinks make the ideal 5-weight rod fish and along with them you can expect to take Chum (Dog) salmon, Dolly Varden and most likely a few sea-run Cutthroat trout if you want target them in the appropriate water. Pinks typically run 3 to 5 pounds with some larger and very few smaller.

For us, these trips always seem to turn into a group thing with some friends along. When last we went to the area we were joined by Jim Fujii and Jim Tanner along with some other folks including a couple and their daughter that also were with us on this trip. Nothing like good companionship and a lot of fish!



Before we get into the fishing aspects, let me tell you a bit about the area to set the stage. Southeastern Alaska is the home of the second largest rain forest in the world so, guess what, expect rain! This last trip it rained all day, every day for the first five days; the trip before that it rained ten of the first fourteen days. On the up side, these are rarely heavy rains and I’ve never had to fish in the wind. It’s just not typically windy during the summer months! However, just like the locals do, you adapt and go fishing or to town or whatever. Additionally, you’ll find the temperature to typically be in the high 50’s and maybe low 60’s – a wide departure from our local weather during the middle of July through the first week of August, the peak of the season in the area if you’re keying on Pinks.

Because this is a rain forest expect a lot of vegetation; most of it with thorns on it and chest to head high. It’s generally so thick that you’re pretty much limited to trails or creek bottoms when off the road at sea level. Many of the larger creeks and rivers that cross the Juneau road system are, in part, glacially fed which leads to discolored water but that doesn’t mean that they aren’t fishable. Sherian’s favorite place to fish in the whole system is the first run below the top of tidewater on a glacial stream because it always holds fresh fish. This, despite the fact that she once went over backwards in it while landing a fish



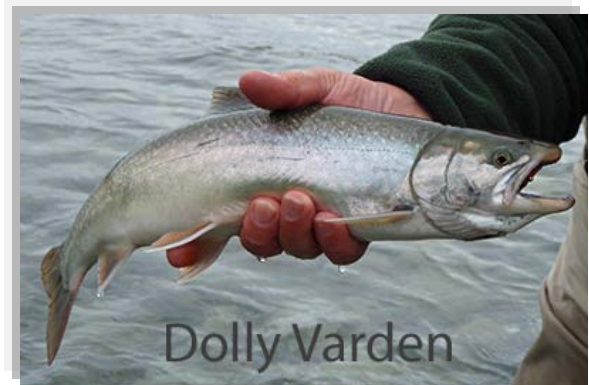


and, well, that's another story! She didn't lose the fish, however.

The tides can also be a major factor in when and where you fish. The pinks tend to stage off selected beaches and within certain inlets prior to their return to their natal streams and they do so on an incoming tide. They also start their runs up their natal streams with the same tide. Accordingly, then, if you're going to search for them you have to be in place when the tide starts in. If you're going to fish the mouth of a stream at tidewater, such as Sherian's favorite place, you'll always have fresh fish if they're in the system and can generally fish them at any stage of the tide.

While we're talking about tides and such, I have to tell you that I really enjoy fishing the beaches and inlets. Not only is the water clearer and cleaner, but the fish are closer to the surface and you rarely need split shot or lead bead eyes to get your fly down to a fishable depth. Most important, however, a lot of these fish are feeding and really grab a fly! Much of fishing these areas is simply watching for fish on the surface and then getting there before the school disappears. While blind casting pays off some of the time in this situation, you're really better off walking and watching. Additionally, at the bottom of the outgoing tide you're far more likely to see smaller fish such as Cutthroat and Dolly Varden working in the shallows around rocks. These guys will readily take a fry-imitation fly on a fairly fast strip and it's a lot of fun stalking them.

After three trips for Pinks I feel that I've got a handle on the rods necessary to do the job. This last trip we took three 5-weights and one 6-weight. Two of the 5's were working rods with heavy butts and the third was simply a backup. However, the backup (an old 9-foot 5-weight SAGE RPL+) saved the day for our friends when they lost a rod walking out of a tidewater area. We later went back and found the 'lost' rod.



Make no mistake, whatever rod you take you're going to put a lot of pressure on it so you don't want a wimpy 5-weight. One of the rods our friends took was a standard 9-foot 5-weight SAGE XP and this rod got a real workout. I'm quite certain that when SAGE developed the rod they didn't have this type of fishing in mind. However, the rod held up nicely but it really gave you a workout as well. Both my wife and I were fishing 10-foot Powell 5-weights that have a heavy butt section and save a lot of wear and tear on you wrists. By the way, the old SAGE RPL+ rods in a 5-weight make ideal rods with their heavy butt sections and my old one has made three trips up there now. You've got to be prepared for 100 fish days!



Our fourth rod was a 6-weight. This was taken just in case of wind, as I've done each trip, and I've never used it. A far better rod to have taken if one was going to target Dollies in fresh water would have been a 9-foot 4-weight and I almost, but not quite, did.

Lines are an easy fix if you're going to fish the areas I've described; all you'll need is a floater. The first two trips I made to the area I also took a sinktip but never felt the need to use it so we just took floating lines this last trip. Reels are just as easy to deal with in that all you really need is one that gets along with salt water and holds somewhere between 80 and 100 yards of 20 pound backing. You'll want not to forget to run your reel through fresh water at the end of the day. I also cleaned my line

frequently and put a touch of new lube or oil on my reel spindle after I washed the reel down. Just general maintenance stuff like washing your waders down if you've been in the salt!

Like the reels and lines, leaders aren't a big deal either. I would recommend a 10-foot Bonefish leader with its heavy butt section to help turn over the flies and possible split shot, along with a 2 or 3X tippet of a couple of feet. You want to be able to break off at the tippet if you get hung up but by the same token if you fish the salt you're going to be dragging the fly across muscles and barnacles so you need some fairly tough mono.

OK, let's talk about the flies you'll need. Generally speaking, you can get by with just one pattern for pinks in either fresh or salt water. I see where the locals in Juneau are now calling it the Humphy Hooker, whereas ten years ago we simply called it the Trash Fly. It's an easy pattern to tie in that it consists of a short wing of fluorescent dark pink Fishhair tied on behind a pair of bead eyes on a 3407 or 34007 size 8 or 6 hook. I tie the eyes on first and then the hair which is really cinched down tight with heavy red or pink thread. Shame on you if the hair comes off! If you don't otherwise lose the fly, you'll take a hundred fish on it. I keep my flies as small and light as I can to accommodate the 5-weight rods I'm using. If I'm fishing in a tidal run and need to get down, I simply add B or BB size split shot. Dollies will also take this fly as will the odd Cutthroat or two.



By the July/August timeframe most of the fry have undoubtedly passed out of fresh water and into the salt. However, the predators must still be keying on them because it has been my experience that fry imitations work great. Therefore, the other fly I'd recommend is a simple marabou bugger, in gray or blue, on a 2 XL size 8 hook, which is in essence a fry imitation, and the Dolly Varden and Cutthroat will readily take them when drifted along the bottom, jerked through a riffle or twitched along the shore in the salt. There are, however, a lot of fry and small baitfish imitation flies out there; most of which will no doubt work and you only have to remember to tie the flies small enough for your rod to handle. I put weight on these flies but you'll also need to use split shot to get them down through the water column if there's any current.



The third fly I'd recommend is something completely different in that it's a #6 no-name floating pink deer hair popper – kinda. The second trip we made to the area we started fishing it where streams dump into the salt and had great success with it. This trip we expanded on that and fished it off the beaches as well and it worked just as good, if not better. I wouldn't recommend it as a searching fly but certainly something to tie on once you locate a school. There's also no reason that a #6 pencil popper wouldn't work even better if you stripped the hackle off an old one, paint it pink and then tied a bit of pink marabou on it.



While there's lots of fishing to be had on the road system, since you're in the area you'd be remiss not to take a 'boat out' trip which will get you to some really excellent beaches and inlets within an hour from Juneau. The Sea Runner Guide Service runs covered 20 or 22-foot boats out of Juneau to the surrounding area at a reasonable price when compared to that of a fly out for the same type of fish. They work through The Juneau Fly Fishing Goods, the only fly shop in Juneau, and both businesses have web sites.

As trips go, this is not an expensive one to make when two or three folks go and share costs as the area is absolutely stunning and the fishing is great. If anyone is interested, I'll be more than happy to share my patterns, photos and precise maps as to where you'll find fish.

Bob Long

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