



Newsletter

June 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

Jun 7	Board Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM
Jun 16-19	Hat Creek Camp Out
Jun 25	Shad Fish Out on the Yuba River at Hallwood with Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers
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

There was a man from Nantucket, no, no, that's not it. Here I sit broken hearted, tried to, no, no, that's not it either. There is a silly fisherman, who can't pick a pattern or a size and when he finally wades into the water, the fish have ceased to rise. Yeah, that's the one. It only took me three days to get ready for two days of fishing but the anticipation is half the fun.

The truck is all loaded and now I am writing with yet another handicap (yes I know, how handicapped can a individual be), because one of my favorite fly fishing shows is on T.V. I am hoping that seven fly rods will be enough and that I won't need a spare. I hope Walt can show me a fly shop on the way to Lake Davis because I only have about six or so variations of a Blood Midge and all of these places have a secret fly that only works there. I am certain that is why we need to have so many well stocked fly boxes if we want to catch fish and if all else fails I can break out my fly tying kit.

I am beginning to understand why all the in the know fly fishers need three quarter ton four wheel drive trucks to haul their gear around. My half ton with a gas engine is no match for that turbo diesel, I think it must be time for a upgrade and do my part to help our struggling economy! I must thank Larry for showing me the error of my ways using a six-weight rod when I should be using a four-weight, otherwise, it just isn't sporting. TFO just came out with the BVK series; maybe I should look into one of those or perhaps something from Winston or Sage? And how about those new lightweight reels from Gary Borger that I saw at The Fly Shop, surely something like that would be acceptable? One must present the proper persona of a fly fisherman. I wonder if there are any of those all titanium reels left as they seemed quite the bargain at only ten thousand dollars? That is why bankers came up with the idea of a second mortgage and they must be fly fisherman as well to understand our predicament with having all the latest gear. I'm sure that all I have to do is read the Cabelas catalog one more time to find the one last item that I surely must need before my next fishing trip; in fact, there is a store on the way to Lake Davis!

Now many of you must be thinking how far out this babbling loon is that writes this letter every month and rightly so because the power of suggestion in today's marketing can be a very powerful thing. However, there comes a point when we must decide if we are just collecting or actually participating in the event. The Trick of the Week club was very frustrating in my old drag racing days and I would imagine it would be the same when it comes to fly-fishing. Poking fun at myself can be revealing at times seeing how absurd some of my thoughts can be. Listening to the water rush by and watching the birds land is where the real rewards are and if there is a fish on the end of my line, so much the better. The time we share on the water is by far the best bargain of all because of all the memories we make and how about taking some pictures this summer to share with others. It would be nice if you could put them on a disc and send them to Bob Long so he could put them in the newsletter.

One last note is to send out our heartfelt wishes and prayers to Jim Tanner, get well soon. Hopefully with a little more help I can finally master the whip finish tool in my fly-tying kit. I wish you were going along on this trip and sharing more of your wisdom. Craig

Past and Proposed Fish Outs

Davis Lake Fish Out May 21-22. There were 5 that came to the fish out at Davis this past weekend. Walt Zukas, Craig Renke, Larry Ingram, Don Voigt and new members Spring and Hank Cooper were the attendees. I believe everyone caught fish except Hank who was having a real dog day and all he could do was watch and occasionally say something like 'woof woof' especially after a fish was caught and released. The hot fly on Saturday was an olive Stillwater nymph and on Sunday morning a blood midge fished without an indicator was working well for me. It was not really a blood midge it was a fly Jim Fujii and Jim Tanner showed me a few years back and it works really well. It consists of a few strands of Jay Fair Leech Brown marabou wrapped on the hook and ribbed with one strand of pearl Flashabou, real simple and real effective. We fished the point off Camp 5 on the West side. This location is now a pay per day location at \$5 per vehicle per day.

June Shad Fish Out Saturday June 25, 2011. Our club will be hosting Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers on Saturday June 25 for a Shad outing on the Yuba River. At this time we plan on fishing from the Messick Ranch, but if the water is still too high we may have to go upriver to Walnut Avenue where the river is widest. I'll have more information on this as we get closer to the date. So Far I have 12 signed up from our club and if you want to attend please send me an e-mail. We plan on having coffee and doughnuts in the morning with lunch in the afternoon for all those attending. We always

need help so if you can attend, plan on helping with the food and also show our guests a good time. Gear needed 6-8 weight with full sink or sinking shooting head and an assortment of Shad Darts, wading staff, waders, and normal accoutrements for river fishing. Meet at Perko's at 8:00 am and will depart for the river at 8:15. If we fish at Messicks parking is not a problem. If we go to Walnut Avenue, parking is limited so we may need to carpool.

July Fish Out Saturday July 23, 2011 UC Sierra Field Station Yuba River. I have 13 people signed up for this event and if you want to attend I need to know no later than July 8 as we need to provide the names in advance because each person is required to have a pass issued by the Field Station. The club will be providing soft drinks and the main course, Don's Delectable Dogs and Buns. Please bring a dish to pass. Ed Hobbs volunteered to help Don. I'm not quite sure if he will be cooking or supervising! 5-6 weight rods, floating or sink tip line, flies - wooly buggers, stonefly nymph and adult, copper john red or copper, PMD or Caddis patterns are recommended, waders, sun screen, wading staff etc. We will meet at Perko's in the Raley's shopping center at 7am and arrive at the gate at the Field Station between 7:30 and 7:45.

There will be no club fish out in August and I'll have more information later this summer on trips starting in September. We still are looking for a volunteer to take over as Fish Out Chair and also Events Chair for general meetings.

Walt

Proposed Fish Outs for 2011

June 16-19 Hat Creek (Ed Weatherly for Details)

June 25 Shad Yuba River at Hallwood with Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers Walt Zukas

July 23 UCD Field Station Yuba River Walt Zukas (Need to sign up ASAP for clearance)

Summer Break

Ladies and Gentleman, as of this writing we are quickly closing in on the end of May. The last day of school will be June 3rd, at Lincrest where the meetings are held. EC Powell will officially be on its summer time schedule. General meetings and Fly tying classes will be suspended, June until September. Our first fall meeting will be on the second Tuesday beginning on September 13th at 7pm in the Lincrest School MP room. Fly tying will then resume in its normal time slot, 7pm on the third Tuesday in September same location and each month thereafter. Remember to check the news letter for updates and changes over the summer months. 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 needs to address. Have wonderful summer.

Thanks, Ken Mackey

Attention, Membership Dues, Are Due Now

This shout out, is for all of you that we at EC Powell Fly Fishers haven't heard from this year. We still have you on the newsletter list and need to check in with you to update your memberships. As follows: \$25.00 Single, \$30.00 Family, and \$10.00 for Students were due last January. Make sure I have your current Address, Phone and E-mail. I will take care of filling out the 2011 form for you. I apologize for any inconvenience caused by not making this clear in earlier newsletters. Send checks and money orders to:

E.C.Powell Fly Fishers
c/o Ken Mackey
PO Box 8157
Loma Rica Ca. 95901

If you have any questions my email is kenpep@cwnet.com or phone 530 742 4552.

Ken Mackey

Panfish on Poppers

Let me start by saying that panfish are my favorite fish to take on a fly rod and my favorite way to take them is using dry flies or poppers. In fact, I purchased a 3-weight fly rod and a weight forward floating line mainly to fish for panfish with poppers. There are times when I have to resort to sinking lines and subsurface flies, but this would be my second choice, so I am limiting this article to surface presentations.

Panfish is a term used to describe a number of small sunfish. The most common panfish in this area is the Bluegill and that is what this article is about, but in the water I normally fish I also take Redear Sunfish and Crappie using the same flies and presentations.

First let's look at the Bluegill's habits. They spawn in the spring and early summer, sometimes spawning several times, which makes them extremely prolific and if they are not kept under control by some predatory fish, namely the Largemouth Bass, they will quickly over populate and become stunted. Spring is the best time to fish for Bluegill and they will be in the shallow water spawning, the males are guarding the nests and will hit about anything that gets close to the nest.

Cover is important to the Bluegill; it provides protection from the predators. Cover can be downed trees, overhanging brush, boat docks, or the most important, heavy aquatic vegetation. Aquatic vegetation provides everything a Bluegill needs, shade, protection from predators, food and oxygen. When you find heavy aquatic vegetation you have found some prime Bluegill water.

Bluegill are a schooling fish and they tend to school by age groups, so if you are catching, or at least being bothered by a lot of small fish, change locations. When a location is found with larger Bluegill, mark its location. After taking a few Bluegill from one location it seems to spook the school and put them off the bite, but by resting the location for 30 minutes or more the bite will resume. I try to find several of these locations and then cycle through them.

Another fact to consider about Bluegill is their small mouth. Take this into account when tying flies. First, it will limit the size hook used; I tie most of my Bluegill flies on size 10 hooks. This keeps a lot of the small ones from getting the hook into their mouths; however remember where there is a healthy population of Bluegill there are usually Largemouth Bass present. I have landed Largemouth Bass in the 5 to 6 pound range on my size 10 Bluegill flies. Second, because of their small mouth it is hard to see the orientation of the hook for removal. To overcome this I tie most of my Bluegill flies on longer shank, down eye, barbless hooks (such as the Mustad 9672). The longer shank puts the eye of the hook out near the lips and the down eye shows me how the hook is oriented.

Now for the construction of the Popper: I started out using Poppers made from wine bottle corks, I enjoyed the wine but the Poppers were not very good, they were too noisy for Bluegill but worked pretty well for Largemouth Bass. Next came Deer Hair Poppers, these were better but soon became waterlogged. Then I discovered closed cell foam! It came in 9 inch by 12 inch by 2mm thick sheets and could be purchased at Walmart or a craft store for about 50 cents a sheet. A sheet would make a years supply of Poppers. The foam was easy to work with, was light, would float indefinitely and was very durable. I have caught as many as 30 or 40 fish on one bug before retiring it. The Popper I came up with using this foam I call 'The Foam Bug.' The foam comes in many different colors, but I have found white to be the most consistent color. I normally use fluorescent chartreuse thread, a red krystal flash tail, white strip of foam for the body, yellow foam strip eyes, and white Sili legs to construct this Bug. To date, I have caught Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass and Squawfish on this Bug. The Bug has most of the attributes I was looking for in a Bluegill Popper; it was light with very little wind resistance. It landed softly, and could be retrieved and picked up for the next cast quietly. The Bug has one problem I have not yet been able to correct, it sometimes lands upside down. However, the Fish don't seem to mind but it is hard to see; one strong strip will usually right the Bug.



A few thoughts on leaders, tippets and knots. First, I like a fairly long leader, somewhere in the neighborhood of 10 to 12 feet. I usually use a 9 foot tapered leader that tapers down to 2x or 3x. To this I attach a 3-foot tippet of at least 6-pound test. Remember, there are some big Largemouth lurking down there! To attach 'The Foam Bug' I use a non-slip mono loop which gives the Bug a little more action.

Presentation: Cast the Bug into a likely looking spot and let it set for up to 30 seconds. If you are lucky a Bluegill will slowly drift up under the Bug and just lay there only inches away scrutinizing it. At this point a hard strip will probably spook the Bluegill, so make a very soft strip, just enough to get the legs to wiggle, sometimes I just shake the rod tip back and forth causing the legs to vibrate, this will usually sell the Bug and the Bluegill will take. Another trick is to get the Bug back under overhanging bushes or trees; this is a prime spot for Bluegill because a lot of food falls off those branches into the water. In order to do this use a sidearm cast skipping the Bug back under the cover. If all goes well this is almost a 'give me' for taking a nice Bluegill, but sometimes the wind will catch the Bug causing it to sail ending up in the limbs. If this happens break the Bug off, tie on another one, and then go retrieve your first Bug after you have fished the spot.

I have had excellent results on Bluegill using dry flies, especially a Deer Hair Humpy. The only problem I have with Humpies is that after a few fish I cannot get them to float anymore. Walt Zukas tells me he ties his Humpies using Foam; this may be a solution I plan to explore this year.



I will cover one more technique that has been very good to me called the 'Popper-Dropper'. Basically it's hanging a nymph or wet fly below 'The Foam Bug'. I tie a piece of tippet material about 18 inches long, to the eye of 'The Foam Bug' and my 'Dropper Fly' to this. The fly I have done the best with is called a 'Soft Hackle Peacock'. I have caught several large Carp with this fly as well. The fly is a very simple one to tie having a peacock herl body, a counter-wound gold or brass wire rib, and a partridge or hen neck hackle.

The last subject I'll cover is the time of day to fish. I seldom fish in the early morning so I can't tell you much about this time. The middle of the day is usually slow

except in early spring when the water is still cold and warms up a few degrees in the middle of the day. I try to be on the water about 3 hours before sunset, the closer to sunset it gets the better the fishing. On many occasions the last hour before sunset will determine what kind of outing I had. From where I normally fish for Bluegill I have to negotiate 3 riffles to get home, so I have to leave 15 or 20 minutes before dark in order to have enough light to run these riffles, so I can't tell you how long the good fishing lasts but I know it is red hot when I leave.

This covers what I know about fishing the surface for Bluegill; maybe next month I'll submit an article on fishing subsurface.

Walt Alexander

Pyramid Lake Revisited

As the end of the fishing season at Pyramid Lake nears, we find that all-in-all, the past few months have been quite remarkable. This Spring's weather was something none of us counted on but need the rain and snow and WOW, we got it! It even snowed on Donner during our May 16-18 trip.

Over the weeks of March, April and May, 30-plus of the club's members were able to get away for 3 days and fish the lake at some of it's finest. We fished in March, April and May. Each provided a slightly different aspect of the lake from sun and warm temperatures to wind, rain, sleet, hail and cold temperatures. On each trip, fish were caught by all in attendance. That's right; **everyone** that went caught fish! Pictures of the many fish have appeared in recent club newsletters.

The fish ranged in size from the smaller 18" up to and including some really hefty 29" to 30" pigs. The average for the lake runs about 22". We had first-timers to seasoned vets catching as many as 20+ fish in one day.

Bottom Line: plan to join us next year for some really great fishing. More info as we get close to the start of the "Prime" time which is April.

Larry Ingram

530 300-1841 cell

Knot Unified

By Clay Gill – Taken from the Alamo Fly Fishers Newsletter

There must be a zillion fishing knots and line joining combinations. The complicated applications for fly fishing have become quite an art. For the novice at entry level it can be intimidating. You are thrust into the world of leaders, lines, loops, and terminal connections. Some instructional books regarding fishing knots look like Grey's Anatomy. Do not say die!

And now we have Gel Spun, Micron, myriads of mono's, and the almighty braids. The jury is still out on this stuff as backing. A novice may scratch his head as they shop for a fly lines or leaders. Sink tips, looped systems, and shooting heads charge into conversations. Specialized needs are met by these highly refined high tech concoctions.

It is not just a floater line and standard nine foot leader any more. Man's ingenuity has transcended the mediocrity of the typical rig for fly fishing. You need to go to fly fishing college,--just to understand the special outfits used today to conquer shallow, deep, cold and hot water, blue water offshore, near shore and extreme distance casting. It is intimidating. Once you do it-it is easy and fun.

Fear not, -if you are entry level. There is hope. Brain surgery is not so hard once you get some training. Start with the basics but do not panic! It --will be ok. You will learn. The "Bimini Twist" will be easy eventually. Right now, locate someone who has the skills. Allow them time to impart the knowledge. Have fun in the process. It needs to be one step at a time. Above all have fun! No one learns to fly fish in a day! Quit as you tire out. It gets better each time you try to cast or tie.

The internet has become an invaluable forum for learning. Illustrations and detailed information await the curious who take time to search massive amounts of technical info. Fly Fish periodicals are also a huge source of current information. Manufacturers have "Tech" people you will help you at toll free numbers. There has never been more info out there readily available. Before you know it you are tying a Palomar in the dark and casting tight loops in the wind!

Then you start catching fish!

A good way to jump start fly fishing skills is to take classes provided for the basics and then follow-up later on the complicated aspects. Knots are endless. Fishing has invented excellent line connections. Don't try to learn them all. Seek the best in each category. For the best results you must practice! The student must retain the muscle memory motor skills and imprint the repetitive manipulations to master complicated knot techniques. It is mostly repetition done your way!

A highly effective knot, but tough to learn is the "Perfection Loop". Simple and effective, this loop disconnects lines quickly for a quick change-reconnect utility. Sections of a line, leader, or tippet, can be attached-reattached and eliminated as the task requires. But--it is somewhat hard to tie the first few times. People who quit and give up do not achieve that small tight compact "Perfection" knot so amazing once you get it right. A shortcut is the clunky and fat "Surgeons Loop". It is simply a fat overhand knot to make the loop. The Perfection's "tag" end stands straight out from the knot. You know you got it right when this happens. The tag end is perpendicular to the line, ready to be trimmed very close. It is a fine compact bead.

Many can learn well from instructional booklets and illustrations. Others like the hands on, over-the-shoulder approach, (watching someone else). This might be the best way to learn. A class with a good patient instructor can take the mystery out of complicated manuals. They make it all fun rather than intimidating. And fly fishing can be very intimidating at first if rushed or force fed. It is too complicated.

If you are new to the fly fish discipline, make a list of things you want to accomplish. Check them off as you take classes filling your needs. Large trade shows, fishing clubs, and boat shows have great speakers and classes. The experience builds on itself. The old learning curve in fly fishing shortens with a good plan and help. Then, it is all about the all important, practice-practice.

The Secret

By Mike Wilhelm – Taken from the Mid-South Fly Fishers Club Newsletter

Having had more than a few of what I deem extraordinary days of fly-fishing on my favorite rivers and streams, recent thoughts of those fly fishing experiences have given me reason to consider what might have been the cause of my undeserved good fortune. Those who have fished with me know I have no special talent and many who have watched me cast suggest I take lessons. My fly tying is marginal at best. My eyesight is poor. My fly fishing gear is far from fancy and I look awful in waders. To this point, any meager successes bestowed upon me in the world of fly-fishing befuddle the minds of experts and novices alike. Could it be that I am just one those bumbling buffoons who stumble through life achieving fly fishing success for no obvious reason while others with far superior skills and abilities struggle?

One factor that has come to mind is timing. Timing is one of those things about which one hears repeatedly. It affects everything from automobiles to golf swings to the stock market. In fly-fishing, timing is everything. The timing of the cast can keep you fishing or with the leader wrapped around your neck. The timing of the hatch is a big one. (You should have been here yesterday.) Timing of generation on tail waters... oh, don't get me started on that one, but it is important. Timing the drift and mends can be the difference in a take and a refusal. Timing your trips to the river to coincide with trips of your good fly fishing friends helps, too. Perhaps my timing has just been good for some fateful reason.

The timing factor deliberation may have reached its apex this past Friday. Bemoaning generation on the river I wanted to fish (poor timing), a second choice was determined and the trip executed. Arriving at the river, there was already a crowded parking lot and I assumed the better fishing assignments were already taken. Fly fishers lined the river as I headed upstream. Looking up river, I could see a fly fisher in one of my favorite spots which is not uncommon but I knew of other good places so I continued on. Turns out the fly fisher was Mike Marshall, friend and club member, who was just leaving as I was arriving. Mike mentioned good catches a few days prior but not today (poor timing again) so he was going to the house. After giving me a couple of flies, he wished me luck and I proceeded to the spot he had been fishing for the past two hours with little luck.

In fact, with the fly Mike gave me, I managed a couple of small rainbows in the first 15 minutes after arriving. It was then the loud rumbling of a diesel engine on the nearby high bank began to disturb my peaceful fly-fishing experience.

As the diesel rattled, other banging and clanging noises followed irritating me further.

I thought it must be a farmer or a construction worker determined to spoil my day and keep me from concentrating on my soft hackle.

While I was praying for the noise to stop and for a fish to take my fly, the most incredible thing happened.

Though I have fished there often, I had not noticed the 20 inch black pipe leading from the top of the bank to the river. If I did notice it, I must have thought it was a drain of some kind and dismissed it. The noise continued and escalated as several hundred trout fell into the river via this big black pipe not 30 feet in front of me.

I stood there with my mouth open in awe as fish continued to drop for several minutes. Then the rumbling diesel drove off leaving me not knowing whether to laugh, cry or jump up and down so I did all three. I looked around for others who might have noticed the stocking by the hatchery truck (or me jumping up and down) and not one had taken note of it. Amazing! Hundreds of fish lay at my feet and not just small stockers. There were some good 14 inchers in the group. It was time to fish. (Oh, did I mention timing?)

Not to abuse my good fortune, I caught and released a reasonable number and shared with a couple of others who came along noticing my consistent takes.

We enjoyed several doubles and a few triples before leaving it with them.

I wandered off in search of more challenging trout. Indeed, a couple of fish that had been in the river for more than an hour were found and, well satisfied, I took my timing to the house for lunch and a nap leaving the question of my bumbling “buffoonism” little in doubt.

The Simple Joys of a New Rod

Submitted by John Berry

As an independent fly fishing guide, I participate in several pro purchase programs, which allow me to buy my fishing equipment at a discount. Needless to say, I have acquired quite a bit of gear over the years. Waders and fishing vests will wear out over time but rods and reels seem to last forever. This has been helped out quite a bit by the fact that virtually all of the manufacturers of quality rods have, for several years, offered a life time guarantee. If you should break one, it can be easily repaired at nominal cost. As a result, I seem to have accumulated a significant number of fly rods. Most were purchased several years ago. The rods that I have purchased in the last few years have been for my clients to use, when on the river. I have not purchased a new fly rod for my personal use in over ten years.

I was pleasantly pleased when one of the rod manufacturers recently sent me an email offering their newest, best rod at an unheard of discount. It was just too good to pass up. Sure, I didn't need one. The rod I selected was a nine foot four weight. I already own two nine footers, an eight foot nine inch rod, two eight footers, a seven footer and a bamboo seven foot rod. All seven rods are four weights. I must mention that I have several other rods of various weights but the four weights are my favorite to fish. They are perfect for casting the small flies we use here.

My wife, Lori, was not so convinced that I really needed a new rod. I explained that my favorite four weight, my beloved Sage Light Line, was a two piece rod and difficult to travel with. This new rod would be a four piece (much easier to travel with) and besides it weighed a full ounce less but had the same action with a sensitive tip. She was unimpressed. I then suggested that I fund my acquisition by selling another rod, the eight foot nine inch. She agreed. I sold my old rod and ordered the new one.

It finally arrived and it was gorgeous. It had the nicest fittings I had ever seen. The finish was flawless and the cork grip was as smooth as a baby's bottom. I was in love. I grabbed a reel with a four weight line and strung it up. I walked out to the side yard (we leave it clear of large plants so that we have a casting lawn for classes and our own practice sessions). I cast it for a few minutes. It was a pleasure to cast. I easily shot out seventy feet. Lori tried it and was also impressed with its appearance and ability to cast line.

I wanted to fish it. That is a lot different from just casting. I was curious to see how it handled casting a bit of weight and if it would protect small tippets. My work schedule was so heavy that I did not get a chance to fish with it for a couple of weeks. I wanted the conditions to be perfect. I finally caught the optimal day. It was warm and sunny. The river was on the bottom. It was a bit windy (10 to 20 miles per hour) but that did not bother me. I gathered up my yellow lab, Ellie, and Lori. Both were eager to be on stream. We drove over to Rim Shoals and waded down to our favorite spots. There were several anglers there but there were plenty of room to fish.

I put on a fresh seven and one half foot leader. I then tied on an eighteen inch 5X tippet and a hot pink San Juan worm. I tied an eighteen inch 6X tippet to the bend of the hook of the worm and a size twenty black zebra midge to the tag end of the tippet. I twisted a couple of turns of larva lead above the surgeons knot connecting the leader and the 5X tippet. I attached a strike indicator to the leader and set the depth at about six feet. I was fishing the drop off to a deep run. I cast upstream and let the current carry the fly line over the drop off into the deep run. The fish were stacked up along the drop off and it did not take long before I got a hook up. It was a nice fourteen inch rainbow. I landed it quickly. The rod performed flawlessly. It cast the double fly rig easily, despite the wind that was gusting over twenty five miles an hour. The tip was sensitive and carefully protected the 6X tippet. The rod had enough butt strength to put plenty of pressure on the trout and enabled me to land it quickly.

We fished all afternoon and I caught several nice trout. The largest was probably around fifteen inches long but was particularly fat and sassy. Lori did well also but was troubled by the crowd. She much prefers to fish secluded water. Ellie didn't seem to care. She just wanted me to give her one or more of the dog biscuits that I always carry in my fishing vest.

It was finally time to go and I reluctantly left the river. The first outing with my new rod had convinced me that I had a new favorite. It is light in weight, casts like a dream and is an effective fishing tool. My new rod is a joy to own and fish with!

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

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V Presidents: Ken Mackey 742-4552
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Treasurer: Doug Fujii 790-7027

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