

# Newsletter

March 2010

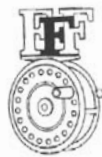
# 302

## 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

- Mar 2 Board Meeting, Marysville Library, 7 PM
- Mar 9 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM  
Program: **Justin Miller**
- Mar 16 Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM
- Mar 20 Lake McCumber Fish Out
- Mar 27 Kelsey Bass Ranch Fish Out
- Apr 13 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM
- Apr 17 Kiene's Fly Shop Expo



## President's Corner

Despite the weather there has been lots of fishing going on, to the low flow in Oroville, the trinity, Yuba River and stripers on the Sacramento with some having a great time and others actually catching fish. The last meeting we had a very informative speaker, John Gantner, who gave a presentation on identifying mayflies, damselfly, caddis and others from birth all the way to the adult stage, so you can match your flies. We have fish outs lined up for the next couple of months, with this month's being at the Oroville after bay on 20 March with more to come. Speaking of fish outs, if you are planning to go to Kelsey or Eagle Lake, we need your deposit. I would like to try Baum Lake and/or Pyramid Lake for two or three days next month; anyone else up for something like that?

MEMBERS - We really need pictures of our outings for the newsletter so drop Bob Long a note and some pictures, THANKS. Congratulations to Jeff, Bob and Larry, as all received very nice shadow box's of flies for their outstanding work last year. Thank You Pete

## March Program

The March meeting features a program by **Justin Miller** entitled "Swinging for Northern California Steelhead". Justin works at The Fly Shop in Redding, Ca. He spends about half the year working in the shop, and the rest of the time guiding anglers on various northern California rivers. He began his fishing career in the Sierras, fishing for trout He became interested in steelhead fishing while he was a student at Chico State University. His preferred method of fishing is the downstream swing. The program will focus on presentation, casting styles, equipment and flies for both winter and summer run fish. This should be a very interesting program, as many of our members enjoy fishing for steelhead around the state.

April's program is slated to be a new member clinic. One of the things that Pete wanted to focus on this year is increasing our membership. Over the past few months, we've had several people join the club and felt another clinic was due. Mike Ream, a certified casting instructor, will put on a casting demonstration, and others have volunteered to show knots, equipment, rigging etc. Look for more details in the April newsletter.

## 2010 Proposed Fish Outs

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

## Kelsey Bass Ranch Fish Out - March 27, 2010

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

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

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



We have several already signed up but we still have room for more. If you're interested, contact Larry Ingram at 530 673-4965, 530 300-1841 or email at: [flyfisher16@comcast.net](mailto:flyfisher16@comcast.net) Web site for Kelsey: <http://www.excellentadventures.org/excellent%20adventures/index3.htm>

## Fish Outs – Past and Future

### Results of Yuba River Fish Out on January 30.

Ken Hungrige, Alex Reyno, Ian Skarshaug, John O'Shea, Mike Ream, Ken Mackey, Craig Renke, Denis Davis, and Walt Zukas had a good day at the UC Davis Foothill Field Station on the Yuba River for trout.

The water was about cuffs and the clarity was of color and it was sunny to partly cloudy and the trout were cooperative. Just about everyone hooked or hooked and landed fish. I hooked 6 and landed 3 on a bead head olive leech pattern swinging it in the big tail out upstream of the parking area. Everyone else fished downstream from there using an assortment of patterns some wet and some dry. There was a moderate PMD (Pale Morning Dun) hatch and a heavy WB (Wooly Bugger) hatch. Overall it was a great day on the Yuba!

### Oroville After Bay fish Out on February 20.

Walt Alexander, Craig Renke, Walt Zukas, Ken Hungrige, Ken Mackey, and Mark Iwanaga made the trip.

It was a great day for fishing, overcast in the morning followed by an hour or two of light to heavy downpour and then clear sunny skies the remainder of the day. I found out you can't go very far or very fast with a 6 x 1/4 inch hole in the hull, as the constant bailing takes all the fun out of fishing. I did find out that my pram still floats full of water. That was the most exciting thing of the day. No fish but it turned out to be a nice day on the water. Ken and I fished out of Mark's boat Craig and Walt fished in Walt's Boat and Ken had a pontoon boat. We fished all the likely spots and did not mark any fish on the depth finder until we were pulling out and they were all around the boat ramp with one or two jumping after we got on shore and packed up.

### March 20 Lake McCumber Fish Out

The March 20 fish out will be Lake McCumber which is near Shingle Town east of Redding on Hwy 44. We will leave the Yuba City Perko's parking lot at 06:00. Lake McCumber is stuffed with 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. Of



course you should consider having an ugly fly. One of the 3 best days I've had on this lake was fishing an ugly Peacock body Chartreuse butt on a size 12 1x long hook. I caught close to 40 on this fly and I gave it to Larry Ingram when I left and he continued to catch fish until he lost the fly; of course, I never caught another fish on that fly at that lake. 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's impossible to fish from shore so a pram that doesn't leak or float tube is required. It's 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 March general meeting or you can e-mail me at [itszuke@comcast.net](mailto: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. PG&E owns

the entire one-mile shoreline and 360 acres around the lake; about half this land is under FERC license. The shallow northern shoreline provides good habitat for waterfowl and wading birds. PG&E has recently completed a wetland enhancement project.

## Alaskan Rainbows

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



The trip takes you by plane from Anchorage to Iliamna where you change to a float plane for a short 20 minute flight to the lodge. Once there, we fish everyday with a guide for these big brutes. If you have any doubts about the size of the rainbows in Alaska just ask Bob Harik.



The cost of the trip, less the airfare to Anchorage is: about \$650 round trip from Anchorage to the lodge, then \$400 to \$450 per day, depending upon how many go. The daily cost includes everything (food, guides, room, drinks, everything). Sound a bit pricy? We pay \$360 to \$400 per day

for a guide around here and then you add the cost of room, food and this turns out to be a really good deal. We can stay as many days as you like but we are thinking of 4-5 days.

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

Just copy and paste into Google.

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

## Introduction to Fly Fishing Classes

The Appeal Democrat published a Parks and Recreation Activities Guide that was delivered with the newspaper one day last week. It included the announcement of the class starting Thursday April 15<sup>th</sup> through May 6<sup>th</sup>. Persons interested in the class should sign up at the Parks and Recreation Office at the South West Corner of Onstott and Franklin Ave. in Yuba City. The fee is twenty five dollars if persons live in Yuba City and thirty if persons reside outside the city.

Pass this information on to anyone who has an interest in learning the sport. As usual I'll be asking for some help from members of the ECP Club.  
Ed Hobbs



## First Spring Stripers



Every year when things get cold in the delta, lots of guys give up strippers and start chasing steelhead. This past week I'm chasing strippers and catching steelhead. Cabin fever sets in for all of us and we start jumping the gun a little, looking for something to do. Last week I just had to get out and hit the river, muddy as it was. I'd heard that fish and game was already dumping steelhead smolt into the river. This usually rings the dinner bell for all early arriving strippers up this way.

Using a standard 3/0 chartreuse/white clouser I didn't connect with any strippers, but instead landed two steelhead. Yes, on a 3/0 clouser! This morning I decided to give it another try and called my friend Jim May to go along with me.

We got on the water around 7:30 am and immediately saw fish working. Jim had on a fly he tied for Baja last year, and I'm still using my chartreuse clouser. We spot a couple of boils close to the boat showing feeding fish and immediately get a grab. Jim's tight onto a nice 8# pounder. Wahoo! First of the spring strippers!



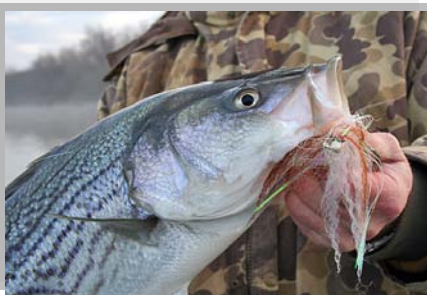
We continue working the area, marking fish and lots of bait, perhaps schools of smolt working their way downstream. Jim hooks up again, now about a 10-12# pounder. Then another, maybe a teener this time!

Finally, I hook up on a red and white fly and bring in a "dink" 5# pounder.



We make several more passes of the same area and Jim hooks up again, this time to a much larger fish that heads

straight into the trees. Luckily, the fish decides the middle of the river was more to his liking and we bring in a beautiful 23# pounder.



All of the fish this morning were in great shape and fat, obviously eating well.

Even though the rivers are still quite muddy with only a foot or two visibility

at best, it is possible to find fish with a little looking. Tony, Feather River Fly, [www.feather-river-fly.com](http://www.feather-river-fly.com)

## What Are Trout Really Thinking?

Submitted by Daryl Crowley – West Michigan Hacklers Club

Did you ever wonder what goes on in the mind of a trout? What in the heck are they thinking? Thinking? Of course the logical assumption is that they are cold-blooded creatures, incapable of any conscious thought, merely reacting to their environment or external stimuli. Cautious? Yes, of course, this seems obvious but surely they are not "self-aware," or cognizant of their own mortality, let alone conscious of humans or their methods. They don't "know" what eagles or anglers are; just that dangers exist that can reach into their watery realm, so they have learned to be shy of shadows or intrusions into their world. Trout cannot "think" as would you or I. Or can they?

Those of us that have been chasing these elusive creatures for more than a few decades have questioned on numerous occasions the "scientific logic" that would have us believe that trout are merely reactive automatons, little more than

animated vegetables, acting on instinct and fear. The experienced angler is not so quick to demote the trout to the status of low-grade imbecile. A well-known FFF fly-tier was giving an excellent fly tying demonstration to our club and was trying to make a valid point about a trout's perception of a fly. She remarked; "A trout's brain is the size of a pea; how freakin' smart can they be?" To which I responded; "Evidently....., pretty freakin' smart." There was a round of laughter....nervous laughter. It was a humorous response, not meant as challenge to her statement, but it seemed to ring an ominous bell in the minds of our well-seasoned club members. I could hear our collective minds reeling with the horrible realization that these not-so-freakin'-smart-fish have been making fools of us for a long time. What does that say for the angler? Maybe we're not-so-freakin'-smart!

One of the hallmarks of an intelligent species is the ability to communicate and while I have never actually heard a trout conversing with his fish friends, it seems obvious that they must. This is evidenced by the fact that within moments of my arrival at the river, every fish in the stream knows I am there. The skeptics would say that I'm just clumsy and that I have signaled the fish of my arrival by being "un-stealthy." While this may account for the sudden cessation of rises in my immediate vicinity, it does not account for how fish a quarter mile downstream also immediately cease their activity, unless trout are "passing the word" of my presence. I submit then that this is proof of communication and therefore sentience on the part of the trout. And the evidence doesn't stop there.

Much ado is made about the importance of floating a dry fly without a trace of drag. The assumption being that trout will detect something unnatural in a fly that drags in the current. Nonsense! I believe trout are intimately familiar with what a line and leader are. They probably can even tell the brand of knotless leader just by looking at it. How can that be? I have no idea, but consider the places that trout station themselves for feeding. Do they take up a feeding position in a spot clear of over-hanging brush with no cross-currents? Never. They only seek places that deny the ability to present a fly. They look for current seams that will tie your leader in a knot. They hang out six inches below a little leader-grabbing-stick, which offers no current break or shelter, the only reasonable advantage of feeding there is that it's an impossible spot to lay down a fly that's attached to a leader. There can be little doubt of their intelligent use of resources. The devious bastards!

We have all watched these so called "dumb creatures" scrutinize a #22 fly as if it were some kind of binding legal contract with fine print. I can barely distinguish a #18 Hares Ear from a #20 Blue Winged Olive when I'm holding them side-by-side in good light, yet a trout can pick out either tiny ruse as it shoots through a choppy riffle at dusk, probably noting it was tied with a new shade of brown poly-dub mixed with platypus fur. I have no doubt it's immediately recorded on some sort of Fish-Internet-YouTube as every trout will then come up and look at my fly, not with any intention of eating it of course, but just to have a first hand look at a fly that actually includes platypus fur. Without a doubt Fish-Talk-Radio is instantly abuzz: "Flash - New This Year - Platypus Fur - in other news; Orvis introduces a new line of hooks..." News travels fast in trout circles and they remember. Trout are insidious. We think ourselves adept at deception, but this is a delusion. When we enter the river, we are immediately out-of-our-league. Trout seem fully aware of our feeble attempts to deceive them. Selective trout? The only thing they are "selecting" is the manner in which to frustrate us. Maybe today they will only rise in water too deep to wade, or on the far side of a log parallel with the bank. Perhaps they will refuse our fly, not once, not twice, but maybe dozens of times. Why would a trout, that can differentiate subtle differences in a #24 midge, continue to rise to the same #12 Royal Coachman over and over and over? Ok, maybe twice, or maybe even three times, but after the 15th time, even a moronic trout would know that this is the same fly he had just refused for the past dozen casts. But of course he knows it's the same fly and could probably tell you if it was tied by a right or left handed fly tier. He just continues to rise because he knows it's driving you crazy. He is calculating how long it will take before you break your rod in half and chuck it in the river.

Trout also have a sense of humor, warped humor for sure, but humor none-the-less, a characteristic found only in higher order species, like humans or chimpanzees, or trout. Trout find endless delight in only sipping flies that appear to be within an inch of our offerings. They know we are carefully following the progress of our fly, attuned and ready to strike at the slightest indication of a take, and then they come up and pretend to eat a fly right next to our fly. We haul back hard to set the hook, the fly touches nothing and we are promptly hung in the bushes behind us. That takes planning my friend - skilled, tactical planning. How many times have you observed fish "rising" steadily but you can't seem to see what they are taking? They're not taking anything; they just know we are gullible! All those times a fish followed your streamer right up to you only to slowly drift back down into the depths without striking - you were snookered. They just do that to freak you out and there is no end to their pleasure in doing this. Do we amuse them? Are we clowns? Do they find us amusing?

You might be tempted to accuse me of being anthropomorphic in my assessment of trout intelligence, but I assure you I do not come to these conclusions hastily. Nor am I delusional. It's not paranoia when they really are out to get you. After more than 50 years of careful observation it seems undeniable that trout not only think, they communicate, they plan, they execute, and they are probably adept at theoretical calculus, and if they had opposable thumbs they would be extremely dangerous. Beware! They're out there; they're plotting and planning even as you read this. If you think I exaggerate, then the next time you do full pratfall in the river (and of course you will), before you rocket yourself upright gasping for breath, take just a moment while underwater to notice all the faint bubbly laughter.

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

**Officers:**

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

**Board of Directors:**

Walt Alexander 846-4284  
Tim Wright 301-4869  
Walt Zukas \* 674-0491  
Jeff Lingenfelter \* 639-0739  
Jim Tanner \* 673-5137  
Craig Renke 695-1850  
\* Past Presidents

**Committees:**

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



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

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

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

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

PO Box 1135 Yuba City, CA 95992

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fly Fishing Experience: Beginner \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_\_\_

Fishing interests: \_\_\_\_\_

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

in: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_ New membership: \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_