

Newsletter

May 2009

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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

- May 5 Board Meeting, Marysville Library, 7:00 PM
- May 12 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
Program: **Jeff Putnam**
- May 15 Fuller Lake fish out
- May 19 Fly Tying **Cancelled**
- Sep 8 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM



President's Corner

To begin, let me remind everyone that there will be no general meeting or fly tying sessions in June, July or August while the school is on summer break. The school is also unavailable for the fly tying class in May. The May meeting features a presentation by Jeff Putnam on fishing with spey rods. In addition, Jeff is giving a spey casting class on Sat. May 23rd in Sacramento. The cost of the class is \$50 and it limited to 10 students. If you wish to take one of the remaining spots, contact Larry Ingram at flyfisher16@comcast.net

If you want to attend on of the summer fish outs and haven't signed up, the sheets will be at the May meeting, or you can contact the listed fishmeister. The fish outs scheduled for this summer are;

Yuba/ Feather Shad No firm date or Fishmeister
North Yuba June 6th Jeff Lingenfelter
Caribou Area No firm date or Fishmeister
Upper Klamath Lake July 6th thru July 12th Larry Ingram

For those trips without a Fishmeister listed, contact me at jamen5@ccxn.com. The April Striper fish out has been postponed and should be rescheduled for sometime in May. John O'Shea is leading a trip to Fuller Lake on May 15th. If you are interested, call John at 673-4014. Jeff

May Program

Our program speaker (but with an added plus) for May will be **Jeff Putnam**. Jeff will put on a program on Spey casting and fishing techniques using those same principles whether it is with a single or two handed rod. Jeff is considered by many to be one of the top Spey casting instructors in the area. Following the program, Jeff has agreed to put on a Spey clinic on the American River on May 23rd. The cost of this is \$50 per person and includes an entire day of instruction plus lunch. Jeff has many extra rod and reel setups for those that yet have their own equipment. If you are interested in attending, contact Larry Ingram 673-4965.

At eleven years of age Jeff traded in his spinning rod for his first fly fishing outfit and started fishing many trout-filled streams in the Sierra Mountains. It was not long before fishing challenging gin-clear spring creeks, emerald green coastal steelhead rivers and fertile lakes all over the Western U.S. that Jeff realized fly fishing was more than just a sport. Jeff began fly tying commercially at 13 and started guiding fly fishermen on Northern California's waters as early as age 16.

Since then Jeff has worked many positions in the industry including retail fly shop sales, manufactures rep, fly fishing guide in California, Montana and Colorado and fly fishing instructor. Jeff has also been fortunate to have traveled to some top fly fishing destinations like the famous Dean River in BC, the Tsiu River in Alaska, El Pescador Lodge in Belize and Christmas Island in the Central Pacific.

Jeff puts on special seminars and presentations for angling groups, fly fishing clubs, fly shops, fly fishing manufacturers and corporate groups. He also consults individuals and groups on travel planning and tackle selection. Jeff enjoys fishing local waters for any species he can catch on a fly rod and possesses a true angling passion for spey fishing for steelhead, catching rising trout on light rods and searching the saltwater flats. Jeff's usually fishes with his favorite fishing partner, his wife Angela. When Jeff is not fishing he is usually scouting local waters with his four-legged fishing buddy, Somba, "experimenting" with the latest fly fishing gear or practicing guitar.

2009 Proposed Fish Outs

Date	Location	Fishmeister	Phone
May 15	Fuller Lake	John O'Shea	673-4014
May	Green River, Utah	Pete Gilb	671-3982
May	Local Shad	??	
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

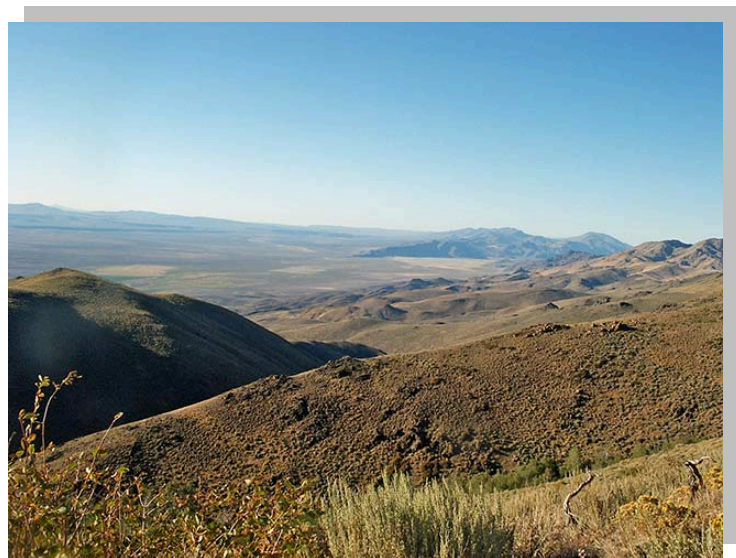
Bob Harik has made most of the reservations and arrangements for the Eagle Lake fish out in October. He asks if there is anyone planning to go who would be able to be the fishmeister as he may not be able to attend. Please let him know if you can help.

Dusty Road to the Top of the World

This will be the second in a series of articles detailing some of my fishing holes in Northern Nevada. The first on Pyramid Lake was well known. This and many of the others I share at the risk of publicizing what is mostly known only to a few hardy fishermen. That last part is what makes me confident that only the most adventurous among you will make the trip into the sometimes desolate regions of northern Nevada. Those who do will find the rewards well worth the excursion. -BT

Denio Junction is a small community approximately 65 miles North of Winnemucca, Nevada. It is within a stone's throw of the Oregon border, and serves as the gateway to the Sheldon National Wildlife Preserve. Those who have been to Cedarville or Alturas will be familiar with the 573,000-acre region in the northwest corner of our State. Lava flows, mostly stemming from the Bruneau-Jarbridge caldera created a high plateau when it erupted over 12 million years ago. At a base elevation of 5,000 feet, the area is rimmed with weathered plateaus and colossal peaks, some reaching nearly 10,000' in elevation. The low lands are hot and dry in summer, but the area teems with life. Antelope, mule deer, and wild horses and burros are plentiful throughout the Preserve. Hunters more than triple the population of the area during the fall and early winter months. The region is dominated by numerous dry lakebeds that can stretch for dozens of miles and now seem only to support dust devils. But there is water here: Good water for wildlife and grazing stock, phenomenal water for fly fishermen. And the same waters that have percolated through the hard ground over millions of years have brought an additional surprise that can more than pay for the cost of the trip...or even your home!

The Pine Forest Range. Heading West and South from Denio Junction along highway 140, one cannot help but notice the expansive Pine Forest Range. Perhaps the most dominant feature of the Sheldon Preserve, the Pine Forest Range rises 5,000 feet above the valley floor. It is here that three of Nevada's fly fishing hot spots can be found. Ten miles west of Denio Junction, there is an inconspicuous turnoff that will take you due south away from pavement. This is the last smooth section of road for many hours, and in some cases, days. Another 9.5 miles brings one to a well marked road heading left and up into the mountains. This road is all graded to this point, and the turnout



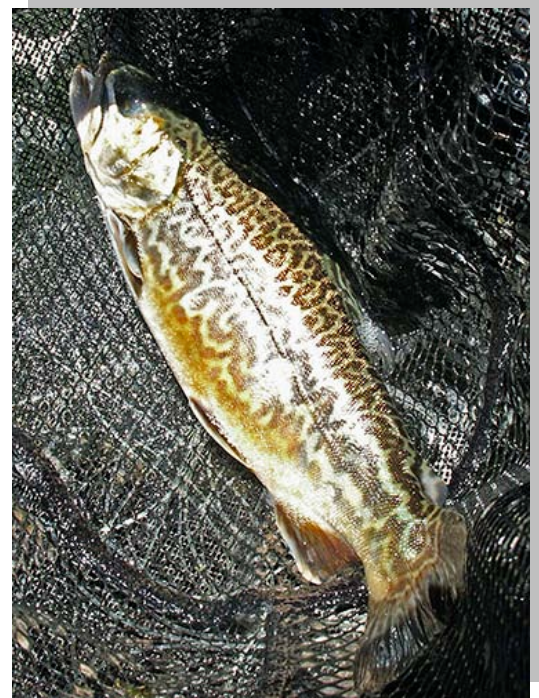
is even marked with a sign and one of the greatest monuments to human achievement: the sweet-smelling outhouse. That's not a joke...look it up! The next five miles are rough, but terminate at a T-intersection, and the traveler is faced with the first choice; left and down the canyon leads to Onion Valley Reservoir and Blue Lakes, right and continue upward to Knott Creek Reservoir. For now the

decision is made a little easier by the fact that Onion Valley was drained in 2007 in a water dispute. So we head right and upward into narrow valleys, even rougher roads, a narrow switchback between craggy rocks barely wide enough for a standard pick-up, and on to Knott Creek Reservoir.



Knott Creek Reservoir is approximately 215 acres, and has a maximum depth of 24 feet. It is a geological marvel, nestled in a narrow valley, buttressed on both sides by vertical escarpments of granite. The Earth here has literally been stood on end and the breathtaking views look straight out of the lord of the Rings, complete with a pyramid-shaped island. The shallow end of the lake (from which we approached) is edged by thick weed beds, but the old creek channel is clearly visible. There is no official campground, but both sides of the lake are dry and fairly level. The lake is single-barbless, artificial only, so most of the bait and litter crowd avoid this spot like the plague. That is

their loss, as the lake is absolutely filled with fish of giant proportions. About ten years ago, the lake suffered a massive die-off as drought left it at nearly record low levels. The corresponding rise in temperatures wiped it out, and the lake was closed to fishing by NDOW for about three years. The fish that did survive, and those that have been planted since, are huge, voracious, and in many cases, suffering from loneliness. As with most desert reservoirs, the lake is flush with aquatic life, but the money patterns here mimic damselflies, snails, damselflies, calibaetis, tui chubs, damselflies, and damselflies. Wooly buggers in a variety of colors, matukas, and other fishy patterns also work well. The lake sits at 6400' and remains fairly cool throughout most of the summer. Concentrate efforts on the edges of weed beds all day and be prepared for rod-braking strikes as nymphs and streamers are retrieved. Trout over eight pounds are not uncommon, but the real prize is landing one of the many enormous tiger trout that lurk in its waters. The lake can suffer from algae blooms as the summer progresses and the water warms, so get there early. By mid-May, calibaetis hatches can be prolific. Fishing the holes and edges of beds early- and late- in the day can pay huge rewards.



Notes: Dress warm even if the weather is clear. Nights at this elevation can be C-O-L-D. Also, the lake can be accessed from the much smoother Leonard Creek Ranch road that enters from the west by following it in from the south end of the Pine Forest Range. It is well marked on HWY 140 as one approaches from Winnemucca. I mention it here because the road is private and has six gates along its length. These gates are usually open, but can be closed and locked, making the ride back around the mountains not much of a shortcut. I discovered the road when a group of fisherman arrived at the lake in a Ford Tempo. This would also explain how the rare camper, motor home, or boat-hauling trucks arrive.

Onion Valley reservoir and Blue Lakes are located only 10 miles from Knott Creek, but the drive can take nearly an hour on the steep, rocky switchback road that connects the bodies of water. Returning from Knott Creek to the aforementioned T-intersection. Continue down the canyon and back up the



Western flank of the mountains for about 4.5 miles. The road terminates at Onion Valley reservoir, which, under normal circumstances, would warrant its own paragraph dedicated to the Kamloops strain rainbows that NDOW had stocked over the last two decades. Here is where most people will camp, as somewhat improved (but still primitive) campsites surround the lake. All of these can be accessed by the road as it splits and nearly circles the impoundment. Instead, turning left at the lake, crossing the dam (which has a startling 2,500' drop to the valley below) and continuing on for another ¼ mile brings the traveler to a fork in the road. By turning left, an easy crossing of the mountains can be made, ultimately ending at HWY 140 below. Turn right and continue up another

narrow road that weaves through quaking aspen patches for about 2.5 miles. The road broadens and terminates at one of the most beautiful spots that Nevada has to offer. Granite boulders--some as large as small houses--are strewn over a level area several acres in size, a parking area, and yes, another of the sweet-smelling outhouses. This is the trailhead to Blue Lakes. Blue Lakes are naturally occurring lakes that can only be reached by walking in the last ¾ of a mile. It is an easy walk, even with float tube, rod, waders, boots, fins, and lunch on your back. It crosses 9,000 feet and drops into a basin that once held five separate lakes at the bottom of a glacial scree field.

Most of the lakes are not much more than bogs due to decades of drought, but recent snows have reunited the two largest lakes. I could not begin to guess the depth, as it has changed so dramatically over the last three seasons, but the once lush weed beds now lay submerged under 10-15' of water. This too is tiger trout territory, but the lakes are also home to heli-dropped rainbows, and naturally reproducing brook trout that can reach nearly 2lbs. The water is cold year round. The lakes look like miniature versions of Lake Tahoe, surrounded by granite boulders and are gin clear. There are blood red leeches in these lakes that can exceed two inches in length, but experience has shown that damsels are the name of the



game here as they are in most desert bodies of water. The can either be fished subsurface as nymphs, or as we prefer, on the surface as drowning adults. Find exposed structure such as rocks or weeds (once they again reach the surface), or simply cast to cruisers. Breezes and gusts of wind elicit feeding orgies as trout gulp down the helpless insects blown back in to the water as they emerge or mate.

Notes: There are no special regulations for Blue Lakes. As a result, do not be surprised to see worms being sacrificed under bobbers. The good news is that the hike in deters almost everyone, and the lake is almost always empty. The draining of Onion Valley has enhanced this, as most visitors to Blue Lakes were only on day trips from the reservoirs below. Do not attempt the hike in your waders. I have found that threading a backpack through the seat of my float tube by its straps allows me to carry the whole ensemble as one load with rod(s), flippers, waders, and other gear stowed inside. Sunsets here are magnificent and can last for hours as the peaks above the lake reflect alpenglow back onto the water. There are other bodies of water within a couple of miles of Onion Valley to include Little Onion Reservoir

and Duffer Creek. For those inclined to hike, the trailhead that passes Blue Lakes continues on to Duffer Peak (9,379').

The Valley Below. If one were to continue west on HWY 140 past the original turnoff to Knott Creek for another 23 miles (all of them paved!), there is another contested body of water that has been a boon for fly fishers in years past.

Big Springs Reservoir is located two short miles north of the highway. It too was drained in a water dispute six or seven years ago, but is reported to be on the rebound. Rainbows, cutthroats, and hybrids were plentiful in this shallow reservoir. This lake too is full of life, hosting (again) damselfly, calibaetis, scuds, tui chub, and traveling sedge caddis flies, all of which can provide explosive action on fish that were reported to grow at over an inch per month. These are big, hard-fighting trout that were notorious for smashing flies and breaking leaders. The lake is lined with nut grass and tules, but is otherwise decidedly un-noteworthy. Rarely more than a few feet deep, the lake drew large crowds because of its easy access and plentiful campsites. This is a bird watchers paradise and a popular watering hole for the wild burros and horses in the area.



Notes: Visitors are over 100 miles from the nearest town (Winnemucca), and the stargazing at night is a treat worth the visit. Some of my greatest joys have been evenings with friends, arms tired from pulling on lunkers, spent counting satellites as they streak overhead. For a real treat, head up in mid-August to catch both the Perseid Meteor Showers and the emergence of the traveling sedges—caddis flies over an inch long that buzz suicidally along the surface just before nightfall.

Duferena Ponds do not fit here, geographically speaking, as the turnoff for them is passed on the way to Big Springs, but I saved them for a reason. Nevada does not abound with warm water fishes as much of the rest of the nation does, but these spring-fed ponds on the South side of HWY 140 are well marked and reached by a turnoff only 15 miles west of the road to Knott Creek. They are a series of



small, windswept, marshy bodies, most not much bigger than 3-4 acres of fishable water. They have largemouth bass, crappie, a variety of sunfishes, and yellow perch. The last of these offers a special opportunity for anglers in that a fish of only ½-pound earns the angler a special certificate from the Nevada Trophy Fish Program. But this is not the only reason to visit this barren stretch of alkali desert. This is northern end of the famed Virgin Valley. For those who have not heard of this area, arguably the richest opal claims in the world can be found here, and for a fee, many are open to the public. The same waters that have been leaching into the area for millions of years deposited dissolved

silicates in the clays in this valley, often replacing fossilized organic matter such as tree limbs, pinecones, and even (reportedly) the head of a snake. The Royal Peacock Opal Mine is one of these digging areas, and home to the largest opal ever found. For a fee, visitors are allowed to mine the walls of the area and take home their finds. This is no small deal, as fine opal currently retails for over \$4,000 per carat, and this area is home to some of the world's only true black opal. I have yet to dig in the mines myself (I have another secret area!), but I have visited them, and people cross the planet to get a shot at the fortunes waiting to be found here. A half-day's digging could easily make the trip quite profitable.

Brandan Trehal

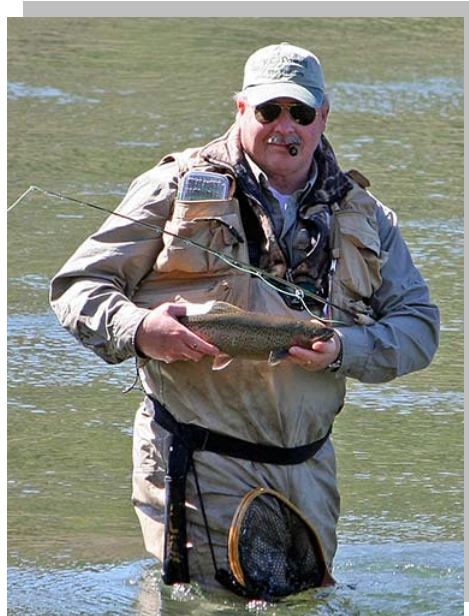
Notes: All of the places I have mentioned are fairly isolated. I find this to be a major reason for going. For those who wish to make a trip to any of these locations, please feel free to contact me for more exact information including best times to go, and what you will need to make your trip more enjoyable. NEVER travel Nevada unprepared. Always carry extra fuel, food, water, and clothing. Help is rarely unreachable, but reaching it is not an accident. All of these areas can be fished with a 5-6WT rod and a floating line. I usually carry an intermediate line as well, but more often than not, it never gets strung in a rod. A float tube is almost a must, as well as neoprene waders. Denio Junction offers the only fuel and services for 70-100 miles. To get there, take I-80 to Winnemucca. From Winnemucca, take I-95 north to NV-140. Again, I can provide locations for turnoffs to save time and miles, but this article was not the place for a lengthy discussion of this nature. The area can alternately be accessed by dirt road from Alturas and Cedarville. I have provided a link that shows both routes on Google maps.

http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=reno,+nv&daddr=winnemucca,+nv+to:denio+junction,+nv+to:vya,+nv+to:alturas,+ca+to:susanville,+ca+to:chico,+ca+to:yuba+city,+ca&geocode=&hl=en&mra=ls&sll=40.730608,-119.745483&sspn=2.547483,5.679932&ie=UTF8&ll=40.768062,-119.355469&spn=2.546049,5.679932&t=h&z=8

Yuba River Fish Out UC Davis Property

April's fish out on the Yuba River is usually one of the more popular outings of the year. This year was no exception. Twenty one members made the trip to the university fishing access, where they found some very nice improvements to the picnic area, most notably a large covered concrete patio, with eight or ten picnic tables and a barbeque. The funds for this new construction were donated by the Speiker family of Loma Rica. It was great to have a comfortable spot to relax and eat after fishing.

The fishing itself however, was a little slow, probably due to the recent increase in the flow, which was up



to 1600 cfs. A few fish were caught in the morning, but they didn't come easy. Walt Zukas got to his favorite spot in the tail out just upstream from the parking area and managed to land a couple of nice fish before lunch. Bob Harik hooked up with a fish that took him nearly to his backing before coming off. Around lunch time, when most of us were eating, fish started working on top for the guys who stayed out. Mark Iwanaga caught a nice 17" fish on a Parachute Adams as well as some smaller fish. Tim Wright hooked several fish, on which he managed a 100% long distance release rate. Nice consistency Tim. Those who fished after lunch found scattered fish taking March Brown duns on the surface. Walt Zukas was able to land another nice fish in his spot, from which he seldom strays very far, but overall the fishing was still tough. Persistence seemed to be the key to success this year. Those who stayed at it, particularly later in the morning, generally had some luck.

Although not many fish were caught, I think everyone had a good time and are looking forward to next year's trip. Thanks to Don Voigt and Ed Hobbs for their help in getting everyone fed, and to Larry and Ed for all the photos.

Jeff



A Trio of Tips

Taken from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers Club Newsletter

A: Leader construction tips -

If your fly line doesn't have a built-in loop, make a small loop and do two nail knots with 10 or 15 pound test monofilament next to each other to secure the loop. A loop in the butt section of your leader will make a loop-to-loop connection allowing quick changes when needed.

How do you determine what size, diameter or pound test, for your leaders butt section? Energy from the fly line should be transferred to the leader efficiently. Hot glue the end of the line to the leader and see if they bend equally when creating a "U," holding line in one hand and leader in the other. If they do, you have selected the perfect butt section. For most inshore saltwater applications, try 40 pound

test. Different manufactures will have a wide variety of stiffness.

Pat Damico

B: Things to remember while fly fishing -

When fishing, remember to keep your rod tip down near the water or even under water and inch or so. This will promote stripe strikes and keep slack from the line when starting your next back cast.

When I get tired and my casts start to show it, I have found that shortening my cast stroke and letting the rod do the work helps. I focus on casting with the tip of the rod with a more concise arm movement. As Mel Krieger taught us, just bend the rod and stop the rod for a good cast.

Walt Durkin

C: Lost Leaders -

Leaders are easy to make and customize. Years ago, I bought 1/4 pound spools of Ande 50, 40, 30, 25, 20, 15, 12 and 10 pound test monofilament. The spools are stored in foam drink coozies for 12 ounce cans (they are usually free at boat shows and advertise something). The spools are placed in the coozies with the label upward so the test strength of the line is easily read. The coozies keep the line from unraveling. All the coozies are kept in a drawer which keeps leader materials together. The exception to the coozies and the drawer of leader supplies is my flats pack. A couple 1/4 pound spools of line will quickly fill a small flats pack. An alternative is to purchase small Ziploc bags (I bought a wide variety of sizes at one of the flea markets years ago). I peel off 10 yards or so of each weight and keep them in the small Ziploc bags. The test of the line can be marked on each bag with a permanent marker. The small Ziploc bags can be kept in the next larger size bag just to keep everything neat and organized.

I use a blood knot which is easy to tie and streamlined for casting.

Building your own leaders allows the angler flexibility in the length and test of the leaders as well as the ability to do on-the-water repairs. The leaders can use a perfection loop or non-slip loop knot if a loop to loop system is used. I tie the leader with a modified nail knot directly to the fly line for most of my flats applications and then rebuild as required.

Leader recipes are the subject for an entire article. In an effort to be concise, I will add that on most of my flats leaders, the bite tippet is fluorocarbon.

Steve Parker

Fly Line Care

Regardless of the taper, if the line is of quality it should last many seasons and perform well if proper care is given. The number one rule to keep your line floating high and dry is to periodically clean your line. There are many quality fly line cleaners, which are now available. Greased lightning and Tiemco line cleaners are two to look for. If you don't have access to this and still need a lift for your line, try using diluted dish detergent and a cloth and scrub your line in the sink.

Even after cleaning your fly line, you can still get better casting performance simply by stretching the line. Storing the line on a fly reel for a long period of time will result in what is referred to as "memory". When line is pulled off the fly reel, the line will appear coiled and won't travel smoothly through the guides during a cast. The result is loss of distance in the cast. Larger arbor reels help avoid this problem by storing the line in a broader loop which helps diminish the coiling effect. Still, no reel smaller than a garden hose winder will completely remove memory. The easy answer to a curled fly line is stretching it. Most fly lines are designed to stretch at least 25% and you'll notice this as you take the line between your hands and pull. You'll also notice that once you do this, your line falls straight again. You can repeat this process every three feet or so to cover the first half of the line, or simply tie the line to a heavy object, pay out 75 feet of line and pull. Once you stretch the line well you will see how easily it shoots through the guides on the next cast. If you are fishing several days in a row, you won't have to do this each day. However, if you are like most, your line sits a bit too long in your fishing drawer waiting for the next fishing adventure and will be begging for a good stretching.

Close-up Photography

The last few issues of the newsletter have generated a whole raft of questions relative to taking close-up pictures of things with the emphasis being on taking shots of flies with small digital cameras. I don't profess to an expert on the subject but I'll share what works for me in producing a reasonable outcome (most of the time).

First off, let's look at the types of cameras we're talking about – compact and sub-compact. The picture reflects a sub-compact Olympus (black) and a compact Canon (silver). The difference in size is readily apparent and is primarily because the Canon is powered by four replaceable AA batteries while the Olympus uses a small proprietary battery. Both cameras do the same thing at about the same quality level; however, the Canon has both manual and auto settings, which makes it more diverse, and the Olympus has only auto settings. These two cameras are pretty much representative of what's available in the market place today.



Just a few years ago the typical file sizes on these types of cameras was bouncing around somewhere between 3 and 6 megs; now the standard appears to be between 6 and 12 megs. It's just a matter of time, therefore, before we start seeing them in the Club and this is going to cause some issues pertaining to sending files of this size by email. All is not lost! Google has a nifty little free software package called Picasa 3 which can resize your photo files into something smaller and, thusly, easier to deal with via email. On that note, for newsletter purposes I prefer files around 1 meg in size but can generally work with files a bit smaller and quite a bit larger. If you get interested in Picasa and download and install it, you'll see that for freeware it has quite a few bells and whistles that allow you touch up your photos. Please, please don't touch up or crop any photo that you send in for the newsletter. I'd much rather to work with the raw photo and have the software to do so.



OK, let's look at what I think you need to take close-up (macro) shots of things. You will need a camera with macro and/or super-macro mode, a 2-second and/or 10-second timer, a tripod socket on the bottom of the camera, a tripod, image stability and the camera manual.

On the short list of 'nice to have' attributes to have on a sub-compact or compact camera is that of image stability, a function within the camera that reduces the blur incurred by a moving subject or camera shake when taking pictures. Think of it as a digital or electronic gyroscope. In any event, it's a real assist in both the macro mode as well as normal day-to-day shots. As you're no doubt well aware, camera movement is, more often than not, the major difference between an unusable photo and a decent one. The feature has been around for the last 4 years or so and is now found on many sub-compact and compact cameras and I wouldn't buy a new camera without it. Of the two cameras above, only the Olympus has it.

The next thing your camera will need is a timer and I'll address the 'why' of this further down the road. I've not seen any of the small cameras that don't have a 2-second and/or 10 second timer; but I suppose there's one out there. However, this little attribute really makes life better for you as it will give you a delay from the time you press the shutter until the shutter actually is activated. Ya gotta have it!

Many, if not most, of the smaller cameras today have both macro and super-macro modes. I prefer to use the super-macro mode because the subject doesn't have to be quite as close and the resolution appears just as good. The flies shown here were taken using the super-macro, one on the Olympus (#10 Black Stonefly) and the other taken on the Canon (#18 Adams). Both flies were shot using autofocus, a very important consideration as it makes life a lot easier. While neither shot is a wall hanger, they are both more than acceptable for the newsletter or to send to someone as an example. Both flies were shot using the super-high quality camera resolution setting and then simply cropped out of the picture. The whole purpose of shooting something in macro mode is to capture the details of something small, so you need that maximum resolution setting and; in fact, you should use it for everything (mostly).



If you're going to use a tripod to position and steady your camera at the slow shutter speeds that are frequently encountered in the macro mode, your camera is going to need a tripod socket on the bottom of it. Not a big deal! I suspect that some of the very small sub-compact cameras don't have them as they simply might be too narrow, but the great majority will. Just keep in mind that you have to have it, and that brings us to the next item on the list – that of tripods.

If you're going to be using either a sub-compact or compact camera to shoot macro shots, you don't need anything but a light-weight tripod, be it a full-size or a mini that can sit on your desk top. I use a full-size one that's over thirty years old and have found a way that works for me relative to its use. However, if I were starting from scratch and didn't have another need for a full-sized one, I think that I'd go for a mini simply because it takes up less storage space and costs less.

While you're trying to sort out which type of tripod to use, you have to take into consideration your lighting. As you can see from my setup, I keep my light above, close to and slightly behind the face of the camera to preclude the light affecting its sensor. This external lighting is necessary because in the macro mode, the camera's flash is turned off as it's too close to the object you're shooting. So far as lighting is concerned, you'll get far better color-accurate photos if you use a daylight-simulation bulb in your light, an important consideration for this type of photography. Additionally, you need a neutral background color for your shots. As you can see, I simply use a piece of light blue construction paper propped up behind everything. Now we'll get to the crux of the issue!

Because your camera is using available light to shoot your photo, the shutter may remain open for up to 1/8 of a second or longer once you press the shutter release. Since you have the camera mounted on a tripod, you're going to set up a series of vibrations (read potential image blur) when the shutter release is pressed which need to die out before the picture is actually taken; hence, the use of the 2 or 10-second timer. Whoaaa, didn't I just pull all that together nicely!





This is not to say that you can't use the macro mode on these small cameras outside in available light and without a tripod. However, when I do so, I prefer to use a camera that allows me to set the exposure manually at a high speed, say a 500th of a second, which helps negate camera shake. To this end, image stability is also a great assist and, of course, a timer isn't necessary. The photo of the Skwala stonefly from the Yuba (hand courtesy of Joe Bradley who did, I might add, an excellent job) reflects a couple of the problems associated with macro photography.

In the photo, one of the three of us moved – most likely me, as the shot isn't as crisp as it should be. The focus was on the head of the beast so, as the result of a shallow depth of field, the clarity of the wing case is less than stellar. To preclude this from screwing up your shots, you should always try to make your shots from the side. I knew that; that's one of the reasons you do so when taking a shot of a fly in a vise!

Last, but certainly not least, is the manual for the camera. The documentation will tell what the focusing distance is from the camera

to the object in the macro mode(s), how to turn your timer and image stability on and off and how to set the image size and quality.

Now for some bits and pieces: Larry had some words of wisdom for us in April's newsletter relative to general photography. We still get a lot of shots for the newsletter and web site where the face is so shaded you can't tell who it is; shots taken into the sun or taken from so far away you can't tell who it is or what's happening. Try to take some photos of what you see around you and, above all, some of close-up working fish as we could use some on the newsletter. When you read the hype on digital cameras you see two different types of zoom capabilities – optical and digital, with the latter picking up where the former leaves off. If you want a quality pictures, generally, you're better off not using the digital zoom.

As I was writing this I came across an article in a New Zealand fly fishing magazine that seemed to have some good advice relative to shooting photographs. I've culled the following from it in hopes that it may be of interest to you:

Get down low and avoid flat profile shots. Not only do you get a more interesting shot, you will shoot your pictures with fewer disturbances in the background and show a more focused view of the subject and the fish.

By taking your shots at differing angles you can achieve some far more interesting shots. Composition is the most critical element of photography. Get close to the subject and fill the frame; this way you'll capture more detail of the angler and the fish.

Focus on the subject's eyes (be it fish or fisherman), half-press then full press, allowing time for the camera to focus on that key area, the "Eyes."

Dealing with light around water is huge problem. Light can hit your camera and lens, potentially ruining a great shot, so it's important to choose your angles. Where lots of shadow is cast upon your subject or



over the angler's face, shoot with the flash on. Remember to take your subject's sunglasses off to avoid unnecessary reflection.

Seal your camera in a waterproof pouch. (I use a good quality freezer bag and press the air out before sealing.)

Lastly, relative to catch and release, always wet your hands by dipping them in the water for at least 10 seconds. This seems a while at the best of times but the heat from your hands can damage your fish. Then pick up the fish to pose, allow a few shots and then return it to the water before taking more shots. Never hold fish out of water too long – 5-6 seconds max. Just imagine someone dunking you underwater for a long period of time. It really sucks!



OK, one last item! If you're less than happy with the complexity and/or amount of time that it takes to dump your digital files from your camera to your computer, use a card reader. This is a small inexpensive piece of equipment that attaches by cable to a USB port on your computer. You simply remove your card from the camera and plug it into the card reader. Your computer pretty takes over at that point and will download the files from card to your

system and install them in a folder of your choice. Some readers will accept only one type of card and others several so you have to buy one according to the card type in your camera(s). Keep your reader attached full-time to your computer so it's one less thing that you have to mess with when you want to download some photos.

Bob Long

Kelsey Bass Ranch

For those of you that didn't take part in this trip, you missed a really good one. Without exception, everyone caught fish (Even Don Voigt). Imagine that! When was the last time you heard that?

We had 5 of the club's finest (Don Voigt, Bob Harik, Larry Ingram, Pete Glib and Jim Fujii) and were able to secure the entire lake for us and us alone. The entire 120 acre lake was ours.

After a quick briefing, we spread out to cover the lake. Some went on foot while others traveled by either pontoon boat or pram. We were on the water by 9:00 AM. The rest of us scattered to all parts of the lake.



As the morning progressed, we all managed to find some nice fish. Many of the Bass were in the 2 to 3 lb. range with an occasional one to 5 or 6 pounds. We learned very quickly that the fish were not leader shy and if you used anything less than 6 or 8 pound leaders or tippetts, you lost far more fish than you landed. Some chose to go as heavy as 17 pound tippetts rather than a tapered leader, at all.

We all met back at the boat dock to the sound of Jim Fujii announcing that lunch was ready. Mr. Fujii's spectacular teriyaki barbecued chicken was, as always, exceptional!! We all filled ourselves and talked of where and with what we had caught fish. Plans for later were formed.

After lunch we were back at it. Jim Fujii, who had only fished a short time in the morning, got busy and landed several more in very short order. The others did quite well also. It should be noted that Larry & Bob each landed huge blue gill.

As evening approached, we loaded up the prams and pontoon boats and broke out the poppers and floating lines. First, however, was a short lesson in casting big bass poppers and so Larry spent about 15 minutes with Pete Gilb and Bob Harik. A few minutes later while practicing his casting, Pete hooked and landed a nice 3 lbs. bass. Needless to say the man follows instructions. As we walked around the shorelines, keenly aware of our shadows and trying to keep them off of the water, we found the fish more than a bit exciting as they attached our offerings. As we would sneak to the shoreline, little ripples in the water told us they had heard or felt us coming.



If you'd like to join us next year let Larry Ingram know so that we can reserve the lake. The cost is \$100 each but is well worth it. Larry Ingram

April Fool's Day Trip

On April fool's day, Larry Ingram, Bob Harik, Jim Tanner & I took a trip up to Nevada's Pyramid Lake to check out the fishing. Fished from about noon to 6:30 pm, only 4 fish were caught. The next morning we began fishing about 8:00 am. The fishing started out slow again, but at midmorning the fishing began to pick up. Fished to 2:30 pm, with 13 fish landed. All four of us caught at least one fish in the 26 inch plus range and a couple of big fish got off on an early release. The smallest fish caught was about 19 inches long.



The weather both days was warm when the sun was out and cold when cloudy (especially when the wind was blowing). The wind would blow from one direction and then switch directions periodically throughout the day. The water temperature was measured at 50 degrees. Some fishermen thought the water was still too cold for the fish to start moving as the fishing has not been very good.



The Chan's bomber with a white bead, 3x long #10 hook worked best for me. I believe most of the fish were caught on a chironomid pattern with a white bead.

If you go, take layered clothes for warmth. 6 to 8 weight rods will work. Fish are not leader shy, so 8 to 10 # tippets will work, and use an indicator about 6 to 8 feet above your fly. We were fishing near the rocks so a good roll cast can be necessary, or a careful high back cast.

The big mystery of the trip was how 2 cough drops ended up in the bottom of Larry's waders. Ask Harik about how he releases fish from the net (quickly).

Jack Macfarlane

It's Not That Cold! – Gearing Up For Winter Fishing

By Andy Kitsin - Taken from the St Joseph River Valley Fly Fishers Club Newsletter

Winter fly fishing can be extremely productive for both steelhead and trout in our local waters. Keeping warm and safe is by far the most important part of your fishing day. Here are a few things to keep in mind to stay safe and warm on your next winter excursion.



Layering 101 When choosing cold weather clothing, remember mama's advice and layer up! I think of my attire in three different layers:

1. Base Layer: This is by far the most important, and easiest to ignore. Your base layer needs to be made up of wicking underwear and socks. These substrates are designed to take moisture away from your body on the off chance that you start to sweat. The quickest way to get cold quick is to sweat in cold weather. These fabrics feel great against your skin and will keep you comfortable all day. Personally, I wear wicking socks, long johns, and a long sleeve tee. Mine are all Patagonia, but all the major

companies are making them (Simms, Cabelas, Under Armor, Etc.) and they are readily available at your favorite fly shop.

2. Warmth Layer: This might as well be called the "fleece" layer. Depending on the weather forecast, one may choose a micro fleece, polar fleece, or for extreme cold, you may choose a wind proof / water proof fleece such as Simms Wind Stopper®. Be careful, don't overdo it. You don't want to sweat, or even be "toasty"... just comfortable. I like fleece pants with stirrups, especially designed for waders. Stay away from jeans, they tend to get clammy and will cause excessive wear on your waders. I wear a thick pair of wool socks to finish things off.

3. Protection Layer: This layer protects you from the elements. Now may be a good time to pull out the Wind Stopper®, but I prefer the new soft shell jackets. They are waterproof and windproof, as well as being breathable and they stretch! Once again, all the companies are selling these jackets, and they are worth the money! If freezing rain is in the forecast, I will throw my rain jacket over everything, just for a little insurance. Fingerless fleece gloves are both practical and functional. Wearing full finger gloves or mittens over your fingerless gloves is also a good idea in between fishing stops.

Depending on the weather, choose your hat wisely. Keeping your head warm, without sweating is essential. I usually carry a couple of different options with me consisting of everything from a headband to a sock hat to a Wind Stopper® fleece cap. Changing your hat can often keep your comfort level where you need it for hours.



Keeping some of these ideas in mind can make your winter fishing adventures much more enjoyable. Or, you could head south and chase permit and bonefish around... A boy can dream, can't he?

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