

Newsletter

May 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

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| May 3 | Board Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM |
| May 10 | General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
Program: Jason Hartwick |
| May 17 | Fly Tying, Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM |
| Jun 7 | Board Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM |
| Sep 13 | General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM |



President's Corner

The question I keep asking myself is, "when will the flows come down?" and then I go through all the options that people with the patience of Job have offered me. Like Walt Z., who knows more places to fish close by than I could ever dream of and he is so willing to take us there. I still want to fish that little lake by Paradise he keeps talking about but I still have the obstacle of finding the time. Back in February we went to Baum Lake and I was introduced to still water fishing and to my surprise I even caught a few fish. I find myself looking forward to fishing at Davis Lake next month but the real question is what am I really waiting for? Larry, Bob and Jeff keep having amazing days at Pyramid Lake, the only drawback I'm told is that the wind has a tendency to close doors on brand new Loomis rods. Doug keeps telling me about all the stripers they are catching on the Feather and with all this water the Shad will be arriving soon! Jeff even had us tying Shad flies last night with Spring (new member) color matching the flies to her chartreuse nail polish.

When I decided to try fly fishing again a few years back, I went to Bedrock Park to try to learn how to cast. It was somewhat frustrating trying to learn how to do this on my own so I thought that it might help if I joined the fly fishing club that I had heard some people talking about. It all seems like such a long time ago and when a few of us went there last Saturday to fish and help Spring with her casting and a few other basics, I realized that it is starting to come full circle. These younger generations sure seem to learn a lot faster than I did. On the subject of learning, a casual observation seems to suggest that we are using smaller and smaller flies all the time and I'm wondering where it will all end? Using a number 18 or 20 for an 18 to 22 inch fish seems to be the norm now-a-days and all this talk about what color gathers which wavelength of light under what condition when the fish are looking. I think I have an answer to all this nonsense and that is I have been spending too much time reading this winter and not enough time on the water. Yup, it's spring time for sure! There are two kinds of people, those that talk about it and those that actually go out and do it and with that said I hear the sound of the North Fork calling me, as clearly as I heard it over forty five years ago.

Craig

P.S. Share the experience, take someone with you especially with this high water. Be Safe.

May Program

The speaker for May will be **Jason Hartwick** and his presentation will be on fishing steelhead on the Klamath and Trinity Rivers. He will talk about each river and break them into 3 distinct sections and talk about run timing, equipment, fishing techniques, reading water, and more. He will also have a bunch of photos to share and invite the club member to join in and ask questions.

Jason Hartwick's Bio: My name is Jason Hartwick and I am the owner and head guide for Steelhead on the Spey Guide Service. I was born and raised in Sacramento, CA and have been fly fishing for over 15 years. I attended the University of Texas on a golf scholarship and pursued professional golf for four years after school. While I grew up playing golf and trying to make a career out of it, I spent most of my youth trout and steelhead fishing the rivers of California's Central Valley and hooked my first steelhead on the American River and I have been crazy about them ever since. Although I grew up in Sacramento, I consider the Trinity River my home river. I have been fly fishing the Trinity River watershed for over 11 years in Summer, Fall, and Winter. What drew me to this river is the variety of steelhead fishing it provides all anglers throughout the year. While I have been an avid steelheader for many years, I have been even more excited about steelheading since I started fishing two handed (spey) rods nine years ago. Spey rods not only make steelhead fishing much more enjoyable, but a heck of a lot easier. Not only can you cast further with ease but the two handed rod makes mending a breeze! Part of my love of fishing the two handed rod is teaching others to cast and fish them as well. If you have not experienced steelhead fishing with a spey rod, I suggest you give it a try. Go for the grab!

Past and Proposed Fish Outs

Proposed Fish Outs for-2011

May 21 To Be Decided

June 18 Shad Yuba River at Hallwood with Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers Walt Zukas

Summer Break

Ladies and Gentleman, as of this writing we are quickly closing in on the end of April. 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 there after. We have one more opportunity to get together before the summer break, which will be May 10th at 7pm, general meeting at Lincrest School MP room. Hope to see everyone there, come early bring a friend or two, visit and enjoy our last program before summer vacation. 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 news letter 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've got any questions my email is kenpep@cwnet.com or phone 530 742 4552.

Ken Mackey

New and Returning Members

The EC Powell Fly Fishers Club would like to acknowledge and welcome new and returning Members for the month of April.

Manny Constancio
Arcata, Calif.

He's looking forward to making some of our Northern Cal fish outs, was a past member, and is returning.

Spring Cooper
Marysville Calif.

She's fun loving, new to Fly Fishing, is looking forward to showing her Dad a thing or two, and rising up a new fishing Champion, King of the hill in her family. She's already attended her first club fish out, and fly tying session. Focused, quick learner and ready to pull up any fishing updates you might need on her I-Phone. (Look out Jim) Go Spring!

Steve Dowd
Gridley Calif.

Wife Debbie, has presented Steve with some new 7/8 weight gear. He's eager to fine tune his skills and go after the big ones. (Hello Larry and company.) Thanks Debbie.

Vinton Farley
Yuba City

Vinton is currently on a family mission in the Carolina's for a birth of a new Baby. Praise the Lord, and we wish them all the best. Vinton expects his return in time for the next meeting.

Once again, Welcome to E.C. Powell Fly Fishers, wishing you great luck on future fish outs. Questions or needs, be sure to utilize the wealth of knowledge we have in our present membership. Thanks, Ken Mackey

Walt Zukas –New Historian

Want to take a minute here and bring everyone up to speed on a change in command. Our wonderful and dedicated past (15 yr) historian, Ed Hobbs has retired from the position. At our March Board Meeting Walt Zukas was officially installed as the new Historian. Walt as you know is our Club Fish Meister, a Twenty-One Karat kind of guy. Only twenty-one karats, you say. Well next year we'll make it Twenty-Two, how's that? Seriously folks, he's a member that's been involved in every aspect of this club at one time or another. He's done everything from providing for you cookies and coffee at the club meetings, to being the club President and much more. Walt, also a current board member and wife, Judy, graciously open their home up for our monthly Board meetings. Thanks from all of us, its honor and privilege to know you.

Mr. Ed Hobbs, we Thank you as well, one the cofounders of the club from its inception in the late 1970's. All the years of service and dedication you and wife Dolores invested in EC Powell are amazing. Today when I spoke with Ed he is still eager to offer that which only he can provide, and is happy to be (in his words) in the audience. He was one of the first to welcome me into the club. I'm honored and privileged to know him as well. Thanks again to both Walt and Ed from all of us for the years of promoting the sport of fly fishing.

Last Comments. Parks and Recreation, Fly Fishing seminar held in May! This program is still dead in the water. Ed Holland is working on it, will update as soon as I have anything.

Finally, since I'm flipping all these thank you's around, I hate to stop now. Mr. President, Craig Renke, Mr. Bob Long, Board Members, Committees, all our Members and last but not least, of course that most precious part, our Wives and Husbands. (No, Paul, it's not your new Orvis reel, trust me.) In these times of hardship and struggle in our nation and world today, keep looking up and believe it will get better. Thank you all for your parts in making the club what grown into.

Thanks, Ken Mackey

20/20 Club

The 20/20 CLUB is an unofficial club that has no meetings or dues. In order to become a member all that is required is that you land a Trout 20 inches or more using a Fly tied on a size 20 or smaller hook. This sounds simple enough, but trust me its not. This is an article about how I became a member of this club.

Four years ago I was fishing at Sugar Creek Ranch, located in southern Siskiyou County near the town of Callahan. It was early April and the weather was still a little unsettled. There are eight ponds on the Ranch and I was fishing the newer North Pond when the weather started to go sour. The wind came up then it started to drizzle then sleet. There is very little protection from the weather on the North Pond but I knew from previous visits that the South Pond was well protected and held some very big Rainbows. So I got in my truck and drove to the South Pond. When I arrived, there was already a car parked there and a young man was fishing on the far side of the pond.

This young man was obviously a much better fly fisherman than me so I decided to observe for a while and not disturb any of his water. The man appeared to be working his way around the pond back toward the cars. He would slowly walk along about 25 or 30 feet back from the waters edge while constantly false casting parallel to the waters edge. When he spotted a Trout he wanted to try for he would crouch down and creep up to the bank still false casting and then present his Fly. In a period of about 45 minutes I watched him land 2 nice Rainbows in the 20 plus inch range. When he was about 100 feet from our vehicles he hooked and landed a huge Rainbow, this fish would easily exceed 30 inches. That did it!! I had to find out what this man was using. I walked over to get a better look at his fish and his Fly and introduced myself. It turned out that the man was in the Army; he had just finished Basic Training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and was in route to Fort Lewis in Washington. His home was Callahan and his father was a Fishing Guide and Fly Tyer for the Sugar Creek Ranch and oh by the way he was using a size 20 Parachute Adams.

I have been fly fishing and tying for over 30 years but up until this point I had shied away from Dry Flies and did not believe them to be productive enough to put out the big bucks for those quality Rooster Necks. Everything changed that day, I made it my goal to learn how to tie and fish a size 20 Parachute Adams.

A little history on the Adams, according to an article in the March 2007 issue of American Angler Magazine written by Paul Schullery, the first Adams was tied in 1922. For a Fly to be around almost 90 years it must have something going for it. Of course the Fly has changed over the years due to improvements in tying materials and tyers putting their own little twists on it, but the modern day version calls for the two colors of Necks for the Tail and Hackle, Brown and Grizzly. So when my wife asked me what I wanted for Christmas that year I said two quality Rooster Necks, one Brown and one Grizzly. When I called the Fly Shop to order my necks I asked about the color Cree because I had read that with one Cree Hackle the same effect could be obtained that a Brown and Grizzly Hackle gave. I was told they had one half (1/2) neck, so I said send it too.

The Cree Necks are hard to come by because the breeders have not been able to breed for this color, it just happens occasionally. This makes these Cree Necks rare and expensive. I paid the same price for my half Cree Neck as I did for each of the other two. The big advantage in using a Cree Neck is that it is much easier to wrap one hackle as opposed to two hackles on a size 20 hook. I have tied the fly both ways and don't see any difference in their performance.

The reason quality necks are necessary is because the lower grade neck just don't have hackles small enough for size 20



and smaller flies, but this past year I have learned another method of hackling a fly called the Stacked Hackle.

The Stacked Hackle is not new; it was used by tyers before they had the quality hackles we have today, so they could use larger hackles on their flies without throwing everything out of proportion. A DVD titled, *Bob Quigley's Signature Flies*, shows how to tie a *Hackle Stacker Series of Flies*. This is the method I used. I tied some flies on a size 20 hook using a *Whiting Midge Saddle Hackle* that measures a size 16 on my hackle gauge and the proportions look good to me, so this may be a way to get around those expensive Rooster Necks.

Getting back to my original theme, 3 years ago last month I returned to Sugar Creek Ranch armed with a box full of size 20 Parachute Adams plus some size 20 Midge Pupa and Larvae. On this trip I QUALIFIED TWICE for the 20/20 CLUB. I landed a Rainbow slightly over 22 inches on a size 20 Midge Pupa and another Rainbow that was a good solid 26 inches on a size 20 Parachute Adams. I had to use different tactics than my Soldier friend to catch the 26 incher, because I was not as proficient at casting as he was. I had to stand well back away from the waters edge until I saw a fish I could reach feeding, get some object between me and the fish, sneak down to the waters edge and then make my presentation.

I will be forever indebted to this Soldier and I don't even know his name! On my next trip to Sugar Creek Ranch I will try to find out what ever became of this young Soldier, at the very least learn what his name is!

The photo shows 3 Flies tied on Mustad 94840, size 20 hooks. The Fly on the left is a Parachute Hackle that uses 1 Grizzly and 1 Brown Hackle sized for a size 20 hook. The middle Fly is a Parachute Hackle that uses 1 Cree Hackle sized for a size 20 hook. The Fly on the right is a Stacked Hackle that uses a Hackle sized for a size 16 hook.

Walt Alexander

Alaska Trip?

Pete Gilb is apparently planning a trip to Alaska and is looking for someone to go with him. The trip of 5 days would cost approximately \$2600 plus airfare and would be during the last two weeks of August. If you're interested, contact Pete at 632-0281 for additional information.

Pyramid time---“Fish On”

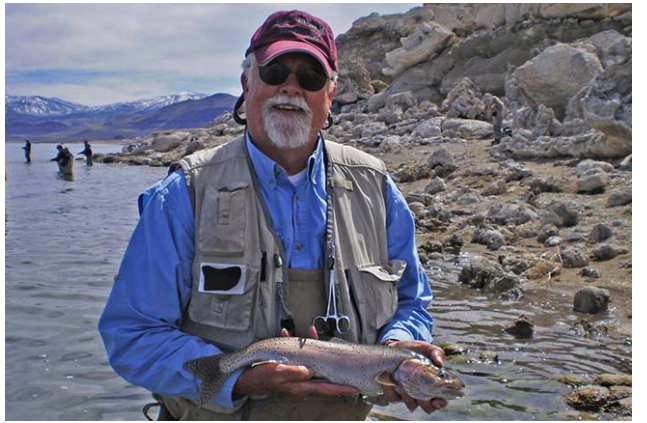
It's that time of year again when Pyramid Lake, near Reno, starts bringing the big fish near shore and we have multi fish days.

In mid-March, 9 of us headed up there following many weeks of rain, snow and nasty weather. The lake has dropped from last year and recent rains have kept the lake at 46 degrees, a bit cool for the usual migration of fish towards shore. In the coming weeks the lake should warm up and the pods of fish that we are accustomed to seeing and catching should arrive.

Regardless of the above mentioned conditions, we all caught fish. Double digits were not the norm, except for Jim Tanner, but as mentioned before, we all caught fish.

The fishing is done with a 6 wt. rod, floating lines with usually 2 flies under an indicator. No need to carry a ladder as you can wade knee deep along the shorelines and catch lots of fish ranging from 16” to 12+ pounds. Fluorocarbon tippet in 10 lbs. and 8 lbs. does the trick.

By the way, the next time you see or talk to Bob Harik, ask him about seals and penguins that he swears inhabit the lake. Then remember, he is the ONLY one in this club that has ever caught a Chui Chub, and, he's very proud of it. We plan to fish the lake twice in April and again May 16-18. Larry 530 300-1841



A Patagonia Perspective

Have you ever felt the real need to go fishing somewhere that's decidedly different than your normal spots? A place that's so unique that you're somewhat uneasy about it? You know, like Alaska or Tasmania or the Bahamas or Texas or Dingville? Well, I'm here to tell you that that bug bites me periodically so, thus it was, that I found myself on the way to Patagonia last March with my long-time fishing and hunting partner, Dave Gumpel.

At the risk of having this sound like a travelogue, I'd best define Patagonia a bit for you. Wikipedia briefly describes Patagonia as follows: "Patagonia is a geographic region containing the southernmost portion of South America. It is located in Argentina and Chile, integrating the southernmost section of the Andes mountains to the south west towards the Pacific ocean and from the east of the cordillera to the valleys it follows south through Colorado River towards Carmen de Patagones in the Atlantic Ocean. To the west, it includes the territory of Valdivia through Tierra del Fuego archipelago."



Within Patagonia we ended up through happenstance fishing the Rio Pico Region which is essentially on the eastern slope of the Andes although at some point or another we were probably only 40 or miles or less from the Pacific. The area, while quite remote by our standards, is a well known fly fishing destination with big fish, many lakes and several major watersheds. Geographically, it ranges westward from high desert, not unlike our western states, through scrubwood forests into the high alpine forests and living rock of the Andes. The primary drainage that we fished was that of the Rio Pico River which rises in the high desert to the East of the Andes and runs through them to the Pacific and make no mistake, folks, this is a really rural area.



The Weather. OK, enough of the travelogue! We had wind, wind and more wind; the only day we didn't have wind it showered. In this photo taken of me fishing a lake where a river dumps out of it; I'm standing in knee-deep water and the waves are breaking slightly over my waist – that kind of wind! That said, we never had so much wind that we COULDN'T fish; you just had to decide if you could fish effectively. To me the deciding point has always been whether or not you could cast and still fish the fly correctly. Then, of course, there's the immutable law of nature that requires the wind to come in over your casting shoulder and slightly to the front. Essentially, we had broken clouds with some sun most of the time with a few scattered showers thrown in for good measure, but only one day

without wind. It was also frequently cold and gloves helped immeasurably.

The Rods. The conventional wisdom in fishing this part of the world is that in order to take the truly big fish, you fish with 7 or 8-weight rods, very large flies and a fast sinking line or sinktip and I'm comfortable that that's normally the case. I didn't take any fish that a 5-weight would not have handled, but I did take them in places that a 5-weight would not have been able to muscle them out of! Much of the water that we fished was fine for a 5-weight but I think that a 6-weight added a bit of prudent insurance so that's what I fished most of the time. Additionally, I ended up throwing some pretty heavy streamers and big wind resistant dries that would not have exactly gone hand-in-glove with the lighter rod in the wind. The one day we fished a lake via a watercraft, the 7-weights were necessary given the wind. Both of us took 5, 6 and 7-weight rods on the trip.

The Lines. The lines were probably the easiest aspect to sort out. We both took Rio Multi-tips for 6 and 7-weight rods along with full-length floaters for all three rod weights. If, however, you wanted to spend much time on lakes then you'd probably want to include one or more full-length sinking lines of different sink rates.

The Flies. We used the outfitters recommendations, and whatever else we could glean off the net, as just that, recommendations. I ended up putting together a representative sample of just one box of flies which ranged from #18 dry attractors to #4 double-winged hoppers to Zonkers, Muddlers and Copper Johns. Beyond that, I took another three boxes consisting of one of primarily nymphs/emergers and two of streamers. Of all the flies I took, I only used 6 or 7 patterns and never felt that I needed something that I didn't have with me.

That said, we were expecting to find some hatches and they just didn't happen and most likely because of the series of cold weather fronts we hit. The only day that we didn't have some major wind (it showered) we just happened to be on a spring creek and hit a small sporadic caddis hatch where the fish seemed to be on emergers; Dave took several fish on Elk Hair Caddis. Elsewhere, Dave might have taken several other fish on dries but other than a shot at fishing a Stimulator, I didn't fish a small dry that I can recall.

I think that at this point I need to stop and explain something about the patterns I took with me. First, in all the years that I've fly fished, I've never once concentrated on fishing for trout in moving water with streamers, big or small. The primary reason for this is pretty simple in that the moving water I generally fish doesn't really lend itself to their use and I wanted some experience in fishing them in that manner. Everything that I read seemed to indicate that streamer fishing in Patagonia was pretty much of a big deal so I decided to concentrate on their use. Secondly, I'd never fished anywhere, or at a time, where super-sized hoppers or large Chernobyl Ants were considered standard table-fare. Consequently, it was with the above in mind that I put my selection of flies together.

As it turned out, my two most productive patterns were ones that I tie for the high desert lakes. Both flies are tied on a #8 2xl hook and have lead on the hook shank as well as the bead head. I fished all sorts of various moving water-types and they just flat out worked. On the other hand, who knows how many other patterns would have worked just as



well? Just another facet of fly fishing! Another pattern that worked well for me was a heavily-dressed #4 black marabou leech (tied for Alaska) with heavy lead eyes which I fished in the deeper runs. I also fished a large double-winged hopper on the surface and caught fish, both large and small, on it – a first for me.

The Fish. As advertised in everything that you read on the subject, the browns there were absolutely lovely with large scattered spots and many of the bows looked almost like coastal cutthroat with a zillion spots. For the most part, when hooked, the browns did what browns do (they know every root ball, willow sweeper and undercut bank in their domain) and the bows did what bows do best – jump. There's no doubt in my mind that we limited ourselves in not fishing really large patterns all the time on sinktips, however, the majority of fish I took were in the 20-24 inch class so I was satisfied and, interestingly, we took quite a few fish in the 12-14 inch range in the faster water.

At no time did I feel that the fish were particularly leader shy and most of the time we were fishing 3x or larger tippets given the flies we were using. On the one occasion when we had some working fish on the spring creek that we fished, I had no problem taking specific fish by casting a streamer close to the rises. Willows were the tree of choice along much of the Rio Pico we fished and I lost a couple of nice browns to the sweepers but landed one that I had no business landing so considered the whole thing a draw.

We had two days in which we didn't take a single fish although I hooked and lost one on each of those days. The first time we were on a lake in the miserable wind and the second time was when we fished a 'never fail' river for large

brook trout. Three of us fished that day and two of us hooked and lost a fish. It was one of those cold nasty wet days when a front moved through. That be the way she goes sometimes!



The Water. The water was an absolute delight to fish, quite diverse and mostly user-friendly. Most of it was about the size of the Trinity, could be easily waded at the riffles and had a firm gravel bottom but water clarity varied widely, which made it all the more interesting. For instance, the spring creek we fished probably had the poorest visibility with about 18” with quite a bit of suspended sediment but good color. One area on the Rio Pico was deep, very slow, willow-lined and had all the ear-marks of a big fish factory, however, the visibility was most likely no more than 2 feet. Some water was clear enough to sight-fish with ease; then there was the ‘gorge’ we fished with little room for a backcast and heavy flies fished in a dead drift.



Odds and ends. Our outfitter was Patagonia Unlimited and they did a great job in meeting our desires. We were both highly impressed with the variety of water we fished and the quality of fishing we found. The specific water types we fished were at our request; you can’t beat that with a stick, and the food and wine were nothing short of outstanding.

