

Newsletter

January 2009

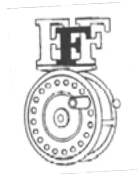
288

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

- Jan 8-11 San Mateo Sports Show
- Jan 13 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
(Note the time change to 7PM)
- Jan 20 Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM
- Feb 10 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM



CALIFORNIA TROUT



President's Corner

What a year this has been. I have never gotten in to the politics of running any organization and getting involved with a fly club has been a real experience. I feel honored to have been in this position. Scary as it is sometimes, you have to force yourself to try something new, and this is what I did. The thought of getting before an audience and speaking was terrifying. When I was in college the last remaining required class I had to take was "Public Speaking". In order to graduate I HAD to take this class, no way to get around it. Well, I was told to speak about something that I was most comfortable with and I would feel more confident and at ease. And I did. And I made it through the class. And I passed.

Now taking on the responsibilities of a Presidency for a fly club would put me back on the front line again. And yes, it was scary too. But with age and experience comes confidence and with fly fishing I've had a lot of both. And with this I was able to carry on the responsibilities for the year. Hopefully without too much stumbling along the way!

I hope I've brought some new interests to our group concerning fly fishing. It was my goal to let our group try and get a taste of something new, something they haven't done before. I think my passion for bigger fish has helped our club explore some new areas, that being mainly striped bass and even a bit of the saltwater that most folks only watch on television.

This last spring we had our first ever striped bass fish out in the Sacramento River. Last summer I took several of our club members to La Paz and Baja's East Cape for their first adventure in open saltwater fly fishing. And, this past November, we had our first ever striped bass fish out in the delta. These were all great adventures. And, for those who had never done anything like this before, perhaps a bit scary for them too.

But the point is you've got to get out there and try it. A bit scary as it may seem it's also exciting. A new adventure with lots to talk about when you get back; and pictures and memories that will last a lifetime!

So too has this Presidency been to me. A bit scary but a whole new adventure that I'll remember for the rest of my life!

Thank you for letting me guide our club through 2008 and hopefully you'll help and support our new President with his new scary adventure as well. Tony Buzolich

January Program

We have recently signed **Jack Dennis** for our January meeting. He has an entirely new program and will also bring along many prizes, including a fly rod, to be raffled off at the meeting.

For those of you who do not know of Jack, he is probably best known for his fly tying videos. Additionally, he is the originator of the "One Fly" contest in Jackson Hole, WY, now in its 23rd year.

In addition to the above, Jack is the Coach for the US fly fishing team that competes in the World Fly Fishing Competition. To say the man is capable is an understatement.

Jack will also be a key speaker at the Sportsman's Exposition in San Mateo (Jan. 8-11), Sacramento on Jan. (15 to 18) and Denver (Jan.22-25) 2009.

Jack is a long time friend of our club and the 13th promises to be filled with information, good conversation and lots of great ideas.

So, don't be late for this one. As always, the meeting starts at 7:00 PM, but make sure to get there a bit early. Spread the word !!!!

2009 Membership Dues

Just a reminder that the end of the year is fast approaching and membership dues are due on January 1, 2009.

If any of you would like to pay early before the dues go up again you can still pay the old amount of \$25.00 for a single membership or \$30.00 for a family. Tony

Trinity River Steelhead Outing



This year's trip was what Steelhead fishing is all about; Nasty weather, cold temperatures, windy and lucky to hook one fish per day. The first three conditions were just the opposite of what we were faced with. The river flows were down, the water was gin clear, the days were either sunny or foggy & cold and the fish had every fly in the world thrown at them. To say they were hard to catch is putting it mildly. Even going with guides as 10 of us did, we were unable to catch large numbers of fish. However, many were still able to catch two or three per day which, in normal years is an accomplishment. Craig Renke, a new member, caught his first ever Steelhead on a fly. Congrats to Craig from all of us. Jeff Jacoby & Jim Tanner had days of three fish or more, many in the 10 to 12 lb. class. No one is really surprised are they?

The best part of the trip has been and continues to be the camaraderie of having us all together, eating, and fishing, telling lies and some truths, about the day's activities. These are the main reasons that most continue to return year after year. The ever present joke about these trips is that we eat like kings, share in great tales but there always seems to be some damn fool that wants to catch fish. The trip is much more than that. With members taking turns preparing dinner for all that are there, we meet each evening for conversation, dinner and talk of where each will fish the next day. When someone isn't sure where to go or with whom, someone always offers to take them or show them where to fish. THAT, is what makes this club the superb one that it is!



I would personally like to thank Bob Harik, Mike Macfarlane, Jim Forsch, Bob & Jeff Jacoby, Clyde Wyatt, Larry Smith and Chester Jung for preparing some really great meals for all of us. We had a total of 33 (a new record) fishermen and all were very impressed with the food that was cooked for them.

The river seems to need some rain to raise the water level and perhaps bring in a fresh run of fish. Watch the weather and if rain is in the forecast for Weaverville, plan to go a day or two after the rains stops.

The date is set for next year (November 29th to December 5, 2009) so mark it on your calendars. More info as we get closer. Larry Ingram

Steelhead Cards

Each January, the California Department of Fish & Game tells us that we need to mail our Steelhead Report Cards in for use in data collection to help preserve the Steelhead fishing opportunities within the state. Those cards are to be mailed in no later than January 31st.

As we have done in the past, please bring those cards (they're red in color this year and Larry has 2) to the January 13th meeting and we'll send them in for you. What could be easier, and cheaper?

Election Results

As expected there are a lot of great guys out there that want to help but it seems that getting some one to step up and take charge is a tough task. Tim Wright has taken on the task of being President (only with a lot of arm twisting and the promise of help). That leaves the Vice President position unfilled at the moment but we have some very qualified board members that I'm sure will step in to fill that spot.

The positions of Secretary and of Treasurer will remain the same with that being Alex Reyno and Doug Fujii.

As for Board Members, John O'Shea and I will remain on the Board for one more year. There are also some new names on the board with Jeff Lingenfelter and Clyde Wyatt being added, and we also have Craig Renke as an alternate.

Hopefully one of the new board members will take on the Vice President position which will fill the officers and keep our board members at four per our bylaws. TONY

Unclaimed Name Badges

For whatever reason there are a lot of name badges that people have never picked up, 26 to be exact.

These badges are for you to wear at any of the club functions so that other new members will know who they are talking to. The badges are available at every meeting and are free. You just have to pick them up and wear them to any meeting and there's a good chance you'll win some fine prize if you do.

The following name badges have not been picked up, so if you see your name (or that of a friend) be sure to get yours on the front table as you come in: TONY

Adriene Aono	John Dragovich	Jerry Reebie	Vanessa Van De Venter
David Birt	Bill Eads	Patrick Respicio	Pete Villarreal
Ed Brown	Roy Fukushima	Tony Searcy	Mike Wigginton
David Clay	Frank George	Paul Sedler	Bill Zeller
Manny Constancio	Erick Graham	Larry Smith	Walt Zukas
Lester Cook	James Locke	Jack Stormer	Rick Thompson
Rich Covey	Terry Malone		

Indicator Nymph Fishing

Increase Your Success by Controlling Unseen Grag

By Steven Vorkapich – Taken from the Firelands Flyfishers Newsletter

I used to think of nymph fishing as “Chuck & Chance it.” For most of the nymphing done today, that description still remains true. Attaining a true Drag-Free drift is almost impossible, and even when it is accomplished, it usually lasts for only a very small portion of the drift.

While a dry fly fisherman can see his dragging fly and mend to correct the drift. A nymph fisherman must learn to visualize the progress of his fly and adjust for drag, unseen except by the fish.

Let's look at how drag occurs. Imagine you are fishing a weighted stone fly pattern while wading upstream through a series of riffles. You cast your nymph upstream and across into a likely looking

run. As the fly drifts with the current, you lift the rod tip; taking up the slack as the nymph drifts downstream, hoping to feel the take (or better yet, you watch the point of where the line enters the water for the slightest sign of a pickup). If the cast was a long one, you might strip line in as the drift approaches you. As the fly passes below, you slowly lower the rod tip, maintaining tension in the line until the nymph swings out at the end of the drift.

What has your fly been doing unseen below the surface? Try to visualize its progress. The sinking fly begins to drift with the current, but to keep in contact with its progress; you quickly snatch the slack out of the line. If you did this with a dry fly, you'd expect to see drag immediately, and that is exactly what happens with your nymph. Additionally, your fly is drawn toward you, accelerating its downstream drift relative to the current speed and (because you cast at an angle to the flow) dragging it cross-current toward your rod tip. An experienced fisherman might pull only the slightest tension, on the line, minimizing the effect, but it's still drag. As the fly passes below, the reverse becomes true: you are now causing the nymph to drift more slowly than the current speed - drag again. Had you been fishing a dry fly, you may have also made several mends in the course of its float to compensate for subtle changes in the flow, but you couldn't see your nymph dragging, so these were ignored as well. Of Course, if you were lucky, you might have hooked a fish anyway - if you were lucky.

Traditional nymphing techniques fail to achieve a natural drift for many reasons. For example, a common method for minimizing the effects of casting across currents of different speeds is to keep a short line and hold the rod high. Unfortunately the fly and fly line always fall (or swing like a pendulum) in the direction of the rod tip, creating drag. Unless you keep the tip of the rod directly over the fly, gravity will always prevent a drag-free drift.

A similar effect occurs in a tight leader. Cast a sinking fly into a lake so the leader lands extended from the tip of the floating fly line. The fly will not sink toward the bottom directly below where it entered the water; instead it will swing toward a point below the end of the fly line. In moving water a sinking nymph will be pulled across current and out of the desired drift - more drag. As with the dry fly fishing, differing currents between a fisherman and the fly push against a tight line and leader. The resulting tension either speeds the fly's drift relative to the flow, slows it down, or sends the fly arcing wildly across the current. Simply stated, most nymphing techniques fail to achieve a drag-free drift, because they rely on a tight line to telegraph the invisible take by the fish. Yet, as with dry fly fishing, the basic rule applies, if you have a tight line, you have drag.

Of course, it is possible to fish a nymph on a slack line, if the fish (and particularly the take) are visible. If the fish are in clear, shallow water or feeding on emerging nymphs just below the surface, the presentation to use with a lightly weighted fly is exactly the same as with a dry fly. This is Drag-Free nymphing at its simplest form.

Most of the time you cannot fish in such ideal conditions. As depth and flows increase, you have less control over your presentation. For a nymph fisherman to achieve a dead-drift, he must maintain a slack line. If achieving a Drag-Free drift sounds like a formidable task, it is. There is, however, a tool that allows you to both detect strikes and control your drift as you would a dry fly. It's called a Floating Strike Indicator.

Floating Indicators

Floating Strike Indicators, while gaining popularity, are not a new idea. You can use just about anything that floats and is relatively easy to cast and attach to your leader. Small corks, pieces of soft foam, greased spun deer hair, or even a large dry fly is just a few examples. There are three advantages to using a Floating Indicator.

The first one is Depth Control. A nymph suspended below a floating indicator can sink no deeper than the length of tippet between the indicator and the fly. You can concentrate on your drift while your nymph hangs suspended just below the surface, at mid-depth, or inches off the bottom. When an indicator is used with split-shot, (particularly the small micro-shot), you have a deadly combination. Split-shot gets a fly to the desired depth quickly (even small nymphs that you cannot add much weight to), while the indicator maintains the drift at a predetermined depth.

The second advantage is the Strike Indication. The slightest twitch, pause, or change of direction can signal the take from a fish. With experience, it becomes almost a reflex action to set the hook on any unusual movement. More importantly, it is no longer necessary to fish a tight line to detect the strike. The ability to maintain a slack line is what sets this method apart from other techniques and forms the basis for the technique's high success rate.

The third and most important advantage is Drift Control. Without slack line, a Drag-Free drift is impossible to achieve. I believe a proper way to fish a nymph and floating indicator is to imagine you rigged the nymph, tippet, split-shot, and indicator and tossed the whole combination into the current unattached to your fly line or leader. The ensuing drift is what you should hope to duplicate.

The key to successful nymphing is to fish the indicator exactly as you would a dry fly; by casting and mending so as to maintain slack and achieve a Drag-Free drift. When you are fishing with sinking line, sinking tip, or a floating line with a long leader, the portion of line beneath the surface cannot be mended once the cast has been made. When you fish with a strike indicator, you should have no more tippet under the water than is necessary to reach the desired depth. A floating fly line and an indicator maximize the amount of line and leader on the surface, which provides the greatest amount of control over your presentation.

Many fishermen have little difficulty learning to fish dry flies effectively with a relatively Drag-Free drift, but nymphing often seems difficult, because the drift and take of the fly are usually invisible. Floating indicators bring nymphing into the realm of visible. Fish your indicator with the same attention to Drag-Free presentation that you give a dry fly. Think of nymphing in terms of Dry Fly fishing, and your catch rate will increase tremendously.

FFF Enters National Anglers' Legacy Partnership

FFF has entered an exciting national partnership with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) – launching a national Anglers' Legacy pledge drive. Anglers' Legacy encourages avid anglers to share their passion for both fishing and our cherished aquatic resources, by taking the Anglers' Legacy "Pledge" and becoming Anglers' Legacy ambassadors.

Becoming an Anglers' Legacy ambassador is very easy – it is free, and takes less than a minute. In "taking the pledge" – and becoming an Anglers' Legacy ambassador -- we promise to introduce at least one new person to the sport of fishing each year:

<http://www.takemefishing.org/community/anglers-legacy/take-the-pledge/promo/FEDFLY08>

In this simple commitment to pass on and mentor someone new to fishing, we can do much for our sport, our home waters and conservation efforts as well as for FFF and our local clubs. We should all take time to pass on the legacy...after all, someone did that for us during our lives...*It's time for us to share our sport with another person.*

FFF has set a goal of having 8,000 members and fellow anglers "take the pledge" to introduce someone new to fly fishing. *To achieve this, we need local fly fishing clubs to step up and help with this campaign to pass along our beloved sport to the next generation of anglers.*

Please consider taking time to communicate this campaign -- and our Angler Legacy discount (\$15) membership incentive -- to your club members, and encourage them to "take the Pledge." The attached news story (below) can be readily used by fly-fishing clubs in their member communications - - and it outlines, in detail, the FFF membership incentive that can help those clubs earn additional free fly rods.

If you need any additional information or materials, please feel free to contact Josset Gauley at the FFF office josset@fedflyfishers.org , or Jeff Sedor at RBFF jsedor@rbff.org .

Many thanks for your support.

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

Officers:

President: Tim Wright 301-4869
V President:
Secretary: Alex Reyno 923-2294
Treasurer: Doug Fujii 790-7027

Board of Directors:

Tony Buzolich(1)* 790-7180
Jeff Lingenfelter 639-0739
Clyde Wyatt 755-4250
Bob Harik (1) 671-7805
John O'Shea (1) 673-4014
Craig Renke (2) 695-1850
* Past Presidents

Committees:

Newsletter: Bob Long* 916-362-5593
Programs: Larry Ingram** 673-4965
Raffles: Denis Davis & Alex Reyno
Membership: Tim Wright 301-4869
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: Tim Wright 301-4869
Librarian: Don Voigt* 674-1260
Salmon/Steelhead Education Program:
Kathy and Greg Payne*

Printing: Tri-City Technologies

