



Newsletter

November/December 2010

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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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| Nov 2 | Board Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM |
| Nov 9 | General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM
Program: Tony Buzolich |
| Nov 13 | Annual Banquet |
| Nov 16 | Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM |
| Nov 20 | Feather River Low Flow Fish Out |
| Nov 28 – Dec 4 | Trinity River Fish Out |
| Dec 7 | Board Meeting |
| Dec 14 | General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM
Program: Lance Gray |
| Dec 18 | Lower Sacramento River Fish Out |
| Dec 21 | Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM |



President's Corner

As this may be the last President's Corner I write, I would like to thank everyone for all their help: Denis and Alex at the meeting; Jeff - all the speakers; Craig donating and putting together all the raffle prizes; Larry, Craig, Jeff – the wonderful banquet; Walt Zukas sharing your home for our Board Meeting and the many fish outs; all the Board members for your input to make this another fun year.

Because of an extended fishing trip in the November/December timeframe, our Newsletter Editor won't be available to put out the December issue. Accordingly, we've decided to combine the two issues into the November one so you won't be getting one in December.

We will be taking nominations for the 2011 Officers and Board Members at the November meeting and at the December meeting we'll be voting on them. You had a ballot attached to last month's newsletter and there's one attached to this month's so don't forget it.

I have said this before and I'll say it again for all you new members: This is one of the finest organizations I have ever belonged to because without the help of so many members, I would not be fly fishing. I've received help with casting, setting up, the right flies, and much more and this has made this an experience you can't buy! To put the frosting on the cake, all the friends I've made – priceless!

With that I wish all of you filling Thanksgiving, a wonderful Christmas and a great New Year. Pete

November Program

Our speaker for November will be our own **Tony Buzolich**. Tony will be speaking to and encouraging us to try fly fishing in Baja. See Tony's article below for additional information.

December Program

The presentation will be by **Lance Gray** and will be on "Fishing the Feather for Steelhead". The presentation will cover access points, rigging and flies. He will talk about the improvements slated for the Feather and how it will help the wild steelhead. Access points will include on foot or access point for boats.

Past and Proposed Fish Outs

October 16.2010

The club had an outing on the Yuba River on private property near Hallwood and in attendance were Jim Tanner, Dennis Lizardo, Ian Skarshaug, Tom Retzloff, Paul Cunningham, Ken Mackey and Walt Zukas and a guest David Tulauskas. Jim caught couple wild steelhead using a Freight Train and another was caught on a black Seal Bugger. There was a caddis hatch near sun down but there were very few trout working the hatch.

The Eagle lake trip was cancelled as we were down to 3 people from 8 who initially signed up.

Here are the proposed fish outs with some changes. Since the Eagle lake trip was cancelled I am planning a couple days at Lake Davis near Portola. Jack McFarlane and I plan on a couple days fishing and we will stay at one of the motels in Portola. We will go up Sunday morning and come back Tuesday around noon as there is a board meeting at my house that night. You can contact me via e-mail itszuke@comcast.net or 530-674-0491 if interested in going.

Proposed Fish Outs 2010-2011

Oct 30 - Nov 6: Eagle Lake Cancelled

Oct. 31-Nov. 2 Davis Lake Walt Zukas

Nov 20: Feather River – Low Flow Steelhead Walt Zukas

Nov 28 - Dec 4: Trinity River Steelhead, Larry Ingram, (530) 673-4965

Dec 18: Lower Sacramento near Anderson Walt Zukas

2011

JAN.22 Paradise Lake or DeSabra Walt Zukas

Feb. 19 Baum Lake Walt Zukas

Mar. 19 Lake McCumber Walt Zukas

April 16 Yuba River Sierra Foothill Field Station Walt Zukas

April 23 Lewiston Lake Walt Zukas

May 21 To Be Decided

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

Trinity River November 28th to December 4th

The Trinity River is world-famous for its fine steelhead and salmon fishing, as well as for trophy brown trout.

Steelhead, a sea-going rainbow trout, enters the river in September. Most of these hard-fighting beauties fish range from 3 to 9 pounds, and are famous for their thrilling aerial acrobatics while on the line. In addition to conventional lure and bait fishing, steelhead are mostly sought-after by fly fishermen. Steelhead provide great action through the winter until the river closes to fishing in mid-March.

Although brown trout are not native to the Trinity River, or to North America for that matter, they were heavily stocked until the late 1970s. Today, a wild population continues to the upper river, providing fly and bait fishing for mostly 12- to 28-inch fish, although an occasional trophy to 10 pounds is sometimes landed.

The Fly Shop in Redding has donated a trip for 2 on Monday, November 29th. The winners will be drawn from those in attendance at the November 13th Banquet. After that we should have no trouble finding the fish.

Steelhead wet flies/streamers : Golden stonefly nymphs jumbo john, double bead stone nymph (black, peacock), Poxback golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, Morrish cone stone, beadhead twenty incher, Burglar stone (#8-12). Egg patterns for steelhead: Bead head nymphs . Some anglers were catching three to five fish per day to 10 pounds on flies, especially golden stones, copper johns, and prince nymphs.

If you are interested, call or email me with the following information:

The dates you will be going; who you will share a room with plus, a phone number AND email address for you. Don't think you have to come for the entire week. Many come for just a few days and have a great time.

Come join us as we go after these great fish. If you are interested, contact Larry Ingram 673-4965 / flyfisher16@comcast.net.

Trinity River Steelhead Fever

OK, start thinking and planning for Winter Steelhead on the Trinity River. This year's trip is November 28th to December 4th.

We will again be staying at the Victorian Inn in Weaverville and the rates are the same as last year. I have reserved 10 rooms (more available if needed) for those dates. Each room has 2 Queen size beds and comes with free breakfast as well as in room coffee pot, refrigerator and microwave. If you're planning to go, sign up at the next meeting and I'll take it from there.

For those of you that attended last year you know what a fine place the Victorian Inn is and how well they treated us. We cooked our own meals and had access to their conference room to use for eating and get togethers.

As in other trips, you don't have to come for the entire week but try to come for as many days as you can. I have arranged for a guided trip for two on the river on Monday, November 29th. The winners will be drawn from those that are signed up for that Monday, at the November 13th Banquet. Larry Ingram Cell 530 300-1841

Banquet Donations

As each of you know, the success, or failure of each year's banquet depends upon the participation of the club members. Many of you donate not just your sweat but your time and of course, your donations. Your donations help us to attempt to ensure that almost everyone leaves with some sort of a prize.

This year it's even more important than ever. As you know, we are not having a guest speaker. Instead, we are using the funds available to purchase more and better raffle prizes. Additionally, we need your time and talents in the form of flies and / or donations. If most of you donate a dozen of your favorite flies; tied, purchased or stolen, you can help ensure the success of the night's activities. If you are so inclined, please give your donation to a Pete Gilb, Craig Renke Jeff Lingenfelter or myself and we'll see to it that they are available the night of **November 13th**. Additionally, you will be recognized in our program on the night of the banquet.

Tickets for the banquet will be available soon from Johnson's Bait, Tackle and Fly Shop or from any of the club's officers or Board members. An "Early Bird" special will be drawn from the names of those that purchase their dinner tickets NLT the October 12th meeting.

Larry Ingram

2010 Annual Banquet - November 13th

It's never too late to start thinking about this year's banquet. We have spent the summer months fishing and so we think of the many things that we might just need or win and the banquet is the best place to do both. Prizes ranging from top quality fly rods to those flies tied by our members and, everything in between. Past years have had raffle prizes totaling over 200 items.

The banquet is the club's main fundraiser for the year so plan to attend and support the fly club.

I will be asking for flies from all of you so start now tying or buying a dozen or two (2) dozen. Any and all other donated items will be gladly accepted.

This year's event will be Saturday, November 13th, starting at 6:00 PM at the Moose Family Center on Walton, in Yuba City. Tickets will be available in September from any Officer, Board Member or at Johnson's Bait, Tackle and Fly Shop.

Larry Ingram

530 300-1841

How Has Fly Fishing Changed

By John Berry

I was fishing with a client the other day, when he asked me an intriguing question. How has fly fishing changed since you started? I immediately started going through some of the changes in my head and quickly realized that there had been substantial change. Most of it was positive. I began fly fishing three decades ago and I must admit that I spend most of my time trying to manage change.

The most obvious change to me is that there are a lot more of us. There are more people fly fishing now than when I first started. Back then there were precious few fly fishers. Most of the anglers that you saw were bait fishing. Now it seems like there is parity in the numbers of fly fishers versus bait or lure anglers. A lot of the increase is due to technological advances in fly fishing gear. The advances in fly fishing gear have had a profound effect on the sport by making it easier to do and to make the anglers more comfortable. Another cause is the popularity of the movie, A River Runs Through It. I think that you could boost the popularity of Tiddlywinks if you made a movie about it featuring Brad Pitt.

Fly rods have undergone significant change. When I first started fly fishing, my first fly rod was made of fiber glass. It was heavy and had a very soft action. I remember casting a graphite rod for the first time. It was a Sage and it cast like a dream. It was lighter and had a much stiffer action than my fiberglass. I was so impressed that I went out and bought one (my daughter still fishes with it). The rods then were mostly eight footers. The rods now are much longer. Most are

nine feet and several are ten feet. The actions are stiffer and they weigh less.

Fly lines have undergone some fundamental change. Years ago they were either level (no taper) or they were double taper with a distinct taper on each end. The level lines were inexpensive but cast poorly. The double tapers were popular because you could use one end until you wore it out and then turn it around and use the other side. Now the most popular lines are weight forward which have a distinct taper and are heavier on the tapered end. The other end is smaller and lighter. This allows the line to be cast further. There are also a variety of specialty lines that did not exist then. We now have sink tips, which have a front sinking section and a floating rear section, this allows us to fish deep and still cast the line easily. We also have bass bug lines designed to cast wind resistant bass flies and nymph lines designed to cast double fly rigs, weight and strike indicators. There are more.

The fly reels used when I first started were basically unchanged since the nineteenth century. They used a simple spring and pawl drag. The big change since then is that most fly reels sold today feature a disc drag system similar to that used in automobile brakes. Reels with disc drags weigh a bit more than spring and pawl drags. The current trend is toward larger arbors which allow you to reel in line more quickly. Larger arbors weigh more than smaller arbors. So, while rods are getting lighter, reels are getting heavier.

One change that we don't think about often has been the improvement in leaders and tippets. Back in the day we made our own leaders. We would take several sections of different sized tippet material and carefully join them with blood knots to produce a tapered shape. The knots had a tendency to grab algae or any trash in the water. We now buy knotless tapered leaders that perform flawlessly. Tippets have gotten much stronger over the years. When I began fishing 4X was four pound test. Now 4X is six or even seven pound test. Then there is fluorocarbon. This stuff is stronger, more abrasion resistant and has a specific gravity greater than water (it is heavier than water and it sinks).

The change in waders has possibly been the greatest change of all. When I began, I used a borrowed pair of rubberized cotton boot foot waders. They were clumsy, bulky and clammy. The first pair that I bought were neoprene. They were the hot new thing at the time and great during the cold months when their insulating properties were appreciated. They were stocking foots with separate boots that were much more comfortable and provided significant ankle support. However when the summer came, they were stifling. The new style breathable waders are the perfect waders for our area. They are lighter in weight and breathe making them much cooler in summer. In the winter we wear a pair of fleece pants and we are quite comfortable.

The last major change that I have seen has been in fishing ethics. Thirty years ago we kept everything we caught. A stringer was a regular part of our fishing gear. As I grew with the sport, I came to realize that the fish were too valuable to kill. I would rather release them so that I can return and catch them again. As our rivers get more crowded and fishing pressure increases, this is the only viable strategy to provide a quality fishing experience. I am not the only person with this opinion. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission creel studies prove that there are more anglers per mile fishing in Catch and Release waters than other sections. Years ago, I also fished over spawning trout. I caught some great fish but I came to realize that it was more important for the trout to naturally procreate than to provide me with a little recreation. Others have come to agree with me and the major spawning grounds are now closed during the spawn.

I have seen a lot of change in the last few years and it has been for the better. I have better gear that is much easier to cast, it keeps me more comfortable and I regularly catch quality fish that are the equal of good trout anywhere. Sometimes change is good!

Do Flies Always Work?

By Pat Damico – Taken from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

When taking out clients, I often ask them about previous experience with guided trips. This information is very helpful and varies across the whole spectrum from very good, to poor. Recently, the answers were from clients telling me about two guided trips. In both cases they wanted to catch redfish on a fly. They started fishing with flies, but soon switched after being unsuccessful. One trip was in South Carolina, the other on Florida's west coast. Instead, they ended up fishing with shrimp and whitebait, and caught some fish. Why the switch? Is the reason there are times when

fish will refuse flies and take only live bait? Yes, I'm sure there are instances when this is true. Could there be any other reasons why flies will fail? After getting more information, the reasons began to fall into a familiar pattern.

Most fly fisherman I know enjoy the challenge that fishing with the long rod presents. When they begin fly fishing they must also accept the journey that is necessary as they pursue success. What is success? Success to many fly fisherman I know is not measured in how many fish are caught, but by how they are caught. One nice fish on the fly could make the whole day a worthwhile event. Stalking the fish, making a perfect presentation with a fly that you have tied, seeing the take, setting the hook and finally bringing the fish to hand where it can be admired, and often released, all make for a successful outing. There are even times that fly fishing can outperform other fishing techniques. Catching freshwater trout in the middle of a mayfly hatch when the pattern is duplicated and well presented is one example. When snook are feeding at night on small baitfish, a fly that matches the hatch is very productive. The fly itself, many times, is a small part of the equation. When someone asks what fly pattern are you using, should he also ask how you are using it? Have you ever fished near someone, using identical equipment, who either out fished you or you beat them by a large margin? Let's look at some reasons why flies may not be productive. We will begin with the guide.

If someone calls a guide and says they want to fly fish, very few guides will not take them as clients. It can be a decision based solely on economics. The guide may prefer to fish live bait or scented plastic spinning lures primarily, but without telling you this agrees to take you out. He may have a fly rod, or you bring your own equipment. This is your first saltwater fly fishing experience and you are understandably very excited. You've watched Lefty, Flip and others on Saturday morning make that perfect cast which resulted in instant success. You expect to do the same. The guide shows up with a tower boat and a livewell full of scales sardines, and a bunch of spinning rods with corks on the leader. How do you fly cast from a boat with a large tower in the middle, and what is the live bait doing there? My first saltwater "fly fishing trip," about twenty years ago started similarly, with a well respected guide. I had several phone conversations with the guide before our trip telling him I wanted to catch fish with a fly rod. One fly rod rigged with a freshwater muddler minnow sat in the rod holder all day while we threw spinning outfits with live shrimp. We did catch fish, but it was not what I wanted to do. He did say, "Right now, this is the best way to catch fish." Why, if he believed that, didn't he tell me on the phone, or refer me to a fly fishing guide?

In another instance, the guide takes you out and after a couple fishless stops with you casting your fly rod, he suggests that maybe we should switch to spinning gear for awhile. Let's say your casting skills were adequate, but the fish were holding close to the bottom in several feet of water, and a sinking fly on a clear sinking tip line would have worked. The guide's inexperience was of no help here. Or, the fish were tailing in shallow water and his boat did not have a shallow enough draft to allow a stealthy, closer approach. He didn't have a poling platform, or pole, which is needed under these circumstances, or you could have left the boat and approached the shallows by walking in the ankle deep water to get to the fish. A friend of mine who is a very busy live bait guide told me he never saw a tailing redfish. I frequently fish the same areas he does and we see them all the time. We usually wave to one another as he speeds by on his way to a "hole" where he anchors his boat and chums with stunned live greenbacks before beginning to fish his clients with baited hooks. I told him he never slows down long enough to watch the shallows for signs of tailers.

Under the above circumstances the guide may announce, "I fished a spot near here a few days ago, and we caught a bunch with shrimp." You go to the spot, anchor the boat, and instantly hook up with a live shrimp. We have some excellent fly patterns that duplicate shrimp. Why not use one of them? After catching several fish, you don't touch your fly rod for the rest of the trip. Was the fly pattern the reason for failure, or were your casting skills so poor that you couldn't get the fly close to where the fish were? Did you make sloppy presentations that frightened fish in shallow water, were you unable to cast in the wind, did you false cast over the fish and spook them, or a myriad of other reasons relating to your lack of casting skill? When fellow guides, that are also excellent fly fisherman, discuss recent trips with me, their success will always relate to how well their client could cast. They have some poor days when fish are scarce, but on some of their best days when fish are located, the casting skill of the client will determine how the day went.

If you are having some casting problems, and you are amenable to some helpful suggestions, can the guide analyze your cast and be of assistance? If your skills are so poor, how do you feel about spending most of your trip learning how to properly cast? The deck of a flats boat is not the place to learn to cast a fly rod. I have had clients who after a few minutes of instruction were able to improve their casting sufficiently to have a good day with the fly. Others were either so inexperienced, or couldn't admit that the problem was theirs, but rather some other reason, like the action of the rod, the brand of the rod, the rod's length, or weight, or something else.

What can we do to insure that a fly fishing trip will have the best chance for success? Research the guide thoroughly? Study their website, have some candid conversations, or written communication with him, or her. Get some references. Be sure to explain your experience level. If you need to prepare yourself, sign up for a saltwater casting clinic, or get lessons from someone who is skilled in the areas you need help. The Federation of Fly Fishers has a casting certification program that is rigorous and will help narrow your choices of where to begin.

I began fly fishing at the age of ten. I enjoy the sport now more than ever. Many people have contributed to my continual learning experience in both fresh and saltwater. Saltwater fly fishing will definitely provide you with the most excitement available in our great sport. Take advantage of it by doing your homework.

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

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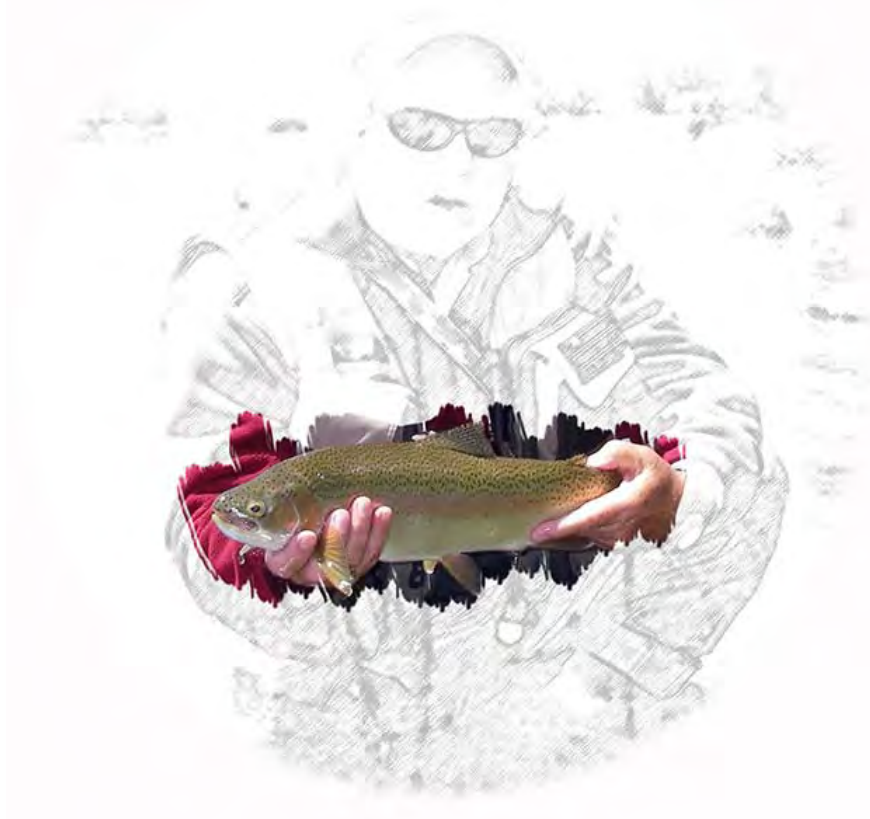
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Salmon/Steelhead Education Program:
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Baja On the Fly - July 2010

by Tony Buzolich

This last July 12 -19, I took my annual group trip to La Paz with eight great guys looking for saltwater adventure. Five of our group are E.C.Powell club members, that being myself along with Jim, Doug, and John Fujii and Bill Siler. We also had along Jim May, Steve Purpura, and Mike Pienta all of whom have been along with me several times before.

After a quick flight from Sacramento to LAX and then on to La Paz, we arrive at our Hotel La Concha in the early afternoon and begin getting our rods ready for the following day. We'll be fishing for the next six days for a variety of trophy saltwater species including dorado, roosterfish, jack crevalle, skipjack, and even yellowfin tuna all on a fly. We may even come across a sailfish or a marlin as well because all of these fish are here at the same time.



Every morning we are picked up at our hotel by a van, carrying our lunches and drinks for the day, and taken to our waiting pangas a few miles farther south on the East Cape of Baja. We board our boats and head off each day to get bait before we start fishing. Our bait is a herring called a sardina and is used for chum to excite whatever game fish we desire.

Most often we start close to shore looking for roosterfish and jacks. This year we had some fantastic roosterfish come in up to forty pounds and several in the twenty-five to thirty pound range.

Usually after loosening up on roosters and jacks we move offshore a short ways and begin

targeting the small tuna's. Black Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna this time of year average under twenty pounds but can get much larger.



While offshore you'll come across another gamefish that has several names Dorado, Mahi-mahi, or Dolphin. All are the same fish depending on what part of the world you're at. In Mexican waters the dorado has to be one of the best fly rod fish there is. Not only are they extremely colorful, they immediately jump and go airborne when hooked.



Most average around 15# - 20# but often get much larger as Bill Siler found out this year.



This year there were quite a few striped marlin showing up throughout the week. Steve Purpura and Jim May gave one a cast and got an immediate hook-up on a "small" 75 pounder. What was really amazing was that Steve had hooked this marlin on his backup rod,,,,, a 9 weight! Not wanting to gaff the fish and kill it, they leadered the marlin three times up to the boat before releasing it. What an experience this was.

At the club meeting this November 9, 2010 I will be presenting this year's trip in it's entirety with lots more pictures and stories to tell.

If any of you are interested going on next year's group trip I'll have a sign-up sheet at the meeting or you can call me any time. For more information call Tony at (530) 790-7180

Modoc / Klamath Trip Report

Those of you who read this Newsletter know that Bob Long loves to fish for trout in the high desert lakes of Modoc County, and chase summer/fall steelhead in the Trinity and Klamath Rivers. Bob recently asked me to accompany him on a trip that combined these two pursuits.

We left Bob's house at "O-dark hundred hours" on Sunday morning, October 17th. Our destination was Alturas, the seat of Modoc County, located in the far northeast corner of California, bounded by Oregon to the north and Nevada to the east. At an elevation of 4370 feet, Alturas straddles the North Fork of the Pit River, near its confluence with the South Fork in the north end of South Fork Valley. The tall Warner Mountains lie to the east, the wetlands and wild rice fields of South Fork Valley to the south, and the extensive Modoc Plateau to the north.



The Modoc Plateau is a mile-high expanse of lava flows with cinder cones, juniper flats, pine forests, and seasonal lakes. These lakes are shallow and rich in aquatic weeds and insects. This allows the trout to grow fast and big. In addition to trout, some of these lakes support healthy populations of black bass and crappie.

The eastern edge of the county is dominated by the Warner Mountains. Hundreds of alpine lakes dot the range, all of which are fed by snow-melt and natural springs. Many of these lakes are also rich in aquatic weeds and bugs, with resultant healthy trout.

In spite of abundant precipitation in much of California last year, Modoc County received very little. Moderate drought conditions have prevailed for the last several years, resulting in low water levels in many of the local lakes.

After checking in to the Rim Rock Motel in Alturas, (530) 233-5455, we proceeded to one of Bob's favorite lakes. In spite of our best efforts neither of us caught anything this first afternoon. Bob mumbled something about the impact of cold fronts on small shallow impoundments. I'm not sure about that. I did however notice a faint odor of skunk.



This small impoundment can't take much fishing pressure and is a local secret. When John O'Shea and I accompanied Bob to this lake 2 ½ years ago, he blindfolded us and spun us around before taking us there. This time Bob allowed me to maintain my orientation. However, in order to prevent you from also being skunked, I will continue to withhold the name of this lake.

Monday morning, we tried our luck on Reservoir F, one of the larger impoundments on the Modoc Plateau. The lake was very low with weeds showing in many places. However, by fishing pockets between the weeds with #12 and #14 maribou buggers we caught a fair number of nice rainbows, nothing too large, but fat and healthy. Bob also caught a big crappie. The only downside to fishing F

was fighting the weeds. We had to check our flies frequently to remove unwanted salad.



That afternoon we fished Briles Reservoir in the Warner Mountains. This beautiful small lake is surrounded by timber and is sheltered by high ridges. When the wind comes up on the Modoc Plateau, making fishing difficult, Briles is a viable option. We did well, catching fat “bows” up to 17”. Again, the #14 brown maribou bugger was Bob’s fly of choice. I caught fish with a #10 olive Seal Bugger with a burnt orange tail.

Tuesday morning we fished Reservoir C, on the Modoc Plateau. Like F, the water level in C was very low. However, the weeds were not as much of a problem. A “problem” on C was keeping numerous small bass off our flies. In addition to these little guys, we caught a fair number of nice rainbows. C is known as a big fish lake. We didn’t connect with any of these trophies on this trip,

but the possibility is always there.

In the late morning the wind started to come up so we headed for Briles. Again we had lots of fun. In the late afternoon a nice midge hatch came off. Bob had a blast casting to rising fish with his #14 bugger. Just about every time he put his fly in the ring of a rise, he got a grab. I did well stripping an olive Jay Fair Wiggletail near the bank.

On F, C and Briles Bob used his pontoon boat and I used my float tube. Bob used 3 and 5 weight rods with floating lines. I used a 5 wt rod with floating and clear camo lines.

There’s more to fishing than fishing. Alturas has lots of good dining choices. Bob and I enjoyed good dinners at El Aguila Real Mexican, Antonio’s Cucina Italiana, and the Brass Rail basque restaurant. For breakfast, we went to the Wagon Wheel.

On Wednesday morning we shifted gears from trout to steelhead and drove to Hoopa Valley on the Trinity River. We checked in to the Tsewenaldin Inn, (530) 625-4294, the only motel in Hoopa. Unlike Alturas, dining in Hoopa is limited. (Try the deli sandwiches at Ray’s Food Place, the grocery store across the parking lot from the Tsewenaldin). However, Hoopa is convenient to many excellent steelhead runs on both the lower Trinity and Klamath.

For those of you who haven’t fished the lower Trinity and Klamath, these two classic steelhead rivers are quite different in character. The Trinity River in Hoopa valley has broad riffles and runs with ultra clear water. During our trip, flows in Hoopa valley were about 650 cfs. The lower Klamath runs through a deep rugged canyon and is a much bigger river. Flows below the confluence with the Trinity were running about 3000 cfs.

Starting in September, as the nights begin to cool and the foliage puts on its annual show of red, gold and yellow, adult steelhead averaging about 5 pounds and schools of sporty 12- to 16- inch sexually immature half-pounders move into these rivers. Here anglers can partake in the long-standing California tradition of pursuing steelhead by swinging classic flies like the Silver Hilton, Brindle Bug and Burlap on floating lines. 5- to 7- wt. single and two-handed rods work well.



For the next 2 ½ days Bob and I fished some of his favorite runs on these two rivers, ranging from above Somes Bar down to Johnsons on the Klamath, hooking a few fish at just about every stop.



The 20 mile drive from Weitchpec, where the Trinity runs into the Klamath, to the end of the road at Johnsons is an adventure in itself. The one lane road twists and turns through the dark forested canyon. This is Indian country with much poverty in evidence. Since my last visit two years ago the number of abandoned vehicles and dwellings has increased.

Johnsons is only 14 river miles or so from the ocean. In this part of the river the steelhead are fresh, bright and strong. Even modestly sized fish peel line off the reel after the grab. After landing a fish I was often surprised to see it was a half-pounder rather than a larger adult.

One afternoon at Johnson's was particularly memorable. A light rain was falling; perfect steelhead weather. We had the river to ourselves, and we were swinging traditional flies on a broad classic run. It doesn't get any better than that!

After almost a week of fishing, Bob and I headed home. It had been a good trip. We had chased high desert trout and fresh run steelhead in California's remote far northeast and northwest corners, during one of the most beautiful times of the year. Good fishing, good scenery, good weather and good company. However, it should be noted that 24 hours after we left the Trinity in Hoopa Valley the river had risen from 650 csf to 10,000 csf and the lower Klamath had gone from 3000 csf to 30,000 csf – it does have a tendency to rain up there! I look forward to returning.

Mike Ream

My Favorite Flies for Lakes

By Jim Tanner

(Editor's Note. Jim is well known, along with a select group of other members such as Jeff Lingenfelter, Denis Davis and Bob Harik, to perform drift dives prior to, during or after the selection of a pattern for use.)





Election Ballot For 2011

November is the month for our annual election of officers and board members. At last October's general meeting the nominations indicated below were made. **Please remember to vote.** A space is provided for a "write-in" candidate in all offices. Please either mail in your ballot or bring it to the meeting. This is your chance to have a say in who is going to make most of the decisions about our club and what we will do during the year 2011.

Election Ballot: 2011 Officers and Board Members

Please place an 'X' in the appropriate box.

President:

_____ ()

_____ []

Vice President:

_____ ()

_____ []

Secretary:

_____ []

_____ []

Treasurer:

_____ []

_____ []

Board Members: (vote for 2)

_____ []

_____ []

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Please bring this ballot to the November 9th meeting or mail it to: E.C. Powell Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 1135, Yuba City, CA 95992. If you mail the ballot, it must be received not later than **November 9th**.

Additional ballots will be available at the meeting for those who forget theirs.