



Newsletter

October 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

- Oct 4 Board Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM
- Oct 11 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
Program: **Bob Long**
- Oct 18 Fly Tying, Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
- Oct 22 Steelhead Fish Out in the Feather River
- Nov 8 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
- Nov 12 Annual Banquet

President's Corner

The work has begun for the upcoming banquet and it is time to go out and visit some of the wonderful people that have supported our Club in the past. The response from those at the meeting was somewhat less than acceptable. We all need to do our part supporting the club in this effort to provide the social event of the year for our Club and it is our major fund raiser for the whole year. Tickets will also be available at our next meeting. It is time to think of what you might want to contribute toward one of the raffles with many if the members coming up with some very creative gifts without breaking the bank.

The Board members will be making nominations for next year's officers so if you have any ideas you need to put a bug in someone's ear (hopefully without the hook). The election will be in November with the results revealed at the banquet. Remember that these people are the ones that lead and shape our Club.

We finished the fly fishing class today at Collins Lake with another great turnout of enthused people that seem to hang onto every word we say as if it were gospel. I am truly amazed at how well Ken Mackey brought this thing together with all the planning and arrangements that needed to be made. The response from the people in the class has been equally impressive with many joining the club sharing our interest in this sport. I must thank the Appeal Democrat for their article in the paper as I am sure this was a large factor for the class being full to capacity. Remember that these people are just getting started and they will be relying on us for guidance. I must also note that I am proud of all the members that pitched in to help these people as that is the spirit of the club. My time with these people won't be forgotten any time soon.

Once again, Hat Creek humbled me insomuch as it seems to take me three days to figure out the right technique. I didn't have to call upon the wise ones of Napa valley this time but some offerings from Cardenas did seem to sooth the bruised ego and come to think of it there were some of J. Lohr's finest offerings to help the thought process while sitting around the campfire in the evenings. The best way I can describe the fly is small, green and flashy. I am sure that there is some Latin name for it but it is getting too late for me to get up off my lazy rear-end and go look for my dictionary. I am certain that eighteen fish out of one hole in one afternoon was one of my better days.

I have done well with my drag racing this year but it has interfered with some of my fishing time as I am now preparing to go to Las Vegas next week and I only have one question, which is will they let me practice my casting in the pool in front of the Bellagio Hotel? Only time will tell and hopefully I can bring back a picture but the real question is which rod should I use and would a floating line or an intermediate or even a sink-tip work the best? I am sure that Walt A. could give me a clue or maybe one of the security guards would as I would consider them one of the resident experts or guides if you will. It should be interesting to say the least, what goes on in Vegas should at least rate one picture.

Craig

October Program

Our program speaker for October will be Club member, Bob Long. Bob's Power Point presentation will cover the fly fishing found in Modoc County and a bit of northwestern Nevada. He's been fishing the reservoirs in the area for about 20 years and will share a bit about some of his favorite waters (just some, mind you); the flies that work for him and when to use them.

Banquet Information

As we approach the November 12th banquet, we thought it important to let you know where we are and what's in store for you when you purchase your dinner ticket.

The tickets are available from any Club Officer or Board Member. In addition, Johnson's Bait, Tackle and Fly Shop will also be selling tickets. For your money you will receive a number of opportunities. The dinner (either Steak or Chicken) is paid for from your ticket money. Also, you have the chance to win several really good prizes.

First is the "Early Bird" prize; drawn from those that purchased their tickets no later than the October general meeting. As in the past, this prize is \$40 worth of free raffle prizes. These can be used for chances at nearly 200 fishing and non-

fishing related prizes. These items range from high quality fly rods, reels, float tubes, pontoon boats and a huge amount of other raffle items. The value of these tickets can exceed \$1,000 worth of raffle prizes or target raffle items.

Second is the door prize. The winning ticket is drawn from those present at the banquet. This prize has always been a very special prize such as 2 free dinners at some of our areas better restaurants. The value of these can be something near \$50-75.

Third, your ticket puts you in contention for the Grand Prize; a bamboo fly rod. This is drawn from **dinner tickets** of those at the dinner; not by someone that spends lots of money on raffle tickets. So you have the same chance as everyone at the dinner. Just ask some of the people who have won: Audrey Lingenfelter, Don Voigt and Craig Renke. Of the frequently more than 200 raffle prizes; you stand a really good chance at winning one of up to 15+ fly rods (Sage, Orvis, Powell), high quality reels (Ross, Orvis, etc), fly lines, float tube, pontoon boat and other equipment so necessary for your next outing.

Many of you choose to bring items for use in the general raffle. To that we say a huge “Thank You”. It is these items that really show your support for the club and the banquet. Whether it’s a dozen flies, an item purchased from one of the club’s offers, anything; it’s welcome and very much appreciated. If you choose to donate flies or anything, we would like to get them NLT the 1st of November. This way you are recognized in the program. If you choose not to have your name in the program, simply bring your gift to the banquet and we’ll add it to the list of prizes.

So, don’t wait until the last minute to decide that you really want to go. Buy your tickets early and take advantage of the many opportunities that will be available to you. The evening will be a memorable one for you as you see old friends, make new ones, and have a really good meal. You will also have a really good chance at what we, the Banquet Committee, feel are some extraordinary prizes.

Thanks and see you November 12th at the Moose Family Center on Walton Ave. starting at 6:00 PM. Dinner will be at 7:00 PM.

Larry Ingram, Craig Renke, Jeff Lingenfelter, Ken Mackey and Denis Davis

Banquet Donations

If you have something that you would like to donate to the annual banquet, please bring it to the October or November meeting or to the banquet itself.

Thanks, The Committee

New EC Powel Members For the Month of September 2011

On behalf of all of us here at EC Powell, General Membership, Board and Officers, welcome to the club.

- Mr. Alan Clapham of Yuba City Ca.
- Mr. Ron Dougherty of Plumas Lake Ca.
- Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Marge Engen of Yuba City Ca.
- Mr. Vernon Kuska of Wheatland Ca.
- Mr. Steve Ousby of Yuba City Ca.
- Mr. Dave Slack of Marysville Ca.
- Mr. Michael Tidd of Yuba Ca.

EC Powell Introduction to Fly Fishing Class News Brief

First I would like to acknowledge and thank the EC Powell Introduction to Fly Fishing Committee and everyone in the Club who has stepped up and volunteered their time in making themselves available for these classes, and to Rachel and everyone at Parks and Recreation, job well done.

Our schedule has been three Thursdays, one Wednesday, and two Saturdays during the month of September. At the first of the two casting clinics, given by Mike Ream and helpers on the 15th, President Craig Renke presented Matt



Hartigan, 18, with an Algonquin 9' 5wt Fly rod, Okuma 56 SLV reel and matching line. In speaking with Matt's mom, Kim, who is also enrolled in the class afterward, she said Matt was very surprised, appreciative and eager to try it out. At the Saturday casting class Matt was working hard and doing a good job (I might add) on perfecting new skills and techniques. Kim and Matt have expressed an interest in soon becoming a part of the EC Powell membership and are looking forward to the up and coming Collins Lake Fish Out as is 95 % of the rest of the class. So the week ending the 24th of September will bring to a conclusion our late summer Fly Fishing Classes for the remainder of 2011. After Walt Alexander's presentation on Entomology, on the 22nd, we will wrap up the Intro to Fly Fishing for the students that

following Saturday with our fish out at Collins Lake off of Marysville Road between Oregon House and Browns Valley.

In a time when our Country is being squeezed so tightly in every aspect of life, these few hours each week of getting together and fellowship have been refreshing. The experience of all walks of life coming together, smiles, handshakes and sharing is truly an uplifting and rewarding experience. These precious times together are what I think America is truly about, caring, giving and receiving through, and with people that make up our great country and Club. Get involved by coming up to the fish out and meet some great people, enjoy the park and have a good time. God Bless, thanks again.

Ken Mackey



The following members worked as either presenters or helpers during the class:

Craig Renke
 Jim Fujii
 Walt Alexander
 Denis Davis
 Jeff Lingenfelter
 Doug Fujii
 Alex Reyno

Ed Holland
 Mike Ream
 Bob Harik
 Bob Boucke
 Jim Tanner
 Pete Gilb
 Ken Mackey



Steelhead

Need I say more?

It's time to start thinking about our annual trip to the Trinity River. This year's trip starts on November 27th and runs until December 3rd, 2008.

We are staying at the Victorian Inn in Weaverville. It offers very clean rooms, daily maid service, in room phones, TV, small refrigerator, coffee maker and microwaves. A Continental breakfast is available each morning. Grocery store and other type stores are very close. You will be asked to call the hotel and give them your credit card to hold your room for the first night. Then, you pay for your room when you leave, not before.

Jim Hodges, the manager and son of the owner, himself an avid fly fisher and guide, has made a special rate available to us. A large room with two queen beds will cost \$60 Sunday to Thursday and \$70 on Friday and Saturday. . If you have a group of 5 and would like their Carriage House, it rents for \$120 Sunday to Thursday and \$130 on Friday and Saturday.

We will be able to all eat together in their conference center.

Guided trips are available from local shops in the area or from Jim, himself. Costs vary by guide but all are excellent. I have arranged for a free guided trip for 2 through the Fly Shop. The winner's names will be drawn form those signed up, at the November banquet.

If you are interested, sign up at the Sept. and October meetings or call Larry Ingram at 673-4965. When you sign up or call, please try to have the dates that you plan to arrive and leave as well as someone, if desired, to room with. Additionally, if you'd like to cook a meal for all of us, let me know.

More info to follow in the newsletter and via email to those that are signed up.

Larry

For Sale

Walton Powell bamboo rod. 9' 6" 5 wt, 3 piece and it's in good to very good condition - \$300. Call Kelly at 530 692-0212 for additional information.

Finding the Fish (Part 2)

Last month we looked at the 4 basic needs of trout. This month we will examine other factors that influence the movement and location of trout.

Seasonal Changes

Spring: Is a very good time to be fishing stillwater. Trout are coming out of their winter funk and are hungry! The water is warming up and the oxygen content is good throughout the lake.

This time of year don't plan on being on the water at the crack of dawn, unless you just like being out in the cold freezing your toes off. Now myself, I usually sleep in, then have a nice breakfast, and plan on being on the water about 9 or 10 a.m. This gives the sun time to warm the water a degree or two. It is amazing how much difference a degree or two makes in the trout's activity. In Ron Cordes and Randall Kaufmann's book, "Lake Fishing With a Fly," they state that a trout is so sensitive to temperature change that it will respond to a change of 0.1 degree.

Chances are the only thing emerging this time of year is midges (chironomids), so this is my first choice of imitation. My Second choice would be year-round food sources such as scuds, leeches or baitfish.

Summer: This is the time of year to be on the water at the crack of dawn before the water warms up from its nightly cool-down. This time of year the oxygen content of the water may become a critical factor for the trout's survival, it may outweigh their need for food, so look for them in cooler more oxygenated water such as springs and inlets.

This time of year the trout may hold in deeper water and make short foraging trips into the shallows, even though oxygen may be their first priority food is still necessary. This is the time of year when most of the insect emergences occur, so imitating mayflies, dragonflies, damselflies or caddis flies may be your best bet.

Fall: This is the best time of year to be fishing stillwater for trout. The water is cooling down, the oxygen content is going up and the trout are porking up for winter.

During this time of year, again think about fishing through the middle of the day as you did in the spring. Most of the insect emergences are over so again think about imitating the year round food sources. All of the insects are present in the nymph or larva stage but they are quite small, so if you want to imitate these you will have to drop down in size. Where a size 12 may have produced well a month or two ago it may take a size 16 or 18 to get the job done now.

Winter: Things really slow down in the winter and you should too, make your retrieves very slow. When the water temperature gets down into the thirties and forties the trout become lethargic, their metabolism goes way down, and they eat very little. They will not move very far, or fast, to take a Fly. Inlets and springs may provide warmer water that will attract the trout.

There is one thing that may put trout on the feed and that is a midge emergence. As long as a lake does not freeze over, midges will emerge. Midge imitations would be my first choice this time of year.

Other Factors

Barometric Pressure: Trout like stable conditions; a sudden change in barometric pressure can really turn them off. This is particularly true of a falling barometer, which usually means a storm is approaching. When there is a sudden change in barometric pressure the trout go deep and lay on the bottom sulking until things stabilize. When the storm actually gets there, the trout sometimes really go on the feed.

Sometimes you can get an idea what the barometer is doing from the wind direction. If the wind is coming out of the North or West it usually means a high stable barometer. If the wind switches to the East or South it probably means the barometer is falling.

For an example of this, last spring I was fishing McCumber Reservoir. In the morning the wind was coming out of the North, I was fishing in about 12 feet of water and consistently getting takes at a depth of 5 to 6 feet. I took a lunch break, then returned to the same area and presented the same fly in the same manner I had prior to lunch. After about a half hour with no takes I decided something must have changed, the wind was now coming out of the East and South. Suspecting the barometer was falling I started presenting the same fly just above the bottom and was again into the trout.

Turnover: When a lake turns over the entire water column mixes bringing up a lot of sediment from the bottom. So if the water in your lake is clear one day and cloudy with a lot of suspended matter the next, your lake is probably in turnover. Oxygen-poor water from the bottom is mixed causing oxygen depletion for the entire lake. The trout go into survival mode and shut down. The odds of you catching anything during turnover are very low. The good news is that turnover only lasts for a day or two and all lakes do not turnover at the same time, so my advice is move to another lake.

Temperature: Fish are cold blooded, in other words their body temperature is the same as their surroundings. Trout seem to be most comfortable in water that is in the fifties. I read somewhere that the ideal temperature for rainbow trout is 56 degrees Fahrenheit. If the water temperature goes into the sixties trout become STRESSED, if it goes into the seventies it can become fatal. On the other end of the spectrum when the water temperature drops into the thirties and forties the trout become lethargic and eat very little.

Water level: Drastically fluctuating water levels can turn fish off. This occurs mainly in reservoirs. Drastic fluctuation of water levels can destroy weed-beds thereby destroying some of the food chain.

Spawning: rainbow and cutthroat trout spawn in the spring; brown and brook trout spawn in the fall; so in the spring look for rainbow or cutthroat trout near any Inlet, in the fall look for brown or brook trout in the same area. Even if there are no Inlets the trout will still spawn, but probably not successfully. The spawners will move into the shallows to spawn and the other fish will follow to feed on the roe. I have not tried it myself but an egg pattern could be a good possibility at this time.

Putting it all together: In this article and the one in the September Newsletter we covered most of the factors that influence the movement and location of Trout! By evaluating all of these factors we can see how they are intertwined. The one factor that keeps showing up time after time is the wind. I know as fly fishers we tend to curse the wind, I was no different until I came to realize all the benefits the wind gives us. Besides cooling, mixing and increasing the oxygen content of the water, wind provides cover for both the trout and us. It will provide cover for the trout to move into the shallows and feed as well as make us less visible to the trout. The broken surface created by the wind helps to cover up our not so perfect casts and the wave action can give a fly fished under a strike indicator a very seductive up and down motion the trout find hard to resist. So the next time the wind comes up instead of heading for the barn try coping with it; by remaining on the water you may find that you are catching more and bigger fish. I know this has been true for me.

There comes a point where the danger outweighs the benefits, so if the wind gets to severe by all means GET OFF THE WATER!

Next month we will go into stillwater flies. In the meantime learn to embrace the wind and enjoy the benefits.

Walt Alexander

Golden Trout – Part 2

Today we are headed further south to the "Hinterland of the East Scarp." Namely; the highest point in California, Mount Whitney at 14,495 feet elevation! At Lone Pine we turned west on Whitney Portal Road and went 30 miles to Horseshoe Meadows at 9,920 feet of elevation. This is the trail head and Forest Service campground, from here you hike and I mean hike. This is the hub of the California Golden Trout areas and calls for lots of strenuous hiking. Taking into consideration our ages and physical conditions, we determined to attempt several of the lower venues, like Chicken Springs Lake, the famous Golden Trout Creek, Volcano Creek and Rock Creek; although, both Crabtree Lakes hold goldens between 10 and 15 inches plus, Whitney Creek has many good size goldens as well as the upper Kern River canyon, these latter areas require overnight stays and some "very" serious hiking, needless to say we are going to confine our hikes to one day excursion in the lower elevations.

The day dawned clear as we made our way up the trail that crosses 11,200 foot Cottonwood Pass; the left fork goes to Big Whitney Meadows and Stokes Stringer Creek, which is the headwaters of Golden Trout Creek, the historical home of one of California's two species of golden trout. It was tempting to try for the Upper Kern River where sixteen inch golden trout are known to reside, but that trip would take two days hiking in, two days fishing and two days hiking back out. We'll leave that trip to the younger guys. We fished Chicken Springs Lake and it proved to be a terrible disappointment. The lake was so infested with golden hybrid trout that are the offspring of pure golden trout and the rainbow trout that we couldn't catch anything else. Now many of these lakes and creeks also have offspring of the hybrids, resulting in an introgressed race of trout, further reducing the pure strain of the golden trout.



Later during our trip we were told that Chicken Springs Lake, Johnson's Lake and the Rocky Basis Lakes were all planted with hybrid trout by the Dept. of Fish and Game over 50 years ago. All these waters named above feed into

Golden Trout Creek and Volcano Creek. Today, Golden Trout Creek is monitored by the Dept. of Fish and Game in hopes that the golden's genetics will overwhelm the rainbows genetics and reverse the trend. Years ago the Dept. of Fish and Game messed up the California golden trout by transplanting them into 300 lakes and creeks over a 100 mile radius. They also erected fish barriers below Chicken Springs Lake in Golden Trout Creek to prevent the hybrid trout from mixing with the pure golden trout in the lower sections of Golden Creek. So we decided to hike down Golden Creek to find the pure strain of goldens; we caught many trout, but we couldn't tell what they were. They didn't have the color or marking of the California golden trout.



Volcano Creek was also a disappointment. We all agreed it wasn't worth the effort to bust your buns over miles of rocks and brush just to catch a few high Sierra dinks that didn't look or act like California Golden Trout.

Years ago some enterprising idiot cut a ditch from Golden Trout Creek across the mountain to the South Fork of the Kern River. Now even the lower sections of Golden Trout Creek is infested with introgressed goldens. The Department of Fish and Game in their infinite wisdom decided to put three fish barriers in the South Fork of the Kern River just below where the ditch from Golden Trout Creek empties into the South Fork. Great! They closed the barn door after the cow got out, but not to worry - a local fish biologist told Abe, Bob and I that he now sterilizes all

those government-issue planted rainbows so we don't have to worry about the pure goldens cross-breeding with his put-and-take genetically engineered rainbows. Yeah! He also told us that there are 6 places where genetically pure strains of the California Golden Trout survive, but he wasn't telling. That figures!

In 1911 the California Golden Trout were brought back from virtual extinction by the Department of Fish and Game (or so they thought). They screwed up by transplanting pure California Golden Trout to rainbow occupied waters; now the DFG wants to use rotenone in these areas to kill "all" the fish and re-stock them with government-issued, hatchery bred, genetically engineered freaks. Fish huggers say no!

Abe, Bob and I are fishing within sixty feet of each other (practically elbow-to-elbow) and we have triple hook-ups, we're so busy trying to prevent our three lines from crossing each other that we don't have time to enjoy this phenomenon. All three of us are screaming "watch-out, don't tangle my line." You guessed it, triple tangles! Abe broke off, all the while gesticulating and exclaiming "I didn't like that old fly anyway." Bob horsed his fish to shallower water and trapped it between his boots, before pouncing on it with his net. Me, I re-set my hook for the second time, making sure that it was solid, then stripped out 15 feet of line, let my fish run back to his lair and let that ragamuffin relax, while I plunked my derriere down on the near bank and watched my buddies antics. All of this activity; combined with the "Hot" temperature of the creek has made me thirsty and I always carry a bottle of water in my fishing vest. I'm getting too rickety to be lying on my belly and draping my snout into the creek. On to Hot Creek!

This body of water is really a "Hot Creek," it bubbles up out of seven springs above 7000 feet elevation. Some of these springs are scalding hot and create an ambient temperature of 50-60 degrees in the creek below. There are practically no trees along the banks and this makes for easy back casting, but first you have to check your rear view mirror, lest you snag a springer (hot spring bather). This creek is not planted by the Department Of Fish and Game and that makes Abe really happy. The creek contains brown trout at a ratio of 7 to 1 over rainbows and has 11,414 (give or take a few hundred), trout per mile. So you would think that anybody could catch trout here. Not so! The "Hot", is shallow, narrow and gin clear. Even the so-called experts have their mettle tested here.

The rigging here is unusual; especially during afternoon wayward winds. Start with a 9 foot leader with 3 feet of 6X tippet, cut down the length of the tippet in 6 inch increments, until you have enough power turning over your fly in the wind; or, if you find you need more distance while maintaining a soft presentation; try adding 3 foot of 3X mono to your leader butt section (this requires two surgeons knots) this will provide you more power to turn over your fly, plus an additional 3 feet of distance and still maintain a soft presentation. Select small dry flies in the 16-22 range. Larger flies in 8-14 size have a tendency to helicopter and be twisted by the wind.

Dry fly fishing is practiced here almost exclusively. Cast above and to the near side of the visible trout, but don't line him. At the conclusion of the cast, lower the rod tip to 45 degrees angle above the water and execute a curve cast, this will provide you a drag-free drift. Keep the casts short; also try stripping out several yards of line and do a downstream drift that will let you reach small lies downstream where trout hold.

If you prefer to nymph fish on Hot Creek, try using a Picket Pin Nymph named after a local rodent called the picket pin ground squirrel (beldings). This fly is fished with a hinged rig which is described as 7 feet of 3X tapered leader with 6 feet of 6X tippet and the yam indicator tied on the end of the tippet.

Twelve inches back from the yam tie on a dropper of 12 inches of 6X tippet and attach the Picket Pin Nymph. Use the indicator to position your fly and not as a strike indicator. Fish the areas where you can see the rocky bottom through holes in the weeds, trout are found here only inches from the bank, where soft water gives them access to food.



Fishing scuds here is a popular technique when no rises are taking place. You can see the trout's tails out of the water (tailing); some fly fishers cast to these thinking that they are casting to trout rising, but it is really the trout standing on his nose, tail in the air, while grubbing scuds off the creek bottom. Use the hinged rig described above with a size 12-16 Flashback Scud fished on the bottom nymph style. Don't be casting across the 45-foot creek, instead use short casts so you can control your presentation in these convoluted currents. Use aerial mends such as the curve cast, bounce cast, snake cast or the parachute casts and paint the mends with your rod tip

This is a small creek and anglers don't use the creek as a highway to move from one spot to another, rather they leave the creek and move along the banks to another spot, this is highly recommended by the local stream keepers.

An extended trip like ours (even though we came for California Golden Trout) is never complete without a day on the "Miracle 7.1 miles of Hot Creek." A sparkling water that is the elixir for growing lots of nice trout, it makes its merry way through arid landscape practically devoid of any trees. A true alpine spring creek that has one of the greatest concentrations of trout of any creek in California - Eleven thousand, four hundred and fourteen beautiful trout per mile, that's 81,039 trout.
Ed Brown

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

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