

# Newsletter

September 2010

# 308

## 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

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Sep 7          | Board Meeting  |
| Sep 14         | Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM                                       |
| Sep 17-19      | Klamath/Trinity Summer Run Steelhead Fish Out                                      |
| Sep 21         | General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:30 PM<br>Program: <b>Steve Korbay</b> |
| Sep 25         | North Fork of the Yuba Fish Out  |
| Nov 13         | Annual Banquet   |
| Nov 28 – Dec 4 | Trinity River Fish Out   |



CALIFORNIA TROUT



## Change of General Meeting and Fly Tying Dates

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Sept. general meeting date has been changed from **Tue. Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>** to **Tue. Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>**. The fly tying class will be held on the 14th. Meeting times and locations are unchanged.

### September Program

The September speaker is Steve Korbay, owner of Fly Tying Specialties in Petaluma. Many of you may know Steve or have watched him tie at one of the Fly Fishing Expos in Sacramento or Pleasanton. Steve's program is on tying and fishing Chech nymphs. The program will feature a tying demonstration as well as a slide show. He and his shop are also known for carrying a large selection of tying materials that are hard to find anywhere else. Many of these are materials used by European tiers and offer new possibilities to us in our own tying. Steve will have a selection of materials available at the meeting.

Jeff

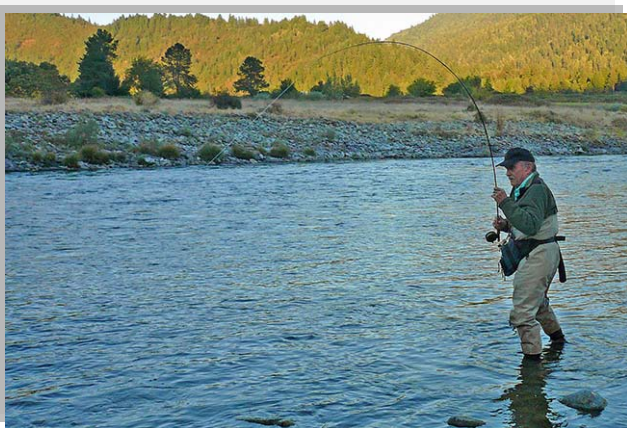
### 4th Annual Klamath and Trinity River Summer Steelhead Fish Out

**H**ere we are, on the very cusp of our 4th Annual Summer Steelhead Fish Out. The two areas we'll be concentrating on once again will be the Hoopa Valley (Hoopa Indian Reservation) stretch of the Trinity and the area between Orleans/Somes Bar and Weitchpec on the Klamath.

First things first – plan to buy your gas in Hoopa as it's a lot cheaper (no Federal and State taxes on the reservation) than the gas in Willow Creek. The other item to take note of is that I believe that the gas station closes at 8PM. When you're fishing very early and/or very late, this can be a real problem, however, the station in Willow Creek is open 24 hours a day and gas is available in both Orleans and Weitchpec but not early and not late.



Finding some place to eat can be a real problem if you're fishing early and late so I usually take a small ice chest for emergency provisions such as beer, food and beer. Most eating places open just about the time you get to the river and close while you're still enroute back. However, there's a place to eat in Orleans and one in Hoopa if you're not too late. Willow Creek has a couple of good place to eat which, I believe, close at 8 or 9 PM. Both the major grocery stores in Hoopa and Willow Creek have a good deli counters and there's also a grocery store in Orleans and mini-marts in Somes Bar, Weitchpec and Willow Creek. However, I'd hate to know the number of times I've had to eat dinner out of my ice chest; then again, that can certainly beat a hamburger from the Casino – such as it is.



Let's plan to stay, as we did last two years, at the **Tsewenaldin Inn (530-625-4294) in Hoopa**; while the eating arrangements leave a lot to be desired, it's convenient. Additionally, there're several motels in Willow Creek such as the Bigfoot Motel (530-629-4347) and the Willow Creek Motel (530-629-2922).

Because the fish out is **25-27 Sep**, we should get together each evening and sort out what we did and where and decide where we're going to fish the next day so that we don't end up with too many folks on the same run. Because this is a pretty popular sport in the area, you can rest assured that we'll have competition for the runs we want to fish.

I'll have a sign-up sheet at the September meeting and will be there to answer any last minute questions.

OK, let's recap some things on tackle and flies. Any rod, 9-foot or longer, in a 5 and/or 6-weight; bring two rods if you have them. For lines you'll need a floater and a sinktip as a minimum. For flies, see the following:

The following flies can, for the most part, be found at either The Fly Shop in Redding or at the Eureka Fly Shop in Eureka and; additionally, they can be found in many pattern books:

1. Brindle Bug – mostly 8's with a few 6's on a 1X long hook
2. Mossback – 8's on a standard shank hook
3. Silver Hilton – 8's and 6's, up-turned eye hook. Some with a cone head.
4. Golden Stone – 10's, 8's and few 6's
5. Black Stone – 8's and few 6's

Relative to the above patterns, I put lead on everything except the Silver Hiltons with the cone head. Keep the Brindle Bug and the Mossback sparse; don't bulk them up. If you have to buy the above two flies, try to get the Brindle Bug without a bead head. If you find the bodies look too large, take a pair of scissors and trim the bodies a bit as I have in these photos. Numerous other patterns are available from various fly shops so shop around but try to keep them small and sparse.

Additionally, I'll give you my secret pattern for low light situations and when hatches are occurring.

**Hook:** #10 TMC 200 RBL

**Thread:** Light brown 6/0

**Body:** Hare's Ear Plus Dubbin – Dark Hare's Ear

**Rib:** 1 counter-wrapped strand of Flashabou Accent – Pearl

**Collar:** 1 wrap of grouse

**Feelers:** 2 strands of the rib material – one on each side of the upper portion of the head (these don't show up good in the picture) and 1 ½ times the length of hook and tied in between the collar and the head.

**Head:** Hare-Tron Dubbin – Black



I tie this fly with a sparse body which seems to work better than a full one and have found it to be exceptional in the evenings when a caddis hatch is coming off, or any other hatch for that matter, for both adults and half-pounders. If you've got any questions, email me at [randslong@comcast.net](mailto:randslong@comcast.net) or give me a call. Bob Long



## Quest for Squaretails

He grabbed my fly with a vengeance, dived under an undercut bank and wrapped my tippet around a tree root: "That's it; I'm not going to let that monster break-off my tippet!" So, I placed my rod and reel on the near bank, grabbed my fly line and hand-over-hand followed it to the critter. I grabbed him by the tail and yanked him out of his watery retreat: this is no monster! "Heck, this brookie is only 8-inches long! Oh well, I saved my tippet and, no, this square tail with the red spots doesn't have the measles; he's displaying his mating colors.

My first stop was Yuba Pass above Sierra City where I was joined by the District Ranger and his father-in-law to fish for brookies in Haypress Creek. These square tails were really on the bite, they took Pheasant Tail nymphs in size 18 and midges in size 20. We released all our fish because they were less numerous and smaller than last year.

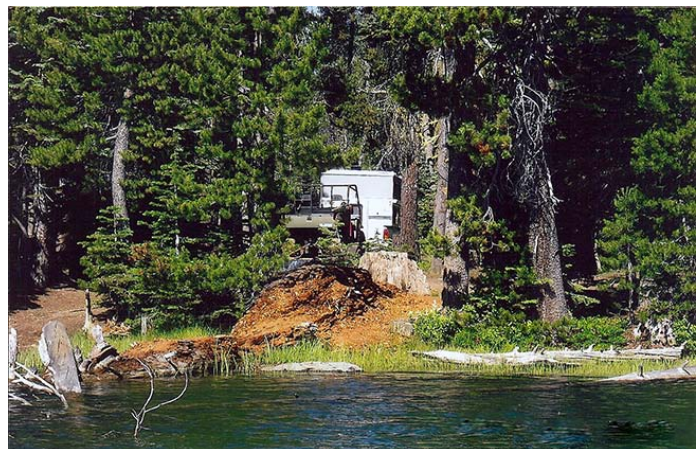


I then drove to Butt Valley Reservoir only to find the first campground closed and Cool Springs Campground charging a \$25.00 fee for camps without hookup; needless to say I moved on.

I always try to spend several days each year on the North Fork of the Feather River, Warner Creek, and upper Rice Creek but before doing so, I usually stop by The Lake Almanor Fly Fishing Company and spend some time with Tom Maumoynier to get the latest news on what's happening in his area. I spent two days on upper Rice Creek and found I was the only fisherman in camp. What a joy! I had the whole creek to myself, the water conditions were high and the trout were very cooperative; as usual, a Pheasant Tail nymph did the trick. I then decided I

would try BWO's (Baetis) to match the evening hatch even though I couldn't identify them as such. They seemed to work fairly well; at least I could see them better than the Pheasant Tail nymphs.

I pre-seasoned scouted Mud Butte Rim for quail then went on to Echo Lake which was recommended by Tom. I had never fished Echo Lake before and now that I have am somewhat reluctant to divulge its secrets. But, here goes! (I never could keep a secret) this has got to be my all-time favorite lake now. First of all it's easy to get to providing you make that first turn off Highway 36 onto Forest Service Road 10 (it's not marked). The first 10 miles of the 11-mile road is paved (no gravel washboard). Echo Lake is an alpine glacial body of water nestled in a deep 7000 foot canyon and fed by springs. It's 20 feet deep and doesn't freeze solid during the winter months and kill all the fish, so there are sixteen-inch holdovers square tails the following years.



There are limited facilities available, a toilet and trash receptacles, camping is free-of-charge and limited to 10 sites on the water's edge where, after a hard day of fishing, you can dangle your feet in the lake or take a swim in the 69 degree water. Pontoon boats, float tubes, and prams can be launched at the primitive ramp.

I used BH Pheasant Tail nymphs in size 16, midges and black gnats in 16-18 and, of course, Woolly Buggers in size 12 tied onto 5-weight intermediate line with an indicator.

Try not to tell to many people about this "Shangri-La."

Ed Brown

## Past and Proposed Fish Outs

### Proposed Fish Outs:

September 17 – 19th Trinity/Klamath Steelhead Trip Bob Long Fishmeister

September 25 North Fork Yuba River Walt Zukas Fishmeister

October 23 Upper Sac Dunsmuir Walt Zukas Fishmeister

October 30 November 6 Eagle Lake Walt Zukas Fishmeister

November 20 Feather River Low Flow

November 28-December 4 Trinity River Larry Ingram Fishmeister

December 18 Sacramento River Anderson

January 22 2011 Mad River

February 19 2011 Baum Lake

March 19 2011 McCumber

April 23 2011 UC Sierra Foothill Field Station

### Trinity River

November 28<sup>th</sup> to December 4<sup>th</sup>

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 13<sup>th</sup> 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), Poxyback 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 28<sup>th</sup> to December 4<sup>th</sup>.

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 29<sup>th</sup>. The winners will be drawn from those that are signed up for that Monday, at the November 13<sup>th</sup> Banquet.

Larry Ingram      Cell 530 300-1841

### **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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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

## EC Powell

(Edwin Courtney Powell, 20 May 1878- Marysville, 9 January 1966)

(November 2009)

Edwin C. Powell or simply "EC" Powell, a store-keeper and bee-keeper and a good fisherman, started making rods in 1910 without any book nor advice after he was introduced to fly fishing and he was not satisfied by the [Leonard](#) rod he was using (the butt was too soft and bending according to him).

So, he simply took some ornament bamboo from a chinese restaurant and possibly some local bamboo plants and started making rods, at first very poorly, like most bamboo rod makers. But he was a talented craftmen and with wit and perseverance, and the eventual supply of good "Tonkin" cane he became a real master and developed his own rod

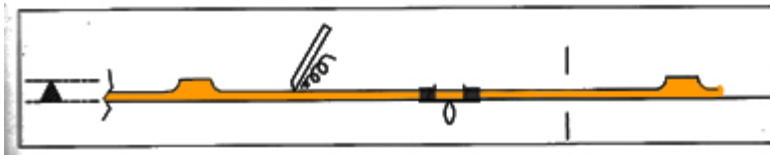


building equipment. The secret? Care to detail at EACH step and moment of the rod building process.

Here on the left an EC Powell rod owned by Larry Ingram of the [E. C. Powell Fly Fishers Club](#). Larry, who also helped in making this webpage. Thank you Larry!

He also invented a "semi-hollow built system" (patented in 1933; patent nr. # 1,932,986, see in the picture next to his signature) still known today as the Powell hollowing process. "His method was to remove the inner side of each bamboo strip...and glue a strip of cedar wood to the remaning layer of fibers. Then he gave his strips

their traingualr shape, and, finally, removed a uniform thickness from the inner apex. The idea also included leaving cross-ridges at certain intervals, and each of these locations ...were reinforced with an intermediate wrap" (the quotation and the modified picture are from [Rolf Baginski's](#) book [Split-Cane Rods -- Bamboo Treasures](#) , page 87). Why the intermediate wrap? Because the glues of those days were not as powerfull as today's ones.



Powell opened his business shortly after the 1st World War and moved his shop and business (**E. C. Powell Rod company**) from Red-Bluff on to **C street** in **Marysville, California**, in **1921**. EC powell's rods were very sought after and pretty well advanced rods in the 1920s and 1930s and 1940s. Casting tournaments victories spread the news about his special rods.

It is not an exageration that we now underline the name of **Walter Anthony Maslan**, simply known as **Tony Maslan** (15 January 1918- Yuba City 16 september 1993) who had a very important but unknown role in manufacturing EC Powell rods since 1954, when he purchased the whole EC Powell rod Co and the right to use the Powell's name.

Tony married EC Powell's daughter Mildred in 1941 and when he lost his job, started to make bamboo rods with Powell in 1953. Since 1954 full-time. So, because Powell retired in 1955, virtually all EC Powell rods made since 1954 were made by Tony with the original equipment, bamboo, taper and design. Like the original ones. Only in the mid '60s Tony Maslan made some minor changes to improve the reel-seat design and move the branding on the shaft. He kept doing bamboo rods until his death, 1992, according to Larry Ingram whom I contacted through the Chico Fly Shop.

**The reel-seat.** The current way of using **up-locking** reel-seats actually comes from EC Powell who improved the system! Today, the vast majority of reel-seats are up-locking but apparently it was not so in EC Powell time. Anyhow, Edwin C. Powell improved it originally, then Walton Powell improved it again (using "...an anodized aluminum hood that wasn't recessed") and once more Tony Maslan changed it slightly in the mid '60s as I stated above.

**The sons.** The Powells are a rod makers dynasty. Which thing creates a little bit of a confusion among collectors. Edwin C. Powell had three children and all of them started making rods early on. **Albert "Buddy" Powell** started in the late '20s, became a casting champion as well but died in a car accident in 1936. **Walton Powell** (born on 17 Dec 1915, Marysville, CA died on June 29 2001 ) also begun making rods in the late '20s and founded another company after the II World War (I am talking more about him on the link above) and then **Clyde Powell** (mid '30s). The third generation was represented by **Press Powell** (13 August 1946 - 11 March 2004). **Eugene Powell** (Walton's grandson) is still making bamboo rods and he is the fourth generation.

In summary, EC Powell only made bamboo rods. Walton Powell experimented and then fully endorsed at first fibre-glass rods and then graphite rods which were continued by Press Powell. Eugene Powell makes bamboo rods, again today.

An nice interview from where I took some first-hand information for this article with the late Press Powell , grandson of EC Powell is [here](#). Press Powell died in Chico, Butte Co., California after a long struggle with cancer in 2004. EC Powell who was an excellent fisherman and considered a good fishing rod above all a tool for fishing, came up eventually with the conclusion that there are **three main types of tapers** which he called "A", "B" and "C":

- **"A" taper:** fast action; rigid rod, tip action and butt quite resistant; very efficient but difficult to handle;
- **"B" taper:** medium-fast action; uniform, progressive action; for the average fly angler
- **"C" taper:** slow action; the tip is stiff and butt is soft and bending; for heavy flies

Edwin C. Powell is definitely a legend and not only in the USA still today. Reportedly, his legacy is very much widespread in Sweden and Scandinavian countries. And rightly so.

Edwin C. Powell	
Life	1878 - 1966
Period of activity	1910-1920 part time; then 1921-1955 (shop in C Street, Marysville, California, USA), since 1954 practically all rods with brand "EC Powell" were made by Tony Maslan, his son-in-law.
Estimated rod production	?
Naming of rods	Originally on the aluminium reel-seat butt. Since the mid '60, EC Powell written in black on rod shaft. All semi-hollow Powell's rod carry the patent number as well: # 1,932,986
Remarks	Quality of materials and components. Powell rods have excellent nickel-silver ferrules; good quality, comfortable cork grips; well made silk wraps; varnish finish
Estimated Maximum Value	\$2000

Sources: [Rolf Baginski's](#) book [Split-Cane Rods -- Bamboo Treasures](#); <http://www.sexyloops.com/articles/presspowell.shtml> (Reprinted with permission.)

### **"A Secret for Hard Fished Waters"** by Mike Mercer

With today's burgeoning ranks of new fly fishermen, the amount of pressure on well-known, quality trout water has increased, in some cases significantly. This means fish are seeing more flies. Often, the same patterns over and over. This can lead to a "negative conditioning response," or a situation where the fish start to ignore, or shy away from flies they see too much of, or have been hooked on too many times. These trout get the deserved reputation as being "tough", or highly selective. A prime example of this would be the fish in and around Hat Creek Powerhouse II. It's not unusual to see 8 or 10 anglers fish for hours for only 4 to 5 fish. That's tough!

There is a solution for fish like this. Showing them a new and different pattern will often result in a hook-up. Particularly, showing these fish a tiny nymph can be like magic. Many has been the time I've turned a miserable day into a great one by switching from a #14 nymph down to a #18 or #20. Pounded fish just seem to respond better to small stuff. Don't be afraid to tie a little flash into that micro-pattern either. I'm a big believer in flashbacks, pearlescent ribbing and tiny beads.

Anyway, remember those tiny nymphs on your next foray to a hard-hit fishery. I think you'll see a significant upswing in your "grab" ratio!

### **Casting Tip for TBFFC: 8**

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

Why do I get wind knots in my leader? Does this happen even when there isn't any wind? A simple overhand knot in your leader will weaken it 50%, so avoiding them should be a priority. Knots in the leader or line while casting are all caused by the rod tip traveling in a concave direction, where the rod tip is lower in the middle of the cast than either end, resulting in a tailing loop. Remember, the line follows the rod tip. Your cast can tail on either the forward or back cast. Some of the most common causes are having too short a casting arc, the angle formed when the rod moves from the start to the finish of the cast and not applying power evenly during the cast.

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