**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Board Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 8-11</td>
<td>International Sportsmen’s Expo (Cal Expo)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Jan 13 | General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM  
Program: **To Be Determined** |
| Jan 20 | Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM                                           |
| Jan 24 | Yuba River Parks Bar Fish Out                                                           |
| Feb 20-22 | The Fly Fishing Show, Pleasanton                                                |
| Feb 20-22 | Baum Lake Fish Out                                                            |
Presidents Corner

This is a rewrite of comments I penned the last time I was President Jan.-Dec. 1994.

Three years ago I saw an ad on our local cable access Channel 5 (no longer in existence) for fly fishing instruction. I had always been an avid hunter and fisherman, but never had the opportunity to learn to fly fish. I called the number listed and talked to the President Larry Ingram and made plans to attend the meeting with wife Judy. We both liked the friendly and enthusiastic folks we met and the next month we signed up as family members. In 1992 I was chosen Secretary, in 1993 Vice President and 1994 this year President. HOW DID THIS HAPPEN? I can't remember if I raised my hand or someone raised it for me! It happened and here I am and I want to thank all of you who put me here, and I will perform the job of President to the best of my ability.

I took on this responsibility, because I wasn't afraid to volunteer and become involved. Tonight I was reviewing some questionnaires from a few years ago “1984-85” and the two predominant suggestions for improvement were More Members and More Member Participation. The same is true today as it was then.

Our primary purpose as a club is to encourage and promote fly fishing for the recreation of its members. Our General Purpose is to promote the conservation of fresh and saltwater fish populations, so that these resources will continue to be available.

In order for our club to grow and achieve our purposes, everyone should ask themselves, "Am I Doing All I can?" I hope the answer is No, I'm not, and need to do more! What Can I Do? For starters look at the list of Committees in this Newsletter that are vacant, or have had the same chairperson year after year. Here is the opportunity to help make your club more productive, with fresh blood and new ideas. Don't want to be involved on a committee, then think about writing a fishing-related article for the newsletter or-mailing Bob Long some photos to use in the club newsletter. Do you know of a good location for a club fish out, a favorite fly pattern, a guest speaker, than share it with us?

I have a small amount of knowledge by myself and add the board members, we have a fair amount of knowledge, but, the combined knowledge of the whole club is enormous. There is an old adage "A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE IS DANGEROUS" Please keep me from becoming DANGEROUS, Become Involved!

This was true 20 short years ago and is true and relevant today.

The challenge as I see it is that Volunteerism is not working and has never worked well for the E C Powell Fly Fishing Club.

For well over 30 years we have not had enough club participation by the membership. Many of the same people are doing most of the work year after year and many are taking on multiple roles within our club since no one else will do them. And we have lost many members who wanted to help and make a difference but got tired of the general apathy and lack of appreciation for their work by the general membership.

Fly Fishing is a lot of fun and we all want to go fishing, and learn how to be better fisherman and enjoy the comradery of our fellow friends and members, but it takes a certain amount of work. The work is much easier when everyone helps.

A Club is a group of people with a common interest. The purpose of EC Powell Fly Fishing Club is to promote the sport of Fly Fishing. In order to achieve our purpose everyone needs to contribute and participate in club functions and outings.

I have a number of ideas on possible solutions to present to the Board of Directors at the next Board meeting in January. My Goal is to have the board act on some or all of my ideas or come up with alternative solutions to present to the membership at the January 2015 General Meeting.
I look forward to working with all the members in the New Year.

Thank you
Walt “Dangerous” Zukas
President EC Powell Fly Fishers
1994 and 2015

Fish Outs for 2015
(A Work in Progress)

January 24, 2015 Yuba River Parks Bar Meet at Perko’s Yuba City depart 07:00

February 20-22, 2015 Baum Lake Burney details at meeting and Newsletter

March 21, 2015 Lake McCumber Shingletown meet at lake 08:00 leave Yuba City 06:00 details at meeting and Newsletter

March 28, 2015 U.C. Davis Foothill Field Station Fish out and Picnic details to follow

April 25, 2015 TBD

May 16, 2015 TBD

June 20, 2015 Annual Yuba River Shad Fish Out and Picnic Details to follow

Rod Loaner Program

Thanks to E.C. Powell Fly Fishers club members, our rod loaner program is becoming a success. At this time, there are eight rods and reels out in field in the hands of members and, hopefully, catching a few fish. There are still 6 rods that don’t have reels or fly lines (four 7-weight and two 9-weight). Dust off some of those reels and fly lines and bring them to our next general meeting in September.

Ed Brown

Wanted!

Rod loaner program person to administer the club’s rods, reels and lines. Knowledge of setting up rods and reels would be helpful. Contact Ed Brown at 530-749-9574.

Pyramid Lake

It’s again time to start thinking about Pyramid Lake and those big trout that inhabit the lake.

I have reserved the Sutcliffe Inn, where we have stayed for the past 5 years. It sleeps 7, has two bathrooms, a full kitchen and dining area complete with flat screen TV.

Dates for this year are:
March 31 to April 2nd April 7, 8 & 9 April 13, 14 & 15
We have openings for all dates. The cost is $75 plus your license. I’ll ask for a deposit as we get closer to the dates. Signup sheets will be at all the meetings.

Rods and lines – 6 wt. or heavier with a floating line. Indicators and flies (Chironomids) can be purchased from Johnson’s. Waders are optional but a good idea as we may fish where you wade to about mid-thigh.

The lake has an every expanding population of “Pilot Peak” strain of trout that grow quickly and fight really hard. Fish in the 20+ lbs. range have become more and more abundant. And, where we normally fish you can sit in a chair and never get your feet wet.

Larry Ingram 844-1947
November 15th Annual Banquet

The banquet has come and gone but we need to let you know how we did. After all the bills were paid we took in about $5700 in profit. This is thanks to all who chipped in to make it the success it was. Whether you donated something, went around to businesses to solicit gifts from them or helped set up before the banquet, it is you that made the night a success.

The monies taken in will help continue the club's activities and programs that we all benefit from. Whether it’s the Trout, Steelhead Education Program, supporting the national organizations that work for the future of our sport to the monthly programs that we all enjoy, we are in fine shape to keep all of them going strong.

Thanks to all that jumped in to help. We couldn’t have done it without you.

Regards, the Committee
Jeff Lingenfelter, Ken Mackey, Denis Davis, Doug Fujii and Larry Ingram

The next time you pass one of them be sure to tell them “Thanks for your work”.

Stoneflies
By Walt Alexander

Don’t look for these critters in still or slow waters, because chances are they will not be there. Although there have been a few species that have adapted to slow or still water they are extremely rare and I have not seen any. Stoneflies are normally found in swift, cold, clean, water with a rocky bottom, hence their name Stoneflies.

Stoneflies have an incomplete life cycle, meaning there is the egg, nymph, and adult. Some stoneflies can live for 3 years as nymphs, but most are on a 1 year cycle. For emergence the stonefly nymph crawls out of the water, and sometimes a considerable distance, before emerging into the adult. I have found their shucks stuck to tree trunks, concrete abutments, rocks, and brush along the stream bank. Look for these shucks, because they will tell you of a recent emergence and also let you know what size has recently emerged. Stone flies come in many sizes, from the small Yellow Sally to the huge Salmon fly. The salmon fly can be over 2 inches in length, excluding the antennas and tails. The emergence is generally thought of as being a spring event, but many stoneflies emerge in the dead of winter. I have seen small dark colored stoneflies emerging on snow.

Stonefly nymphs usually remain well hidden under and in the crevices of the rocks. But when it comes time to emerge they must crawl, because they have no swimming ability, from the swift water to the bank. It is at this time they expose themselves to the trout, also many lose their footing and end up in the drift and because they cannot swim they can only drift until they can either latch onto another object or are eaten by a hungry trout. While drifting the nymph’s legs are in constant motion, trying to grab onto something. If you have not seen the DVD by Ralph and Lisa Cutter titled “Bugs of the Underworld” I recommend you make an effort to do so. There are some terrific underwater shots of stonefly nymphs drifting that will help in first constructing the fly and also in how to present the fly. Most nymph patterns are tied heavily weighted to get them down to the bottom in the swift water. But as this DVD clearly shows the nymphs are fairly buoyant causing them to well up and tumble in the current while drifting. Therefore I tie my nymph pattern on lighter wire hooks and unweighted, I use split shot about 12 inches above the fly to get it down. I believe this allows my fly to tumble and well up in the current more like the naturals.

There are over 500 species of stoneflies in North America but most are quite small and relatively unheard of. The ones that get the most press are the large Salmon fly and the Golden Stone. The one that I will address in this article is the Skwala Stonefly for two reasons, it is a local hatch on the lower Yuba River and they emerge this time of year. Their emergence usually starts around the 1st of January and lasts until around the end of March. In other areas the Skwala emergence is more of a spring event. The Truckee River has a good Skwala emergence in the spring.

The Skwala Stonefly is about half the size of its famous cousin the Salmon fly but is still a big mouthful for the trout. The Skwala will be about 3/4 inch in length excluding the tails and antennas. This is the first big food item of the year
available to trout and they take advantage of it. Like most stoneflies the Skwala crawls out of the water to emerge into the adult, so the adult is not normally available to the trout until the females return to the water to deposit their eggs.

You can recognize an adult stonefly by the way the wings fold flat over their back when at rest. With the Skwala the female’s wings will be slightly longer than their bodies; the male will have short, stubby, wings and cannot fly. The female will also be slightly larger than the male. If available the Skwala will hide under rocks along the bank for mating, so turn over a few rocks to determine if a recent emergence has occurred. Another good place to look for the adults is in the vegetation along the banks. Stoneflies are not strong flier and many times they prefer to crawl as opposed to flying and will crawl back into the water; so look for rise forms along the river’s edge. Once on the water they set very low in the water with their wings folded, but there is a lot of movement in their legs. So your imitations should contain some flexible material such as sili legs, super floss, or flexi floss. So a Girdle Bug, see August 2013 Fly of the Month, would be a good pattern for imitating the Nymph. But I believe that this month’s Fly of the Month makes an even better imitation. As for the adult the September 2012 Fly of the Month, the Madam X, would be a good starting point.

In February we usually start getting some very nice days in this area, and this should be about the peak of the Skwala Stonefly hatch on the lower Yuba River and the flows are normally low this time of the year, so tie up a few of these patterns and get out there and catch some of those wild rainbow trout. There may be a few steelhead in the mix and you will need a Steelhead Card to fish the lower Yuba. Fish and Wild Life classify any rainbow trout over 16 inches in length as a Steelhead on these waters.

**Duality Fishing**  
*With Ed (Brownie) Brown*

It was the first day in April on a warm 70 degree morning. The Yuba River was still at a low flow of 625 cfs. Immediately after launching the boat we spent 30 minutes flipping cobblestones and shaking willow branches. Large 26 mm skwalas and small 10 mm pale morning duns were found hiding beneath the cobble and attached to the low hanging willow branches.

A scent trail of pheromones was enticing a pod of skwalas on a willow limb just above the water. My cast landed near the bank in a highly oxygenated choppy riffle and drifted down the feeding lane right on target. I took two nice rainbows from that lie before moving on.

**We were using a short-line high-sticking method that requires plenty of concentration rather than relying on equipment. Our one concession was to use 5-feet of 0x mono leader in green, then we tied on 5-feet of clear 2x tippet to the first fly, followed by 24-inches of clear 4x tippet tied to the hook bend of a #8 dry adult skwala. The point fly was a #14 BH Pale Morning Dun nymph. We used lob casts because the fly splats down vertically with good velocity, which allows the heavy nymph to punch through the surface tension.**

When the point fly reaches the desired depth, I lift the rod tip and tighten the leader/tippet with zero slack. The rod tip is used to lead the fly downriver but not to pull it. If the “green” leader or the skwala fly stops, moves upriver or twitches, set the hook by sweeping the rod tip downriver. The green leader allows me to see the movement easily.

**Short-line high-sticking fishing is an art that is fast becoming lost. Indicator fishing now is the way, but can be snooze inducing. Using a single dry adult skwala under an indicator is very effective on the lower Yuba and is the best winter dry fly fishing in northern California. Also; as a plus, the Pale Morning Dun mayfly will be hatching at the same time, thus adding dualism to your arsenal and can be cast to sippers in back eddies.**
Skwalas hatch in the early predawn, then sunbathe during the warmest part of the day. They then take flight or crawl to the water’s edge where they walk across the water, settle in and go for a scenic drift. After mating, the females fly off to lay eggs while the males hang around looking for more females. Their direction is determined by the wind and the flowing water. All skwalas are poor flyers so they converge near the water’s edge on willow branches in mating balls. Both the females and males have “very” twitchy legs that they kick back and forth in animation. So look close!

On the third run we drifted the boat 35-feet from the bank, then made 30-foot plus, accurate casts and angled the snake cast 45 degrees downriver which helps to attain that zero drag. Success and failure depends on eliminating it, not just some of the time, but all-of-the-time. Several bows surrendered to indicator rigs of 9-feet of 3x leader and 3-feet of 4x tippet attached to #14 skwala nymphs. The indicator was tied on to match the water depth.

The skwala is found only in western streams from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific shores. Fly fishers in northern California in 6that they have easy access to the skwala stonefly. This skwala is of the family perlodidae and legendary to the lower Yuba River below Englebright Dam and in the California section of the Truckee River. These big protein flies that run from 6 to 9 tenths of an inch in length are slightly smaller than our local golden stoneflies.

In the late winter months the dualism of both the early April hatch of the pale morning dun and the late April hatch of the skwala stonefly coincides, this coincidence gives local fly fishers a rare, unprecedented opportunity to fish skwala and pale morning dun flies in tandem.

We tie two styles of dry skwala flies that draw attention on the lower Yuba. The first is small male adult in sizes 10 – 14 with extended olive deer hair bodies, 12-gauge dark hackle thorax, flat wings of moose hair and spotted rubber legs. The second fly is the larger female in sizes 6 – 8. The brown foam body is cut twice the length of the hook shank and topped with white Polar Hair accents. The bottom of the fly is yellow/olive dyed Polar Hair and bullet head is moose hair fibers folded back to form the wings and, of course, the all-important spotted rubber legs. Getting the colors correct is difficult during their month long life the newer hatches are brighter, while the older ones are darker. If you can get the color and size correct, you can net some nice rainbows.

Fishing the dry fly adult female skwala during the hatch requires that you put your time in and get that presentation perfect. Sloppy casts to educated Yuba River rainbows will leave you disappointed and frustrated. When plying waters where there are NO rises taking place, cast upstream and across and close to the overhanging willow branches, mend your line 4 or 5 times during the drift. You may lose several flies and pieces of tippet to the willow gods, but don’t change anything. If rises are taking place, position yourself upriver from them and cast down and across into their feeding lane. Strip line from your reel and feed it downriver, but be careful and not have too much line out so you can’t set the hook properly. By the same token, make certain that you have enough line out to prevent that dreaded, fish scaring drag.

The lower Yuba River below Englebright Dam is known statewide and visited by many fly fishers that are not from this area. I seldom see any local folks taking advantage of this local phenomenon.

Trinity River 2014

Well, we’re all back and I think ready to go again. The week turned out to be a good one with everyone hooking into fish. Many were able to land some nice ones but, that’s steelhead fishing. I think Mike Sexton said it best when he said he had no idea that Steelhead was so elusive. And they are! You have to put in the time and every once in a while you stick one of those beauties and he takes you up and down the river until, if you’re lucky, he tires and comes to the net. THAT is the moment we all strive for.
As is true of all of our fish outs, it’s the people that make the trip. We gathered every evening to have a toast to the fish and talk of where we fished, what we caught, where we might go the next day and, where are we having dinner. The joking about who missed which fish just added to the camaraderie of the trip.

Some don’t land a single fish during the trip but they don’t give up. They fish hard every day and announce plans to return the next year.

Some have asked why we go the first week of the month rather than the third weekend of the month as with other fish outs. That answer is simple; historically the first week of December has proven to be the best. This information comes from the guides and fly shops in the area. Additionally, we fish during the week rather than fight the crowds on the weekend. Yes, many come for the week but just as many come for a few days and then return home. The choice is yours and depends upon your schedule and available time off.

We will be back next year for our annual adventure. The dates are November 29th to December 5th, 2015.

So, join us next year for some great fishing and often some excellent catching. Larry Ingram

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

Officers:
President: Walt Zukas* 674-0491
V President: Mark Ruef 790-6961
Secretary: Alex Reyno 923-2294
Treasurer: Doug Fujii 790-7027

Board of Directors:
Mike Sexton (1) 671-0164
Denis Davis (2) 673-2577
Craig Barrick* (1) 408-666-8272
Joanne Inouye (1) 300-6888
Dennis Hafferty (1) 674-8764

* Past Presidents

Committees:
Newsletter: Bob Long* 916-362-5593
Programs:
Raffles: Denis Davis & Alex Reyno
Membership: Mark Ruef 790-6961
Fly Tying: Walt Alexander 846-4284
Conservation: Jim Fujii* 673-2700
Doug Fujii 790-7027
Ed Brown 749-9574
Historian:
Refreshments: Fred Mowrey 671-4754
Fish Outs:
Librarian: Mark Ruef 790-6961
Salmon/Steelhead Education Program:
Kathy and Greg Payne*
Web Master: Walt Zukas* 674-0491
Walt Alexander 846-4284
Fly of the Month

Jimmy Legs

By Walt Alexander

The Jimmy Legs is Girdle Bug tied with more modern materials and is a little more realistic in appearance. It can be tied to represent any Stonefly but the one tied here is meant to represent the Skwala Stonefly. There are many patterns very similar to the Jimmy Legs, but what sets the Jimmy Legs apart from the rest is the curved shank hook and the knotted legs. This gives the fly a more realistic look.

I don’t know who tied the first Jimmy Legs or when it was tied, but it appears to be a fairly recent addition to the fly fishing world. As to how it got the name Jimmy Legs I can only guess, and here is my guess. Jimmy Legs is a term given to a person whose legs twitch and kick during sleep. The medical term for this is Restless Leg Syndrome. And the legs on this fly really twitch and kick when it is drifting in the current, just like the Stonefly Nymph when it loses its footing and is grasping for another foot hold. I believe this is what makes this fly so effective.

The new technique we will be learning in tying this fly is making jointed legs for a more realistic look.

Jimmy Legs

Recipe:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hook:</th>
<th>Size 8 or 10, 3X or 4X long streamer hook.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thread:</td>
<td>Brown 8/0 or 70 denier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body:</td>
<td>Medium variegated brown and yellow chenille.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tails:</td>
<td>Same material used for the legs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legs:</td>
<td>Brown Super Floss, Flexi Floss, or Life Flex.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antennas:</td>
<td>Same material used for the legs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tying instructions:

1. Heat hook and bend about 1/3 of the front portion of the hook shank down about 15 degrees.

2. Wrap about 12 to 15 turns of .020 lead wire in what will be the thorax area.

3. Start thread behind hook eye and secure the lead wraps, wrap thread back to hook bend.

4. Tie in a piece of chenille.

5. Tie in the tails. Wrap thread forward to thorax area.
6. In 3 pieces of legging material tie in 2 overhand knots about \( \frac{1}{2} \) inches apart. Tie in these 3 pieces of legging material in the thorax area spaced about \( \frac{1}{8} \) inch apart.

7. Wrap thread forward to eye of hook. Wrap chenille forward, making 1 turn behind tails and wrapping it between the legs. Tie off chenille and clip excess.

8. Tie in 2 pieces of legging material for the antennas. Whip finish and clip thread.

9. Cut the antennas, legs, and tails to length.

10. Top view, now isn’t that a tasty looking morsel.