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

Dec 2  Board Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM
Dec 9  General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
       Program: Trinity River Winter Steelheading
Dec 16 Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
Jan 6  Board Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM
2015 Banquet

Well, the work is behind us and as a result, the club’s annual banquet was a big success.

We had 119 people in attendance and hopefully, all went home with a prize. Some went home with more than one.

I believe, without exception that all had a good time. The food was great, the raffle prizes were great and we got to see people that we only see once a year so catching up on each other is worth the price of admission. I myself, hadn’t seen Bill & Gennis Zeller since last year so seeing them was a real treat for me. Bill was our president about 10 years ago and his presence always brightens my spirit. His wife Gennis pitched right in and helped with the raffle without even being asked. That’s what is so good about this group of people. When any of us sees a need, they jump right in and give it their all. Thank you to all of you that helped out.

The club made some money along the way which will allow us to not only continue our giving to organizations throughout the fly fishing arena but also to give back to the members for their support. You have for years and will continue to receive, special programs and generous gifts at our monthly meetings. It’s the club’s way of saying “thank you” and to give you something more than a receipt for your dues.

If you enjoyed the banquet, be sure to let one of the committee members know. If you’d like to help with the banquet, let Walt Zukas know. See you next year on Saturday November 14, 2015.

The Committee;
Larry Ingram, Jeff Lingenfelter, Denis Davis, Ken Mackey and Doug Fujii

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

Trinity River Steelhead – 2014

As you receive this, we are in the final stages of our trip to the Trinity for the “Fish of a Thousand Casts”. The trip this year is November 30th to December 6th.

This trip has become one of the most popular of the club’s season of trips. And why not: the River is often full of mature fish (6-10 lbs.) and we are able to access most of the good spots. Fishing for these big boys with flies under an indicator (bobber) has proven to be very effective.

We are staying at the Victorian Inn in Weaverville and have secured a good rate for rooms. I have rooms reserved in mine and the Club’s name so if you call (530 623-4432) be sure to ask for our club discounted room. Also, please give them YOUR credit card to hold your room. I like all of you but don’t really want to pay for your room. So…………

Many stay for the entire week but some come for just a few days. Whichever you choose, you can be rewarded with some really nice, hard fighting, fish.

Equipment: A good 6 wt. or heavier rod with a floating line. 2x and 3X spools of fluorocarbon, split shot in size BB, indicators (Thingamabobs) and a good selection of flies from Stone flies, Psycho Princes, and anything else The Fly Shop recommends. They have guides on the river every day and know what’s working. Waders and a wading staff. Sun glasses, hat and gloves.

Dress: WARM. The weather can be COLD and so dress accordingly. You can always take it off but if you don’t have it you can’t add it on. There are places on the river that don’t see the Sun all day. Long underwear is a must.
If you’d like to book a guided trip, there are several sources. The Fly Shop, the owner of the Victorian Inn, and many others. Call me before you book one as we have had problems with some others.

Larry Ingram                         530 844-1947

Guides:
The Fly Shop -  800 669-3474
Victorian Inn – John Hodges 530 632-4432

Fishing in Wyoming

I recently took a trip to Jackson Hole, Wyoming to do some fishing in a lake that I had only seen from a distance. When I arrived in Jackson I checked into my Hotel and then headed for the Snake River where I had fished several times with Jack Dennis. Jack has since moved to Salt Lake City so I was on my own for this trip. I drove to my favorite spot and immediately hooked into a 16” Snake River Cutthroat. I released him and fished for about 2 more hours. Throughout that time I hooked and released around 8 fish, all on dries and all about the same length as the first.

Now to the lake; Bridger Lake is named after Jim Bridger, a famous outdoorsman and he has a wilderness area named after him as well.

The lake is about 50 acres and is surrounded by Lodge Pole pine down to the shoreline, similar to Fuller Lake. Casting a fly is difficult in most areas but there is still ample room where a short back cast or a roll cast is possible. I fished black Woolly Buggers on a 10 ft. leader and a floating line. The action was fairly steady with Cutthroats from one to three pounds. The water was clear and cool but the fish were hammering my fly. In the two hours that we fished we (2) caught close to 20 fish. I’m not crazy about eating Trout but we cooked two in butter and foil over some coals. Let me tell you, they were absolutely phenomenal. I’m hooked!

So, if you’re interested, the lake is located about 28 miles north east of Moran Junction, an eight hour horseback ride to our camp then another hour from camp to the lake. But, it’s worth every mile. Bring a warm sleeping bag and long underwear as the area is located at 8,500 feet, near the southeastern corner of Yellowstone national Park.

Oh, the license is $1100 but you can also get an elk, as I did. By the way, the orange hat is optional.

Larry Ingram

December Program
Trinity River - Winter Steelheading

The December program will be from one of our own-Larry Ingram. Larry brings to us recent information and lots of photos of Steelhead from the Trinity River.

Flies, techniques and more to whet your appetite on fishing the famous Trinity for “The Fish of a Thousand Casts.”

The river is one that the club has fished for over 7 years and the photos will show you what you have been missing. The river is just a few hours’ drive from here and one that is well worth the trip.
As with any Steelhead trip, putting in the time and effort often proves beneficial to the angler. In recent years members have hooked as many as 36 fish in one day.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the December 9th meeting.

**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

**Simplicity**

By Walt Alexander

In recent years fly fishing has become much more complicated than it was say 50 years ago. There are many reasons for this. For one we have many different types of lines to fish with for different presentations. Another is that fly fishers have become more knowledgeable about the organisms that fish eat and how to imitate them. But the main reason, in my opinion, is the vast array of flies there are to choose from. There are literally thousands of fly patterns to choose from in trout fishing alone. Why is this so? I think as fly fishers and tiers we tend to over think things. We give the trout more credit than they are due. In todays crowded conditions, and catch and release world we tend to think the trout has become educated, so we need flies that more closely resemble the organism we are attempting to imitate, so we put more details into our flies. The theory being that the trout has seen too many of last year’s hot pattern and have learned to reject them. If you are one that has gone down this path, I highly recommend you read the book “What Trout Want” by Bob Wyatt. I think this book may just change your way of thinking about trout fishing, I know it did mine.

I fell into the trap of realism in my flies many years ago, and felt all I had to do in order to catch more trout was to tie flies that were more realistic. But the more detail I added to my flies the worse they performed on the water. About the only thing I accomplished was to improve my tying skills, which is good I guess because now I can tie a decent looking fly. But a pretty fly does not seem to work as well as an ugly fly. This reminds me of a story I read somewhere about a young boy that was going fly fishing with his grandfather. The boy had bought some beautifully tied dry flies that he was real proud of. He showed them to his grandfather, the grandfather stated that the flies were too pretty too catch trout, the grandfather took one of the flies and rolled it between his thumb and fingers and handed a fly that was torn to shreds back to the boy stating now “that fly will catch trout”. The boy was almost in tears until he discovered that his grandfather was right. If you have fly fished for any length of time you have probably discovered that the more tattered and beat up a fly gets the better it fishes. Another thing you have probably discovered is that a
nice pristine dry fly setting high on top of the water may not get a response from the trout until it either becomes water logged, or swamped, causing it to sink slightly into the surface film. Keep these two things in mind as you read the rest of this article.

Let’s take a look at what is called the educated trout. My opinion on this subject is that a trout does not have the brain capacity to become educated. This is just another excuse that the fly fishers use for their inability to catch trout. When a trout is in the feeding mood they will eat about anything that looks edible, in many environments they cannot afford to pass up a food item or they will starve. If there is an abundance of one food item available they may key into this item and ignore anything else, they get sort of a tunnel vision. But as soon as this item is no longer available, in huge numbers, they almost immediately revert back to eating whatever is available. If a trout does get selective in its feeding you will have to match that food item in size, shape, and color to be successful, but these periods are rare and short in duration.

Getting back to realism in our flies. No matter how hard we try we will never get a fly to look like the organism we are trying to imitate. To begin with I know of no organism that has a hook sticking out of its butt. And as stated before these realistic patterns just don’t work. So what can we do to overcome this hurdle? Use flies that give a general impressionistic look. Add to this shape and size and we have a very simple fly to tie that only contains two or three, easily obtained, materials and we have a fly that will catch trout anywhere in the world.

After going through my realistic phase of fly fishing, which in my opinion was a miserable failure, I reverted to using some of the old and proven patterns. These patterns don’t really look like anything in nature, but could be taken for a number of things. A good example of this the Woolly Bugger. A fly could not get much simpler to tie, and the Woolly Buggers, or one of its numerous variations, has probably taken more fish than any other fly. I have known fly fishers that fish with nothing but Woolly Buggers and they take their share of fish. I would not want to restrict my selection of flies this far, but there are many more simple impressionistic flies that have been good to me. The Bird’s Nest immediately comes to mind, this fly contains only two easily obtained materials, not counting the hook and thread. Here again we have a fly that really does not look like anything in nature but could pass as a number of things. There is one fly that I am working with at this time that shows a lot of promise; it is called a Micro Leech. This fly is about as simple as a fly can get. It uses only one ingredient, marabou. A clump of marabou is tied to the hook so the tips extend back forming the tail and the remainder of the clump of marabou is wound up the hook shank forming the body. This fly comes from British Columbia where they have been using it, in lakes, under a strike indicator with tremendous success. Brian Chan endorses this technique which gives it a lot of credence.

So what makes these simple impressionistic flies so effective? Triggers. What are triggers? Something that is built into the fly that makes a trout see it as something good to eat. The strongest trigger of all is the illusion of life. I know of nothing that gives the illusion of life better than marabou with its pulsating and breathing, action. You will find that marabou is used in many, highly successful, stillwater fly patterns. Another strong trigger is a buggy look to our flies. This buggy effect can be accomplished by wrapping a dubbed, spikey, body. The best material I have found to give this buggy look is the fur from a hare’s mask. Next comes translucency. Seal fur has a very translucent quality, but seals are protected today so seal fur is not available to us. I have found several substitutes that are available that seem to work just as well. They are Angora Goat, Jay Fair’s Seal Sub Dubbing, and Arizona’s Semi Seal. Normally what I do is blend a little of one of these products into my hare’s mask dubbing giving me both a buggy look with some translucent high lights. Another easily obtained material that seems to have a triggering effect is peacock herl. I am not sure why peacock herl works so well but I think it just has a nice buggy look to it. At any rate there are dozens of highly productive patterns that contain peacock herl. The biggest drawback with peacock herl is that it is quite fragile, but there are ways of reinforcing it during the tying process.

Another way to simplify fly fishing is to select smaller bodies of water. A good example would be a small stream. In a small stream everything is condensed, concentrating the trout into a smaller area. This also makes reading the water much easier. But the main reason, I believe, small streams are much easier to fish is that as a rule they have a smaller food base. As a rule they don’t have those prolific hatches that make trout selective in their feeding. Small streams are usually found at higher elevations where there is not a year round food supply for the trout, these trout cannot afford to pass up any food item or they would starve. Small streams are usually quite shallow making the trout more surface oriented. So most of the time all you need to successfully fish a small stream is a suggestive dry fly using a floating line. Some examples of these old, proven, suggestive patterns are the Adams, the Mosquito, the Black Gnat, the Tom Thumb, or this month’s Fly of the Month, the Buzz Hackle.
I have a particular fondness for flies constructed of deer hair for my dry flies, as is Bob Wyatt the author of the before mentioned book “What Trout Want”. The main reason I like deer hair is for its buoyancy, I don’t use any floatant on my deer hair flies, just one less thing to buy and carry. The Tom Thumb is constructed of one ingredient, deer hair and is a good example of how flies evolve. The Tom Thumb probably originated in England migrated to British Columbia where it became very popular. It then migrated to San Francisco where Jack Horner added a divided wing and it was called Horner’s Deer Hair Fly. Someone else added a hackle and called it a Deer Hair Humpy. It then migrated to the Rocky Mountain region where Dan Bailey added his touch and it became known as the Goofus Bug. This brings up a good point, I don’t believe that as fly tiers we can invent a new fly, the best we can do is modify an existing pattern, usually using modern materials that were not available to our fore fathers. Sometimes these modifications work better but most of the time they don't, all they manage to do is make the fly more difficult, and expensive, to tie.

On small streams the trout rely heavily on terrestrial insects. So it may be wise to carry a few ant, beetle, and grasshopper patterns, this is especially true in the summer months. The Tom Thumb makes a very good beetle pattern, in fact there is a fly known as The Crowe Beetle that is almost identical to the Tom Thumb. Another deer hair fly that makes a good grasshopper pattern is the Madam X. The ant can be a very simple pattern, a ball of dubbing on each end of the hook with a few wraps of hackle between them. There just seems to be something about ants that trout cannot resist, so if you are having trouble getting a take on a summer day, try an ant pattern. One of my favorite searching set-ups is a beetle pattern with a trailing ant pattern.

Another way of simplifying fly fishing is to target warm water fish such as bass and bluegill. These fish are typically opportunistic feeders, so they will take about anything that you throw at them that looks edible. A largemouth bass will eat about anything it can get in its mouth and they have a big mouth. Bluegill on the other hand have a small mouth, so you will have to use smaller flies for them. This does not mean that a largemouth bass will not take a small fly. I have taken some quality largemouth bass on small flies, some in the 5 to 6 pound range, while fishing for bluegill. I really enjoy fishing for bluegill and spend a large part of my fishing time doing so. All of the before mentioned flies will work great for bluegill, but they usually don't last long, so I usually tie flies with closed cell foam, these flies are much more durable and float forever. I normally tie my bluegill flies on longer skanked size 10 hooks; I find these much easier to remove without injuring the fish. The two things I like most about bluegill fishing is that they are found locally, and you can use your light 5 or 6 weight trout set-ups on them. I use a floating line almost exclusively on bluegill. If you were targeting largemouth bass, you may need to go to big, bulky, wind resistant poppers. These are difficult to cast with your smaller trout system and may require you to go to a heavier 7, 8, or 9 weight system. I don't find these systems enjoyable to cast. Besides you have to buy another rod and line making your fly fishing more complex and expensive.

Bluegill and largemouth bass prefer the same type of environment, so where you find one you will probably find the other. In fact if largemouth bass are not present the bluegill will soon over populate and you will have nothing but stunted bluegill. So be aware that there is always the possibility of taking a few largemouth bass on your bluegill flies. On my favorite bluegill water I usually take 5 or 6 largemouth on each outing. There is usually a lot of cover in prime bluegill water so I recommend you use a fairly heavy tippet just in case you hook one of those largemouths. I usually go with at least a 3X tippet.

Here is a good example of simplicity in fly fishing. When I first started fly fishing for trout in the mid 1980’s I decided to fish stillwaters. I learned how to tie a Gold Ribbed Hare’s Ear Nymph, I tied the fly in only one size (size 12 3X long hook). I fished it with a floating line, the only line I owned, a 5 weight 8 1/2 foot Fenwick fiberglass rod with a Pflueger Medalist reel, again the only fly rod and reel I owned, with a leader tippet combination of approximately 12 feet, with a Palsa pinch-on strike indicator placed approximately 8 feet above my fly. I used nothing but a roll cast because I was fishing from the bank and most of the time I did not have room for a back cast. I used this system exclusively for many years and literally caught thousands of trout. I had many outings that were 25 to 30 trout days. Today I have 7 fly rod and reel combinations, more than a dozen different fly lines, a pram, and I carry over a thousand different fly patterns. I don’t catch any more trout today than when I first started, all I managed to do was make fly fishing more expensive and complicated.

Granted today I am better prepared for any situation I may encounter, and on those days when the trout are not co-operating, I can usually manage to catch a few, but sometimes I miss those old simpler days.
So in closing let me say, don’t be intimidated by how complex our sport has become. Just get yourself a 5 or 6 weight system with a floating line and a few highly suggestive flies and go fly fishing. This system will catch you a lot of fish in either cold or warm water.

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

**Officers:**
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V President: Ed Brown  749-9574
Secretary: Alex Reyno  923-2294
Treasurer: Doug Fujii  790-7027

**Board of Directors:**
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Mark Ruef (2)  790-6961
Walt Zukas *(2)  674-0491
Joanne Inouye  (2)  300-6888
Bob Long * (1)  916-362-5593

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    Doug Fujii  790-7027
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Fly of the Month

Buzz Hackle

By Walt Alexander

The Buzz Hackle is a fly with a local history. It was created in the 1920’s by Myrtle Powell, the wife of legendary bamboo fly rod builder E. C. Powell. Myrtle tied, and sold, flies out of their shop in Marysville, Ca.

The story goes that Al Lent, a friend of the family, was tired of being out-fished by his friends. He went to Myrtle Powell and ask if she could tie him an attractor fly that contained the following ingredients. Tinsel, grizzly and brown hackle, and the very important peacock herl. This is the fly that Myrtle came up with. Supposedly this fly put Al up to par, or better, with his friends.

The fly was originally known as the Lent Fly, but a few years after its inception Al’s infant son, named Buzz, passed away and the fly was renamed the Buzz Hackle in his memory.

The Buzz Hackle was used extensively on the Yuba River Drainage and there were many that claimed this was the only fly that was needed to catch trout. Like all highly productive flies there were many variations tied. One was the Reverse Buzz Hackle which had the brown hackle at the rear and the grizzly hackle at the front. The Reverse Buzz Hackle is very similar to the Renegade. There were two more variations that became very popular in the Sierra’s, the Sierra Bright Dot and the Grey Ugly.

The Buzz Hackle was originally tied as a dry fly but it was soon discovered that it also made a very good wet fly.

Originally the Buzz Hackle was tied with one size larger hackle at the rear than the front hackle. The reasoning for this was that the larger hackle supported the heavier hook bend better so that the fly floated flatter on the water.

Buzz Hackle

Recipe:

- **Hook**: Standard dry fly hook, sizes 8 to 16.
- **Thread**: Black 8/0 or 70 denier.
- **Tail**: Red hackle fibers.
- **Aft Hackle**: Grizzly wrapped over silver tinsel.
- **Body**: Peacock herl.
- **Fore Hackle**: Brown wrapped over gold tinsel.
Tying instructions:

1. Place hook in vise. Start thread behind hook eye and wrap a thread base back to hook bend.

2. Select a clump of red hackle fibers and tie in a tail about one hook shank in length. Return thread to rear of hook shank.

3. Select and prepare a grizzly hackle, tie in with the shiny side against hook at rear of hook shank.

4. Tie in a piece of tinsel with silver side against hook shank.

5. Wrap tinsel forward for 3 or 4 wraps, tie off and clip excess. Silver side should be showing.
6. Wrap grizzly hackle forward for 5 or 6 touching turns, tie off and clip excess. Advance thread to about mid shank of hook.

7. Tie in a long peacock herl, advance thread forward until it hangs about the same distance back from the hook eye as the rear silver tinsel is in length. Place glue on thread and wrap peacock herl forward over wet glue, tie off and clip excess.

8. Prepare a brown hackle that is about one size smaller than the grizzly hackle. Tie this hackle in with dull side against hook shank.

9. Tie in another piece of tinsel with gold side against hook shank.

10. Wrap tinsel forward, tie off behind hook eye and trim excess. The Gold side of the tinsel should be showing.
11. Wrap brown hackle forward in 5 or 6 touching turns, tie off and clip excess.

12. Wrap a thread head and whip finish.
Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Program
Request for Proposals
2015-2016

Description of Funding Opportunity
The California Department of Fish and Wildlife Steelhead Report and Restoration Card (SHRRC) program is soliciting proposals from qualified non-profit organizations for fiscal year 2015-2016. Steelhead centric projects must be located within anadromous coastal and in inland watersheds having a specific location code linked to the SHRRC. No projects behind barriers to anadromy can be funded. Proposals are required to address direct or indirect benefits to anglers because grantable revenue is generated through the sale of Steelhead Report Cards. Approximately $150,000 is available annually, and applicant cost share is highly encouraged.

Objectives of the SHRRC Program
Proposals must address at least one of the listed objectives:
1) Restore watershed processes and functions, modify or remove barriers to migration, protect and restore steelhead instream habitat, as well as to increase long-term effectiveness of restoration efforts by monitoring and maintaining projects. 2) Encourage local government and community based partnerships through the support of watershed organizations and cooperative efforts. 3) Identify watershed priorities and restoration projects through evaluation and planning. 4) Support watershed education, technical workshops, and conferences.

Eligible Project Types
Fish Passage at Stream Crossings (FP), Instream Barrier Modification for Fish Passage (HB), Instream Habitat Restoration (HI), Riparian Restoration (HR), Instream Bank Stabilization (HS), Monitoring Status and Trends (MD), Monitoring Watershed Restoration (MO), Project Design (PD), Cooperative Rearing (RE), Fish Screening of Diversions (SC), Water Conservation Measures (WC), Water Measuring Devices (Instream and Water Diversion) (WD), Private Sector Technical Training (TE).

Submission Procedure
All proposals must be submitted through the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN) and meet all requirements set therein. The submission period is expected to open February 1st and close March 15th 2015.

For questions regarding the SHHRC focus contact Farhat Bajjaliya at:
(916) 327-8855 or Farhat.Bajjaliya@wildlife.ca.gov

For more information regarding the FRGP PSN :
www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Administration/Grants/FRGP/

For more information regarding the SHRRC program:
www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Fishing/Monitoring/SHRC/