



The Fisherman's Line

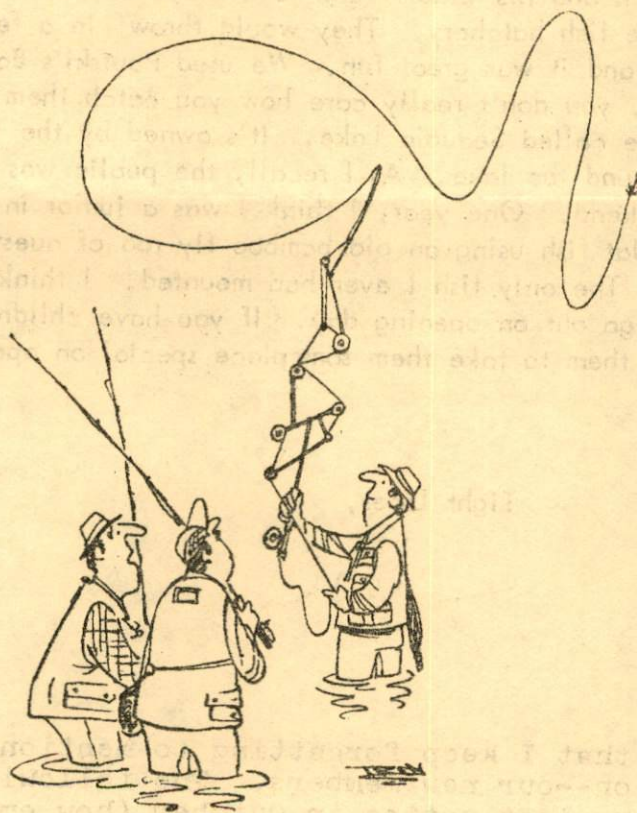


The Federation of Fly Fishermen
The Northern California Council

Volume 14, Issue 4 - April 1985

Next Meeting: April 30, 1985
West Davis Intermediate School
1207 Sycamore Lane
7:30 PM

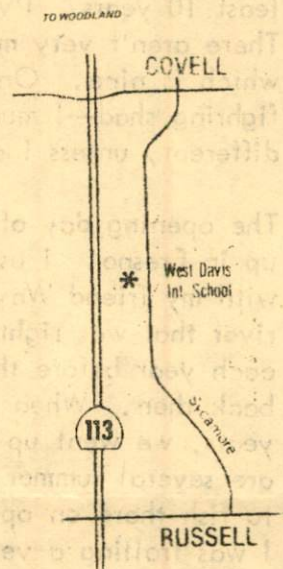
Program: Fly Rod Manufacturing



It was inevitable—a compound fly rod!

FFD Calendar of Events:

- April 30, Regular Meeting - Program by Yerza's Rod Manufacturing
- May 11, Sippin Fishin Social (see article within)
- May 21, Board Meeting, Gene Pederson's (in the boonies north of Woodland)
- May 28, Regular Meeting - Shad, by Bill Kiene



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This coming weekend will once again see many of us dust off our gear in search of the wiley trout. That's right, the opening day of trout season is at hand. Of course, everybody and his brother will be out in force pounding the waters all over California on Saturday morning. There's no getting around it, at least in California, so its nothing to get terribly excited over. As we all know, after a week or so, only the die hards are still fishing.

I can't remember the last time I actually ventured out on opening day--it's been at least 10 years. I've gone shad fishing on a couple of trout openers in recent years. There aren't very many people shad fishing on the opening day of trout season, which is nice. One year, I remember I quit fishing because my arms were tired from fighting shad--I must have had over 50 fish on that day! But this year could be different, unless I can come up with some waders in a hurry.

The opening day of trout season was always very important to me when I was growing up in Fresno. I used to think about it for weeks ahead. Usually I would go fishing with my friend Wayne Peregrin and his father Frank to a place on the San Joaquin river that was right below the fish hatchery. They would throw in a few brood stock each year before the opener and it was great fun. We used Pautski's Balls-O-Fire back then. When you're 12, you don't really care how you catch them. For several years, we went up to a place called Sequoia Lake. It's owned by the YMCA and there are several summer camps around the lake. As I recall, the public was only allowed to fish there on opening weekend. One year, I think I was a junior in high school, I was trolling a very small flat fish using an old bamboo fly rod of questionable value, and I caught a 5lb. brown. The only fish I ever had mounted. I think it's important for kids who love fishing to go out on opening day. If you have children who like trout fishing, you owe it to them to take them someplace special on opening day.

Tight Lines,

Stan

NEW MEMBERS

I'm really sorry that I keep forgetting to mention what keeps us a viable organization--our new members. The following have joined our club since my last notice in October (how embarissing).

Matt White	Fred Lory	Dave Schimke
Lily Wong	Rick Weidner	David Gilmer
Mike Harding	Ken Asay	Patricia Stacey
Allan Peterson	Dave Driscoll	Bruce Miller

Needless to say we welcome your presence and participation and hope that our club can increase your enjoyment of fly fishing.

Stan

NYMPHING MADE SIMPLE

Nymph Fishing Update: Matching the Problem A Universal Technique - Nymphing with a Float

The purpose of this message is to describe a general nymphing system which is simple for the beginner to use and workable in all conditions, yet always catches fish.

The array of nymphing techniques listed in an article reviewed in our last newsletter is correct and effective, but in my experience complicated and very difficult for the beginner to put into practice. All those techniques combined will still not consistently take trout even in the hands of an expert. The main reason is that water conditions are in fact infinitely diverse, so that a universal technique is needed to do the job. I call this approach "matching the problem". Usually the type, size, and color of fly is not important, nor is the length or fineness of the leader.

The central problem in nymphing is detecting the strike while drifting a fly with the current, generally near the bottom (it must be near the fish). All other trout fishing methods produce poorly compared to a deep drifted nymph, so it is an important matter which I call the four "D's" of successful trout angling - Detecting (strikes on) Deep Dead Drifts. This is not new information to most of you, but the key isn't knowing what must be done, rather the mechanics of how to do it. Here's how:

The solution is truly revolutionary, although not new or glamorous: use a float to drift the fly with the current, and weight the fly end so that the drift is near the stream bottom and there is no slack in the leader. The float can then serve two ways - as an indicator, and to keep the fly from going too deep and hooking up too frequently on the bottom. This "ultimate" technique was really developed long ago in England by bait artists after "coarse" fish and is just as effective today. The technique I describe is basically nothing but a modification for fly rod and trout fishing, with which guides such as Bob Searle of San Francisco have been experimenting for years.

The float must be brightly colored and bulky to be seen in poor light and at a distance. Suggested materials are cork, plastic foam, rubber balloon, peacock quill, or yarn - or use a bulky dry fly on a dropper or the leader itself (Ted Terlecky is expert with this). Although a trout will occasionally take the dry fly if small, I prefer to keep things simple and use glo-bug yarn in lime green or light orange colors. Synthetic yarn with tiny filaments is bulky for visibility and traps a lot of air to float well, even without dressing, as long as the water is thrown out by a forceful cast before each new drift.

Leader design is not critical but a lot of fiddling is possible. A 9' knotless tapered leader is fine, particularly brands like Aeon which have a short fast tapering section between a long level butt and tippet. Total length must be at least the deepest that you want to fish, preferably a few feet longer. The technique is to attach the float to the line so that it can be moved along the leader, thereby instantly adjusting the depth of the drifting fly. With yarn on a dropper, a uni-type knot works well, even on a taper.

The fly need not be weighted, but weight must be attached to the leader (or a blood knot dropper) to keep tension on the float. Especially in pocket water, the more weight the better, as this gets the fly down quickly. However, more weight requires a bigger float and there is a practical limit as to what may be comfortably thrown with a rod and still call it "fly casting". To get started

try a B-B shot 6" or so above the fly and two 1" lengths of glo-bug yarn (tied together) 3' from the fly. You will seldom want it closer. Reducing the weight is O.K. but more leader is then required to keep the fly at the same depth. What may work in a gentle run may be sucked under in a heavy riffle - but a good float will pop back to the surface when currents allow. A good indicator (float) can often be followed drifting even several feet underwater.

The float is also a superb indicator of drag, so mend the fly line just as in dry fly fishing to keep the drift drag-free. Water speed is similar on the surface and near the bottom. Good drifts 100 feet or more are possible with the float and weight method, particularly downstream. Although float size and weight combinations must be changed for different size streams and drastically different water, normally in a stretch only the position of the float need be changed - but sometimes as often as every few feet. Trout will usually come up off the bottom to take a drifting nymph, but it is more reliable to keep the fly at their level. Expect to hook the bottom occasionally, but strike every pause in the drift.

Nymphing with a float can I think be used in any size stream, all types of water (even still), all water conditions, and approaching from any direction. It's just as effective fishing downstream and the far bank as upstream, and the fly could just as well be a muddler minnow, glo-bug, or wooly worm rather than the fur nymph I always use - or the new hawk scent triple ripple plastic protein worm! A 6-7 weight rod is ideal for versatility, coupled with a #7 weight forward floating line. Casting with a lot of lead does not take finesse, but it helps a lot to use the double haul on light rods (weights 4-6). Casting stroke must be modified to more of a sidearm "sling" type motion.

I personally do not enjoy nymphing with a float as much as classic upstream nymphing with nymph-tip line, or dry fly fishing, but often the idea is to catch the fish rather than just frighten them. A trout will often take a drifting nymph so gently, and so quickly eject it, that the strike is just not detectable by any method other than using a float and weight. In my experience the beginner with a fly rod can start catching fish at once with this method, while automatically picking up the subtleties needed in specialized nymphing techniques. I am particularly impressed by being able to catch big fish in water which I previously considered unapproachable with a nymph.

-Bob Foster

The Latest Fishing Report

- *The shad are just starting to run. Some are being caught at the mouth of the Feather. They will be in the American in 2 or 3 weeks.
- *Stripper fishing is good now on flies mainly at night. Best bet is Lower American and mouth of the Feather. Some are reported up in the Colusa and Princeton area
- *The Arden Ponds are really hot right now. They have recently been heavily planted.
- *Good rainbow fishing is reported below Commanche.
- *Martis Lake should be a good bet.
- *Davis Lake has been good.
- *Black bass and pan fish have been good in shallow farm ponds.
- *The trout opener looks good--especially for weighted nymphs. Concentrate on streams at lower altitudes where water is warmer-- 50° or better.

HAL JANSON'S TIPS ON FISHING

I sat in on Hal Janson's talk at the Expo and jotted down a few of his suggestions:

1. When you're tying your own leaders, tie in each lighter length so it is $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the heavier section preceding it. (Knotted pieces should not be different by more than .003".) This $\frac{2}{3}$ relationship should continue until you are down to 10-12 inch sections.
2. 98% of the food eaten by trout is done below the surface, so concentrate on your wet fly fishing. Generally use a floating line with a leader that is long enough to reach the bottom.
3. Nymphs have different swimming patterns. After letting the nymph fall to the bottom, use a jerky retrieve. The floating line will draw the nymph up.
 - a. Fish mayflies with little short jerks and then let it sink.
 - b. Allow caddis less sinking time and fish them closer to the surface.
 - c. Fish chironomids and shrimp closer to the bottom.
 - d. Use a damselfly nymph made of balsa wood. Fish it with a sinking line so that jerks cause it to sink. Then pause to allow it to float to the surface.
4. Fish feed differently on nymphs:
 - a. Rainbow hit on the way up.
 - b. Brooks hit at the beginning of the rise.
 - c. Brown wait until it sinks.
 - d. Cutthroat hit at any time.
5. The strike on a nymph is recognized by watching the leader or end of the flyline. With any pause or movement raise the rod.
6. Put your line on the reel when you bring in a fish. This will prevent the line from tangling around your legs.
7. The leech is the most effective pattern. Leeches are found in all North American waters. Tie with brown, green, or black maribou. You can fish a leech to imitate any kind of nymph or as a minnow. Black is the most effective color because it easily seen.

Stan

THE SILENT AUCTION

Bring all items you wish to donate to the silent auction to Tuesday's meeting. Items don't even have to be fishing-related. This program has been very successful in raising money for the club and rewarding for members because they can get great buys on very desirable merchandise.

SIPPIN FISHIN SOCIAL

One of our treasured Fishmeisters has arranged a very special event. This one's for the whole family. Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy the hospitality of a nearby winery at the same time. They'll provide the wine and cheese and also several panfish ponds. Sign up for this one at the Meeting on Tuesday when details will be given. If you miss the meeting, call Ron Rabun at 758-5103.

PYRAMID LAKE OUTING

The Club's now annual spring outing to Pyramid Lake was held on April 13 and 14. This year's trip, unlike prior year's efforts, was not terribly well attended nor was the fishing overall spectacular. Sarge Reynolds, I and a friend from Minneapolis fished the south pens area on Saturday and then my friend and I fished there and on the north side on Sunday. Collectively, we managed to land five relatively small fish, four of which were taken on Sarge's white wooly worm bedecked with pearl flashaboo. It appears that the only stretches of good fishing were early and late Sunday at the north pens area. Unfortunately, on the south side the early morning bite never materialized and we left the north side too early for the afternoon bite.

Also in attendance at the outing were Cal Kado, Bill Schnathorst and Mike Hoffman. Fortunately their experience was substantially more productive. Cal took three fish including one of approximately seven pounds, and Bill and Mike took several other nice fish each.

While the number of fish caught varied, there is no question that there are plenty of fish in this area. The lake was glassy smooth, allowing fish to see the angler easily, and each of us had a number of fish follow flies only to turn at the sight of the fisherman about thirty to forty feet away. There were also large groups of up to 20 fish swarming inside of the line of fishermen, but none of these fish seemed to be terribly interested in any of the offerings. Not all of these fish were in any sense small but rather five pounds and up. Needless to say, seeing these swarms of fish moving back and forth was extremely frustrating although obviously it bodes well for future efforts at Pyramid, hopefully with a little more surface disturbance to avoid the problems definitely created by the flat calm that existed over this weekend.

Cary Boyden

New Product - Rx Polaroids

I have just learned from my optometrist that polarized prescription dark glasses are now available with a plastic lens. This means that a large sports-type frame can now be chosen with lenses light enough to be practical, in most prescriptions. The polaroids can be tinted any darkness, and even be cut in bifocals. I have been waiting for this for years! For more information it is O.K. to call Dr. Milton Blackman's office in Davis at 758-4000.

-Bob Foster

NEW FLY SHOP NEAR FALL RIVER - HAT CREEK

Gary Warren has opened Spring Creek Anglers at 2nd and Main St. in Johnson Park - Burney across from the Goodyear Store. Excellent fly selection, fly fishing equipment, guide service, fishing information, and fly fishing schools are a sampling of what he has to offer.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Gary for a number of years and have found him to be friendly, knowledgeable, and more than generous with any information he might have in regards to places to go and patterns to use. In short I highly recommend you stop by on your way to Hat Creek/Fall River.

Gary also donated a guided trip for two on Fall River for our annual dinner and conservation raffle this year, hopefully some of our conservation funds will find their way to some Cal Trout projects on Hat Creek/Fall River.

Steve Ohrwall

A REPORT ON DAVIS CREEK RESERVOIR

On April 11th I attended a meeting called by Ray Krauss of Homestake Mining in the office of Dr. Charles Goodman at UCD for the purpose of discussing and planning the fish population/ecology for Davis Creek Reservoir. Those also at the meeting were Mr. Krauss, Dr. Goldman, Dr. Moyle, representatives of the Department of Fish and Game and several others associated with the University.

The primary goal of the project is to establish a stable fish population representing all trophic levels. This will allow the monitoring of pollutants in the system. After the fishes are established - 3 to 5 years - the matter of the state's first catch and release warm water fishery will be addressed. It was the opinion of those at the meeting that this goal is desirable and can be accomplished.

Some facts about Davis Creek Reservoir-

Purpose: Water supply for mining operations and ore processing
Surface Area: 200 Acres
Average Depth: 70'
Capacity: 6,000 Ac/ft
Average Runoff: 5,000 Ac/ft (Note: From mid April thru October releases must equal inflow to protect downstream ecology)
Present Volume: 1,200 Ac/ft
Annual Water Demand: 1,000 Ac/ft
Annual Drawdown: Mining Operations - 3 to 4'
Evaporation - 3 to 4'
(Note: Water usage would be evenly spaced, there would be no large, rapid level drops)

Even though the reservoir is far from full, sampling requirements dictate that there be fish in the lake now. In addition to some native Suckers already present, the initial ecosystem will consist of-

Bottom Trophic Level: Channel Catfish
Middle Trophic Level: Blackfish
Top Trophic Level: Sacramento Perch

Once the Sacramento Perch are established Florida strain Largemouth Bass or Alabama Spotted Bass will also be stocked in the lake. This mix will allow the evaluation of a system different from the traditional Largemouth Bass/Bluegill farm pond fishery.

Research at Davis Creek Reservoir should provide useful answers for fisheries management so even if angling is not allowed I am sure the Council will provide funds and volunteers for this project.

Sarge Reynolds

NO LATIN NECESSARY - With just seven dry flies you can trout fish
anywhere.

By Lefty Kreh

It has been written that there are more than 220,000 different dry fly patterns used for trout fishing. I know some anglers who look like they try to carry one of each; their fishing vests are bulging with boxes brim-full of a wide assortment of dry flies.

With such a huge array of patterns, how does the novice, or one who has only joined the sport in recent years, know what to buy or tie and take with him to the stream?

The fanatics insist you must know the Latin names of insects, be an entomologist and exactly match what is drifting on the surface if you want to be an effective dry fly fisherman.

Trout fortunately, have small brains, and their basic needs are to seek protection when they feel it's needed and feed when hungry. Trout don't speak Latin, and there are only rare times that you need to match exactly the insect the fish are feeding upon.

For perhaps 90 percent of your dry fly fishing you can float a pattern that is roughly the shape of insects being eaten by the fish; if it's an approximate color, trout can be caught with great regularity. Having the leader properly constructed is far more important than having the fly dressed with the underarm fur of a howler monkey from Costa Rica. If the fly floats to the fish in a normal manner, free from being dragged across the surface unnaturally by the currents, you stand a good chance of a strike.

(Lefty polled many anglers and) Of the more than 200,000 patterns available, these experienced anglers had arrived at the same conclusion: They only needed a few patterns in different sizes for all their trout fishing.

Let's examine the types of water you fish for dry flies. Small, still limestone springs and beaver ponds require delicate presentations. The reverse would be true in big, brawling rivers, such as those in Montana. You would cast on tiny mountain brooks that tumble down through the forest, and large, calm lakes would be fished with dries. Also, the fly patterns should imitate mayflies, caddisflies and terrestrials.

The seven flies I finally selected will do all of these jobs and very well.

If there are any dark-colored mayflies on the water it's a good idea to use an ADAMS--one of everyone's choices. If there are light-colored mayflies on the water, then use the LIGHT CAHILL.

For places where a fly must float well, such as in rough water, the GOOFUS BUG, sometimes called a HUMPY, and the ROYAL WULFF are both excellent choices. Both of these flies imitate nothing in particular but are buggy-looking and trout everywhere have been taken on them in rough water.

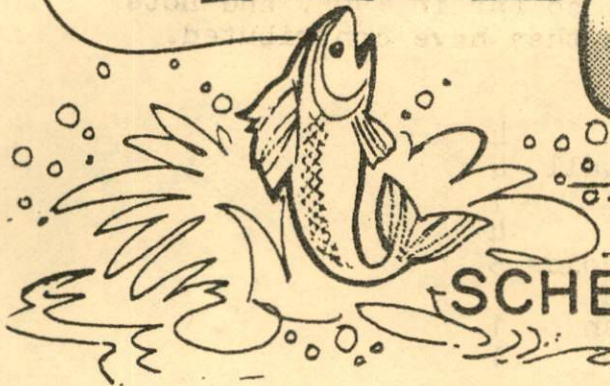
For a caddisfly imitation, most felt the ELK HAIR CADDIS was the best choice. It floats well, is easy to see on the water and, by varying the color of dyed elk hair used in the wing, you can match the various shades of caddisflies that are hatching off.

One of two flies used to imitate terrestrials (land-born insects that fall into the water) is the ANT. Wherever I have found trout I have found ants. And a great terrestrial fly that belongs in everyone's box is the HOPPER.

There you have it. These seven flies fished in different sizes will take surface-feeding trout around the world.

Source: The Sacramento Bee via Bill Reavley

YELLOW CREEK



SCHEDULE OF WORKDAYS SUMMER • 1985

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It's another chance to help the trout of Yellow Creek by participating in a California Trout workday. We're going to fence one half mile of stream directly below the campground area. It's ambitious, but we did it last year, and with your help, we can do it again.

WORK WEEKEND 1 May 18-19

Purpose: To move 792 posts from a stockpile and place one every 7 feet along both sides of the stream for one half mile. We will begin driving the post the same weekend. We'll need a few shovels for starting the posts.

WORK WEEKEND 2 JUNE 15-16

Purpose: To move 2376 rails and place 3 each on the ground between the posts. We are actually going to build the fence this same weekend. WE'LL NEED LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS.

YOU'LL NEED: Gloves
Waders
Low boots or sneakers

WE'LL NEED: Several pickups for moving posts and rails from the stockpiles to the creek

Last year California Trout demonstrated what could be accomplished with hard-working volunteer help. We're looking forward to seeing all those who helped last year plus all those new people who missed the opportunity to help protect this unique trout resource.

If you have questions or need a map please give me a call.

Jerry Balasek (916/877-5230)

ANOTHER PROJECT OF



WHO COUNTS?

I count! I count on you to provide your newsletter with articles that make it both informative and interesting. I have been able to count on the following members so far in 1985, and note that I am counting the number of times they have contributed.

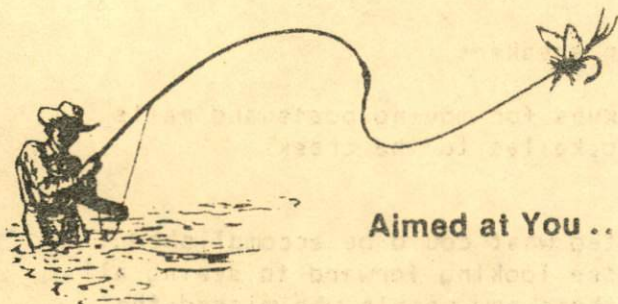
In order of appearance:

Jon Knapp	4
Steve Ohrwall	4
Bill Dill	1
Ron Rabun	4
Sarge Reynolds	5
Ed Coleman	1
Cary Boyden	1
Bob Foster	1

Thanks friends. You make my job a lot easier.

Stan

FLY FISHERS OF DAVIS
P. O. BOX 525
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95617



Aimed at You ...

Steve Ohrwall
2807 Catalina Dr.
Davis, CA 95616