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# Target Talk

Newsletter of the Long Beach Casting Club, Established 1925

January 2007

[www.longbeachcastingclub.org](http://www.longbeachcastingclub.org)

(562) 433-9408

## Leader's Line

### Baghdad

CAROLE KATZ, PRESIDENT

We dream about fly fishing in many places—lush, green, forested, peaceful spots. Baghdad doesn't seem to come to mind when thinking of fishing. A friend of my son's was a Ranger there and he introduced us to—are you ready for this? — The Baghdad School of Fly Fishing.

When Navy Lieutenant Joel Stewart was deployed to Iraq, he took his fly rod, being a Montana guy. He was stationed at Camp Victory, Saddam Hussein's palace to commemorate Iraq's "victory" over Iran in the 1980s and is surrounded by man-made lakes and Roman-style villas. Saddam brought guests to this palace to go hunting, fishing and wildlife watching.

When Joel had free time, he fished in these lakes. Others were fascinated to see him catching fish after fish, and eventually he was asked to teach them. Joel posted a note on an online fly fishing bulletin board asking for information on catching carp and possible donations of equipment. The response was overwhelming and the Baghdad School of Fly Fishing was born in February 2005.

The School started with three classes, one day a week for an hour. Two were at mid-day for those who could sneak out at lunch, and one was early morning for those getting off the night shift. Sometimes 12 students were able to attend, and sometimes only five. Emergencies come up and classes get cancelled—war can intrude on fly fishing time. Students are taught the basics required to cast a fish: casting, knots, fly tying, reading the water, etc. The curriculum is eight weeks long, culminating in a graduation ceremony that includes a box of flies. The objective is to have them leave with the confidence to strike out on their own. If you go to the website of the Baghdad School of Fly Fishing, you will see dozens of photographs of the students, the palace, the fish—and a lot of smiles. You will also see the odd juxtaposition of fly fishermen and women with AR-16's on their shoulders or at their feet.

Temperatures start heating up in April, when it's about 100, and get into the mid-120s by July and August. Classes are moved *indoors* during the worst heat—yes, there is room in the foyer of the

*Leader's Line continued on page 4*

# Newport Bay with Captain Bryan Webb

**DENNIS McTEER, 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

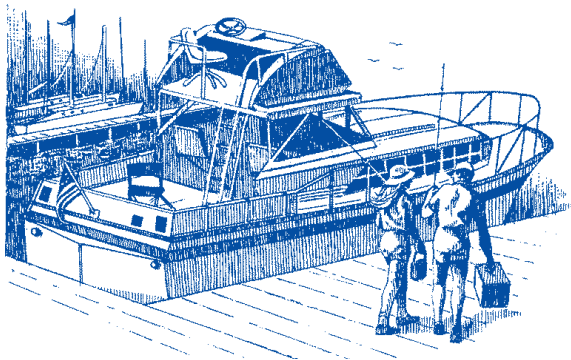
Captain Bryan Webb will be speaking about NEWPORT BAY at our January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting that starts at 7:00 PM.

Newport Bay is home to Spotted Bay Bass, Kelp Bass, Sand Bass, Halibut, Yellowfin and Spotfin Croaker, to name a few. This is a year round fishery and practically at our doorsteps. Imagine, no 5 1/2 hour drive and fish that can pull your arm out of its socket. Bryan will unlock some of the secret strategies and techniques to help you take advantage of this unique fishery.

Bryan grew up fishing our Southern California waters and has guided these waters for more than a decade. Specializing in fishing Southern California waters is not unique, but he is one of the few captains that specialize in *fly-fishing* the Southern California costal waters.

If Bryan is not out on one of the local bays in his skiff, you can also find him at Bob Marriott's in Fullerton, where he is on the Pro Staff. He is also a Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructor, a California State Licensed Guide and a U.S. Coastguard Certified Captain. He has fished in Costa Rica, Midway Atoll, Montana and parts in between.

You can also use this opportunity to get ready for our March outing, the Newport Bay Bass Tournament. Our own Phantom, Mr. Royal Wulff himself, Jeff Sadler, has won two years in a row. Don't let there be a Three-Peat!



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# Another Great Vension Stag

**DENNIS McTEER, 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

I've learned takes a small village to put on the Venison Stag Holiday Dinner. I was in awe of the members' generosity in donating their time and I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize the many people who made the dinner possible. The club took on a festive holiday atmosphere with most of the guests arriving early to socialize with friends and enjoy our entertainment this year, Matt Jarman's Magic. The dinner couldn't be pulled off and certainly wouldn't be the success it was without everyone's' help.

Shauna Barton and her staff, John Lincoln and Bruce Takenaka, served 82 prime rib dinners. Shauna gave some special thanks and high praise to John. Shauna and John did most of the cooking and were at the club at 9:00 in the morning, unloaded a van full of ingredients, worked all day and turned out a delicious meal. Let's not forget Shauna's grandsons, Michael & Thaddeus Barton, who washed pots and pans in the afternoon, when most of us were watching the UCLA/USC football game.

The club started to get ready for the Venison Stag way back on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Dennis Swing, Jim Fisher, Jim Gonzales, Ernie Ertley, Gary Charles, Jeff & Carole Katz and Ryan McTeer cleaned light diffusers, dusted the trophy cases and generally got rid of a years worth of dust, dirt and the errant fly tying material.

On Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, the clubhouse was transformed in to a holiday wonderland. Judy and Al Ross, Carole Katz, Joe Libeu, Frank Kropacek, Margie & Jackie McTeer, hung the garland and decorated the tables.

Our servers Mark & Susan Flo, Joe & Chrisie

Libeu, Mick & Terry Woodbury, Randy Teeples and Rick Hilles did a wonderful job. For the after the dinner clean-up there were Al & Judy Ross, Randy Teeples, Bruce Takenaka, Frank Kropacek and Marv Dworzak.

Other members who contributed to the night included one of the highlights, Larry Albach's volunteer recognition drawing with one of his custom knives. Marv Dworzak manned the fireplace, Bob Graham took care of the check-in table, Keith Pomella arranged for the dumpster, Frank Kropacek cleaned off the sidewalks and driveway and Ed & Merle Hower brought the punch bowls. Margie & Jackie McTeer started making the ornaments in August that adorned the tables for everyone to take home. If I've forgot someone I apologize.

Thank you all who attended and made this such a fun event. One of the special things about our club is how willing everyone is to chip in. I advertised that some work had to be done and you show up willing to chip in. Whether it is cleaning the pond, helping at tournaments or the Venison Stag, I'm overwhelmed at your generosity. Thank you all.





*Leader's Line continued from page 1*

palace for two dozen students to practice casting. Alternative sites for casting practice are huge and shady palace balconies.

Fish in the pond and lake include the common carp, grass carp, barbell, asp, shaboot and manger (just like the Lower Owens, eh?). The heat brings the smaller fish up to nibble at the edges of the pond. "Smaller" is relative and refers to fish in the 2-3 pound range. There are six 20-lb fish that regularly cruise in the front of the palace. In two successive casts, one sergeant caught a six pounder and then a 13-pounder. There is a manger called Moby that lives in the lake adjacent to the main palace. Moby weighs 40 pounds! He shares his territory with steelhead-size shaboot in the 10-15 pound class.

The most active attackers are the asp, which can grow to 30 or more pounds and will jump out of the water for a fly. Carp aren't built for that, but they will work the surface edge among the weeds, making the water boil. Despite how different these fish are from our local species, the #12 elk hair caddis is the "go to" fly.

Joel says that even if the students don't continue with fly fishing after returning home, he knows that it made their time in Iraq a bit more bearable



and took their minds off where they were and what they were doing. His deployment to Iraq ended in February 2006, and Lieutenant Colonel Bill Jones, another Montanan who also packed his fly rod when deploying to Iraq (go figure), is now running the school.

Corporate sponsors have included Craig Matthews of Blue Ribbon Flies, Griffin Enterprises, 3M Scientific Anglers, and many tiers. A local newspaper in Parkersburg, West Virginia, printed an article about the school, and the town has tied more than 500 flies for the students so far.

There don't seem to be any fly fishing shops in Baghdad or in Iraq so the Baghdad School of Fly Fishing relies on donations. Joel says they can always use an extra rod and reel in 6, 7 or 8 weight, and they particularly need fly boxes right now. With all the flies that are being donated, the need for boxes is even greater. If you have any fly boxes, or an extra rod or reel or other gear that you would like to donate, give it to me and I will pay for shipment to Joel. It would be a nice gesture for the guys and gals in uniform so far away from home.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.



# San Gabriel River Shows Signs of Life

**MICK WOODBURY,  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Chuck Moore's conservation efforts have breathed new life into the river's tired signage. Up and down the stream, the efforts are pleasingly apparent. First the large regulations signs were refurbished; then the roadside handicap signs were spruced up; and this last trip focused on the signs on the actual fishing piers.

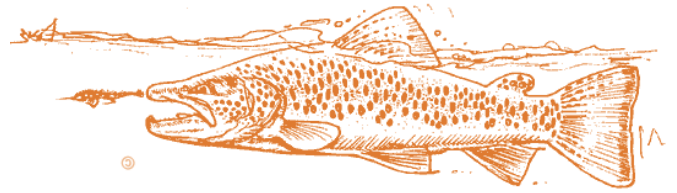
Chuck along with Stan Holden, John Lincoln, Randy Teeple and Jeff Sadler, met at the usual 9:00 AM start time and carpooled up stream. After wire brushing, masking and spray painting the sign frames, the group utilized the paint drying time by, would you believe, fishing.

After lunch at Glenn Camp, the group returned to the stream in pursuit of bragging rights with Chuck earning the title of fish master. The water is gin clear and low; normal for this time of year. It took skill to entice the wary trout and stream knowledge didn't hurt either, did it Chuck? Though fishing was a bit more challenging than usual, the group didn't want to leave. At the designated departure time, everyone was still on the stream.

This conservation effort began on July 5<sup>th</sup>, and even though the first outing followed a holiday, and another trip was during the ACA tournament, there have been 20 different people who have joined in the fun. Counting repeats, 36 people have made an effort to better the stream.

The next trip will be Wednesday, January 3, 2007, 9:00 AM. By then there probably will be some rain and the stream will be higher and slightly stained. It will be the perfect opportunity to test the tying class's flies, especially the ant, soft hackle, hare's ear and PT nymph. Mark the date and call Chuck

for details (562-868-0240) or just show up with your lunch and fishing gear.



## About Those Feathers of Yours...

**ALAN ROSS, MEMBER**

Have you wondered what it takes to "burn" feathers in an effort to prepare the quills for being used as a body on A.K. Best's flies? And, once removed of their fibers, how do go about dying the feathers to get that perfect shade of green for a Pale Morning Dun? Well, wonder no more...

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 AM until noon the club will be offering a feather burning and dying workshop. The session will be limited to 20 people based on a first come first serve basis, and will cover the techniques used by A.K. Best necessary to burn and dye feathers. Assisting will be John Van Derhoof who has a lot of experience in dying feathers for his salmon, steelhead and saltwater flies.

The cost for the seminar will be \$16.00 which will cover the cost of turkey flat feathers (perfect for quill bodies). You can also order dyes at the workshop which will run \$37.00.

Please contact me with any questions about this seminar. You can call me at (310) 379-2015 or E-mail me at [alanross@earthlink.net](mailto:alanross@earthlink.net). I can give a lot more information on the materials and dyes available at the workshop. See you there!

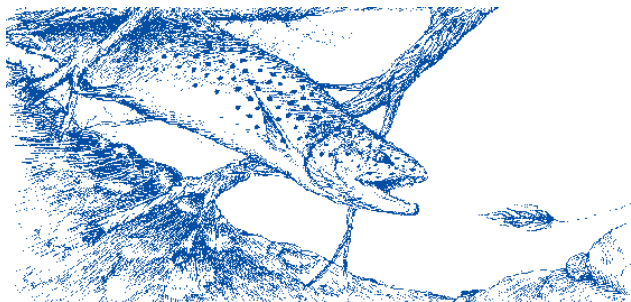
# The Confidence Factor

**BOB GRAHAM CO-2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

I've been extremely fortunate on the last couple of trips to land some large fish. I marvel because it is a giant leap forward for me. I have pictures taken by Al and Judy Ross on Hot Creek and the Lower Owens from a few years ago where I was proudly holding fish measuring 8 or 10 inches. Now I expect larger fish.

Brant Bounous at Marriott's attributes my recent success to "Experience". Gary attributes my success to "Confidence". Gary Berger in his book *Presentations* advocates playing every fish caught (within the limits of safe and quick landing) as if it were a large fish in order to hone your skills when you do hook up with that large fish.

I know I've been working on my casting. And I've been paying close attention to proper mending techniques and dead drift as taught by several guides on different waters. As I strive to become a better fly fisherman, I also observe others on the rivers and at the pond and try to copy them.



Jeff Sadler once told me that when he fishes he expects to catch large fish. We know he prefers dry fly fishing so he sight fishes a lot. When he sees a fish feeding, he expects to be able to net it. And he usually does. Several years ago he wrote two great articles in Target Talk on why he catches more fish than the average mortal.

Doug Uyematsu expects to land large surf fish. He



always fishes with a qualified IGFA rig because he only fishes for world records. Rich Jacobson does the same. Only world records. Think of that. That's a confident attitude.

Carole Katz often states that since she took up tournament casting seriously, her fishing has dramatically improved.

Joe has started nymph fishing without a strike indicator. He says it improves his skills when he *does* use a strike indicator but he is also challenging himself. Without a strike indicator, you must become one with the nymphs and figure out where they are and how they are reacting to the current flow. Setting the hook is dictated by a hesitation in the line, not in the movement of a fuzzy ball of poly.

Maria Rivas fishes like that. She concentrates; she is one with the nymphs and will not talk while she is fishing (except to pray to the heavens that she can land the fish). If a single fiber moves on her strike indicator, she will strike and usually hook a fish.

Gary likes to fish where no one has fished. Even when we fish together, he will wander off and try some new area where we haven't been before. He is constantly challenging himself. Last January, while others were crowded into their favorite



spots on the Lower Owens, he avoided the Wild Trout section completely and caught a bunch of rainbows. While others lamented their lack of success, he wore his smug look of triumph.

Confidence comes from a solid foundation of skill and knowledge. My Dad once told me that you can only learn more, not less. I was fortunate to assist Joe in the recent On the River Clinics in the classroom. (That overstates it—Joe allowed me to turn off the lights for the slide show presentation). As I looked over the student body, however, I realized that I had been fishing with probably a quarter of the class. This is a course designed for those new to fly-fishing. But here was a roomful of anglers, some quite experienced, all seeking to raise their own level of knowledge. I learned a few new tricks myself and this was my third time through the class.

So what does all this mean? The good anglers in the club—and I don't include myself in that bunch; yet—are constantly working on improving their game. Even the recently certified casting instructors and master casting instructors are seen more frequently at the pond than before they received their new badges representing their



achievement. Not resting on their well-earned laurels, they are working to polish their skills even further.

We should emulate all of these skilled anglers

and continually practice the skills and gain the additional knowledge that will make us better at this wonderful sport. The club offers free instruction in several areas. We frequently have courses or speakers at a modest cost. Monthly meetings present speakers usually specific to improving your skills or your knowledge of the sport. And, of course, we offer monthly fishing trips to expand our angling horizons both technically and geographically. Becoming an active member will help you improve your knowledge, enhance your skills and greatly increase your confidence. I know it did mine, but I am still working at it.

## Keep Tying Flies for the San Juan

**BOB GRAHAM,**  
**CO-2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Bureau of Reclamation lowered the San Juan River from 600 cfs to 250 cfs to permit the State Parks Department to remove silt from the Kiddie Pool. Work is expected to be completed by December 18<sup>th</sup>. The river should return to normal flows shortly afterward.

So don't stop tying your worms!

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**President**

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# Notes from the Pond

FRANK KROPACEK, CAPTAIN

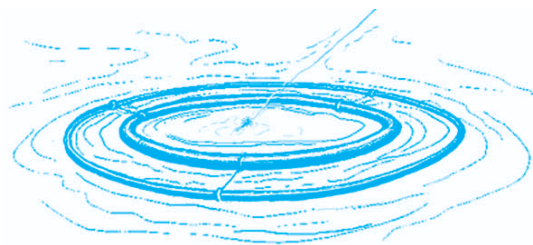
We had another outstanding pond cleaning on November 11<sup>th</sup>, thanks to Keith Pomella, Dan Rivett, Joe Libeu, Yosh Iseda, Jerry Marotta, Rick Hilles, Bob Middo, and last, but not least, Bob Graham who will be signing up for remedial reading so he can differentiate between algaecide and Aqua Shade. If you want to find out what I am talking about, check our supply of boots and you can see which pair Bob used.

On the 26<sup>th</sup>, we had another great breakfast, courtesy of Carl Lasky and his friend, G. Cashman and another fun day of casting. Scores are definitely improving and there is more participation on Sundays. I don't know if it is the competitive nature of the casters or their desire to partake of good food.

Our annual Venison Stag set a high water mark in quality and that will be covered in another article. I do want to thank those responsible for giving me another implement to help me keep track of the Captain's paraphernalia. It was really touching! (I am already plotting revenge)

Our cast on the 10<sup>th</sup> found another bunch of casters enjoying Dan Rivett's breakfast assisted by Mark Tsunawaki and Rick Hilles. We also had a Trout Fly game presentation conducted by John Van Derhoof who provided us with a fact packed handout detailing equipment, the phases of the game, his comments giving us pointers on technique we would never think of plus the visual demonstration at the pond made it a really worthwhile session. The gusting, winds brought out even more tips on dealing with that particular situation. Thank you, John, for a most informative presentation.

Looking ahead, we have a pond cleaning scheduled for WEDNESDAY, January 31<sup>st</sup>. We want the pond to dry for a few days—take that,



algae—so it will be filled for the practice session and breakfast on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February.

I will be putting the arm out for assistance with that project as well as the Southwestern Tournament which is scheduled for February 10–11. There will be a list detailing how many people we will need for the two days. Last year, everyone showed up on the Saturday and we were scrambling for people on Sunday. I will try to do a better job at scheduling so please keep that weekend open.

## It's Show Time

PAUL BURGNER, MEMBER

The Ontario Fly Fishing Show has moved to Pasadena!

Be sure to mark your calendars now and plan on attending The Fly Fishing Show. This is the show's fifth year and it will provide you with numerous programs designed to improve your fly fishing ability. It was a great show last year and this year should be even better at its new location, the Pasadena Center. The Fly Fishing Show hours are:

Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Also, don't forget the Fred Hall Show which will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> at the Long Beach Convention Center.

If you would like to volunteer to work any of these shows, please call Paul Burgner @ 562-634-1515.



# New Members

JEFFREY SADLER, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

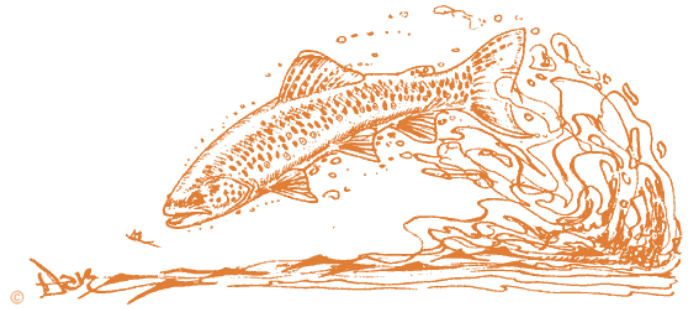
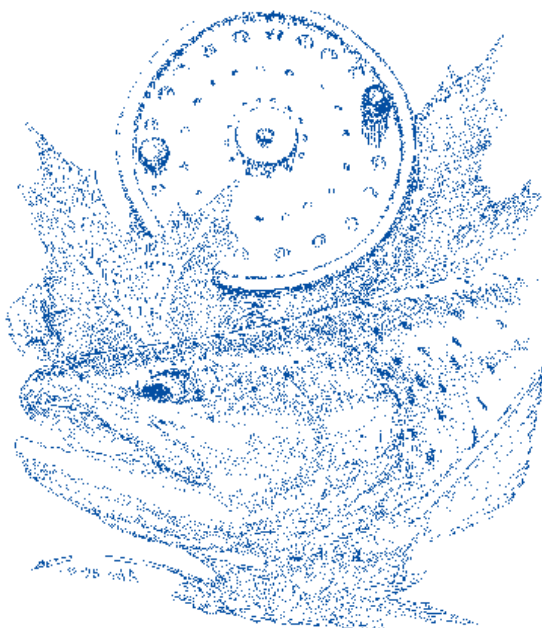
Please welcome the following new members who have joined us this month:

- ❖ William Beam, a retired pilot from Laguna Beach
- ❖ William Boehlert from Huntington Beach
- ❖ Rick Hilles, Jr., a chef from Port Washington, New York
- ❖ Van Lloyd, a real estate broker from Irvine
- ❖ Lim Thomason, a project manager from Monrovia

Welcome to the club and we wish you success, and fun, as a member.

I have a good many new member packets backed up from new members who have not shown up at a club meeting to claim them. If you don't hurry the Sunshine Committee may raise your fee to 50 cents.

For any questions or corrections contact me by phone at (310) 377-3868 or via E-mail at [fotofish@earthlink.net](mailto:fotofish@earthlink.net)



## Plan Now For Great Fishing

BOB GRAHAM, CO-2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

Here's the line up for club fishing trips for this year and next. We need you to join us! I hate catching all those fish without witnesses.

We still have openings on all of the destination trips. Sign up with Bob and spend your Christmas bonus wisely.

### TRIPS SCHEDULED FOR 2006 AND 2007:

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| ❖ January 19-21   | Lower Owens Trip #1   |
| ❖ February 16-18  | Lower Owens Trip #2   |
| ❖ February TBD    | San Juan River, NM    |
| ❖ March 17        | Newport Bass Tourney  |
| ❖ Mar 31-Apr 4    | Lee's Ferry           |
| ❖ April           | to be determined      |
| ❖ May 18-20       | Bishop/Mammoth        |
| ❖ May 24-29       | Green River, Utah     |
| ❖ June 15-18      | Mammoth #1            |
| ❖ June 22-27      | Clearwater Lodge Trip |
| ❖ July 20-22      | Brookie Bash Trip     |
| ❖ August 25       | Surf Fishing Trip     |
| ❖ September 21-23 | Mammoth #2            |
| ❖ October 26-28   | Mammoth #3            |
| ❖ November 1-5    | Fall Steelhead        |
| ❖ December TBD    | Delta Stripper        |
| ❖ December 17     | Surf Fishing          |

# Best Wishes for 2007

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, EDITOR

The ringing in of another New Year is traditionally a time to pause and reflect about our part in the greater scheme of things. The following three quotes were kindly passed along to me by David DeVries and I couldn't help feeling that now would be an excellent time to share them with you.

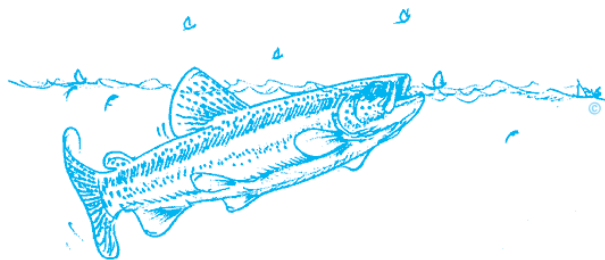
All of the following quotes are from Jerry Dennis' book RIVER HOME, St. Martins Press, 1998.

*"Fishing makes us alert, pulls us out of our thoughts and engages us in something bigger than ourselves. It's a restorative that cleanses us when we've become muddied and makes us healthy when we've become sickened. It's a brace against pessimism."*

*"Fishing, I should have explained, teaches us to perform small acts with care. It humbles us. It enriches our friendships. It cultivates reverence for wild things and beautiful places. It offers relief from overdue bills and endless chores and appalling world events. It makes us participants in nature instead of spectators, a crucial distinction because participants tend to become passionate and protective and spectators tend to become indifferent."*

*"...looking down into a lake, an ocean, or a river is like looking into the night sky, that both water and sky are filled with mysteries, and when we stare deeply into them we connect with every man and every woman who has ever sensed the tugging vitality of the universe. We become part of a larger community, united by mysteries so vast they make our differences of opinion and philosophy seem very small. Anglers are people who want to get beneath the surface of things...Fishing is simply a way to open our hearts to the world."*

To you and yours, a very happy New Year.



## Ring In The New Year!

BOB GRAHAM, CO-2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

It's time to celebrate the New Year on the water! Get your 2007 license and come with us to the Lower Owens on the weekend of January 20<sup>th</sup>. Make your own arrangements for a roommate and carpool to the Eastern Sierra.

We will have a Pre-Trip Meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. This year we hope to provide sufficient information on techniques and rigs so that when we get to the river at the Pleasant Valley campground we can fish and not talk.

This could prove to be a very challenging trip. The DWP has kept the water running higher and faster longer than ever and the river channel has probably changed considerably. And the banks are definitely more undercut than in recent history so don't get too close to the edge of the bank unless you know that the post-holiday diet has really produced results.

An E-mail to Dennis Tsuyuki from Chris Plakos (LADWP, Bishop) states that flows will remain at 600 cfs through the end of this year (2006) but makes no mention of what will happen after that.

I look forward to seeing you there.

# A Vest for Life

BOB GRAHAM, CO 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

The invention of the fly fishing vest is attributed to Lee Wulff and thus he is worshiped by fly fishing retailers everywhere. I can't imagine life before the vest. My fishing shirts only have two pockets and it wouldn't surprise me if Lee invented the vest before they added a second pocket to the fishing shirt.

We were discussing the weight of the average vest on one of the trips and I suggested that maybe we should empty our vests after every trip to determine what was used or not. That way we could ascertain what was essential to our fly-fishing. Connie Bullock immediately objected and firmly stated that *everything* in her vest was essential!

I wish I could be a minimalist like Royal Wulff or his fishing buddies Dan Rivett and Yash Iseda. They each have very small chest or shoulder packs and always seem to have the right equipment and the correct flies. When fish see them coming, they head for the deepest pools, keep their heads down (with fins overhead) and keep their mouths shut. These gentlemen can catch fish in the casting pond. But Yash and Dan are up at 5:00 AM every morning on our trips, tying the perfect flies for that day's fishing. It isn't until after my second cup of coffee that I can see the vise let alone tie any flies, so they are much to be admired.

But Jeff learned that having everything in a small pack means that dogs or other wildlife can easily grab it and run off. I guess the Powerbait attracted some curious creature on the Northern California trip. More likely, the pack was so small that Jeff just forgot where he left it.

My vest is not subject to petty theft by an animal. It outweighs all but the heftiest of elephants. I used a fanny pack last year for a short time. There was so much stuff in it that it rode too low on my



fanny and was in the water much of the time. I also tried a chest pack for a brief period. It rested too high on my tummy and interfered with my eyesight and casting.

So I exchanged those for a normal vest. My old vest (which I had for 25 years) was made by R.W. Wheatley and had ten pockets. My latest vest is by Orvis and has twice that many pockets. I haven't filled all the pockets yet but Joe keeps introducing me to new products and gadgets that I can't live without so I am sure I will fill it eventually. And in addition to the pockets I have all manner of paraphernalia (Latin for "stuff") hanging from zingers, d-rings, and cords. As it is, I can barely stand upright with the weight. I walk around the rivers quite stooped—or is that "stupid"? I could run away from home for a week with all I carry.

Jeff, Dan and Yash fish successfully with a handful of flies. On every trip I have been on with them, they have out-fished me. I am not comfortable without the four fly boxes I normally carry holding upwards of 300 or 400 flies, but I never seem to have the right ones.

Lee did not do me any favors by inventing the fly fishing vest. I should be required to fish in a fishing shirt like in the good old days. That way I would be forced to bring only what I need for that day and nothing more. But then Gary wouldn't be able to borrow what he forgot!



# Fly of the Month: Dave Cox's Delta

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, EDITOR

I remember the day like it was yesterday. It was a bright, warm summer morning without a cloud to be seen anywhere and El Niño was still in bloom. The headlands above Dana Point were visible about two miles in the distance. I was being teased unmercifully by Harry Kime, my host that day, for not taking anything to prevent what I was feeling now as we bobbed and pitched like a cork on the swells. I do hate when that happens.

A few hundred yards in the distance an eruption of white water and diving birds magically appeared. Harry spun the boat around and we flew over to the activity. It was a school of 10 to 20 pound tuna covering an area about the size of a football field enjoying a late breakfast of anchovies. Harry immediately steered toward the shoal of fish and just as quickly got the boat out of gear and, as we drifted along the edge of the school, we frantically grabbed our rods and cast into the melee.

We both hooked up instantly and spent the next couple of hours following the school, catching and fighting fish the whole way before they slipped below the surface. I used only one fly pattern that day—Dave Cox's Delta. Developed for stripers in the Colorado River and Lake Mead the Delta is durable, easy to cast and works just about anywhere you would want to use a baitfish imitation. The secret to the Delta, and the reason for its name, is the wide flair of the wing. This is the result of winding down the wing against a large diameter body. The original fly tied by Dave used mylar pipe cleaners. The wire added weight but would rust out quickly in salt water. I switched to using an epoxy body several years ago and now find hot glue even better.

Tie the Delta in any color you would consider using to match a baitfish or just to create as an attractor. Here are some of the popular combinations and I have marked (\*) some of my favorites: \*all white, all yellow, all red, all black, \*dark green/white, \*green/yellow,

red/white, \*red/yellow, black/white, \*blue/white, \*purple/blue, \*dark green/green/white, \*green/yellow/white, \*blue/green/white. The Delta is a great pattern to have along and the wing flaring technique is valuable for a wide range fly types.

## Materials for tying the Delta:

- Hook: Mustad 3407, 34007 (stainless steel) or equivalent in sizes from 6 to 4/0.
- Thread: Flymaster Plus in white or other color that blends with the fly.
- Body: 1/8" to 3/8" diameter "hot glue" ball at the mid-point of the shank.
- Tail: Krystal Flash in a color to match the fly.
- Gills: Red rabbit skin.
- Wing: Pugisi Sea Fibers, FisHair or other similar synthetic, translucent hair or bucktail.
- Head: Tapered thread wraps covered with Krystal Flash in a color to match the fly.
- Eyes: Doll eyes, 3mm to 9mm diameter depending on the size of the fly, glued to the hot glue ball on the shank.



## Instructions for tying the Delta:

- 1 To start tying this pattern begin by getting out your glue gun, plugging it into a safe location. Once the gun is hot, place a hook in the jaws of a pair of hemostats and apply a small amounts of hot glue to the shank over a safe surface turning the hook while the glue cools to keep the glue from sagging too much. Apply more glue as needed until you achieve the diameter you want—the larger the ball the larger the flair of the wing. The glue should be slightly forward of the mid-point of the shank on a Mustad or Tiemco 811S hook and at the mid-point of the shank on shorter hooks such as the Tiemco 800S and the Eagle Claw 254. Prepare a number of hooks in various sizes and store them for future use.
- 2 Place the hook in your vise and attach the thread behind the hot glue ball and wind down to the bend of the hook. Tie in a clump of about 20 to 30 strands of Krystal Flash for the tail. The tail should be about twice the length of the hook. Wind back to the hot glue ball and tie in another 3 or 4 strands of Krystal Flash. Wind the Krystal Flash to the tail and back and tie off. Cut 2 small triangles of dyed red rabbit skin with the direction of the hair pointing away from the point of the triangle and tie in one on either side of the hook. Whip finish next to the hot glue ball and apply a drop of head cement on the thread and the Krystal Flash but not the rabbit.
- 3 Re-attach the thread at the headspace and wind to the hot glue ball and back forming a secure base. For this instruction we will be tying a 3-color wing. The tying order for a 3-color wing is as follows: 1) top, 2) far side, 3) bottom, and 4) near side. Remember that the sides are the same color. For a 2-color wing the order would be: 1) top, 2) far side to bottom, 3) and bottom to near side. Select a pencil diameter's worth of your top wing material and lay onto the top, near side of the hook shank



and as you wind allow the thread tension to pull and fan the material equally to the other side. With about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  the previous amount of the material, apply the side color starting where the top ended and using thread tension to fan it slightly. Using the same amount of material as the top apply the bottom color starting where the side ends and fanning around the under side of the hook to the same point on the near side of the hook. Add the near side in the same fashion as the others. Inspect the wing from all angles to make sure that all the color sections are where they are supposed to be—don't let the top color slop over too much to one side or the other. Use your thumbnail to push sections of wing that are too dense or lopsided to where they need to be. Watch out for the hook point!

- 4 Start smoothly winding the thread to form a neat, tapered head. As you wind farther down the shank towards the hot glue ball you will notice that the wing will flair more and more outward. With the head formed tie in 2 or 3 strands of Krystal Flash right behind the eye of the hook and wind them to the end of the head and back and tie off. Whip-finish the head and apply head cement.
- 5 Prepare the doll eyes for gluing by scratching the backside with a sharp knife blade. Apply glue from the hot glue gun on top of the hot glue ball and be sure to work it into the wing along the side of the hook. Place the eyes onto the hot glue and let them set. The Delta is now ready for action.

# Long Beach Casting Club Programs for 2006

DENNIS MC TEER, 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

Here is a list of the Long Beach Casting Club's Monthly Programs as they are currently scheduled. We have a great cast of presenters who will offer entertaining and informative programs. Unless noted otherwise Monthly Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the Month at 7:00 PM.

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
January 25, 2007	Bryan Webb	FISHING NEWPORT BAY
February 22, 2007	Sunshine Committee	WHITE ELEPHANT SALE
March 5, 2007	A.K. Best	FLY TYING WORKSHOP
March 29, 2007	Kelly Galoup	STREAMER FISHING
April 5, 2007	Board of Directors	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
April 26, 2007	Pat Jaeger	HIGH WATER TACTICS
May 31, 2007	Conway Bowman	FLY FISHING THE RAGGED EDGE
June 28, 2007	to be determined	TO BE DETERMINED
July 26, 2007	to be determined	TO BE DETERMINED
August 24, 2007 (Friday)	Ken Iwamasa	IWAMASA FLIES
August 25, 2007 (Saturday)	Ken Iwamasa	FLY TYING WORKSHOP
September 27, 2007	Chris King	NOR-CAL STEELHEAD



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### Christmas Island 2007

Wake Up! No, its not a dream, you are there, walking along the flats, ankle deep in the cool, blue Pacific with the wind and sun at your back on a incoming tide. Your dream has come true; you are fly fishing for Bonefish and Giant Trevally on Christmas Island. From the time you first viewed Christmas Island, you have waited for this moment—making your first cast to the silver ghost, watching the sudden rush of the fish to your fly after a couple of slow strips and then setting the hook. Finally, the sight and sound of 125 + yards of backing screaming off of your reel...

Join Sierra Pacific Fishing Adventures on a one week or two week package from May 28<sup>th</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup> fishing for Bonefish and Trevally. We will arrive in Honolulu on May the 28<sup>th</sup> or June the 5<sup>th</sup> and return to the mainland on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June. All meals, fishing license, applicable taxes and ground transportation are included. Not include is airfare to and from Honolulu, airfare to and from Christmas Island, 1 nights lodging and meals in Honolulu, tips, and visa cost. You can choose to stay either the first week, the second week or both weeks.



The cost for this trip is **\$ 2195** per person, double occupancy, and will be limited to 8 people. A deposit of 50% is required upon booking.



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# Calendar of Events

## January 2007

12/29-1/1			Club Trip: Trinity River Steelhead
4	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night: Casting and Tying
8	Monday	7:00 PM	Board Meeting
9	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Clouser Minnow
10	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Pre-trip Meeting: Lower Owens #1
11	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night: Casting and Tying
14	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Casting Games: TF, BB, 3/8 oz., TF Dist., SH Dist., 1/4 oz. Dist.
16	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Crazy Charlie
18	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night: Casting and Tying
19-21	Weekend		Club Trip: Lower Owens #1
23	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Woolly Buzzer
25	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: Bryan Webb, Fly Fishing Newport Bay
28	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Casting Games: DF, WF, 1/4 oz., 5/8 oz.
30	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Muddler Minnow
31	Wednesday	8:00 AM	Pond Cleaning

## February

1	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night: Casting and Tying
3	Saturday	9:00 AM	Feather Burning and Dying Workshop
4	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Casting Games: Practice for the Southwestern
5	Monday	7:00 PM	Board Meeting
6	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Elk Hair Caddis
7	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Pre-Trip Meeting: Lower Owens #2
8	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night: Casting and Tying
10-11	Weekend	8:00 AM	Breakfast (Sunday only)
		9:00 AM	Casting Games: Southwestern Tournament
13	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Royal Wulff
15	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night: Casting and Tying
16-18	Weekend		Club Trip: Lower Owens #2
20	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Adams
22	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: White Elephant Sale
23-27			Club Trip: San Juan River, New Mexico
24	Saturday	8:00 AM	SWCFFF Fly Tying Workshop
25	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Casting Games: TF, DF, BB, 1/4 oz., 3/8 oz., 5/8 oz.
27	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Parachute Adams

## March

1	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night: Casting and Tying
3-4	Weekend		The Fly Fishing Show, Pasadena
5	Monday	9:00 AM	AK Best Fly Tying Workshop
		7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
6	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Humpy
7-11			Fred Hall Show
7	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Pre-Trip Meeting: Newport Bay Bass Tourney
8	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night: Casting and Tying
11	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Sunday Cast: Director's Handicap
15	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night: Casting and Tying
17	Saturday		Club Trip: Newport Bay Bass Tourney
21	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Pre-Trip: Lee's Ferry
22	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night: Casting and Tying
24	Saturday	9:00 AM	Maggie Merriman Entomology Workshop
24-25	Weekend	9:00 AM	Simon Gawesworth Spey Casting Class (through Marriott's)
28	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Casting Instructor's Workshop
29	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: Kelly Galloup, Streamer Tactics
3/31-4/4			Club Trip: Lee's Ferry, Arizona



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