

Highlights

- ❖ Fly of the Month: Lawson's Hackle Emerger
- ❖ Club Trips for 2010
- ❖ Calendar

Inside

- Page 3: The Rat Pack From Xcalak
- Page 6: Cool Times in Mammoth
- Page 9: Bollibokka Update

Target Talk

Newsletter of the Long Beach Casting Club, Established 1925

January 2010

www.longbeachcastingclub.org

(562) 433-9408

Leader's Line ...

The Second Decade

MICK WOODBURY, PRESIDENT

Remember Y2K—the dominant news story that ended as a fizzle? When computers didn't malfunction as some predicted, the 21st Century came and went just like every other New Year. Y2K ended up being just a memorable marker for the start of a Century.

It's now the start of the Century's second decade and a good time for reflection. Looking back, are you happy with how you spent the past ten years? Not counting the recent job and economic conditions, are you pleased with your relationships, use of your free time and discretionary dollars? Or would you like a do-over?

What's your plan for the second decade? Ten years from now, what do you want to have achieved? Maybe you've desired to become a better fly tier, but seem to be tied to your couch. Or are you thrown for a loop by the thought of spending some serious pond time? Now is the time to unpack that resolve and put it in plain sight. Get a firm but comfortable grip on your future and you'll be happier for it. Otherwise, ten years from now you'll likely be in a familiar rut wondering where the years went.

DONATE YOURSELF

A meaningful statistic from the IRS says there are about 1,010,400 charitable organizations in the U.S. and that 89% of households make charitable donations. That would make the U.S. one of the

world's most generous nations. But non-profits also need other kinds of resources as well. They need donations of time, talent and expertise.

Have you considered giving your talents to the Club? If you're the type of person who would rather drive the engine than ride in the caboose, we can find a spot for you. In the engine, your view is forward, your hands are on the controls and you can make things happen. In the caboose, you can only watch where others take you. There are all kinds of slots to fill. The list of committees is long, the demands are light and the rewards are great. If you have some basic computer skills and perhaps some business or leadership experience, there might be a board slot for you. The nominating committee will soon consider candidates for the Club's 2010/11 board of directors. Consider it and if you have any questions, let me know, Joe Libeu or any one on the nomination committee.

By the time you read this, December will be more than

Leader's Line continues on page 2

Leader's Line continued from page 1

half over. The Venison Stag will be a pleasant memory; days start getting longer meaning fishing season is coming; and Christmas will be upon us. If you're looking for a gift that is universally appreciated, dole out lots of appreciation wrapped in a hug. People just can't seem to get enough.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and lots of on-stream memories waiting for discovery.



Breakfast Chefs Needed

JOHN VAN DERHOOF,
SENIOR DIRECTOR

There has been a long tradition of cooking a hot breakfast before the winter casts. Come and join us for the camaraderie and the great food.

Breakfast is served about 8:00 AM and the casting games start at 9:00 AM.

We still need chefs for the following dates: January 3, 17 & 31, February 21 and March 7. The chef chooses the menu, does the shopping and impresses the members with their culinary genius.

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact John Van Derhoof at 562-424-7313.

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The Rat Pack from Xcalak

RICH GARRETT, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Our annual Venison Stag was held in December and for those who were unable to attend, you missed our Flagship event of the year. The event is only made possible through the combined efforts of numerous members. This year 24 volunteers stepped up and put on a flawless event. On behalf of the club, I would like to extend our sincerest appreciation for each and every one of your efforts.

Looking forward we have an interesting program scheduled for the January general meeting. The program is designed to explain how to prepare for and have a successful fishing trip for Bonefish, Permit and other species on the "Flats" Program is being prepared by "The Rat Pack from Xcalak" This nefarious group is headed up by Rick Hilles, who started fishing the flats in Xcalak Mexico several years ago.

Over the years he has invited club members to join him on this annual trip. To date the group has grown to include Bill Beam, Marvin Dworzak, Ron Finney, Doug Smith and myself.

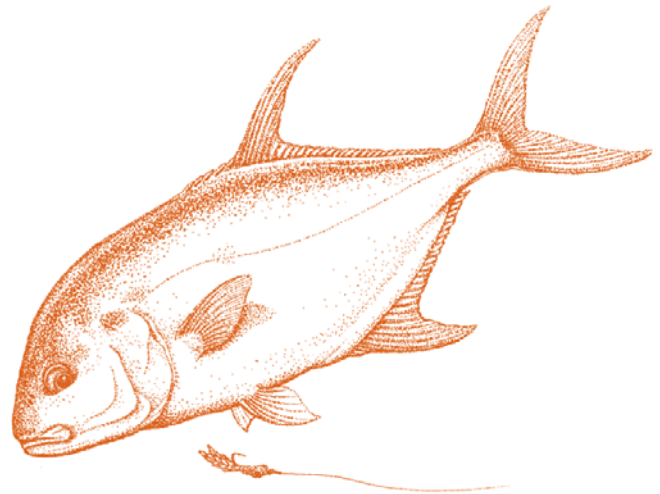
The program will include recommended gear, flies, casting skills and practice that will give you a head start when you are preparing for your "Flats Trip". For those of you that come to the club on Tuesday nights, you may have noticed us at the pond casting and retrieving a stick or plug, while others are frantically trying to present a cast to the moving target.

Or maybe we are in the clubhouse tying flies. This is part of the preparations that we are making for our upcoming trip in March. Our trip preparation usually starts the day after we return from the most recent trip...

Come and see what works for us and hopefully it will help you on your next trip.

In March, we will be having our annual (almost) "White Elephant Auction". Please look through your fishing equipment and see what items you can contribute to the auction.

Due to the limited storage space that we have, we would appreciate your putting your items together now, but please hold off on bringing them to the club until February.



Nominating Committee Formed

MICK WOODBURY, PRESIDENT

The Nominating Committee, headed by Joe Libeu, and assisted by Marv Dworzak, Stan Holden, Jeff Sadler and Paul Burgner, will soon start considering candidates for the 2010–2011 Board of Directors. If you have an interest in helping out the club, or perhaps you know someone you think would be good choice, then please contact any one on the committee.

Club members will be notified of the slate of nominees at least thirty days before the Annual Meeting to be held on April 1, 2010. This is accordance with Section VIII, Item 2 and Item 4 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Long Beach Casting Club.

April Means... The Green River Trip!

JEFF SADLER, PAST PRESIDENT

Here is most of the information you will need to know for the upcoming Green River, Utah club trip.

WHEN: April 25 through April 29. Arrive on Sunday, leave on Friday. Four full fishing days plus whatever you can sneak in around travel.

THE RIVER: A tailwater of the Flaming Gorge flowing from the Wyoming-Utah border to Colorado with 6,000 to 15,000 fish per mile. The section we mostly fish is the first seven miles or the "A" section. The most beautiful river I have ever fished.

THE TRIP: Most of us drive but you can fly to Salt Lake and rent a car. It is about a 4 hour drive. You can drive it in a 14+ hour day or stop in Provo on the way in and fish the Provo River. On the way back we stop at the Virgin River Casino on the Nevada border for incredibly cheap dinners and breakfasts.

THE FISH: Browns, rainbows, cutthroats, and cutt-bows; all big, some huge but generally in the 16–18 inch range. Because of the high scud density the beta carotene in their diet makes the fish truly glow in brilliance.

THE GUIDES: Trout Creek flies is our outfitter of choice. They have a full fly shop and a small general merchandise area. The guides are professional locals with long experience on the river. They handle the

boat, all flies, rigs, tangles, and land fish. They will supply lunch and we try to do a club lunch when possible (Let the stories commence...)

THE RED CANYON LODGE: Individual modern cabins with a bedroom with two beds, bathroom, living room with tables and chairs, microwave and small frig. Very comfortable. We have rooms and guides for 12.

THE FOOD: There's a restaurant at the lodge which is decent, there's a restaurant at the other lodge which has monster breakfasts. Otherwise we're on our own and many make their own breakfasts and take-along lunches for non-guided days.

THE WEATHER: You thought I was going to predict the weather. Nope. We've seen it all from snow, hail, rain, wind, heat, and perfect. As Bob Allen once said, *"There's no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing."*

THE COST: The standard package from Marriott's is \$758 and I would estimate an additional \$600 for all the other stuff. Total approx. \$1,300. To reserve your spot call Brandt at Marriott's (800) 543-0282. Camping at Dripping Springs and not using guides would be about \$600 total. There are variations in between.

EQUIPMENT: 5 and 6 weight rods are perfect. Waders and boots. Raingear.

THE FLIES: Blue-winged olives, midges, scuds, San Juan worms, Chernoble ants, check with the web site as time gets closer: <http://www.fishgreenriver.com>.

MORE INFO: Jeff Sadler at 310-377-3868 or at fotofish@verizon.net.



The White Elephant is Stomping Your Way!

JEFF SADLER, SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

*Give us your Tired,
Your Poor, your Humble Masses...
...Of Fly Fishing STUFF!*

Yes, on Thursday, March 25, 7:00pm it is once again time for Joe, Mark, Dan, and Jeff to make fools of themselves; but don't laugh too loudly, we have ways of getting even.

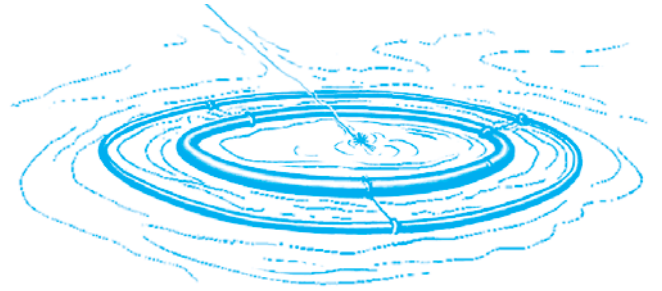
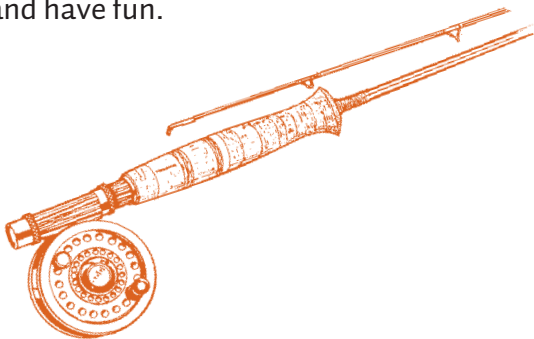
The White Elephant Auction and Clam Chowder-Fest is upon us. It is never too late to donate that brand new Sage TCR (or TCX) rod you can't cast or the fly fishing tie your brother-in-law gave you for Christmas. Have a 100 year supply of pheasant tails? Donate half for the auction, clean out the closet, make your spouse happy. Please hold donations until at least February, we're out of room.

BUY STUFF, bring money, lots of money, big checks (no credit cards). Replace that rusty old rod, reel, or buy a new fly fishing tie, or whatever.

*"Double, double toil and trouble,
Fire burn and cauldron bubble."*

Indulge in the Sunshine Secret Recipe delicious chowder (apparently, the clam lived for one more year).

Again, donations will be accepted but mostly come out and have fun.



Notes from the Pond

DAN RIVETT, CAPTAIN

I hope all of you are enjoying the Holiday season's blessings and the opportunity to gather with friends and family. Although casting time is a little harder to find with shopping and traveling, remember the Southwestern Tournament is approaching. It will be held on Saturday, February 13 and Sunday, February 14 at the Long Beach Casting Club. We still have four Sunday breakfast casts left before the S.W. to get over the jitters of competition. So come on out, get involved, and improve your target and fishing skills in both accuracy and distance.

The tournament events are as follows: Saturday – Trout Fly Accuracy, Bass Bug Accuracy, 1/4 oz. Plug Accuracy, Open Plug Accuracy, Angler's Fly Distance and 1/4 oz. Plug Distance. Sunday – Dry Fly Accuracy, Wet Fly Accuracy, 3/8 oz. Plug Accuracy, 5/8 oz. Plug Accuracy, 5/8 oz. Plug Accuracy Team Event, followed by the awards presentation.

We will need plenty of help for set-up, judging scoring, meals and many other things. Please contact Dan Rivett at drivett@commercelp.com or (562) 833-1457 if you can donate some time. A sign-up sheet is also posted in the clubhouse near the kitchen door.

I'll see you at the casting pond.

Cool Times in Mammoth

BILL BOEHLERT, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

The fifteen brave souls who ventured to Mammoth for the November club trip were rewarded with good fishing, excellent company, and icy temperatures. Fortunately, everyone was well equipped with hats, gloves, and toasty long johns. But aside from the cold, the weather was benign—breezy but not too windy, no rain, and just one day of snow.

Several of us (John Stine, Andy Stillittano, Tom Bristol, Phil Chik and I) went up on Monday in order to get some extra fishing in. We fished Hot Creek, Mammoth Lakes, the Upper Owens, and Pleasant Valley Reservoir. The Mammoth Lakes were incredibly cold and breezy, and even the fish had the good sense to hunker down.

Hot Creek was everyone's favorite, even with the low water. The fishing was a bit tough, but everyone did well. Andy Stillittano inspired all of us with a beautiful 16" brown. Pleasant Valley Reservoir produced for everyone as well. Streamers, especially black woolly buggers, picked up a lot of nice trout. Jeff Gross was the day's champ, hauling in multiple nice browns with a Hornberg.

The rest of the crew arrived Thursday and Friday. Dan Rivett and Jeff Sadler hit Hot Creek for several nice fish. John, Andy, Dan Jamieson, and I joined Mark Flo and Charlie Course at the Upper Owens in the afternoon to tempt the big spawning browns. Charlie solved the mystery of the Upper O with several nice fish. The rest of us enjoyed the scenery.

On Saturday, we all went in different directions. Mark and Charlie hit the East Walker. It fished very well in spite of the extremely low water. Several tried the Lower Owens, but the extremely high flows made the fishing tough. Three of us tried the deep freeze at Crowley. We hung in despite the cold winds and slow fishing. We hauled in several nice fish—Dan avoided a skunk by wrestling in an 18 incher just before the



cold forced us off the water. By the time we reached the car, our nets and waders were frozen. That night we gathered at Shogun's to trade fish stories and tactics.

Despite the icy guides, frozen nets, and frost bit fingers, we were loathe to return to the Southland's warmer temperatures on Sunday. Most of us got in a bit of fishing before hitting the highway. All in all, it was a wonderful trip.

Next time you need to join us!

Stay in my Mammoth Lakes Condo

The Cabins: Unit 14 – 2 Bedroom 2 Bath

Member: **Gary McElligatt** phone (562) 209-5664
Mammoth Reservation Bureau phone (800) 462-5571

Mention LBCC for 20% discount off published rates!

<http://www.mammothvacations.com/>

MacGyver's Corner

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, EDITOR

Many of you will remember the TV show MacGyver where, every week, the lead character would save the world from certain annihilation using nothing more than his Swiss Army knife or some other common device. While we may not be out saving the world, we all use that same brand of ingenuity in our daily lives and, quite often, those “MacGyverisms” apply to our fishing and fly tying.

“MacGyver’s Corner” is a forum to highlight and share the tips, techniques and creations we come up with and share them with club members. So here we go...

Have you been finding some leaks or damp spots inside your breathable waders? Here is a great way to find them and repair them courtesy of FLY FISHING AND FLY TYING MAGAZINE (December 2009 edition).

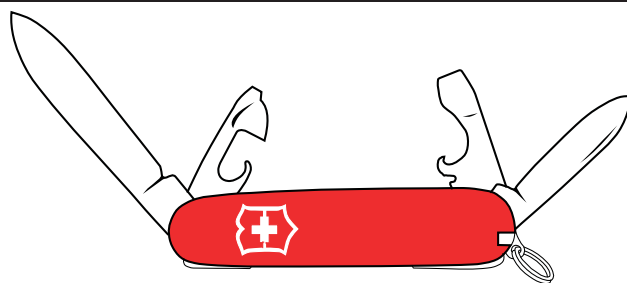
“...Turn your waders inside out and hang them up outside. Put some alcohol into a spray, (I used a hand garden-sprayer), and spray the alcohol onto a small area, the leaks will show up immediately as black dots.

“Mark the dots with a marker pen before the alcohol evaporates and repeat the process on the remaining fabric until all have been treated.

“Apply a sealant to each perforation and leave hanging until the sealant has cured. Don’t put too much on at once or it will run, two thin coats are better.

“I have found that urethane-based sealants work well, most good tackle shops or diving equipment should stock this type of sealant.”

If you have any similar tips or creations send them to me so we can add them to future editions of MacGyver’s Corner. Contact me at jvanderhoof1@gmail.com or by phone at 562-424-7313.



New Membership Requests

MARK TSUNAWAKI,
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The 2009/2010 Board of Directors unanimously accepted the following application for membership:

- ❖ John and Linda Jones of Cerritos, CA
- ❖ Ariel Levin of Los Angeles, CA
- ❖ Laureen Swing of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Long Beach Casting Club now has a total of 498 members—30 Life members, 11 Associate members, 31 Junior members, 426 Individual members.

Please welcome all our new members at the club meetings. Become an active member and participate in the great activities and classes our great club has to offer. Isn’t that why you joined in the first place?

In order to receive your Membership Packet with your Badge, Roster and other LBCC items; you must attend a LBCC monthly meeting where you will be inducted by the Sunshine Committee. Many of you who have joined the Long Beach Casting Club but have not attended a “Monthly Meeting” to receive your packet. Please try to attend and participate in our activities.

If anyone has membership questions, call Mark Tsunawaki at 714-580-4517 or email me at mtsunawaki@yahoo.com.

In Search of Adventure

BOB GRAHAM, MEMBER

I was a nerd in high school. I didn't know it, of course. I was told this on a cold wintry evening in Denver about twenty years ago by my wonderful and ever popular sister. The term was created by Dr. Seuss and wasn't widely used in a derogatory fashion until much later. All I know is, I was an avid reader and school seemed easy for me. Facts seemed to stick in my head and standardized tests proved a snap. Now I reserve my mental faculties for important information such as where I left my car keys.

I played football (big, fat defensive tackle) and I wrestled (heavy-weight). I tried lacrosse but I couldn't understand a game where the only places on the body of your opponent that were off limits and you *couldn't* smash with a 4–5 foot long stick were covered in pads. I was, however, president of the math club and of the chess club. My best friend (or as my sister tells it, my *only* friend) was vice president of the chess club.

As smart as I thought David was (that's David not Dave), his father was truly impressive. His dad was some sort of engineer and actually knew how to operate a slide rule! Of course he kept it safely in his pocket protector which guarded his short sleeve white dress shirts that were slightly translucent so you could see his two strap undershirt. I tried to learn how to use the slide rule and got pretty close to some answers, but I knew intuitively that the square root of 16 was not 1.79534. Thus I became a lawyer rather than an engineer.

David's dad subscribed to National Geographic Magazine. He kept about two year's worth in his den (Bill Gates was still learning his multiplication tables and hadn't invented the computer or the home office yet). The rest of the magazines were stored in the basement in neatly labeled banker's boxes, approximately five years to a box. Two urban myths emerged surrounding National Geographic. One was that bare chested females were photographed only



in native environs and then only in costume. The other was that every group photo on any exhibition featured one of the explorers flipping the bird to the photographer.

Playboy was just getting started but it was sold on the uppermost shelf and was wrapped in plain brown paper bearing the rabbit logo. So National Geographic was the only outlet for the raging hormones of youth.

Perhaps out of nostalgia then, when the NatGeo catalog arrived, I just had to order the complete set of magazines from 1888 to 2008! They were delivered a few days later in a small box on six CD's. Totally compact. Now I can do my research in the privacy of my own home.

Along with my purchase came yet another catalog stating affirmatively, "It is not too late to order for Christmas." So I thumbed through the catalog again and happened upon the ideal gift for Gary Charles: the Adventure Edition Road Atlas. In addition to accurate maps (What a concept!), it "...highlights America's top 100 adventure destinations chosen by the editors of National Geographic Adventure magazine..." Clearly this seemed like it would be perfect for Gary.

But then I thought, as Gary might, how much of an adventure could there be if roads went to them? And the roads appeared on *accurate* maps? What's with that? Many trips I've had with Gary where neither of us knew where we were going until we got there and then we didn't know where we'd been. No, the perfect gift for Gary has got to be EXTREME LIVING—THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF RISKY VENTURES AND HAZARDOUS PURSUITS.

Merry Christmas, Gary.

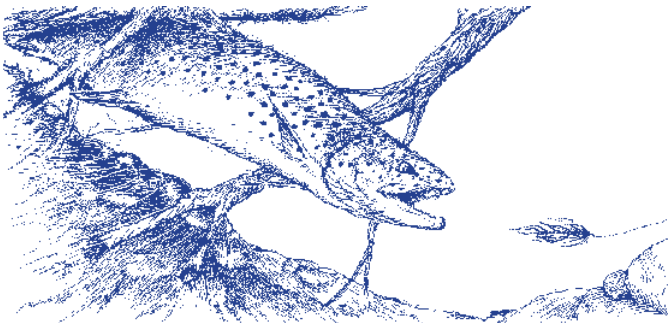
Bolibokka Update

BOB GRAHAM, MEMBER

The Fly Shop in Redding has negotiated for the exclusive rights to manage the fishing camps at Bolibokka along the lowest seven miles of the McCloud River flowing into Shasta Lake. The good news is that they are maintaining the same rental rates as last year: \$7,000 per week of the Clubhouse and Rock House (where we stayed in September) and \$4,200 for the Way Station further up river.

The bad news is two fold. First, there is a movement afoot to raise the water level in the McCloud River to accommodate white water kayakers. At flows of 400 cfs last September, everyone in our group slipped on the rocks and went swimming...except for sure-footed Dennis Swing, of course. If flows are increased for the boaters, the conditions would simply be unsafe for fishing—or at least unsafe for wading.

The other bit of bad news is that The Fly Shop is trying to reinstitute the Bolibokka Club. As in the past, this will be the exclusive organization using the river: another rich-man's-only location. Annual dues are set at \$500. Only members and guests can use the facilities although there appears to be no barrier to entry. Indeed, all nonmembers can apply for reservations but will have to join the Club in order to go.



There appears to be few benefits to joining the Club. You do get a piece of Club logo merchandise: in 2010 a neat baseball cap. When the Hills family owned the Club, they d hosted an annual dinner for all members at the San Francisco Yacht Club. This is a



very private club in an impressive facility of polished wood and brass right on the Bay. Trophy cases line the walls containing awards, plaques and photos of races in the Bay and off-shore. Floor to ceiling glass sliders are opened on the two days in summer when the fog permits, thus joining the deck and the dining room. The bar is small but the drinks are ample and expensive. For obvious reasons relating to the summer chill in The City, the dinner was always held in the spring. If you are going the San Francisco in the summer, be sure to wear a flower in your hair and bring your down jacket.

But we're not going there; and The Fly Shop has not revealed their plans on where the annual club dinner would be celebrated under their management.

One advantage to membership is the ability to have preference for the same week for the following year. That's good news if you chose a good week your first time there. I didn't. There were still triple digit temperatures in mid-September. So, after consultation with those who went last year, I have made tentative reservations for the last week in October, 2010.

The decision point is **NOW**. Reservations must be confirmed by January 31, 2010 and the 50% deposit is due by February 15th. All dates not confirmed by January 31st are released and available for use by others. I therefore need your confirmed interest and a non-refundable deposit if you want to join us. Only half of those who went before want to return.



FLYBUY 2010



A Fundraiser for the SouthWest Council, Federation of Fly Fishers and An Opportunity For YOU to Learn and Improve in Your Sport!

Join us for a day of fly tying, casting instruction and a chance to pick up some lightly used gear at a great price while helping the SWCFFF.

Date – February 20, 2010, Saturday 9-4

Place – Long Beach Casting Club

Cost – \$10.00 includes BBQ burgers and dogs

RSVP – for casting, leader class and food – January 30, 2010

818.7573474 or secretary@southwestcouncilfff.org

GARAGE SALE

We need your members to donate items to be sold in a fishing garage sale. These can be rods, reels, lines, clothing, vests or accessories. We are going to lay it all out on a table or a tarp and take the best offer we can get. Anything not sold will be donated to **Project Healing Waters, Mammoth High School Fly Fishing Club or as needed by the SWC member clubs**. Let's get items that are in working order and have a value of at least \$10. This not a swap meet – it is a HUGE YARD SALE. This is a great opportunity to get rid of extras, duplicates and unwanted gifts. Give any items to your SWCFFF representative or contact us directly.

CASTING

Want to be a better caster at the end of the day? Take a quick lesson and receive pointers from Certified Federation Instructors. For the nominal fee of \$1.00 per minute (15 minutes minimum), you will have your casting analyzed by one of our great instructors. Single handed, Spey, double-haul - whatever you need, we can provide. Lessons will be available from 11am until 3 pm. Advance reservations are necessary so that we will have enough instructors on hand. Please RSVP by January 30 of your interest and approximate time. We will take care of the rest.

FLY TYING

You may not be aware of this, but the SWC clubs have some of the most prominent and innovative tyers around. Many will be here for demonstrations of their techniques. And some of their special flies will be available for purchase. There will also be an auction for the really special one-of-a-kind flies by these tiers and clubs have donated flies for purchase.

In a related class, Mas Okui (Hot Creek Guru) will be teaching how to tie his freshwater leaders. The class is 30.00 which goes to purchase the leader kit with enough material to create bunches of leaders that make the manufactured ones blush in shame. Limited to the first 20 people.

Discovering Hatch and Release

MICK WOODBURY, PRESIDENT

Even without rods and reels, the 14 determined anglers who braved wind and rain to reach the Leon Raymond Hubbard Jr. Marine Fish Hatchery in Carlsbad tallied more large fish than any trip in Club history.

Tanks with approximately 170 white sea bass brood fish in the 40 to 60 pound range were just part of the fascinating day. Each tank is set on its own spawn cycle, using variations of temperature and duration of light to force one tank to spawn approximately every three months. When the temperature is raised to approximately 66°F, it approximates summer and forces the fish into a spawn cycle.

George Slim our premier guide, ichthyologist and one-time professional fish farmer, took us through every aspect of the process, from gathering eggs (like 1 mm clear glass bubbles); hatching (48 hours); growing; tagging and release. The process takes about approximately 120 days. After three to four-years in the wild, enough time to spawn at least once, the fingerlings reach the legal catch size of 28-inches. They can grow to 92 pounds and reach length of nearly 6 feet.

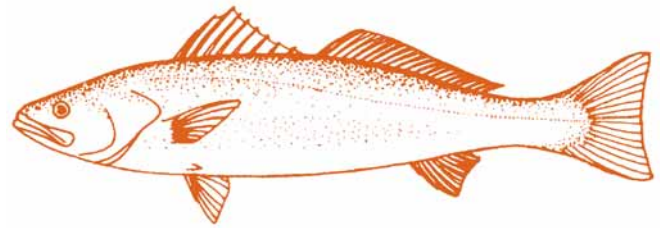
In the 50s, recreational catches of white sea bass (actually a member of the croaker family) numbered 50,000 annually. By the 90s, the number had dropped to 2,000 and the Hubbs Sea World Research Institute in Mission Bay began the replenishment program.

Since 1995, the Carlsbad facility has released 1.4 million fish into the ocean. 125,000 have been released this year and when the facility increases the number of brood stock to 200, it will be possible to release some 350,000 annually.

Many of the fish are transferred to 13 privately operated grow out pens located from San Diego to

Santa Barbara. They're moved to the pens when they're about 3 inches long and grow through regular feeding and constant care by volunteers until they reach a length of 10 to 12 inches. The mortality ratios greatly improve as the fish get larger.

The closest pen to the Club can be seen from the Warner Avenue Bridge about two blocks inland from PCH in Huntington Beach. Its acronym sign, HOPE, (Harbour Ocean Preservation Enhancement) represents what the enhancement program is giving this magnificent fish.



Maggie Merriman Entomology Workshop

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, EDITOR

On Saturday, April 3, 2010 join Maggie Merriman at the Long Beach Casting Club for her annual Basic Entomology Workshop for Fly Fishers. You will learn how to “Match the Hatch” and how to select the correct fly for a given situation. Maggie stresses the use of common English names and not the biological names associated with entomology, so you can leave your *Acroneuria californicas* at home.

The class will begin around 9:00 am and run until 12:30 to 1:00 pm. The cost for the workshop is \$45.00 and includes samples of insects, corresponding flies and an extensive handout. Bring a snack, note pad and some fly boxes to look at and compare the insects. You must Pre-Register for the workshop by mailing the fee to: Maggie Merriman, 19791 Coastline Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92648, or you can call her with any questions you may have at 714-969-5829.

Fly of the Month: Lawson's Hackle Emerger

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, EDITOR

When was the last time you really thought about what you are doing when you sit down at the vise and start tying? With all the feathers, fur and other sundry materials at desk, just what is it that you are preparing to do? Think about it, maybe you are preparing to be a magician.

Fly-tying is all about magic. Creating an illusion. Smoke and mirrors. Tying a fly that looks so much like the actual insect that it appears as though it will fly off of the table is the illusion of realism. Next time you get a chance to see Bill Blackstone tie take a look at his flies and ask him about “smoke and mirrors”.

On the other side of the illusionary coin is this month's pattern. The Hackle Emerger is a fly that has been around for a long time and was championed by Mike Lawson, the owner of Henry's Fork Angler. This pattern has that vague, “buggy” look that gives a lifelike quality but without looking exacting or realistic. The more this fly is used and the more beat up it gets, the buggier it looks and the better it fishes. The hackles in this fly create the illusion of the legs and wings—the wings of a mayfly that are not yet fully developed and usable. I have changed the original pattern's tail from hackle fibers to Zelon to imitate an emerging dun in the surface film with its exoskeleton or shuck still attached. All in all this an imitation of an insect that is very vulnerable—a trait quite common in many species of mayflies. More importantly it is a stage that fish key on having learned early on that their meal will not readily fly away.

A help in tying this pattern is learning to fold a hackle. This is technique allows you to tie the feather in by the tip and wind using a smaller, less bulky stem. It also allows the hackle to flow back naturally over the body without being forced down by unneeded thread wraps. It is a very useful ability that creates a better looking and stronger fly but it takes time and practice to master. Learning to fold a hackle is a fly-tying right of passage rivaling the whip finish. This is definitely not something you learn to do by using your best Whiting hackles!

Now, sit down and make some magic.

Materials for Tying the Hackle Emerger:

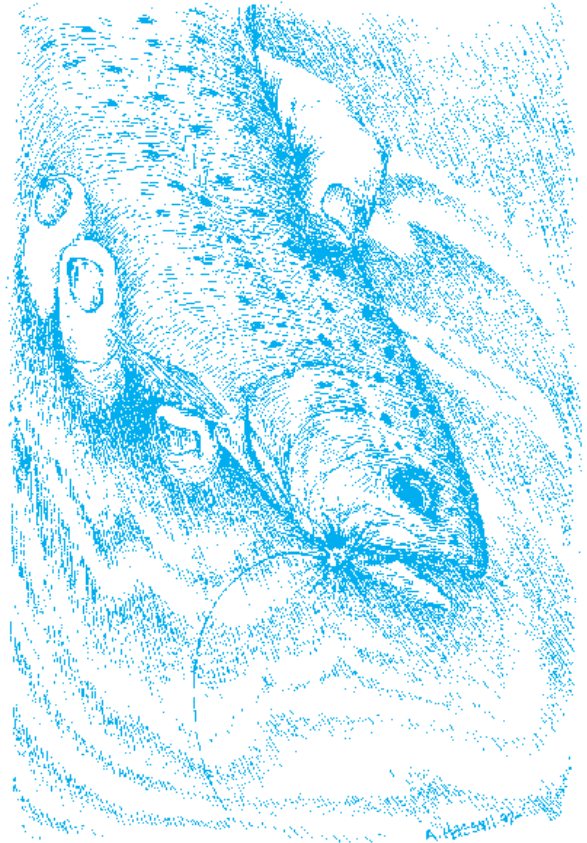
- Hook: Dry fly, light wire hook in sizes to match the natural (8 to 20)
- Thread: 6/0 or 8/0 in a color to match the natural
- Tail: Zelon fibers in a color matching or lighter than the body or hackle fibers to match the natural
- Body: Dubbing to match the natural (Small Western Green Drake is shown)
- Ribbing: If required in a color to match the natural (yellow NCP rod winding thread is shown)
- Leg Hackle: Color to match the natural (yellow-olive dyed grizzly is shown)
- Wing Hackle: Color to match the natural (slate dyed grizzly is shown)



Instructions for Tying the Hackle Emerger:

- 1 Attach the thread to the hook behind the headspace and wind evenly to the bend. The original pattern calls for about 6 to 8 hackle fibers to be tied in. In my opinion Zelon works better so select a dozen or more strands depending on the size of the natural and tie them in. The Zelon imitates an insect with a trailing nymphal shuck; the color should be lighter than the body to help it make it look more translucent.
- 2 Tie in the ribbing on the underside of the hook. The NCP rod winding thread will not change color when it becomes wet. Apply dubbing to the thread and wind a smoothly tapered body to a point just shy of the headspace. Wind the ribbing evenly down the body in the reverse direction of the dubbing body. This will make the fly stronger and keep the ribbing on top of the body without sinking down between the wraps.
- 3 Select a hackle for the legs. The length of the barbs are a little shorter than normal—equal to the gap or slightly longer. The next step is to fold the hackle. This will allow the feather barbs to lay back naturally toward the bend of the hook as the hackle is being wrapped instead of forcing them back with your fingers and thread wraps later. To fold the feather attach a pair of hackle pliers to the base of the feather and hold the tip of the feather in your off hand by with the shiny side facing you. In your primary hand cradle the hackle pliers between your little finger and your palm holding the feather straight and taut.

Folding a hackle is accomplished by working each feather in sections from the tip to the butt. With your thumb and index finger of your primary hand together. Place them down on the stem near the tip of the feather so that the stem slides into the “V” between the thumb and index finger. While keeping your thumb still, firmly and forcibly push the index finger over the stem and thumb forcing the fibers to the opposite side of the stem. Move your thumb and index finger down to the next



section of the stem and repeat until the entire hackle has been folded. This does take practice so do not waste good hackles. Practice on the long hackles that are at the butt of the neck. Also, remember that this is not a gentle process—the force I use between my thumb and index finger in folding a hackle is more akin to grinding than rubbing. Tie the hackle in by the tip and wind about 2 or 3 turns of hackle and tie off.

- 4 Repeat the hackle folding process for the wing hackle. Tie the hackle in by the tip and wind 2 or 3 turns. Form a neat, small head and whip finish. Apply some head cement and start planning your next trip to your favorite stream.

Note: Other leg/wing hackle combinations for common insects are: Pale Morning Dun – ginger/pale dun; Blue-Winged Olive – olive/dark dun; Mahogany Dun – brown/dark dun. Always try to use grizzly hackled dyed to these colors. The barring in grizzly hackle adds more life and “magic” to the fly!

Long Beach Casting Club Trips for 2010

BILL BOEHLERT, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

The new year is upon us, and it's time to line up your fishing trips for 2010. We will be starting with the traditional trips to the Lower Owens with Dan Rivett and Yash Iseda. These are always popular trips—several folks already have their motel reservations. Don't wait too long.

Saltwater aficionados will be dusting off their clousers for the Newport Bay Bass Tourney in March. Last year's winner Mark Tsunawaki will be leading the charge this year.

Jeff Sadler's trip to Green River has been moved up to April to avoid the high water releases in May. I have penciled in Mammoth for the May trip, but I am open to any and all suggestions.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the schedule, be sure to e-mail me at blboehlert@verizon.net or call me at 714-374-6491.

Come join us!

2009–2010 TRIPS TO DATE

DATE	TRIP & TRIP LEADER
January 8–10	Lower Owens #1 with Dan Rivett
January 27	Lower O. #2 Pre-Trip at 7:00 PM
February 5–7	Lower Owens #2 with Yash Iseda
March 10	Newport Bay Pre-Trip at 7:00 PM
March 20	Newport Bay Bass Tourney with Mark Tsunawaki
April 14	Green River Pre-Trip
April 25–29	Green River with Jeff Sadler
May ?	Mammoth Pre-Trip
May ?	Mammoth Trip with ?



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Join Sierra Pacific Fishing Adventures on a 7 day, 7 night package from June 27 to July 8, 2010 for a week of fishing for Bonefish and Trevally. We will arrive in Honolulu on June 27 and return to the mainland on July 8, 2010. All Meals, fishing license, applicable taxes and ground transportation, air transportation to and from Christmas Island are included. Not included is airfare to and from Honolulu, 2 nights lodging/meals in Honolulu and tips.

The trip will be limited to 8 people with the cost per person at **\$3290** per person double occupancy. A deposit of 50% is required upon booking.



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Calendar of Events

January

3	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Casting Games: 3/8, TF, BB, SHD, 1/4D
4	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
5	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Woolly Bugger
7	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night at the Pond: Spey Casting
8-10	Weekend		Club Trip: Lower Owens
12	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Muddler Minnow
13	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
14	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night at the Pond: Spey Casting
17	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Casting Games: 1/4, 5/8, DF, WF, 5 wt Combo
19	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Elk-Hair Caddis
21	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night at the Pond: Spey Casting
24	Sunday	8:00 AM	Pond and Clubhouse Cleaning
26	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Adams
27	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Pre-Trip Meeting: Lower Owens
28	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: The Rat Pat From Xcalak
31	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Casting Games: Open, TF, BB, SHD

February

1	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
2	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Parachute Adams
4	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night at the Pond: Spey Casting
5-7	Weekend		Club Trip: Lower Owens
9	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Humpy
10	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
11	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night at the Pond: Spey Casting
13	Saturday	9:00 AM	Southwestern Tournament: TF, BB, Open, 1/4, 1/4D & SHD
14	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast hosted by the Sunshine Committee:
		9:00 AM	Southwestern Tournament: DF, WF, 3/8, 5/8 & 5/8 Team
16	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Royal Wulff
18	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night at the Pond: Spey Casting
20-21	Weekend	9:00 AM	Pasadena Show
21	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Casting Games: 1/4, 3/8, 5/8, TF, DF, BB
23	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Second Session Begins
24	Wednesday	7:00 PM	On the River Clinic
25	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: to be determined
28	Sunday	8:00 AM	Pond and Clubhouse Cleaning

March

1	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
2	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Second Session
3-7			Fred Hall Show
3	Wednesday	7:00 PM	On the River Clinic
4	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night at the Pond: Spey Casting
7	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Casting Games: Director's Handicap 1/4, 3/8 TF, BB, TFD
9	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Second Session
10	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
		7:00 PM	On the River Clinic
11	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night at the Pond: Spey Casting
12	Friday	6:00 PM	Spey Clinic
16	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Second Session
18	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night at the Pond: Spey Casting
20-21	Weekend	8:00 AM	On the River Clinic
23	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Second Session
24	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Casting Instructor's Clinic
25	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: to be determined
30	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying: Second Session
31	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Casting Instructor's Clinic



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