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Newsletter of the Long Beach Casting Club, Established 1925

November 2010

www.longbeachcastingclub.org

(562) 433-9408

Leader's Line ...

The 2011 ACA Tournament to be Held at LBCC

RICH GARRETT, PRESIDENT

This will be the ninth time that LBCC has hosted the ACA National Championship, with our first event dating back to 1947. The other dates include 1954, 1961, 1971, 1978, 1984, and 2000 and most recently in 2006. Most of our current members probably have only had the privilege to participate in the last two or three of these events. However, with some of the comments made by Jack Turner at the September meeting, where he reflected on some very old stories about the "JA" award, there is a good possibility that he has been around for all of them.

The tournament draws casters from all over the US and Canada. Although some of the best casters in the world regularly attend, one does not need to be "World Class" to participate. While the tournament does not divide casters based upon their skill level like our club casts, many participants cast just for the fun of it. There are divisions for Men, Senior Men, Women and Intermediate. Anyone with some basic casting skills in one or more of the games offered is welcome to participate. This means you. Yes, you.

If you do have a desire to participate, there is adequate time to hone your skill in one or more of the games offered. In fact Mark Tsunawaki (One of our clubs most accomplished casters) has been offering special instruction on how to cast each of those games. These instructional sessions have been held on Thursday evenings for the past few weeks and will continue (I'm going out on a limb here Mark) as long as there is serious interest from the members to learn.

Some of the games offered are: Dry Fly, Trout Fly and Bass Bug Accuracy; ¼ oz, ⅜ oz and ⅝ oz Plug Accuracy; Angler's Fly, Single-Hand & Two-Handed Fly Distance and ¼ oz, and ⅝ oz Plug Distance.

The organization and production of this event required literally hundreds of hours to put on a quality event. Fortunately, due to our previous experience in hosting the tournament, we have been able to establish a very thorough organizational chart (thanks to Mark Lipe and his team in prior tournaments)

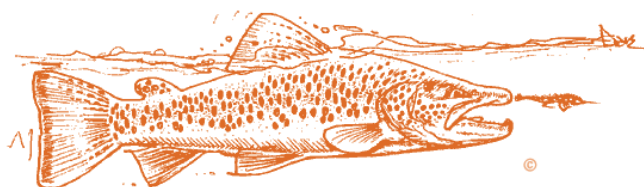
For the 2011 Tournament, we have been fortunate to have Mark Tsunawaki and Bob Middo volunteer to be the "Commanders in Chief" to oversee and run the event. Frank Kropacek and the Captain for the 2011-2012 year will also be on the primary team to, as Larry the Cable Man says: "Get 'er done"

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One part of the tournament, the Distance Casting, is held off-site at El Dorado Park Glider Field. We are fortunate to have Chris Korich, from Northern California and the ACA, volunteer to run the distance events next year. Some of you may remember Chris, as he recently conducted as "Games Clinic" at LBCC that was a great motivation to new and seasoned casters. We appreciate his assistance and I am sure his help will greatly add to the success of the LBCC Tournament.

In closing, the coming months are going to be very active around the club, on the surface and in the background. Don't miss this chance to participate both in the competition and preparations for the Tournament. The opportunity does not come often and may not be back for a while.



West Fork San Gabriel River Trip

JIM THOMASON, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Wonderful dry fly fishing in Los Angeles? If you thought you had to drive 6 hours to cast to rising trout, you've been missing out on a wonderful experience right here in your own backyard.

This month's outing will be to the West Fork of the San Gabriel River. Once you get past the first two miles and enter the wild trout catch and release section, you'll find it hard to believe you're surrounded by 12 million people. If you haven't been on any club outings this year, make sure to join us. It's a great chance to practice your specialty casting, mending, presentation.

Techniques, flies, carpooling, etc. will be discussed at the Pre-Trip Wednesday November 3 at 7:00 PM.

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Orvis National Casting Competition Course at LBCC

BOB MIDDO, MEMBER

The Orvis National Casting Competition Course located in Bend, Oregon is coming to Long Beach. Hutch Hutchinson, the Orvis Southwest Regional Business Manager, FFF Master Certified Casting Instructor and designer of the Orvis/Old Mill Fly Casting Course will be coming to our Club on Thursday evening, December 9 at 7:00 PM to discuss and demonstrate the reasons and benefits as to why the course was developed.

Plus, as an added bonus, Hutch will set up 5 or 6 of the actual holes used in Oregon to hold a team competition for our club members. There are even prizes for the top three finishing teams! Like Bob Graham, I can tell you from personal experience that it is a lot of fun and encourage everyone to come out and try it.

If you are wondering what's the difference between what we already do and the Orvis course. Let me say that "THIS IS NOT ACA TARGET CASTING as we know it. The Orvis course places an emphasis on strategy. JUST LIKE REAL FLY FISHING". You would never go to a new river or stream without at least walking it a bit and checking out the water, looking for the best casting positions, etc. before fishing. That's common sense strategy. Well this is how this course forces you to think. It's pretty cool and quite unique.

Now don't think that this will be a loaded tournament with only the best casters/teams winning—not so! Like golf, the course and the rules have built in handicaps/levels which serve to level the playing field.

So don't be shy; come out and cast on December 9.



Fishing the Big Horn with Rick Hilles

BILL BOEHLERT, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

One of the most fabled fly fishing rivers in the United States is the Big Horn, in the wilds of southern Montana. It is one of the most popular destinations for one obvious reason—big fish and lots of them.

Due to the distance involved, there are several club members (including myself) who haven't yet fished this storied waterway. Most have some vague plans for visiting it sometime, though. For all of those who plan to fish it one day, be sure to attend our meeting on Thursday, November 18.

Our November speaker is Rick Hilles, who has had the good fortune to fish the Big Horn twice a year for the past six or seven years. He will be covering everything you need to know to launch a successful trip, whether economy or high-end, with a guide or without, wading or floating. His presentation will include how to prepare the trip, what conditions you might expect, what seasons are best, the different areas to fish, as well as flies and rigging techniques.

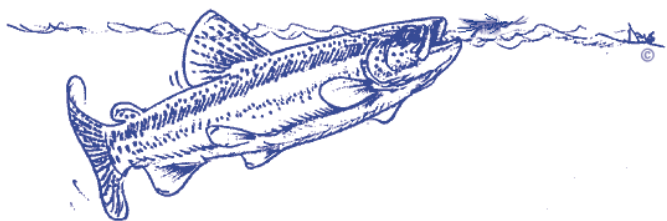
Please notice that the meeting is *not* on the last Thursday of the month due to Thanksgiving. Once again, it is the previous Thursday, November 18. Join us for a great presentation.

Elusive Lahontan Cutt's Remain Elusive

JIM THOMASON, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

The September club trip was an exploratory trip to scout out the waters just beyond the usual boundaries of our many Eastern Sierra club outings. Targeted waters included the East Carson River and Heenan Lake in the Markleeville area as well as the Nevada side of the East Walker River near Bridgeport. All three waters were fished plus a couple more.

The initial impetus for the trip goal was to land some of the large Lahontan Cutthroat raised in Heenan Lake. We don't often have access to this species in the waters we fish so fishing where they are raised seemed like a great idea. Based on the results of our efforts, simply having access does not appear to guarantee success. Upon arrival at the lake we were slightly discouraged to hear that the lake has not been fishing very well this year. It appears they were waiting for a cold snap to turn the fishing on which happened the day after we left the area.



Undaunted, we proceeded to launch our flotilla. We floated over every area of the lake with any variety of flies but it was Van Lloyd, our lone shore angler that landed the big fish of the day, a 22 inch. John Stine landed fish of 11 and 19 inches. Jeff Gross had a nice fish on but was unable to land it. Al and Judy Ross and I were left to ponder the possibilities. Kaz Hata fished a couple days later and landed a cutthroat as well.

The East Carson was much kinder to us. Flowing low and crystal clear, it took a little while to get it dialed in. Fishing later in the day really helped as did the use of



small flies. We focused on the Wild Trout section below Hangman's Bridge although Bruce Baldwin and I could not resist casting to some of the huge stocked fish planted upstream a ways (landed only one 15" brown but it was sure fun trying as the big fish would move over to inspect your offering only to offer a last second refusal). You could hike in a very short way or make the 30-40 minute hike back to some of the larger pools. Fish were caught in both areas and all in between. It was mainly dry flies with fish seemingly coming from nowhere to hit your fly. Several fish in the teens were landed with the maximum being a 20 inch rainbow (on a streamer).

Van and I sampled the West Carson briefly one evening. Much smaller than the East Carson, it was a rock hopping adventure up a series of plunge pools. I really like this kind of fishing casting above you into each successive pool. Unfortunately, we didn't get started until almost sunset so it'll have to wait until next time to get fully explored.

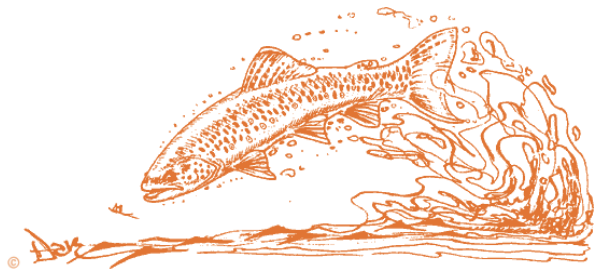
Several of us sampled the West Walker for an hour or so on the way to Bridgeport. It was flowing very low but we still managed to land a few fish. This is another river that warrants further exploration but I would try it earlier in the year next time.

The East Walker is known for large browns and lately, large crowds. Since we weren't going to be there until the weekend we thought it might be very crowded in the Miracle Mile section just below the dam so several of us bought Nevada licenses and went downstream

across the border. John and Thea Lincoln pre-fished it Friday before the rest of us got there. John reported landing numerous fish but none of any considerable size. Apparently Thea was able to get into a couple lunkers. Saturday we all spread out and hit different sections of the river.

Like the California portion, the Nevada portion is walled in by Tamarisk shrubs along most of the river. You had to find an opening and almost crawl into the river. Once there it was a matter of fishing up or down to the next access hole. The river was flowing at a nice 130cfs which was very wadeable when done so with caution. Everyone reported similar results; several fish each in the 8-12" range with none of the 18-20" fish we were hoping for. Bruce, along with wife Dorothy, fished just below the Miracle Mile to several visible fish but was unable to coax any strikes. Regardless, it was a nice way to spend a day exploring several new sections of the river.

A bumpy ride up a long dirt road to see and sample Green Creek rounded out our trip. This looks to be fine place to spend a day with the 2 weight exploring the many meadows, ponds, riffles and runs a little earlier in the year when you want to avoid the crowds on the East Walker. We fished an hour for a fish or two and got out just as the skies were darkening and the rain started falling.



We experienced some beautiful water, cute towns, and willing fish (except at Heenan Lake). We were a little late in the year for the better flows but it was the only time Heenan Lake is open. Early September would still allow you to avoid the summer crowds and heat but fish with a little more water. I'm already trying to figure out how to work in a return trip next year.

Kern River Fly Fishing Tournament

JIM THOMASON, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

The Southern Sierra Fly Fishing Club in Kernville is hosting a fly fishing tournament to benefit the Southwest Council of FFF. The event details are:

Date:	Saturday November 6, 2010
Place:	Kern River
Participants:	5 members per club 5 controllers (monitors) per Club
Entry Fee:	\$125 per club, \$25 per member
Benefits:	Test your skills against the other SWCFFF clubs. Meet members belonging to other clubs. Help raise funds for the SWCFFF.



Each club selects their best 5 fly fishers to this event, based upon their own criteria. The tournament format is fashioned after the U.S. fly fishing trials: there will be defined beats, controllers, points and an awards banquet. There will be two-2 hour sessions, one in the morning & another in the afternoon; each on separate beats in the 20 mile section on the upper Kern.

RULES:

- 1) Barbless flies; 2) No split shot or sinkers; 3) No indicator; 4) 18" between flies; 5) No tying off the bend of the hook; 6) No beadhead larger than 1/8 oz or 3/8 mm; 7) Flies must be fully dressed

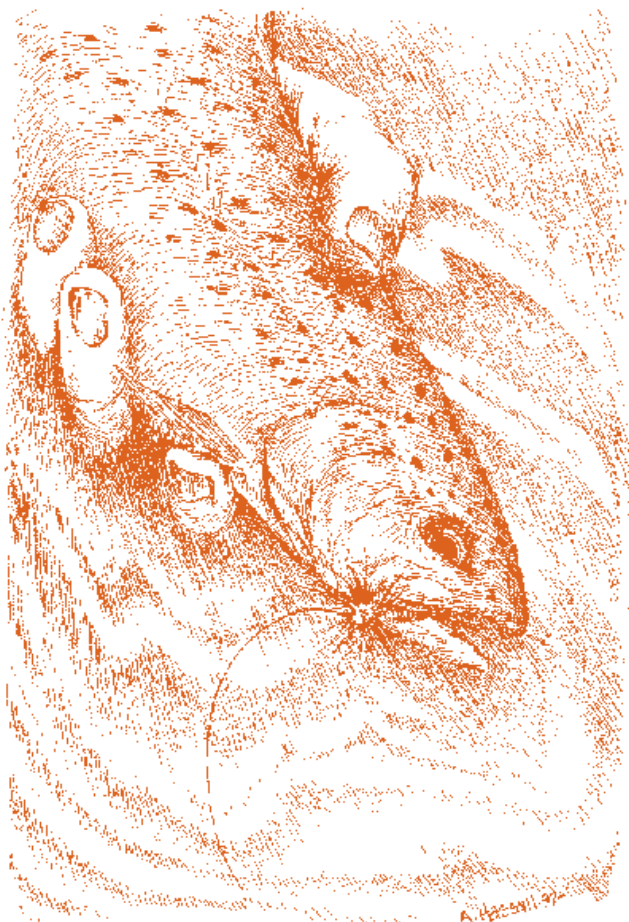
We are requesting each participating Club to bring 5 other members to assist in the Tournament as controllers. Their job will be to verify and record each fish and monitor rules compliance.

Let me know if you're interested and if we get enough people we'll field a team.

What Do Sixteen Boys Have in Common? The Fly Fishing Merit Badge—and a Smile!

CRAIG HAINES, BOY SCOUT LIAISON

As many of you will recall, Troop 14 visited us at the clubhouse this past summer to work on the Fly Fishing Merit Badge. In September, sixteen of those Boy Scouts camped and fished with ten of their adult leaders at Benton Crossing on the Owens River to finish out their Fly Fishing Merit Badge requirements.



After a long Friday night drive, most of the Scouts arrived between 10:00 PM and midnight, Friday.

Despite the late drive and 24 degree early morning temperature, most were up early in anticipation of pursuing the wily Owens River trout.

After breakfast we split into smaller groups and headed for our chosen water, where we swung our wet hackles, lobed and drifted our nymphs and flung and stripped our Woolly Buggers. After many casts, much knot tying and too many tangles the boys had completely terrorized the local trout population. So, we all headed back to camp for a break and some lunch. There were stories told of missteps, of wet feet and of tangles and of trout that got away—even of some that were caught, which were proudly displayed to the group with big smiles and nods all around.

After lunch, the boys worked on several other merit badge requirements and cleaned their fish before setting out again in search of the wily trout. And so it went for the rest of the afternoon, as the boys explored Fly Fishing on one of our favorite club waters, the Owens.

As the Scouts were collecting campsite litter and they made their final sweep of the area before leaving, I saw smiles on their faces in spite of their chore. The weekend had left its mark. Smiling Boy Scouts who had shared the adventure of exploring fly fishing.

I would like to extend a big Thank You to all 25 LBCC members who pitched in your equipment and your time to work with the Boy Scouts from this summer and on the September trip.

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Project Healing Waters on the Big Horn River

CAROLE KATZ,
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL COORDINATOR

In January of this year, Mark and Rachel Stroda of Montana Fly Fishers and the Leaning Tree Lodge offered to donate lodging and meals for four nights to eight disabled veterans. Planning started almost immediately. Participants were selected from throughout the Southwest Region based on having done something beyond the norm, such as helping with the program, providing transportation for someone who cannot drive, placing in the national rod building contest, etc. The final eight were special people from three VA hospitals, one from the Sepulveda Valley VA, one from Menlo Park VA, and six from the Long Beach VAMC.

The vets prepared for this trip for several months with much anticipation. This included getting fitted with waders, wading boots, long underwear, PHWFF logo shirts and other gear. They worked on casting techniques and practiced drift boat etiquette.

The six men and two women departed from Long Beach, San Jose and Los Angeles airports on Monday, October 4, and met in Salt Lake City for the final leg of the journey to Billings. There they were met by a shuttle for the ride to Ft. Smith and the Leaning Tree Lodge, where each vet found a Montana Fly Fishers cap on their pillow. After getting settled in their comfortable and homey rooms, there was a grand dinner with the hosts and the Fly Rod Chronicles crew.

We fished for three full days during a window of perfect weather. Some vets with physical limitations stayed in the drift boats, while others used the boats to get to wading spots. All got valuable instruction from the group of superb and patient guides. There was ample opportunity to use dry flies and nymphs as well as a few streamers. Clouds of trico's and pseudo trico's were impressive. The Big Horn River



changes seasonally and this time of year the die off of floating grasses from upstream and the bottom moss throughout provided some challenges, but everyone became proficient in the "Big Horn moss slap." Every vet caught fish, most of which were in the 14-20 inch range. Fly Rod Chronicles filmed with two cameras all day for three days and did personal interviews that will be in a show to be aired in February.

This trip is the culmination of a lot of hard work on the part of many people. Words cannot adequately express our gratitude to Mark and Rachel Stroda for their generosity and hospitality. Every morning Rachel cooked breakfast for the eight vets and all seven guides, and put together 20 lunches, all of which were excellent. Mid-afternoon she was back in the kitchen preparing appetizers, and then cooked a superb dinner for thirteen people. No one went hungry. The Stroda's additionally donated two boats and guides for the TV crew. Because the Leaning Tree Lodge was full with our veterans, the Big Horn Trout Shop donated rooms for the TV crew, and the State of Montana provided waivers for fishing licenses for the vets.

A giant thank you goes to those who helped with fund-raising to pay the guides and airfare, and those generous individuals who made contributions. When the Fly Rod Chronicles show airs, you will see the big, big smiles you put on the faces of these deserving disabled veterans, and you will hear their statements about what this trip has meant. Thank you all so very much.

Loops of a Tailing Variety...

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, EDITOR

It's a frightening sight to see. That top leg of the loop—yes, the one that's *supposed* to be on top—coming up from below the bottom leg. Oh, and the knots in the leader and line; jeez, what a mess.

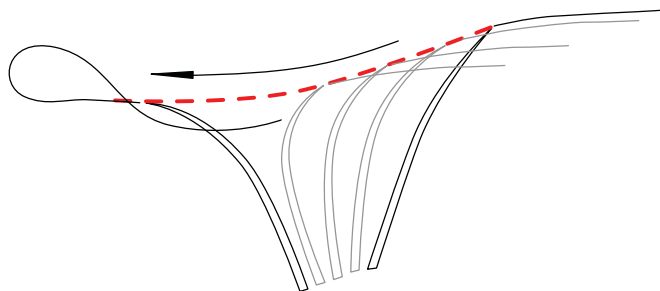
The bane of fly casting is the tailing loop. Nothing in casting creates more grief to casters and instructors. Tailing loops also produce more Band-Aid fixes and half-cocked, misunderstood remedies than any other problem in fly casting. I have seen a person's entire casting style change trying to minimize the problem, but not fix it. It's just disguised to look like a side-arm cast or a pulled open wide loop on the forward cast. What's disappointing is how they declare that this is a style of casting designed for wind and fishing and they point to a myriad of guides who do the same thing. Excuse me, just because someone is a guide doesn't mean they can fix their own casting problems—and hey, you guides that cast like this (you know who you are), don't get mad at me, just work on your casting. Besides, with all of the excellent instructors down at the club, what happened to solving the problem instead of using a Band-Aid to hide it?

So let's talk loops and specifically, tailing loops.

Whenever we discuss casting loops we need to address two issues: the path of the rod tip and its acceleration. These two always determine whether a cast will have a beautiful, tight, aerodynamic loop, a wide loop or one that tails. When the rod tip travels in a relatively straight line with the proper acceleration the result will be a nice, well-formed loop. If the rod tip travels in a domed, convex path with the proper acceleration, the resulting cast will be a wide loop or non-loop. Finally, when the rod tip travels in a dished, bowl-shaped, concave path, then we have a tailing loop. Please note that I did not mention proper acceleration in reference to a tailing loop and you will see why shortly.

There are essentially three primary causes for a dished path and a tailing loop: 1) Inappropriate Acceleration of the rod; 2) A Push-Pull of the casting arm and rod (think train piston) and; 3) a High to Low to High path of the rod and casting arm. Both the Push-Pull and the High-Low-High are relatively uncommon so let's go straight to the real problem, inappropriate acceleration...

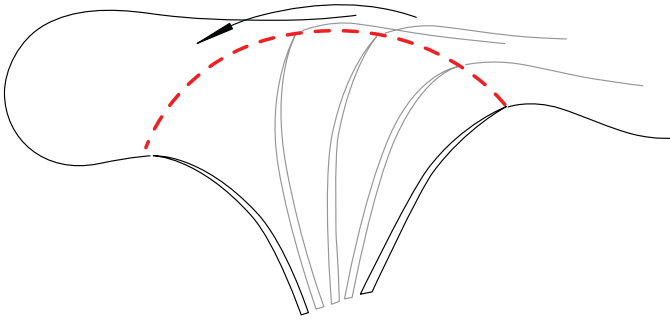
Acceleration in the casting stroke is best defined as a smooth, gradual increase in the speed of the rod tip to an abrupt stop. If you're an engineer and put this on a graph, then we would be talking about a straight line starting at the X,Y axis and moving up and to the right. An example I have used for years, and one most people can relate to, is getting into your car and smoothly accelerating to 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 mph and right into a concrete block wall; instantly reducing your speed to zero. This is the kind of rod tip acceleration we are talking about.



The Tailing Loop: the dashed line shows the rod tip's path

Inappropriate Acceleration is spiking the rod tip's speed **before** slowing down to a firm stop. This will cause the rod tip to over-flex downward resulting in a dished path and a tailing loop. You can never slow to a firm stop without causing a tailing loop because the process of slowing down straightens the rod and creates the dished path. To use the earlier example smoothly accelerate your car to 25 mph and then slow down to 15 mph before running into the wall. This may not seem like much but, in a casting stroke it's one of the worst things to do.

So now let's look at what casters are doing to cause this poor acceleration and the subsequent tailing



A Wide Loop cast: please note the domed/convex rod tip path

loops. Frankly, there are almost as many problems as there are casters—a scary thought and quite a challenge to an instructor. Fortunately we can boil most of these problems to a few basic issues.

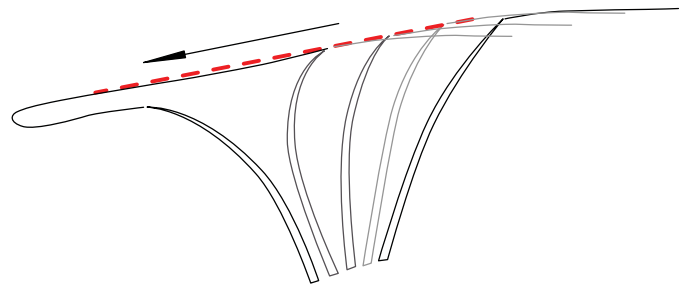
The **“Spin-Casting Bang”** is one fault commonly seen in beginning fly casters who have been spin or bait casting for a long time. The problem is that acceleration is way too quick at the very beginning of the cast, just like the acceleration one would use when tossing a lure with a spinning rod. They may know that the spin casting and fly casting stroke entirely different, but overcoming the muscle memory developed over years of fishing can be very difficult. Recognition that there is, in fact, a problem is key and the caster should start by looking at what their hands are doing during the cast as opposed to watching the line in the air. This is one of the first steps in detecting their casting faults and in removing themselves from that great river of: ‘da Nile. The key to solving this fault is to teach oneself to start the forward cast slowly and then smoothly build up speed to an abrupt stop.

Trying to cast **“Too Much Line with Too Short a Casting Stroke”** is another way the caster can cause a tailing loop. Generally, we can say that a short cast requires a short stroke and the longer the cast, the longer the stroke needed. By casting more line than the length of casting stroke and/or the caster can handle, forces the caster to accelerate too quickly and improperly, causing a tailing loop. A very good caster may be able to match the shortened timing and the acceleration but this is truly a challenge and not really even necessary.

One of more common manifestations of this problem

is what is commonly called **Creep**. Creep occurs when the caster slides and/or rotates (creeping) the rod forward to a near vertical or even forward canting position after the stop on the backcast and while the line is still traveling back. This drastically reduces the length of stroke causing a tailing loop and also tends to drive the cast at a too steep angle towards the water.

What causes the Creep is usually one of three factors: 1) Impatience and an unwillingness to wait for the backcast to straighten without doing something—Type A personalities (like me) beware; 2) Stopping the rod so hard on the backcast that the rod and casting arm literally rebound to the shortened position; 3) Misunderstood timing device—they think their drifting, lengthening their stroke, but in fact are creeping. Drifting the rod is a timing and stroke lengthening device employed by many casters (including me) but it needs to be done properly or wide or tailing loops will result. To correct Creep the caster needs to practice holding the backcast position while the loop unfurls to the rear. Watching the hand position (and not the line) during the cast especially at the stop and immediately afterward is a valuable tool to achieving this goal.



*The Narrow Loop: a relatively straight line path of the rod tip.
This what casting is all about...*

The final common cause of dished rod tip paths and tailing loops is caused by the **“Improper Use of the Wrist”**. This is seen in all levels of casters but is surprisingly seen in better casters as they stretch their casting wings and try to throw tighter loops or cast over a greater distance. By the way and just so you know, the use of the wrist in casting is a style

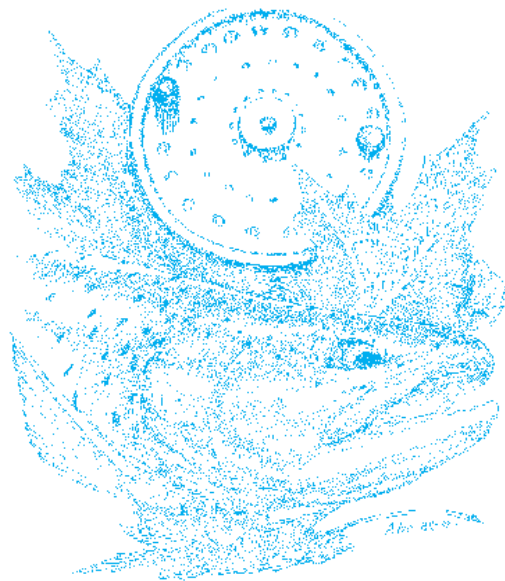
issue—you either use it or you don't and it doesn't matter either way—just so long as you use the wrist properly.

Some of the best casters in the world use their wrists to help increase line speed, distance and control of their casts. The proper way to use the wrist is to open it as the backcast is started, hold it open through the **entire** cast and closing it only at the stop of the forward stroke. Open or close the wrist at any other time in the cast will create a wide loop or a tailing loop. What often happens when the wrist causes a tailing loop is that the caster is moving the rod tip forward in a relatively straight line path but closes the wrist too soon and then continues forward to an abrupt stop. Closing the wrist too soon causes a slight over-acceleration which drives the rod tip below the straight line path needed for a proper loop resulting in a tailing loop. To correct this fault, the caster needs to finish closing the wrist at the same instant he or she stops the rod—not one millisecond earlier and that's tough to do!

So now you've had a brief look into the horror that is the tailing loop. It requires time, effort and practice, practice, practice to learn the long, smooth pulling acceleration that is the hallmark of a proficient and efficient casting stroke. I hope you can use the information here to self analyze your own casting and make the necessary corrections to toss the type of tight, aerodynamic loops we all strive to achieve.



The Long Beach Casting Club...
bringing better casting to the masses...



Welcome Our New Members

NANI BLYLEVEN,
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The Board of Directors unanimously accepted the following applications for membership:

- ❖ Samantha Fernandes, Long Beach
- ❖ William A. Peters, Long Beach
- ❖ Mike Peterson, Long Beach
- ❖ Gilda Rodriguez, Buena Park

Please greet and welcome all our new members at LBCC functions. Encourage them to volunteer with many of our activities throughout the year. Please note that, in order to receive your Membership Packet with your Badge, Roster and other LBCC items; you must attend a LBCC monthly meeting.

If anyone has membership questions please read the Bylaws in your Roster, then you can contact me by email at Nablyle@aol.com.

Hot Creek Dry Fly Camp

BOB GRAHAM, MEMBER

For the past few years, I have been pressed into service writing articles about the year's most recent camp. This year was only my third such camp. The Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers has been teaching this event for the last 32 years! The camp is limited to the nine cabins at Hot Creek Ranch and a restriction of no more than twelve rods on the water. Hot Creek meanders through the meadow and fish are often visible. Sight casting to rising heads is the epitome of fly fishing.

Dennis Tsuyuki is the camp director. As one of three instructors, he concentrates his instruction to Mas Okui's long leader system developed specifically for Hot Creek. The other two instructors teach other dry fly techniques. Each is an expert on these waters. The ranch is restricted to dry fly fishing and wading is prohibited (except to release a fish).

This year we had several new attendees. Joe Libeu, member of Long Beach and SPFF and winner of SPFF's prestigious J. Stanley Lloyd Order of the Mayfly Award joined us with Kathy Kim, a member of Long Beach and the Orange County clubs. Kathy helps Joe with his On the River Clinics on the Owens River especially with the women's clinics. Connie Bullock fished with us. She is former president of Long Beach Casting Club and is the founder and President Emeritus of the Santa Clarita club having served for five years. She recently joined SPFF. David Drake, a member of Long Beach also attended. Most of the others in attendance had been to the camp for several years. This is a great testament to the quality of the instruction given.

Another reason to attend is the camaraderie that is rampant at camp. Jokes and pranks are thought out long in advance. Paul Rezens just turned fifty and feared his first colonoscopy. So the powers that be paired him with David Drake as a cabin mate. David is a noted gastroenterologist, well versed in such procedures. They also arranged for several pairs of latex gloves to be worn secretly to shock Paul. This

was Theresa Prater's first camp. But she showed up with a couple of frilly, lacy aprons for the camp cooks (Michael Peratis, Ron Morita) which were dutifully inscribed with our thanks for the good meals and with some other emotions presented at the last supper.

The meals were served around a large collection of tables with everyone interacting with everyone else. There was no hiding. The conversation, jokes and wine flowed freely (except for those few who didn't drink).

Unfortunately, this year there was a late season runoff due to late snows on Mammoth. What was good for the skiers was bad for us. So after the classes were held, Kevin Peterson, the resident manager, permitted nymphing. This led to large catches of fish since in Kevin's mind, nymphing on this portion of Hot Creek is simply too easy. I think that was also the consensus of those attending. The camp begins at 4:00 PM on Friday and ends at 4:00 PM on Monday. We have to clear the cabins in the morning on Monday but can fish until 4:00 PM. This year everyone left



shortly after breakfast on Monday. You just don't fish Hot Creek Ranch with nymphs!

So why the lengthy article? Well, as a lawyer I was taught never to say anything in one word when several will do. I guess I'm surprised that Dennis has such a hard time filling the camp. It is designed for all levels of experience and I know I learn more each year. I also forget a lot so maybe I'm just staying even. The food is first class and the company is quite enjoyable. Some of the jokes you might even remember! But they often come too fast and frequently. In short, this is a great learning experience and it shouldn't be missed no matter what your skill level might be. I hope to see you next year on the first weekend in June.

Northwestern Tourney October 2010

NANI BLYLEVEN, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The annual Northwestern Tournament was held in the beautiful Golden Gate Park in San Francisco the weekend of October 8 & 9, 2010. The tourney was hosted by the Golden Gate Casting & Angling Club and the Oakland Casting Club, at the GGCAC clubhouse and their three casting pools. Three members from Long Beach went, Bob Middo, Mark Tsunawaki, and Nani Blyleven. Let me tell you about it from the eyes of a first timer—WOW. You gotta go next year.

THE PEOPLE: Many casters were already known to us from hosting the past tournaments, so we were guaranteed a good time. From Oakland & GGCAC: Elaine & Tom Gong, Alice Gillibert, Glenn, Henry Mittel, Chris Korich, and Tony Yap; from Seattle Casting Club: Peggy & Bill Van Natter; from Arizona (but are LBCC members): Larry & Marie Allen, Donna Walkuski, Marion Tallon, Randy & Lori Mandt, Greg Rodriguez; and new from Utah: Jeff & Suzanne Plumb. Jeff tournament cast as a young boy. He found out about the NW, came down and nailed the plug games using a beautiful circa 1950s Shakespeare reel. You will see him at future SW and ACA Nationals.

In addition to the known culprits of fun, I met plenty of GGCAC members for the first time and oh what a good crew they are! Donna O'Sullivan is a World Champion Spey caster and is probably all of 4'9" and 90 pounds. She and Steve Rajeff (coined as the beauty and the beast), represented the USA in the 2010 World Championship in Norway in August. There were so many nice and fun people at the GGCAC and I can't wait to see them again! Plenty of them did not cast, like Michael and Armondo, but helped out, like we

do here. The fun-factor was upped when we were all relaxing at the clubhouse before dinner. I think that may be a tradition up there.

THE FOOD: Our tournament hosts provided all our meals for us and we did not have a hungry second all weekend. Both mornings we were greeted with a continental breakfast SF style. A big table filled with several types of fresh baked muffins and breads, lots of fresh fruit, homemade jam and OJ. Saturday's lunch was Chicken enchiladas, excellent beans, Spanish rice, salad, the best salsa ever, and fresh baked apple crumble. For Sunday's lunch we had a variety of sandwiches, homemade chicken soup, lentil with curry soup and double chocolate cupcakes. Our super chefs

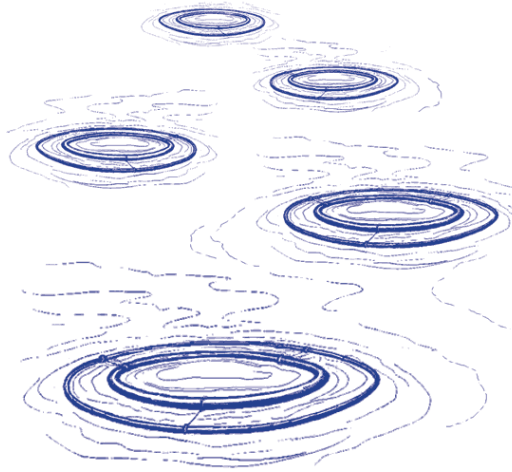
Lorraine and John made even more than I listed plus kindly shared recipes with me—look for them on our website soon.

Saturday's dinner was catered by Armadillo Willie's in Palo Alto. This was top-drawer. The smoked Tri-Tip was juicy and deeeelicious, smoke pulled pork with bbq sauce, sweet, savory corn muffins, fresh made coleslaw and pecan pie. I wanted to lie down and pass out from gluttony. I noticed that

there were several members and spouses that joined us for dinner, that were not there during the day. I thought that was especially nice, since they had to pay \$25 each to cover their dinner.

THE AWARDS: I won 4 awards all for Class C plug casting, one 1st place, two 2nd place and one 3rd place. Let me just tell you what a surprise they were. Bob Middo won 4 awards, 2nd place Class A Anglers Distance and three Class B plug casting. Mark Tsunawaki won 3 Class B plug casting awards. The best award of all was just being there to participate and to enjoy all the wonderful camaraderie!

So all of you who like a good time, start participating in the tournaments and casting games. You don't have to be good to get started—trust me on this.



Notes from the Pond

DAN RIVETT, CAPTAIN

Well, I think all of our announcements relating to the benefits of improving your fishing by participating in the casting games are paying off. We have had members which do not normally cast the games joining us at recent Sunday morning casts. Recently, we had a cast scheduled the same weekend as the Northwestern Casting Tournament in San Francisco, which was attended by several of our casters. So I assumed we would have a small group to cast and we would be done by 10:00 AM. Not so. After enjoying a pancake, sausage and fruit breakfast prepared by Rick Hilles we actually had seven members casting Dry Fly, Bass Bug, Steelhead Distance and Open Plug and by the time the rings and rod racks were put away it was 11:30 AM.

So, for any of you still on the fence, perhaps a little



timid about having other people watching your casting, remember, in many instances you are with the same people that you fish with and here are your opportunities to improve your skills. Another benefit to coming out to learn the games now is you can begin preparing to cast in the Southwestern Casting Tournament, hosted here at the Long Beach Casting Club, February 2011.

A pond cleaning is scheduled for Saturday, October 23. Please come out to put in a little sweat equity to keep our pond looking great.

See you on the pond

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The Lower Owens River, just outside of Bishop, CA offers world-class fly fishing for wild trout during the winter and spring! Join us for a 2-day educational experience to improve your success in nymph, dry fly, steamer and wet fly fishing. You will be introduced to entomology, stream structure, casting applications, short and long line presentation, reading the water, fly selection and basic knots.



NEW this year will be a clinic dedicated to ladies only conducted by Kathy Kim and Joe Libeu. In addition, Advanced Nymphing Clinic will be offered in November. Joe Libeu, your instructor, is a certified Federation of Fly Fishers "Master" Casting Instructor and Guide and brings with him years of experience on his home water.

Classes are limited to 6 students only, so reserve your spot early! For reservation, tuition and other information contact Joe Libeu at 310-749-6771 (jlsfpa@ix.netcom.com) or Kathy Kim at 714-290-6930 (kksfpa@yahoo.com).



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Fishing for Wyoming Cutthroats

BOB GRAHAM, MEMBER

It was simply spectacular fishing that first day. Bob Allen's attorney, Don Fisher, has a cabin in the woods of Wyoming. For several years Bob has attempted to encourage, cajole and basically harass Don into inviting us up to do a little fishing. We had no idea whether it was a ranch, a cabin or a mansion.

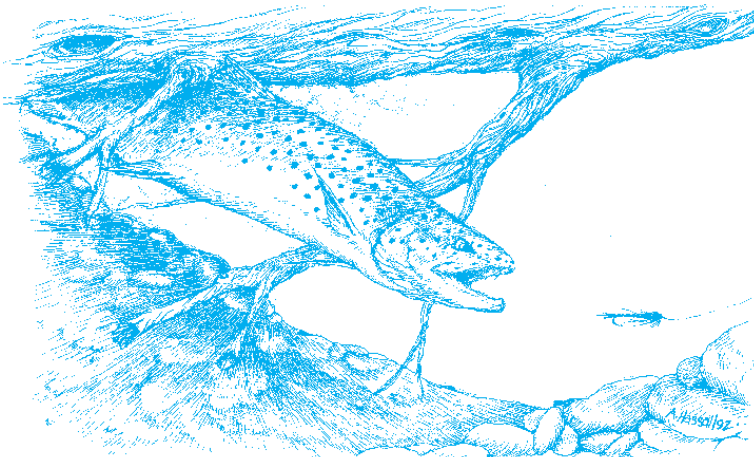
Early emails placed the moniker Estancia del Fisher on it. So we were pleasantly surprised that, in fact, the house was set on several acres but separated from the county road by hills that preserved the seclusion. National forest land lay behind the cabin and the school section was off to the side. When Wyoming was made a state, the federal government set aside school sections (640 acres) for the state, the proceeds of grazing, timber production or other uses revert to support the schools.

The cabin was a large log cabin with five bedrooms up and a master bedroom on the first floor. The three car garage held a car and several pontoon boats. The other two car garage housed the ATV's and other toys. The cabin sleeps 11 family members! But there was only one bathroom on the second floor so when family females are present they tend to take over the master bath on the first floor!

Rod Lochman flew up from Phoenix, Bob from Orange County and I drove from the Bighorn River. We met at the Bull Moose Saloon in Alpine, Wyoming for lunch. Don brought us up to date on the four day's fishing

adventures he had planned.

The first day was on the South Fork of the Snake River. We put in at the Palisades Dam and floated to Conant with guides. My boat partner was Bob and we got off to a fairly good start. On the first cast we had a double hook up: he on a nice cutthroat and me with a healthy rainbow. And the day got better. We started the day with myssis shrimp and later switched to dry flies. The river flowed at slightly less than a walking pace and our guide, Vance Freed of World Cast Outfitters, was absolutely superb. He gave us clear instructions on the side of the boat we'd be casting from and where precisely he wanted the flies placed.



The second day Bob, Don and Rod floated the Salt River which forms the Star Valley where Don lives. A physical limitation with my hand prevented me from joining them on the pontoon boats but they reported excellent fishing and

arrived somewhat late for dinner. We didn't cook but ate out every night. Unfortunately, the restaurants in Don's town close at 8PM and we were late getting into Tootsie's Pizza. Fortunately, a number of other late night diners arrived at the same time and the restaurant stayed open to handle the business.

The third day we ventured to Jackson, Wyoming to fish the Snake River inside Grand Teton Park. We met the guides at Jack Dennis's shop and drove into the park. Despite a rather hefty fee of \$495, these guides were useless. We had to buy our own flies for the day; they didn't set up the rods but gladly told us how to. If you were fortunate enough to catch a fish, it was your responsibility to release it. (We should have known when neither guide had a net). Rod was my boat mate and all morning long we heard (both boats) how the big fish would be caught in the afternoon. So

be patient. In the afternoon we heard that catching 2 -3 fish a day was a major accomplishment. We should be proud! What saved the day was turning some bends in the river and viewing the entire Teton Range. The river is fairly close to the abrupt rising of the mountains and the view was quite striking. We should not have been fishing at all. In the end, I don't think we landed more than a dozen fish between the two boats.

The final day consisted of a 40 mile drive along Grey's River hauling the ATV's. We pulled off at mile 42 and fished a crystal clear stream for cutthroats. What seemed to be very shallow water in fact held nice trout. Don, Bob and Rod took the ATV's upstream another few miles and fished some deeper pools where they hooked many nice cutts. These cutthroats were hungry having such a short eating season. I tried a nymph trailer under my bushy caddis fly but they preferred the dry. However, one jumped after the dry and on the roll snagged himself on the dropper. While I was reeling the foul hooked fish in, a flash occurred under the deadfall next to the pool. A ravenous 19+ freight train dashed out to try to claim a large meal! I had no idea that he was there and spent the afternoon trying to catch him. Trying.

Over steak and red wine at supper, we complemented Don on the successful fishing trip. He said he merely lined up what he liked to do! It is a beautiful part of



the world and we are planning on returning. Let me know if you might be interested. As always, email is best since I retain very little of things I am told.



Club Trips for 2010-2011

JIM THOMASON, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

The November outing will be to the West Fork of the San Gabriel River. See the article elsewhere. Also, the Southern Sierra Fly Fishing Club in Kernville is hosting a fly fishing tournament November 6th on the Kern River to benefit the Southwest Council of FFF.

California Fly Fisher: If you have a sizable stack of back issues of CALIFORNIA FLY FISHER from the '90s laying around that you've been meaning to get rid of, let me know. I would like to create a club outings notebook for California locations.

2010-2011 Trips

- Oct. 28-31 Northern California: McCloud/ Sacramento; Pre-Trip October 20
- Nov. 13 West Fork San Gabriel River; Pre-Trip November 3
- Dec. 11 Local Lake, Location TBD; Pre-Trip December 1
- Jan. 8-9 Lower Owens #1 with Dan Rivett; Pre-Trip December 29
- Feb. 26-27 Lower Owens #2 with Yash Iseda; Pre-Trip February 9
- Mar. 26 Newport Bay Bass Tourney with Mark Tsunawaki; Pre-Trip March 16

Note: Pre-Trips held at the clubhouse at 7:00 PM. Trip locations and dates are subject to change. Monitor Target Talk for the latest information. For more information, contact me at jathomason@mail.com or call me at (626) 357-6050.

Fly of the Month: Wiggle Hexagenia

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, EDITOR

Every spring you read about them. Usually it's a bridge crossing the Mississippi River somewhere in Minnesota. Its nighttime and, attracted by the lights, they have blanketed this roadway with a slippery one to two foot deep layer causing the local gendarmes to close it. A dead and dying mass of 1½" long bugs. The mating flight of *Hexagenia limbata*—the Great Lead-Wing Drake.

This is North America's largest mayfly and is quite prevalent in most parts of the country and is best known in California for its hatches on the Fall River. As to its size well, if one of these insects flies at you, I guarantee that you will duck. We think of mayflies as small and delicate creatures and most people are not fully prepared for this behemoth of the order Ephemeroidea.

The *Hexagenia* is found in slow, placid waters and usually hatches after dark. Regrettably this makes fishing the hatch difficult if not impossible according to Department of Fish & Game regulations. However fishing the Wiggle Hex during the legal hours leading up to the hatch can be very effective on larger trout. *Hexagenias* are good swimmers and by adding the articulated body section this pattern provides for a very realistic imitation.

This fly is also an excellent searching pattern any place where other larger mayflies occur. Mayflies such as the Brown, Green and Grey Drakes hatch in many other areas in the west and by adjusting the size and color of the Wiggle Hex you can easily match these hatches as well. Even smaller species such as *Callibaetis* can be effectively imitated with this articulated, "swimming" style of pattern.

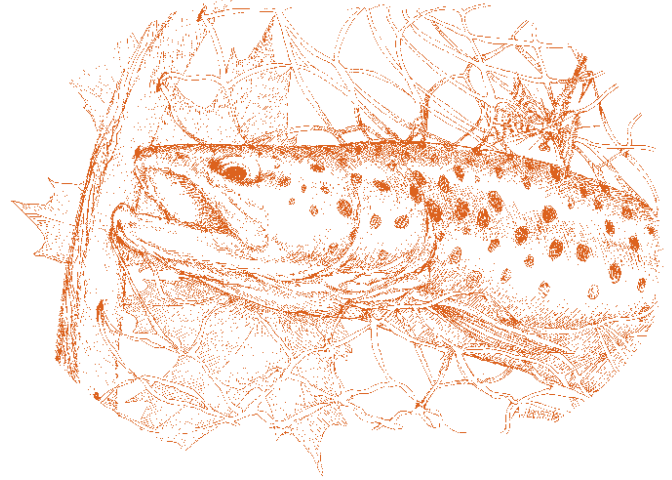
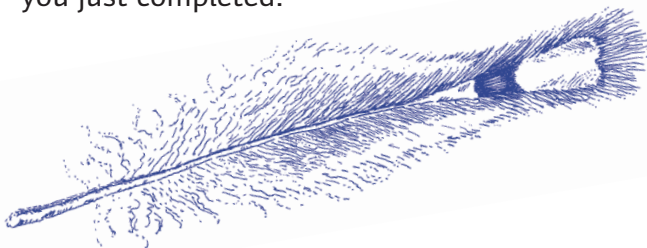


Materials for Tying the Wiggle Hex:

Hook:	Body—Mustad 9674 Ring-eye with 3/8" (9mm) to 5/8" (15mm) shank;	Gills:	Natural philo plume or in a color to match the natural
	Thorax—Mustad 3906 in size 16 to 12	Ribbing:	Fine gold wire
Thread:	Black 6/0 to 8/0	Thorax:	Brown dyed Hare's Ear or in a color to match the natural
Tails:	Tan ostrich herl (3 strands) or in a color to match the natural	Hackle:	Brown partridge or in a color to match the natural
Body:	Natural Hare's Ear dubbing or in a color to match the natural	Wing Case:	Oak brown turkey or in a color to match the natural
Body Case:	Oak brown turkey or in a color to match the natural	Head:	Black thread

Instructions for Tying the Wiggle Hex:

1. Place the body hook (9674) in your vise, attach your thread at the headspace and wind down to the point where you can achieve the length you need. Tie in one ostrich herl fiber that is about $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the body. Apply a small amount of dubbing to the thread and wind one turn and tie off. Tie in the other two tail fibers one on either side of the center tail and not quite as long. Tie in the fine gold wire at the underside of the hook. Apply more dubbing to your thread and wind about 2 more turns.
2. Remove a $\frac{1}{8}$ " wide section of turkey and tie it in lying flat and extending to the back. Select a philo plume, the fluffy feather at the base of a ringneck pheasant rump feather, and tie in by the tip and pointing back like the turkey. Apply more dubbing to the thread and wind the rest of the way to the headspace. Pull the philo plume forward over the top of the body and tie down. Pull the turkey forward over the top of the body and the philo plume and tie down. Wind the ribbing in the reverse direction over everything making sure that you use your bodkin to from flattening down to much of the philo plume. Secure the gold wire and break off the excess, wind a small head, whip finish and apply head cement. Very carefully cut off the hook just beyond the where the tails are tied in.
3. Place the thorax hook (3906) in your vise and attach the thread at the headspace. Cut off a 2" long piece of 12# or 15# clear monofilament and pass one end through the eye of the body hook you just completed.



- Fold the mono in half and carefully melt the mono ends into a ball with a lighter or at the range. Bind the mono to one side of the hook shank. The loop portion of the mono with the body section should extend just beyond the bend of the thorax hook allowing it to move and swing freely. Add a small drop of Zap-A-Gap to lock it into place.
4. With the thread now at the bend of the hook remove a $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide section of turkey. Tie in the wingcase by the butt ends and extending backwards. Make a dubbing loop with your thread and place the thorax dubbing in the loop and spin away. Wind the dubbing forward to a spot just short of the headspace. The thorax wants to be shaggy so pick it out well with your bodkin.
 5. Select a partridge hackle, fold it and tie it in by the tip. If you have difficulty folding the feather then just stroke the fibers so that they are perpendicular to the stem and tie it in this fashion by the tip. Wind the hackle 3 to 5 turns depending on the size of the fly you are imitating. Pull the wing case forward over the top of the thorax and the hackle. Make sure that you push the hackle fibers to one side or the other and not to cover them. Tie the wingcase down securely at the headspace. Form a small, neat head and whip finish. Apply a drop of head cement and your fly is now ready for a test spin.

Calendar of Events

November

1	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Director's Meeting
2	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Class: Techniques
3	Wednesday	7:00 PM	West Fork San Gabriel Pre-Trip Meeting
4	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night/Spey Night at the Pond
7	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Club Cast
9	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Class: 1 st Night Tying
10	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
11	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night at the Pond
13	Saturday	8:00 AM	West Fork San Gabriel Trip
16	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Class: 2 nd Night Tying
18	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: Rick Hilles on the Big Horn River
21	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Club Cast
23	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Class: 3 rd Night Tying
25	Thursday		Happy Thanksgiving!
30	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Class: 4 th Night Tying

December

1	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Lake Trip Pre-Trip Meeting: destination to be determined
2	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity/Spey Night at the Pond
4	Saturday	6:00 PM	Venison Stag
5	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Club Cast
6	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Director's Meeting
7	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Class: 5 th Night Tying
8	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
9	Thursday	7:00 PM	Orvis National Casting Course with Hutch Hutchinson
11	Saturday		Lake Fishing Trip (location to be determined)
14	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Class: 6 th Night Tying
16	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night/Spey Night at the Pond
19	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Club Cast
21	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Class: 7 th Night Tying
23	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night/Spey Night at the Pond
25	Saturday		Merry Christmas!
28	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Class: 8 th Night Tying
29	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Owens River Pre-Trip Meeting
30	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night/Spey Night at the Pond

January

2	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Club Cast
3	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Director's Meeting
4	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Class: 9 th Night
6	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night/Spey Night at the Pond
7-9	Weekend		Owens River Trip
11	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Class: 10 th Night
12	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
13	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity/Spey Night at the Pond
16	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Club Cast
18	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Class: 11 th Night
20	Thursday	7:00 PM	Activity Night/Spey Night at the Pond
25	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Class: 12 th Night
27	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: to be determined
30	Sunday	8:00 AM	Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Club Cast

Venison Stag Holiday Dinner

BILL BOEHLERT, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

The weather is cooling down and winter is approaching. That means LBCC's biggest social event of the year, our annual Venison Stag, is almost here. The date for this year's extravaganza is Saturday, December 4. Social hour will begin at 6:00 PM, with refreshments provided. Please note that since our clubhouse is on city property, no alcohol is permitted. The dinner will begin at 7:00 PM.

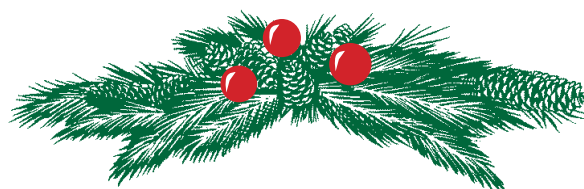
For new members, a little history is in order. The first Venison Stag was in 1941, and has been an annual event ever since. Originally members (who were often hunters as well as fishermen) would clean out their freezers and bring their game to share for the dinner. Sixty years ago, the menu included two deer, two antelope, a bear, half an elk, and half a moose—all barbecued on a spit. Since the membership was exclusively male, it was called a Stag. Those

traditions are long gone, and now we dine on prime rib, accompanied by other provender created by our resident chefs, John and Sandy Lincoln.

An accurate head count is necessary to plan and prepare the dinner. There is a reservation form below. The cost this year is \$20 per person if made by reservation or \$30 at the door. Of course, all members, family, and guests are welcome. Please send in your reservation as soon as possible.

For an event of this magnitude, we depend on the membership for help. Please volunteer to serve on one of the committees. We need people to clean the clubhouse, set up decorations, assist the chefs, and to do the final cleanup. You can contact me or sign up on the lists on the bulletin board in the clubhouse.

If you are able to help, please e-mail me at blboehlert@verizon.net or call me at 714-374-6491. For our new members, it is a great opportunity to get to know the membership and traditions of our great club. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar. Once again, Saturday, December 4.



VENISON STAG RESERVATION

Saturday, December 4, 2010 ❖ Social Hour: 6:00 PM ❖ Dinner: 7:00 PM

Reservations are due by November 16, 2010

Name: _____

I will attend the Venison Stag on Saturday, December 4, 2010

I will bring _____ adults. Total number _____ @ 20.00 = _____ Total Enclosed:

I will bring _____ children. Total number _____ @ 6.00 = _____ = _____

☐

Yes, I would like to help!

Please call me at this telephone number

() _____ - _____ (cut out and return by 11-16-2010)

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