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Target Talk

Newsletter of the Long Beach Casting Club, Established 1925

October 2013

www.longbeachcastingclub.org

(562) 433-9408

Leader's Line ...

Primetime

JIM THOMASON, PRESIDENT

October is primetime for fly fishing and the same goes for the Long Beach Casting Club. We've got a big outing, our annual introduction to fly fishing class, our outstanding fly tying class, continuing club casts, and our ever popular Nooner lunch. Not to mention our regular monthly meeting (Tying Flies with Buszek Award Winner Steven Fernandez) which will be held a week early this month to avoid Halloween.

If you haven't fished Northern California before, now's your chance. The area features many of our states premiere waters (The Sacramento, McCloud, Pit and Fall River, Hat Creek, etc). The club goes there every few years and this year we've got a special connection as Pablo Grabiell, our outing leader, is the uncle of guide Aaron Grabiell (last June's speaker) who will be available to provide the latest information on where to go, what to use, etc. Contact Pablo right away if you want to go as the trip starts October 3rd.

For those of you that are new to fly fishing, we offer our ON THE RIVER CLINIC starting this month. It covers all aspects of our sport and will certainly elevate your game to a new level. All manner of techniques are covered (dries, nymphing, streamers, soft hackles) along with reading the water, equipment, knots, entomology, fly selection, and safety. If all goes well and the Lower Owens flows stay down, we hope to return the outing portion of the clinic to November once again. This will serve as a solid platform for our series of Owens trips in the winter of 2014.

If you're ready to expand your fly fishing repertoire, our annual Beginner's Fly Tying Class starts this month. Doug Smith's 16 week class will teach you everything you need to know to start a lifetime of collecting fur and

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Special Notice: Different Night for Monthly Meeting!

The October Monthly Meeting featuring Tying Flies with Steven Fernandez will be held on Thursday, **October 24th** at 7:00 PM. This is one week earlier than normal and due to Halloween falling on the last Thursday of the month this year. See you a week early!

Results: Yaaaards & Innnnches

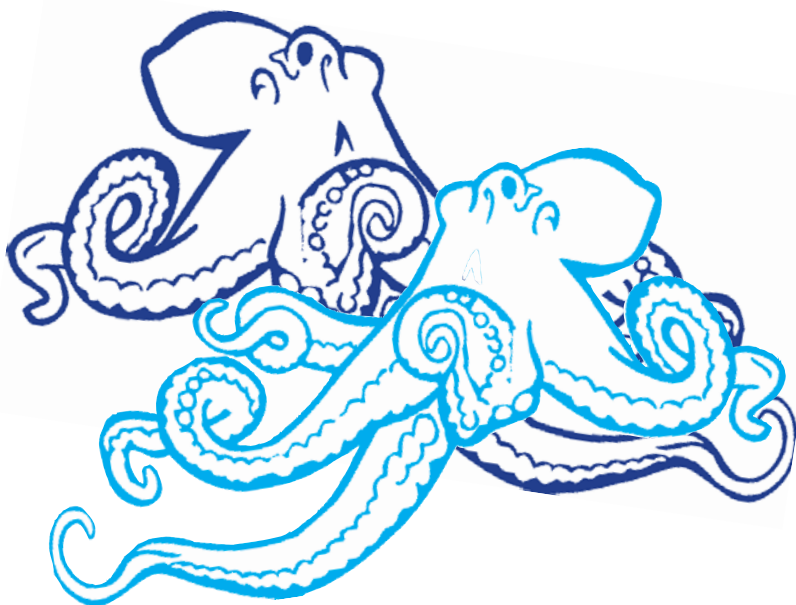
MICK WOODBURY, PAST PRESIDENT

Wow, if you missed it, you really missed it! The 6th Annual YARDS & INCHES Tournament deserved a new name. What comes after YARDS AND INCHES? Perhaps CHAINS & RODS (a chain is 66 feet a rod is 16½ feet).

Eleven paddling, rowing, kicking and motoring fly fisherman caught and released a total of 1,338 inches of fish. That's 111.5 feet; or 37.16 yards (or 1 chain, 2 rods, 4 yards and 6 inches!)! The total would have been even greater but Kevin Purcell's submission of two octopi (for a total of 16 feet) was rejected by the tournament committee.

The action continued into the afternoon. After six continuous hours of bent rods and incoming tide, there was a strong craving for lunch and fortunately, the beer was cold, the posole hot and the stories endless. The appreciative Fleet members dug into their pockets to feed the kitty with all proceeds going to the Endowment Fund—\$42 and some spare change.

There was no catch that broke any size records but the hundreds of smaller fish shows that the fishery is healthy and for the next Y&I, they'll be even bigger!



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Tying Flies Steven Fernandez

PABLO GRABIEL, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

When it comes to tying flies, few can compare to Steven Fernandez, the 2012 recipient of the Buz Buszek Memorial Award from the International Federation of Fly Fishers. Steven has been tying flies professionally since he was 13. His craftsmanship had him featured in the April 1977 edition of *Field and Stream* magazine. An architect, he no longer tying flies professionally and his beautiful flies are sold for charity auctions in the US, Canada and Europe.

Steven started fishing on family camping trips and after seeing some flies in a local tackle shop he started tying flies. He went to the local park pond, collected feathers and with his mother's sewing thread and yarn wrapped the feathers onto hooks to create his first flies.

Now his flies, much like his architecture, are precise and beautiful. He does not necessarily follow a standard recipe for his patterns but rather places each item on the fly with the next several required steps already in mind to create a beautiful and representative work of art that is sure to please both the fisherman's eye and that of the fish.

Known for his innovation, the pompadour wing style' in his salmon flies, Steven has been featured in Judith Dunham's book *THE ATLANTIC SALMON FLY, THE TYERS AND THEIR ART*, published in 1991. A member of the Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers and the Kaweah Fly Fishers, Steven has also served as a board member of the Southwest Council of the FFF.

Come out and watch the incomparable Steven at our Thursday, October 24th meeting!

Please Note: This month's meeting is a week earlier than normal due to Halloween!



Primetime!

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feathers. Contrary to popular wisdom, learning to tie your own flies probably won't save you any money but it will significantly increase your understanding of entomology and allow you to create flies that are not commercially available. It's also a wonderful creative outlet as you experiment with new variations of existing standards. While geared to beginners, experienced tiers are sure to learn many new tips as well.

Our bimonthly casting games have moved to Sundays. If you have the time, regular casting practice will pay big dividends in both casting accuracy and injury prevention. It's a great way to experiment with new mends work out the kinks in your stroke.

Finally, our monthly Nooner lunches are back. This is a great way to meet other club members and put a little vacation in your week. Consider joining the noon group on a daily basis to improve your casting and solve all of the world's problems—okay, only the former...

Pick as many activities as you can muster and make the commitment now to improve your fly fishing. The price is free but the rewards will last a lifetime.

October Northern California Fishing Trip

PABLO GRABIEL, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Ah, fishing northern California waters where wading and drifting opportunities abound. Great fishing is available solo or through guides. Fishing will be from Thursday, October 3 through Sunday, October 6.

We will be meet for breakfast each morning to meet with our guides or for those not using guides to pair up and set off on our day's adventure.

For those wading there are several options among them Hat Creek. Well known for its selective trout, the creek is thick with insect life. A short river Hat Creek is considered one of the West's best spring creeks. Then there is the McCloud River; home to the famous McCloud Red Band, which can exceed 20". The resident browns average 16" but can grow much larger. Finally, the Upper Sacramento River, or "Upper Sac" has hard fighting rainbows averaging 12" but can grow to over 20".

Drifters have tough decisions to make as well. The Lower Sacramento River can be full of salmon and the resident rainbows average from 16" to 20". The Trinity River steelhead runs are from October through March, so we will be hitting the early part of the run. Let's hope for an early bump in the fish run or we can hit the Klamath where steelhead are again the trophy fish.

So gear up, clean your waders, bring your flies and casting skills on our trip up north!



Club Trips for 2013

RIX GANO, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Here are the Club Trips for the next couple of months. Join us!

2013 & 2014 TRIPS:

TRIP DATE	TRIP & LEADER
Oct. 5, 2013	Redding by Pablo Grabiell
November	Open
December	Open
Jan. 11, 2014	Lower Owens #1 by Sadler, Iseda & Lincoln, Rivett (Pre-Trip Workshop January 4)
Feb. 8, 2014	Lower Owens #2 by Sadler, Iseda, Lincoln & Rivett (Pre-Trip Workshop February 1)
Mar. 8, 2014	Lower Owens #3 by Sadler, Iseda, Lincoln & Rivett (Pre-Trip Workshop March 1)

Trip locations and dates are subject to change. Please monitor Target Talk for the latest information. Pre-Trip Meetings held at the clubhouse at 7:00 PM.

Please contact us, Rix and Yumi Gano, if you have any questions at 310-291-3963 or rgano1@yahoo.com.



Fly Tying Classes to Begin Again!

DOUG SMITH, FLY TYING CHAIRMAN

Once again, it's time to consider taking our Beginners' Fly Tying class. Look, we are all fanatics at this club because we jump in with both feet when it comes to anything fly fishing. Right after joining LBCC in 2001, I made a trip to Bob Marriott's to purchase a fly rod, reel and fly line for use at the club's Beginners' Casting Clinic.

While at Marriott's, I walked down every aisle looking at everything in the store. Half the store was dedicated to row after row of fly tying materials and fly tying tools. This was overwhelming and made me feel that fly tying was something way too complicated and difficult. On the other side of the store more rows of boxes full of already-made flies. The choices of flies looked endless. At this point I said to myself that I would work on my casting and forget about fly tying.

As a certifiable fanatic, I immediately subscribed to every fly tying magazine I could find. In each magazine, I would find articles on trips to rivers, streams, lakes and tropical flats where there were fishing guides holding large fish with the fly that they "invented" and tied hanging on the fish's mouth. I would go back to Marriott's with article in hand and say to a member of the staff that I want to buy this fly. That didn't go so well. The articles in the magazines almost always had a materials list and step-by-step instructions with color photos. Still, I resisted fly tying until my friend Ron Finney suggested we take the Club's Beginners' Fly Tying class 2004–2005. I thoroughly enjoyed the classes and everything about fly tying. I have always said that, *"If I can do it then anyone can do it."*

What makes Long Beach Casting Club so special is the fact that we have always been at the forefront of teaching the public about all aspects of the great sport of fly fishing. Where would our club be if not for



all of our wonderful classes, programs and dedicated volunteers?

Our classes will begin with an Orientation session on October 29th at 7:00 PM. The classes begin in earnest with the first fly presented and tied on November 5th. This year our classroom has a new 70" TV screen that will improve our fly tying classes as well all other classes and presentations.

Every Tuesday night during our beginners' fly tying classes, we will always have coffee and cake. Also we'll take a few minutes each night to "talk fishing" with our talented fly tying instructors. Join us. We'll have a good time!

Venison Stag 2013

PABLO GRABIEL, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Our premier social event of the year is coming up fast. This year's Venison Stag will be Saturday, December 7th so save the date and start salivating. The cost is \$20 (\$30 at the door).

We will need some volunteers so plan on helping out. We hope to see you there! The food as usual, will be exquisite, the ambience festive, the company cheery and this year we'll have after dinner dancing to live music provided by the ensemble of our very own member, Greg Johnson.

Please remember that the Venison Stag takes the place of the Club Meeting in December.

An Effective and Fun Pick-Up Technique: The Corkscrew Pick-Up

STEPHEN BEATON, MEMBER

A good pick-up is usually a precursor to good back and forward casts, and there are several techniques for doing so. The “corkscrew” or “C” pick-up is one of those. I originally learned about the C pick-up while reading Gary Borger’s 2010 book entitled, *FISHING THE FILM*, and later read about it in George Daniel’s 2012 book entitled, *DYNAMIC NYMPHING*. I eventually began practicing the C pick-up (usually during a break from practicing for my casting certification, and much to Van Derhoof’s, my mentor, chagrin!) and found it to be effective and fun. I thought that a brief overview of the technique might be interesting to the uninitiated.

PROS AND CONS

Proponents assert that the C pick-up is efficient because the angler can easily and quietly remove excess and/or slack line off of the water before the back cast begins. Proponents also assert that a large and slow “C” allows them to pick-up a nymph without drying it and that a small and fast C removes most of the moisture from a dry fly thereby eliminating the need to false cast. Daniel finds the C pick-up particularly effective for long-line nymphing, and Borger opines that the technique is so efficient that he uses it on “virtually every cast,” and that it is “superb when fishing up, across, or down.” In contrast, at least one critic argues that a straight pick-up is simpler, quieter, and more effective.

MECHANICS

1. Position yourself in a normal pick-up posture;
2. Raise the rod in front of you with the tip pointing up at approximately 45 degrees above the horizontal/roughly the 10:00 position on a clock face;
3. Quickly accelerate the rod tip around in a half



- circle starting from the top of the “C” and ending at the bottom of the “C”. The “C” can also be made from bottom to top, but the former provides the angler more room to perform the back cast;
4. Conclude by seamlessly flowing into a normal back cast once the rod tip reaches the bottom of the “C”.

PRACTICE

Practice is obviously required to master the C pick-up, and the following is a suggested approach. First, practice making the C-Shaped motion and back cast with your rod hand only. Repeat until you are reasonably comfortable with it. Next, incorporate the fly rod (without any extended line) and practice making the C-Shaped motion and back cast until you are reasonably comfortable with it. Third, practice making the C-Shaped motion and back cast with approximately 25 feet of line extended from the rod tip. Repeat this step and extend more line as your skill develops. Conclude by performing small, large, slow and fast C pick-ups.

This practice sequence will hopefully assist you in learning the C pick-up and provide you with another option for efficiently returning the fly to the water. The foregoing should also assist in improving your line control and it’s fun.

CONCLUSION

The straight, stutter, hump, wiggle, roll cast, etc. pick-ups are certainly effective techniques, and should be mastered. Perhaps the C pick-up will also become part of your pick-up arsenal as well.

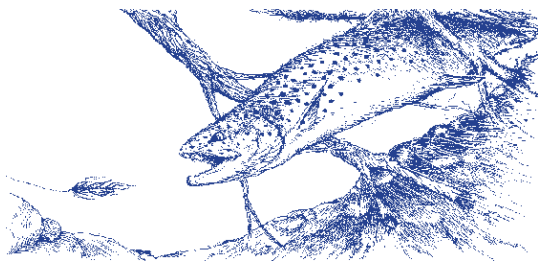
Why I Catch More Fish Than You Do

JEFFREY SADLER, PAST PRESIDENT

For those of you who are still laughing at the thought of me catching more fish than you, STOP reading here. This article isn't for you; it is for the many people I have observed that need a few hints on how to become better. I have come off the stream with a casual: "I caught ___ fish (fill in the number)" and people will say: "Hogwash". The problem is that they may need more of a chance to catch fish.

*If your fly ain't in the water,
You ain't gonna catch a lot of fish.
Period!*

Observation 1: FALSE CASTING (too much). There are several reasons to false cast: reposition your line, extend or retract line, and drying out your fly. Normally I don't false cast at all—just pick-up-and-lay-down. Sometimes one false cast to adjust my line, and occasionally two false casts but almost never more. I have seen as many as a dozen false casts for no apparent reason, why?



Result 1: If a false cast takes one second and say you do it four times per cast, that's 4 seconds versus my one second. Cast five times per minute and you've used 20 seconds per minute versus my 5 seconds. In an 8-hour fishing day my fly has been over fish exactly two hours more than yours. That's one reason I catch more fish than you.

Solution 1: Learn to cast better and there are several



ways to do that:

- Take the LBCC Beginners Casting Class.
- Come to the pond on the Thursday night Joe/Ian class and ask for help.
- Take a professional guide and as long as you're paying \$300 bucks you might as well listen and learn. A good guide is an 8-hour floating casting lesson.
- Tournament/Target cast. The games you can partake of are designed to force you to learn accurate casting skills and line management. The basics you practice to score better are precisely the on-the-water skills you need to eliminate false casting. Our best fishers are also our best casters.

Joe L., Bob M., John (V. or N.), and others are by far the better fishers in our club and the fact that they are also some of our best tournament casters is not accidental. They work hard at it. There are a few of you out there that are currently a good fishers and very good casters. All you need is "water" time to be as good a fisher as any.

I am not a great tournament caster but I continue to do it, not for medals but to see my scores improve because I know that each point my average goes up, I catch more fish.

If you find these hints useful I will continue a series of "Why I am better..." articles with topics such as: knots, organization, equipment, mending and how to eat peanut butter sandwiches in one hand and fish with the other.

(Editor's Note: this is a reprint of an older article by Jeff and worth running again. There are a few others in the series that I will re-present over the next couple of issues.)

Fly of the Month: John's Western Coachman

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, EDITOR

In an attempt to help honor our October Speaker of the Month and longtime friend, Steven Fernandez and the 2012 winner of the IFFF's Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award, I thought it would be nice to introduce all of you to a Western classic wet fly with a twist: a version of the Western Coachman that I have been using for years. Any winner of the Buszek Award—I was so honored in 2007—has an appreciation of the Western Coachman because not only is it a great fly to fish but also its originator is the namesake of the award; Buz Buszek of Visalia California.

The Coachman series of flies have been for a long, long time. In fact the original Coachman dates back to the 1820s and was originated by Tom Bosworth who just happened to be the coachman for the British Royal Family of the time. Other versions such as the Leadwing Coachman (changing out the white duck quill wing for, you guessed it, gray) came later. Longtime favorite, the Royal Coachman, was developed in 1878 by John Haily who was a tier for Charles F. Orvis, though he got the pattern from another unnamed commercial tier. Buz started tying his Western version in the 1940s specifically for rainbow and brown trout in the Kings River and after trying several materials for the winging, settled on white Mule deer.

Buz's original pattern is an outstanding and effective pattern as it perfectly imitates submerged emerging mayflies and caddis with the white wing simulating the expanding thorax of the new insect. Since I am never content to leave things alone, I started modifying the pattern for fishing freestone rivers like the Kings, Madison and even the Green. In updating the pattern I have slimmed down the body and am using a mix of UV dubbings, kept the tippet tail, albeit a lot thinner, but added a few strands of Zelon. I have kept the white Deer Hair wing.

I fish the fly both as a wet fly swinging across and downstream with a small amount of weight and also as a nymph dead drifting as the upper fly in a two fly rig. Remember, by saying upper fly, that means that it's the one that will be the highest in the water column and the fly farthest from the weight.

So give this old-timer a try and catch some fish!

Materials for tying John's Western Coachman:

- Hook: Mustad 3906B or similar.
- Thread: Black 6/0 or 8/0.
- Tails: Golden Pheasant tippet, 2 or 3 strands mixed with a half dozen strands of olive Zelon or Antron.
- Ribbing: Fine gold wire.
- Body: Thinly dubbed Dark Olive and Peacock Ice Dubbing; mixed 50% each.
- Thorax: Peacock herl.
- Wing: Natural white hair Mule or Whitetail Deer.
- Hackle: Dark brown partridge rump.



Instructions for tying John's Western Coachman:

- 1 Place the hook in the vise and attach the thread to the hook at the headspace. Wind evenly down to the bend of the hook. Tie in the gold wire ribbing. Select 2 or 3 strands of Golden Pheasant tippet and tie them in. Frankly, I left the tippet in to help keep with tradition but danged if didn't seem to work better with them in there as well! Now select 6 to 8 strands of Olive Zelon or Antron and tie them in on top of the tippet. The Zelon/Antron acts like a trailing shuck which adds to the "emerger" look.
- 2 Mix equal parts of the two body materials together and dub them very thinly onto your thread. Wind the dubbing forward about $\frac{4}{5}$'s of the way up the hook shank. Now tie in the Peacock herl with the dull side facing forward and wind it forward the rest of the way to the headspace and tie it off.
- 3 With the Gold wire in hand, reverse wind (you will winding towards yourself and not away) 2 or 3 close turns around the hook shank immediately behind the tail material. Be sure not tie it so close that the tail material sticks up at an odd angle. Continue winding the ribbing up the hook shank using 5 evenly spaced turns; not 4, not 6 but 5 turns. Five turns will provide the correct look while others will look sparse or overdone!
- 4 Select a small clump of white Deer hair and knock out or even comb out all of the basal fur. Place the hair in a hair stacker and lightly tap aligning the tips. If you stand the hair out perpendicular to the skin before cutting it you may actually avoid having to stack it. Tie in the Deer hair using the loose loop technique and with the tips reaching the end of the body or ever so slightly beyond. This is an emerger, not a streamer so keep the wing short.
- 5 Select a Partridge rump feather for your hackle. The traditional hackle is "Coachman" brown hen or rooster but, I much prefer the mottled tones of brown rump feather of a Partridge. Stroke



the feather so that all of the hackle fibers are perpendicular to the stem and tie in the feather by the tip. Wind the hackle forward using 3 to 5 turns depending on the size of the fly and tie it off at the headspace. Form a small, neat head, whip finish and add a drop of head cement insuring that the eye of the hook is not clogged and you're ready to swing your way towards more trout!

Our New Members

MICHAEL FLEDER,
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

At the September 9th Board of Directors Meeting, applications were approved of the following new members:

- ❖ Richard Fallon
- ❖ Al and Joanne D'Amico
- ❖ Tori Otters
- ❖ Steve and Sue Timm
- ❖ David and Ann Weinstein

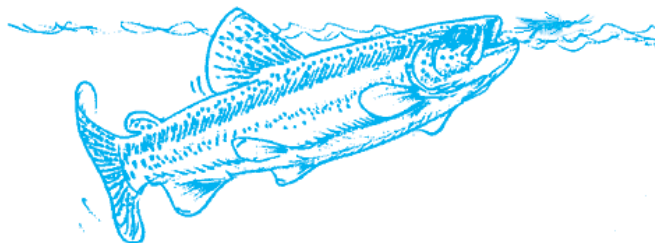
Please greet and welcome our newest members at the club's next Monthly Meeting. Here's wishing them a lifetime of healthy hatches and tight lines.

On The River Clinic 2013

JOE LIBEU, PAST PRESIDENT

As part of the Long Beach Casting Club's commitment to continuing education, join us for our annual ON THE RIVER CLINIC. This class includes three nights of education geared to individuals who wish to gain a broad overview of fly fishing knowledge followed by a weekend trip to pull it all together. The class room dates are October 30, November 6 & 13. If the DWP continues to hold the flows down, the "On the River" portion of the clinic will be held at the Lower Owens on November 16-17.

You will be introduced to entomology, stream structure, reading the water, casting applications (mends, dry fly, nymphing, streamers, soft hackle), short and long line presentations, fly selection, organizing your fly box, equipment and knots. We will then take the knowledge you have gained and apply



it to a Lower Owens weekend outing where you will receive individual instruction.

The ON THE RIVER CLINIC is led by Joe Libeu who is a LBCC Past President, licensed guide, Master Certified Casting Instructor and owner of Sierra Pacific Fishing Adventures. Joe has been fishing the Lower Owens since 1975 and considers this watershed to be his home water.

The ON THE RIVER CLINIC is for club members only and free of charge. Call Joe Libeu at 310-749-6671 or email Fishlgf@ix.netcom.com for any additional information or to sign up for the clinic.

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Reading the Water & Stream Structure ❖ Entomology & Fly Selections ❖ Knots & Nymph Rig Systems
Casting Applications ❖ Short and Long-Line Presentations ❖ Wading Safety

The clinic is limited to a maximum of 6 students. The \$300 tuition includes 2 full days of on-the-stream instructions and streamside lunch. Not included are lodging, tackle, other meals, licenses and transportation. Dates are subject to change based on local conditions.



2013-14 Clinic Schedule: Beginning: October 19-20, November 9-10, December 7-8, February 15-16, March 8-9; Advanced: October 26-27, November 16-17, December 14-15, February 22-23, March 22-23; Annual Women's Clinic: December 7-8

Contact Joe at (310) 749-6771 (fishlgf@ix.netcom.com) for more information or to sign up. For the Women's Clinic, please contact Kathy at (714) 290-6930 (kkspfa@yahoo.com).



Sierra Pacific Fishing Adventures • 3901 Brayton Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 • (310) 749-6771 • www.joelibeufllyfishing.com

Calendar of Events

October

1	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rod building: Session 2 of 4
3-6	Thu.-Sun		Club Trip: Redding/Northern California
7	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors' Meeting
8	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rod building: Session 3 of 4
9	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
12-13	Weekend		Northwestern Casting Tournament
15	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rod building: Session 4 of 4
16	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Monthly Noon Lunch
22	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rod building - Make-up
24	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting (1 week early): Fly Tying w/Steven Fernandez
27	Sunday	9:00 AM	Club Cast
29	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying (Orientation)
30	Wednesday	7:00 PM	On The River Clinic Class Session (1 of 3)

November

4	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors' Meeting
5	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #1: Techniques
6	Wednesday	7:00 PM	On The River Clinic Class Session (2 of 3)
10	Sunday	9:00 AM	Club Cast
12	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #2: Ant
13	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
		7:00 PM	On The River Clinic Class Session (3 of 3)
16-17	Weekend		On The River Bishop Club Trip
19	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #3: Soft Hackle
20	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Nooner Lunch
21	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting:
24	Sunday	9:00 AM	Club Cast
26	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #4: Boss (steelhead)

December

2	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors' Meeting
3	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #5: Scud
7	Saturday	6:00 PM	Venison Stag
8	Sunday	9:00 AM	Club Cast
10	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #6: Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear
17	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #7: Pheasant Tail
18	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Nooner Lunch
22	Sunday	9:00 AM	Club Cast



 <p>Bob Marriott's FLYFISHING STORE</p> <p>www.bobmarriotts.com info@bobmarriotts.com 2700 W. Orangethorpe Ave Fullerton, CA 92833</p>	<p>GOING GREEN...</p> <p>We now offer a full service Equipment Recycling Program that saves resources.. and puts some "green" on an account for you here at the shop!</p> <p>www.bobmarriottsflyfishingstore.com/going-green</p> <p>Store (714) 525-1827 Travel (714) 578-1880</p> 
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