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# Target Talk

Newsletter of the Long Beach Casting Club, Established 1925

December 2013

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

(562) 433-9408

## Leader's Line ...

## There is Still Plenty of Fishing to Do

JIM THOMASON, PRESIDENT

**A**nother year is rapidly coming to a close. If you didn't get enough fishing in this year, it's not too late. While the rest of the country is packing up their gear, doing equipment repairs, or breaking out the skis, we're blessed with wonderful winter weather and numerous places to fish as well as lots of fly fishing activities. Now if we could only get some rain.

The holidays normally put a pinch on our December outing as many people can't get away for an extended trip. This year we'll be headed down to San Diego to fish the bay and possibly the surf. The fishing is great year round and it's close enough that many members make a day trip of it. However, I highly recommend staying for the weekend to take full advantage of the available offerings. If you haven't tried saltwater fly fishing yet, you couldn't pick a better place to try it. The fishing is easy, the fish are plentiful, and the scenery is outstanding.

If you're done fishing for the year or just want to get ready for our upcoming Lower Owens trips, we have two fly tying options for you. Doug Smith leads our annual fly tying class. Great for beginners and intermediates, it's a good way to brush up on your skills and fill your box with the standard flies. Don't worry if you missed a few classes as each class generally stands on its own. If you've already taken the class, or need extra help, Howard Uller and Jun Watanabe have started a weekly fly tying forum. It will provide instruction on a variety of tying techniques and flies or you can simply drop in to tie your favorite flies. It should provide just enough motivation to get you back at the vise.

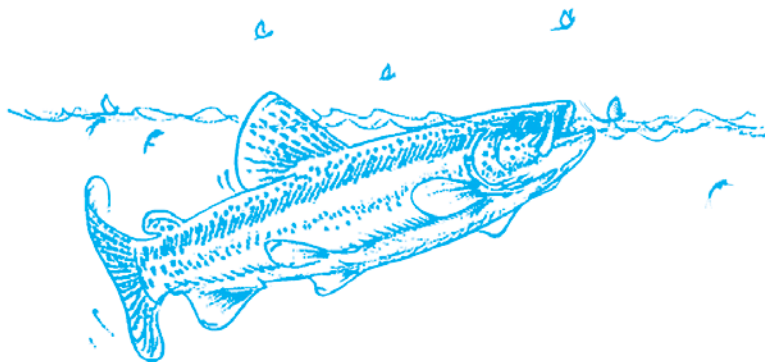
For fun and frivolity, we offer two social events this month. If you can get away during the day, our monthly Nooner lunch provides both fellowship and great food. The menu varies but the friendships endure. If a wonderful sit down dinner is more to your liking, our Annual Venison Stag will be held Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. This is the best deal in town. For one low fee you get fabulous food, fine friendships, and even a band. Yes, this year we'll feature live music for your listening enjoyment so break out those dancing shoes and join the fun.

*Leader's Line continues on page 3*

## There's Still Plenty of Fishing to Do

Leader's Line continued from page 1

Of course we have our local streams (East & West San Gabriel, Santa Ana), lakes, beaches, and bays plus the year round Owens, Hot Creek, Kern, and Kings. So, while everyone else is putting up decorations or shopping online, slip away for a little late season fishing. The flows are friendly, the weather is still mild, and the fishing can be hot.



## Notes from the Pond

### GEORGE SIEWARD, FACILITIES & POND

**H**ey everybody, we pulled off another successful cleaning in October. Special thanks to all those who took part: Mark F., Jim G. Andy S., Norm R., Patrick H., Howard H., Evan M., John L., Tommy K., Bob K., Bill B., Pablo G., Rob Peterson and our two friends from Wilson High School, Jack S. and Thomas A.

I have to give a Big shout out to Rick Hillis for stepping up and taking the hose away from me (in doing so saving my butt from getting blown all over the pond) and working the entire time on the nozzle.

By the way, everybody that participated in a cleaning throughout the year, your name has been submitted for a special drawing that takes place at the Venison Stag dinner. Hope whoever gets drawn is there to get their prize. For future cleanings we decided to serve breakfast afterwards in lieu of donuts, since they're not good for you anyway.

Thanks to All!

## OFFICERS

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❖ ❖ ❖

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# Venison Stag Holiday Dinner

**PABLO GRABIEL, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

**T**he Venison Stag is almost here and it's time now to reserve your spot for this year's festivities. This is the club's biggest social event of the year. The date for this year's extravaganza is Saturday, December 7. The Social hour will begin at 6:00 PM, with refreshments and music provided and 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 delicious prime rib with all the fixings cooked by our very own master chef John Lincoln.

An accurate head count is necessary to plan and prepare the dinner. And there is a reservation form included on the last page of Target Talk. 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 [jathomason@mail.com](mailto:jathomason@mail.com) or call me at 626-357-6050. 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, it's Saturday, December 7.



## Our New Members

**MICHAEL FLEDER,**  
**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

**A**t the September 9<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting, applications were approved of the following new member:

❖ **Karmen Henry**

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

# Southwestern Tournament 2014

MARK TSUNAWAKI, PAST PRESIDENT

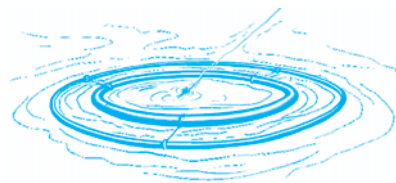
Attention all volunteers and tournament casters! It's that time of the year where we need to start planning for the 2014 Southwestern Casting Tournament. The tournament will be held on February 15 and 16, 2014. Normally it's the second weekend of February but many of our visiting casters requested it to be on the Presidents' weekend so that they wouldn't have to rush home after the tournament on Sunday.

This notice is coming to you early so that you can mark your calendars. Our first meeting will be Monday, January 13, 2014, at 7:00 PM at the clubhouse. For the most part, the Long Beach Casting Club has put on a very well organized tournament, mainly due to all of the members that volunteer making it such a success. As in previous tournaments we need help with set up, take down, clean up, breakfast (Saturday), lunches, Saturday night banquet, scorekeepers, equipment checkers, and miscellaneous fill ins.

So please mark your calendar for the planning date (January 13, 7:00 pm) and tournament dates (February 15-16) all at the clubhouse.

Also, as a little side note, many of you may have heard from some of our tournament casters talk about a little 9-year old girl, Maxine McCormick, from the

Golden Gate Casting and Angling Club. She has been casting since December 2012, won all the events in the Junior Division at the Nationals in Oakland, including 2 new national records in the Dry Fly and Trout Fly games, and is quite impressive to watch. Maxine will be attending the tournament so bring your kids/grandkids to watch and hopefully spark some interest in our favorite pass time of fly fishing and casting!



## Club Trips for 2013

RIX GANO, 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

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

### 2013 & 2014 TRIPS:

TRIP DATE	TRIP & LEADER
Dec. 14, 2013	San Diego Bay by Bill Boehlert, (Pre-trip meeting 12/4/2013)
Jan. 11, 2014	Sierra Trip #1 by Yash Iseda, John Lincoln, Dan Rivett (Pre-trip Workshop 1/4/2014)
Feb. 8, 2014	Sierra Trip #2 by Yash Iseda, John Lincoln, Dan Rivett (Pre-trip Workshop 2/1/2014)
Mar. 8, 2014	Sierra Trip #3 by Yash Iseda, John Lincoln, Dan Rivett (Pre-trip Workshop 3/1/2014)

Trip locations and dates are subject to change so monitor Target Talk or the Web Calendar for the latest information. Pre-trip meetings are held at the clubhouse starting 7:00 PM. Pre-trip workshops are held in the clubhouse starting at 9:00 AM. Please contact me if you have any suggestions or questions at 310-291-3963 or [rgano1@yahoo.com](mailto:rgano1@yahoo.com).



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## Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

CAROLE KATZ, PROGRAM LEAD

PHWFF just completed the inaugural fly tying contest, and two of the veterans in our program placed in the top five: Dennis took third and Bill got honorable mention. The prize for Dennis will be a free trip to the International Fly Tying Symposium in Somerset, NJ, the world's largest fly tying show where he'll be introduced to many celebrity tiers and meet others involved in PHWFF programs in the East.

We recently finished several months of fly tying classes under the direction of John Woodling and John Van Derhoof. Speaking of John Woodling, he is approaching 10,000 as the number of flies he has tied for PHWFF. In addition to supplying the veterans in our program and others in the Southwest, boxes of his flies have been raffled as fundraisers in many of our programs, including the 2-Fly Tournament in Virginia.

The Orange County Register did an article about our program for Veterans Day. The reporter was intrigued by the history of our club, veteran's issues, as well as PHWFF, and has expressed an interest in doing a more in-depth article in the future.

The first fundraiser of the end-of-summer was the nationwide raffle of a rod/reel/net combo by Southern Sierra Fly Fishers, long-time supporters of PHWFF. The winner was a PHWFF volunteer and veteran in New York! This year's raffle netted \$4600, which will be split between PHWFF and Casting for Recovery. We extend a big thank you to Pete Emmel of Renaissance Fly Rods, Greg Madrigal of Sierra-Nets, Gary & Lacey of Western Visions Lanyards, Orvis and Maui Jim.

In terms of other fundraisers, we always enjoy having a booth at the Bob Marriott's Fly Fishing Fair and are happy that it's back. Before the club's weekly fly tying classes, we've been selling a very large collection of tying materials donated by Barbara Komatsu, whose

husband was a fly designer and tier, and we've printed holiday cards by David Lloyd (as Santa of course!), Al

Ross and John Van Derhoof as another fundraiser. All this helps to pay for our fishing trips.

We're so grateful for all the support we have received over the years. If you'd like to volunteer or donate, please email me at [Katzhogan@gmail.com](mailto:Katzhogan@gmail.com).



## Jeff Sadler's Royal Wulff Corner

JEFF SADLER, PAST PRESIDENT

Quotes from the Masters on the greatest fly of 'em all...



*"Ted Marciano sent me a dozen exquisite, size 20 Royal Wulffs. They went into my fly box, but not because they were ever going to be used. Instead, they were intended as conversation pieces for showing off to other anglers. Then, one day I tied one of them on—and it was deadly business."*

THE DRY FLY, NEW ANGLES  
Gary LaFontaine

# The Roll Cast Pick-Up: Another Effective & Fun Pick-Up Technique

STEPHEN BEATON, MEMBER

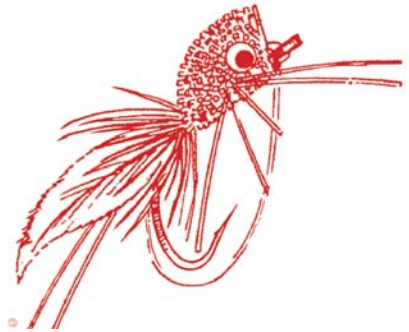
This is a follow-up to my article on the corkscrew pick-up including its uses, mechanics, and practice pointers (see October's Target Talk). This month's topic involves another fun and effective technique; the roll cast pick-up. I originally learned about the roll cast pick-up while reading Gary LaFontaine's 1990 book entitled, *THE DRY FLY, NEW ANGLES*, and endeavored to incorporate it into my regular, but increasingly brief Montana fishing trips. In fact, my trips became so brief and infrequent that I actually forgot about the roll cast pick-up even when I did escape from the office. That was an unfortunate omission.

Luckily, I reacquainted myself with the roll cast pick-up several years later since it was part of my casting instructor certification exam and I am now using it more than ever (it helps to live a few minutes from the Madison River where I now fish daily). As a result, I reduced my false casting as a means of extending line to an absolute minimum, and I again have another means for quietly picking-up my line on spooky water. I hope the following is helpful.

## PURPOSE

LaFontaine opined that anglers fail to catch fish for a variety of reasons including blundering into the river, scattering long and inaccurate casts, and frantically picking-up and laying down the line. LaFontaine also stated in part, "Don't these anglers realize that it's almost impossible '(there's no quibbling on this)' to work a pool properly without using a roll cast pick up, not a straight pickup, after every drift...Lifting the line off the water with an immediate backcast sends a spray of droplets over the surface that spooks trout. It's a disturbance they never learn to ignore". He concluded by noting that the roll cast pick-up is

also efficient because it enables the angler to quickly recast their line instead of retrieving the entire line or letting it drift far below the fish before picking it up and extending the line via multiple false casts.



Likewise, Macauley Lord asserts that the roll cast pick-up is effective when

dead drifting a fly upstream with a high rod tip and excessive slack near the angler's feet hinders his ability to make a straight-line, low-rod tip pickup (*THE L.L. BEAN ULTIMATE BOOK OF FLY FISHING*) and others (such as our very own Bob Middo) believe that the roll cast pick-up is effective when fishing bass plugs and other large top-water flies and for lifting the fly away from debris and obstacles. I doubt that even my grumpy casting mentor (good ol' Van Derhoof!) questions the utility of the roll cast pick-up.

## MECHANICS/PRACTICE

- ❖ Initially extend or strip-in the line so that at least 25 feet is extended beyond the rod tip (practice with different lengths of line as your skill progresses);
- ❖ Lift the rod tip to approximately 1:00 without throwing line into the air or forming a D-loop. Instead, just allow line to slide along the surface;
- ❖ Make a forward roll cast aiming the line approximately 6 feet above the surface so the line extends in the air. Do not allow the forward loop to unroll onto the surface (practice making the roll cast away from your target and then return to the target on your eventual delivery cast);
- ❖ Immediately perform a normal back cast(s); and
- ❖ Conclude by performing a normal forward cast(s).

## CONCLUSION

The straight, slide, stutter, hump, wiggle, corkscrew, and single haul are all effective and fun techniques and should be mastered. Perhaps the roll cast pick-up will also become part of your pick-up arsenal.

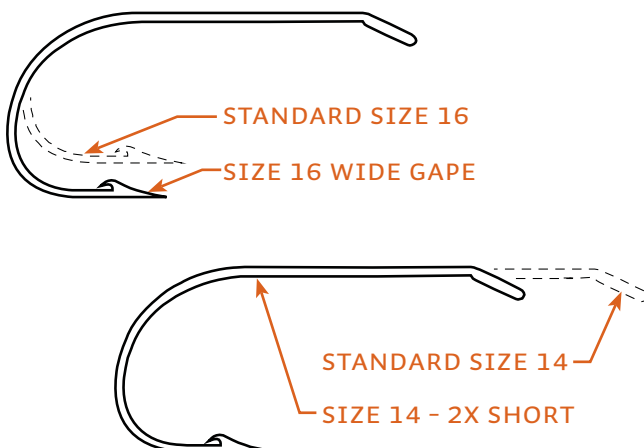
# Hic Sunt Draconis

JEFF SADLER, PAST PRESIDENT

Or “*Here be Dragons*” the quote ancient cartographers used when they came to the edge of the maps of their known world. Dragons, draco, drakul, drakkon; words to describe mythical beasts. Well we have our own mythical beasts in fly fishing.

The easiest dragon to slay is the mythical hook size ranging from small to large: ...28, 26, 24,.....8, 6, 4, 2, 1, 1/0, 2/0, 3/0, 4/0... Even this is a strange scale with the smaller sizes being even and the larger the number the smaller the fly (yes, there are odd sized hooks but not very popular). There is a “1” in the center of the scale and then we go to “1/0” pronounced “one aught” and continue with larger numbers being larger hooks. Got it??? Well, hold on...

Another club member and I were having an interesting discussion on this very subject one evening and I posited that a “wide gape” hook made no sense as gape was the unit of measure for hook size. The other member said not only did wide gape make sense, it was correct as the hook size is based on shank length. So, if he takes a size 16 and widens the gape to size 14 gape then he has a size “16 wide gape.” If I take a size 14 and shorten the shank length to a size 16, I have a size “14 2x short.”



Both of these hooks are absolutely identical in shape and size, so, your turn to vote now. Which of the two descriptions is correct???

BOTH and neither. As William E. Schmidt says in the opening line of HOOKS FOR THE FLY: “*Standardization is sadly lacking in the hook industry with each maker having their own standards.*”

The point of this is to convince you that all standards ain’t... Some lie, some exaggerate and some are ignorant when telling you “facts.” But in this case there is no truth and, as they say, “*knowledge is king*”.

The purpose of this article is to convince you to do your own research or science and come to the conclusion that best fits your fly fishing style, (or in this case fly tying style) which is not necessarily the hot, hyped, newly advertised breakthrough which is generally a re-naming and repackaging of something done many times and years ago. One thing many people need to learn about this sport is that there really isn't much very new in fly fishing...

(Editor's Note: this is a reprint of an older article by Jeff who always comes up with new ways to thing about things and many new to the sport may find some of this enlightening.)

# Fly of the Month: Zelon Thorax Dun

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, EDITOR

The Zelon Thorax Dun is my version of the now standard Thorax Dun pioneered by the late Vince Marinaro 40 years ago. In his book, *A MODERN DRY FLY CODE*, Marinaro's pattern created a more natural appearing imitation by placing the wing and hackle farther back on the hook than the traditional dry flies of that time.

The wing material that Marinaro used was turkey flats which created a broader silhouette, much like the sail shaped wing of a may fly. Orvis marketed these flies heavily in the '70s and '80s because they worked so well for so many different situations. However, by substituting Zelon or even cul du cunard feathers for the turkey flats you can create an even more realistic wing and add to the floatability of the fly by using these more lifelike and better floating materials.

I have been using this fly in a myriad of different forms for 30 years now and always find it a valuable addition to my fly box. It's in there in a variety of sizes and colors. It's easy to tie, durable and floats well in all but the roughest water. With the exception of the Elk Hair Caddis, the Zelon Thorax Dun has been the most effective pattern for dry fly fishing I have used through all of those years.

## Materials for tying the Zelon Thorax Dun:

- Hook: Standard dry fly, sizes 12-20
- Thread: Color to match body
- Wing: Zelon or cul du cunard feathers, color to match the insect (dark gray for Blue-Winged Olive)
- Hackle: Best dry fly quality, color to match the insect (dark gray for BWO)
- Tail: Hackle fibers, color to match the insect (dark gray for BWO)
- Body: Dubbing with the color to match the insect (medium olive for BWO)
- Thorax: Dubbing the color to match the insect (medium olive for BWO)



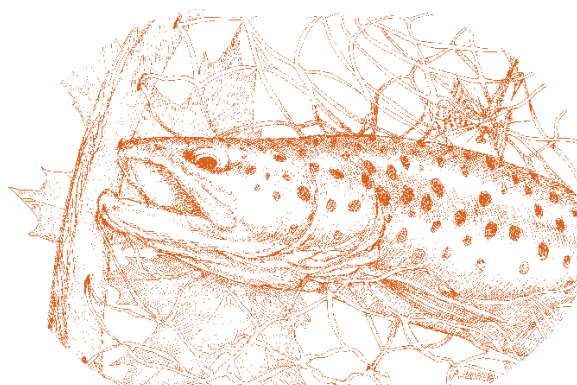
## Instructions for tying the Zelon Thorax Dun:

1. Attach the thread to the hook and wind back to a point 1/3 of the shank behind the eye. Tie in the Zelon or cul du cunard feather at this spot. The wing should be two times the length of the shank and slightly angle it back over the body. Place a very (very!) small drop of head cement at the base of the wing. Tie in the hackle in front of the wing with the concave (dull) side facing the eye. Wind the thread back to the bend of the hook.
2. Wind on a small dubbing ball and tie in the tail fibers (2-4) on either side of the ball. Tie in the far side first by starting the tail barbs on the top and let the thread tension pull them over to the far side. Do the same for the near tail barbs by starting at the underside of the body and letting tension pull them up along the



side. Dub your thread and wind towards the thorax forming the body. Continue one or two turns in front of the wing and hackle. If you want to add a ribbing to the body like the illustration use non-color preserver rod winding thread and tie it in after applying the tails. It's thin and won't change color when wet.

3. With a pair of flat nose pliers or tweezers, squeeze the base of the wing allowing the wing to fan out over the body. The glue applied earlier will hold it in place. Trim the wing into a mayfly shape with the height being not more than 1½ the length of the shank.
4. Wind 2 to 4 turns of hackle in front of the wing only. Dub the remaining portion of the thorax, wind the head and whip finish. Trim the hackle on the underside of the thorax as close as you dare. Warning! Only trim the hackle from the eye of the hook and not from the side. The idea is to make all cuts as close to the thorax dubbing as possible.



This will let the fly rest low in the water just like the natural and eliminate blunt ends which can actually add the impression of micro drag.

**NOTE:**

A nice variation to this fly is to use Zelon the same color as the body as a very sparse tail. Also, trim the wing a bit shorter and a bit lower/closer to the body. You know where I'm going with this... yes, an emerger!

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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 (fishlfg@ix.netcom.com) for more information or to sign up. For the Women's Clinic, please contact Kathy at (714) 290-6930 (kksdfa@yahoo.com).



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# Calendar of Events

## December

2	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors' Meeting
3	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #5: Scud
4	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
		7:00 PM	Pre-Trip: San Diego Bay/Surf
7	Saturday	6:00 PM	Venison Stag (no monthly meeting)
8	Sunday	9:00 AM	Club Cast
10	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #6: Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear
11	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
14	Saturday		Outing: San Diego Bay (Surf Tentative)
17	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #7: Pheasant Tail
18	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Nooner Lunch
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
22	Sunday	9:00 AM	Club Cast

## January 2014

4	Saturday	9:00 AM	Lower Owens Workshop
5	Sunday	9:00 AM	Club Cast
6	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors' Meeting
7	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #8: Clouser Minnow
8	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
11-12	Weekend		Outing: Lower Owens #1
14	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #9: Crazy Charlie
15	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
19	Sunday	9:00 AM	Club Cast
21	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #10: Woolly Bugger
15	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
22	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #11: Muddler Minnow
28	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
30	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting (Past President's): Big Horn with Joe Libeu

## February

1	Saturday	9:00 AM	Lower Owens Workshop
2	Sunday	9:00 AM	Club Cast
3	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors' Meeting
4	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #12: Elk Hair Caddis
5	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
8	Saturday		SWC FFF Fly Buy
8-9	Weekend		Outing: Lower Owens #2
11	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #13: Adams
12	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
15-16	Sat-Sun		Southwestern Tournament
18	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #14: Parachute Adams
19	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
25	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying #15: Humpy
26	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
27	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: to be determined

# Holiday Get Away Trip: San Diego Bay December 2013

RIX GANO, 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

Get away from the Holiday stress and burn off some turkey fat by fishing San Diego Bay on Dec. 14th! San Diego Bay has proven to be a great year round fishery. We'll be targeting the hard hitting spotted bay bass but don't be surprised if you hook up to halibut, smelt, yellow fin croaker, mackerel, black croaker etc. Fishing the Bay is best done by utilizing a pontoon boat, kayak, or float tube.



The Pre-Trip, coordinated by Bill Boehlert, is scheduled for Dec 4<sup>th</sup> where he'll be sharing techniques, rigs, flies, and everything you need to become successful. We'll also discuss the possibility of fishing the surf the following day lead by Jim Thomason.

## VENISON STAG RESERVATION

Saturday, December 7, 2013 ❖ Social Hour: 6:00 PM ❖ Dinner: 7:00 PM

Reservations are due by November 22, 2013

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend the Venison Stag on Saturday, December 1, 2012

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 11-22-2013)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
Long Beach Casting Club  
AND MAIL TO THE ABOVE AT:  
P.O. Box 90035  
Long Beach, California 90809-0035





 <p><b>Bob Marriott's FLYFISHING STORE</b></p> <p>www.bobmarriotts.com info@bobmarriotts.com 2700 W. Orangethorpe Ave Fullerton, CA 92833</p>	<p><b>GOING GREEN...</b></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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