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Target Talk

Newsletter of the Long Beach Casting Club, Established 1925

October 2014

www.longbeachcastingclub.org

(562) 433-9408

Leader's Line ...

It's not Easy Being Simple

MICK WOODBURY, PRESIDENT

As a fledging New Mexico teen, I fished with a two-piece dime store bamboo. That rod, and an old Sucrets tin, was all I needed. In less than 30 seconds, I could gather my stuff and be out the door.

IT'S DIFFERENT NOW...

It sometimes starts in a fly shop, but most often begins by observing other fishermen, who in their head-to-toe garb look as impressive as gladiators (or is it just goofy???) and who telegraph their approach by the jingling and clanking of each step. It's just too powerful to resist.

It's easy to think that more gear makes you a better fisherman. After all, those many pockets in the vest are there for a reason; they *need* to be filled. The same logic quickly consumes empty shelves and closets. It might be called emptyphobia.

It's insidious being a tackle ho. The disease lasts for years, usually decades, and demands countless trips to fly shops, a lot more money than planned, and time—lots of time and, of course, money. Its severity is measured by how many trips it takes to load the car. There is only one sure cure—after which all your treasures get donated or put up on eBay.

This affliction really becomes apparent once a fishing

destination is set. Wet wade or hip boots, guide pants or chest highs? Stocking foot or boot foot? Felts, studs or rubber lugs? Hat or visor, cap or cap with flap? Brim, ear flaps, flats, long bill, buff, knit, canvas, corduroy, nylon, vented mesh, twill or polyester? According to the catalogs each will enhance the outdoor experience.

Gloves for sun, gloves for cold. Neoprene, polyurethane, wool, cotton, fleece lined, down, full finger, half finger, split finger and fingerless.

SIGHT FOR POOR EYES...

We choose Polaroids to cut glare and better see below the surface. But one thing leads to another: lenses of copper, amber, gray, gray-green, brown, rose, smoke and blue; each one supposedly better for specific light conditions. There are also mirrored or non-mirrored, and wrap-around. Oh, and don't forget magnifiers.

Leader's Line continues on page 2

Planting Memories... Leader's Line continued from page 1**ALL FOR JUST SIX BUGS...**

Mark Heskett's book, FLY FISHING MAMMOTH, chronicles six bugs that serve as food sources: mayflies, stoneflies, caddis, midges, damselflies and terrestrials. Ralph Cutter's book, SIERRA FLY FISHING, leaves out damselflies. If these two published experts agree on five or perhaps six bug species as trout food, why does my Marriott's catalog tempt me with 250 fly patterns? Fly Crafter's catalog shows 258. The Fly Shop in Redding displays 292 and Dan Bailey's catalog illustrates 328! It's not just sex that sells, it's also complexity. The appeal of those flies is merciless; they hook us time after time.

In reality, many of us have more flies right now than we'll ever use in a lifetime. We fish, we lose five flies then we tie ten. We tie between trips and then we tie more to "get ready". When we get there, we stop and buy pattern flies and get the local scoop. All to imitate just six bugs. Six!

At streamside, being well prepared is an understatement: we carry rods, reels and lines for every situation. We don't carry just one rod, we carry one set up for dries and another for nymphs. But that still leaves streamers, soft hackles and Czech nymphing.

Climbers have Sherpas; hunters have porters; golfers have caddies. Maybe that's the next thing on our must have list—carters—who carry multiple rods, lunches and cold beverages. Why not? Oh, wait a minute, then where do guides and ghillies fit in and can we buy them without being guilty of slavery?

SIMPLE TRUTH...

The truth is that our sport began as simple. But today, it's quite difficult to keep it simple. The more we learn the more "stuff" we think we need. Or do we? Simple or complicated is a choice of our own making, and unanimously we tend to choose complicated. But as a wise man once said, *"If one bite fills you, you don't need two."*



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Club Casting News

DAVE BOYER, CAPTAIN

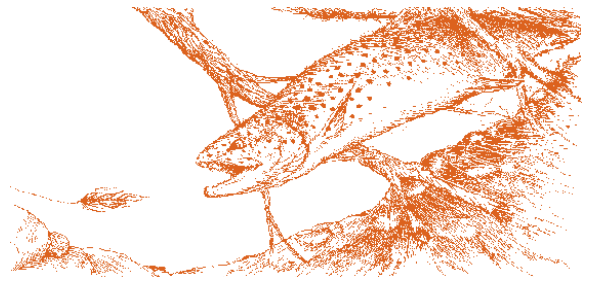
Fall is upon us, time to think about improving our casting abilities for the **ON THE RIVER CLINIC** and a new **ON THE SALT CLINIC**. Our Beginning Casting Class is well on its way and scheduled to finish on October 21st. The idea by changing the Beginning Casting Class to the fall is so new casters can graduate directly into the clinics and keep up the excitement of fly fishing and not have lull between the end of class in the spring and the clinics in the fall.

If you need a little more help in improving your intermediate or advanced casting skills then come on down on Tuesday nights during the Beginning Casting Class. The instructors will be willing to help in say double hauling, handling heavy flies, or using heavy sinking lines used in surf or still water casting. Everyone is invited to come and improve their skills and get ready for the clinics. Please don't be embarrassed about your casting ability and asking for help, as I know once I got over the that fear, plenty of instructors and tournament casters have given me help, improving my accuracy and distance this summer. They can certainly do the same for you.

The **ON THE RIVER CLINIC** starts on Wednesday, October 22, and/or for those interested in local saltwater fishing the **ON THE SALT CLINIC** starts Thursday, October 23. Either one will give you valuable information to help catch that allusive trout, bass, carp, corbina, surf perch or any other species you want to target.

Alternating Sundays we are scheduled to have various tournament games set up to help those improve both their accuracy and distance casting, with Mark Tsunawaki leading the charge. If you see him at the pond, again, use him as a resource—he's helped me greatly this summer in improving my casting abilities.

Tight Lines



You Are What You Cast

PABLO GRABIEL, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

I wandered into my favorite fly fishing store the other afternoon. As I walked through the store my eyes fall upon a bamboo fishing rod? I've always wanted to know how they fished; how they felt in the hand. The price tag must be a typo, \$2,500.00? Does one really fish with these?

"How old is it?" I ask.

"It's new" the salesperson responds.

I'm thinking, why anyone would buy one of these?

"Must be for collectors, right? I ask.

"No, people really fish with these."

After this encounter I'm thinking, how neat, I'll have to find out more about these rods, perhaps find someone that fishes with bamboo, or someone that makes a bamboo rod. Which brings us to our October presenter; C.T. "Tom" Robertson. His rods are sold at some of the most reputable fly fishing stores in the southland. Tom spends his time crafting his rods one at a time.

When not at his bench splitting the cane with his 'fro', and removing the remains of the nodal diaphragms with a plane, Tom spends his time on the Klamath where he and his wife have a. He will give us a glimpse of the art of making a bamboo rod, from selecting the cane to finish. Do come, October 30th for this interesting presentation.

The Evolution of a Fly

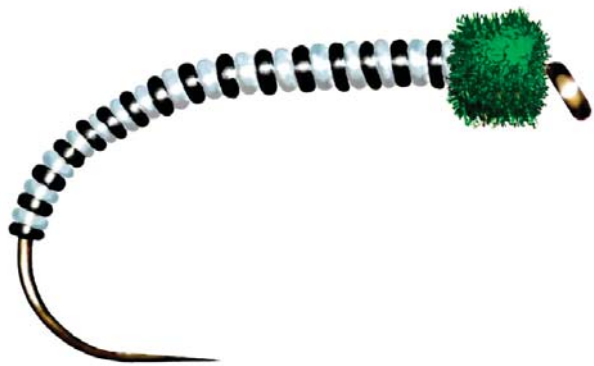
JEFF SADLER, PAST PRESIDENT



In the beginning was the midge, and it was good. In all the waters of the earth there is the midge, and it is good. It is good because trout spend a huge amount of time eating these little rascals and to the extent we can “match the micro-hatch” we can catch trout, and it is good.

Probably the most basic of all midges and flies in general is the Zebra Midge. Black and white floss striped up the body, black head, done. Period. What could be simpler?

THE ZEBRA MIDGE



and then the fun begins...

For some reason we cannot leave well enough alone. Each one of us, yes you too dear reader, has messed around with this pattern for better or worse. In the book *Midge Magic* by Don Holbrook and Ed Koch you will find a virtual infinity of possibilities: straight thread, metallic threads, clear options, wire over thread, wire under plastic, diamonds and rainbows and beadheads, and lions, and tigers, and bears. Oh My!!!

The most common additions are a bead and some sort of collar or wing/leg arrangements. The bead can be metallic to help the fly sink or plastic to represent an

air bubble. The collar can look like an emerging wing or legs. Suit yourself.

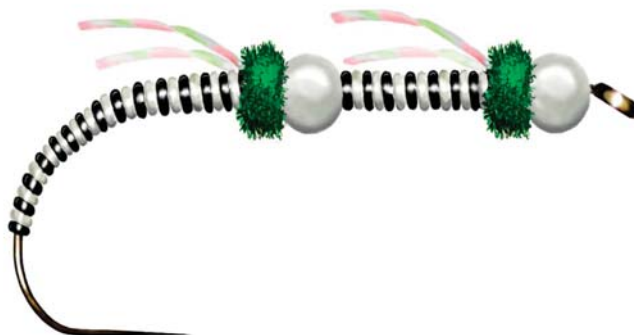
THE IMPROVED ZEBRA MIDGE



then along came Yash...

Yes, our own Yash Iseda loves this little nymph but as a result of a very rude joke decided it just wasn't enough so he took a Tiemco R200 3x long size 16 hook, quicksilver plastic beads, and invented the DOUBLE MIDGE. Cover the eyes of small children, here it is.

THE DOUBLE MIDGE



Yash and Danny and I have fished this fly all over California, Colorado, Utah (Where a guide dubbed it

his “sixth man”) Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. It just works and seems to work wherever midges are found. So, is this the end of evolution, the perfect fly? Don’t be silly, as long as there are folks around someone will modify anything.

Craig Matthews of Blue Ribbon Flies invented a midge for the wade section of the Madison River downstream from Hebgen Lake. The fly is unique due to its color which is Danville Flymaster thread #47 which is a brownish red (or maybe a reddish brown and it depends on the light).

Again, a simple fly with the thread body, very fine copper wire and light elk hair or deer hair or even CDC wing tied sparse and short. A great fly deserves a great name and this one is the “3 Dollar Dip”. This is named for the crossing where, before it became public, the rancher allowed parking if you put 3 dollars in an old file cabinet or, as the sign said, your car will be “toad away.”

THREE DOLLAR 'DIP'



an “AHA” Moment

To steal from one person is plagiarism, to steal from two people is research. So I researched the off-spring of Yash's and Craig's beautiful flies to create the:

DOUBLE 'DIP' (AKA SIX DOLLAR 'DIP')



Oh yes, it caught several big bows and browns on the wade section of the Madison. Will it work everywhere like Yash’s Double Midge?

Stay tuned...

Notes from the Pond

GEORGE SIEWARD, FACILITIES & POND

Hi Everybody, It looks like it’s that time again; yup the pond is pretty skuzzy and very slippery in several spots so it needs another scrubbing out.

Your help in the past has been greatly appreciated and I hope you don’t get tired of just hearing from me when we need help at the club. I’m picking up some new tools to hopefully make our time out there a little easier. We had a good turn out for the last cleaning and we were done in no time. I am hoping we can get that same kind of response again.

We will be serving breakfast again afterwards. Oh, I almost forgot; Saturday, October 18th at 7:00 AM is when this is going to take place.

Thanks in advance, Little George

On the River Clinic 2014

JOE LIBEU, PAST PRESIDENT

As part of the Long Beach Casting clubs continuing education, join us for 4 nights of an educational experience geared to those individuals that wish to gain overall fly fishing knowledge. You will be introduced to the equipment needed, entomology, stream structure, casting applications, short and long line presentation, reading the water, fly selection, how to organize your fly box and basic knots.

We will then take the knowledge you have gained and apply it to a Lower Owens weekend outing where you will receive individual instructions from river wise instructors.

Our class room dates will be: October 22, 29, November 5 and 12. Our Lower Owens River outing date will be the weekend of November 15-16.

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

The Clinic is for Long Beach Casting Club members only.

Please call Joe Libeu at 310-749-6671 or email Fishlgrf@ix.netcom.com should you have any questions or for any additional information.



Beginning Fly Tying Class Gears Up!

DOUG SMITH, FLY TYING CHAIR

What could be better than learning an art form that you can enjoy the rest of your life, especially when it relates to our great sport of fly fishing? For all of our members who have been "on the fence" about learning the art of fly tying, make this the year you go for it!

My definition of a fly tier is anyone who, when presented with a list of materials and step-by-step instructions, will have no problem tying that fly. After you complete our beginner course, you will have learned all of the skills necessary for success! Our fly tying instructors are wonderful teachers and they are talented fly fishers so we will always have a few minutes every Tuesday night to talk fishing and enjoy complimentary cake and coffee.

The class Orientation Night is Tuesday, October 28th, at 7:00 PM. You will learn a new skill and we will have a good time doing it!

See you at the Club.

Yards & Inches Adds Another Record!

MICK WOODBURY, PRESIDENT

Fishing was hot! Then a breeze made things more pleasant. In the meantime, some 800 inches of fish were caught, measured and released. That's over 66 feet of fish, end to end, nose to tail. Actually it was more than that. Carl Laski said, "I didn't keep track. I'm just here for Mick's posole."

Ten anglers plied the waters of Huntington Harbour and everyone found willing fish, but some found more than others.

In nearly any endeavor, there are those who are so skilled, they can do better left handed, or blindfolded, than most can do right handed or with their eyes open. Rix Gano proved he was one of those: he out performed everyone else with a total of 287 inches (23+ feet). His technique was a bit bazaar—he was fishing backwards! But his results can't be denied; he caught 35% of the entire day's catch. His rod was bent so much it probably has a permanent set.

Rix used his pontoon boat with trolling motor running in reverse. He had to steer with his fins because his hands were too busy reeling in fish. His catch was the best single catch in the history of the Y&I.



But others didn't fare badly. Steve Timm had a total

of 154 inches. Jim Thomason scored with 119 inches including a 19" halibut and two 15" spotted bay bass. Mick Woodbury netted a 17.5 inch sand bass as part of a double and said, *"The poor 9" croaker on the bottom fly got the ride of its life. He was happy to finally get into the net."*

So now we have another hot stick to add to the Y&I legacy. Rix joins the likes of Kevin Green and Craig Bond as big winners. Makes you look forward to next year doesn't it?

Incidentally, \$50 ended up the kitty for the Club's Endowment Fund.



Mick's Posole!!!

Our New Members

GARY KOSAKA,
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

At the January 13th Board of Directors Meeting, applications were approved of the following new member:

- ❖ Yury Akopyan of Marina Del Rey
- ❖ Ray Lechuga of Bellflower
- ❖ Chris Phillips of Huntington Beach
- ❖ Thomas Thrasher of Huntington Beach

Please greet and welcome our newest member at the club's next Monthly Meeting!

Fly of the Month: Christmas Island Horror

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, EDITOR

Until you have tried it, you cannot understand the thrill of catching a fish in saltwater on a fly rod. Trout fishing is great fun but those creatures that inhabit the salty, wet parts of the earth make most trout pale in comparison. I've heard through the club grapevine that the only reason that Sadler won't fish in the salt is that he can't use a Royal Wulff.

Tarpon are my personal favorite fish to catch but running a close second are bonefish. Bonefishing is the saltwater equivalent of spring creek fishing for big, selective trout. Only this fish is much spookier (Lefty Kreh once told me that "*Johnny, bonefish must suffer from terminal ulcers*") and a two-pounder can take your entire fly line with ease! Two of my favorite flies to use on bonefish are the Crazy Charlie and all its variations and the Christmas Island Horror. This fly is a blend of two of the most popular bonefish patterns in the world: Pete Perinchief's HORROR and Chico Fernandez' BONEFISH SPECIAL.

I usually tie this pattern with bead chain eyes and in a bend-back style. The resulting fly works great on the brown or tan colored flats of Christmas Island and also across eel grass beds of other distant locals such as Belize and the Bahamas. For more delicate situations leave off the eyes and this will allow the fly to land and enter the water more quietly or add eyes to get it down quickly. Change the color to a dirty orange and you will find this to be a very good pattern for our local surf fishing.

Now while bonefishing can be considered exotic and tropical we do have bonefish right here in Southern California though they tend to be deep water fish. However, about two months ago I was teaching a Spey casting lesson in Newport Bay with a couple of regular clients when what do I see rooting in the high tide bay bottom? Yup, a bonefish and several of our club members have caught them.

So whether your fishing distant locals like Christmas Island, the Bahamas, Belize or beneath the swaying palm trees of Long Beach, California, give this fly a try and see how it works for you.

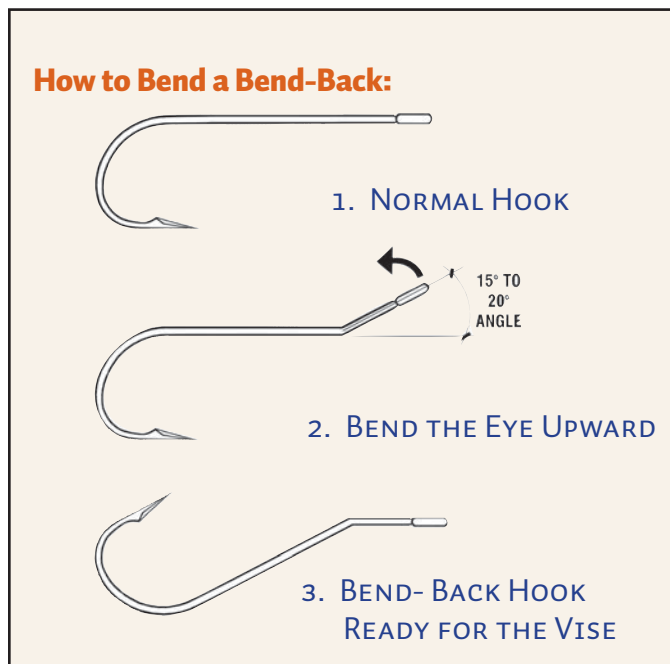
Materials for tying the Christmas Island Horror:

- Hook: Mustad, Tiemco or Eagle Claw standard saltwater hook, cadmium plated or stainless steel in size #2 to #8; bend-back style
- Thread: 3/0 or 6/0 white or yellow
- Eyes: Small silver or gold bead chain or chrome-plated dumbbells (eyes are optional depending on conditions)
- Tail: Bright orange marabou blood
- Wing: Tan bear hair or calftail (sparse) with a Cree or a reddish-tan dyed grizzly hackle tip and 2 strands of yellow pearlescent Krystal Flash on either side
- Body: Small yellow chenille



Instructions for tying the Christmas Island Horror:

- 1 Using two pairs of smooth jawed pliers, grip the shank on either side of a point about one-fourth the length of the shank behind the eye. Carefully bend the eye of the hook upward at a 15° to 20° angle. Place the hook into the vice with point up and the portion with the hook eye horizontal. Take a look at the example below. By tying the fly hook point up helps to get the fly to ride hook point up. Attach the thread to the hook where you bent the shank and wind forward to the headspace.



- 2 Remove 2 bead chain eyes with their connector from a strand and attach them to the underside of the hook shank right at the spot where you bent the hook using "X" wraps. Wind the thread back down the shank of the hook past the bend-back point and about one-quarter to one-third the length of the shank.
- 3 Select a good quality, full orange turkey marabou blood and tie it in so that the tips extend to the point of the hook. The tail should be fairly full. Select a sparse bunch of tan bear hair or calftail and tie it in over the tail. This underwing should extend just beyond the point of the hook and should angle upward covering the hook point. If



necessary wind a few wraps underneath the wing to lift it up.

- 4 Select 2 Cree hackle tips from the base of a neck or even better a Cree saddle as these feathers have a much better shape. Tie in the feathers, one on either side of the underwing and with the dull (concave) side facing out. The hackle tips should extend just beyond the underwing. Cut off 2 strands of yellow pearlescent Krystal Flash and tie them in on the far side of the wing. Remove the excess Krystal Flash butts and tie them in on the near side of the wing.
- 5 Tie in the small yellow chenille to the far underside of the hook and advance the thread forward to the headspace. Wind the chenille forward to the bead chain eyes. Continue winding the chenille using two complete "X" wraps—one angling in each direction. With the eyes completely covered continue winding forward to the headspace and tie off. Wind a small, neat head, whip finish and apply a couple light coats of head cement and the Christmas Island Horror is complete.



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Club Trips for 2014

YASH ISEDA, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

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

2014 Trips:

TRIP DATE TRIP & LEADER

Sep. 13	Yards & Inches Tourney at Huntington Harbour by Mick Woodbury, Pre-Trip Meeting September 3 rd .
Sep. 9–11	Saddlebag Lake Backpacking by Jim Garvey, Pre-Trip Meeting on Sept. 3 rd .
Oct. 18	Redding by Pablo Grabiell, Pre-Trip Meeting on Oct. 8 th .

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 yiseda@verizon.net.



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2013–14 On-the-River-Clinics with

JOE LIBEU, IFFF MASTER CERTIFIED CASTING INSTRUCTOR AND KATHY KIM, IFFF CERTIFIED CASTING INSTRUCTOR

Join us for a weekend of educational experience designed for anglers of all levels who wish to improve their success on the streams. You will be introduced to:

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.



2014–15 Clinic Schedule: Beginning Classes: November 8–9, December 6–7, February 7–8, March 14–15; Advanced Classes: October 25–26, December 13–14, February 21–22, March 21–22; Annual Women's Clinic: March 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).



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Calendar of Events

October

1	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
6	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
7	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Casting Class: 3rd Night on the Pond
8	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
		7:00 PM	Pre-Trip meeting, Redding
11–12	Weekend		Northwestern Casting Tournament,
14	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Casting Class: 4th Night on the Pond
15	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Monthly Noon Luncheon
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
18	Saturday	8:00 AM	Pond Cleaning
18–19	Weekend		Club Trip: Redding
21	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Casting games
22	Wednesday	7:00 PM	On The River Clinic
23	Thursday	7:00 PM	On The Salt Clinic: Surf Fishing
28	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying Class: Orientation Night
29	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
		7:00 PM	On The River Clinic
30	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: to be announced

November

3	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
4	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying Class: Techniques & Demos
5	Wednesday	7:00 PM	On The River Clinic
6	Thursday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
8	Saturday	6:00 AM	Salty Surf Clinic
11	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying Class: Ant
12	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
	Wednesday	7:00 PM	On The River Clinic
15–16	Weekend		On The River Clinic, Bishop
18	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying Class: Soft Hackle
19	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Monthly Noon Luncheon
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
20	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: to be announced
25	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying Class: Boss, Steelhead fly
27	Thursday	all day!	Happy Thanksgiving

December

1	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
2	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying Class: Scud
3	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
6	Saturday	6:00 PM	Venison Stag
9	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying Class: Hare's Ear
10	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
16	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying Class: PT Nymph
17	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Monthly Noon Luncheon
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
25	Thursday		Merry Christmas and a Catching New Year!



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