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Target Talk

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG BEACH CASTING CLUB, ESTABLISHED 1925

February 2015

www.longbeachcastingclub.org

(562) 433-9408

Leader's Line...

Who Inherits Your Wisdom?

MICK WOODBURY, PRESIDENT

Chances are you have already made arrangements to distribute your wealth. If you haven't made such arrangements or even if you have, please don't forget the Club's Endowment Program—more about that in the future. You might have even decided who's going to get the small stuff—your favorite fly rod, your vest or your tying gear.

But back to your wisdom. The best way to hold on to your wisdom is to give it away. Many of you have lots of experience. You've spent hours on the water. You've read, you've traveled, you've fished with guides, you've experimented and you've learned, firsthand, what works and why. You've paid your dues and can now reap the harvest. You've earned those gray hairs and are proud of each and every one. So how about sharing some of it? The wisdom, not the hair.

AN OPPORTUNITY, 90 YEARS IN THE MAKING

With the 90th anniversary coming up (April 11), we'll have lots of visitors. They'll range from beginners to crusty old salts, from young to not-so-young, from near and far. But they'll all have two things in common: an interest in fly fishing and the craving to learn something useful.

Enter your wisdom. We have slots available for those who would like to share their knowledge. Think of a pre-trip meeting: 40 to 50 minutes of the essential information needed to fish some specific destination

along with a specific techniques for that water.

Here are some suggestions: fly fishing the surf, fly fishing the bay, rigging a kayak/pontoon for fly fishing, fly fishing a specific lake (Pyramid, Barrett, Little Tejon, Lake Mary, Crowley (but that's been done to death).

Other suggestions? Fly fishing the Provo River, or some other destination such as Lee's Ferry, the Green, the San Juan or the Madison. How about packing in a float tube to some back-country lake, or fly fishing the Mammoth back country?

How about 90 minute destinations—places to fish within 90 minutes of Long Beach? Or float tubing Lake Isabella for crappie?

How about techniques? Indicator fishing with types and advantages of various indicators? Tenkara fishing with some casting on the pond? Czech nymphing?

Leader's Line continues on page 2

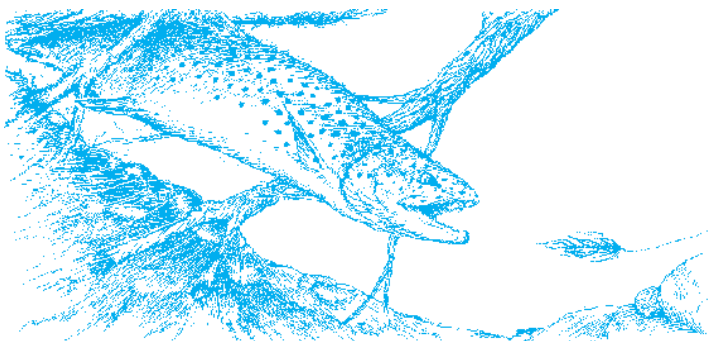
Who Inherits Wisdom?... Leader's Line continued from page 1

We'll also need good casters who can demo Spey casting and organizers who can run the Danish and other casting games.

Fly Tiers? Or course. We have a deep bench in that department. Is there a fly that you're really good at, like woven?

If you're someone who has presentation skills and the confident glow of knowledge, let others light their candle in it. They would appreciate it and you'll receive more than you give.

Please, send me your thoughts.



Dog Gone

Service Animals Only Please!

MICK WOODBURY, PRESIDENT

Yes, we all love the dogs, but there are liability concerns about dogs obstructing the aisle, running loose during meetings, monthly luncheons or other gatherings and barking during presentations. Since most of us aren't as doggone nimble as we used to be, the danger of tripping is significant. The other concern is dogs in the kitchen where food preparation occurs and even sniffing the servings at the buffet line.

So the Board has said please, park your pooches on the porch. Only service animals, which serve a true *physical* need, are excepted and accepted.

Thanks all.

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Jim Cox and the Western Rivers Conservancy

PABLO GRABIEL, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

The New Year is now well underway, our fishing schedule is rapidly filling up for some of us and for others, it's a plan in progress as we calendar family, work and fishing. The cold months of winter permit us to spend a little time inside in the evenings, perfect for planning. Perhaps that is why we make our resolutions at the beginning of the year.

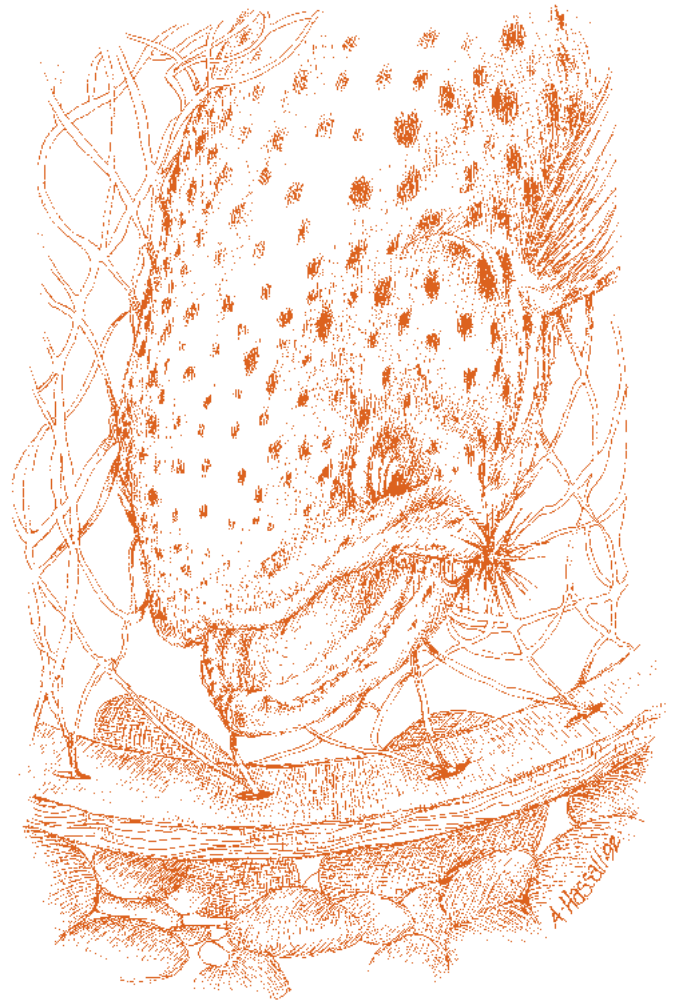
So far, I've been able to keep all of my resolutions, but then again, the year is very, very young. Let's see, about the better fishing, January was the month to learn a bit more about the eating preferences of our beloved fish. Check! What a great little entomology lesson was delivered by Michael Parrella. Now that we know what to feed the little critters, let's learn about where the fish are.

For that we are bringing in Jim Cox from the Western Rivers Conservancy. Since 1988, WRC has been working to conserve and protect lands on more than 70 rivers in eight western states, Jim's presentation entitled "SOMETIMES TO SAVE A RIVER YOU HAVE TO BUY IT" will focus on how the WRC purchases riverlands across the West to protect and conserve vital river ecosystems and to provide compatible public access (that is us fishermen).

Included in the program is stunning photography of past and current projects including work on some of the most iconic fly fishing rivers across the West. These include Oregon's John Day and Sandy Rivers, the Yampa in Colorado, the Madison River in Montana, Washington's Hoh River and California's Smith, Eel, and Klamath Rivers. These waters are familiar to many of us, and the WRC is helping to maintain them as prime fisheries for our enjoyment.

Jim joined the WRC as Director of Donor Relations in 2011. His more than 25 years experience working

professionally in the nonprofit sector is the only thing that has kept him from fly fishing full time. His bachelor degree in Theatre from Willamette University should make for a first class presentation of stunning vistas from some of the most famous rivers that we have fished or wish to fish. Join me in welcoming Jim to our club this month!





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 Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

New and Different

JEFF SADLER, PAST PRESIDENT

If I had to groove my swing on the same old bowling alley that would be my idea of sportsman's Hell. As Heraclitus said:

"You can never step into the same river twice."

Well things they are a changin'...

February Lower Owens Trip, February 5-9
Pre-Trip Sunday, February 1

The interesting issue on this trip is to participate in a river clean-up on Saturday morning at 8:00 AM at the campground. This is sponsored by the Eastern Sierra Guides Association, California Waterfowl Association (Bishop), Preferred Septic and Disposal (Bishop), and



Silver Lake Resort (June Lake) who will provide lunch. For beginners who need some guiding we will arrange around the clean-up.

I think Long Beach Casting Club owes back to the Lower "O" and this will help.

March Lower Owens Trip, March 12-15
Pre-Trip Saturday, March 7

This one week shift in date is to avoid the conflict with the Fred Hall Show as some of us would like to do both. It also gets us off the same week as a full moon for those of us who are superstitious.

Hey, Are You In The Loop?

JIM THOMASON, PAST PRESIDENT

We are now sending out email notices for upcoming events. If you have recently (like in the last 6 months!) changed your email address and you are not receiving these notifications, please contact Jim Thomason at 626-357-6050. Or, see the Roster for his email address and have your email address added/updated.

If you are currently receiving the Club's updates but are planning to change your email address, then you can actually do it yourself online. We really do want to keep you in the loop!

Southwestern Tourney 2015

DAVE BOYER, CASTING CAPTAIN

The Southwestern Tournament is upon us. February 14-15 will be the site of some incredible casting and we need HELP. We have had great participation from the general membership in putting on past events and need volunteers. There are volunteer/score keeping sign-up sheets on the board next to the mud room for those interested or please contact me or Mark Tsunawaki as we would appreciate the all the help we can get.

Let's show the visitors a great time and how well we can put on a Tournament!!

Maggie Merriman Entomology Workshop

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, EDITOR

On Saturday, March 28, 2015 join Maggie Merriman at the Long Beach Casting Club for her 18th Annual Basic Entomology Workshop for Fly Fishers.

You will learn how to “MATCH THE HATCH” and how to select the correct fly for a given situation. Maggie stresses the use of common English names and not the biological “Latin” names many associate with entomology, so you can leave your *Acroneuria californicas* at home.

The class will begin around 9:00 AM and run until 1:00 PM. The cost for the workshop is \$50.00 and includes samples of insects, corresponding flies and an extensive handout. Bring a snack, note pad and some fly boxes to look at and compare the insects.

You must Pre-Register for the workshop by March 21, 2015 by mailing the fee to: Maggie Merriman, 1508 Santiago Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660, or you can call her with any questions you may have at 949-646-5129. You will receive an exact map of the location upon registering.



This is a great class for the beginning fly fisher. It provides a lot of very practical knowledge that will allow the individual to make proper choices when selecting a fly at streamside.



Nominating Committee

DENNIS KONG,
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Where has the year gone? It's already time to look towards a new board of directors.

The nominating committee this year: Mark Tsunawaki, Bill Boehlert, Al Ross, John Lincoln and Paul Burgner (five members, at least two of whom shall be past presidents and none of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors).

If you are interested in serving on the board, or if you have a suggestion of someone who would be a good board member, please contact one of these fine gentlemen.

Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting held in April. Forty five days prior to the election, the nominated slate will be placed in the hands of the Corresponding Secretary. The membership shall be notified at least 30 days before the election. Any ten members in good standing can nominate other candidates for office from the floor of the annual meeting. Said nominations shall be made in writing and signed by said members and delivered to the Corresponding Secretary before the election.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

CAROLE KATZ, PROGRAM LEAD

The fall of 2014 was a busy time for us. In August, several of our group toured the USS Anchorage, an amphibious transport dock, while it was in San Pedro. The "tour guide" was CO Joel Stewart, a long-time supporter of PHWFF. Some of you may remember Joel's name as the founder of the Baghdad School of Fly Fishing years ago. Everyone on the tour was really impressed by Joel and particularly his relationship with the crew. Anyone who knows him wouldn't be surprised to hear that he had several fishing rods in the bay of his ship.



Also in August, we did some lake fishing in the Sierras. We stayed in rustic cabins and prepared our own meals, and really enjoyed a different fishing experience. There were a few boat-management episodes that would be candidates for the club's annual JA award, but I won't dwell on that. A month later in September we fished the Mammoth area during the Southwest Council's Fly Fishing Faire.

Then in October, we were guests at Jess Ranch Lakes in Apple Valley, hosted by Hi-Desert Fly Fishers. The owner had the ponds stocked, the club arranged for a huge lunch, the fire department did an arrival ceremony, and everyone caught a lot of fish, so many that we aren't sure who caught the most, but it was a great day. On Veterans Day, we had a booth at the VA Medical Center's event, and the following week we had a booth at the Marriott Show. Our annual



Holiday Potluck in early December had enough food to feed most of Long Beach.

After two months of tying classes, we had a few classes on specific rod building techniques: diamond wrapping in November and advanced finishing in December. This is by far the most exciting series of classes taught in our program and the level of creativity and precision is astonishing. As an example, a rod built by one of our group sold at a PHWFF fundraising auction in NYC this fall for \$1000!

Thanks to all those who continue to make this program so very successful. If you'd like to volunteer or donate, please email me at Katzhogan@gmail.com.



SOUTHWEST COUNCIL FFF
Many Clubs... One Goal

2015
FLYBUY

January 31, 2015

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Great Buys on New and Used Tackle

Benefits the Southwest Council Federation of Fly Fishers

Fly Tying Demonstrations ♦ Garage Sale

Casting Instruction ♦ Silent Auction

Lunch & Admission \$10 for IFFF Members,
\$15 for Others

LONG BEACH CASTING CLUB
4901 East 7th Street Long Beach, CA 90804

Teach the Teachers Casting Instructor Class

TIM LAWSON, IFFF MASTER INSTRUCTOR

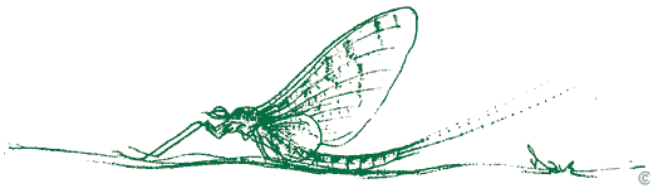
The annual Teach the Teachers series has been scheduled from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon on January 24 and 31, and February 7 and 14, 2015. The January 31 class will be held at the Long Beach Casting Club in conjunction with the Southwest Council's FlyBuy event. All other classes will be held at the Pasadena Casting Club.

Teach the Teachers is a comprehensive course designed to teach casting instructors, or those wanting to become casting instructors, step-by-step techniques for teaching the basic casts, as well as techniques to diagnose and fix the most common



casting faults. Emphasis will be placed on developing a "clear and concise" delivery for teaching fly casting.

For more information or to register for the class, contact Tim Lawson by phone at (323) 303-7438 or by e-mail at tlawson11@hotmail.com. The cost for the four class series is \$65.00 for IFFF members and \$85.00 for non-members. Please make checks payable to IFFF Southwest Council and mail to: Tim Lawson, 1675 Kaweah Dr., Pasadena, CA 91105



Work the Fred Hall Show and Get in Free

RICK LONG & JOHN STINE, MEMBERS

The Fred Hall Show will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center starting on Wednesday March 4, 2015 through Sunday, March 8, 2015. Volunteers are needed each day to help work three-hour or four-hour shifts in the morning, afternoon or evening and, if you volunteer to work the show, you will get in free!

Please contact: Rick Long at 310-375-6900 or by email at vglong1@aol.com or; John Stine at 562-431-2817 or by email at jmastine@verizon.net

Membership Renewals for 2015!

GARY KOSAKA, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Happy New Year! May this upcoming year bring us better casting skills, foster new friendship and numerous tight lines.

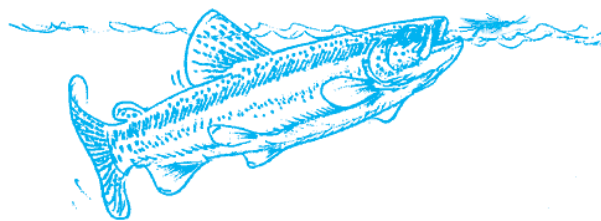
Thank you for being a member this past year and for those of you interested about The Long Beach Casting Club, please check out our website. The club is now accepting membership renewals and new membership applications for the upcoming 2015-2016 year. You can visit the membership page and choose your method of payment at: www.longbeachcastingclub.org/membership/

Thank you, introduce yourself and look forward to put the name and face together.

Streamside Etiquette

A Matter of Space...

GUY MANNING, LBCC PAST MEMBER



Ultimately, Fly-fishing is something of a reclusive sport. The time we spend on-stream is mostly spent with ourselves. Of course going fishing with our buddies is often much of the attraction for the trips we take, but it still comes down to the lone individual involved with their own thoughts. One person against the fish; one person against the river; one person against nature. It is therefore fitting that the rules of streamside etiquette reinforce the solitary quality of our sport.

These rules exist as a principle of common courtesy and respect between human beings, and as a means of protecting the solitude each of us attempts to obtain when we are on the stream. In their most basic form the rules of etiquette can be summed up by "The Golden Rule", in that we should consider if our actions, performed by another to us, would disturb or adversely affect our enjoyment of that moment on the stream. Space is the key here. Allow others the space to enjoy the sport. Crowding is akin to invading, and is considered ill-mannered.

Here are some precepts to consider when you are looking for your bit of solitude:

The first person to be fishing any particular water feature (run, riffle, flat, pool etc.) in effect owns that feature from head to tail. If you wish to fish it you must go to another area until they are done or, you may choose to sit and watch until they are done. The latter choice assumes they plan to give the spot up to begin with. The exception to this rule is wet fly fishing for Salmon and Steelhead in which case the pool is rotated (as discussed below). Never get into a stretch of water that is already being fished without asking the permission of the person fishing it. Never cast into a stretch of water that is already being fished without first asking. These rules also apply to an angler who is studying a stretch of stream or resting a stretch of stream. That person arrived first; it should be considered their water.

The person fishing upstream has the right of way and should be given a wide berth by the person fishing downstream. Fishing upstream usually means dry fly and wading against the current. The person fishing downstream, usually fishing wet, is in more of a position to be seen by the fish (downstream fishing will cover and disturb more water than upstream), and therefore has a greater chance of spooking the fish. If the downstream angler works in too close to the upstream angler, he can put the fish down or spook them so they scatter both up and downstream. One spooked fish can spook others as it darts into their holding lies. This can

ruin the fishing for both participants. The ideal action in this situation is for the downstream angler to get out of the water well above the upstream angler (leaving a generous amount of un-fished water for the upstream angler) and quietly go around to a spot downstream of the upstream angler.

If two people are fishing upstream and the one further downstream is moving upstream faster than the other, then that person is to get out of the water and move well upstream of the slower angler (leaving them plenty of un-fished water). It would be considered extremely gracious if you were to let the slower angler know that you were moving around them and how far you planned to go before re-entering the water.

When near other anglers you must wade as quietly as possible and make every attempt to pass sufficient distance from the angler and their fish. When walking along a bank, make every effort to walk well away from the water that is being fished so as not to spook the fish with your presence. Choose your clothing colors for the area you will be fishing. Try to wear something that blends in with the natural surroundings. White, highly reflective, or loud colors will stand out to the fish and could put them down for you and others.

If you are fishing a small stream (less than 100 feet across) never start fishing directly across the stream from someone else, they could be working the opposite shore that you just walked up to. A good rule of thumb is to stay at least twice the length of a long cast away from someone else on a small stream.

Now some of these rules bend to the situation. If you are fishing with a close friend then your friend may not care if you are both in the same pool. Most of the time though you will probably be leapfrogging your way up or down the stream, alternating holding waters between the two of you. If you are on an extremely crowded stretch of water then the distances between anglers will diminish. The important thing in crowded situations is to allow as much room as possible between the two of you, and to not disturb the other

person's fish. If the other person has a fish on, and needs to come up or downstream into your area, it is acknowledged that you should reel in and yield to the person with a fish on.

As mentioned above, the only time it is acceptable to cast into a stretch of water already being fished is on a large river when pursuing Salmon or Steelhead. In this case you are usually fishing wet and casting quartering downstream. When others are waiting to fish the same water; the practice is to make 1 cast, fish it out, and then take a step or 2 downstream. You then repeat the sequence and move a few steps down stream again. You keep this up until you reach the end of the fishable section. After you have proceeded downstream far enough (100-200 feet, or as the conditions allow) the next person in line to fish may start doing the same routine above you. In this way under the right conditions on a large river, you might have numerous people fishing the same stretch of water.

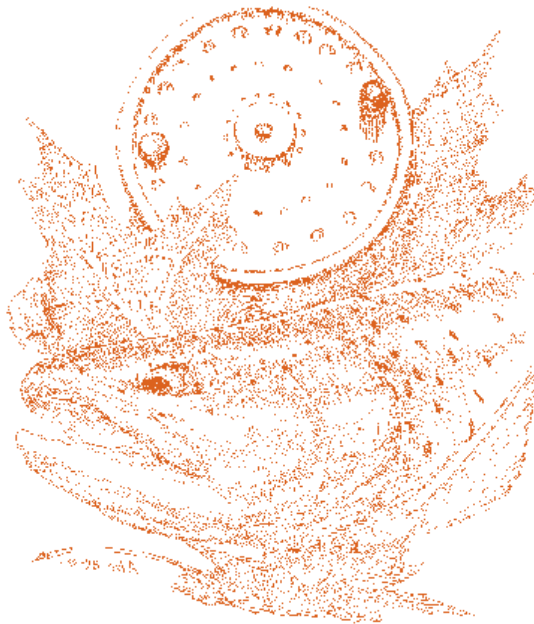
If someone hooks a fish, the others are expected to reel in while the fight is on (remember these are big fish). If the fish is landed, the angler is expected to leave the river and go to the rear of the line. If the angler loses the fish, everyone returns to their former spots and continues the cast-fish-step downstream routine. The angler who lost the fish is allowed to continue fishing. Once you reach the end of the fishable area, you return to the end of the line. If you attempt to fish the exact same spot twice you may well be challenged by the people in line, so play fair and take those steps between your casts.

You also want to consider the space between you and any other anglers when float-tubing. Here the problem is a bit different because the tuber may be constantly moving. You need to frequently check behind you, to assure that you will not cross anyone's fishing area. Realize that many anglers in tubes use sinking line, and understand that as much as 40-60 feet of their line is subsurface and that you need to stay away from it (crossing above a sinking line is the same as crossing over a floating line). Tubers should be able to make an unobstructed cast in any direction without having to fish around someone.

When tubing, do not forget to watch out for the shore angler. Getting too close to the people fishing from shore is

considered an invasion of their water. It can also be dangerous if you get hit with a misguided weight, hook, or spinning lure. Again, etiquette comes down to a matter of space.

As for socializing on the stream: Any one may or may not talk to another, if they so wish. It is not considered rude to greet another angler or ask how the fishing goes. It is also not considered rude to pass by without a word. What is considered rude is to engage the other person in a long-winded bragging fest. Since fly-fishing is not a competitive sport, the other person will probably care little about how good an angler you think you are. The other angler would really rather fish. At the same time do not be afraid to share with others on the stream. Of particular importance is to help the beginners. A shared technique or particularly successful fly can go a long way towards keeping someone in the sport.



Lastly, stream etiquette demands that you treat the environment with respect. A sure way to anger many anglers is to litter the stream. Pick up all of your own litter and some of someone else's. Try to leave the stream cleaner than when you arrived. Choose the fly-fishing products that you buy by the impact they will have on the stream. Many items, like stick-on strike indicators should be avoided because they could end up coming off the line and become stream litter, or end up in a fish's stomach.

If you respect the other people's space and their right to the solitary experience, you will often be teaching others by example. The more we, as anglers, respect one another's space the more enjoyment we can expect from our time on the water.

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Land of the Giants Calling

MARC BONVOULOIR, MEMBER

Since the last Target Talk issue, no less than 50 Pyramid Lake Cutts have been caught over 10 pounds. Just this past week another 20+ pound Lahontan Cutthroat trout was landed at a time when fishing is supposed to be slow with a full moon. If you want a shot at these giants, sign up for our trip to Pyramid Lake, April 16–19.

Paul Nakamura and I are organizing the trip with noted guide Doug Ouellette who has fished the lake for 40 years and developed a number of super successful flies that catch big fish. Doug will be doing a 3-hour “LAKESIDE CLINIC” for us on Friday, April 17 in which he will teach us all aspects of fishing Pyramid lake that includes instructions on equipment, rigging, casting, retrieve techniques and flies for streamer, indicator, and “No 'Cator” fishing. He will follow that up by getting us on the water with ladders or just standing in the water.

Doug will also provide a barbecue lunch on the beach. He will be with us all day helping with more instructions and hopefully netting and photographing some monster Cutthroats! Doug will be also be there for us the entire next day letting us know where to meet and providing more of his successful techniques and instructions. Some ladders as well rods and reels will be available (if you're curious about the ladders, be sure to email either one of us!).

The Club and Doug have set up a great price for accommodations at the Western Village Hotel in Sparks, Nevada for \$49 per night. If you find a roommate, that price is divided by 2!

The price for the clinic is \$200 per person and will be limited to 20 anglers. You will need to purchase daily lake permits on your own at \$9 per day.

A detailed trip outline will be provided by Paul and me and a Pre-Trip Meeting is planned prior to the



trip. Email us if you are interested: Marc Bonvouloir at mrmlb21@gmail.com or Paul Nakamura at pnaka46@hotmail.com.

Club Trips for 2015

YASH ISEDA, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

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

2015 Trips:

TRIP DATE TRIP & LEADER

Feb. 5–8	Lower Owens #2 by Yash Iseda; Pre-Trip Meeting February 1 st .
Mar. 5–8	Lower Owens #3 by John Lincoln; Pre-Trip Meeting February 28 th .
Apr. 16–19	Pyramid Lake, NV by Bonvoulier; Pre-Trip to be determined.
May 3–8	Green River, Utah by Jeff Sadler; Pre-Trip to be determined.

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.

The Reds

JOE LIBEU,
PAST PRESIDENT

A 1950s Commie organization; a new chewing gum or a new psychedelic drug that the younger generation is using? So what are the “Reds”?



No the Reds, or “Redds” as it spelled in this context, are the nests and nesting areas in a stream that fish have chosen to complete their life cycle. These areas are usually comprised of fine gravels and the actual redd is an oval shaped depression in the gravel made by the female where the eggs are laid and is usually quite a bit lighter in color than the surrounding stream bottom.

What’s the point you ask? It’s really simple: don’t fish to spawning trout or salmon while they are on their redds and, absolutely, do not wade into an area where there are redds. Step on a redd and you could be killing hundreds or even thousands of future trout or salmon—you will, in effect, also be destroying the future and viability of that fishery and your ability to catch them.

About 3 weeks ago, we were in the Mammoth area and decided to fish a stream that runs into Crowley Lake. Upon arriving at the area we decided to fish, we found out that we had a few close friends with the same idea. As we walked down the meadow, it became very apparent that the small stream was full of spawning rainbows. In fact, in all the years I have fished this area, I have not seen so many. There were fish on the spawning redds and in the pools behind the beds staging to spawn.

Quickly the decision not to fish to these trout. As I sat there watching this fragile cycle of life, it became very apparent that the other fishermen that were fishing to the spawning fish, were not aware what was going on or just didn’t care. Many of the fishermen were

walking on the redds in order to get themselves in better position to make a cast to the spawning fish.

So, how do we recognize the redds? During certain times of the year, generally spring and fall, different species of trout/salmon/steelhead (and several other types of fish like bass) will migrate up streams to begin this ritual of the ages. Upon reaching their destination they will position themselves in riffles and with their tail and body the females will carve out a pocket in the gravel and rocks creating the redd/nest and begin laying the eggs. While this is going on, the males station themselves in the same pocket and will chase off any other males that move into the pocket. It is the age-old selection of the fittest.

Once the eggs hatch and the fry reach the appropriate size they will move back down to other parts of the river, or to a lake or, as in the case of salmon and other anadromous fish, to the ocean only to return to that very same spot in the river where they were born to start the cycle once again.

How many times have you been walking alone side a stream and the fish will dart away when you approach? When you approach spawning fish, they are very reluctant to move. You can also recognize the redds by the shiny stones and lighter colored pockets that the spawning fish have used their tails and bodies to make. If you know that fish are spawning in a certain area, try to avoid it. And if you have to fish, fish the pools below them; it can actually be quite rewarding!

There have been times that I have fished these pools on various streams and rivers and have hooked Browns and other species of non-spawning rainbows that are sitting in the pools below eating the eggs that get washed out of the redds. On the lower Sacramento every year, the trout station themselves behind the spawning salmon and reap the harvest of eggs that don’t stick and float downstream. Why do you think we have egg fly patterns, huh?

So, please be observant and help protect and save the future of our fragile environment.

Fly of the Month: Madison River Improved Zelon Midge

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, EDITOR

In case you haven't figured this out yet (after all these years), I am obsessed with midges. I am also equally obsessed with fishing midges dry and while, ironically, I am known for tying complex, mind bending Atlantic Salmon Fly patterns (at least back when I was young and had eyes...) my personal choice is an obsession with simplicity—yes, I can be quite lazy given a choice. Well the Madison River Improved Zelon Midge fits perfectly with all three of these foibles of mine; to a Tee.

I have been using a similar pattern to this for years and my weekly edition of the Blue Ribbon Flies News showed me a simpler and cleaner way of tying a great fly that is incredibly effective. Now, I offer it to you!

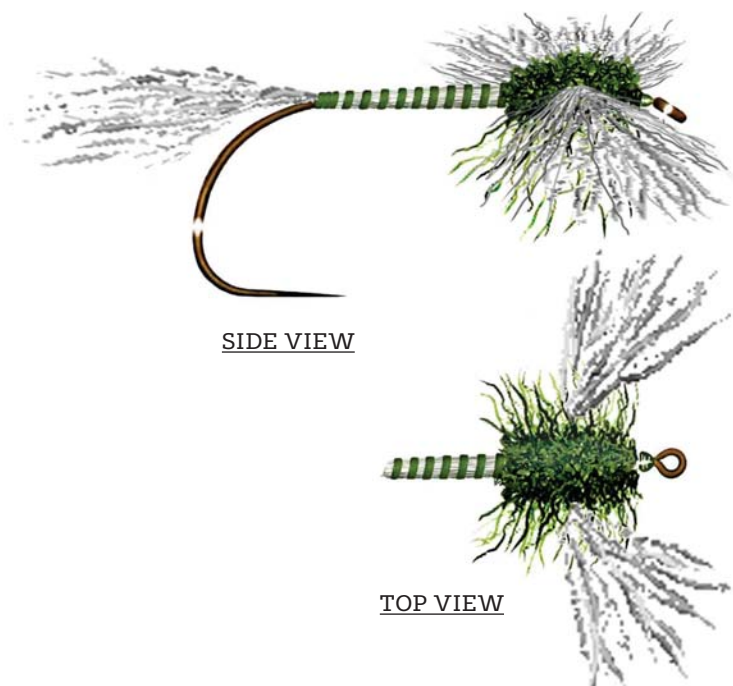
Using dry fly midge imitations to free rising trout can be a painfully non-productive process. The fly needs to be low in profile but not sink like a rock as soon as it hits a bit of turbulence. The fly also needs to mimic the appearance of the natural in some representative fashion or the trout will reject it outright. The Madison River Improved Zelon Midge seems to be able to manage that all of that with aplomb.

Here is one last reason to give this pattern a try...what is the one mayfly here in California in general and the Sierras specifically that always seems to hatch at about the same time as or in the same water type midges do? What mayfly seems to be pervasive in the areas where this club and its members seem to fish the most? If your answer is the Blue-Winged Olive then you are correct and this fly will pretty much match it perfectly.

I tie this in only a couple of sizes: 20, 22 and 24 **AND** I prefer using standard dry fly hooks for this instead of a midge/emergent style hook. Tie this fly in two colors: light dun Zelon shuck and wings with an olive thorax and olive shuck with light dun wings with a very dark olive thorax. The first combo is more indicative of a midge and the second matches and Blue-Winged Olives as well. Use olive thread in both cases and, of course, if you find another combination let all of us know about it. One final note to consider, if the guys from Blue Ribbon recommend this fly, it works!

MATERIALS FOR TYING THE MADISON RIVER IMPROVED ZELON MIDGE:

Hook: Tiemco 101 Ring-eye #20–24 or similar
 Thread: Size 6/0 or 8/0 Olive (personally, I like using Veevus 12/0)
 Shuck/Tail: Light dun Zelon
 Body: Olive Zelon tail/Shuck with wide spaced olive thread over the of it
 Wing: Light dun Zelon tied spent wing spinner style
 Thorax: Olive Ice dubbing
 Head: Olive thread



INSTRUCTIONS ON TYING THE MADISON RIVER IMPROVED ZELON MIDGE:

- 1 Attach your thread to the hook at the headspace. Wind down to the bend of the hook and select about 12 to 24 strands (depending on the hook size) of the Zelon shuck. Tie these strands in so that they are the length of the hook shank or a bit less.
- 2 Advance the thread forward to the thorax using wider than normal spacing allowing the Zelon shuck to just peek through underneath. If you want to make the fly a bit more durable then, when you are done, put a drop of head cement on the body.
- 3 Again, select another bunch of Zelon for the wing comprised this time of about 20 to 30 strands depending on the hook size. Attach these strands laid out flat on either side of the hook in the same manner as you would tie in a mayfly spinner wing using X-wraps. Once secured, trim the wings so they are about $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the shank. I do this by grabbing and pinching both wings together, pulling them back to the tail and then trimming them simultaneously to the desired length.
- 4 Finally, apply dubbing thinly to your tying thread and make one or two complete turns behind the wing and using these turns to slightly push the wing forward as shown in the drawing. Then continue with one complete diagonal (front to back) X-wrap before finishing with another complete wrap or two in front of the wing. If you do not make the complete diagonal X-wrap you will leave a "hole" in the bottom of your thorax exposing the hook and the tie down point of the wing underneath. Also, when you wrap in front of the wing, try not to push the wings back—keep them pointing forward.
- 5 Form a small head, whip finish, apply head cement and your done. One last thing that helps



finishing off these tiny flies... I like to keep a couple of left over hackles lying around my tying desk. What I am referring to are the tips of a hackle that are left when you are done wrapping it. Use these to run through the hook eye of even the tiniest size to clear it of wet head cement. You will thank me the next time you easily slide your fly onto your tippet!

Our New Members

GARY KOSAKA,
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

At the January 5th Board of Directors Meeting, applications were approved of the following new members:

❖ **ROCCO ORSINI OF LONG BEACH**

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.

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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.



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).



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

Calendar of Events

February

1	Sunday	9:00 AM	Pre-Trip Meeting, Lower Owens #2
2	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
3	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying: Elk Hair Caddis
4	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
5-8	Weekend		Club Trip, Bishop
10	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying: Adams
11	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
12	Thursday	7:00 PM	Salty On The Bay: Classroom
14-15	Weekend		Southwestern Tournament
17	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying: Parachute Adams
18	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Monthly Noon Luncheon
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
21	Saturday	6:00 AM	Salty Bay Clinic
24	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying: Humpy
25	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
26	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting

March

1	Sunday	9:00 AM	Club Cast
2	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
3	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying: Royal Wulff
4	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
4-8	Weekend		Fred Hall Show
11	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
12-15	Weekend		Club Trip, Bishop
14	Saturday		Double Haul Ball
15	Sunday	9:00 AM	Club Cast
18	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Monthly Noon Luncheon
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
25	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
25	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting
28	Saturday	9:00 AM	Maggie Meriman's Bugology Class
29	Sunday	9:00 AM	Club Cast

April

5	Sunday		Happy Easter
6	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
8	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
10	Friday	to be determined	Casting Workshop with Chris Korich
11	Saturday	9:00-4:00	LBCC 90 th Anniversary Event
14	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rod Building
15	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Monthly Noon Luncheon
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
16	Thursday	7:00 PM	Annual General Meeting
16-19	Weekend		Club Trip, Pyramid Lake
22	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
26	Sunday	6:00 PM	Awards & Installation Banquet
29	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
30	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting



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