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NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG BEACH CASTING CLUB, ESTABLISHED 1925

March 2016

www.longbeachcastingclub.org

(562) 433-9408

Leader's Line...

February on the Owens!

YASH ISEDA, PRESIDENT

uper Bowl weekend turned into a super weekend of weather for our February trip. There was snow covering the Sierras and White Mountains and on the ground from Big Pine to Bishop. The sun was shining and there was little wind. Perfect conditions for fishing the Owens.

As we drove into Big Pine on Thursday, Jeff always said as we passed the Wildlife Lookout, if we saw elk in the meadow then Zebra midge would be the fly to use on the Owens. No elk....

Nymph fishing was not as productive as in the past. Most of the action was with dries. On Friday, once again, we had a one fly contest. This month, San was the winner with seven fish on a size #20 Griffith's Gnat. He found his spot near the dam.

One of the nymphs that has worked consistently for the last two months is the featured Fly of the Month in this issue of the Target Talk. It is the Trusty Rusty by Roman Moser which was inspired by Dave Whitlock's Red Squirrel nymph.

On Saturday we welcomed five new people that wanted to learn how to fly fish. One of those was 11-year old Charlotte Harriman. She has been attending the fly tying class. She has won twice for the best fly of the night. This was her first trip to the Owens with her father. The other new participants

had a great first experience working with members.

Also, on Saturday there was a river clean up that our club participated in. There were enough people to cover a larger area. The area went from Pleasant Valley Dam all the way beyond Line Street. The organizer of the event was very pleased that we again participated in this event.

For those of you that go to Bishop only to fish, maybe you have never taken the time to look at other activities that are offered in and around Bishop. It is a place for world class rock climbing and it is right off Chalk Bluff Road. Also, right off Chalk Bluff you can hike up the trail and search for Petroglyphs. Along with activities, Bishop has many interesting places to visit. The Visitor's Center will give you information on the history of the area. Small shops line the street and you can visit galleries, bookstores, yarn shops and even an antique store that used to be the jail. Along with that The Great Basin Bakery and Mahogany have

... Leader's Line continued on page 2

February on the Owens!... Leader's Line continued from page 1

become favorite stops for sandwiches and baked goods.

By this time next month for our March trip, the desert floor will be turning green and showing the sign of Spring with wildflowers. The weather should be even better as well as the fishing. That will be our last trip for the year to Bishop as a club. If you have not made the January or February trip, try to make it in March. The March workshop will be on Saturday, March 5 from 9:00 AM—12:00 PM.

Tip of the Month: If you need to renew your driver's license, consider stopping by the Bishop DMV. For those who have done this, the wait is considerably shorter and less stressful. The whole process can be done in 30 minutes or less without an appointment. We know because we have done it.



Club Trips for 2015 & 2016

TERRY KOMISAK, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

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

2016 Trips:

TRIP DATE	TRIP & LEADER
March 10–13	Owens River with John Lincoln
April 10	Dana or San Diego Harbour
May 1–6	Green River, Utah trip
June	to be announced
July 15-17	Brookie Bash with Mark Flo

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. Please contact me if you have any suggestions or questions at tk_nsp44@yahoo.com.

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Fly Fishing on the Way to the Green with Spencer Higa

STEVE GONZALEZ, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Then it comes to fishing, many of us can be creatures of habit. When we experience a fishing destination we like, we become object oriented. On May 1 the object for many of us will be to get to Green River, Utah for our annual week of fishing on the Green. Combined with limitations on budget and time we will drive past some exceptional waters and head to the Green River or return home ignoring other new locations in Utah, which can provide us exciting fishing. To many of us, with the exception of the Green River, Utah can represent another stretch of highway separating us from Wyoming, Montana or Colorado.

While not unknown, many of us overlook the Provo River and its surrounding waters. Just a couple hours by airline, or fifteen hours by car, eastern Utah is filled with beautiful water home to plenty of hungry trout, and most of us just blow right by them. In our March program, Spencer Higa will provide us with the details of beautiful eastern Utah rivers and waters which are home to plenty of large trout.

Spencer, a Utah native, started fly fishing when he was 12-years old and has been fishing the lakes and

rivers there ever since. In fact, he has been fishing the Provo since his mother used to drop him off on a section of the river in the morning and then pick him up eight



hours later. An explorer by nature, Spencer's driver



license was his ticket to expand the territory he fished, always looking for more and more water to explore.

Spencer began tying flies when he was 14, and started tying commercially when he was 16. He has created several patterns that work well on his home waters, including one named "Higa's SOS," known to be extremely effective and a top seller at Orvis stores, catching fish around the western United States.

Spencer began his formal guiding career at the age of 21, and he has been guiding throughout Utah since then. He managed an Orvis company owned store from 2001 to 2005, where he taught classes in fly fishing, fly casting, and fly tying. He then began managing an Orvis-endorsed lodge in eastern Utah.

Spencer competed for a spot on the USA Fly Fishing Team in 2007 and 2008 and has appeared on local and national television shows, the most recent being The New Fly Fisher. Spencer is currently the fishing manager at Falcon's Ledge Lodge, which received the 2012 Fly Fishing Lodge of the year award from Orvis.

Spencer's passion is seeing people enjoying the waters he grew up fishing. Spencer lives in Provo, Utah, just 50 feet from the Provo River. His presentation should open us up to some tremendous fishing we may have overlooked on the way to the Green River. Join us Thursday evening and don't forget that this month's meeting will be one week earlier than usual.

Steelhead, Salmon and the WRC!

ROB PETERSON, MEMBER

I've fished a few times for steelhead—the "fish of a thousand casts". Some days I've had nothing to show for it but cold fingers and colder feet. This past Christmas, I tail-hooked one sucker on the Sandy River near Portland, which is somehow goofier than getting skunked. I remember my first time with a Spey rod, on the River Tay in Scotland (fishing for Atlantic salmon, not steelhead, but my feet were just as cold). The only thing I got all day was a little disturbance in the water near my fly. I'm pretty sure it was laughter.

But one August day in 2014 on the Klamath River, I was catching a steelhead on almost every swing. Not just steelhead, but one 25 pound chinook salmon and two "jacks" (a chinook less than 22 inches long). I had come up the Klamath in a jet boat (the only way to get

there, since there are no roads), guided by Mike Kuczynski, owner of the Eureka Fly Shop. We were just below the confluence of the Klamath and its first major tributary, Blue Creek.

Mike had set me up no more than ankle-deep in the water, which I found odd. I began throwing longer and longer "double spey" casts, in an effort to cover as much water

as possible and impress my guide. "Don't do that," he said. "All the fish are in the shallows right in front of you."

I didn't get it. The drought was on and the Klamath was warm: easily in the 60s, maybe 70 degrees in really shallow spots. "Don't they want to go deep

and find cold water?"

"Not here. The Blue Creek water is much colder than the Klamath. They hang out where the cold creek water is just starting to mix with the warm river water."

I looked, and man, he was right. I could see them finning and basking in six inches of cold Blue Creek water. All around me, steelhead and salmon were porpoising, jumping and taildancing in the shallows. I'm sure I saw one do the Macarena... They weren't going up river; they were happy right where they were.

I would guess I caught forty steelhead that day. They looked more like typical rainbow trout than the silver, clear-finned "chromies" you see in pictures. That's because they'd been stuck at Blue Creek for weeks—until some rain fell, or water was released from Iron Gate Dam to cool the Klamath down, that's where they'd stay. But they were alive, healthy and happy because of Blue Creek.



So when Tim Cox from Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) presented at the Casting Club monthly meeting the next February, and mentioned their project to preserve Blue Creek, he had my attention. I'd seen what that stream means to the Klamath River chinook and steelhead runs. Without it, an extended drought could wipe them out for good.

The WRC has been working since 1988 to conserve and protect vital river ecosystems. Their mission statement sums it up: "Western Rivers Conservancy protects outstanding river ecosystems in the western United States. We acquire land to conserve critical habitat, provide public access for compatible use and

enjoyment, and cooperate with other agencies and organizations to secure the health of whole ecosystems". They have done this for about 50 major rivers in eight states, including famous trout streams like the Madison, and famous steelhead streams like the Hoh. Their motto is "Sometimes to save a river you have to buy it". They have sixteen current riverland purchase projects, the largest of which is the Blue Creek drainage. Here's how they describe the Blue Creek project:

"In a historic opportunity, Western Rivers Conservancy is partnering with California's Yurok Tribe to create a salmon sanctuary and ensure the survival of one of the West's great salmon streams: the Klamath River. The backbone of this effort is Blue Creek, a vital cold-water tributary on the Lower Klamath and a lifeline for migrating salmon and steelhead. WRC is working to purchase and conserve the entire lower Blue Creek watershed—over 73 square miles of fog-belt forest that the Yurok will steward to enhance recovery of salmon and steelhead, imperiled wildlife and old-growth forest habitat".

This quote from their project brief rang true for me: "For anadromous fish, Blue Creek is the first coldwater refuge on the journey inland from the Pacific. By holding at Blue Creek, Chinook can lower their body temperatures by up to eight degrees Fahrenheit. Without this cool-down period, most Chinook would likely die before reaching their spawning grounds in the upper Klamath River."

The project began in 2008. Since then, they've acquired 37,000 acres of the Blue Creek drainage from Green Diamond Resources, a Pacific Northwest timber company. There are 10,000 acres left to go, at a cost of roughly \$12.8 million. You can visit their website, www.westernrivers.org, to learn more about them. If you'd like to make a contribution (I know I'm planning to), you can do that from the website. If you'd like to target your contribution to the Blue Creek project, just note that in the Dedication box.

After I got out of the jet boat that day, I had an hour drive to Eureka, where I was staying. I drove home



past groves of ancient redwoods, thinking about the natural miracle I had just witnessed. I hope that through this conservation effort by the Western Rivers Conservancy, the chinook and steelhead runs on the Klamath will be a miracle that my grandchildren can witness too.

New Club Members

GARY KOSAKA, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The Club's Board of Directors approved the following new members. Please welcome them at your next opportunity:

- Richard Benenson of Stanton, CA
- Lawrence Diggins II of Compton, CA
- Patrick Kudo of West Covina, CA
- Alan Sasai of Buena Park, CA
- Edward (Todd) Tyler of Lakewood, CA

In order to get your information ready for the LBCC Roster, please send in your renewal in by March 31st. If you chose not to have your information published, indicate so on the renewal application and I will note not to publish your address, email and phone number etc. You can print the application by accessing the LBCC website: http://www.longbeachcastingclub.org/membership/

Last Chance for the Lower "O" Season

THE LOWER "O" BOYS

his traditional season of winter trips closes with a truly great experience for beginning fly fishers as the old pros spend Saturday and part of Sunday on the shoulder of rookies teaching them to read the water, rig their rod, and catch pretty trout. The schedule is:

- ❖ Trip is March 10–13;
- Pre-Trip is Saturday March 5 and led by Tohn Lincoln

The Pre-Trip Meetings are a combination of trip info and a class telling you everything you need to know about from when you step out of your car in jeans and sweatshirt until you step into the river in waders and boots and your rod ready to rock-n-roll. The class starts at 9:00 AM and goes on and on until you are exhausted—just kidding.

- Secret spots revealed (Carole's, Jeff's, Bob's and if he doesn't show up, 3 Joe Libeu hot spots!).
- Master nymph rig techniques (Yash)
- Soft hackle & streamers (Danny)
- Dry flies (Danny)
- How to dress (John)
- These classes are worth your while even if you can't make the trips.

Gustatory delights include Amigo's (Thursday), Japanese (Friday), and Pizza Factory (Saturday).

Bishop is ³/₄ of a tank north in the beautiful Eastern Sierra and winter fishing can be spectacular. The weather can vary from pealing off layers of clothing to horizontal sleet. The Owens flow is currently at a very fishable rate.

The best part is the camaraderie of old and new friends and the sharing of arcane secrets.



Beginning Casting Clinic

BOB MIDDO, MEMBER

ur Beginning Casting Clinic is open to the public, and is free. Though designed for beginning fly casters, the course will also meet the needs of those requiring a refresher or fine tuning in the basics. Typically, students vary widely in experience. All are welcome.

Orientation will take place in the clubhouse on Tuesday, March 29, 2016, at 7:00 PM. Enrollment, rod/reel/line selection advice and practical tips will be addressed during the session. This is a short (45 minutes +/_) classroom presentation only. There is no need to bring a rod and reel to this presentation.

Actual casting on the pond will run for four consecutive weeks, beginning Tuesday, April 5, 2016 and concluding April 26, 2016. All classes are on Tuesdays and run from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

This is the perfect introduction to fly casting; and for those with a bit of experience, a great opportunity to sharpen their basic skills. We look forward to this year's clinic and hope to see you there.



Joan K. Green, CPA joan@GreenZahn.com

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The Return of the Great White Elephant

MICK WOODBURY, JUNIOR DIRECTOR

S ave this date: Thursday, October 27, 2016.

Give us your Tired,
your Poor,
your Humble Masses...
of Fly Fishing STUFF!

After an extended absence, the White Elephant Sale is returning to LBCC. It is never too late to donate that brand new Sage rod you can't cast or the fly fishing tie your brother-in-law gave you for Christmas. Have a 100 year supply of pheasant tails? Donate half for the auction, clean out the closet and

make your spouse happy.

However; Any ex-husbands or ex-wives, spiteful boyfriends or girlfriends, poor sports, mangy dogs, feral flea ridden cats and un-fixable gear not accepted. Just about everything else is OK!

Stay tuned...



Brookie Bash 2016!

MARK FLO, TRIP LEADER

The Brookie Bash will be July 16 in Little Lakes Valley this year. Also, this year we will be getting a condo—just like the old trips. That means we need to get an early head count from you if you wish to stay in one.

Please contact Mark Flo at mark.flo@verizon. net with your reservation. I will need a deposit, from anyone coming on the trip that is planning on staying in the condo by March 31st.

Remember the immortal words of Jeffrey Sadler:

Rookies and Brookies are Made for Each Other!

Free Admission for Working the Fred Hall Show

RICK LONG & JOHN STINE, MEMBERS

The Fred Hall Show will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center starting on Wednesday March 2, 2015 through Sunday, March 6, 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@gmail.com or; John Stine at 562-431-2817 or by email at jmastine@verizon. net

Fly of the Month: Trusty Rusty

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, EDITOR

Tanuary, February and March is the time of year when our club goes crazy for winter fishing on the Lower Owens. Last month's trip proved to be a bit difficult in the catching category as members braved cold and windy conditions. One fly however, proved to be able to beat the weather and conditions and provided Yash with several fish to hand. His new fly: the Trusty Rusty.

Yash learned of this pattern by reading one of his favorite magazines from the UK—FLY FISHING AND FLY TYING—and this fly was offered up in an article by renowned European angler and fly tier, Roman Moser. I met Roman years ago while I was tying flies and demo casting at the biennial FLY FAIRE in Zwolle, Netherlands. Always innovative and always trying out new ideas, Roman has provided a lot of anglers with many patterns of his design to try over the years. Interestingly, one of the inspirations to this fly was American tier, angler, author and artist Dave Whitlock's Red Squirrel Nymph from the late '70s and early '80s.

While reading the article and preparing the artwork I was immediately struck with the simplicity of the pattern as well as the multitude of ways it could modified. The original pattern calls for a silver tungsten bead head and lead wire over the forward two-thirds of the hook shank. Yash's fly only had a standard silver bead and no lead. Think about the way you would rig this pattern and tie it accordingly. If you want to fish it high in the water column as the top pattern in a two fly rig, you certainly don't want to use any weight. If you want to use this as the point fly in a Euro-style nymphing set-up then, by all means, get some weight on it!

Additional changes you can make would be changing the color of the bead and ribbing: copper with copper, gold with gold or red with red. I have no doubt that all of these will work. Other considerations are the materials to be used for the abdomen and thorax. I tied one this last weekend at the Southwest Council's annual FlyBuy and used rusty orange Hare's Ear Plus (hare's mask with Antron) with silver extra small Ultra Wire for the body and brown and rusty orange Ice Dubbing with the Red Fox squirrel. The materials listed below are from the actual article but some of the materials might be tough to find so I have shown options. So don't get mired too much in the details; just enjoy the tying and tie something that looks good!

MATERIALS FOR TYING THE TRUSTY RUSTY:

Hook: Mustad 3906, or any standard length nymph in sizes #12-#20. Thread: Orange Moser Power Silk 10/0 GSP or other 6/0 to 12/0 orange

thread.

Bead: Silver tungsten bead or adjust as needed.

Weight: If desired, lead or lead free wire 2/3 the length of the shank.

Tail: Natural colored CDC plume tip (not

a puff).

Abdomen: Micro dubbing wool (Red Spinner)

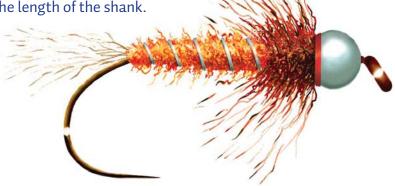
or as noted in the article.

Ribbing: Small and Extra Small Ultra Wire

depending on hook size.

Thorax: Red Fox squirrel and dark brown

SLF dubbing.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR TYING THE TRUSTY RUSTY:

- 1. Slide a bead of your choosing onto the hook. If the bead is countersunk, make sure that the countersink is pointing towards the bend of the hook and not the eye. Attach your thread to the hook shank behind the bead and wind down to the end of the shank. Wind any wire weight that you may or may not wish to use over the forward two-thirds of the shank. Select a fine and wispy point off of a CDC plume (a CDC puff would be too bushy!) and tie it in as your tail. The length should be short—about ½ the length of the body.
- 2. Tie in a 4"-6" length of the wire rib on the lower near side of the hook. This is the location that I use when counter winding—the opposite direction of the body. I would use the lower far side when winding the rib in the conventional direction. Apply the dubbing to your thread and wind it forward to the beginning of the thorax. As a point of comparison use the length of the bead as a guide think of the body as 5 bead widths: 3 bead widths for the body, 1 bead width for the thorax and 1 bead for the bead itself (obviously). Wind the ribbing forward in the opposite direction as the abdomen and tie it off at the beginning of the thorax.
- 3. Prepare your thorax by mixing a small amount of Red Fox squirrel tail and SLF dubbing—or any other combination of materials that you choose. Using your dubbing needle, split your thread into two strands creating a gap in between them and hold it open. Insert the thorax material inside that gap and then allow the gap to close followed by spinning the thread in a clockwise direction (opposite for



lefties) to create essentially a dubbing loop. Your thread has to be flat and with zero twist in it to split the thread. If you have watched me tie at the club or just watched Wayne Luallen tie for the Fly Tiers' Forum, then you will understand about removing twist by spinning the thread in a counter clockwise direction if you're right handed and clockwise if you're a southpaw. Your thread should also be fairly strong if you intend to use it as a dubbing loop. If this all becomes too difficult simply create a dubbing loop with your thread by doubling it, insert the thorax material and spin away. Wind the thorax material forward to the bead.

4. It's all downhill from here. Do a 3 to 5 turn whip finish to lock in the thread and finish the fly. If you thorax is wound very thick the thread may not pass down inside between the bead and the thorax material when you whip finish. That's fine but if the thread is exposed then you will probably want to apply some head cement. If it is buried inside, which is my preference, then you won't have to worry about cementing the thread.

Now, go fish the fly!







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2015-2016 Dates: October 31-November 1, 2015; December 12-13, 2015; February 5-6, 2016; March 5-6, 2016.

ADVANCED ON THE RIVER CLINIC: You will be introduced to the increasingly popular Czech and other European nymphing techniques. You will learn both short and long-line methods and how to tie these rigs. You will be amazed at how effective these methods of subsurface fishing are, and your understanding will help you improve in other areas of fly fishing.

2015-2016 Dates:

November 14-15, 2015; February 5-6, 2016; March 19-20, 2016.

Both clinics are limited to a maximum of 6 students. A **\$300** tuition includes two full days of on-the-stream instructions and stream-side lunch. Not included are lodging, tackle, other meals, licenses and transportation. Dates are subject to change based on local conditions.

SIERRA PACIFIC FISHING ADVENTURES

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Calendar of Events

Marc	ch			
	1	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying Class
	2-6	Week	•	Fred Hall Show
	2	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
	5	Saturday	9:00 AM	Pre-Trip & Workshop: Owens River #3 with the Lower "O" Boys
	7	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
	8	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying Class
	9	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
	3	,	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
	10-13	Weekend	7,00	Club Trip: Owens River #3 with John Lincoln
	12	Saturday	9:00 AM	Double Haul Ball: Surf Fishing
	15	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying Class
	16	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Nooner Lunch
	10	vvcuricsday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
	22	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Fly Tying Class
		Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
	23	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: Spencer Higa "Fishing on the Way to the Green"
	24	Saturday		Fly Tying with Bill Blackstone - TENTATIVE
	26		8:30	Beginning Casting Clinic: Orientation with Middo & Van Derhoof
	29	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
	23	Wednesday	7:00 PM	rty Tyllig Forum
Apri	1			
L	2	Saturday	9:00 AM	Pre-Trip & Workshop: Saltwater Outing
	3	Sunday	9:00 AM	Director's Handicap Casting Tournament
	4	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
		Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Casting Clinic: 1st Night on the Pond
	5 6	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
	7	Thursday		Annual General Meeting
		Sunday	7:00 PM	Club Trip: Saltwater Outing
	10	Tuesday	7:00 DM	Beginning Casting Clinic: 2 nd Night on the Pond
	12	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
	13	vveunesuay	9:00 AM	Nooner Lunch
			12:00 PM	
		-/.//4E/F/E	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
	19	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Casting Clinic: 3 rd Night on the Pond
	20	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
	23	Saturday	9:00 AM	Pre-Trip & Workshop: Green River, Utah Trip
		/_ ',		Awards & Installation Dinner Set-Up
	24	Sunday	7:00 PM	Awards & Installation Dinner
	26	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Beginning Casting Clinic: 4 th Night on the Pond
	27	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
May				
riay	1-6	Week		Green River Trip
		Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
	4	Monday	•	Board of Directors Meeting
	9		7:00 PM	
	10	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rod Building Class
		Modeocdov	7:00 PM	Summer Casting Games Conservation Team at San Gabriel
	11	Wednesday	9:00 AM	
		T 1	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
	17	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Summer Casting Games
	18	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Nooner Lunch
			7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
	24	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rod Building Class
			7:00 PM	Summer Casting Games
	25	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
	26	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: ERNIE GULLY & SIERRA STILLWATER FLY FISHING TACTICS
	31	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rod Building Class
			7:00 PM	Summer Casting Games









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