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Target Talk

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG BEACH CASTING CLUB, ESTABLISHED 1925

MAY 2017

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Leader's Line...

A New Year, a New Crew

MARK FLO, PRESIDENT

Traditionally, the first article the incoming President writes starts with a short biography, an answer to the question "How the heck did I find myself here?" I grew up in Flint, Michigan. Those long summer days would have seemed like forever if it hadn't been for my Grandpa Hessling. He'd call me up, have me water the lawn all day, and then collect a coffee can full of night crawlers that evening. The next morning at 6:00 a.m., he'd pick me up and we'd drive an hour and a half to Lake Huron and fish all day from the shore. Some of my best memories from childhood were the times I spent with him—just the two of us fishing.

When my Dad and I visited his parents in Greenfield, Massachusetts, we always took our fishing gear and sometimes managed to catch brown trout. We occasionally tried a fly rod, but that clearly took a lot more skill than I currently had...and the seed was planted.

Fast-forward to 1999. I was on a lunch break, talking about fishing in the Sierras. One of my co-workers, Roy Johnson, then a member of the LBCC, said *"You know, they teach fly casting for free at the Long Beach Casting Club. You should come with me."* John Van Derhoof was my first casting instructor for group lessons. I was hooked. He was also the instructor for fly tying. I did Joe Libeu's On the River Clinic and caught my first fish on a fly that I had tied. WOW! Many people in this club have offered help and suggestions to me, which have improved my skills and the thrills of fly fishing. Since I was volunteered to be the Captain, I have been mentored by people dedicated to service and to helping however they can. I am honored to be asked to serve as President.

I will be working with many of the same people from last year's board. Remaining in their positions are Wayne Sakaguchi (Membership Secretary), Tommy Kendall (Treasurer) and Colin Kumabe (Captain). Moving to new positions are Terry Komisak (from 2nd Vice President to 1st), Art Daily (from Facilities and Pond to 2nd Vice President), Mick Woodbury (from Junior Director to Senior Director), and Yash Iseda (from President to Junior Director). We have two new Board members: Brad Landon is our Corresponding Secretary and Chris Visconti is in charge of Facilities and Pond.

A huge thank you to those who have agreed to serve!



New Club Members

WAYNE SAKAGUCHI,
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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

- ❖ Lee Gawlik
- ❖ Mossy Kennedy
- ❖ Mike Martin

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

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ROB PETERSON
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May Speaker: Landing the Big Ones with Peter Koga

MARK FLO, PRESIDENT

Peter was born on Maui. As it's surrounded by water, learning to fish was a given. His dad started him fishing at the age of four with a cane pole along the rocky shorelines of Maui. After moving to California, he became intrigued by episodes of *THE AMERICAN SPORTSMAN* that featured Lee Wulff fly fishing. But the episode that showed Bing Crosby and Phil Harris, fly fishing in Jackson Hole with a young kid named Jack Dennis, changed his fishing life forever.

While attending UCLA he bought his first fly rod outfit, and over the next several years learned to cast and fly fish with the help of the Long Beach Casting Club. He fished primarily for trout across the Western United States for the next 20 years, until he was introduced to chasing steelhead on a fly. That pursuit led him to Northern California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, then on to the legendary waters of British Columbia. On a trip to the Sustut River he landed a trophy steelhead just over



30 pounds in the last 30 minutes of the trip!

Dan Iwata took Peter on an albacore trip 15 years ago, and that began another phase. On subsequent off-shore trips, with conventional gear, Peter learned the necessary techniques to subdue larger critters more efficiently. To land a 106 pound grouper, as well as an 80 pound bluefin tuna on light line, required proper technique.

Since then, he has used those techniques and principles to fight larger fish on a fly rod. He has taken fly rods on many long range trips since and has landed yellowfin tuna, Dorado and yellowtail. He has fished for Mako sharks with Conway Bowman for several years, and the fighting techniques definitely came into play.

Peter will provide tips on how to prepare for, and improve your chance of landing, big fish. Whether it's a big trout on the Lower Owens, GTs at Christmas Island, a monster at Jurassic Lake or the yellowtail and tuna that were within range of private boaters last year, you'll learn things you need to consider and do to increase your success.

Key topics include clothing/paraphernalia, hooks, knots and connections, hook setting, reels and drag setting and forsaking traditional techniques so that you can keep maximum pressure on the fish while minimizing pressure on the angler. Come join us at the monthly meeting, Thursday, May 25th at 7:00 PM.



Brookie Bash 2017

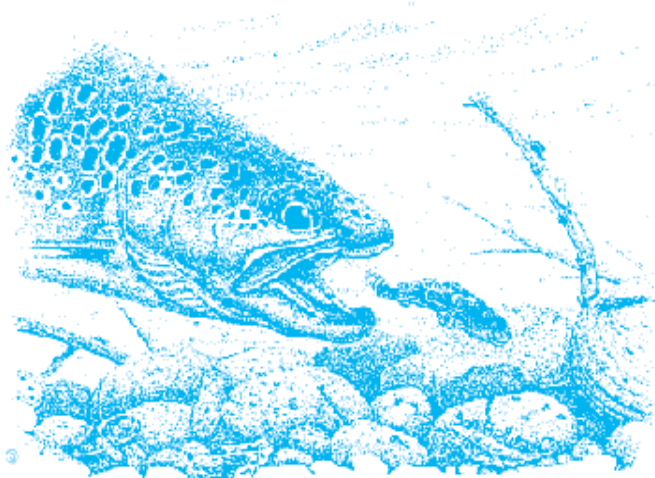
MARK FLO, PRESIDENT

The Annual Brookie Bash will be held Saturday, July 15th in Little Lakes Valley. The Pre-Trip Meeting will be Wednesday, July 5th at 7:00 PM. If we have enough people who are interested, we will be renting one or two condos for both Friday and Saturday nights. We need a headcount to determine how many people need to be accommodated. Please contact Mark Flo at markcflo@yahoo.com as soon as possible to reserve your spot. You must have your non-refundable deposit to Mark by Wednesday, May 31st.

Collect the LBCC special pin "THE SADLER SLAM" by catching all five species of trout that weekend: Brookie, Brown, Rainbow, Cutthroat and Golden.

Remember the immortal words of Jeffrey Sadler:

*"Rookies and brookies
are made for each other!"*



Club Trips 2017

TERRY KOMISAK, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

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

2017 TRIPS:

TRIP DATE	TRIP & LEADER
May 6	Piru Creek w/Terry Komisak (Pre-Trip: April 27)
May 7-12	Green River #2 w/Paul Burgner (Pre-Trip: April 26)
May 27	On the Bay Clinic w/Kevin Green (Pre-Trip: May 17)
June 10	Alamitos Bay Trip w/Terry Komisak (Pre-Trip: May 31)
July 14-17	Brookie Bash (Pre-Trip: July 5)

Trip locations and dates are subject to change so monitor Target Talk or the Web Calendar for the latest information. Pre-Trip Meetings are usually held at the clubhouse starting 7:00 PM. Be sure to check here or the club's website calendar to confirm the time.

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

Kelsey Disappoints No One!

MICK WOODBURY, SENIOR DIRECTOR

Sixteen enthusiastic trout fishermen and -women made their way to Kelsey Bass Ranch to try something new—what might be the future of Southern California fishing for the next few years—warm-water bassing. They weren't disappointed. With our drought-diminished trout habitat showing serious decline (e.g., the stocking of Hot Creek and low counts on the LO) followed by record-breaking floods which scoured river bottoms and washed both fish and insect life out to sea, it may be several years before our usual streams recover.

A NEW ALTERNATIVE

Kelsey gave us hope. Nineteen and twenty-inch bass pull hard—really hard. In fact, six-weights won't hack it. They don't have enough backbone to keep big bass out of the weeds. Eleven and twelve-inch bluegill fight hard too. Broken rod anyone?

People arrived Friday afternoon, set up lakeside camps and immersed themselves in the sounds of nature while undergoing a sundown latitude adjustment. A birder's paradise, Kelsey also has a dense population of frogs, none are which might be considered stealthy. This is nature in the round. That's not a sound track playing.

GETTING SCHOOLED

Saturday morning, Yosemite guide Tim Hutchins joined us to demonstrate sight fishing tactics for large-mouth



bass. He thought that our trout fisher group might need a bit of schooling. He was right. He also made available some of his deadly bass flies. Who knew there were flies you could actually see, both in the water and on top? And when yours suddenly disappears, you find yourself in an all-out fight with several pounds of tough, strong and angry muscle.

Late Saturday afternoon we indulged in fresh-smoked pulled-pork sandwiches (thank you chef Glenn) and in the delicious sides that everyone brought. Only a few took advantage of the evening bite. The rest took in the sunset.

A FISH WITH ATTITUDE

How do bass differ from trout? First, they have a chip on their shoulder. They're aggressive and love to ambush. They don't sip bugs, they chomp meat. They can be spooked, but they're territorial. They'll quickly return to their habitat, especially when guarding their beds. They have a high metabolism, need to eat often and will eat just about anything. They grow fast and get big, and in a catch and release lake like Kelsey, they just get bigger and bigger. The lake record is more than 16 lbs.

Remove a hook? Just put your fist in there. It's like unhooking a bucket. The largemouth bass is well named. They're also called bucket mouths.

TENACIOUS

Our illustrious past pres. Rick spotted a large fish. He started throwing fly after fly to no avail. Three hours and 16 flies later, he finally hooked it...with the fly he used initially.

What is the verdict after a couple of days chasing bass? Sixteen people came. Sixteen have already signed up for next year.

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Beginning Casting Class and More...

COLIN KUMABE, CAPTAIN

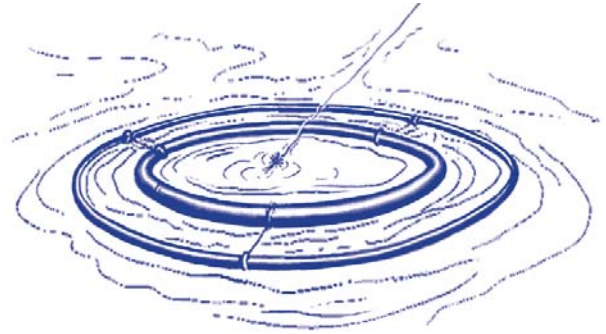
Congratulations to all who participated in the Beginning Casting Class held at the Long Beach Casting Club Pond. The casting class was a success, with 35 beginning casters completing the five week series.

Thanks to John Van Derhoof and Bob Middo, the Beginning Casting Class provided instruction on the basics in casting. Thanks also to dozens of Long Beach Casting Club members for helping to analyze the casting stroke of the class participants.

Best wishes to all that participated in the Beginning Casting Class for fishing success during your first fly fishing outing. Afterward, on the way home, please consider the idea that if you hit the "fishy spot" on the first cast, your catch rate will improve significantly.

Catching more fish starts with better casting. You may continue to improve your casting through instruction in several ways:

1. Books on casting may be found in the Jeff Sadler Library inside the clubhouse. Look for authors such as Mel Krieger and Lefty Kreh.
2. There are videos on the internet by casters with great fly casting techniques. Here are a few you may find helpful:
 - Slow motion casting showing the motion of the wrist and elbow that creates beautiful tight casting loops by Chris Korich: <https://vimeo.com/13068783>
 - Casting accuracy with Tim Rajeff, part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74YWZMPdKhW> and
 - Casting accuracy with Tim Rajeff, part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtTbeCCbXWE>
 - Tailing loops with Tim Rajeff: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cp36L6ttbxE>
 - Orvis fly casting lessons series: <http://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/video-lessons/13-fly-casting>




3. Have a buddy record a video of your casting, then analyze your casting stroke.
4. Practice casting at the Long Beach Casting Club Pond where you will find someone willing to assist with your casting technique.
5. Participate in the LBCC Club Casts held on the LBCC Pond (schedule found here). During the summer, Club Casts are on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM and during the fall, winter and spring Club Casts are on Sundays at 9:00 AM.

Please invest in your next fishing trip with casting practice. After all, for a weekend trip to the Lower Owens, we spend:

- 4 hours driving each way.
- \$90 for gas money.
- \$100 plus for motel per night.
- \$35 per dinner for food and beer (or wine).
- \$9 per sandwich at the Mahogany Smoked Meats.
- \$10 per breakfast at Denny's (with AARP discount)
- From bad casts, twenty flies lost in the streamside trees, tied by you...priceless.

See you at the LBCC pond!



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Endowment Fund Report & FAQ

ART STRAUSS, MEMBER

Q. What is the Club Endowment Fund?

A. A Fund established to provide long-term funding and financial stability for the Club. It offers an additional and independent source of dollars to help cover the fixed costs (utilities and basic maintenance) of the LBCC facility.

Q. Eventual goal?

A. When the fund reaches \$100K, net earnings from the fund will be made available for utilities and maintenance. Currently, all capital gains are being reinvested into the fund's principle to facilitate growth.

Q. How much is in the fund now?

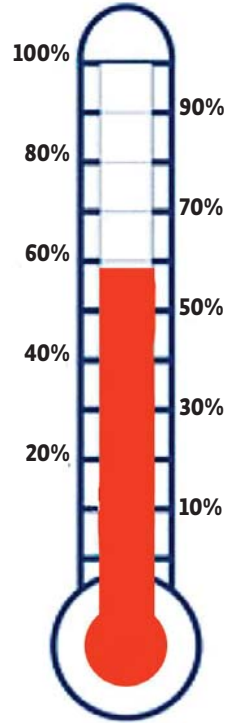
A. We are currently at \$58,000, nearly 60% of our stated goal (see thermometer).

Q. Why should I contribute?

A. LBCC is a unique community resource that compares favorably with any fly fishing club in the country. It would be almost impossible to duplicate what we have if we were to start from scratch (casting/fly tying classes and events, rod building, fly fishing trips, lecture series and supportive fellowship). Our dues are "peanuts" compared to what we receive in return. The fund will help assure that our 92-year heritage lives on regardless of economic conditions.

Q. How do I contribute?

A. There are many ways to contribute. Member donations are the most common. Other contributions have come from employer charitable-giving-programs that support employee interests. There have been contributions from friends of members, including birthday or Christmas gifts on behalf of members. The proceeds of the White Elephant Sale last year went to the Endowment as do the Yards & Inches food contributions. Many members have remembered the Endowment in their Wills and Living Trusts. Real or personal property can be donated as well. Probably the most productive contribution is to participate in the Matching Funds Program where your donation is matched 100% up to \$5,000. Contribution checks can be made out to the LBCC Endowment Fund and sent to the treasurer.



LBCC is a non-profit entity and contributions are normally deductible and approved by the IRS. For the best opinion, you should check with your tax advisor.

There were 25 Donors for the first quarter of the 2017 year. We're over half-way to our goal of \$100,000! See below for a contribution form.

LBCC Endowment Fund Donation

I wish to make a contribution (anonymous: yes or no) to the LBCC Endowment Fund. Enclosed find my check in the sum of \$ _____

Signature & date _____

(Hand deliver to LBCC President or Treasurer or send to LBCC, PO Box 90035 Long Beach, CA 90809)

Fly of the Month: WD-40

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, EDITOR EMERITUS

Like all of you, I have favorite patterns that I go to and rely upon trip after trip; year after year. You all know I love the Halo (my Pheasant Tail variation), Sparkle Dun, Zebra Midge and Upright BWO. All are proven fish catchers and the simple fact that I trust them, I know that I fish them more effectively. Another pattern that you have either heard me tout or read my glowing recommendation of is the WD-40. Time and time again I use this pattern as my upper fly in a two or three fly rig and it consistently produces fish. Once again this spring on the Green River the WD-40 produced good results in difficult high water conditions.

Spring is a day to day occurrence in the High Country. Winter continues to hang on with cold blustery conditions and the WD-40 is still a must have for these colder hatch conditions. The fly, invented by Mark Engler (also referenced as John) for use on the Frying Pan River in Colorado where large Midges and lots of Baetis mayflies are a preferred food source for the river's trout population. However the WD-40 is quite versatile in imitating other species of insects depending on the color, size and style that you tie. It is a good idea to carry the fly in several different colors to match local conditions including tan, black, pink, red and gray beyond the olive shown here. Vary the sizes to include a range of #16 down to #20.

This pattern has been around since the '80s and because of its popularity it has proffered more variations than you could shake a stick at. What is being presented to you is the original pattern as best as I can determine and it still, according to many, is one the best. I now use a mix of muskrat, UV Gray and UV Brown Ice Dubbing for the thorax and also add a bit of flash in the wingcase by adding a couple of strips of pearl Krystal Flash with the wood duck.

Adding a small bead and fishing it dead drift with an indicator or a dropper dry fly is one of my favorite methods of using the WD-40. Be sure to complete your drift and allow the imitation to rise through the water column like an emerging insect or you will be missing about 40% of your strikes. Continue to retrieve the fly slowly for a short distance before your next presentation and drift. Fishing the WD-40 in this fashion can be a great way to spend the day.

Materials for tying the WD-40:

- Hook: Tiemco #2487 or the heavier wire #2457, size #16–20
- Thread: Veevus Olive or Dark Olive 12/0
- Tail: Wood duck flank fibers (hence the 'WD')
- Body: Your thread
- Thorax: Muskrat fur dubbing including the guard hairs
- Wing case: Wood duck flank fibers; you can also add or substitute pearl Krystal Flash
- Head: Same as body or black



Tying instructions for the WD-40

1. The WD-40 is simple to tie and very effective fly to use. Place your hook in the vise in the standard fashion. Attach your tying thread just behind the headspace and evenly wind down the shank to a point where the thread is directly over the point of the barb. Remove a clump of about 4 to 8 fibers, depending on the size of the fly, from a wood duck flank feather or substitute. Tie them in so that they extend beyond the bend and are about the length of the shank. Do not trim the butt ends as they will be used for the wing case.
2. Smoothly wind the tying thread body forward. I spin the thread counter-clockwise every 8–10 wraps keeping it untwisted and flat. The body should be a thin, smooth, slightly cigar shaped and extend about one-half to two-thirds the length of the shank. I oftentimes add a contrasting colored thread rib to mix it up a bit.
3. Before you proceed to the thorax dubbing fold back the butts of the tail and add any additional wood duck fibers you need in order to create the size of the wing case that you want. Or, if you want a flash back style, remove the tail butts and tie in the flash material. Your thread should now be at the beginning of the thorax.
4. Thickly apply muskrat fur, including the guard hairs, to your thread to form the dubbing. Lately I have been adding UV Ice Dubbing (Gray and Brown) to the muskrat to give it some life. Wind the dubbing forward to the headspace evenly, avoiding overlap that could weaken the fly, and tie off at the headspace.
5. Pull the wood duck fibers or flash material forward over the top of the thorax giving them a slight twist to help keep them together. Tie the fibers down securely with a few thread wraps. Form a small, neat head and whip finish. Using your bodkin, pick out the underside of the thorax creating a hair and dubbing legs/hackle and your WD-40 is complete.



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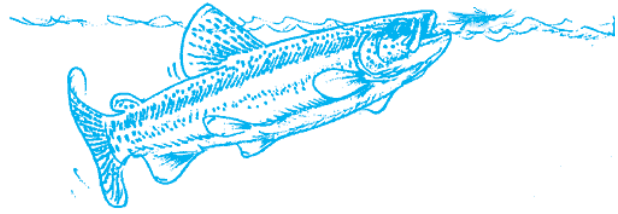
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A Big Thanks to John Van Derhoof!

ROB PETERSON,
NEWLY-MINTED TARGET TALK EDITOR

If you're a person who reads Target Talk extremely carefully you'll notice that, as of this month, John Van Derhoof's name is no longer listed under "Target Talk Editor", and that it has been replaced with mine. This is a little intimidating, as it's a bigger job than I ever would have guessed. I'm fortunate to have, in John, a tremendous mentor and natural teacher to ease me into this role.

Just for fun, I spent a few minutes looking at the past issues of Target Talk that are posted on our website. I went to the oldest issue, October 2005; the editor was none other than our own John Van Derhoof. A perusal of our flies of the month showed entries back to 1997;



again, all done by John. Somewhere, I've got copies of Target Talks that go back to 1997, the year I joined the club. I haven't had the chance to dig them up, but I'll bet any veteran of the Lower Owens trips a breakfast at Jack's Restaurant that John was the editor (*nope, Kelley Van Derhoof was!*). That's a 20 year span, and I'm sure he's been in the role longer than that.

I'm sure you've all noticed the professional look that our publication has when compared to others. We've got John to thank for that also. He's introduced me to some fascinating nuances to the art of publishing, and the knowledge he's passing on has benefited our newsletter all these years. So the next time you see John, tell him thanks! -Ed.

Xcalak, Yucatan Permit, Tarpon & Bonefish

Don't miss this opportunity to get your grand slam!

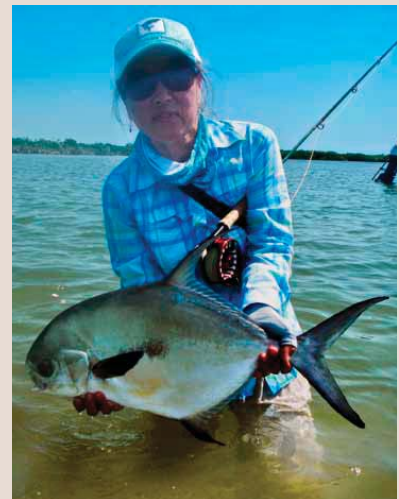
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Calendar of Events

May

1	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
3	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
6	Saturday		Club Trip: Piru Creek Trip
7-12	Week		Club Trip: Green River #2 (May 7 thru May 12)
10	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
16	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rod Building Class: Orientation
17	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Nooner Lunch
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
		7:00 PM	Pre-Trip Meeting: ON THE BAY CLINIC
24	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
25	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: Peter Koga
27	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Trip: ON THE BAY CLINIC
30	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rod Building Class
31	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
		7:00 PM	Pre-Trip Meeting: Alamitos Bay Trip

June

5	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
6	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rod Building Class
7	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
10	Saturday		Alamitos Bay Trip
13	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rod Building Class
14	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
20	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Rod Building Class
21	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
28	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
29	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: to be announced

July

3	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
5	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
		7:00 PM	Brookie Bash Pre-Trip
12	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Conservation Team at San Gabriel
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
14-17	Friday-Monday		Club Trip: Brookie Bash
19	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
26	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
27	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: to be announced



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