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NOVEMBER 2000

OFFICIAL CHAPTER-FEDERATION OF FLYFISHERS

Volume 5, No. 11

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Captain Bill Howarth Featured Speaker for November

aptain Bill Howarth will be presenting "Striped Bass Fishing in San Francisco Bay & Sacramento Delta." He was the owner/operator of Delaware River Flyfishing School & Guide Service in the 80's. In 1990 he set the IGFA record for American Shad on 4x tippet. For the past 6 years he has been guiding in Alaska and during the off season enjoying the striped bass fishing in the Bay area. He decided last year that the flyfishing for this great salt water game fish was worthy of starting his guide service, and the Orvis Co. agrees with him. He has become an Orvis endorsed guide, and will be listed in the 2001 catalog. Come join him to learn about the flies, the places, the times, and more to enjoy west coast striper fishing.

Early Reminder

Put this on your calendar NOW! The Annual SDFF Christmas potluck will take place on December 4th at the Al Bahr Temple. So get your potluck item all lined up and join in on the fun and festivities.

REMINDER

Volunteer hosts for the November meeting (report at 6:15 PM):

Buck Parker, Wayne & Kathy Rose

Thank you, Mona Morebello

Wednesday Bunch Conquers Crowley

by Bob Rubel



Here's part of the Wednesday Bunch that recently went up to the Eastern Sierras to fish Lake Crowley, Lake Ellery and other locations. (Left to right) John Beckstrand, Howard Knop, Paul Britting, Buck Parker, and Bob Rubel.

small but elitist group of "old geezers" from the Wednesday bunch of float tubers trekked their way to Mammoth Lakes for a week of fun, frivolity, and, of course, much fishing.

We used our call names for radio communications on the road as well as on the

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, November 6, 2000 7:30 PM Sequoia Elementary School 4690 Limerick Ave. (See map on back page) water. The cast of characters included such fine anglers as Lee Anderson (Viking), John Beckstrand (Birdnest), Paul Britting (Bozo), Howard Knop (Badger), Buck Parker (Buckeroo) and Bob Rubel (Flyfish).

The caravan drive up was fun and entertaining with the usual stops at Kramer Junction, Olancha rest stop, Bishop for lunch at Jacks, and then on to Mammoth.

Not desirous of camping under the stars and being possible bear bait, we moved into our luxury three bedroom and loft condo. It came complete with all the amenities to make life comfortable. we're too old to try to prove anything at this

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San Diego Fly Fishers

asking where the year went. As I write this column it is the first week of October; but by the time you

read it, it will be the end of the month. The last big trip of the year for the club—the San Juan River—is now the equivalent of sugar plums dancing in the heads of trout fishermen. For the truly die-hard, masochistic fly fisher, however, there is at least one club sponsored trip left this winter to Lee's Ferry.



PATRICK CASE

For us non-fly tiers, this is the time of year when we start taking stock of the fly fishing books we bought over the past several months but didn't have time to read. A good friend named Patricia Griggs recently gave me Nick Lyons' book "The Quotable Fisherman." In it is a quote by Arthur Ransome that goes like this: "...next to the pleasure of reading a favourite [sic] fishing book comes that of persuading a friend to read it too." Obviously Ransome didn't have the experience of trying to get a non-fisher person to appreciate reading a book related to fly fishing. My efforts to get Patricia to read one of the best books about the fly fisherman's life—Howell Raines' Fly Fishing Through the Midlife Crisis has been in vain...and I wonder why it is not intuitively obvious to an apparently intelligent, well educated person that a book of such title should and must be read with the greatest urgency. Suggest reading a favorite fishing book to someone, yes; persuade?...forget it.

For the tiers, this is also the season when we start taking stock of our

picked through fly boxes, and begin organizing our supplies to embark on a couple months of tying for the next season. To this end, the club has a

> treat for you. At the **November meeting** we are sponsoring a silent auction of fur and feathers. No. this is not a rummage sale for the home of retired Vegas show girls. We have been accumulating lots of donated tying materials over the past year, of every matter and color, from the highest quality hackles to odds and ends...and

it is going up for sale at the November meeting. So look through your stuff, give some thought to where your fishing travels will take you next year, and come to the meeting prepared to pick up some great bargains!!!

The end of the year for the club is marked by the December meeting which, as in years past, will have a slightly different format from the regular monthly meetings. First, the meeting location is different! The December meeting will be held in the Al Bahr Temple (on Clairemont Mesa Blvd., just west of I-163), on December 4. This was done for a couple of reasons. One, we are now not allowed to eat or drink at all on the carpeted area of the Sequoia School auditorium. Secondly, you will be able to make merry with your favorite alcoholic beverage—to this end you are invited to BYOB. Also, the al Bahr Temple should provide a bit more cheery atmosphere than the auditorium.

As with last year, this will be a pot

luck dinner—those with last names beginning with A through M are asked to bring an entree; those with names beginning with N through Z are asked to bring a salad or dessert. Easy enough? We will also recognize a number of members for their service to the club over the past year, and have a couple of presentations by our own members. While the details of the evening are still being worked out, we are also planning on having a drawing for a grand prize. This is always a fun evening, and one you will not want to miss!!!

Well, the fishing year, as well as the calendar year, are about over; however, I will leave you with one thought, again from Lyons' book: "In the recollection of the trout fisherman it is always spring. The blackbird sings of a May morning. The little trout jump in the riffles, and the German brown comes surely to the fly on the evening rise."—R. Palmer Baker, The Sweet of the Year.

A+ Credit to Next Years Meeting Hosts!

Congratulations SDFF members who recently volunteered to host one of our meetings next year. A schedule and "How To..." will be mailed to you sometime in November.

Sam & Mona Morebello will be moving Oct. 27th. Please make a note of our new address and phone number for future reference:

Sam & Mona Morebello



Wednesday Bunch Conquers Crowley

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stage of our lives. The alarms went off between three and five a.m. depending on the preparatory needs of the individuals. The adrenaline was running at maximum as we got an early departure for Crowley, "home of the big-uns."

Fly shop info indicated that McGee Bay was not the place to go due to water recession. We therefore battled our way over the 7-1/2 mile dirt road off of the Whitmore Springs turnoff and reached the famous "green banks". Parking was good and water entry was close at hand and not difficult.

Current Crowley regulations dictate flies and lures only, a minimum keeper size of 18" with a maximum of two fish. Within thirty minutes after launching, we were into fish, bigtime. The fish were running 15" to 21" with a few little firecrackers in between. The water was cold and the fish were really scrappy. We had a lot of strikes, a good many LDR's but we all brought a goodly number of fish to the net. The usual Crowley wind reared it's head around noon but not until we all had a memorable day.

The next two days were, likewise, outstanding, the wind cooperated to allow for good morning fishing but then blew us of the lake entirely. John Beckstrand and his big "bellyboat" was superb in rescuing escaped tubes and towing them to safety. Most of us had considerable hikes back to our vehicles. Luncheon alfresco, however, revived us rather quickly.



Howard Knop and Bob Rubel with some tackle busting Lake Crowley trout.

drove up to Lake Ellery to reconnoiter the situation. Ellery is about twenty minutes up Tioga Pass. We found a beautiful lake with a decent parking and launching area. Friday we all fished Ellery and were rewarded with nice catches of lively rainbows and brookies. This is a truly beautiful and fishable area.

Saturday three of the guys were Crowley'd out and decided to try the June Lake group, for a change of venue. We wanted to try Silver Lake but it was blown out. Grant Lake looked great but produced nothing. After feasting on a great lunch at the Tiger restaurant, at June Lake, they returned to Mammoth's

Lake Mary for the p.m. bite. There they were greeted with a

> fair catch of 10" and 11" fish & game rainbows.

averaged six to ten good fish with many other strikes and LDR's

Sunday we all fished Crowley for the grand finale. Again it was productive but the fish were somewhat elusive. Several more 18 inch plus were taken by the group with the others running in the 15" to 17" class.



Paul Britting floating the clear waters of Lake Ellery.

Thursday afternoon Flyfish and Buckaroo

The three who again fished Crowley found more good fishing. The fish were not as concentrated as earlier in the week but still hitting hard when you found them. The guys

The fly of the trip was the hornberg in a size twelve and in various flavors. The fish liked the minnow look and the hornberg predominated. Other people caught fish on twin lake specials, various wooley buggers as well as assorted midges and leech patterns.

All in all we had a great time and are already thinking about next year's trip.



FROM THE TRAVEL CHAIRMAN





JACK BENTLEY

Lees Ferry Trip Coming Up at the End of the Year

This is a nice trip for at least two to four people. But if you cannot get your own group together plan to go with the Club December 4-8th. Call Jack at for details.

Green River Trip Slated for May 14-19, 2001

It's never too early to be thinking about next year. Especially when it comes to fishing. There should be no excuses for not being ready for this trip. Call Jack.

The Way of the Fly Fisher

ncient Orientals discovered that even in times of peace, diligent lifetime practice of the martial arts often led the practitioner to a more complete understanding of life. Martial arts became "do" (the way) to enlightenment as in Ju-do (gentle way) or Tae kwon do. I feel that a lifetime of fly-fishing also brings about a deeper understanding of life and nature - fly fishing "do" if you will.

While other types of fishermen can be labeled as technicians, fly fishermen are truly artists. Our tools are specialized to produce the effect we desire, but without the skills to use such tools they are useless. We call upon knowledge of our quarry, entomology, reading the water, fly tying and selection, and casting techniques to create an interaction with nature that transcends both time and space. We humbly call this interaction "fishing". Each fly fisher creates their own unique experience every time they go fishing. For most, catching fish is just a small part of the painting, and releasing that fish unharmed adds a touch of class that must

be experienced not explained. Some fly fishers expand their art to other more visible mediums such as literature, photography or painting. Others prefer to keep the experience purely to their own heart. Whatever you do must also come from your own heart.

Next time you find yourself on a picturesque stretch of water, rod in hand, vest festooned with the trinkets of your trade, take a step back and think about how far you've come to get to where you are at that very moment. Then take a moment to ponder where you might be if you had never taken up fly-fishing. I know that I am a better person because of it. Remember that you are an artist, and whatever you do is right as long as it feels right. Someday it may all come together as a profound knowledge that's called "enlightenment". You will then be a master of Fly-fishing-do.

(by Joe Verona of the Michigan Flyfishing Club for the FFF ClubWire NewsWire)

Flyfishing Women's Breakfast

The date time and place is as follows for the Flyfishing Women's Breakfast:

October 28, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Location: Downtown loft: 715 J. Street, Apt. 301, This loft is very interesting, one of a kind, and next to your tax dollars not at work on the ballpark.

The food plans right now is assorted breakfast rolls, coffee, orange juice, milk, tea. Any other thoughts, please call me. I do need replies for the headcount food purchase. I think \$2 per person would be fair to cover the costs so that one person doesn't get stuck with the bill.

We are planning to discuss breathable waders and want a run down from those who have fished in the breathable waders. Anything else that you want to talk about will be a welcome topic. Some women's hip boots will be there. I am excited about this because it took me 3 years to find these. Other resources for women's gear will be shared.

Come meet one another and exchange your fishing experiences and especially your firsts.

Gretchen Yearous



FLY OF THE MONTH

MOSQUITO

Hook: Mustad 94840, TMC 100 sizes 14 – 18

Thread: Black 3/0 mono-cord Tail: Grizzly hackle fibers

Ribbing: White moose mane, white mono-cord thread or white

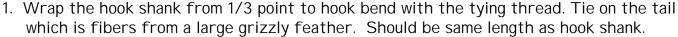
wild boar fibers or anything that will show up white

over the black body

Body: Black tying thread

Wing: Grizzly hackle feathers tied wonder wing style

Hackle: Grizzly dry fly hackle



- 2. Select two large grizzly feathers. Trim the fuzz from the base of the feathers. Place the two feathers together with the concave side facing out. The feathers should be opposing each other. Hold the two feathers between the thumb and index finger and strip the fibers back forming the wings which should be 2/3 shank length. Tie the wings on top of hook shank with a soft loop. Pull the wings forward to the proper length. Then secure the wings with several thread wraps. Stand up the wings with several thread wraps in front of the wings.
- 3. Move thread to the bend of the hook and then tie in the moose hair rib. After tying in the rib form a small body using the tying thread. After forming the body bring the ribbing forward to just behind the wings. Wrap carefully, leaving an equal space of black thread showing between each wrap of moose mane. Put a coat of head cement on the completed body.
- 4. Select a grizzly hackle (I use saddle hackle) and make two or three turns behind the wings and two or three in front of the wings.
- 5. Form a neat thread head, whip finish, and cement.

The "wonder wing" was used in a previous Fly of the Month – "The Muddle May" – this wing can be used on a number of flies calling for hackle tip wings. I use this wing technique because I think it makes great looking wings. (I also don't do hackle tip wings very well)

Fish seldom, if ever, eat adult mosquitoes. I think this fly generally resembles fluttering caddis or mayflies. Regardless what the fish take it for it works and you should try it when fishing a Baetis mayfly hatch.

Note: If anyone has a fly they would like to see in this section please contact me and I would be very glad to help you put it together. If you have any suggestions to improve the FLY OF THE MONTH I would certainly like to hear from you –

Tom Smith



Ed's Yakima River Trip

The Warmwater Bucket Heads Up To the State of Washington

e all agreed to make the trip; my oldest son Ernie, who is a real

tate broker in Bellevue Washington, my youngest son Paul, who has a dental practice in La Mesa, and of course me, the one with all the health problems.

We knew there were risks; a heart attack on the river would be tough. There would be periods in the 15 mile float when we were



Ed Velton and his two boys, Paul and Ernie, prepare to float the Yakima River.

completely out of touch with the outside. However, we talked it over and agreed that, no matter what, we'd float the Yakima. As it was, it turned out all right although I did have a heart attack requiring 7 days hospitalization once we returned to San Diego. Great timing eh?

It was a quick trip. We left Sat. morning early and returned Monday late. Paul made all the reservations and used his frequent flyer mileage to get us round trip, first class tickets to Seattle. He also put us up in the only Embassy Suits hotel in Bellevue. Then he rented a Ford Explorer, complete with Firestone tires. We nicknamed it the "Flipping Ford Exploder." However, it did just as well as the rest of us, no trouble at all.

Ernie took care of all the float arrange-

ments, put together the lunch, and rented the raft. He'd done this sort of thing

> before and knew all the trouble spots and what flys usually worked. In typical fashion I took along some of my brightly colored flugs and gave them a go. Ernie even humored my by using one for awhile: so did Paul. But eventually we all ended up with Ernie's size 10 stimulators; big suckers with lots of hair and hackle. They worked great.

After spending Saturday afternoon and evening with the family we took off for the river about 9AM on Sunday. It was a long ride to Cle Elum on the other side of Snoqualmie pass. We got there after 11AM and met the river raft lady whose first name was Karen. Now Karen is a card, a most unusual lady. She just couldn't stand still. She changed subjects about every 10 seconds and kept everyone in stitches. We left our car at her place, the pull-out point, and she drove us in her bus, which was sort of a wreck, to the get-in point.

Karen had a loud speaker on the bus and as she drove she played songs from the Billy Bass thing to passing cars, local farmers, pigs, goats, and anything else she fancied. She also slowed down and greeted her favorite pigs and horses along



the way. If someone passed us she boomed over the speaker, "permission to pass granted." We all held on and eventually we got to the get-in point all in one piece. When we got there Karen turned efficient and set up the raft in no time. We tried to get her to take pictures of us but most of them ended up bad because she danced around so much. After planting her firmly in one spot, focusing the camera, and telling her not to move we'd all get together only to find her doing a jig and going back and forth. The first photo of this article is about all we got out of her.

We got on the river at noon which might seem a bit late to some of you but the secret is to program your float so you got to the end just as it gets dark. That's when the fishing is the greatest. If you get in too early or float too fast you get there while it's too light and miss the bite. We did it just right, finishing up at 8 PM, just as it



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got dark.

The river was low. They put me up front



in the best seat. They also did all the work, allowing me to catch most of the



fish.

We caught a lot or really little fish.

And we caught some medium size fish.

We also caught a number of 14 to 15 inch size fish.

Unfortunately we didn't get too many pictures because just after starting, Paul lost his camera overboard in some rapids. That caused me to leave my digital camera in the water tight bag. Most of our



pictures from then on were with the throw away that Ernie, the old hand, had brought along. If you ever make this trip I'd highly recommend you leave the expensive stuff in the car unless you forget fishing and hold on to the camera the whole time.

We had to do a lot of portage and dragging through the shallows. I really don't know how the raft held up. We got stuck on a rock a couple of times. And we went just jumping all over the place and talking a mile a minute. Eventually Paul found his car keys, my chest eased up, Karen wandered off talking to the trees, birds, or whatever else was out there. Ernie cleaned up most of the mess and Paul helped me get out of my waders and into the car. As usual I did no work. Hey, it's a great place to float a river particularly if you have a couple of accommodating sons who do all the work.



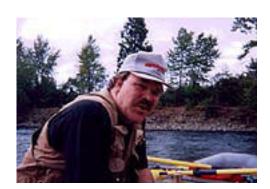
I'm ready to go on the next, "Boys day out," trip.

Just got to stay healthy!

through some reasonably sized rapids.

Ernie, who did most of the work, was showing the effects by the time we got near the end.

It was a great trip. I thank God I had the opportunity to do it with my 2 boys. We got out at 8 PM, in the dark. Of course Paul lost the car keys, I had an Angina attack, and who should show up but Karen,





Federation of Fly Fishers

Conserving - Restoring - Educating Through Fly Fishing

From the FFF Clubwire News



Submitted by Jim Cramer of the Russian River Flycasters TIER'S CORNER

Shortcuts for Increasing Your Speed at the Vise

e often watch accomplished tiers and we are amazed at how quickly the flies come out of their vise. Unfortunately, most often even when we get to watch a fast tier, we only get to watch at slow speed because they are generally demonstrating a special technique or pattern and are talking their audience through the process. Even worst they are often demonstrating several different patterns and we never get to see them in their rhythm at production speed.

We know they are fast, but somehow we just can't put our finger on what he or she is doing that makes them that fast so we chalk it up to lots of experience or practice. Both experience and practice help but they are not the total answer as we know lots of tiers with plenty of both that are so slow that one can take a short nap between flies.

The answer is a combination of many small things which all add up to shave time off of each fly. Here are some recommendations that should help. Most of these are from my own experience.

- 1. As I have said before, sort your materials, especially the hackles, and organize your work space before you start. Get in the habit of having your wax, cement, tools and any other essentials at the same spot on the worktable. Lay out all the materials you need for the specific pattern that you are going to tie. Clean the leftovers from your previous sessions off of the tabletop. Put away all that material you won't need for this session.
- 2. Establish a rhythm to your tying. You can most easily accomplish this by tying only one size and pattern when you sit down at your vise. As a good rhythm

develops you will find yourself using the same number of wraps without counting them as you did on the prior fly at each step, your thread will be hanging at the same spot when you have to let go of the bobbin, and you can pick up the next piece of material almost without looking.

- 3. Cut off enough material at one time to tie several flies but not so much that you lose control or that it hinders your tying. For example, cut off enough chenille for a half dozen flies at one time, not only is this faster but there is less waste of material. Another example, when cutting and stacking hair for wings, cut as much as your stacker can effectively handle at one time. After stacking, separate what you need and leave the rest in the stacker for the next few flies or carefully lay it on the edge of your table where it won't get knocked off and you can just pick up what you need for the next fly.
- 4. Avoid handling of materials more than necessary. This is especially true of loose materials like deer hair and bucktail that you have just stacked. Always try to take it out of the stacker in such a manner as to reduce the amount of transferring from hand to hand. Not only will you save time but also you avoid loosing control of the material.
- 5. Eliminate unnecessary steps from your tying wherever possible. Some examples of this are:
- A. Don't set your scissors down unless you have to.
- B. Whenever feasible cut the butt end of your material before you tie it in rather

than afterward. (Many materials can be tied in with very short butts or can be pulled back slightly after the first couple of wraps to avoid the post wrap-in trim).

- C. The nature of many materials allows the excess to be snapped off rather than resorting to the scissors. The tag end of the tying thread when starting a fly, single and double peacock herl stems when used for butts and heads and some hackles can be treated in this manner.
- 6. Learn to work with a short amount of thread outside the bobbin. Small circles are faster to make than large ones.
- 7. This one may be hard for some tiers because old habits are hard to break, but keep your hands at the fly. You have tied in the tail, the ribbing material, wrapped the body and cutoff the excess material; now instead of lowering your hands and admiring your work as you may have done between each of the previous steps keep your hands at the fly and start wrapping the ribbing! You will be amazed at how much the elimination of this simple non-productive act will speed your tying.
- 8. Many steps are best done as a separate step from the routine tying process of the individual fly. I cement all the heads at one time after a tying session rather than after each fly. If the pattern calls for bead chain or lead eyes, or a weighted body I will prepare the hooks in advance so the cement will have a chance to dry.
- 9. Last but not least, really think about what you are doing, how the fly is assembled, and what changes you might make without sacrificing quality. Is there a better order for tying in the materials, is there a better spot at which to tie them in or tie them off?





IF

If you love clear coldwater streams;

If you get a thrill over your encounter with nature when you outwit a trout at the game he knows best:

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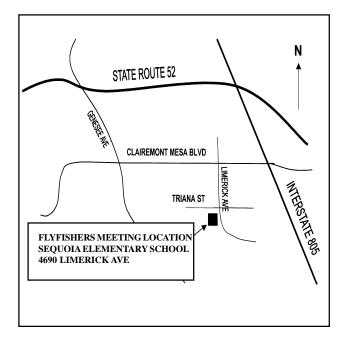
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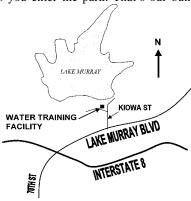
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Join us at Lake Murray to cast or improve your skills. Free instruction is available. Bring your own equipment or use the club equipment, available from one of the instructors.

DIRECTIONS--

Take Interstate 8 to Lake Murray Blvd. Go north on Lake Murray Blvd. to Kiowa Drive. Turn left and look for people casting just as you enter the park. That's our bunch.



Meeting Place for Workshops SD Water Training Facility. Just before entering Lake Murray, turn left off Kiowa and go through 1st gate to 2nd gate. Turn right before 2nd gate.

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