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Casting Times

Inaugural Issue

It's not coincidental that the first edition of Casting Times is released on the one-year anniversary of the establishment of the Santa Clarita Casting Club. As such, it is with genuine expectation, enthusiasm, not a little pride in what has been accomplished in one short year, and a sense of gratefulness to those members who have made it all possible, that we unveil our first newsletter.

There is so much happening in the world of

fly fishing in general, in the southwest and particularly in California; the Santa Clarita Valley is no exception. Efforts to save Piru Creek, a wild trout fishery in our own backyard, free casting, tying and rod building clinics taught by Master certified Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) instructors, and participation in local conservation initiatives are just a few of the activities available to members of the Santa Clarita Casting

Club—and we want you to take advantage of as many of the club's offerings as possible.

To that end, we will try to keep you fully informed of things casting related through, among other things, regular editions of Casting Times. If you have any suggestions for items to include in future releases, please communicate those suggestions to the club's president or board members. We hope you enjoy this inaugural edition.

Trip Reports

Club members have taken a variety of trips during the past few months, among them were two trips to Mammoth by Connie Bullock and John Wilkin and Bill Creitz.

It might be interesting to note how fellow club members fared during their recent "trout-ings."

Connie Bullock's Labor Day weekend trip to Lake Crowley was very successful with a few sixteen and seventeen-inch

Rainbows (and a number of smaller ones in the six to eight-inch range) taken on #16 and #18 damselfly and Punk Perch streamer patterns.

John Wilkin and Bill Creitz lured (pun intended) a dozen brightly-colored Brookies from the Duck Pass waters above Lake Mary (one a twelve-incher) using #12 Dave's Hoppers and #14 Sierra Bright Dots. On the same August 27 weekend, they coaxed eight Rainbows, between

eight and fifteen inches, from the San Joaquin River using Woolly Buggers (#10), Bead Head Prince nymphs (#16), Adams (#14), Black Gnats (#14), Bead Head Pheasant Tails (#16), and a Hare's Ear (#16).

The water level and overall river conditions were perfect for dry flies, nymphs, and streamers. The highly cooperative, feisty Rainbows were not overly selective and struck vigorously at everything, especially the streamers.



"You must read "About Us...History of the SCCC" on how we got started. If you've ever heard of 'Divine Intervention' this truly was one of those times."

Schedule of Events and Trips

Some of the following trips and events may be held in conjunction with the Long Beach Casting Club, as noted:

September

17 - 9:00 – 5:00 European Style Two-Handed Casting and Rod Design Workshop at the Long Beach Casting Club with Winston rod designer, Sam Drukman and Winston Rod Pro Staffer Andre Scholz

17 Call 661-286-4066 for time – Santa Clara "River Rally" to help clean up river debris

21 – 7:00 – 8:30 Monthly Club Meeting and Fly Tying Demonstration

October

TBD – Casting Clinics (park and on-stream) resume

19 – 7:00 – 8:30 Monthly Club Meeting with speaker,

Jeff Sadler, on "Jeff's Favorite Flies"

November

11-13 Kern River Fishing Trip with Long Beach Casting Club

16 – 7:00 - 8:30 Monthly Club Meeting

December

17 Time TBD – Christmas dinner for members and their spouses or significant others

Upcoming Speakers

At the September 21 monthly club meeting Ray Bianco, a Winston Rod Field Technician and FFF Master Certified Instructor (and resident Santa Clarita Casting Club instructor) will demonstrate basic fly tying skills.

Ray was manager of the Anglers West fly fishing shop in the San Gabriel Valley for three years, and has been fly fishing for 35 years. Ray has fished all the major Western waters for years,

and is known throughout the California fly fishing community as a skilled fly fisherman, caster (including Spey casting), and teacher.

At the October 19 monthly club meeting Jeff Sadler, a past-President of and current Membership Secretary for the Long Beach Casting Club, and a frequent speaker and FFF Basic Certified instructor will demonstrate fly tying techniques (and very likely

his favorite fly, the Royal Wulff).

Jeff is an expert fly tier and instructor whose favorite trout waters are Piru Creek, the Green and San Juan Rivers, and the Colorado River at Lee's Ferry. "Mr. Royal Wulff," as he's sometimes referred to, has fished the Northwest extensively during his more than 20 years of fly fishing.

Don't miss these great instructional meetings.

Connie's Corner...news from the president

We are so pleased to be able to release the first publication of Casting Times for the Santa Clarita Casting Club, thanks to our Editor, Bill Creitz. One year ago this month a few of us got together, brainstormed, hesitated, and commiserated on how much time it would take, but finally, in January of this

year, a Board was elected and we were off and running.

You must read "About Us...History of the SCCC" on how we got started. If you've ever heard of 'Divine Intervention' this truly was one of those times. After moving to the

Santa Clarita Valley, taking me so far away from my beloved Long Beach Casting Club, starting a club was a glimmer and vision in the back of my brain.

Well, I wasn't alone on that thought. Once the word (continued on page 8)

Book Review by William Creitz

What fly fisherman doesn't know of Lefty Kreh. Not his latest book, but nonetheless, one of his most relevant works, is the 1993 *Fly Fishing and Tactics* that is part of a multi-volume series of how-to fishing books by this fly fishing icon.

Though I've only been fly fishing for three years, and still have much to learn, I would bet my autographed copy of a Charles Jardine book that even the accomplished fly fishing enthusiast could glean some helpful information from Lefty's little book.

Filled with memorable quotes like "Unless you are an exceptional fly caster, the closer you can get to a fish (within reason) the better your chances," and "Steady pressure rarely is responsible for breaking off a fish. It's the sudden jerk that does it—and I often claim it's the jerk on the wrong end" and eminently practical tips, combined with astute observations, *Fly Fishing and Tactics* easily earns a place in the serious fly fisher's library; in fact, if it were smaller, I'd carry it in my fishing vest.

Lefty's style is to share his vast knowledge in the manner of a friend, who just happens to be an exceptional fly fisherman, looking over your shoulder while wading

together in your favorite trout stream. He's not preachy, just helpful. What is also conveyed in this book is Lefty's love of fishing and his joy of sharing insights.

The trout (although this book is about more than just trout) deserves every bit of the respect we accord it. The Brown, the Rainbow, Cutthroat, Brookie, and Golden all elicit our fascination; deservedly so. And Lefty Kreh pays homage to the trout throughout his book. His numerous tips reflect a man serious about stalking trout, for instance:

- Avoid wading when possible; it helps limit underwater noise
- The first cast is the most important one, so make it as perfect as you possibly can
- Whenever you are seeking bottom-feeding species of fish, or you are fishing with flies that imitate prey species that live on the bottom, always start with a fly that closely matches the bottom coloration if you are not sure what to use
- One of the most important factors concerning retrieving in clear water is that, on the retrieve, you should watch the fly, not the fish
- Whenever possible, keep the rod pointed low
(continued on page 5)



Conservation News and Updates

How often Santa Clarita Casting Club members have fished the renowned and highly productive stretches of the Upper Owens River is hard to tell. But if you haven't done so, you would definitely appreciate the trophy trout habitat and the near-predictability of the feisty Rainbow and Brown trout taken on dries, nymphs, and streamers alike.

According to CalTrout, water from the Mono Lake Basin must be exported to the Upper Owens, on a regular basis (at least during the summer months) to augment the natural flow and avoid an unacceptable increase in water temperatures. Water exports were discontinued in the summer of 2002, thereby reducing river flow from 100-150 cubic feet per second (cfs) to between 55 and 70 cfs with a resulting increase in water temperatures.

CalTrout is meeting with the Mono Lake Committee and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to craft an action plan acceptable to all

parties. Contact CalTrout at info@caltrout.org for more information.

Efforts are also afoot to limit water diversions from Mammoth Creek (which, in turn, affects the Hot Creek flows) by way of a redraft of the Mammoth Creek Environmental Impact Report.

Additional studies to determine the effects of minimum stream flows and water diversions in the larger Mammoth Basin are planned through the cooperation of CalTrout, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Mammoth Community Water District. Follow this column for updates.

MISSION STATEMENT
The goal of the Santa Clarita Casting Club is to provide education, reference material, conservation awareness and instill community involvement and, of course, to have fun and enjoy the wonderful sport of fly fishing



“Blast from the Past” Quotes

The sport of fly fishing has matured and evolved significantly over the last forty to fifty years. As such it might be fun to look at some quotes from famous fly fishers and noted publications that reflect how we have progressed over the last several decades. Hope you enjoy the trip back in time.

the sport of kings one for every common man to enjoy.” - Bob Elliot, Sports Afield, February 1960



“The glass rods manufactured in this country today have made

...Tackle Tips (cont'd from page 7)

assemble or disassemble the rod; otherwise, damage can occur.

- Remember that mosquito repellent with high DEET concentrations can damage line coatings.

Lines

- Treat your lines as often as you like with conditioner; wash with soap and water at least twice a year. This can extend the life of your line significantly.

Reels

- Always clean your reel with fresh water as soon as possible after fishing in salt water.

- Use 3M's Ultraflex to repair nicks and abrasions.

- After fishing, set your drag adjustment knob to zero in order to extend the life of the spring.

New Members...Welcome Aboard

Please welcome the following new members of the Santa Clarita Casting Club who joined us during the past few months:

Frank Avila of Sylmar (married to Marilita; retired;

referred by member, Mike Smith). Thanks for joining us on the Piru Creek casting clinic Frank—keep up the good work on that roll cast!

Tom Camp of Los Angeles (writer; referred by

member, Ray Bianco). Tom, by the looks of those beautiful casts at the Piru Creek clinic, those lessons and daily practice regimen are paying big dividends. Oh, and have you recovered from that 100

degree plus day on the creek?

Welcome to both new members. We wish you success, lots of fish, pictures of lots of fish, and a consistent perfecting of your fly fishing skills.

Book Review (continued from page 3)

and at the fish just prior to setting the hook

- If you screw down the adjustment nut on any kind of reel and allow it to remain that way for long periods of time, that tension slowly crushes the softness from the washers and a jerky drag will result. So make it a habit always to back off the drag tension on any reel at the end of the day's fishing
- To avoid broken tippets, the moment you have firmly set the hook, forget the fish and concentrate on clearing loose line

One of the most impressive, and appreciated, aspects of [Fly Fishing and Tactics](#) is what is titled the "Basic Rules" section following each chapter. Here, the author summarizes very nicely the most important points in the chapter—an effective way to reinforce the teaching aspects of the book.

Lest you think this book is simply a compilation of tips and anecdotes, don't be fooled. Lefty describes fly fishing techniques and philosophy in a way that draws you in—almost as if you were seated around a fireplace, with your fly tying bench on one side, your loyal retriever at your feet, a steaming cup of coffee on the hearth, and your best fishing buddy at your

elbow yarning about the latest hatch and oldest patterns. It's so comfortable, you will hardly realize that you're learning from a master.

Note: [Fly Fishing and Tactics](#) may be out of print, but if you search Amazon.com or check with your local or regional library you will likely be able to locate a copy. You may also want to check with your fishing club to see if this classic work is available for loan.



Famous Fisherman's

Favorite Fly: "The Griffith

Gnat is one fly all fly

fishermen should always

carry with them to be

prepared for difficult

times." – Lefty Kreh

New Products News

A perennial interest in what's new in our sport is a defining characteristic of fly fishermen the world over. Consequently, each edition will devote space to the latest items and gadgets unique to fly fishing. For a sampling, please see the following:

Wading Sandals: lately, several companies (including Chota, Dan Bailey, Simms, Orvis, Cabella's, Columbia, and L.L. Bean) have offered new sandals with various forms of adjustments, exceptional durability, stable footbeds, quick-release buckles, recessed footbeds to protect toes,

varied widths, and excellent value for the money.

For the casual wader or boat fisherman, these new wading sandals bear a fresh look. You can view each manufacturer's lines by looking them up on the web. Priced from \$49.

Fly Boxes: Priced from \$19.95, water-tight, durable, reasonably-priced floating fly boxes from Scientific Anglers are worth a look if your goal is to standardize your fly collection with containers that fit comfortably in your vest or chest pack, are transparent, and offer

genuine versatility.

Nets: Custom-designed wooden nets from Big Blackfoot Nets are works of art for the fastidious angler. Each net is custom made using specialty woods with shapes made to the fisherman's specifications. Even the handles are custom made using exotic woods in exotic shapes. Prices vary.

Stream-sized hardwood catch-and-release nets with rubber bags to better protect fish are a staple for Signature Concepts. Now there is a net for the stream-side angler that compares favorably with
(continued on page 6)



Club Officers & Available Positions:

President

Connie Bullock

1st Vice-President

Vacant

2nd Vice-President

Ted Aquaro

Robert Ortega

Recording Secretary

Ray Bianco

Corresponding Secretary

William Creitz

Membership Secretary

Darrell Creitz

Captain

Mike Smith

Treasurer

Judy McLean

Casting Times Editor

William Creitz

About Us...History of the SCCC

As fly fishing clubs go, the genesis of the Santa Clarita Casting Club is probably fairly common. A couple of enthusiasts with an idea, a passion, and some vision get together and decide to form an association—a club—for like-minded fishing enthusiasts with the same vision, passion and enthusiasm. Fine, so far. But what sets the Santa Clarita Casting club apart from most other casting clubs is the founding

members' desire to offer a local club to fly fishers who have not previously belonged to a casting club. When combined with the seeming paradox, that most of the original board members are, or have been, members of the renowned Long Beach Casting Club and wanted to replicate that rewarding experience, but in Santa Clarita, it makes for a dynamic and growing club.

Of all the ways to begin a casting club, this one may combine the most unexpected mix of ingredients, coincidence and fate. It all began with a former Long Beach Casting Club president who had a desire to start a club in the Santa Clarita Valley. She met another fly fishing enthusiast, albeit a novice fly fisher, over a copy of Fly Fisherman magazine while riding the Metrolink to Los Angeles. (continued on page 7).

Fly Fishing: Some Reflections by William Creitz

On a recent trip to Mammoth's San Joaquin River, it came together. By that I mean the casting lessons, the guide tips, the fly shop recommendations for flies, the water and the weather, my reading of the water, the upstream presentation without appreciable drag, the hook sets, the mid-stream netting technique, and the

carefully matched equipment—total convergence.

For one brief period, it was fishing heaven. The savage strikes on streamers, the gentle tug on the deep drifted nymphs, and the deliberate sip of the Parachute Adams were wondrous in the feelings of success and smiles of

satisfaction they elicited.

I admit, being a fairly new fly fisherman, that it doesn't often happen like that; but when it does it is so very sweet.

I realize that I am hardly alone in my reflections; there are few joys in life that surpass a perfect day with a fly rod on a river.

New Products News (cont'd from page 5)

those large guide-sized rubber nets that are standard with fly fishermen who make their living catching and releasing fish unharmed. Priced from \$69.95.

Rods: New this year from Orvis is a 2-weight 7-foot, 9-inch Mid-Flex 6.0 four-piece (in the T3 series) graphite rod specifically designed for you spring creek and

small, clear streams trout stalkers. Priced from \$575.

To complement the 2-weight ultra-light rod, a new TLS Power Matrix 4-weight 8-foot, 6-inch Mid-Flex 8.0 two-piece graphite rod for all-round trout waters was recently introduced. Priced from \$255.

Gadgets: A new adhesive-

backed hook sharpener that adheres to small surfaces like your fly snips or fly box was introduced by Orvis recently. It fits on any flat surface, plastic or metal, and is only one-and-an-eighth inches long. No need to lose fish with this easy-to-use, accessible hook sharpener. Priced at \$6.95 for a pack of two honing stones.

About Us...History of the SCCC (cont'd from page 6)

He shared his concern that there was no club in a valley of over 165,000 residents—a city right on the way to Mammoth Lakes, no less. They began to scheme.

Later, this same former club president met a resident fly fisher from the Santa Clarita Valley at a friend's birthday party in Auburn, California. She let him in on her newly-hatched scheme for a casting club, to which he agreed to join the effort.

Soon thereafter, the roving

former club president and schemer of new clubs shared her vision, and that of her two new-found co-conspirators, with a self-proclaimed trout bum and certified casting instructor living in Santa Clarita and viola, the humble makings of a club were in motion. The final "ingredient" was the inclusion of a software salesman- turned-trout-addict-fly-fishing-novice and you had a five-member club, not bad for

the once, but not for long, former club president.

That was in September 2004. Now, a short time later, the Santa Clarita Casting Club boasts over 20 members, and growing, with an expanded vision for a clubhouse, casting pond, trophy case, and year round community instruction.

Wouldn't you like to be a part of this growing club with its quirky beginnings and promising future?



"...the Santa Clarita Casting Club boasts over 20 members, and growing, with an expanded vision for a clubhouse, casting pond, trophy case, and year round community instruction."

Piru Creek Update

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) plan to severely reduce the flow from Pyramid Lake to Piru Creek, allegedly to protect the Arroyo Toad, has been placed on hold pending a review by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and State Water Resources Control Board.

Reducing the flow in Piru

Creek to approximate the water flow into Pyramid Lake would almost certainly destroy both the Wild [Rainbow] Trout habitat in the creek and a popular and rare fishing destination accessible to anglers living in Los Angeles.

You can help by (1) supporting Cal Trout (call Jim Edmondson at 818-865-

2888 or email him at troutmd@earthlink.net), or (2) subscribing to "TroutClout," CalTrout's email, by sending an email to info@caltrout.org with "TroutClout" and your name in the subject line (your email address will automatically be enrolled). You can also watch for regular updates in the "Casting Times" newsletter.

Techniques and Tackle Tips

Our club's members are the lucky recipients of world-class instruction, on a regular basis, in casting techniques, equipment maintenance, fly tying, and fishing strategies.

Some of the most helpful tips from those instructional classes will, from time-to-time, be highlighted in this column. For this issue, let's consider a few equipment maintenance ideas from Ray Bianco:

Rods

- Always wipe down your rod after each use. Use Pledge furniture wax to remove water spots.
- Regular paraffin (wax), applied to rod ferrules, can both increase the fit tightness and help when breaking down your rod pieces.
- Applying 3M's Super 33 tape to the ferrules of your

spey rod will protect them from coming loose during a busy day of casting; be sure to leave a tag end to help with removing the tape at day's end.

- Water soluble Famowood wood filler is a great way to repair and/or fill in cracks in your cork handle. Look for Golden Oak color.

- For bamboo rods, do not twist rod ferrules to
(continued on page 4)

Santa Clarita Casting Club
Mailing Address
26162 Via Raza
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Phone
661-633-3460

E-mail
SCCastingClub@aol.com

Meetings
Monthly meetings held the
third Wednesday of the
month at 7:00 PM

Connie's Corner... (continued from page 2)

got out, the rest was history.

Much needs to be accomplished yet. We may be short on manpower, but we are strong on desire.

One of our primary goals is to find a true clubhouse followed by a pond or some way to cast into water.

Once we have a clubhouse, fly tying classes, rod building and casting classes can be offered on a regular basis.

Our website is still under construction as our Webmaster has been swamped with other life issues, but we are in hopes of being operational soon. Check it out periodically, at

www.santaclaritacastingclub.org. or leave a message at 661-633-3460.

Our monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month, so come and join us for any of the meetings.

Keep casting ...the more we practice, the better we fish.

About Our Organization

At present, the SCCC has two openings on the Board of Directors: for the 1st Vice-President and an assistant to the Membership Secretary.

The 1st Vice-President

duties include helping to arrange club speakers, running the monthly meetings, providing the newsletter editor with news items, and helping to organize club trips.

The Membership Secretary

and his or her assistant processes new member applications, sends out welcome letters, maintains the membership roster, and handles club dues. If interested, please call 661-633-3460.

SANTA CLARITA CASTING CLUB
26162 VIA RAZA
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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.SantaClaritaCastingClub.org

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