



SANTA CLARITA CASTING TIMES

VOL. 4 ISSUE 2 - APRIL 2010



Two-Handed Certification Makes Three

By Bill Creitz

It's the trifecta, fly fishing's equivalent of a Ph.D. but, hard as it may be to acquire, it's simply another feather in the cap (no pun intended) of our own casting guru, Ray Bianco.

I'm referring to the Federation of Fly Fishers' (FFF) Certified Instructor/Master Certified Instructor/Two-Handed Certified Instructor certificate that Ray obtained recently. Having received the first two certifications earlier in his casting career, Ray Bianco added a third and the final touch, the Two-handed Certified Instructor (THCI) last fall. Along with fellow master caster and Santa Clarita Casting Club member, Bob Middo, and John Van Derhoof of the famed Long Beach Casting Club (actually, all three casters belong to the Long Beach Club), Ray is one of only five fly casters in California, three of whom reside in Southern California, and one of 37 casters world-wide to obtain the coveted THCI certificate.



Progressing from FFF Certified Instructor to Master Certified Instructor to the Two-Handed Certified Instructor wasn't easy for Ray. He worked on his THCI certification for several years while Bob Middo and John Van Derhoof (who Ray claims he raised from fly fishing's "primordial soup" to get them to where they are today—keep in mind that both Bob and John have to their credit such accomplishments as being fishing gear manufacturers' reps, a published author, an artist, a fly tier extraordinaire, rod builders, an FFF board member, and a Long Beach Casting Club board member)—encouraged him to complete the program (incidentally, Bob was the third person in California to obtain the coveted THCI certification and the first in Southern California).

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President's Message

Handing over the Gavel

Five years ago a small group of fly fishermen started talking about forming a club so that we could all get together and share experiences, trips, and ideas, and to learn from one another. Within a few short months, we had enough members to form a board and a few left over to attend the meetings. Since then we've met every month to hold classes, listen to great speakers, plan trips, discuss our most recent fishing exploits, talk gear, and learn and develop as fly fishers.

Starting a club is a bit like starting a small business, so even though it has had its difficulties it's also been a great deal of fun. As club President for the last five years, I have met some amazing people, many of whom have be-

come lifelong friends; but it is now time to pass the gavel to the next President and a new group of board members. New leaders bring fresh, new ideas and breathe new life into a club. I will remain on the board for the next couple of years, so I'm not going anywhere. That being said, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support, dedication, and enthusiasm. Without you there can be no Santa Clarita Casting Club. So, it's not "goodbye" but, rather, "hello" to a new President, new board members, and new, fresh ideas.

Oh, and for my parting wisdom: try to avoid long distance releases and let's all go fishing more this year. <<

Connie Bullock

Two-Handed Certification Makes Three *Continued from page 1*

While the certificate test (which includes a minimum of one examiner and one observer critiquing every aspect of your presentation) takes only three to four hours, the preparation requires an average of one and one-half to two years with an average of four hours per week of casting practice and two hours per week of study time; in addition, there are countless hours of tutelage by an advanced instructor throughout the preparation period.

The advantage of receiving the FFF Two-Handed Certified Instructor certificate is that it ensures uniformity in teaching and the application of certain minimum standards while allowing for stylistic differences. "In fact," offers Bob Middo, "with the Two-handed Certification we are very 'style neutral,' instead placing our emphasis on acquiring the basics

and conveying to others valuable knowledge about the casting process."

The Southland, and the Santa Clarita Casting Club in particular, is privileged to have three such accomplished fly casters available to local fly fishing enthusiasts. In fact, Bob mentioned that he, John, and Ray are planning to attend one of our upcoming Sunday morning casting clinics to share both their two-handed fly casting knowledge and their plug casting expertise. If you are able to attend that clinic, be sure to compliment Ray on what a terrific job he has done with his two protégés and how they have evolved, almost amoeba-like, from fly casting Jurassic neophytes to the skilled and highly evolved master casters that they are today. <<

BILL CREITZ - GEAR TO GO . . .

With the recent arrival of spring, I don't know about you but, my thoughts turn to eager trout hungrily attacking streamers, stealthily sipping dry flies, and calculatingly ambushing unsuspecting nymph patterns—all of which requires gear, good gear, and often new gear. Well, 2010 has plenty of new gear, enough even for the habitual gear-heads among us. So, let's take a look at some of the manufacturers' latest offerings to help you lure (pun intended) fish to that great new wooden net (speaking of gear) that you just finished in one of Kevin Larsen's net building classes.



Fly lines are of utmost interest and importance to the fly fisher. For 2010 Rio Products has introduced a new concept in its RIO Indicator Line for nymphing. Available in weights 4 through 9 and at a cost of \$69.95, this unique line is worth investigating.

The weight forward 66.5 foot line comes with welded loops on both ends, what is called their Super Flotation Technology super-slick coating to defy sinking and friction, and a dual tone color scheme that is green for the running line and pale grey at the head. Best of all, Rio's Indicator Line sports a 15-inch fluorescent orange indicator tip that eliminates the need for a separate strike indicator. When added to the high-floating features, the ease of mending, and RIO's well-deserved reputation for quality lines, this may be just the thing to increase your yield when nymph fishing this summer.

Another competitor in the fly line category is Royal Wulff Products of New York. Anything with "Wulff" (referring to the late, and legendary, Lee Wulff) in the title automatically gets my attention. "Our new trout and steelhead line (the Royal Wulff Ambush Triangle Taper) is designed to roll cast eas-

ily with single-handed rods. [It] promotes easy roll-casting for distance in close quarters" is how the marketing materials explain this new line. The line—short, heavy, with a 20-foot head—is said to load your rod quickly with its "front-loaded thin running" characteristics so that the caster can obtain exceptional distance with both traditional or single- or double-haul casts.



This new line (sometimes referred to simply as "Ambush") is great for roll casts and is said to lay out as straight as any line on the market. At \$67.95, this front end weighted, high-visibility lime-green-to-blue colored line featuring a welded loop and ultra-slick J3 coating may be the most aptly named line on the market today. In sizes 4 through 8, check it out at www.royalsulff.com/ambush.



Fly rods are one of my primary interests and Colorado-based Scott Fly Rod Company, with 35 years of experience, is one of the most famous of all rod makers. Their S4 Series graphite rods use three different high performance carbon fibers, applied at three different angles, to ensure smooth, accurate, high line speed casts. The S4 series rods feature titanium strip-

Continued on page 4

BILL CREITZ - GEAR TO GO . . . *Continued from page 3*

ping guides, Recoil nickel titanium snake guides, ferrule alignment dots, buckeye burl wood inserts, machined aluminum upstock anodized titanium reel seats, Flor-grade cork (the finest grade available) handles, gloss painted blanks, and 2- and 4-piece models in weights 3 through 6. At \$695, these rods practically scream value and compete well with the other big boys in the field like R.L. Winston, Orvis, Sage, and Thomas & Thomas.



What fly fisher doesn't love gadgets? Well, the new Fly Saver Limb Cutter by TGR Enterprises (www.tgrenterprises.com) is a nifty gadget that we should all carry in our vests—at least those of us who cast anywhere near trees.



The 1.2 ounce, made-in-America Fly Saver lops off branches with its heat-treated, stainless steel cutter blade to help you save those errant flies that get stuck in tree branches that are just beyond your reach. The device features a 10-foot pull-cord that is attached to a hardwood handle that, when lifted into position on your rod tip, is positioned behind the snagged fly with your rod tip withdrawn, and then tugged to cut the branch cleanly off allowing your fly to fall to the ground. Tree branches, from pine to

oak, are neatly dispatched by this little tool, and at \$29.95 it only takes about a dozen flies saved to pay for itself.

And finally, what review of new gear would be complete without a nod to the new felt-less wading boots being offered by no fewer than eight manufacturers.

One of the more interesting wading boots hails from our neighbor in Ventura, Patagonia Clothing. The new, all-synthetic Riverwalker boots are made from recycled soda bottles and worn clothing (for the uppers) and feature sticky-rubber soles with a star tread pattern. These wading boots are said to be lightweight with reinforced, abrasion-resistant toes, and feature “high-filtration” mesh construction (100 percent recycled), padded ankles, spandex neoprene tongues, speed-lace hooks at the upper ankle, and excellent support and flex. They come in light tan with three resoleable options: felt (\$159), sticky rubber (\$169), and tungsten-carbide (\$189).



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>SPFF Flyfishers Casting School Entomology Workshop</i>	<i>Apr. 3</i>	<i>8:30 am</i>
<i>Casting Clinic</i>	<i>Apr. 4</i>	<i>8:00 am</i>
<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>Apr. 5</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>
<i>SPFF Free Flyfishing School</i>	<i>Apr. 10</i>	<i>9:00 am</i>
<i>SPFF Free Flyfishing School</i>	<i>Apr. 17</i>	<i>9:00 am</i>
<i>Casting Clinic</i>	<i>Apr. 18</i>	<i>8:00 am</i>
<i>Monthly Club and AGM Meeting</i>	<i>Apr. 21</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>
<i>SPFF Flyfishing Trip</i>	<i>Apr. 30</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Casting Clinic</i>	<i>May 2</i>	<i>8:00 am</i>
<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>May 3</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>
<i>Casting Clinic</i>	<i>May 16</i>	<i>8:00 am</i>
<i>Monthly Club Meeting</i>	<i>May 19</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>

SOME THOUGHTS ON FLY FISHING

“If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there’d be a shortage of fishing poles.”

- Doug Larsen

“O, sir, doubt not that Angling is an art; is it not an art to deceive a trout with an artificial fly?”

- Isaak Walton

“I am not against golf, since I cannot but suspect it keeps armies of the unworthy from discovering trout.”

- Paul O’Neil

“Three-fourths of the earth’s surface is water, and one-fourth is land. It is quite clear that the good Lord intended us to spend triple the amount of time fishing as taking care of the lawn.”

- Chuck Clark

“There is no greater fan of fly-fishing than the worm.”

- Patrick F. McManus

“Our tradition is that of the first man who sneaked away to the creek when the tribe did not really need fish.”

- Roderick Haig-Brown

“Scholars have long known that fishing eventually turns men into philosophers. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to buy decent tackle on a philosopher’s salary.”

- Patrick F. Mc-

Manus

“Even a fish wouldn’t get into trouble if he kept his mouth shut.”

- Unknown

“Fly-fishing may well be considered the most beautiful of all rural sports.”

- Frank Forester

“Fish are, of course, indispensable to the angler. They give him an excuse for fishing and justify the fly rod without which he would be a mere vagrant.”

- Alfred Miller

“Often, I have been exhausted on trout streams, uncomfortable, wet, cold, briar scarred, sun-burned, mosquito-bitten, but never, with a fly rod in my hand, have I been in a place that was less than beautiful.”

- Charles Kuralt

A young child with blonde hair, wearing a blue hat and a pink jacket, is holding a small fish. The child is looking down at the fish with a gentle expression. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery.

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2008: October 18-19 and 24-26 (Women's Clinic)
November 1-2 and 8-9 (Advanced Nymphing class)
December 6-7 and 13-14

2009: January 10-11 and 17-18
February 1/31-2/1 and 7-8
March 6-8 (Women's Clinic) and 14-15

Classes are limited to 6 students only, so reserve your spot early! For reservation, tuition and other information call Joe Libeu 310-749-6771 (jlsfpa@ix.netcom.com) or Kathy Kim 714-290-6930 (kksfpa@yahoo.com)

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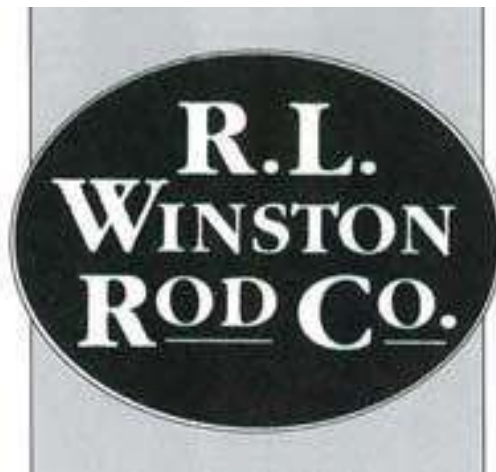
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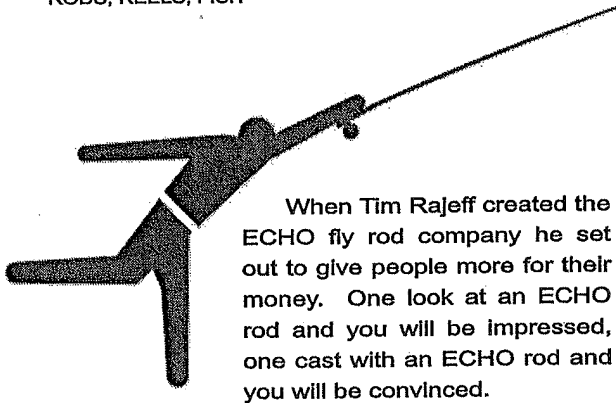
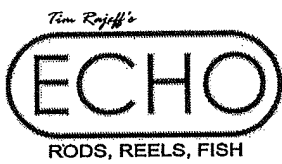
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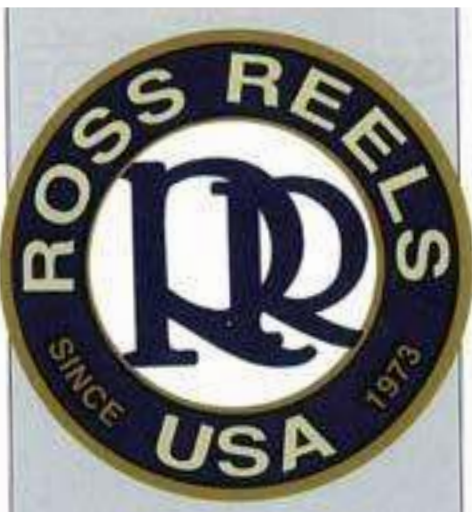
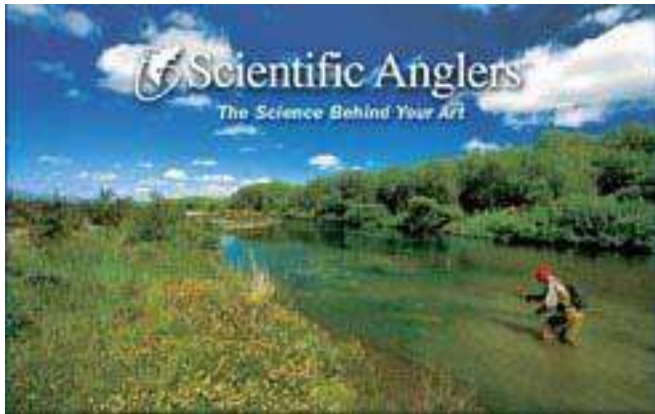
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