



# SANTA CLARITA CASTING TIMES

VOL. 4 ISSUE 1 - FEB. 2010



# Fishing Yellowstone

By Dick Harris

*A fishing trip to Yellowstone National Park just has to be on your "life list."  
It's really not that far from Santa Clarita, and ...*



1. Established in 1872, Yellowstone was the first designated national park in the United States and in the world, covering over two million acres and representing the largest minimally-developed ecosystem within the earth's temperate zones. Pretty amazing.

2. Its massive eastern mountain range straddles the Continental Divide and provides protected headwaters that have allowed for the preservation of an aquatic system second to none. As a result, this intricate network of major rivers, meandering creeks, the immense Yellowstone Lake and mountain ponds is home to robust populations of scrappy native trout—including rainbows, cutthroats, cutbows (a rainbow/cutthroat hybrid), browns and brookies.

3. Yellowstone hosts more than half of all the world's hydrothermal features: geysers, mud pots, and hot springs. The Firehole River, located in the southwestern area of the park, is heated by the many geysers and hot springs bordering and bubbling within the river. With the resulting year-round food supply and warm water, the resident rainbows grow at twice the rate but live half as long as rainbows elsewhere. You can wade the Firehole on the last day of the season in Yellowstone with a foot of snow on the ground and be warm.

*Continued on page 2 >>*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FISHING YELLOWSTONE	1, 2, 3	CALENDAR OF EVENTS	5
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2	THOUGHTS ON FLY FISHING	5
CAST & BLAST TRIP	4	CLUB SPONSORS	6-7
SPECIAL AWARDS	5		

# *President's Message*

By *Connie Bullock*

## *Five Years and Going Strong*

It's hard to believe that the Santa Clarita Casting Club is five years old this month, and I just want to say "Thank you" to all that have participated over the years and let you know we appreciate your continued support and ongoing membership. This upcoming year will see a new Board of Directors (BOD) with fresh ideas. If you have any interest and want to be on the Board or head-up a committee, just let one of the current BOD know.

We've experienced some fun trips, great meetings and casting clinics this year, and we plan to continue that tradition--and the lunches, of course. A good foundation has been established and now

we just need additional members to help us grow. So get the word out to your friends and family that we're enjoying ourselves while continually learning more about the sport of fly fishing. Also keep in mind the possibility of becoming a Certified Trainer. There are classes available that can help those interested.

Now that it is the beginning of the year, you should have received the club renewal letter, so get those renewals in as soon as possible so it doesn't slip to the bottom of the "to do" list. Thank you again for your ongoing support and let's keep fishing--it's food for the soul. <<

---

## *Fishing Yellowstone* *Continued from page 1*

A large portion of the massive park is actually a caldera, the result of one of the world's all-time mega-volcanic eruptions. Geologists say that it can go again at anytime and its power would be 1,000 times that of the Mt. St. Helen's eruption in 1980!

Yellowstone is a wondrous destination for the naturalist, the hiker, the photographer, and, yes, the angler. With over 2,600 miles of fishable rivers and streams, the opportunities are endless, the venues challenging. I have fished Yellowstone since 2006, with annual trips usually in late August or the first part of September. This is a prime time in the short summer season up there when you can still fish large terrestrials and drakes, but also have a good supply of fall flies--small olives and midges in particular.

I recommend stopping at one of the fly shops near the south and west entrances. Blue Ribbon Flies located in West Yellowstone is a terrific little shop

and also offers an excellent email newsletter [www.blueribbonflies.com](http://www.blueribbonflies.com) providing updated information on the park, weather, hatches, water quality, and fishing reports. They also provide guide services and drift boat trips.

In fishing Yellowstone, I like the Lamar Valley located in the northeast section of the park about an hour from the main lodges. Surrounded by majestic mountains, it features several classic rivers and offers easy access to miles of productive water flowing through open grasslands. This is an area of Yellowstone that is home to the largest bison herd in the park and where you might also spot a wolf, pronghorned sheep, elk, moose, river otters, or even a grizzly while casting a line.

The flowing waters are crystal clear (unless major rain hits resulting in muddy run-offs). The trout are large, strong, aggressive, and fight like the natives

*continued on page 3 >>*

# *Fishing Yellowstone* Continued from page 2

they are. The weather can be sunny in the 70s or snowy in the 40s, and change from one to the other in a 24-hour period.

The Lamar River is the largest river in that area and meanders through its mile-wide valley offering eight miles of very fishable waters. Noted for its large and wily cutthroats and rainbows, the river is wide, wadable, and features pools and deep runs along its grassy shoreline alive with big trout.

Flowing into the Lamar at the east end of the valley, you'll find the Soda Butte--a smaller stream where the trout are scrappy and relatively easy to entice to a fly. This is great water to fish with family or someone new to the sport. You'll find colorful cutthroats in the 12" to 17" range.

The third primary river in the valley is Sough Creek that snakes down to its own meadow from a

series of high latitude ponds. Slough has the reputation for big fish, and walking the banks you will see "cruisers" in the 20" plus range. The fishing is fairly technical, with fly selection and drag-free presentations absolutely critical to a take.

This past trip over Labor Day in 2009, I landed a fat and feisty 18" rainbow on Slough with a bobbing caddis in a fast riffle, and my fishing buddy coaxed a 21" cuttie from its lair to the surface for a fluttering midge drifted along a deep side eddy.

Yellowstone National Park is a most memorable place to visit and a spectacular (and, I'll say it again, relatively nearby) destination to test your stream-reading prowess on some of the best fishing habitat in the world. Bring a camera, your best rod, and a large net. <<



# CAST AND BLAST TRIP: UPPER PYRAMID CREEK

By *Kevin Larsen*

Recently, Dick Harris and I conducted a New Year's wilderness fishing experiment to see how the fishing was on Upper Pyramid Creek. What we found may surprise you.



On Saturday, January 2, Dick and I drove up to Smokey Bear Road above Pyramid Lake, turned down to the second road, and then on to the end of the gate. We unloaded the mountain bikes, geared up, and headed into what is known as Hardluck Campground. After about a three-mile ride uphill followed by a two-mile ride downhill, we came to the creek crossing. Another two miles and we arrived at the location for stashing the bikes.

We hiked downstream and, after less than an hour, I was into our first fish of the day: a feisty 12-inch rainbow taken while retrieving a dry fly. Dick followed my success with an "almost"--a nice fish that he lost just before getting it into the net.

We worked our way further downstream where I spotted a large fish finning in a deep pool. Tying on a Hare's Ear dropper, I sneaked up on the fish, drifted the flies into the deep part of the pool, twitched the rig, and watched the fish slam the dropper. After wrapping the lead fly around multiple pieces of grass and cattails, I landed the 16-inch monster. Wow, what a fish for such a small creek!

In the meantime, Dick spotted another big fish farther downstream and worked his way to a place where he could cast; well, almost. He couldn't hook the fish so I gave it a try. I got a good drift, gave the flies a slight twitch, and watched as a sleek missile bolted to the flies. Fish on. Just as I landed it, however, it broke off.

Next, it was Dick's turn. After a couple of well placed casts to a large fish resting beneath a cut bank, a beautiful 14-inch wild rainbow took the fly. Now it was Kevin two and Dick one.

Working our way further down the canyon, we came across a huge pool at least six or seven feet deep and 25 feet wide. "A lot of fish; a lot of big fish, ought to be residing here," I thought to myself. After I climbed up on a nearby rock, and just before casting, my suspicions were confirmed: three huge fish, one over 20 inches and the others nearly 18 inches, were just waiting to be caught. I cast as soon as I could and, once the flies hit the water, they all spooked. Multiple tries without any luck forced us to head downstream.

The next pool contained over 30 fish in the tail-water section. I snuck up on the pool, cast, and caught the closest tree. Back in position, a quick roll cast put the flies on the water where an 18-inch-er snagged the dropper. However, after a few rolls, he came off and ran for cover taking the rest of the school with him. <<



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>Feb. 1</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>
<i>Casting Clinic</i>	<i>Feb. 7</i>	<i>8:00 am</i>
<i>Monthly Club Meeting</i>	<i>Feb. 17</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>
<i>SouthWest Council - FFF Fundraiser</i>	<i>Feb. 20</i>	<i>9:00 am to 4:00 pm</i>
<i>Casting Clinic</i>	<i>Feb. 21</i>	<i>8:00 am</i>

## ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS - 2009



A number of well-deserved awards were distributed at the Club's annual Christmas party this past December. Each year, the Board of Directors nominates individuals who epitomize the "Can Do" ethos of the Santa Clarita Casting Club and the commitment to excellence in things fly fishing related. The awardees for 2009 are as follows:

***Ray Bianco Appreciation Award:***

*Kevin Larsen*

***Special Award for Support and Leadership:***

*Dick Harris*

***Most Improved Saltwater Caster:***

*Betsy Skidmore*

***Most Improved Freshwater Caster:***

*Seleste Sakato*

The next time you see any of the above award winners, give them a "high five" or, better yet, a tip for fishing those hard-to-fool rainbows residing in Hot Creek.

## SOME THOUGHTS ON FLY FISHING

*"The only reason I ever played golf in the first place was so that I could afford to hunt and fish."*

***Sam Snead***

*"I look into...my fly box, and think about all the elements I should consider in choosing the perfect fly: water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, what the fish are eating right now. Then I remember what a guide told me: 'Ninety percent of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about five-eighths of an inch long.'"*

***Allison Moir***

*"The best fishermen I know try not to make the same mistakes over and over again; instead they strive to make new and interesting mistakes and to remember what they learned from them."*

***John Gierach***

*"If I'm not going to catch anything, then I'd rather not catch anything on flies."*

***Bob Lawless.***

*"The solution to any problem--work, love, money, whatever--is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be."*

***John Gierach***

*"If fishing is interfering with your business, give up your business."*

***Sparse Grey Hackle***

*"Something to think about: if you fish the wrong fly long and hard enough, it will sooner or later become the right fly."*

***John Gierach***

*"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles."*

***Doug Larson***

*"The great charm of fly-fishing is that we are always learning."*

***Theodore Gordon***



# Snowbee®

**Lee Davison**  
 FFF Master Casting Instructor / TRG

**Snake River Outfitters**  
 .COM

Phone (208) 538-7425  
 Cell (208) 520-1463  
 238 N 4700 E  
 Rigby, ID 83442

US Distributor for **Snowbee**

[www.SnakeRiverOutfitters.com](http://www.SnakeRiverOutfitters.com)

## SIERRA PACIFIC FISHING ADVENTURES

YOUR FLY FISHING DESTINATION & RESORT OUTFITTER  
 FLY FISHING EXCURSIONS • CLASSES • PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

### On the Stream Fly Fishing Clinic, Lower Owens River

The Lower Owens River, just outside of Bishop, CA offers world-class fly fishing for wild trout during the winter and spring! Join us for a 2-day educational experience to improve your success in nymph, dry fly, steamer and wet fly fishing. You will be introduced to entomology, stream structure, casting applications, short and long line presentation, reading the water, fly selection and basic knots. **NEW** this year will be a clinic dedicated to ladies only conducted by Kathy Kim and Joe Libeu. In addition, Advanced Nymphing Clinic will be offered in November. Joe Libeu, your instructor, is a certified Federation of Fly Fishers "Master" Instructor and Guide and brings with him years of experience on his home water.

**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)

Sierra Pacific Fishing Adventures • 3901 Brayton Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 • (310) 749-6771 • [www.spfadventures.com](http://www.spfadventures.com)

## fishermen's spot

a fly fishing specialty shop

### Learn To Fly Fish!

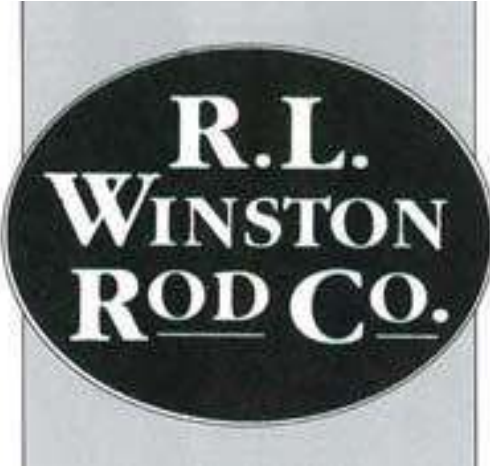
- ⦿ Classes for all Skill Levels
- ⦿ Beginner To Expert
- ⦿ Fly Fishing Travel
- ⦿ Quality Products
- ⦿ Fly Tying
- ⦿ Clothing
- ⦿ Collectibles

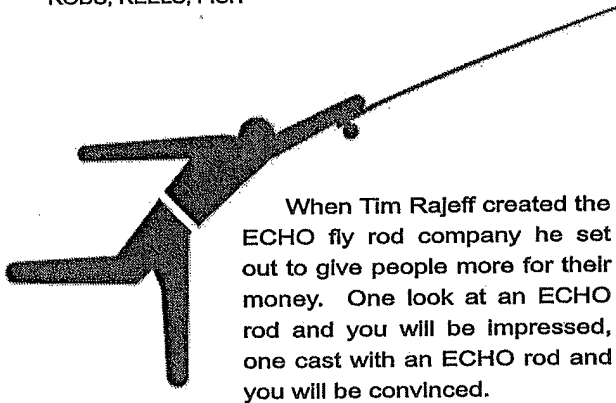
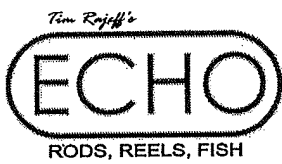
**Expert Fly Fishing Advise**  
 Email address: [411@fsflyfishing.com](mailto:411@fsflyfishing.com)

**Fishermen's Spot**  
 14411 Burbank Blvd.  
 Van Nuys, CA  
 (818) 785-7306  
[www.fsflyfishing.com](http://www.fsflyfishing.com)

Van Nuys Blvd.	Oxnard St.
	Burbank Blvd.
	Magnolia Blvd.
101 FWY	

Open 7 Days A Week  
 Mon - Fri 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Sat 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sun 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.





When Tim Rajeff created the ECHO fly rod company he set out to give people more for their money. One look at an ECHO rod and you will be impressed, one cast with an ECHO rod and you will be convinced.

Airflo announces their new ridgeline fly line, the only fly line that uses ridges to reduce friction in the guides.

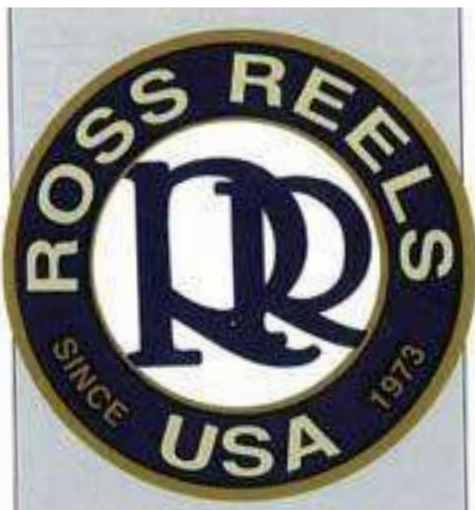
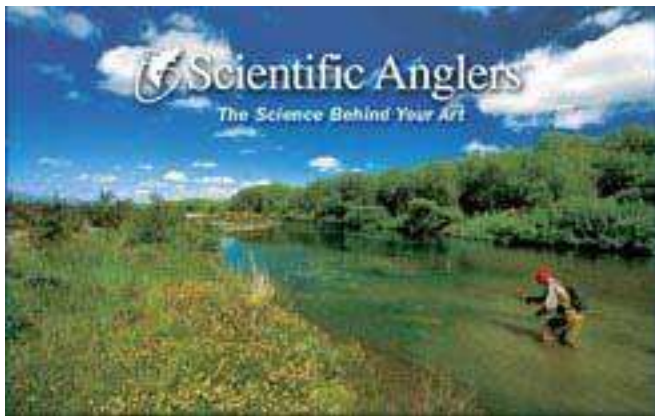
ECHO & Airflo info available @  
[www.rajeffsports.com](http://www.rajeffsports.com)  
 or 866-347-4359.

# GALVAN FLY REELS 2010

**TORQUE SERIES**  
**SPOKE SERIES**  
**HUSH SERIES**

**GALVAN FLY REELS**  
 Galvan Fly Reels, Inc.  
 17425 Overland Trail  
 Sonoma, CA 95370  
 (209) 588-2812  
[www.galvanflyreels.com](http://www.galvanflyreels.com)

# G·Loomis



**CUSTOM DESIGN**

*If you live just to fish  
 two handed rods...*

*..we have a lot in common*