



# SANTA CLARITA CASTING TIMES

VOL. 3 ISSUE 3 - MAY 2009



## CONSERVATION NEWS:

# San Bernardino Mountains

Riverside-based Deep Creek Flyfishers invites all interested fly fishers to their May 16 and June 27 stream cleanups on Bear Creek and Deep Creek, respectively, in the San Bernardino Mountains.

In the morning, participants will pick up trash in and around the stream and adjacent parking lots. The afternoon will be left open for fishing. If you would like to join the Deep Creek Flyfishers volunteers on May 16 at Bear Creek, meet at The Oaks Restaurant on Highway 38 at 9:00 am (or 8:00 am for breakfast) and call Steve Kopp at 909-793-6831 to let him know you are coming.

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Anyone interested in helping with the June 27 Deep Creek cleanup can meet at the ranger station on Highway 18 in Skyforest at 8:45 am. Besides fishing gear, you will need gloves and lunch or a snack.

*Call or e-mail Steve Kopp at 909-793-6831  
or at [stevekopp@hotmail.com](mailto:stevekopp@hotmail.com)*

# Kern River's Golden Trout Wilderness

Volunteers with the Golden Trout Conservation Projects are looking for a few dedicated fly fishers to help with two South Fork of the Kern River conservation efforts: one from June 19 to 21, the other from October 2 to 4.

If you can dedicate a weekend to preserving golden trout waters in our nearby southern Sierra Golden Trout Wilderness by mending cattle fences; if you can handle a great potluck dinner; if you would like to fish for the elusive golden trout in their native waters, plus brown trout; and if you don't mind camping in the awesome Kern Plateau surroundings with like-minded fly fishers, then sign up for one or both weekends at <http://californiagoldentrout.org/>. <<

# *President's Message*

## HOW DO WE GROW?

Often, we have discussions about what it will take to keep the Santa Clarita Casting Club going. The main thing is to increase membership. Having more members has many benefits, among them are: (1) it helps spread the necessary responsibilities and tasks involved so that no one person gets burned out, and (2) it brings in more money which, in turn, allows us to get more involved in the community, fly fishing shows, etc. With that thought, help us help the club by getting involved and by getting the word out to anyone who is receptive to or interested in fly fishing. If an idea occurs to you, bring it to the attention of the Board members and be prepared to help implement the idea.

If you need Club business cards or fliers, let any of the Board members know and we can get that information to you. Speaking of the new Board, following is the new lineup for 2009:

<i>President</i>	<i>Connie Bullock</i>
<i>1st VP Chair</i>	<i>Dick Harris</i>
<i>2nd VP Chair</i>	<i>Kevin Larsen</i>
<i>Correspondence Chair</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Membership Chair</i>	<i>Aran Dokovna</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Judy McLean</i>

Please welcome them and give them your support. Thanks for your membership; I look forward to a great 2009.

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO CLUB MEMBERS

Santa Clarita Casting Club is entering its fourth year and it is doing great. The 2009 renewals are complete with a loss of a few members but the gain of new members. We are at 57 members strong and still having a great time. There have been some challenges but they are all good and we've had the support of some very enthusiastic and generous people.

Now it is time to say a special thanks to these hard working members who have helped get our club off the ground. Who knew that when Bill, John, Ray, Ted and I got together for the first time in September 2005 we would be here with this many members? It's all due to perseverance, consistency, and the love of fly fishing. A special thanks goes to:

- Ted Aquaro for his ongoing support of the raffles and his special personally-provided candle-in-wood raffle
- Rod Wilmot, Mike Smith and Frank Avila for setting up trips and keeping us plied with great stories
- Mike Smith's continued casting support at the casting clinics every other Sunday
- Bill Creitz for his ongoing letters, correspondence support, newsletter articles, book reports, photography and anything else that needs to be done
- Last but not least, our Master Certified Instructor, Ray Bianco, who has taught us all to cast better and tickled our imaginations with his fly tying techniques, rod building and line management classes.

None of these former Board members are going away, but they are now able to sit back and just enjoy the club. Thank you gentlemen for everything you have done for SCCC. <<


# PARTY WITH FISHERMEN'S SPOT AND R.L. WINSTON ROD COMPANY

Eighty years is a long time. And 1929 was a long time ago. But to the R.L. Winston Company, celebrating its 80th anniversary, it represents continuity, decades of experience, and a yardstick with which to measure success. And anyone who has cast or owned a Winston graphite or bamboo rod can attest to the company's success.


On May 16, the Fishermen's Spot in Van Nuys (14411 Burbank Boulevard) is hosting an 80th anniversary celebration for the Winston Rod Company with a display of their classic and new bamboo rods, a chance to win a Boron II-X 9-foot, 5-weight

graphite rod, hats, and watches; and naturally, a cake will be provided.

Long regarded as one of the premier rod—both cane and graphite—makers, R.L. Winston Rods from Twin Bridges, Montana, is partnering with select fly shops to help celebrate its 80th anniversary with a classic bamboo rods display for antique tackle buffs and a “take-it-for-a-spin” casting demonstration of rods from their new line. Call Ken Lindsay or Steve Ellis at the Fishermen's Spot (818-785-7306) for a schedule of events. <<




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# There's Gold in Them Thar Streams:

## Prospecting for Trout with Tom Rosenbauer

By Bill Creitz

I'll confess; I'm hooked on Lefty Kreh when it comes to fly fishing authors. However, everyone has to have second favorites, whether they are fly rods, reels, streams, jeans, movies, guitars or, in this case, fly fishing writers. And, other than good ol' Lefty, no other writer brings more to a book on fly fishing than Orvis Marketing Director, Tom Rosenbauer.

I came across Rosenbauer's *Prospecting for Trout* (Delta Book Publishing, 1993) in a fly shop last year and was immediately taken by the title and then by the wealth of information that poured from its pages—information that was, at the same time, somewhat oblique yet new and extremely practical. I know it's almost a cliché but, to me, Tom Rosenbauer thinks more like a trout than any writer I have read and yet has the ability to convey his observations in a precise and cerebral manner. He has over 35 years in the fly fishing business and 11 books to his credit. So, it's no great revelation to learn that this fly fisher really knows his stuff.

If I could cite just one of Tom Rosenbauer's quotes to reflect his perspective on searching for trout it would be the following: "Prospecting for trout is not just a skill that novice fishermen need to develop; many fly fishermen go for a lifetime without taking the time to figure out how to catch trout in those more opportunistic times between the hatches." This book then is about developing the skill to catch trout "...at all times, not just in the easy hatch periods."

So one of the first pieces of advice is: when there are no hatches, start fishing at the head of a pool or run, in pocket water, or in a riffle, and then graduate to the slower water if you can figure out what is going on. "Fish in rough water are less easily disturbed,

and they're also less wise to the dangers of artificial bugs," offers Rosenbauer in the section on reading water. I've employed this very strategy on the Lower Owens and found it to work well.

Another bit of advice that resonates with me is: if you are fishing a pocket that you suspect contains a good fish, such as a deep slot in a riffle, you will most often find the largest trout in the uppermost position, with smaller fish trailing off behind in decreasing order of size. And "...in richer [in terms of available food] rivers, smaller flies are more effective," and "trout are [more] evenly distributed...because there is enough food to support them everywhere."

"On rich streams, cover all the water. Never assume that a trout won't be right in front of you, and concentrate on covering the water closest to you with repeated casts, changing flies or techniques often if you aren't getting any strikes," recommends Rosenbauer. Conversely, in infertile rivers trout distribution is spotty. They will usually be found near the main flow in areas protected from the heaviest flow of water, but close enough to the main current so a sideways tip will allow them to intercept food.

Rosenbauer uses a term called "rock flipping" to describe his way of determining the richness of a stream. Rock flipping is simply turning over rocks in the streambed to find what's clinging to the bottom (the clinging and crawling insects). But to gauge the totality of the food supply, he recommends trying to identify the burrowers and the swimmers too. Sculpins, other forage fish, and crayfish are foods that support large trout but that you'll seldom see when you turn over rocks. Instead, you need to look at the place the rock was rather than at what is clinging to it.

Other tidbits for trout prospecting include the following:

- Because slow water is the hardest to fish blind, try concentrating on riffles, runs, and pocket water instead
- Also concentrate on places where fast water meets slow, adjacent to the main current

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>>> from page 4

- In streams with a reasonable velocity without midstream obstructions you find most trout near the banks or on the bottom
- The color of your fly is much more important during the day than in the early morning, evening, or at night
- If the water close to the banks is deeper than in the middle, and especially where vegetation meets the water, you will often find more and bigger trout next to the banks than out in the middle
- When using streamers to search, begin by casting so the fly swims broadside to the current in front of every deep pocket, log, weedbed, or boulder
- Experiment with the amount of line you pull with each strip. Most often foot-long strips are best; if those don't work, try six-inch strips or two-foot strips. Remember, trout are not usually fond of erratic retrieves. Keep your rod tip low and pointed at the fly
- The colder the water, the slower and deeper you should fish
- Streamers are about the most useful flies you can use in non-hatch times
- When using flies of different sizes and weights, keep the biggest fly on the tail and make the droppers smaller
- When prospecting, the deeper and faster the water, the bigger the fly
- The Parachute Hare's Ear is as near a perfect dry fly for blind-fishing as any fly yet conceived

The above are just a few of the many observations offered in *Prospecting for Trout* by a man who has fished for trout around the world and in nearly every state and type of water. With such axioms as "Dry flies usually outperform nymphs when blind-fishing," "...the old saying about your first cast being the most important is nowhere more important than in prospecting," and "When prospecting for trout, I far prefer riffles and runs to pools," Tom Rosenbauer is truly a sage in that elite fraternity of fly fishing authors and teachers. Even from his position as a member of fly fishing's elite, Rosenbauer is ever mindful of that famous Herbert Hoover quote: "All men are equal before fish." <<

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fishermen's Spot - Winston Rod	
80th Anniversary Celebration	May 16
Bear Creek Stream Cleanup	May 16
Casting Clinic	May 17
Monthly Club Meeting	May 28
Casting Clinic	May 31
Board Meeting	June 2
Casting Clinic	June 14
Kern River Golden Trout	
Conservation Project	June 19-21
June Lake - Rush Creek	
Stream Cleanup	June 20
Monthly Meeting	June 24
Deep Creek Stream Cleanup	June 27
Piru Creek Stream Cleanup	June 27

## "Famous Fishermen's Quotes"

"A Humpy dry fly is a great fly to start with in a riffle." Tom Rosenbauer

"I suppose the Royal Wulff...is as effective a terrestrial imitation as you need...." Tom Rosenbauer

"...the Parachute Hare's Ear...is as near a perfect dry for blind-fishing as any fly I've seen." Tom Rosenbauer <<

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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 (jlspla@ix.netcom.com) or Kathy Kim 714-290-6930 (kkspsfa@yahoo.com)



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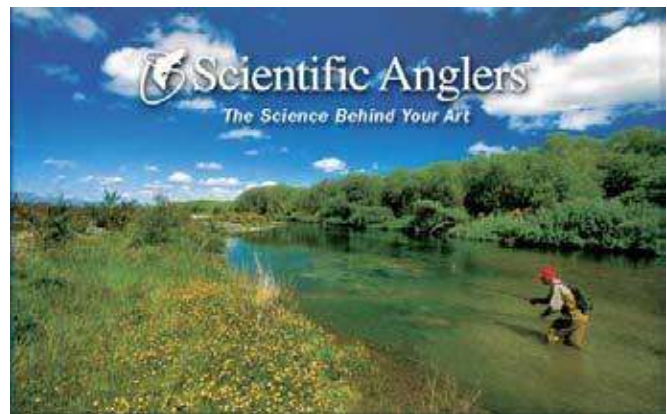
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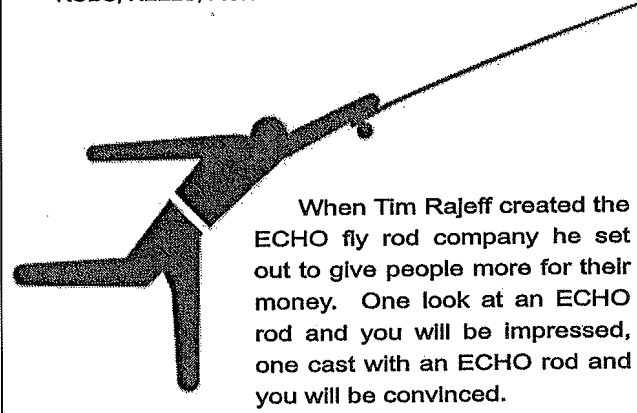
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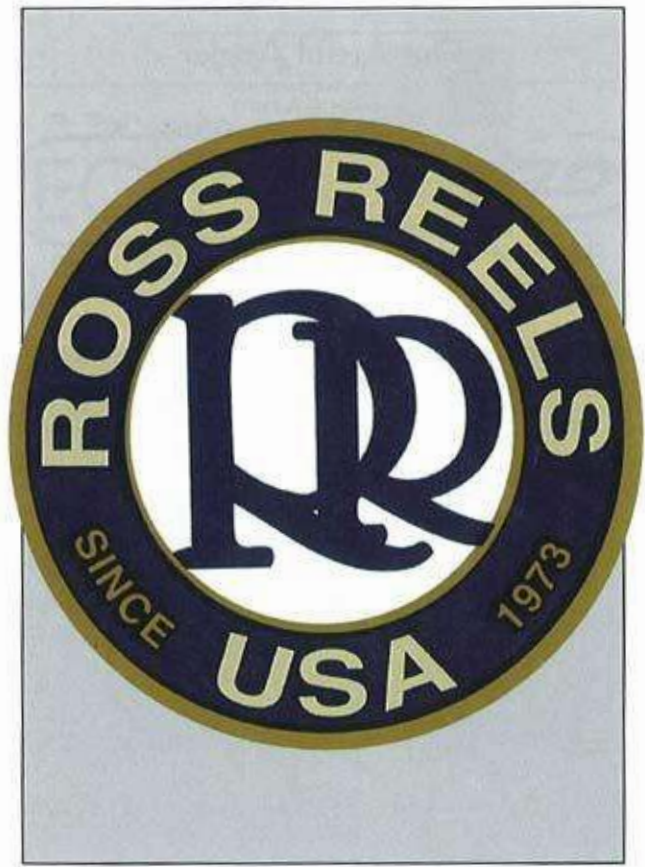
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