



SANTA CLARITA CASTING TIMES

VOL. 3 ISSUE 7 - NOV. 2009



*By now you have heard about our fellow club member and fly fisher extraordinaire, Robert “Kazy” Kazahaya, and his battle with pancreatic cancer. Thankfully, he is doing well after his recent surgery. Would you please continue to keep him and his wife, Joann, in your thoughts and prayers. We miss Kazy’s smiling face, great sense of humor, and willingness to share his vast fishing knowledge and skills with anyone interested in the sport of fly fishing. **Hurry back Kazy.***

Modest Success on the Upper Owens

By Bill Creitz

“Until yesterday, the action was terrific up here. In fact, I took fish on practically every cast at Hot Creek on Friday,” were the enviable words of a guide friend of mine that I met while eating lunch at Burgers in Mammoth Lakes recently.

It seems that me and my buddy, fellow Santa Clarita Casting Club member John Wilkin, were the latest victims of “Ya shoulda been here yester-

day”; Mammoth fishing was great until the day we arrived. Oh well, you know the old saying, “A bad day fishing beats a good day at work.”

Even though the fish weren’t plentiful, the pan-size rainbows we did catch put on a good show jumping, running downstream only to duck beneath the nearest bank, burrowing down to the bottom using every deep hole as a delay tactic; those ‘bows were savvy and not the slightest bit interested in coming to our nets.

With no wind present, but with no hatch either, John and I decided on nymphs. The trusty size 14 San Juan Worm and bead head Pheasant tail tandem rig worked just as it is supposed to: the bugs dredged up trout from beneath seams, foam lines, and undercut banks tipping us off by the telltale bobbing of our yarn indicators.

The water was lower than I’d seen it, but there were still plenty of deep holes, plenty of trout-holding cuts beneath the bank, and plenty of places where multiple currents met to channel food to hungry rainbows. The fish were there alright, but weren’t cooperating to the degree we would have liked. Oh well, that’s why they call it “fishing” rather than “catching.”

Besides the fact that the weather was ideal—around 70 degrees mid-day, there were very few fishermen (probably because the fish weren’t biting) around the third access point above the bridge.

John and I didn’t stay for the evening hatch, satisfied with the seven fish we took in the afternoon and anxious to head over to the Snow Creek golf course for a quick round before dinner. As mediocre as the fishing was, however, the golf more than made up for it; but that’s a story for *Golf Digest*.

Suffice it to say, that the weekend was nothing for the record books, but we did take a few feisty trout and practically had our stretch of the Owens all to ourselves. And isn’t that really what it’s all about?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UPPER OWENS	1
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE	2
SCCC CHRISTMAS PARTY	2
NEW PRODUCTS NEWS	3
FOREST FIRES & TROUT	4-5
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	5
FISHERMEN’S FAVORITE FLIES	5
CLUB SPONSORS	6-7

President's Message

By Connie Bullock

A Time to be Thankful

It's that time of year to be appreciative of and thankful for what we have.

Many people have lost their jobs, and those who haven't are working harder and longer to fill in for those who have left. Regardless of where you are

or what has happened, we are the lucky ones with a group of like-minded people who share a great camaraderie and who meet together a few times a month to put the world behind us in order to enjoy the wonderful sport of fly fishing; whether we are casting, tying flies, listening to encouraging speakers, watching DVDs, or fishing together, we enjoy being together and we enjoy fishing. We have an escape that is both rewarding and plain old fun which, in turn, helps us re-charge our batteries so that we can jump back onto the merry-go-round that is life and work. *I am very thankful for all of you. Enjoy your holidays and be thankful. <<*

Happy holidays.



Santa Clarita Casting Club Annual Christmas Dinner Held at the Valencia Racquet Club @ 27055 Rio Bosque Dr., Valencia, CA

Saturday, December 12, 2009

Social Hour: 6:00 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Name: _____

I will attend the SCCC Christmas Dinner on Saturday December 12, 2009 at the Valencia Racquet Clubhouse

I will bring _____ adults Total number _____ @ \$17.00 = _____ Total Enclosed

I will bring _____ children Total number _____ @ \$5.00 = _____

Yes, I would like to help
Please call me at this telephone number
() _____ - _____ (cut out and return)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
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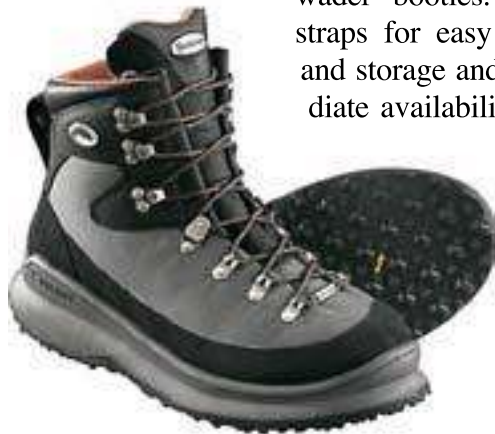
NEW PRODUCTS NEWS

While the economy may still be upside-down, we resilient and optimistic fly fishers continue to keep a weather eye out for new gadgets and gear that will make our fly fishing experience easier, more fun, or more rewarding; heck, sometimes we buy new gear just because it looks cool or we need to replace something similar and perfectly serviceable that is merely outdated or that sports an old color scheme. Regardless of the reason, fly fishermen make good consumers. And speaking of consumption, to help balance the new save-rather-than-spend trend, you may want to invest in one or more of the following new items for 2010:



The Fishpond Sawtooth Wader Mat: Tired of the too-thin or too curled wader changing mat that you've been using for the past six years? Me too. That's why I ordered the new Sawtooth Wader Mat (\$45) from Fishpond.

The mat measures 28" wide and 38" long, comes in green or blue, is well padded with a 1,680 Denier ballistic nylon cover and heavy-duty tarpaulin bottom to help avoid punctures to the mat and your wader booties. Velcro straps for easy roll-up and storage and immediate availability from your



local fly shop make this a no-brainer purchase to place under your Christmas tree (I ordered mine from Bob Marriott's). Go to Bob Marriott's web site to view the Sawtooth Wader Mat or call Fishpond at 970-486-7883 for more information.

A wading boot for \$220 (actually, \$219.95). That's more expensive than my Allen Edmonds dress shoes. At first glance, I couldn't believe it. I thought that if you buy the boots, they must throw in a set of chest waders for free. No such luck. However, when you talk about high-priced gear, you also have to consider quality, durability, and dependability. That's where Simms excels.

The new Simms G4 Guide Boot excels—and then some—in traction, style, abrasion resistance, lack of water absorption, superior fit, speed lacing, ease of adjustment, ease of entry, comfort, corrosion resistance, the use of felt-free Vibram soles (to avoid spreading the New Zealand Mud Snail), stability on slippery surfaces, and in its self-cleaning features.

Those features are just the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. There are others that make the G4 Guide Boot a real shoe-in for coolest new boot for 2010. Contact your local fly shop (my guess is that Fishermen's Spot is selling these like crazy) or go to www.simmsfishing.com for a look.

Leave it to Rajeff Sports to come up with a fly line revitalizer named "Airflo Whizz Lube." Tim Rajeff is nothing if he's not a whiz at marketing; now, if only I could cast like him by simply applying this new solution to my tired old five weight floating line.

At \$7.99, Airflow Whizz Lube comes in a flip-top bottle with the applicator in the cap. The "lube" part is a proprietary blend of lubricants that is said to be so slick and water resistant that it both increases your casting yardage and makes tired line tips float again. Think of this product as a spa treatment for your fly line.

For more information, go to www.rajeffsports.com or call your local fly shop.





Forest Fires & Trout

By Dick Harris

Southern California is noted for its spectacular forest and wilderness fires. In 2007, the massive Day Fire tore through the Piru Creek canyon leaving 200-year old oaks blackened and dead and reducing streamside shrubs to ashes. Last summer, the Shotgun Creek Fire in the Sequoia National Forest devastated over 1,200 acres in the Golden Trout Wilderness area along the Little Kern River. And we just concluded the fast moving Station Fire that destroyed over 65 homes and a massive section of the Angeles National Forest along Big and Little Tujunga Creeks.

What happens to the fish during these catastrophic events? What do the trout do to survive these events? Studies done in the Western U.S. on the effects of major fires on river and small stream salmon and trout populations provide some insights. When a major blaze crosses or burns along stream and

creek, the inferno can quickly raise water temperatures significantly. This was documented in the 1988 Yellowstone fires that destroyed a major portion of the park, racing over many shallow meadow streams and killing trout unable to find cover in these unprotected waters.

As serious as the temperature and smoke toxicity created by fires are the residual effects from widespread ash and debris left by the blaze and polluting the waters. With ground cover destroyed, increased siltation and sediment build-up on the floor of a stream can alter or even prevent successful spawning. Following a fire, the shorelines and hydrology of streams can change drastically and have sometimes even resulted in the invasion of non-native fish that can more readily adapt to the changes.

Amazingly though, trout most often can survive horrific firestorms and are incredibly adaptable. The Shotgun Fire on the Kern River last year laid down a deep layer of black ash for nearly 30 miles up the valley. A flash flood less than a month after the fire then dumped two inches of rain in less than a few hours on the area. The Kern immediately became a raging torrent, so filled with black ash and debris from the fire that a local reporter in an overhead

>>>continued on page 5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Fly Tying Class</i>	<i>Nov. 11</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>
<i>Kern River Trip</i>	<i>Nov. 13</i>	
<i>Casting Clinic</i>	<i>Nov. 15</i>	<i>8:00 am</i>
<i>Monthly Club Meeting</i>	<i>Nov. 18</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>
<i>Casting Clinic</i>	<i>Nov. 29</i>	<i>8:00 am</i>
<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>Dec. 7</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>
<i>Merced River South Fork Trip</i>	<i>Dec. 11</i>	
<i>Christmas Dinner</i>	<i>Dec. 12</i>	<i>6:00 pm</i>

>>> *from page 4*

helicopter said “The water looks like fast-moving chocolate pudding.” It took several months for the Kern waters to fully clear, but the rainbow trout, both native and stocked, survived.

An interesting article in Wood and Water Online talks about the endangered gila trout found only in a few remote New Mexican streams. When a lightning-sparked fire threatened South Diamond Creek containing these trout, biologists sprang into action. Knowing the water was too shallow to ensure the gila’s survival, they rode the wilderness creek on horseback and used portable shocking devices to stun the fish that were then flown to a local fishery for safekeeping.

Whether man intercedes or not, biologists now suggest that fish populations in high forest fire areas have and continue to evolve to better withstand these events. The wildfire has always been part of the cycle, purging and changing the wilderness it consumes, as it alters the waters and resident populations that reside within. But, as one firefighter battling the Shotgun Fire told a reporter, “Through it all, the Little Tujunga continues to flow.”

If you are fortunate enough to have fished an area re-opened after such an event, you get a sense of the true power of a wildfire. But just as the waters of our Southern California streams and creeks will “continue to flow,” this timeless dance will go on. The healthiest trout will survive future fires and, with our help, strengthen the species for eons to come. <<

“Famous Fishermen’s Favorite Flies”

“If we had to choose just two streamers to carry, they would be the muddlers and the matukas.”

Paul N. Fling & Donald L. Puterbaugh

“...a hotshot angler can probably do pretty well anywhere in the country armed with nothing more than a #16 Gold-Ribbed Hare’s Ear.”

Sheridan Anderson

“On smooth, placid currents, a flush-floating fly such as a Parachute Adams is often the best choice.”

Charles Meck

“If we had to choose just two streamers to carry, they would be the muddlers and the matukas.”

Charles Meck

Goleta
Santa Barbara
The Anza Area
Carpinteria
Ventura
Orcutt
Port Huamona

Sierra Pacific Fishing Adventures

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On the Stream Fly Fishing Clinic, Lower Owens River

The Lower Owens River, just outside of Bishop, CA offers world-class fly fishing for fall trout during the winter and spring. Join us for a 2-day educational experience to improve your access in rough, dry fly, narrow and wet fly fishing. You will be introduced to excursions, stream structure, casting applications, chart and longline presentation, reading the water, fly selection and basic knots. **NEW** this year will be a clinic dedicated to ladies only conducted by Kathy Pitt and Joe Liboa. In addition, Advanced Flycasting Clinic will be a third in November. Joe Liboa, your instructor, is a certified Federation of Fly Fishers "Master" instructor and Guide and brings with him years of experience on the fly fishing water.

2009: October 10-11 and 24-26 (Women's Clinic)
November 1-2 and 8-9 (Advanced Flycasting class)
December 6-7 and 13-14

2010: January 10-11 and 17-18
February 11-12, 21, and 27-8
March 6-8 (Women's Clinic) and 14-15

Clubs are limited to 8 members only, so reserve your spot early! For reservations, further and other information call Joe Liboa 319-743-4271. Fly fishing is available at Valley View 714-288-4888. <http://www.flyfish.com>

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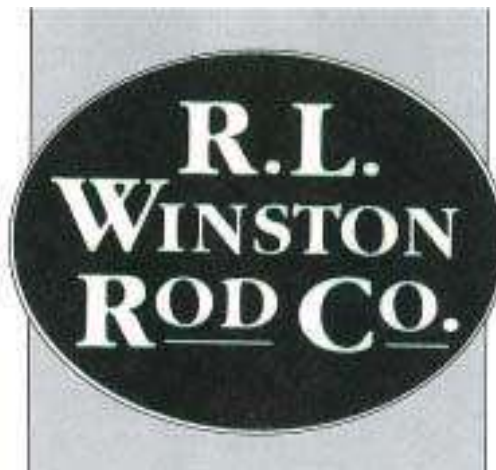
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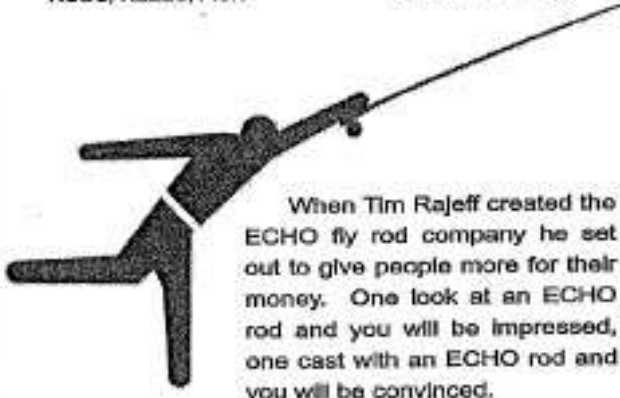
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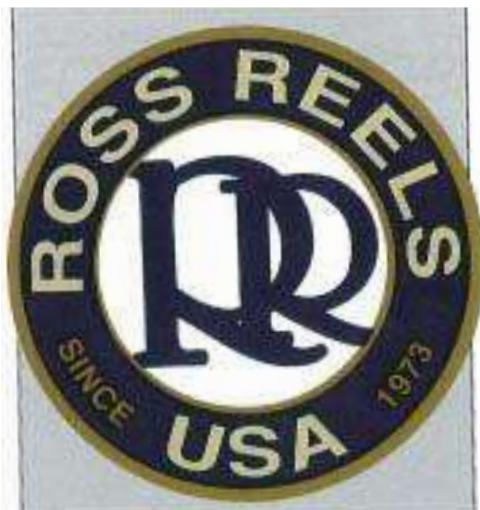
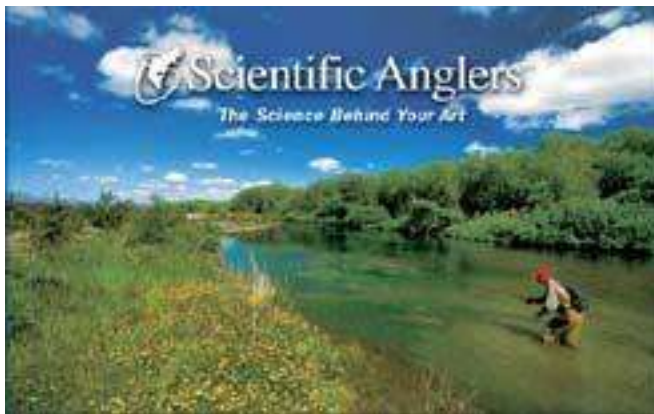
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