

Hi-Desert Flyfishers

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December 8, 2009

The Hi-Desert Flyfishing Club

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General Meeting Notice

Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2009
Time: 7:00 PM please try to be a little early!
Place: County Fire Station
Located: Apple Valley Road and Yucca Loma Rd
Physical Address: 19235 Yucca Loma Rd,
Apple Valley CA.92308

Program

David D' Beaupre the owner of Sierra Trout Magnet in Bishop, is going to give a talk about local fishing conditions. Paul assures

me that he has promised to come. I will have something else just in case.

December Tying Class

We are thinking of having a tying class the Friday after the meeting at the Fire Station. We will need \$5.00 from each person at the meeting to cover expenses. We will also need a minimum number to attend. We will discuss this again at the General meeting.

November Meeting Summary

Michael St. Clair gave a great talk about Bamboo Rod making. He talked about where the Bamboo came from and how it was cured and cut into section to complete the rod. All those who made the meeting enjoyed his talk.

Upcoming Events

We are looking for volunteers to man the FFF South West Council booth at Bass Pro on February 20 and 21st of 2010. We want to put on a fly tying demonstration as well so we will probably need at least 6 volunteers per day of the event. Two additional local clubs will also be there, Deep Creek will be one and I don't remember the other one. Please let us know at the meeting if you are interested and will appear. There is still time to think about it but once committed we will need you to appear or arrange for you replacement.

HD Club Discount Locations

Paul has told me that the following locations give us a break, if you mention you belong

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to HD-Flyfishers: Sierra Trading Post and Arizona Flyfishing (AZ). Added in September is the Sierra Trout Magnet, this is located west of the Owens River fly shop's old location. They will give our club a 10% discount. David D'Beaupre is the owner and his number is (760) 873-0010. David will also be our guest speaker in December at our monthly meeting. Flymen Fishing Co. and Sierra Stream has also been added to our list of discount locations.

Flymen web site is

www.flymenfishingcompany.com. To get our club discount for HI-Desert Members only, you need to reference **HDFD_20**. Either ordering via phone or while ordering on line.

African Goat Wooly Bugger

This is one version of a Wooly Bugger. This one is easy to tie. This fly is also a must to have in your fly boxes because it produces everywhere. Versions of this fly work as well or better than a conventional Wooly Bugger.

This version is tied on a size 10 or 12 Mustad 9671 or any 2X long Nymph hook will do

Recipe:

Hook: Mustad 9671 2X long Nymph Hook
Sizes 12 – 4 or equivalent

Tail: Marabou Quills, usually Black,
Olive, Brown or actually any color you want

Body: African Goat Dubbing, Color to
match the tail.

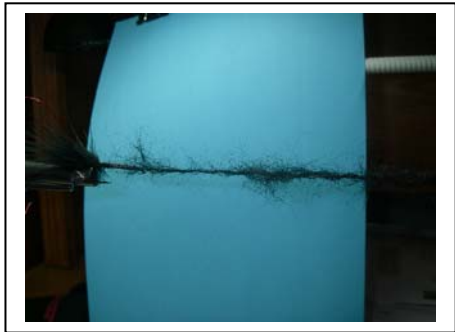
Rib: Red Wire

Thread: Color to match the rest

Directions: This series of photos shows start to finish!

1. Wrap the thread from the eye of the hook to just before where the hook begins to bend.
2. Tie in a clump of Marabou (Color of Choice), extending approximately 1 ¼ the length of the shank, from the rear of the hook. Using only the ¼ inch from the bend to tie in the Marabou Quills.
3. Tie in the Red Wire where the quills were tied in, extend wire from the rear of the hook. You can use a long enough piece to tie several flies if you desire.
4. **Optional:** You can now wrap size 20, lead around the hook. From approximately 1/8 inch from the eye extending to where the Marabou quills were tied in. This will give the Bugger some weight to get it down.
5. Dub in the African Goat Dubbing from the tail to approximately 1/16 from the eye of the hook and tie in. **HINT** It is best to use a Dubbing loop for this and make it as thick as possible. If you have a Nor Vice you can skip using the dubbing loop.
6. Now wrap the red wire approximately 5 times equally spaced towards the eye and then tie off. Use several whip finishes making this a sturdy fly.
7. Using a pick or a wire brush used in gun cleaning. Start brushing it back and forth to raise the mat well past the pointed in of the hook. That is all around the Hook. The bushier the better. Now trim a little to make it look as in the final pictures.

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Wading Safely

This article from Keaweah Flyfishing Club Newsletter should be noted because it covers the whole issue of wading safely! Also because of the winter fishing in the Sierra's requires wading and later with the Spring

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Runoff. I feel you all should take more care in your wading, and you should all read this.



If there is any doubt about your ability to safely cross in the location you choose, don't try it. **Safety always comes first!**

This is the most important river wading safety tip you can find. Crossing rivers and waterways, especially those with cold water and swiftly flowing current, can be very challenging and dangerous for even the most experienced fishermen or fisherwomen. However, if you decide to cross the river ahead of you by wading, here are some practical guidelines for you.

- ⇒ Study the river or stream before crossing.
- ⇒ Walk along the edge and look for the best possible place to cross.
- ⇒ Never enter the water unless there is no other way of getting across.
- ⇒ Choose a crossing point carefully. Look for wide, shallow areas with sand, gravel or cobble bottoms, which are usually safest.
- ⇒ Do not swim or wade through deep water at low temperatures; it could prove fatal.
- ⇒ While river wading, use a wading stick, even if it's a tree branch.
- ⇒ Never try to cross a small river or creek after a heavy rain. Avoid river wading even if it looks safe. Flash floods can happen in seconds. Wait for the water to go down or find another route.

Find the right spot:

Look for a slow-flowing, obstruction-free section. Wide, relatively straight sections are generally shallower and slower than narrow

areas with sharp bends. Check the opposite bank to make sure it will be easy to climb out.

Try to avoid river wading across swift-water areas that reach above your knee, getting a foot stuck, or sliding off the rocks. Shifting gravel or sand can be a real hazard in strong current. Never underestimate the power of running water. ALWAYS use a wading stick to aid balance.

Face upstream and slide feet along the bottom. By facing upstream, or at least up-current, you'll be able to read the current as well as prevent the force of the water from buckling your legs at the knees. Don't stride; shuffle sideways, using the stick to test for depth, trying each foothold before using it. Always have at least two points of contact: both feet or a foot and the staff. Plant your staff; move your feet; stop. Plant the staff again and move your feet again. Keep your body sideways to the current. Your profile surface area is greatly reduced by standing sideways giving the current less force on you. Facing directly upstream or downstream exposes you to the full force of the water and can make it difficult to maintain your balance. Feel along with each foot and find a secure spot before you commit your weight to it - don't cross your legs as you turn; with crossed legs, you become unstable and may have difficulty reestablishing a safe stance.

Riffles and smooth shallow runs can be good places to cross a stream. Pools are usually deep and sometimes silty.

The tailouts are often broad and shallow, easier to cross.

Pocket water can be good for wading and crossing because of the many eddies of slack water behind the boulders, but you should be careful in your foot placement because the boulders can entrap your foot, and the

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widely varying currents between the pockets can make wading difficult.

Don't wade in rapids that have high current velocities. The bottom material will have an effect on wading. You can get bogged down in mud and silt, sand can wash out from beneath your feet in fast water. Gravel is a good surface on which to wade and cobbles offer a good stable wading surface. Boulders offer current relief, but they also pose the danger of foot entrapment. A boot can slide in between rocks easily and then become lodged with the foot in it. Use your wading staff as a lever to move the rocks to free your foot.

Cross with a partner:



Having a partner to hold onto for support and visa-versa is a great way to wade across a river; I have done this many times myself. Each holding the other's belt for balance is a smart way to go. You just have to be sure to work together while wading across to the other side. Two anglers wading and working together can move in water a single angler would find impossible. With two people, the strongest and largest person should take the upstream side.

Wading Gear:

Coated nylon, Neoprene waders, rubberized fabric, or breathable waders present a real risk of filling with water and making it difficult to move once you are immersed

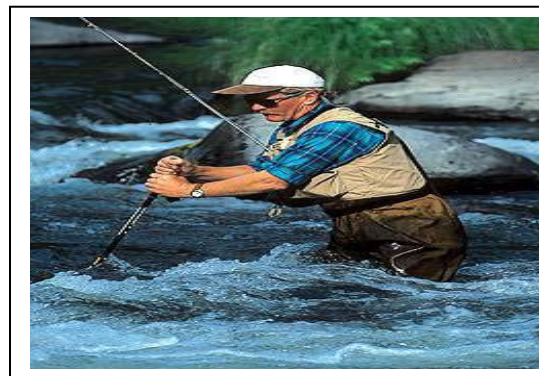
unless you are wearing a properly adjusted wader belt. A good wader belt should be a fundamental part of your wading equipment and should be put on whenever you wear your waders. Make it part of your routine. You should wear your belt around your waist in moderate water and cinch it high on your chest when you wade into deeper water. This allows you to trap as much air as possible and prevent your waders from filling if you wade over the top.

If you fall into the river and get swept away, spread your arms to keep your head above water and point your legs downstream so that you can push off rocks as you drift. A wading belt tight around your chest will slow the rate at which your waders fill with water. Waders full of water become heavy and make it difficult to move. Water pressure will squeeze the air out of the waders but will not keep water from entering them.

The right footwear is as important as your choice of waders. At the very least, you should wear felt-soled wading shoes. The felt will grip slippery rocks as you wade, giving you good traction.

Stream cleats and felt soles with studs, are essential on some difficult-to-wade streams. Try to match the wading boot sole type to the conditions you encounter most often.

The Wading Staff:



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A wading staff is the most useful tool an angler can have on freestone waters. A staff isn't necessary in small streams, spring creeks, and shallow waters, but in a rocky freestone river, where depth and current velocities are factors, it provides safety and the difference between fishing success and failure.

You should carry a solid staff that will not come apart under any circumstances and will bear your full weight when you lean on it to prevent a fall. Use your wading staff for support and to probe the water before you step. Keep the staff connected to your vest so you don't lose it.

Choose a wading staff that reaches from the ground to your armpit when you are standing up straight. It will help you stay upright in the river and probe ahead for underwater hazards.

The deeper the water, the more buoyant you will become and the less traction you will have. There is a point of no return when you are at the mercy of the current, even if your feet are still touching bottom. Learn to anticipate this point and to stop before you reach it.



If you find yourself swept off your feet, don't risk your life for the sake of a rod or any other tackle. Your recovery will be considerably easier with both hands free. Give thought to what you'll do if you suddenly find yourself floating in fast water at your wading point. *Plan an escape route.* Look for the places where you might get

into an eddy. Look for those obstacles that might trap you or injure you. The chances of another person being able to help you are slim. Things happen too fast in moving water. You must be mentally prepared to rescue yourself.

Swimming directly across the current often results in being swept farther downstream, and trying to swim upstream will tire you quickly. The 45-degree position is ideal because it moves you away from the hazard and toward the bank. This technique will allow you to get into slower water quickly. When drifting, you should resist the temptation to keep feeling for the bottom with your feet as you float because you will sink and extend your time in the water; this can sap your strength and slow your reactions. It's important to get out of the water as fast as possible, but don't be in a hurry to stand up. Get into the slow water first.

If you want to cross a river, proceed on a slight downstream angle wherever possible so you don't have to fight the current as well as the irregularity of the bottom. When fishing upstream, walk the bank or wade in the slow currents along the side and use eddies created by rocks in the current to ease your passage and conserve your energy. Wading is a foundation skill of fly fishing. It is perhaps the only hazard the sport presents. Like most skills, the more accomplished you become, the more success you will enjoy.

END