



# HI Desert Fly Fishers



Established January 26, 2009

May 2018

## New Club Officers

**President:** Rodney Romero  
**Vice President:** Melissa Norton  
**Secretary:** John Cary  
**CFO:** Rocky Pacini  
**Website:** Mike Hayes  
**Counselor:** Steve Plantenga  
**Fair & tying Coordinator:** Barry Bishop  
**Event Coordinator:** Kim Crawford  
**PHWFF Lead:** Jim Ower  
**PHWFF Asst. Lead:** John Aydelotte  
**Communication:** John Aydelotte

**Fly Tying Group:** At the Bishop's Sunday 12 noon after the meeting

**Send Articles and Fishing Reports to:** [HDF4trout@gmail.com](mailto:HDF4trout@gmail.com)

## Next General Meeting:

**Date:** Tuesday Mar. 13th 2018

**Time:** 7:00 pm.

**Location:**

**Los Rancho Mobile Home Park.**  
**20683 Waalew Rd. Apple Valley.**  
[www.hidesertflyfishers.com](http://www.hidesertflyfishers.com)



## ATTENTION!

**Our normal meeting location is still not available. We will hold our regular meeting at **Los Rancho Mobile Home Park. 20683 Waalew Rd. Apple Valley.****



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Often times we may hear or read of someone or group doing great things within their community.

Rocky and myself participated in such program this past weekend. Fish camp a 2-day program held at the city park in Bishop for 22 kids between the ages of 6-12. This program emphasizes: Fishing safety, proper fly casting, fly tying, bug life and fish stocking (release). Day 2 was Derby day; the kids use the knowledge that they learned to land fish from the park pond. Prizes were given for largest fish, the first caught and the most fish caught.

I have to say Rocky and I had a blast, the kids were, very attentive they enjoyed casting a fly rod, holding the bugs that fish eat. They learned how to hold and release the fish back to the water, fish painting, tying the San Juan worm and of course catching fish!

One goal for the weekend was to learn if this program, in its 7th year, is something that we can introduce to the Hi- Desert. I believe this program will work and I'm excited to introduce it to the members of the HDFF. Over the next few months, I would like to explore if this is possible and with your support we can make this happen in the future. Thanks go out to our members, HDFF donated a 3wt fly fishing rod combo kit, 2 fishing nets and a bait casting rod and reel for this event.

*Cont. next page*

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I have to thank everyone that's connected to this program for donating their time and energy! Jarett Coons of Sierra Mountain Trout, Fred Rowe Sierra Bright Dot Fly-fishing Specialist, Capt. Tyler Smith fly fishing guide, Hillary Grez from Fish & Wildlife, Dan from Parks and recreation from city of Bishop.

See you soon!

Rodney Romero

## Meeting Location Change

Our meeting location has changed while water damage is being repaired at the fire station. We will meet at:

**Los Rancho Mobile Home Park. 20683  
Waalew Rd. Apple Valley.**



## Speaker

### Jacob Gorman: Orvis Store Fishing Manager

Growing up in a family of anglers, I was fortunate to develop a love for this sport at an early age. In 2007 I joined The Orvis Company, not knowing that many years later I would be here as our Fishing Manager and having just as much fun as when I started. Southern California is rich with fishing opportunities, with the Pacific Coast and the Sierra Nevada mountains at our doorstep. In between are many rivers, creeks, and lakes that are all worthy of a fly. Our staff here at Orvis Pasadena brings you a wealth of knowledge and dedication to all aspects of fly fishing. Every week you can find us exploring new territory, fishing familiar runs, or refining techniques to help with your success on the water.





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# May 19-28, 2018

## Hi-Desert Fly Fishers Fly tying Contest *entries must be submitted by* **April 13th 2018**

To the High Desert Fly Fishers,

Lets make a showing for our club. Our entries will be judged on 5-5-18, they will be ready for display at the Fair on 5-19-18 thru 5-28-18 for the public to see.

We will be setting up and decorating our club booth a day or two before the opening day, if you are interested in helping with the set up contact me. I will be passing around a sign-up sheet to schedule each day of the Fair at our meeting on 5-8-18, anyone in the club is welcome to help. Those who sign up will receive a vendor parking pass, and a vendor gate pass for each day, no extra tickets....sorry. Lets have a successful year at the Fair !

### Any Questions Please call:

Barry Bishop  
SBC HDFS board chair  
760-220-8019

### Please Forward Tied Flies to:

Att: Barry Bishop  
18076 Talisman St.  
Hesperia, CA 92307



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# Guide Bio

**In this Guide Bio we are trying to feature and support some of the people that help make our sport something special.**

## Bio Fred A. Rowe

My earliest fishing experience, at about age four, is a photo of me with my parents fishing and camping on the Kern River. Another early memory is a fishing trip on still water with my uncle and nephews where I saw fish under the boat. My father and grandfather took me on lots of fishing trips as I grew up. They instilled in me a love for trout fishing in streams.

While in high school I toyed around with a cheap fly tying kit that someone had given to my father. In the fall of 1973 I took a formal fly tying class that was offered by the Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers in the San Fernando Valley. This was the start of my life long pursuit of fly tying and fly fishing.

I tied flies for a fishing shop in the San Fernando Valley. A year later I was tying flies commercially for Fishermen Spot. While at college I continued to tie flies for Fishermen Spot, tied for a local shop in Arcata and for the fly shop in Redding. I continued to tie for shops in Mammoth until I opened my own shop. Today I tie sell custom flies for customers looking for patterns they cannot find in local sporting goods stores, Czech nymphs and successful Eastern Sierra patterns that I've developed like the burlap caddis and the stoner.

During the winter of my Junior year at Humboldt State University I reached out to my fly fishing contacts looking for a job in the fly fishing industry in the Eastern Sierra. I got a job at Mammoth Sporting Goods working for Bill Driver during the summer of 1979. I taught fly fishing and fly tying and worked at the store. I spent all my free time learning to fly fish the waters of the Eastern Sierra.

I went back to school for my senior year and graduated with a degree in fishery biology. I took a summer job with United States Fish and Wildlife Service working with adult and juvenile steelhead and salmon on the Klamath River.

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On Sunday June 21, 1981 I got married to Cindy Lynn Phelps. Moved to the Eastern Sierra on Monday June 22, 1981 and went to work for Safeway on Tuesday June 23, 1981. A year later I started Sierra Bright Dot Guide Service the first fly fishing guide service in the Eastern Sierra.

I started off guiding fly fishers and teaching fly fishing and fly tying. I operated out of Mammoth Sporting goods. Clients started requesting fly fishing merchandise that was not available in the Eastern Sierra. I started carrying this merchandise and in the spring of 1984 opened Sierra Bright Dot a fly fishing store inside of Mammoth Sporting Goods. I subleased in the Ski Surgeon, and in ?. In 1986, I got a summer sublease from the Ski Reenter and operated from the end of April to the end of October. I decided not to open the shop in the spring of 1992 to raise my three children. Steve Kennedy opened the Trout Fitter in this location and eventually sold it to Kent Rianda of the Trout Fly.

I began writing fly fishing reports to advertise the fly fishing guide business. This lead me to becoming the fly fishing field editor of WON, free-lance writing for Eastern Sierra newspapers and magazines, California Fly Fisher, and Fishing & Hunting News.

I developed a couple of slide shows to promote the fly fishing opportunities of Eastern Sierra fly fishing. I have presented these shows at fly fishing clubs, fishing clubs, and at fly fishing shows. I have demonstrated Eastern Sierra fly patterns at these venues.

I am a big advocate for giving back. I volunteer for DF&G (now CDFW) helping with electroshocking, fishing surveys, fin clipping, fish planting on Hot Creek, Trout in the Classroom, City of Bishop Fish Camp a two-day fly fishing camp for five to 12 year olds, Round Valley Scholl fly fishing program, I aide the seventh grade middle school science teacher Matt Wilson with trout dissections, frog dissection, COSO fish population study and aquatic invertebrate identification, and trout anatomy and aquatic invertebrate identification for the Owens Valley Home Schooled children. I have volunteered for Bishop and Mammoth Chamber of Commerce helping with the Outdoor Writers Association of California conferences.

I continued to guide, lecture, write and teach about fly fishing and fly tying. Family and a full-time job took up most of my time. I quit doing everything except for donations of fly fishing guide trips to local Eastern Sierra organizations like Round Valley Step Foundation, Bishop CWA, Bishop CDA, and Methodist Church.

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I retired from Vons grocery store in May of 2016. After a year of enjoying the fly fishing opportunities of the Eastern Sierra I'm back to teaching, guiding, writing and lecturing on fly fishing. I'm offering beginners fly fishing classes, fly tying classes, seminars on Czech nymphing, and fly fishing entomology. I'm writing a bi-weekly outdoor column for the Inyo Register. At the end of the 2018 summer fishing season I will be adding a new slide presentation on fly fishing opportunities of the Owens Valley. I'm finally going to write a fly fishing guide of the Eastern Sierra.

I enjoy my time on the water with my clients, friends and students teaching them the techniques of fly fishing on the waters of the Eastern Sierra. Showing them how to become better fly fishers is the essence of my fly fishing career.

Freds Web site: <https://www.sierrabrightdot.com>



Fish caught on Thursday 04-24-18

Today's fish stomach sample is brought to you by a 7-inch rainbow trout caught above the spawning channel diversion on the WTS of the lower Owens River caught on a #16 olive quill bodied RS2. This fish was caught at about 3:30 PM. Predominately mayfly nymphs with a midge, a hydro-psyche caddis and a couple of New Zealand mud snails to round out the sample.



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04-27-18

Fly Fishing Report from Fred Rowe

Weather is supposed to be unseasonably warm for opening weekend and the first week of the fishing season. The wind will make an appearance creating some havoc for fly fishers. Sun screen and insect repellent is recommended as the sun has been brutal and the mosquitoes are out in the evenings.

Rainbow trout and cutthroat trout are spring spawners and you will find these trout in Eastern Sierra streams. These fish are producing the future generations of trout in our streams. Avoiding trout that are on their redds (trout spawning beds) and not wading on the redds will protect the spawning trout and their eggs.

Still looking for the run of cutthroats to enter the upper Owens River system. I expect to see the cutthroats sometime in the next week or two. Resident browns, juvenile browns and rainbows have been providing the action for fly fishers fishing nymphs and dries. A mid-morning hatch of midges have trout rising to feed on the freshly hatched midge adults. Nymphing with BHFB GRHE, BHFB pheasant tail nymphs, olive quill nymphs, olive quill RS2, black WD40, stoners, copper John's, blood midges, zebra midges and tiger midges have been producing the most trout. The trout have been in the pools and runs leading into the pools.

Dry flies have been providing the best action for fly fishers working the canyon section of Hot Creek. The trout have been taking midges and mayflies with an occasional caddis hatch in the mix. Size is important when matching the insects that inhabit Hot Creek. Best dry flies have been olive quill parachutes, Adams parachutes, blue dun parachutes, Griffith's gnats, biot midge emergers, and elk hair caddis. Nymphs that have been producing are BHFB GRHE, BHFB pheasant tail nymphs, olive quill nymphs, WD40, RS2, blood midges, tiger midges and zebra midges. Hot Creek's trout population is not out of the woods yet so be sure to properly release trout.

Fly fishers making the effort to ply the waters of the Owens River Gorge have been rewarded with rainbows and browns to 14 inches. This section of the Owens River gets little fly-fishing pressure. It takes some effort and preparation to fish the gorge, but the solitude and fish are the reward. It will not be long before summer's heat makes fishing the gorge unpleasant. My preferred method of fishing the gorge is with a dry and dropper rig. I like to fish my nymph about three feet below a high floating dry fly. The same flies work here week in and week out. If the fish are feeding selectively on the surface be prepared to change your dry fly to an imitation of the hatching insect. I suggest sizes 10 to 14 for the dry fly like elk hair caddis, Adams parachute, stimulators, Royal Wulff and Royal Trude. Mayfly nymphs and midge nymphs make up the bulk of the gorges trout

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diet. I use BHFB GRHE, BHFB pheasant tail nymphs, olive quill bodied nymph, zebra midges, and tiger midges in sizes 12 to 20.

When DWP is not generating electricity the power plant section of the lower Owens River offers good wading and fishing for pan sized rainbows and browns. When the river is flowing high try fishing where the river spills into Pleasant Valley Reservoir. This is a good place to practice Czech nymphing techniques. The trout have not been feeding on hatching insects. Nymphing and streamers is the most productive method of fishing this section of the lower Owens River. Best nymphs have been BHFB GRHE, BHFB pheasant tail nymphs, Prince nymphs, stoners, copper John's, blood midges, tiger midges and zebra midges. Woolly buggers, matuka's, stump busters, and Hornbergs in olive, brown or natural have been the best producing streamers.

Fly fishers using float tubes in Pleasant Valley Reservoir will find few other anglers on the water. There are two successful ways to fly fish the reservoir. Trolling and stripping streamers is the easiest way to fish the reservoir. I like to fish from the mouth of the Owens to the boat ramp with woolly buggers, matuka's and Hornbergs. Key to success is varying the retrieve until you find an action the trout like. Vary the depth of water you pull your streamer through until you find the depth the trout are feeding in. There is a good population of cray fish in the lake and streamers worked on the bottom that imitate cray fish in rust, olive or brown will produce trophy trout. Midging under an indicator is the other productive method of fly fishing the reservoir. Fish two flies with the bottom midge six inches to 18 inches above the substrate. Occasionally moving your flies will give action to them and will entice a trout to take your midge pattern.

The WTS of the lower Owens River has stabilized at 300 cfs. This has been varying from 290 cfs to 310 cfs. For up to the hour river flows check out the DWP web site <http://wsoweb.ladwp.com/Aqueduct/realtime/norealtime.htm>. Fishing has been tough but there are trout to be caught nymphing or pulling streamers. I've been fishing the Czech nymph rig with a size 16 olive quill bodied RS2 on top, a size 12 stoner in the middle position, and a size 12 olive Czech style burlap caddis as the bottom fly. The fish have been putting up quite the fight in the heavier flows. Takes a little work to land a 12 to 14-inch fish. If fishing under an indicator be sure to use lots of weight. Two to three BB's is not too much weight. Other nymphs that have been producing are Prince nymphs, BHFB GRHE, BHFB pheasant tail nymphs, black WD40, cream caddis nymphs, green rock worms, blood midges, tiger midges and zebra midges. Working streamers in the higher off-color flows is a great way to fish the lower Owens River. Olive or black woolly buggers, matuka's and stump busters will produce wild rainbows and browns when worked in and around structure like cut banks and over hanging willows.



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# HDFS Store



**Limited supply!**  
**Get yours while they last**

*Hats . . . . . \$20.00 . . . . . Bill colors: Blue, Green, and Tan*

*Patches . . . . \$10.00 . . . . . Same as on hats*

*Stickers . . . . \$3.00 . . . . . Club logo*

*All proceeds go directly to the club!!*

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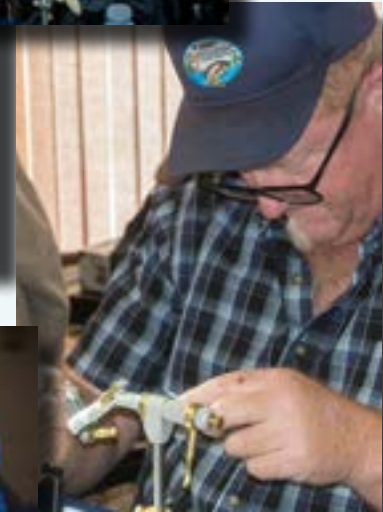
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# EVENTS

## Fly Tying





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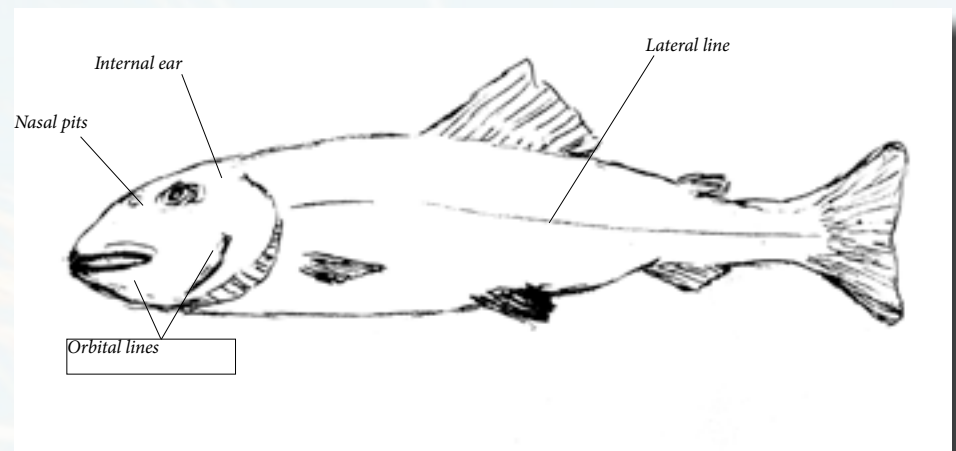
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*I have started doing a little writing on fly fishing ,with the idea of a book at some later date so I thought I would share a little with you. It's a little rough but you may enjoy. Editor*

# Of Trout, Bugs, and Fishermen

**Hearing** is another sense that trout use, and is in some ways highly developed, and in others way very primitive. Fish don't communicate with sound but they use it as a tool for perception. Water is denser than air so sound travels faster in fact it travels about a mile in one second. Trout have two ways of hearing. First is through the lateral line that runs along both sides of a trout. The lateral line picks up low frequency vibrations. Set your oars down in the boat very carefully, if not the fish will hear the sound all the way across a lake. The second way of hearing is through their three chambered internal ear. The ear is amazing and highly sensitive. Land animals use fluid in the ear for balance. The trout uses a calcified stone in each ear chamber to help it tell up from down, and left from right. Between the ear and the lateral line fish can detect a natural insect as small as a midge landing on the surface of the water at several feet. Trout can also detect other fish and insects deep in the water. Trout have no ability to hear humans talking or even shouting above the water line. Their hearing is restricted to low frequency sounds. It's alright to talk about what's working, the fish wont hear, but they will most likely know you are there. Wadding will alert the trout of your presence, and sloppy wadding may result it them not feeding or cause them to go into hiding.



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# FISHING REPORTS

## LOWER OWENS RIVER FLY FISHING : BISHOP, CA -4.16.18

From: [SIERRA TROUT MAGNET](#)

The Lower has gone up and down and been cloudy to somewhat clear in a matter of a few days. That being said it is still the place to go for classic wild Brown and Rainbow trout fly fishing! Flows are healthy at 297 cfs... Yes, this is runoff time and it is high. Yet very walk and wadeable if one only throws some caution before stepping in. The same flies are still happening with an rising amount of Caddis being seen, of course there are Mayflies and some Midge activity. Most of the Trouts stomachs of the Lower Owens when pumped are full of Rockworms, with an occasional Yellow Sallie Stone Fly nymph, some Baetis, and a few Midge Larvae scattered in the mix. This could be the time when the Trout of the Lower Owens start to look up and realize there is food indeed on top! Consistently!

## UPPER OWENS RIVER FLY FISHING - 3.29.18

From: [SIERRA TROUT MAGNET](#)

The Upper Owens River meanders through a field just south of Mammoth Lakes CA... Big spotted and aggressive creatures roam these waters this time of year and will continue for a couple months more! Beautiful Lahonton Cutts, Browns and Rainbows can be caught and released in this amazing Sierra stream. Flowing at 69.0 cfs once again the entire system has fish. You the Fly angler must read the appropriate water and choose where to spend your precious time on the water. Flies remain the same as in previous reports; Lightning bugs, SJ variations, Frenchies, Tickets and the like... Streamers have also been getting more attention recently! Call the shop for more info on this amazing stream! 760-873-0010

From: [The Kern River Fly Shop](#)

Upper Kern River 20 Mile Section (north of Kern River Fly Shop) 4.17.18  
The upper Kern is 1100/1200 CFS For those of you targeting hatchery fish, the DFW will be stocking many trout in the upper Kern and tributaries in the next few weeks. Many of those fish are trophy fish. Should be a fun time for kids and their families this spring. Fish are hitting streamers casting down stream and across and then stripping back. They are also hitting Pheasant Tail Nymphs size 18/20 Look for March Browns to be hatching around 2pm as well as Pteronarcys californicas around 5pm There are some SERIOUS numbers of Trout in the lake! The Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce stocked around 10,000 pounds of Trout on Monday. Department of Fish and Wildlife stocked another 5,000 pounds Monday. AND...5000lbs of Nebraska Tailwalkers ranging from 5-15 lbs are officially IN THE LAKE...!!!! Those that aren't caught go up the river!

Fly Fishing for Crappie in the lake at this time is very good. I believe a world record Crappie on the fly will come out of the lake this year. All we have to beat is 14 inches and Ive seen many over that over the years. Tony Click has a 17 inch Crappie mounted in his office from the lake.





# Hi-Desert Fly Fishers

## Campout/ Chili Cook-Off

Thursday May 31st -Sunday June 3rd  
3rdth

### **FISHING AND COOKING**

First campout for the year! This 3rd annual chili cook-off!! Rules have changed

1 Must be prepared on site

Cooking starts at 2:30pm

Chili Classes: **Green Chili**, **Red chili** with beans and **Red chili** with no beans

Awards:

1<sup>st</sup> place **Green Chili** , 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Red Chili** with beans and 1<sup>st</sup> place **Red Chili** with no beans

Entry Fee \$10.00 proceeds go to HDFF

## **Chili Cook off!**

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### **(Rules)**

**1. must be  
prepared on  
site**

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## **Potluck**

**Main Course  
Chili  
Hot Dogs  
will be provided by  
HDFF**

### **BROWN'S MILLPOUND CAMPGROUND**

Route 1  
Bishop CA 93514

760-873-8522

**Will be taking  
reservation April 1st**

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# Treasurer Report

May 1st 2018

*Checking account \$3,194.70*

*Savings account \$1,843.47*

*One outstanding check \$100.00*

*A detailed financial report for March 2018 will be available for full review at our May2018 club meeting.*



## CALENDER

[Six Month Calendar Download](#)

### Whats Happening

#### May

5th Kern river outing

8th General Meeting 7 pm,

13th Fly tying workshop 12 noon at Barry Bishops

19th through 28th SBDC Fair

#### June

1st-3rd Chili cook off Brown's Millpond

12th General Meeting 7 pm,

17th Fly tying workshop 12 noon at Barry Bishops