

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



Volume 7, Issue 4

April 12, 2011

## Club Officers

**President:** Ernie Gulley  
**Vice President:** Randy Kelly  
**Secretary:** Craig Bullock  
**Treasurer:** Larry Longueira  
**FFF/PHW:** Randy Kelly

**Outings:** Paul Sinclair  
**Safety:** Paul Sinclair  
**Fly of the Month:** Robert Gomez

**Website:** Chris Hynes  
**Newsletter:** Gary Applebee

**Send Articles to:** [glapplebee@gmail.com](mailto:glapplebee@gmail.com)



## President's Message

Wow members, Springtime is officially here and it feels like the middle of winter. We have had a system of storms coming down from the north dumping a ton of snow in the Sierra's and a lot of snow and rain in our local mountains. As I sit down and write out this article, there is another storm on the way. Our reservoirs are at full capacity and we should have plenty of water for our local streams throughout the summer. This looks like a great water year for all of our favorite fishing destinations and look forward to some great angling experiences throughout the year.

I am very pleased to announce that our guest speaker for this month will be Mark Drew from Cal Trout. He is the Eastern Sierra program manager for Cal Trout and he will be talking to our club about what Cal Trout is doing for our Eastern Sierra waters and I am looking forward to his presentation. Dinner with the speaker will be at Applebee's at 5:15 and this could be an opportunity to speak with Mark and ask questions about any specific questions or concerns you may have about Cal Trout.

April will be a very busy and rewarding month for our

## General Meeting Notice

**Date:** Tuesday; Apr.12, 2011

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Place:** **County Fire Station**

**Address:** 19235 Yucca Loma Rd.  
Apple Valley

**Website:** [www.hidesertflyfishers.com](http://www.hidesertflyfishers.com)

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## HD Club Discount Locations

**Arizona Flyfishers:** [www.azflyfishing.net](http://www.azflyfishing.net)

**Sierra Trading Post:** [www.sierratradingpost.com](http://www.sierratradingpost.com)

**Flymen Fishing:** [www.flymenfishingcompany.com](http://www.flymenfishingcompany.com)

**Sierra Stream:**  
[www.stillwaterflyfishingadventures.com](http://www.stillwaterflyfishingadventures.com)

**Sierra Trout Magnet:** Dave D'beaupre, owner  
(760) 873-0010 10%  
[www.sierratroutmagnet.com](http://www.sierratroutmagnet.com)

club. We have many activities for all of our members to participate in and I would like to update you with these activities. April 14th we have a great opportunity to fish Jess Ranch from our float tubes in lake #2 and this lake has lots of trout. The cost is \$15.00, those who attend need to pay Paul before they launch their tubes. We need to make sure everyone knows they must have secondary floatation, a lifejacket for liability. Paul will be checking everyone before they go on the water. Paul also has an extra vest if someone forgets. This is a great opportunity. We will be fishing this lake from 3pm thru 7pm. If anyone would like me to give a quick midge fishing course, I can help out anyone who wants to learn about midge fishing tactics. The next day 4/15 we have a great outing planned for the Project Healing Waters Veterans at Jess Ranch. This has always been my favorite and most rewarding outing being able to give back to our veterans and help them have a fantastic day. Fishing will be 4/16 and 4/17. I will also be conducting a very comprehensive course on Stillwater 101 fly fishing on April 23rd at Big Bear Lake. We have a room set aside for going thru a power point presentation and hands on education and everything and anything you will want to learn about Stillwater fly fishing. After the

course we will move out to the lake and try to put our newly acquired knowledge to use on the water. Gary Applebee has promised to put together a local stream outing for the end of April and we will update you on the how, where and when this will happen for all of you stream anglers.

At our last club meeting I challenged everyone to be proactive with the club and if you have a specific strongpoint of knowledge on any subject. Please let me know how we can set up an outing, class or activity to help our club and to educate our members on our fantastic sport of fly fishing. As I have ended most of my articles for the year it's very important for our members to make sure you participate in the activities that our club has to offer. We have been working very hard to make sure you have many opportunities to participate, Education, Outings and Guest Speaker Programs throughout the year. Please try to participate in everything you can and our club will continue to grow and be stronger and stronger in the future.

Tightlines,  
Ernie

## FLY OF THE MONTH

### **Rubber Hackle Bugger**

This fly has the same principles as a wooly bugger, but with a few variations that give the fish something new to look at. It has lots of movement and is heavily weighted to get down fast and undulate in the water. You can tie them in any color and with or without the cone head.

**Materials:** TMC 300 size 6, .020 lead wire, large black tungsten cone head, large copper wire, 140 utc thread, long shuck glimmer medium olive chenille, rust & olive marabou, Halloween colored rubber hackle. (Change the hook, bead and lead size for smaller flies)

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1. Pinch down barb, add cone head, and wrap the lead to about the half way point on the shank.



2. Push lead into cone and secure down with thread. Run thread down to just before the bend.

3. Take a few clumps of olive and rust marabou, mix together. Measure marabou to be about the size of the shank and tie down behind lead wire to even out the body. Make sure to put one or two thread wraps under the marabou tail to keep it perked up.



4, 5, 6. Strip off tips of chenille and rubber hackle, just leaving the core and tie in along with copper wire.



7. Wind chenille forward. Begin by just barely touching turns and progressively wrapping tighter together. Closer to the front, wrap slightly over each turn to give it a tapered look. Remember to brush back fibers before each wrap.



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8 & 9. Wrap rubber hackle as you would a feather to the front. About 3 to 4 turns on the body and two turns in the front, always brushing back material before each wrap. Secure hackle and rib with copper wire the opposite way you've wrapped chenille and hackle. You'll have to move the wire and hackle around so not too many pieces get trapped.



10. Trim rubber hackles at an angle. And the fly is finished.

Hope you enjoy this fly,  
Robert

## SWCFFF NEWS

### SWCFFF Spring Quarterly Meeting

Date: Saturday, April 16, 2011

Time: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Location: Marie Callendars  
15363 Culver Drive  
Irvine, CA 92604

The next Q meeting will be at the Marie Callender's in Irvine. The general meeting is set for 11-2.

#### Discussion Items:

- Date of next year's FlyBuy and possible expansion
- An Evening with Joan Wulff Event
- Rush Creek Clean-up
- Date for Club Management Day (interferes with Wulff event)
- Self evaluation of the SWC BOD
- Spring Quarterly Meeting RSVP:  
[secretary@southwestcouncilfff.org](mailto:secretary@southwestcouncilfff.org)

Another item also comes to mind. According to the SWCFFF by-laws, we are supposed to have a nominating committee for future candidates. As the council has just been getting back on its footing, that committee, by default, is the Council representatives. The current board will be starting a new term in June and all have said they would like to continue. However, there will still be an election and if your club wishes to place a name into nomination, the April meeting is the place for this to happen.

### Fly Fishers Club of Orange County Casting Clinic

This year's casting clinic will be held Saturday April 23rd at Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley from 8:00 a.m. until noon ending with a free barbecue. This is a

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great opportunity for members new to fly fishing to get some “on the water” help with their casting and techniques as well as practicing and smoothing out the casting of some of the more experienced members.

Date: Sat. April 23, 2011

Time: 8:00 am - 12:00PM

Location: Mile Square

16801 Euclid Avenue

Fountain Valley

## **Fish Rescue Big Bear Lake**

**Keith Kern**

On Friday, March 19th, my friend Danny Stevenson, DFG Warden here at Big Bear Lake, called and asked if I'd help him and another Warden rescue some stranded spawning trout by the Big Bear Airport. I told him “sure”, when were we going to do it. He said meet me in about an hour.

We met at the south side of the airport. There was a small seasonal runoff “ditch” that ran underneath the roadway and went over to the airport runway. This ditch went 3 blocks into the residential neighborhood. Danny told me that they had been receiving Cal Tip calls that people were netting and taking fish for 2 days.

A little explanation of the water structure is in order to understand what goes on around the lake when it gets full and starts to overflow. When Big Bear Lake gets full, it overflows, through pipes under Stanfield Cutoff, into what is called Baker Pond. As Baker Pond fills, it overflows, through pipes, into the airport along the runways. When I moved here in 1978, lake levels were high, and we would sneak onto the airport and fish the channels along the runways. Trout would move into these channels in the spring to attempt to spawn and feed on the midges hatching in the warmer water. They would stay in those channels until the water got too warm, then move back into Baker Pond and then back into the main lake.

There is only 8 vertical feet difference between Big Bear Lake and Baldwin Lake at the east end of the valley. The high point of this difference is at the airport, approximately at the center of the runway. Water at this point will flow west through culverts and channels to the main lake. In good water years, as now, the water will rise to this high point and flow east to Baldwin Lake. There are several small runoff streams that feed the channels and culverts at the airport. It's one of these that we did the fish rescue at. The fish were coming through the grate at one of the culverts and going upstream, almost 3 blocks, into the residential area.



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We brought nets and coolers. We would net, or attempt to net in some cases, these fish, load them into the coolers and take them back to Baker Pond. Airport employees had put chicken wire across the grate so no more fish could go upstream. The fish we were saving were in an area that was a certain death sentence for them. Another guy showed up, so there were 4 of us netting, loading and transporting.



Now I thought I was in pretty good shape for my age. These fish, most 16 -19", some bigger, in a cooler half filled with water, was a lot of weight. Around the 8th or 9th trip I made, the plastic handles just broke right off. I found that due to the size of the cooler and the size of the fish, I could only get 3 bigger fish or 4 smaller fish into the cooler for the fish to have enough oxygen in the water make the trip to the dump point. Myself and the 2 DFG Wardens made the trips to release the fish. Overall we figured that we rescued close to 120 fish. These were some of the most beautiful trout I have ever seen and they were definitely the largest fish I have seen trying to spawn.

It was hard backbreaking work but worth the pain to see these beautiful survive.

Tight lines <> <> <>

**High Desert Fly Fishers** has a new address:

P. O. Box 2783  
Apple Valley Ca 92307

High Desert Fly Fishers has a Library! Material can be checked out for 30 days. Check it out at one of our meetings and return it at the next. Currently we have 1 DVD in our collection, so we have nowhere to go but up! If you have any books, DVD, VHS tapes you want to donate bring them to the next meeting. In no time our library can double or triple in size!!!

## **Knot Strength Isn't All About Line Strength**

### **Field and Stream Fly Talk**

March 21, 2011

**by John Merwin**

It's time for some more notes on knots. Some will recall that I periodically spend absurd amounts of time testing fishing knots on some lab equipment and then publish the results, usually in our print edition. You can read about one such series of tests here.

What then happens is I inevitably get some heat from readers because I didn't include their favorite knot. Or sometimes my directions are mis-read, with the resulting correspondence claiming that I'm simply off my rocker. So I want to address a couple of misconceptions.

First, I don't personally care what knot you use to tie on a lure or fly. If you're comfortable with an improved clinch, say, or a Palomar knot, by all means keep using it. All I've done over a period of years is to test and illustrate a variety of knots to give choices for those who might want to experiment or try something new.

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One reader took me to the woodshed because the knot-test results obtained by the North American Fishing Club were substantially stronger than the results I presented. It took me a while to figure out what the difference was. It turns out they were not measuring the break strength of the unknotted line first. Instead, they just used the manufacturer's labeled strength in calculating knot-strength percentages.

The line-strength numbers you see on spool labels are almost invariably wrong. A spool of mono labeled as "10-pound-test," for example, might contain line that actually breaks (dry) at around 16 pounds. Tie a good improved-clinch with that line, and the knot might break at around 14 or 15 pounds. If you believe the spool label, you just tied a wondrous knot that's stronger than the line itself!

But that of course isn't true. In fact, it's a physical impossibility. If you pull on the line to test a knot, the line will always break at 100% of line strength. It's impossible to measure the knot at a tension greater than that. The line might break before the knot does--in which case you've tied a very good knot--but I can't say you've tied a "120-percent knot" or something similar. (There are exceptions, but they only pertain to knots tied with a doubled line.)

As another case, I once suggested using Palomar knots to attach a small barrel swivel between braided line on the reel and a monofilament or fluorocarbon leader. One reader told me flat out that was impossible because the Palomar on the leader side of the swivel would require passing the entire rod through a knot loop. Phooey. Tie the leader on one side of the swivel first with a Palomar knot. Then tie the braid on the other side, also with a Palomar. Done in that order, it's an easy connection to make with no awkward passing-through-loop problems.

I often hear--and it's quite true--that the best fishing knots are those you're most comfortable in tying and

that still seem adequately strong. Hey, if it works for you, stick with it. It is also true that most lab equipment tests knots with a very slow pull, instead of the kind of sudden surge you might get in fighting a big fish.



## Study: Pre-Treated Clothing May Work Better Than Insect Repellent

### Field and Stream Fly Talk

April 04, 2011

Chad Love

Spring is here, which means bloodsuckers and biters aren't far behind. But a new study conducted by the University of North Carolina suggests that pre-treated insect-repelling clothing is more effective at keeping bugs at bay than traditional bug sprays.

From this story (hat tip to T. Edward Nickens for the find) on [Fibre2Fashion.com](http://Fibre2Fashion.com): A pilot study conducted by researchers at The University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health shows that a group of state water quality employees who wore clothing treated with a long-lasting insect repellent were bitten by ticks substantially less often than were their colleagues who used insect spray repellents and other preventive measures. The study, released March 11, in the peer-reviewed journal, *Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases*, reported that the incidence of tick attachments was reduced by 93 percent among workers wearing Insect Shield Repellent Apparel, compared to workers in similar environments who used spray repellents or

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other tick bite prevention methods. Dr. Steve Meshnick Tick-borne diseases are a significant concern for the millions of people who often work in tick-infested habitats. If not treated early, these diseases can lead to severe illness or even death, said Steve Meshnick, MD, PhD, UNC epidemiology professor and lead author of the study. Over the past two decades, the incidence of diseases such as Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever has been increasing. The apparel products also have been shown to repel mosquitoes, ants, flies, chiggers and midges (no-see-ums) through 70 launderings.

“The technology holds the promise of a safe, simple, and effective way to protect people from ticks and other insects,” Meshnick said. “If further studies show similar results, the apparel could be used by people who are often outdoors for work or recreation or both. I can envision many uses around the world, including in developing countries to prevent malaria spread by mosquitoes.”

## A Phone Survey You Shouldn't Hang Up On

### Field and Stream Fly Talk

Chad Love

We all hate telemarketers, but should you get it, this is one call you need to take, even if you're eating dinner. From this story in the Los Angeles Times:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will begin conducting its national survey of fishing, hunting and wildlife-associated recreation and are requesting that hunters, anglers and other wildlife enthusiasts participate if contacted for interviews scheduled to begin April 1. The information, collected by the U.S. Census Bureau primarily through telephone interviews to be conducted April to June and September to October this year and January to March, 2012, provides the only comprehensive statistical database available on Americans' participation in

and spending on hunting, fishing and wildlife-watching in the 50 states. “We appreciate the anglers, hunters, birdwatchers and other citizens throughout the United States who voluntarily participate in the survey when contacted,” said the wildlife service's acting director, Rowan Gould. “The survey results help wildlife and natural resource managers quantify how much Americans value wildlife resources in terms of both participation and expenditures.” The survey, conducted every five years since 1955, will involve 53,000 households from the Census Bureau's master address file. From this information, the bureau will select samples of 19,000 anglers and hunters and 10,000 wildlife watchers and follow up with further detailed questions.

“The last survey published in 2006 revealed 87.5 million Americans enjoyed some form of wildlife-related recreation and spent more than \$122.3 billion pursuing their activities,” said Hannibal Bolton, assistant director for the service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program. “The survey is a critical information resource for federal and state wildlife agencies, outdoor and tourist industries, local governments, planners, conservation groups, journalists and others interested in wildlife and outdoor recreation.” Participation is voluntary and all responses are confidential. Preliminary survey findings will be available in spring 2012 with final reports issued beginning in the fall, to be posted on the restoration program's Web page. Yes, it's annoying to have some automaton call and ask you to “take a brief survey” and it's tempting to just say no thanks and hang up the phone. So don't view it in those terms. Rather, view it as a way for you to have a direct, meaningful and positive impact on the future of hunting and fishing. Will you participate if contacted?



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**Playing God**  
**Dr. Peter Gleick**  
**President, Pacific Institute**

**From the San Francisco Chronicle Feb. 25, 2011**

In a desperate attempt to make it easier to solve California's complex and contentious water problems, a dangerous new idea has recently been floated -- intentionally letting some species go extinct rather than take the difficult steps needed to save them and their ecosystems. This idea should be quashed, smothered, strangled, and quickly tossed in the dumpster of failed ideas.

The first hint of this appeared earlier in February in the 52-page study released by the Delta Stewardship Council. That report argued that it was possible that some species of fish might be so devastated already and their ecosystems so ruined that they were unlikely to survive even with significant efforts to save them. This, of course, is an argument long made in private by some agricultural and urban interests unwilling to accept the difficult strategies to save endangered and threatened species because it might cost them water.

Then, just this week, the argument for explicitly permitting extinction was described in the newly released water report from the Public Policy Institute of California. They are stunningly blunt, calling for the state to consider practicing "endangered species triage," intentionally permitting a species to go extinct if an argument can be made that it will somehow help other species survive -- a very strange concept to ecologists who look at the health of overall systems. This is, however, not really an argument about letting one species die off to save other species: their argument hides the real driver behind the destruction of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems -- economic competition for water. Any species can be saved if we are willing to spend the money and put in place the policies to do so -- such efforts just come at an economic cost. PPIC acknowledges this driver deep in their report (on page 412) when they say:

"The condition of native fish populations has continued to deteriorate, despite decades of well-intentioned but insufficient and poorly coordinated policies to protect them. Efforts to stop these declines now threaten the reliability of water supplies and flood management projects."

That's the real point: now that serious efforts are finally being made to tackle the real threats driving Delta fish species to extinction, economic interests are being threatened and fighting back. The delta smelt is not being driven to extinction by conflicting priorities among other species of threatened fish. It is being driven to extinction by policies around human withdrawals and uses of water for economic gain. The idea of endangered species "triage" is simply a wedge in the door to permit species to go extinct when the policies to protect them cause hardship for special interests.

There are those who believe that killing off a species of animal, or bird, or fish in the name of economic gain is reasonable, including legislators trying to weaken or destroy the Endangered Species Act. To me this is a moral, ethical, and political outrage. Moreover, it is an infinitely dangerous idea, since once we start down that road, where do we stop? Who gets to play God? If condemning the delta smelt or coho salmon to extinction in return for a few hundred thousand acre-feet of water to grow alfalfa, or cotton, or almonds is acceptable or to permit more housing in floodplains, why not wipe out the San Joaquin kit fox and the California clapper rail in order to have more development on sensitive lands in the Central Valley and along the edges of San Francisco Bay? And why stop there? If economics rules, then those sperm whales still have lots of great oil in them and killing the last tuna for sushi is just a financial decision.

Endangered species triage? That way madness lies, with no end except spiraling ecological destruction, impoverishment of the environment, a sterile landscape, and the final triumph of money over our souls.

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*MEETING ON TUESDAY:  
April 12<sup>th</sup>*

*Hi Desert Fly Fishers*  
*SUPPORTERS:*

**Sierra Trading Post:**  
[www.sierratradingpost.com](http://www.sierratradingpost.com)

**Arizona Flyfishing (AZ):**  
[www.azflyfishing.net](http://www.azflyfishing.net)

**Flymen Fishing Co.:**  
[www.flymenfishingcompany.com](http://www.flymenfishingcompany.com)

**SierraStream:**  
[www.stillwaterflyfishingadventures.com](http://www.stillwaterflyfishingadventures.com)

**The Sierra Trout Magnet:**  
[www.sierratroutmagnet.com](http://www.sierratroutmagnet.com)





