

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



Volume 7, Issue 11

Nov. 8, 2011

## Club Officers

**President:** Randy Kelly  
**Vice President:** John Rose  
**Secretary:** Craig Bullock  
**Treasurer:** Larry Longueira  
**FFF/PHW:**

**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

I just got back from Mammoth, (planning for 2012 trout fest, more to come on that) snow was falling and it was turning cold. So as fly fishers we look to tying flies, and warmer areas to fish, Lake Silverwoods, West Fork of the San Gabriel, etc. High desert will hit the surf later this month and we are back to Jess Ranch this month.

We will also be electing officers for 2012, I really want to ask you to think about running for any office, we need additional people to help carry the load and improve the club. Offices are President, Vice President, Treasurer, secretary, conservation director and FFF representative. Also we have a member at large. Currently we have candidates for president and FFF representative. Larry who has been treasurer for 3 years wants to step down. Craig who has served as secretary for the past 3+ years wants to take a break. My thanks to both for their long service both will be missed. The Club needs these voids filled if we want to grow and move forward. Please consider running for any of the offices.

See you on the water,

Randy

## General Meeting Notice

**Date:** Tuesday; Nov. 8, 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)

## Fly of the Month

This month we have a fly shared by John Rose. This Unnamed Streamer Fly was developed by Wayne Holdaway. John has had great success with this fly in various places such as in the Upper Owens using a sink tip fly line and also in various Mammoth lakes with an intermediate fly line. Thanks John for sharing a very productive fly with the club.

Now immediately, you will see similarities with another popular streamer, yet it ties easier and faster. The little differences such as the abundance of hackle at the front; that pushes more water, will hopefully help you catch more fish.

### Recipe

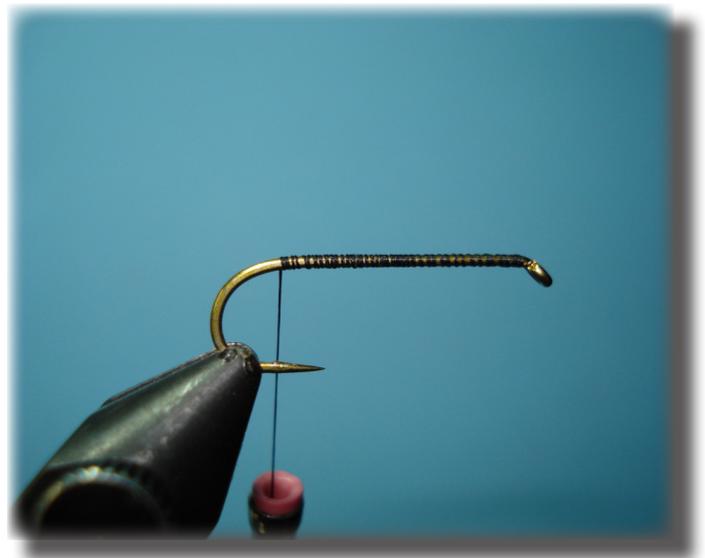
**Hook:** 1XL size 10 or a 2XL size 8 hook for the larger sizes

**Tail:** Olive Marabou a litter longer than the Shank of the Hook

**Tail Overlay:** 6 strands of Flashabou Accent in copper color

**Body:** Peacock Ice Dub

**Head:** Black Hackle either a rooster neck or hen, both will work but the hen is cheaper



### **Step 1.**

Lay down a base layer of thread and tie in marabou just slightly longer than the hook shank Remember to place a thread wrap under the tail to lift it up.



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## Step 2.

Tie in about 6 strands of Flashabou.



## Step 4.

Tie in the Black Hackle at least 6 or 7 wraps. (I had to make at least 10 since the hackle was thin) Make a small thread head and tie off with a whip finish or whatever finishing knot you use.



## Step 3.

Dub the Peacock Ice Dub to approximately 1/8 inch from the Hooks eye. I didn't have Peacock, so I mixed Olive brown and Light Olive Ice dub. Feel free to experiment with dubbing mixes.

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## Step 5.

Take a dubbing brush and comb out the dubbing for a more pronounced silhouette.

**ED.** John sent me this email after Robert sent me the Fly of the Month article. Thought you might like to see the photos.

When I was up with the Streamborn club a few weeks ago some of the guys were bragging how many flies they have made and how many they carry with them. They went on and on, for about an hour and then I decided to compare with them.

Here are a couple of pictures of some flies that I carry on all my two or more day outings! Well, to say the least all wanted pictures to show their friends. These were sent to me by some of them.

This is why I always have flies to lone a person in need. Also, these photos are about 2/3rds of the flies I have. The rest were at home.

## SWCFFF NEWS

The FFF has started a “President’s Marketing Committee” to help the councils market themselves and answer the question, “What’s in it for me?”

Please click on link to view information on the synop-

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sis of the September meeting including the committee mission and philosophy for the “President’s Marketing Committee”.

[www.southwestcouncilfff.org/documents/presidents\\_marketing.pdf](http://www.southwestcouncilfff.org/documents/presidents_marketing.pdf)

This will also give you more insight as to what FFF is trying to provide to our clubs and it’s members. Please take the time to read through this paper to get a better understanding of what FFF is doing to improve it’s resources.

The SWCFFF Inter-club Tournament just got over this Saturday, Nov. 5. It was held on the Kern River again since the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers won and got to pick the water to fish this year. There were nine teams comprised of three from Southern Sierra Fly Fishers, Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers with two teams, Fresno Fly Fishers, Golden State Fly Fishers, Orange County Fly Fishers and Deep Creek Fly Fishers. There were only two women’s only team, one being from Southern Sierra FF and the other from Sierra Pacific FF.

The weather started turning with a storm coming in on Friday afternoon. In the Morning on Saturday the weather seemed to maybe be cooperating with warmer temps and sunny skies on the morning fishing beats, 10:00 am to noon. After a two hour lunch the afternoon fishing started from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. The weather turned windy, cold and the water temp dropped to 47 degrees.

Of the 45 fishermen only 19 caught fish all day. Even though the SWCFFF hasn’t published the official results yet. The top four teams held their same spots with Southern Sierra FF being first, Fresno FF being second, Deep Creek FF holding on to third and the Golden State FF keeping the forth spot. The fishing was tough and you had to work for the fish you did catch.

The best part was seeing the friends I haven’t seen since

last year like Steve Pippet from Golden State FF and Connie Bullock from the Santa Clarita Casting Club. The evening dinner allowed everyone to catch up and share our fishing stories from the last year.

The official results will come out soon and I’ll post them for all to see.

Gary Applebee

## Club Management Day

January 21, 2012. **PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!**

The Club Management Day will be held at Deep Creek Club House in Riverside and will include lunch. Plus we will be having a guest speaker from the Environmental Water Caucus, Nick Di Croce. Nick will be addressing us on water issues in California and how they affect you as an angler. He is a past recipient of the FFF Conservation award given to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the conservation of our fisheries resources.

I encourage you to mark this on your calendar and attend with as many of your board of directors as you can bring. Bring club members, too, as this is a good way to raise their enthusiasm. One thing I hear repeatedly from people in many clubs is that they are not aware of what is going on with other clubs, and they want to know how those clubs deal with the various problems fly fishing clubs can face. So, let’s call it a Best Practices powwow. In the past two years, we have had an increase in attendance and club members are able to share their knowledge with others in the same position. Webmasters meet together as do presidents, conservation directors and anyone else involved in the day to day of their club. And if your club is doing great, we would love for you to come and share with the rest of us!

I do realize that some clubs go to the Owens in Janu-

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ary/February and also realize that no one weekend will work for everyone. I hope that with enough notice, you can make this a priority to attend. This only happens once a year.

We will be sending out agenda requests/suggestions in the coming months and feel free to add anything you think is important to club and fly fishing functions.

Thanks for your time and attention.

Michael

## SWCFFF Fly Buy

Mark your calendars for January 28th for the **SWCFFF Fly Buy** held at the Long Beach Casting Club. This is the SWCFFF's funfaisner. There will be gear onsale there that is slightly used, flies to buy, and auction and you can get with a master caster for a dollar a minute with a fifteen minute minimum.

## THE "NEW" LOWER OWENS

By Richard Alden Bean

The lowest part of the Lower Owens River gets almost no attention from the fly fishing community. The reason is pretty simple. This isn't trout water; it is the home of smallmouth bass, largemouth, and almost endless panfish water. If, however, you fish for species other than trout, this is a place you need to visit.

From Tinemaha Reservoir about half way between Bishop and Independence and reaching all the way down to the upper end of Owens Lake, the very bottom run of the Owens River used to be not much but a series of sand washes and pothole ponds. That has changed with the re-watering of the Lower Owens from just south of

Tinemaha to Owens Lake. Some people have, in fact, fished it all these years with little publicity. After all, the trout fishing to the north got all the attention. It was mostly locals fishing with lures or bait that caught the bass and panfish this part of the river should be famous for. But after this section of the river was returned to a maintained flow in 2006, the potential for this part of the Owens to become a serious destination for fly anglers seeking both excellent warmwater angling and a measure of solitude in what turns out to be hundreds of miles of twisting water course and dozens of interconnected ponds and backwater sloughs.

In all, some 62 miles of the Owens River was re-watered with a minuscule 40 cfs flow (baseline). I would take that mileage figure with a grain of salt, as an examination of the area on phonogramic maps shows the sinuous river channel winding back and forth so much I would bet there's more than a hundred miles of fishable river.



**Road Crossing**— *There are a number of places where east-west roads from Highway 395 reach the Owens River. You can fish this fine bass water at the bridges, or head north or south on dirt roads that parallel the river for miles.*

Since access is the key, here's what I found in several days of snooping and fishing this portion of the Owens.

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As you come up Highway 395 from the Inland Empire, the first access point is a road that runs east to the river at Boulder Creek RV Resort a few miles south of the community of Lone Pine. This road runs over to the upper end of Owens Dry Lake where the LADWP pumps part of the river flow back out and sends it down to Los Angeles. I didn't drive this particular road, and was told by a couple of anglers there were signs telling people to keep out all over the place, but at least some anglers have figured out how to get to the river at this spot. It is also a take out point for kayakers floating this part of the Lower Owens, so maybe you might give this spot a try.

On a new map published by Sierra Maps in Bishop it shows a dirt road running up the east side of the river to Highway 136 (the highway to Death Valley from Lone Pine) This road was noted to me by Keith Fran-son of Aibonito, a gift shop in Lone Pine which is also the headquarters for local kayakers. He said that if you drive out 136 until just after you pass over the river, there's a dirt road heading south (the upper end of the road from the top of Owens Dry Lake) and a .2 mile drive down this will take you to a good put-in spot.

There's also a similar road running off to the north just east of the bridge over the river on 136. These dirt roads, mostly quite well maintained, are on mostly LADWP property, and are access routes for farming and cattle interests, and LADWP work crews. Since virtually all the land along the river is owned or controlled by LADWP, their rules apply. Fortunately, LADWP acts as a sort of benign dictator, and it is one of the few places left in California where you actually encounter signs that say "Please Close Gate" instead of "Keep Out."

Heading north on Highway 395 into Lone Pine (Don't forget to stop at the Visitor's Center at the junction of 395 and 136. They have an excellent set of maps of the area which you'll want to see.) you can take Narrow Gauge Road out to the river. There's a nice little walk-thru gate there and a trail that leads along the west side

of the river. There are also continued dirt roads on both sides of the Owens here. You can wander for miles in the area finding places to fish.

The next access road is quite a ways up 395 north of Lone Pine. At the Manzanar National Monument spot, you will find Manzanar-Reward Road, a paved lane running east to the river. Again you will find dirt roads heading both north and south from both sides of the river and more miles of fishable water.

A few more miles up 395 brings you to the community of Independence, which is the County Seat of Inyo County. On the southern end of town is Mazourka Canyon Road. Heading east takes you over the Los Angeles Aqueduct, then you come to a wide dirt road which runs north (left) about three miles from 395. This takes you to Billy Lake, a pair of marshy pothole lakes which are noted for bass and panfish.



***Barbara at Billy Lake— Billy Lake is one of several seep lakes along the Lower Owens. These are mostly connected by a canal, so there's a slow flow of water (and fish) in and out of these ponds.***

Billy Lake is just one of several such waters along this part of the Owens Valley. There is a distinct fault line running down the valley west of the river, and east of Highway 395, and this has created a number of seep

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lakes. Besides Billy Lake, there's Goose Lake, Duck Lake, Twin Lakes, and a number of others. I highly recommend anyone with a computer spending a couple of evenings snooping the area between Tinemaha Reservoir and Lone Pine on Google Earth. You will see a number of these isolated lakes, along with miles and miles of twisting Owens River and long stretches of irrigation canals which transport almost as much water as the Owens itself.

Above Independence you have another fairly long run on 395 without a open road heading east to the river. The next good access point is at the Black Rock Fish Hatchery. Get off on Black Rock Springs Road and go east to the hatchery, then meander south-east along the irrigation canal and take any one of a number of dirt roads over to the river. This is also how you access Twin Lakes. We never found the right set of roads to get us to Twin Lakes, and Dave D'Beaupre said he gets turned around driving that part of the road system. I would suggest that anglers interested in fishing the area get the best maps possible, and spend some time looking at the Owens on Google Earth. None of the maps show all the roads you can take to reach the water, and a few Google images printed out showing the network of dirt roads in the area will help.

## Small Creek Surprises by Paul Staub

Near the end of August I had one of those days where I was able to stop by one of our local creeks on the way home from work and cast some flies on this small creek. Although it was late in the afternoon there were still people driving to the creek to take in the summer sun and cool off in the chilly water. I drove up the creek road as far as my little car would go, wanting to escape the masses. I didn't get much farther away than a good stone's throw but it was enough to give me some elbow room.

I put my little two weight rod together and hiked to the creek. I did a little observing but didn't see any movement in the water or any bugs around to copy with an imitation. So, I tied on two of my favorites, a small Stimulator with an Elk Hair Caddis as a trailer. Once those flies hit the water fish were on them right away. They really preferred to go after the larger Stimulator. They were slamming it hard but no hook ups. So I took off the Stimulator and only offered the smaller Elk Hair Caddis. I hooked up right away. These fish were tiny, only three or so inches long. There was no way they could have been hooked on that larger Stimulator. I caught a few in that class range and moved up stream. There were fish in just about every decent pool. All the fish were pretty small so I didn't get many hook ups. It sure was fun though to see them rising on the flies. Those little fish can look a lot bigger when they flash and splash on a fly.



*A healthy fat belly on this little guy.*

I came to a larger pool and got some decent action from what appeared to be larger fish. I decided to try my Stimulator again and caught a much better fish than what I had been catching. After that fish I kept getting the littler ones striking at the Stimulator. So I figured if that's all I can get then I'll tie on a small Parachute Black Ant.

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*Not a bad guy for this creek.*

The first time I laid that ant on the water I saw a shockingly large flash and that ant was gone. My little two weight nearly doubled over. I was in a bad position to land that fish so I had to work my way over some boulders and down a bank. Once in a good position to land the fish I caught a glimpse of the tail and thought, what a monster! Oh no, I don't have a net! Then, SNAP! The fish had run up under some boulders and broke off the 6X tippet I had tied on to the tail end of the Stimulator for the trailing ant. Oh, what a heartbreaker. I tried to continue fishing that pool but had no more action, the fish had all gone down and hid after all that commotion. I left with the knowledge of where I was going to come back to the next chance I got.

My next opportunity was a couple of weeks later in the late afternoon again. I went to the same area and caught a few of the same small fish. I tried the pool where I had lost that big fish but had no action. It was fun to catch some more of those little guys but my heart was set on that grandpappy of those little fellas.

A couple of weeks went by and now it was Labor Day. I told my wife that I had to go to that creek and try one more time to get that big fish. I swear it must have been

sixteen inches because the tail looked nearly the size of my fist. That's what I was telling everyone alright. I had to prove it. So I got up early Labor Day morning and went to that creek. Again, I caught a few of those small guys but I was after bigger game now. I tried that pool and had no luck at all. I fished up and down that creek for a few hours and then the hordes started moving up the creek to where I was. People were filling in all around me. Families were looking for pools to dip in. I had to get out of there so I went back to that same pool one more time. This time I was armed with my three weight rod. I tied on another Ant pattern. I got above the pool and presented my fly in the same manner I had the first time I had hooked up with the monster. FLASH! SPLASH! I was hooked up to it again. Again I lumbered down and around the boulders and down the bank to get in position to retrieve this guy. Right when I got ready I saw that big tail again and then my fly snapped back out of the water and my rod straightened up with no tension. He had come unhooked. What a wiley guy this one is, I thought. No wonder it has lived long enough to get as big as it was.

Well, I got out of there to avoid getting caught up with the hordes in the canyon. As I drove out there were thousands of people lining the creek. I came upon a road block that was preventing more people from going up the road. As one car would leave the CHP would let another car go up the canyon.

I decided to lay off that creek for awhile. My wife and kids were becoming a little concerned for my mental health. Yep, they had good reason. I was beginning to have dreams about that monster fish that lurked in my imagination. He seemed to be growing in my thoughts as time passed.

One day before work I not so stealthily put my five weight rod in my car just in case I might happen to be doing work around the area of that creek. My patient wife noticed so I fessed up about my plan to be prepared the next time I got the chance at that fish. As it

turned out, within the next couple of days the stars were aligned just right so that I could make my way back up to that creek. This time I was ready. I had a nice stout five weight rod and I had tied some foam ants for this occasion. From previous experience I knew this guy's favorite munchies.



*Another typical fish from this creek.*

When I got up to the creek I went right to work. The days were shorter now than they were several weeks before. A rainstorm was rolling in and clouds were hugging the mountains around me. I had to get this task done quickly and get on out of there. I tied on one of the foam ants I had tied for the occasion and on the first cast the monster came up and swiped at it. Oh yeah, he wanted it but it had to be just right. After two more casts I had a big one on. I rolled around the boulders and took it down stream. It wasn't the same monster fish I had seen strike on the first cast but it was a decent fish for this creek, bigger than all the rest I had caught there before.



*The monster fish of my imagination?*



*The first big fish out of that pool.*

After letting that one go I went back and tossed that ant right back on that pool and instantly hooked another fine fish, a little smaller than the first but still nice.



*Releasing it to swim back into its realm.*

### **And the saga continued.**

A week or so after I caught what I thought could be the monster fish of this creek, and writing the first part on this story, I had the opportunity to go back with a couple of members from the Hi Desert Fly Fishers Club, Rodney and Larry. We went to the end of the road that follows the creek and then hiked in to get to the creek. While up there we all managed to catch fish. Larry caught several nice ones in a pool. I managed to catch a few from a good looking pool as well. What I caught were still the typical size I had caught previously. Some of these wild trout sure have pretty markings. We decided to travel back down stream to the area where the monster fish resides. I immediately went to see if I could replicate the catch of the week before. I tied on a foam ant to my 3wt. rod and started to have fish attack it as soon as it hit the water.

I caught one of the usual small guys right away. From previous experience I knew that it would take a few minutes for the other fish to settle down after pulling one out. At this point I switched over to my 2wt. rod and tied on a yellow Stimulator with a Hi Vis Black Ant as a trailer. I used 5X tippet to tie on the ant off the Stimulator. I started plying the water with this set up and had some interest but it was difficult to avoid drag on the two fly set up. Drag is a real turn off to fish.



*This fish had really beautiful markings.*

After several attempts to avoid dragging flies through the pool a managed to land them in a little slack water next to a boulder. Suddenly, fish on! Oh my gosh! I had a big one on. Just like the first time I had the monster on this guy darted under the boulders and my 2wt. rod doubled over. Again I had to get downstream from the pool to get in a better position to land this fish. I took up my slack fly line to get him on the reel. Once down-

stream the fish made several lunges to get under the boulders. Then, nothing but solid tension on my doubled over rod, I couldn't budge it. It felt as though the fish hung up the line. There was no movement at all. I figured the fish had snagged me on something up under the boulders. Every time I tried to put more tension on the rod line would come off the reel so I grabbed the fly line with a little tension and gave it a tug. Suddenly I felt movement so I let go and pulled back on the rod. The fish came out from under the boulder. He kept making lunges to get back under the boulders. It seemed as though my little rod was stress to its breaking point. The fish actually peeled more line from the click drag reel I had on. Finally, after several lunges the fish tired and I was able to fight the aggression out of him in the middle of the pool. Once I had him to hand I could see that he was hooked in his pectoral fin. When he struck I could see that he hit the Stimulator. It was the trailing hook that he was hooked to though. I was a little disappointed he wasn't hooked in the mouth but I was very pleased with the excitement of the fight he had put me through.

This must be the Monster. There was no question in my mind that this was it. He fought me the same way he had done the first two times I had him hooked. He would shoot right up under the boulders. He must be the Monster fish, even his teeth are monster like. He is the biggest fish I've caught in that little drainage. How big is he? I really couldn't tell, he leaped out of my hand before I could get a decent picture of him to determine his size. I took video of him that I was able to use to make pictures but I couldn't get him into the entire frame. I think that makes him pretty sizable. He had the same dark coloration as the other big fish I had caught the week before. I did get some amazing video of the fight underwater with my video camera.



*Is there still a monster fish deep in the dark recesses of this pool, maybe only in my imagination?*