



Reading The Water

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NEXT MEETING

Monday

November 13, 2017

Wetflies 6:00 PM

Dinner 6:45 PM

Program 7:30 PM

Tio Leo's

3510 Valley Center Dr
San Diego, CA 92130
(Map—back page)



Newsletter of Golden State Flycasters - Trout Unlimited Chapter 920

Newsletter Date: October 2017

A Bucket List Trip For Me – Fishing the McCloud, Upper Sacramento, and Pit – September, 2017, Mark Utter



Growing up in the northeast, I wasn't very familiar with the amazing trout fishing California has to offer. Moving to San Diego ten years ago, I began to find out. When I read an article in Fly Fisherman in 1991 about the devastating Cantara Loop train derailment spill on the Upper Sac and saw the pictures of how beautiful the Upper Sac was, I knew I needed to fish it one day.

I've played a lot of golf and had a lot of fun with my good friend Randall, but we've only fished together once in the 25 years I've known him. Randall is a really fun guy who's up for anything. He's not a fly fisherman, but knows I love it so he's been bugging me to do a fly fishing trip for years. We finally got it on the calendar for early September. We booked a trip through the Fly Shop in Redding to fish the McCloud and Upper Sac a weekend in early September and decided we would fish the Pit on our own before heading back to Randall's house in the Bay Area.

I flew up to SFO late on a Thursday, Randall picked me up at the airport, and we headed up to Northern California. I booked a motel in Mt. Shasta City, the Finlandia. I picked it because it looked like a real old school, throwback kind of place. It was really cool. Right out of the 50s with, I think, the original red naugahyde chairs they had when they opened the place. The beds were clean, the shower was hot, and they had an outdoor hot tub and a horse shoe pit. What more could you ask for at about \$80/night.

Friday morning, we started with a great breakfast at the White Mountain Café in McCloud. I highly recommend this place. The food was great and each order was big enough to feed me, Randall and our kids if they were there (he's got four kids and I've got three). I'm exaggerating, but not by much. Also, when you look out the east windows, you get a spectacular view of Mount Shasta looming over the town.

We met our guide, Kris Kennedy, at the McCloud Chevron and drove out to the Nature

Conservancy section of the McCloud. Kris is very knowledgeable, patient and a great overall guide who has fished all over the world. It was about a 45 minute drive, the last 10 miles or so over a pretty rough dirt "road" filled with switchbacks and large drop offs into the canyon if you happened to miss a turn. A bit harrowing but absolutely beautiful and a fun ride. This section of the McCloud is owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy and they allow 10 rods per day (5 reserved in advance, 5 first come, first served) on the 2 ½ miles of water. To describe the McCloud as spectacularly beautiful probably does not do it justice. I do think if you looked up "trout stream" in the dictionary a picture of the McCloud may indeed be there with the definition. It is also home to the beautiful (Salmo Shasta) rainbow trout that has been stocked all over the world.

Kris spent most of the day with Randall and I fished mostly on my own. The fishing was slow based on Kris's take and the other people we talked to. I started fishing a hopper/dropper rig but didn't get any takes. We didn't see any fish rise all day. So I switched to a euro nymphing rig and ended up landing 7 rainbows between 8 and 13". Four came on a #16 red copper john, and the other three, including the largest, on a #10 black death (a George Daniel pattern that's like a black hare's ear). Randall did more "fishing than catching" but of course brought his spirited attitude and had a great time. We ended up staying on the McCloud all day and didn't make it to the Upper Sac until



the next morning.

We finally made it back to Finlandia about 8 at night. After a beer in the hot tub and a round of horse shoes, we went down to Dunsmuir to Yak's for dinner on Kris's recommendation. Yak's is another place I recommend. Pretty funky, interesting artwork/murals, a good beer selection and great burgers. While we were waiting for our burgers, the waitress brought us a complimentary sticky bun that was awesome. I ordered a garlic infused burger that was terrific and washed it down with a very tasty Citrus Mistress IPA.

Saturday morning, we spent about an hour on the Upper Sac in Dunsmuir. No fish, but beautiful small stream water. After another great breakfast at the White Mountain Café in McCloud, we headed out to the Pit. It was about a 1 ½ hour drive, a portion of which was dirt road. Not quite as rugged as the drive into the McCloud canyon, but equally as beautiful.

When we got to the Pit, it was really flowing. It's a beautiful river and I had heard it was very challenging wading. We ended up fishing Pit 1 and when we got there it was flowing about 1800 cfs vs a historical average of about 1200 cfs. The wading was actually dangerous with the large, uneven rocks and strong flow so we stayed quite close to shore. We only fished for a couple of hours in mid-afternoon and saw way more kayaks than fish. We ended up catching a few suckers and I was able to land a beautiful 12" rainbow on a #6 black Pat's Rubberlegs.

All in all, a great trip. Although I guess I can check these three streams off my bucket list, I definitely want to fish them again. If you haven't fished them, you should definitely add them to your list.



President's Message

By John Frazer

A Simple Lesson...

The other day I was at home sitting on the couch doing my usual John stuff. My wife likes to call it "piddling" ...which is code for burning up large blocks of time doing nothing. The "real truth" is that I was doing what every other two-bit fly fisher does with dead time; reading about how to improve my fishing skills. The topic of the day was Euro-nymphing with French Leaders; riveting material to say the least.

After about 10 minutes of drifting in-and-out of a nap, I decided to turn on the TV and found a college water polo game way up the dial on channel two-hundred and something. My 15-year-old son plays high school water polo and I thought he might enjoy seeing what a serious game of water polo looks like. I called him in and we both sat on the couch to watch the game. After about 5 minutes my son got up off the couch, left the room, and disappeared...hmmm. After a couple of laundry detergent ads and a station identification I began to wonder where my son was. I found him in his room doing the teenage boys version of "piddling". Wow, I thought, perhaps the apple doesn't fall far from the tree after all. "Aren't you interested in watching the water polo game?" I asked. He responded with a simple but insightful reply. "No, not really, it's much more fun to play water polo than to watch other people do it". I just smiled, said something benign like "cool", and left the room.

But his comment really stuck with me. It's a simple idea that I could relate to other really important areas of my life...like fly fishing of course! Simply put, no

amount of time spent reviewing books, magazines, and instructional fly fishing dvds can substitute for the real thing. No time spent reading how to properly present a fly to a fish can substitute for actual time on the water where many other factors influence the methods and the madness we all experience in "the pursuit of fish". And "the pursuit of fish" is just a place holder for the many other pursuits we have that contribute and add meaning to an active and fulfilling life.

My message to you is simple. You can't catch fish sitting on your living room couch and there's only so much to learn by watching other people fish, be it on TV, in a magazine, or in real life. So get out there and fish! Plan a trip. Call your buddies in the club and arrange a meet up on your favorite piece of water. Dust off your bucket list and set a date to cross something off. There is no substitute for real experience and anytime is always the best time to add to your time on the water.

Be Well,

John



The CDC Irresistible Caddis

By Dave Smith

I developed this fly to fish gin clear spring creeks. Like all spring creeks, the ones in the Eastern Sierra Nevada's have lots of vegetation growing up to the surface, and particularly in the last couple of drought years the vegetation has been bad. The reverse hook allows for the fly to be "weedless", so when a missed placed cast lands on some surface weed, the fly can be retrieved without a helping of lettuce. Secondly, it hides the hook, therefor making a more natural presentation. CDC wing with a parachute means the fly sits just under the water column and makes it irresistible. CDC can be replaced with elk hair for an Irresistible elk hair caddis.

Materials List:

Hook	Daiichi 1770 Swimming Nymph Hook Size 12
Egg Sack	Veevus 10/0 Chartreuse
Thread	Veevus 10/0 Brown
Body	Nature's Spirit Turkey Biot Quill - Mahogany
Thorax	Hends Hare Dubbing Rusty
Wing	Hareline CDC natural Dun
Post	McFlyon Red
Parachute	Whiting Farm's pro grade dun cape



Step 1:

Pinch barb and insert the hook into the vise, point up.



Step 2:

Using the chartreuse thread, wrap the thread onto the hook, and make a small bead of thread at the base of the hook to represent an egg sack. Whip finish the chartreuse and cut off the thread.



Step 3:

Wrap the brown thread onto the hook, and tie in a single turkey biot.



Step 4:

Use some head cement to coat the thread where the biot will be wrapped up. This will make the fly more durable.



Step 5:
Wrap the biot quill forward in touching turns and tie off.



Step 6:
Tie in two CDC feathers. I utilize the natural curve of the feathers to hide the hook point and create a wing effect.



Step 7:
Tie in posting material and single hackle feather. Both the feather and the post should be wrapped up the post to create a solid surface and make the parachute step easier.



Step 8:
Dub the thorax. I like a tighter dubbing ball on this fly.



Step 9:
Wrap the hackle around the post 5-7 times until the parachute is to your liking.



Step 10:
Tie off the hackle feather and perform a 4-turn whip finish. A spot of head cement will keep it all together.

Conservation Corner

By Jack Marshall

Who cares for the San Luis Rey?'

Sometimes conservation efforts work in coordination.



I'd like to update all of you on a portion of the conservation landscape supported by the Golden State Flycasters. To that end, I focus on the Water Quality Monitoring efforts on the San Luis Rey River. Many of you reading this are volunteers who turn out regularly to do the actual work of monitoring – collecting water samples, monitoring environmental conditions, recording data, and generally being part of the angler-as-scientist movement that has seen an upsurge of interest in recent years. I want especially to thank these stalwarts, as well as those who volunteer once or twice and then move on to other aspects of the club or of life. An important goal of the program is to supply GSF club members with worthy opportunities to enjoy themselves in meaningful and satisfying ways through volunteerism. I am very grateful for the many ways club members contribute.

Historically, the efforts related to the San Luis Rey Project illustrate a theme of cooperation among con-

servation groups. As the ancient Greeks knew, competition has two sides. Good competition, can elevate the productivity of both parties...while bad competition may interfere with or sabotage the best of intentions. Bad competition could be an issue in Southern California because there are numerous organizations competing for the same donor dollars. With cooperative competition we all take part in the success of the program.

An good example of our collective goal is the "Conservation Project Grant Request" created last year by the Fly Fishers International (FFI). Many of you know this organization as The International Federation of Fly Fishers which was best known for fly tying, summer conventions, and certification of fly casting instructors. In addition to rebranding, the organization is increasing its activity in conservation, a move we all can appreciate and benefit from, especially those who won grants like Golden State Flycasters of Trout Unlimited: GSF-TU.

How did we and the other organizations cooperate? The FFI put up the initial seed money of \$1500, the maximum that could be applied for, but they also required a 100% match. We of the Golden State Flycasters provided the necessary matching needed to secure the FFI grant. A commitment of an additional



\$200 came from the South Western Council of the FFI. The purpose of exceeding the 100 % match was to suggest an more regional endorsement of the project. Our final grant proposal was to spend \$3200 on the project.

So much for the financial details; what was the project? The money was needed to repair and replace the electronic gear that we use when monitoring the waters in the San Luis Rey. The newly upgraded equipment is contained in three field kits that are now fully functioning and include (1) sensors to measure dissolved oxygen...no oxygen = no fish; (2) sensors for conductivity that record the “saltiness” of the water to look for things like irrigation returns or salt water intrusion; (3) costly handsets to control the semi-automatic recording of data; (4) two thermometers per kit; and (5) specialized cabling for the monitoring equipment. Through another cooperative effort, the San Diego Coastkeeper Foundation is responsible for the maintenance and storage of all the monitoring equipment as well as general oversight of the project. With these tools in hand, gradually over time, we are writing a history for the waters of the San Luis Rey.

More information on water monitoring of the San Luis Rey River can be found at

www.sdcoastkeeper.org



Who knew....?

By Tim Hunt—GSF Director of Communications

Most of you rightly recognize Golden State Flycasters as an independent fly fishing organization, however what some may not know that GSF also functions as Chapter 920 for members of Trout Unlimited. TU has



400 chapters throughout the country and has over 300,000 members. For those who are members of TU there is a good chance you have signed up to receive, and have likely enjoyed, the digital version of their newsletter. Those who are not TU members are probably unaware that the organization has a treasure trove of information provided on their website. As you would expect, you can find information relating to their Mission Statement "To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds", however it goes far beyond that. TU's central focus is captured in the organizations Mission Statement "To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds", and their efforts also extend into many other areas related to conservation.

You can learn more at www.tu.org. At the very top of the website are a range of tabs that you can click on to find interesting information on a broad range of fly fishing related topics. New information is frequently being added to the “Blog” and a quick way to search through the extensive archive of posts is through the “Search TU” bar to the right of the tabs.

It's a great a way to find interesting content you may not have thought about.

For example, our new president, John Frazer, mentioned to me that he had seen a good post on casting 40 feet. When I typed in "casting 40 feet" a few links came up, but the first one was the post that he mentioned. <https://www.tu.org/blog-posts/trout-tips-40-feet-in-four-seconds>

Next up I decided to type in "teach a kid how to fly fish", and again the first link hit the mark. <https://www.tu.org/blog-posts/teaching-kids-to-fly-fish-the-five-golden-rules>

The other thing I found while poking around the TU website was a link to their YouTube videos. Not only is the "40 feet in 4 seconds" video found here but there are bunch of other short but helpful videos. Kirk Deeter, is the host of the "Trout Tips" series in the TU website and is also the editor for TU's content. Kirk has been a past GSF speaker, is an author of several books and many articles, and a friend of a few GSF members. Just as he does nice work with his writing he also does a great job in front of the camera. There are plenty of videos out there but I like how quick and concise these are compared to a lot of the other material you will find. This link will take you to the videos: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TroutUnlimitedNatl/videos>

So the next time you are looking for some information related to our sport, don't hesitate to check out the TU website...it may have just what you're looking for.

Tech Talk...

The GSF newsletter will periodically include interesting and informative content from other organizations and individuals that share our mutual interest in fly fishing. This month's addition of Tech Talk has graciously been provided by the incredible people at Midcurrent. The Midcurrent website is loaded with tons of amazing content related to all things Fly Fishing. We encourage you to explore and find out more on their webpage at <https://midcurrent.com>

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"Seeing Double"

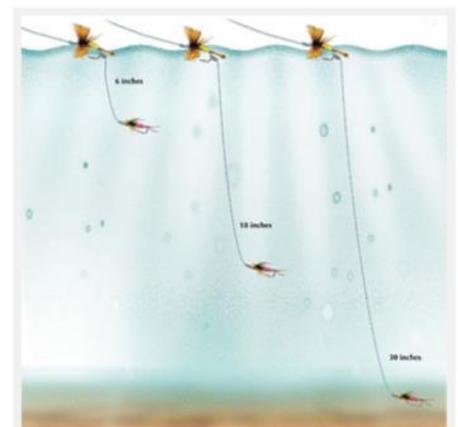
by Philip Monahan

illustrations by Bill Tipton

Pay more attention to how you construct and fish tandem rigs, and you'll catch more trout

A Tangled Subject

ALTHOUGH MULTI-FLY RIGS have been around for centuries and have always remained popular in Europe, fishing more than one pattern was nearly a forgotten science in this country until about 15 years ago. In fact, even when angling magazines flooded the market with tandem-rig stories, many anglers outside the Rockies took a long time to catch on. For instance, my older brother, Brian, has been fly fishing since the late 1970s, but he had never fished two flies until we traveled to Wyoming last summer. Troll a few Internet message boards, and you'll find that a large portion of the fly-fishing community is still discovering the effectiveness of this



The length of a nymph dropper should be determined by where the fish are feeding in the water column. If trout are taking nymphs right below the surface, a 6-inch dropper will put the fly in the right zone. Earlier in the hatch, before there are many duns on the water, an 18-inch dropper may take more fish. If you want the fly right near the bottom, a 30-inch dropper will do the trick in shallow water.

“modern” technique.

But there’s a big difference between simply hanging a Copper John off the back of a grasshopper pattern (a rig commonly known as the “Hopper-Dropper”) and incorporating two-fly systems into your everyday angling arsenal. Many anglers think of the second fly as nothing more than an add-on, not as an integral part of their tactical approach, and they treat tandem rigging as a one-size-fits-all subject. Oftentimes, speakers or writers will refer to a “standard” tandem rig that features a nymph tied to a 12-inch (or 18-inch, or 24-inch, and so on) dropper. But such a “standard” fails to take into account water depth, current speed, weight of the nymph, and all the other myriad variables you’ll face on the stream. To exploit the full potential of two-fly rigs, you’ve got to put the same amount of thought into the components, construction, and performance of your rig as you put into matching the hatch.

The Clincher

The first hurdle an angler has to get over is fear of knots. I came late to two-fly rigs because I couldn’t see myself tying blood knots with extra-



The combination of a heavy beadhead and a more buoyant nymph can be deadly. Dead-drifted, this rig puts the larger fly on the bottom, while the bottom fly imitates an insect that has been knocked into the drift. If you twitch your rod tip, you can make the bottom nymph dive and rise again, which often triggers a strike.

long tag ends, which were required for the old-style dropper systems I saw illustrated in my grandfather’s books. (To be fair, I look at those same diagrams now and wonder what intimidated me about them.) But the first time I saw someone clinch-knot the dropper to the bend of the top fly — it was a fellow guide on Depuy’s spring creek — I mentally slapped myself silly for not having discovered such a simple solution on my own.

There are still plenty of fly fishermen who tie blood-knot dropper rigs, and I know guys who swear that this method will always out fish an in-line, clinch-knotted system. I smile and nod when they explain their reasoning, but I’ve never seen any evidence to support the assertion. For instance, guides make their living by catching fish, and I’ve never seen a pro tie

any kind of tandem rig other than in-line. Sure that’s an unscientific sampling, but it’s good enough for me. The in-line rig is easier to tie, easier to cast, and tangles less.

You can make the knot-tying processes easier in several ways. Some find that the loop at the bottom of the clinch knot tends to slide off the hook just as they try to thread the tag end through. By simply holding the top fly upside down (e.g., hook up), you can solve this problem.

Several years ago, a Green River guide showed me a slick way to tie the clinch knot in the leader material first and then slide the loop onto the hook. (See instructions on tying an **Easy Dropper Loop** at the bottom of this

article.) If you’re familiar with the water you’ll be fishing — and therefore understand what kinds of tandem rigs you’ll need — you can tie the two flies together at home and carry the complete rigs rolled up in old film canisters (for a dry and a nymph) or leader envelopes (for two nymphs). Then all you’ve got to do is tie on the top fly, and you’re in business.



A tandem rig featuring a nymph on top and a streamer on the bottom imitates a baitfish feeding on emerging nymphs. Oftentimes, a large trout that isn’t interested in the nymph will take the opportunity to whack the baitfish imitation.

Matched Pairs

There is no limit to the number of useful two-fly combinations you can use: two dries, a dry and an emerger, a dry and a nymph, two nymphs, two streamers, a streamer and a nymph, and on and on. Although I’ve never tried it, I can even think of a couple of situations in which you’d want to fish a dry fly with a streamer as a...

You can find the remainder of the article on the

Midcurrent website at <https://midcurrent.com/knots/seeing-double/>

Fun Facts:

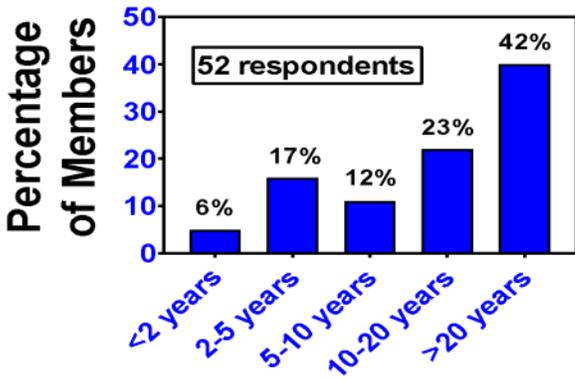
What is GSF and who are its members? The GSF newsletter will periodically include information about the people, places, and things that make the GSF a great organization to be a part of.

This month, we posed three questions to 52 GSF club members and here's what we found:

Question #1: "How long have you been actively fishing with a fly rod?"

While about two-thirds of our members have been fishing

How long have you been fishing with a fly rod?



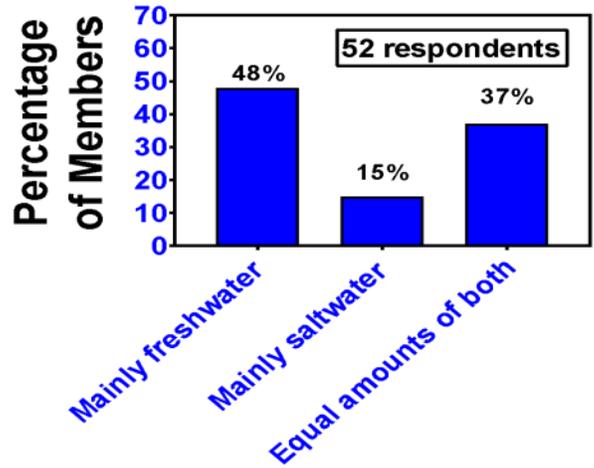
Years Using a Fly Rod

with a fly rod for at least 10 years. About 25% of GSF members have been fly fishing for less than 5 years. Remember that we are always looking for experienced casters to work with those that are less experienced members as part of our on-going mentorship program.



Question #2: "What type of fly fishing do you do?"

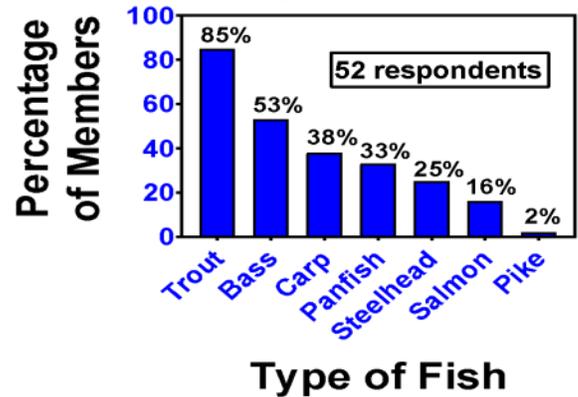
What type of fly fishing do you do?



Like many other fly fishing clubs, GSF members do a lot of freshwater fishing, with about half of respondents spending most of their fishing time chasing freshwater species. But living in San Diego offers many opportunities to develop our skills as saltwater fly fishers. Interestingly, over one-third of all respondents spend equal time fishing fresh and salt water.

Question #3: "Which freshwater species do you fish for?"

Which freshwater species do you fish for?



While most GSF members do a lot of trout fishing, our members also fish for many other species. About half of our respondents spend at least some time chasing freshwater bass.

[Have you ordered your custom GSF logo wear yet?](#)
[Ordering GSF Club Logo Wear from Cabelas](#)

The Golden State Flycasters club logo is available for custom embroidery and can be applied to items purchased at Cabela's. The process is simple and orders can be placed over the phone. If you're interested, then here's the information you'll need to order your custom apparel.



Step 1: Search through the Cabelas catalog or shop online at www.cabelas.com to decide which article of clothing you would like to have embroidered. Right down the specific Catalog number of the item, as well as the size and color

Step 2: Contact Cabelas Embroidery at (877) 892-4424 (Telephone), or facsimile at (800) 237-4401. When ordering over the phone be sure to tell the operator the name and customer number of the club (Golden State Flycasters) and the Logo ID number

1. GSF customer number: 40479874
2. GSF logo ID number: 30027988

Step 3. Place your order. Be sure to tell the operator the specific catalog number, size, and color of the item to be embroidered. You may receive a 0-10% discount by using the Club Number. However, almost all items require an embroidery charge of \$5.00.

Step 4: Finalize the order and use a credit card to secure your purchase by phone. If you are ordering by FAX, do not include a credit card number. For security reasons, Cabelas will call you for that information.

Step 5: Be sure to inspect your apparel item when it arrives in the mail.



Step 6: Wear your new lucky fishing shirt on your next fly fishing adventure and marvel at how much better those trophy shots look with you wearing your new GSF logo wear.

Our Sponsors



Meetings / Events

October	28	Conservation—Water Quality Monitoring
November	13	Ernie Gulley, “What Trout Eat”
November	16 - 19	Campout and Fishing Trip at Carpinteria State Beach
December	2	Conservation—Water Quality Monitoring
December		Christmas Party — TBD location and date

Fly Tying Classes

Thursday nights from November 9th, 16th, 30th *, – December 7th 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

This class will be focused exclusively on the basic skills and techniques necessary to tie trout flies, and as such is intended specifically for those people who have either NEVER tied a fly before or have made a couple attempts but not had any formal instruction. We will spend time (especially the first night) discussing topics like equipment selection (vises, scissors, etc.), materials selection, and more. You will receive a handout on the first night of class that will cover many of these issues, and serve as a reference for you in the weeks/months/years to come. In addition, you will receive additional materials for you to practice the flies you've learned in the classes.

You will learn to tie the following flies:

Zebra Midge
 Woolly Bugger
 Elk Hair Caddis
 Bead-head Pheasant Tail Nymph
 Parachute Blue-winged Olive

***The NOVEMBER 30th CLASS will be a field trip The Fly Stop.** We will tie at that session; we will also have time to wander through their tying section so you can ask questions about tying materials, tools, and vises. This would be a great opportunity to build a Wish List if you're enjoying your tying experience.

Your cost for this course will be \$30.00/person (payable in cash to Chuck on the first night of class). This cost is to cover the materials used in the class, as well as practice materials. I'll send out the materials list and Outlook calendar invitations to those people who successfully register for the class. Note that I will be encouraging you to do "homework", as it will immediately improve your tying skills, but I won't kick you out of the class if you don't do any.

Also - We have a limited number of club-owned tying vises and tools, so if you register and need gear, please email me at chwater-man63@gmail.com. I am also happy to help with recommendations for tying equipment, so if you want to set up your Christmas wish list, let me know!

[Sign Up for Novice Fly Tying](#)

Trips for 2017

Here is a updated list of trips planned for 2017

Campout and Fishing Trip at Carpinteria State Beach—November 16-19

Contact me for more information on any one of these trips. Rod Hendrickson, sagerod@cox.net

Reading The Water

Golden State Flycasters

GSF, A 501 (C)3 NON-PROFIT, WAS FORMED IN 2002 TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF FLY FISHERS IN NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY, SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY, AND CAMP PENDLETON.

Mission Statement

Golden State Flycasters supports the conservation and restoration of fisheries, and education in the sport and art of fly fishing.

3830 Valley Centre Dr., Suite 705, Box 721, San Diego, CA 92130

Meeting Location and Map

Tio Leo's Mexican Restaurant

3510 Valley Centre Drive
Del Mar, CA 92130
(858) 350-1468

Don't use MapQuest directions, they are incorrect

From I-5, exit Carmel Valley Road, go east 0.2 miles then left onto El Camino Real. At second stoplight, take left onto Valley Centre Drive. Marriott Hotel is on corner, go past hotel entrance to cul-de-sac and take right into Tio Leo's parking lot.



Newsletter Submissions

Submit & share personal, entertaining or informative articles.

Have you fished an out-of-the-way place recently? Taken a trip won at the Annual Raffle? Come across a killer fly for a favorite river? Have a newflash about a fishery or event? Please share it with the rest of our members.

Please limit your Word article to 1,000 words or less, and

include photos. Use straight typing, no indentions, nothing tricky. Submit photos as attachments, not embedded in the article. Editors may edit your submission for grammar or to adjust article length for space available. **Submission deadline is the 20th of each month.**

E-mail submissions to Kevin McClain at
mclclain.kevin@gmail.com