

Inside

- ❖ Fly of the Month: Mr. Gordon's Quill
- ❖ Club Trips for 2025, 2026
- ❖ Three Month Calendar

Highlights

Page 3: This Month's Speaker: Chris Leonard
Page 10: LBCC Backpack at Cottonwood Lakes
Page 12: Brookie Bash Report

Target Talk

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG BEACH CASTING CLUB, ESTABLISHED 1925

NOVEMBER 2025

WWW.LONGBEACHCASTINGCLUB.NET

Leader's Line...

On my "I'm Thankful for" List: LBCC's 100 Years

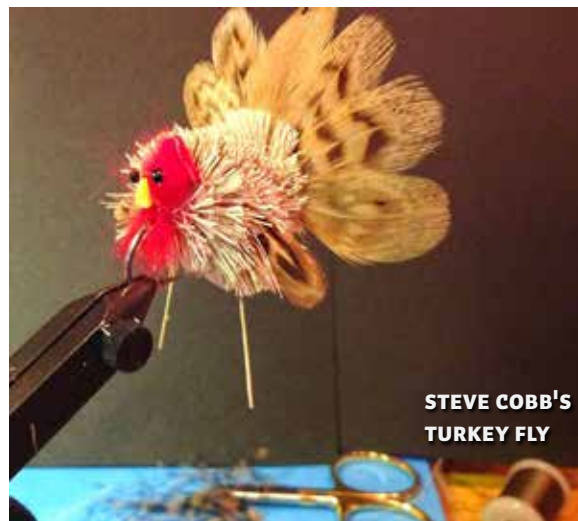
TOM OLSON, PRESIDENT

In our family, Thanksgiving is a special time. It's a time to reflect on the year that has gone by. It's also a time to let family members, friends and acquaintances know how much we appreciate them. As president of the Long Beach Casting Club, I want to thank each and every one of you for being a member of LBCC. I have seen and experienced the friendship, generosity and goodwill which keep our Club healthy and strong in this busy world.

When I look back on our hundred-year history, knowing what it takes to run our organization, I think about all the presidents and directors before us who took time from **their** busy worlds to keep LBCC going. From the beginning of the Club, with differing skill levels and personalities, they navigated difficult times during war and peace, funded our facilities, worked with the City of Long Beach and developed the Club into what it is today. It's something each of us needs to be thankful for.

I think history matters, and we can use LBCC's history to help us move forward into our next hundred years. We need to consider the long term by keeping our members engaged and

volunteering in any way they can. Let's keep being the teaching club we are by teaching fly casting, fly tying and rod building, and let's keep being the social club we are by having meetings and meals together to build friendships and camaraderie. I hope all of you can take time to reflect on the past, and all the members who have made LBCC what it is over the years. I'm hoping you can also take time to be thankful for all the current members who devote their time and talent to making our Club a pillar of the community.



I hope to see you at the Clubhouse, and, if I do, I'll personally thank you for making the Club what it is today. I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving.

Club Trips for 2025, 2026

ANDREW FAIRBANKS, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

TRIP DATE	TRIP & LEADER
Nov 8-11	Steelhead Trip w/ Marc Bonvouloir, Pre-Trip Nov 1, 9:00 am.
Jan 8-11, 2026	Lower Owens Trip #1 w/ Dan Rivett and John Lincoln. Pre-Trip Jan 3, 9:00 am
Feb 5-8	Lower Owens Trip #2 w/ Dan Rivett and John Lincoln. Pre-Trip Jan 31, 9:00 am
Mar 5-8	Lower Owens Trip #3 w/ Dan Rivett and John Lincoln. Pre-Trip Feb 28, 9:00 am
April 26-May 1	Green River Trip #1 w/ Andrew Fairbanks. Pre-trip TBD.
May 3-8	Green River Trip #2 w/ Colin Kumabe. Pre-trip is TBD.

Trip locations, dates and pre-trips change, so monitor Target Talk or the web calendar for the latest information.

Deposits for trips which are "double occupancy", and require deposits in advance, are non-refundable. If you cancel, your deposit will only be refunded if a Club member replaces you.

If you would like to be a streamkeeper and need help organizing a Club trip, or if you have suggestions for a Club trip or any questions, please email me at: andrewfairbanks7@gmail.com



OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

TOM OLSON

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

TONY DAUS

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

ANDREW FAIRBANKS

CO-CAPTAINS

MARK FLO
KEITH O'DONNELL

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

SHAWN FIFE

TREASURER

ED ALVARADO

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

RICK MORI

FACILITIES DIRECTOR

PETER HARDASH

SENIOR DIRECTOR

STEVE JONES

JUNIOR DIRECTOR

BOB MAYFIELD

TARGET TALK EDITOR

ROB PETERSON

November Speaker: Chris Leonard

"Wintertime Techniques and Tactics for Hooking Trout in the Lower Owens River in Bishop"

TONY DAUS, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Chris Leonard is a career history-social science teacher at Mammoth High School. His greatest passions are education and fly fishing, making him a choice fly fishing instructor and on-water guide. He guides through Kittredge Sports during the summer, and weekends and holidays during the school year: rivers and lakes, Tenkara and western rods. He has lived in the Eastern Sierra full time since 2004. His favorite waters to fish and guide include the Owens River, Hot Creek, Rush Creek, Rock Creek, San Joaquin River and Crowley Lake.

A seasoned traveler, he has chased trout as close as the Western USA, as far away as the Midwest, Eastern USA, Central America and South America. He has hooked steelhead in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, redbird in New Orleans and Texas, and bonefish, permit and tarpon in Belize. In 2005 his passion for fly fishing began when he started the Mammoth High School Fly Fishing Club. He's also a founding board member of the Crowley Fish Foundation, a newly-minted nonprofit.

His program is a story of how the creation of the Mammoth High School Fly Fishing Club led him on a journey of fly fishing and guiding throughout the Eastern Sierra. He did not know how to fly fish when he started the Club in 2005. Now, twenty years later, he is a seasoned angler. He will share stories, techniques, and tactics for fly fishing the majestic Eastern Sierra range. The Eastern Sierra is a jewel of a region for fly fishing—filled with creeks, rivers, and lakes, both on and off the beaten path. It's a beautiful part of the country, and a great place to wet a line.



Here is a [link to the presentation](#) if you'd like to view it before he presents it with detail, and a [link to the Crowley Fish Foundation](#).

Join us on Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 pm, at the Clubhouse or on Zoom.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85771558116?pwd=mHRuOViaVyVGaoX5CesMmwPPfpWnt8.1>

Meeting ID: 857 7155 8116

Passcode: 148231

Long Beach Casting Club New Members

SHAWN FIFE, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The Board of Directors approved these new members at the last Board meeting:

- ❖ Jacqueline Scarcello of Hermosa Beach
- ❖ Bob Murphy of Long Beach
- ❖ Jack Norton of Long Beach
- ❖ Michelle Prats of Culver City

Please greet and welcome all of our new members at the Club's monthly meetings. Here's wishing them a lifetime of healthy hatches and tight lines.

Members: if you see visitors at Club meetings, let's make them feel welcome and inform them of the activities we have to offer!

Fly Tying Forum: This Month's Schedule

MATT MURDOUGH, MEMBER

Welcome to the November Tying Forum. **This month's classes are dedicated to regular Forum member Kevin Allen, who passed away in early October [see pg.5].**

We'll have three home-grown instructors for our classes this month: Bob Campbell, Bob Guenther, and Kendall Blackburn.



Bob Campbell starts us off with his generic salmon fly, a weighted rabbit strip and marabou pattern that he developed for fishing trips to Alaska.

Bob Guenther is up next to demonstrate a fly to be determined.

Kendall Blackburn will wrap things up with a Chubby Ant pattern based on the Chubby Chernobyl. There is no class planned for the last Wednesday of the month due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Streamkeeper Workshop 101

WHEN: Sunday, December 7, 10:00 am

WHERE: Long Beach Casting Club

DESTINATIONS: Anywhere there's fish!

CURRICULUM: Learn how to become a streamkeeper to book guides, accommodations, restaurants, travel. Topics include pricing, number of anglers, trip writeup (three W's), spreadsheet, itinerary, payment installments, pre-trip prep, waivers, communication.

SPEAKERS: Joe Libeu, Andrew Fairbanks and Marc Bonvouloir

Anyone is welcome to join our regular sessions at 7:00 pm every Wednesday, regardless of tying experience. If you would like to join us, please email Shirley Sakaguchi (sakagusc@gmail.com) so that you can be added to the Forum email list. Shirley sends out pattern sheets for the flies covered in the coming month, and Matt Murdough will provide materials for anyone in the class who needs them.

Anyone interested in leading a tying session should reach out to Matt (mmroaringbrook@gmail.com) to get on the schedule.

If you have a pattern you want to learn, please let us know; we likely have someone in the Club who can demonstrate it for us. Looking forward to seeing some new faces at the Forum!

DATE	GENRE: PATTERN	INSTRUCTOR
11/05/25	Pacific Salmon Flies: Bob's Salmon Fly	Bob Campbell
11/12/25	To be Determined	Bob Guenther
11/19/25	Foam Terrestrials: Chubby Ant	Kendall Blackburn
11/26/25	No Class—Thanksgiving	

Sad News regarding LBCC Member Kevin Allen

SHIRLEY SAKAGUCHI, MEMBER

Kevin Allen, LBCC Member since 2022, passed away on Saturday, October 4, 2025, after a long battle with cancer.

Many of us knew Kevin from LBCC Club Trips, Beginning Fly Tying Class, Fly Tying Forum and his volunteering for Project Healing Waters Long Beach.

Kevin lived in Torrance and even during the later months he was able to catch a ride and join us at our Wednesday Fly Tying Forums and PHW weekly meetings.

There is no memorial service planned.

He will truly be missed.



On the River Clinic

COLIN KUMABE, PAST PRESIDENT

Learn to fly fish with the Long Beach Casting Club during the On the River Clinic.

The mysteries of fly fishing will be solved during the Clinic with a practical introduction to the equipment needed, entomology, stream structure, casting applications, short- and long-line presentation, reading the water, fly selection, how to organize your fly box and basic knots.

You will take the knowledge from the classroom sessions and fish the Lower Owens River on December 13 and 14, with individual instructions from riverwise instructors.

The On the River Clinic is led by Past President Joe Libeu, who is a licensed guide and master casting instructor, along with Mark Flo and Colin Kumabe, who will be assisting with the class.

CLASSROOM DATE: Saturday, November 8 & 15, 2025 (9:00 am-1:00 pm)

LOWER OWENS OUTING DATE: December 13 & 14, 2025 (Saturday & Sunday)

The Clinic is **for Beginning Members** and is **for Club members only**. Space is limited to 20 in the classroom sessions (**November 8 and 15**) and 12 on the river (**December 13 and 14**). Contact Colin Kumabe, email ctkumabe@gmail.com, for additional information.

Conservation Corner

A Fish Survey in Monache Meadows

TAE KIM, MEMBER

For the second year in a row, Ken Johnson, a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) biologist, requested volunteers for a fish survey in Monache Meadows. Debbie Sharpton, of Southwest Council Fly Fishers International (SWCFFI), sent out a call to the local clubs in Southern California. LBCC was represented by Tony Daus, Bob Mayfield, Alex Tolstick and me. Alex and I had assisted with the fish survey last year.

Located in Tulare County, the South Fork of the Kern River flows through the meadows and is part of the historic range of the California golden trout. The drive down into the meadows follows an old jeep trail that leaves first-timers prying their fingers off the steering wheel, and gives them a lingering concern about the drive back out.

Participants camp next to the CDFW cabins at the north end of the meadows. The climate can change quickly; there were some thunderstorms with lightning striking Olancho peak, and we woke up to frost-covered meadows as the temperature at night dipped below freezing. The campsite fire ring was the most popular spot for good talks and warming up before bed.

Last year the survey focused on an area north of the Schafer Dam in a steeper portion of the river, with faster flows and algae-covered cobblestones. This year's survey was conducted at the section of the meadows with sandier bottoms and slower flows.

The survey begins by stretching a net downstream at the starting point, and another net upstream at the endpoint. Shockers go through the area first, followed by netters and then the bucket crew. Three passes are made, and the captured fish are measured for length, weight and type. Typically, the greatest number of captured fish are suckers, followed by browns (non-native) and goldens.



SHOCKERS, NETTERS AND
BUCKET CREW

A funny moment occurred when an osprey watched what was happening, then decided to land on one of the large plastic trash cans that was awaiting classification. Fortunately, the osprey couldn't fit its entire wingspan within the trash can to grab one of the fish and fly out.

After the third pass, the CDFW staff stayed back and continued with the count. As it was time to head out, one could sense the nervousness of the drivers about the forthcoming climb out of the meadows. Bob mentioned that one time he spent three days getting his vehicle out, because he had to get a spare part from Bakersfield first. Luckily, everyone made it out this time with their vehicles in one piece!

For Club members interested in participating next year, look out for emails next spring or summer! Also, CDFW's Ken Johnson is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the Club's May 2026 meeting.



SOUTH FORK OF THE KERN RIVER

LBCC Corresponding Secretary Change on Board of Directors

TOM OLSON, PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors wants to inform you that Craig Wiginton from the Board has been elected to the lead position for our local Project Healing Waters (PHW) Program. Craig has graciously accepted, and will resign from the Corresponding Secretary position to focus on his new responsibilities.

The Board would also like to announce that Rick Mori has been appointed to the Corresponding Secretary position. Rick has been a member for over three years and has been active in our Spey and fly tying programs, and recently organized the Kevin Green Surf Fishing events.

The Board would like to thank Craig for serving as Secretary for a year and a half, and to let everyone know that he did an excellent job as a board member and submitted Board minutes on time, and the minutes were written thoroughly. We also want to thank Rick for volunteering to fill the position, and we all look forward to working with him.

Cruz Ornelas has been serving as the Lead for Project Healing Waters since restarting the local PHW Program several years ago. Cruz and past President Bob Mayfield worked together to get the chapter going again and it's impressive how the chapter has grown and initiated many activities. They elected Craig to this important position to continue the excellent and necessary support to our deserving Veterans.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS MISSION

STATEMENT: Healing America's Veterans through the Therapeutic Art of Fly Fishing.

If you want to learn more, here is a link to their website: projecthealingwaters.org, or reach out to Craig Wiginton at cwiginton51@gmail.com.



Annual Holiday Feast

TOM OLSON, PRESIDENT

GRACE CHERRY, FEAST COMMITTEE CHAIR

We are planning for this year's most enjoyable and traditional social event: **"The LBCC Holiday Feast"**. We hope that you, your spouse, partner or family members can join us on **Saturday, December 6** with a social hour beginning **at 6:00 pm**, followed by **dinner at 7:00 pm**.

John Lincoln and Dan Luas and their team will prepare their famous prime rib, as well as a vegetarian option.

We'll have live music and a social hour with hors d'oeuvres before dinner. It is a fun time to connect with old friends and make new ones and kick off the holiday season. The ticket price will be **\$40**.

Please look for upcoming eBlasts with a link to register and reserve your spot(s). Our team needs to know how many will attend so we can plan and buy the right amount of food, so we need you to **sign up before the end of November**.

We also need volunteers, so please watch for eBlasts. For new and current members, it is a great way to get involved and meet new people and get in the holiday spirit. We will need help with Clubhouse cleaning, decorating, washing dishes and cleanup.

Grace Cherry, Feast Committee Chair
Alisha Mora, Holiday Decorating
Peter Hardash, Clubhouse
John & Dan, Dinner Menu

We look forward to having you at this traditional and wonderful event!

More Quality Gear for Sale...

A Huge Donation!

JOHN VAN DERHOOF; PAST PREZ

Once again the Long Beach Casting Club has been blessed with a very, very generous donation of equipment. Honestly, this one makes previous gifts pale in comparison—in fact there is so much gear that it needs to be kept in a 10' x 15' storage unit. Most of this stuff is unused or lightly used.

There are about 180 fly rods (Burkheimer, Echo, Gael Force, Meiser, Orvis, Sage and more) and an extraordinary 140+ reels, most of which are Hatch. If there was a downside to all of this it's that *virtually all of the rods are two-handed* and range from a huge array of short 11' Trout Spey rods up to 13' and 14' rods for steelhead and salmon. The only single-hand rods are designed for salt or salmon/steelhead. While the majority of the reels are Hatch 7s and 9s, there are some smaller trout sized Hatch 3, 4 and 5 reels available. At a later time we will also be offering lines and other miscellaneous items most of which are unused.

Here's how this will work... Since there are so many rods and reels it would be too difficult to bring them all down to the Club. Instead there will be a viewing of a list of available rods and reels and people will reserve the rod(s) and/or reel(s) they are interested in. The list of rods and reels is usually available Monday thru Friday from 9:00 until 11:00 for viewing and reserving.

Additionally there will be a mass viewing and reserving event at the Clubhouse. The waiting will be done on a first-come first-served fashion as people can line up outside prior to entry. There will be a series of lists of the rods and reels available for purchase while people are waiting. Reservations of multiple rods of the same model (in hopes of seeing which is the best one and eliminating a purchase by someone



else) will not be allowed. The date of the viewing is **Saturday, November 22, 2025**. No entry will be allowed prior to 9:00 am.

Pricing of the equipment will be 60% off retail. Those individuals that want to purchase five or more rods and/or reels will be priced at 70% off retail. Some rods and reels will be at the Club during the reservation day so folks can see the quality of the materials.

Once the rods and reels are reserved, a separate date will be announced within a couple of weeks and purchasers can pick up and pay for their new toys. Payment can be made by cash, check (or credit/debit card). Currently the date for Pick-up is **Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** but may be subject to change. If the purchaser cannot be at the Club on that day and fails to let the Club know, they will forfeit their reservation and it becomes available for purchase to someone else. Please understand that **ALL SALES ARE FINAL!**

One last note: **PLEASE** do not call me, email me or text me about these items. Come down to the Club and look at the list. I will **not** reserve any item via phone, email or text. Please respect my privacy.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Eleventh Annual Lower Owens River Clean Up is Coming

Event Will be Saturday, November 1, at Pleasant Valley Campground

CHRIS LEONARD

The California Waterfowl Association Owens River 11th Annual Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 2025. This is the eleventh consecutive year of this fantastic event. Put it on your calendar, and plan to be in Bishop, California for the fall colors, and to give back to one of the Eastern Sierra's blue-ribbon fisheries and its surrounding areas.

All volunteers meet at the Pleasant Valley Campground at 8:00 am on the morning of Saturday, November 1. Coffee and baked goods will be offered to all volunteers. Representatives from important conservation and fishing groups will be present. This is also a great social event. Volunteers are handed trash bags, then divide and conquer to help clean up throughout the valley. Participants reconvene at noon for a lunch of Subway sandwiches, chips, cookies and cold drinks. There is a free raffle for participants. Event organizer Chris Leonard will take any swag that anyone would like to donate for the raffle. Food and beverages are sponsored by contributing organizations and casting clubs. This event doesn't happen without the selfless support of sponsors. There are many contributors, and no gift large or small goes unnoticed. If you'd like to help sponsor the event and/or donate swag for the raffle, please reach out to event organizer Chris Leonard at **818.288.3271**. Questions can also be directed to Chris Leonard.

No RSVP to participate is required. Just spread the word, show up, and bring family and friends. Remember, **safety first** the day of the event! A big thank you goes out to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for granting us permission to have this organized event.

...from Bob Mayfield, LBCC Past President

LODGING:

Steve and Kelly Jones are offering their Mammoth condos for Friday and Saturday nights. No rental cost—just a \$50 cleaning fee per person. Contact me by October 10 if interested: **714-392-2211** or **bob@impac-marketing.net**.

CAMPING:

Several LBCC members plan to camp at Pleasant Valley; secure your own campsite.

Your participation has a real impact on the Club's home waters. Hope to see you there!

Volunteers Needed!

***Annual Clubhouse Cleanup:
Saturday, 11/29/25 at 8:00 am***

PETER HARDASH, FACILITIES DIRECTOR

We will be having our Annual Clubhouse Cleanup on Saturday, November 29 at 8:00 am. The purpose is to spruce up our beloved Clubhouse in preparation for the Holiday Feast on December 6.

All cleaning supplies and task checklists will be provided onsite. The more volunteers we have, the faster it will be completed. We should be done by 11:00 am, or possibly earlier with more help.

To our new Club members: this is a great way to get to know other members, and learn their fly fishing and casting secrets.

Doughnuts and coffee will be provided at the Club as an incentive/bribe.

Please email (**phardash@gmail.com**) or text me (**714-403-9352**) if you can help, or just show up.

Thank You!

Cottonwood Lakes Trip

GRACE CHERRY, MEMBER

When Jim Garvey got a permit for Cottonwood Lakes, I was excited; I'd always wanted to go backpacking. But I only had two weeks to prepare, so I asked Jim and asked another friend from the Club, Alisha Mora, for advice. We got together at the Club.

They showed me the essentials, and gave me tips on keeping things light. I learned about bear canisters, megawarmers, water filters, poop scoops, stoves, dehydrated food and more. This meeting was key to making my trip a success. I got most of my stuff at REI. I'm grateful to Alisha and Jim for offering to lend me several items, but I felt that I could afford to buy them.

"Don't pack your fears!", I kept hearing Alisha say as I was packing. I'd been worried that I might hold people back, or that I'd get altitude sickness (which happened at the Brookie Bash). I resolved to hydrate and eat good meals on the hike. My final pack weighed just 23 pounds!

I camped with Jim and Alex Tolstick the night before at Horseshoe Meadow. Hydrating with electrolytes, a good meal, and taking the time to acclimate really helped. I found out I needed my thick jacket (another two pounds). After eating Jim's hearty blueberry pancakes, I was backpack-ready by the time Mike Sweeney arrived.

The first day dawned sunny and clear. The smell of pines, the green meadows and the hikers we met excited me at



THE GROUP STARTS OFF



ALEX'S GOLDEN
TROUT CATCH

the start. But the 1100-foot elevation gain wore on me, and fellow hikers became scarce. Rugged granite cliffs appeared. I lost my breath, but unlike the Brookie Bash, I wasn't sick—I just had to stop now and then. When I stopped, Jim would share his knowledge of the Sierras. His hiking and search-and-rescue experience made him the perfect docent.

With the stops to catch my breath and with the constant support of the group, I never felt I held anyone back. I'm very grateful. After a short steep section of switchbacks, we reached the overlook of the Cottonwood Lakes basin. I felt proud. **Everything after this will be easier**, I thought, and it was; I never had a major mishap on the trip.

It wasn't so for a group coming down the trail; they had lost one of their tents. Jim advised them to go back to their cars, as it would be too cold. Their gear was heavy and not well put together. Jim and Mike tightened their loads with parachute cord to help them hike back in the dark. I thought: "That could have been me!"

A camera and words cannot capture the beauty of this place. A lake can be both emerald-green and glacier-clear blue. A single rock can be a mighty and majestic cliff (I read that the big rocks are 800 million to a billion years old—there is an inescapable awe in knowing that). A bright sparkle at just the right moment shows a golden trout swimming by.

Time changes, when you've done the hard climb. After that it flies. There is delight and utter pleasure in a warm cup of coffee and watery warm oatmeal on a cold morning. It becomes easy to immerse yourself in the beauty and to be reminded that you too are part of it.



I noticed how much I'd learned about fly fishing since last year. I was aware of the bubbles on the curve of the creek, or where the water falls, then the pool, and I knew the fish would be there. I heard Mike Sweeny comment on a hatch, and then I too started looking for bugs. Alex gave me an ant fly. The fish took it every time! I did not even have to sneak up on them.

I have learned much from others at the Club. Fly fishing allows us to be fully present in nature, detaching us from urban stimuli or any worries or anxieties. And the trip reminded me: whatever I have, it's enough. If I can fit enough in one bag for me to survive three days, do I really need a lot of material wealth to be happy?

I learned about connection. I've written some of what I've learned about Jim. I learned that Mike Sweeney

radiates a sense of calm. He has a quiet, encouraging, steadfast demeanor. I learned that Alex is an avid and passionate fisherman. He is the first to get up and the last one to come back after fishing. There was a seamless, comfortable togetherness in our solitude. We shared the climb, cold nights and nature. There is a connection in that too.

The connection within oneself is also beautiful. On our last day, I got up around 6:00. I made coffee, got my rod and went to the lake (Alex was already out of his tent and fishing). The sun was coming up, and the water was turning blue. There was no wind. The lake was still. I'd tossed and turned in the cold that night, but now I felt calm and serene, that everything was alright. This is why people backpack. This is why I return to nature again and again.

When Tom Olson saw Alisha, Jim and me on our first meeting at the Club, he said: "This is what this club is all about". I couldn't agree more. I thank Alisha, Jim, Mike and Alex, who helped make my first backpacking and fishing experience so good. I couldn't have been with a kinder and more generous group.

If anyone is going backpacking for the first time, contact me. I will do for you what Alisha and Jim did for me. I will meet you at the Club and show you my backpack.

In memory of Kevin Allen, who introduced me to the Club. He reminded me that fly fishing has the power to transcend the human limits of age, race, gender, health, pessimism and cynicism. I am forever grateful.



Brookie Bash Report

TAE KIM, MEMBER

This past summer, I experienced my first Brookie Bash. I was planning to catch all five possible trout species (rainbow, golden, brookie, brown and Lahontan cutthroat), and earn the Club's Sadler Slam pin..

I had to leave my house around 5:00 am to get to Marc Bonvouloir's place, so I let the dog out to do his business. But a few minutes later, he came running back inside, reeking of a strong odor. **Oh no, he got skunked!** There wasn't much I could do since I had to leave in a few minutes. So, I apologetically woke up my peacefully-sleeping wife and asked her to please take care of the skunked dog, so that I could make it to my rendezvous with Marc and Tim Griffith.

Marc generously gave me some beetle patterns he had tied, with a tone of confidence in his voice. I put the container in my chest pack without giving it a proper spot in my fly box. Marc's foam beetle is based on the [Leetle Beetle from Fly Fish Food YouTube channel](#), but Marc's had a green sparkle dubbing as the irresistible iridescent underside. There was a black and brown version, and several other participants had their own similar beetles.



Being relatively new to fly fishing, I doubted the effectiveness of terrestrial flies. I'd heard that summertime is the season for them, but I'd never had a take on the little buggers. They seemed gimmicky, like "eye-candy" for kids and newbies at the fly shop.



At our first stop, we met Armando Palomares, the streamkeeper, and his son-in-law, Ydan Guerrero. We were fishing for California golden trout (outside their historic range). Marc, Armando, Tim and Ydan are all related in some fashion, so I felt honored to have been invited into their circle.

I quickly tied on a dry, then unsuccessfully tried a nymph, and several other non-terrestrial flies...I felt like I was going to get "skunked" twice in one day. At that moment, I heard Marc call out and ask me "How'd you do?". I responded, "Nothing yet...how about you?". He responded, "I got three already—Beetle! Brown!" This is when I begrudgingly tied on the beetle pattern. As soon as I tossed the line over the shrub I was hiding behind...**BAM!** one down and just four more to go.

On our second day, we drove up to Mammoth Lakes and hiked up to the McLeod Lake, which holds Lahontan cutthroat trout (again, outside their historic range). This fish was the toughest for me, while other Club members at the lake quickly got one and checked off another box.

I spent hours getting skunked. Then Armando asked "How's it going?". I responded, "nothing yet, how about you?". "I got three—Beetle! Black!" he pointed to the left side of the lake and trotted back to his truck.

I reeled my line in and walked along the beach to Armando's spot. I tied on the black beetle, cast to the

deep blue dropoff and stripped in some excess line. After several casts and some patient waiting, out of the depths rose a cruising cutthroat, gently breaking the surface and casually gulping the beetle into the side of its mouth. The cutthroat sure can fight and these damn beetles work... no doubt about it! Two down and three more to go.

I caught the other three species on the foam beetle as well: the brookie at Heart Lake, the rainbow at Rock Creek Lake and the brown at Hot Creek. I completed the Brookie Bash that Saturday as a rookie, thanks to Marc, Armando and Tim and their willingness to share their knowledge and experience.

I have learned to never doubt the beetle again. I told the group it should be called the No Doubt Beetle,



and everyone agreed. Armando even highlighted the newly-coined name at the Club meeting, when he was handing out the pins to commemorate all the anglers who completed the Sader Slam.

On our drive home down the 395, we marveled at the pattern's effectiveness, and Marc mentioned how easy it was to tie the No Doubt Beetle. I told him that I had no plans of ever tying flies, when loud laughter came from Tim in the passenger seat. Tim said that this was exactly what Marc had said many years back. That comment brought laughter from the whole group.

Along the scenic drive down the Eastern Sierras, I could still smell the faint scent of real skunk on my fingers from



the incident several days ago. I was thinking about my wife, Jennifer, and how she saved the day by taking care of the dog so that I could make my trip.

The next Saturday, in gratitude, I scooped her up into the truck at 4:00 am and drove her up to a creek feeding into the Little Kern River, in the Western Sierra, to get the Little Kern golden trout she'd always wanted. She was skunked six years before, in her attempt to catch one. This was before COVID and the Castle fire that had burned through the area in 2020.

After a brief hike down the trail, we started fishing the creek, and I quickly landed several fish on the No Doubt Beetle—Black. I continued to land fish and had to keep my enthusiasm to myself, as Jennifer wasn't having much luck and I was worried she might get skunked again.

I handed her my rod with the No Doubt Beetle and **BAM!** she was on a fish. After she landed several more, I gave up my brief "guide" job and started fishing again.

Thanks to the No Doubt Beetle, the "skunk" is gone, and I am back in the good graces of Jennifer. I also need to remain in the good graces of Marc, so I that I can get No Doubt Beetles from him in the future. I will hold out on tying flies as long as I can, but I may have to start tying my own someday—**no doubt about it.**



THE SADLER PIN

New Hat Designs: 100th Anniversary

Available only at the Clubhouse

COLIN KUMABE, PAST PRESIDENT

The Long Beach Casting Club is selling special “100th Anniversary 1925–2025” hats. This batch of hats includes a special logo, commemorating the Club’s 100th Anniversary.

When they’re gone, then you will be sorry you missed them. We have also re-stocked our standard Club hat!

Priced at \$20 each, you can’t afford to pass these up. Hats may be purchased only at the Clubhouse of the Long Beach Casting Club.

Just come to the Clubhouse during any event on the calendar, such as the monthly meeting, to purchase these collectible, stylish hats.



Join SPFA @ the Christmas Island
September 9–16, 2025

Space is limited, for inquiries, contact Kathy 714.475.4529 or kkspafa@gmail.com



Fly Tying Tip: Material Stacking While Palmering

DAVE BOYER, MEMBER

If you use a multiple-strand body material, for example, pheasant tail fibers or peacock herl, as you palmer it forward it may separate or you may not be able to stack it close together (**Photo-1**; I am using red thread to emphasize the fiber separation as you wrap). There are various techniques to prevent this. One is to wrap the fibers around your thread or a wire before you palmer forward.



This method reinforces the fibers, but can sometimes crush the fine hairs that give the body a clean "buggy" look. Here is an alternate way: keep your thread at the material tie-in point and wrap forward, but behind your thread (**Photo-2**), allowing the material to stack against the thread. This will give a nice, stacked look that you can counter-wrap with your ribbing.



If you want additional wear resistance, use a little head cement on the top of the hook/thread prior to palmering. With the above, you now have a number of options. You can counter-wrap the fibers up the hook, then wrap the ribbing, or reverse that by wrapping your material and counter-wrap your ribbing (my preferred way, as it's easier to tie off the ribbing wire). If you use head cement, you may not need ribbing at all.

The technique is now easier, using multiple pieces of body materials, letting the thread help stack them. Pick a method that produces the fly a fish would want!



And the Duck Didn't Even Get a Doughnut...

KEITH O'DONNELL, CO-CAPTAIN

On Tuesday, October 7, eleven members and a duck arrived at 8:00 am to remove the muck that had accumulated over the past 70 days or so. Those in attendance were:

- ❖ Jim O'Connell
- ❖ Mark Flo
- ❖ Chris Yamada
- ❖ Scott Harada
- ❖ Tim Lambert
- ❖ Colin Kumabe
- ❖ Brian Fitzgerald
- ❖ Peter Hardash
- ❖ Norm Riggs
- ❖ Keith O'Donnell
- ❖ Steve Timm and
- ❖ **THE DUCK.**

Special thanks to Colin Kumabe for removing the cover and opening the drain on the evening of the 6th, which allowed for an easier-than-usual cleanout.

Fly of the Month: Mr. Gordon's Quill

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, PAST PREZ & NE'ER-DO-WELL

Whenever I sit down to write a Fly of the Month, my goal is to convey a technique or bit of history beyond the pattern itself. Understanding this gives all you tiers out there more to consider when you're tying. Sure, many of you just want the pattern, but getting something more out of this is much more to my liking. This month it is a pattern and a bit of history: the Quill Gordon.

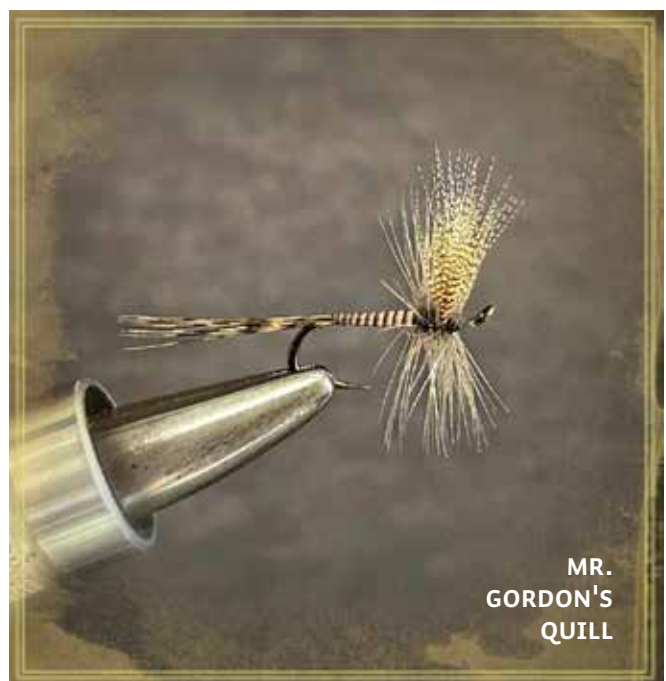
In all likelihood this was America's first dry fly—if not, it was certainly the first commercially successful American dry fly (long before the Adams and the Royal Coachman, which was tied as a wet fly). Invented in the 1890s by the dean and father of American fly fishers, [Theodore Gordon](#), the Quill Gordon was an answer to flies he received from the famed English angler [Frederick Halford](#). When Gordon fished with Halford's flies, while beautiful, they didn't catch fish. They simply didn't match what was hatching in the Catskill rivers Gordon fished. One thing Gordon did like about Halford's flies was the realistic bodies, using what are commonly (and incorrectly) referred to as quills. These were from stripped hackle stems/rachis or from peacock barbs; the eye barb in particular. Only the eye barb is distinctly dark on one edge and light on the other. When wound it looks exactly like a mayfly's body.

Tied to imitate *Epeorus pleuralis* ([Iron fraudator](#) or what's now called the Quill Gordon), what is really great about the Quill Gordon is that it still works well and imitates a variety of mayfly species. A few very minor changes have been made to the pattern over the years. Most notable among them is the tail. It is believed that the original versions of the Quill Gordon as tied by Gordon himself used wood duck flank fibers for the tail. I have seen flies tied by him that featured tails of wood duck and blue dun hackle fibers. The great tier Art Flick famously used hackle fibers on his flies in his classic [Art Flick's Streamside Guide](#). The reason should be obvious: hackle barbs soak up much less water than duck flank feathers, and offer the angler a higher-floating fly. One nod to Gordon: I like to use [Ginger Pardo Coq de Leon](#) barbs. The color is similar to wood duck and even has the dark markings.

Give the Quill Gordon a try and immerse yourself in a little bit of angling history. When you're done with the fly, take it out for a swim, and you might be pleasantly surprised.

MATERIALS FOR TYING THE QUILL GORDON

- Hook:** Mustad 94842 turned-up eye (or standard dry fly); size 12
- Thread:** Magpie Material 72d; tan dun
- Wing:** Wood duck; upright and divided
- Tail:** Whiting Coq de Leon; ginger Pardo
- Body:** Peacock eye barb; Polish Quill natural
- Hackle:** Whiting Legacy (Historical); tan gray dun (descended from Alan 'Doc' Fried and the Elsie & Harry Darbee)
- Head:** Thread



MR.
GORDON'S
QUILL

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TYING THE QUILL GORDON

- 1 Well, let's get started by locking your hook into the vise and attaching your thread. Now, you've heard this from me before, but here it is again. If I am starting with the wing on a fly I attach my thread using a reverse jam hitch, which gets my thread winding forward rather than back, then wind forward, creating a lump. If you want to learn the Reverse Jam Hitch, here is a YouTube video of Wayne Luallen demonstrating it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QISbyhnBIrA>
- 2 With thread attached, select a good quality wood duck flank feather (not the one with the black and white tip barring) which has a fairly equal amount of barbs on either side of the rachis (stem). Cut out a small amount of the the feather tip, leaving a "V" that is slightly deeper than the length of the hook. Stroke the barbs of the feather and tie it in forward, over the eye and about the length of the hook. The wing should always stand proud of the hackle. I usually only use about five or six turns of thread to do this. Keep your thread wraps to a minimum!
- 3 After you tie in the wings, fold them back towards the bend of the hook and, with your thumb and forefinger, crush the heck out of them at their tie-in point to break their resistance. Now separate the wing into two halves, near side and far side, and make one thread wrap from behind to the front between the two halves, and another from the front to the back (an X-wrap) to keep them separated. Don't overdo it! Now, post the near wing with one wrap of the thread at the base and then one turn of thread behind the wing. This wrap locks the post wrap, and allows you to apply thread tension and pull the wing into an upright position. Eleven total wraps to stand up the wing and no thread dam.
- 4 On to the tail...with the wing standing, cut away the butt ends of the wood duck on an extreme taper, to provide a smooth body. Using touching wraps, wind down the hook shank to the bend. The



A PERFECT
WOOD FLANK
FEATHER FOR
WINGING

tail material listed is Ginger Pardo from a Whiting Tailing Pack. Again, this is a nod to the wood duck Gordon used, but if you don't have it, simply use what most folks use: dun hackle barbs. I like to stroke the barbs out so they are perpendicular to the rachis with even tips. Then, pull the feather away quickly, leaving the tailing barbs in your fingers. Try not to handle them too much, as this would cause the tails to splay in uneven angles once tied in. Tie in the tails so that they are about the length of the shank or a little longer (but not as long as the hook itself).

- 5 For the body we are using a stripped peacock eye barb (often referred to incorrectly as a quill). I usually remove those fluffy barbules with a white plastic drafting eraser. Another method is to dip the entire eye section into melted white canning paraffin. After dipping, lightly squeegee off the excess (if too hot use two chop sticks) and set to cool and dry. You can then peel off a barb one at a time, and the fluff comes off easily with a fingernail. If you can find them, [Polish Quills](#) (the company and, yes, from Poland) are pre-stripped and excellent. With the barb stripped, tie it in at the narrow end and advance your thread to the back of the wing. Now Mr. Gordon counter-wrapped the peacock barb with wire, but some head cement or cyanoacrylate applied to the underbody will make for a durable body. Don't use UV resin underneath! It only hardens and cures when exposed to UV

light. That ain't gonna happen if it's covered. Duuuuhhhh...wind the barb forward with the slightest overlapping. You want to see a body of dark and light bands, as you see in the photos. Tie off the peacock barb right behind the wing.

- 6 Select a suitably-sized hackle and remove the softer barbs near the base, and any portions of list/center strip. Tie in the hackle shiny-side-up by winding three or four turns behind the wing, and the same in front. I like to wind a mild ramp in front of the wing, for the hackle to go down when brought in front. The wax helps to hold the hackle in place without sliding. Wind your hackle forward, with about three turns behind and one or two turns in front of the wing. Catskill flies are generally tied much lighter than our western flies. But, if you're fishing some rougher water, don't hesitate to throw in a few more turns. Wind a smooth head and whip finish. Go fish!

Note:

It's no secret that I am a hackle head. I like hackle and I have a lot. What's crazy is that I am nowhere near as bad as others that I am acquainted with! Not even close. That said, two rooster capes I recently picked up are a grey dun and another in tan dun, and I am excited to be tying with them.

I know, there's nothing too unusual about a couple of dun roosters in slightly differing shades of gray—except...both capes are Whiting Legacy (aka Historical) capes. For years I have had friends with connections to Whiting dangle them in my face, while I drool and suffer convulsions. They really are just chicken necks, but why the fuss? The one thing about the [Whiting Hackle Farm](#), and Dr. Tom Whiting in particular, is that he keeps birds true to their lineage. All of the red-label Whiting capes are descended from Henry Hoffman's Super Grizzly capes from the '80s and '90s. All of the green-label capes follow a line directly from the birds raised by Andy Miner and, more recently, Ted Hebert. Yes, he does crossbreed selected birds from different lines together, but the original lineage always remains true.

That brings me to the new capes. The Whiting Legacy capes are a line straight back to Al "Doc" Fried and [Elsie and Harry Darbee](#). These are some of the most well-known and influential hackle producers (and, in the case of the Darbees, fly tiers) in our sport. There are hints, though unproven, that they might actually go back to the original Old English Blue Cock eggs sort of illegally smuggled into the U.S. by [Preston J. Jennings](#) around 1933. Yup, much of our early hackle was "illegal". What I like about these capes is that they are much higher quality than capes raised by Doc Fried and the Darbees and they make me feel like I am keeping a tradition of the Catskill tying alive—especially when tying Quill Gordons! So think about what you are tying and the materials you tie it with. There can be a lot of history in what you are using.



**WHITING
LEGACY
DUN
CAPE**



Calendar of Events

November



1	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
			Annual Owens River Clean Up
		9:00 AM	Pre-Trip: Steelhead Trip w/ Marc Bonvouloir
2	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		11:00 AM	Sunday Women's Casting Clinic
3	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
		6:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
4	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
5	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
6	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
8	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
		9:00 AM	On the River Clinic: Classroom Session #1
8-11	Week		Steelhead Trip w/ Marc Bonvouloir
9	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		1:00 PM	Monthly Casting Lessons
10	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
11	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
12	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
13	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
15	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
		9:00 AM	On the River Clinic: Classroom Session #2
16	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
17	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
18	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
19	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Nooner Lunch
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
20	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: Chris Leonard, Owens in Winter
22	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
23	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
24	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
25	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
26	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
29	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
			Annual Clubhouse Cleanup
30	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting

Calendar of Events Cont'd.

December



1	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
		6:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
2	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
3	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
4	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
6	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
		6:00 PM	Holiday Feast
7	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		10:00 AM	Streamkeeper 101 Workshop
		11:00 AM	Sunday Women's Casting Clinic
8	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
9	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
10	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
11	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
13	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
13-14			On the River Clinic: Lower Owens Outing
14	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		1:00 PM	Monthly Casting Lessons
15	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
16	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
17	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Nooner Lunch
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
18	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
20	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
21	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
22	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
23	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
24	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
27	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
28	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
29	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
30	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
31	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum

Calendar of Events Cont'd.

January



3	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
4	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		11:00 AM	Sunday Women's Casting Clinic
5	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
		6:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
6	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
7	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
8	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
8-11			Lower Owens Trip #1 w/ John Lincoln and Dan Rivett
10	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
11	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		1:00 PM	Monthly Casting Lessons
12	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
13	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
14	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
15	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
17	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
18	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
19	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
20	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
21	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Nooner Lunch
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
22	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
23-25			LBCC Open Spey Tournament
24	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
25	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
26	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
27	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
28	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
29	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: Alicia Hamman, Friend of the Eel River
31	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast



For *November 2025*, our club's monthly special 20% discount will be set on the Aventik website.

<https://aventiksports.com/collections/club-special>

It covers 10 products including fly-fishing reels, a fly-tying vise and some accessories. Details:

1. S-Glass Fly Rod
2. IM12 Nano Nymph Fly Rod
3. IM10 Spey Rod
4. IM12 Nano Saltwater Fly Rod
5. Gale Series Fly Reel
6. Hvcce Fly Fishing Reel
7. 075 Madison Fly Tying Vise
8. Floating Fishing Net
9. Fishing Jacket
10. T-Design Doubleheader



Whether you're looking for the latest fishing gear or accessories, this is the perfect time to upgrade your collection. Free shipping on orders over \$50, click through our website to add new items to your fishing equipment collection.

Easy shopping, quality assurance, worry-free after-sales!

GOLDEN SAILS

LB — HOTEL — CA



SET SAIL FOR COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

- On-site fitness center
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- 24-hour business center
- Outdoor year-round heated pool
- Oversized spa
- Spacious courtyard with gazebo, ideal for weddings
- On-site vending machines
- Coin-operated laundry
- ATM machine
- Complimentary USA newspapers in the lobby
- 173 guest rooms featuring:
- Work desk
- 32 inch flat-screen TV
- Microwave
- AM/FM alarm clock radio
- Mini refrigerator
- Single cup Haus Maid coffee maker
- Ironing board
- Hairdryer
- Aquamer Institute Swiss® bath amenities
- Air conditioning

GOLDEN SAILS HOTEL

6285 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach, CA 90803 | (562) 596-1631 | goldensailshotel.com



WWW.OLDMOEGUIDESERVICE.COM • 435-885-3342



 **hotel CURRENT**

WAYNE NAGEL
Hotel Manager

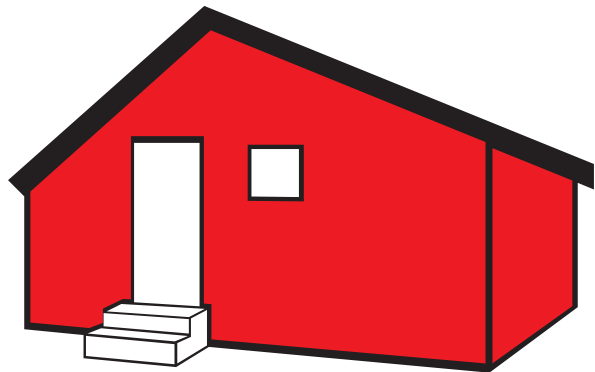
d 562.597.1341 x401
f 562.597.5171
wayne@hotelcurrent.com

5325 e. pacific coast hwy
long beach, ca 90804

www.hotelcurrent.com



JUNKYARD SPEY



www.redshedflyshop.com



**YOUR FLY FISHING DESTINATION
& RESORT OUTFITTER**

**FLY FISHING EXCURSIONS • CLASSES
PRIVATE INSTRUCTIONS**

(310) 749-6771

3901 Brayton Ave., • Long Beach, CA 90807 • www.spfadventures.com