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# Target Talk

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG BEACH CASTING CLUB, ESTABLISHED 1925

FEBRUARY 2026

[WWW.LONGBEACHCASTINGCLUB.NET](http://WWW.LONGBEACHCASTINGCLUB.NET)

## Leader's Line...

# LBCC Tournament Casting: How About Giving it a Try?

TOM OLSON, PRESIDENT

**I**t's a new year. How about a new challenge to improve your fishing, meet more members and enjoy our casting pond? I'm inviting you, to sign up for our annual Southwestern Tournament, February 14 and 15. As a ten-year member of LBCC, I've embraced tournament casting, both Spey and single-hand, and it has added a whole new dimension to my fly fishing world.

The Club was founded around tournament casting. I never thought I would want to be in any type of tournament, but other members encouraged me to give it a try, and I'm encouraging you to do the same. The Southwest Tournament is the perfect place to start. There are different levels of expertise: A, B and C levels. C is the beginner level, where you get your line wet and learn the games.

Colin Kumabe taught me that the key to success is to realize you are only competing against yourself; when you are in your first tournament and get your first score, you have a basis to improve on. He suggested having a goal of improving your scores in each future tournament, so that you challenge yourself to practice and become more proficient.

Mark Flo is a real cheerleader for using tournament casting to improve your fishing, because he has improved his fishing success by competing in tournaments. Many of us show up to the Pond a week or two before our next

fishing trip, to try to get our casting rhythm back on track. What I have found is that if you sign up for a tournament, you start practicing for the tournament just as if you were practicing for an upcoming fishing trip. That helps you to get hooked on making your practices a game, and to improve.

Do you wonder why the targets in the Pond are spread out in a certain way? They are set up for different tournament events. I've been told that the targets are also at the angle a trout can see, depending on the depth. If you start pretending the targets are fishing lies, you will find that it helps you to focus on making a better cast.

There will be some tournament instruction before the Southwestern, and I'm hoping you will consider signing up. You will be part of a tradition at LBCC, you will challenge yourself and you will see how much fun casting can be. You'll also become a better caster, and you'll likely catch more fish.

# Club Trips for 2026

ANDREW FAIRBANKS, 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

TRIP DATE	TRIP & LEADER
Feb 7	Heritage Trout San Gabriel River w/ Bob Mayfield, Pre-Trip Saturday, Jan 17, 10:00 am
Mar 5-8	Lower Owens Trip #3 w/ Dan Rivett and John Lincoln. Pre-Trip Feb 28, 9:00 am
Mar 27-29	Heritage Trout Kern River w/ Bob Mayfield
April 26-May 1	Green River Trip #1 w/ Andrew Fairbanks. Pre-trip TBD
May 1-3.	Heritage Trout Fish Creek & Clicks Creek w/ Bob Mayfield
May 3-8	Green River Trip #2 w/ Colin Kumabe. Pre-trip is TBD.
May 29-June 1	Heritage Trout Eagle Lake & Wolf Creek w/ Bob Mayfield
July 10-12	Brookie Bash 2026 w/ Armando Palomares, Pre-Trip TBD
July 10	Tenkara Event at Brookie Bash w/ Cecil O'Dell

**T**rip 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](mailto:andrewfairbanks7@gmail.com)



# OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**

TOM OLSON

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

TONY DAUS

**2<sup>ND</sup> 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

# February Speaker: Captain Tyler Cole

## *Fly Fishing Coastal Florida*

TONY DAUS, 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

February's speaker will be Captain Tyler Cole from Bonita Springs, Florida, an area rich in great restaurants, scenery and local culture (20 minutes from the Fort Myers airport). Tyler works the shallow water of Southwest Florida: mangroves, oyster bars, beach edges and quiet creeks where snook, redfish and tarpon make you earn your fish.



Tyler focuses on sight fishing with fly and light-tackle gear because that is where skill matters (and it is a lot more fun). This type of fishing requires clean shots, short casts, quick decisions. He focuses on whatever fish are rolling or blowing up bait.

His goal is to provide the best day the conditions allow. Some days that may involve hunting big fish; on other days the focus may be on smaller fish in greater



numbers. Either way, saltwater fly fishing will teach you to be a better caster and overall fly fisher.

**Join us on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 7:00 pm, at the Clubhouse or on Zoom.**

### **JOIN ZOOM MEETING**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83830994205?pwd=ZvpJavL64oemStgxfglwWGsKUemX34.1>

**Meeting ID: 838 3099 4205**

**Passcode: 163633**



# Fly Tying Forum: This Month's Schedule

MATT MURDOUGH, MEMBER

Welcome to the February edition of the Fly Tying Forum. This month we'll start off with a pair of nymphs for lake fishing from Randall Kaufmann's [Fly Tyers Nymph Manual](#). Kaufmann's own Timberline Emerger, and the Cate's Turkey by the late Jerry Cate, are typical of the flies Kaufmann preferred for the Sierras: they are long, slender, and buggy, and can represent anything from a trailing shuck midge to a mosquito larva to a Callibaetis nymph.



Cecil O'Dell is up next with a Split-Foam Back Emerger, a Charlie Craven adaptation of a pattern developed by New Mexico guide John Tavenner for fishing the San Juan River.



John Van Derhoof will end the month with another of Kaufmann's steelhead flies: the Coal Car. Named after the railroad line that runs alongside the Deschutes River, this dark pattern is very effective on hot sunny days, when steelhead are looking for something more natural looking than a five-inch long Intruder!



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](mailto: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](mailto: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
02/04/26	Stillwater Patterns from Kaufmann	Matt Murdough
02/11/26	Open Tying Night	
02/18/26	Mayfies: Split Foam Back Emerger	Cecil O'Dell
02/25/26	Steelhead Flies: Kaufmann's Coal Car	J. Van Derhoof

## Still Some Gear Left...

JOHN VAN DERHOOF; PAST PREZ

In November I reported that the Long Beach Casting Club had been blessed with a very, very generous donation of equipment. Honestly, this one made previous gifts pale in comparison—in fact there was so much gear that it needed to be kept in a 10' x 15' storage unit. Most of it was unused or lightly used.

Of the roughly 180 fly rods (Burkheimer, Echo, Gael Force, Meiser, Orvis, Sage and more) and an extraordinary 140+ reels, most of which were Hatch, there are still some left. If there was a downside to all of this it was that **virtually all of the rods were two-handed**, and ranged 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 were designed for salt or salmon/steelhead.

After the initial rush the only reels remaining are a few Hatch 7s and 9s. The smaller trout-sized Hatch 3, 4 and 5 reels are gone. At a later time we will also be offering lines and other miscellaneous items, most of which are unused.

Pricing of the equipment is 60% off retail. Those individuals who purchase five or more rods and/or reels get 70% off retail.

Payment can be made by cash, check (or credit/debit card). Please understand: **ALL SALES ARE FINAL!**

Right now we are evaluating what is left of the rods and not taking any orders. **We will begin taking new orders soon!**

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.

## Southwestern Casting Tournament 2026 at LBCC

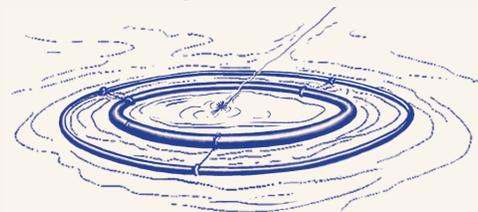
**Dates: February 13-15... Come on Out and Help!**

MARK FLO, CO-CAPTAIN

Our annual Southwestern Casting Tournament will be happening Friday February 13<sup>th</sup>, Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will come out and compete in the games (first-timers encouraged!), or help support the casters by volunteering for tasks and watching the casting games.

Many volunteers are needed to help make the tournament successful, and there are many options to use your talents. From Friday morning setup help, judging, scorekeeping, refreshing the casting order board between games and jumping up to help keep things running smoothly, to food prep for lunch and table setup for dinner Saturday night...there are many opportunities to be part of the support team.

Please email [markcflo@yahoo.com](mailto:markcflo@yahoo.com) with the days and times that you are available to help. There is a Friday morning and afternoon shift; Same for Saturday and Sunday. If you haven't volunteered before, this is an easy introduction to the joys of being an active Club member.



# 2026-2027 LBCC Nominating Committee Announcement

**RICK MORI, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

**A**t the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, April 2, the Club will elect a board of directors for the coming 12 months. To help achieve that objective the Board has appointed a nominating committee consisting of the following members:

- ❖ Rick Hilles, Chair, Past President
- ❖ Colin Kumabe, Past President
- ❖ Shirley Sakaguchi
- ❖ Wayne Sakaguchi
- ❖ Cecil O'Dell, member at large

The Nominating Committee's assignment is to present to you, as active members, a ballot of nominees to serve for the Club year 2026-2027 on the Long Beach Casting Club's Board of Directors:

- ❖ President
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- ❖ Casting Co-Captain
- ❖ Casting Co-Captain
- ❖ Treasurer
- ❖ Membership Secretary
- ❖ Corresponding Secretary
- ❖ Facilities Director
- ❖ Junior Director
- ❖ Senior Director

Any ten members in good standing can nominate additional candidates to be included on the ballot. Such nominations need to be made in writing, signed by members and delivered to the Corresponding Secretary before the election.

If you are interested in serving the Club as a member

of the Board, or if you have a recommendation of another active member in good standing who you think should be considered, please let any member of the Nominating Committee know. Their contact information is in the roster.

For your information, the LBCC Bylaws address the issue of elections as follows:

## **ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS**

1. The election of Officers and Board of Directors shall take place at the Annual Meeting in April each year.
2. At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors in December of the preceding year, there shall be appointed a Nominating Committee of five (5) members of the club, of whom at least two (2) shall be past presidents and none of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors. Within thirty (30) days of the appointment of the Nominating Committee, the Corresponding Secretary shall notify each active member in good standing of the appointees to the Nominating Committee.
3. Each active member in good standing shall have the opportunity of submitting to the Nominating Committee suggestions for members to be considered by the Nominating Committee for the various offices to be filled. The Nominating Committee shall carefully consider, but shall not be bound by, all such suggestions from the membership and shall nominate a ticket for officers and for any vacancies on the Board of Directors. The ticket so nominated shall be placed in the hands of the Corresponding Secretary at least forty-five (45) days before the Annual Meeting.
4. The Corresponding Secretary shall notify each active member in good standing of the ticket of nominees at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting.
5. After the members have been advised of the ticket nominated as above, any ten (10) members in good standing may nominate other candidates for the same office or offices from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Such nominations shall be made in writing

and be signed by said members and delivered to the Corresponding Secretary before the election. The name(s) of any candidate or candidates so nominated from the floor shall be written on the ballot, and shall be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

6. Only active members shall be entitled to vote at the annual election of officers and any member who is in arrears to the club or otherwise not in good standing shall not be permitted to vote.

## Long Beach Casting Club New Members

SHAWN FIFE, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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

- ❖ Christine Rettig of Hesperia
- ❖ James Mayfield of Huntington Beach
- ❖ Andy Szofan of Red Lodge, Montana
- ❖ Kalyn Hoghard of Stoughton
- ❖ Robin Imbilli of Lakewood
- ❖ Robert "Bob" Grosher
- ❖ Louie Weieman of Huntington Beach
- ❖ Tish McCauley of Gardena
- ❖ David Loe of Yorba Linda
- ❖ David Lundin of Hermosa Beach
- ❖ Spencer Allison of Long Beach
- ❖ Roy Fukushima of Orange
- ❖ Charles Lee of Santa Ana
- ❖ Alexander Lee of Long Beach
- ❖ Jonty Nash of Long Beach
- ❖ Steve Loe of Hacienda Heights

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!**

## For Questions re: Lower Owens #2

**February (1/29-2/1)**

DAN RIVETT, PAST PRESIDENT  
JOHN LINCOLN, MEMBER

To those who are beginners or have questions regarding the February Lower Owens trip:

Since we will not be holding a separate pre-trip for the Lower Owens #2, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the streamkeepers.

For information from the Lower Owens River Pre-Trip, click [here](#).

Dan Rivett ([DRivett@commercelp.com](mailto:DRivett@commercelp.com) or 562-833-1457)

John Lincoln ([jlincoln1@yahoo.com](mailto:jlincoln1@yahoo.com) or 562-652-7686)

## Holiday Drive a Huge Success!

ALISHA MORA & GRACE CHERRY, MEMBERS

A massive "Thank you!" to everyone who contributed to our recent holiday drive!

Because of your incredible generosity, we collected seven extra-large boxes filled with clothing and shoes for men and women. These donations are on their way to [Safe Refuge](#) in Long Beach, where they will make a truly meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors.

This achievement was only possible because of your kindness. We are so proud of what we accomplished together!



# CATCH & RELEASE TOURNAMENT OPEN TO ALL!

*Fly or Spin for the Win*



**FEBRUARY 7, 2026**

9am - 4pm - Pre and Post Event  
Tri-County Fairgrounds - Patio Room

**PRIZES FOR THE WINNERS.  
RAFFLES, TOO!**

Get Info at:

<http://www.ianglertournament.com/upcoming-tournaments?combine=Trout+Rodeo>



## Conservation Corner

### California Heritage Trout Challenge: Challenging all Anglers, Young and Old!

BOB MAYFIELD, PAST PRESIDENT

**Y**ou may have heard of the California Heritage Trout Challenge (CA HTC) but didn't know how to start it. On January 17 at 10:00 am we had an informational meeting at the Clubhouse to discuss the Challenge. Bob and Diane, a husband-and-wife team, shared their story of completing the CA HTC and how they can guide and assist you in accomplishing this for yourself.

We have four flyfishing outings planned for the first half of 2026. Join us; it will be a great way to start off the new year.

From **An Anglers's Guide to the California Heritage Trout Challenge**: "The CA HTC was designed to promote the ecological and aesthetic values of native trout and their habitats, encourage anglers to learn more the state's natural heritage and build public support [for] native trout restoration efforts. CDWF welcomes anglers, families and friends to 'take the Challenge.'"



## Heritage Trout Challenge 2026 Schedule

- ❖ **Pre-Trip Informational Meeting:** Saturday, January 17, 10:00 am, LBCC Clubhouse. We went over what you can expect on these various trips. We also tried to answer any questions posed by meeting attendees.
- ❖ **Coastal Rainbow Trout:** February 7, West Fork San Gabriel River. Walk and wade; meet in parking lot at river 8:00 am.
- ❖ **Kern River Rainbow Trout:** March 27–29, Upper Kern River. Walk and wade; weekend trip. Guides available through Kern River Fly Shop.
- ❖ **California Golden Trout:** May 1–2, Fish Creek. Walk and wade; fish Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, then Clicks Creek. If Sherman Pass not open, go long way around.
- ❖ **Little Kern Golden Trout:** May 2–3, Clicks Creek. Hike in to Clicks Creek.
- ❖ **Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout:** May 29–31, Eagle Lake (Above Susanville). Will need float tube or kayak. Drive up to Eagle Lake May 29, fish 30<sup>th</sup> and 1/2 day 31<sup>st</sup>, then off to Walker River.
- ❖ **Lahontan Cutthroat Trout:** May 31 to June 1. Wolf Creek above Marine Corps Mountain Training Center. Camp or hotel night of 31<sup>st</sup>. Fish Wolf Creek 31<sup>st</sup>, and 1<sup>st</sup> if necessary.

### OTHER HERITAGE TROUT:

- ❖ **McCloud River Redband**
- ❖ **Goose Lake Redband Trout**
- ❖ **Warner Lakes Redband**
- ❖ **Coastal Cutthroat Trout**
- ❖ **Paiute Cutthroat Trout**

# Two Green River Trips Planned for 2026

## Trip 1: April 26-May 1, Trip 2: May 3-May 8

### COLIN KUMABE, PAST PRESIDENT

Each year, Club members fish the Green River in Utah. This is your opportunity to fish in this very productive river, set in beautiful scenery. The brown trout and rainbow trout average 16 inches, with much larger fish being very normal.

Most anglers fish two days with guides, and wade-fish with a buddy. There are lots of opportunities to run nymphs through productive riffles, pools and runs, cast streamers to large trout and cast dry flies to rising fish.

#### DATES:

- ❖ Arrive April 26 and depart May 1. Trip streamkeeper is Andrew Fairbanks.
- ❖ Arrive May 3 and depart May 8. Trip streamkeeper is Colin Kumabe.

**LODGING:** \$1200 per cabin for the five nights, or \$600 per person based on double occupancy.

**GUIDES:** **Old Moe Guide Service**, cost per boat per day is \$700 (\$350 per day person double occupancy) plus tax and gratuity.

If you have questions please contact:

- ❖ First week: April 26–May 1. Andrew Fairbanks, [andrewfairbanks7@gmail.com](mailto:andrewfairbanks7@gmail.com).
- ❖ Second week: May 3–8. Colin Kumabe, [ctkumabe@gmail.com](mailto:ctkumabe@gmail.com).



### 2026 SPFA Hosted Trip Calendar

Inquiries: [kksdfa@gmail.com](mailto:kksdfa@gmail.com) or 714.475.4529

#### First Half of 2026

Destination	Chilean Patagonia, Two Lodge Program	Argentina, Rio Gallegos Sea -Run Browns	Missoula, Montana
Dates	January 17-24 <b>Full</b>	January 24-31 <b>Full</b>	April 6-11 <b>Full</b>
Duration & Cost	7 nights/6 days of fishing: \$7,250	7 nights/6 days of fishing: \$7,600	5 nights/4 days of fishing: \$2,400
Inclusions	7 nights accommodation, 6 days of guided fishing, all meals & beverages, all ground transportation, laundry	7 nights accommodation single occupancy, 6 days of guided fishing, all meals & beverages, all ground transportation, fishing license, laundry	5 nights accommodation in 2 bedroom unit with a bathroom & kitchenette, 4 days of guided fishing, boat lunch
Exclusions	International & domestic flights, guide & staff gratuities, fishing license, additional lodging, meals & transportation before or after	International & domestic flights, guide & staff gratuities, additional lodging, meals & transportation before or after	Flights, airport transfers, meals & beverages other than boat lunch, fishing license, guide gratuities
Highlights	In Cinco Rios, 3 days floating major rivers and lakes around Coyhaique, then transfer to Estancia del Zorro for walk & wade fishing private spring creeks	Private access to 95km of Rio Gallegos for Sea-Runs and 20 km of spring creeks for resident browns all within the boundaries of the Estancia	Floating Bitterroot, Clark Fork, and Blackfoot. Targeting Skwala hatch

#### Second Half of 2026

Destination	Bighorn River, Montana	Agua Boa Lodge, Amazon Brazil	Argentina: Patagonia River Guides
Dates	July 26-August 1 <b>Wait list only</b>	November 28-December 5 <b>7 spots</b>	December 7-14 <b>7 spots</b>
Duration & Cost	6 nights/5 days offishing: \$3,500	7 nights/6 days of fishing: Inquire	7 nights/6 days of fishing: \$9,950
Inclusions	6 nights accommodation, 5 days of guided fishing, all meals & nonalcoholic beverages, airport transfers, flies	7 nights accommodation, 6.5 days of guided fishing, all meals & beverages at the Lodge, charter flights between Manaus & the Lodge, fishing license, laundry, flies	7 nights accommodation, 6 days of guided fishing, all meals & beverages, ground transportations, private water fees, fishing license, flies, laundry
Exclusions	Flights, fishing license, guide & staff gratuities, alcoholic beverages	International flight into Manaus, additional lodging & meals before or after, guide & staff gratuities	International & domestic flights, guide & staff gratuities, additional lodging, meals & transportation before or after
Highlights	Targeting summer hatches which may include PMDs, Black Caddis, Yellow Sallies, Hoppers, etc.	1 of only 2 fly fishing exclusive lodges in the Amazon, Brazil; targeting Peacock Bass, Arapaima & other jungle species. \$1000 Thanksgiving weekend discount	Split program: 3 days of floating the famous Limay River; 4 nights in a traditional Patagonian estancia; 1 night in San Martin de Los Andes

Important: Unless noted otherwise, all prices quoted above are based on two anglers sharing a room and a guide

# It's Not too Early to Pay Your Annual Dues!

**SHAWN FIFE, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

It's that time of the year again where most of you will be receiving Membership Renewal emails starting 2 months prior to expiration of March 31. Note: By renewing now, your current membership will be extended for a year from the expiration date (eg. 3/31/2027). Also, once renewed, further automated renewal reminders will not be sent to you.

The Club looks forward to your membership renewal and appreciates your support. If you are not sure of your status, please email me at shawnefife@outlook.com.

If you forgot you login: click [here](#) to go to our website. Select "Members Only", and this screen will appear.

If this is your first time accessing the new website, click on "Forgot Password" at the bottom of the screen.

The above "Request a Password Reset" screen will appear. Enter the email address where you receive LBCC Eblasts, and click "Request Password Reset". The system will email a link to reset your password. Check your Junk/Spam folder if you don't see it.

Once you've reset your password, you'll have access to the "Members Only" section. Go to "My Account - Edit My Profile", complete your profile and click on "Renew". Follow the instructions to make your payment. (Please refer to the January 2026 Target Talk Article "Our New Website: Take a Look and Learn!" on pg. 9 that showed the step-by-step renewal process.)

Appreciate if you can renew upon receiving the scheduled Membership Renewal Reminders. Thanks!

## Steelhead Report and Restoration Cards are Due

**COLIN KUMABE, PAST PRESIDENT**

Just a friendly reminder that your steelhead catch report is due to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The fishing regulations require that everyone with a Steelhead Card is required to report the catch, regardless of whether you catch none, one or many. The CDFW uses the information collected on the steelhead catches to track angling trends each year.

Steelhead reporting period is January 1 through 31, so don't delay. Report your catch here:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Inland-Fisheries/Steelhead-Report-Card>

The CDFW also has a "dashboard" of the statistics for steelhead fishing. Access the dashboard at the following link:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Inland-Fisheries/Steelhead-Report-Card#dashboard>

If you wish you could report more steelhead on your catch report, then you should practice your casting at the Long Beach Casting Club. See you at the Pond!

# Fly of the Month: Madison Bullet

JOHN VAN DERHOOF, PAST PREZ

Every spring when I fish in Utah on the Green River, I never, ever, know what flies I am going to need. This year, because I was later than normal, it was blue skies, warm weather and blue-winged olives. Lots of them. Last year there were none and the flies needed were of the midge variety. Cold, snowy and cloudy most of the time—perfect midge weather. These two years were different because usually there is a mix of both bugs. So being ready for this year's trip I need to stock up on some proven patterns. Enter the Madison Bullet.

This first time I fished the fly was during COVID. Since everyone was hunkering down at home, the guides on the river had little to do, so the fish saw no pressure whatsoever. However, they were a little on the picky side. They would not eat certain things which would normally be gobbled up with enthusiasm. But my guide, Doug Roberts, had a solution which they would eat. Now, I am sworn to secrecy as to that pattern but the similarity of this month's Madison Bullet is pretty dang close and, I assure you, it was working very nicely when I was fishing on my own and not using Doug's flies.

I was fortunate to have a few of these in #16 and #18 in my box, and they were a good substitute. I tied them because they were simple, fast to tie and looked promising. I'd first noticed the Madison Bullet while tying the year before at the East Idaho Fly Tying Expo. One of the tiers there was cranking 'em out. He said he needed to get ready for the next weekend's fishing. He had learned of them through Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone, Montana. That shop always has great ties. The one variation I added was the "Hot Spot" over the bead. Instead of hanging a couple of Krystal Flash strands out behind the bead, or changing thread color to fluorescent orange in the same spot, I decided to do this trick with tinsel. Once coated with UV resin, it tosses out different colors, and adds just enough flash to attract attention, without being horrifying to the fish.

I fished this fly at the bottom of a bounce rig (aka bottom-weighted or Provo rig), with a Halo or some other mayfly nymph as the top fly. The Madison Bullet ruled the morning hours. As the day wore on, more and more fish ate the Halo or other mayfly nymphs instead. It was at this point that I would switch to a mayfly nymph on the bottom and a soft hackle mayfly on top.

So tie up a few in a few different colors, and if COVID lets some of us go fishing in the Sierras or, later this spring, somewhere like the Green, at least you will have a couple to save the day!

## MATERIALS FOR TYING THE MADISON BULLET

Hook: Firehole #315; #12 to #20  
 Hot Spot: Wide Pearl/Opal Tinsel  
 Bead: Copper-plated tungsten; 2.4 mm ( $\frac{3}{32}$ " ) for a #16 hook  
 Thread: Veevus 10/0 or 8/0 Brown  
 Tail: Dark Pardo Coq de Leon  
 Body: Thread and UV resin  
 Ribbing: Fine copper wire



BROWN MADISON BULLET

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR TYING THE MADISON BULLET:

1. Let's start by sliding the bead onto the hook and placing the hook into your vise. Now, before you slide that bead into position, let's do something a bit different. Attach the thread to the hook immediately behind the eye. Don't worry about the head space! Grab a 2" to 3" length of your hot spot tinsel (I like Opal), tie it in flat with the end going forward, whip finish and remove your thread. **NOW** push the bead into place. If you used too much thread, it won't fit, so keep that in mind when you tie in the tinsel.
2. Attach your thread to the hook behind the bead and select a 6" length of copper wire. Before tying it in, bend one end into a short "U" shape. Push the bend of the "U" into the bead, to help force the bead to stay in one location while you tie. Then bind the wire down smoothly, to a point about halfway around the bend of the hook.
3. Select a small clump of Coq de Leon barbs for a tail—anywhere from three to six will do. Tie them in so that their length is short: about one-half the length of the body.
4. Now the fun part...winding. Keeping your thread flat by constantly counter-spinning it, form the body so that it smoothly tapers to not quite the diameter of the bead. This takes time and patience; keeping the thread flat will really help keep the body smooth.
5. Wind the ribbing forward in the normal direction, and tie it off at the end of the body. Nope, I didn't use five turns on this one. I am more concerned with the amount of space between turns, insuring that I give the fly the look of a mostly-segmented body. Not too wide a distance, and not too narrow either. This is one of the exceptions I alluded to, when discussing the number of turns in last month's newsletter. Tie off the wire and "worry" or helicopter off the excess. Doing this will create fewer sharp edges, and less cut thread at exactly the wrong time.

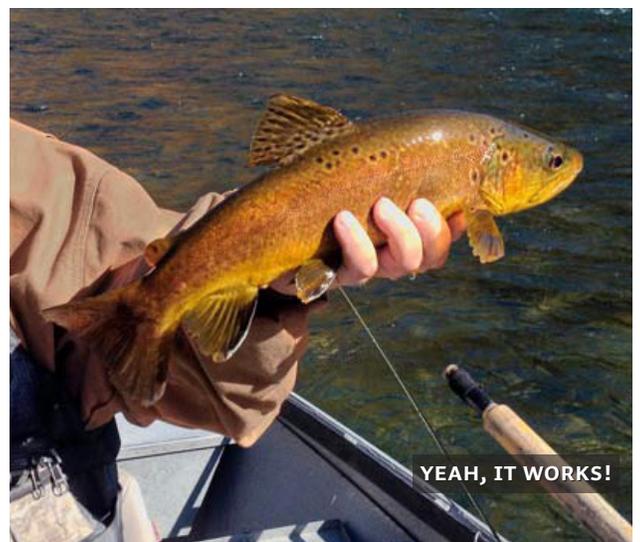


TAN MADISON BULLET

6. Last bit to go. Grab the tinsel you tied in way back at the beginning, and pull it straight back and over the top of the bead. Tie it off right behind the bead and whip finish. Now using your favorite UV resin (mine is Solarez Bone Dry—it's thin, it penetrates and it ain't sticky when cured) and apply a couple of light coats—not one great big glob. Be sure to apply some on the top of the hook, to cover and fill inside beneath the tinsel; just keep it out of the hook eye!

### NOTES:

You can tie this in almost any color you like. You will most often see it in the brown which I have described, tan/cream with a gold bead/rib and dark red with a silver bead/rib.



## Fly Tying Tip: Hackle Pliers

DAVE BOYER, MEMBER

**A**s I was looking through my tool caddy, I noticed I have a number of hackle pliers: eight to be exact, nine if I include my fingers! What the heck? I guess I am doing a “collection”. But why?



If you cannot hold/wrap the feather with your fingers, the best option, hackle pliers are a substitute. Over the years I have tried different ones, each with their own advantages and disadvantages. **Photo #1** shows the eight styles I have. Starting on the left are the typical “English” style you get in most tying kits. They are tough to use, as they want to slip and rotate as you open the jaws; tough on small, delicate materials. They also come with metal jaws, so material can slip. Adding a piece of heat-shrink tubing helps hold material.

The next set is similar, but with some added “wings” that make opening the jaws much easier; still in need of some heat-shrink tubing. Third and fourth are similar to the English, but with spring steel rather than heavy wire; much easier to squeeze. The third one has “pads” to help hold the material; one side is brass, and the other is rubber. The fourth set could also use the heat-shrink tube. Those four are the heaviest, and if you accidentally “drop” them, they may cause your delicate feather to break.

Next is one with a rubber/silicone ring as the piece you hold onto. It works great if you need a little tension on the plier. Then you have a piano-wire type with a brass tube to hold the material. The last two are electrical clips in two sizes. All of the last three are



very light weight, so there is less tendency to cause the feather or delicate materials to break, if they are accidentally dropped during wrapping.

One suggestion on using hackle pliers is to always attach the rachis (stem, main feather shaft) in alignment with the jaws (**Photo #2**). This allows the tension to be applied in the strongest direction of the feather shaft. The five pliers on the left do that very well.

The other three require you to catch the rachis perpendicular (**Photo #3**) to the feather length, reducing the tension capacity as you wrap. This makes the feather much easier to break, though the pliers are very light. The best method of wrapping feathers is with your fingers; only use hackle pliers if the feather is small and delicate and you cannot grab it.



# Recordings of LBCC Monthly Speakers

ROB PETERSON, TARGET TALK EDITOR

**H**ere are our recorded speaker presentations for 2022, 2023 and 2025. Just click on a link, and copy and paste the password at the prompt.

See [February 2022 Target Talk](#), p. 17, for 2021 presentations.

**JANUARY 2022:** Steph Albano, [Finatical Flyfishing](#),  
The topic was: "Global Guide Service for Women".

[Steph Albano Presentation Jan. 27, 2022](#)  
Passcode: d9sE1\*pn

**FEBRUARY:** Glenn Ueda, [So Cal Fishing Guide](#)  
The topic was: "Planet Carp".

[Glenn Ueda Presentation February 24, 2022](#)  
Passcode: 2C!.hWQ1

**MARCH:** Ernie Gulley, [Ernie Gulley Flyfishing](#).  
The topic was: "Stillwater Tactics".

[Ernie Gulley Presentation March 31, 2022](#)  
Passcode: Ri65p6%N

**OCTOBER:** Lance Egan  
The topic was: "Newfangled Nymphing".

[Lance Egan Presentation October 27, 2022](#)  
Passcode: i?hk7fd^

**NOVEMBER:** [Charlie Craven](#)  
The Topic was: Fly Tying Demo.

[Charlie Craven Presentation Nov. 17, 2022](#)  
Passcode: C%uGCj33

**FEBRUARY 2023:** [Steve Schalla](#)  
The Topic was: "Origins of Golden Trout".  
[Steve Schalla Presentation February 23, 2023](#)  
Passcode: V?6FufM7

**JUNE:** Dave Smith, "DIY Fly Fishing New Zealand".

[Dave Smith Presentation June 29, 2023](#)  
Passcode: B9\*xOP?T

**JULY:** Howard Uller and Art Strauss, "California Heritage Trout".

This was not recorded, but you can access their [presentation here](#)

**MAY 2025:** Mike Pease, [Mike Pease Adventures](#),  
"Fly Fishing the Lost Sierra."

To access the recording, click [here](#). Thanks and kudos to Co-Captain Mark Flo, who recorded the presentation and made it available on YouTube.

**JUNE:** Mike Peters, [Long Branch Fly Fishing](#), "Fly Fishing the Four Top Destinations in the US."

[Mike Peters Presentation June 25, 2025](#)  
Passcode: Ame%\$L3?

**JULY:** Joe Frisch, [Wild on the Fly Fly Fishing Adventures](#), "Two short trips to fit tight schedules and tight budgets. One Fresh [Steelheading the Deschutes], One Salt [Gulf Coast Redfish]."

[Joe Frisch Presentation July 25, 2025](#)  
Passcode: 88S+vYU#

**AUGUST:** David Dempsey, "Know Your Bugs".  
[David Dempsey Presentation August 28, 2025](#)  
Passcode: ^1Vuh76V

**SEPTEMBER:** Dan Johnson, [Trout Unlimited](#),  
"Proposed Protected Designation for Hot Creek"  
[Dan Johnson Presentation September 25, 2025](#)  
Passcode: 6tZ2M43&

**OCTOBER:** Rich Chiappone, "DIY Fishing in Alaska"  
[Rich Chiappone Presentation October 30, 2025](#)  
Passcode: %I&WAu9Y (audio only)

**NOVEMBER:** November was not recorded.

# Calendar of Events

## February



1	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		11:00 AM	Sunday Women's Casting Clinic
2	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
		6:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
3	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
4	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
5	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
7	Saturday		Heritage Trout West Fork San Gabriel River w/ Bob Mayfield
		8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
8	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		1:00 PM	Monthly Casting Lessons
9	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
10	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
11	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
12	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
13	Saturday	8:00 AM	ICFS International Games
14-15	Weekend		Southwestern Tournament
17	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
18	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Nooner Lunch
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
19	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
21	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
22	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
23	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
24	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
25	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
26	Thursday		Monthly Meeting: Tyler Cole, Fly Fishing Coastal Florida
28	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
		9:00 AM	Pre-trip: Lower Owens #3 w/ John Lincoln & Dan Rivett

# Calendar of Events Cont'd.

## March



1	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		11:00 AM	Sunday Women's Casting Clinic
2	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
		6:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
3	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
4	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
5	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
5-8	Weekend		Lower Owens Trip #3 w/ John Lincoln and Dan Rivett
7	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
8	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		1:00 PM	Monthly Casting Lessons
9	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
10	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
11	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
12	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
14	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
15	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
16	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
17	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
18	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Nooner Lunch
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
19	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
21	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
22	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
23	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
24	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
25	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
26	Thursday		Monthly Meeting: Frank Burr, Oahu Freshwater Fly Fishing
27-29			Heritage Trout Upper Kern River w/ Bob Mayfield
28	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
29	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
30	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
		6:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
31	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast

## Calendar of Events Cont'd.

### April

1	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
2	Thursday	7:00 PM	Annual General Meeting
4	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
5	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		11:00 AM	Sunday Women's Casting Clinic
6	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
7	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
8	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
9	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
11	Saturday	8:00 AM	FFI Fly Buy
12	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		1:00 PM	Monthly Casting Lessons
13	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
14	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
15	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Nooner Lunch
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
16	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
18	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
		7:00 PM	Awards & Installation Dinner
19	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
20	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
21	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
22	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
23	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
25	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
26-5/1	Week		Green River Trip #1 w/ Andrew Fairbanks
26	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
27	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
28	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
29	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
30	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting



**For *February 2026*, our club's monthly special 20% discount will be set on the Aventik website.**

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

It covers 10 products from fly fishing reel, fly tying vise and some accessories. Detailed info seeing following:

1. **Zeno S2-Glass Tenkara Rod**
2. **Double Hand Switch Rod**
3. **S-Glass Fly Rod**
4. **IM12 Nano Saltwater Fly Rod**
5. **Artifex 8'6" 5WT Fly Fishing Rod**
6. **Ruby Wave Series Fly Reel**
7. **Neo Series Fly Fishing Reel**
8. **081 Colorado Fly Tying Vise with C-Clamp**
9. **Floating Fishing Net**
10. **Streamer Fly Box**



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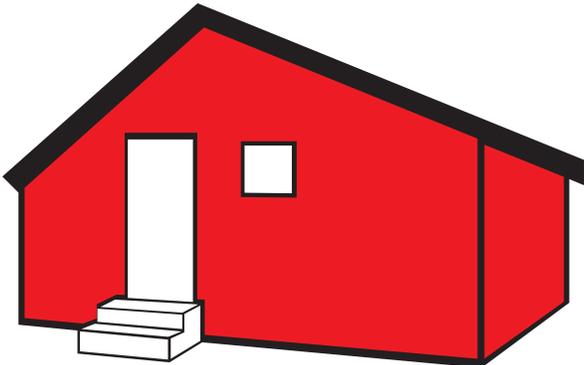
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