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Target Talk

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG BEACH CASTING CLUB, ESTABLISHED 1925

DECEMBER 2026 WWW.LONGBEACHCASTINGCLUB.NET

Leader's Line...

Hey, There's a Cow in my Trout Stream!

TONY DAUS, PRESIDENT

I was fishing on the Lower Owens River this past year, and repeatedly came across cows wandering down to the river's edge to get a drink of water. I have seen the same thing along many other streams in California. It brought to mind the complex relationship between agriculture and anglers in California. California is famous for quality meat, fruits, nuts and vegetables that we all enjoy. On the other hand, agricultural practices can result in reduced stream flows, increased water temperatures and sedimentation of important fish habitat.

We all know that trout and salmon rely on cold clean water. When water temperatures rise above about 65°F, dissolved oxygen levels decrease. Because farms, ranches and grazing leases often are near to or border rivers and streams, land management practices can exert a big influence on fish habitat. While historical land-use patterns have contributed to habitat degradation (e.g., cows wading into the river such as on the Lower Owens), modern farming is increasingly becoming an important partner in preserving and restoring cold-water habitat.



One of the most impactful intersections between farming and fish habitat involves the management of riparian zones—the vegetated buffers along streambanks. When agricultural fields or grazing extend directly to the water's edge, the removal of trees and shrubs and cattle grazing reduces shade and promotes siltation, causing summer water temperatures to spike into unhealthy ranges for salmonids. Establishing proper riparian buffers stabilizes stream channels, filters agricultural runoff and provides shade. Encouraging deep-root networks of native vegetation and limiting

Leader's Line... Cont'd on page 5

Club Trips for 2026, 2027

ANDREW FAIRBANKS, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

TRIP DATE	TRIP & LEADER
Jan 8-10, 2027	Lower Owens Trip #1 w/ Dan Rivett and John Lincoln. Pre-Trip TBD.
Jan 23-27	Trinity River Steelhead Trip w/ Tony Daus.
Feb 19-21	Lower Owens Trip #2 w/ Dan Rivett and John Lincoln. Pre-Trip TBD.
Mar 5-7	Lower Owens Trip #3 w/ Dan Rivett and John Lincoln. Pre-Trip TBD.
April 25–30	Green River #1 w/ A. Fairbanks. Pre-Trip TBD
May 2–7	Green River #2 w/ Colin Kumabe. Pre-Trip 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



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Join Us for the LBCC Annual Holiday Feast!

Saturday, December 5, 2026 6:00 pm–8:00 pm

Our annual holiday gathering is a cherished tradition spanning decades of Club history. Whether you know it by its classic roots or its updated name, the heart of this evening remains exactly the same: a night of true fellowship, storytelling and celebrating friendships both old and new.

This year brings an exciting milestone as our esteemed longtime chefs, John Lincoln and Dan Luas, officially pass the kitchen baton to Alisha Mora and Carl Marts, who will be serving up a spectacular prime rib dinner!

How to Secure Your Spot

To support our new kitchen crew as they take the reins, **seating for this year is strictly limited to the first 50 guests**. To ensure an accurate headcount, your reservation is only official once received by our main RSVP contact: Grace Cherry. **RSVP will end on November 21 at 8:00 am**.

Kindly RSVP to Grace Cherry via email at gracecarolinecherry@gmail.com with:

- **Total number of people attending**
- **Meal choice for guest (prime rib or vegetarian)**
- **Volunteer shifts you can help with (see below!)**

Payment:

This year's price is $40/person. Please make check payable to **"Long Beach Casting Club"** with **"Holiday Feast"** written in the Memo field.

Mail check to:
Long Beach Casting Club
Attn: Ed Alvarado
P.O. Box 90035
Long Beach, CA 90809-0035

Lend a Hand: Volunteer Opportunities

The Club thrives on member support! Please let Grace know if you can volunteer for any of the following:

- **Club Cleanup Crew: Saturday, November 21 at 8:00 AM (Led by Peter Hardash)**
- **Club Decorating Crew: Monday, November 23 at 2:00 PM and Friday Dec 4 at 10:00 (Led by Colin Kumabe)**
- **Kitchen Crew: Saturday, December 5 , time TBD (Led by Alisha Mora & Carl Marts)**
- **Post-party dishwashers and post-party table clearing: Saturday , Dec 5 at 8 pm (Led by Grace Cherry) Thank you for being such a vital part of our community.**

We can't wait to celebrate with you!
Warmly,

Your LBCC Holiday Feast Committee:

- Alisha Mora
- Grace Cherry
- Collin Kumabe
- Peter Hardash
- Carl Marts



Anglers for Our Community Drive

Starting in November

HOLIDAY FEAST COMMITTEE

The holiday season is also a time for giving back. Starting this November, we will be collecting gently-used clothing and shoes for our annual community drive. Please consider bringing your donations to the Club!

Thanks!

Fly Tying Forum: This Month's Schedule

MATT MURDOUGH, MEMBER

We'll have an abbreviated schedule this month due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Tony Dycks starts us off with a Tenkara pattern guaranteed to get you into the holiday spirit—a red-themed Sakasa Kebari. Tony's flies feature a red bead and ribbing with a black or cream body, and pheasant or grizzly hackle—all the colors of the season!


SAKASA KEBARI

Matt Murdough is up next to demonstrate a Net-Spinning Caddis Larva from the late English tier, Oliver Edwards. Net spinners (Hydropsychidae) weave silk nets to trap algae, small invertebrates and other miniscule prey from flowing water. Mr. Edwards' highly realistic pattern includes distinct segmentation, ventral gills and six individual legs.


NET-SPINNING CADDIS LARVA

Scott Harada will wrap up the month with the Stubby Chubby. This smaller version of the well-known Chubby series can imitate stoneflies, hoppers, beetles or other small terrestrials..


STUBBY CHUBBY

Anyone can join our regular sessions at 7:00 pm every Wednesday, regardless of experience. If you'd like to join us, 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
12/02/26	Tenkara Flies: Red Sakasa Kebari	Tony Dycks
12/09/26	Caddis: Hydropsyche Larva	Matt Murdough
12/16/26	Foam Body Flies: Stubby Chubby	Scott Harada
12/23/26	No Class—Holiday Break	
12/30/26	No Class—Holiday Break	

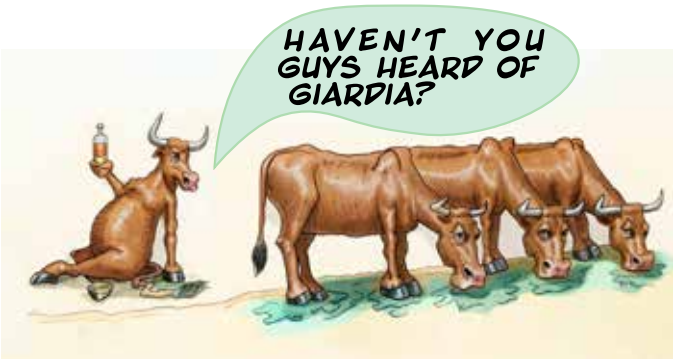
"Leader's Line"... Cont'd from page 1

cattle access to streams prevents erosion and siltation, which otherwise would smother spawning redds and suppress aquatic insect populations.

Modern farming practices represent another cornerstone of habitat preservation. Intensive diversion of surface water or groundwater pumping during dry summer months can reduce river baseflows, causing water temperatures to climb and trapping fish in isolated, oxygen-depleted pools. Working with farmers to maintain essential flows in streams is an important area of relatively new water regulations in California, under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Ultimately, long-term habitat preservation depends on collaborative agreements between landowners, farmers, non-government organizations (NGOs) and government agencies. Programs that subsidize riparian fencing, livestock off-channel watering systems, and fish-movement improvements—such as replacing outdated irrigation diversion dams and culverts with fish-friendly designs—align agricultural productivity with ecological stewardship.

An excellent example can be found on the Kern Plateau and within the Golden Trout Wilderness. The U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Trout Unlimited have installed and maintained miles of cattle-exclusion fencing across high-elevation meadow systems such as Ramshaw, Mulkey and Big Whitney meadows. Keeping cattle out of these meadow channels prevents bank incision, preserves overhanging sod banks and protects native California golden trout and Kern River rainbow trout.



Sad News Regarding Longtime Member Paul Burgner

SHIRLEY SAKAGUCHI, MEMBER

With a heavy heart, I am sharing the news that Paul Burgner, a longtime member of the Club since 1994 and a dear friend, passed away Sunday, November 8, 2027.

Further details will follow as they become available.



Hey, I brought a few more...

...another Update!

JOHN VAN DERHOOF; PAST PREZ



I have added a few more rods for sale. There are still several in storage. Finally I have brought several different types of Spey lines to the Club, including Airflo Rage, Rio Scandi and Skagit, Nexcast Skagit, Airflo Polyleaders and Rio Versileaders as well as some MOW tips. I also brought an assortment of some of the 40,000 flies we have—oh dear God do we have flies—to the Club for members to purchase. The only reels available are Hatch 9 Pulse and Finatic.

Until then, however...here's what we have at the Club right now for sale. Check or cash, ***or,*** if you find Tom Olson or Ed Alvarado there, credit.

Rods:

MAKE, MODEL, LENGTH & WEIGHT	PRICE	QTY
Burkie Vintage – 14'2" 8wt ***well used***	$450	1
Echo Trout Spey – 11'0" 3wt	$210	1
Echo Trout Spey – 11'0" 3wt	$210	1
Echo SR – 10'6" 4wt	$140	1
Echo SR – 10'8" 5wt	$140	1
Gaelforce Equalizer – 13'0" 7/8wt	$420	1
Meiser – 12'6" 4/5/6 ***needs a new stripping guide***	$360	1
Meiser MKS - 13'0" 7/8wt 2-tips	$500	1
Meiser MKS - 13'0" 7/8wt	$480	1
Meiser Highlander - 13'0" 8/9/10wt	$400	1
Meiser MKS - 13'6" 7/8wt used	$450	1
Meiser MKS - 13'6" 7/8wt used	$450	1
Nam Ren – 11'6" 6wt 5-piece	$436	1
OPST Pure Skagit - 11'6" 8wt	$280	1
Orvis Clearwater - 11'4" 4wt	$180	1
Orvis Mission – 12'0" 6wt	$400	1
Orvis Mission – 11'4" 4wt	$400	1
Redington Dually – 13'0" 7wt	$160	1
Sage Igniter 6126 – 12'6" 6wt	$260	1
Sage One 4116 – 11'6" 4wt	$320	1
Sage X 5120 – 12'0" 5wt	$360	1
Sage X 6126 – 12'6" 6wt	$360	1
Sage X 7130 – 13'0" 7wt ***no tube***	$360	1
Winston BII-X – 12'6" 6wt	$340t	1
Winston Joan Wulff – 9'0" 8wt	$380	1

Reels:

MAKE, MODEL	PRICE	QTY

Sold Out!

Lines & Leaders:

MAKE, MODEL	PRICE	QTY
Airflo & Rio heads	$30	-
Nextcast Skagit heads	$40	-
Nextcast long lines	$60	-
Versileaders MOW tips	$10	-

Trout Spey Class!

JOHN VAN DERHOOF; PAST PREZ

Okay, you're interested in getting into Trout Spey and you're not sure where to start. Or.....you just bought a Trout Spey rod and you're not sure how to set it up. I think we can solve your dilemma(s). Read further...

On Saturday, December 19, 2026 from 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM the Club will be offering a class on Trout Spey. The class will start indoors and we'll discuss rods, reels, lines, leaders, flies and rigging. Later, the group will head outside and watch a demo of Spey Casting as it applies to Trout Spey. Yes, even you old time two-handers will actually learn something new! Class will be hosted by John Van Derhoof. See you then!



2026 Northwestern Tournament Results

All-Distance Combination

	CASTERS	COMB	AFD	1/4D
1	Henry Mittel	388'	156'	232'
2	Steve Rajeff	381'	159'	222'
3	Colin Kumabe	309'	119'	190'
4	Ed Matuizek	306'	125'	181'
5	Mark Flo	286'	116'	170'
6	Steve Lake	257'	108'	149'
7	Ralph Hardin	227'	95'	132'

All-Accuracy Combination

	CASTERS	COMB	TF	BB	1/4	OPEN	DRY	WET	3/8	5/8
1	Steve Rajeff	791	100	99	96	98	100	100	99	99
2	Henry Mittel	778	96	98	99	98	97	96	97	97
3	Chris Korich	758	99	97	91	97	99	88	94	93
4	Glen Nagumo	738	92	92	86	92	99	94	88	95
5	Ed Matuizek	731	90	91	93	89	94	92	90	92
6	Mariano Domingo	729	96	85	90	90	98	93	87	90
7	Ralph Hardin	725	84	93	86	92	97	92	94	87
8	Colin Kumabe	720	88	86	90	89	94	93	91	89
9	Alice Gillibert	707	86	93	87	91	93	92	83	82
9	Tony Yap	707	87	84	88	88	91	96	85	88
11	Elaine Gong	701	88	88	81	88	89	93	88	86
12	Mark Flo	700	84	86	86	88	94	92	86	84
13	Jon Bianci	699	88	83	88	88	93	86	85	88

All-Around

	CASTERS	COMB	TF	BB	1/4A	OPEN	AFD	1/4D	DRY	WET	3/8	5/8
1	Steve Rajeff	12	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
2	Henry Mittel	17	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2
3	Ed Matuizek	40	3	4	3	4	3	4	5	6	5	3
4	Colin Kumabe	41	4	6	4	5	4	3	4	3	4	4
5	Ralph Hardin	46	7	3	5	3	6	6	3	5	3	5
6	Elaine Gong	61	5	5	7	7	7	7	7	4	6	6
7	Mark Flo	62	6	7	6	6	5	5	6	7	7	7

Western Silver Bees: Chris Korich (Saturday), Rene Gillibert (Sunday)

Western Gold Bees: Steve Rajeff, Henry Mittel



2026-27 SPFA Hosted Trip Calendar

Inquiries: kkspfa@gmail.com or 714.475.4529

Destination	Missoula, Montana	Bighorn River, Montana	Argentina: Golden Dorado
Dates	**April 6-11** Wait list only	**July 26-August 1** Wait list only	**November 30-December 5** 5 spots
Duration & Cost	5 nights/4 days of fishing: $2,400	6 nights/5 days of fishing: $3,500	5 nights/4 days of fishing: $3,500
Inclusions	5-night accommodation: 2 anglers per 2-bedroom unit with a kitchen, living room, and bathroom, 4 days of guided fishing, boat lunch, flies	6-night accommodation, 5 days of guided fishing, all meals & nonalcoholic beverages, airport transfers, flies	5-night accommodation, 4 days of guided fishing, all meals & beverages, fishing license, Wi-Fi
Exclusions	Flights, airport transfers, meals & beverages, fishing license, guide gratuities	Flights, fishing license, guide & staff gratuities, alcoholic beverages	International flight to Buenos Aires, transfers to the lodge extra, additional lodging & meals before or after, guide & staff gratuities, flies
Highlights	Floating Bitterroot, Clark Fork, and Blackfoot, targeting Skwala hatch	Targeting summer hatches which may include PMDs, Black and Tan Caddis, Yellow Sallies, Hoppers, etc.	Conveniently located at the confluence of Rio Parana & Rio Corriente, anglers have access to both boat and wade fishing opportunities

Destination	Argentina: Northern Patagonia (rev)	Argentina: Sea-Runs on Rio Gallegos	Christmas Island
Dates	**December 7-14** 6 spots	**March 6 – 13, 2027** 4 spots	**June 15 – 22, 2027** 6 spots
Duration & Cost	7 nights/6 days of fishing: $7,600	7 nights/6 days of fishing: $7,600 (2026 rate) if 50% deposit is received by 4/20/26	7 nights/6 days of fishing: TBD ($4380 is the 2026 rate)
Inclusions	7-night accommodation, 6 days of guided fishing, all meals & beverages, ground transportations, private water fees, fishing license, flies, Wi-Fi	7-night accommodation single occupancy, 6 days of guided fishing, all meals & beverages, airport transfer from Rio Gallegos airport, fishing license, laundry, Wi-Fi	7-night accommodation single occupancy, 6 days of guided fishing-1 guide per angler, all meals, airport transfers, Wi-Fi, laundry
Exclusions	International & domestic flights, guide & staff gratuities, additional lodging, meals & transportation before or after	International & domestic flights, guide & staff gratuities, additional lodging, meals & transportation before or after, flies	Honolulu and international flights, guide & staff gratuities, beverages, fishing license, flies
Highlights	Two lodge program to experience diverse watershed: 4 nights in an expansive Patagonian estancia with access to prime private waters, and 3 nights in a quaint traditional estancia with access to Northern Patagonia's most iconic rivers	Private access to 95km of Rio Gallegos for Sea-Run Browns within the boundaries of one of the biggest Estancias in Patagonia and 20 km of spring creeks for resident Browns eager to take big terrestrials and mouse patterns. Sea-Runs are best fished with 2-handed rods	Wade fishing the endless flats for bonefish, Giant Trevallies, and Trigger Fish, and more. Having a guide to yourself who carries your GT rod ready to go at any moment makes a huge difference in having a legitimate shot at the King of the Flats.

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

Target Talk:
Hard-Copy Mailouts to be Discontinued

Will Not be Available by Mail Starting in 2027

ROB PETERSON, TARGET TALK EDITOR

Because of the high cost of printing and mailing hard-copy versions of Target Talk, the Board has decided no longer to offer members the option of receiving our newsletter by mail. Beginning with the January, 2027 edition, the Club will no longer be mailing out *Target Talk*. Thanks to all of you for your understanding and patience.

Lend a Hand at the LBCC Annual Clubhouse Cleanup!

Saturday, November 21, 2026 8:00 am–11:00 am

PETER HARDASH, FACILITIES DIRECTOR

Join us this Saturday, November 21, from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM for the once-a-year cleaning of our beloved Long Beach Casting Club!

We are giving the Clubhouse some TLC readying it for the holiday dinner. Many hands make light work—the more who pitch in, the faster we finish!

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Perks: Fresh coffee and doughnuts on us!
- Supplies: All cleaning gear and checklists are provided.
- Where: LBCC Clubhouse (5201 E. 7th Street)

Come connect with fellow members and help keep the Clubhouse looking great. Questions? Contact Peter Hardash, Facilities Director email: phardash@gmail.com or cell: (714-403-9352) We hope to see you there!

CPR Class Coming in January

GRACE CHERRY, MEMBER

Be a life-saver—both inside and outside the Club! Join us this January, 2027 (exact date TBD) at the Club for an invaluable, hands-on CPR, AED and airway obstruction class.

The first few minutes of an emergency make all the difference, and this training will empower you to step up when it matters most.

- Expert instructor: Robert Navarette, UCLA PR instructor, former army veteran and combat medic.
- What you'll learn: adult CPR, AED operation, airway obstruction management.
- Perks included: hands-on practice. Lunch served.
- Cost and registration: the class is highly subsidized! The Club is generously covering partial tuition, leaving a co-pay of just $20 per participant.

Keep an eye out for sign-up details coming soon. ***Don't miss this vital opportunity to gain skills that truly save lives!***







Christmas Island
at The Villages
June 15–22, 2027



Flats fishing at its best, Christmas Island offers endless flats for you to target big Bonefish, Giant (GT) and 4 other Trevally species, and Trigger Fish, among others

$4,880 includes:

- 7 nights accommodation/single occupancy
- 6 days of guided fishing/one guide per angler
- All meals, all ground/boat transportation, new: fishing license ($250 value)
- Not included: flights, gratuities, alcoholic beverages, equipment, flies
- Only 4 spots left. Please reserve your space by calling Kathy at: **714.475.4529 or email kkspfa@gmail.com**



Bishop Trout Rodeo is Coming up!

LEIGH ANN SWANSON, PRESIDENT, SWCFFI

Get ready for another great weekend in the Eastern Sierra! Join us for a fun-filled day of fishing, friendly competition, prizes, camaraderie and everything we love about being on the water.

More details and registration information will be coming soon!

Fish. Friends. Fun. Competition. We will see you in Bishop on February 6!

[Editor's Note: the 2023 and 2024 Bishop Trout Rodeo individual fly championships were won by our own Dan Oliver. In 2023, he caught a total of 281 inches, with a biggest fish at 15-3/4 inches. In 2024, though he lamented that he didn't catch the largest fish, he caught an impressive 38 trout (mostly browns), measuring out at a total of 398 inches. That year, Dan fished at the Lower Owens River, below Pleasant Valley Reservoir; he was euro-nymphing, and his hot fly was the Quilldigon. He was also a member of Team Tenkara, which took second place in the team fly fishing category—Rob]

Long Beach Casting Club New Members

TONY DYCKS,
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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

- Kurt Zabriskie of Pasadena
- Dean Shigenaga of Palos Verdes Estates
- Jim Vermillion of Nampa, Idaho
- Jesse Roberts of Los Angeles
- Sean Hubbert of Long Beach
- Joe Mestanza of Huntington Beach
- John Pert of San Clemente
- Sean Moore of Whittier
- Chet Young of Los Angeles

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!

When the Underwater Lights Came On

Stalking Oʻio on Oʻahu's Triangle Flats

VINCE MCGUINNESS, MEMBER

With a three-hour time difference working in my favor, waking early in Hawaiʻi was no hardship. At 4:48 am, I glanced at the alarm, which was set for 5:00. Twelve minutes hardly seemed worth waiting out. Time to get up, I decided.

My backpack was packed with an eight-weight fly rod and reel, flats-wading boots and sun gear. I dressed quickly, stocked a soft-sided cooler with drinks and snacks and made a double espresso in the hotel room. In the predawn quiet, the machine's hum and the coffee's rich aroma felt like the official start of the day.

My wife and I were spending a week on Oʻahu, beginning with four nights at Turtle Bay Resort on the North Shore. We had come for sun, sand, waves and relaxation. But on this Tuesday in early October, I traded a leisurely morning for a full day stalking Hawaiian bonefish—oʻio—across the island's shallow flats.

Before dawn, I eased onto the highway tracing the North Shore. The dark, drizzly drive carried me through Haleʻiwa and south toward Honolulu as the sun rose. After a few wrong turns and an industrial stretch of town, I found the Sand Island launch ramp.

The plain parking area was nearly empty, and the captain and guide waved as I arrived in the gray light. From Turtle Bay, the drive had taken eighty minutes of shadowed mountains and anticipation, fueled by a podcast and a hard-won cup of gas station coffee.

Aloha Fishing Hawaii specializes in fly-fishing the flats and chasing giant trevally with poppers. It was the only guide service with an opening that fit our schedule. Captain Chris Wright introduced me to my guide, Joaquin DeNolfo, the son of "Louie the Fish", a well-known Honolulu bone carver. Joaquin had learned to cast to large trout while living in New Zealand, then returned to Hawaiʻi and embraced the life of a waterman—fishing, diving, surfing and chasing oʻio with a fly rod.



The run to the flats took barely ten minutes. In the rising light, deep channels formed a blue-green moat around a triangular sand flat once dredged for seaplanes. Joaquin anchored near the northeast corner, and we stepped into calf-deep water. With no other boats in sight, we had the half-mile flat to ourselves. Hawaiʻi limits guide permits here, Joaquin explained, as we walked toward a large tire resting on the sand—our starting point.



Clouds rolled off the Koʻolau Mountains as Joaquin pointed out glimmering bonefish tails. To my 13-foot leader, Joaquin tied on a small, sparse, custom shrimp pattern—"less is more," he said. With the sun low, visibility was poor, so we relied on tail swirls and other surface activity.

Once the sun cleared the clouds, we began our slow walk. Whenever light spilled across the flat, it was as if someone had switched on the underwater lights. Joaquin taught me to search for the faint, camouflaged blue-green hue of a moving fish.

Soon Joaquin spotted a solid fish swimming into the current towards us. After a few prior attempts that missed the mark, I placed the fly a rod length ahead of the approaching fish. He coached me through slow, patient strips. Thump! My fly stopped with the weight of a fish.

My left hand strip-set the hook, and the fish tore south, fly line screaming from the Tibor reel I had named for my dad—the Silver Fox was finally getting a workout. Deep in the backing, the fish turned north, then ran twice more. Just before Joaquin could grab the leader, the hook pulled free at our feet. Frustrated but encouraged, we laughed, reviewed the fight, and resumed the stalk.

Before lunch, we hooked six fish and landed three. Joaquin counted fifteen to twenty shots at bonefish between four and eight pounds. I might have called fewer of them "solid," but the fish were undeniably plentiful and active.

During one stalk, a larger tail and swirl appeared ahead. We soon saw the golden-hued tail of a good-sized golden trevally, a prized fish on Hawaiian flats. It tailed three more times over the next hour, and we managed two presentations, but it never took the fly.

Clouds continued to dim and brighten the underwater world, yet the wind stayed unusually light—under ten knots until lunch. As we walked, we talked about bonefish, trevally, the vegetarian surgeon fish, two turtles grazing on the flats and tiger sharks prowling the deeper channels.

It was a remarkable day. I readily recommend Joaquin for his warm manner, patient instruction and astonishingly keen eyes. His stories of trout in New Zealand revealed a lifelong passion for casting and fly tying. The next time you are in Honolulu—or on Molokaʻi—consider stalking Hawaiian bonefish on the flats. If your experience is anything like mine, you will be richly rewarded.



Fly of the Month: Captain

JOHN VAN DERHOOF; PAST PREZ AND NE'ER DO WELL

My fly fishing story begins in 1963, as a kid watching the American Sportsman on a Sunday and seeing Lee Wulff tie a fly. Since my dad and I fished Lake Mary every summer by trolling lures and flies, I thought it would be cool if I could tie them for us. So, off to the garage I went and into our tackle box. Out came a #12 worm hook (replete with barbs on the bend) which was placed in our old bench vise. Back to the house for some red thread from mom's sewing kit and the bottom of the parakeet cage for feathers. The following weekend I was taken to Ball & Frank Sporting Goods on Long Beach Boulevard (Cyril and Jimmy Ball and Johnny Frank—all LBCC members) and my dad bought my starting fly tying tools and materials. Thanks Cyril!

That was in the spring. A few months later, I hooked and landed my first-ever fish on a fly rod with a fly I had tied: an 11-inch brown, just around the bend from the north fence of Hot Creek Ranch. That fly was a Cowdung—what else would an 11-year old kid tie—but my next several fish at Hot Creek and at Lake Mary were on one of my all-time favorites (and our fly of the month): the Captain.

Yup, I started tying flies first and fly fishing later. I also fished traditional wet flies a lot back then. I couldn't catch a thing on a dry, but wets were money for me. Cast, drag back a little then drop, letting the fly swing, and a lift at the end. I found out later that, accidentally, I was using what was called the "Leisenring Lift", imitating the final climb of an insect rising to the surface. This often provokes a "rush to eat" response in the trout, as it sees a meal escaping. A very useful trick when using softies and wets!

The flies of my youth were old standards. They were Brown Hackle and Grey Hackle Peacocks. Professors. Rio Grande Kings. California Mosquitos. Lake Mary Specials. Western Coachmen. And the Captain. The Captain is a pretty straightforward tie, but employs a technique and material seldom used in today's fly tying patterns: duck-wing barbs often referred to as slips or, incorrectly, quills. Their non-use today, I believe, is largely due to the difficulty of tying them in and having them look good, and the perception that they lack durability. Hey, everything in tying is difficult until you try and practice and hey, even a "split into strands wing" still catches fish…believe me.

So give the Captain and the whole style of slip-winged wets a try…I think you will enjoy using them!

Materials for tying the Captain:

Hook: Firehole #633; size 16
Thread: MM 72d; black (I like red)
Tail: Golden pheasant tippet
Body: Black floss
Ribbing: Gold wire; small
Thorax: Black hare's mask and seal; 50:50 (optional)
Hackle: Brown; (dark Honey Dun shown)
Wing: Mallard wing slips
Head: Thread



The Captain

Instructions for tying the Captain:

1 Let's start by placing your hook into the vise. A note about the hook: wet fly (and soft hackle) hooks are usually shorter than standard nymph hooks by 1x. The old Mustad 3906 is a perfect example, while a 3906B (like a TMC 3671) would be too long. Attach your thread to the shank right behind the head space and wind smoothly down to the bend. Select about four to six golden pheasant tippet barbs and tie them in so they are the length of the body. Now cut off a six-inch length of your wire ribbing,and tie the wire in low and on the far side of the shank. Keeping your thread flat, wind back up the shank, laying down a smooth base for the body and ending at the start of the thorax.

2 Now pull off a single six-inch strand of black floss, and tie it in low and on the far side of the hook. Before winding gently flatten the thread between your fingers into a flat ribbon. If you have rough dishwater hands, put on a pair of white cotton archivist gloves to keep the floss from fraying. Wind the floss back to the rear of the hook, smoothly, and then reverse direction and return to the starting point and tie it off.

3 Pick out a small pinch of your thorax dubbing (mind you, the original had no thorax dubbing—the body was all floss) and apply it to your thread. Do not use too much, and wind it a few turns around the shank. Take hold of the wire ribbing, and wind it forward (my *ALWAYS* prescribed) five turns up the body and through the thorax where you can tie it off. The 3rd turn lands dead center of the combined abdomen and thorax; the 4th where abdomen and thorax meet; and the 5th through the thorax. Remove the excess by helicoptering it off—scissor-cut wire can often cut your thread.

4 Select a nice soft rooster or good quality hen feather with the right barb length (1½–2 times the hook gape). Gently stroke the barbs so they are perpendicular to the rachis (or, if you can, fold the hackle) and tie the hackle in by the tip. Wind 3 or 4 turns with the barbs flowing rearward and tie off the remainder. There should be at least 1½ of the head length left before the eye.



Hot Creek: Daughter Nicole landing a fish from the same spot as my first

5 Tying in the mallard-slip wing is as much about selection as about tying technique. First realize the top 2/3 of the wing feathers are worthless, so just use barbs of the lower 1/3. Select two left- & right-side feathers (match them) from the wings of a mallard, wood duck or teal. Remove one slip from the same location on each of the two feathers. They should be a little less than the hook gape in width. Place them back to back (curved sides out) and, while holding them by the tip and butt ends, wiggle them up and down gently. It's kind of like playing with a Slinky when you were a kid. It helps loosen the bond between barbs and is called "humping" the feather. You can use this technique to alter the curvature of the feather.

Notice the wings in the photo: you can see that the wing tips are longest at the top, and this is the orientation you want. Measure your wing length, which should be about the length of the hook or a little beyond, and hold the wing very firmly between your thumb and forefinger—this is essential to avoid buckling. Using the loose loop technique, pass the thread between your thumb and the near-side wing slip, over the top and between the forefinger and the far side wing slip, and then back up front. ***Do not*** loosen your grip and pull the thread straight up. Now repeat this two or three times before letting go. If everything looks good, trim away the wing butts, form a small and neat head and whip finish. Add some cement and I'll see you at Hot Creek…

Calendar of Events

December

1	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
2	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
3	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
4	Friday	10:00 AM	LBCC Holiday Decorating
5	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
		3:30 PM	Holiday Feast Support
		5:00 PM	LBCC Holiday Feast
6	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		11:00 AM	Sunday Women's Casting Clinic
7	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
8	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
9	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
10	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
11-13	Week		On the River Clinic Trip
12	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
13	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
			Monthly Casting Lessons
15	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
16	Wednesday	3:00 PM	American Casting Association Annual Meeting
		7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
17	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
19	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
		9:00 AM	Trout Spey Class
20	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
22	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
23	Wednesday	7:00 PM	No Fly Tying Forum--Holiday Break
26	Saturday	12:00 PM	Club Spey Cast
27	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
29	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
30	Wednesday	7:00 PM	No Fly Tying Forum--Holiday Break

Calendar of Events Cont'd.

January

2	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
3	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		11:00 AM	Sunday Women's Casting Clinic
4	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
		6:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
5	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
6	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
7	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
8-10	Weekend		Lower Owens Trip #1 w/J. Lincoln & D. Rivett
9	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
10	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
			Monthly Casting Lessons
11	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
12	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
13	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
14	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
16	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
17	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
19	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
20	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
21	Thursday	7:00 PM	Project Healing Waters Evening Meeting
23	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
23-27	Weekend		Trinity River with Tony Daus
24	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
25	Monday	9:00 AM	Project Healing Waters at LBCC
26	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
27	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
28	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: Topher Brown, Atlantic Salmon
29-31	Weekend		Ninth Annual Open Spey Tournament

Calendar of Events Cont'd.

February

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
~~5-7~~	~~Weekend~~		~~Lower Owens Trip #2~~ **moved to 2/19–2/21**
6	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
6-10	Week		U.S. Casting Team Training
7	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
		11:00 AM	Sunday Women's Casting Clinics
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
11–14	Weekend		Southwestern Tournament
13	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
14	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting
			Monthly Casting Lessons
16	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Tuesday Night Club Cast
			Beginning Fly Tying
17	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
19–21	Weekend		Lower Owens Trip #2 w/J. Lincoln & D. Rivett
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
			Beginning Fly Tying
24	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Fly Tying Forum
25	Thursday	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting: Craig DeMark, Fishing the Missouri River
27	Saturday	8:00 AM	Club Spey Cast
28	Sunday	9:00 AM	Open and Target Casting

For December 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. For detailed info see the following:



1. **FreshStart Tenkara Rod**
2. **Spring Creek Fly Rod**
3. **IM10 Spey Rod**
4. **IM12 Nano Euro Nymph Casting Fly Rod**
5. **Frontier Saltwater Fly Rod**
6. **Gale Series Fly Reel**
7. **HVCE Fly Fishing Reel**
8. **081 Colorado Fly Tying Vise**
9. **Fly Fishing Landing Trout Fishing Wooden Net**
10. **Ultralight Spinning Casting Rod**

Each month, we select fishing gear for testing and invite anglers to provide feedback and real-world performance insights in Amazon. Join our Pioneer Program and help us create better fishing equipment for anglers worldwide. Limited Testing Spots Available Each Month (Limited to 5 testers per kit—first come, first served).

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https://aventiksports.com/pages/aventik-amz-usa-pioneer-program

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