

Dinner Meeting for Thursday, March 16

MARCH MEDIA MADNESS With Glenn Short

SPFF's annual March Media Madness is quickly approaching, and this year we will have a shiny new digital projector. Please consider preparing a presentation illustrating your 2016 adventures for our March meeting.

This is your chance to entertain your fishing partners and friends by sharing your fishing adventures through photographs or videos. Choose your adventure, think of an amusing title and create a five to eight minute presentation using PowerPoint, Keynote, iMovie or Movie Maker. Add music, captions or commentary, as you choose. Please edit your presentation, and bring it on a flash drive, CD-ROM, DVD, or your laptop. (Please do not bring a series of unedited images.)

Please e-mail me with the subject, length and format of your program by March 10th.

Glenn Short specialprojects@spff.org

STEELHEAD MONITORING PROJECT With Rosi Dagit

Rosi Dagit, Sr. Conservation Biologist for the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM) Monica Mountains and Bay. As Principle Investigator for the Santa Monica Bay Steelhead Lifecycle Monitoring project, she has snorkeled the creeks monthly since 2001 to count endangered southern steelhead trout, and monitored changes in abundance and distribution. She has also been monitoring endangered tidewater gobies and other native fishes in Malibu Lagoon. Since 2014, Ms. Dagit has also been working with FOLAR to build on the earlier fish study of the upper LA River done in 2008 by surveying in the lower river near the estuary and in the western river drainages of the San Fernando Valley.

Rosi will give a talk about her work with the RCDSMM and the Steelhead Lifecycle Monitoring project.

More information about the RCDSMM can be found at http://www.rcdsmm.org/



RAFFLE ITEMS FOR MARCH DINNER MEETING

First Prize — Orvis Clearwater Rod 5wt 9ft 4pc

Second Prize — Orvis Mid Arbor Reel 5-6wt

Third Prize — Orvis Sling Pack

Big Barrel

Dozen flies and box, 3 pack of leaders, tippet rings, zinger

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



am beginning to wonder if I will ever catch fish in 2017. My catching average is sinking faster than a lead wrapped tungsten bead head. My new pet friend could well be a skunk. It doesn't help that I fish for "the fish of a thousand casts" in cold, fast rising water. It started in January with a day on the River Tay in my home town of Perth. Fresh sea-run Atlantic salmon rolled nearby but spitefully avoided my fly. Still jet lagged, I was sure I could coax at least one trout out of the Lower O on the Super Bowl Out-

ing, but again I was dogged by failure. Last weekend I headed to the Sandy River where for three freezing, wet days I perfected a variety of Spey casts. No steelhead were harmed in the process. I will strangles the next person who tells me "that's why it's called fishing, not catching." Now, if you want to see fish being caught make sure to sign up for the 'corned beef and cabbage' March meeting. The "show and tell" dinner meeting is often hilarious and proof that a show does not need to be perfect to convey a great message. Many of you have volunteered to help with the annual Introduction to Fly Fishing (ITFF) that kicks off on March 11th, back in its old home beside Lake Reseda with the welcome return of water to cast in. Classes are free to Club members who want to re-take any or all of the sessions. I am excited that we will again be visiting the LA River on April 1st with the ITFF students. The section known as the Glendale Narrows is a perfect simulation of a free flowing trout stream and an ideal practice area. Thanks are also due to those who volunteered to man the FFF SWC booth at the Fred Hall show where the evangelical message of fly fishing will save the souls of hundreds of bait fishermen and give meaning to their lives. Don't forget to visit Fishermens Spot on April 1st and 2nd for their annual Expo featuring legendary Scottish fly tier Davie McPhail. I have been hired as a Scottish to American translator.

Last month we moved the dinner meeting into the adjoining smaller room at 'the Glen' and we filled it to capacity. Although a little cramped, the energy was high and raffle sales set a record. Please be sure to book dinner by Tuesday before the meeting AT THE LATEST. We nearly ran out of food because of non reserved guests. We will continue to use the smaller room unless there are a minimum of fifty dinner reservations. As you read this, spare a thought for our Newsletter Editor Glen Atkinson. Glen is always hungry for stories and pictures. Don't forget that a printed story makes you eligible for a free dinner drawing. I am excluding myself from this group since stories with caught fish are always more satisfying.

See you at the March meeting! Marshall

ITFF 2016 LOOKING BACK

A TIME TO LEARN, LAUGH, AND FISH

Last year's Introduction To Fly Fishing (ITFF) was a rousing success. Nearly 50 students attended the 4 weekend classroom sessions, and around 20 brave souls traveled to Bishop for the graduation weekend on the Owens River. In case you missed it, here is a glance at what transpired.



(Continued on page 10)

DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Marshall Bissett	818.259.1551
Vice President		Open
Community Relations	Michael Peratis	818.341.6921
Conservation	Debbie Sharpton	805.338.8278
Recording Secretary	John Roberts	818.248.7448
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Librarian	Tom Wright	818.367.8827
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Newsletter Editor	Glen Atkinson	661.305.8409
Newsletter Circulation	Richard Ress	818 783.8684
Outings	Jim Fleisher	818.990.4921
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Technical Assistant	Aran Dokovna	661.296.7633
SWCFF Representative	Tom Wright	818.367.8827
Social Media		Open
Member at Large	_ Don Lee	818.990.0248

PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Jay Bushore, Membership Chair

The members of Sierra Pacific Flyfishers look forward to meeting you. We hope to get to know you better at the Monthly Dinner Meetings, in our educational programs and on the water. SPFF always welcomes new members.

Members, please introduce yourselves to new members at our monthly dinner meetings and make them feel welcome!



Randy Gibbs
Cece Rubin



THE SUPER BOWL OUTING

NO LAST MINUTE COMEBACKS By Marshall Bissett

he over fifty brave Club members who made the journey for our annual Super Bowl outing to the Sierra were greeted by a scene of unusual and remarkable beauty –

flanked by snowdraped mountains. The nordrive mal up the 395 was highlighted by breathtaking winter

Bishop

vistas. In a year where we have been celebrating high rainfall and snowpack numbers, the scenic beauty was just an added bonus. The local websites reported that access to the Upper Owens and Hot Creek would be severely limited by deep snow, although a few of the

more adventurous went into Hot Creek with snow shoes. This left the Lower Owens as the most practical option for a group eager to catch their first trout of the season. I met local guide Pat Jaeger (our January presenter) and his normal guide enthusiasm was a little muted. "This is the coldest I have ever seen the Lower O – I think the fish are deep." At the beginning of the

week flows were running at a manageable 160cfs but by Friday into the weekend the output at Pleasant Valley Damn was closer to 225cfs, a level that made wading difficult, if not dangerous. This double whammy pretty much killed the river.

While a couple of rainbows were taken on guide drift boat trips using the famous "dip and strip" streamer technique, our group was roundly skunked. The members I talked to, many of them excellent and experienced anglers, had tried it all – nymphs, dries, streamers, live bait and dynamite (only joking) to no avail. Adding insult to low catch rate, prolific BWO hatches were met by complete indifference by fish that were clearly "hunkered down."

> Luckily it takes more than slow fishing to dim the spirits of an SPFF group on a weekend, and the prime rib dinner

> > at the Golf Club had its share of fish stories, jokes and raffle winners. Club member Pat Case was heard to say, "The only time I don't catch

fish is on Club outings." Thanks go to Bill Woods, Jim Fleisher and Steve Ebersold for organizing the event. Grudging thanks also goes to the NFL for finally making a game that almost matched the excitement of a fishing trip!



Beautiful **Flies**

Perfect proportions make flies more

CHARLIE CRAVEN

'VE TAUGHT A lot of people to tie flies, and whether they are brand new tiers or even fairly experienced, one of the biggest troubles I see and hear about is fly proportions. It's not always easy to gauge exactly how long a tail should be or where exactly the wings should be placed on a dry fly, and sometimes it's tough to even have a really good idea of where the abdomen ends and where the thorax begins on a simple nymph. Even when you follow the best directions, you can still end up with a fly that seems strangely misshapen.

Luckily, there is a commonly accepted set of rules to follow for the length of things like wings, tails, and abdomens. Developing an "eyeball" measuring device to guide you can take years, but I am going to try here to give you the most commonly accepted guidelines, then some tips to make them easier to master, and finally some guidance on when to throw those guidelines out the window and break the rules a bit.

Nowhere are proportions more important than on upright winged dry flies. Proper wing and tail lengths produce a fly that is accurately sized to the hook—a functional benefit because proportions affect the balance of the pattern, and determine how it sits on the water. Wings that are too long can cause a fly to spin during the cast, or even to fall over once on the water. Tails that are too long or too heavy can change the perceived size of the fly significantly. These seemingly small details have a very large

impact on how well the fly

performs.

Perhaps just as important is that proportions help us judge the beauty and attractiveness of a fly. Just as a person with a large nose or small beady eyes might be considered ugly, a fly with a tail that is too long, or wings that are too short, is equally undesirable.

Also, universally accepted norms for proportions help to produce consistent flies. The "best" commercial flies are ones that all look identical. Even if you are not a commercial tier, the goal is always to produce "consistent" flies so when you have a row of Hare'sears, for instance, they all look the same. Without proportions, you are shooting at a moving target.

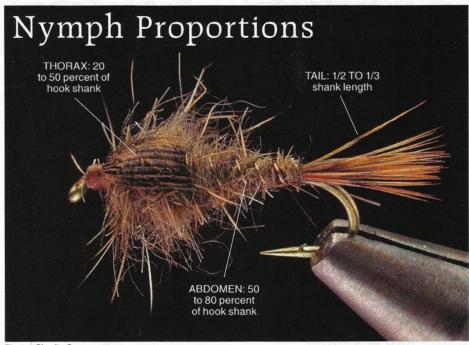
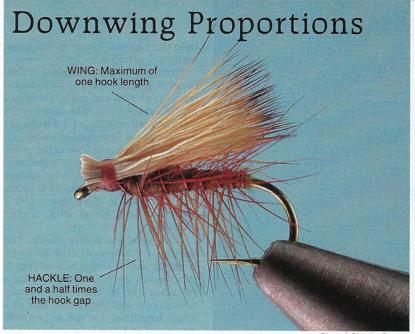


Photo Charlie Craven

The Rules

Dry-fly tails are tied in exactly at the bend of the hook and extend one shank length beyond the bend. The density of the tail fibers is dependent on the overall dressing



of the fly . . . more heavily hackled patterns have a thicker bunch of fibers for the tail while more sparsely dressed flies will have a correspondingly sparse tail.

Upright dry-fly wings are one shank length long and should be mounted near the center of the hackle collar. Catskill-style drys tend to have the wings placed ever so slightly in front of the middle of the hackle collar while Western drys commonly feature wings placed more in the center of a thicker hackle collar. I attribute this to the notion that Western waters are more broken and faster moving than those in the East, and thereby require a fly with more hackle to floatalthough I am pretty sure there is also fast water in Pennsylvania.

Dry-fly bodies should occupy from 50 to 80 percent of the hook shank length, most typically ranging in the 60 to 75 percent area, leaving the remaining portion of the shank to be filled in with the hackle collar. As an example, an Adams could have a shank-length tail and wings, a dubbed body from the bend of the hook up to the 75 percent point on the shank, leaving the front quarter of the hook shank for the thorax/hackle collar. Placing the wings in the center of this front quarter of the shank would put them 12.5 percent of the shank length back from the eye and 87.5 percent of the way forward from the bend.

If that sounds too technical, just think of the wings as being in the center of the hackle collar, and your eyeball and brain will take it from there.(Make sure you account for that .5 percent I mentioned earlier or no fish will ever eat your fly. Ever.)

Downwings on drys (like an Elkhair Caddis or Stimulator) should be no longer than one hook length long. A hook length is longer than a shank length and is measured from the front of the hook eye to the outside of the distance from the back of the hook eye to the bend of the hook.

Sometimes downwings are tied in directly behind the hook eye, or in the case of a Stimulator, much farther back on the shank. As a general rule, the farther back the wing is mounted, the shorter it ought to be, and rarely should it extend past the tail.

Standard hackle on a dry fly should be one and a half to two hook gaps, although to my eye, hackle that is two hook gaps long looks gigantic. I nearly always shoot for a hackle length of one to one and a half gaps.

Consideration must be also be taken about where, and over what, the hackle is to be wrapped. Hackle wrapped on a bare shank looks shorter than the same feather wrapped over a dubbed abdomen. I usually downsize my hackle feathers by at least one size when wrapping or palmering them over a dubbed body.

Parachute hackle can be oversized by one hook size, although my personal preference is for parachute hackle that reaches from the wing post (at the 80 percent point) to the bend of the hook. René Harrop's beautiful and functional Biot Paraspinner in this issue [page 44] shows a great example of when and how to break those guidelines. While conventional wisdom is that the hackle on a parachute pattern imitates the legs of a hook bend. A shank length is the mayfly, Harrop's fly instead uses the

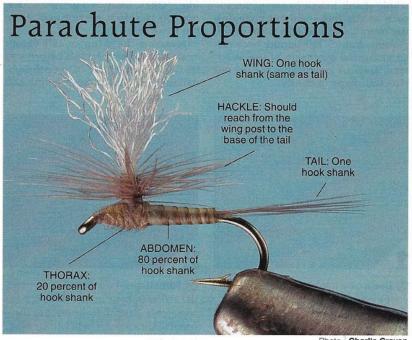


Photo Charlie Craver

FLY TIER'S BENCH



Photo Charlie Craven

parachute hackle to imitate the long, spent wings of a mayfly spinner lying flush in the surface film, and therefore the hackle is purposely tied twice as long as normal to better match this identifiable trait.

Nymphs

Nymph tails should be tied in precisely at the bend of the hook and are usually one half to two thirds of a shank length. If tied particularly sparse, nymph tails can range up to a whole shank length in some cases—such as the RS2—without changing the overall size and silhouette of the pattern. A thick tail bundle becomes an elongated extension of the abdomen, and can greatly alter the overall size and shape of the fly.

Nymph abdomens should take up 50 to 80 percent of the shank, leaving the remaining portion for the thorax. So if the abdomen is 60 percent of the shank, by default, the thorax occupies the remaining 40 percent. In my mind, anything that has an abdomen to thorax proportion of more than 80/20 becomes less of a thorax/abdomen and more of a body/head as is the case with midge or caddis larvae.

After a long diatribe like the one above, tiers usually say something like, "Okay, okay, we get it . . . but *bow* do you do it every time?" Here are some hints.

Measure the wing or tail clump against the shank length before you tie it in. Use the edge of your thumbnail to mark the measured length and hold the material firmly at this point while you attach it.

Once you have the material tied in, measure it again. Use an exactly equal hook (same size and model) held in a pair of hackle pliers to re-measure the mounted tail or wing, and if it doesn't match what it is supposed to be, untie it and do it again. Practicing poorly and settling for "almost right" will never train your eye to what "exactly right" looks like. Measure it twice. Hell, measure it three times. Get it right so you'll know what "right" looks like.

Now, give it a sanity check. The shank of a standard size 18 hook is pretty short, and a half of that is shorter yet, so when you're tying a Pheasant Tail or any other nymph, take a look and see if that half of a shank length tail that you so precisely measured and tied in actually turned out to be half a shank or just "shorter" than usual.

Here's a great tip to ease proportional headaches on drys or nymphs. Plan ahead where the abdomen is to end on the shank, then start the thread at that point and wrap a thread base back to the bend. I find it much easier to get a good idea of hook proportions using a bare shank, so I always start my thread where the body or thorax should end. This leaves a clear indicator of where my abdomen needs to stop, as well as keeps a single smooth layer of thread under the abdomen.

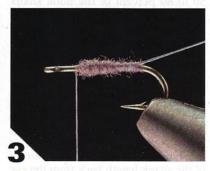
A clean, tight strand of dubbing with a square shoulder at the front end will also contribute to an accurate measurement. Bodies that just sort of fizzle out make it hard to gauge exactly where they stop.



Use a bare hook to double-check your measurements. Remember that a shank length and a hook length are two different things.



Sometimes it's necessary to overrun the abdomen to tie in materials such as a wingcase. Carefully wrap back to the correct starting position before dubbing the thorax.



♠ A tight, clean shoulder at the end of the abdomen helps you make an accurate estimate of the abdomen length.



LA County's ONLY Fly Fishing Show Is Back!

FLY FISHING EXPO 2017

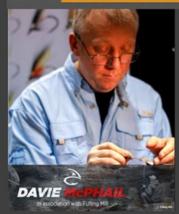
March 31 - April 2

Join Us for a Weekend of Fly Fishing Fun! FREE Entry to the Event

www.Fishermensspot.com/Expo

Don't Miss Our Special Expo Classes!

Private Group Fly Tying Classes with Davie McPhail!



We're Honored to have **Davie McPhail** in association with **Fulling Mill** at our 2017 Fly Fishing Expo! This is Davie's first appearance on the West Coast so **DON'T MISS** your chance to tie a fly and shoot the sh_t with him in person!

Class Size: 8 students Class Fee: \$150

Includes: material kit, DVD of the class and a Fly tied by Davie!

Thursday March 30th: Friday March 31st:
Class 1: 10am - 1pm Class 2: 2pm - 5pm Class 4: 2pm - 5pm

Fly Casting with Michael Maloney!



We are thrilled to have Michael Maloney, the "Ultimate Fly Casting Instructor" on hand offering FREE casting classes at the Expo.

Date: Saturday April 1st

Time: 9:30am - 11:30pm & 12:30pm - 2:30pm

Location: TBD

Class Size: Limited to 8 students per class

Women's Introduction to Fly Fishing!



Leigh Ann Swanson & Naomi Okamoto from the Pasadena Casting Club will be offering intro to Fly Fishing classes for ladies only. They keep it simple and make it lots of fun for the girls!

Date: Saturday April 1st Time: 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Location: Pasadena Casting Club pond
Class Size: Limited to 8 students per class

We anticipate classes will fill up fast so Call the shop to enroll or for more info (818) 785-7306

LEARN TO FLY FISH!

SIERRA PACIFIC FLYFISHERS

PRESENTS

4 SATURDAYS OF CLASSROOM & ON-THE-WATER FLY FISHING INSTRUCTION



MARCH 11, 18, 25 & APRIL 1 8:30 - NOON

ONE GENERATION SENIOR CENTER 18255 VICTORY BLVD, RESEDA, CA 91335

ADULTS \$40 ~ KIDS UNDER 18 FREE

LOANER RODS & REELS FOR STUDENTS

OPTIONAL GRADUATION TRIP TO BISHOP APRIL 7, 8 & 9

CONTACT STEVE EBERSOLD AT 818-439-0556 OR EDUCATION SPFF. ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

Fish Reports

Lower Owens River - Local Weather and Flows

Water Conditions:Good

Flows are at 244cfs as of 2/16

High water conditions for at least the next few weeks. Wade safely.

Fishing Conditions and Hatches:

It's pretty slow early in the morning. Mid day onward has been the best right now with a decent baetis hatch around 12:30-1:00.

Recommended Flies:

DRIES:Extended Body BWO #18-22, CDC Baetis DUN, CDC Baetis Emerger

NYMPH: Black Bead Birds Nest Olive #20, Zebra Midge #22, Birds Nest Natural or Olive #14-18, Tungsten Psycho #18, Copper Zebra Midge #18-22, Olive WD 40 #18-20, Micro May #18-20, RS2 #18-20, Juju Baetis, Pheasant Tail #18-20, Tungsten Psycho #18

STREAMERS: Swing small streamers or soft hackles right now.

Guides Hint: Standing water everywhere along chalk bluff road. It would be smart to just park along the road and walk in.

Fish Reports are provided courtesy of The TroutFitter. For more fishing information, go to http://www.thetroutfly.com/fishreport.html

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF THE LATEST FLY TYING CLASS! Instructor: Michael Peratis



BEGINNING FLY TYING CLASS OF 2017 GRADUATION DAY - FEBRUARY 22

Mike Hembree ~ Randy Kuluva ~ Bob Olson ~ Charles Guerin ~ Michelle Hulac-Morentin Sue Ellen Hussung ~ Jay Bushore ~ Robert McCurdy ~ Rich Guy ~ Tim Endaya

Miscellaneous



Volunteer Opportunity!

Become an SPFF Project Healing Waters Volunteer.

Spend time with a Veteran and share the wonderful world of Fly Fishing.

We teach fly casting, fly tying, show a fishing video from time to time, share fishing trip stories, go fishing occasionally, and always have a FUN TIME!

Many of the Veterans have become SPFF club members and are enjoying attending SPFF monthly dinner meetings, learning to fly cast and tie flies, and are making new fly fishing friends.

S o Come Join the Fun!

1st and 3rd Thursday

4:00 PM to 5:45 PM

Sepulveda Vet Center

9739 Haskell Avenue

Sepulveda / Mission Hills, CA

91343

Send an email to David Hoffberg, Project Healing Waters Program Lead <u>dhoff-</u>

berg@aol.com



(Continued from page 2)



ITFF 2017 starts March 11. If you are interested, see the flyer on page 8.

SPFF Library



SPFF FLY FISHING BOOKS & DVD LIBRARY

You can "browse the stacks" online by going to the www.spff.org website.

All materials are available for members to check out at *no charge*.

A link is provided to contact our Librarian.

Casting Clinic at Balboa Lake

1st & 3rd Saturday each month unless otherwise noted.

Instructors are usually available most Saturday mornings 9 -11AM, schedules permitting.

EDITOR'S NOTES

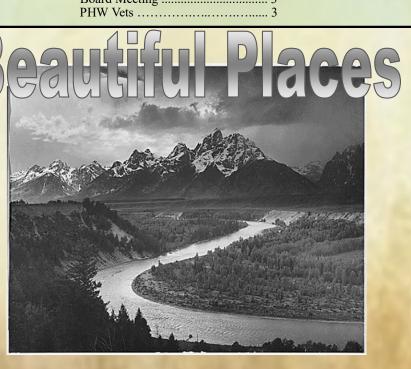
<u>FLY PAPER ENTRIES</u>—Please email copies of your photos or "jpegs" at the unedited, original size and other newsletter items to Glen Atkinson at:

news@spff.org

DEADLINE: 3rd Thursday each month by 5 PM (Dinner Meeting)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2017

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Board Meeting 5	PHW Vets 6	September 20 17
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PHW Vets19	Dinner Meeting20	PHW Vets
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, , c	<u>May 2017</u>	October 2017
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PHW Vets16	Board Meeting 1	Board Meeting2
PHW Vets 16 Dinner Meeting 16	Board Meeting	Board Meeting 2 PHW Vets 2
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Steve Esgate Rainbow Trout Owens River

Next Dinner Meeting Thursday March 16

Monterey At Encino 16821 Burbank Blvd Encino, CA 91436

Menu

SPECIAL ST PATRICK'S DAY MENU

Entrée:

Corn Beef and Cabbage Boiled Potato and Carrots

OR

Briami

(Greek Oven Roasted Vegetables)

Cocktails at 6:00 PM / Dinner 7:00 Call 818.789.1919 Ext 10 (Michelle) or email

MontereyatEncino@Gmail.com Reserve by Monday March 13

\$32.00 Cash or Check, No Cards Non-dining guests are now FREE!

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

The Board of Directofollowing rs and membership of the Sierra Pacific Flyfishers wish to express their appreciation to the retailers. Their promotion of our club and its activities throughout the year, and their contributions of products and services help us to continue the various public services that we offer.

A16 Outfitters

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West LA A16 Outfitters

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Culvers Sporting Goods

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