



# Tightlines

SouthWest Council, Federation of Fly Fishers



## February 2007

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**President:** Bob Middo  
**First V.P.** Greg Stumpf  
**Treasurer:** Jeff Sadler  
**Recording Secretary:** Phil Dixon  
**Senior Advisor:** Alex Siemers  
**Conservation:** Bill Reeves  
**Youth:** Chris Leonard  
**TIC:** Mark Landre  
**Communications:** Bennett Mintz  
**Membership:** Joe Lemire  
**Newsletter Editor:** Carl Ronk & John Rose  
**Web Master:** Jeff Stumpf  
**Education:** Jack Scherwin

### FFFSWC Presidents Message

More than once, I have been approached by fellow fly fishers and have been asked, "Why should I spend \$35.00 to join the Federation of Fly Fishers, and what do they do for me?" My enlightened response is: "The FFF is the only organization out there that makes sure your right to fly fish is heard and supported through education, restoration and conservation efforts" Next they say: "Okay, but what's that mean for me?" Well, here is what I tell them.

Typically, the average fly fishing angler from Los Angeles spends more than \$50.00 in gas to go fish the Eastern Sierras. What would happen if nobody cared about our rights as fly fishing enthusiast? Well, here is what could happen. The New Zealand Mud Snail

problem and other invasive species would spread. Catch and release, barbless artificial regulations would be ignored or worse, overturned. Wild trout areas decimated or turned into a put and take fishery, and finally, overdevelopment could deplete the natural water supplies to the point of permanently damaging the local streams and rivers.

A little closer to home, your average fly fishing angler from Los Angeles, probably spends \$10.00 of gas each time to go fish the West Fork of the San Gabriel River, several times a year in order to spend a pleasant day fishing a wild trout stream right here in the Los Angeles basin. Again, here is what could happen if nobody cared. Graffiti would cover every rock, bank and tree. Diapers, discarded barbeques, beer cans, etc. would litter the banks. Man made dams, would dominate the stream every 50 feet, and finally, no more wild fish.

The FFF is your voice and organization to make sure these things don't happen. In some instances we are at the forefront of many of these issues, specifically the New Zealand Mud Snail, the FRVC and our local streams and now Hot Creek. With other issues, we may not be visible, but rest assured, we are there in the background giving our support, lobbying, lending a hand, educating the public, and doing what ever we must to make sure fly fishing is not forgotten or left out in lieu of saving a fishery. So

the question now becomes: “Do you think supporting an organization that can and does do all this and more, worth \$35.00 dollars a year? Or would you rather spend your money in gas and hope for the best for our fisheries?” The enlightened response I usually get is YES!

### **Dates to Keep in Mind**

February 24, 2007 Fly Tying Expo, at the Long Beach Casting club to raise funds to help pay for the New Hot Creek signs. Donated Flies are due by February 1, 2007. Contact person is Naomi Okamoto, [meimei2@earthlink.net](mailto:meimei2@earthlink.net). February 28 thru the first week of March is the Fred Hall fishing show, there should be many fly fishing booths this year. Lastly a fly fishing Show in Pasadena, March 10 and 11, 2007.

### **A note from the First Vice President**

A quick note to all. We are in the beginning of the show season and looking forward to another fishing season. This past year the Council has taken on many new projects. The Hot Creek sign replacement, a show booth, Developing a new website, and Mammoth high school. Each of these projects benefits fly fishing, in its own way.

The New show booth will help us expand membership. Inform fly fishers of the goals and mission of the Federation of Fly Fishers, and the Southwest Council.

Due a better job of promoting and protecting fly angling, after all we are

the only show in town that does this. An updated website will give us a better way of communicating to our own and the masses.

The affiliation with Mammoth High School started from a couple of teachers crossing paths on a stream. A teacher of fly casting and fishing and a teacher of the three R's with a small fly fishing club. With some discussion and a few meetings a Trout in the Classroom program was started with an understanding that the cost to the club would be to maintain the signs at Hot Creek. This chance meeting has turned into a lot more. The Mammoth middle school is now slated to start a TIC program in the near future. Both schools are starting fly tying classes, and this is leading to an adult tying class. We are now working on establishing a charter club in Mammoth. This affiliation benefits youth, community, and a fishery, Located in one of the Councils prime angling areas.

Replacing the Angler information signs at Hot Creek is something that had to be done. We need to demonstrate that we take pride in and respect our fisheries. There is no better place to do this than at Hot Creek. This is due to the cross use of this fragile fishery, by anglers and swimmers.

The benefits of these projects to fly fishing are great. Some of these benefits will be paid back in time, and some will be immediate. The financial cost to the Council has been great. We are having a fund-raiser to help offset the costs of these projects. The FLY EXPO is to benefit the Hot Creek signs, I hope that you will come out and show your support, get some great flies, and have

fun. I will be there to answer any questions, take thoughts on new projects or just shoot the breeze.

### **Mammoth High School Fly Fishing Association**



When educator Chris Leonard began to instruct in Mammoth Lakes three years ago, he asked himself, “How could a high school possibly exist in such a pristine part of the world without a fishing club?” It simply did not seem humanly possible; hence, the proper orbiting of the stars around the sun needed to be put back into place.

Entering the fly fishing world only after taking employment at Mammoth High, Mr. Leonard walked into the principal’s office one day last March and told the boss, “I am going fishing after school (since I am already “consumed” with the sport) so I might as well take some kids along with me.” Contemplating the thought, the principal agreed to support having a fly fishing association upon the understanding that such an entity is an educational doorway into the studies of entomology, hydraulics, conservation, fish species, knot-tying, fly-tying, ethics, and outdoor appreciation. So be it, Mr. Leonard recruited a gang of young adolescents to take to the rivers. Some of the kids were experienced fly anglers,

others were taken from the dark-side-of-the-force of bait fishing, and few had no experience in any aspect of angling. The only thing missing at the time was the years of experience one would expect the director of such an association to have.

However... when word of the association hit the streets of Mammoth Lakes, the local fly fishing community adopted its newest child. Professional guides throughout Mammoth and June Lakes offered hours of free time on the water to help instruct the kids. Many local outfitters present discounts to the students (tomorrow’s clients) on gear and flies. Private waters have generously opened up for the kids to fish. The club has toured Hot Creek Hatchery, SNARL (Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory), and Tim Alpers’ River Ranch. During May and June of 2006, ten student-members piled into a district van every Tuesday and Thursday to head off to a nearby water to cast lines for a few hours. Some of the young casters have been snagging trout since the day they were born while others caught and released their first trout as a consequence of committing to the association. The association is here to stay and will return at the opening of the 2007 fishing season as well as many foreseeable seasons to come.

The club has established a very beneficial relationship with FFF and U.S. Forest Service. The idea is to foster in the kids a greater emphasis on conservation and environmental education. FFFSCW is generously providing the club with an aquarium and chiller unit for the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Program in agreement that the high school maintains the signs

at beloved Hot Creek. The students of Mammoth High School now have an opportunity to partake in the TIC program thanks to FFFSCW. Likewise, the student-members will take greater ownership in the sport by taking on responsibility at Hot Creek.

The club has already positively touched the lives of ten young anglers at Mammoth High School. It is bound to impart the art of fly fishing upon many more. Anyone interested in offering support (of any kind) to the club, or simply interested to come on out with the club one afternoon is welcome to do so. The club will reconvene in April 2007. Mr. Leonard may be reached at: [cleonard@mammothusd.org](mailto:cleonard@mammothusd.org).

### **New Club in the High Desert**

My name is John Rose, contact number (760) 247-5966. I am currently the president of the HI-Desert Fly Fishers. We are currently going through the process of becoming an affiliate club with FFF.

The HI-Desert Fly Fishers are located in Apple Valley, California. The membership now consists of approximately 30 members, but we are always looking for new people. FFF members who live in the general area of Victorville, Hesperia, Apple Valley, Lucerne areas, or for that matter any where else, are welcome to come to any of our meetings. The meetings are held on the **second Thursday of each month at the Apple Valley Fire Station, at Yucca Loma Blvd and Apple Valley Road.**



The meetings start at approximately 6:30 PM and usually last a couple of hours. The meeting usually consists of either a guest speaker, or fly fishing and tying videos. The Fire Station is also set up for PowerPoint presentations; with a facility like this we have extremely interesting meetings. The above picture shows a rear projection screen which is available to us.

Presently our Club has exclusive rights, to fly fish as a group, at a couple of Lakes up here in the High Desert. One of the lakes is at Jess Ranch. It is not uncommon to catch 20 plus at this lake. Some of the trout can be 20 to 26 inches.



## Rose Caddis Parachute Style

I designed the Rose Caddis, over 30 years ago. It was first designed with normal hackling around the hook shaft. Years later I started tying it parachute style and this improved the hooking qualities a lot, since this pattern is tied in very small hook sizes

This way of using Deer hair for the post is one of those methods that some of you may have known for years. I figured this method out on my own and those of you that don't know this method; I want to share it.

I am using the Rose Caddis because there isn't an easier fly to tie and this caddis imitation actually produces better, tied this way. This method gives it at least a 50% or better hooking ratio. I have always had a problem tying Caddis flies, parachute style, using deer hair for the wing. I have had the most problem on small 20 and 22 hooks because there isn't much to grab while trying to wrap it around the deer hair. Follow these directions and there is no problem tying even smaller sizes.

### **Recipe:**

**HOOK:** Mustad 94840 or 94845, TMC 100BL or TMC 900BL, sizes 18 and smaller.

**THREAD BODY:** Number 8 in Yellow or Olive

**WING:** Deer hair

**HACKLE:** Light brown to brown hen hackle fibers

## **TYING INSTRUCTIONS**

**Step 1** Wrap the Yellow or Green #8 thread around the hook and dense enough so you can't see at least the lower two thirds of the hook through the wrappings. The hook shown is a size 20 TMC 900BL. As shown in Fig. A, place a half hitch at approx. the same place.

**Step 2** Tie in deer hair with wing height approx. length of hook and leaving the butt end equal to or slightly extending past the hook eye. Shown in Fig. B

Fig. A

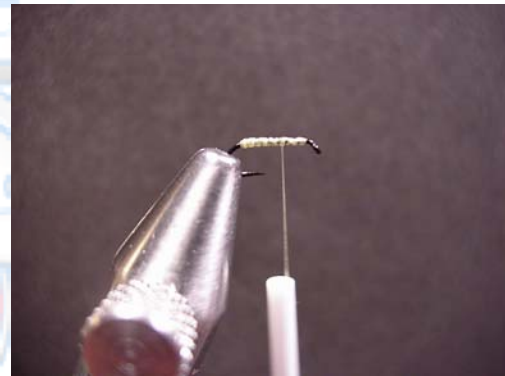


Fig. B



**Step 3** Tie in hackle so it extends towards the rear of the hook. Shown in

**Step 4** Using hackle pliers wrap the hackle towards the front of hook and pull the hackle between the hook eye and bottom of deer hair butts. The deer hair butts keep the hackle from coming off and won't let the hackle unravel. Two complete turns of the hackle is sufficient. Now give a couple of wraps to secure the hackle at the rear of the wing as shown in Fig D. (Half hitch is optional)

**Step 5** With a half hitch tool place a half hitch at eye of the hook. Be sure that all knots at the head are done under the hackle. I find it easier to use a half hitch tool to place three consecutive cinch knots at the headspace to finish it off. A Whip Finish Cone can be used to move the hackle fibers back so a whip finish can be applied. Now straighten the fibers out and trim the hair butts so it looks like fig E and F and lastly place a drop of head cement on the fly's belly. I don't advice placing a drop on the head because it's real easy to clog the eye of the hook. Either knot you use at the head will hold for as long as you own the fly.

**Fig C.**



**Fig D.**



**Fig E.**



**Fig F.**



## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE LOWER KINGS

Since 1999, the Kings River Fisheries Management Program (Program) has been working to restore the lower Kings River to the fishery it used to be. A history of the program as well as documents relative to the program's beginning are to be found at the web site run by the Public advisory group. The URL is:

<http://www.kingsriverfisheries.org>. Not only can you read these documents, you can report your success, or lack, on the

lower Kings via the Anglers' survey, get the latest reservoir levels, be a part of the ongoing discussions in the forum section and view some pictures of the latest restoration efforts on the lower Kings.

