



The Conejo Valley Flyfisher

January 1992

Happy New Year!

January's Meeting

January's meeting features A.K. Best, author of *Production Fly Tying*, chosen the 1989 Book of The Year by the United Fly Tyers. Mr. Best has a long history of music, having been a music educator for 24 years as well as a professional musician for 12 years and a symphony conductor for 4. But his passion for fly tying and fly fishing has been even longer. Through professional fly tying, Mr. Best has developed time saving techniques that can speed up your fly tying as well as make your flies better looking and more durable. The title of this month's presentation is *Matching Naturals*. Don't miss it.

Please Note the change of meeting date and location.

This month's meeting is Wednesday January 8th, 7:30PM, at the Borchard Park Community Room on Reino Rd. in Newbury Park. Directions are given in the newsletter. Fly tying begins at 6:00P.M. This change is for January only.

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Membership

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The purpose of the CVFF is to cultivate and advance the art, science and sport of fly fishing as a sporting and enjoyable method of angling and a way of fishing consistent with the preservation and use of game fish resources, to promote conservation of recreational resources, to facilitate and improve the knowledge of fly fishing, to elevate the standard of integrity, honor and courtesy of anglers and to cherish the spirit of fellowship among anglers everywhere.

New Regs for Lower Owens

Even though the Bishop bait sellers are crying foul, the DFG will be enacting new regulations on the lower Owens River. Ever since a 4½ mile stretch of the river below Pleasant Valley Dam was designated as part of the DFG's Wild Trout program, this stretch of the lower Owens has not been stocked with catchable rainbow trout. This section has maintained itself as a brown trout fishery, despite the pressure of a two trout limit and further pressure from poachers who keep far in excess of the legal limit.

Beginning in March of 1992, this will all change. The new regulations will turn the 2 plus miles downstream of the walking bridge into an artificial barbless/catch and release section. Above the bridge will be artificial-barbless but two fish will be allowed to be taken. This action by the DFG is good news for the brown trout of the lower Owens and not a second too soon.

As for the bait sellers in

Bishop, several plan to appeal the new regulations. Shortsighted is a word that best describes the attitude of the tackle merchants in Bishop and most of the eastern Sierra for that matter. By designating the first 4½ miles of the lower Owens as catch and release, the river has a chance to a tremendous brown trout fishery. This river, already fairly consistent fishing wise, could become a brown trout mecca, rivaling rivers that many of us flock to fish in Montana and of course *where we leave a fair amount of cash behind with the local vendors*. But local Bishop tackle dealers see their bait sales diminishing. And they see this and only this as disastrous. What they don't see or wish to see is that an improved fishery will bring more money to their coffers than the amount they lose from diminished nightcrawler, Power Bait or cricket sales. If their appeal to the DFG succeeds we all lose. If their appeal fails, the lower Owens stands a chance of becoming the *Blue Ribbon Trout stream* it is capable of becoming.

Cutter's New Book on Eastern Sierras Released

Ralph Cutter's revised guide to the eastern Sierra has just been released and if you haven't seen it, drop by Malibu Fish'n Tackle and have a look. You may have purchased his original book some 7 years ago and probably thought it to be a rather lightweight book. You'll be surprised at the difference between these two versions. The latter book is a superb piece of work, covering the area that most of us fish. Subjects in the revised version include, trout fishery, the environment, locating productive water, tackle and techniques and a section on fishing the back country. In addition to these subjects, the artwork and photographs are just tremendous. This definitive work on fishing the Sierra belongs in your fishing library.

DUES DUE THIS MONTH

It's the new year and with it comes membership renewal. Several members have already renewed and for them we offer a hearty congratulation. As an incentive for the rest of us;

if you renew your membership by January's meeting, there will be special prize drawing. Show Bob Kieling your renewal at the next meeting and he'll enter you into the drawing.

1992 will be an exciting year for the CVFF with several big name speakers lined up to help improve your fly fishing. John Vanderhoof will be here in February; Ed Shenk in April, and Lani Waller will be here in October. The CVFF needs your renewal to continue bringing these fine speakers for your enjoyment. Please help us by getting your renewal to us in a timely manner. Thank you for your support

Directions to Borchard Park

Traveling west on the 101 freeway, exit at Wendy Drive. Turn left and proceed back over the freeway to Old Conejo Road. (The first stop light). Make a right on Old Conejo and travel .7 miles to Reino Rd and make a left. Drive past Newbury Park High School. Just past NPHS is Borchard Park. Locate the tennis courts, turn left into the lot and park. Go to the east side of the building behind the tennis courts for the community room. We will have some balloons set out to help mark the way to the meeting. Hope to see you there.



How Eastern Sierra Chambers of Commerce would like to see it..

The Education of a Flyfisherman

I recently purchased Vince Marinaro's book *A Modern Dry Fly Code* and was stopped cold by a quote in the first chapter.

"TO SOME all this may seem like taking a recreation far too seriously. If these objectors can take lightly the sense of baffled disappointment following on failure by the waterside; if they are content to enjoy success as though it were some caprice of chance; if in short they are content to be the slaves and not the masters of their fishing fate then perhaps they are right: but to me the sense of bafflement robs me of half my pleasure and casual unexplained success is but Dead Sea fruit to the palate of enjoyment."

Col. E.W. Harding
The Fly Fisher and the Trout's Point View

For many years I have approached fly fishing with a cavalier attitude. I would flail away streamside and hopefully pick up a little knowledge along the way along with some fish. It is only recently that I've earnestly started my education in fly fishing. For years I thought entomology was for other

folk, not for me. I didn't really need to know that stuff; did I? I felt it took away from the fun of fly fishing. But lately, seeing large fish on Hot Creek refuse my "guaranteed to catch fish" store bought fly, I've begun to question the wisdom of my former thoughts and I've begun to read. Not just random fly fishing material, but articles and books geared towards one objective: making me a better fly fisherman. I thought I might share some of the books and authors that, I feel, give fly fishers some meat to chew on.

Caddisflies. Gary LaFontaine. A tremendous work no fly fishing library should be without.

The Dry Fly. Gary LaFontaine. Also a thought provoking work.

Mayflies, the Angler and the Trout. Fred Arbona. A great book on Mayfly fishing and tying.

Nymphing. Gary Borger
Naturals. Gary Borger
Two great books on bugs and technique.

Lake Fishing with a Fly. R. Kaufmann. The treatise for the tuber.

Western Hatches. Rick Hafele. Tremendous book, with pictures, on the flies of the west. A must book.

Western Trout Fly Tying Manuals Vol. 1 & 2. Jack Dennis. These books contain most of the flies western fly fishermen need to fish the west.

The Fly Tyers Nymph Manual. R. Kaufmann.
The book on nymph tying.

The Dry Fly. R. Kaufmann.
A great new book on dry flies.

Production Fly Tying. A. K. Best. Great tips on fly tying. (Also our January speaker)

Rene Harrop. Fly tier from Idaho. Any time you can get your hands on his articles; do it.

The Wildlife Series: Trout.
The book on the quarry we are after.

Iwamasa Flies. Ken Iwamasa. A nice little book that shows how to tie some great flies.

The Soft Hackle Fly. Sylvester Nemes. A book about flies that really work.

I'm sure I missed some other great books but this is only a list of my favorites. I'm also sure it will continue to grow.■

The Environmental FlyFisher

The following appeared in the "The Fly Paper" published by the Sangre De Cristo Flyfishers, Santa Fe, New Mexico. It raises some good points about the flyfishing environment that we should consider.

We're all conscious of our environmental responsibilities and, as members of a club that is attempting to improve New Mexico's fish habitat, we are in a unique position to set an example for others to follow.

Many products available to us, and routinely used by sportsmen and women have no place in our waters. These include Scotchguard™, monofilament, and lead weight. Although these items may seem innocuous, they're dangerous to our environment and there are alternatives readily available.

Lead, for instance, is poisonous. To drop it in our waters is to pollute them. However the manufacturers of Airflo™ make sinking leaders that are lead-free. Use of a no stretch line to facilitate strike detection or alternately attaching a dropper with a floating strike indicator will garner desirable results and lay to rest any guilty consciences. Several manufacturers, such as Orvis, are making lead free splitshot. Look for it in

catalogues or ask about it at your local fishing shop.

We have all heard recommendations from regionally and nationally reputed flyfishers that blankedly advocate the treatment of dry flies with Scotchguard™ to improve flotation. The facts are simple: Scotchguard™ contains 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, a poison listed by the EPA as a hazardous chemical. It is inadvisable to spray it in a poorly ventilated area, and it's worse to treat flies with it or subject any waters to it. Its advantages are negligible at best and there are other floatants that, while petroleum based, are non-poisonous to humans and the environment.

All of us have seen monofilament balls by streams and lakes where we fish. Monofilament can entangle birds and mammals, and if ingested will suffocate them. It is not degradable and as such represents an unrelenting and deadly threat to wildlife. When clipping off tippets or changing leaders, keep the waste monofilament in a pocket for proper disposal. If you see it streamside pick it up and dispose of it properly as it is recyclable into other products.

We have all become label conscious regarding products we buy for

consumption. the next logical step is to become at least as aware of the potential we have to either improve or further pollute our environment. Read labels. Treat our waters as carefully as you can and our fishing experiences will be rewarded on many levels.

Upstream

February:

11th

John Van Derhoof

March:

10th

Fund Raiser

April:

4-5th

Conclave

Ed Shenk

17-19th

Lower Owens Trip

25th

Fishing Season Opens

May:

15th

Hot Creek trip