

FLY DOPE



Fresno, CA
Founded 1961
www.fresnoflyfishers.org

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Special Points of Interest:

August 24
Tracy Purpuro

KRCD

Fly Casting 6 PM

Mtg. 7 PM

October

**Fresno County
Fair 4th—15th**

Team USA Trials

November

Fly Tying Expo

*Check the
Bulletin board!*

Thursday, August 24 6 PM Casting & Fly Tying 7 PM Tracy Purpuro

Tracy Purpuro, Biologist from Kings River Conservation District will be speaking to our membership August 24. Tracy manages the Trout Tracking and Telemetry Study for KRCD. Tracy is an avid fly fisher, so plan on hearing about the fishery and the interventions already performed as well as planned from someone who 'gets it' from our perspective.

See ya there!!

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Fred Ramirez

As most of you know, our President, Mike Telford has moved. I will be taking over as our new president. Hopefully things will stay the same. There are not going to be any changes, but there are a few things I would like to say.

Thank you to all the club members that made it out to the July club meeting. It was a little hot, but it was tolerable, and the food was great! It was nice to see a lot of new members come out and get help with your casting from instructor Dan Busby. Thank you, Dan!

Some important events to remember for 2006:

Team USA Trials: the last weekend October
Fly Tying Expo at the Fresno Sportsman's Club: November 11
Tell all your friends about it and come out and learn something new.

For all these events we are going to need a lot of volunteers. So please call Jerry Hopewell, Roger Miller, or me if you can help. Without volunteers these events are not successful.

Cool Mountain Air

Stephen Neal

Its time for a break from this heat, I've got dust devils dancing in my mind as well as on the horizon. Last night I decided that it was time to go fishing. It has been almost a month and a half since I last put a fly on the water, not that I haven't tried but it just hasn't worked out. I keep my rods and fly fishing bag on the floor next to our bed, I'm sure Terry is not thrilled with this arrangement but having it packed and ready to go is like having a magic door to a stream side within dreaming distance.

Everything came together on Friday afternoon; no commitments left undone, no one needing me for the day, no pressing chores that couldn't wait until Sunday. So Saturday was all mine, well except for feeding the cats but they only own a very small part of my day. I left fairly early this morning before the heat of the day set in. Here it is July 30 and we are in the middle of a heat wave, cool June is now just a faint, pleasant memory. The earth continues to rumble on its journey around the sun and it has brought the summer time heat to our San Joaquin Valley big time. It's the kind of heat that makes you low and slow. I began to imitate a mushroom seeking cool dark places. It takes getting used to, this valley heat. It has taken me about a week and half to get back to at least three quarters speed, but today I was looking for the high and lonesome, the high country as my refuge from the summer oven (San Joaquin Valley) we call home and a place to wet a fly.

I drove North on Temperance Ave. to Hwy. 168. The traffic was light so my mind could wander to the disappearing past. This used to be all farm land now it is all housing subdivision under development. Gone are the row crops, orchards and range land that I knew. Now it is earth movers, torn up roads and half completed houses. I'm lucky I knew it when it was a world that a boy could explore on his own, where water ran and crops grew and animals grazed, where Fancher creek went from dry to full and shared its hidden wonders to a small boy learning about his world. Once I hit Hwy.168 my speed increased until I rounded that first big S curve that takes you into the foothills and the road narrows down to the two lane road that follows the folds of the hills as it climbs up through the oaks on the way to Auberry.

As I slowed on the S curve, my mind again wandered back to older times when horse drawn timber wagon rolled and rumbled over this road hauling the logs from Shaver and Huntington that became the homes of early Fresno. I still have the steel rims from some of the old wagons in my back yard. The wooden spokes and hubs have turned to dust over the years but the rims I use in paths in the yard. In the 1930's when my father was in the Boy Scouts they pulled hand carts with their bedding and food up 168 (Tollhouse Rd.) on Scout camp-outs. Now, we zoom up to Shaver in Air conditioned cars and trucks in about an hour.

Well I finally climbed out of the valley smog at about 4,600 feet or at least that's when I picked up the scent of manzanita. It crept in through the air intake system, my mind awoke from the valley induced slumber and said "Roll down the windows and enjoy the fresh air!" It was like opening an airlock or removing the face mask on an environmental suit, my whole body breathed deeper. Maybe we breathe more shallowly in the valley out of self preservation. Whatever the reason, it sure felt good to breathe fresh mountain air.

I made a quick stop at the Dinky Creek turnoff for beef jerky and a Coke. The beef jerky went in the fishing vest, but the Coke helped me cruise to Dinky Creek (sugar and caffeine). I made the turn to Wishon crossed over the Dinky Creek Bridge and parked at the first pull out on the right.

I'm new to fly-fishing only been at it about a year and half. When I first started, I would line my rod first thing then hike back along the creek or river and begin fishing. But I have discovered that if I don't line up my rod till I get to my fishing spot I'm better off. Let me explain. One of my enjoyments of fly fishing is the anticipation and planning.

Fly Dope

When I would string my rod before I got stream side I spent most of my time making sure that my line did not get tangled in bushes and tree limbs and less time studying the stream. When my rod was already strung, I would immediately cast when I reached the stream. Now I have slowed it down, I get to study the stream as I walk along it looking for eddies and slips and open spots. When I decide where I'm going to fish I sit down and string my rod, giving me more time to anticipate my fishing and to study the water and the entomology of the stream. So when I tie my fly on it's not just a random guess but at least I have given it some thought and I have prolonged the anticipation and planning.

Before I left my truck I sprayed on some insect repellent and sun screened my arms. About a hundred yards down stream I got a whiff of myself, the image that formed in my mind was of a third world banana boat, I brought my own personal pollution with me. Turns out, I could have skipped the DEET as there were no mosquitoes. There were already people fishing below the bridge so I headed down stream to a hole about 250 yards below the bridge, after I lined my rod and tied on a Blue Dunn Parachute. I made my first cast and got a strike as soon as it hit the water I made two more casts and caught two rainbow trout about 8 to 10 inches in length and that is how the rest of my morning went. I caught about 8 fish and had about 20 strikes. I was late on setting the hook so my catch to strike ratio is pretty high. But hey, I'm still on a steep learning curve. But, Oh, what a wonderful day! Nobody else was catching anything so I felt pretty good.

As a learning experiment I tried a dry fly midge also a gray blue in color and a copper bead head nymph and had the same kind of response from the fish. The bead head worked for about 15 minutes the Blue Dunn and the Midge worked all morning. They were taking them on the surface as well as three or four inches below the surface and foot or more down with the bead head. It was just my time more than my choice of flies. My presentation was pretty good and my drift was OK. I had as many fish ignore my fly as those that struck or took it. My fish caught to willows caught was just about even. Although all the willows I caught were 7 to 8 inches high. I'm missing the tall willows and catching the low ones. What's with that? The benefit to catching low willows is that I didn't lose a single fly.

I was surprised at the number of fisherman who asked me if I was seeing any fish. I hope it was because I was staying low and in the shade so I wasn't spooking them as much. But what ever the reason the fish gods smiled on me today and I had a wonderful time fishing and breathing that cool mountain air. I finally left the creek around 1:30 PM as it became too crowded for me and it was time to share my spots with someone else. I headed on up to Wishon, but it was too late in the day. There were no spots left without crowding someone. So I just explored the area, enjoyed the wind on my skin and checked out spots for another time.

My trip home was a repeat of my upward journey. At about 4,600 feet the heat reasserted itself. I rolled up my windows and went back on artificial air, or at least conditioned air. I'm still breathing deep, but by tomorrow self preservation will probably reassert itself and I'll be breathing low and slow.

I hope this little note became your magic door to stream side fishing and that for a brief time I pulled you out of the valley up to the cool mountain air and you were fishing your favorite stream and the fish gods were smiling on you, too!

Fly's From Jerry's Bench

Jerry Hopewell

TOOLS USED FOR FLY TYING

I have been asked what was needed to be able to tie flies. This month I am trying to address only the tools. Threads, cement, wax and materials may be done at a later date.

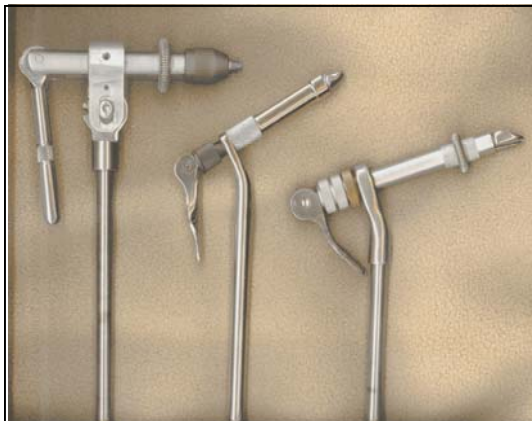
Before modern tools, people used their fingers to hold the hook and tied knots to hold the material in place. Lee Wulff was the last person credited with using this method. He has passed on, and not very long ago.

You need a vise that will hold the various sized hook you will be tying. For the budget minded, I would suggest a Thompson "A" vise manufactured before 1965. The reason, jaw tempering. Thompson quality went down after this date. You can pick one up from ebay at a very reasonable cost. Don't get fooled with the look alike or as some people call, knock offs. They aren't worth the metal they are made from.

I have tied with HMH and Dyna-King vices and like them both very much. Expect to pay several hundred dollars. There are other vices of quality. Talk to the people using them or try to tie on one, they must fit you.

Another type vice is the full rotary ones, such as Renzetti, Norlander vice and Dyna-King Barracuda. These vices are best used when tying large flies with long bodies. They are not the best for small flies. Again expect to pay in the hundreds of dollars. There are others, however the ergonomics were not worked out as well.

What ever vice you choose, they must hold the hook well and you must feel comfortable using it. It needs to fit your hands and you need to be able to work around the vice head.



← **Left to right**
 Dyna-King Supreme
 Thompson "A" pre 1965
 HMH vintage



Top left to right ↑
 Umpqua Ceramic Bobbin
 Large Scissors
 Small Scissors
 Bodkin
 Materelli Whip Finish
 English Hackle Pliers
 Tweezers
Bottom left to right
 Small Comb
 Dyna-King Dubbing-Whirl
 Griffin Hook and Hackle Gauge
 Bore Cleaner used to pick out dubbing
 Razor Blade
 Griffin Rotating Hackle Pliers
 Elgin Brass Hair Stacker
Across the bottom
 Bird's Dubbing Tool

I made my first tying tools in about 1970 and they have been replaced with well made tools that perform the task expected. Again there are a lot of items out there. I don't use knock offs. They just don't perform as expected.

(See Right) All of these tools and others will be fully explained and demonstrated in our tying classes. Most everyone can tie a fly. When tying compare your current flies with the previously tied ones, **YOU WILL SEE PROGRESS AS YOU PRACTICE THE ART.**



Fresno Fly Fishers for Conservation
The First Annual
Central Valley
Fly Tying Expo
Nov. 11, 2006
Time 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M

Sportman's Club
10645 N. Lanes Rd
Fresno, CA

Adults \$5.00
Children 15 & Under Free

For More Information & Registration Contact

www.fresnoflyfisher.org

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Bristol Bay Alaska Mining Threat

“Our organization must be engaged” says FFF President

by Leah Elwell, FFF Conservation Coordinator

During the 2006 Conclave, FFF members from across the country learned about the threats facing some of the world’s most famed salmon and trout waterways. The Sportsman’s Alliance for Alaska hosted an information booth at the Conclave and the Renewable Resources Coalition gave several presentations to spread the word regarding the proposed Pebble Mine, to be located in Southwest Alaska’s Bristol Bay watershed.

A Canadian company called Northern Dynasty is proposing to build North America’s largest open-pit gold and copper mine between Lake Iliamna and the Mulchatna River. The permitting process began in early July, as Northern Dynasty applied for water rights from Upper Talarik Creek and the North and South Forks of the Koktuli River.

In its water right applications the mining company laid claim to more than 73 million gallons per day, nearly three times the amount of water used by the Anchorage, Alaska (population 270,000). These waterways are critical Bristol Bay salmon and trout producers that could be gravely threatened by these proposed actions.

At the Conclave’s auction dinner, FFF President & CEO R.P. VanGytenbeek spoke to the audience in no uncertain terms of the threat and the opportunity for engagement. VanGytenbeek stated that the FFF must work to stop this mine, which is only the beginning of what the mining industry believes could turn the entire Bristol Bay region into a massive mining district.

In response to the application for water rights, VanGytenbeek stated: “Upper Talarik Creek is a national treasure for us and for trout fishermen from all over the world. Each year fishermen from Europe, South America and Asia make the trip to Alaska just for an opportunity to fish Upper Talarik and the rest of the famous Bristol Bay watershed. Any person or company that takes an action which would diminish the fishery commits a crime against each of us and against the people and natural resources of Alaska. This is yet another piece of a totally un-needed and unacceptable project which must be defeated.”

FFF members and clubs can learn more about this issue by visiting www.sportsmansalliance4ak.org and www.renewableresourcescoalition.org. A free 4-minute DVD on the subject is available for viewing at club meetings.

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Want to shorten your learning curve on nymphing by months??

Bob Papazian

Then head for Dunsmuir, California- home of the Upper Sacramento River & spend a day with the “Zen Master”, Wayne Eng. Last week we spent Monday on the water with Wayne and the rest of the week terrorizing the fish on our own!

Most of us have to admit, catching a trout in the bottom third of a river is a daunting task. We all know the fish are there but how do we get them on the end of our line? My son & I first fished with Wayne Eng on the Upper Sacramento River about 10 years ago. Wayne was then & still is the most competent, patient, friendly, & resourceful teacher/guide I've ever been around. And he truly enjoys what he does. From reading the water to his “tight lining” (nymphing without an indicator) techniques, the day with Wayne goes by like a blur but leaves a lasting imprint on how you fish.

Check Wayne's his website at <http://methodcraft.com/waynesworld/> & give him a call at (530) 235-4018



And yes, you do catch fish while you learn!



Wayne Eng in his classroom on the Upper Sacramento River

But, well beyond the typical experience of guide as fish locator and fly chooser, Wayne can teach techniques and approaches that will help you be more purposeful and clear in your approach to fishing the river, regardless of your current skill level. Wayne likes to say that his job is to help people catch fish by design, not by accident. Basic skills he teaches include proper rigging for conditions, reading the water to know where to find fish and how to present a fly to them, and playing and landing large trout in all types of moving water, including proper fish handling leading to safe and successful release of your catch.

Wayne's Views on Fly-fishing

All guides bring a point of view and philosophy to their jobs, whether they realize it or not. Wayne's point of view on fly-fishing has evolved from an observant and contemplative temperament, an interesting and eclectic set of Northern California life experiences, a true love of nature and fish, and a lot of time on the river.

Wayne sums up his approach to fly-fishing moving water with the term "stream smithing",

Continued Pg. 8

2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

Courtwright Res. Outing (Canceled)

September

Wishon Res. Outing (Date TBA)

October

Fresno County Fair - Fly Tires Needed contact (Oct. 4 - 15) (Mits Kozuki)

Fly Fishing Team USA Trials: October 28 & 29 (Jayne Ferrante)

Cedar Grove Outing (Date TBA)

November

Fly Tying Expo - Sportsman Club (Nov. 11)

San Luis Res. (Nov. 25)

Nymphing (cont')

Bob Papazian

which means properly reading the water to understand where the fish *must* be, and what and how to present to them to induce a take. The result is that you catch fish by intent, not by dumb luck. Obviously, your catch rate goes up dramatically. This is clear to anyone who has fished a section of stream with Wayne when he is not guiding, and seen him take fish after fish while they fail to induce a strike. Wayne is modest about this ability, but clear as to what knowledge and variables make it possible.

"Reading" the water means understanding the movement of the water through the river, at different speeds and around and over obstacles, interpreting the hydrodynamics which affect where the fish will take food, and what the presentation challenges will be. Are the fish looking up or down? Will we use dries or nymphs, and if nymphs, how deep in the water column? Wayne excels at these skills, and teaches them well.

Even experienced fly fishers can become stuck deciding whether to change tactics or location. Wayne will help identify the conditions that dictate the need for change.

Finally, for Wayne, fly-fishing is not just work: it is also fun and spiritual. The "Zen" of fly-fishing is that the fly fisher is put intensely into the moment, using all their senses and skills to be effective. The future rolls at us from upriver, presenting new challenges, but the spot we occupy on the river is firmly planted in the here-and-now. Wayne hopes we don't lose sight of the enjoyment and magic of fly-fishing, even as we boost our skills to new levels.

Spend a day or more with Wayne. You'll see the river and the sport of fly-fishing in a new way!

At Wayne's, a unique mix of action and peace await the curious mind and adventuring spirit. The experience of a visit to this area draws its richness from a blend of features and attractions.

Wayne Eng is a competent, patient, and resourceful fly-fishing instructor and guide. Please read about Wayne's approach to sharing his passion for fly-fishing, and book his services if his approach is a fit for you. As clients frequently say, a day spent with Wayne can shorten the fly-fishing learning curve by months.

Wayne is also a renowned fly designer, inventor of the famous "Eng Theng" and other flies.

BULLETIN BOARD

Help us out on the Lower Kings!!

LOWER KINGS RIVER ANGLER SURVEY FORM

There's a new web page in town and among its other features is an angler's survey form for fishing the lower Kings River.

The web page is <http://www.kingsriverfisheries.org>. Under the Navigation menu on the left hand side is an entry titled "Angler Survey". Click on the item, fill in the blanks and submit. The results will be transmitted to the Department of Fish and Game.



Kraft Rainbow, Alaska

Our Mission:

Fly Fishers for Conservation (FFC) was organized in 1961 by a group of devoted Fly Fishers deeply concerned with the preservation of trout and all game fish, their environment, and the quality of fishing. Our club has maintained two goals since this time:

To foster and promote the sport of angling with artificial flies

To protect, conserve, and increase our angling resources.



FFFC Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Fees are due February 1, each year.

Pro-Rate: Pay for months remaining until January 30 including current month at 1/12 annual rate.

* Add initiation fee, \$10.

One newsletter per household.

- Regular Membership \$36
- Senior Membership \$24 (over age 65)
- Spousal Member \$12
- Jr. Member \$6 (Under 18)
- Lifetime Member \$500
- Shoulder Patch \$5
- CSUF Scholarship Donation \$ _____
- Conservation Donation \$ _____

Initiation fee \$ 10.00

Total: \$ _____

**Make Check payable to FFFC.
Mail to 100 E. Sierra, PMB 3310, Fresno, CA 93710**

Office use only: Amount _____ Check/Cash _____ Date _____ Input _____ Initial _____

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Fly Fishers For Conservation

**2006
 Slate**

Board Officers and Committee Members

Meetings held at:

Fresno Sportsman's Club
 10645 N. Lanes Road
 Fresno, CA 93720

**4th Thursday of every
 Month**
6 PM Skills Training
7 PM Program



McKenzie Cup Winner
 1989

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