

HAPPY



**NEW
YEAR**

Visalia, Ca

January 2011

Newsletter

Monthly Meeting:
Date: Jan 7th
Day: Friday
Place: Life Style Center,
Address : 5105 W. Cypress, Visalia
Time: 7:30pm—9:30pm

FLY of the MONTH TYING SESSION with Don Lieb, from 6:30pm to 7:30 pm before the meeting. Bring your own vise, tools and materials. If you do not have materials the club will supply them.

Monthly Board Meeting:
Date: Jan 10th
Day: Monday
Location: Life Style Center,
Address : 5105 W. Cypress, Visalia
Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm
All members are welcome to attend.



The Fly of the month is **The Crystal Bugger,**
See page 8 for tying instructions

**Meeting Program:
Still Water Fishing With Greg Sano**

**Stillwater Fly Fishing 101-
Greg Sano**

Thank you for inviting me back! I've been asked me to share some thoughts about Stillwater fly fishing. This type of fly fishing is my first passion. I have spent many long days and many, many hours learning the skills of stillwater fly fishing. I'm really excited to share some of my observations, ideas, and tactics with the Kaweah Flyfishers.

This program will introduce you to stillwaters, reading the water, equipment to use, some of my strategies, techniques, presentations, flies, and ideas.

I'm a local guy who grew up in Reedley fishing on local waters, and later in northern California, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. I have been fly fishing since 1998 and about 95% of my time fishing is spent on stillwaters. Hook up soon! And See you there.



Kaweah Flyfishers Aims and Purposes

- To improve and promote the sport of fly fishing as one means of enhancing and conserving high quality fisheries.
- To educate the public as to conservation practices needed and used in fishing.
- To promote and provide instruction in fly tying, fly rod building, fly casting and general stream-manship.
- To promote and work for the betterment of all fisheries in the Central Sierra with particular interest in the Kaweah, Kings, Tule and Kern River watersheds.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After I had replaced the first news letter I realized that the presidents message went with it, and to add to that I had just cleaned out the trash bin in the computer. I was not able to contact Jim to resend the message so, there isn't any.

But with that said don't forget the flytying session before the meeting and that Greg Sano will be discussing the art of still water fishing.

Sorry about that.

Rick Hartley
News Letter Editor



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A few weeks ago I had read an short article written by Tom Logan on The Western Coachman. I e-mailed Tom as asked if he would write an article on the history of the Western Coachman, and he did and here it is.
Rick Hartley

The Western Coachman – Notes on Its History and Lineage By: Tom H. Logan



This Western is tied from materials from Gene Mathias subject to my visit with him. He sold me all of the Indian capes, white deer hair and Mustad hooks he had retained from when he tied the Western decades ago. So, the materials used for the fly in the photo are of some historic significance.

Being one of Kaweah Fly Fishers more distant members naturally assume that all of you in the Valley are well aware of and fish the Western Coachman on a regular basis. After all, it is the logo for our club and it's a fly pattern of Visalia origin that its well known designer, Buz Buszek, made famous. I may not be entirely correct though. So, when I saw the notice that Don Lieb is teaching the Western Coachman in his next flytying workshop, I thought it would be nice to share some of the information I pulled together a few years ago on the history and lineage of this pattern.

Wayne Luallen introduced me to the Western several years ago, adding a pleasant complexity to my tying and fishing that was unexpected at the time. He described the pattern through correspondence and I tied a few and saved them for my next visit to the Valley and fishing with Wayne in the Sierras. My wife, Patti, is from Tulare, and it has become a bit of a tradition not only to fish with Wayne and Donna while visiting but to also save a new pattern or fly rod to fish for the first time with Wayne. Heck, I even saved a new pair of knees to fish on for the first time with Wayne not too long ago.

One question occurred to me when I first started tying the Western and the search for an answer lead me down a path of facts and information that some of you may find interesting as did I. Why is Coachman Brown called Coachman Brown and how is Coachman brown different from other colors of browns? Well, the answer is simple, but it took going back to the original Coachman pattern to find that answer.

The first Coachman pattern from which a number of variations, including the Western, eventually evolved was designed probably in the early 1820's in England, first appearing in British angling literature in 1825. The designer of the pattern was Tom Bosworth who just happened to be the coachman for the British Royal Family of the time. This wet pattern became a mainstay in that part of the world through the remainder of the century, and the brown feather that Tom selected as hackle for his pattern became known as Coachman Brown after his profession. It's as simple as that, but makes perfect sense.



Lead Wing Coachman of the late 1800's

The next variation of the Coachman that surfaced during that century was the Lead-wing Coachman. The wing of the Lead-wing simply replaced the white wing of the original Coachman with grey mallard slips and a gold tag was added. I can tell you that both are very effective patterns whether for trout or local bream, but you seldom see them fished these days.



Royal Coachman of 1892

The first variation of the Coachman and possibly the most famous pattern to debut in the United States is the Royal Coachman. The pattern was first tied commercially in 1878 by Mr. John Haily who tied for Charles Orvis of the Orvis Company. Although Mr. Haily was the first to tie the pattern commercially, he actually received the original pattern from another unnamed commercial tyer who had tied an early prototype for a friend. He told Mr. Haily "I have just been tying some flies

to order for a gentleman. He says he likes the coachman better than any other fly, but he finds it very frail, and he wants me to tie some with red silk in the middle, to make them stronger, and he also wants a little sprig of wood duck for a jib (tail). I send you a fly to see. I think it quite handsome." Yes, the first Royal Coachman was tied with barred wood duck for tail, rather than with golden pheasant tippet as we know the pattern.

Mr. Haily later replaced the wood duck tail with golden pheasant tippet, and it apparently was then that the pattern was given the name of Royal Coachman. I think it worthy to note that while the pattern likely was tied wet, it also became a part of the evolving Catskill style of tying dry flies in that part of our country.



The band of silk floss in the middle of the body of the Royal Coachman sets it apart from almost all modern patterns, but it is interesting to find that Mary Orvis Marbury subsequently described up to 30 patterns that included floss and herl in their bodies in her 1892 book *Favorite Flies and Their Histories*. The Orvis Company later designed a pattern for a fellow in Wagon Wheel Gap, Colorado who requested an order of Royal Coachman tied for him with “all the gilt (floss) possible”. The pattern had a body of red floss with only a neck of herl at the front of the body. It was then marketed as the Gilt Coachman. Some of you may also be aware of the California Coachman that was designed by Mr. J.W. Fricke of San Francisco in the early 1900’s. It was a similar pattern to the Gilt Coachman but the red floss was replaced with yellow.

Today’s Coachman- wet fly There are other variations on the Coachman of which we all are aware that include the well known Royal Wulff and its variations on grey and white. And this all brings us to the subject of this article, the Western Coachman.

This exploration into how many of the variations on the original Coachman came to be, naturally led to wondering how Buz came to design the Western Coachman. Buz, as you know, designed a number of original patterns for catching trout in the King’s River and Sierra streams to the east of the Valley, and many of these were marketed widely. The fact is I suspect the pattern just occurred to him and its development began. I also suspect that if anything influenced its design, other than the Coachman variations in general, the Western could have been a natural progression from his Old Gray Mare that preceded the Western. The Old Gray Mare is another very good pattern, by the way. One more interesting fact is that Buz did not originally design this new member of the Coachman family exactly as we know it today.



Royal Coachman

I had the fortune during the summer of 2003 to visit with Dr. Gene Mathias about his memories of Buz and his Western. Gene, as some of you know, was a friend and flytying peer of Buz and was tying Westerns right along with Buz during those days.

It was Gene’s recollection that Buz designed the pattern after the Royal Coachman in either 1939 or 1940, and his prototype began with using African impala as the white hair wing. However, he couldn’t acquire enough impala for what he needed and changed to white tails of stillborn calves for the wing. Gene apparently helped Buz gather tails locally from the many dairies in the Valley. Buz finally settled on a wing of white deer hair in 1942 or 1943 and that is how the pattern has remained with one exception. Buz used white mule deer hair from the top of the belly along each side of the body. I suspect that most Westerns are tied today with white-tailed than mule deer.

The pattern received a boost in 1949 when the Pacific Coast Olive Company purchased 2,000 Westerns from Buz for a promotion. They offered a coupon with purchase of olives that could be sent to the company to redeem one of Buz’s Western Coachman in a special box. Buz later began providing the pattern to the Orvis Company for them to carry in their stock.

I especially enjoy tying and fishing historic fly patterns and thinking about all the fish the pattern has caught as I catch another big bluegill, cutthroat or Sierra golden. So, you can see why tying a Western without knowing how it came to be was not quite enough for me. The Western Coachman, usually in size 14, is a pattern I’m never without, regardless of where I fish. Yes, I fish the same Western and other historic patterns for everything from bream to bass to trout. Probably my next favorite pattern is the Royal Wulff, and I find the White Wulff a particularly effective pattern when the big *Hexagenias* are emerging at Lake Talquin just west of Tallahassee.

I don’t know about you, but when I have a fly rod in my hand, I want a few Westerns in my fly box.



The Old Gray Mare is also tied with materials of significance, if not historic. Clarence Butzbach introduced me to the Old Gray Mare a number of years ago, and the fly in the photo is tied from materials Gladys Butzbach gave me from his materials collection.



Western Coachman dry fly

A few comments on the San Joaquin river project and impacts on fishing by *John Cameron*, Flyfishers for Conservation

After having listened to the presentation in Los Banos on December 6, I came away with some concerns about the probable impacts of the river restoration on fishing in this area.

When I asked whether recreational angling had been considered, I was told no, that the salmon restoration was the primary focus. That is all well and good, except that there will be inevitable impacts on fishing whether they are intended or not.

Whether or not it is the intent of the river restoration to provide for fish other than salmon, other species will inhabit the river. One species likely to move in to the new sections of river include the pike minnow, a predatory non game fish that will impact the salmon by feeding on the smolts. Black bass and possibly striped bass are likely to move in also. Those species will also feed on salmon smolts, and will attract anglers as well. A decision must be made as to whether the area is to be closed to fishing either permanently or seasonally. along with determining what other special regulations may be necessary to protect the salmon. .

The section from Friant Dam and downstream several miles is a popular year around destination for trout anglers, and has no special regulations. If that section is closed to fishing even during a portion of the year in order to protect the salmon, then that closure will impact other destinations by increasing angling pressure in those areas. Another popular area locally is the King's River, which already suffers from overcrowding. Closing the Friant area will increase pressure there as well as on other popular local destinations. This is a concern that could be mitigated by opening new areas for local recreational angling.

Whether or not special seasons and regulations are determined to be necessary, there will be the problem of enforcement. Currently, the Department of Fish and Game has a limited number of wardens to enforce fishing and hunting regulations over a huge area. If warden time is to be used for enforcement on a new section of river, then that time either has to come from an overall increase in resources, or to be taken away from somewhere else. The Kings River Conservancy is currently raising private donations in order to increase warden presence on that river, as poaching is one of the difficulties associated with restoring the trout fishery there. Taking enforcement resources away from other places, such as the Kings, is not a viable option. Additional personnel need to be added rather than simply stretching current resources even thinner than they are now.

Finally, introducing salmon to a river that flows for miles through farmland and past some of the highest poverty areas in the country is going to pose obvious problems in the form of people poaching salmon for food. The question of whether and how that area is to be patrolled needs to be addressed and a practical and well thought out plan formulated, one that doesn't take away already limited enforcement from other areas.

Hey, I've got a true FISH story I'd like to share.

By Steve Ball

On October 29th, I took myself camping with my remodeled 1965 Airstream trailer up to Cedar Grove/Sheeps Creek. I didn't have much gas so I decided to go to Hume Lake to fill up. I wanted to stop and try my luck in the big pool, at the quarter mile turn out above Boyden Cave, -that I had fished many times before.

With no waders on, I flicked my dry fly (my own stimulator pattern) out along the edge and caught a 13" rainbow right off the start. Nice!!!!

Working my way along from the tail of the pool to the head, I ran into a clump of willows and rocks. Getting around that at the upper-side, I was well hidden. I again flicked my line 12 ft. out....I saw a BIG shadow....A BIG TROUT!

"Stay calm, don't set the hook too soon...let him take it!" I said to myself. And he did!. There he was on my line! WOW! I couldn't believe my luck... I had a giant on my line! All I had to do was keep the line tight and keep him off the rocks!

I took my catch and release net, and picked him up.....he was totally filling up the net!...head out one side and tail out the other!!!! He weighed a lot! I never felt that kind of weight in my net before!

I knew I had to get a picture, or no one would believe my fish story! "Where's my camera?" I asked and realized I left it in the car up the bank on the other side about 50 yards away!!! So, I took the "Gentle Giant" in the net with me, up the bank, thinking all the time that it was going to "explode" out of my net. But no, the giant fish stayed calm, cool and collected but I wasn't.

Finally, I got my camera and took about a half dozen pictures, thinking all along I need to get him back in the water! "Done" I said, as I released him back into the river. I admired how calm he was as he swam back off! Wow , what a thrill!

I'm just now finishing up my painting of the "Gentle Giant's Portrait" to remember this unexpected fish adventure. You never know when you are going to cat the BIG ONE!!!!!!!



The Owens River Fishing Outing, February 18-21.

The Club's annual Owens River Flyfishing Outing will be here is only 50 days away and will be here before you know it. This is a great fishing outing and whether you are just beginning or an experienced flyfisher, this river has always provided us with a good time.

The latest information from Bishop is that the Lower Owens River water flows have come down from 650 cfs to as low as 122 cfs. The fishing on the wild trout section has been showing some steady improvements with anglers landing six to a dozen fish in a day. The water temps are cold and hover from 38 C to 41 C but even with these cold temps we have been able to do well during the midday period from around 10:00am 3:00pm. All fishing has been with double nymph rigs a 9ft 5x to six tippet with indicator and some spilt shot . However, by February this information will probably change, then— maybe not.

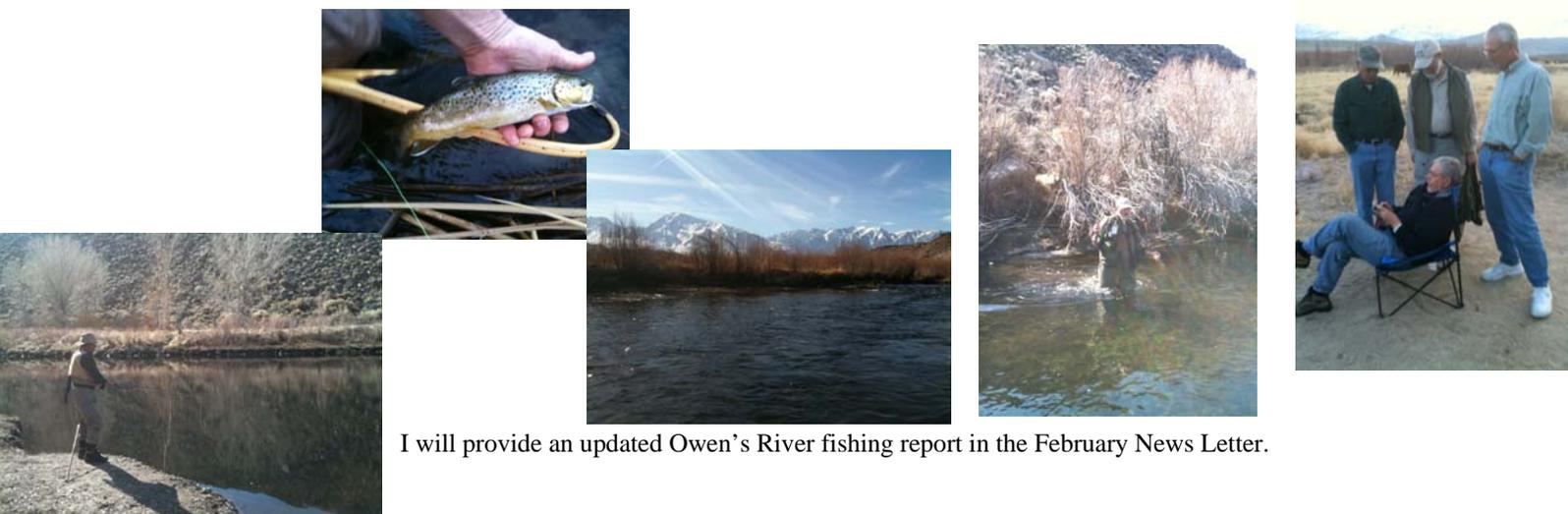
There is a trico (mini mayfly) hatch each day as well as the last generations of Blue Wing Olives showing up around lunchtime; #16—20. The midges are doing their thing as well on the sunny days. #16-20 Pheasant Tail's (flash-back too), beaded hares ear, olive zebras, WD-40's are all good and midges always work well.

For a dry fly try a Parachute Adams in Gray or Olive size #18 or 20, BWO -#20, Griffith's Gnat- #20, Bieatis Dun- #18-20, Small emerger flies will work too.

Water flow: 102 cfs, **Visibility:** 40 inches, **Water temperature at mid-day:** 45 Degrees F, **Water condition:** Clear, **Best time of day to fish:** Midday Midges early, Baetis midday

If you are planning to go please contact me, Rick Hartley at rhartley@dinuba.ca.gov or 559- 859-1435. As of today I have 4 rooms reserved at the Days Inn in Bishop. There will be 3 to a room, the roll-away beds may not be available when we get there so It might be a good idea for some to bring a cot or air mattress. Please contact me by February 1st, with the amount of snow that has fallen on Mammoth Mountain the skiers will have the rooms filled up fast.

A few pictures from last year's outing



I will provide an updated Owen's River fishing report in the February News Letter.

Steps tied by Don Lieb

Photos by Chuck Wilcox

The Crystal Bugger is a variation of one of the first flies that many of us tied, the Woolly Worm. This fly is a great choice during the winter and spring when fishing the lower Kings River for the large trout plants.

Variations include tying with a cone or bead head and omitting the lead.

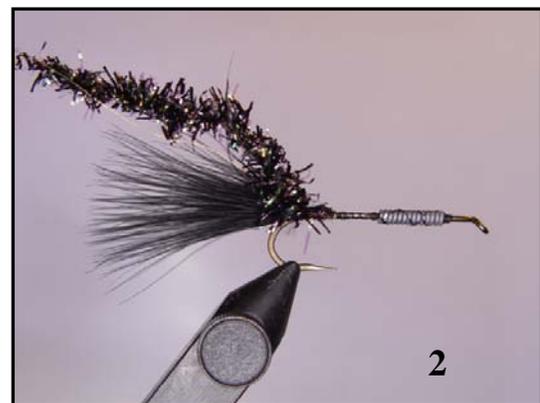
Materials

Hook: 4xL Streamer Hook sizes 4-8
Thread: 3/0 matching color of pattern
Tail: Black Marabou
Body: Black Crystal Chenille
Rib: Small Copper Wire
Hackle: Black Rooster Saddle

Tying Sequence

- ⇒ Place 10-12 wraps of .025 lead on the forward portion of the hook shank. Start the thread behind the eye and secure the lead. Bind on a loop of .012 leader mono, extending it ¼ shank length beyond the hook bend (this small loop will prevent the tail from fowling around the hook). Attach the tail to extend one shank length beyond the hook.
- ⇒ Attach the copper wire and Crystal chenille at the start of the bend.
- ⇒ Return the tying thread to 1/8" behind the eye. Wrap the Crystal chenille forward and tie down. Attach the butt end of the hackle and spiral to the rear where it is secured by spiraling the copper wire forward through the hackle fibers, then trimmed. Tie off the copper wire, form the head, whip finish, and apply head cement to finish the fly.

Crystal Bugger

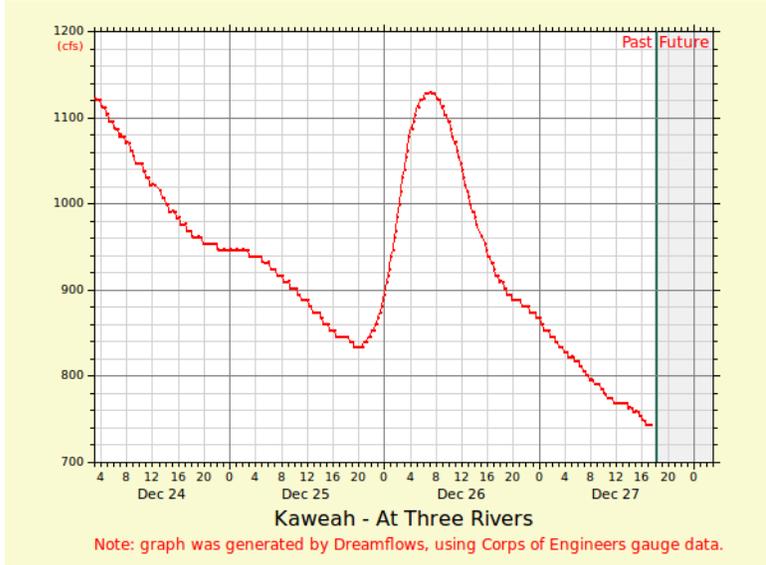
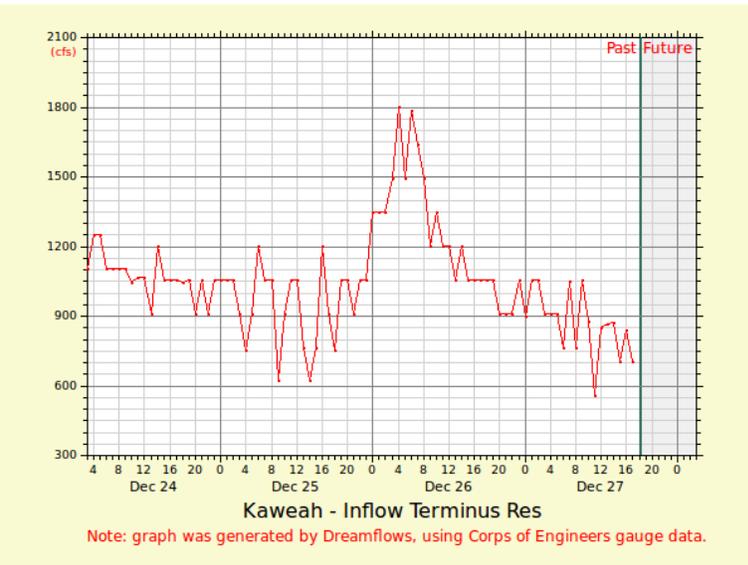
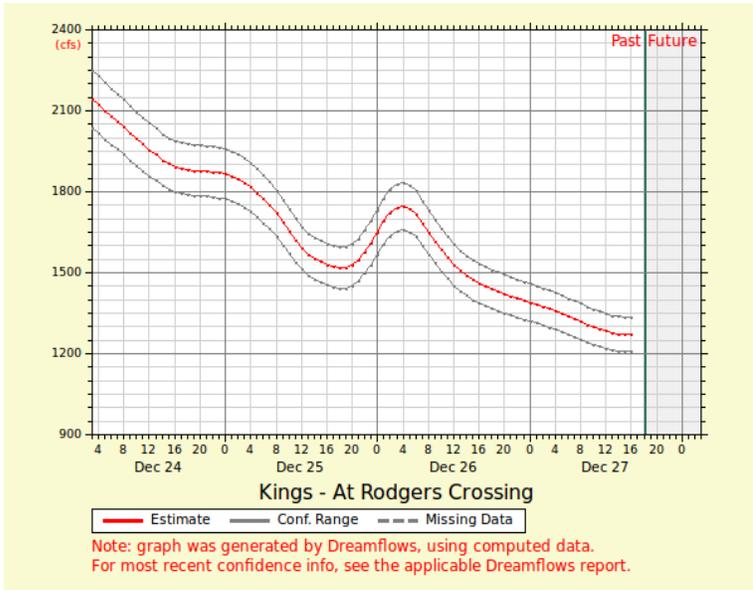
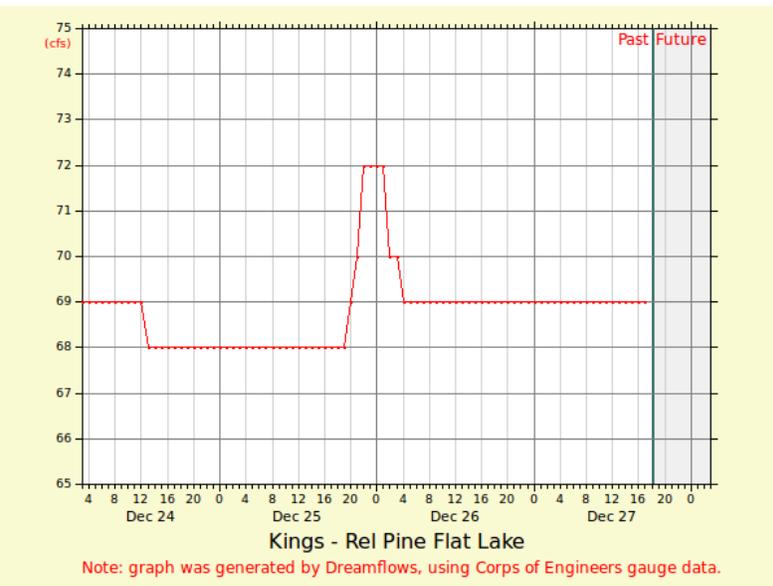


As of now this is the slate of officers, as you can see we are in need of a president position. During the January 7th meet there will be an election of officers, if you are interested or know anyone who is interested in a position, cast your ballot.

- President –
- Vice President – Rick Hartley
- Secretary – Don Stillwell
- Treasurer – Mark Bonar

- Director – Dave Harris
- Director – Robert Mailand
- Director – George Pilling
- Director – Robert Englehart

There will be additional Kaweah Club calendars at the meeting to be given each member as they pay their membership dues.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For other Calendar Dates

Visit the Clubs web-site at www.kaweahflyfishers.org

DAY	DATE	EVENT	INFORMATION
Tues	Jan 4th, 2011	<i>Fly Tying with Don Lieb</i>	7pm - 9pm Where 4520 W Cypress Ave, Visalia. (corner Linwood St) Quail Park Retirement Village Description, Doc's Twin Lakes Special. Doc's Twin Lake Special is a cross between a Matuku and a Woolly Bugger. It has the Marabou tail and chenille body of a Woolly Bugger with a throat hackle typical of Maluku's. There is no palmered hackle through the body
Friday	Jan 7th	<i>Kaweah Flyfishers monthly meeting, LifeStyle Center, 5105 Cypress, Visalia</i>	6:30-7:30 <i>Fly tying session with Don Lieb, learn to tie the Fly of the Month "The Crystal Bugger. See page 9</i> 7:30- 9:00, club meeting- - Presentation: Still Water Fishing 101 with Greg Sano.
Monday	Jan 10th	<i>Kaweah Flyfishers monthly Board Meeting,</i>	<i>LifeStyle Center, 5105 Cypress, Visalia</i>
Tuesday	January 18	<i>Fly Tying with Don Lieb</i>	7pm - 9pm Where 4520 W Cypress Ave, Visalia. (corner Linwood St) Quail Park Retirement Village . <i>The Fly to Tie: The Pond Smelt</i>
Fr.- Sun	Jan 20-24	<i>International Sportsmen's Exposition,</i>	<i>Location: CALDEXPO, 1600 Exposition Boulevard, Sacramento, CA</i> Tickets: <i>\$15.00 Adult, Free - Youth and Children 15 years and under, Free - Active Military with military ID card. Interested in Car Pooling to go? Contact Mark Cave at (559) 623-5338</i>
Tuesday	February 1st	<i>Fly Tying with Don Lieb</i>	7pm - 9pm , Where 4520 W Cypress Ave, Visalia. (corner Linwood St) Quail Park Retirement Village <i>Fly to Tie: The Zoo Cougar- this is a favorite streamer of many Tying instructor Don Lieb has material and tools or better yet bring your own. We usually give Don a couple of bucks each as he pays for the hooks and material himself.</i>
Friday	February 4th	<i>Monthly Club Meeting</i>	Where Life Style Center, 5105 Cypress, Visalia 6:30pm - 7:30pm , Fly tying session with Don Lieb 7:30 to 9:30 , Meeting, and the evenings program- Carl "Boomer" Stout, head guide for Trout Creek Outfitter
Monday	February 7th	<i>Kaweah Flyfishers monthly Board Meeting</i>	<i>LifeStyle Center, 5105 Cypress, Visalia</i>



Kaweah Flyfishers

Post Office Box 3704
Visalia, California 93278

We are proud to be affiliated with these organizations:

CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE

FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS, Southwest Council

CALIFORNIA TROUT

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

TROUT UNLIMITED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Submitting Newsletter Articles

Articles must be received by third Friday of the month for the following month's edition. A heads-up even before then is greatly appreciated. Send to the Kaweah Flyfishers at PO Box 3704, Visalia, CA 93278, or e-mail to: rhartley@dinuba.ca.gov

WEB SITE

<http://www.kaweahflyfishers.org>

Subscription Price is included in all classes of membership.

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