



SALINAS VALLEY FLY FISHERS

March 2015

FLY TIMES

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Fly Tying Chairman

“President’s Message”

“3 Weight.” Rod Sanchez

Well, we’ve had the Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show. What a turn out! I saw 12 club members there on Friday and heard that there were a few more that showed up on Saturday and Sunday. Any new pontoon boats?

After the show on Friday, I drove up to the Yuba. Mike got there shortly after me. The water had a green tinge to it, not exactly clear. I fished Saturday, mostly using an indicator and only had one bump. Mike had suggested that I go top water, so after seeing some rises, I tied on a Skwala dry fly that Bill had showed us how to tie at the club’s monthly fly tying session. On the first cast, it floated right past...nothing! The second cast was spot on and line straightened with a nice splash. I stuck him with the new fly I’d just tied a couple nights before. After that I made it back for Mike’s home made gumbo. Two bowls later, he brought out the cheese cake. It was like having my own personal chef! The feeling of hooking a fish is one thing, but to hook one on a fly you just tied yourself was great. Many thanks to the club for giving me the opportunity to learn so much about fly fishing from you all.

We have a few guest speakers in the line up. This month Jason Bachiero who is a Biologist from Fort Hunter-Liggett will be our presenter. Bring your note pad and a pencil to take some notes on the locations and other information about the ponds and streams down in South County! Next month is Herman Garcia, president of Coastal Habitat Education Environmental Restoration (CHEER). He should be able to give us some great information about the organization’s history, along with their mission and the salmon stream bed restoration projects in the Pajaro River watershed. Along with our guest speak, we will probably have some guests from the Monterey Club for a meet and greet for with possibility of future collaboration in getting guest speakers.

We’re looking forward to the Pyramid outing, March 20th-22nd. Last year we had 11 in attendance, Greg and I will be the Fishmasters the time around. Don’t forget the kids day at Fort Hunter-Liggett on April 8th. Bring the kids and grand-kids and have some family fun.

See you Wednesday—Rod

Meeting This Wednesday

March is here and the fishing is starting to heat up. We’ll have a program from the biologist from Hunter-Liggett along with info. regarding the upcoming Pyramid outing. Camaraderie, the raffle, food if you choose and lots and lots of the kind of stuff that stuffs darn near every monthly meeting.

What's going on in the world of fly fishing and tying?



Fly tying

Pyramid Beetle

White and Chartreuse "Popcorn Beetle"



Beetle Recipe:

Hook: Orvis 62KC, TMC 2457, Orvis 1641

Thread: White Danville's Flat Waxed Nylon

Shellback: White 2mm Foam

Body: Chartreuse J-Fair Long Shuck or Chartreuse Estaz

Note: After talking to Doug Ouellette, the originator of Popcorn Beetle at the Pleasanton show, I found an article on the history of the fly which is included in the newsletter. He advocates using thicker 3 mil. Foam for increased floatation and a large lip to enhance the action of the fly. ed.

The History of the POPCORN BEETLE

The original Popcorn Beetle was designed and developed specifically for Pyramid Lake Nevada by master guide Doug Ouellette. The idea for the Popcorn Beetle came from a book signing event in 2002 at the Gilly Fishing Store where Doug and Ike Berry both from Reno, were signing for Terry Barron's book "No Nonsense Guide to Fly Fishing Pyramid Lake". Both of them had a fly pattern in the book. Doug had the #4 "Spider Fly" and Ike had a #12 tan foam beetle. The beetle was tied with 2mm foam and had the foam tied down close to the eye of the hook with a brown dubbed body. Ike said he got the idea for the beetle when fishing Pyramid one day after hooking a floating tumbleweed on the water. When he pulled the weed in, he noticed a bunch of tiny tan beetles crawling all over the weed. He went home that night and tied his beetle pattern. When Ike first showed Doug his tan foam beetle, he immediately asked Ike "Have you ever tied this beetle in different colors and sizes"? Ike said no. Doug then walked over to the fly tying section of the store and picked out "Hareline" **1/8in. white evazote foam (3mm)** and chartreuse chenille yarn. He then tied two of them up, one with and one without a tail, both with a big lip on top of the eye. He also used other body materials such as "Antron" and crystal chenille. Comparing these two beetles is like comparing a divided wing Light Cahill with a Parachute Adams. The Cahill and Parachute Adams are both mayfly patterns but are different colors and are constructed differently as are these two beetles. With this big lip and the more buoyant **1/8in. foam (3mm)**, the beetle had an incredible amount of movement when retrieved in the water. Along with this movement and the white/chartreuse color it proved to be absolutely deadly! After tying several dozen of these white beetles for the Gilly, Doug was going to put them in the fly bins for sale. He noticed when he had a handful of them, they felt like the popcorn packaging material – very light and fluffy. Hence the name – "**Popcorn Beetle**"! He continued to tie different color combinations such as "Pink Popcorn" (white/pink body), "Pearl Popcorn" (white/pearl chenille body), the original "Pyramid Pollywog" (black foam /purple body / black tail) which was copied a year and a half later and renamed the "tadpole", and (black foam/chartreuse body/black tail) all tied with 1/8in. evazote foam (3mm). The first time Doug fished the Popcorn Beetle at Pyramid, the fish crushed it! (Continued on Page 4)

Salinas Valley Flyfishers2015 Outing Schedule and Programs**

March 11th.	March Meeting	Landing Zone @ the airport	Jason Bachiero Hunter-Liggett	Rod Sanchez	809-7499
March 18th.	Fly Tying	Salinas Airport Board Room	Pyramid Beetle	Bill Pshide / Greg Smith	424-3063 595-4406
March 20-22nd	Club Outing	Pyramid Lake Nevada	Cutthroat Trout	Rod Sanchez Greg Smith	809-7499 595-4406
March 25th.	Board meeting	Landing Zone @ the airport	All members welcome	Rod Sanchez	809-7499
March 27-29	Jay's Outing	Rancho Seco	Bass /Trout/Blue gill	Jay Jefferson	809-0290
April 11-12th	Club Outing	Lake McSwain/ Tuolumne R	Rainbow Trout		
April 18th.	"Kids" Trout Derby	Hunter Liggett	Trout	TBD	
June 13-14th	Club Outing	Davis Lake/ Frenchman	Rainbow Trout	Rick McCombs	(209) 267-8088

Outing Opportunities

Please take a look at the variety of outing opportunities already listed above. The board has been hard at work to come up with a bunch of new additions to those already on the books. There are plans in the works for a trip to Lake Almanor in late June, Indian Creek Reservoir, Heenan, Kirman, Highland Lake and others. While the drought continues to wreak havoc on many of our old haunts like the Merced., it has also opened new opportunities especially among stillwater fisheries. Please join in at the meetings and let your board members know where you'd like to travel.

NOTE FOR ALL THOSE PLANNING TO HEAD TO PYRAMID

At last check there were no vacancies at Crosby's during the outing. So you'll need to make other arrangements. I think Rod has room for 2-3 more in his trailer. Give him a call @ 1-800 too-small.

Special thanks to **Geoff Malloway** for his ongoing support of the Salinas Valley Fly Fishers and for his many efforts on behalf of stream habitat and the preservation of the fish that we all seek to catch. Next time you're out his way, stop by, say hi and buy a bunch of stuff. If Geoff doesn't have exactly what you're looking for in stock he'll be happy to order it.

**Geoff Malloway
Central Coast Fly Fishing
7172 Carmel Valley Rd.
Carmel, CA (626-6586)**

Editorial

After last month's newsletter, I got some valuable feedback from the board and some members as to things that they'd like to see in the newsletter. After some thought, I've made a few minor changes that you may or may not notice to "tighten" things up and ensure that the newsletter is in keeping with the values that have endured this club through well over 50 years. That's not to say that I will not indulge in a little of that late night red wine whimsy, but I'll do my best to keep it relatively relevant and only pick on those tough skinned enough to not be offended. I've asked the Board to help me make sure that we put out a newsletter worthy of our members interest by planning out outing and activities thoroughly and communicating clearly with me so that we hold errors to a minimum. For the first time in as long as I can remember, we have a predominance of fresh faces on the board and it is especially important that we give the board both support and feedback. There are some of us who measure our tenure in the club in decades rather than in months or years. I, especially value those who came before me and I commit myself to acknowledging and preserving that legacy. Now it's your turn. Each of us, as members has a responsibility to let the board know what we want as the club move into the future. And, while you're at it, I need your help too. I need to hear your feedback, bad or good.. If I offend you and you tell me, I'll do my best to fix it, If I don't..Shame on me.. If you don't tell me..well, Shame on you know who. Whether it's the newsletter or the Board actions, you have to earn your right to grip. I encourage you to show up at the board meeting and put your views forth. One word of caution. Please respect the board that you've elected. It's their turn to lead. And the old guard's turn to follow. ed.

For all the latest information in what's happening in the wide world of fishing, go to:

salinasvalleyflyfishers.org

(History of Popcorn Beetle –Continued from Page 2) It still continues to rock the shores of Pyramid. As the next season approached, store owner Lawrence Quadrio asked Doug if he could share one of his best patterns. The Popcorn Beetle was his choice, it then went on sale at the Gilly. Both the "Popcorn Beetle" and the "Pyramid Pollywog" were huge hits. Reno fly tier Mike Hoffman tied several color combinations commercially for the Gilly, concentrating on the Popcorn, Pollywog and black/chartreuse with and without tails. For a year and a half the success of these colorful beetles were reported in the Reno Gazette Journal's "Fishing Reports", stating "Popcorn and Pollywogs" are producing outstanding results at Pyramid Lake! Soon many tiers and anglers from all over the area started copying these patterns.As of today the original white/ chartreuse Popcorn Beetle is one of the most productive and popular patterns at Pyramid. It is now a standard pattern for "shooting head" style fly fishing at the lake. An incredible amount of trophy cutthroat have been caught on this pattern.



Special thanks to James and Helen at the Landing Zone Restaurant for there good nature, quality food and on-going support of the Salinas Valley Fly Fishing





It's that time of year again... Time to renew your membership into the hands down best Fishing / Fly Fishing club in the Salinas Valley. Here's what you do. Send your dues (\$35.00) to Now here's the good part...When you send your dues also send a note that says: "Hey ed, I want a bunch of flies". If you do that , you'll be in the drawing for "100 trout flies".. Really! Now you say, "I already paid my dues" . I haven't forgotten you..Send a \$10 donation to SVFF with a note that says "Hey ed. What about me" and you're in. But remember to **include the note**...no note no box with them 100 flies. And, you have to send it by April 1st (no "April fooling". The drawing will be at the April meeting. Thanks for renewing your membership ed.

Salinas Valley Fly Fisher
P.O. Box 1793
Salinas, CA 93902



-Map not to scale-

***Monthly Meeting
Wedn. March 11th.
Landing Zone Restaurant
6:00 (Dinner) 7:00 (Meeting)***

**Pyramid Lake
Outing
March 20-22nd**

**Fly Tying
Wednesday, March 18th.
Salinas Airport
Board Room
Bill Pshide, Fly Master**

**Board of Directors Meeting
at the Landing Zone
Wedn. March 25th. @ 6:00**

Salinas Valley Fly Fishers

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"All You Need to Know"

Mailing Address Line 1
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