

# Downey Fly Fishers



*“The Fishingest Club Around”*

## Downey Fly Fishers Program: LEE R. BAERMANN



### Upcoming events

Aug 10

General meeting at Apollo Park at 7pm (fly tying at 6pm)

Aug 17

Board Meeting at Mike Jedlick's house at 7pm

Aug 24

Fly tying night at Brian's from 6pm-9pm

Deadline for the September newsletter is August 23, 2010.

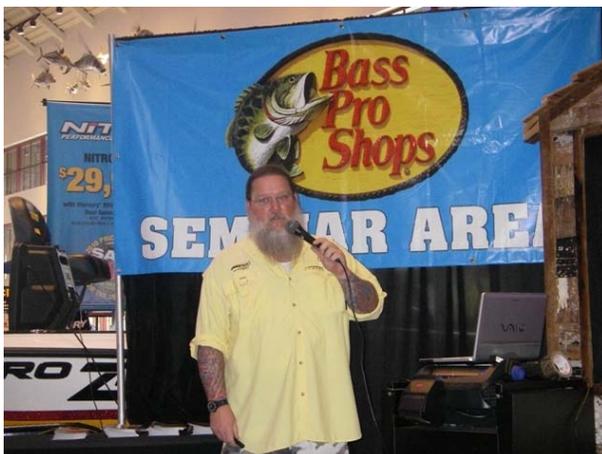
Members can email stories to [bnmandthegirls@verizon.net](mailto:bnmandthegirls@verizon.net) or [tsuttle@charter.net](mailto:tsuttle@charter.net)

Lee's love of fishing began at an early age when his maternal grandfather showed him how to catch Musky in the lakes of Northern Wisconsin. After his family moved from Milwaukee to Oxnard, California in the early 60's, that love continued, not only at the local lakes in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, but on the beach, where he grew up. As a child, Lee began fishing from the docks with a 50 cent drop line, graduating from there to spinning gear, then to a long surf rod, and finally to a fly rod.

Lee fishes the southern California surf at least 300 days per year; whether guiding for his business, 'FLY FISH THE SURF' or just for fun, Lee has caught Barred Surf Perch, Corbina, Halibut, Leopard Shark, Striped Bass and all of the other surf species. When Lee is not fishing in salt water, you can find him in the local canals guiding for Carp.

Lee also spends at least 2 or more weeks per year in Baja California fly fishing in the waters of the Sea of Cortez where his **BullCandy** fly has been lauded by Pam Bolles of THE BAJA BIG FISH COMPANY. To quote Pam, "I have NEVER seen a fly absolutely dominate sales and effectiveness. It was hard keeping one for myself as guys were fighting over them."

On most Fridays, Lee can be found at Eric's tackle in Ventura, California tying flies and spreading the word on the ease of fly-fishing from the beach. Most conventional fisherman express surprise at the fact that there is a sport like fly fishing in the surf. Lee is also on the pro staff with Rajeff Sports and Waterworks-Lamson Fly Reels. Lee is a full time surf fly fishing guide, living in Oxnard, California with his wife, Karen and their Akita dog, Nana.



## This month's "Fishing Tales" from the "Fishingest Club Around"

This month's fish tale comes in the form of an e-mail that I received from Zino when he was in Oahu. I attached it exactly as he sent it and I must admit that I was on the edge of my seat as I read it. Hopefully you enjoy his fish tale as much as I did. This bonefish was 10.25 lbs!!!

So many things can go wrong, but this time it all came together! I'm glad Ollie was there to point out the fish before I could see it. It was in the hunt mode for food and was totally oblivious to us. Side arm slide cast that Ollie showed me and the fly construction he uses to ease the fly into the water with little splash. Those fish really spook when something comes in from above. It is very important to present the fly off the bottom and not from the surface down. Ollie spots the fish 50 feet out and I pick it up around 40 feet out. Slid the fly 10 feet in front and just off to its' right. As it approached, I gave the fly a couple of short strips and the bone made a right turn into the fly along with another bone that was unseen until then. I never felt a take of any kind, but when it stopped on the fly, I strip set and the water exploded! Cleared the fly line that was jumping all over and watched the fish rip off 75 yards of backing. Just an awesome fishing experience. Thank you Ollie!



## My San Gabriel River Needs Friends By Gary Worthen

I received an email describing the need for Wild and Scenic River status for the West and East Forks of San Gabriel River, San Antonio Creek and Lytle Creek. I can't speak to the latter two streams, but the San Gabriel is where I started fly-fishing and when I lived in Southern California I fished that drainage extensively and avidly.

I'd taken a series of tying, rod building and casting courses from another fly fishing club. They'd told me about the Wild Trout Area on the San Gabriel West Fork. You could ride your bike for 7+ miles and have a regulated flow area with wild rainbow trout. I first fished it in 1979. My flies were oversized, I was the wind knot king of the world and I didn't have a clue what to do. I read everything I could avidly. With a box of my own overdressed flies, a beat up 3 speed bike and a 7 ½' Fenglass rod I ventured forth on a late spring afternoon. I didn't know how to read water, waded through the best holding lies, tangled my back cast in bushes and trees and spent more time rebuilding my leader and tying on new flies than actual fishing. I came a cross a bend where a few boulders broke the water. It was early afternoon. I tried dry flies, wet flies, and nymphs and put on a thread body #12 black ant. I cast in the maelstrom swirl between the boulders and thank the Lord some fish have a strong sense of humor. A fat bodied 10" rainbow inhaled my fly. My heart heaved and palpitated! My fingers fumbled. I pulled the line tight, set the hook and pulled my first fly rod caught fish out and admired it. The trout was deeply spotted, had more of a ruby red lateral line (characteristic of the West Fork wild trout) and I became a dyed in the wool fly fisher. I killed the trout and put it in my cheap canvas creel and preceded to catch another trout an hour later It was a dink but it was an honorably caught dry fly fish on a grossly overdressed Humpy.

Over the next 3 years I fished the West Fork 4-5 days a month and fished every inch of it. I fished it every month of the year. The stream had an uninterrupted minimum flow from Cogswell Reservoir, the rain years were good wet ones and the wild trout population thrived in size and numbers. The Wild Trout regulations helped, too. The odd part? Not many people really ventured above the second bridge to fish for the barbless fly only trout. I learned all my basics on the West Fork. It was my home stream. Almost all of my trips were solo because I didn't have any fishing companions. I tried out a few fly clubs but they and I weren't really suited to each other.

More than once I'd spend a week's vacation time fishing the West Fork on a daily basis. My fly tying skills improved, my learning of fish habitat and even the seasonal pattern of the stream put me on a very intimate basis with the West Fork. Learning hatches, the life cycle of aquatic insects and trout feeding habits were well-honed basics serving me well to venture elsewhere.

The West Fork was once a salmon and steelhead stream. This was before the river was channeled for flood control and dams built in the canyons. The Pasadena Bait Club stands as

a history landmark to me of those bygone days. People would travel by horse and buggy to the West Fork for incredible fishing.

The West Fork may be a ghost of itself, now. The stream flows at the 2,000' elevation and the incredible Southern California weather makes it a very unique treasure. The stream is fishable year round. How many people have a weather-friendly wild trout regulated river out their back door? The West Fork is unique. The water regulating entity controlling water levels at Cogswell Reservoir has violated water flow laws and agreements to help the propagation of the West Fork over the years and the trout population has suffered more than a few times because of it. The Wild and Scenic River status puts a Federal mandate enforceable to coerce better water flow management to favor the trout. More fly fishers have learned of the West Fork and more people fish it now. The stream has it's up and down cycles. If you fish a weekend, it's not uncommon to see a lot of people. Going on a weekday is your best bet. If you can get off early from work you can peddle your bike up 3-4 miles and catch the late day caddis hatch. I've seen the caddis, blue winged olive (baetis), Pale Morning Duns, March Browns, Yellow Sally stone flies, brown stone flies and the attendant nymph forms, too. Spring is usually the best weather. Day light savings time comes on, the caddis and March Browns appear and on overcast days the Baetis hatches linger.

When you become intimate with a stream, in effect, you become its steward. You learn it and develop a relationship with it. Most DFF members live within an hour of the West Fork. This stream always needs friends. I've seen this river have crazy numbers of 6-8" trout with fair numbers of 10-12" fish. My personal best was a fat 18" on the West Fork and a 16" stocker holdover of the East Fork. Keep this stream in mind for teaching beginners. Ross Merrigold, a former Pasadena Casting Club president and Yellowstone fishing guide was a many times impromptu fishing companion on West Fork. He'd have insane days guiding and fishing in Montana. He confessed to me that his only real home water was the West Fork. When other places were locked away in winter weather, he could always count on fishing the West Fork. He mirrored the love I hold for this little trout stream. Love it and it will love you back. How many streams can you build a local, yet personal relationship with? For me it was always the West Fork and my club buddies who fished it with me heard of my countless adventures of this wonderful place.

### President's Message

The July meeting had a great turnout. Our speaker gave us a photo show of what he does; guide trips to Catalina to catch albacore, white seabass, kelp bass, and others on the fly. Albacore on a fly, crazy! I have enough trouble landing one with 30lb P-line with a conventional reel. Two guests spotted our beautiful web page; they gave a good review and so it must be working.

Hope to see everyone at our Aug meeting and good fishin'!!!  
"Doc" Phil

## FLY OF THE MONTH – July 2010 Millard’s Hopper

Courtesy of [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org)

This headline in U.S.A. Today: “***Farmers brace for grasshopper invasion***”, and a similar one in an e-mail from 5 Rivers Lodge in Dillon, Montana tell us that we had better get busy tying hoppers. This year, 2010, a major infestation of grasshoppers could hit Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska and the Dakotas. (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture). While it is bad news for farmers and ranchers, fish will have lots to eat, and fly anglers should be ready to feed them phony hoppers. About 400 grasshopper species call the 17 Western states home.

Almost as though he had advanced knowledge, Dave Millard of Tumwater, Washington was tying terrestrials at the March 2010 Fly Tying Expo in Albany, OR. For him this pattern has been good for many years. He didn’t have a name for it, and he thought of calling it Dave’s Hopper. But there is already one called that (Fly of the Month, August 1998) so he settled on Millard’s Hopper. The colors and size he chose are for the hoppers where he fishes. Look around your fishing area and tie hoppers to look like the ones you find, i.e. “match the hatch.” Hoppers can be gray, brown, yellow, orange and even pink (Fly of the Month, June 2006) to name a few colors.

Grasshoppers hatch on land so it isn’t until they fall into the water they can be eaten by fish. Sometimes they lose power flying over a lake or stream and crash. Other times they fall off of overhanging vegetation. The usual rule for fishing a hopper is to make your fly land with a splash. This is supposed to attract the fish. Wind is also your friend when it comes to hopper fishing. Hoppers are not strong fliers so they lose control on windy days, and can become fish food. Fish the shoreline in lakes or streams, but don’t neglect checking farther out for long distance fliers. In streams I usually lean toward a drag free drift, and in lakes I let the hopper sit then wiggle it a little. On small streams a friend would throw his fly on the opposite shore and then hop it off into the water.

\*\*\*Follow this link and click on July 2010 for more detailed tying instructions:

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4478>

### **Materials**

**Hook:** TMC 200R, size 8

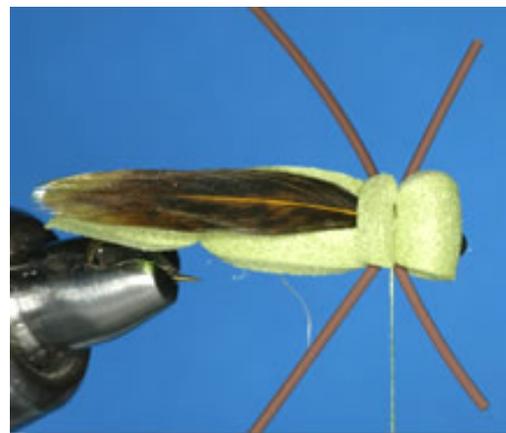
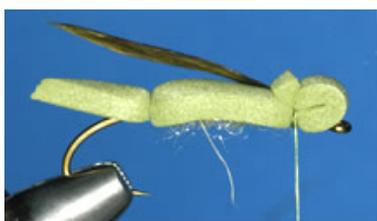
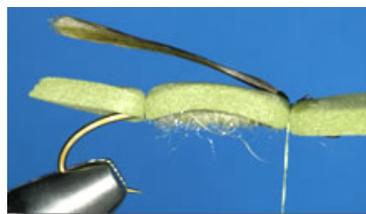
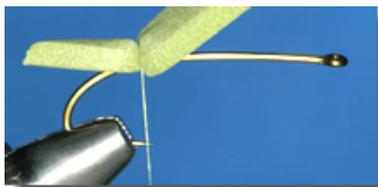
**Thread:** Gray-Green, 6/0

**Dubbing:** Light olive

**Body:** Light olive foam, 2 mm thick, 1/4-inch wide

**Wing case:** Olive dyed brown hen feather.

**Legs:** Round rubber, brown



## Membership is Due ASAP

It's time to renew your membership for DFF. Please send the \$\$\$ to the P.O. Box or bring it to the next meeting.

Your dues along with the Auction Income are the way we fund our programs and classes. If you did not receive an application in the mail, they are available to print on the website

## Fly Tying Night at Brian's

This month's fly tying night will be on Tuesday, Aug 24th from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm at 4729 Coldbrook Ave in Lakewood. This is for those members or friends that want to get together and tie flies, learn new patterns, get tips and techniques, or just socialize. All members are welcome to come and learn some great new techniques from some well-rounded fly-tyers. Contact Brian at (562) 425-7936 or [bnmandthegirls@verizon.net](mailto:bnmandthegirls@verizon.net). Hope to see you there.

## Board Meeting

There is a board meeting at Mike Jedlick's house on August 17. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and all club members are welcome. Please come and share your ideas about the club policies and practices. We are always looking for new ideas and helpful volunteers to keep the club going strong.

## Club Officers

<b>President:</b>	Phil "Doc" Solomon
<b>V. President:</b>	Brian Matthews
<b>Secretary:</b>	Brian Matthews
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mike Jedlick
<b>Past President:</b>	John Barnett

## Board of Directors

Alan Grosdider	Jerry Ferrin
Jerry Phan	Don Mulder
Eric Rasmussen	Frank Russick
Carl Laski	Alan Reising

## Chairpersons

<b>Conservation and FFF rep Education</b>	Carl Laski John Barnett Bob Stuart
<b>Fly bank</b>	Don Mulder Jerry Ferrin
<b>Membership Newsletter</b>	Brian Matthews Tod Suttle
<b>Outings</b>	Carl Laski
<b>Potlucks</b>	Brian Matthews
<b>Programs</b>	Zino Nakasuji Ray Sugiyama
<b>Publicity</b>	Brian Matthews John Barnett
<b>Raffles</b>	Brian Matthews
<b>Refreshments</b>	Mike Jedlick
<b>Trout in the Classroom</b>	Randy Teeple Richard Dekker
<b>Video Library</b>	Fred Roberts
<b>Website</b>	Jerry Phan

DFF Supports:



Cal Trout



-The Barbara J. Riley Community Senior Center is located on the corner of Rives Avenue and Quill Drive just west of Paramount Boulevard and just north of Imperial Highway.

This month's meeting: August 10, 2010  
Barbara J. Riley Community Senior Center  
7810 Quill Drive  
Downey, CA 90242



PO Box 516  
Downey, CA 90241

