

Downey Fly Fishers

March 2012 Newsletter



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Upcoming Events:

- March 7 – 11: Fred Hall Show
Come visit the DFF booth at the Long Beach Convention Center.
- March 13th: General Meeting
DFF welcomes Ernie Gulley. Fly tying program begins at 6pm; general meeting at 7pm.
- March 20th: Board Meeting
7pm at Brian Matthew's house.

Last February's guest speaker, Ernie Gulley, is returning to give us a program on one of the Eastern Sierra's most coveted still water destinations, Crowley Lake.

The name Crowley Lake speaks for itself. For the last couple of decades, this still water fishery has consistently been one of the best in the West. Crowley Lake has revolutionized the way we look at indicator fishing for trout. Ernie will cover the best places to fish on the lake, depending on the months you are fishing by showing a map of the lake. Migrating patterns of the fish from opening day to the closer will be discussed.

Use of water crafts from boats to float tubes will be covered, along with how to fish out of each effectively. The most important aspect of indicator fishing is anchoring the craft to make it a solid fishing platform. Once the fish are located, Ernie says there are three simple rules that will make you better than 90% of the fisherman on the lake. The program will cover past and present fly patterns that work in different situations on the lake.

Ernie will also cover leader setups for both regular indicator fishing and deepwater indicator fishing (deep as 20 feet of water). Indicator fishing just doesn't just mean midge patterns. He will cover various patterns that he fishes under an indicator. He has been successful with perch patterns, leach patterns, damsel nymph patterns and still water worms under an indicator. Not only do these tactics work well at Crowley but can be used on still waters anywhere in the world that has good midge populations.

If you like to catch big trout, this is the program for you. Ernie has many pictures of some very large trout that he has caught and released. Please join Ernie while he demos some patterns starting at 6:00pm.

AP Mercury Optimidge

By Adam Perez



Since this month Ernie Gulley is the speaker, I decided to demonstrate how I tie one of my favorite patterns for Crowley Lake, the AP Mercury Optimidge. This is just a slight variation of this standard fishing catching pattern developed by Ken Rianda of the Troutfitter in Mammoth Lakes.

This fly overall has performed well for me at Crowley. The last time I fished Crowley this pattern was consistently getting me dunks while fishing the McGee Creek area. It was a bit comical because at the same time that this pattern was doing well, a guide that was fishing solo on his day off was not as successful. It felt a bit satisfying to see the guide scramble through his fly box to find a pattern that would work. Typically the tables are turned and I am the one scrambling looking for that pattern to match the hatch. I guess even guides have those days on the water as well. A variation of this pattern did well during my last trip to Laguna Niguel, aka Crowley West. The day started off fine with the fish going after the Tiger Midge, but by mid day they were all over the grey midges.

As a pattern the Optimidge is not a very complicated tie. The beauty of this pattern is that it has three different colors that make up the midge body. It has the grey base thread, the grey/white wire, and the black floss. Combined these materials make a great color combo. The secret to using floss for ribs is to use only about ½ of the overall floss strands. To make segmentations using the floss you simply spin the floss using your rotating hackle pliers so that you create small diameter floss rope. You maybe asking so why not just use 2 strands of wire? Overall you can use wire, but if you do you will bulk out the body of the midge too much. I've said this before I don't like fat midges. This little trick with the floss allows you to keep the bodies lean and mean. As a side note using floss ropes allows you to tie up lots of different color midge ribs and allows you to decide the diameter of the rib. I have tied size #22 midges for the Lower O just using the floss ropes as segmentations. The main thing to note is that if you do use the floss rope trick you will need to coat it with some Zap A Gap. Use your bodkin with some Zap A Gap on the end of it so that don't over do the gluing of the fly.

As for fine tuning of the pattern, I also like to use some Fluoro-Fiber for the white gills on the fly. Fluoro-Fiber gives off so much light and is great as a gill material. The last step which I think makes this pattern stand out a bit more is the green pheasant tail collar. To change things up you can also use some red pheasant tail as a collar as well. Either the red or the green collar are a great transition from the body materials to the mercury bead; which leaves me to quickly explain what a mercury bead is. This bead is a clear bead with a silver lining. It was popularized by Pat Dorsey for finicky tailwater trout and it works awesome. By adding this one small touch to most patterns you can at times increase the effectiveness of the pattern.

For a demonstration of how I tie the AP Mercury Optimidge go to my YouTube Channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheFlueFisker?feature=guide> and you will find a pattern demonstration.

AP Mercury Optimidge

Materials List:

Hook: Scud Hook, TMC 2499 SP-BL

Thread: Smallest grey thread you can find, I use Gudebrod 10/0 but UTC 70 will also work

Body: Grey Thread

Rib #1: Grey Small Ultra Wire

Rib #2: Uni Floss Black (use only about ½ of the floss strands)

Collar: Green Pheasant Tail (2 fibers)

Gill: Fluoro Fiber White

Bead: Mercury Bead sized for the hook (small for #18 and #16 hooks)

Have fun tying one of these small midges. Good luck and happy fishing to ya.

Adam

How to Tie a AP Mercury Optimidge:



Figure 1: Place a bead on the hook and place in vise.



Figure 2: Slide bead towards the back and attach thread next to eye of hook.



Figure 3: Tie in the Fluoro Fiber and tie off the thread. Slide the bead over the threads used to tie in Fluoro Fiber.

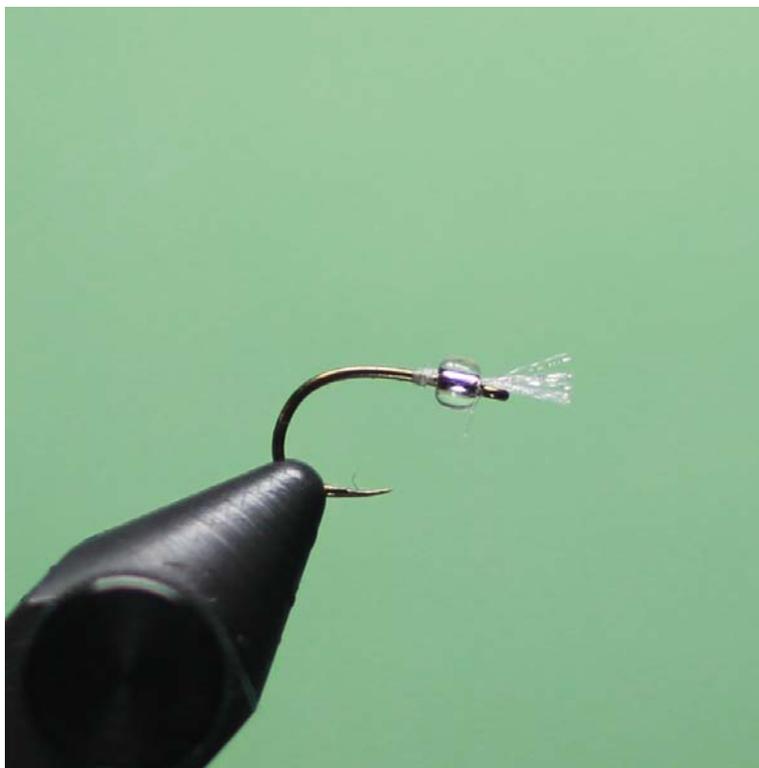


Figure 4: Trim the gills to desired size.

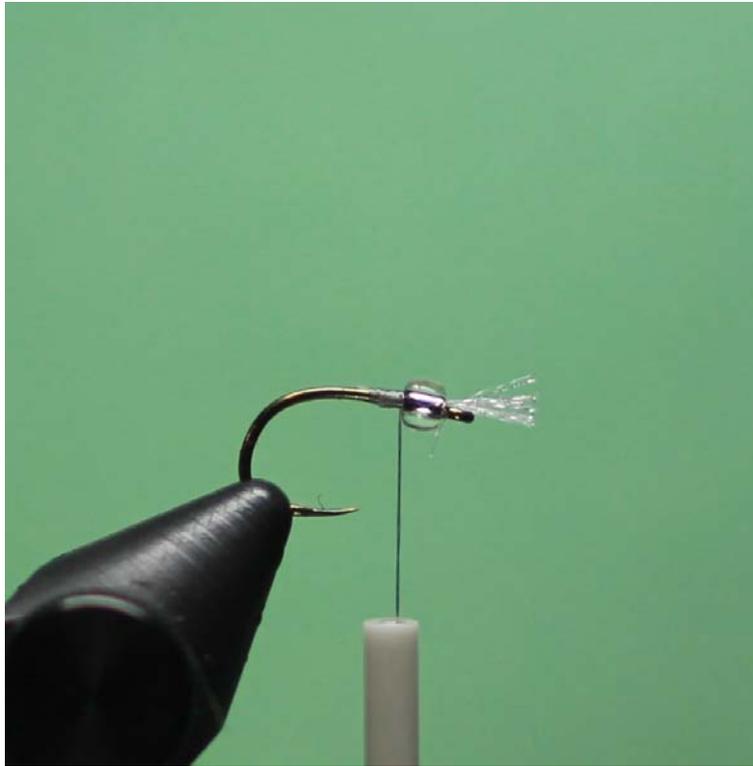


Figure 5: Reattach the thread behind the bead of the fly.

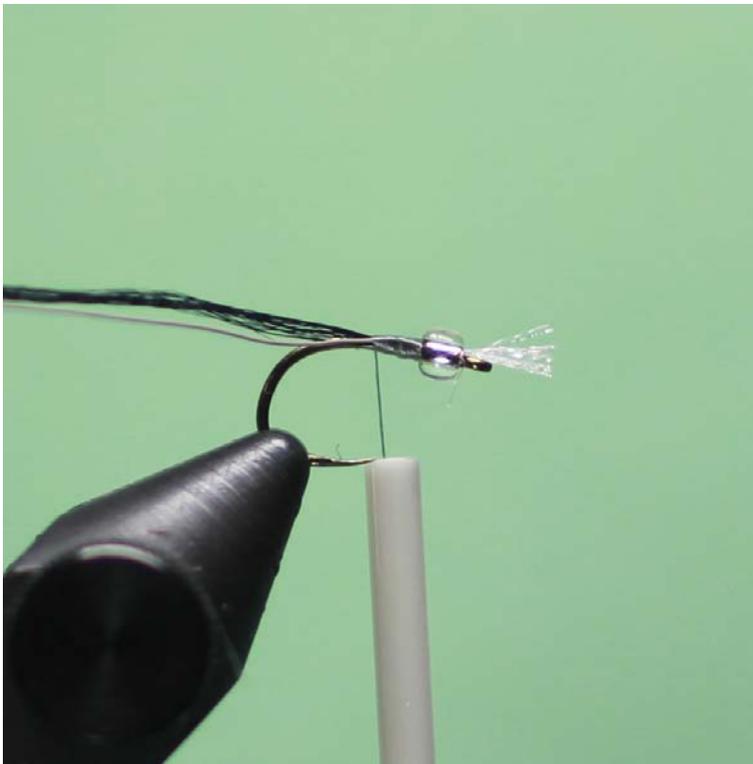


Figure 6: Attach both ribbing materials behind the bead and wind the thread down towards the tail end of the fly.



Figure 7: Now that the materials are set at the tail end of the fly use the tying thread to build a slight taper of the fly body. Do not over due it. Midges are thin not chunky like the ones you see in fly shops!

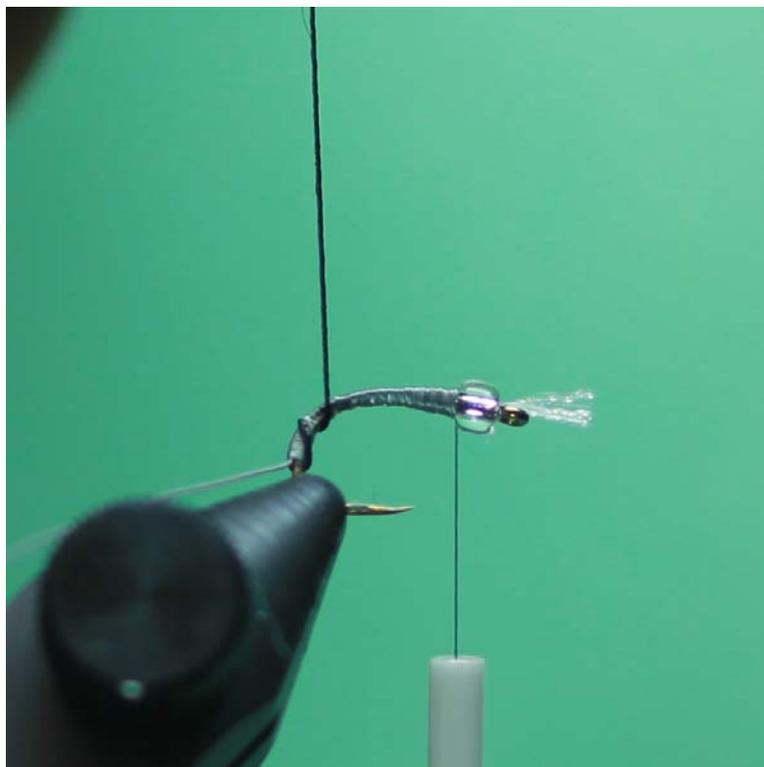


Figure 8: Make your floss rope using your rotary hackle pliers and advance this rib towards the head of the fly.

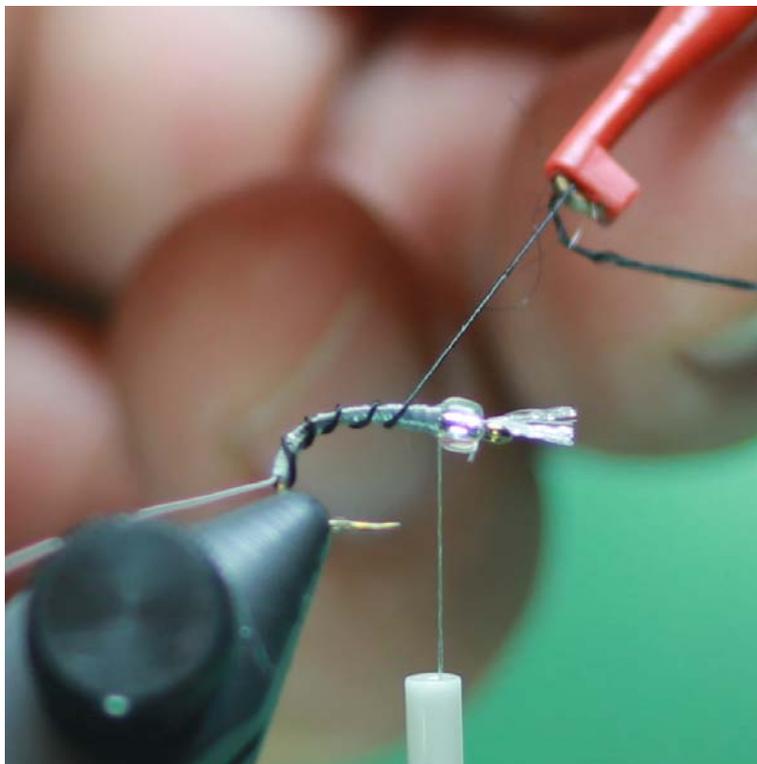


Figure 9: Wrap the floss rope in nice open segmentations towards the bead. Notice the amount of light coming off of the bead and the fluoro fiber. Those are good things.



Figure 10: Tie off the floss rope and begin winding the grey wire towards the head of the fly.

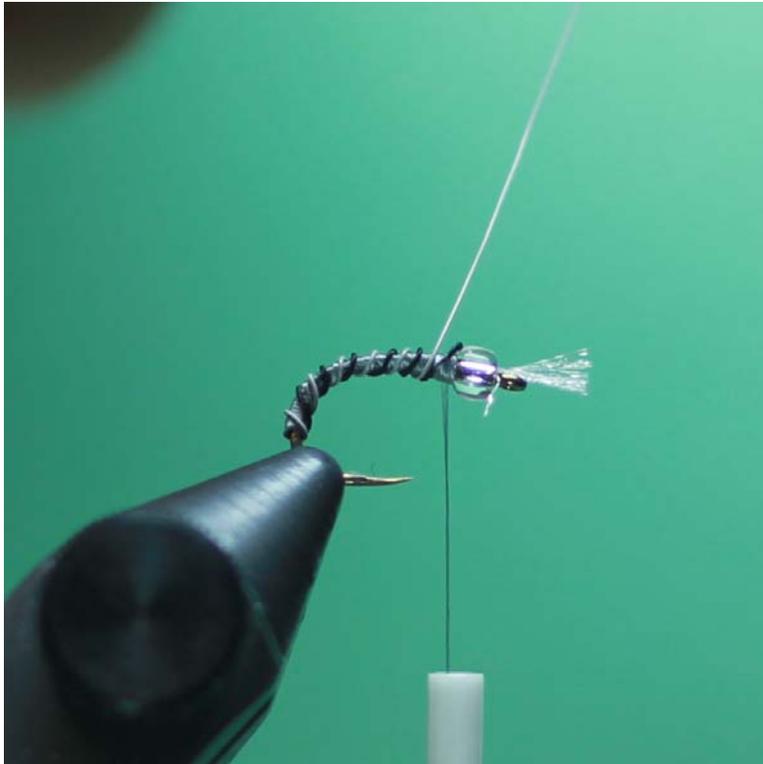


Figure 11: Keep winding the wire forward and tie off just behind the bead of the fly.

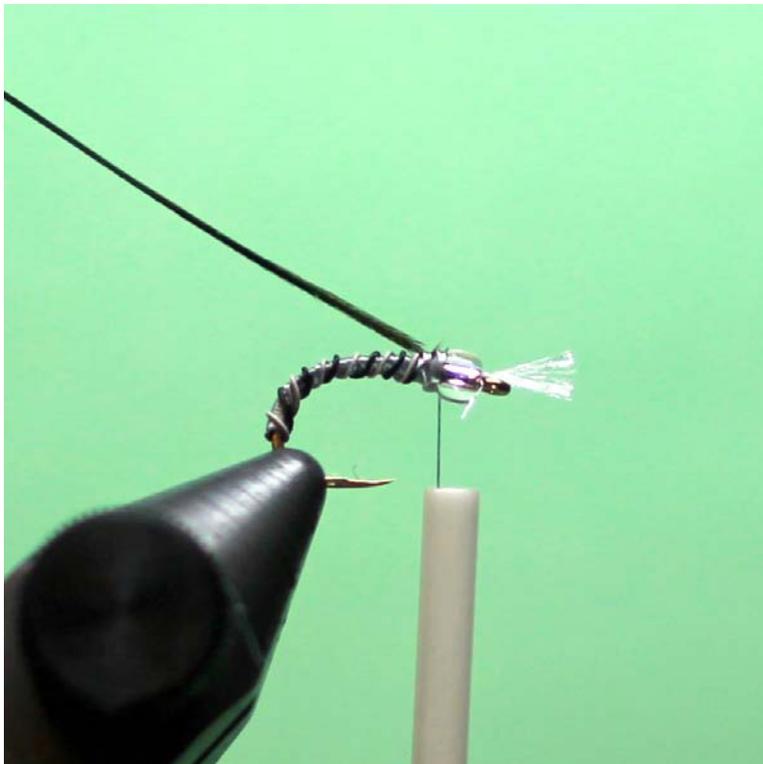


Figure 12: After you tie off the wire, attach 2 pieces of green pheasant tail fibers just behind the bead of the fly.



Figure 13: Pretty much the completed fly. Just need to add a drop of Zap A Gap to strengthen the floss rope and the overall thread body.



Figure 14: The finished fly. Now let's go fishing!!!

Sixth Annual Rush Creek Cleanup
Saturday, June 23rd, 2012
Rush Creek, Silver Lake Resort, June Lake Loop, CA



Trash, from monofilament to old bait containers, will be picked up from Rush Creek, Silver Lake and down the canyon as far as Grant Lake by member club representatives of the Southwest Council Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) on Saturday, June 23rd. The Sixth Annual Rush Creek Cleanup is slated for 8 a.m.-noon, according to Joe Lemire, a member of the Streamborn Fly Fishing Club and SWC FFF representative. Silver Lake Resort in the June Lake loop will provide a free barbeque lunch following the cleanup. Volunteers will pick up and dispose of trash along an approximately five-mile stretch of the eastern Sierra along the shoreline of Silver Lake and Rush Creek from the power plant above Silver Lake down the canyon to Grant Lake. “We’ve previously filled as many as 60 trash bags on our Rush Creek cleanup; this year we expect to haul out 30 to 40,” Lemire said.

Club volunteers are expected to carry out coolers, sun glasses, broken bottles, automobile hub caps, hundreds of feet of fishing line, hooks, lures and bobbers that are a death trap to wildlife. If enough volunteers show up this year, the cleanup can continue down the canyon and impact the environment as far as the Gull Lake area.

Anglers who will be in the area and want to volunteer should meet at the Silver Lake boat ramp at 8 a.m.; bring gloves, hat, sun screen, trash pick-up sticks, boots and waders if you have them. Trash bags will be provided by Silver Lake Resort. For information, contact Joe Lemire at jflx8@dslextreme.com or phone 909-609-1101.

SWCFFF Fly Fishing Faire Mammoth Lakes, CA

Submitted by Carl Laski

South West Council Federation of Fly Fishers (SWCFFF) has committed to a four day fair in Mammoth, September 13-16, 2012. It will be called The Fly Fishing Faire and with the help of the clubs, we hope this event will introduce more people to our sport and drive even more toward a club near them. We will be offering workshops on casting, tying and on-stream techniques. We also want to have non-fishing workshops like photography and Dutch oven cooking along with golf, spa and tour packages to make this of interest to a wider spectrum of people. More details will be coming and we want to hear any ideas that you might have. With all of our participation, this could be the biggest fly fishing event California has ever seen!

Please mark your calendars.

Fred Hall Fishing Tackle, Boat & Travel Show

Submitted by Carl Laski

The Fred Hall Fishing Tackle, Boat & Travel Show will be at the Long Beach Convention Center March 7-11, 2012 (Wed - Sun). We need volunteers to staff the Downey Fly Fishers booth for this 5-day show. Please sign-up and the general meeting.

LOCATION:

Long Beach Convention Center
300 E. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

DATE & TIME:

March 7-11, 2012

Wednesday – Friday (2:00pm – 9:30pm)

Saturday (10:00am – 9:30pm)

Sunday (10:00am – 7:00pm)

ADMISSION PRICE:

Adults: \$15.00*

Children (15 years old & younger with paid adult): Free

Military & Seniors \$14.00

Parking: Approximately \$10.00

Board Meeting

There is a board meeting on March 20th at Brian Matthew's house. 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.

For information about DFF Treasury Accounting please contact our Treasurer Mike Jedlick for figures and standing of Club.

Newsletter

Please consider submitting something that interests you. The more people that contribute articles, the better this newsletter will represent the Downey Fly Fishers. Please reference the October 2010 archive newsletter for some ideas.

News and Noteworthy

- Remember to check out the DFF website for upcoming events and important information regarding the club and our members.

<http://www.downeyflyfishers.org/>

Club Officers

President: Brian Matthews
V. President: Alan Grosdidier
Secretary: Brian Matthews
Treasurer: Mike Jedlick
Past President: Phil "Doc" Solomon

Board of Directors

Jerry Ferin	Marissa Laski
Don Mulder	Jerry Phan
Zino Nakasuji	Eric Rasmussen
Bill Steward	Alan Reising

Chairpersons

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

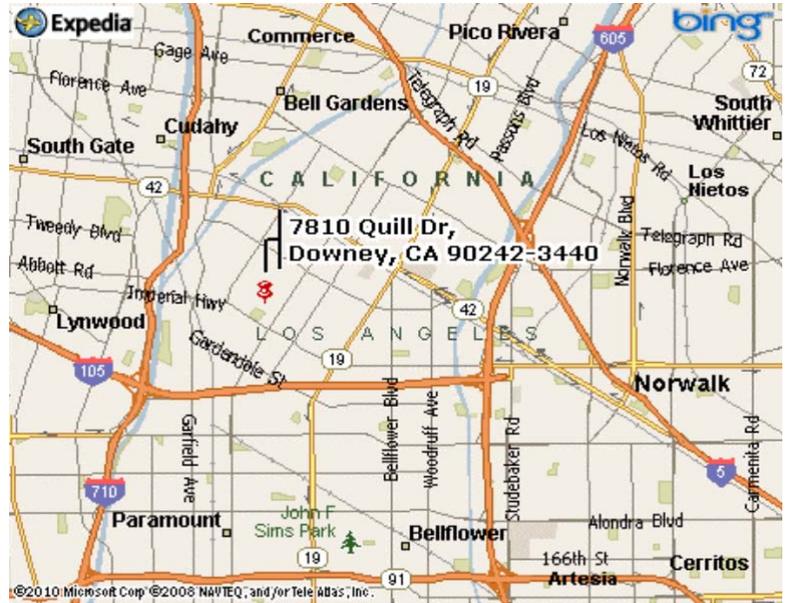
DFF Supports:



Cal Trout



PO Box 516
Downey, CA 90241



-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: March 13th
Barbara J. Riley Community Senior Center
7810 Quill Drive
Downey, CA 90242

