

# ON THE FLY

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
FLY FISHERS CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY

50 YEARS OF SERVING OUR MEMBERS!



*April 2018*

## President's Message by Art Prangley

Fly fishing in our own neighborhood:

As I was getting hit in the chest and face with salt water, stepping gingerly in moving sand, felt the wind hitting my casting arm, and eyeing the couple walking Fido right behind me I thought... This is about as good as it gets. Well, OK, a corbina on the other end of my line would have been another nice addition, but this was fun! And I was home by lunchtime! Hmm, we should do this more often.

Recently a couple of us met with other fly fishing club officers and we talked about local outings and maybe getting together to co-host some local outings, like Float Tubing at Perris Lake for Bass, or fishing the beach down near Carlsbad. Ideas worth exploring.

There are lots of possibilities and these are same day trips that don't require the high level of planning or orchestration to put together. All they require is a host (of sorts) and a way to invite participants to join in.

Over the coming months expect to see some more ideas and fishing opportunities presented to take advantage of our local waters. Please bring us your thoughts and a willingness to try it out. We're working on the best ways to let club members know about upcoming mini-trips but expect that we'll use our website and Facebook pages to highlight these. Stay tuned for more information to follow.

In the meantime, clean the fly lines, oil the reels, tie more flies, it's almost April 24<sup>th</sup>, the general opener for California Trout Fishing.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next FFCOC meeting on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> to hear from Jason Randall about nymphing techniques. . . . . Warm regards, Art!

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**Website:** [www.ffcoc.org](http://www.ffcoc.org)

### **Club Meeting:**

April 11, 2018

Phoenix Club

1340 Sanderson Anaheim, CA

6:00 pm - Wet Flies Social Hour

7:00 pm - Dinner and Program

Dinner & Program - \$35.00

Program Only - \$12.00

### **Board Meeting:**

April 16, 2018 - 7:00 pm

Montesilla Mobile Home Park

15601 South B St., Tustin, CA

Club Members are Welcome

# Advanced Nymphing Techniques

with Jason Randall

The recent innovations in nymphing techniques – Czech, Polish, Spanish, French – can leave you feeling confused and nostalgic for the days when an indicator, a split shot and a nymph were all you needed. The European “tight line” systems, derived from competitive angling, are surprisingly simple and effective in our local waters. New contact techniques focus on getting the flies to the strike zone and improving strike detection, but do you know when and how to use each method? Our April program discusses these new methods but also offers improved strategies for flotation style indicators. To help us demystify all this, we welcome back Jason Randall.



Jason has been an outdoor writer for the last fifteen years with feature articles appearing regularly in *American Angler*, as well as *Fly Fisherman*, *Eastern Fly Fishing*, *Northwest Fly Fishing* and many other outdoor magazines.

Jason was born in Morris, Illinois, a small rural town in the north-central part of the state. His father introduced him to fishing, hunting and camping and his growing love of the outdoors led Jason to become an Eagle Scout when he was just 15.

He attended veterinary school at the University of Illinois, served in the Army and then moved to Woodstock to start his practice. He is not only a veterinarian, but a veterinarian certified in fish health and medicine. He is also a member of the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association and the Society for Freshwater Science.

(Continued, next page)



Jason picked up a fly rod in 1983, but with no guidance or instruction, became frustrated with fly fishing and casting and didn't handle a fly rod again for almost a decade. It was, during a Colorado vacation, that a friend suggested they go fly fishing. Fortunately they hired a guide who gave them casting instruction and solid, accurate advice. After these brief, though valuable lessons, Jason proceeded to catch several native trout and this experience, says Jason, hooked him on fly fishing for life. And "hook him" is an understatement. (Cont.)

Jason proceeded to not only study and learn fly fishing, achieving great success as thoroughly and quickly as few others have, but he also became adept at communicating the knowledge he gained. For the last twelve years, he has been an outdoor writer with feature articles appearing regularly in *American Angler*, *Fly Fisherman*, *Eastern Fly Fishing*, *Northwest Fly Fishing* and many other outdoor magazines.

In 2012, Stackpole/Headwater books released Jason's first book, **Moving Water: A Fly Fisher's Guide to Currents**. This book studies and explains the effect of current on trout, their prey species and presentation, where vertical layers of current create drag and requires adjustments to improve nymph fishing success.

Jason's second book **Feeding Time: A Fly Fisher's Guide to What, Where and When Trout Eat**, was released in August of 2013. This valuable book focuses on matching your fishing strategies to the trout's feeding strategies, especially when targeting large trout.

And in 2014, the third book in his publisher's "Fly Fisher's Guide" trilogy was released -- **Trout Sense: A Fly Fisher's Guide to What Trout See, Hear and Smell**, which offers anglers an opportunity to know more about the quarry they seek.

In 2017, Jason joined Luminaries Lefty Kreh, Bob Clouser, Ed Jaworowski and many others on the TFO National Advisory Team. In 2017-18, Jason will appear and present at shows, clubs and events throughout the North America.

To learn more about this bright, professional and accomplished fly fisher (and *fish-whisperer*), go to: [www.jrflyfishing.com](http://www.jrflyfishing.com)

Please join Jason Randall as he shares with us his techniques for advanced nymphing.

See you there!  
Andy Frumento

## 2018 Meeting Dates and Speakers

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
1-10-18	2nd Wed	Charles Jardine	"Streams of Consciousness"
2-7-18	1st Wed	Wandy Taylor	"How Technology Has Changed Fly Fishing"
3-14-18	2nd Wed	Seth Blackamore	"Fly Fishing The Eastern Sierra Backcountry"
4-11-18	2nd Wed	Jason Randall	"Advanced Nymphing Techniques"
5-09-18	2nd Wed	Marlon Rampy	"Redband Trout"
6-13-18	2nd Wed	Ed Engle	"25 Ways To Elevate Your Trout Game"
7-11-18 ★	2nd Wed	Glenn Ueda	"Corbina on So Cal Beaches"
8-8-18	2nd Wed	Mike Williams	"Trout in the Clouds"
9-12-18 ★	2nd Wed	FFCOC	FFCOC AUCTION
10-10-18	2nd Wed	Brian O'Keefe	"Fly Fishing Photography"
11-7-18	1st Wed	Rick Hafele	"Understanding Emergers"
12-5-18	1st Wed		HOLIDAY PROGRAM



**\*NOTE: All programs will be located in the Pavilion except for February, July, & September which will be in the Main Ball Room.**

## **AUCTION NEWS - It's Never Too Early to Donate!**

FFCOC's 2018 Auction is a few months away but it's not too early to donate. Besides, it's "Spring Cleaning" time and surely you have some lightly used items that someone else would like to have.

Although we are a fishing club, we do a lot of other things too. So, you don't have to limit your auction items to fishing related things. Here are some ideas, I'm sure you can come up with others:

Skills you might share.

Dinner at a restaurant with you, your honey and the winning couple.

Theater tickets

Travel gear you no longer need

Car wash coupons you buy and donate

A train ride to LA Union Station, Uber to the ACE Hotel, screening at the theater and return

Movie tickets to see "Casablanca" when Fathom Events shows it at a local theater

A service related to the business you own or work for

A gift basket containing some theam'd items, new or used!

Private lesson(s). Could be fishing related. Or, something else of interest

A ride in your Model T

A stay at your second residence

Electric Boat cruise in Newport Bay with you, your significant other and the winning couple

There must be a bunch more - use your creativity!

Yes, many of these will cost you money. You could just donate the money but items like those above could be a lot more fun and appealing at the auction!





## **2018 FFCOC Membership dues are due!**

Back by popular demand!!!

One last chance to pay your 2018 dues so all your information will be included in the 2018 Directory.

If you have any questions we will bring the notebooks to the March 14th meeting. In these notebooks we have all the people who have paid their dues and have Insurance waivers on file. Remember, if you want to go on any outings, both forms need to be completed so we can keep them on file.

Tight lines,

Vern Martin-Membership

## **2018 FFCOC Rod Building Class In The Works!**

Dennis Harper and Richard Fanning are collaborating to create and teach a Rod Building Class for FFCOC members. We've met once and have a draft of the approach with some details yet to be ironed out. For this class we are expecting to provide the rod blank and other parts and equipment. Students would be charged for the parts and materials they use.

We expect the class to be for 6 to 8 students. If there is sufficient interest we might hold a second session. If you have suggestions or questions please let us know. We'll try to accomodate your needs.

The date hasn't been set yet but we are focusing on holding the class on one or more Saturday mornings, most likely at Bob Marriott's Fly Fishing Store.

Stay tuned for more information,

Richard Fanning and Dennis Harper



## The Class is now Scheduled!



Saturday, March 31 9am -11am

Saturday, April 21 9am - 12pm

To be held at UCI, specific room and direction to be provided

### How about Braided Leaders?

### *Twisting for more fun!*

You tie flies and build rods to add more fun factors on your fly fishing experience. How far can you go with your own gears and style? Before the modern materials and equipment, fly fishers used to get everything from Mother Nature. The Fly Fishers Club of Orange County offers a new class on making braided leaders made of horse hairs and threads.

Braided Leaders are surprisingly easy to make and fun to catch fish on. You can make leaders for your own designs in length, color, and taper. Horse hair leaders are 100% natural and you even feel good cutting them off in the river at the end of a fishing day. You will be amazed how gently you can present a dry fly using a thread leader. Thread leaders do not coil at all nor drag your flies as monofilament leaders do.

The class will be on two days (see dates above), 2-3 hours each. What are required for you to attend the class? Your hands! Yes, that's all you are expected to bring with you. The club will provide materials and tools needed to make braided leaders. Interested? Sign up either by dropping off an email to Young Kwon. ([youngjik.kwon@gmail.com](mailto:youngjik.kwon@gmail.com)) or pencil in your name on the sign up paper at the meeting.



## ***2018 Outings and Events Schedule***

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OUTING/EVENT</u>	<u>STREAMKEEPER</u>
January 11,18,25	Fly Tying at Marriott's	
February 1, 8	Fly Tying at Marrioitt's	
March 12-14	Pyramid Lake, NV	Jim Wright 714 679-6638
March 17	Big Corona, Newport Beach, CA	Art Pranglely 714 270-7090
April 9-11	San Juan River, NM	Brian Mayer 562-619-9169
May	TBD	
June 1-3	Fish Creek, Sierras, CA	Brian Mayer 562-619-9169
June 11-15	Quiet Fly Fisher, Loa, UT	John Williams 951-236-0862
July 13-16	Hot Creek Ranch, Mammoth, CA	John Williams 951-236-0862
August 17-19	Women's Outing, Lake Crowley, CA	Melinda Burns 951-415-9920
September 19-22	Circleville Anglers, Circleville, UT	John Williams 951-236-0862
September 24-28	Quiet Fly Fisher, Loa, UT	John Williams 951-236-0862
October 19-21	President's Outing, Kernville, CA (Friday night, leaving on Sunday)	Art Pranglely 714 270-7090
November	TBD	
December	TBD	

# San Juan River, NM Outing

## April 8 to 12, 2018

Spring is just around the corner and we are planning another fantastic outing to the San Juan River in New Mexico. The clear river waters of the San Juan are the jewel of Northwest New Mexico just a short 14 hour's drive from Southern California. The river is fed from the deep waters of Navajo Lake which provide nearly constant temperature and abundant food supplies. This means many large brown and rainbow trout with substantial fight.

Many of the club members have stayed at:

Fisheads San Juan River Lodge (505) 634-0463, <http://www.fisheadsofthesanjuan.com/> ],

and Abe's Motel just across the street (505) 632-2194, <http://sanjuanriver.com/> ].

Both have very reasonable rates and can arrange guides as well. There are other accommodations as well. If making reservations at Fisheads, please let them know you are part of the FFCOC group.

This year, we are planning for fishing on the weekdays when all the kids have returned to school and we won't have to compete with the local weekend fishers. Plan to arrive on Sunday, April 8. If you arrive early enough, you may have the opportunity to wade fish the lower quality water. The general plan is to fish Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. These are the days that you should consider arranging guides. I strongly recommend you get a guide for at least two days to thoroughly enjoy all the fishing the San Juan Quality Water has to offer. Both Fisheads and Abe's offer package deals for two and three days guiding with lodging. Prices are the same as last year for guides and lodging.

For those non-fishing travelers, there are several historic and interesting areas nearby to explore. The city of Aztec offers some shopping for Native American products and Durango, Colorado is a short drive away as well.

We have generally gathered as a group for dinner each night. Although there are limited choices in Navajo Dam, we usually go to the city of Aztec (short 20 minute drive) for dinners at the local Chinese restaurant and Mexican food restaurant.

For more information, please contact Brian Mayer, (562) 619-9169 or [bdmayer@hotmail.com](mailto:bdmayer@hotmail.com)

If you plan to attend the trip, please call or send Brian Mayer an email so we have contacts for everyone.







## Big Corona Beach Outing

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

FUN WAS HAD!

About 9 of us braved the elements and early get together (7am) to thrash about in the surf and work on the basics of casting a heavy (and dangerous) fly 30, 40, 50' into the water, while:

Getting hit by incoming surf

Having gusts of wind hit you on the right side

Losing your footing in the sand

Watching out for everyone (it seems) walking right behind you during a cast

Having the fly hit you in the back

Having your fly line wrap around your ankles

Stripping and hoping for the take.

Lots of fun and a great skill building morning. While a couple of people cast to a very wary Leopard Shark cruising the waves, nobody netted a fish but it was unanimous when asked, "would you do this again?". ABSOLUTELY!

Stay tuned for the next beach outing to be scheduled.

Art

## **- Casting -**

### **A Critical Fly Fishing Skill**

As the means for presenting the fly to the target fish, casting is one of the key skills to master to improve your fly fishing success. Casting in the Park is new this year. It's an opportunity for club members to improve their casting skills with the help of a team of casting instructors being trained by Master Casting Instructor, Joe Libeu.



Image courtesy of, John Williams.

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Casting in the Park is new this year. It's an opportunity for club members to improve their casting skills with the help of a team of casting instructors being trained by Master Casting Instructor, Joe Libeu.

We are holding three sessions at Irvine Regional Park this year. Both with good turnout and significant results:

"Basic Casting Skills", completed March 11

"Flaws and Fixes", completed May 27

"Double Haul", completed November 25

Casting in the Park "Double Haul" was well attended and attendees gained an important additional casting skill.



Casting in the Park, Double Haul  
Some of the Participants and Instructors

**Next, April 14, 2018, Irvine Regional Park**  
**"Strategies for Coping with Wind"**

## **THREAD - The mysterious base of all fly tying!!**

Courtesy of the author, David M. Boyer

Thread can be very confusing to a beginning fly tier and even experienced tiers can struggle if the wrong thread is used for a particular technique. With that in mind, the following are the various properties and considerations I use when determining what thread may be the best for a particular fly or technique. No single document or person can tell you definitively what thread to use, only experience will give you some ideas. Even now I still try different threads to see if something works better than what I currently use.

There are a number of articles written by Christopher Helm, Darrel Martin, Martin Joergensen, Wayne Luallen, Charlie Craven and others that can be accessed over the internet. Be mindful that each tier will develop their own opinion on thread usage. Those ideas may or may not be the same as what you will eventually develop.

### **Material:**

- Silk
- Cotton (generally not used in fly tying)
- Polyester
- Nylon
- Gel Spun Polyethylene (GSP)
- Kevlar
- Monofilament

### **Construction:**

Continuous filament/flat, and/or with a simple twist will flatten easily. As you tie, you will put a “twist” in the thread that can be “un-twisted” by spinning your bobbin holder. By twisting/un-twisting thread you can gain a considerable amount of control on how your fly is assembled. Threads that can be flattened will generally produce a smoother body/head than other threads. These threads can also be “split” for creating dubbing noodles. You can also twist your thread more to give it additional strength and a rope like quality. Typical examples of thread in this category would include Danville Flat Waxed Nylon, Danville Flymaster, Gordon Griffiths Sheer, Veevus ‘Aught’ Series, and some of Wapsi’s UTC series.

Bonded threads have a strand that helps hold the individual threads together. They generally cannot be flattened or split for dubbing noodles. Most UNI threads are bonded.

Single round strand (monofilament) threads cannot be flattened or split. Monofilament is great when tying saltwater or large flies as it is strong, easy to work with. Most are clear, non-colored and will be translucent once wet.

## Thickness/Size/Strength:

This is probably where the most confusion occurs for tiers and unfortunately there is no easy answer as to what you should use. About the only guide is small flies, small thread, large flies, large thread. If you go to [www.globalflyfisher.com](http://www.globalflyfisher.com) and search for thread, you will find more information. In particular look at the thread charts/tables (<http://globalflyfisher.com/tie-better/fly-tying-thread-charts> and <http://globalflyfisher.com/tie-better/fly-tying-thread-table>) which will give you relative information on material, size, thickness, strength etc.

There are two general ways of measuring: by 'aught' or denier. 'Aught' measurement originated around silk medical sutures, generally designated with 'zeros' or 'aught. The more 'zeros', the 'thinner' the thread. So a '000000' is thinner than '000'. But doing all those zeros is confusing, so we shorten '000000' to '6/0'. Again, the fewer the 0's the stronger/thicker the thread is supposed to be. Generally, 3/0 is considered thicker therefore stronger than 6/0 or 8/0 or 14/0 of the same thread material, but this is unreliable if trying to compare across different manufactures as each manufacture has their own system for 'aught' measurements.

Though not a new term, in the last few years "denier" has become the more preferred way of differentiating between threads. Denier has to do with the linear mass density of fibers, and is based on a single strand of silk that is 9000 meters long weighing essentially 1 gram (1 denier, or 1D). By definition then a 140 denier thread would have a mass density twice that of a 70 denier thread. The problem with denier is it does not really help with overall strength or thickness. For example a Veevus 30 denier GSP has more than four times the strength of a 30 denier Spider Web mono by Danville. Also in comparison, Danville 6/0 is approximately 70 denier, while UNI 6/0 is approximately 135 denier. But generally if comparing the same material, say nylon threads, 140 denier is stronger and thicker than 70 denier. 100 denier GSP is stronger and thicker than 30 denier GSP.

Diameter is generally used for measuring monofilament, but you may find some with a denier callout as well. Measurements can be in thousandths of an inch or in millimeters. Generally, thicker is stronger.

As you develop your skills, you will probably find threads that suit your needs better than others. For example I like Gordon Griffiths Shear 14/0 thread for most of my small flies. If I want a flatter thread I use UTC 70 or UTC 140. For extremely small flies, say size 28- 30, I use Veevus 30 denier GSP. For saltwater flies I use 0.001" monofilament. Other tiers like Veevus 12/0 for small flies, UNI threads, or 210 or 280 denier for saltwater flies, etc. The final decision will be up to you.



**Breakage/Stretch:**

Approximate stretch of various threads Silk - 15%  
Nylon - 25% - 30%  
Polyester - 10% - 15%  
GSP - 3%

As you tie, you need to apply sufficient thread tension to hold the materials without breaking the thread. Too little tension, your materials will have a tendency to fall out or come untied. Depending on the thread, you may feel it stretch as you apply tension up until breakage. This feel of the stretching will give you a hint as to the approximate point it will break. By the way, breaking your thread is not a bad thing, it teaches you how much tension you can apply. Even seasoned tiers will break thread occasionally, so don't worry if you do

**Color:**

Colors will generally change once they are wet. For example, white threads will turn translucent once wet, and take on the "color" of what is under them. In the case of small midges or emergers, if using a light colored dubbing or thread only, and a dark hook (say black) once wet the thread will turn darker further influencing the dubbing darkening it beyond what you may be trying to imitate. If unsure, simply place your fly in water.

Silk, nylon and polyester come in a variety of colors and will stay true if stored out of direct light, but once wet may darken (see above). Kevlar comes in limited colors. GSP is starting to come in various colors.

In all instances, you can use permanent color markers to change the color of your thread. For example you can use a light yellow thread and when you come to finish the head, before the whip finish, you can use a black or brown marker to give you a different head color than the body. I do this a lot with the GSP threads. For the bodies, I may use a bright color, for the head, black or brown. Care has to be taken as to the type of marker used. Some dry slower and can possibly discolor adjacent materials. This is particularly true of oil based markers. Some are alcohol base and dry pretty quickly. A good protocol to follow is to mark, then wipe clean with a soft cloth or Kleenex, but not a paper towel which may fray the thread. Even after wiping some may bleed, and definitely so if head cement is applied to them.

**Conclusions:**

Welcome to the wonderful world of fly tying thread! Realizing that the above may be confusing, I would suggest that new fly tiers begin with a thread that will easily flatten and is available in a multitude of colors, for example UTC 70 and 140 denier threads. They are relatively easy to acquire through the various fly shops. Good luck on your new adventure in Fly Tying.

# Flies That Keep On Giving

*By "Pappy" John Williams*

I'm an avid follower of MidCurrent magazine an online magazine and Tim produces some great video's of fly tying. He recently had an early small stonefly which I love but tried and altered to my liking. Stoneflies have been good to me and having another version just expands my box a bit.



## Early Stone



- Hook:** Umpqua C400BL Size 10 a barbless heavy wire 60 degree Jig hook  
**Bead:** Slotted 9/64 Tungsten Black Bead  
**Thread:** UTC 140 Fluorescent Orange  
**Tail/Antennae:** Silicon Micro Mini Legs by Cascade Crest Tools Purple Blue #15926 (Marriott's stock number 041550)  
**Body Wrap:** D Rib medium in Black, I used Stretch Magic .8mm Clear found at Michaels and after tying used a black marker on the surface.  
**Thorax Dubbing:** Ice Dub Chocolate Brown #ICE 59 on pkg. Marriott's stock number 035246  
**Head Cement:** Super Glue

Slide the bead onto the hook small end first and seat it on the 60-degree angle against the eye. Start your thread behind the bead and build a tapered dam behind the bead that is equal to the diameter of the bead then run the thread to the bend and tie in the body wrap on the far side at the bend. Tie in the tail material twice the length of the shank by forming a loop and securing and the last wrap of thread go under the tail and then wrap your thread forward to the abdomen. Wrap the body material forward to just behind the bead and secure with several wraps of thread and trim off excess. Tie in the equal amount of antennae material forward so the antennae face forward on both sides of the bead similar to the tail. Dub the thorax loosely as this forms the legs and builds the thorax. Make several wraps of thread behind the bead to form a hot spot in orange. Smear 1/4" of the thread with super glue and whip finish.

See you on the water,

John

## ***FFCOC Leadership***

### **Mission:**

Encourage Angling with Artificial Flies (Fly Fishing)

Encourage Education and Fisheries Conservation, including Habitat and Watershed Conservation

Disseminate to the public the Results of the Club's Efforts

Encourage Youth to Follow Sound Conservation Practices

To **ACHIEVE** this the Club conducts various meetings, events and outings as documented in this newsletter.

**MEMBERSHIP** is open to all. If interested, contact one of the board members or come to one of the club meetings.

### **Board of Directors and Activity Leaders:**

#### **President**

Art Prangley

#### **1st Vice President**

Auction Chairperson  
Bri Buchko

#### **2nd Vice President**

Casting Clinic  
TBD

#### **Past President**

Melinda Burns

#### **Treasurer**

Brian Mayer

#### **Secretary**

Tom Niedzialek  
secretary@ffcoc.org

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Richard Fanning  
newsletter@ffcoc.org

**Programs:** Andy Frumento

**Outings:** John Williams

**Webmaster:** Jim Wright

**Conservation:** John Burns

**Raffle:** Dawn Martin

**Membership:** Vern Martin,  
membership@ffcoc.org

**Trout in the Classroom:** Melinda Burns, Jim Wright

**Fly Tying:** Brian Mayer

**Fly Fishers International Liason:** Jim Wright

**Members at Large:** Jim Edwards, Doug Jones

## ***Support Our Local Fly Shops***



### **Bob Marriott's Fly Fishing Store**

2700 W. Orangethorpe Ave.  
Fullerton, CA 92833

Open Mon.-Sat. 9 am to 6 pm

Closed Sunday

Phone: 714 525-1827

email: info@bobmarriotts.com



### **His and Her Fly Fishing**

359 N. Old Newport Blvd.  
Newport Beach, CA 92663

Open: Mon.- Fri. 10 am to 6 pm

Saturday 9am - 6 pm

Phone: 949 548-9449

email: hisher1666@aol.com