

BULLETIN

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*Harnessing the Magic
of Skagit Spey Lines
is the second of two
inter-related articles.
See the first article,
Skagit Magic, in the
June Bulletin.*

Ed.

HARNESSING THE MAGIC OF SKAGIT SPEY LINES

By Bob Pauli, Ray Christensen, Tom Keelin

Like a solar flare Rio Products' Skagit Spey lines exploded on the steelhead scene in 2005, capturing a significant share of the Spey line market in a brief time unprecedented in the fly fishing industry. An unscientific poll taken in the world's leading Spey casting web site: speypages.com showed half of steelhead fishermen responding used a Skagit line in 2005; remarkable for a product that became available early that year. For the coauthors, it was uncommon last year to meet an on-stream steelhead angler who did not have a Skagit line installed on at least one rod.

Why did the Skagit line rocket to acceptance? Simple—the line enables *all* Spey style fishermen to cast heavy sink tips and large flies with near-effortless strokes. How is it possible? The answer lies in the manufacturing genius of Jim Vincent collaborating with Mike McCune and Scott O'Donnell. Mike and Scott are Pacific Northwest fishing guides who, among others, have spent nearly twenty years cutting, splicing and refining lines to make sink tip Spey casting easy to learn and effortless to execute.

First, let us define a Skagit Spey line. It is a short, heavy floating head to which is looped a sinking tip which can vary from, say, 40 grains and 3-feet long at the low end to 500 grains and 24-feet long as a common maximum. A central belief of the authors is that use of Rio's Skagit Spey lines does not imply a need to cast in today's [2005/2006] narrowly defined Skagit style, in which practitioners cast a modest bit, say, up to ten feet, of T-14. We believe an enormous spectrum of opportunity awaits those willing to explore beyond such a limited use of these hugely powerful tools.

In a prior article the authors described the results of a year's testing of Skagit lines in the steelhead waters of the Pacific Northwest and on the ponds of the Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club in San Francisco. The results were startling, breathtaking for some, and extremely positive—casting sink tips had become easier, much easier!



Bob Pauli with a 22 pound Kispiox Buck

Harnessing the Magic continued on page 2

The Genesis of Skagit Magic and Harnessing the Magic

In early 2005 Spey-addicted steelhead fishermen Bob Pauli, Ray Christensen and Tom Keelin discovered Rio Products' new Skagit lines and believed the Spey rod fishing world would be changed forever. No longer would heavy tips require beefy rods and the ease of learning to cast formerly daunting sink tips was astonishing.

On March 6, 2005, in the GGACC's pond 3 they began a sink tip test program that spanned more than a year and evaluated sixteen rods from seven manufacturers. Every rod was cast with each of the four available Rio Skagit lines looped to as many as fourteen tips, a total of almost nine hundred rod-line-tip combinations.

Bob Pauli is a Mechanical Engineer fascinated by the mechanics of fishing with Spey rods. He became a serious fly fisherman in 1980 and is now dedicated to the twin mistresses of stalking spring creek trout and pursuing steelhead with Spey rods.

Ray Christensen has fly fished since 1970 pursuing trout, steelhead, salmon and tarpon worldwide.

Tom Keelin is a systems engineer with a strong interest in fly fishing research. He was one of the early spey casters in Pacific Northwest steelheading, having been converted by Scottish anglers on the Kola Peninsula in the early '90s. He also thrives on single-handed-rod fly fishing for trout, bonefish, permit, tarpon, and corbina.

The space available for publication of the prior article did not allow for a discussion of all the fine points, three of which are presented here. Those points are directed at understanding the proper length of a Skagit head, and use of “cheaters” to achieve that length.

TOTAL HEAD LENGTH: THE RULE OF 3.0 TO 3.5

To enjoy the magic of a Skagit line’s near effortless delivery of a heavy tip and large fly one should honor the Rule of 3.0 to 3.5: which states, the total length of a Skagit head, consisting of floating body plus tip, should fall into a range of three to three and one-half times the Spey rod length. A head length ratio less than three causes frequent “tearing out” [tip jumping rearward] of anchors and a ratio greater than three and one-half demands a more vigorous forward stroke than with a proper total head length.

Table 1 indicates *Skagit Head Total Length vs. Spey Rod Length* for a numerical array of minimum and maximum head lengths for a variety of rod lengths.

This is not nuclear science. The “Rule” is based on an assumption of distance from the rod’s tip-top guide to the water’s surface, for an average height fisherman wading shallow water. If one is tall, fishing from a boat or bank, or both, a Skagit head length longer than shown in Table 1 is appropriate. Conversely, situations where the rod tip distance to water is decreased, such as persons wading deeply, or those forced by streamside vegetation to cast with a low rod tip, are best served by heads shorter than shown in Table 1. Using the rule as a starting point, however, will save money and days of experimentation.

CHEATERS

The overwhelming advantage of a Skagit Spey line is its ability to cast any sink tip, from short and light to long and heavy. Within reason, it doesn’t matter what sink tip one puts on a Skagit line—they all work, provided the Rule of 3.0 to 3.5 is honored.

To properly set up a Skagit outfit, “cheaters” are used. A cheater is a piece of fly line between the body and the tip used as an adjusting mechanism to bring total head length into the 3.0 to 3.5 range.

See Table 2, *Cheater Design Chart-A Helper for Matching Cheaters to Sink Tips* for recommended cheater lengths with a variety of rod and sink tip lengths. Factory-made cheaters are packaged in groups of four by Rio Products, namely two floating cheaters, 5 feet and 10 feet long, and two intermediate rate sinking cheaters, 5 feet and 10 feet long. Some fishermen custom cut cheaters to exact lengths and splice them to matching sinking tips.

**TABLE 1
SKAGIT HEAD TOTAL LENGTH vs. SPEY ROD LENGTH**

ROD LENGTH, feet.	TOTAL HEAD LENGTH, Incl SINK TIP, feet	
	MINIMUM ROD L * 3.0	MAXIMUM ROD L * 3.5
12	36	42
13	39	46
14	42	49
15	45	53
16	48	56

The Skagit rule of 3.0 to 3.5 states that a minimum head length of 3.0 times rod length is necessary to avoid "tearing out" anchors. And a maximum head length of 3.5 times rod length preserves the effortless forward stroke that is a design goal of the originators.

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TABLE 2**CHEATER DESIGN CHART--A HELPER FOR MATCHING CHEATERS TO SINK TIPS***All dimensions in feet*

SPEY ROD LENGTH	USING RULE OF 3.0 TO 3.5 SKAGIT HEAD TOTAL LENGTH		SKAGIT HEAD MEASURED BODY LENGTH	CHEATER LENGTH NEEDED TO ACHIEVE			SUGGESTED CHEATER <small>Note: Rio Cheaters are pre-cut 5' & 10'. Custom cheaters are cut to length and often spliced to tip.</small>
	Min [3.0] [B*3.0]	Max [3.5] [B*3.5]		SINK TIP LENGTH	Min [3.0] [F+E-C]	Max [3.5] [F+E-D]	
12	36	42	26	5	5	11	For a 5' tip, use a 5' or 10' cheater.
				10	0	6	For a 10' tip, use no cheater or a 5' cheater.
				15	(5)	1	For 15' and longer tips, use no cheater.
				20	(10)	(4)	ditto
				24	(14)	(8)	ditto
13	39	46	26	5	8	15	For a 5' tip, use a 10' cheater.
				10	3	10	For a 10' tip, use a 5' cheater
				15	(2)	5	For 15' and longer tips, use no cheater.
				20	(7)	(1)	ditto
				24	(11)	(5)	ditto
14	42	49	26	5	11	18	For a 5' tip, use a 10' or a 15' [10+5] cheater.
				10	6	13	For a 10' tip, use a 10 or a 15' cheater.
				15	1	8	For a 15' tip, use a 5' cheater.
				20	(4)	3	For 20' and longer tips, use no cheater
				24	(8)	(1)	ditto
15	45	53	26	5	14	22	For a 5' tip, use a 15' [10+5] cheater
				10	9	17	For a 10' tip, use a 10 or 15' cheater.
				15	4	12	For a 15' tip use a 5' or 10' cheater.
				20	(1)	7	For a 20' tip, use no cheater or a 5' cheater.
				24	(5)	3	For tips 22' and longer, use no cheater.
16	48	56	26	5	17	25	For 5' tip, use a 20' [10+10] cheater
				10	12	20	For 10' tip, use a 15' [10+5] cheater
				15	7	15	For a 15' tip, use a 10' cheater.
				20	2	10	For a 20' tip, use a 5' cheater.
				24	(2)	6	For a 24' tip, use no cheater or a 5' cheater.

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Again, this is not high science, but a starting point. Experienced fishermen find that consideration of cheaters can go beyond the "Rule," that adding a cheater makes it easier to achieve higher momentum on the forward cast, thereby making a cast more effective in windy conditions. Fishermen who are experienced golfers with several grooved golf swings may be more comfortable than non-golfing anglers varying casting strokes frequently, thus reducing the need for cheaters with shorter sink tips.

SELECTING THE RIGHT LINE FOR FISHING

Skagit line performance during fishing season is most successful when the following are considered: first determine the heaviest sink tip likely to be used; second, pick a rod that easily handles the total weight of Skagit line plus heaviest tip likely to be used, and is long enough to mend line as needed and cast distances required. For example, planning a steelhead season during which the heaviest sink tip fished will be 225 grains, a Skagit 450 is adequate. If a 300-grain tip is to be used, a Skagit 650 is required, for heavier tips use a Skagit 750. A rule of thumb is a 2:1 ratio of Skagit head to sink tip weight. Again, this is a starting point. If distance is important, bear in mind that heavier Skagit lines will cast tips farther than lighter lines.

Rod choice is highly individual, and since almost all rod actions work with Skagit lines, it is hard to make a mistake if one avoids the extremes. Length also is important, when fishing success requires mending and when distance is important.

CONCLUSION

The new Skagit Spey lines and cheaters enable a fisherman with one Spey rod, one line and a handful of tips to successfully fish any run in a river. What could be better than traveling light, yet having everything you need? It's magic!

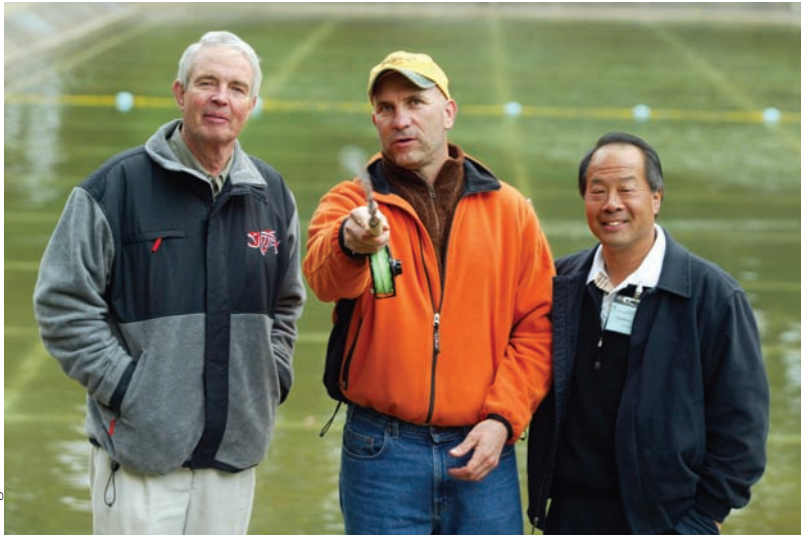
Copyright 2006 Pauli Christensen Keelin. All rights reserved.*Bob Pauli with an 18 pound Kispiox Buck*

JIMMY GREEN INTERNATIONAL SPEY-O-RAMA AND FLY CASTING FESTIVAL 2006

By John Till

The event is just getting better and better every year. As one of the Canadians said, “it is like a grand home-coming, I hope it goes on every year.” And yes, we will hold the event will again in 2007. Now, that brings us to the next point: each year we have volunteers to assist with the organization, the cooking and the general running of the event. Next year we will need even more. So, come out and participate. You will have a grand time—and you will learn how to cast better from the best in California, the United States and the World. It matters not that you are not interested

George Nikitin



John Till, Tim Rajeff and Matt Huey

in two-hand rods. This is a casting event. At the present time we are starting to prepare for next year—so get your name in early. Please contact John C. Till at till@ix.netcom.com or 650-348-1216 [identify the subject matter as “SOR 2007” so that the spam blocker will not kill your message].

Now back from the future. Spey-O-Rama (SOR) 2006 attendance by both the general public and members of the club was greater than previous SORs. Many more lessons were given by the experts than last year and as always all lessons were free. Officially, the event lasted three days (unofficially the event covered five days.) As in the past, the event included the top group of manufacturers, demonstrators and casters in the world. This year’s event included the greatest collection of spey casters ever assembled. The number of demonstrations was reduced in order to allow more time for club



George Nikitin

Steve Rajeff

members to receive lessons, casting tips and to experiment with the equipment.

Great meals were served all three days to all people who attended—the price of the meals ranged from free to a modest, \$5.00 for a full dinner. *The California Fly Shop*, located in Belmont, supplied and cooked a great Saturday lunch.

Our own Tim Rajeff, World Champion caster, designer and manufacturer and Mel Krieger were the Masters of Ceremonies for the event

At the SOR two new spey casting DVDs were shown: a three volume set by Simon

George Nikitin



Mel Krieger & Matt Huey with John Till,



Mariusz Wroblewski

George Nikitin

Gawesworth as well as a three volume set by Jeff Puttman. We also showed our great club DVD *The Art of Spey Casting*.

It was rewarding to see the number of members and guests who were wearing the club's Columbia Fishing Shirts and Hats.

The casting contest was carefully presided over by the head judge, Nelson Ishiyama, along with his team, Gary Aka, Bill Ward, Bob Pauli and Foster Reed. Once again the weatherman graced us with an outstanding day. However, some of the competitors were mistreated by the weather Gods when it came to the actual competition. The qualifying trials were held on Friday and Saturday and the finals were held on Sunday. All of those who competed, even if they did not make the final cut, were World Class Competitive Casters. The final ten competitors and their standings are as follows:

Tie 1 Mariusz Wroblewski: 142, 131, 143, 135, *total* 551

Tie 1 Gordon Armstrong: 125, 150, 141, 135, *total* 551

3 Scott O'Donnell: 124, 137, 130, 137, *total* 528

4 Simon Hsieh: 127, 135, 128, 135, *total* 525

5 Frank Chen: 112, 131, 122, 131, *total* 496

6 Doug Duncan: 125, 128, 113, 128, *total* 494

7 James Chalmers: 108, 142, 114, 127, *total* 491

8 Knut Syrstad: 91, 133, 126, 130, *total* 480

9 Stener Skogmo: 104, 131, 120, 103, *total* 458

10 Michael Stanley: 108, 122, 105, 112, *total* 447

WOMEN:

1 Donna O'Sullivan: 88, 62, 83, 95, *total* 328

The comments which I have received or have seen on the speypages.com, via e-mails and other communications about the function have all been very positive. The event could not have been successful or would not have happened at all without the Golden



George Nikitin

Spey-O-Rama 2006



The Club Terrace at Anglers Lodge

George Nikitin

Gate Angling and Casting Club team of dedicated volunteers.

The club volunteers are only part of the story. On behalf of GGACC I extend my sincerest appreciation and thanks to all who helped make the event so spectacular. The event was successful also because of the donated effort, time and products from many manufacturers and suppliers. I want also to thank the demonstrators who put on informative and crowd pleasing shows, and of course the competitors who displayed their

Spey-O-Rama 2006 continued on page 6



Simon Gawesworth

George Nikitin

Spey-O-Rama continued from page 5

skills in the swirling winds of San Francisco, as well as the casting experts who provided free casting lessons for three days during the event. Here is a partial list of most of the manufacturers, individuals and businesses who assisted in the event:

ADG, TITANIUM, AIRFLO, CHARLES ANTHONY FLIES, ANDERSON CUSTOM RODS, BURKHEIMER RODS, THE CALIFORNIA FLY SHOP, CARRON, CLAY BAMBOO RODS, CORTLAND, CND, ECHO RODS AND REELS, G-LOOMIS, LOOP, HOUSE OF HARDY, KRIEGER ENTERPRISES, LELAND FLY SHOP, MEISER RODS, O-REX RODS, PAUL MILLER CUSTOM FLIES, STEVE RAJEFF, TIM RAJEFF SPORTS, RIO PRODUCTS, SAGE, SCIENTIFIC ANGLER, SPEYPAGES.COM, and

SIMON GAWESWORTH

I humbly apologize to anyone whom I may have left off the list.

The experts and teachers who gave so unselfishly of their time and talents for individual lessons and short demonstrations included all of the competitors who competed in both the trials and the finals MARIUSZ WROBLEWSKI, GARY SCOTT, BOB CLAY, AL BUHR, FRANK CHEN, SIMON GAWESWORTH, MEL KRIEGER, MIKE McCUNE, JEFF PUTNAM, NOBUO NODERA, HIROSHI OKADA, TYLER KUSHNIR, HIROSHI OKADA, BRIAN NISKA, KNUT SYRSTAD, TIM RAJEFF, STEVE RAJEFF, FRANCOIS BLANCHET, WAY YIN, STENER SKOGMO, and DONNA O’SULLIVAN.

Many thanks to the competitors for their grace, excellent tutoring and sportsmanship as well as their presence.



George Nikitin

Anglers Lodge and GGACC Casting Ponds



Art Dollosso Smoking a Hatchery Salmon, Yurok Style

BLAKE RIFFLE

By Art Dollosso

Summer's equinox seems to be a sign for the Klamath River's salmon and steelhead. Waxing fat at sea on krill, and kelp bed crustaceans seems to become less interesting to them as a new cognitive force overtakes these fish. Guided by bearings from the sun, the Earth's Magnetic Field, low frequency sounds and scent, they turn towards a place where the ocean ends and a river begins--the Terwer Valley estuary.

The estuary is less than two miles long, and a half mile wide. At

daybreak a cool grey marine sky shrouds the rivers edge at Requa upstream to Klamath Glen. There is a strong marine influence that provides a salt tang both in the wind and on the water. The first five river riffles are unobservable in the mist. Think San Francisco in the morning.

At night most salmonids breach the surf line on an incoming tide. Ushered in by high waters and covert skies the salmon seek the deep holes while the steelhead seek the first five riffles.

Midmorning coastal fog lifts, and what you thought were F-111s flying overhead turn out to be a phalanx of jet boat boys beating the river bottom with bait -- roe balls for King salmon. On the south side of the river the Yurok Nation ply these waters for their sustenance with a gauntlet of 4" nets. Alder smoke and salmon scents grace the afternoon air. From above, seagulls, pelicans and cormorants crash into McDonald, Waukell, Terwer and Glen Riffles removing grilse and runts. From below, seals--like submarines, and river otters add to the confusion. And lastly, like waste management systems in an urban area, an occasional brown bear is on the river bar to cleanup entrails and the environment in general.

Above and away from it all, at the end of Starwein Road, and across the road from a mighty fine Italian restaurant, the river pinches in to form Blake Riffle. Redwoods and coastal oaks cast perennial shadows on the river from the south bank. Fish rest here before their assault on to Ah Pah and up through to Blue creek. Until someone builds a better river, its the best riffle California has to offer.

Claude Kreider in his 1947 book, *Steelhead* felt it was the most important fly fishing riffle in the state. It is the earliest riffle that can be easily fly fished for steelhead in the state. The action begins in August, with Labor Day weekend being the high water mark and concludes with the first rainfall. The riffle is 60 miles below the Trinity River, a Klamath tributary, and as such, has a location where both runs converge at the same. At this point the river



Paul & Michael MacWilliams with a Blake Riffle Steelhead caught on a "Kovman Special"

Blake Riffle continued on page 8

Blake Riffle continued from page 7

can be crossed with care, and there is room to cast in a carefree manner. And the weather, well, only in California can you cast in short sleeves and shorts. These fish are larger than the “half-pounder” label. The vast majority (and there are lots of them) are cookie cutter fish, twelve inches to slightly less than two pounds. They are blue backed fish with silver flanks. What these fish lack in size, they make up in numbers and acrobatics, something like a miniature greatest steelhead show on earth.

The river does not place a premium on long distance casting. A bobber, shot, two flies and a repetitious helicopter spin overhead, and a short drift over and through a white-throated chute should net you some fish. GGACC member and master fly tier Larry Kovi ties a marvelous small set of flies for the river.

River access is free. River bar camping with showers is a steal. Motels and restaurants at Requa are more than reasonable. You should give it consideration as a destination if you are looking for some excellent time on the water.

Art Dollosso is San Franciscan by birth, breeding and sentiment. He has been a GGACC member on and off since 1970.

In 2005 his yearly fishing journal had the following notations:

Days Fished: 31

Fish Hooked: 9

Fish Landed : 0

Birds: 1 small sparrow on a backcast.



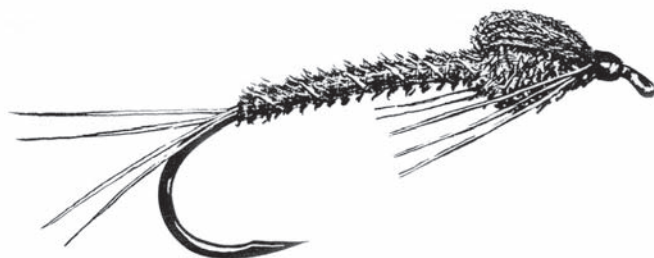
Terwer Valley

Michael MacWilliams

FLY OF THE MONTH

PHEASANT TAIL NYMPH

By Barry Glickman



Materials:

<i>Hook:</i>	<i>TMC 2302, # 10-18</i>
<i>Thread:</i>	<i>Brown</i>
<i>Tail:</i>	<i>Ringneck pheasant tail fibers</i>
<i>Rib:</i>	<i>Fine copper or gold wire</i>
<i>Body:</i>	<i>Pheasant tail fibers</i>
<i>Wingcase:</i>	<i>Pheasant tail fibers</i>
<i>Thorax:</i>	<i>Peacock herl</i>
<i>Legs:</i>	<i>Pheasant tail fibers</i>

This Fly of the Month is taken from the February 1999 Archives.

Instructions:

1. Debarb hook and add weight if desired.
2. Attach thread to shank and tie in a short length of wire rib on the far side of the hook. Wrap thread back to barb. Gather a clump of tail fibers and place on shank so that tail is one to one and a half of the gape. (The amount of fibers and the length needed to make tail and body will depend on the size of the hook and the size of your pheasant tail.) Make a wrap and secure tail fibers in position. Adjust if necessary, and make one more tight wrap directly over first wrap. Lift fibers and move thread to thorax area.
3. Gather butt end of fibers and wind around shank towards thorax creating body. Tie off and trim excess.

Counter wrap copper wire to form ribbing. Tie off and trim. Trim tail to three or four fibers if desired.
4. Move thread forward to head area and attach another clump of fibers by the butt ends and wind back to end of body. Attach two or three peacock herls to shank and either twist with the thread and wrap thorax area forward to head or simply wind herls around shank to head area. Tie off and trim excess. Gather up the pheasant tail fibers and fold over herl to make wingcase. Secure with thread. Check to see that wingcase is evenly placed and secure tail fibers with thread. Fold back three or four fibers on each side of shank to form legs. Wrap head and whip finish. Trim legs to size.

The Pheasant Tail Nymph is credited to Frank Sawyer who tied the entire fly with Pheasant tail fibers and copper wire. This version is from Al Troth.



Floyd Dean with a young student

Casting Tips

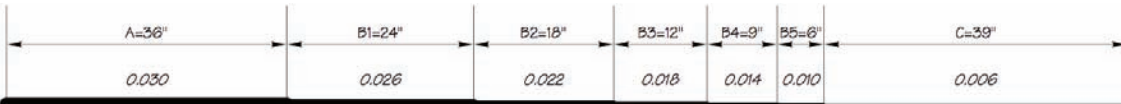
With Floyd Dean

TAPERED LEADER KNOTS

If you studied the article on knots in the last bulletin, you should be able to tie your flies on to the tippet as well as you can tie your shoes. The next step will be to learn four more knots that are used mainly to affix tippet material to a leader, build a leader from scratch, and tie dissimilar diameters of monofilament together.

One knot, the *Dropper Loop*, is great to tie broken mono together very fast, even at night or blindfolded. These four key knots are: the *Double Surgeon's Knot*, the *Triple Surgeon's Knot*, the *Blood Knot*, and the *Dropper Loop Knot*. Most fly shops sell two types of tapered leaders. One is hand tied with no less than 6 knots and the other is a one piece extruded tapered leader. All tapered leaders are constructed with 3 parts: the butt section, the mid or middle section and the tippet, (The end where you tie the fly).

A typical 7-part hand tied tapered leader looks like this. A is the butt section. B is the mid section. C is the tippet.



Your hand tied leader will be constructed of 7 strands of mono using the knots you will learn. Each section will use smaller pound test making the taper. For example (A) the butt section is 3 feet of 0.030. Of the 5 mid sections, B #1 is 2 feet of 0.026. B #2 is 18 inches of 0.022, B #3 is 12 inches of 0.018. B #4 is 9 inches of 0.014. B #5 is 6 inches of 0.010. C, the tippet, is 39 inches of 0.006. This will give you a hand-tied 5X tapered leader 12 feet long. If you wish to go into more depth on the art of tying tapered leaders, there are many good books on the subject.

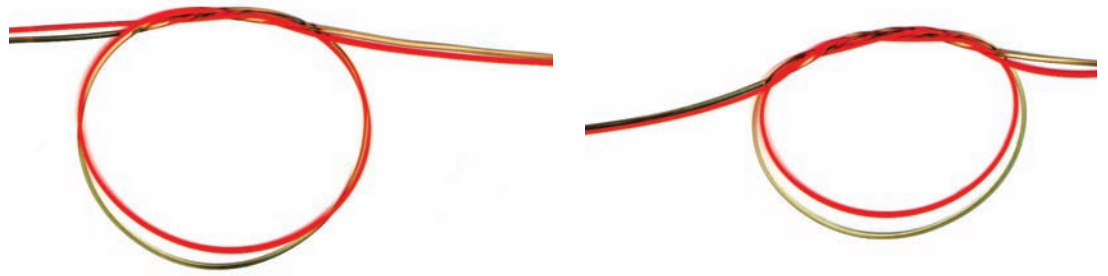
After tying on and removing a dozen flies while fishing most of the day with a store bought factory leader of the extruded tapered type, you would find that your tippet section is too short. In factory leader, the tippet section may only be 2 feet long. In this situation, you would need to select 4 feet of 5X tippet material and tie it on using one of the knots below.

If you ask most surgeons about this knot they will tell you that they have never heard of it. How it got its name is a mystery. This knot can be used to build a leader, tie on tippet material and tie extremely dissimilar monofilament diameters together. If you had to tie 4# mono to 40# mono the *Double Surgeon's Knot* would be a good choice.

THE DOUBLE SURGEON'S KNOT

To practice tying the double surgeon's knot, use a spool of 10# test mono, cut off 3 feet. Take the spool and pull off another 3 feet. Do not cut it. Lay the cut piece along side of the piece still attached to the spool. The pieces should overlap about 6-8 inches and the strands of mono must lay parallel to each other. Always use the thumb and forefinger to grasp the mono for control. With your left hand, grasp the two overlapping strands of mono on the left. With your right hand grasp the two

Floyd began his journey to Master Fly Casting instructor with childhood summers spent fishing the streams that flow out of the Teton Mountains near Driggs, Idaho. It was there that he first became aware that there was fishing, and then there was fly-fishing; he was not allowed to touch his uncles' fly rods. It would not be until 1989 that Floyd would take up fly-fishing in earnest. And then, through dedicated practice, he moved up the ladder to become one of the top casters in the nation. In addition to the 'dedicated practice', Floyd freely credits his stellar position to the fact that he was taken under the wing of some of the greats in the fly-fishing and casting world. And now he too has become one of the roughly 70 people in the US who has achieved the level of Federation of Fly Fishing Master Fly Casting Instructor.



remaining ends. Bring the right hand around in a circle to the left hand; this will form a circle or loop of two strands of mono hanging down. Transfer the right hand strands of mono to the left hand. Your right hand will be free. Two strands will point east and two will



point west. All four strands are held in the left hand. Now, pass the two right hand strands of mono through the loop two times. Make sure that both strands, one short and one long, (The 3 foot cut section) pass completely through the loop. Now, grasp the right hand mono with the right hand. Then, grasp the left hand mono with the left hand. Pull both left and right ends at the same time with equal force. Wet the mono and cinch it down. Snip the short tag ends, and the double Surgeon's knot is tied.



THE TRIPLE SURGEON'S KNOT

Now that you have tied the *Double Surgeon's Knot*, let's move on and tie the *Triple Surgeon's Knot*. All that is required is that you pass the tag ends through the loop three times. It's a simple progression.

The reason for the two knots is that in most cases the *Double Surgeon's Knot* is used for larger diameter monofilament and the *Triple Surgeon's Knot* is used for smaller mono. When tying 2# mono to 40# mono you might try doubling the 2# as you overlap the two strands of mono at the tying section. This gives the line a little more bulk and makes it easier to tie. The *Surgeon's Knot* verges upon 100 percent knot strength when tied properly.

There are two drawbacks to these knots. One is that you must pass the tag end through the loop. So, if you were trying to tie two 1000-foot sections of mono together passing one end through the loop would be very difficult. The second problem is that the two tag ends to be cut off will be about 4 to 8 inches each. This means that with every tied knot you could lose 1 foot of tippet material, in a 27 yard tippet spool you would lose 9 yards. That computes to a loss on every tippet spool of \$1.38.

The *Blood Knot* can be tied with a loss of less than 1 inch of material. That equals only a 4-cent loss on a 27-yard tippet spool. Think of the money you could save to buy more fly rods.

Next month: the *Blood Knot* and the *Dropper Loop Knot*.

Tight Loops!

EAST SIERRA FOCUS

By: CJ Webb



CJ at Upper Frog Lake, Virginia Lakes Canyon

Being the fisherman that I am, I constantly find myself perusing water, wondering if there are fish in it only to return, fish it, and finding NO fish! *These areas are as productive as a sand trap on the back nine.* Trout prefer some locations and avoid others entirely; so just because it looks good to you, doesn't mean it's holding trout.

There are two basic types of water, stream (moving), and lake (still). Trout feeding in moving water position themselves near the calm areas of streams to conserve energy and wait for their food to arrive. When the buffet arrives they zip into the current, snatch it, then retreat into the calm to lie in wait for more food. In lakes, trout prefer weed beds and large rocks and log clutter for food and for cover from predators during the day. The best calorie opportunities with the least outlay of energy mean survival to trout.

Pick up a pair of polarized sunglasses and you will be able to see water seams, current velocity and the fish while protecting your baby blues.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

A typical Eastern Sierra low-pressure system moved into the area mid-month, dropping the temperatures to near freezing, but it was short-lived and gave temporary relief from mosquitoes. Now it appears as if a great summer at high elevation lakes is nearing. All rivers are running high and off-color, and there is still plenty of snow above 9500', so come prepared for everything.

LEGISLATION

AB7 has been funded so that hatchery stocking will continue in Eastern Sierra Waters and we will get an increase in fish starting in 2007. Also, the Wild Trout Program is scheduled to get biologists and a boost in their program to protect habitat and to address other issues.

The New Zealand Mud Snail was not given a VISA and is still here. I believe it is imperative that fishers help prevent the spread by NOT WADING.

LOWER OWENS ~ River is running at 693 cfs and the drifting hasn't been sensational, but fishers are doing well in the wild trout section with caddis as a top and scud as a bottom or try an #18 crystal midge, Tiger midge, or WD40 in black.

ROCK CREEK LAKE has been good, and fish are still taking black woolly buggers,



Unproductive Water at Tuolumne Meadows

I own and operate Virginia Lakes Resort with husband John, (2006 will be 32 summers). I do extensive one-day hikes into the back country looking for large golden trout, and have had great success over the many years. I've hiked every major drainage from Bishop to Highway. 88 and can tell you a lot about the areas I've hiked.

My goal has been to teach everyone how to catch fish regardless the manner.

I specialize in getting kids off bait and onto a fly and bubble, and then progress to a fly rod from there. Kids like activity and get bored quickly so it's easy to get them on a fly and bubble as it works so very well. I spend a lot of time drawing diagrams for rigging anything people want to fish with and keep it as inexpensive as possible. Angling opportunity is what makes the sport, and once you get them catching fish, making it easier is the fun part.

olive Matukas and large streamers. Mosquito Flats is running very high with difficult stream fishing, and the ski-parka mosquitoes are gearing up for some great meals.

CROWLEY LAKE has had a lot of windy days and the *Daphnia* has put a damper on the bite, try McGee Bay and go 3 to 4 feet off the bottom in gray, try everything and don't give up. Water temps are moving the fish

around and up and down, and don't forget the two fly rig is always a good choice. Try what you think won't work, it may be a nice surprise.

CONVICT LAKE has been producing nice Alpers trout on large woolly buggers in black and purple #6 or #8. Some standard midges will work in the top water near the south bank where the party boats hang. Also the Marvel is truly a wonder fly for this lake. Be sure and ask what color is working. The Marvel is a flash-body woolly bugger with a small prop at the head. Okay, maybe it's hardware but so is a beadhead.

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN road is clear. Lake Mary is free of ice so try some small dries. George has a lot of ice and Mamie is clear so dries will also do fairly well. Water temperature is 38 degrees so float with a time limit.

HOT CREEK (149 cfs) is fishing well early and late on dries, scuds, WD40s, stones and SJ worms.

SAN JOAQUIN ~ Access road is plowed but not open as they are getting the campgrounds ready for incoming campers and fishermen. The road will be opening shortly.

JUNE LOOP ~ Silver and Gull Lakes have been doing the best on black, and purple woolly buggers, grey ghosts, and spruce flies. Also try some stones, mayflies and caddis near Rush Creek for best results. Below Grant Lake near US 395 is a good spot. Try it! Also, near the bridge on the access road to Mono Lake, watch for snakes. There are gopher, water and kings, but rattlers could be around--so watch your footing.

LUNDY LAKE was the only game in town early on and has continued to produce some really nice fish on black woolly buggers with a lot of crystal flash in the tail #6 or #8, and the Marvel. Ponds behind the resort are fun and the trout are hitting small midges and dries.

VIRGINIA LAKES has been a hot ticket for tubers and waders using black woolly buggers with lots of tail flash. Scuds are very active along with midges by the thousands. The gnats are everywhere so wear a camo mask so you can breathe. Use sparse Griffith Gnats, small mosquitoes and Adams females all #18-#20. Some emergers have worked over the past couple weeks, but will increase with the temps. Of course dragging a streamer always works. *Booooooring!*



Mosquito Flats, above Rock Creek Lake

CJ Webb

East Sierra Focus continued on page 14

East Sierra Focus continued from page 13

EAST WALKER ~ Flow currently is at 535 cfs and the mosquitoes are vicious. Blood transfusions might be required after an outing, so bring the *juice*. Emerging Caddis will buy you the *beast*, so anything resembling this *bug* should put you into poundage. Lots of blood midges going off for the hungry browns, so select your imitation with care.

WEST WALKER ~ Water is at 1,630 cfs, so look for flat water and fish the bottom, and try a two-fly rig with large attractor as indicator and tiger, crystal or flashback Zug as the bottom fly.

TIOGA PASS is finally open.

See you on the water!

CJ



CJ Webb

An "Alpers" Trout in Little Virginia Lake

NEW MEMBERS LUNCHEON

Saturday July 8

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

A special free luncheon for all new members (anyone who joined in 2005 or 2006) will be held at the club. This is an opportunity to get introduced to the club, meet other members and the board of directors.

Log in, to RSVP, at <http://www.ggacc.org>. Go to "Events" and click on "New Members Luncheon."

ANNUAL GGACC PASTA FEED

Saturday August 12

6:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

This is one of our most popular events. The annual Pasta Feed will be followed by a presentation by Nelson Ishiyama on fly fishing the Henry's Fork.

Log in, to RSVP and pay online, at <http://www.ggacc.org>. Go to "Events" and click on "Annual GGACC Pasta Feed."

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The Bulletin is published by The Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club, a not-for-profit organization open to all persons interested in angling, fly casting, and plug casting.

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MEMBERSHIP

There is an initiation fee of \$10, for each type of membership, plus annual dues. Regular members pay \$30 per year per person. A Family membership is available at \$36 per year. Junior membership dues are \$6 for persons 18 years of age or younger. **The Bulletin** subscription runs from January through December. If you do not receive **The Bulletin**, please contact the membership chair to check your membership status.

JULY

- 8 9:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m. Free Casting Lessons at GGACC Anglers Ponds
8 12:00 N-3:00 p.m. New Members Luncheon
13 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. GGACC Board of Directors Meeting
15 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Clinic For Casting Instructors
16 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. ACA Casting Tournament - "Red & Blue"
22 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Lecture and Casting Clinic with Floyd Dean
The Use of Specialty Casts When Fishing

AUGUST

- 4-6 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. High Sierra Golden Trout Fish-Outing (Full)
10 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. GGACC Board of Directors Meeting
12 9:30 a.m.-12:00 N Free Casting Lessons at GGACC Anglers Ponds
12 6:00 p.m.-8:45 p.m. Annual GGACC Pasta Feed

SEPTEMBER

- 9 9:30 a.m.-12:00 N Free Casting Lessons at GGACC Anglers Ponds
14 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. GGACC Board of Directors Meeting
23 6:00 p.m.-8:45 p.m. Annual GGACC Salmon Dinner
24 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. ACA Casting Tournament

OCTOBER

- 7 9:00 a.m. Northwestern Casting Tournament
8 9:00 a.m. Northwestern Casting Tournament
12 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. GGACC Board of Directors Meeting
14 & 15 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Submarines at the Ponds (West Pond Only)
14 9:30 a.m.-12:00 N Free Casting Lessons at GGACC Anglers Ponds
21 6:00 p.m.-8:45 p.m. Annual GGACC Armadillo Willy's BBQ
29 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. ACA Casting Tournament

NOVEMBER

- 9 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. GGACC Board of Directors Meeting
11 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Beginning Fly Tying Classes
11 9:30 a.m.-12:00 N Free Casting Lessons at GGACC Anglers Ponds
12 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. ACA Casting Tournament - "Turkey Shoot"
18 6:00 p.m.-8:45 p.m. Thanksgiving Dinner

DECEMBER

- 9 9:30 a.m.-12:00 N Free Casting Lessons at GGACC Anglers Ponds
10 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. ACA Casting Tournament - Director's Cup
10 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Holiday Party
14 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. GGACC Board of Directors Meeting

Board of Directors Meetings are held at Anglers Lodge on the second Thursday of each month, starting at 6:30 p.m.

*Free casting lessons for the public will be held on the second Saturday of each month
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.*

Please register with John Till, Casting Chair

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E-mail: till@ix.netcom.com

GGACC BULLETIN

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IN THIS ISSUE

HARNESSING THE MAGIC by Pauli, Christensen & Keelin

GGACC SPEY-O-RAMA - 2006 by John Till

CASTING TIPS: SURGEON'S KNOTS - by Floyd Dean

BLAKE RIFFLE by Art Dollosso

PHEASANT TAIL NYMPH - Barry Glickman Fly of the Month

EAST SIERRA FOCUS by CJ Webb

CALENDAR OF EVENTS