



The Fly Line

April 2011

President's Message – April 2011

Have you ever been to casting demonstrations put on by experts and wondered why there was no agreement on the best way to cast? Well, I have and after thirty some odd years at it I'm still confused and probably not much improved as a fly caster. With one instructor it's a clock, with another it's six shooters, then there's the guy who says "forget this, take up spey casting". I do admit to favoring the techniques in Chapter 2 of the Swisher & Richards book "Fly Fishing Strategy". It starts out by telling you "Fly line goes where the rod tip goes". That's simple enough - even I can follow it. Anyway, this month's meeting is WED. 4/20 at the County Office of Education on Green Valley Road. It's all about casting. You can try different rods, hear about new and old ideas and even get a CD of yourself casting. See the map and directions for details. Bring your rods and get some those casting muscles back in shape. We are meeting in Building L, the Activity building Follow this link to the campus map.

http://www.edcoe.k12.ca.us/about_us/documents/sitemap.pdf

The other thing I want to talk about is Finnon lake. As many of you know, the club has been involved with the restoration project at Finnon. To date, there has not been a lot of activity, but that's about to change. The club will be helping with the habitat creation, spawning bed layouts and other aspects of preparing the lake bed for the restored fishery. If you want a chance to learn all about how warm water game fish use cover and structure, or understand more about feeding habits and how to fish small lakes better, then watch for the announcements and e-mails on upcoming activities.

See Ya on the 20th. - Karl



From Dave Angelo's fishing report:

First week in April at Pyramid Lake, Nevada. It never got above 38 degrees but fishing was great. These are some of the 34 I landed over the 3 day outing. Largest two went 25", the smallest 16", most were in the 19-22" range. Lahontan cutthroat trout on snowcones and red copper Johns.

The program for this month's meeting will be a casting critique with videos of club members by Doug Stanly at the County Office of Education - 6767 Green Valley Rd, Bldg "L". Click the link in the President's message for directions. Wednesday, April 20th at 7PM.

The "C" Pickup

By Gary Borger, under [Casting and Line Handling](#), [Fishing the Film](#), [Fly Fishing Tactics](#), [Writing and Video](#).

Of all the line pickups (did you catch that) (yes, puns intended) the "C" Pickup is perhaps my most favorite. It allows the angler to clean the line smoothly off the surface and dry a fly if needed, without the need for a false cast.

Here's a description of the "C" Pickup from our forthcoming book, *Fishing the Film*.

Lift the rod up to about 45 degrees above the horizontal and then very quickly flip the tip around in a half circle (the "C") and immediately into a back cast. Start the tip movement at the top of the "C," and at the bottom of the "C" lift the rod into the back cast. The "C" will rip down the line to the tip and pop the fly cleanly out of the water. One can make the "C" in either direction, to the left (a normal "C") or to the right (a backward "C"). This is actually so efficient that I basically use it every time I cast, regardless of the tactic or fly being used. It's superb when fishing up, across, or down.

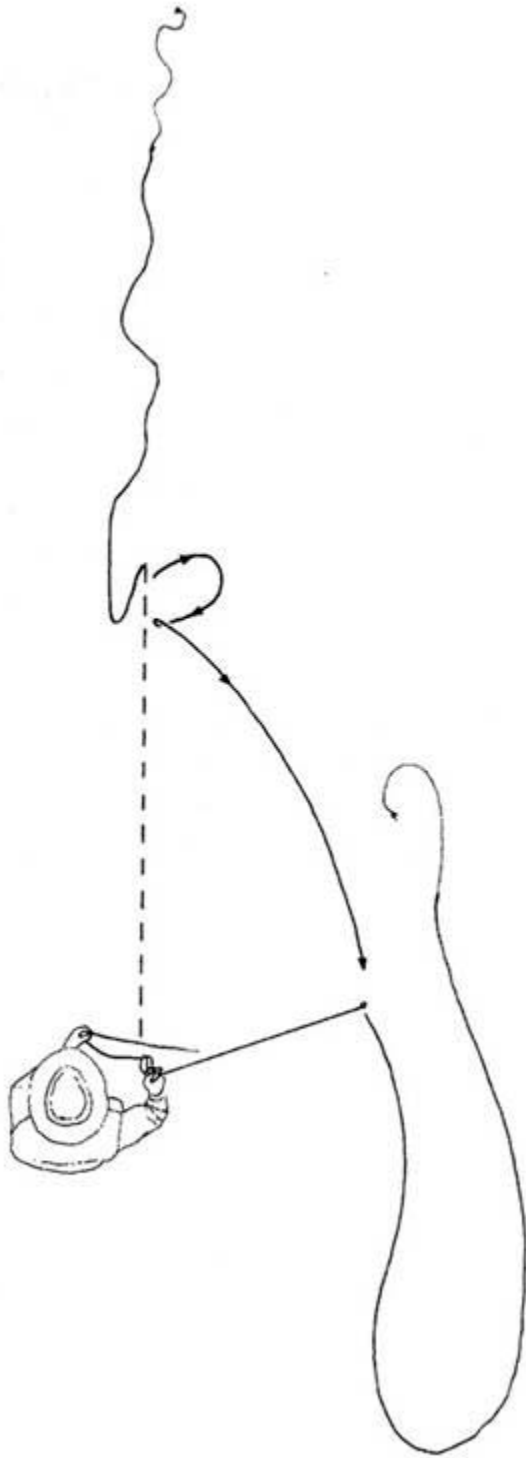
Now for some qualifications. Not too many, but, one can make the "C" very large, very small, or very in-between. One can make the "C" very fast or very slow. At the end of the "C," the line is lifted into a normal Back Cast. The "C" Pickup is certainly not new to fly fishing. Skues wrote about it in "Nymph Fishing for Chalk Stream Trout," noting:

You move your rod-top briskly out to the right and then up and round in a rapid forward curve to the left. This picks the heaviest part of the line and, bellying it in a long single curve, lifts it into the air, leaving but the gut on the water, whence it should be picked off for the back cast before any part of the line has time to fall back to the water. This puts the minimum of strain on the rod, and in the forward cast, the nymph and the fine end of the gut are delivered with the least possible amount of drying, to the fish.

This is certainly a "C" Pickup, but Skues made it from bottom to top rather than from top to bottom. I make it top to bottom so that the rod is in a lower position at the end of the "C," hence providing more room to lift the rod into a Back Cast.

Now note the following, his rapid movement with a soft cane rod would be considered slow with today's graphite sticks. So, making a big, slow movement makes a big, slow "C" that can pick up a nymph without drying it. A real fast, small "C" will pop all the water right out of a dry fly; this makes a very good way to pick up a dry fly and recast without having to false cast to dry the fly. Practice large and slow, large and fast, small and slow, small and fast, "C's," and everything in between. This one is worth knowing.

See diagram below:



The "C" Pickup. The solid line with arrow-heads represents the movement of the rod tip. The tip makes a "C" and then immediately goes into a standard back-cast

"Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in. Its thin current slides away, but eternity remains."
~by Henry David Thoreau~

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If you want your pictures or stories in the newsletter or on the web site - email Jeff Nagel – click on my name & type in your message.

Molly fishing the upper section of the South Fork of the American river last September.

