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Volume 32 Issue 4

The Fisherman's Line



APRIL 2004

REGULAR MEETING – Tuesday, April 27th, **Note Early Meeting Time**

Fly Tying with Dan Blanton 6:30pm (Dan will be tying some of his famous patterns prior to the meeting.)

Regular Meeting 7:30 pm. Program 8 pm.

Location: DAVIS WASTE REMOVAL, Meeting Room- 2727 2nd Street, Davis

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

FLY FISHING MONTEREY BAY with DAN BLANTON

FFD is very fortunate to have long time club friend and well-known NorCal angler, Dan Blanton, speaking on fly fishing the Monterey Bay. Here's a chance to learn more about our coastal angling opportunities and possible how to handle sharks. Dan's a legend among saltwater anglers for his skills and fly pattern innovations. His first program presentation to FFD was in the mid-70s and has provided us many Delta, Bay and other saltwater programs over the years.



Dan Blanton, from San Jose, California, now living in Morgan Hill, California with his wife, Cindy, is a well-known and respected fly fishing and casting instructor, lecturer, author, photographer, travel and tackle consultant. He is acknowledged by many of the nation's leading fly anglers to be one of the pioneers in the development of Pacific coast and Central American saltwater fly fishing. He is the recipient of the Federation of Fly Fisher's 1990 Arnold Gingrich Memorial Life Membership award for outstanding achievement in Outdoors writing as related to fly fishing. He also is the F.F.F.'s 1995 recipient of the Silver King award for outstanding contributions to the sport of saltwater fly fishing. Dan was the second recipient of this prestigious award - the first to receive it was world renowned fly fisherman, Lefty Kreh. Indeed, Dan is in good company.

An acclaimed and innovative fly tyer, Dan originated the Whistler Series, Punch Series, Sar-Mul-Mac Series, Sea Arrow Squid, Bay-Delta Eelet and many other world renowned saltwater fly patterns. He has fly-fished for most freshwater and saltwater species along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North America, Central America and northern South America. He spearheaded fly fishing for giant tarpon in Costa Rica in the early 1970's, where his famed Whistler fly is still number one. He has also fly-fished extensively for bonefish, tarpon, snook and others in the Florida Keys; and for billfish and other bluewater species in Florida, Venezuela, Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico and Australia. He is no stranger to salmon, steelhead, trout and pike; and is equally at home with warm water species. His recent articles detailing fly fishing for California Delta stripers and large mouth bass have put this remarkable fishery squarley on the map. (continued Dan Blanton, Next Page)

Speaker Dinner is 5pm at the Noodle Express, Davis, corner of 3rd and G Streets.

REMEMBER 2004 Membership Fee is now due LAST CALL

Email Newsletter: \$25 Postal Newsletter, \$35 Send to: Fly Fishers of Davis, PO Box 525, Davis CA 95617

Unpaid memberships will not receive the May newsletter.

2003 MEETING DATES, PROGRAMS and Events ------

All meetings are held at 7:30 p.m., Davis Waste Removal Meeting Room, 2727 2nd Street, Davis (east of Sudwerks) unless otherwise noted.

2004

(plan for these tentatively scheduled dates)

April 27th – **Monterey Bay** – Dan Blanton, innovator, guide, author. May 25th - **Perspectives in Fly Fishing** –

Dusan Smetana, international angler photographer.

June 29th - TBA

July 27th – **Club Picnic**, 6pm, Community Park near Art Center.

FLY TYING CLASSES With Bob Zasoski

Fly tying classes will be start in April. April 21. April 21 and 28 are set aside for Beginning Class with the Intermediate Class, May 12, 19,26, June 2 and June 9. All are welcome at the beginning sessions where tools, materials and beginning techniques will be covered. As usual it will be held at the Viticulture Field House from 7-9 pm. There will be sign up at the meeting or contact Bob at 753-2241 or Email: rjzasoski@ucdavis.edu

Dan Blanton continued



The former Managing Editor of Angler Magazine, Dan is currently an Editor-at-Large for Fly Fishing in Salt Waters magazine; Fly Fisherman magazine and the California Fly Fisher; he is also the Salt Water Fly Fishing columnist for Fly Fish America. A free-lance writer for 35 years he is an active member of both the Outdoor Writers Association of California, and the Outdoor Writers Association of America. Dan contributes regulary to many fly fishing specialty and general interest angling He has contributed to three periodicals. anthologies: the Angler's Bible, the Fly Tyer's Almanac and Lefty's Little Library. His new book Fly Fishing California's Great Waters has received excellent reviews.

An excellent outdoor photographer. illustrates all of his own feature articles and columns, and provides stock photos for a variety of fishing publications, destingation and tackle brochures. He has also assembled a superbly photographed dozen presentations during the past two decades, becoming a very popular speaker at sportsman's expositions and at fly fishing functions, nation-wide.

Dan also hosts www.danblanton.com, one of the most poplular and visited fly fishing websites on the internet. His popular bulletin board has received more than 3 million visitors.

From the CONSERVATION DESK

By Lowell Ashbaugh

Ashbaugh@ucdavis.edu, (530) 758-6722.

Fish hatcheries I announced at our last club meeting that six leading marine scientists hired by the National Marine Fisheries Service to report on salmon recovery methods were directed to remove recommendations from their report that NMFS said constituted policy. The disputed recommendation was to rewrite the rules and definitions to distinguish between wild fish and hatchery fish. There has been a concerted effort to include hatchery fish in the counts of fish whose populations are so diminished they can be listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. For example, NMFS was ordered last year to include hatchery Coho salmon in its counts on the Klamath River for determining endangered status. A counter comment was made that hatchery fish should not be derided; that without hatchery fish we would have very few fish to catch. This comment merits further discussion. Historically the purpose of the hatchery program has been to mitigate for the loss of habitat destroyed by dams. I've been reading "Shasta's Headwaters" by Craig Ballenger, who spoke to our club a few months ago. It's remarkable to read about the numbers of salmon that used to make it to the far reaches of the Sacramento, McCloud and Pitt Rivers. Shasta Dam ended that migration, and hatcheries were established to make up for the loss of spawning ground. There are very few wild rivers remaining in the state without at least one dam on them. I don't dispute the fact that hatcheries breed thousands of fish for anglers to catch and keep. But in over 100 years of operation hatcheries have not restored the salmon populations to their pre-dam levels, and they are not likely to in the future. The issue is not whether it's fun to catch a hatchery fish. It's whether we can mess with nature and get away with it.

There are many reasons to be concerned about over reliance on hatchery fish. Fish raised in hatcheries are not as resilient, over time, as fish bred in the wild. The genetic pool of hatchery fish is more limited than exists in the wild. In the wild, hatchery fish do not know how to feed, expecting to be fed pellets as they were in the hatchery. They are more exposed to predators by this altered behavior.

The most important concerns in my mind, though, relate to habitat. Including hatchery fish in the counts can raise the population high enough to remove them from the endangered species list. The sole purpose for this is to eliminate requirements to protect and enhance habitat so the fish can reproduce in the wild. Who benefits from this? The most obvious beneficiaries are farmers and timber harvesters who then do not have to maintain streams so that fish can spawn. Who loses? WE DO! Without habitat protection we lose places to fish, especially those wild places where we experience nature and spiritual renewal. Fish can be caught in the California Aqueduct. I'd rather catch them on a free-

flowing wild river that runs to the sea.

Sacramento Valley River Raid A series of projects is in the works to move more water from the north state to the rest of California. Over 20 organizations are involved, and no one project is large enough to raise eyebrows. Together, they constitute the most ambitious attempted raid on north state water in years. Some of the projects are couched in environmental terms to make them seem benign or even beneficial. But the overall goal is to move one million acre-feet of water (the equivalent of Folsom Lake) to southern California. The water would be provided by groundwater pumping, and the groundwater would be replenished with "excess" winter flows that would otherwise be "wasted to the sea." Have we heard this before? And the "excess" water is just what salmon and steelhead need for their life cycle. You can help by supporting the Friend of the River and the Sacramento Environmental Water Caucus.

Conservation News from NCCFFF

Join the Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers! They are a hard-working group of concerned fly fishers who are doing good work on your behalf. Here's the latest news from them.

New Zealand mud snail - Dave Ford As of this update, NZMS have been found in Putah Creek, the Mokelumne River, and the Calaveras River. As a first priority, a task force has been actively developing and implementing a study plan to quickly determine the most effective and practical way for anglers to treat gear and avoid transporting the snail. NCCFFF and Cal Trout will be assisting on this project with funding and volunteers. Other grant sources are also being pursued. In the weeks ahead we will be working with DFG, other agencies, organizations, and individuals to insure that the necessary leadership and coordination is in place to make most efficient use of resources. This coalition will be addressing other key priorities including education of anglers and other river users, hatchery practices, river surveys to track any spread of the snail, and possible eradication or control options.

Coho Recovery Plan adopted by F&G commission -Mike Laing NCCFFF continues to be involved in supporting the Coho Recovery Strategy being developed by DFG and the Statewide Coho Recovery Team (SWCRT). This effort began two years ago with a petition by Cal Trout and the Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Coalition (SSRC) to the Fish and Game Commission to list Coho salmon as an endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act. The commission agreed with the petitioners, listed the species and established the stakeholder team to develop a recovery strategy. The recovery team (SWCRT), which consisted of commercial and recreational fishing, forestry, agriculture, ranching and environmental interests met regularly for 18 months to develop a plan that was presented to the commission in

November. The scope of the plan and work behind it were unprecedented in scope. NCCFFF, because of its involvement in the Healthy Forest Clean Water Campaign was able to offer specific recommendations regarding the importance of adopting the forestry recommendations that called for increased riparian zone protections and sediment reduction requirements. NCCFFF was among the groups present at the Fish and Game Commission meeting to support and testify. Despite last minute opposition from agriculture and forestry interests, the Commission voted 4 to 1 to adopt the Recovery Strategy and proceed with listing of the Coho under the California Endangered Species Act.

DFG Trout Management Strategic Plan update

NCCFFF recently participated in a meeting with DFG staff to discuss plans for implementation of the updated Trout Management Strategic Plan which was recently officially adopted. One area of opportunity we are pursuing is the possible future expansion of catch and release angling opportunities during the part of the year when many trout streams have traditionally been closed in California. On many California trout streams there may be little justification for these closures, and winter fishing is common in other states. A watershed-specific analysis will be needed to insure that closures can be eliminated or reduced in scope without negatively impacting the fish. The Upper Sacramento River is a potential candidate.

Lower American River flows update - Mike Laing At a recent meeting sponsored by the Sacramento Water Forum, a proposed flow standard for the American River was reviewed with various stakeholders including NCCFFF. The proposed plan has been developed on behalf of the Water Forum who represents local cities, water purveyors, Sacramento region environmental organizations, members of the business community and public interest groups with input and assistance from numerous state and federal agencies. NCCFFF involvement in this issue began as a result of a fish kill that occurred in the spring of last year.

The primary purpose of the new flow standard is to maximize reproduction and survival of Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Lower American River. A coequal purpose is to insure that the Sacramento region's water supply needs are met through the year 2030. The standard will accomplish the following:

- Establish flows consistent with the life cycle requirements of salmon and steelhead.
- Establish a river management process for making short term and long term decisions regarding size and timing of flows.
- Establish an adaptive management monitoring plan to evaluate and report on results of actions taken to improve the populations of salmon and steelhead and continually learn and improve the management strategy of river flows.

<u>Bay/Delta Committee supports funding for Delta diversions - Doug Lovell</u>

Our NCCFFF Bay/Delta Committee (formerly Striped Bass Committee) collaborates with other conservation interests on Delta issues via participation in the Environmental Water Caucus. The EWC has developed a "Delta Diversions Campaign" which has a straightforward goal of limiting Delta water exports and is strategic for a number of reasons: it limits the amount of northern California water that can be exported south, it reduces the incentive to store nor-Cal water and plumb nor-Cal watercourses, and it helps preserve the Bay-Delta ecosystems. The Environmental Water Caucus has identified funding needs on the order of several hundred thousand dollars to organize and conduct the Delta Diversions campaign. They need seed money to write the grants to secure the funding. The Bay-Delta committee of NCCFFF is joining a group of contributors by providing \$3000 towards this effort. Our financial support for this important action was made possible by fundraising activities associated with the annual Striperfest.

Wild Steelhead Committee identifies fish barrier project - Norm Ploss The NCCFFF Wild Steelhead Committee is gearing up to tackle a barrier removal project on Alameda Creek in Alameda County. The concrete apron drop structure near the USGS Gauging Station on Alameda Creek is the last barrier that needed a "champion" to pursue its modification. It is a perfect project for a non-governmental organization to demonstrate its capabilities in a model project. On-thearound conditions will be greatly improved with the elimination of this juvenile and adult steelhead mid and low flow barrier. We will be working with the Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Work Group, Alameda Creek Alliance, Center for Environmental Management and Restoration (CEMAR), and the Agencies who have influence over the stream and facility. Seed money was provided by FFF through a grant awarded to NCCFFF. Additional grant funding is being sought from National Wildlife Federation.

DFG forms Hat Creek Technical Advisory Committee

As part of the conditions for the new Pit River FERC, funds have been allocated for restoration on Hat Creek. DFG Region 1 has formed a Technical Advisory Committee to help coordinate the planning for this work. FFF member Ed Belcher of Shasta Fly Fishers represented NCCFFF at the initial meeting held earlier this month.



Monthly Fly Tying Contest Sponsored by American Fly Fishing Company

3523 Fair Oaks Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95864 916-483-1222 800-410-1222

www.americanfly.com

Tie the Pattern of the Month for a chance to win a \$25 Gift Certificate for American Fly Fishing Company. The patterns submitted will be judged by our esteemed fly tying chairman and selected evaluators. Judging criteria are the pattern tied most closely to the Fly of the Month instructions, fly construction skills and best representation of the pattern. Judges decision will be final. Patterns will be assigned a number and judged anonymously. When you arrive at the meeting, sign in and place a numbered tag on your pattern. Submitters are not eligible to judge.

THIS MONTH's Pattern Bitch Creek Nymph

(Woven Body)



The Bitch Creek nymph probably originated in Montana, but its parentage is really unknown. Used as a searching pattern or a stonefly imitation it can be a very effective fly. Both a yellow (pictured) and an orange and black version are popular. Normally the fly is weighted with lead or lead substitute and should be fished well down in the water. There are two ways to make the abdomen (body) of the fly. Black and orange chenille can be woven to make the body or the body can be wrapped with orange and the black simply pulled over the body to give a dark back. If the black chenille is pulled over, it helps to rib the body with strong thread to keep the chenille in place.

Thread: Black 6/0 prewaxed

look: 2x or 3x long hook, TMC 5262, 5263,

Mustad 9672

Tail: Two round white rubber legs shank length or

less

Body: Woven black and orange chenille **Rib**: Orange or yellow monochord (optional)

Wing: none

Thorax: Black chenille, ribbed with brown hackle. **Antenna:** Two white rubber legs shank length or

less.

Tying Instructions: Attach the tying thread near the eye and lay down a base of thread. Weight the fly using lead wire (or lead substitute) in the thorax area or the whole shank. Build a smooth transition to the eye and the body. Bring the thread to the tail position and tie in two rubber legs to make a forked tail about shank length. Tie in a length of orange and black chenille. Stripping a small section of the fibers from the thread core will reduce the bulk at the tie in point. There are three ways to proceed. One option is to wrap the body with orange chenille and pull the black over the back to make a twotoned body. Another option is to wrap the black and pull the orange under to achieve the two tone look. In these methods a rib or crisscrossing the body with tying thread is necessary to hold the chenille in place. A third option is to weave the black and orange chenille. In this case the black chenille should be toward you and the orange on the opposite side of the shank. Weave the back and orange chenille to give an orange belly and black back to the abdomen area of the fly. In this case bring the black over the back, wrap the orange around the black and bring the black back over the top and the orange underneath the body. On the opposite side again bring the orange over the black and repeat until the abdomen is complete.

Continuous Weaving Process

An alternative method to develop the two tone abdomen is a continuous weaving technique. In this case, tie off the thread and remove the bobbin after attaching the black and orange chenille. Grasp and hold the strands of chenille between your thumbs and index fingers and align them at right angles to the hook shank. The black chenille should be radiating toward you and the orange chenille should be pointing away from you. There should be about three to four inches of material between your fingers and the hook. The palms of your left and right hands will be pointing to the front and back of the fly respectively. Bring the black chenille in your right hand over the hook shank until

it is aligned with and in front of the orange chenille. Both the orange and black chenille should now be at right angles to the shank on the side of the hook opposite you. The left hand will be above the shank level and the right hand will be below the hook. Maintaining tension on the orange chenille, bring it over the black chenille and pull it parallel with the shank pointing forward. Pull the black chenille toward the rear of the hook with light tension and maintain the black chenille at the same elevation as the hook shank. Bring the orange strand under the hook shank (clockwise) to the near side of the fly and hold the material so that it is pointing up. Now return (rotate clockwise) the black chenille to the near side of the fly over the shank to the tier's side finishing at a right angle to the shank and again at the same elevation as the hook shank. Bring the orange chenille over the black chenille and back under the shank to the far side. Maintaining tension on the black chenille. bring it over the shank as described above. Continue this process until the abdomen is woven. The technique takes a little practice and is easier if the shank is cover with the ends of the chenille or lead wire (i.e. thicker). On a bare shank the material rotates easily and makes the process more difficult. Smaller chenille makes for a neater fly. Use the smallest chenille that is practical for the size of the fly.

Finishing the Fly

When the abdomen is finished, hold the chenille and reattach the thread. Bind down the chenille and attach a length of black chenille and a brown hackle. Bring the thread to the eye position and tie in two white rubber legs that extend forward from the eye about one shank length. Build a thorax with the black chenille and rib with the brown hackle. Tie off the chenille and hackle at the eye, build a thread head, whip finish and cement.

DAVIS FLY FISHING COURSE Needs Equipment..

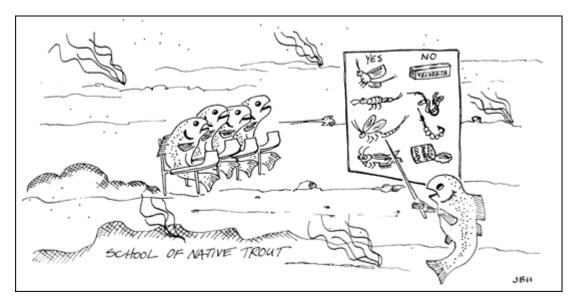
"Jeff Hogan and myself, are introducing a new physical education class here at UCDavis "Fly Fishing for the Novice" which is a graded class. The intent is to start from the basics, and as the class terminates in June encourage them to continue with John Salido's class. I hope to encourage FFD club members to donate used equipment to help with our class. They can contact me by phone or my email shown below. Many thanks."

Jon Vochatzer, Head Track Coach UCDavis, jevochatzer@ucdavis.edu 530-752-8608

Kelsey Bass Ranch and Sugar Creek Ranch outings cancelled due to lack of interest.

Sugar Creek Report;

Sunday, April 10th, I fished Sugar Creek from 2pm to 8pm with excellent success. I landed more than 20 fish between 2 and 8 lbs using dries and emergers and 5x or 6x tippet. The fish were really working the surface and did not mind the 5x fluorocarbon tippet. But I ran out and used 6x on fish up to 5 pounds. We are planning another SGR Fall outing for Saturday, November 13th in conjunction with the last few days of trout season on the Upper Sac. Fish SGR on Saturday and Upper Sac on Sunday. If interested, contact Ron Rabun



----- OUTINGS 2004-----

Signups continue to be the focal point at the next meeting:

5/15 Paynes Ranch - 5/28 shad - 6/4 Davis with Yamsi, FULL - 7/16-18 Lewiston - 2 August back packing trips (Young Studs and Ole Fogies) - Half-pounders trip in early September (presumably 9/9-12) and, 10/16 The Fly Shop Sac River trip.

There will also be a report on Pyramid and the 4/17 trip. As for the 4/2 lower elevation lake trip, suffice it to say that there are many with too little faith or misplaced priorities (with 20/20 hindsight). In about the equivalent of 3 and 1/4 fishing person days the three attendees landed over 75 trout (most in the 14-15 inch range and up to Dennis Rolston's 18 incher). The were an abundance of long distance releases or otherwise we missed at least 100 more. Next year, there will hopefully be more member will be able to attend.

Cary Boyden, Chairman, 530-753-3826

2004 OUTING SCHEDULE (tentative dates)

TRIP	FISH	DATES	FISHMEISTER	Comments/
				Fees
Iron Canyon	Trout	March 19 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Pyramid	Cutthroat	April	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	
Kelsey Ranch	Bass	Thursday April 29 th	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	\$50
Payne's Ranch	Bass	May 15 th	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	
Sugar Creek Ranch	Trout	Friday May 7 th	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	\$130pp incl lunch.
Shad/tbd	Shad	May 28 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Yamsi Ranch	Trout	June 4 th -5 th	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	\$100 rod per day
Davis Lake	Trout	June 4-5-6	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Lewiston	Trout	July 17 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Backpacking YS	Trout	August	John Forsyth 530-750-1192	
Backpacking OF	Trout	August	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	
Klamath	Half Pounders	September	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Pleasant Valley	Trout	September	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	Fee TBD
Redding/Sacramento	Trout/stlhd	October 16th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	140.00 plus tip
Delta	Stripers	October	Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149	
Upper Sac	Trout	November	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	
Sugar Creek	Trout	November	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	\$130
Pyramid	Cutthroat	November	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	







Officers, Directors and Committees

	530-750-1192
-	
	530-756-2331
Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722
Bob Pearcy	530-756-0932
John Hodgson	530-756-8095
Jerry Pollock	916-682-7798
Tom Burton	707-678-3850
Tom Vail	530-662-0733
Adney Bowker	530-758-2674
Dennis Rolston	530-758-5135
Cary Boyden	530-753-3826
Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722
John Reynolds	530-753-2682
Dan Dahum	
Ron Rabun	800-359-3746
Dave Driscoll	800-359-3746 707-446-2671
Dave Driscoll	707-446-2671
Dave Driscoll Ron Rabun	707-446-2671 800-359-3746
Dave Driscoll Ron Rabun Jon Knapp	707-446-2671 800-359-3746 530-756-9056
Dave Driscoll Ron Rabun Jon Knapp John Forsyth	707-446-2671 800-359-3746 530-756-9056 530-750-1192
Dave Driscoll Ron Rabun Jon Knapp John Forsyth Bob Zasoski	707-446-2671 800-359-3746 530-756-9056 530-750-1192 530-753-2241
	John Hodgson Jerry Pollock Tom Burton Tom Vail Adney Bowker Dennis Rolston Cary Boyden Lowell Ashbaugh

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The Fly Fishers of Davis (FFD) is a non-Profit 501.C.3 charitable organization dedicated to the education, participation, conservation and enhancement of fly fishing. Annual associate membership is \$25 beginning with each calendar year. FFD meets monthly except for the month of August. Regular monthly meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except for December and January. December meetings are held the second Tuesday to accommodate holiday schedules. January hosts the Annual Dinner meeting which is scheduled in the latter part of the month based upon facility arrangements.

FFD is an affiliate club of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), an international nonprofit organization, and its Northern California Council (NCCFFF) affiliate.

Meetings and membership are opened to the public.

The Fly Fishers of Davis provide equal opportunity membership without discrimination on sex, race, origin, age or religious orientation.

E-Newsletter Policy

Our e-newsletter policy is to deliver the e-newsletter via email OR for you to download it from the FFD website, http://www.cal.net/flyfish/.

Be sure if you signed up for the \$25 annual membership you get your email address to 'ronrabun@snowcrest.net". This will assure you get an email notification for the newsletter. OR, every month the e-version of the newsletter will be posted no later than the 20th of each month for download. (except for August). You will need the free Adobe Reader, latest version 5.0, (www.adobe.com) to view the PDF format. e reader at www.adobe.com. If you receive the paper version, you can also get the e-version notification by sending your email to Ron

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