

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

DECEMBER 2008

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 13, No. 12

December Meeting

Closing 2008 with a Very Special Program

On Monday evening, December 1st, we are extremely pleased to present what may be one of our most exciting programs of the year. In September, while fishing in Mammoth, several of our members met **Joe Contaldi**, owner of Performance Anglers in Mammoth Lakes. Joe is one of the most enthusiastic gentleman we ever met. In describing Joe's presentation, the Santa Cruz Fly Fishers said, "his enthusiasm ran off the edges of every slide to hit the screen."

Joe has a long history in the fishing industry, including fourteen years as

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MEETING NOTICE

Monday, December 1, 2008
7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School
4690 Limerick Avenue
(See map on back page)

REMINDER

Volunteer hosts for this meeting
(report at 6:15 PM)

**Vern Blaney, Shelly Wagner,
and Gordie Zimm**

Thank You, Mona Morebello

Fishing the Eastern Sierras

A perspective of fishing for a half-century

by Roger Yamasaki

I am finally able to get my article into the newsletter. I actually had a fishing report that I was going to submit after the opening week of trout season in the Sierras. But our membership has been so good at submitting articles throughout the year that I have held off until now. This is a good thing. Keep those articles flowing in.

Well the season for Mono County is officially over for 2008. I did get a chance to get another fishing trip in at the end of September. This changed the entire scope of my original article.

Rather than talk about just the opening week of trout season I thought I would give my perspective of 50 years fishing in the Sierras.

I hate to admit it but yes I am old. I am now at that age when I can talk about "the old days" and "how it used to be". I am now a grandfather (heaven forbid!).

I started fishing the "high sierras" as



we called it back then when I was about 9 or 10 years old. My mom and dad were not wealthy so an inexpensive trip for me and my two brothers was a fishing trip to the sierras.

Because a fishing license for any kid under 16 years old was free, my dad could provide a week's worth of cheap entertainment for virtually no cost but for a pound of Velveeta cheese--the bait of choice.

We stayed at places that still exist today--Tamarack Lodge on Twin Lakes, Boulder Lodge on June Lake, in a tent at a campground I can't remember, and one time at Camp High

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: DECEMBER 2008

I've been in this club almost twenty years and some of the best trips I've heard about are the ones taken by our very own club members. Last month's presentation by **Jim Behrend** is a perfect example. Jim shared some of the experiences he and his wife, Pat, had during their fishing trip to New Zealand. Jim was able to detail for us what it's like to stalk and sight cast to large individual fish. In his presentation we got to see some of the natural beauty of New Zealand and some really big fish! When I think of the places to fish on my "Bucket List", New Zealand is on it.

For those of you who are new to fly fishing or who haven't done a lot of it, extremely technical fishing like that found in New Zealand and elsewhere might seem pretty intimidating. I know I feel like I would have to do a lot of practicing before going on a trip like that. That's where our new Mentorship Program fits in. **Bob Pharoah** has done a great job organizing this program! It's a terrific opportunity to pair our club members who are new to fly fishing or who just want to improve their skills with other experienced fishermen in the club to go out and go fishing! It fits in nicely with our other programs that include our Sunday fly casting, fly tying program, video library and monthly meetings. If you're interested, please see Bob at our meetings and sign up! He'll be the guy with the big smile on his face standing next to the mentorship sign.

Lucky Ketchum has just kicked off

our membership renewal campaign for the coming year. Our board plus a host of club volunteers have done a number of things to bring value to our club members. In addition to those already mentioned above, this year we made enhancements to our website, conducted some fishing clinics and participated in numerous conservation, community and educational events. I know the board will continue to build on these programs next year as well. Please don't delay and renew your membership now!



JONATHAN HEE

Speaking of members, I would like to welcome some recent new members to San Diego Fly Fishers. These include **Bruce Bechard, Heidi Brown, Michael Bruce, Tom and Karen Giuggio, Bruce Harris, Suzy Lahitte and Tom Rundlett**. Welcome! I would also like to welcome back **Scott Shenk** to the club. Scott just renewed his dues after spending a year in Iraq with the Navy. Scott our thanks to you and all of our men and women in the military service for everything you do for our country!

Please hold the date for our Annual Banquet, which will be held on Monday, January 5, 2009. Even with costs going up, the Board has decided to hold the line on prices this year at \$25.00 per person. The banquet will once again be at the Admiral Baker Clubhouse. We'll have a great meal along with some fun door prizes. Tickets will be on sale at our next monthly meeting.

Tight Lines!

New Member Program - Extension for 2009

San Diego Fly Fishers is extending our special offer on dues for new members who join the club for the 2009 membership year with a slight modification. New members will pay the normal annual dues but will get a **\$5.00 rebate** in the form of \$5.00 worth of monthly raffle tickets for free! In addition, any new members who joined in 2008 or who join for 2009 prior to the end of 2008 will automatically be eligible for a special drawing at our Annual Banquet in January.

December Speaker

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general manager for one of the biggest outdoor retailers in the western United States. He has operated saltwater charters and taught casting and tying. In 2004, he moved with his family to Mammoth Lakes to open Performance Anglers.

As most of you know, we regularly arrange for some presentation on the Eastern Sierra. However, this one will be different. Joe has promised a program dealing with fishing the streams in and around Mammoth and, in particular, fishing Hot Creek and the Upper Owens under the new winter regulations. He has also promised to share one or more of his "secret spots."

Take one night out of your busy holiday schedule and join us. This presentation promises to get us ready for 2009!



**San Diego Fly Fishers
Annual "STROUD" Banquet
Monday January 5th 2009
6:30 to 9:00 PM
Admiral Baker Clubhouse
U.S. Navy Recreation Center**

**Come celebrate another successful year for the
San Diego Fly Fishers.**

**The price is only \$25 per person for a great buffet.
Spouses and guests are welcome!**

I Love a Clean San Diego, Lake Murray Shorelines, September 20, 2008

Report by Lucky Ketcham

Ed Velton led a small group of San Diego Fly Fishers for the monthly clean up of trash and debris along the shoreline. Ed used his float tube to pull three large bags of debris from the reeds and muck along the first bay arm that runs from our casting area to Baltimore. Ed started at 6 AM and was finished by 9:30 AM when the majority of the Boy Scouts, youth groups, and friends of Lake Murray were just getting started. Ed said that he found many treasures including: plastic bait containers, grocery bags, beer cans, one tennis shoe, fishing line, and a pair of women's underwear — all sort of interesting stuff. Working from a tube is a good way to clean the lake. Most of the stuff falls in the water and the only way you can get at it is working from the water; like from a float tube.

Ed never got around to the San Carlos arm nor did I see any of the boats working it.

Barry Pechersky and Lucky Ketcham were working the shore and brush areas near the parking lots on foot. The onshore trash was not as interesting. We picked hundreds of cigarette butts, candy and food wrappers along with the plastic cups and debris blown into the sage brush.

I spoke to Barbara Cleves from I Love a Clean San Diego and Friends of Lake Murray. She thanked the club for Ed's efforts to try to clean the hard to get debris from the reeds and near shore. The Friends of Lake Murray police trash from the trails on the second Saturday of every month but they have a difficult time trying to get

the fishing line and plastics in the reeds. She invited our group to use our float tubes and join them again some second Saturday. We discussed the importance of teaching youth and in-experienced fishermen and women to properly dispose of their excess monofilament. The special tubes for mono disposal that the SDFF Board has suggested should be moved up as a priority. Barbara told of several ravens, owls and night herons that have been found hanging from mono, dead in trees. Even if mono is thrown in the large open trash cans, it is still a danger to birds and squirrels. The ravens and seagulls will fly into the trash cans for food or rodents and then fly off with the mono entangled around their neck or legs. It would be better to have a few PVC tubes around

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My friend Floyd Sabins, from the Orange County Fly Fishers, replied to my bonito fishing story with this great report on his September trip to Alaska. I think his 29-1/2 inch rainbow trumps my four pound bonito by a wide margin. Way to go Floyd! --Lucky

KVICHAK RIVER, ALASKA

SEPTEMBER, 2008

Floyd Sabins

My son Ed accompanied me on my annual trip to the Kvichak River in early September. I have always used the Alaska Sportsman's Lodge. The manager Brian Kraft spoke to FFCOC a few years ago. The Kvichak River flows westward from Lake Iliamna (Alaska's largest lake) into Bristol Bay which hosts the world's largest concentration of sockeye salmon. In late summer the salmon migrate up the river to spawn - Lake Iliamna has a population of large rainbows that move into the river to feed on salmon eggs, typically in early September. We drift fish from boats using an indicator system with 9 foot, 15 pound leader, split shot and a plastic egg pegged 2 inches above the hook. This arrangement prevents the trout from swallowing the hook, which ensures a hook-set in the jaw and an easy release. We both use 8-weight rods and floating lines.

Early September is typically a prime week with a few 30-inch fish landed daily by Lodge clients. This summer was unusually cold for Anchorage and southwest Alaska and the sockeye run was delayed by a few weeks. As a result the Lodge had landed only a single 30 inch fish when we arrived. During our week only four 30 inch fish were landed, but there were plenty of trout in the 26 to 29 inch range. My best was a 29.5 by 17 inch fish (see photo). Applying the weight formula gives an estimate of almost 11 pounds. Ed's best was a very respectable 28.5 inches.

We also did flyout trips to the Kulik and Battle Rivers, which we had not fished before. We used the same egg rig as on the Kvichak. Dealing with large rainbows in fast water was challenging and rewarding.

Our favorite rivers for silver salmon and bears (Kamishak and Big River) were blown out by heavy winds. We did a flyout for silver salmon to the Nak Nak River near the town of King Salmon. Despite the rain and wind we did modestly well. In summary this was another great trip to the Great Land.



Fishing the Eastern Sierras

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Sierra run by the City of Los Angeles. I also camped at Horseshoe Lake group campsite when I was with the Boy Scouts.

Later when I was on my own we stayed at places like Tom's Place and condos like Sierra Manors, Mammoth View Villas, Crestview, and camped out at Shady Rest, Twin Lakes, and Pleasant Valley Dam. Now I have the luxury of staying at my brother-in-law's condo.



After a day of fishing on June Lake in 1963. That's me on the far right. The little kid to my right is my brother Rick.

As you can imagine the town of Mammoth Lakes has really changed. Kittridge Sports (the A-frame building on Main Street) was about the only major fishing store. And there were no McDonalds, Carl's Jr., Kentucky Fried Chicken, Chart House, or Shakeys Pizza. I believe Whiskey Creek was one of the early restaurants to Mammoth.

I switched from bait fishing to

flyfishing in 1992. The one constant in all of the changes over the years has been the fishing. I still fish the same places I did 50 years ago. And the fishing experience still makes me feel like a kid.

When I got married 25 years ago, the first vacation my wife and I (and her two kids from her previous marriage) took was to the sierras. I wanted them to understand the beauty of the great outdoors--the whole back-to-nature, fishing experience that I experienced as a child.

For the fisherman, the Eastern Sierras is a place where you can get quality and quantity fishing.

At this year's opening week of fishing, my brother and I fished Gull Lake of all places. The wind was up on Crowley so we found a little shelter on the backside of Gull Lake. I admit I got lucky and for the first time in 50 years of fishing the sierras I caught an Alpers trout. You hear about the Alpers trout but you don't really fish for them. What I mean is if they happen to be where you are fishing, then fine you may catch one. But this trout has never been a factor in my decision as to where to fish. Well anyway I hooked into this Alpers and it was the toughest trout to land that I had ever experienced. This trout refused to give up. I eventually got it to the net (See photo on this page).



My mom (on the far left) with a couple of her pals after fishing on Twin Lakes in 1959.

If that wasn't enough luck after going elsewhere the next day to do some stream fishing we thought we would give Gull Lake a shot again. Darned if I didn't catch another one. (See photo on page 1). Alpers trout on back-to-back days. My brother has fished the sierras as long as I have, maybe more times even, and still has not caught one. He said with a grin "You own this lake".



Fast forward to September. Crowley Lake is suffering from one of the slowest seasons--ever. The lake level is way down and even the guides are saying *it's slow*. And you know when a guide says it's slow it has got to be *really* slow. Because those guys are always optimistic.

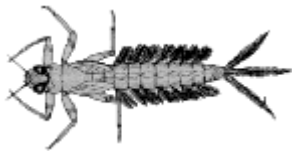


Fishing the Eastern Sierras

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So we decided to go out and just fish for some stockers at Lake Virginia, Lake George, and Lake Lundy. This is where the quantity part comes in. I personally caught and released over 100 fish in three days of fishing. It could have been more but I get tired after about 30-40 fish so I just quit and relax for the rest of the day.

This is the kind of fishing action that is available in the Eastern Sierras and what keeps me coming back year after year. Some day when my grandson is old enough I'll get him up there.



Do you remember when the Mammoth Mountain ski lifts looked like this?



Here is something you won't see anymore--bait fishing on Hot Creek near the hatchery--legal back in 1960.



I Love a Clean San Diego

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labeled specifically for used fish line, or teach people to roll up the line and enclose it in a bag or container. When we have an opportunity to teach fly fishing, we should take the time to discuss proper disposal of fishing line and hooks.

Ed did a great job by himself and represented the club very well. Barbara Cleves reported that she has heard many good comments about the San Diego Fly Fishers and our conservation and volunteer efforts. Maybe we could make a sub-committee in the Conservation section to coordinate a flotilla of float tubes to remove fishing line, hooks and shoreline debris from

some of our favorite lakes. Most of our members will collect fishing line where we see it and harvest the split shot, hooks and spinners from the reeds. Once or twice a year it might be good to participate in the more organized Coastal and Lakes Cleanup days.

This event was well attended by many groups. There were lots of families, enjoying the nice morning. They ran around the easy to get to areas like ants. I Love a Clean San Diego, provided registration forms, trash bags, coffee, iced tea, lemonade and some snacks. Sempra Energy provided

pizza at lunch and had their employees painting all the picnic tables and benches a light tan color. They washed the tables and removed as much graffiti as possible.

Ed Velton is a great example and mentor for stewardship of waters. He showed up three hours early, did his work and left without asking for any recognition. He was hard at work while I was still sleeping or thinking about coffee and breakfast. He is younger at heart and spirit than most of our members. Great job Ed! Thanks Barry and any others that worked but did not seek recognition.



FLY OF THE MONTH

Kaufman's Sparkle Caddis Pupa

Black Biot

Photo and recipe by Norb Spitzer, August 26, 2008, notes by Lucky

- Hook:** Light wire, wide gape, scud or emerger hook, TMC 2487, Mustad 80250BR, Daiichi 1130, Size 16, 18, 20
- Thread:** Black 8/0
- Body:** Black (or green) Goose biot over thread base. (Rib side is out)
- Over body:** A strip of white/clear/sparkle yarn = Antron. I use about one half of a strip as it comes off a standard spool.
- Wings:** Thin mallard breast strips, separated as short emerger wing buds
- Hackle/legs:** Partridge well marked, tied as a beard.
- Head:** Black Marabou



Kaufman's Black Biot Sparkle Caddis Pupa is one of the flies Norb Spitzer recommended for Hot Creek at Mammoth Lakes in the Eastern Sierras. The small dark black or olive caddis was a good choice in late August and should work into September and October. Norb notes that it should be fished as a dry fly in the film when the fish are rising to emerging caddis right at dusk or during any caddis hatch. The Antron sparkle yarn represents the gas filled exoskeleton or shuck of the emerging caddis. The pattern shows the well segmented abdomen of the caddis more distinctly than the similar full Antron bubble, Gary La Fontaine's Sparkle Emerger.

Remove the barb and mount a TMC 2487, light wire, curved emerger hook in the vise. Attach the black thread behind the eye with a jam knot and wrap a tight thread base to mid shank. Select a small strip of clear/white sparkle yarn, about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a standard yarn of spooled Antron for the size 18 nymph. Attach one end at the mid shank, pull tight and over wrap with black thread well into the bend. Let the Antron hang to the rear as you attach a black goose biot by the tip. Look at the little notch at the base of the biot to help you pick the side of the biot with the ridge. If the notch is to the right, a biot wrapped clockwise should have the visible ridge. Notch to the left produces a

smoother segmented body more like a quill body style. (Either way will work.) Advance the thread to the $\frac{3}{4}$ shank point and follow with the biot. Secure the biot with three tight wraps of thread and trim excess biot.

Gary La Fontaine teaches to run a comb through the Antron fibers before pulling it forward to make the bubble of sparkle yarn. Randall Kaufman's pattern only has the Antron bubble on the top side. Pull the yarn forward and make two soft pinches of thread at the $\frac{3}{4}$ shank. Slip your bodkin needle under the band of yarn and pull back slightly to form a larger, puffy loop. Now make a few tight wraps of thread to secure. Trim off the excess yarn. Form emerging wing buds by attaching two thin slips of barred mallard flank on top of the hook shank at the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark. The wings should be only 3 or 4 fibers each and relatively short to the hook bend or less. Add a beard of 6 to 8 well marked partridge fibers for legs. The tips should just touch the hook barb. Cover the butt ends of the mallard and partridge with one or two strands of black marabou dubbed onto the tying thread. The marabou fibers will create a thorax with some movement. Secure and trim excess. Form a small head with a three wrap whip finish. Apply a small drop of head cement to the thread wraps.

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LIMITED OFFER...FIRST 7 PEOPLE TO SIGN-UP WIN!

...an opportunity to serve Sdff as a meeting host in 2009.

New members (especially) this is a terrific job. You only have to work 47 minutes **ONE TIME**, wow! This job requires that you come a few minutes early to help set-up chairs, nametags and audio-visual equipment and stay after a few minutes to help put things away.

Thanks to the 21 people who signed-up at the November meeting but we still need **7 more volunteers** so bring your calendars to the December meeting. No need to know what you will be doing in 2009. The sign-ups will be published in the January *Finny Facts* together with directions on how to set-up and break-down. If you cannot attend your scheduled meeting, call and trade with other hosts.

Isn't it time that EVERYONE give something back to Sdff in return for the wonderful benefits of club membership? (field trips, prizes, classes, clinics, speakers, newsletters, conservation opportunities)

EVERYONE HAS 47 minutes in one calendar year!

Sign-up at the December 1st meeting. (Mona Morebello)

Kaufman Sparkle Caddis Pupa

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If you added two strands of Antron, one on top and one on the bottom, you change this pattern into Gary La Fontaine's Sparkle Emerger. Gary uses a shorter wing bud and dubbing for the thorax. If is tied on the heavier version of the curved hook TMC 2457 and weighted, it becomes the Deep Sparkle Emerger that is fished along the bottom. Norbert recommends both patterns tied with the black biot body in size 18 for Hot Creek in August and September.



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Stroud Award
 2004-Jim Brown
 2005-Allen Greenwood
 2006- Hugh Marx
 2007- Mike Rivkin



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GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service
 to the flyfishing community

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1991-Ned Sewell | 2000-Tom Smith |
| 1992-Bob Camp | 2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki |
| 1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud | 2002-Larry Sorensen |
| 1994-Ed Velton | 2003-Jim Tenuto |
| 1995-Bob Wisner | 2004-Joe Bain |
| 1996-Gary Hilbers | 2005-Jim Reeg |
| 1997-Jack Bentley | 2006-John Kasten |
| 1998-Gordie Zimm | 2007-Lucky Ketcham |
| 1999-Gretchen Yearous | |

Cutoff date for **January FINNY FACTS**
 articles---Friday December 12th.

Send articles to:
 Rose and Roger Yamasaki,
 5415 Lodi Place
 San Diego, CA 92117
 858-274-2712.

You can E-mail at finnyfacts@gmail.com Thanks!!

Send change of address information,signup for
 electronic version of newsletter, or Club mem-
 bership renewal to:

Lucky Ketcham



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2008 OFFICERS**

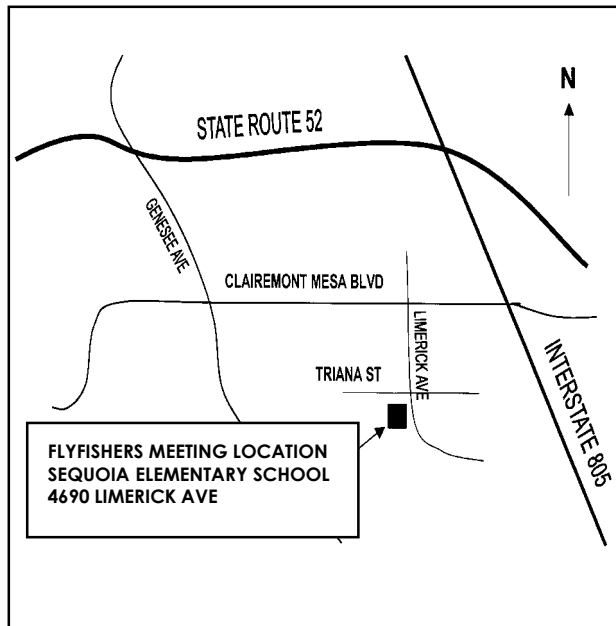
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Meeting Place for Workshops

San Carlos Recreation Center near Lake Murray. (We no longer meet at the Lake Murray Water Training Facility at Lake Murray). The address is 6445 Lake Badin Ave. To get there from Hwy. 8, take the Lake Murray Blvd. exit just like you were going to the lake. Instead of turning into Kiowa, keep going on Lake Murray Blvd. another 1.6 miles. When you come to Lake Adlon Drive, (first corner past Jackson Dr.) turn left. Go down three blocks and the recreation center will be on your right. It is on the corner of Lake Adlon and Lake Badin.



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**San Diego
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