

May Meeting

## Fly Fishing the Kern River



**Guy Jeans**, owner/guide of Kern River Fly Shop and Kern River Fly Fishing Guide Service in Kernville, California. An avid fly fisherman for the past 25 years Guy spends about 250 days a year guiding fly fishing anglers from around the world in and around the Southern

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### MEETING NOTICE

Monday, May 5, 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)

**George Yackey  
and Pat Craychee**

*Thank You, Mona Morebello*

## Fly Fishing the Salt with Kim Jones and Lucky Ketcham

San Diego Bay, Tidelands Park, Coronado, CA

March 25, 2008

8:00 A.M. until 12:00--a small incoming high tide.

Fishing Report by Lucky Ketcham

I hate to be a competitive fly fisher, especially when I do not catch the most or at least the biggest fish. This was my first time fishing with Kim Jones and I was aware of her great fishing reputation. I wanted to be on my game, but somehow her little red clouser minnows with the red Zonker strip tails just produced more movement and more fish. I caught two spotted bay bass on the curved sand bar and a nice 16 inch sand bass near bridge piling #7. I worked very hard to catch those three fish while watching Kim catch fish after fish after fish. It was reminiscent of fishing with Paul Britting on the Big Horn. I kept saying "not another one," as I would see the rod bend and Kim's big smile.

I have to say that I enjoyed fishing and talking with Kim as we kicked around in some of my favorite spots at Tidelands. It was interesting that most of Kim's favorite drifts were identical to spots that I have learned to love.

The following is Kim's report: I hit Tidelands today, met up with Lucky in the parking lot and launched by 8:15 (can you say lazy toad). The weather was cool and foggy, water was dead calm until 10am when a light wind came up. Fishing started slow, I was using a ghost-shrimp pattern I had created....nothing hit so I switch to the "Bernie" clouser (red/white) and the fishing began. Lucky and I kicked out to the white and yellow buoys near the last row of anchored boats, we pretty much kicked in and out of that area for a good portion of the morning, I picked up almost all of my spotties in and around this area. I also picked up 4 of my six hali's in this general area and two yellow fin croakers. Late in the morning Lucky and I both took a restroom break and then headed for the bridge area. On my way to the first bridge post I hooked into number 5 hali and a couple of spotties, Lucky kicked all the way to post number 7 while I hung around number 1. While

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: MAY 2008

For those of you who came to our March meeting you heard one of the most interesting presentations we've had in a very long time! It was a wonderful story about how a fly fisherman from Montana ends up becoming a sailor, gets assigned to the Army in Iraq, learns to fish some of Saddam's personal lakes and establishes the Bagdad School of Fly Fishing! I know it's not a destination many in our club have on their list of places to fish, but it was an extremely well received presentation. We got a glimpse into how one person, **LCDR Joel Stewart, USN**, and his love of fly fishing brought some much needed recreation and diversion to our men and women serving our country in Iraq. Joel, you have the respect and thanks of SDFP for your service! We're also pleased to welcome you as a new member of our club. Like all good fishing stories, we also saw some BIG fish caught on the fly. For those of you interested in learning more, the website is [www.bagdadflyfishing.com](http://www.bagdadflyfishing.com).

**Larry Sorensen** and his team are planning a terrific raffle for June. We're raffling off some great prizes including a custom-made bamboo rod. Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets – and buy them often! All proceeds go towards conservation efforts of the club.

I would also like to thank long time member, **John Kasten**, who recently made a very generous cash donation to the club. Thanks John for your on-going support. As a reminder, our club

qualifies as a 501 (c, 3) non-profit organization. Donations to the club are tax deductible.

I wanted to provide you with a recap from the survey we took last year. Thank you for some great feedback which the Board is now using for our planning. We had approximately 40 responses. You told us that the majority of you have been club members for 5 years or more. Greater than 90% of you are trout fisherman, but 40 – 45% of you also fish warm water, the surf and bay/inshore. The club activities with the highest levels of interest include our monthly meetings and raffle, the annual raffle, the annual banquet, club trips, Sunday fly casting and just connecting with others. The majority of you are also interested in celebrity seminars, conservation activities and our Fly Tying congress. Over 90% of you use the Finny Facts for communication, but nearly half of you also receive the **Kim Jones** e-mail fish reports.

You gave us some good guidance for planning our future programs. You told us you like hearing about trout, saltwater and still water fishing. Nearly 70% of you are also interested in hearing about warm water fishing. Regarding destinations, most of you are interested in hearing about fly fishing in California followed by local fly fishing then other parts of the USA. You like hearing about techniques and also like fly tying demonstrations. You'll see now, that we've asked our speakers to do some tying before their presentation, if they are willing. Our Member Presents

programs also get high marks.

One thing we asked you about was whether we should schedule a July meeting or not. Historically, this has been a poorly attended meeting because of vacations, fishing trips and frequent conflict with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. There is significant support for discontinuing this meeting so this year we will not be having a July meeting. **Lee McElravy** provides further detail in this month's Finny Facts. We'll try it this year and see how it goes.

The Board is also working on organizing some fishing clinics/local outings. Ideas include a surf fishing clinic, bay fishing and float tubing one of our lakes. We'll keep you posted as these come to fruition.

Tight Lines!

### Discounted Offer to Join Federation of Fly Fishers Has been Extended

As a member of San Diego Fly Fishers, you're eligible for a limited time to join FFF at a steeply discounted rate. Instead of paying the normal \$35, the fee is just \$15. In return, you get a full year's subscription to their magazine, reduced rates to their workshops and shows and your dues also support the education and conservation efforts of FFF. The club also benefits by earning a free rod, which will be donated to our raffle, if we sign up 12 members. The deadline has been extended to June 30. If interested, please contact Jon Hee at for a special application form.



JONATHAN HEE



## Support the SDFF Annual Raffle; Your Raffle Dollars at Work

Many of you have asked how you can help with the clubs conservation efforts. We have several projects in the planning stages. The most promising is a project to replant the fire damaged Cedar Creek trout habitat area, within the Inaja Reservation, with seedling Jeffery pines and native cedars.

In the mean time there is a way we can all help...and it is fun! SUPPORT THE SDFF ANNUAL RAFFLE and SILENT AUCTION. Please buy your tickets soon. You can always buy more at the door. Also, for those of you that would like to donate items, please contact Larry Sorensen. Remember everything you do to support the raffle and auction directly helps our conservation and education efforts.

Per club policy, 100% of the proceeds from the Annual Raffle and Silent Auction are donated for conservation and education projects. Each donation is reviewed and approved by the SDFF Board of Directors. As of this writing, we have donated \$5,109 of the 2007 Raffle and auction proceeds of \$6,117, leaving \$1,008.26 in the contingency fund. We are always looking for worthwhile projects that need our support. We welcome your suggestions.

Here is a detailed listing of our donations over the past year:

\$673 - California Golden Trout Wilderness: supplies and equipment for volunteer work projects

\$100 - San Diego Wild Life Federation: annual membership

\$500 - Stroud Award: Lake Jennings Park Ranger Hugh Marks- designated for youth fishing projects

\$500 - Lake Crowley Fishing Derby: Tom Loe- designated for Lake Crowley conservation projects

\$250 - San Diego River Park: water quality monitoring supplies for volunteer projects

\$500 - Cal Trout: designated for Eastern Sierra conservation projects

\$500 - Trout Unlimited: check sent directly to T.U.'s California Golden Trout Volunteer Coordinator

\$500 - Chollas Lake Youth Fishing Programs: Barnacle Bills Bait and Tackle for supplies

\$500 - San Diego Public Library: fly fishing books (matching funds program)

\$306 - Fly Tying Training- supplies

\$280 - San Diego Trout: block net and installation supplies for Doane Pond in Palomar Mt State park

For anyone interested in helping to stop the spread of Quagga Muscles, there will be two local workshops presented by UC Irvine Extension Service. Please see the flyer in this issue of Finny Facts.



GARY STRAWN





Quagga Mussel



Pipe clogged with mussels



Zebra Mussel

# Invasive Eurasian (Quagga & Zebra) Mussel Early Detection Monitoring Workshops

The **California Sea Grant Extension Program, University of California Cooperative Extension** is conducting workshops for citizen monitoring groups, lake and marina managers, and boating and fishing club members who would like to participate in a training program for early detection monitoring of Eurasian mussels.

## Workshop Dates and Locations:

<b>Ventura:</b>	<b>May 1, 2008</b>	<b>U.C. Cooperative Extension</b>
<b>El Cajon:</b>	<b>May 6, 2008</b>	<b>Ronald Reagan Comm. Center</b>
<b>Escondido:</b>	<b>May 8, 2008</b>	<b>San Diego County Farm Bureau</b>
<b>Riverside:</b>	<b>May 12, 2008</b>	<b>U.C. Cooperative Extension, Highlander Hall</b>

**All workshops: 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm.**

These workshops are free, but require advance registration. Please use this link to register: <http://ucanr.org/quaggaworkshop>. Space is limited: please register by April 14.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Valerie Borel, 323-260-3851, [vtborel@ucdavis.edu](mailto:vtborel@ucdavis.edu).



**California Sea Grant Extension Program  
UC Cooperative Extension**



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## Fly Fishing the Salt

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in the bridge area a boat came along and asked me how I was doing so I happily said that I had landed 5 hali's, I have never seen a boat come to quicker stop and then they started drifting directly behind me, I can only guess that they were hoping to hook up on the hali fest I was having. Lucky and I ended the day around 12:00 pretty much as we started it out near the buoys; on our last kick in I landed my last hali for the day. The hali's took all 3 of the new red/white clousers I had tied. During one of my late drifts I hooked into something so big it took almost all of my 10lb leader and fly. To say it was a great day would be putting it mildly. The weather was great, the conversation and company was easy and pleasant, and the fishing was excellent. Its days like today that I will often think about when I am back sitting at my desk at work! For those of you interested in fishing the salt, check out the tide swings for April as there are some really great incoming tides at mid-morning times which are perfect for all us lazy toads!

:-D

Fish count –

- 6 hali's (3 were 8" and 3 were pushing 20")
- 9 spotties 10 to 17"
- 2 yellow fin croakers
- 8 unknown LDR fish

Lucky

- 2 spotties 6 and 11'
- 1 sand bass 16 inches – 2.5

pounds.

Kim Jones had the hot hand this morning and could not seem to keep those little halibut off her line. They certainly liked the red and white fly on

a size 2 hook.

I caught my spotted bay bass on a small #4 red and white buck tail clouser. The salt water box that I brought aboard my little Fish Cat float tube was rather meager. I had three small red and white clousers. I had a few bumps with the first fly before actually catching a fish. I think the pattern with a larger size 2 or 1 hook has better hooking potential for these greedy little bass. Not being competitive, I switched to a small two inch line side anchovy with a large hook bend and heavier bead head. We saw some surfacing bait fish early in the morning and I had visions of the fish feeding on the small silver baits. I told Kim if she started really knocking them dead, I would switch back to red. I should have kept my word. I had just enough hits and one fish with the anchovy that I used it until Kim started catching some halibut.

Halibut at this time of year is my addiction. Even when I am fishing for trout on Miramar, I am thinking "Am I missing the halibut bite?" I could not switch to the small red and white when I still have confidence in a big, five or six inch, Line Side Smelt pattern. I started bouncing it along the bottom in hopes of intercepting some of those migrating female halibut. I really did not want to catch the small males, but they would do in a pinch. The presence of some 18 and 20 inch fish might be an indication that some males have moved into these flats. That is a good sign. In a short time they will be lying side by side with those surf dwelling mamas. In many biological mating rituals, the males are the first to arrive. Male mosquitoes hatch out a day

earlier than the females. Male penguins and sea lions arrive at the breeding grounds before the females and I understand that pattern holds true in the halibut world. I know I was behind Kim in the fish count and that maybe I could catch up if I tried the red and white clouser, but I'm not "really" competitive and one legal halibut would have made the day. I also know that a six inch spotted bay bass will attack the five inch smelt. The big fly did produce a nice barred sand bass at the high tide and I lost a great fish at bridge piling #7. (It was probably another sand bass, but I can dream that it was a halibut.)

Kim and I talked of fishing at Barrett Lake and we discovered that we both have a hard time leaving those large dinner plate blue gill when others are catching small bass. Kim is a woman of my own heart. She would rather throw a fly line than cast a spin rod or bait stick. We agreed there is something challenging about using a fly rod and line combination to do almost the same thing that you do with the spin rod. When you cast a plastic root beer grub and bounce it along the bottom you know exactly where it is and what it is doing. When I try to do the same thing with a fly line it makes a difference if you are using a full sink line, a sinking tip or an intermediate sink. The line can sink too fast, or be too fat and get caught in the current. The fly might be just ticking the bottom or the heavy belly of the lead line might be dragging the fly along. The heavy belly of too much line might have too much inertia to detect light grabs. I was using a new Rio, Stripper Line, 28 ft fast sink tip this morning. It might have been too heavy to fish in 8 feet of

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## Fly Fishing the Salt

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water. It was getting the fly down quickly but maybe too quickly. I picked up more eel grass than I wanted. I was not just ticking the bottom or the tops of the eel grass. I tried fishing it at a 60 degree angle in the deeper water near the bridge and was more successful. The style of the fly also makes a difference. Fly fishing can be a challenge.

I think I would have better off to use a slower sinking line. Kim and I agreed that when we hit the eel grass areas, it is better to speed up the retrieve and just tick the fly over the top of the grass. If you are fishing with a heavy fly and heavy line you are more likely to pick up some un-attractive strands of grass and miss the bite. Fly fishing in the salt is never the same two days

in a row. A very strong tide or a strong wind picks up and you wish you have the fast sinking line to get to the bottom. Adjustments must be made.

I tried a R&W clouser with a heavy 30 pound loop weed guard and know that heavy mono loop made me miss 4 strikes. I am going to cut off that sucker. The flies with two lighter prongs of mono at the eye seem to work better for my weed less patterns. 30 pound is too heavy at least for #4 or #2 hooks.

I fished with 10 pound Vanish tippet. The leader was about 8 ft long. I did not try a green and white clouser this AM.

I tried a Peter Piconi – Bone Crusher

– in pink with flash, but it did not help. R&W Clouser #4 – one spotted bass Silver and White #2– anchovy clouser – one spotted bass 11” Smelt – one sand bass, one lost.

The water was smooth and the weather much warmer than one week ago. The morning was warm enough to enjoy. If you were bored you could watch the Navy small gun boats practicing over in Glorietta Bay. Nothing brightens up the morning like the sound of machine gun fire, helicopters, and speed boats.

It was a great day to be in San Diego. Lucky

Thanks for inviting me – Kim. 🌿

## May Speaker

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Sierras including the beautiful Golden Trout Wilderness. He writes fly fishing articles for magazines and newspapers in the Southwest and does 25 speaking engagements a year on the fly fishing opportunities of the Southern Sierras. Guy is also host of the critically acclaimed TV show and DVD “Sierra Fly Fishing”. He is a contract fly designer for Solitude Fly Company and his Kern Emerger series is sold and fished around the world. Guy will be conducting a fly-tying demonstration prior to the meeting. This should be a great show, especially for those of us generally unfamiliar with the West Slope of the Sierras.

AND, A REMINDER:

### No Meeting for July

As Jon mentions elsewhere in this edition, in an effort to be responsive to our membership, (as reflected in the recent Member Survey), your Board has elected not to hold a general meeting in July. The July meeting has historically presented a dilemma; the meeting date frequently conflicts with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend and many of our members are traveling, fishing, vacationing, etc. Following our Raffle on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, our next regular meeting will be held on August 4<sup>th</sup>. See you there! 🌿

### San Diego Fly Fishers Welcomes our New Members!

The San Diego Fly Fishers has had a number of new members join the club over the last few months. Our new members are: **Stan & Susan Bator, Lindsay Brehm, Patrick Craychee, John P. (Jack), Custeau, Junel “Jun” Custodio, Mark Darcy, Edward Fahlen, Ed Gausdal, Paula & Ian Goleta-Poirier, Dennis Herrmann, Kris Iverson, Arnold Jovillar, Ivan Lopez, John M. Lundsten, Craig & Anne Rice, Ray, Cheryl, Hailey & Lauren Smith, Joel Stewart, Robert Tritsch and George Yackey.** We welcome all of you to our club and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and events.



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# FLY OF THE MONTH

## PMD Trigger Nymph

By Mike Mercer from book, **Creative Fly Tying**, 2005 Wild River Press, by Mike Mercer, \$39.95. [http://globalflyfisher.com/reviews/books/bookbase/show\\_single.php?id=111](http://globalflyfisher.com/reviews/books/bookbase/show_single.php?id=111)

<b>Hook:</b>	TMC 3761 nymph hook, #14, #16, #18
<b>Bead:</b>	Gold metal bead to match size of hook.
<b>Thread:</b>	8/0 Camel tan or to match insect
<b>Tail:</b>	Pheasant tail - dyed golden reddish brown.
<b>Body:</b>	Rusty brown dyed turkey biots. (Turkey is longer than goose biots)
<b>Thorax:</b>	Mercer's Select Bugg Nymph Dubbing, - Nymph Brown
<b>Legs:</b>	Hungarian partridge each side - light speckled color.
<b>Exploding Wing:</b>	Pale Yellow- Hareline UV Ice Dubbing.
<b>Collar:</b>	Same dubbing as thorax.



The Pale Morning Dun Trigger Nymph was demonstrated by Maria Rivas at the Bob Marriott, FF Educational Fair, on March 29, 2008. Notes are by Lucky Ketcham.

Maria has tied this fly for several years and truly believes the little ball of yellow UV Ice Dubbing is a trigger for this little nymph pattern. She has fished the same runs with and without the exploding wing and has noticed a difference in the catch rate. She also likes the fact that the UV ball of dubbing allows her to see the nymph on the drift. When the little ball of light blinks out; it is in the mouth of a fish - set the hook.

Variations: To make a Callibaetis mayfly for lakes and streams running into lakes, use turkey biots

dyed Callibaetis tan and Hareline UV Ice Dub - Callibaetis (tan).

#3 - Large Black Stonefly - use black dubbing or D-rib for abdomen and Hareline UV Ice Dubbing - Gray. The hook size should be 8 to 10 for the stonefly. Try the stonefly on the Trinity River.

#4 - You can imitate brown mayfly nymphs. Use natural pheasant tail for the body and darker brown or tan UV Ice dub for the wing case. Their wing cases turn dark when the nymphs are ready to emerge. (Sixth molt or "6<sup>th</sup> Instar" stage.)

Smash the barb on a standard nymph hook. Slide a gold bead on the hook, small hole first. Attach the thread to the rear of the hook with a jam knot. Wrap a thread base to the bend. Select 4 to 5 pheasant tail fibers. The tails can be natural, but

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## Fly of the Month

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Maria likes the reddish gold dyed pheasant for this pattern. Make the tails one shank length, (a little longer than the normal one hook gap. LK) Wrap thread over the butts all the way to the bead head to keep bumps out of the body and for more durability. Trim the pheasant at the bead. Bring thread back to the bend. Select a long reddish brown turkey biot from a turkey primary wing feather. Attach the biot by the tip with the notch in the biot forward. The little ridge on the biot should be up to create the desired segmentation. Wrap the thread forward followed by the biot. Secure the biot with three tight turns and trim excess. Prepare a small noodle of nymph brown buggy dubbing. (You can probably substitute any coarse brown dubbing or hare's ear.) Wrap a small thorax segment just in front of the mid shank point. Select 4 Hungarian partridge fibers for legs and attach to the near side of hook, in front of the dubbing ball. . Attach another 4 fibers for the far side legs.

Now for the special "trigger" of Yellow Hareline Ice Dubbing. This is supposed to be the "Exploding Wing Case" of a Pale Morning Dun mayfly. (Most nymphs the wing and wing case turn dark before they are ready to emerge - PMD's are the exception and have yellow wings; therefore use the yellow Ice Dubbing.) Select a

small pinch of ice dubbing to make a noodle about 1/16-inch wide  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long. Maria pulls the thread and bobbin up vertically from the thorax and attaches the noodle loosely around the thread. Push on the top of the noodle and swash it down into a little round bump. Make one wrap of thread around the front of the thorax to secure the little ball of ice dubbing without changing the ball shape. Finish the fly by adding a little collar of brown nymph dubbing behind the bead. Pull up on the ice dubbing when you wrap the collar to prevent trapping any of the wing case. Whip finish behind the bead.

Pale Morning Duns usually can tolerate higher water temperatures and higher nutrient levels than many other species. Look for them below fast riffles in lower sections of the rivers where cased caddis also are present. Most PMD species are "clingers" with short and fat thoraxes. Look for them during the relatively warmer months, end of May, June and early July. Their light colored body and wings reflect heat and reduce desiccation or drying out. Mayflies do not have the thick waxy exoskeletons of the hoppers and beetles. You do not see many species in July and August unless you are on the top of some cold mountain.

Maria Rivas says give this one a try. She sells her flies at Marriott's.



## ANNUAL RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION

The annual raffle and silent auction are rapidly approaching. Tickets are in the mail and extra tickets are available. While I am still gathering items for the main table, I encourage any and all of you to make a donation to the event. Be it an item for the main raffle, a gift certificate...can you say, "Stroud's"?...or an item for the silent auction, your active participation is appreciated. You can give your donation to me, **Larry Sorensen**, or any member of the Board. The silent auction this year will enable you to fish the Western Sierras, cast a bamboo rod, tease with flies tied by Eileen Stroud, and land your catch with a hand made landing net. If you are looking for a fishing adventure out of state, I will be taking one angler on a seven day trip to Idaho, sometime in September/October. We are just getting started. Let's buy those tickets and make this event the best ever!



Recipients of the  
**Stroud Award**  
 2004-Jim Brown  
 2005-Allen Greenwood  
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 2007- Mike Rivkin



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### LIFE MEMBERS

Gordon Foster (in memoriam), Bill and Eileen Stroud, Bernie Hammes (in memoriam), Hugh Turner (in memoriam), Nancy Pitts, Bob Wisner (in memoriam), Ken Armer, Glen Paul (in memoriam), Betty Coram, Ned Sewell, John Kasten, Leo Bergevin (in memoriam), George Beach (in memoriam), Bob Camp (in memoriam), Marvin Darling, Gene Jerzewski, Oz Osborn, Robbie Robinson (in memoriam), John Gauld, Lloyd Jefferies, Doug Joseph, Gary Hilbers

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Jim Brown, Louisa Kassler (in memoriam), Hugh Marx, Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood

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### GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service  
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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 **June FINNY FACTS**  
 articles---Friday May 16th.

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](mailto:finnyfacts@gmail.com) Thanks!!

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

Lucky Ketcham  
 3510 Gayle Street  
 San Diego, CA 92115  
[membership@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:membership@sandiegoflyfishers.com)



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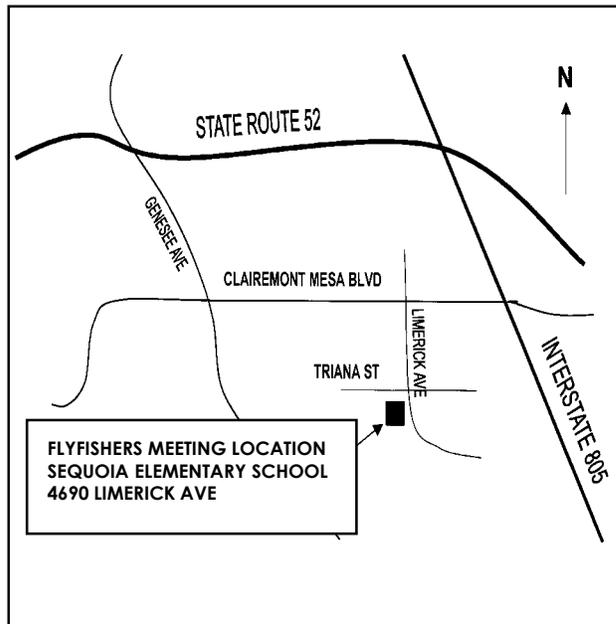
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Kim Jones,

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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