

# FINNY FACTS

Archived version

APRIL 2007

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 12, No. 4

## April Meeting

### Local IGFA Rep to Speak at April Meeting

Our speaker for Monday evening, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, will be **Mike Rivkin**, an International Representative for the International Game Fish Association and President of the Tuna Club of Santa Catalina Island. Mike will speak on the history of big-game fishing and the I.G.F.A., including the history of the "Salty Fly Rodders." Mike has done extensive research on the history of the I.G.F.A. and has published a book on the subject, copies of which will be available for sale. All proceeds benefit the I.G.F.A.

Those of you active in the Chollas Lake project(s) know Mike as the

**continued on page 2**

### MEETING NOTICE

Monday, April 2, 2007  
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)

**Ted Reinert and  
Barry Pechersky**

*Thank You, Mona Morebello*

## Beach Fishing for Salmon (the low-down)

by Howard Bailey

**B**each fishing for salmon is arguably one of the most fun things you can do with a fly rod. Imagine stalking trout in the shallows of a lake, except that the fish are larger, ocean bright, and in the best shape of their lives! Possibly the best place to do this is in the Straits of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the mainland British Columbia. The waters are generally well-protected (no surf), and literally millions of salmon can be found in this area during the late summer and early fall, so chances of a hook-up are pretty good. The following should give you enough information to plan a trip and put you on plenty of fish. Better yet, it doesn't require a guide!

**Travel:** I believe that Air Canada and Air Alaska fly direct into Vancouver (you will need to have your passport to get back into the US). Check the fares; often it is more economical to fly into Seattle, rent a car and drive north to BC. Seattle traffic sucks, so be patient until you get out of the city.

Once across the border, you can avoid the Vancouver traffic by taking the ferry from Tsawwassen to Vancouver Island, or drive through Vancouver to the ferry terminal at Horseshoe Bay and then over to Vancouver Island.

Regardless of where you arrive on the Island, take the Island Highway north to Campbell River where you will find lodging and restaurants.

**What to bring:** Most of the fish you catch from the beach will be cohos or pinks. Pinks run on two-year intervals, and 2007 should see good returns to streams from Campbell River south (even-year returns dominate north of Campbell River). Both of these species do not require particularly heavy gear; an 8-wt should be considered tops, and a 6-wt potentially too light for pushing a fly into the wind that sometimes comes up. Which leaves a 7 wt as probably ideal. You may hook quite a few fish, so a durable reel with saltwater capability and a good drag is in order. Capacity should be at least 150 yds of backing. The part about the good drag is important; I wore out the pads on my old System 2 in one season on the beach, and replacements are not easy to find.

There is a premium to casting on the beach. There is always a limit to how far you can wade, and the fish can also be spooky. In addition, they often hold over the same structure regardless of tide, so it may be more difficult to reach them on higher tides. At other

**continued on page 3**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: APRIL 2007

This will be a quick message because I have to hurry up and go fishing. As I write this, the forecast is for 80 degrees and I'm hoping that will bring the bass up. I love to see the big mouth in the San Diego River and come up to sip on a popper.

First, I want to thank **Dick Mount** for once again organizing a great trip to the lower Owens March

1 through 4. A bunch of us made the drive to Bishop and I believe everyone caught some trout. Eight members got to fish with Tom Loe, caught trout and learned a lot in the process. He is a great teacher. Some of us fished the Gorge Friday, but only **Jon Holland** found the sweet spot. Jon always finds the sweet spot. The weather was perfect all weekend, but there was still ice down in the Gorge, so the climbing was treacherous. The lower Owens near Bishop was running low and some big hungry brown trout were ready to take a size 16 nymph. Saturday night we all joined up for the traditional Mexican Food dinner. Tom suggested that we try a mid week trip next spring to avoid the crowd that was fishing above Pleasant Valley Dam. I had to hurry home so I could have the pleasure of taking our guest speaker John Duncan from Telluride Outside, to dinner. He is a great guy. I think that everyone that heard his presentation is ready to go to southwestern Colorado. We are going to look into charter flights or car pooling. Maybe we can put together a cost effective club trip for



GARY STRAWN

next year. A group of club members that regularly fish the bay in float tubes or pontoon boats had the pleasure of taking John to Tideland Park on Tuesday morning, after the meeting. The weather was perfect and the bass, bonito, mackerel and small halibut were biting.

I want to thank **Al Venton, Jon Hee** and **Bill Stock** for their help in trying to improve our Club insurance policy. And, I want to say a

special thank you to **Lucky Ketchum**. In addition to his work as Membership Chairman, Lucky is always there to help. When we get to the school to set up for the meeting and there is no electric cord, Lucky shows up with his own. When we get to the bay, Lucky is there with a whole bunch of his "special flies" for our guest of honor. When a speaker has to cancel, Lucky is there with a great presentation on Caddis Flies. Lucky, thanks for being our "go to guy".

Don't forget our next meeting, Monday night April 2. Mike Rivkin the local IGFA representative will be our guest speaker. Mike is a great guy, a great fisherman and a big supporter of the kids fishing program at Chollas Lake. Sunday April 22 is Day on the Docks at Fisherman's Landing. **Jim Castelluzzo** has been busy organizing a club information booth and fly tying demonstrations.

One last item: The Annual Raffle is coming up fast (June 4). **Jim Tenuto, Maria Goldman** and **Don Davis** are

organizing it this year. If you have something you would like to donate, bring it to a meeting and get it to Maria.

"Keep smiling and go fishing!"  
Gary



### Day on The Docks: Sunday April 22, 2007

The club will have a booth at the Day on The Docks, sponsored by the San Diego Sports Fishing Council. Club members will be giving fly tying demonstrations and promoting San Diego Fly Fishers club activities and programs.

For further details and volunteer opportunities

### April Speaker

continued from page 1

individual responsible for "steering" the I.G.F.A. to Chollas for its Young Anglers Tournament last August and for making funds available, through his family foundation, for various improvements at Chollas Lake.

Please join us on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and join me in letting Mike know how much we appreciate his effort in introducing more kids to this great sport.



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## Beach Fishing for Salmon

continued from page 1

times, they may be within 20 feet of the beach. Regardless, the further you can cast, the better your chances will be, especially considering that most folk's distance drops the deeper they wade. So, practice the double-haul... Also, it helps to use a rod that is effective at delivering a fly at long distances.

For me, Loomis' 9'9" 7 and 8 wt rods deliver a fly longer distances with less effort than any other I have tried. They are both cannons, but the 7 wt has a sweeter action, whereas the 8 wt has more power in the lower section. This makes it better for lifting really large fish, but is not something you really need under these circumstances. I like these rods in the GL3 graphite formulation, and they are less expensive than the GLX models. Since you will be doing a lot of casting, find a rod that works for you and doesn't tire you out. Big guides are also important for distance; on most rods you should consider replacing the bottom two guides with larger diameter versions. Finally, work on efficiently getting to your maximum distance; 3 or 4 false casts after you pick up the fly should be it.

Most of the time you should be using an intermediate clear line. All of the major manufacturers make this type of line; in fact there are so many variations out there it gets confusing. Basically, you want a slow sink rate, and a line that has little memory in cold water. Cortland's Camo works fine for me. The slow sink rate is critical; otherwise, the line will be dragging on the bottom on a long cast and a slow retrieve.

Leaders are pretty simple. I tie my

own, usually in 3 sections, going from 12# Maxima, to 8#, to 5#. This results in a 3X tippet, with a total length of around 9 ft. Make sure to check the knots and abrasions every so often; some of the beaches have beds of barnacles and mussels that will fray the leader.

Conversely, flies are a world of their own. My preference is for small flies, 10s and 8s primarily, in shapes suggesting baitfish or shrimp or scuds. Colors range from attractors like chartreuse and pink, to more natural browns and olives, with varying amounts of flash. When the fish are fresh, they will attack bright attractors, but when they have been pressured a bit, smaller patterns and a slower presentation will result in more grabs. Local shops can provide the latest patterns, but don't be afraid to try your own. Rather than getting caught up in the latest fad, the trick is to have a variety of silhouettes and colors, and systematically keep cycling through them until you get a grab. That being said, one grab does not a fly make, and if it does not continue to produce, keep trying different patterns. These fish can be frustrating; you may try a dozen patterns, take two fish in short succession, and then nothing until a guy steps in with something completely different and hooks up on his first cast.

Other goodies: A wading staff can be helpful if the beach is composed of cobble covered with various seaweeds. This is an especially nasty combination to walk over at low tide, and studs or cleated boots will also help.

A shooting basket is close to essential. I make mine from Rubbermaid plastic

storage containers. Look for a clear bottom so you can see where you are going. Mine also has a top that snaps to the bottom, which makes it useful for carrying gear while traveling. I drill holes in the bottom for drainage and attach "eye" bolts to the sides where I can hook the bungee cord that I use as a belt. Works great, is cheap, and can be pushed to the side or around my back once I hook a fish.

**When:** The pinks generally start showing up in mid-August, with the coho by mid-September. Most of the pinks have gone upriver by mid-September, with the coho hanging on until at least mid-October.

**Where:** If you have to pick one area to focus on, the stretch between the Campbell and Oyster Rivers offers plenty of beach access and favored holding areas. If you are feeling more adventuresome, the Cluxuwe River to the north, and beaches further south to Black Creek and Nile Creek are also well-known and productive areas.

**Strategies:** For the most part this is visual fishing. Typically, I drive to different locations along the Old Island Highway, walk to the water and look for fish or fisherman. If there is no sign of activity within 30 min, move on until you see fish. Sometimes they will be jumping, but more often the indications are subtle, such as swirls, noses and tails poking through the surface, and so on. If the fish are too far to reach, come back on a lower tide and see if they are holding in the same area (scouting the beaches at low tide is the best way to familiarize yourself with the terrain). Often the fish will move in a predictable pattern, which means they will be in the same area over

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# FLY OF THE MONTH

## The Tup's Indispensable Dry Fly-by Alan Sheperd (Australia)

<b>Hook:</b>	Size 16 up eye, dry fly hook.
<b>Thread:</b>	Yellow.
<b>Tail:</b>	Honey dun or light blue cock hackle fibres.
<b>Body:</b>	Mix white fur from a ram's testicle with lemon-coloured fur from a spaniel and cream seal's fur with a small amount of yellow mohair.
<b>Hackle:</b>	Light-blue cock hackle freckled thickly with gold.



**A**ustin was a tobacconist of Tiverton in Devon, South West England in 1900. As a side-line, he made and sold flies. Presumably Mr. Austin and daughter supplied various patterns of the day and materials to dress popular flies. His pattern, the Tups Indispensable, was effective when trout were taking pale midge or mayflies. Mr Austin sent a sample of dubbing with tying instructions on how to tie his unnamed fly pattern to Mr G.E.M. Skues. He informed Mr. Skues that he had found it to be particularly successful in imitating female olive spinners. Mr. Skues followed the instructions and made the fly. He spent most of the following September testing the fly on his local water, the River Ichen. Skues was one of two people given the dressing secret by Mr Austin. He was so impressed that he published his findings calling the fly the 'Tups Indispensable.' The recipe for the pattern was kept secret and thus Mr Austin obtained a monopoly on selling the fly. The article by Skues, exalting the fly, was widely read and lots of orders were placed. The fly became so popular that Mr Austin became utterly sick of tying it.

Why did Skues call it Tup's Indispensable? Well the 'Indispensable' part comes from the fact that it should not be left out of your fly-box, as it is such a good fish taker. The 'Tup's' part of the name refers to a Ram, a male sheep that is used for breeding. In Britain in those days, farmers used a sponge or rag soaked in dye tied to the

under side of the Ram. In the morning, they would inspect their flock to see which females had dye stained on their backs from being 'tupped' by the Ram. The original material for this fly was urine and dye stained wool taken from a ram's testicles mixed with lemon coloured fur from a spaniel and a little yellow mohair, replaced later with crimson seal's fur.

Mr. Austin and his daughter kept the dubbing materials secret; they had a monopoly on the supply of the correct dressing. Mr. Austin passed away in 1914 but it was not until 1934 that the secret ingredient, fur from a ram's testicle was revealed. It was kept a secret until after his daughter, who continued the business, had retired.

In his Notes & Letters, Theodore Gordon had great praise for this fly. He particularly liked the 'Tups' dubbing which he had sent to him from England. He used this dubbing on other patterns. It can be fished dry when trout are feeding near the surface. It can also be useful in high summer when reduced water flow and high temperatures can make the trout very fussy.

Using fur from the ram's testicle area wasn't even an original idea. The first use of this material goes to Alexander Mackintosh in the book *The Drifffield Angler*, 1806. He suggests, "Take a little fine wool from the ram's testicles, which is a beautiful dusty yellow." ~ Alan Shepherd







DAVID COLLINS

**Any Questions?  
Call David Collins at  
7**



## Sign up NOW for the Green !!!

There's still time to sign up for our annual trip to the Flaming Gorge of the Green River. This is always a great trip!

**Date: May 7 – May 11**

**2 travel days and 3 fishing days.**

**Floating Guides are approximately \$200/day, but there is easy access to 7 miles of river if you want to fish unguided.**

**Approximate cost of trip to float everyday is \$1,500. Estimate includes air fare, car rental, lodging, guides, meals and Utah fishing license.**

**Sign up deadline is March 18 ... but you must book your own airfare ... and the sooner you book the preferred flight, the more likely it is you'll be able to get a seat.**

## The Italio River Alaska 24-29 September 2007

There are three openings for the silver salmon trip to The Italio River Alaska 24-29 September.

This trip was a recent *FINNY FACTS* lead article. This may be the last chance to visit an uncrowded wilderness area and just about guaranteed to bring back a box of salmon fillets.

This will be the third year at this venue. [www.italio.com](http://www.italio.com) at a reasonable price.



Andy Castiglione



## Support for AB 815 Needed

**A**B 815 (Berryhill) responds to the actions by the Cities of Morro Bay and Hercules, CA that have banned sportfishing within their borders. The following contains the Legislative Analyst's synopsis of the Bill. A list of Assembly members on the Fish and Game Committee (see next page) and a sample letter below.

I recommend that you individually contact your Assembly representatives in support of AB 815. The field of regulating fish and game is wholly and fully occupied by the State of California, and that is the reason we pay our license fees.



**BRUCE CAMPBELL**

*(Date)*

The Honorable Lois Wolk, Chair  
Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 815 (Berryhill) - Support**

Dear Assembly Member Wolk:

I am writing you to urge your support of AB 815 (Berryhill), which would reaffirm state control over fish and game-related matters.

This bill would help ensure that California follows a science-based, comprehensive approach to its fish and game regulations. Specifically, it would help to better conserve fish and wildlife resources by ensuring that all fish and game-related regulations are appropriately reviewed and approved by the science-based California Fish and Game Commission. Because the Commission's statewide regulations are widely read and available to hunters and fishermen, AB 815 would facilitate greater regulatory compliance with our fish and game rules.

In addition, AB 815 would provide much-needed statutory guidance for local governments on hunting and fishing-related matters, as many cities and counties have no legal background or biological expertise on such issues. The bill would also encourage greater communication between local governments and the Department of Fish and Game, thereby minimizing the likelihood that contradictory or duplicative regulations are imposed upon stakeholders without their knowledge or input.

AB 815 ensures that our fish and wildlife resources are managed from a statewide, rather than parochial, perspective and promotes science-based wildlife conservation. Please vote "aye" on this important measure.

Sincerely,

*(Your Name/Organization)*



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# California State Assembly Committee

## On

### Water, Parks and Wildlife

### 2007

Assembly Member Lois Wolk, Chair  
P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0008

(916) 319 - 2008

(916) 319 - 2108 Fax

[Assemblymember.wolk@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.wolk@assembly.ca.gov)

Assembly Member Charles Calderon  
P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0058

Tel: (916) 319-2058

Fax: (916) 319-2158

[Assemblymember.Calderon@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Calderon@assembly.ca.gov)

Assembly Member Pedro Nava  
P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0035

Tel: (916) 319-2035

Fax: (916) 319-2135

[Assemblymember.Nava@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Nava@assembly.ca.gov)

Assembly Member Bill Maze, Vice  
Chair

State Capitol, Room 5160

Sacramento, CA 94249-0034

Phone: 916-319-2034

Fax: 916-319-2134

[Assemblymember.maze@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.maze@assembly.ca.gov)

Assembly Member Jared Huffman  
P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0006

Tel: (916) 319-2006

Fax: (916) 319-2106

[Assemblymember.Huffman@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Huffman@assembly.ca.gov)

Assembly Member Nicole Parra  
P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0030

(916) 319 - 2030

(916) 319 - 2130 Fax

[Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov)

Assembly Member Joel Anderson  
State Capitol, Room 2111

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319-2077

Fax: (916) 319-2177

[Assemblymember.Anderson@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Anderson@assembly.ca.gov)

Assembly Member Doug La Malfa  
State Capitol, Room 4164

Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

Phone: (916) 319-2002

Fax: (916) 319-2102

[Assemblymember.lamalfa@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.lamalfa@assembly.ca.gov)

Assembly Member Mary Salas  
P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0079

Tel: (916) 319-2079

Fax: (916) 319-2179

[Assemblymember.Salas@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Salas@assembly.ca.gov)

Assembly Member Berryhill  
State Capitol, Room 4116

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319-2025

Fax: (916) 319-2125

[Assemblymember.Berryhill@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Berryhill@assembly.ca.gov)

Assembly Member Ted Lieu  
P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0053

(916) 319 - 2053

(916) 319 - 2153 Fax

[Assemblymember.Lieu@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Lieu@assembly.ca.gov)

Assembly Member Anna Caballero  
P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0028

Tel: (916) 319-2028

Fax: (916) 319-2128

[Assemblymember.Caballero@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Caballero@assembly.ca.gov)

Assembly Member Gene Mullin  
P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0019

(916) 319 - 2019

(916) 319 - 2119 Fax

[Assemblymember.Mullin@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Mullin@assembly.ca.gov)



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*Your heart as word.*

**THE UNITED WAY**  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 20, 2007

**TO:** Gary Strawn, President  
San Diego Fly Fishers

**FROM:** Dan Ellison, Sergeant  
STAR/PAL

**SUBJECT:** Commendation for Paul Woolery

On February 10th, 2007, STAR/PAL held its annual Fishing Derby at Chollas Lake. 450 youth throughout San Diego County participated in a day filled with fun, food, fishing and prizes. Additionally, the youth participants learned the fundamentals of fishing at five learning stations, received a fishing pole, a t-shirt, and a great meal. The Rivkin Family Foundation, Target, Starbucks and Barnacle Bill's generously sponsored this event.

Over 80 volunteers from San Diego Police, San Diego County Probation, San Diego Fire-Rescue, San Diego Fly Fishers and local community partners supported this event. Volunteers were asked to bait hooks, clean fish, pick up trash and ensure the youth's safety. All of the youth participants, volunteers, and everyone involved in this project had a great time and look forward to next year's event.

On behalf of the STAR/PAL Board, Executive Committee, members of the STAR/PAL staff and the youth participants, I convey our thanks and appreciation to Paul Woolery for assisting with the annual Fishing Derby. Volunteers such as Paul are a vital part of STAR/PAL and its success in the community. Without their support and assistance, positive activities like this for our youth would not be possible.

Dan Ellison, Sergeant  
STAR/PAL

4110 54th Street ★ San Diego, CA 92105 ★ (619) 531-2718 ★ FAX (619) 531-2782 ★ Website: [www.starpal.org](http://www.starpal.org)

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## Others Receive Commendation for STAR/PAL Volunteer Work

“Similar Commendations were received for **Wayne Allen, Lee Anderson, Ken Armor, John Beckstrand, Paul Britting, David Collins, Marvin Darling, Don Davis, Ed Gaudsal, Jim & Donna Gottfried, Peter Hofman Lucky Ketcham, Bob May, Lee McElravy, Bob McKay, Dan McKirnan, Sam Morebello, Dick and Greg Mount, Jim Murphy, Barry Pechersky, Bob Pharoah, Bob Stafford, Gary Strawn, Jim Thompson Al Venton and Louie & Gordie Zimm.** These commendations will be presented at the April 5 meeting. The club would like to add our thanks to all of those who worked hard to make the Derby a success.”

*Thank you, Gary*



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## Big Thanks to Generous Donators

Instructors, **Tom Smith, Paul Woolery, Lucky Ketcham** and the Feather Benders – Fly Tying Congress would like to thank: **Chip Goodwin and Steve Carroll** for their generous donations of fly tying materials for our classes and youth programs. Chip donated an estimated \$300 worth of his “no longer needed” fly tying materials and storage cases. Steve Carroll made a cash donation of \$100, which we quickly converted to hooks and quality saddle hackle. The donations were made just in time for the Wednesday Bunch fly fishing and tying instruction to the FAME youth groups at Lake Morena. Steve is also a hunter and provided a nice bundle of pheasant tails. Thanks again to all the members that have donated hooks and fly tying materials in the past, enabling us to teach fly tying at little or no cost.

*Now bend some feathers. Lucky*



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### Beach Fishing for Salmon continued fom page 3

several days.

Once you have found the fish, move into range and start casting. Try actively moving brighter patterns first, then going to the smaller darker ties with a slower retrieve. Change patterns every 15 min or so. Also try letting the fly sink to different depths before beginning the retrieve. The grab is rarely the violent strike you read about in the magazines; usually, the fly simply stops, maybe feels “soft”, or perhaps there is just a subtle “tick”. So pay attention because the best part happens next, and has to do with getting all that loose line safely through the guides or back on the reel, and watching that little knot shoot through the guides as the fish goes into your backing...



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## Lyme disease – Warning

By Lucky Ketcham

The colder rainy season is the time when the Western Black Legged Tick nymphs are most active and abundant. The Vector Control Surveillance staff have collected this disease carrying species in almost every canyon in the county. Luckily only about 3 to 4% have been positive for Lyme disease.

February, March and April are times you should take extra care to remove any ticks that you may pick up when fishing or hiking. Ticks can not jump like fleas but then can drop from overhanging branches. They are sensitive to carbon dioxide from animals and your breath will trigger them to drop as you walk through those deer trails along the stream. Others will catch your pant leg from the tips of green grass and plants along the trail. Don't be tempted to sit in that nice green patch of grass in the shade.

You usually get the disease from the small nymphs that are the size of a sesame seed. They are slow to feed and pass on the Lyme disease organism. Inspect your body often and remove any ticks with fine tweezers or credit cards. Do not use a match or Vaseline since that might trigger release of the organism. Lyme disease is not good.

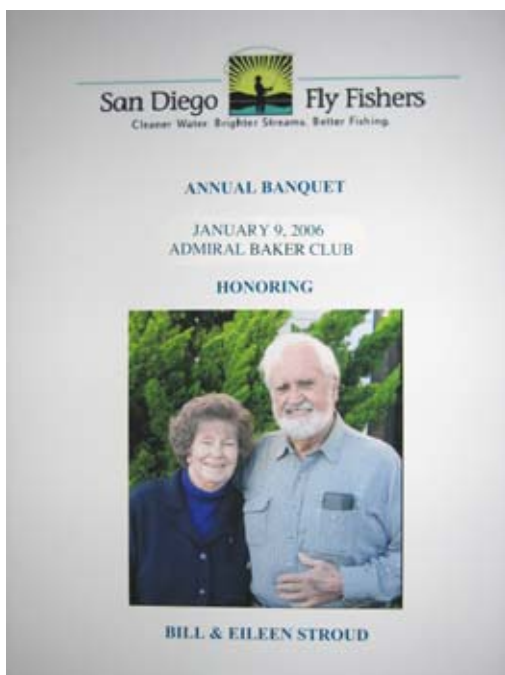
For more information contact  
San Diego DEH Vector  
Control at

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/chd/vector/vlyme.html>



Recipients of the  
**Stroud Award**

2004-Jim Brown  
2005-Allen Greenwood  
2006- Hugh Marx



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Proprietors  
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For unselfish and outstanding service  
to the flyfishing community

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

Cutoff date for **May FINNY FACTS**  
articles---Friday April 13th.

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!!

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bership renewal to:

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**SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS  
2007 OFFICERS**

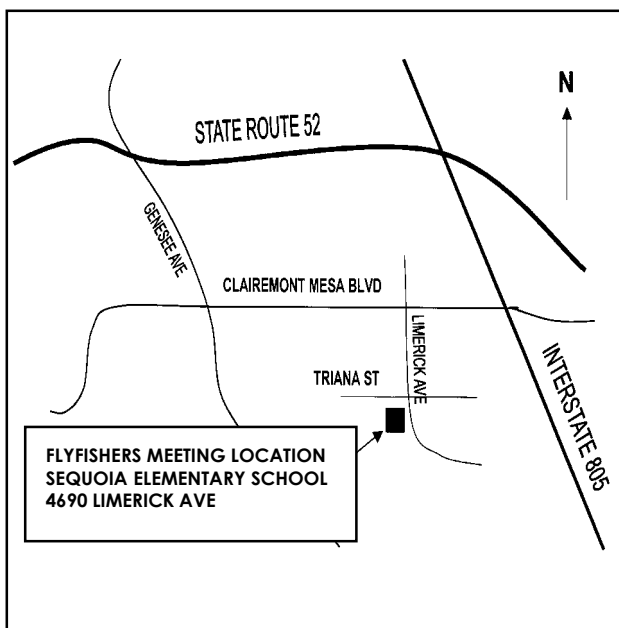
President- Gary Strawn  
1st VP- Jonathan Hee  
2nd VP- Al Venton  
Treasurer- Wayne Allen  
Secretary- Paul Woolery

**DIRECTORS**

Lee Anderson  
 Don Davis  
 Maria Goldman  
 Lucky Ketcham  
 Lee McElravy  
 Jim Reeg  
 Art Reifman  
 Jim Tenuto  
 Shelly Wagner  
 Louie Zimm

**COMMITTEE  
CHAIRPERSONS**

Conservation-  
 Bruce Campbell  
FFF Southwest Council-  
 Ron Meler  
Fly Casting Clinic- Ned  
 Sewell and John Kasten  
Fly Tying Clinic-  
 Tom Smith  
 Lucky Ketcham  
 Bill Hanson  
Membership-  
 Lucky Ketcham



Monthly Weekend Outings- Rod Building- Tom Smith  
 Dick Mount  
Newsletter CoEditors-  
 Rose & Roger Yamasaki  
 5415 Lodi Place, San Diego  
 92117, 858-274-2712  
 E-mail:  
 finnyfacts@gmail.com  
Programs- Lee McElravy  
Raffles-Jim Tenuto  
Refreshments-  
 Maria Goldman

Trips- David Collins  
Video & Library-  
 John Beckstrand and  
 Howard Knop  
Web Page- David Collins  
 www.sandiegoflyfishers.com  
SDFE E-mail tree-  
 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 recre-  
 ation center will be on your right. It  
 is on the corner of Lake Adlon and  
 Lake Badin.



San Diego Flyfishers Headquarters  
 Stroud Tackle  
 1457 Morena Blvd.  
 San Diego, CA 92110  
 619-276-4822

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 San Diego, California 92110  
 www.sandiegoflyfishers.com  
 619.276.4822



**San Diego  
Fly Fishers**

*Official Chapter of  
Federation of Fly Fishers*

**SINCE 1962**

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