

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

APRIL 2010

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 15, No. 4

April Meeting

Bill and Tom



The speaker for April's Membership meeting is **Tom Loe** of Sierra Drifters Guide Service of the Eastern Sierras and points North. And who is better to introduce Tom at the April meeting than our own **Bill Stroud**. Bill tells me what brings him

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MEETING NOTICE

Monday, April 5, 2010

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)

Scott Shenk and

Bob Blazer

Thank You, Mona Morebello

Blue Shark Fishing with Captain Jeff Stock

By Bob Pharoah, January 10, 2010

At our November meeting, Captain Jeff

Stock gave a very interesting presentation on fishing for Sharks off the San Diego Coast. He donated a 50% reduction certificate for the meeting raffle. I was the lucky winner of that fishing trip for four fishermen. **Jesse Tuman** and **Lloyd Kay** were able to accept my

invitation as they were out of school for the Holidays. Of course my fishing partner **Lucky Ketcham** was able to round out our fishing trip.

On Saturday January 2, 2010 we met Captain Jeff at Dana Landing to board his 20' boat and proceeded out Mission Bay on a heading of approximately 300 degrees for 9 miles. Jeff placed a five-gallon "chum" bucket over the side, rigged up a "teaser rod", a 14 weight fly rod and we waited for our first Shark. The "teaser" was constructed with the head half of a Mackerel covered with a large pink plastic skirt. Captain Jeff gave us a



little presentation about what was going to happen and demonstrated the casting of the fly, only about 20 feet off the side of the boat.

About forty minutes later we saw a 4-5 foot Blue shark swimming around the boat. Lloyd grabbed the rod, being young means being the fastest. Jeff cast out the "teaser" toward the shark and guided him toward the boat. He told Lloyd to cast his fly beside "teaser." When the "teaser" and the fly were side by side in the water, Jeff jerked the teaser out of the water and the shark turned to eat the fly. Lloyd

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: APRIL 2010

First I would like to thank **Art Reifman** for standing in for me at the last meeting.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending A Night of Discovery, hosted by the San Diego River Park Foundation. While it was a tribute to **Joan Emberry**, for her dedication to the preservation of wildlife and the environment, it was also the formal announcement of the San Diego River Discovery Center at Grant Park. Situated on 17 acres of river-front property, the center will be a place where people and the river come

together and where children can experience the wonder of nature. As a direct result of our support, along with the Eileen Stroud Memorial Fund, an honorarium to **Eileen Stroud**,



LARRY SORENSEN

related to trout habitat, will be built in the Center. The San Diego Fly Fishers will continue to support this project in the years to come.

Our first Day at the Bay was a roaring success.

My many thanks to **Bob Pharoah** and **Barry Pechersky** for their

hard work in organizing the outing. More than 50 club members and family joined together for some fishing on the bay and a great barbecue lunch.

Once again thanks to all who brought tables, chairs, and I can't forget the food. Our next outing will be a Day at the Beach. Date to be announced.

Mother Nature and increased river flow put an unexpected close on the organized Bishop trip. The Trip Committee, under the guise of **Paul Woolery**, will be announcing more opportunities to fish in California waters.

Once again, if you have an idea to strengthen our club and the membership, please bring it to the Board of Directors' attention. As always, I can be reached at

telephone and at the next club meeting.



April Speaker

Bill and Tom

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back to seek Tom's service is the consistent education and level of commitment that Bill can count on since Bill first started fishing with Tom in 2001. Tom will bring the Club membership up to date on fly fishing opportunities for the up coming Spring, Summer and Fall in the "Great Fly Fishing Wonderland of California

Gary Farrar

Trip Ideas from the SDFF Travel Committee

Here are a couple of proposed trip ideas from the Travel committee.

1) A camping weekend trip to Cuyamaca with time for fishing and artistic pursuits. Fly fishers also equipped with cameras, sketch pads and/or canvas can share their artistic interests and interpretations when not fishing. Maybe non-fishing spouses, friends or family would enjoy this as well. Individually or in groups, perhaps an artistic focus on the lake and surroundings would best combine our interests.

2) A 5-day trip to the Owens Valley (camping or staying in the modest hotel) where we could add time to study the geology of the area with a ride and hike to the Panum Crater near Mono Lake or other dramatic sites like the Alabama Hills and Devil's Postpile. Any geologists in our club? I'd like to relate the geology to the present fishing environments. Fishing, art work, geology and comraderie, sounds like a great trip to me.

If you are interested in either idea, please contact Pam Ivor at



Game Wardens Impacted; Volunteers Needed for Golden Trout Wilderness

With all of the State budget cuts and the turmoil within the California Department of Fish and Game, many of us share a concern that the already thin coverage of the Game Wardens in the field will be impacted even more. Recognizing the dire situation, an advocacy group proposed the idea of selling a "Game Warden Stamp" to raise additional funds to support Game Wardens critical work on behalf of California's natural resources.

The **2010 California Game Warden Stamp** (actually a decal) can now be purchased for **\$5** at our local DFG office 4949 Viewridge Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 467-4201. Or you can get a mail in form at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/WardenStamp>

I am also working to arrange for direct sales of the stamps at our May meeting.

The purchase is **totally voluntary** and all proceeds will be deposited into a special account and used to provide important tools for the 385 fish and game wardens statewide, including:

- New communications and surveillance devices
- Protective equipment
- Training in specialized areas
- New law enforcement programs, such as the DFG's K-9 Program

A volunteer working (and fishing) trip to Casa Vieja Meadow in the Golden Trout Wilderness is being planned for

Saturday June 26. We need to get the exclusion fence up around this critical Golden Trout spawning ground, before the cattle arrive in July. Some of us will go up Thursday and try to fish the South Fork of the Kern River. But for those of you that have day jobs, you can come up as late as Friday evening and still join in the fun.

We will meet at the Black Rock Trailhead above Kennedy Meadow, about a 5 hour drive from San Diego. Early Saturday morning we will hike down to the Meadow, repair and re-hang the barbwire fence and then do some fishing before we hike out in time for dinner.

The hike is about 2 miles each way. It is a well maintained trail, but the trailhead is about 9,000ft so acclimating the night is important. This is a good trip for novices as well as experienced fly fishers. The facilities are primitive, the hike rigorous but not difficult and the fishing is easy: these beautiful little fish should be hungry after a long winter.

If you can't make this trip, we will be going back up to lower the fence in late September, and doing it all again next year.

Tight Lines,
Gary



GARY STRAWN

FREE CASTING LESSONS EVERY SUNDAY 9 AM--NOON

Join the San Diego Fly Fishers at Lake Murray to cast or improve your skills. Free instruction is available. Bring your own equipment or use the club equipment, available from one of the instructors.

DIRECTIONS--

Take Interstate 8 to Lake Murray Boulevard. Go north on Lake Murray Boulevard to Kiowa Drive. Turn left and look for people casting just as you enter the park. That's our bunch.



Blue Shark Fishing

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Captain Jeff, Lloyd Kay, and Lucky Ketcham

strip set the hook like an expert and “FISH ON”. After a long run, the line went slack and it was “FISH OFF”. The line had parted at the connection between the line and wire leader. One large \$25 fly lost. Everyone was disappointed but another shark ap-



Jesse Tuman

peared and again Lloyd was the fastest grabbing another 14 weight rod. Everything went just as with the previous fish. Teaser in the water, shark follows, the fly is cast, teaser jerked out of the water, shark turned to eat the fly, strip set, “fish on”, long run, slack line and fish off. This time the shark had made a turn and the line traveled up his back and was cut by the fin. Two large flies lost.

Jesse was the next fisherman and almost immediately hooked into a five foot Blue shark. Lucky and I took pictures, offered advice that went into one ear and out the other. After about 20 minutes, Jesse maneuvered the shark along side the boat where Jeff was able to remove the fly and release the shark. During Jesse’s fighting his shark, two more sharks started circling the boat. One of them was a

BIG one for a Blue shark. When Jesse’s fish was released, Jeff brought out a 16 weight rod rigged with a big pink fly. I took it and got ready for my turn. Everything went fine except the smaller shark followed the teaser and ate the fly. Even with a 16 weight rod I will attest Blue sharks give a real good fight. I was able to get him along side in about 15 minutes, where Jeff released him. The large shark was still circling the boat and Jeff was able to tease him and I hooked him. He was a great fighter, making long deep runs and shaking his head. It took over half an hour to get him along the side the boat and remove the fly. He was about six feet long and estimated to be 150 to 160 pounds. I was tired, my arms ached and I was done for the day.

Lucky was the next fisherman, losing one after a five minute fight. At least

he was able to get the fly back. It wasn’t long before he hooked into another nice Blue and after 15-20 minutes, brought him along side to be released.

After the original forty minutes, sharks appeared every 10-15 minutes if we had to wait at all. At one time we had one hooked and three others circling the boat. Action was steady through out the day. Out of the dozen sharks we had during the day, we hooked all but one of them. One time we had a shark circling the boat and when we released a hooked shark, they both dove for the bottom.

It was a pleasure to watch the kids fight fish almost as big as they were. Lloyd weights 110 pounds and most of the sharks we caught were between 60 and 80 pounds. Lloyd finally landed two sharks for the day after losing his first two. Jesse landed two also and lost one. Lucky and I also caught two and lost another.

All had a great time. Captain Jeff Stock can be reached through his Web site Stockcharters.com or 760 518-0277



Large Mouth Bass Tactics, Ken Hanley (Big Time Bassin)

Presentation to the San Diego Fly Fishers
February 1, 2010. Short Notes version by Lucky Ketcham

Kim Jones said she thought Ken's presentation was the best that we have had in years. Ken provided useful information in an entertaining format. It was well attended by the Kenny Fans in the area and I think we all enjoyed his insights. Gary Farrar did a good job organizing his first celebrity speaker presentation. I thought I would try to distill my notes down to two pages for John Kasten and a few of our members that missed the show and do not have computers.

First of all let me tell you that I'm a "Kenny." I met Ken Hanley at a fly tying show in 2003 and recognized early that he has good things to teach me both in fly tying/fly fishing and in the approach to life with appreciation for the little details in nature. Ken wants to have a good time when he visits a club and he wants to give you "tools", not just information. The tools or approaches can be used for any fish species. He wants you to learn to love catching big fish, small fish and even no fish. Just getting out on the water should teach you something of value. Why you did not catch fish is always a puzzle.

Study the biology and behavior of the fish. Ken goes into great detail of why a bass is an "ambush predator." I have 4 pages on the comparative anatomy of a bass and barracuda. Ken wants you to learn the design and function of the mouth, all the little bones, arches and gill rakers that help the bass feed. The bass is "a vacuum feeder" taking in the meat and potatoes, the salad, and almost anything on the table. The mouth design lets it sort out the meat and spit out the vegetables. Don't be afraid to throw a popper in the mat of duckweed. The bass is not fussy; it will eat almost anything it can fit in the mouth.

"Bass fishing is a Vertical Game." Ken goes into the details of the big black protruding eyes on the top and front of the head. They are designed to look up while just barely sticking out of deep dark cover. The ambush predator has a short flat body with wide soft fins for quick turns not long runs. Ken uses the biology to tell you how to present your baits. Bass like heavy jig like baits falling on their head, and might ignore baits swimming horizontally that they would have to chase. He talks about the colorations, and the "most important" Lateral Line system. A bass will feel the vibrations of a frog or baby duckling before he sees it. It is good to make a splash and pop when you are fishing for bass. Get their attention. Ken would like to design flies with bulk and movement before he would add flash.

Ken goes over the typical list of hard structure, natural and man-made. Then he emphasizes the importance of "green structure and green cover." A rock pile or old river channel is more important if it is in deep shade and covered with lily pads or duck weed. Bass seek the areas where they are comfortable. That means proper water temperature, good oxygen levels and lots of food. Often green cover over beds of hydrilla or rooted plants will be the "Prime Habitat." He shows a picture of small bay and points out which locations he would fish first and why he would not start off fishing the deep open water in the middle of the lake. He would like the 4 to 6 foot deep water, in the shade, next to fallen wood, covered by green

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Large Mouth Bass Tactics

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matting before he would like the green matting near the shallow grass line in full sun. You want to make vertical drops of your heavy flies near the fallen logs and deep shade cover.

One of the key things he teaches is not to be afraid of throwing your flies into the heavy mat of duck weed and the holes in the lily pads. He tells a story about fishing in the South and the tips he was given that a cove with a surface mat of tangled weeds is **"only crowded on top."** The bass can easily see a heavy fly dropped through that mess. Ken suggests you put on a face mask and look under an area you think too thick to fish in and see all the bass and bait that are taking shelter in the shade. Don't be afraid to drop through it and don't be afraid to use a weedless popper or surface fly. Plan ahead and use a larger 7, 8 or 9 wt rod and heavier lines. You may catch a two pound fish and 5 pounds of weeds or you may catch a 7 pound bass and 10 pounds of weeds. Look for the best holding areas or "prime cover," not just looking for fish. Remember bass are short strike experts, they hit and get back into deep cover. Ken likes Green Cover over Green Structure, but Green Cover over Hard Structure is also good. Make short casts with heavy flies to drop vertically through the mat. Or copy the professional bass anglers and work a weedless big fly over the top of the duck weed or lily pads and watch for the explosion. Bass look up in 3 to 5 feet of water. Throw poppers and make a commotion. Ken's friend Jay Murakoshi works his spun deer hair crank baits like a mad man. It is fun just to watch him.

Knowing the water temperature on the surface and below the surface is important. Use a thermometer on a cord to find water with the oxygen levels that bass prefer. As the ponds and lakes get warmer there will be a temperature break or thermocline. The bass might be deeper in comfortable water or in the deep channel under green cover. Cooler water holds oxygen more efficiently. A bass might dart up into warm surface water, but it will hold in the cooler water.

When it is cold, look for a dark bottom of rotting vegetation near shore. The dark bottom collects and retains heat longer than white sandy shore lines. The insects and bait fish will be more active over dark bottoms. This is important in the spring. (It also helps that the midges and BWO's live in that rich organic soil and are active in spring. LK adds.)

Rods – Ken likes 6, 7, or 8 weight rods, Jay likes a heavier 7, 8, or 9 weights for larger heavier flies.

Fly Lines - mostly floating lines, weight forward. Ken suggests using one size larger than the rod size (an eight weight line with a 7 weight rod.) Ken will use a sinking line for large streamers and crank bait flies. The retrieves would copy the pro bass anglers – like walking the dog, fast energetic, with many pauses.

Flies – Vertical Game - Heavy hair jigheads that drop. Big flies with rubber legs that mimic the pig and jig, like Pig Boats – black, white, brown. Deep Clouser Minnows. Worm patterns.

Surface Flies - Try to mimic frogs, mice, baby black birds. Deer hair poppers, foam poppers, dragon flies, Damsel flies, even grass hoppers on small ponds.

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Largemouth Bass World Records

A look at the International Game Fish Association world record holders for largemouth bass caught on a fly rod, listed in order of tippet/line class followed by fish weight, angler name, where and when it was caught:

2-pound tippet – 8 pounds, Herbert Ratner, Jr., Ligonier, Penn., June 25, 2001

4-pound tippet – 9 pounds, 11 oz., **Dennis Ditmars**, Lake Dixon, Escondido, Calif., April 26, 1999

6-pound tippet – 14 pounds, 2 oz., John Lindsey, Jr., Lake Meredith, Texas, Oct. 20, 2000

8-pound tippet – 13 pounds, 9 oz., **Ned Sewell**, Lake Morena, Calif., April 4, 1984

12-pound tippet – 14 pounds, 8 oz., Larry Kurosaki, Castaic Lagoon, Castaic Calif., Feb. 24, 2007

16-pound tippet – 12 pounds, 11 oz., **Dennis Ditmars**, Lake Dixon, Calif., April 30, 1998

20-pound tippet – 9 pounds, 5 oz., **Dennis Ditmars**, Lake Poway, Calif., April 22, 1992

San Diego Fly Fishers have a tradition of catching World Record Bass on a fly rod. Dennis Ditmars and Ned Sewall are “World Famous.” — Who will add their name to this list???

Large Mouth Bass Tactics

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Divers: Dahlber divers, Jay's Spun deer hair crank baits with plastic lips. Hula Girl. Watch Jay spin and shape some of his crank baits sometime. He uses about 65 bundles of deer hair, tightly packed on each of his flies and then uses a razor to shape the body like a balsa crank bait.

The key is to use flies that move water and are large enough to easily see. The bass will locate the fly with their great lateral line system and then see it. Only the carp have a better lateral line system.

Should you fish top water or subsurface? Top water is exciting but Ken likes to fish subsurface for catching more and larger fish. Appreciate any size of bass. Size doesn't really matter. A 10 inch bass on a light rod is great fun. Ken loves the communication with friends, fish and nature.

Value the thinking process. Be thankful of the new things you learn, the puzzle and the challenge.

Website – Pacific Extremes <http://www.pacificextremes.com/>

Ken Hanley

Adventures Beyond

P.O. Box 3239

Fremont, CA 94539

e-mail: kenpacx@yahoo.com



FLY OF THE MONTH

Calcasieu Pig Boat-by Tom Nixon

This great Large Mouth Bass pattern has been picked for the **Fly of the Month** in memory of SDFF member, **Dennis Ditmars**. This avid bass angler passed away in September 2006. Dennis loved to throw the large black or white Pig Boats to giant bass in San Diego Lakes. He still holds line class World Records for large mouth bass on a fly rod (4, 12 and 20 pound tippet.) Dennis was a good friend and fishing buddy of Warren Lew. His wife, Jane Ditmars, SDFF&GSF member, carries on the tradition.

It is bass season in San Diego County get out and go!



<*)"">,'>< — Lucky

Material List:

Hook:	Mustad 3366, size #1
Thread:	black 3/0 or Danville Flat Waxed 210 denier.
Weed Guard:	mono (optional) 30 pound
Underbody:	Lead wire
Body Hackle:	black stiff saddle hackle
Body:	medium black chenille
Hackle:	black rubber legs (56)- legs that are connected in a flat strips, separate in last step.
Head:	black thread built up and painted eyes

Tying Instructions:

Attach weed guard to hook shank bring it down around the hook bend. Attach wraps of lead as needed along rear of the body. Form smooth tapers of thread over shank on ends of lead wraps, cover lead with thread and super glue over the fly. Tie in hackle and chenille at rear of hook shank. Wrap chenille and hackle forward leaving plenty of room for the legs and head of the fly (cover about 2/3 of shank).

Tom Nixon tied in his 56 legs in small connected bunches around the hook. My first attempts caused the rubber butts of the legs to compress and crowd the eye of the hook. I like this method better. Strip off 2 bunches of rubber legs in unseparated clumps of 14 and 4x the length of the hook (about 6 inches). Lay one clump of 14 lengthwise on top of hook. You will want to tie this in tight against the front of the body and almost at the middle of the clump. I say almost because you

will want the half hanging over the eye to be just slightly longer, so when you bend it back over, it will be the same length as the legs already extending backwards. Tie it in tight. Do the same with the second clump of 14 along the bottom of the hook. Pull all the legs back jam thread in front of the legs to hold them in place. Start building up the head just a bit. Now bring the end of the weed guard mono up and forward and push it through the hook eye from underneath and bend it back over the fly. Build up the thread head tying down the mono centered under and over the head. This both helps form a nicely shaped head and makes sure the mono is not coming out. After the head is formed trim the end of the mono, separate the individual legs and paint the eyes. You can just pull on the live rubber strip and let it snap to separate the legs - cool.



Recipients of the
Stroud Award

2004-Jim Brown
2005-Allen Greenwood
2006- Hugh Marx
2007- Mike Rivkin
2008- Bill Van Wulven
2009- Larry Bottroff



EILEEN STROUD CONSERVATION FUND



Donations are gratefully accepted
Make checks payable to Eileen Stroud Conservation Fund

Mail to:
Stroud Conservation Fund
1457 Morena Blvd
San Diego, CA 92110

All funds collected in Eileen's name will be donated to fresh water fish conservation or research programs in San Diego County.

Cutoff date for **May FINNY FACTS**
articles---Friday April 16th.

Send articles to:
Rose and Roger Yamasaki,
5415 Lodi Place
San Diego, CA 92117

You can E-mail at Thanks!!

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

Lucky Ketcham

LIFE MEMBERS

Gordon Foster (in memoriam), Bill Stroud, Eileen Stroud (in memoriam), 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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Recipients of the:

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For unselfish and outstanding service
to the flyfishing community

1991-Ned Sewell	2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki
1992-Bob Camp	2002-Larry Sorensen
1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud	2003-Jim Tenuto
1994-Ed Velton	2004-Joe Bain
1995-Bob Wisner	2005-Jim Reeg
1996-Gary Hilbers	2006-John Kasten
1997-Jack Bentley	2007-Lucky Ketcham
1998-Gordie Zimm	2008-Louie Zimm
1999-Gretchen Yearous	2009-Warren Lew
2000-Tom Smith	



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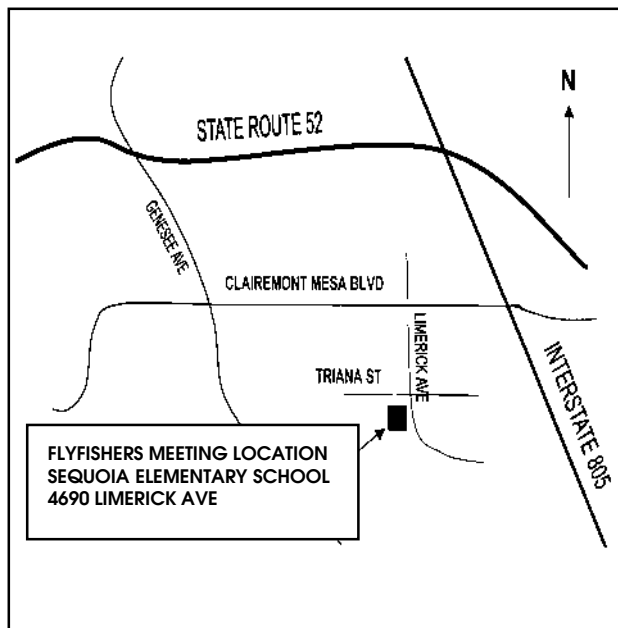
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David Collins
 www.sandiegoflyfishers.com

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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