

FINNY FACTS

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San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 11, No. 9

September Meeting

KERN RIVER TRIP

By Gretchen Yearous

Fly Fishing Argentina

September's presentation will be by noted photographer, author (*Fly Fishing Alaska*) and fly fisherman **Sam Mihara** of the Long Beach Casting Club.

Sam's presentation will cover fly fishing in Argentina.



MEETING NOTICE

Monday, September 11th, 2006
7:30 PM

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

REMINDER

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

**Dennis Remillard
and Tom Piccolo**

Thank You, Mona Morebello

By my standards, our small group of Bob McKay, David Collins and Dick Mount and myself had a rewarding adventure 8/8 thru 8/11. Preparing for the departure had it's surprises. I learned that SOME cats like pond scum and had left rows of teeth marks on my chestwader feet that had been hanging on the back porch. Two days of patching didn't close the fountain at the Belagio pattern so I, without intention, waded somewhat wet.

We had a fabulous adventure on the 9th starting with a 5:15 a.m. departure when Dave took us some 75 road miles back into Monache Meadows to the end of the road where the South Fork of the Kern runs. The temperature ranged from 40 degrees to 74 during the day. It was the 1 ½ hours of dirt, rocky and pitching road with the 4 wheel drive at speeds sometimes at 1 mile per hour that gave us passengers plenty of time to enjoy the surrounding forests, mother deer and fawn family, birds, chipmonks, and of course the oversized jack rabbits that I didn't see. Dave gave us a fishing lesson on that beautiful water and we scattered and came back with various reports. I think it was the full moon that I was wrestling with. Couldn't be that the fish bite turned off suddenly. I

used a beadhead Kern River emerger pattern with little rubber legs and raised a fish over 10" and everyone else used dries. We fished a little longer after lunch using dries vowing to keep some larger trout for a much coveted taste of fried pan size trout. It wouldn't be a successful trip if Dave and I couldn't eat a couple of pan fried trout. The larger ones over 10" got off the hooks so we settled for a small hybrid golden and a brown for the sampling. The curious calves were wandering over to see who or what was lying on the ground under a shade tree (me) when Dick Mount chased them off. We started back around 3 or 3:30 when we saw a forest fire on the ridge. We did a what if scenario in conversation, tried to get into what turned out to be an unoccupied forest building and saw no one for miles when finally a pickup came through and told us it was a controlled burn.

Note: I grew up in Colorado with a stepfather who was a skilled 4 wheel jeep driver that got us into places that now only horses can reach so I have had first hand experience in those kinds of roads. I am saying for all to know: Dave is an extremely skilled and cautious 4 wheel jeep driver and none of us ever had any fears on that

continued on page 3

Bev and I were flying back from Kona at 5:00 a.m. on Thursday when I realized I had not yet sent Rose and Roger this month's *President's Message*. That's the way it's supposed to be on vacation, forget everything! But only for a moment, as I knew it had to be done as soon as I got back.

We did have a great trip, including a wonderful evening spent with **Larry Sorensen** in Honolulu. Larry sends greetings to everyone. The U.S. Navy has promised him he will be back in San Diego and permanently retired in September, 2007. In the meantime, given the lack of freshwater fly fishing opportunities in Oahu, (the peacock bass have not co-operated), he has become an avid outrigger canoeist.



LEE McELRAVY

I had been back in San Diego less than a day when I was again immersed in Club business and activities. Planning for our August Board Meeting and some upcoming Fall activities, I soon learned that many of your Directors are still "out-and-about," traveling and fishing in some pretty cool places! We may live in an area with twelve months of summer, but the reality is that most of us (at least those of us con-

strained by full-time employment) still plan our vacations around the summer months. A psychologist friend of mine once told me that "New Years" would be better celebrated on September 1st of each year, as that is the time when most families re-start their everyday routine of school, work and regular social activities. That would certainly

seem to hold true for our members, many of whom seem to be trying to cram as much activity into the last two weeks of summer as possible.

Speaking of which, one last reminder. If this issue of the Finny Facts reaches you before Saturday, August 26th, please remember our commitment to the Junior Anglers Tournament at Chollas Lake. We need volunteers to assist in set-up on Friday afternoon, August 25th and for the Tournament on Saturday. We will be gathering on Saturday morning between 6:15 and 6:30 and our first task will be to assist with registration. Please, this is for the kids and they need our support!

In the meantime, I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you on Monday, September 11th. By the way, if you see any of our Directors in your travels, would you please ask them to phone home?



Sand Bass Fishing – Notes by Lucky Ketcham July 13, 2006

Ifished on Thursday, July 13, 2006 from 5:15 AM until 12 noon with Louie Zimm on his twin engine sport boat, the Altair. There was a very low tide at 6:00 AM. It was so low that we could see many of the rocks and details of the Zuniga Jetty as we left the San Diego Harbor. The moon was almost full the night before.

As we left the dock we discussed the game plan for the morning. Since Louie

had to be back for a meeting at one o'clock we were going to let the birds and the wind determine where would be fishing. There were two choices, try fishing for bass and halibut near the jetty or joining the half day boats at the border to try for spawning sand bass. Louie had fished on Wednesday and had a pretty good bite under diving pelicans and terns near the jetty. This morning all the pelicans were just resting on the rocks and not working the water. Louie said that there was a

full moon last night and the bass might have fed all night in the bright moonlight. They did not seem to be chasing schools of anchovies up to the surface for the birds to get excited about. There was a nice cool breeze at the entrance to the harbor, but not enough to deter us from making the 6 or 7 mile trip to the border.

We headed south and noted the surface

continued on page 9



Kern River

continued from page 1

day trip. This day will be one of my fondest memories of any day spent with club members. Good food, pretty place, good fishing, good people!

The next day, we hit the James Store in Kernville late morning to get sandwiches for lunch on the Kern River and got slowed tremendously with the snail pace service. That is something we learned that in the future would have to be a calculated timing issue. Bob had been reading about fishing woolly buggers in moving water and it really paid off. While I was gearing up with hipers and boots, Dave and Bob trotted off to wade wet and Bob caught 3 trout with a brown bugger before I got to the water. Surprisingly he caught them around 1:30 in a hot part of the day. I caught one immediately when I got on the water with another beadhead emerger pattern and kept the trout. The bite quit. I could see one now and then look at my fly and go away. I downsized, put on split shot with the bead heads and strike indicator and got serious but couldn't coerce them in the hottest part of the day. As typical for the Kern, I had to pull in my fly several times to prevent snagging the tubers coming down the river. Bob found me on his way back to the truck for more water so I asked him to please take my trout to the ice chest. He took it out of the back of my vest and I hear this, "Oh sh**." **He dropped the trout.** I figured it was gone and Dave and I would have to lynch him on the "lynchin' tree" proclaimed by local history to reside around the corner from Dave's house. Fortunately for Bob, he got it back. He didn't have a stringer with him so he didn't save any of his catch. We quit the water around 5:30, just when Dave got his strikes, because we had to get back and

prepare dinner. We had our group dinner that night and it was a toss up for Dave and I whether we chose the trout or the filet mignon steaks that Bob brought or the pie that Dick brought to be our favorite taste that night.

The driving time and distance does impact being on the water during what is probably the best bite times with the hot weather – early morning and definitely early evening. Unless you have your food with you up there, you find the restaurants closed in Kernville when you come off the river after a late bite. Serious fisherman need to be prepared for those conditions.

The full moon continued to haunt as we tried for hours to catch "anything" in Lake Isabella with all the boating, skiing, and jet skis activity going on around us the last morning. Dick proved to be our high catch with a couple of sunfish/bluegill type and I caught one and that is the report for the lake on the 11th. The cove we had such success with a couple of years ago was lined with campers and water craft since the water level is high right now and there are numerous beach areas. I think it would take a week of fishing the coves all over that lake to find the best "flyfishing" spots.

Our thanks go to Dave and Dick for being willing to open their doors to club members. The heat didn't deter the fishing that much. The "Kern River" is a challenge that will take years of experimenting to reach maximum skill. I have the rest of my life to figure it out.

Dave sent the following notes on his fishing after Bob and I left 1 p.m. on the 11th. I went back to the fly shop and try to get a little more info on the fishing areas and ask more questions

about technique. Rick, the store minder that day, told me it was important to have only about 6 inches between your shot and the top fly of your 2 fly-nymph rig. He also said that changing weight so that the current was able to bounce it along the rocky bottom is the single most important factor in presenting flies to the fish. "And.....he told me that instead of fishing right in the campground we parked at, he usually fishes above it just above where the tubers put in. Rick didn't think time of day is really a factor at this spot."

I digested all this advice and went back to the spot where he said to fish, and caught 3 nice bows in the evening. The area had more open water as opposed to the pocket water we had fished earlier. It offers longer drifts and I think more area for fish to hang. One of the fish was caught right off the bat using the same woolly bugger (brown) Bob had luck with. The other two came on the nymph rig. I saw a few fish rising, so tried a Kern Special (basically a Royal Wulff with chartreuse instead of red body floss). Many fish went after it, but none were hooked.....I think they must have been small juveniles. As I stood at my car getting ready to leave, I looked into the spot I had been fishing and the surface became very active – this was after the sun went behind the opposite ridge. I couldn't see the size of the fish that were rising.....I think they must have been hitting emergers just below the surface. But it was good action for about 10 minutes.

Anyway.....I feel like I've got a little more knowledge in my "How-to-fish-the-Kern" mental notes now. And more confidence that next time I'm up there I'll be doin some catchin' to go along with my fishin'.



FLY OF THE MONTH

Mike Mercer's Beaded Biot Epoxy Golden Stone

<http://www.theflyshop.com/fly10.htm> These photos were taken from the Fly Shop near Redding, Ca. They have a lot of useful information on their site. Dennis Remillard asked me to try to write up a recipe for this fly that was working for him in the Upper Sacramento in July 2006. Notes by Lucky Ketcham.



- Hook:** Tiemco 200R, 6, 8 or 10
Antennae: goose biots, pale yellow.
Bead: gold (Mercer uses Tungsten bead on size 6, gold on size 8 to 14 and copper on size 16 or 18)
Thread: tan 8/0 on the size 10, 6/0 on the larger sizes.
Tail: goose biots dyed pale yellow, touched with brown permanent marker.
Weight: Two strips of lead on each side of the hook shaft.
Underbody: thread or dental floss tape, flattened with pliers.
Body: goose biot dyed pale yellow touched with brown permanent marker for mottled effect. You may have to use larger turkey biots on the larger patterns.
Wingcase: dark turkey tail treated with a bubble of epoxy, or a slip of speckled Hungarian partridge treated and then coated with epoxy.
Legs: partridge or grouse, tied in Oliver Edward's style by the tip under the wing case.
Thorax: buggy nymph golden stone yellow dubbing

The key to this fly is to make a nice flat underbody of two strips of lead wire and dental floss before wrapping them with goose biots. The soft partridge legs also give this pattern the movement that means "life."

Smash barb and slide on an appropriate sized bead. Keep the bead at the bend while tying on two goose biots for the antennae. Size to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in front of the eye, secure and whip finish. Trim off the thread. Slide the bead over the butts of the antennae. Cut two equal strips of lead about the diameter of the

hook shank and as long as the bead to the point. Cut the lead at an angle to taper the rear end. Reattach the thread behind the bead and wrap a tight thread base. Apply some head cement to the thread. Position the strips of lead on each side of the hook shank and wrap up to the bead and back. Flatten with pliers and add a coat of head cement. Attach 10 inches of white flat waxed nylon, like dental floss tape. Wrap a nice tapered underbody to the bead and back. Secure at the bend and trim off excess. Flatten the underbody with pliers. Add as small ball of yellow dubbing at the bend in preparation for the

continued on next page




Fly of the Month

continued from previous page

tail. Select two matched yellow goose biots. Place each along the side of the body with the curved tips out. Size the tails to be one hook gap from the bend. Secure with wraps in front of the dubbing ball to flare the tails. Wrap the thread over the butts of biots on each side and trim at the mid line. Select a large yellow goose biot or larger turkey biot and attach by the tip at the bend. The ridge on the biot should be up. Apply a little head cement on the top of the body and wrap the biot forward. Make a wrap of thread with each wrap of the biot. Secure at the mid shank and trim off the excess. Attach the wing case of grey mottled turkey or Hungarian partridge. The wing cases should be previously coated with head cement or Dave's Flex-cement. The dull side should be up and pointed toward the bend. Select a straight soft partridge or pheasant breast feather for the legs. The barbs should be long enough to almost reach the point. Attach the feather by the tip, dull side up and lay to the back. Make a small noodle of buggy yellow/golden stone color dubbing for the

thorax. Wrap a sparse thorax, just enough to cover the underbody. Make sure to wrap up on to the wing case one wrap. Pull the thread diagonally across the ball of dubbing to flatten the top. Pull the partridge feather forward, secure with three tight wraps and trim. Add a small drop of head cement on top center of the thorax to help secure the legs and wing case. Pull the wing case forward and secure behind the bead. Trim off excess. Cover the thread wraps with a little dubbing or peacock herl. Whip finish behind the bead. Use a brown marker pen to mottle the top of the abdomen and the tail.

Make 6 to 12 flies and then mix up some clear 5-minute epoxy. Carefully apply a small drop of epoxy to the top of the wing case taking care that it does not run into the legs or dubbing. The epoxy will help add weight to this fly and the clear bubble will magnify the little grey speckles in the partridge wing case.

Dennis reports this was a hot fly the last week in July in the Redding area of the Western Sierras. 

From Robert Miller:

This is a partial list of books available at the SD county library. Access by calling your branch, reserve a copy by the library website or going to your branch in person and reserving a copy.

FICTION;

F. GALLIGAN: THE NAIL KNOT

F. KIEF: FIREHOLE RIVER MURDER

F. MENDONSA: FISHING FOR CLUES

JEFF HULL: PALE MORNING DONE

NON FICTION

FLY FISHING FOOL

CONSTRUCTING CANE RODS 688.79 GOU

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF FLY FISHING 799.124 MCN

THE BAMBOO ROD AND HOW TO BUILD IT 688.79

THE ART OF THE TROUT FLY 688.7912 ART

FISHING SMALL FLIES 799.124 ENG

FISH ON 799.124 TAL

THE SCIENCE OF FLY FISHING 799.124 ULA

A FISHING LIFE IS HARD WORK 799.124 SCH

A GUIDE TO FISH ORGANISMS THE TROUT 799.1757 BOR



Bighorn River, Montana.

Notes by Bob Pharoah, July 12, 2006.

Notes on fishing the Bighorn River:

The Bighorn River is considered to be one of the finest trout streams not just in Montana but in the lower forty-eight states. The river consistently pulls out large fish. Brown trout average about 15 inches, while rainbow trout average around 16 inches. The river has outstanding hatches. And unlike many rivers in Montana, the Bighorn is a high quality fly fishing river for the entire year, offering anglers who don't mind the elements the opportunity to catch large fish in the middle of the winter.

Trout fishing on the Bighorn River is generally localized to the first 13 miles below the dam, to the Bighorn Access Site. In these upper thirteen miles, Afterbay Dam regulates river flows and irrigation has only a minimal impact on river flows. As a result, the Bighorn River almost always flows, steady, clear and cool, creating ideal fishing conditions.

Below the Bighorn Access Site, the current begins to slow down somewhat and becomes quite slow as it nears the Yellowstone River. Irrigation also begins to pull water out of the Bighorn. As a result, the temperature of the Bighorn River begins to warm up. Good trout fishing, particularly for brown trout, can be had between the Bighorn Access Site and the Two Leggings Access Site, although the numbers of trout per mile are less than found further upstream. Below Two Leggings all the way down to the Yellowstone River, large brown trout can still be found although their numbers are quite low. Generally, except during the fall and spring, the lower half of the Bighorn River is a warm water fishery for catfish, whitefish and bass.

Not surprisingly, the upper 13 miles of the Bighorn River have exceptionally heavy fly fishing pressure. The period between July and September sees the heaviest use. On a busy summer day, it is not uncommon to see dozens of rafts floating the river with many more anglers fly fishing from the rivers banks.

Once the busy season of summer passes, fly fishing pressure does reduce. However, even during the dead of winter, the river still sees fairly consistent use as the river as anglers come from all over to take advantage of the quality fishing the Bighorn River provides during the winter.

Any angler visiting the Bighorn River in winter (November - March) should come prepared. Being located on the western edge of the high plains can provide for wild shifts in weather. Some days will be in the sixties, while others will have sub-zero temperatures with blizzard conditions. So the motto for winter fly fishing in the Bighorn River is to come prepared for truly anything.

In general, the Bighorn River fishes well for both wade anglers and floaters, although wade anglers may have problems during higher water. Additionally, float-

continued on next page



Big Horn River

continued from previous page

ers have the big advantage of being able to easily go from prime location to another, as well as being easily able to cover the whole width of the river.

Afterbay Dam to Bighorn Access Site

As mentioned, the best fishing is found on this stretch. Estimates put the fish populations on this stretch between 3,000-5,000 fish per mile, with a significant proportion of the fish well over fourteen inches. The rich fertility of the Bighorn River on this section allows trout to grow very quickly.

During the winter, midges are the flies of choice. They are best fished in a dead drift in slower water, not out in fast current. Fishing the midges in deep water is also important. The depth of the drift should either be right along the bottom or near the surface of the river. Suggested patterns are the standard Adams, Serendipity and Griffiths Gnat, sized 18-24, used on long, light leaders. For anglers who like using them, San Juan Worms, which imitate the red worms found in the river, are also an excellent choice. It is also worth remembering that fishing midges and San Juan Worms on the Bighorn River generally work well all year. So don't be bashful about using midges and worms during the summer if the standard patterns and techniques aren't working.

Beginning in April and usually lasting until early June, a blue-winged olive hatch occurs. These hatches usually occur during mid-day, with the heaviest part occurring in mid-afternoon when the temperature is at its warmest. Both dry flies and nymphs can be successfully used during this hatch. For the dry fly angler, the Parachute Adams, in smaller sizes, works very well. Popular nymph flies include the Pheasant Tail Nymph and Hare's Ear Nymph, in sizes 16-20.

July on the river sees the little yellow stonefly hatch. Fishing the yellow stonefly hatch can provide the angler with solid fishing. Additionally, fishing is somewhat easier during early July than later in the month as the hordes of anglers have yet to arrive. Best of all, fishing the yellow stonefly hatch requires less precision on the parts of anglers. A popular approach to fishing during this hatch is to use a Elk Hair Caddis or Stimulator in sizes 16-18, throwing them out into the heavier current and riffles.

Late summer on the Bighorn River sees it's most prolific and most heavily fished hatches. Starting later in July and lasting through the middle of August, excellent pale morning dun hatches occur. The PMD hatch generally occurs during the middle of the day. Standard dry fly patterns, such as the Sparkle Dun and PMD Cripple, sizes 14-18, work well. When dry fly fishing, it is vitally important to have a drag free drift. The trout in the Bighorn River have lots of artificial flies thrown at them over the course of the year, and will not be impressed by a dry fly that leaves a little wake behind it.

When fly fishing nymphs during the PMD hatch, the best technique is to dead drift the nymph in faster water, particularly in the riffles. A light colored Hare's Ear nymph, sized 16-20 is a popular nymph pattern used during the PMD hatch.

continued on next page



Big Horn River

continued from previous page

Perhaps the best fly fishing on the Bighorn River occurs during August, although there are some slow days. During August, the PMD hatch is just beginning to end, while the caddis hatch is just beginning. The caddis hatch usually begins in mid-August and can last well into September. The heaviest hatch generally occurs in the evening. Popular flies used during the caddis hatch include the standby Elk Hair Caddis, the Tan Caddis as well as the X-Caddis, in sizes 14-18.

Fall on the river sees a solid Trico hatch. The Tricos come off the water in the evenings and return in the early morning, where they lay their eggs. These hatches are easily located by looking for swarms of these tiny flies hovering above the river. Despite the tiny sizes of these flies, large trout, especially large rainbows, come up to feed on them, providing a real challenge for an angler who manages to find one considering the light tackle that must be used. Popular patterns to use during the Trico hatch are a parachute Trico and a parachute Adams, in small sizes of 20-24, with very light tippets (6x or 7x are standard).

Bighorn Access Site to confluence with Yellowstone River below Bighorn Access Site, trout populations begin to thin out. Decent numbers of trout, particularly brown trout, will be found down to the Two Leggings Access Site. Below Two Leggings, brown trout will still be found, although their numbers are quite low.

Below St. Xavier Access Site, the Bighorn River enters the Crow Indian Reservation, where it flows for another fifteen-miles. Shore access along this stretch is non-existent, so plan on using a boat if you want to fish this section.

The river also can also become low during the summer due to irrigation. Some of the feeder creeks also can become turbid with only small amounts of rain, clouding up the Bighorn River on occasion during the summer.

Despite this, the section of river between Bighorn Access and Two Leggings Access can provide excellent fishing. Fishing pressure is significantly less than further upstream. And while the fish populations will be less, the trout in this section are just as large as further upstream and are a lot less picky and spooky since they don't have hundreds of rafts floating over them every day.

Fishing technique and patterns used between Bighorn Access and Two Leggings are not much different than used further upstream. However, streamers should also be used on this section. Brown trout become a much higher percentage of the fish in the river the farther the Bighorn travels through the Crow Indian Reservation. As a result, fishing large streamer patterns down deep in the holes and right along the banks is an excellent way to take the larger brown trout.

Downstream from the Two Leggings Access site, the Bighorn River turns into primarily a warm water fishery, mainly pike, bass and some whitefish, although some large brown trout can still occasionally be found. The river can flow quite slowly through this section as it winds its way through the plains of Southeast Montana.



Sand Bass Fishing

continued from page 2

water temperatures changing from 67, 68 to 69 degrees. Louie has fished the hard mudflats off Imperial Beach and the Bull Ring on the border many times and has some of the locations dialed into his GPS system. The GPS is so good that you could tell when you were 100 feet from the border line. The seas were fairly smooth and we traveled the distance in almost no time in the twin hulled Altair. Sand bass are often resting on the bottom so Louie recommended I use my full sink, fast sinking fly line. I brought one rod and three choices of sinking line. I used 15 foot of LC13 lead core, with 4 feet of 20 pound Ande level mono for the leader. Later I added 4 feet of 15 pound Fluor-carbon for a total of 8 ft leader. The thin 20 pound red Amnesia running line let the shooting head sink rapidly to get down to the fish. The water depth was about 120 feet so I started out using one of the heavily weighted Line side Smelt we have been using in Mission Bay. Louie said we were in the right spot, so I made a short cast and stripped out the 100 feet of running line bouncing the large streamer near the bottom. Louie did the same with his integrated fast sinking line and caught the first bass on a small Clouser or anchovy. Within a few minutes Louie made another cast and we had our first double hook up of the morning. The surprise for me was that I caught my fish on the retrieve only 10 feet below the boat. The bass were not resting on the bottom; instead they were up, chasing bait or chasing babes about 30 feet down. Seeing the swimming fish on the fish finder changed our tactics for most of the morning. Instead of letting the line sink all the way to the bottom we counted down to about 10 or 12 when we thought the fast sinking line was deep enough be-

fore we started stripping line. The fish seem to be swimming with legal (28 inch plus) barracuda. After catching a few bass, Louie noted that they were spitting up small 1.5 to 2 inch anchovies and small squid. He suggested I change flies to the baby Line side Anchovy that worked on the Bonito. The change seemed to be a good idea as it produced more bites than the 5 inch smelt. The copper flash in the smelt did seem to be a good color for the bass.

The black, blue, silver and white color of the small anchovy seemed to be the ticket for both barracuda and sand bass. I even caught two mackerel when rapidly stripping the fly near the surface. The legal barracuda were running about 5 pounds and really put a nice bend in my 8 weight rod. One particular fish was very energetic and would take line like crazy every time it came near the boat. One thing I learned this morning was that you should always use two people and the net to try to land 5 or 6 pound fish. Even with all the experience that Louie has, he is not immune from breaking 6 inches off the tip of a graphite rod if you don't ask for help. He was landing only a three or four pound barracuda and "Hi-sticking" the fly rod while trying to grab the leader for a nice catch and release. The super charged fish had just enough kick to put a quick bend in the tip of the rod and a snap was heard in a nice Sage rod. It was only 6 inches and the rod still has a lot of taper, so Louie thinks he can avoid sending it in for repair for a while. He says it costs \$60 plus postage even for a lifetime guaranteed rod. We talked about how to avoid that accident. Whenever I had a bigger fish on Louie had me walk up the

deck four or five feet so that I did not have more than a 60 or 70 degree angle when he was trying to net or leader the fish. We avoided have the rod at 90 degrees from the water or 180 degrees from the fish. We also talked about using rods with more fiber glass in the tips instead of the hi-modulus graphite when fishing from a boat. You do not have the problem with salmon or large surf fish as you can beach the fish in the shallows and they do not have that deep water escape route to pull the tip straight down. I will certainly remember that lesson and try to avoid breaking a rod tip. Louie also noted we need to take care when casting weight flies like Clousers and bead heads not to knick the graphite rods.

As the morning wore on there were two groups of boats fishing at the border. One had the three quarter day boats and privates with Mexican licenses and the other had the Daily Double and half day boats from Mission Bay. The Mission Bay boats were anchored about 2 miles north of the fleet. We fished between them, trolling and drifting, always on the look out for terns and blips on the fish finder. The terns were not as much help with sand bass as they were with the bonito. Louie said that he thought the bass were swimming around in smaller groups of three or four instead of the tight schools of bonito. The bass were just happy picking off the anchovies in deeper water and did not push the schools to the surface for the birds to see and follow. The fish kept moving, but not as fast as the bonito.

One thing I learned in these few trips is not to be a "purist" Fly Fisher. If we

continued on next page



Sand Bass Fishing

continued from previous page

just brought fly rods we would have caught a lot fewer fish. I used mainly my fly rod and I only caught one bass and two barracuda on the spinning rod and small metal jig. I still am trying to learn salt water fly fishing and I have a lot of patterns tied up. The bait caster rod was used to throw a larger seven inch chrome jig to bring fish to the boat so that they were within casting distance. Louie said you have two choices, you can buy \$30 worth of live bait for chum, or you can cast large jigs to get the fish excited. Both barracuda and sand bass were seen following the jigs and following in fish that were on the line. It was funny to see three large sand bass trying to attack one of the 10 inch mackerel as it came to the boat. The mackerel was really zipping around and the bass were keeping up with it.

Louie caught some beautiful 5 or 6 pound sand bass. They were really nice and fat. They would have been great eating, but we decided to let them all go and try to please the fish gods. We were very careful in releasing the fish with minimal handling. We used Wade's trick of taking an old paint roller handle to catch the bend of the barb-less hook and shaking the fish off. In most cases we did not even have to touch the bass. The large barracuda usually had to have a little more handling to extract the hook from that toothy mouth. Louie was very good at operating, holding the mouth open with a Boga Grip while using long nose pliers. Note if you are catching barracuda that are 2.5 to 3 inches between the eyes make sure to use those long nose pliers with 6 inch jaws and not the little ones with two inch jaws. The small ones might be okay for croaker, perch and spotted bay bass, but too small for



Louie with sand bass off Imperial Beach on Friday July 14th.

extracting a hook from the gill rakers of one of these man eaters. Louie drew blood twice when saving some of these babies. He was glad he had a little bottle of Purrell Hand Sanitizer to help prevent infections. I think it is a good idea for a boat check list, especially when you are fishing only $\frac{1}{4}$ mile off the buoy marker for the end of the International Sewer Plant Outfall. You never know what bug might be on those teeth.

The fishing was pretty steady most of the morning and we did not really have a slow period. We never hit a lot of fish, but would pick them up on the troll or after spotting some on the scope. I stopped counting and only know that the fly rod was taking almost as many fish

as the spinning rod on this morning. I got some good practice throwing the 15 foot shooting head. I was no Mark Sedotti, but I got better as the morning progressed. I had more consistent casts when I took the trouble to use a five gallon bucket with two inches of water in the bottom for my shooting line. When I just tried to use the boat deck, I kept stepping on the thin amnesia line when trying to keep my balance on the pitching boat. There is less damage to the fly line or running line when you use the bucket too.

At one point I let the line sink near the bottom and felt a very solid weight. I

told Louie that I thought I was hung up on the bottom. He said, there is nothing to snag on the hard mud flat and advised me to get up to the bow. Just about that time something took off and the handles of the reel were thumping against my life vest. Louie thought that I was hitting my knuckles again, but I learned that lesson last time. I kept my hands clear and tried to just use the drag on the reel. What ever it was it made a fairly long fast run and then spit the hook. Louie thought it might have been one of those big white croakers.

The last fish we caught was a real nice sand bass that Louie caught off a jig. We took some pictures of it so hopefully we can document that I am not exag-

continued on next page



Sand Bass Fishing

continued from previous page



Here is a picture of me with one of the sand bass Louie and I caught off Imperial Beach--Lucky.

gerating on the size of these fish. Breeding season for sand bass mid July; Mark your calendars for next year. Be there or be square.

I was tying 1 ½ to 2 inch baby anchovies this morning at 6:00 AM. I am experimenting with 4X long shank size 2 hooks with the eyes and head of the anchovy tied at the bend. It is sort of a tarpon fly style with about two inches of bare hook in front of the head. Maybe it will still attract the barracuda, will be easier to remove and be cut off less frequently than the short shank version.

Another day in San Diego Paradise - On the Water with Fly Rod in Hand, – but remember to bring water if you go out. It is pretty hot when the sun burns through. Five until noon with an incom-

ing high tide was almost a perfect amount of time to be on the water.

Louie even provided fresh BBQ Bonito sandwiches. He reminded me how to keep bonito with the best taste possible. Catch one late in the day and cut the gill blood lines to drain all the blood, Keep the fish in cold water or on ice until you fillet it. Keep the skin on the fillets and place in a plastic zip lock bag that is kept on ice until you get home. Keep on a bed of ice in the refrigerator until ready to cook. Cut out the red meat along the mid sides of the fillets. Place skin side down over grey

coals on the BBQ. Baste with white Balsamic Vinegar mixed with salt and pepper, or baste with Italian salad dressing. Do not over cook. - Fresh Bonito can be very good, hot or cold. If it tastes extra fishy it is because you didn't handle it properly.

I like to baste my bonito, albacore and chicken with a lemon, garlic, butter sauce. Heat a half cube of butter in a small sauce pan with two or three cloves of garlic diced fine. Add ¼ tsp of salt, a table spoon of sugar and 1 table spoon of flour. Heat while stirring to make a rue and cook the flour. Add the juice from a fresh lemon and stir to make a thin basting sauce. Add a little water if necessary to thin the sauce. Baste the fish or chicken at least once on each side.



Tyer as Educator Initiative

The FFF Education Committee has sanctioned an outreach program called the Tyer as Educator Intitiative. I have outlined its background and goals on the FFF web site Forum:

Our goal is twofold: (1) to create a resource for all the above types of fly tying teachers, certainly in an online format and possibly in a print format, that would be available to all tyers, that would help increase their effectiveness as fly tying teachers. (2) to work with the FFF to increase the effectiveness of all fly tying teachers.

I would like to invite all the organizers of tying classes for clubs, all organizers of workshops at the club, regional, or national level, and all demonstration tyers to contact me if they are interested in contributing to the Tyer as Educator Initiative. Also, please go to the FFF Forum, under Fly Tying, and then The Tyer as Educator Initiative, and post some of your suggestions today. You will learn what others have posted and you will be able to teach what you have learned. Also, consider this a personal invitation from me to attend the workshops that we will have on how to be a better demonstration tyer (taught by Wayne Luallen, Al Beatty, Judy Lehmberg, and Chris Helm), how to organize a better tying class (taught by Chris Helm), and how to conduct a better workshop. David Nelson



Bristol Bay Alaska Mining Threat

“Our organization must be engaged” says FFF President

by Leah Elwell, FFF Conservation Coordinator

During the 2006 Conclave, FFF members from across the country learned about the threats facing some of the world’s most famed salmon and trout waterways. The Sportsman’s Alliance for Alaska hosted an information booth at the Conclave and the Renewable Resources Coalition gave several presentations to spread the word regarding the proposed Pebble Mine, to be located in Southwest Alaska’s Bristol Bay watershed.

A Canadian company called Northern Dynasty is proposing to build North America’s largest open-pit gold and copper mine between Lake Iliamna and the Mulchatna River. The permitting process began in early July, as Northern Dynasty applied for water rights from Upper Talarik Creek and the North and South Forks of the Koktuli River.



Alaska Sportsmans Lodge

In its water right applications the mining company laid claim to more than 73 million gallons per day, nearly three times the amount of water used by the Anchorage, Alaska (population 270,000). These waterways are critical Bristol Bay salmon and trout producers that could be gravely threatened by these proposed actions.

At the Conclave’s auction dinner, FFF President & CEO R.P. VanGytenbeek spoke to the audience in no uncertain terms of the threat and the opportunity for engagement. VanGytenbeek stated that the FFF must work to stop this mine, which is only the beginning of what the mining industry believes could turn the entire Bristol Bay region into a massive mining district.

VanGytenbeek stated: “Upper Talarik Creek is a national treasure for us and for trout fishermen from all over the world. Each year fishermen from Europe, South America and Asia make the trip to Alaska just for an opportunity to fish Upper Talarik and the rest of the famous Bristol Bay watershed. Any person or company that takes an action which would diminish the fishery commits a crime against each of us and against the people and natural resources of Alaska. This is yet another piece of a totally un-needed and unacceptable project which must be defeated.”

FFF members and clubs can learn more about this issue by visiting www.sportsmansalliance4ak.org and www.renewableresourcescoalition.org. A free 4-minute DVD on the subject is available for viewing at club meetings.

Scott Hed

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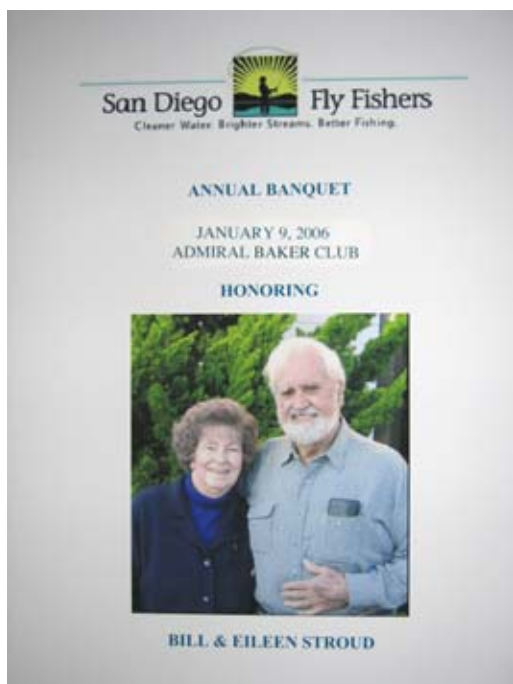
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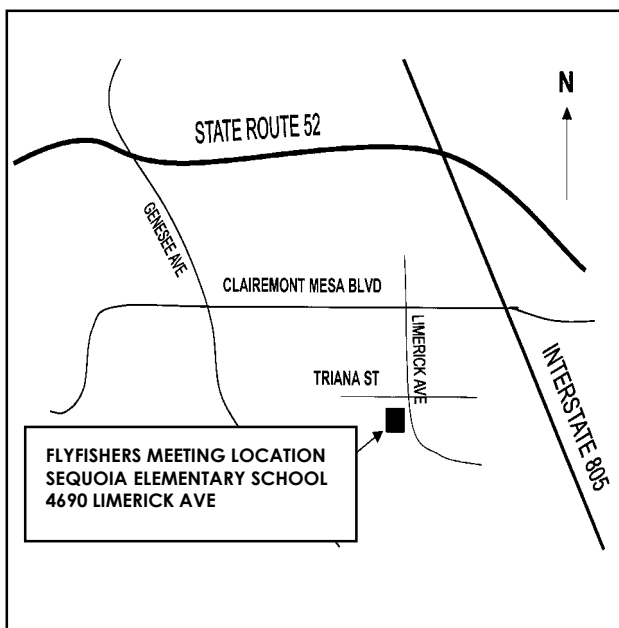
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San Carlos Recreation Center near Lake Murray. (We no longer meet at the Lake Murray Water Training Facility at Lake Murray). The address is 6445 Lake Badin Ave. To get there from Hwy. 8, take the Lake Murray Blvd. exit just like you were going to 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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