

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

MAY 2005

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 10, No. 5

May Speaker

Fly Fishing Coastal San Diego: Tips and Techniques

Our own SDFF President **Louie Zimm** will be making a presentation on techniques for taking California yellowtail, barracuda, bonito, white sea bass, and calico bass on the fly rod. Experienced in fishing from the beach, kayak, or from his custom power catamaran "Altair" he has also been active in "fishing 101", a program for introducing young people to the sport of fishing.

Louie is a veteran captain of research ships for the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. He has also owned and operated commercial sportfishers in the San Diego fleet.

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, May 2nd, 2005
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):

**Art Reifman and
Bob Blazer**

Thank you, Mona Morebello

SDFF Focus on Youth in 2005 – FAME at Lake Morena

January 29, 2005 the "Wednesday Bunch" volunteered to teach basic fly casting and fly tying to 15 youth members of the Fishing Association of Mountain Empire. "FAME" is open to all Junior and Senior High students in the Mountain Empire School District.

The SDFF group lead by **Ned Sewell** (former world-record holder for bass on a fly rod at Lake Morena) included **Gary Hilbers, Floyd Lee, Paul Woolery, John Kasten, Ken Armer** and **Lucky Ketcham**. We met at the new educational pavilion at Lake Morena County Park. Some of the older boys missed the training due to an afternoon football game. The event was arranged by Supervising Ranger Beryl Buchanan and our own Ned Sewell. Ned gave his lecture on fishing equipment and methods, while John, Ned, Paul and Floyd taught casting. Lucky and Gary taught fly tying to the kids and some of the campground adults.



John Kasten and Shannon Buchanan.

Since Lake Morena is a good bass lake, we taught some wooly buggers and some spun deer hair poppers to the eager FAME group. They were very good students and produced some nice flies. To see more pictures of our training and more information about the environmental services these kids are doing, please see their website at: http://lakemorenaonline.org/Fly_Fishing.htm

I think this FAME fishing club would be a good candidate for some of our

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: MAY 2005

Wondering what the kids at Chollas Lake will catch this summer? Concerned that the warming water will put an end to the trout fishing there? Fear not, our own **Joe Bain** and **Jim Brown** have come up with a solution. Captain Frank LoPreste of long-range tuna fishing fame has offered to have the Friends of Rollo underwrite

channel catfish plants starting in the middle of April. A total of 16,500 pounds of the whiskered fish will be planted (1,000 pounds at a time), in the kids-only fishing lake.

Many thanks goes to the Friends of Rollo, a group dedicated to introducing youngsters to the joys of angling.

Lee Andersen has joined **Gary Hilbers**, **Dick Mount**, and **Tom Smith** at the Lend-a-Rod station at Lake Chollas. When the news of those catfish arriving gets out, those folks are going to be pretty busy every Sunday!

Your club is donating funds to the La Mesa and Rancho San Diego libraries to upgrade their flyfishing sections. Thanks goes out to **Bob Miller** for making the arrangements.



LOUIE ZIMM

The presentation by Will Mahoney on the Kenai Peninsula really was exciting! It is good to know that one can still fish Alaska on a budget.

The Day at the Docks celebration will take place on April 24th from 9 AM to 5 PM. We will be tying flies and telling folks about our sport.

Come on down to the Sportfishing Docks on Scott Street in Point Loma and join the fun!

Warren Lew continues to come up with more wonderful items for our June Raffle. The latest item is a deeply discounted trip with San Diego Bay fishing guide Peter Piconi. If you want to really learn how to fish the "Big Bay" this is the trip for you.

Speaking of trips, I was able to get some fishing done while visiting relatives in Telluride, Colorado. While everyone else was skiing in the Colo-

rado powder, I made my way through the waist deep snow to the San Miguel River. The brook trout were beautiful in their winter colors and were eager to hit pheasant tail nymphs. One of the locals said I was the only one fishing in the whole county! So keep that in mind, on your next skiing trip, some of the best and least crowded flyfishing can occur in winter.

The local saltwater flyfishing is starting to heat up. **C.T. Reinhart** and **Tom Lucas** led a group of stalwart flyfishers to the Del Mar surf on Saturday 10th of April. Rumor has it that their spirits were as high as the surf was that day!

Speaking of local saltwater flyfishing, your President will be the featured speaker at the next meeting. I will try to show why I get so excited about the opportunities that we have for great flyfishing right here along our San Diego coast.

Until then, think fish!



Kern River Trip Slated for June 17-19, 2005

There are still some openings for the Club trip to the Kern River-Lake Isabella area on June 17-18-19, 2005. **David Collins** has once again generously made his house near the lake available. My son once again has offered us the use of his house trailer in the same neighborhood.

Last year the trout in the river were scarce, but float-tubing on the lake we caught crappie, catfish, and carp.

At each place a maintenance fee of twenty dollars will be asked.

You can contact me, **Dick Mount**, or David at the May meeting. I am available at or online at



Annual Raffle Tickets Are Still Available

If you haven't all ready bought your annual raffle tickets, be sure to stop by at the Club's welcome desk before the May meeting starts. You will improve your chances dramatically if you buy at least two books, as what I've done in prior years... and remember that all of the net proceeds from the raffle go to conservation and the promotion of our sport! If you can't make it to the meeting, that's not a problem because you can purchase tickets at Stroud's.

You don't need to be present to win most of the prizes, but we would enjoy having you at the June meeting. Bill Stroud, will again, be our master of ceremonies, and you will enjoy a lively and irreverent time!

Definitely circle Monday, June 6th, on your calendar. You won't want to miss the opportunity to bid on some great silent auction items, which includes a half day of fishing for three on Tom Loe's trophy trout pond (good until December 2006) and two days of guided fishing for two fly fishers on the Green River (Thank you, Jack Bentley for arranging this wonderful donation!)

All ready, there are some nice fly rods to be won by some lucky winner. A 5 weight G. Loomis donated by Tom Lucas, and an 8 weight 4 piece Teton rod has been donated by Gordie and Louie Zimm.

Your donations of gently used and new fly fishing equipment is always welcome. Bring them to the May meeting, and Warren Lew would be happy to take them. Also, your donation of a Stroud gift certificate, is always appreciated.

Let's make this year's annual raffle the best ever, and raise a lot of money for preserving Hot Creek, Piru Creek, and the California golden trout, as well as local causes such as the Chollas Lake children's fishing program.

Warren Lew

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.





JACK BENTLEY

**Any Questions?
Call Jack Bentley at**

If anyone wants information on
fishing destinations, contact me.



SDFF Trip Schedule for 2005

Green River Trip, May 9th-13th Flight Information Now Confirmed

Three day fishing trip

Monday, May 9th Southwest Airlines, Flt #1703
Depart San Diego 8:40 AM to Phoenix (no plane change)
Arrive Salt Lake City 12:50 PM

Friday May 13th Southwest Airlines, Flt #1176
Depart Salt Lake City 1:50 PM to Las Vegas
Depart Las Vegas 4:15 PM, Flt #920 to San Diego
Arrive San Diego 5:20 PM

Four day fishing trip

The four day fishing trip is the same as the three day fishing trip except
departure for home is on Saturday, May 14th, allowing for one extra
day of fishing.

IMPORTANT! Everyone will buy his own ticket. If you are traveling
on another airline you must be in Salt Lake City by 12:50 PM Mon-
day.

Green River 3-day fishing \$1,280 or 4-day fishing \$1,550. Walking and fishing is available with no guide, but as
the water fluctuates, the boats are more productive. Select either 3-day or 4-day fishing proposed above.

2. Alaska King Salmon, June 24-July 2nd

Nushagak River

Estimated cost: \$3,800

Contact Louie Zimm

3. Saltery Lake Lodge, September 10th-18th

This year's drought was atypical and we are planning to have the lodge to ourselves (Maximum 12 people).

Estimated cost: \$3,200

Contact Louie Zimm



FROM THE CONSERVATION CHAIR

Volunteer opportunities to help conserve the Hot Creek Wild Trout fishery have been delayed until April 27 and 28 due to the heavy snow pack

Rob Lusardi of Cal Trout, Mammoth Lakes sent the following updates.

Hi folks-

I just spoke with the Department of Fish and Game and they've decided to postpone the Hot Creek surveying event due to the current weather conditions, the enormous snow pack, high turbidity in the creek and general accessibility and safety issues. **Our April 7th-8th Hot Creek surveying dates have been postponed due to weather conditions.** If you know someone who was planning on volunteering during this time, please forward this email on to them or give them a call.

Alternatively, we are now aiming to survey **Hot Creek between April 27th and 28th** (Wednesday and Thursday before the general opener). Again, this surveying date is weather dependent and specifics for the surveying dates are detailed below, as I've changed all relevant dates and times. If the snow fall continues well into April and weather conditions postpone our event again, we will move the surveying event back to mid-season.

If you're headed to the Eastern Sierra for the general opener, please consider coming up a few days early and helping with this critical volunteer project. There will be a follow up to this email as we get closer to the date with even more specifics from the Department of Fish and Game. For now, please consider if you will be able

to volunteer your time for this surveying event. If you are able to help and interested in learning more about the Hot Creek fisheries and sampling methodologies, please send me a quick email indicating your availability during April 27th and 28th

As we all know, Hot Creek is one of the most productive trout fisheries in California. Surveying the creek's fish populations is an essential step in maintaining the health of Hot Creek and the associated watershed. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, the Department of Fish and Game has not been able to survey Hot Creek since 2003. Our April 2005 surveying effort is **CRITICAL** in assessing both trout and native fish species populations. Using fish population dynamics is one way in which we can assess the general health of Hot Creek. We need your help!!

Several potential volunteers have contacted me over the last few months and expressed interest in this project. Now is the time to let us know if you are able to volunteer for this important event. If you have not surveyed in the past, you'll be in for a real treat, as this is an incredible learning experience and a chance to get out and meet other interested fishery folks that are also dedicated to protecting our trout fisheries and watersheds!

Specifics:

Although the surveying event is scheduled for April 26th-28th, actual surveying on Hot Creek will take place



GARY STRAWN

between **8am and 5pm on April 27th and 28th**. April 26th should be used as a travel day for those folks coming to the Eastern Sierra from down south.

Meeting time and place: we will be meeting on the morning of Wednesday, April 27th between 7:45am++ and 8am at the parking lot of the old burned school building on Hot Creek Hatchery Road. From highway 395, turn on to Hot Creek Hatchery Road and drive approximately a third of a mile towards the Hot Creek Hatchery. Cross over the cattle grate and then take a left into the parking lot.

Equipment and what you need to bring: It will likely be cold down by the water, so please bring appropriate layers and chest high neoprene waders if you have them. Additionally, please bring a heavy wool hat, long underwear (tops and bottoms), gloves and a good warm (and ideally water-proof) jacket. If you do not have appropriate waders please contact Debra Hawk at DFG in Bishop to request a pair of DFG waders...please know your boot size and let Debra know too.

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Hot Creek

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****Please bring plenty of water and snacks to get you through the day. Ideally, we'll be able to get lunch donated, but I'm not sure about this as of yet. I will let you know before the event.**

Volunteers: All volunteers must fill out a Department of Fish and Game Volunteer Service Agreement before starting work. This will be taken care of during introductions and review on the morning of April 27th between 7:45am and 8am. Once volunteer forms are signed, Debra Hawk will lead us through a safety meeting/convoy coordination at the appropriate survey section along the creek. We will then begin surveying Hot Creek.

A Note on Weather and Alternative

Plans: This event is completely weather dependent, because it is unsafe to operate electro-shockers in the rain/snow. If the weather does not cooperate, we will likely try to re-schedule for later during the season (i.e. June or July). I will be on top of the weather early in the week and make sure to let you know how things are looking on the Monday preceding our surveying event.

There will be a follow up to this email as we get closer to the date with even more specifics from the Department of Fish and Game. For now, please consider if you will be able to volunteer your time for this critical surveying event. If you are able to help and interested in learning more about the Hot Creek fisheries and sampling methodologies, please send me a quick

email indicating your availability for this event.

Thank you all! This event would not be possible without the help of dedicated Californians like yourself!!

Best,

Robert A. Lusardi

California Trout
Eastern Sierra Manager
ph: (760) 924-1008
email: lusardi@caltrout.org

Please contact me at

and I will forward a head count to Rob, or you may contact him directly



SDFF Focus on Youth in 2005

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additional training and possible donations of equipment or excess materials. For more information contact: Lake Morena County Park's Supervising Ranger, Beryl Buchanan, at beryl.buchanan@sdcounty.ca.gov or call (619) 579-4101.

Some of the names of the students are:

HIGH SCHOOL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - ADRIANNA DURFLINGER
VICE PRESIDENT - SANDY BUCHANAN
TREASURER - SAMANTHA BUCHANAN
SECRETARY - CYNTHIA DURFLINGER
EQUIPMENT MANAGER AND ASB ADVISOR - JONATHAN DURFLINGER

JUNIOR HIGH OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - ROBBY WHITE
VICE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL HERNANDEZ
SECRETARY - TREVOR REIS
ASB ADVISOR - TRENT HEIMERDINGER

Take a kid fishing this year!

Lucky Ketcham



Lucky teaching deer hair poppers to FAME Fishing Club Members.



Andy Burk's Fly Fishing Techniques

A seminar at the Ontario Fly Fishing Show, February 26, 2005

Notes by Lucky Ketcham

Make sure to use good polarized sunglasses, to see the fish better; but mainly for eye protection. You need eye protection, especially on windy days. He doesn't know any professional fly caster that does not occasionally hit himself in the back of the head with a fly or lead shot. A broad brimmed hat comes in useful to deflect some of the errant casts too.

Take the time to look for fish before getting too close to the waters edge. The brown trout are especially shore oriented and will lie in the undercut banks and shadows during the day. They are very easy to spook if your approach is too fast and noisy. You need to use stealth and stalk fish especially in the shallow still water of a lake.

He has performed scuba diving studies of trout behavior in lakes and streams and has found that trout are very rarely directly over the weed beds or aquatic vegetation. The trout use the pathways near the weeds. Look for the grey or tan areas to find the circuits that trout will take when foraging.

When he fished Pyramid Lake, north of Reno, he saw many small fish in the shallow rippled sandy bottom when he was wading out to his stepladder to fish for the famous giant Lahontan Cut Throat Trout. He stopped and fished for them and found the small fish were 8 to 12 inch cut throats. Now before the bite starts for the large trout, he fishes the shallow ripple bottom areas for the little cuts.

Davis Lake and Milton Lake are "Fish Factories" in Nevada. Don't be stuck on rivers and streams, also take the time to fish some of the great lakes.

Observe the patterns and behaviors of the fish in your home waters. "Fish the Edges" is a good tip. Any time you see an edge or a change of some type it will probably hold trout. It might be the edges of grass, edges of a rock pile, a current seam or a shadow. The edge of green algae is filled with Chironomids, scuds and other insects. Look at the color of the weed beds. The damsel fly nymphs will be the same color of the weeds usually tan, cream, rusty or olive greens depending on the season. The fish will orient themselves near the weed beds. Look for the tan lanes of dirt or mud between green weed beds. The trout will ambush the green damsels from the weeds when they can easily see them over the tan bottom.

Many times you will not see the white open mouth of trout feeding on midges. Look for the flaring of the pectoral fins. Trout do not have brakes and need to flare their fins to slow down to eat. Look for the flaring of the pectoral fins and the turning of the head.

In lakes, big fish hunt in very shallow water adjacent to deep water. They want to have an easy escape route. The same is true on fast streams. The riffle areas above a large deep pool usually will equal big fish.

Look under rocks for Sculpin and use a small aquarium net to catch them to check the size and color of the fish in

your area. If you can't catch them, try to match the color of the bottom of the stream.

The old fishing rule "Fish Early and Fish Late" is worth paying attention to. Brown trout avoid the sunlight and feed in the late evening, night and early morning. 7:00 is a good time to "start" fishing for brown trout. Continue fishing while the others are quitting.

Never pass up a bridge over a stream or river. At least stop and look down to see where the trout are holding. Look in the shadows and behind the larger boulders and rocks. It is always good to get a bird's eye view of the river or stream before you approach it. Go up to the top of the bank and use binoculars to look for feeding fish. If you can't see fish, look for the good holding areas like deep pools, boulders, weed beds and pocket waters. Areas with white wash waters in summer will have more oxygen than the quieter pools and hold more fish.

Andy Burk fishes the Truckee River, near Tahoe, often and likes to fish the riffles below big popular pools. On the weekend the tourist waders chase the fish downstream from the popular spots. When the river is busy it is often best to fish the "odd places," where others will not fish. Keep in mind those counts of thousands of trout per mile and know that you can find fish where other fly fishers will not even try a cast. A brushy tree filled area of a lake or stream just means that it has not been fished very much. Ken Hanley is known to love

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Andy Burke's Fly Fishing Techniques

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the weed and brush choked areas of bass lakes.

Another tip that he has learned the hard way is to carry extra batteries for your flash light or head lamp when fishing in the evening. The trouble comes in when you decide to fish a small pocket water stream at dusk. As you fish up stream, every bend in the stream invites you to hike to the next good pool. Within a short time you are a mile up stream in complete darkness, stumbling of slippery rocks and tripping on logs while you are trying to get back to your car.

If the water is cold and fast in April, the fish will not be in the deep fast runs that you found them in the summer. Look for the quieter water during the spring runoff. The trout will be in the side channels, back eddies, along the shore, behind the largest boulders and slower current seams. Look for the nice lines of bubbles on the water. They will mark the seams where the currents change. Those seams will hold trout on the slower current side.

Keep a low profile, can not be said too often. A friend gave him a neoprene foam kneeling pad from a garden shop last year. He wondered how he got along without it before. It saves his knees and his waders on the gravel and hard stream banks. Your fishing will improve if you do not stand up on small clear streams and creeks. Get behind rocks, trees and bushes whenever you can. It is especially important to sneak up to flat water areas with a low profile.

Always look for good "mid-day fishing spots." That usually means big shady pools in deep canyons or tree lined streams that have shade for most of the day. Deep shady pools below white water are especially important to know in the mid summer hot spells.

Any grey day or ugly rainy day may be a good day to fish. Many of the fish and insects are negatively phototrophic and are less active on sunny days.

Large trout can be found in very skinny or shallow waters. Look for the "Zone" – shallow waters adjacent to deep spots in a lake. He shows a Shasta Lake slide of a small deep cove with a shallow rocky ledge and a sunken log providing structure and cover. Fish the rocky bank of a lake with a crawdad pattern for bass or large trout. Cast parallel to the shore to keep the fly or streamer in the productive zone for as long as possible. Another area that is usually productive is the swimming beaches of mountain lakes. Swimmers stir up the aquatic insects and the trout take advantage of it. It is against the law to do the San Juan shuffle when wading but it is okay to fish behind swimmers and other waders. Free Chum!

Boat launches are always a good place to fish. The boat motors stir up the bottom creatures and the concrete or asphalt ramps usually collect heat during the day. The warmer waters of cold water lakes attract insect populations. Wait a few minutes to 30 minutes after a boat leaves the ramp area.

Look for streams and dry washes where they dump into a lake or river. When it rains there will be miniature flash floods that will bring worms, lizards and terrestrials into the lake. One of the edges to fish is colored water. He likes to fish on the Truckee River on a rainy day where Prosser Creek enters the river. The creek runs a muddy brown while the Truckee is still a greenish color. The situation can be found on most river and creek drainages. Cast up into the muddy river and strip the fly out of the brown water into the clearer green water. The brown trout sit on the edge of the clear water waiting to eat what washes out of the creek.

Bass ponds are a good place to fly fish. There are more bass and pan fish ponds than there are trout streams. Approach them the same way as you would a trout lake and make the first cast while standing back 10 to 12 feet from the shore. Try fishing around the boat docks, and in heavy vegetation. Look for the structure that attracts large mouth bass. Practice accurate casting to be able to put your fly within an inch of the weed edges or rock pile.

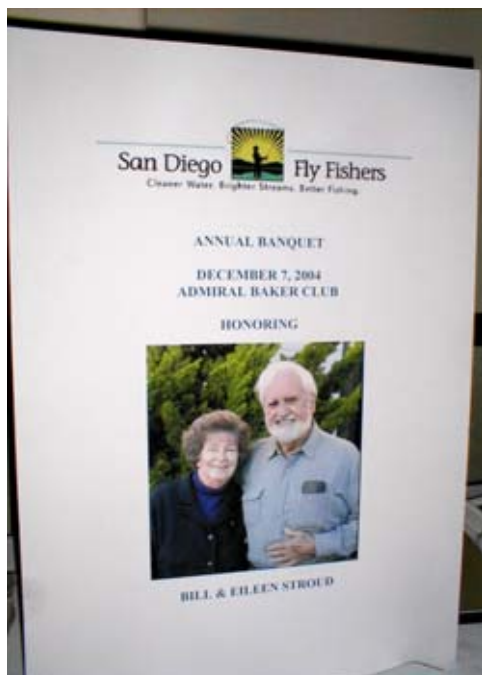
Try Striped Bass fishing. The American River, near Sacramento is a good place to start. There is a bike path along the entire length of the river in town. You can wade to fish stripers in most areas. Try some yellow streamers or Clouser Minnows. You can catch nice stripers within four minutes of downtown Sacramento.

A slide of a sunset on a mountain trout lake ends the show.



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2004-Jim Brown



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

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| 1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud | 2000-Tom Smith |
| 1994-Ed Velton | 2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki |
| 1995-Bob Wisner | 2002-Larry Sorensen |
| 1996-Gary Hilbers | 2003-Jim Tenuto |
| 1997-Jack Bentley | 2004-Joe Bain |

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

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

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

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

Lucky Ketcham



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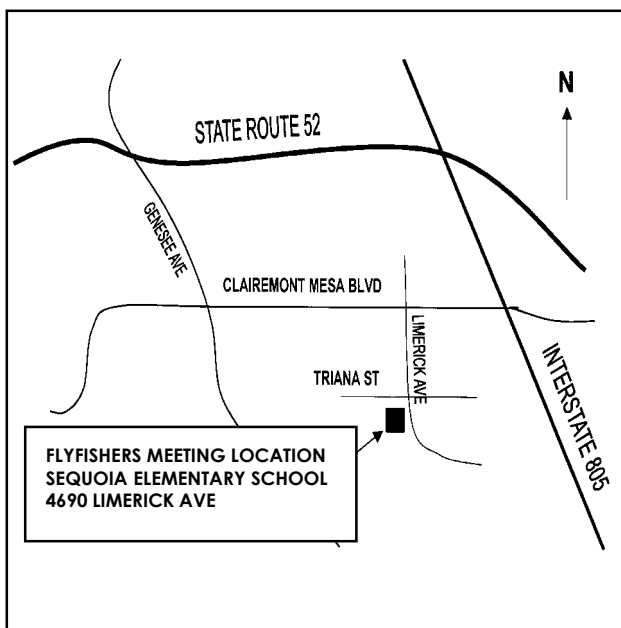
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Meeting Place for Workshops

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



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