

# FINNY FACTS

Archived version

FEBRUARY 2007

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 12, No. 2

## February Meeting

### Tom Loe, Sierra Drifters

**T**om Loe, owner/operator of *Sierra Drifters Guide Service* in Mammoth Lakes, California will be our speaker on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Tom will be doing a PowerPoint presentation on innovative fly fishing techniques for the Eastern Sierras.

Many of you will recall the excellent program Tom presented two years ago. He has now updated that program with the latest information on flies and techniques and will be donating some of his own flies and indicators for our Raffle. You will not want to miss this particular meeting!

### MEETING NOTICE

Monday, February 5, 2007  
7:30 PM

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

### REMINDER

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

**Joe Bain, Ed Velton,  
Ed Rood**

*Thank You, Mona Morebello*

## John Kasten Gets Long Overdue Gordon Foster Memorial Award

*Hugh Marx Stroud Awardee for 2006*

**F**rom the time he was a young Tenderfoot with the Boy Scouts of America through his career as a fireman John Kasten has always been a giver, a teacher, a doer of good deeds. This has been carried through his years as a member of the San Diego Fly Fishers beginning in 1958 when he joined the Club. John has been one of the cornerstones of the Club and has helped form it into what it is today. His guidance at the Sunday Fly Casting Clinics has helped hundreds of would be fly fishers with the most fundamental of fly fishing knowledge—the basic fly cast. You can buy the flies, you can buy the equipment, but you can't buy the basic fly cast which every fly fisherman must know to be successful.

An eloquent introduction was made by another long-time member Ned Sewell, after which the long overdue Gordon Foster Memorial Award was presented to John Kasten.



**John Kasten receives the 2006 Gordon Foster Memorial Award from 1991 recipient Ned Sewell.**

Hugh Marx, operating supervisor of Lake Jennings was presented with the Stroud Award. Hugh was given kudos for his work at Lake Cuyamaca, during the time he was manager there. His work there was particularly innovative in not only nurturing the trout, bass, bluegill and crappie, but also in bringing in smallmouth bass and sturgeon to the Lake. Hugh has always tried to bring the younger generation to fishing by holding Saturday fishing clinics for kids. And

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: FEBRUARY 2007

**T**hank you, I am proud to be your President for 2007. I believe we can make it a very good year. We are fortunate to have four new members on the 2007 Board of Directors: **Wayne Allen, Lee Anderson, Art Reifman** and **Jim Tenuto**. I am particularly thankful to Wayne Allen for volunteering to be our Treasurer. **Warren Lew** had done that job for two years and needed a break. We thank him for his devoted service. **Jim Tenuto** has agreed to head up our annual Raffle Committee. **Maria Goldman** will assist in that effort along with several other members. They are off to a fast start and the Raffle Prizes are already starting to trickle in. I believe it will be our best raffle ever. **Lee McElravy**, although he claims to have been "Pluto'ed" (downgraded), will retain an active roll. He will be setting up our meeting programs into 2008 and has been actively working with Balboa Naval Hospital to establish fly tying and fishing events for injured Military Personnel. We hope it will help these brave men and women in their recovery. I am sure it will be a great experience for all of us who participate. There will be more specific information on that project as it progresses. **Paul Woolery** and **Joe Bain** are busy getting ready for the Chollas Lake / Star Pal Fishing derby on February 10<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't volunteered for that, it is a lot of work, but I think it is one of the most rewarding things we do all year. **Jim**



GARY STRAWN

**Castelluzzo** and **Louie Zimm** are setting up a booth at the Day on the Docks, Sunday April 22. **Ned Sewell** and his helpers will continue to offer the only free fly fishing course in the Country, every Sunday morning at Lake Murray. **Lucky Ketchum** and **Bill Hanson** have made arrangements to start a second fly tying group up in Mira Mesa, to be more convenient for our North County members. I am excited to see the growing interest in our fly tying events, as well as the continuation of our training and outreach projects.

**David Collins** is organizing our annual spring trip to the Green River. That is always a great trip, and there is still room, so go if you can. This summer, our "Wednesday Morning Boys" continue our fishing trips to Cuyamaca. If you are interested in local salt water fishing there are a number of members that pass along fishing information at set up informal fishing parties via an email chain run by **Kim Jones**. She puts a lot of work into it and also passes along information on Eastern Sierra trout fishing, if you sign up. You can contact her at

**Dick Mount** has agreed to continue to arrange some great weekend outings to the Eastern Sierra's. I encourage anyone else with an idea for a group fishing trip to bring it forward.

There will be many more events as the year progresses. I am just trying to make the point that we have a big, strong, active club, and I expect it to

continue to grow in 2007. We are trying to offer something of interest to all of our members. If you have an idea for something you would like to add, please give me a call.

"Keep smiling and go fishing!"  
Gary



### 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.



## Stroud Banquet continued from page 1

he has also made the Lake friendly to flyfishers, where the SDFP "Wednesday Bunch" started flyfishing (and tailgating in the parking lot).

The Third Annual Stroud Banquet was held once again at the Admiral Baker Golf Course Clubhouse. The event was well attended by about 100+

members, spouses, friends, and guests.

A number of fly plates were once again presented. Beautiful flies were tied by Doug Joseph with the fly boxes built by our own Paul Woolery.



**Hugh Marx recipient of the 2006 Stroud Award.**

## Fly Plate Awardees



**David Collins-website manager**



**Dick Mount-local trips**



**John Beckstrand and Howard Knop-video library**



**PAST PRESIDENTS** gather for picture at the Annual Stroud Banquet. (left to right): George Gates, Jim Tenuto, Louie Zimm, Lee McElravy, Gretchen Yearous, Ed Velton, Gary Strawn, Bill Stroud, Jim Reeg.



**Gretchen Yearous-women's flyfishing education focus**



**Jack Bentley-long range trips**





## Fly Plate Awardees

**Ted Reinert and Charlie Wright also received fly plates but were not present.**



**Ned Sewell-Free Sunday casting class**



**Mona and Sam Morebello-meeting room set up volunteers**



**Bill Pechersky-overall volunteer for numerous events**



**The Admiral Baker clubhouse provided an elegant and intimate setting for the Stroud Banquet.**



**Rose and Roger Yamasaki-Newsletter**



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# FLY OF THE MONTH

## Trout Chow

Tier: Dennis Garrison,  
Instructions by Lucky Ketcham, SDFF, June 2006

**Hook:** TMC 2457 or equivalent, size 12.  
**Bead:** 1/8" gold.  
**Thread:** Tan, 6/0.  
**Tail (Optional):** Partridge fibers.  
**Body:** Medium brown/yellow variegated chenille.  
**Hackle:** Partridge, hen, or grizzly saddle dyed golden ginger.



Note: Believe it or not, this fly actually started out as a generic nymph for the Gallatin River in Montana, where it worked very well. I have also used it throughout the west on wild trout, and have been very successful. However, it has since proven to be an absolute killer on stocked trout. Fish it without weight, let it sink, then twitch it back to you in slow (6") strips. (By Dennis) Lucky notes - I tried this nymph for the past three years in NY, the Bishop area and Lake Cuyamaca for stocked trout with success. Fish that are used to eating small Purina Trout Chow pellets seem to like it. I store a real pellet or two in my fly box to add some oil and odor to these nymphs. I told Louie Zimm to try one on Tom Loe's Private Pond at 5 PM and see what happens.

Smash the barb on the curved scud hook. Slip a 1/8" bead over the point and up to the eye. Attach the tan thread behind the bead and wrap a thread base to above the barb and back to the eye. Make a little ball of thread behind and into the hollow bead to secure. (Or make a few wraps of fine lead and force it into the hollow bead.) Add a drop of head cement behind the bead. Wrap the thread back to the bend. Select 8 or 9 well marked partridge fibers. Size the tail to be about 1 hook gap long and attach to the top of the hook. Trim off the butts. Select about 2

inches of brown and yellow variegated chenille and clean out  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of the fuzz from one end. Attach the bare thread to the rear of the hook, and then advance the thread to the bead. Wrap the chenille in tight touching turns to behind the bead head and secure with three tight wraps of thread. Trim off the excess chenille. Select another small soft partridge feather with the barbs just long enough to reach the bend of the hook. (Not too long) Look at the curve of the feather and peel off one side from the concave side. Prepare the soft hackle by pulling the fibers to the rear and trimming a little triangle of hackle tip for the tie in point. You want to tie the hackle in "wet fly style" with the shiny side toward the eye, dull curved side to the rear. Attach the hackle by the tip and wrap up and to the rear  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 turns only. Sparse is good. Secure with three wraps of thread and trim off excess hackle butts. Whip finish behind the bead head. Add a small drop of head cement to the back of the bead, allowing cement to flow on to the threads. Take care not to get cement on the soft hackles.

This is a fly that might work on Lake Murray and stocked lakes right after the Hatchery Truck has left the parking lot. You can thank me later for this one.  
Lucky



## February Meeting to Auction Package to Alaska

**A** two-for-one fishing package to the Saltery Lake Lodge in Kodiak Alaska will be auctioned off at the SDFE monthly meeting in February.

The dates for the package are August 5-11, 2007 and include round trip from Kodiak to Saltery Lodge, 6 days/6 nights lodging in a standard cabin, food, and fishing guide.

The total value is \$4,440. The lucky winner of the silent auction will pay half this fee (\$2,220) for this two-for-one donation.

A 50% deposit of \$1,110 needs to be made to Saltery Lake Lodge by March 20, 2007 by the successful auction winner.

As most of you know, our members have always enjoyed coming to Saltery Lake Lodge and really appreciate this donation to support our efforts in conservation and education.

## Owens River Trip Set for March

**T**he annual Owens River trip is set for March 2-4, 2007.

I have contacted Tom Loe and he has agreed to the same arrangement we had last year.

He will guide three of us in the morning and three in the afternoon for \$625 total. His normal fee is \$360 for a half day.

I intend to make reservations at the Elms Motel in Bishop.

Dick Mount

## North Central Fly Tying Congress

**J**ust a reminder that a new SDFE Fly Tying Congress started January 10th. The group meets in Mira Mesa, close to Hwy 15 and Mira Mesa Blvd.

The meetings will offer a time and place to share fly tying skills, techniques, patterns and to tell fishing stories. The collected group will help any beginning fly tiers. More formal classes may be offered in the future.

Instructors: Bill Hanson, Lucky Ketcham, and Don Davis.

Dates will be Wednesday nights, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Location:  
Christ the Cornerstone  
Lutheran Church  
9028 Westmore Road  
San Diego, CA 92126

Contact:  
William "Bill" Hanson

A contact/email list of interested members is being developed by Lucky Ketcham.

## Hunter Safety Class

**T**his class will start on January 23, 2007 and will be held on the following dates:  
January 23, 2007 at 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm  
January 25, 2007 at 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm  
January 27, 2007 at 8:00 am to finish,  
you will need to attend all three class dates.

This class is designed for adults, kids, men and women. We also will help people with reading difficulties. The cost of this class is \$10.00 per person. The location is 8836 Prospect Avenue, Santee, 92071



## Chollas Lake—A Note from Paul Woolery

I would like to thank the individuals who volunteered their time in support of the Lend-a-Rod program at Chollas Lake in 2006. Thanks to **Lee Anderson, Michael McKinney, Dan McKirnan, Dick Mount, and Tom Smith** and of course **Joe Bai**. 1,119 children enjoyed hours of free fishing at the lake. This number does not include the winter and summer fishing derbies or church and school outings at Chollas, which our volunteers also support.

Speaking of fishing derbies, Star/Pal's Annual Fishing Derby at Chollas Lake will be held February 10<sup>th</sup> with a rainy day schedule of February 24<sup>th</sup> 2007. Additional volunteers are always welcome. You may contact me by email or telephone for more information.

## New Regs to Open Hot Creek, East Walker Year Round Needs Support

**FISH ON BABY!!!** Now that I have your undivided attention we need you all to write the Cal DFG Commissioners and express your approval of the new regulations opening sections of the Upper Owens River, Hot Creek and the tailwater section of the East Walker River to year round fishing beginning on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2007. We have included a link to the new regulations and as usual you can click on the button providing important DFG news by visiting our website at [www.sierradrifters.com](http://www.sierradrifters.com). DFG commission info at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/>

There are a number of local businessman and land owners that are opposing this new regulation and will attempt to reverse the decision at the next Mono County Fisheries advisory meeting this February.

We at Sierra Drifters Guide Service support the new regulations and feel the additional year round water will benefit all catch and release fisherman with little impact on the fisheries, enforcement or search and rescue organizations. Get the word out friends we need to make our opinions heard.



## BASIC ENTOMOLOGY WORKSHOP

Maggie Merriman will be in San Diego again on Saturday, March 10, 2007 to present her program on Basic Entomology for flyfishers. For those of you not familiar with her program, Maggie takes the mystery out of determining what bug is hatching and what flies to use for trout fishing. This is a great workshop that will teach you how to identify the basic trout food, including mayflies, caddis, stoneflies, midges and other trout food. Vic Jones of our Club has generously donated the Clubhouse at Scripps Ranch for this event. Bring your notebook and your fly boxes so you, too, can learn to "match the hatch."

This presentation is being offered through both our Club and Golden State Flycasters. As such, seating is limited and pre-paid registration, including a fee of \$45.00, is required to Maggie at



### Correction

An incorrect phone number was listed for one of the meeting hosts for 2007. The correct number



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## Bertram's Rod

by Howard Bailey

In early 2006, Bertram was diagnosed with lung cancer, most likely from exposure to asbestos many years ago. The diagnosis was early, and his spirits were high as he began chemotherapy. Four months later, his condition had deteriorated to the point where it was apparent that there would be no "dream trips" to the Charlotte's or the Skeena in his future and, in fact, it was quite likely that he wouldn't even make it to the fall salmon run on his home river.

I flew up to Vancouver in late summer to visit and spend a couple of days on the island. Bertram was in the hospital, hooked up to oxygen to help his scarred lungs, and receiving morphine injections for the pain that came and went. Most of his muscle mass was gone, and walking was an impossible effort. But he was still sharp, one of the last remnants of a man whose enthusiasm for life was matched only by his generosity. Nonetheless, it was a difficult visit. Not just because of seeing him in that condition, but also because of the impossibility of finding something meaningful to say to someone who likely has only weeks left to live.

After visiting the hospital, I drove out to the house to pick up my gear. There were several rods to choose from, but I ended up taking just one: Bertram's ancient Fenwick graphite 7 wt. It was a strange choice; by today's standards, the rod would charitably be described as "soft", and certainly would not be considered an ideal tool for pursuing salmon along the beaches of Vancouver Island. Bertram used it mostly for small trout and, although we had often talked about taking it to the Interior in search of larger fish, it had never been tested to its limits. Regardless, it offered a connection to a man whose friendship I cherished, and one that almost certainly would never again experience the thrill of the grab.

The ferry dropped me off at Nanaimo, and my first stop was the mouth of the Oyster River. Things were pretty quiet along the beach, but I was able to bring 3 cutthroat to the fly. They all followed the Muddler in from deeper water, rushing to grab the fly when it was nearly to shore. I was able to hook two of them as they turned back towards the deeper water, and then managed to lose them both after short twisting fights.

Still in search of salmon, I hopped back in the car and drove along the old Island Highway north towards Campbell River. Along the way, I noticed a number of anglers concentrated along the shoreline just south of town. Better yet, there were salmon showing in front of them! Since there didn't appear to be any particular concentration of fish, I simply picked the widest opening between two anglers, and waded out across the slippery cobble.

I was still getting to know the rod. Through trial and error, I was getting the timing down, and was managing a respectable 75 feet or so, which wasn't too bad considering that I had waded out to the bottom of my shooting basket. However, there was a certain point past which if I

continued on next page





tried to carry too much line in the air, everything would collapse, and I would have to strip in the line and start all over again. In spite of all of this, I managed to hook another cutthroat, this time on an orange shrimp pattern. The fish didn't take much line, but doggedly took full advantage of the available cover, eventually scraping off the fly on one of the larger boulders that were scattered throughout the shallows. It was clear that I would have to bump up my game a bit if I was going to return to the hospital with stories of fish landed.

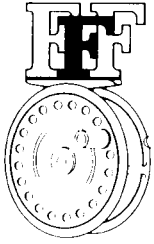
Although I hadn't hooked any salmon, at least I knew where they were, which is half the battle. The next morning, the tide was lower and I was able to reach the patches of kelp where the fish were holding. I was well into the ritual of changing flies every 15 minutes or so when I had my first grab. It was immediately obvious that this wasn't a cutthroat; the fly stopped solidly, shook a bit, and then flat took off, leaving me to frantically clear the line in the basket and get the fish on the reel. After what seemed like forever, the fish turned, and I was able to recover the backing. The venerable Fenwick performed admirably, flexing well into the butt-section, which wasn't a bad thing since pink salmon have notoriously soft mouths.

Eventually, I was able to guide the fish back through the kelp and onto the beach before releasing it. Just days away from entering freshwater, it was still in its ocean-going colors, an incandescent combination of chrome with a dark-olive back and large, faint spots across the tail. Before the incoming tide pushed me back far enough that I could no longer reach the kelp, I was able to land four more, all on the same black fly with gold ribbing. Interestingly, although the fish were showing on the surface, all five took the fly after I had let it sink at least 20 seconds before the retrieve.

Back at the hospital, my heart leaped at the sight of a large bottle of German beer by the side of the bed; this had to be a good sign! True to form, Bertram informed me that if you wanted a good beer, it had to be a German beer. He was tired, but his eyes lit up as I described the past couple of days, the fish found, fought and landed, as well as the ones that got away. I have to think that he was better able to visualize the encounters because it was his rod, and he knew how it felt in his hands. Better yet, his rod, perhaps cutting edge 30 years ago, had accounted for more fish on the beach than all of the others out there that morning. The pride of an old craftsman hung in the room for a few minutes before the pain took over again and the morphine kicked in. Later, his wife Ingrid told me that the beer was the only thing Bertram could taste, and that it would all come back up after 15 minutes.

Bertram passed away two weeks later. We left a fly among the flowers on his casket, and a silent promise to see that his rod continues to catch fish well into the future.





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## From the FFF Clubwire News

by Charlie Place

taken from the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Assoc newsletter

### Fly Tyer Gone Wild


I've decided that I have too much stuff and have been spending too much time looking through feathers, tails, dubbing and such and not enough time actually tying bugs. So I've been trying to keep my collection of tying materials down to a half of a closet full. Some of my material boxes haven't been opened in months, because, well, they are behind the other boxes that haven't been opened for a while either. Anyway, when I do get in the back of the feather closet, it turns out to be more of a treasure hunt than a bug tying session. I usually discover things that I don't remember buying, like my most recent find of six blue bucktails. What is anyone going to do with six blue bucktails? It's a good thing I found six packs of blue saddle hackles to go with the bucktails. I also found one large package of mallard flank, dyed blue. I bought that to go with the saddles, I guess. I know that I must have had something in mind when I bought all the blue material. I just wish I could remember what it was though.

Anyway, when you really think about it, all that tying stuff in the feather closet isn't doing you much good unless it's on a fish hook, is it? So, I decided to clean house, so to speak. I went through everything, box by box, Zip Loc bag by Zip Loc bag and culled all of the stuff that I hadn't used or

seen in a long time. And parted with some of the things that I had way too much of, like rabbit dubbing. I mean could it be possible that there are that many bunny rabbits out there running around naked? I refuse to take responsibility for the scarcity of blue deer though, because after all I only have six of their tails. Well, actually seven because I have a spare bucktail box and a working bucktail box. I found another blue bucktail in the working box. Okay then. I'll take part of the blame for blue but not the pink deer because I only have one pink bucktail. And well, there is that sort of ruby-colored bucktail that I liked a lot, but the fish didn't. I don't even want to think about the chickens. But I will say that when I was a kid I didn't realize that chickens came in so many different colors.

I gave all the usable stuff to a friend that spends the bulk of his money on college tuition. The lousy stuff or you could say the stuff that I stored because thought that I might use some day, I tossed. It doesn't do any good to give it away because even though it's free, it's still lousy and may actually be discouraging to a new fly tier. While I was at it, I put most of the material in clear plastic storage boxes so that I can actually see what's in them before I open them. That saves me time, which seems to be at a premium lately.

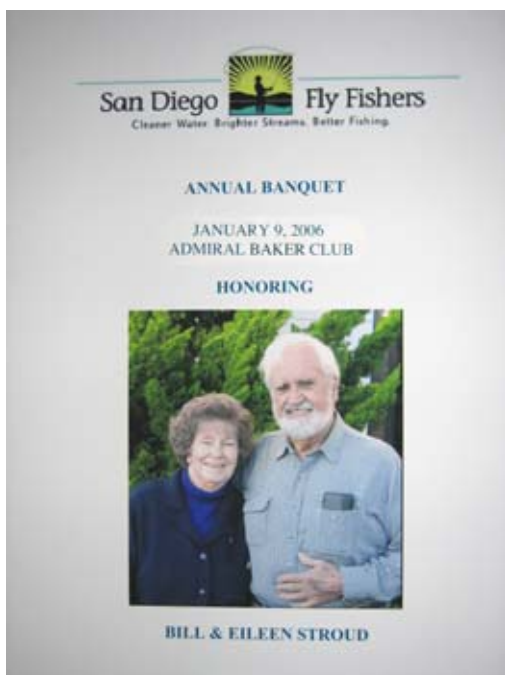
Now this is not to say that when I see a bargain or some really neat fly tying material that I don't buy it. Last week I found some extra long Craft Fur in a bargain bin at a fly shop so I bought three packages, one tan, one cream and one brown. I brought it home and added it to the other packages of tan, cream and brown extra long Craft Fur that I have. I purchased it because, as you know, extra long anything is not easy to find, and you never know when you might want to tie up a bazillion bay anchovy imitations. There was a spool of bright orange, flat waxed nylon thread in the good buy tub that just kept calling to me too. I figured that I didn't have that color, and for a change I was right. I didn't. However, now I only have one spool, so I better get a spare.

I'm now almost down to a half closet full. This is good, because I was fishing stripers with Jerry the other day and he was using an experimental fly that the stripers couldn't resist. It had so much flash on it that he jokingly called it the Christmas tree fly. In any event, I don't have the flash that Jerry used on his new fly. I looked through my red bucktails too and I don't have the exact shade of red that he used to tie the festive fly with either. Nor do I have the hook he used. Well anyway, I figure now that I've "cleaned house" I have room for some new stuff. 



Recipients of the  
**Stroud Award**

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



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

### HONORARY MEMBERS

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

Recipients of the:

### GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service  
to the flyfishing community

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

Cutoff date for **March FINNY FACTS**  
articles---Friday February 16th.

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

You can E-mail at [finnyfacts@gmail.com](mailto:finnyfacts@gmail.com) Thanks!!

Send change of address information,signup for  
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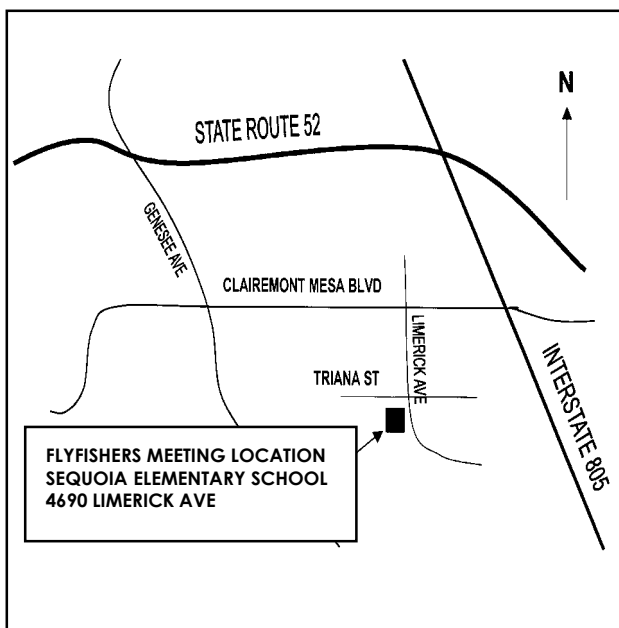
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 Lake Murray. (We no longer meet  
 at the Lake Murray Water Training  
 Facility at Lake Murray). The address  
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 from Hwy. 8, take the Lake Murray  
 Blvd. exit just like you were going to  
 the lake. Instead of turning into  
 Kiowa, keep going on Lake Murray  
 Blvd. another 1.6 miles. When you  
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 corner past Jackson Dr.) turn left. Go  
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 ation center will be on your right. It  
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